

Mountain View VOICE

NOVEMBER 19, 2010 VOLUME 18, NO. 46

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**Holiday
gift guide
in this issue**



MICHELLE LE

Andy Lin, left, and Claire Wells touch the moss on a tree during their field trip in Los Trancos, on Nov. 11.

With science, seeing is believing

By Nick Veronin

Trudging through the brisk morning air, a small group of fourth-graders paused occasionally to overturn rocks, examine hoof prints and to admire the very yellow belly of a newt.

They had made their way to the top of winding Page Mill Road to hike around the foothills on a field trip led by Environmental Volunteers.

The Palo Alto-based non-profit organization — in collaboration with several local educational and philanthropic groups — is

providing free field trips and in-class workshops to students in the Mountain View Whisman School District as part of a pilot program aimed at boosting science and environmental learning in the Bay Area.

► See **SCIENCE**, page 7

Hangar One saved, almost

By Daniel DeBolt

In a move that seems to make the restoration of Hangar One all but a done deal, NASA officials have agreed to spend \$20 million on the restoration of Moffett Field's iconic structure, an official of NASA Ames said Tuesday.

NASA Ames deputy director Deb Feng said NASA has agreed to spend the \$20 million on new siding for Hangar One and is looking for a source of the funds within its own budget.

The \$20 million "should be just about enough" to restore the structure, Feng said, but that is only if Congresswoman Anna Eshoo is successful in getting another \$10 million by month's end during the congressional lame duck session. And cost estimates for the work would have to come in under \$30 million.

The cost of restoring Hangar One has not been finalized, Feng said. Estimates have ranged from \$15 million to over \$40 million. NASA will know what it will cost when it goes to bid

on the project, Feng said.

"That's obviously great news, but with the federal budget being the mess that it is, we don't know when the money will become available," said Lenny Siegel of the Save Hangar One committee. "NASA Ames went to bat for this community, and I fear that NASA headquarters will use this commitment to reduce support for other activity at Ames. We should therefore be prepared, as a community, to go to bat for Ames and

► See **HANGAR ONE**, page 8

Three MV council members eyeing Kniss' seat

MACIAS, KASPERZAK AND ABE-KOGA CONSIDERING RUN FOR COUNTY SUPERVISOR IN 2012

By Daniel DeBolt

A trio of Mountain View city council members — Margaret Abe-Koga, Laura Macias and Mike Kasperzak — said this week that they are considering a run to replace county supervisor Liz Kniss when she terms out in 2012.

A number of prospective candidates from Palo Alto and Cupertino are also lining up to replace Kniss after her 12th year on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, even though the general election is two years away, the council members said.

Running a typical county supervisor campaign requires raising as much as \$250,000, Abe-Koga said, as well as making it through a June primary before the November general election. Campaigning is really only a year away, Macias said.

Lawyer and mediator Kasperzak said he had the advantage of having had worked with Liz Kniss on all three of her campaigns. He said the county is facing many of the same sort of financial problems the city has had to deal with. There are so many issues, he said. "To me the most serious issues have to do with continuing financial stability of the county."

Macias, who works in government relations for Comcast, said she would advocate for merging the Valley Transportation Authority and the Santa Clara Valley Water district with the county in order to find "economies of scale" and to have more accountability in leadership.

"Being someone who's run two successful campaigns, I'm really excited. I think it could be really fun," Macias said. She attended a campaign camp over the summer paid for by the memorial fund of Paul Wellstone, the Minnesota democratic senator killed in a 2002 plane crash.

Abe-Koga, a stay-at-home mother of two, was a little less excited to talk about the county supervisor's race, having just won re-election this month to the City Council. She said she felt like she came under

fire for being the top fundraiser (she spent about \$20,000) and for being endorsed by several unions. The South Bay Labor Coun-

cil said she was the best candidate in the Mountain View council race.

"If you can't raise money you aren't viable as a candidate," Abe-Koga said. "People expect you to be able to raise \$100,000 (for the county supervisor's race). When you say 'No thank you, I don't want your support,' you are picking and choosing who you are going to listen to. That doesn't make for a good policy-maker."

Abe-Koga is a rising star among established democrats. Rod Diridon recently called her a "dynamo" in an interview with the *Voice*. She's quickly moving up the ladder on the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) board and has already served on the board of the county office of education.

Macias joked that even the county supervisor job was aiming low for Abe-Koga.

