

MountainView VOICE



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DECEMBER 4, 2009 VOLUME 17, NO. 48

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MICHELLE LE

Jess Santana discusses his plan to build a new homeless shelter with Cuesta Park maintenance employee Sandra Santana, a member of his proposed board of directors for the "Silverado Shelter" of Mountain View.

Homeless man on a mission

JESS SANTANA, 86, IS CAMPAIGNING FOR A SHELTER IN MOUNTAIN VIEW

By Daniel DeBolt

Jess Santana fights for a cause like a much younger man with much greater resources.

The 86-year-old homeless resident of Mountain View hopes to create a homeless shelter in Mountain View, and has been working away at the project for about a year now. It seems his efforts are paying off: Several community members are in support, including Joanne Price, a Realtor who is helping him find a location; former Los Altos police officer David Mace, a recently homeless man himself; and a Mountain View librarian who promised to make a Web site for the cause.

"I think what he's trying to do is absolutely wonderful," said Duncan MacVicar, a board member for the Community Services Agency. "Moun-

tain View and Los Altos do not have shelters for the homeless. This is a real long-term project for Jess. You've really

"Everybody is for it. They think it's great. But nobody is doing anything about it. Nobody else is stepping up to the plate."

JESS SANTANA

got to give this guy credit. He's a bulldog on this particular enterprise. This is the goal of his life right now."

Santana said he is applying for non-profit status for his group, which will allow him to begin fundraising. He wants to form a board of directors — which would include other homeless people like Mark Shield, a friend who meets him regularly for 6:30 a.m. coffee at Burger King — to figure out how to move the idea forward.

"Everywhere I go I talk shelter," Santana said. "I have had a tremendous response from people. I had a couple of people offer me money" which he had to refuse.

"I met the gentleman who owns Burger King," Santana said. "I told him what I was doing, I tell everybody." The conversation turned to the subject of fundraising, and Santana told him, "I'm going to (knock) on everybody's door, and it might be yours."

► See **SANTANA**, page 8

Parents worry over cuts to special ed assistants

By Kelsey Mesher

A proposal to cut back the hours and benefits of nearly a dozen employees in the Mountain View Whisman School District's special education program has caused frustration among local parents, but administrators say changes to the program have made the full-time schedules unnecessary.

The cuts would affect 11 full-time instructional assistants, or IAs, working in two autism programs — a preschool, and an autism-intensive services program for other students requiring behavioral therapy — operating at Slater School. Under the proposal, their hours would be reduced from 40 hours a week to 30,

► See **SPECIAL ED**, page 7

City goes with high-quality affordable housing

ESTIMATED PRICE TAG OF \$26 MILLION CONCERNS ONE COUNCIL MEMBER

By Daniel DeBolt

A conceptual design for an affordable housing project on Evelyn and Franklin streets was well received in a City Council study session Tuesday, and neighbors turned their previous criticisms into positive feedback, offering design suggestions.

Jonathan Emami, vice president of developer ROEM, appeared to have

► See **COUNCIL**, page 11

INSIDE

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Voices

AROUND TOWN

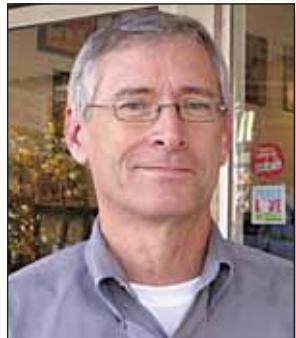
Asked in Downtown Mountain View. Pictures and interviews by Dana Sherne.

Obama is sending 30,000 more troops to Afghanistan. Do you think this is a good idea?



"I'm sure he knows things that we don't know. ... I don't think anyone wants to fight a war, but essentially we were dragged into the war."

Caleo Serughetti, Belmont



"I think it's a good idea because it puts more troops on the ground to protect the troops we have and train indigenous troops to give us an exit strategy."

Steven Long, Redwood City



"My instinct is to say no, it's not a good idea. But without knowing the context of it, I'm going to give him the benefit of the doubt."

Sarah Mattina, Santa Clara



"I think we should have been focusing on that to begin with."

Sylvia Peterson, Mountain View.



"I'm disappointed. I would have hoped that one outcome of electing President Obama would have been a reduction of our troops in both theaters of war."

Robert Wachs, Palo Alto

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ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON

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COMMERCIAL BURGLARY
2600 Block Bayshore Pkwy., 11/23
1100 Block Independence Ave., 11/25
800 Block East El Camino Real, 11/28
1 Block West El Camino Real, 11/28

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY
1900 Block Montecito Ave., 10/19
300 Block Oak St., 10/21
100 Block East El Camino Real, 10/21

AUTOMOBILE BURGLARY
2600 Block Fayette Dr., 11/23
2600 Block Fayette Dr., 11/23
400 Block San Antonio Rd., 11/23
200 Block Montecito Ave., 11/25

DISTURBANCE
Showers Dr., 11/25
500 Block Moorpark Way, 11/25
1200 Block Dale Ave., 11/29

**DISORDERLY CONDUCT:
ALCOHOL**

1900 Block Montecito Ave., 11/25
Escuela Ave. & Latham St., 11/26

**OBSCENE/ANNOYING
PHONE CALLS**
1700 Block Rock St., 11/25

PEEPING TOM
300 Block Escuela Ave., 11/23

**POSSESSION OF
MARIJUANA- LESS THAN
ONE OUNCE**
Fair Oaks St. & Leland Ave., 11/25

NARCOTICS POSSESSION
Chiquita Ave. & Villa St., 11/25
Franklin St. & Villa St., 11/28
2400 Block Leghorn St., 11/28

**POSSESSION OF
MARIJUANA WHILE DRIVING**
Northbound 101 From Shoreline Blvd.,
11/26 08945

POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA
Moffet & Middlefield, 11/27
Eagle Park, 11/28

**UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF
A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE**
2000 Block Latham St., 11/29

GENERIC H&S VIOLATION
Miramonte Ave. & Trophy Dr., 11/27

**ASSAULT WITH
ATTEMPT TO RAPE**
Dana St. & Stevens Creek Trail, 11/29

**SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE/
PERSON/ VEHICLE**
100 Block East Middlefield Rd., 11/29

GRAND THEFT
1900 Block California St., 11/26
1900 Block Montecito Ave., 11/28
1800 Block Edhamary Way, 11/29

PETTY THEFT
500 Block North Shoreline Blvd., 11/23
1600 Block Villa St., 11/24
600 Block Showers Dr., 11/24
Rite Aid, 11/27
Sears Department Store, 11/27
Sears Department Store, 11/28
Kohls, 11/29

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Pre-K program teaches kids how to learn

'STRETCH TO KINDERGARTEN' HOPES TO EXPAND IN 2010

By Kelsey Mesher

Though the school year is well under way, organizers of a new pre-kindergarten program are already planning for busy days in the classroom next summer.

"Stretch to Kindergarten," a seven-week all-day program for children entering kindergarten, piloted last summer with 42 students from low-income families, and organizers say they hope to expand to around 60 kids in 2010.

Liz Simons, a parent and former primary and secondary school teacher, spearheaded the project.

"I thought, what an important age that preschool time was," she said, "and how much can be taught — not just the academics but how to learn, how to be in school."

Stretch to Kindergarten selected last year's participants from children already enrolled for kindergarten in the Mountain View Whisman School District. Simons said some students had attended preschool, but the majority had not. All students in the program came from families whose annual household incomes are \$60,000 or less.

Simons and co-organizer Joanne Reed said they saw vast improvements in the children over the course of the program. They presented their findings at a district board meeting on Nov. 19.

Based on parent surveys, they reported, students made significant gains in following instructions, doing tasks like hand washing independently, playing well with other children, enjoying books and expressing their needs and wants to adults.

They said that at the beginning of the summer the children couldn't sit still in a circle, but by the end of the program they had learned better classroom behavior and improved their listening skills.

► See **KINDERGARTEN**, page 7



MICHELLE LE

Dr. Dexter Hake checks anemic patient Bernie Moore's reflexes. Moore has been coming to the RotaCare Clinic for the past year, and says she doesn't know what she would do without the free health care offered there.

