

Mountain View VOICE

MAY 29, 2009 VOLUME 17, NO. 21

INSIDE: WEEKEND | PAGE 17

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Last chance for
Pear's 'Way of
the World'
A&E | P.21



VERONICA WEBER.

From left to right, Outlet members Daniel Ortega, Miguel O., program coordinator Jun-Fung Chueh and Karlo Reyes protest the State Supreme Court's ruling on same-sex marriage at the corner of El Camino and Castro Street.

Gay youth protest Prop 8 ruling

MEMBERS OF OUTLET SEEK 'RIGHT TO DREAM OF SOMEDAY GETTING MARRIED'

By Casey Weiss

Hours after the California Supreme Court upheld Proposition 8, the state-wide ban on same-sex marriage, a dozen local gay youth and their advocates gathered on one of Mountain View's busiest street corners, protesting, they said, for "the right to dream of someday getting married."

Wearing rainbow flags around their shoulders and carrying signs reading "All you need is love," "Give me back my rights" and "You can't outlaw my love," the protestors waved their signs and cheered, drawing honks

from passing cars at the intersection of Castro Street and El Camino Real on Monday night.

Larger protests were held in Palo Alto, San Francisco and San Jose, but the local advocates said

"It's important for people to hear we are not going to let them take our rights away from us with us not doing anything about it. It doesn't just affect adults."

ANNA OLIVIA CHEN
GRAHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT

they wanted to speak out in their own hometown and community.

Outlet, a Mountain View advocacy group for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT)

youth, organized the protest for teenagers who may not be able to make it to the bigger gatherings.

"The California Supreme Court just told every child with an LGBT parent that their family is not as important as their heterosexual friends and families," Outlet program director Eileen Ross said. "The Supreme Court justices just told every California LGBT teenager that they are not worthy of the same dreams as their heterosexual peers."

California voters passed Prop 8 in November, banning same-sex marriage, and on Monday the

► See **PROP 8**, page 8

Budget fire vs. house fires

CUTS TO FIRST-RESPONDERS A FUTURE POSSIBILITY, BUT OFFICIALS SAY PUBLIC SAFETY WOULD SUFFER

By Daniel DeBolt

Balancing the city's budget this year and next doesn't appear to require any too-painful budget cuts. But in the longer run, if the economy doesn't recover, significant cuts to fire and police services may become necessary.

In preparation for this worst-case scenario, city manager Kevin Duggan has made a list of \$2.5 million in possible cuts to Mountain View's first-responders.

"We aren't recommending those things at this time but they can't be foreclosed either," Duggan said. "We're not going to put the public in jeopardy, that's our highest priority."

Some City Council members agree, and are concerned about what the cuts, part of a \$4.5 million list of budget proposals dubbed "tier two," would do to response times to 911 calls.

According to staff reports, the cuts could result in the minimum number of firefighters on duty decreasing from 21 to 19, while eight of the city's 100 police officers, including five community service officers, would have to look for work elsewhere. If these cuts aren't enough, more severe tier three cuts could result in more cuts to public safety through departmental reorganization.

City officials say the police and fire department budgets have grown disproportionately over the years to about half of the city's budget, which is not unusual for municipalities. Without cuts to

public safety, the city will have to cut other basic services, such as library services, regular park and street maintenance, planning staff and code inspectors among other things.

"Are they OK with not having as many police officers?" Mayor Margaret Abe-Koga asked of the public. "Are they OK with park lawns not being cut as often?"

In total, the city manager's tier

► See **BUDGET**, page 13



First of two parts

Cash crunch hits college district

FOOTHILL-DE ANZA TO CANCEL 65 POSITIONS DUE TO STATE BUDGET CUTS

By Casey Weiss

The Foothill-De Anza Community College District will cut 65 positions by June 2010, administrators announced as they prepare for steep budget reductions from the state.

Thirty-four employees in the district will lose their jobs and an additional 31 vacant positions will not be filled next year, district

► See **FOOTHILL**, page 14

INSIDE

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REDEFINING QUALITY SINCE 1990
Reading between the emotional line makes the difference between finding a house and a home.

Kathy Bridgman



MOUNTAIN VIEW ■ Beautiful, spacious 4bd/3ba home with office, located on a desirable cul-de-sac. Gourmet kitchen, formal LR with FP, separate DR, spacious FR with FP. Pool + spa. **\$1,769,000**

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Ginny Zachow



SANTA CLARA ■ Stunning 5bd/3ba resort-like remodeled home, is an entertainer's delight with amenities galore! Chef's kitchen, FR with plasma, outdoor kitchen, fireplace, pool + spa. **\$1,298,000**

Dorothy Liu



SUNNYVALE ■ Beautiful 3bd/2ba home on a tree-lined street in highly desirable area. 1,603+/- sf., with gorgeous refinished HW floors. 8,550+/- sf lot. Homestead High School. **\$1,069,000**

Soli Saatchi



MOUNTAIN VIEW ■ A dream come true! Beautifully updated 3bd/2.5ba home, 1600+/-sf., with spacious LR with FP, DR, and nice FR with FP, opening to light and bright sun room. **\$1,048,950**

Ellen Saviano



SUNNYVALE ■ Lovely, updated 4bd/2ba + bonus room atrium-model Eichler. Gorgeous kitchen with maple cabinets and granite. LR with floor to ceiling windows. 7,300+/- sf lot. **\$1,048,000**

Helen & Ki Nyborg



MOUNTAIN VIEW ■ Charming 3bd/1ba ranch-style home, lovingly maintained with hardwood floors, vaulted ceiling in living area, skylights, + updated kitchen with high-end appliances. **\$830,000**

Helena Berber



MOUNTAIN VIEW ■ Don't let Miramonte Avenue discourage you from seeing this lovely 3bd/2ba home set far back from the street. Updates inside and out. Hardwood floors + more! **\$829,000**

Barb Conkin-Orrrock



MOUNTAIN VIEW ■ Darling 1bd/1ba end-unit condo, great location within the complex. Pergo-style flooring, granite counters in kitchen and bath area, + newer appliances. Spacious MBR. **\$239,000**

Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked in Downtown Mountain View. Pictures and interviews by Ed Pereira.

What do you think about the California Supreme Court's ruling upholding Proposition 8 (the ban on gay marriage)?



"There should be equal rights for all."
Elizabeth Ashe, Milpitas



"It's not an issue for me. There's so many other things we could be worried about."
John Wayne, Mountain View



"Today kids are looking for a mom and dad, they are going to be confused at a young age by not having these models. Laws concerning traditional marriage are for the benefit of kids."
Robert Boyajian, Mountain View



"I think marriage is a secular thing; most people opposing it are doing it for non-secular reasons. The state also shouldn't be able to tell you who you can and cannot marry."
Erika Johannsen, Alviso



"I am deeply opposed to religion being what guides marriage. Religion is influencing people's opinions on this issue. I'm opposed to people being against it purely on religious grounds."
Deivi Cruz, Alviso

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MountainView VOICE

POLICE LOG

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE

100 block N. Whisman Rd., 5/19

PEEPING TOM

500 N. Shoreline Blvd., 5/18

AUTO BURGLARY

80 block Church St., 5/18
Shoreline Park, 5/18
100 block Crestview Dr., 5/18
80 block Heatherstone Way, 5/18
100 block N. Whisman Rd., 5/20
2100 block W. El Camino Real, 5/20
250 block S. Rengstorff Ave., 5/22
200 block San Ramon Ave., 5/23