► See **SUPERVISORS**, page 14

INSIDE

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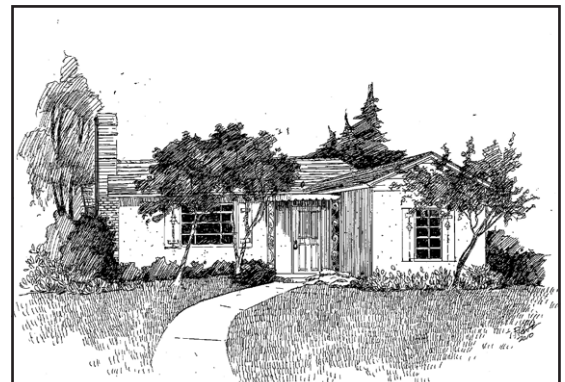


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Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked in Downtown Mountain View. Pictures and interviews by James Tensuan.

What's your favorite Thanksgiving food?



"Pumpkin pie. I like gourds."
Jeeyun Kim, San Jose



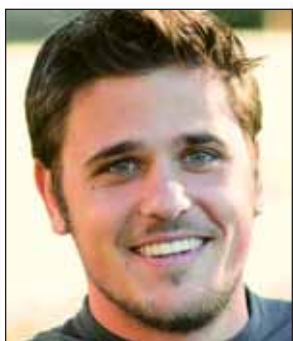
"Honey baked ham. It's sweet and delicious."
Robert Kuok, San Jose



"Harvest Salad, it tastes the best."
Julia Rosenberg, Mountain View



"Not the turkey! The sweet potato, it's closest to the Asian taste."
Francis Wong, San Francisco



"Stuffing, I've always liked stuffing."
Jay Troop, Washington, D.C.

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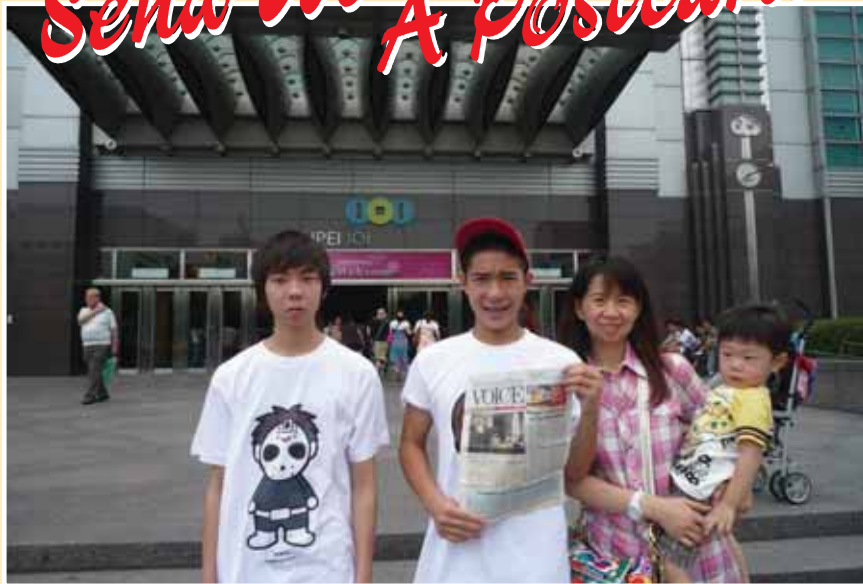


Photo of Vince in Taipei 101, Taiwan.

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LocalNews

CRIME BRIEF

EL SUPER MERCADO ROBBED

Two men wielding handguns robbed El Super Mercado, a grocery store located at 311 Moffett Blvd., last week, police said.

According to Mountain View police spokeswoman Liz Wylie, the robbers entered the store at about 8:20 p.m. on Nov. 10, pointed their guns — one black and one silver — at the two store clerks and demanded the money in the store's two registers.

The clerks — a man and a woman — were the only two people in the store, Wylie said. The clerks opened their registers and

the armed men took the cash and fled. The robbers were last seen running eastbound through the market's parking lot.

Palo Alto police assisted in the search for the two robbers, who were described as black men in their late twenties, about 6 feet tall and wearing black hooded sweatshirts, Wylie said. One of the men was heavy set, the other had an average build. Police were unable to locate the suspects.

There was no security footage of the robbery, Wylie said. The two clerks were the only witnesses.

—Nick Veronin

POLICE LOG

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE

200 block California St., 11/14

AUTO BURGLARY

200 block San Antonio Rd., 11/15

BATTERY

100 block College Ave., 11/12
Safeway on Miramonte Ave., 11/14

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

200 block Forest Glen Ave., 11/09
200 block W El Camino Real, 11/12

GRAND THEFT

Graham Middle School, 11/09
100 block El Monte Ave., 11/09

200 block California St., 11/14

NARCOTICS POSSESSION

800 block W El Camino Real, 11/15

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

200 block Forest Glen Ave., 11/9
2100 block Leland Ave., 11/16

ROBBERY

300 block Moffett Bl., 11/10

STOLEN VEHICLE

900 block Mountain View Ave., 11/12

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MICHELLE LE

Alex Cabrera, 11, right, sings with Jesus Magaña, 12, left, and Diana Bautista, 11, back, at Willow Oaks Elementary School in Menlo Park.