RotaCare gives the gift of health

MORE PATIENTS THAN EVER ARE USING FREE CLINIC,
A VOICE HOLIDAY FUND RECIPIENT

By Dana Sherne

Dozens of patients fill the Mountain View RotaCare free clinic. They occupy every seat in the loud waiting room, spilling into the hall. Children play with blocks or watch a movie, and everyone waits for their name to be called.

The number of local patients



has been increasing dramatically for the past eight months, said Cheryl Canning, director of clinical services at

RotaCare. As people lose their health benefits and the state budget continues to shrink, more and more local residents, with nowhere else to go, are coming here.

Each night, Canning said, 50 percent more people call the clinic to request services. For some of these patients,

► See **ROTACARE**, page 10

H1N1 vaccination clinic open this weekend

Santa Clara County has received new shipments of the H1N1 vaccine, and the Public Health Department will host another vaccination clinic this Sunday at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds.

Approximately 5,000 doses will be available at the event for those who don't have access to a health care provider or whose providers do not have the vaccine. More vaccine has been distributed to health care providers, and the county is asking residents to check with their providers before

heading to the clinic.

The clinic is open from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 6.

The county reminded residents that children under 10 need a second booster shot three weeks after their first shot of the vaccine, but these children will not have priority at the clinic. Any child under 10 who received a first vaccination on or before Nov. 7 needs the booster.

Fewer people than expected showed up at the last clinic, but county officials said to expect lines and to prepare for bad

weather. People who are sick or have a fever will be turned away and have been asked not to attend.

The only people the county will vaccinate this Sunday are pregnant women, children and young adults between 6 months and 24 years, people who live with or provide care to children younger than 6 months, health care and emergency services workers and adults with medical conditions that put them at risk. □

— Palo Alto Weekly

Woman fights off assault on Stevens Creek Trail

By Kelsey Mesher

Police say a 27-year-old Mountain View woman jogging Stevens Creek Trail on Sunday afternoon fought off a sexual assault after she was attacked by a man who tried to pull her into some bushes off the path.

At approximately 1:25 p.m., the victim was jogging along the trail near the Dana Street overcrossing when a man grabbed her in a "bear hug" and attempted to carry her toward bushes near the creek, police said. The woman was able to scratch the man's face, fighting until he dropped her.

Police spokesperson Liz Wylie said the woman jammed her fingers in his mouth and pulled on his jaw, "doing what she could with what she had."

The attacker fled southbound along the trail on a green bicycle and is still at large. Police believe he may have suffered minor scratches.

The victim called 911 with a borrowed cell phone minutes after she was attacked. She suffered no injuries.

"We spent some time on the trail last night," Wylie said Monday, adding that they checked out homeless encampments and have also reviewed known sex offenders on file with the city.

"No leads yet, but we're working on it," she said.

The woman described her assailant as a white man with dark skin, thinning hair and a full goatee. He was approximately 35 years old, of medium build and overweight. He wore a red sweatshirt.

Wylie said there is an average of one mugging or robbery on the trail per

► See **ASSAULT**, page 6

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ARTS / dialogues 

2009/10 PREMIERE SEASON



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Gustavo Rivera, Art Travels

► Daniel Shindarov in Concert

12/17, 7:00PM

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Daniel Shindarov

► ChopShticks: Chinese Food & Comedy

12/24, 7:30PM

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Carol Leifer

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Local News

► SEEN AROUND TOWN

Coffee and a newspaper



"In downtown MV," wrote Max Hauser of Loreto Street, "a good cappuccino (its foam finer than whipped cream) complements a newspaper for those of us who still like to read the printed page!" Hauser was appreciating his coffee and paper while sitting at Dana Street Roasting Co.

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

ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY LEMON

Police say a 41-year-old Mountain View woman was injured when her neighbor and his friend hit her in the stomach with an unripe lemon.

According to police spokesperson Liz Wylie, the suspects — Casey Olson, 18, and his 17-year-old companion — were throwing hard, unripe lemons at the victim's house on Starr Way when she stepped outside and was struck by one of the fruits just after midnight on Nov. 26.

The victim had some welts and bruises where the lemon hit her, Wylie said, and the incident has been classified as assault with a deadly weapon.

"A deadly weapon can be anything," Wylie said, adding

that the projectile weighed more than a baseball.

Police arrested both suspects that night. Olson, who lives across the street from the victim, and his friend were charged with assault with a deadly weapon. The 17-year-old, also a Mountain View resident, additionally was charged with violating probation, Wylie said.

— Dana Sherne

COLD WEATHER SHELTERS OPEN IN COUNTY

A Santa Clara County homeless shelter and services provider opened emergency shelters Monday night for homeless residents who are dealing with increasingly chilly weather in the South Bay.

— Bay City News

ASSAULT

► Continued from page 5

year, and one to two misdemeanor or sexual battery-type cases. An attempted sexual assault like this one, she said, is

"extremely rare."

"It's definitely an isolated incident for us," she said, "but people should be concerned. We want people to be really vigilant. We're hoping that it doesn't happen again but it certainly could."

Police caution joggers to only use the trail during daylight

hours, and to carry a cell phone with the police department's seven-digit emergency number, (650) 968-1661.

Anyone with information about this crime is encouraged to call the MVPD immediately at (650) 903-6344. Callers may remain anonymous. ▀

SPECIAL ED

► Continued from page 1

and their benefits cut from 100 percent to 25 percent, according to one aide who asked not to be identified.

The district is scheduled to vote on the proposal at its regular board meeting on Dec. 10.

Assistant Superintendent Stephanie Totter described the cutbacks as being the result of a new "program design." In the past, she said, services for autistic students ran until 4:30 p.m., but this year services previously offered after school hours are now being offered during the school day — for example, the social integration part of the autistic programs has been changed to earlier in the day.

"It made more sense to have a social skills group when there are normal kids around," she said, as opposed to a group with only autistic students.

Totter said the proposed cuts would amount to savings of about \$65,000 per year, and are "not connected to the budget crisis."

"It's not a reflection on their performance," she added. "We really do value these people."

Nevertheless, Totter said, because of the program changes already in place, there is simply nothing left for the aides to do after school lets out.

"The bottom line is there are no services for students provided after they (the students) go home."

'We will lose so much'

The proposal was originally scheduled to be voted on by the board of trustees during its Nov. 19 meeting, but was delayed after a union representing the aides said it wanted to discuss the matter further. The district had not yet met with the union as of press time.

KINDERGARTEN

► Continued from page 5

They also found a better than 90 percent attendance rate, and that parents or primary caregivers of 81 percent of the children participated in at least one activity.

Stretch to Kindergarten is also trying to change the "whole family mentality," Simons said, adding that many underserved families "don't really feel a connection to their schools."

It was encouraging, she said, that in their evaluations parents said they wanted to participate more, and were planning to incorporate more family activities into next summer's program.

At the board meeting, organizers reported that one mother walked

Meanwhile, some of the district's special ed workers, and parents of autistic students, have expressed concern and frustration, saying the cuts will drive away the very people who make the program what it is.

"The aides are a huge part of the equation there at Slater," said Christine Case-Lo, whose son went through the program and is now a kindergartener at Monta Loma. "They work hands-on with the kids all the time."

"They need a job with benefits, they need those hours, and it's not like they're not working during that time," she said. "If we lose that skill set we will lose so much."

"They're going to have to get a second job to get benefits and to live in the area," said Jennifer Tirva, whose son receives autism-intensive services at Slater but attends a private preschool with an aide provided by the district. She added that taking a second job will compromise the quality of their work.

Case-Lo said the aides provide continuity for the children, and are a major reason she has been so happy with the district's autism program in the past.

"You need a great deal of trust, and you need that everyday, hands-on relationship to build" that trust, she said. "The more relationships that a child of autism can have, the better their emotional intelligence and growth over time."

"Every parent that I know can tell you a similar story about Slater," she said. "Those aides are just magnificent."

Same services

Totter maintained that the special ed programs have not in any way suffered from restructuring.

"This does not affect their services at all," she said, adding that "you can't pay for work that doesn't exist."

She said that IAs can use their

for over an hour each day to bring her child to the program.

The program was free for participants, and funded through Simons' own organization, the Heising-Simons Foundation, which supports causes related to families, education and alternative energy.

In the coming months, the district will be checking in on how program participants are doing in their regular kindergarten classes, though Simons said she believes the training will extend beyond their first year of grade school.