PETTY THEFT

120 block Dale Ave., 5/18
Monte Carlo Club, 5/18
220 block Grant Rd., 5/18
20 block Castro St., 5/18
Sears Department Store, 5/19
Mountain View High School, 5/19
60 block Showers Dr., 5/20
Crittenden School, 5/22
460 block Sierra Vista Ave., 5/22
Sears Department Store, 5/22
120 block Terra Bella Ave., 5/23
40 block Showers Dr., 5/23

ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON

40 block Mariposa Ave., 5/18

BATTERY

Shoreline Amphitheatre, 5/22

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

400 block San Antonio Rd., 5/18
800 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 5/20
100 block Grant Rd., 5/20

CORPORAL INJURY TO SPOUSE

100 block E. El Camino Real, 5/17

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

W. El Camino Real/S. Shoreline Blvd., 5/20
Evandale Ave./Leong Dr., 5/22

GRAND THEFT

Castro St./Villa St., 5/17
240 block Old Middlefield Way, 5/18
90 block Madison Dr., 5/18
400 block Sylvan Ave., 5/20
950 block Villa St., 5/23

MISSING PERSON - ADULT

50 block View St., 5/18
Villa Sienna Retreat, 5/22

MISSING PERSON - JUVENILE

Quetzal House, 5/19
100 block Space Park Way, 5/23

POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA

W. Middlefield Rd./Old Middlefield Rd., 5/18

POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA

400 block Moffett Blvd., 5/20
150 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 5/20

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

310 block Escuela Ave., 5/22

STOLEN VEHICLE

190 block Crisanto Ave., 5/18
150 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 5/19
250 block Garcia Ave., 5/20
80 block Pioneer Way, 5/22
190 block Showers Dr., 5/22
Amphitheatre Pkwy., 5/22

TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER

100 block Villa St., 5/20
200 block California St., 5/20

VANDALISM

270 block W. El Camino Real, 5/17
100 block E. Middlefield Rd., 5/17
Gold's Gym, 5/22

CORRECTION

A story in last week's *Voice*, "Council gives stimulus funds to homeowners," gave an incorrect unit of measurement when discussing greenhouse gas emissions. The story should have read: "The audits are expected to save 3.4

million pounds of greenhouse gases annually." The story also should have mentioned that renters can qualify for the audits, which will be conducted by contractors.

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Inspirations

A Guide to the Spiritual Community

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For your brain

By Don Frances

“MOUNTAIN VIEW Mayor Margaret Abe-Koga has issued a proclamation stating that May 8, 2009 is Brain Education Day.”

So says Lisa Melnick, who wrote on behalf of the San Francisco Bay Area chapter of the International Brain Education Association, or IBREA.

“According to the proclamation document,” she continued, “Brain Education is described as a system of human development centered on the brain and based on the philosophy that understanding and developing the brain is critical to improving the human condition. It consists of five simple steps that build upon one another, and go from the physical, to the psychological, to the philosophical.

“These five steps are Brain Sensitizing, Brain Versatilizing, Brain Refreshing, Brain Integrating, and Brain Mastering. Ultimately, it is a system of self improvement designed to not only create happiness for individuals, but initiate a wave of health, happiness, and peace throughout the entire world.”

That last part is mighty ambitious, but your local yoga shop — the Mountain View Dahn Yoga & Health Center, at 1776 Miramonte Ave. — is up to the task.

(Dahn Yoga is a chain, with six in the Bay Area, including in Santa Clara, San Mateo and Fremont. The Mountain View center can be reached at (650) 960-1717.)

Melnick says Dahn offers Brain Education classes nearly every day of the week. She adds that Mountain View volunteers have provided free classes in Brain Education to such local organizations as Ronald McDonald

► See **EDITOR'S DESK**, page 6



From right to left, Girls' Middle School students Jamie Bindon, Rachael Rappoport, Maggie Brown and Jaime McConachie show off their product “Buckle My Jeans.”

Girls turn jeans into green

STUDENT ENTREPRENEURS SCORE WITH RECYCLED CLOTHING START-UP

By Casey Weiss

Denim hand bags made from old jeans and belts may be the newest fad at Girls' Middle School thanks to four young entrepreneurs who recently brought the product to campus.

Jamie Bindon, Rachael Rappoport, Maggie Brown and Jaime McConachie designed the environmentally friendly “Buckle My Jeans” bags as part of their seventh grade entrepreneurial studies class.

At the beginning of the school year, the girls in the course joined

one of 12 groups to design their own product, form a business plan, pitch their idea to local business leaders, keep their own balance sheets and, at the end of the year, liquidate the enterprise.

Girls' Middle School, a private

► See **GIRLS**, page 12

Passing grade for local schools

NEW READING ON STATE TESTS SHOWS LITTLE CHANGE IN POSITION FROM YEAR TO YEAR

By Casey Weiss

It isn't new test scores — just a new way to read the old test scores.

But according to new rankings released by the state, both of the local public high schools, and three elementary and middle schools, placed in the top 20 percent of schools in California based on their standardized test scores from 2008.

The state released its test scores last August, evaluating schools according to their academic performance or API ranking. This complex formula ranks schools on an annual basis, based on their California Standards Test (CST) scores, and gauges the performance and growth of districts, schools and student subgroups on a scale ranging from 200 to 1,000 points. The state target is cur-

► See **API**, page 14

Police recover stolen squad car

By Casey Weiss

After searching for two days, police found a patrol car stolen at Shoreline Amphitheatre during a Nine Inch Nails concert last Friday night.

Residents of an apartment building at 950 High School Way, having seen news reports about the missing vehicle, noticed the car in their complex's parking lot and called police on Sunday afternoon. Police say the vehicle, numbered 3006, was undamaged, and it appeared that no one had tampered with the shotgun inside the car, which was loaded with bean bags.

So far police have no suspects and will be searching the car for evidence that could lead to the identity of the thief or thieves. Police spokesperson Liz Wylie

a good place to dump the car,” Wylie said.

The vehicle was taken after a Mountain View police officer responded to a call for assistance

and down Shoreline Boulevard, but was not sure, according to Wylie.

“We have never had this happen before — at least that we can remember,” Wylie said.

Mountain View and San Jose police had searched by foot and helicopter for two days before locating the car. Wylie said police were concerned that the suspect could impersonate a police officer, use the weapon, or misuse the sirens and cause an accident.

Anyone with information about the theft is encouraged to call the Mountain View Police at (650) 903-6344. Police are accepting anonymous calls. ■

“We have never had this happen before — at least that we can remember.”

LIZ WYLIE

said it could take up to a month to get results from the collected evidence.

“We don't know if that apartment complex has any connection to the crime or if it was just

during the Jane's Addiction/Nine Inch Nails concert on Friday at 11:15 p.m., and left the keys in the ignition, police say. A Shoreline employee said he thought he saw a teenage male driving the car up

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■ SEEN AROUND TOWN

Cuesta wildflowers



"Here's a photo I took earlier this week at the Cuesta Park Annex of the beautiful wildflowers along the sidewalk," wrote Lisa Twardowski of Golden Way.

If you have a photo taken around town which you'd like published in the Voice, please send it (as a jpg attachment) to editor@mv-voice.com.

■ NEWS BRIEFS

EMBEZZLEMENT CHARGE FOR JAMBA JUICE WORKER

A 26-year-old Mountain View woman was arrested by police last Monday for allegedly stealing cash and merchandise from her employer, Jamba Juice.

Over a period of several months, cashier Maria Mendoza allegedly stole \$2,000 in cash and \$1,000 in merchandise from the store at 1037 El Monte Ave. while on probation for grand theft and forgery.