Elementary School Musical

LOCAL TEEN HELPS WILLOW OAKS STUDENTS SING THEIR HEARTS OUT

By Sandy Brundage
 Almanac Staff Writer

Mountain View High School senior Dani Grant set herself a tall challenge this summer: Take a group of fifth- through eighth-graders at Willow Oaks Elementary in Menlo Park who had

never performed in a musical, and turn their cacophony into melody — with no props, no sets, no costumes, and zero funding.

“What It Means To Be A Friend”

She started by choosing a story. “13 the Musical” follows “Evan,” a 12-year-old boy

forced to move to New York in the wake of his parents’ divorce. With an upcoming bar mitzvah, he decides the only way to throw a successful party in a town where no one knows his name is to convince the cool kids to come, even if that hurts the feelings of the

► See **MUSICAL**, page 12

Hospital board imposes new contract on nurses

SPLIT DECISION ENDING TALKS DRAWS THE IRE OF EL CAMINO HOSPITAL’S NURSES’ UNION

By Nick Veronin

El Camino Hospital nurses are unhappy with a new contract imposed by the board of directors. In a divided decision, the board unilaterally approved a new contract between the healthcare organization and its nurses union.

The “last, best and final offer,” hospital officials said, was a necessary money-saving measure in difficult times; it was uniformly opposed by the nurses union and called “unfair, unnecessary” and disrespectful by a nurse who addressed the board.

The motion to approve the contract carried with a 3-2 vote. Board members Patricia A. Einarson

and Uwe R. Kladdé opposed the motion, while Wesley F. Alles, David Reeder and John L. Zoglin voted in favor.

Upon passage of the motion, a murmur of discontent rippled through the crowd of about 50 nurses who had gathered to demonstrate the union’s opposition to the offer.

“It’s a joke,” one nurse said to colleagues as she walked out of the meeting room. Nurses are unhappy with changes to their benefits package and say that the compensation structure outlined in the new contract is inadequate.

During the meeting, many nurses whispered disapproval

and made incredulous expressions as hospital administrators explained why they felt the changes and cuts were needed.

Fewer patients

Ken Graham, CEO of El Camino, said that lower reimbursement rates due to health-care reform and falling patient volumes due to the recession forced the hospital to make the cuts. He stood by his recommendation that board approve the new contract. “We do not believe this will be perceived as anything but responsible by the community,” Graham said.

Charlene Glinieki, a registered nurse and chief people officer for the hospital, said

she sympathizes with the views of the union, but agreed with Graham.

“Obviously we would prefer not to need to implement these changes,” Glinieki said. However, she added, in order to meet the financial challenges the hospital is facing, “these changes are necessary.”

Pat Briggs, president of the hospital’s nurses union, Professional Resource for Nurses, told the board that she feels that a better contract could be drafted, if only the hospital would give the nurses bargaining unit more time.

“We want one more chance to

► See **NURSES**, page 14

None of us want to be where we are today.

BOARD MEMBER DAVID REEDER

Neighbors crank up the debate over McKelvey Park

By Daniel DeBolt

What should be done with the city’s longest running youth baseball fields at McKelvey Park? That’s under scrutiny by a group of neighbors who want one or both baseball fields removed altogether in favor of a neighborhood-focused park.

The Santa Clara Valley Water District’s latest design for McKelvey, which would be rebuilt as a 15-foot-deep flood basin, will be the topic of a meeting scheduled Thursday, Nov. 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council chambers.

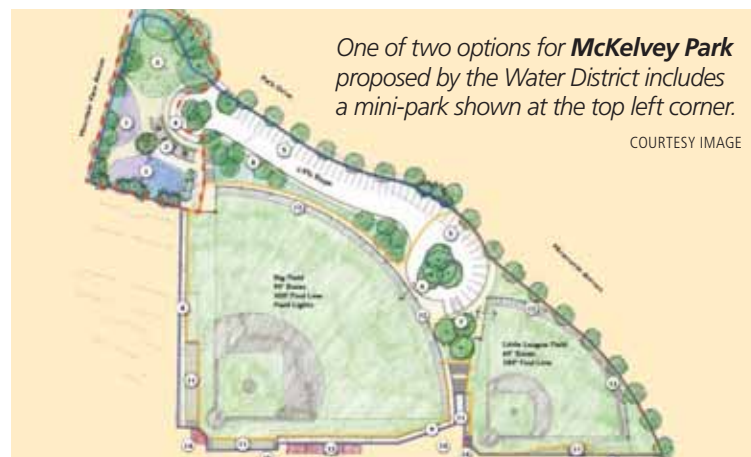
Some neighbors are loudly questioning the need for McKelvey’s two baseball fields, which have taken up the entire park for at least 50 years. A group of

neighbors are feeling snubbed by the city for not allowing the neighborhood to lead the redesign of McKelvey as other neighborhoods have been allowed for their neighborhood mini-parks.