"I think if you can get them started in a good way, in a way that makes them feel good about learning, that can really propel them as they go through life," she said. "That will get them off to the right start." □

Thursdays — a prep day when no students attend school at Slater — to prepare for class and perform other administrative work. After school hours, she said, there are no children needing services, and it does not make sense to pay employees for that time.

But one aide disagreed, telling

"They need a job with benefits, they need those hours."

CHRISTINE CASE-LO

the *Voice*, "There's always something to do."

"Even if the kids aren't there," she said, aides are "cleaning up the classroom. And then people are taking data, because sometimes you don't have time to take the data with the kid."

The aide said under the proposed cuts she will lose \$1,000 per month, a significant part of her salary. She said she makes around \$17 per hour.

She voiced concern over new hires she has seen in Slater classrooms, who are working on a six-hour-per-day schedule.

Totter responded that the need during the school day, while students are present, has increased, but that the current aides cannot be doing two jobs at once.

Other complaints

The proposal has brought to light other parent complaints over the autism programs.

"I've seen regression in my son since August," said Claire Quesnal-Oueini, whose son used to receive "applied behavioral analysis" services when he was in preschool, but no longer does now that he's in kindergarten. She said she is frustrated with the response from her child's teacher: "The answer I got is, 'Yes, I've seen it. Yes, he's more rigid.'"

She and several other parents also expressed frustration over a seemingly new practice where IAs are not allowed to talk about their children's progress with them.

"Now you pick up your child and you can see on their faces they are not happy," Quesnal-Oueini said. "Why as a parent am I not allowed to know what's going on with my child during the day?"

Totter said the IAs are not certified teachers, and lack the proper training and information to report a child's progress to a parent. She said that this practice has

been "clarified" this year, though it has always been policy. Classroom teachers, she said, should be reporting a child's progress, and in the past there have been instances where aides have given parents incomplete information about their children.

She said it would be irresponsible for the administration to allow uncertified personnel to give reports to parents about student progress.

Despite these issues, parents said they are still looking for ways to work with the district, including fundraising, if it means aides can stay on.

Tom Marchok, who has a fifth grade daughter with autism at Monta Loma as well as a fourth grade son in the district, said he has been comforted by the fact that district trustees and administrators have been responsive to parents. When the proposal for cuts first came up, and parents called for further discussion, the board said, "OK, we hear you loud and clear," he said.

Marchok noted that autism numbers have risen dramatically over the last decade, and that educating a growing population of special needs students is an issue that many districts are grappling with. □

Inspirations

A Guide to the Spiritual Community

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8:00 am Worship and buffet breakfast

9:30 am Worship and buffet breakfast

9:30 am Sunday school adults
and children

11:00 am Worship in the Sanctuary,
Club Sunday for Children, Nursery

Los Altos Lutheran Church ELCA

Pastor David K. Bonde

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Thanks.
MountainView
VOICE

Local News

SANTANA

► Continued from page 1

Mountain View has been without a homeless shelter since the 2006 closure of the rotating, church-based Alpha Omega shelter, which served about 40 people a year. And with the economic recession, homelessness is up. The cold weather shelter at the Sunnyvale armory is "always at full capacity," says Jennifer Van Every, spokesperson for EHC Lifebuilders, which runs the shelter Nov. 30 through March 31.

MacVicar is also a member of the North County Homeless Housing Coalition, a group of longtime advocates for the homeless who aim to build permanent housing for the chronically homeless somewhere in Mountain View. He said that if the group had more time they would help Santana more with his cause, which is not in conflict with their own.

"Everybody is for it," Santana said. "They think it's great. But nobody is doing anything about it. Nobody else is stepping up to the plate."

Hard times

Santana has been homeless for three years after he lost everything in an unsuccessful attempt to return to operating his own hauling business. He grew up in Fremont and for much of his life was a truck driver before he moved to Los Altos. He once had two children and a wife of 32 years, all of whom passed away.

He operated a successful sawdust hauling business with his wife for 20 years before he suffered a cerebral hemorrhage, which he narrowly survived. Now, he says, he is too old to work, and gets a \$1,000 Social Security check every month. At night Santana sleeps in his Chevy Silverado pickup truck.

MacVicar said Santana's homelessness could actually be an asset to his cause, as many groups who advocate for the homeless often struggle to show that they have support from within the homeless community.

Santana is unlike many other homeless people in that he has "never had a drink in his life," doesn't abuse drugs and doesn't suffer from a mental disorder, he said, and he appears to keep his distance from those who do.

Homelessness hasn't stopped him from having an active social life at the Los Altos senior center. He also spends several hours every morning at Cuesta Park, where he befriended park ranger Sandy Santana (no relation), who has made a point of vouching for Santana and his cause.

The ideal spot

Santana's favorite proposed



MICHELLE LE

Jess Santana

location for what he likes to call the "Silverado shelter of Mountain View" — a name inspired by his pickup truck — is at 590 East Middlefield Road. Here there is an empty county building already equipped as a living facility. Up until last year, the 33,100-square-foot building housed 118 low-level criminals, inmates of the county's work furlough program.

The county has been trying to sell the building to real estate developers but rejected several offers in June, the highest of which hovered around \$6 million. The offers the county received, on a cost-per-square-foot basis, were reportedly very low compared to what Dostart Development paid for a similar property nearby two years ago.

Mountain View's representative on the county Board of Supervisors, Liz Kniss, did not respond to phone calls about the property.

Intero Real Estate agent Joanne Price is helping Santana look for a backup location if the county building on Middlefield doesn't work out. Price was signing up to volunteer at the Los Altos senior center when she was asked to talk to Santana, who is a regular there.

"When you hear him talk, you just say, 'Wow,'" Price said. "He himself is homeless and lives basically in a truck. He said this is his wish. I said, 'Alright, let me help you out.'"

So far, Price helped Santana find a vacant building at 685 Clyde Ave. that looks promising. It backs up to a golf course and sits in the middle of a neighborhood of office parks and industrial buildings.

A bill passed by the state Senate, SB 2, requires Mountain View to zone an area for a homeless shelter within one year of

adoption of the housing element of its new General Plan, which could happen in 2010. Santana said the city is supportive of his efforts, likely because of the zoning requirement, but he adds that finding a place where neighbors won't complain about the presence of homeless people is a challenge.

A new model

Santana said he wants to have no part of a shelter run by an established operator. The shelters that exist now, in his experience, are not the best places, he said — especially for women and children, who often have no privacy.

As an example, Santana recalled a scene at the Sunnyvale armory: "We were going to have dinner, and a lady was there with three little kids. She was sitting there trying to breast feed in front of all these creeps," he said, in a place where people were "stacked in like a bunch of hogs."

On top of providing a separate area for women and children, Santana said he wants to see social services offered, such as medical care and employment services.

"I think we can do it," he said. "We're all determined to do it. I've stuck it out now for over a year. I'm not going to quit, I have no intention to. I'm going to see this thing fly."

And at age 86, he adds, "I may die doing it." □

INFORMATION

Those interested in helping Jess Santana achieve his goal of launching a Mountain View homeless shelter can reach him on his cell phone, (650) 518-3100.

Judge rules against Bullis

A Santa Clara County Superior Court judge has ruled that the Los Altos School District did provide adequate facilities to Bullis Charter School.

In his ruling filed Tuesday, Nov. 24, Judge James Kleinberg said the district "did allocate reasonably equivalent specialized teaching space and indoor non-teaching space," but also said the district and charter must "negotiate an agreement regarding the use of and payment for" shared field space between Bullis and Egan, a neighboring middle school.

The judge also ruled that the district's decision to not give Bullis Charter its own seventh grade facilities for the 2009-10 school year was not unlawful.

In a press release, Superintendent Tim Justus said the district is "relieved" by the ruling, and that he hopes the charter will "discontinue its practice of continuous lawsuits."

Ken Moore, Bullis board chairman, said in a letter to parents that board members were hoping for a different outcome, but "will examine both legal and public policy avenues to resolve these matters moving forward."

— Staff Reports

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Living Well Classes 650-853-2960

What You Need to Know About Warfarin

Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2 – 3:30 p.m.,

Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction

Free orientation, Tuesday, Jan. 5, 6:30 – 9 p.m.



Nutrition and Diabetes Classes 650-853-2961

Adult Weight Management Group

Thursdays, 5:30 – 7 p.m.