Mendoza was charged with felony embezzlement and put on a probation hold.

— Daniel DeBolt

COUNTY REPORTS OF SWINE FLU ON RISE

The Santa Clara County Public Health Department reported last week more than a dozen additional probable cases of swine flu, now referred to as the H1N1 virus, a department spokeswoman said.

Santa Clara County now has 14 confirmed cases and 31 probable cases of the virus, according to department spokeswoman Joy Alexiou. The cases reported last week were identified from a backlog of specimens submitted to the department's laboratory since the beginning of May, and none of them are believed to be serious, she said.

Three people were hospitalized in the county because of the H1N1 virus, but all three have recovered or are recovering at home, according to Alexiou.

Alexiou said she did not know how many more specimens have yet to be tested by the lab, and encouraged residents to continue healthy habits like washing their hands often.

Additional information about the H1N1 flu virus is available by calling the California Department of Public Health's toll-free hotline at (888) 865-0564.

— Bay City News

EDITOR'S DESK

► Continued from page 5

House at Stanford Hospital, Areon Flute Institute and Whole Foods.

The payoff, she says, is reduced stress, increased productivity, better health, more confidence, etc.

Now, I'm not personally endors-

ing Brain Education (except for the traditional kind), because I really don't know what it entails. But if you want to find out more, visit www.ibrea.org or www.dahnyoga.com.

And if you want some other, more boring advice on improving your health, consider prayer or meditation, exercise, fresh air, a

good diet, reduced time in front of the TV and computer, and a weekly dose of your *Mountain View Voice*.

AMAZING RACERS: Head for City Hall! ▣

Don Frances is editor of the *Mountain View Voice*. He can be reached at dfrances@mv-voice.com.

State budget crisis will hit deep, officials say

SENATOR SAYS GRIDLOCK PLUS RECESSION SPELLS CATASTROPHE FOR EDUCATION, 'SAFETY NET'

By Jay Thorwaldson

Grim, dire, unprecedented, catastrophic, devastating. Officials from school districts and cities, counties, special districts and state programs are grasping for adjectives to describe California's budget crisis. Those are some.

"It's grim. There's no other word for it," State Sen. Joe Simitian, D-Palo Alto, said last week of the "unprecedented" economic catastrophe California faces in the wake of overwhelming voter defeat of a package of propositions aimed to help close California's \$21.3 million budget gap.

School districts, cities, counties and special districts throughout the state are girding for a massive impact that will land primarily on education and health and human services programs, according to officials.

Santa Clara County officials are huddled in meetings trying to assess how badly the county's \$4 billion annual budget half of which goes to health, welfare and other discretionary programs that will be hit.

It will be very bad, Supervisor Liz Kniss, who represents Mountain View, said last Thursday.

"I think we're looking at amputation of programs. We're not looking at surgical removal (of program components) any more but at major cuts of entire programs."

She said such cuts would be felt especially hard in health and human services.

"I see our tightly woven social and safety network really beginning to develop enormous holes in it that I don't think will be mended easily, if ever," Kniss said of cutbacks at the county level.

"The holes are getting bigger, and may soon be larger than the net itself," she said.

Simitian said he's never seen a situation even close to the present crisis in his 25 years as an elected official, which includes serving on the Palo Alto school board and city council, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, state Assembly and Senate.

"We've had (political) debates in previous years, when we had to

cut the budget severely," Simitian said. He said the legislative debate "played out again in February" when the Legislature tackled a projected \$42 billion state budget shortfall.

"We dealt with \$36 billion" and moved \$6 billion into the package of propositions, all but one of which failed resoundingly, he said.

"This is not just like 'another hard year, only more so.' This is a qualitatively different kind of experience: a worldwide recession with revenues plummeting

cussed for Santa Clara County include numerous prevention and diversion programs, including public health nurses who provide front-line care to the chronically ill and elderly. She said one program that will likely be cut provides counseling, job training and recovery guidance for people released from jail or prison for drug-related offenses.

Such a cut would make it more difficult for many of the 38,000 prisoners Schwarzenegger has said might be released from state prisons to save money, as many are there for drug-related offenses and related crimes, Kniss said.

She said once such amputations are made the programs tend to simply disappear forever rather than being recreated later. She compared the cuts to the closure of state mental hospitals in the 1960s that resulted in an influx of homeless people into communities. ■

Jay Thorwaldson writes for the Palo Alto Weekly, the Voice's sister paper.

"We are facing a situation that is orders-of-magnitude greater than anything we've faced before. There's no way to put a happy face on this."

STATE SEN. JOE SIMITIAN

as a result of a failed economy," Simitian said. "State revenues went down 35 to 40 percent — boom, just like that."

"We are facing a situation that is orders-of-magnitude greater than anything we've faced before," he said. "There's no way to put a happy face on this."

"Because public education is half the budget, there is no way the state is going to save \$21 billion without some really painful cutbacks."

Health and welfare programs constitute another 30 percent of the state budget, he said. There will be a heavy impact on counties, which are mandated to implement many such health and "safety net" programs.

Some people have suggested making deep cuts in the state's prison system, but prisons and related services account for only about 10 or 11 percent of the state's budget, he said. The state is also under federal court order to increase spending on prisons in health and some other areas, he noted.

Some local municipalities and school districts, including in Mountain View, report that use of reserves may help them avoid the worst of the impacts in the short term. But the impacts on county services will be felt in both Santa Clara and San Mateo counties.

Kniss said cutbacks being dis-



CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

NOTICE OF JOINT PUBLIC HEARINGS OF THE FOLLOWING GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES TO REVIEW THE FISCAL YEAR 2009-10 PROPOSED ANNUAL BUDGETS, PROPOSED WATER, WASTEWATER AND SOLID WASTE RECYCLING AND REFUSE RATES AND VARIOUS CITY FEES:

- CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MOUNTAIN VIEW REVITALIZATION AUTHORITY
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MOUNTAIN VIEW SHORELINE REGIONAL PARK COMMUNITY
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FINANCING AUTHORITY

Notice is hereby given that Tuesday, the 2nd day of June, 2009 at the hour of 6:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard in the Council Chamber, 500 Castro Street, Mountain View, has been set as the time and place for a public hearing to receive citizen input on the use of funds in the Fiscal Year 2009-10 Proposed Budget; on the use of funds for the Fiscal Year 2009-10 Capital Improvement Program and Community Development Block Grant, on proposed water, wastewater and solid waste recycling and refuse rates and various City fees.

A public hearing is also scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard to receive citizen input and written protests from owners or tenants of property located within the City regarding the proposed increases to water, wastewater and solid waste recycling and refuse rates. Utility customers objecting to the proposed utility rates may file a written protest with the City Clerk to be received on or before the close of the public hearing on June 9, 2009, but protests are requested by June 5, 2009 and will be tabulated at the public hearing. No utility rate protests submitted by e-mail will be accepted. Following this public hearing, the budget is scheduled for a final public hearing and adoption on June 9, 2009. If you are unable to attend the budget public hearings but would like the City Council and staff to know your views, please send a letter to the City Council, P.O. Box 7540, Mountain View, California 94039, or an e-mail to city.clerk@mountainview.gov on or before Friday May 29, 2009 for the June 2nd public hearing and on or before Friday, June 5, 2009 for the June 9th public hearing.