“That’s exactly why we were presenting this concept to them Thursday,” said Public Works Director Mike Fuller of the latest design. “McKelvey is different than a traditional mini-park. A traditional mini park is not displacing other uses. That’s why McKelvey is a little more difficult.”

The latest design includes a concession to neighbors, a .7-acre mini-park and playground area. It fits next to the two baseball fields — a concept the council supported in March. But Fuller said

► See **MCKELVEY**, page 10



One of two options for **McKelvey Park** proposed by the Water District includes a mini-park shown at the top left corner.

COURTESY IMAGE

Local motorcycling figure Kari Prager dies

By Daniel DeBolt

Kari Prager, longtime owner of the California BMW and Triumph motorcycle dealership in Mountain View, passed away at his home unexpectedly on Sunday after suffering from respiratory problems, leaving behind a number of shocked family members, friends and employees.

Prager, a 63-year-old resident of Mountain View's Waverley Park neighborhood, owned the dealership on Old Middlefield Way for 29 years. Two years ago he opened another one in Livermore with his partner Michael Weissner.

"I think everyone here was shocked to hear about his death," said sales consultant Arlie Ray Blackshear. He added that Prager showed no signs of ill health and was going on motorcycle rides just days before his death.

He's well remembered for regularly leading his customers and others on monthly rides, including a one-day ride every September to Yosemite and back.

"He loved having people enjoy their bikes after they bought them," said his wife Gail. "Some people, they buy the bike and they don't have anyone to ride with them. People would meet each other this way. He was a community builder. He loved it."

A year ago Prager "semi-retired" from running the day-to-day business and Weissner continues to operate the dealership, Gail said.

"A big part of his life was opening that shop and growing it, seeing it through hard times and good times," said Gail, who works as the dealership's office manager. "We have many employees who have been there 10 to 20 years. It feels like a family. That was very important to him."

Prager's impact on the Bay Area motorcycling community was apparent as news of his death has spread quickly on Internet message boards devoted to motorcycling, where he is remembered as "kind and generous," a "class act" and someone who made everyone who came through the shop's door feel like a valued customer.

"The quality of my moto life is largely thanks to the business they created and the communities Kari supported with such kindness and enthusiasm," wrote Cecilie Hoffman in a blog post about Prager's death.

One of the photos found online of Prager shows Gail and him standing next to the motorcycle he built for her as a wedding present in 1978. She happily recalled meeting him when she was 19, joining him for several motorcycle rides before they were engaged, ring across the country to their wedding in Massachusetts, being married in her father's backyard, and spending their two-week honeymoon riding



STEPHEN BURNS

Kari Prager takes a break during the RawHyde Adventure Challenge in June 2007 in Castaic, Calif.

back to the West Coast. "That bike he built for me never had a single problem," she said. "His broke down several times. That's the story behind that picture. There's a million stories."

Prager's enthusiasm for motorcycles began immediately after purchasing a BMW motorcycle as a student at Dartmouth College, where he studied anthropology and graphic arts. He even went with a

He always maintained his love for art and history and in his final years took up an interest in writing poetry. "He was very intellectual, very smart," Gail said of her husband. "He knew about ancient history, world wars, even Greek history. He was knowledgeable about a lot of things. And he was a very good mechanic, of course."

Prager grew up on a farm in the Vermont town of Norwich and developed a love for rifles from an early age. He was a lifelong gun enthusiast and collected antique rifles and kept a library of books about them. If he was ever asked about a particular rifle, the person would get back a lengthy e-mail response, Gail said.

He was a very sociable person, and made "instant friends all the time" Gail said, especially on the regular rides he led. Rain, snow or shine, he would show up the first Sunday of the month at his dealership and give a safety talk before a ride that could be 100 miles or more, often taking breaks at Alice's Restaurant in Woodside. He could ride the roads in the Santa Cruz Mountains blindfolded, Gail said. "Lots of people got to know those roads because of him."

But at 63, Prager's journey through life ended too early, his wife said. His preliminary cause of death is a respiratory infection and he had been suffering a nagging respiratory condition for some time, Gail said.

"He had a lot of irons in the fire," she said. "It's so sad that he left us now. He still had a lot to do."

Prager is survived by his wife Gail, their two daughters, Kristin Prager and Maya Nolan and her husband Seamus Nolan.

His daughters said they felt "so lucky to have grown up with such an amazing dad. He never failed every single day to tell us and show us how much he loved us."

The time and location of a memorial service will be posted at calmoto.com, along with information about a tribute ride for Prager. ▀

"He was a community-builder."