Bariatric Class

Tuesday, Dec. 1, 9:30 a.m. – noon

Prediabetes

Monday, Dec. 7, 9 – 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, Dec. 16, 4:30 – 7 p.m.

Healthy Eating with Type 2 Diabetes

Thursday, Dec. 10, 2:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Heart Smart Class

Must attend both sessions.
Tuesdays, Dec. 15 & 22, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Pregnancy, Breastfeeding and Child Care Classes

Preparing for Birth

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Moving Through Pregnancy

Monday, Jan. 4, 7 – 9 p.m.
650-853-2960

Support Groups

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Drug and Alcohol

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Living Well Classes

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Monday, Jan. 18, 7 – 9 p.m., 650-934-7373



HMR Weight Management Program 650-404-8260

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Tuesdays, Dec. 8 & 15, 9:30 a.m. – noon,

Wednesdays, Dec. 16 & 23, 2 – 4:30 p.m.,

Tuesdays, Dec. 22 & 29, 9:30 a.m. – noon,

Heart Smart Class

Tuesday, Dec. 8, 3 – 5:30 p.m.

Prediabetes

Thursday, Dec. 17, 2 – 4:30 p.m., and Tuesday, Dec. 22, 3 – 5:30 p.m.



Pregnancy, Breastfeeding and Child Care Classes

Feeding Your Toddler

Tuesday, Dec. 1, 7 – 9 p.m.

Breastfeeding

Monday or Tuesday, Dec. 7 & 8, Jan. 4 or 5, 6:30 – 9 p.m.

Preparing for Baby

Tuesday, Dec. 1, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Baby Care

Saturday, Jan. 30, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

Infant Emergencies and CPR

Wednesday, Dec. 2, 23, Jan. 6 or 20, 6 – 8:30 p.m.

For all, register online or call 650-934-7373.

Health Resource Center 650-934-7373

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General Social Services, Friday, Dec. 4 and Jan. 8, 1 – 2 p.m., drop-in visits with our social worker

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Advance Health Care Directive, by appointment

For a complete list of classes and class fees, lectures and health education resources, visit: pamf.org.

How to Give

Your gift helps children and others in need

Contributions to the Holiday Fund will be matched dollar for dollar, to the extent possible, and will go directly to the nonprofit agencies that serve Mountain View residents. Last year, *Voice* readers contributed more than \$40,000, which with matching grants, provided more than \$10,000 to each agency.

No administrative costs are deducted from the gifts, which are tax-deductible

as permitted by law. All donations will be shared equally with the seven recipient agencies listed here.



This year, the following agencies will be supported by the Holiday Fund:

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Trains volunteer mentors who work with local youth in education and community programs.

THE COMMUNITY HEALTH AWARENESS COUNCIL

Serves Mountain View, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and seven school districts. Offers school-based programs to protect students from high-risk behaviors, such as drug and alcohol abuse.

MOUNTAIN VIEW ROTACARE CLINIC

Provides uninsured community residents with medical care and medications, and is frequently the last resort for this under-served clientele.

DAY WORKER CENTER OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

Provides a secure place for workers and employers to negotiate wages. Serves 50 or more workers per day with job-matching, English lessons and guidance.

THE SUPPORT NETWORK FOR BATTERED WOMEN

Operates a 24-hour bilingual hotline, a safe shelter for women and their children, and offers counseling and other services for families facing this problem.

COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND ARTS

Provides hands-on arts and music projects in the elementary classrooms of the Mountain View-Whisman School District. Nearly 40 percent of the students are low-income and 28 percent have limited English proficiency.

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MICHELLE LE

Sharon Peters, left, and Lynn Wilson go over patient prescriptions in the RotaCare pharmacy.

ROTACARE

► *Continued from page 5*

RotaCare is their last option.

"We've gotten a lot of people who are right on the edge," Canning said. "They feel like this is the last place when they don't know if they can go any further."

RotaCare, a free clinic located next door to El Camino Hospital, sees approximately 9,000 patients a year. The 240 volunteers who staff the clinic — nurses, doctors, medical students, interpreters and pharmacists — provide services for patients with both chronic and immediate medical problems.

David Quincy, RotaCare's medical director, recalls that when RotaCare first opened in 1996, it was "almost nothing more than a first aid cart and a couple of curtains in a church, with maybe a couple of volunteers." Now, patients pour in from Mountain View, Sunnyvale, Los Altos, Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, Santa Clara, Cupertino, and Milpitas.

Canning sees the clinic as a cir-

cle of hands where all community members support each other.

"The people that come to the clinic work every single day right here," she said. "They work in the restaurants, they work in the service industries, and they work in the places that don't offer health benefits for them."

"But that doesn't mean that they don't support this community," she added, "and so we want to make sure that they're healthy."

Limited by space, medical supplies and the number of staffers, RotaCare still manages to provide for around 40 patients per night. With donations from the *Mountain View Voice*'s Holiday Fund, RotaCare hopes to increase its ability to meet with patients in need.

"We can't increase capacity without the volunteers, and we can't increase volunteers and tell them, 'I'm sorry but we don't have all the supplies for you to be able to see this patient,'" Canning explained. She added that medication is the clinic's biggest expense, because the clinic fills

► See **ROTACARE**, page 16

Holiday Fund Donations

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Anthony, Wendy & Kaiya Chang.....1000

Jeffrey Davis.....100

Barry & Julie Groves.....50

Roy & Janet Hayter.....500

Leslie C. & Anita N. Nichols.....100

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TOTALS: As of November 30, 2009, a total of 15 donors have given \$3,400 to the Mountain View Voice Holiday Fund.

** The asterisk designates that the donor did not want to publish the amount of the gift

COUNCIL

► Continued from page 1

followed through on his promise for a project “indistinguishable as affordable” when he presented a plan for a 51-unit, four-story apartment building to go on the site north of Castro where a Caltrain overflow parking lot currently sits.

Council member Jac Siegel, often a stickler about the quality of housing projects, said he had shown the plans to various people and that none had an “inkling” it was affordable housing.

But council member John Inks said he was concerned that the project — which the city is subsidizing — wouldn’t be so affordable.

“Project costs are something we should be looking at,” Inks said. He pointed out that at an estimated \$26 million, the 51 units would cost an average of \$500,000 to build, which is “above market rate” for construction costs.

The project is aimed at households earning less than 60 percent of the area’s median income, which comes to \$64,000 a year or less for a family of four. It includes a range of one, two and three bedroom units, ranging from 750 to 1,150 square feet in size.

The city plans to use \$7 million of its own below market rate housing funds for the project, and it is paying ROEM, which will build and run the complex, \$484,575 for its design.

The conceptual design shows a C-shaped building surrounding a central courtyard facing condo dwellers next door at 108 Bryant St. It puts much of the building at least 80 feet away from the neighboring three-story condo complex, but only 25 feet away at the ends of the two wing sections — a detail which concerned neighbors.

Neighbors also were concerned about a proposed underground parking garage driveway that would run along their property line a few feet from their windows, with an entrance on Evelyn Avenue and an exit along an alley behind the Tied House restaurant. The City Council supported a design alternative that would put the driveway exit and entrance on Evelyn Avenue, protecting a heritage oak tree on the 108 Bryant property line in the process, but requiring five tandem parking spaces to meet the 1.8 spaces per unit requirement from the city.

There was much discussion about the design of the building’s fourth story, which has six units set back to make the structure appear to be only three stories from the street. Most council members agreed that the view from the street was less important

than the impact of the “massing” on the neighbors at 108 Bryant, and suggested the six units be moved away from the courtyard and towards the street.

The council almost unanimously supported a “traditional” Mediterranean architectural design, featuring a tile roof, over a “contemporary” design with square lines, though council member Laura Macias said the traditional design looked like lots of other recent developments. □

E-mail Daniel DeBolt at ddebolt@mv-voice.com



COURTESY IMAGE

This bird's eye view from the corner of Evelyn and Franklin streets shows the “contemporary design” of developer ROEM’s proposed affordable housing development. A “traditional design,” supported by council members, features peaked tile roofs.