Copies of the Fiscal Year 2009-10 Proposed Budget, supporting documentation for proposed water, wastewater and solid waste recycling and refuse rates and various City fees will be available for review on Friday, May 29, 2009 by 8:00 a.m. at City Hall in the City Clerks Office, 500 Castro Street, 3rd Floor, Mountain View, Monday through Friday, and during public hours at the Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St, Mountain View. The budget document and related reports will be available after 5:00 pm on Thursday, May 28, 2009 on the City's website at <http://laserfiche.mountainview.gov/webblink7/Browse.aspx>.

Dated this 15th day of May, 2009.

Patty J. Kong
Finance and Administrative Services
Director



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PROP 8

► Continued from page 1

state's Supreme Court upheld the ban in a 6-1 ruling. But the justices also ruled that 18,000 marriages held in California last summer were still valid.

Anna Olivia Chen, a student at Graham Middle School, said there wasn't much reaction on campus following the ruling. She came to the Community Health Awareness Council (CHAC), where Outlet is located, to make signs after school with other LGBT youth.

"It's important for people to hear we are not going to let them take our rights away from us with us not doing anything about it," she said. "It doesn't just affect adults."

After making the signs, the youth, Outlet employees and one parent walked to Castro and El Camino, where they started to protest. Mountain View High School junior Danny Kirsch said the ruling "makes us who identify as queer as second-class citizens."

"It feels weird no one is getting as outraged," he added. "They really should. What's next?"

He said he was still surprised that California did not have the same rights as other states.

"I really can't believe we are behind Iowa," Kirsch said.

The small group of protestors was met with dozens of honks and cheers from drivers as they passed by. Two men even parked their car to join the protest, explaining that they had been heading toward the Palo Alto demonstration but decided to join the Mountain View gathering instead. Youth from as far as Redwood City joined the protest, and Outlet employees said the organization was the only one of its kind on the Peninsula.

A couple of drivers gave the protestors "thumbs down" as they passed, and one group of teenage boys yelled, "Gays should burn in hell."

As the night went on, several more locals joined, and the protestors said they weren't expecting a large turnout.

Dozens of people attended an Outlet candlelight vigil after California voters rejected Prop 8 in November. Even though Monday's turnout was lower, protestors said it was still important to continue fighting for gays' rights. Some wondered what the seemingly conflicting rulings meant for gay marriage in California.

"You shouldn't have had to (get married) in that tiny window between June and Nov. 4," said Kathleen Brans-Field, a Santa Clara resident who was married over the summer. ■

E-mail Casey Weiss at cweiss@mv-voice.com

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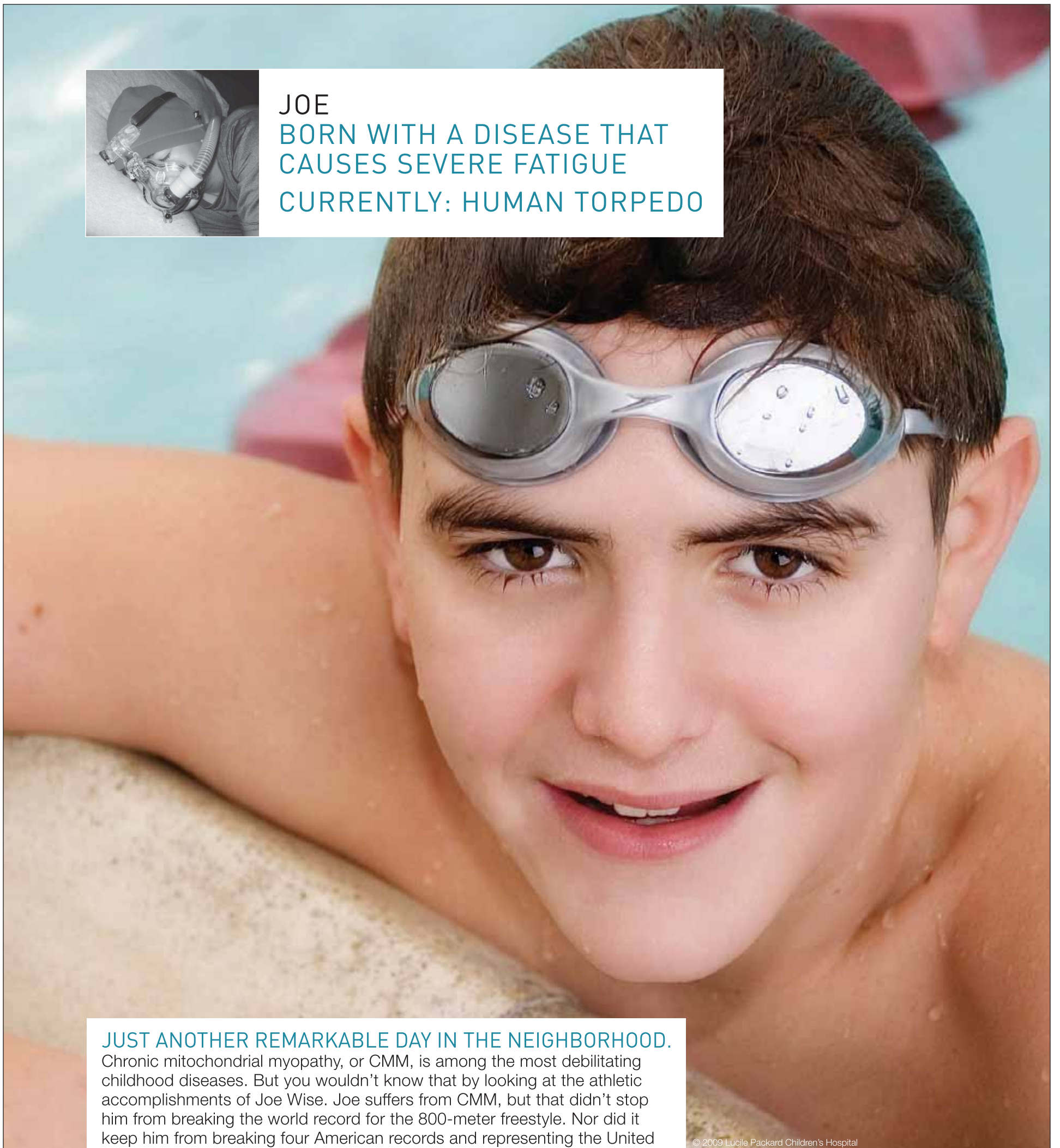
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GIRLS

► Continued from page 5

school, gives the students a little money to start their projects, and then sets them free to design their own products. They had one year to design and execute their business, knowing that the profits would go to a charity of their choice, according to teacher Tricia Kellison.

"Seventh grade can be a time of looking inside," Kellison said. "This helps them get out of their self-centeredness at this age."

The girls met with a local business man or woman once a week, and had a set of investors who were selected to work with the company during "entrepreneurial night," when the girls presented their projects at the Computer History Museum.

Otherwise, the students were in charge of their own business model from beginning to end, Kellison said.

"Girls' Middle School is set up to give young women opportunities that are normally given to men," she said.

The students came up with a wide range of products, including bulletin boards, cork boards, candles and tins, and were given around \$100 to get started.



Buckle My Jeans crafts bags with used jeans and belts.

MICHELLE LE

The "Buckle My Jeans" entrepreneurs said they knew right off the bat they wanted to design an eco-friendly product — a common theme in the class, Kellison said.

"We wanted to use a recyclable product that could be environmentally friendly," McConachie said.

The girls tossed around a few ideas — including jewelry made from cans — before settling on the "Buckle My Jeans" bags. Standing outside their school last week, they said it was easy to come up with a motto — "We've got your jeans in the bag."