GAIL PRAGER

Dartmouth professor on some archaeological digs in Holland and the Arctic Circle. He had a fellowship at Harvard to study art History, but as he says on his Facebook page he received "no degree. Became motorcycle mechanic instead." The mechanic job led to he and Gail helping to start Bavarian Cycle Works in San Francisco. They opened their Mountain View dealership in 1981, and worked happily together over 30 years.

"Everyone is amazed by that, but it worked for us," Gail said. "We worked so well together. We had totally different ways of working and different areas of responsibility so we never stepped on each other's toes."

Prager was born in a ski resort in Sun Valley, Idaho. His father, Walter Prager, was a Swiss downhill ski champion who had immigrated to the United States at the start of World War II and was immediately sent back to Europe as an American soldier, earning a bronze medal. His father became an Olympic skiing coach, which is why Prager was born in the ski resort. Prager himself was Vermont's cross country ski champion when he was a junior and senior in High School. His mother, Eleanor Prager, was fairly well known as an artist, Gail said.

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She hopes her students leave her classroom every day with a sense of accomplishment, a desire to improve, and to develop a deep and lifelong love of making music.

When Tina isn't teaching, she loves to sing, read, play piano, hike, and run. She also attends as many concerts and theater events as she can and loves to go dancing.

Tina's ultimate goal as an educator is to let her students experience, create, and participate in as many "musical moments" as possible. She wants her students to learn that when many voices come together as one, it creates beauty that is transcendent.

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Some like it hot

THE HOT CLUB OF PALO ALTO KEEPS THE GYPSY-JAZZ TRADITION ALIVE AND SWINGING

By Rebecca Wallace

It's been raining for hours, but there's a Sunday-afternoon warmth inside Menlo Park's Cafe Zoe that has nothing to do with the soup of the day.

Rich gypsy jazz swings through the small room and out the front door: bittersweet violin solo atop vigorous rhythm guitar and bass, layered with accordion, lead guitar, saxophone and shaker. People at the tables — some neighbors and some fans of the band, The Hot Club of Palo Alto — nod in time over their lattes. When the players take a break, a man shouts from outside, "You guys are good!"

Gypsy jazz, also known as *jazz manouche*, blends the sounds of tango, swing and even Dixieland jazz into its often minor-key mix. It began really making its voice heard in 1930s Paris. Much of the music's enduring popularity today is thanks to a Belgian-born gypsy guitarist, the iconic Django Reinhardt (1910-1953), and his Quintet of the Hot Club of France.

This year, many concerts have marked what would have been Reinhardt's 100th birthday, including a tribute performance at the Stanford Jazz Festival this summer. The Hot Club of Palo Alto honors the master and his swinging style year-round, performing at Cafe

Zoe, Red Rock Coffee in Mountain View, and other venues.

Longtime Menlo Park guitarist and teacher Ken Brown is the band's musical director, doing all the arrangements and planning sets. He's got a background in classical music, a guitar pin on his lapel, and a love for introducing new tunes to the band and its audiences.

One of the features of gypsy jazz is that it lacks a drummer. Doesn't need one. The rhythm guitar provides the distinctive percussive sound known as "la pompe," which can skip along at quite a clip. In The Hot Club of Palo Alto, Atherton resident Paul Getty plays rhythm guitar with Menlo Park's John Higham also providing a rhythmic anchor on bass. Both also jump in with solos from time to time.

Alen Cieli of Palo Alto alternates between bowing and strumming his violin, with Don Dias providing that distinctive Continental sound on the accordion. Chazz Alley, who grew up in Palo Alto, plays saxophone and shaker. When a song needs words, he's the vocalist.

"Chazz has a beautiful voice," Cafe Zoe owner Kathleen Daly says. She describes the band's music as "really happy, feel-good stuff," and adds, "We fight over who's going to work Sunday afternoons because we all enjoy them so much."

All the band's instruments add up to a textured sound that appeals to many players because of the chances for lengthy improvisation and technically difficult solos.

"I'm a rock 'n' roll guitarist," says Getty, who toured with Stevie Wonder in the early '70s. "Django's style is hard to play. We like the challenge."

Getty and Brown have known each other for 15 years. In fact, Brown used to give Getty lessons. The other musicians connected more recently, bringing backgrounds in traditional jazz, rock and classical. "Ken kind of got us all playing this kind of music," Getty says.

"It's very accessible," Brown says of gypsy jazz. "It's got a great feel and a great tradition."

If these musicians live in different towns, why name the band after Palo Alto? Someone had already taken the domain name for Menlo Park, Getty says. And "The Hot Club of Atherton" just didn't sound right.