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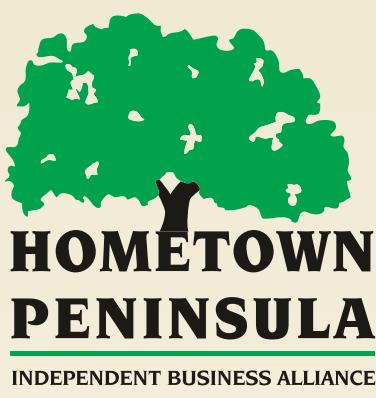
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- It makes us unique. There's no place like the Peninsula! Homegrown businesses are part of what makes us special.
- It creates local jobs. Local businesses are the best at creating higher-paying jobs for our neighbors.
- It helps the environment. Buying locally saves transportation fuel. Plus you get products that you know are safe and well made, because our neighbors stand behind them.
- It nurtures our community. Studies show that local businesses donate to community causes at more than twice the rate of chains.
- It conserves tax dollars. Spending locally ensures that your sales taxes are reinvested where they belong, right here in your community.

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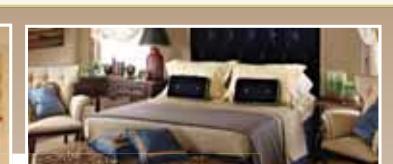
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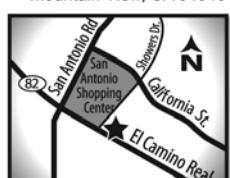
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GERMAN SCHOOL HOSTS HOLIDAY MARKET

The German International School of Silicon Valley will hold its annual German Holiday Market on Saturday, Dec. 5 from noon to 6 p.m.

Volunteers will sell wreaths, homemade cookies, Stollen, kinderpunsch and coffee and espresso. Barbequed German sausages and crepes will also be available.

The market will feature several vendors and their holiday gift ideas, including jewelry, glass ware, pottery, books, oil and vinegar.

Children can participate in a variety of craft activities, and Santa Clause will make an appearance at 3 p.m.

Students of the school will perform German and English holiday songs in the school's multipurpose room beginning at 2 p.m. The lineup for an outdoor

stage includes harp music and performances by the school band, The Unbeatables, as well as Metal Etch, a classic rock cover band.

FOOTHILL STUDENTS SELL HAND-MADE CERAMICS

If it's not too late, get over to the Foothill College Ceramics Department's annual Holiday Pottery Sale, taking place Dec. 1-3 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Foothill's Cesar Chavez Plaza.

Hosted by the Ceramics Department and Claybodies club, the Pottery Sale features handmade ceramics and sculptures hand-crafted by students in class. Items for purchase include bowls, vases, hand-built figures and more, with all proceeds going to benefit the Ceramics Department.

Patrons can purchase gifts with cash, check or money order — no credit cards. For more information, call (650) 949-7584.

— Kelsey Mesher



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Holiday Shopping Ideas



Have you considered making small gift baskets for the loved ones on your shopping list? We have all kinds of interesting businesses around town that have items that would be perfect. Gift baskets are easy to assemble and they give the recipient the feeling that some time and effort was put into their gift.

Start by selecting a small basket, a pretty box or even a bowl or other kitchen container that could be filled with gift items. Be sure to include a gift certificate to a restaurant or store that follows the theme of the basket.

Here are some possible themes that you might consider when making the gifts: Coffee or Tea Lover, Indian Cooking Extraordinaire, Book Worm, Expert Gardener, Healthy Living, Beauty Queen, Golf Anyone?, Chocoholic, A-Day-At-The-Spa, Football Fan, Dog Lover, Remodel Your House, or even an "I Love Mountain View" gift basket.

Now get started. Be sure to shop locally and support Mountain View businesses when filling your gift basket, then wrap it with clear cellophane paper and tie a red ribbon on top. They'll know how much you care when they see that you shopped in Mountain View and made it yourself!

For ideas on things-to-do around Mountain View, please visit the ilovemv.org website.

MountainView
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WHAT'S GOING ON THIS *Holiday*

Cops that Care seeks gifts for local children

As it does every year around the holidays, the Mountain View Police Department is looking for new, unwrapped toys and clothing, as well as gift cards and cash, for its "Cops that Care" program.

Now in its seventh year, Cops that Care aims to provide holiday gifts to children whose families may not have the means to purchase gifts on their own. This year, police expect that 1,700 local children through age 18 will visit the "North Pole" — i.e. the Police Department — on Saturday, Dec. 19 to select a toy or gift item from among the donations.

Donations before that time can be brought directly to the Police Department at 1000 Villa St. Checks should be made out

to the Mountain View Police Activities League (MVPAL), with "Cops that Care" indicated in the comment section.

Last year, police had to make a last-minute push to receive enough toys from the community, so the sooner donations are made, the better.

The actual event will take place from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Parents must provide some type of proof to verify their child's affiliation with Mountain View, such as a driver's license with a Mountain View address, a school report card or student ID card.

For more information, contact Officer Ron Cooper at (650) 903-6712. □

— Kelsey Mesher



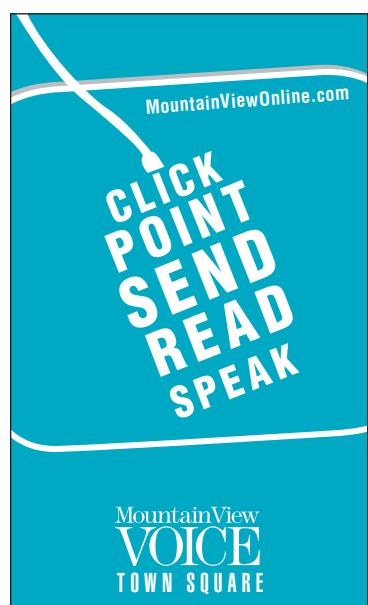
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WHAT'S GOING ON THIS *Holiday*

ROTACARE

► Continued from page 10

prescriptions for free.

The clinic serves urgent care patients, including the growing number coming in during this year's flu season.

"Sometimes, I'll see a patient who has been very ill and I just think, 'I'm so glad this place is here for them,'" said volunteer Anna Likens, a nurse from Sunnyvale. "If they hadn't come in that night, I don't know what the outcome would be."

The clinic also gives free flu shots for both seasonal flu and H1N1. Prioritizing high-risk patients, RotaCare gave 78 vaccines last week.

In addition to providing urgent care, RotaCare sees patients with chronic illnesses like diabetes and hypertension. Doctors and nurses educate these patients on how to manage their illness and live a healthier lifestyle, said Jeanne Hsu, a nurse who volunteers at the clinic twice a month.

By spending extra time with patients to teach them to care for themselves, RotaCare's resources are better used: Chronic patients become stabilized, leaving room for others.

Additionally, it helps those patients live better, more successful lives, said medical director Quincy.

"It's sort of foundational to what primary care is," he said. "It's not just giving a pill; it is teaching a patient, a person, how to better care for themselves." □

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■ WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

All views must include a home address and contact phone number. Published letters will also appear on the web site, www.MountainViewOnline.com, and occasionally on the Town Square forum.

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■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

Howls over owl habitat misplaced

We hope the city can find a way to preserve foraging space at Shoreline for a small population of burrowing owls and still build a 12-acre playing field complex that has been in the planning stages for more than two years — and in the dreams of youth sports organizers for much longer than that.

The flap over the owls was stirred up a few weeks ago by an op-ed article on these pages suggesting that the city's new fields might push out the endangered owls for good. Among other things, the piece, written by representatives of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, called on the City Council to create a burrowing owl preserve at Shoreline.

The stance took most locals by surprise, especially those who have been working for years to get the city to set aside space for new sports fields. During two previous discussions council held on the proposed fields at Shoreline, no one from the Audubon Society ever appeared or commented on the plan.

One fact not mentioned by the Audubon Society article is that the city already is preserving more than 100 acres of foraging space for the owls, which feed on mice, voles and insects. And a new foraging area could be created at Shoreline to mitigate any loss as a result of the playing fields, according to assistant public works director Mike Fuller. Such a job would involve landscaping existing park areas to attract the owl's prey.

It should also be noted that the playing field proposal is not threatening owl burrows directly, and that the city already maintains owl habitat under a "burrowing owl management plan." Phil Higgins, a city-employed biologist who counts the owls every week, oversees the plan.

Over the years, owl populations at Shoreline have fluctuated widely, with only three pairs and four chicks counted in 1998, increasing to a high of 13 pairs and 22 chicks in 2003. The owls are not native to the reclaimed landfill of the 500-acre Shoreline preserve, but "basically, they came," said senior planner Scott Plambaeck. "That happens."