Having chosen a name and

motto, the four girls started going to consignment stores near McConachie's home in Half Moon Bay to buy old jeans and belts — they cut off the bottom of the jeans and sewed the denim together using the belt. Eventually they sold about 130 bags for \$9 to \$15 per bag.

The employees at Senior Coastsiders, a thrift store that raises money for local senior services, were excited by the girls' product.

"She gave us a huge discount," Bindon said.

In return, the girls decided to give nearly half of their approximately \$250 profit to Coastsiders. The rest went to Habitat for Humanity, which the girls said they liked because, as McConachie put it, "Habitat for Humanity helps people instead of just giving them charity."

"We like that sense of pride," Bindon added.

Now that they have investors, products and beneficiaries, three of the girls said they are going to continue "Buckle My Jeans," and the school is helping them get a small business license. They hope this class is just the beginning of their business. ■

E-mail Casey Weiss at cweiss@mv-voice.com

■ **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

NEW LIONS CLUB SEEKS MEMBERS

Downtown resident Hugh Donagher says he's trying to put the roar back into community service in Mountain View by restarting the Lions Club.

"There was a Lions Club in Mountain View many years ago and I'm told it was a fairly active club," Donagher said in a press release. "We hope to have that again."

The club needs 20 members to start a Mountain View chapter, and already has nearly that amount. Donagher is currently a member of the Sunnyvale Lions.

An informational meeting will be held June 3 at 6:30 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce office, located at 580 Castro Street (at the rear of the Wells Fargo parking lot.)

There are a reported 1.3 million people in 200 different countries who call themselves Lions members. The club is dedicated to preventing blindness and is known for recycling large quantities of eyeglasses and providing eye surgeries to those in need.

The Mountain View effort already has a Web site: www.siliconvalleylions.com. Donagher can be reached at (650) 967-4541 or by e-mail at hugh.donagher@yahoo.com.

— Daniel DeBolt

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Local heroes honored at state ceremony

By Casey Weiss

Mountain View public safety dispatcher Jen Wandruff and 8-year-old resident D'Jana Wright were honored as heroes Tuesday in Sacramento for their quick response in saving D'Jana's grandmother.

The "California 911 Heroes Award Ceremony" is held every year on the capitol steps in order to recognize dispatchers and residents for their work to prevent crimes, stop fires and saves lives.

Officials say that on Feb. 11, D'Jana found her grand-

mother unconscious and immediately called 911, where Wandruff instructed the girl on how to keep her grandmother's airway open until help arrived. (Due to privacy laws, authorities would not describe the nature of the grandmother's injury.) D'Jana's grandmother was transported to a local hospital, where she fully recovered.

Wandruff answered Wright's frantic call and was able to successfully calm Wright down while receiving the information she needed to dispatch the call to MVPD officers and MVFD

firefighters and paramedics," according to the press release. "Wright, despite being extremely scared and upset, answered all of Wandruff's questions and followed Wandruff's medical aid instructions as best as she could."

An online recording of the 911 conversation between D'Jana and Wandruff can be downloaded from the police department's press release, found on the city of Mountain View Web site. ■

E-mail Casey Weiss at cweiss@mv-voice.com

BUDGET

► Continued from page 1

one and tier two cuts equal only \$8 million worth of solutions to a deficit that is expected to grow to at least \$10 million for 2009-10 and 2010-11 combined. The city manager has already proposed using \$2 million in reserves. But now the state government appears to want another \$2 million from the city's general fund to balance its own budget.

Low response times

According to city data, in 2008, police responded to serious emergencies, such as shootings, within three and a half minutes on average. Firefighters responded to fires and medical emergencies in four and a half minutes on average.

Abe-Koga said it takes eight minutes on average for paramedics to respond to medical emergencies in cities like San Jose.

"Are folks OK if it goes to eight minutes?" asked Abe-Koga, whose own father narrowly survived a heart attack. "People can die within those four minutes. Those are the real effects these cuts can cause. It is important for the community to give us direction."

Firefighter's Association president John Miguel said first-responders try to make it to a medical emergency within four minutes because that is how long the human body can survive without air. He said the current staffing level for firefighters has saved lives. For example, he said, two people were rescued from

burning buildings over the past year, however, "I don't think we would have been able to get them out with the reduced staffing."

Less staffing could also mean slower response times to medical emergencies, especially when firefighters are busy with a fire. To know the exact effects, says police chief and interim fire chief Scott Vermeer, more study is required.

While the suggested fire department cuts could save the city \$850,000 in overtime expenses, Mountain View would have a minimum of 19 firefighters on duty instead of 21. Miguel said the city would lose its rescue vehicle most of the time, which is one of the busiest in the city and responded to 1,500 of the city's 5,000 calls last year, usually accompanying a regular fire truck — a total of five firefighters. The specially equipped truck is stationed at the fire house on Shoreline Boulevard near Villa Street, a central location that allows it to respond to emergencies quickly all over the city. It is the only fire truck equipped with large night lights and an "autopulse" device that "provides compressions for persons in cardiac arrest."

Half of city budget

Some city officials, including council member Mike Kasperzak, believe the city budget for first-responders has grown too large, and are calling for a reevaluation of where the resources go.

"We have become basically a paramedic health and safety department," said Kasperzak, who pointed out that cities like Campbell, Los Gatos and Los Altos save money by having private ambulances, instead of

firefighters, respond to medical emergencies.

"I have very strong concerns that our public safety expenses are now up to 50 percent of the city's overall budget," up from 36 percent in 1990-91, Kasperzak said.

Almost every other department was cut during the same period, he said. Community services, for example, which include parks and recreation, decreased from 16 to 14 percent in those years.

But others say the reallocation of funds has saved lives. Miguel said the fire department began providing paramedic services years ago because the ambulance company the city was using sometimes took 20 minutes to respond to an emergency. He said that having firefighter paramedics is now the "industry standard."

Today, ambulances only respond in Mountain View if someone has to be taken from the scene. But firefighters always arrive first.

Last year the fire department responded to 2,745 health emergency calls, excluding automobile accidents. During the same period, there were 139 calls for fires. Every fire station has a firefighter trained as a paramedic who rolls out to medical emergencies in a fire truck with two other firefighters.

This Tuesday, June 2, the City Council is expected to provide feedback before approving a 2009-10 budget on June 9. ■

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MV Whisman to gauge support for bond measure

By Casey Weiss

Mountain View residents will soon be asked how they feel about a potential bond measure for the local elementary school district, after trustees decided last Thursday to spend \$21,000 to hire polling consultants.

The decision to conduct polling comes as Mountain View Whisman Elementary School District trustees prepare to approve a 10-year plan to upgrade the district's campuses. A local architectural firm recently checked out the campuses, and estimated that full renovations could cost as much as \$192 million.

Trustees said they would not approve the full \$192 million in projects, but will approve some construction and expansion projects at the district's eight campuses, which they say are overcrowded and need to be updated. The board is expected to turn to voters to help fund the projects, and trustees agreed to retain Gene Bergman & Associates

closely following discussions about the master plan and potential bond measure and have attended all recent board meetings and a community forum. At the May 21 meeting, resident Steven Nelson accused the board of not being transparent enough about their plans. He said he could find hardly any information about these issues on the district's Web site.

"I think your staff is not doing a good job communicating," Nelson told trustees and board members. "If you give a poll to the public, they will say they have no idea what you are doing."

He said the board should not conduct a poll until they were more open about their plans.