On this Sunday afternoon, the band sounds just fine to the crowd at Cafe Zoe. The musicians play the warm "Blue Bossa," the dreamy "Nuage" and other tunes, communicating with each other through eye contact and nods, taking turns on solos. A boy in a baseball cap too big for him



PHOTO BY RON EVANS

The Hot Club of Palo Alto's musicians play a tune at Cafe Zoe in Menlo Park.

watches so intently that he forgets to eat his chocolate-chip cookie.

Getty seems to enjoy his emcee role as he calls out each song title. Before the band plays "Midnight in Moscow," Getty announces: "We're going to take you back east of the Volga for the next tune. ... It's older than dirt. Probably a greatest hit in 1870."

"Top 10," another musician agrees. During "The Sheik of Araby," Alley commands the microphone like an old-timer. "At night when you're asleep, into your tent I'll creep," he croons, garnering appreciative laughs from the audience.

After the show, the musicians chat with patrons as the cafe quiets down and the cozy room begins to empty out. Instruments get packed up, and the players start talking about their next gig.

They'll play over at Red Rock,

then back at Cafe Zoe, then back at Red Rock. Other gigs might pop up. Brown has music lessons to teach. Some of the guys have day jobs. It's a traveling band for travelers' music. ■

■ INFORMATION

The Hot Club of Palo Alto's upcoming local gigs include a performance planned from 2 to 4 p.m. this Sunday, Nov. 21, at Red Rock Coffee, 201 Castro St., Mountain View. Go to redrock-coffee.org or call 650-967-4473.

The band also regularly plays at Cafe Zoe, 1929 Menalto Ave., Menlo Park. The next scheduled gig is Sunday, Nov. 28, from 1 to 3 p.m. Go to cafezoeinmenlopark.com or call 650-322-1926. The band's website is at hotclubpaloalto.com.

SCIENCE

► Continued from page 1

Although the purpose of the expedition was to observe the natural formations created by the San Andreas Fault, it seemed that there was a teachable moment around every bend of the sometimes-muddy trail.

"(It) expands upon the idea that we've been doing for 38 years," said John Armstrong, collaboration projects manager with Environmental Volunteers.

Since 1972, Environmental Volunteers has worked to provide affordable, educational opportunities to local school districts. However, Armstrong said, this latest effort is "much more deliberate, much more coordinated and much more proactive."

Prior to this collaborative program — currently only offered to fourth- and fifth-grade classes at Mountain View Whisman schools — teachers would sign up individually for workshops or field trips offered by Environmental Volunteers. The system did not foster follow up, however, and volunteers would often come into a class just

once and never see the same students again.

To further confuse things, Armstrong said, there are many other non-profits in the area that offer similar kinds of educational programming. Because none of them were communicating with one another, redundancies were inevitable. Teachers might bring two or three separate groups into the classroom throughout the year, but if they all covered the same material, the students wouldn't learn much after the first visit.

"What we've achieved through this collaboration is to take the programs of five non-profits and coordinate them," said Allan Berkowitz, executive director of Environmental Volunteers. Those non-profits are the Environmental Volunteers, Santa Clara Audubon Society, Youth Science Institute, Hidden Villa and Marine Science Institute.

It makes sense, Berkowitz said, since all of the non-profits involved share the same goal: "to assist the schools in delivering quality science education."

Berkowitz said the project is able to offer free programming thanks

to funding from the Morgan Family Foundation, Frieda C. Fox Family Foundation and the Microsoft Corporation. Every fourth- and fifth-grade class in the district is eligible for one in-class workshop and one field trip. Schools must pay for any programming beyond that point.

"This couldn't have come at a more opportune time," said Mary Lairon, assistant superintendent of the district. "In the recession there is just less opportunity for us to be able to fund such programs."

Armstrong said he isn't certain if the program will continue to offer field trips and workshops free of charge, but said Environmental Volunteers and its partners will continue to keep prices low. As he and Berkowitz see it, making these programs as accessible as possible is paramount.

"Science education in the public schools is severely lacking," Berkowitz said. "Schools don't have the resources to deliver adequate science education."

Environmental Volunteers pools experts from the five non-profits, runs them through a crash course on how to teach the kids and sends

them into the classroom or on field trips.

The knowledge of the volunteers and the resources they bring to the classroom make for informative, engaging and tactile lessons that go above and beyond what teachers could offer.

"It's always nice to have more adults in the classroom who are experts in their field," said Chris Howden, a fourth-grade teacher at Huff Elementary.

On Nov. 1, the Environmental Volunteers conducted a workshop on plate tectonics Howden's classroom. "They definitely had the geology background that I don't have," he said.

Howden also doesn't have access to the tools the volunteers used. There was a blanket, cut into jigsaw pieces representing all of the planet's major plates; a sampling of igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks; and a spring-loaded, tabletop box for demonstrating how an earthquake impacts different structures in different ways, depending on how and where they are built.