As the Audubon authors said in their article, Mountain View has managed to hold on to its owl population, while the birds have vanished altogether from neighboring Palo Alto and Sunnyvale. But a charge that the city is choosing to move its owls off the Garcia Avenue site by purchasing habitat in the East Bay is incorrect. With more than 100 acres of foraging territory at Shoreline, there is already more than adequate territory to carry the current burrowing owl population.

Given the sensible management and ongoing vigilance of city staff, we see no need to put the brakes on construction of the new city playing fields. There is no reason to pick a winner, or to see this as an either/or proposition; both groups can be accommodated within Shoreline's 500 acres.

■ EDITORIAL

■ YOUR LETTERS

■ GUEST OPINIONS

■ LETTERS VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON PTSD

Editor:

I would like to correct a misleading statement in the *Voice* article "MV Reads Inspires Discussion on PTSD" of Nov. 23. In the article, it appears that I was referring to Posttraumatic Stress Disorder when I was, in fact, referring to traumatic experiences.

In my remarks to the *Voice*, I intended to convey that it would be very difficult for a book for young children to depict traumatic experiences accurately because such experiences are inherently terrifying or horrible, and it would be inappropriate to describe those in detail.

**Eve Carlson
Awalt Drive**

PRESERVE OWL HABITAT AT SHORELINE

Editor:

I would like to lend my voice in support of preservation of the burrowing owls that nest in Shoreline Park, a cause which was so thoughtfully outlined by Shani Kleinhaus and Bob Power in your Nov. 20 *Viewpoint* section ("Save Shoreline's burrowing owls").

These owls cannot defend themselves, so we must be their voice. The biodiversity and natural wildlife habitats in this county have slowly been eroded since I moved here in 1959, and this is an opportunity to take a stand in nature's defense.

An owl preserve at Shoreline Park would give my children and grandchildren a lasting opportunity to see these owls not only survive, but perhaps thrive and multiply. Wetlands give homes to other precious species as well,

which would also benefit.

Why encroach on their territory, which could be fatal for some species, with plans for an athletic field? There must be areas already available for such endeavors that would not adversely impact existing wildlife. Let Mountain View be known in the bird and nature communities as the mecca for viewing these beautiful creatures, while giving our own community a lasting gift of environmental protection.

**Catherine Trejo
Sunnyview Lane**

CALTRAIN PLAN SHOULD ACCOMMODATE BIKES

Editor:

Caltrain's Draft Short Range Transit Plan recognizes the importance of the "last mile" connection between its stations and the final destination. While shuttle services work for some, they don't work for people whose schedule can run late or whose location is not served by shuttles.

Many people find the bike onboard to be a good solution to the "last mile" problem, and the usage was growing at 40 percent before bumping started. Bikes onboard are much more cost effective than shuttles and also better for the environment.

Caltrain's recently expanded bike capacity helps address pent-up demand, but the plan should anticipate demand growth to 2018 to avoid being surprised. Even with the recent expanded capacity, bicyclists are still being bumped. Caltrain should make a commitment to expand onboard bicycle capacity to meet future demand. Doing so will bring needed revenue and riders to Caltrain.

**Eric Nordman
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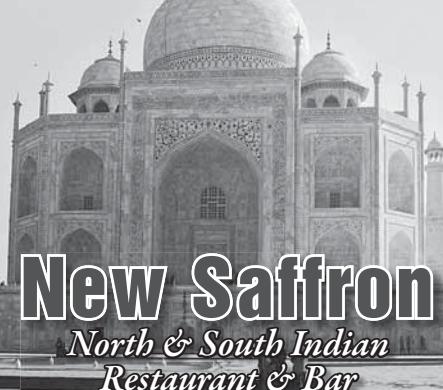
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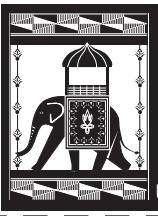
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ViewPoint

A wall of one's own

GRAFFITI ARTISTS AREN'T CRIMINALS; THEY JUST
NEED A PLACE TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES

By Jose Villanueva

I was arrested when I was 13 years old for doing graffiti at Crittenden Middle School. Part of my punishment was 24 hours of community service and a \$300 fine.

Although at first I did not take getting caught seriously, I came to realize it was hurting my family. They were disappointed in me and could be forced to pay more money if I got caught again. So I promised myself I would not do it again. Now I keep my art on paper.

Is it fair that graffiti artists should be afraid of getting arrested every time they create art? Graffiti is an art form, but to the public it seems like vandalism because it is mostly done on property that the artists do not own.

To avoid this conflict, we should have a designated place where artists can express themselves freely. The designated area would be a wall in a public park, or the side of an apartment building, or wherever the community thinks it is OK. This location should be some place where people could reach it easily. Both the public and the artists would benefit from having a designated place for art.

This artistic area would be important for the public because it would cut down on the graffiti in other places. It would be a relief for the artists to be able to express themselves freely without breaking the law. The public would benefit because the art would encourage people to think more about what is going on in the world. This place would be enjoyable for both the public to visit and the artists to create. The public would be fascinated to see imaginative art and the artists

would be having fun doing their own designs.

This designated area for graffiti would be good for everyone, but many steps are needed to make it happen. First, there should be a community survey to find where this area could be located. Second, there should be a letter written to the City Council to see if this idea and specific area could be approved.

In addition, guidelines on what could and could not be done would be required. Both the artists and the public would need to define the guidelines. Every once in a while they could meet again and see how these rules were working and, if needed, could change them.

Anyone could go to this "Art Wall" to express their art; not only graffiti artists but also painters, sketchers, poets or people who have a statement to make. This art wall would not be vandalism; it would be "fine art." To some beholders it would be fine art immediately, and over time more people might grow to appreciate these types of art. Also, over time, spectators could become creators and add to the ongoing process. The art wall would be like a free exhibit.

In my view, this art wall would bring the community and artists together, make graffiti art legitimate, and allow graffiti artists to create their art freely and openly. □

Jose Villanueva is a junior at Mountain View High School. This piece was written as part of the JustREAD program, and was originally published last May in The Oracle, the school's student newspaper.

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■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

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■ BEST BETS FOR ENTERTAINMENT



MICHELLE LE

The Kitchen Table Salad has mixed greens, shaved carrots, roasted beets, grilled green beans, and preserved lemon vinaigrette.

■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

As kosher as it gets

THE KITCHEN TABLE ON CASTRO STREET IN MOUNTAIN VIEW IS ONE OF A KIND

By Sheila Himmel

Many restaurants struggle to stand out from the crowd. Not a problem for The Kitchen Table, celebrating six months of strictly kosher dining in Mountain View.

It is definitely open for Christmas. The Kitchen Table claims title as Northern California's only certified glatt kosher, sit-down, meat-serving restaurant. Glatt kosher is generally considered the highest standard of Jewish dietary laws (although the word glatt actually means "smooth," in reference to wholesomeness and quality). No pork, shellfish or dairy products cross The Kitchen

Table's threshold. The restaurant closes for Shabbat, the Jewish Sabbath — from 2:30 p.m. Friday until dinner on Saturday.

Also unique, at The Kitchen Table the vegetarian daughter can sit down with the lactose-intolerant aunt, the lamb-loving uncle, the mom who is allergic to gluten, and all will enjoy the meal. You don't have to be, or even understand, kosher.

The idea behind The Kitchen Table is to set a place for everyone. Even for people without cars, as the restaurant lies a block from the Caltrain station.

Everything is made from

► See **THE KITCHEN TABLE**, page 20

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Ciao Bella!

It didn't take long for businesswoman, Bella Awdisho, to recognize something was missing in Mountain View. After long research, it became apparent that finding a one-of-a-kind restaurant to bring to the Mountain View area would not be easy. "I just could not see opening another run-of-the-mill restaurant in an area filled with such innovation" said Mrs. Awdisho. Her search ended when she found Pizzeria Venti, a small boutique pizzeria based in Italy.

Her introduction to Italian cuisine was in-depth, to say the least. It began with a culinary arts program that included training under the Tuscany sun. "The training was really eye-opening. I learned about the nuances of true Italian cooking; about the quality and passion that goes into every dish. It's amazing," said Bella. "Covering everything from pasta and sauces to the tradition of Italy famous 'pizza al taglio' or pizza by the cut, the training was a once-in-a-lifetime experience which is simply not available to most restaurateurs."