Trustees and administrators said they had been advised by their consultants not to promote the bond, so the pollsters can have unbiased data. The district hopes this lack of data will help residents so they "can make a conscious decision on how they feel," chief financial officer Craig Goldman said.

"If we are going out for the bond, we need to spend the money to see how the community feels."

ELLEN WHEELER

to conduct a poll to find out if there is community support for a bond issue, what level of funding residents would approve and which projects interest them.

"I don't know where I stand on the bond," trustee Ellen Wheeler said during the meeting on Thursday, May 21. "If we are going out for the bond, we need to spend the money to see how the community feels."

Administrators said they will soon ask the board to approve an additional \$12,000 for a local political consulting company, Tramutola, to help with the polling. Tramutola has helped the district during previous campaigns, including the parcel tax election of 2008.

A few residents have been

The board had originally planned to discuss a letter to parents about the master plan and bond measure at Thursday's meeting. But administrators and board members decided to postpone this agenda item, and not send the letter out.

After a short discussion with Nelson, trustees unanimously approved the money for the polling research, agreeing it was important to get input from local residents.

"It is beyond how we are going to fund it," trustee Fiona Walter said of the bond. "It's about what our community members want to see from our schools." ■

E-mail Casey Weiss at cweiss@mv-voice.com

FOOTHILL

► Continued from page 1

officials said. The cuts add up to a nearly 5 percent reduction of the district's workforce.

Administrators said on May 14 that it was essential to cut the 65 positions, which range from gardeners to a college dean. They also plan to reduce some operating costs, which — when added to the reductions and the proposed layoffs — will save a total of \$6.7 million through 2010.

The district currently faces a \$3 million deficit, and according to rough estimates the state could cut up to \$21 million more from the district's \$185 million budget through 2010 due to the failure of five ballot measures at the May 19 special election. Those measures were designed to ease the state's enormous, multi-billion dollar shortfall.

The resulting budget situation "is devastating news for all of education and we wish it were not so," said outgoing Chancellor Martha Kanter in an e-mail memo to fac-

ulty and staff last week.

"We know we still have a \$3 million deficit," explained Mike Brandy, who will take over as the district's interim chancellor. (Kanter has been picked by President Barack Obama to be undersecretary of education, and is expected to leave for Washington early this summer.) "What we are trying to brace for is what is happening at the state level."

The employees who face layoffs include custodians, parking enforcement officers, instructors, deans, technicians, academic advisors and counselors. The district has posted the positions proposed for elimination online.

In her memo to staff, Kanter said the district had been planning the cuts for six months and hoped to spread them over the next year to give employees time to prepare.

"The effects of the state's dire budget situation and our own internal operating deficit have placed Foothill-De Anza and many of our sister community colleges and K-12 schools in the unfortunate situation of need-

ing to eliminate filled positions in the coming year," she wrote.

District spokesperson Becky Bartindale said the district will use "one-time money to delay the departure of people. We want to put it off as long as possible, so people have time to prepare."

But, she added, if the state keeps cutting back, the layoffs "will be hard to delay that long."

In his May budget revise, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said he planned to cut \$700 million from community colleges, but Brandy said this number could easily change.

The next fiscal year begins on July 1, and administrators say they are still looking at possible ways to cut back. But they cannot make final decisions until the state passes a budget; only then will school leaders know how much they will have to cut.

"These big numbers are changing daily. It is just a matter of how deep they will go," Brandy said. "Hopefully they will cut sooner rather than later." ■

E-mail Casey Weiss at cweiss@mv-voice.com

API

► Continued from page 5

rently set at 800.

Using this API index from 2008, the state released new ratings on May 21, ranking schools from 1 to 10. If a school received a 10 it means students scored in the top 10 percent in the state, and a 9 indicates students scored in the top 20 percent, according to Mountain View-Los Altos Superintendent Barry Groves.

High school and elementary schools are ranked in separate categories, and the state compares high school scores to other scores from high schools.

Mountain View High School received a 10 and Los Altos got a 9. The Mountain View Whisman School District's numbers were

more varied, with Huff receiving a 10, Bubb and Graham Middle receiving a 9, and three other schools receiving a 5.

"The only thing that is different is they have now given you a decimal ranking," Groves said of the new rankings.

The high schools ranked the same in 2008 as they did in 2007. The elementary schools varied slightly, with Castro falling from a 6 to a 5 and Monta Loma dropping from a 7 to a 5. Theuerkauf increased from a 3 to a 5, and Graham raised its score from 8 to 9. All the other schools in the district stayed the same.

School administrators already evaluated the numbers from 2008 when they came out last fall, and Groves said that in the high school district "the last three years our scores have

looked significantly better."

He added that subgroups, mainly low-income and Latino students, still fall behind their counterparts, but are bringing up their scores. ■

SCHOOL RANKINGS

Mountain View-Los Altos High School District

Los Altos High:9
Mountain View High:10

Mountain View Whisman Elementary School District

Bubb:9
Landels:6
Huff:10
Castro:5
Monta Loma:5
Theuerkauf:5
Crittenden:6
Graham:9

Foundation gives \$700,000 to high schools

By Casey Weiss

Despite steep state budget cuts, local high schools will continue to offer certain academic programs to students, such as career and college counseling and tutoring, thanks to \$700,000 in donations from community members and parents.

The MVLA Foundation, which raises money from local residents for Mountain View, Los Altos, Alta Vista and Freestyle high schools, announced the grant during a special event on May

6. The donation comes as the district expects the state to cut up to \$2 million from its budget.

Half of the donation will go "toward reducing class sizes, instructional technologies and online access to grades and assignments," according to a foundation press release. The remainder will fund tutorial centers, libraries and college and career preparation programs.

Every year, MVLA Foundation volunteers send letters to parents and other community members asking for support for the dis-

trict. This year the foundation requested a donation of \$700 per student to meet the goal of \$700,000. Foundation members say they hope to raise the same amount next year.

"We are thrilled to meet our financial commitment to the district despite the current economic downturn," foundation president Cindy Anderson said in a press release. "I feel lucky to live in a community that recognizes the importance of helping kids succeed in high school and beyond." ■

Viewpoint

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- YOUR LETTERS
- GUEST OPINIONS

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Founding Editor, *Kate Wakerly*

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Publisher

Tom Gibboney

Editorial

Managing Editor Don Frances

Staff Writers Daniel DeBolt, Casey Weiss

Photographer Michelle Le

Intern Ed Pereira

Contributors Dale Bentson, Andrew Doerschuk, Angela Hey, Sheila Himmel, Jennifer Pence, Kathy Schrenk

Design & Production

Design Director Raul Perez

Designers Linda Atilano, Laura Don, Gary Vennarucci

Advertising

Advertising Representatives Anna Mirsky, Dianna Prather

Real Estate Account Executive

Rosemary Lewkowitz

Real Estate Advertising Coordinator

Diane Martin

Display Advertising Coordinator

Mitzi Woods

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editor@MV-Voice.com

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Member, Mountain View Chamber of Commerce



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■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

Caltrain ponders huge service cuts

Everywhere you look, from the city and county to state governments, there is nothing but dire financial news. And now another institution, Caltrain, is staring down the barrel of a \$10 million deficit that officials there are preparing to close with — what else? — massive service cuts, including wiping out weekend train service.

For the thousands of riders who either live or work in Mountain View, and count on Caltrain for getting around, it is very likely that the price of a ticket will jump 25 cents or more while service decreases on virtually every front. And it appears that there are few ways for Caltrain to get to break-even unless these drastic cuts are made.