"I think they liked it a lot," Howden said of his students' reaction to the in-class presentation

by Environmental Volunteers. "It was hands-on, and they got to get involved with their entire bodies."

"It's pretty cool," Miles Lang, a student in Howden's class, said of the earthquake emulator, which demonstrated that houses bolted to a foundation fare better than those that are not. It also showed how structures could sink during a tremor if they are built on top of sandy ground.

The workshop was only a primer, however. A week later, on Nov. 10, Howden's class joined Huff teacher Celina Hidalgo's class on a field trip to the Monte Bello and Los Trancos open space preserves.

The hike took students past several geologic formations, such as "pressure ridges," formed by the friction created by the North American and Pacific Plates as they slide past one another along the San Andreas Fault.

One of the volunteers, Nina Brooks, identified a rock made of calcite, which she told the children had most likely formed millions of years ago in the ocean. She produced a tiny bottle of hydrochloric

► See **SCIENCE**, page 9

Minton's — going, going, gone

AUCTION MARKS CLOSURE OF CITY'S OLDEST BUSINESS

By Daniel DeBolt

Machines and supplies were sold for pennies on the dollar as the city's oldest business was liquidated, lot by lot, at an auction last Tuesday.

To make way for a housing development, Minton's Lumber and Supply is on its way out after 99 years in Mountain View. On Nov. 9 an auctioneer with a British accent roamed the store with a crowd following him, pointing to large lots of things like door handles, wood trim and home electrical supplies.

"How about this lot? Any interest? Going once, going twice, sold for \$30." It seemed anything could be bought at Minton's on Nov. 9 for less than \$50, even an aisle full of building supplies.

"I feel very sad," said downtown resident Melanie Kaye, who happened to drop by during the auction. "Everybody in my neighborhood, including me, shopped here."

Kaye's home on Loreto Street is one of several on Loreto, Anza and Velarde streets built by Earl Minton in the 1920s. Her doors and cabinets had the Minton's name on them, and she found during one project that the special woodcutting blades used to make the woodwork on her home still existed at Minton's Lumber and Supply.

Last week that equipment was being auctioned off at rock bottom prices. One man said he had purchased a shaper, a piece of woodcutting equipment worth over \$1,000, for the paltry sum of \$50.

"The machinery over there, they are just giving it away," he said. "Nobody knows how to use it anymore."



Auctioneer David Greenaway leads a group of bidders through Minton's.

The same man won hundreds of boxes of nails, worth an estimated \$5 each, for only \$30. Another person got an

'Everybody in my neighborhood, including me, shopped here.'

MELANIE KAYE

aisle filled with plastic plumbing fittings for \$5. Much of the store had already been picked through weeks before when everything was being sold for 75-percent off.

It was easy to buy the stuff, but it may not be so easy to sell it. Ebay helps, some of the bidders said.

President Debbie Shulz said the store had been losing money for years and could not compete with the lower prices at big box

stores like Home Depot. Shulz and her family are not selling the property, as they will be paid rent by housing developer Prometheus Real Estate Group in a 75-year lease agreement.

Early next year construction will begin on 203 apartments and an underground parking garage on the site. Young professionals are expected to take up residence here, replacing the woodworkers, homeowners and contractors that frequented Minton's.

Manager John Rios said he had worked there for 21 years because he enjoyed working for a family run business. "It's hard to see this happen. But you have to go on, you can't stop," he said.

"I do hope they appreciate the value of what they are moving into," Kaye said of the future apartment dwellers on the site, which site right across from the train station and a block from Castro Street. "What a sweet spot." ▀

of them a little incomplete," Feng said. "They didn't really address some of our engineering questions. Only one party made an attempt to give us an estimate."

Feng said she could not disclose what that estimate was because she did not want to influence future bidding on the project. She said there is plenty of interest from contractors, however.

Ames Director Pete Worden wishes to re-use Hangar One for its original purpose, airships. Feng said there are three potential tenants of Hangar One lined up, but she would not name names. The three tenants include private and government organizations that operate or build airships. There is room for multiple tenants in the hangar, she added.

Feng said NASA has no money to preserve historic structures in Hangar One. Historic artifacts that have an uncertain future include the "cork room" used to store the U.S.S. Macon's gas bags and hundreds of windows in the hangar's siding that alone could cost \$1.2 million to save.

"We barely have funding for re-skinning Hangar One," Feng said. "The agency has no money for the restoration of historic" artifacts and structures inside the hangar. "It's not good news but I don't think it's going to be a surprise."

The Moffett Field Restoration Advisory Board will discuss an update on Hangar One preservation efforts on Nov. 18 at 7 p.m. in the Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave. ▀

City approves church's cell tower near preschool

By Daniel DeBolt

Despite outcry about radiation exposure at an adjacent preschool, the city's zoning administrator last week approved a cell phone tower to go on top of Mountain View's First Presbyterian Church.