Traveling in Italy

Awdisho said that she was extremely anxious to start her own Pizzeria Venti right here in Mountain View. "I recognized the uniqueness of our location," she noted "so I put many resources into the marketing of the location. We continue to offer to our customers many of the dishes I was introduced to in Italy." So successful was this introduction that Awdisho had to double the size of her kitchen, adding additional equipment to handle the demand. Executive Chef, Marco Salvi, the training chef in Italy, provided many new recipes for use in her restaurant. Chef Marco provided some insight "The ingredients say it all. We work to provide a finished dish which will honor its origins and create a wonderful experience for our customers."

Authenticity – Not just a word

Each new dish is hand selected with an eye towards authenticity. Even its rustic style pizza has a bit of Italia in it, made daily on-premise and using only imported water from Italy. "For me, one of the most important components of the training in Italy was the cultural understanding of these recipes. I was able to bring this back to our customers," said Bella. She continues, "I know our customers really appreciate what we do. We are so grateful that they allow us our passion."



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MICHELLE LE

The Kitchen Table house cured pastrami with house-made sourdough rye and Russian dressing. Lunch sandwiches come with a choice of German potato salad, house slaw or fresh cut fries.

THE KITCHEN TABLE

► Continued from page 19

scratch. Chef Chaim Davids grew up working in pizza and kosher restaurants in Baltimore, got a culinary degree and was the sous chef for the Mediterranean-inspired restaurant of California's kosher winery, Herzog.

He brings a global vision to The Kitchen Table, kicking up the traditional Eastern European Jewish deli fare many notches with chiles and aioli. Some dishes may fly too high and confuse you. But the menu changes constantly, offers a variety of daily specials, and is never dull.

A recent dinner started with warm bread, an Italian-Jewish marriage of focaccia and challah, and a puree of roasted eggplant. Our best dishes came from the Small Bites section. Tuna ceviche (\$7) was an excellent appetizer, even though the fish was fresh red rather than marinated and there weren't quite enough plantain chips to scoop up the luscious avocado relish. Irregularly cut yam fries (\$4) come with poblano-lime aioli.

The knish of the day (\$6) is a pastry of many stuffings. Ours had tender pieces of chicken amid onion and potato, sitting on a dab of sweet, grainy mustard and a handful of crisp frisee lettuce.

The Kitchen Table salad (\$6)

tasted stale. Pastrami (\$12), although very lean, was too salty and, like the chicken, overmatched by bread. The better parts of both were the accompanying salads: cole slaw and German potato.

Chicken and matzoh ball soup (\$5), although rich and well-stocked with tender chicken, carrots, onion, celery leaves and a spicy kick of adobo, was sunk by a very heavy, undercooked matzoh ball.

Entrees range from the heirloom grain bowl (\$12) to rib-eye steak (\$30). The lamb shank (\$29) glistened in chocolate-chile sauce, but its best features were jalapeno corn bread and a hearty posole soup of hominy grits, creamy white and black barley beans.

By the time of dessert, you've gotten the sweet-savory concept. Spicy frozen chocolate custard may be one step beyond. The chocolate babka, a pastry in this case made with soy milk, would have been just as good without the added heat.

The shotgun-shaped Kitchen Table seats 60 people inside and 20 out front, but it feels homey as the name implies. Dark wood chairs and wainscoting, china cabinet and chandeliers convey warmth. As does a loop of digitized family photos, to which patrons are invited to contribute, setting their own Kitchen Table. □



Executive Chef Chaim Davids of *The Kitchen Table*.

currently features shaved beets, persimmons and matchstick potatoes on a bed of baby greens. It can become an entree with add-ons of fish, chicken and roasted vegetables.

With the irresistible mouth feel and flavor combination of salty-sweet-crispy, the lamb BLT sandwich (\$7) is an inspiration. Davids does his own curing and smoking. Add a side dish, and the little lamb BLT could make a meal.

The chipotle barbecued pulled chicken sandwich (\$12) was pleasantly spicy, but smothered in bread that was toasted either too much or not enough. It just



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MICHELLE LE

The interior of The Kitchen Table, a strictly kosher restaurant located on Castro Street.

■ DINING NOTES

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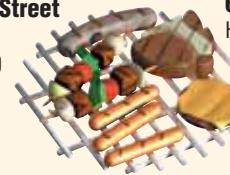
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Weekend

MOVIE TIMES

2012 (PG-13) ★★ Century 16: 11:40 a.m.; 3:10, 6:40 & 10:10 p.m.
Century 20: 12:10, 2:25, 3:35, 7, 9:05 & 10:20 p.m.

A Serious Man (R) ★★★★ Century 16: 11:50 a.m.; 2:30, 5:10, 7:45 & 10:20 p.m. **Century 20:** 4:15 & 10:25 p.m.

An American in Paris (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed)
Stanford Theatre: Sun 3:40 & 7:30 p.m. Mon 7:30 p.m.

An Education (PG-13) (Not Reviewed) Century 16: 11:15 a.m.; 1:45 & 4:15 p.m. Fri.-Wed. also at 9:35 p.m.

Armored (PG-13) (Not Reviewed) Century 16: 11:20 a.m.; 1:35, 3:50, 6, 8:15 & 10:30 p.m. **Century 20:** 12:15, 1:20, 3:35, 5:50, 6:45, 8:05 & 10:35 p.m.

Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans (R) ★★ Century 16: 11:05 a.m.; 1:55, 4:45, 7:35 & 10:25 p.m. **Century 20:** 12:40, 3:55, 7:15 & 10:05 p.m.

The Blind Side (PG-13) ★★ Century 16: 1, 4:05, 7:05 & 10:05 p.m.
Century 20: 12:05, 1:25, 3, 4:20, 6, 7:20, 9 & 10:15 p.m.

Brothers (R) ★★★ Century 16: 11:45 a.m.; 2:25, 5:05, 7:40 & 10:15 p.m.
Century 20: Noon, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45 & 10:30 p.m.

Disney's A Christmas Carol (PG) ★★★ Century 16: 11:10 a.m.; 2:20, 4:55, 7:20 & 9:50 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:45 a.m.; 2, 4:25, 6:50 & 9:10 p.m.

Everybody's Fine (PG-13) ★★★ Century 16: 11:25 a.m.; 2:10, 4:35, 7:15 & 9:40 p.m. **Century 20:** 12:20, 2:40, 5:05, 7:30 & 9:55 p.m.

Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) ★★★★ Century 16: 10:55 a.m.; 1:15, 3:25, 5:35, 7:50 & 10:10 p.m. **Century 20:** 12:25, 1:30, 2:35, 3:40, 4:55, 5:55, 7:10, 8:10, 9:25 & 10:25 p.m.

Father of the Bride (1950) (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed)
Stanford Theatre: Sun 5:45 & 9:35 p.m. Mon 5:45 & 9:35 p.m.

Gigi (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed) Stanford Theatre:
Fri 7:30 p.m. Sat 3:35 & 7:30 p.m.

Glenn Beck's 'The Christmas Sweater' (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed)
Century 16: Thu 8 p.m. **Century 20:** Thu 8 p.m.

Inglourious Basterds (R) ★★★ Century 20: 12:45 & 7 p.m.

The Men Who Stare At Goats (R) (Not Reviewed) Century 16: Fri 11:35 a.m.; 2:05, 4:30, 7:25 & 10 p.m. Sat 11:35 a.m.; 2:05, 4:30, 7:25 & 10 p.m. Sun 11:35 a.m.; 2:05, 4:30, 7:25 & 10 p.m. Mon 11:35 a.m.; 2:05, 4:30, 7:25 & 10 p.m. Tue 11:35 a.m.; 2:05, 4:30, 7:25 & 10 p.m. Wed 11:35 a.m.; 2:05, 4:30, 7:25 & 10 p.m. **Century 20:** 2:30 p.m. Fri.-Wed. also at 7:30 p.m.

Ninja Assassin (R) (Not Reviewed) Century 16: 11:30 a.m.; 2:15, 4:50, 7:30 & 9:55 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:50 a.m.; 2:20, 3:50, 5, 7:40, 9:20 & 10:40 p.m.