In its budget proposals, Caltrain has attempted to spread the pain around and keep as many cuts as possible away from their core commute-time business. Besides ending weekend service, for a saving of \$2 million, the agency is suggesting a reduction in midday service from every 30 minutes to one train per hour to save \$2.5 million.

On the revenue side, a 25 cent fare increase for all passengers is expected to bring in an additional \$1.5 million, and a 25 cent jump in zone charges will net another \$2.2 million. Caltrain officials are even considering a surcharge (not a specific proposal at this time) for taking bicycles on board, a move sure to raise the hackles of hundreds of bike commuters who have been struggling of late to not get bumped due to lack of on-board space.

Unfortunately, all the gains made in Caltrain ridership in the last few years will undoubtedly be lost in the whirlwind of these service cuts. Many riders will be forced back into solo automobile commutes that will add to traffic gridlock and pollution.

At this point, we see very little hope of reducing these painful cuts. Mass transit providers such as Caltrain do not have the luxury of operating at a deficit, at least not for long.

But there is still time for anyone wanting to sound off on these plans, as the agency is taking comments until June 4. Those wishing to send written e-mail comments can send them to changes@caltrain.com. Or mail a letter to District Secretary, Caltrain, P.O. Box 3006, San Carlos, 94070. Or call and leave a message at (800) 660-4287. More information is available at www.caltrain.com.

Despite the expected flood of negative comments on these proposed actions, it appears that Caltrain will need to implement the proposed service cuts just to stay in business. We hope another option comes to light, but currently, it seems, there is simply not enough revenue from riders to cover costs.

As with the rest of the state, an economic recovery appears to be the only thing that can pull Caltrain out of its budget hole. And no one can predict when that will happen.

■ LETTERS VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

RULING ON PROP 8 IS DISAPPOINTING

Editor:

Like most civil rights advocates, I was as disappointed by the upholding of Proposition 8 as I had been when it first qualified for the ballot.

The ruling creates an extraordinary inequality. All great social justice fights have begun with inequality, but this one is especially unsupportable, and I am confident this is not the last word on the matter. However, I have hope in the California Supreme Court's validation of the 18,000 same-sex marriages conducted before the proposition passed.

California has a special role to play in this battle. All the things you and I love about California are the reasons I decided to enter public service and represent my constituents in Sacramento. Californians have always been an inspiration to progressive forces nationwide. At such an important moment in history, it is frustrating to feel that we are so far behind other parts of our great country. But we can take heart at the lessons of the past, and gain energy from the optimism of our brothers and sisters in struggle. We will not be discouraged from our duty as social justice fighters to win equal rights for all men and women, no matter what race, creed or sexual orientation.

I stand strong and will continue to fight for the LGBT com-

munities in Mountain View, my district, and in the nation until we all have equality.

Paul Fong
Assembly member,
22nd District

MEMORIAL DAY EVENT WAS WEAK

Editor:

I was sad and embarrassed when I came upon the Memorial Day parade Sunday morning. I kid you not, there were maybe 15 people there to watch it.

Being that I just moved into the city limits last weekend I figured I'd bike over to the farmers market. I heard the bands playing and wandered over to check out what was going on. I got the feeling I was the only one curious, since not even those who were already on Castro for whatever reason seemed too interested in the event. I had to get cash for the market so I "walked with the parade" as we both made our way down the street. As we did so I was overcome with amazement that no one (well, a handful of people) was actually there for the parade.

Whether this was due to a lack of publicity by the organizers or just plain selfishness and disinterest by the citizens, I don't know. But so far, the patriotism in this town is not much to be desired ... at least it wasn't Sunday.

Jennifer Heffley
Lambert Way



A 25-year career on the bench draws to a close

By Leslie C. Nichols

On Sunday, May 31, I retire after 32 years as an elected public official in Santa Clara County — seven years as a City Council member and mayor of Mountain View, and 25 years as a Superior Court judge in Santa Clara County.

The work of the Superior Court intersects every aspect of life experience. The divisions of the court seek to resolve disputes in criminal law (felony and misdemeanor), family law, juvenile law (delinquency and dependency), probate and mental health, and civil litigation. The latter area encompasses the broadest areas of human

to the best of my abilities. Fortunately, the system provides for appellate review when a party believes the law or the facts do not support the trial court determination.

Thanks to all who, over many years, have played vital roles in establishing, maintaining, and improving the justice system in our county. Great credit goes to our elected leaders, law enforcement, the public and private bar of trial and appellate practitioners, citizen jurors, my judicial colleagues at all levels of service, and legions of public and private employees and volunteers. Without their tireless energy and dedicated service, all efforts to provide equal justice for all in a fair,

*I turn to a new chapter
in the book of life with continued
and renewed confidence*

activity — insurance, contract, intellectual property, personal injury and wrongful death, real property, general business, environmental and complex litigation, employment, labor-management, civil rights, to name only a sampling of the variety of human activity addressed by the parties, counsel, and the courts.

From the straightforward to the most complex multi-party litigation, the courts actively engage with parties in order to encourage voluntary resolution of disputes. Although it has been my great privilege to enjoy a number of leadership activities in the judiciary at the local and state level, the greatest devotion of my time and energy has been expended working directly with parties and counsel to resolve disputes.

When all efforts at voluntary resolution fail (the distinct minority of all cases), trial to conclusion before a judge or jury may ensue. The fair and impartial application of the law to the facts, followed by a prompt and reasoned decision, is the essence of the judicial function. I have discharged my responsibilities

accessible, effective, efficient, and courteous manner would surely founder.

Thank you to the free, independent and vigorous media for its efforts to shine light on the justice system, faithfully and vigorously reporting the facts, good and bad, so that the public is informed, credit can be bestowed when due, and reforms and improvements can be undertaken when shown to be necessary or desirable.

I am grateful that Chief Justice Ronald M. George has admitted me into the Assigned Judges Program, so that I may continue my commitment to the public through judicial service. I turn to a new chapter in the book of life with continued and renewed confidence in the ability of people of good will to solve the problems which confront us, and I am grateful for this opportunity to say “thank you” to all for the privilege you have provided to me for service to our community. ■

Leslie C. Nichols is retiring as a judge of the Superior Court. He lives in Mountain View.

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Nak's Market owners Ikie and Sam Kurose have operated the Menlo Park store for 28 years, after taking over from Edith and Fred Nakamura.

MICHELLE LE

■ FOOD REVIEW

Knack for Nak's

DUTCH TREATS, POI, QUAIL EGGS AND SEAWEED — ALL IN ONE LITTLE MENLO PARK MARKET

By Jane Knoerle

For a refreshing change from serve-yourself, warehouse-sized stores, stop by for a friendly visit at Nak's Market — Menlo Park's last downtown mom-and-pop grocery store. Nak's, which has been in business for 40 years, harks back to the days when grocers knew you by name and were happy to hurry down the aisles to search for a special item.

The market first opened in 1968 with Ikie's sister and brother-in-law, Edith and Fred Nakamura, as proprietors. Ikie and Sam Kurose began helping out on Saturdays, and when the

Nakamuras were no longer able to run the business in about 1980, it was up to the younger couple to take over.

Running a mom-and-pop market was quite a change from Sam's job with a computer company and the food writing Ikie did in Japan, but they learned along the way. Today business is good and the store has a loyal following. Ikie and Sam work side by side Monday through Saturday.