Old Dogs (PG) (Not Reviewed) Century 16: 10:50 a.m.; 1:05, 3:25, 5:40, 7:55 & 10:20 p.m. **Century 20:** Noon, 1:15, 2:10, 3:30, 4:30, 5:45, 6:55, 8, 9:15 & 10:15 p.m.

Pirate Radio (R) ★★★ Century 20: 11:50 a.m. & 4:50 p.m. Fri.-Wed. also at 9:50 p.m. **CinéArts at Palo Alto Square:** 1:45, 4:30 & 7:15 p.m.; Fri.-Sat. also at 9:55 p.m.

Planet 51 (PG) (Not Reviewed) Century 16: 11:25 a.m.; 1:50, 4:20, 6:55 & 9:25 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:55 a.m.; 2:15, 5:15, 7:50 & 10:10 p.m.

Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire (R) ★★★ 1/2
Aquarius Theatre: 3, 4, 6, 7, 8:45 & 9:45 p.m.; Fri.-Sun. also at 1 p.m.

Red Cliff (R) ★★★ Guild Theatre: 2, 5:15 & 8:30 p.m.

The Reluctant Debutante (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed)
Stanford Theatre: Fri 5:40 & 9:35 p.m. Sat 5:40 & 9:35 p.m.

The Road (R) ★★★ 1/2 CinéArts at Palo Alto Square: 2, 4:40 & 7:20 p.m. Fri & Sat. also at 10 p.m.

The Rocky Horror Picture Show (R) (Not Reviewed)
Guild Theatre: Sat. at midnight.

The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG-13) (Not Reviewed) Century 16: 11 a.m.; 12:30, 2, 3:30, 5, 6:30, 8 & 9:30 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:45 a.m.; 12:30, 1:40, 2:45, 4:35, 5:40, 6:30, 7:35, 8:50 & 10:35 p.m.

Note: Screenings are for Friday through Tuesday only.

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For show times, plot synopses and more information about any films playing at the Aquarius, Guild and Park, visit www.landmarktheatres.com

★ Skip it

★★ Some redeeming qualities

★★★ A good bet

★★★★ Outstanding

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MOVIE REVIEWS

2012 ★★

(Century 16, Century 20) An Oscar-caliber cast and dazzling visual effects can't rescue this formulaic disaster flick from a script flooded with generic dialogue and preposterous plot points. American scientist Adrian Helmsley (Chiwetel Ejiofor) has made a startling discovery: The planet will see cataclysmic changes in the year 2012, fulfilling a prophecy foretelling the end of days. Helmsley, government PR pro Carl Anheuser (Oliver Platt) and U.S. President Thomas Wilson (Danny Glover) struggle with breaking the news to the public as the world tumbles into a downward spiral. Powerful earthquakes rip apart cities and tidal waves barrel down on fleeing citizens. Rated PG-13 for intense disaster sequences and some language. 2 hours, 38 minutes. — T.H. (Reviewed Nov. 13, 2009)

A SERIOUS MAN ★★★★

(CineArts) Professor Larry Gopnik's wife wants a divorce; his son Danny is smoking dope; his daughter Sarah steals money from his wallet. One of his students is trying to bribe him to change a grade. And on it goes. In their blend of black comedy and existential bafflement, the Coen brothers pose the ultimate question: What is the meaning of life? (Without, of course, making it seem as portentous as that.) "A Serious Man" is a serious film that makes you squirm, laugh, and ponder all at the same time. Rated R for language, some sexuality/nudity and brief violence. One hour, 45 minutes. — R.P. (Reviewed Oct. 16, 2009)

ASTROBOY ★★ 1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) The manga/anime/video game franchise that is "Astro Boy" began with Osamu Tezuka's 1951 comic-book creation of a robot boy who longed for parental love. A new CGI-animated feature film begins at the beginning: a mad scientist's attempt to replace his dead son with a robot patterned on the boy's DNA. When "Astro" (Freddie Highmore) discovers he's not Toby, son of Dr. Tenma (Nicolas Cage), but a super-powered robot boy, his feelings are mixed. At first, he's euphoric: He can fly! But his "father," realizing that a robot cannot replace a son, can't stand to look at Astro. Orphaned, the robot boy becomes the target of Metro City's corrupt president (Donald Sutherland). And "Astro Boy" conjures the social commentary of "WALL-E" and the existential funk of "Frankenstein." Rated PG for some action and peril, and brief mild language. One hour, 34 minutes. — (Reviewed Oct. 23, 2009)

BAD LIEUTENANT ★★

(Century 16) "Bad" doesn't even begin to describe the behavior of New Orleans Police Lt. Terence McDonaugh (Nicholas Cage), protagonist of Werner Herzog's "Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans." Snorting coke is just the beginning; stealing drugs comes next. And how about terrorizing an old lady by pulling the oxygen leads out of her nose? McDonaugh is in charge of investigating the murder of five illegal African immigrants connected to the drug trade. "Bad Lieutenant" may sound like a total downer, but it's not. Elements of black humor lighten the depraved tone. However, Herzog and scriptwriter William Finkenstein can't resist piling nastiness on top of nastiness. Rated R for language, some violence, sexuality and drug use. Two hours, one minute. — R.P. (Reviewed Nov. 20, 2009)

THE BLIND SIDE ★★

(Century 16, Century 20) "The Blind Side" merges uplifting social drama with uplifting sports drama. Homeless African-American youth Michael Oher (Quinton Aaron) was blessed to get a break from a tony Christian school and then from the Tuohy family, whose spitfire matriarch Leigh Anne takes him into her heart. As Michael in turn teaches the Tuohys the true meaning of family, he becomes the archetype Spike Lee acridly called the "super-duper magical Negro," who lowers his face and steps aside to let the white star have her Oscar clip. Rated PG-13 for one scene involving brief violence, drugs and sexual references. Two hours, eight minutes. — P.C. (Reviewed Nov. 20, 2009)

THE FANTASTIC MR. FOX ★★★★

(Century 16, Century 20) Mr. Fox (voiced by George Clooney) has turned from a life of fowl poaching to journalism, where his "Fox About Town" column runs in the Gazette. The clever and charming Mr. Fox has been tamed somewhat by his wife (Meryl Streep). She knows her husband. The family man's sartorial style can't disguise his true nature. How can a fox ever be happy without a chicken in his mouth? Light and uplifting on the surface, the movie has much to say. Insights about relationships, mortality and survival are shaded in a darkness that children won't see. Most of all, the foxy adventure offers a family pack of fun. Rated: PG for action, smoking and slang humor. 1 hour, 27 minutes. — S.T. (Reviewed Nov. 27, 2009)

PRECIOUS ★★★★½

(Aquarius) The plight of the protagonist, Claireece Precious Jones, is articulated early on by her school principal: "You're 16. You're in junior high school. And you're pregnant with your second child." And that's not the worst of it: Both children were conceived by paternal rape. Plagued by suicidal thoughts and dreams of fame, fortune and a boyfriend, the overweight Precious languishes in the squalor of a Harlem walk-up, circa 1987, under the thumb of her cruel mother Mary (Mo'Nique). Gabourey Sidibe brilliantly embodies the bitter Precious, who shares her despair through narration. Precious begins her longest journey toward hope at an alternative school, where patient teacher Blu Rain (Paula Patton) makes a difference. Rated R for child abuse including sexual assault, and pervasive language. One hour, 49 minutes. — P.C. (Reviewed Nov. 20, 2009)

RED CLIFF ★★★

(Guild) Set in Northern China in 208 A.D., "Red Cliff" essays the Battle of Red Cliffs, a major engagement — during the Wars of the Three Kingdoms period — that pits the imperial army against a tentative alliance of rebel warlords. Hawkish Prime Minister Cao Cao (Zhang Fengyi) convinces the Emperor (Wang Ning) to go out of his way to eliminate pockets of resistance. This, in turn, inspires the rebel warlords to band together, at the urging of key advisors like Zhuge Liang (Takeshi Kaneshiro of "House of Flying Daggers") and Zhou Yu (Tony Leung Chiu Wai of "Hero" and "Lust, Caution").

The Chinese version of "Red Cliff" runs over four and a half hours while the international release Americans will see runs only two and a half hours. Still, this version is coherent and the film remains impressive in its scale. Rated R for sequences of epic warfare. Two hours, 28 minutes. — P.C. (Reviewed Nov. 27, 2009)

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