Gale Nakano of Redwood City said she has been coming to Nak's for years because "they have lots of good stuff." She especially likes their tofu, which

► See **NAK'S**, page 18

Dinner near a movie



"Pizzeria Venti, across from Century Theater, boasts delicious food and great ambiance"

The *Mountain View Voice* said, "they pride themselves on cooking with only the highest quality ingredients, including oil and water imported from Italy to make their pizza crust." **Pizzeria Venti** proved to be much more than just a pizza place, they offer 16 different explosively flavorful pasta dishes to choose from, great wine selection, Italian illy coffee, an impressive gelato bar with 16 different flavors from which to choose. As for location, rather than clustering with the other restaurants downtown on Castro Street, they have set up shop across from the Century Theater on Shoreline Boulevard with an outdoor patio for those perfect outdoor entertaining occasions.

"As for dinner, **Pizzeria Venti's** spacious room — with its burnt orange and tan hues, faux roman columns and ornate mirrors — makes it a wonderful and relaxing destination.

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NAK'S

► Continued from page 17

they pick up every day in San Jose on the way to work. To find similar products, customers would have to drive up to San Mateo, said Nakano, who was also buying some fresh ginger.

Sally Mennick, a personal assistant and a sous chef, was stocking up on rice crackers recently at Nak's. She also shops there for mochi ice cream, fresh bamboo shoots, Thai basil and sashimi (raw fish).

"My friends are in love with

the candies," she said, pointing to the goodies behind the front counter. The selection is reminiscent of the old-time "penny candies" that neighborhood sweet shops once carried.

Shae Lovazzano and her cousins, Bella and Tina, who attend St. Raymond School, came into the store for Ramune sodas. The carbonated drinks have special caps that cause them to "bubble up like Champagne," Sam said.

Bernadette Callahan of Menlo Park said she has been shopping at Nak's for 18 years. "Sam is

► Continued on next page

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► Continued from previous page

very helpful. When I bring in a recipe that includes, for example, vinegar or soy sauce, he will show me several kinds and say which one is the best.”

One expects an Asian market to carry products from Japan, China and Thailand, but Nak’s has much more. Several shelves are filled with Dutch food products. There are many Dutch items, such as honey cake, speculaas (windmill cookies), chocolate, Gouda biscuits, and several kinds of mustard and jams. Sam has a Dutch-food catalogue that he lets customers peruse. When they see something they’re longing for, he orders it for them. Customers come from as far away as Chico for their Dutch treats, he said.

Nak’s has a small section of choice produce. It’s one of the few places to find kaffir lime leaves or galangal (a rhizome with flavor similar to ginger-root), both of which are used in Thai cooking.

Beautiful King Oyster mushrooms are bought from a Japanese farmer. Sam drives to a South San Francisco produce market at least two times a week, rising at 4 a.m. In the summer, Nak’s is one of the few places, outside of a farmers’ market, where you can find ripe melons.

Hawaiian islanders know they can find laulus in the refrigerator section. Fresh poi is flown in and picked up regularly at the San Francisco airport. As far as Sam is concerned, poi is an acquired taste and he doesn’t like it.

Nak’s is a little more crowded than it used to be since the store no longer has a second room filled with tasteful Japanese pottery. However, a few pieces are still displayed on shelves behind the front counter.

Twenty-eight years in the business is a long time, but Sam and Ikie have no plans to retire. And their customers would be lost without them. After all, where else could they find Dutch treats, poi, quail eggs, Thai bird’s-eye chiles and seaweed all in one little market where “everybody knows your name.”

Jane Knoerle writes for *The Almanac*, the Voice’s sister paper.

■ INFORMATION

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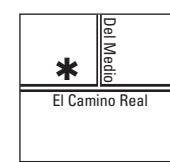
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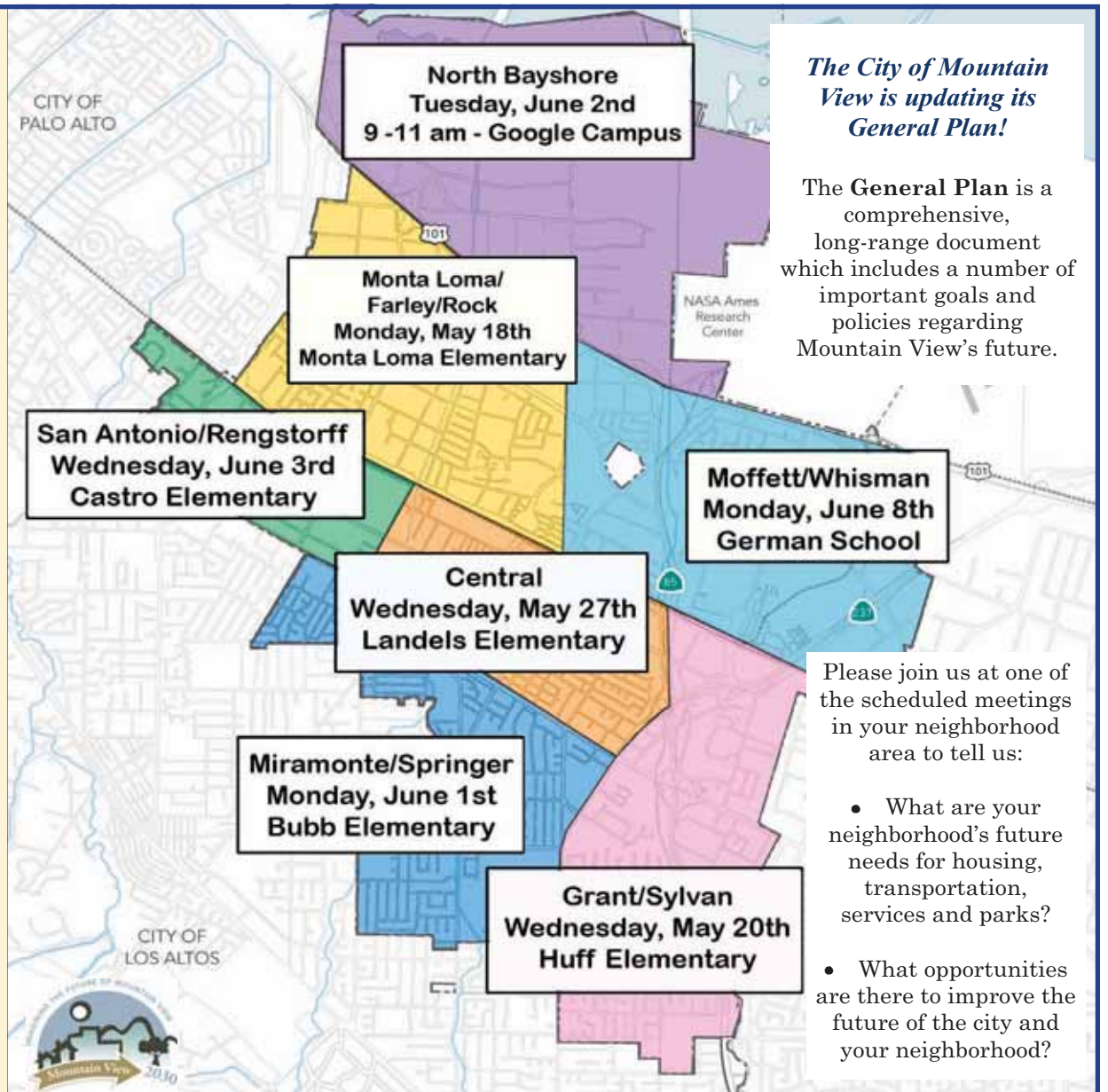


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Schedule and Map of
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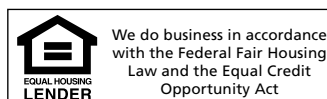


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