Unless the decision is appealed to the City Council, the church at the corner of Miramonte and Cuesta streets will soon have wireless antennae devices enclosed in a new steeple atop the chapel on the south-east corner of the property, across from the main chapel.

Zoning administrator Peter Gilli said FCC regulations do not allow him to reject the tower because of the neighbors' concerns with what may be cancer-causing radiation, unless radio frequency (RF) levels are above the FCC threshold. That left him no choice but to approve the project if it was architecturally acceptable, which he said it was.

Parents of the Little Acorn preschool, located less than 75 feet from the cell tower location, are concerned about exposing 70 or so children to the cell tower's radiation. As of last Wednesday, 58 people signed an online petition in opposition, and 15 others signed the paper version.

Gilli said that his approval of the cell tower was on the condition that parents would be able to pull their children from the preschool without being penalized with any fees.

Enrollment harmed?

While the church will make money from leasing the space to Clear Wireless LLC, parents said the preschool may lose enrollment because of it.

An RF study indicated that the theoretical radiation emitted from the cell tower to the site and the surrounding homes would be well below the FCC's acceptable levels, Gilli noted. Applicant Clearwire LLC's representative Gordon Bell agreed to do before and after RF testing to back up that claim, and post results at the church. He said the tests would show almost "undetectable" levels of radiation.

Neighbors were still concerned, saying that there was no scientific proof that such a cell tower is safe. One resident noted that other countries have much stricter regulations that would not allow such a cell tower.

"People are concerned about radiation," said preschool parent W. Tsang. "Does the community really want this or need this or can it be explored somewhere else?"

About a dozen parents and neighbors spoke in opposition to the proposal. Some said the value of their homes would drop.

More notice

"My biggest concern is that we were just informed about this," said a neighbor and preschool parent. "There's no data to let us know this is safe."

Parents and residential neighbors said they had only recently learned about the proposal and Gilli joined them in disappointment over the church's failure to notify everyone who might be affected. But Gilli said the proposal had already been delayed once.

"It should not be a legal obligation for the church, but a moral obligation to reach out to the community," said neighbor Wendy Yee.

A church representative said the church had notified the preschool, along with other tenants on the property, including a group of Boy Scouts and another church on the site called the Open Door Church. No one responded to the church with concerns.

"I'm a member of that church and I didn't even know," said one woman who lives next door and said residential neighbors were the most seriously impacted. "We can't get away from it."

Pastor Tim Boyer said a committee of church members had been discussing the proposal since July.

"We wouldn't do anything on this campus that would hurt God's children," Boyer said Tuesday.

After examining research compiled by the cell phone company and discussing it with church members, Boyer said he was confident the cell phone antennas were safe.

"I would be more concerned with that (cell phone) in your hand that I would be with that (cell phone tower) on top of the church."

Boyer declined to say how much the church would be paid to host the antennas.

"I don't think that's important," he said. The reason for allowing the antennas was more to "provide a service," Boyer said, especially since the location is within a line of sight of El Camino Hospital.

Other options

Clearwire representative Gordon Bell said that Clearwire could not make deals with property owners to put the antenna on top of a commercial building across the street or on top of the nearby Safeway.

Construction of the antennas may begin in January unless opponents win an appeal to the City Council. Appellants must pay a \$1,000 fee.

Bell said it would be impossible to find a location for a cell tower in the area that was away from homes. And Gilli said applications for cell towers were becoming more prevalent as service providers prepare for faster service, such as 4G. ▀

HANGAR ONE

► Continued from page 1

its scientific efforts."

In Washington D.C. in recent weeks Feng said she and other high level NASA officials have been discussing the \$20 million the agency has agreed to come up with for the re-skinning effort to make sure "everyone is on the same page" about where the money would come from and how it would be used.

The U. S. Navy is planning to remove Hangar One's toxic laminate siding early next year and leave the 200 foot tall icon as a bare skeleton for NASA to re-skin.

A month ago NASA requested information from contractors interested in restoring the hangar and received three responses — "all

New heart care technology getting trial at El Camino

FLUID DYNAMICS EQUATIONS TELL DOCTORS WHETHER INVASIVE PROCEDURES ARE WARRANTED

By Nick Veronin

A new technology, intended to cut down on unnecessary, costly and potentially dangerous heart procedures, will begin trials at El Camino Hospital this month.

Using data collected by non-invasive medical technology, the HeartFlow system can tell cardiologists which patients require an invasive cardiac-diagnostic procedure and which patients do not. In so doing, HeartFlow developers say, it has the potential to save money, lives and improve patient outcomes.

"If it delivers what we believe it will, it's going to have a real significant impact," said Dr. Fred St. Goar, an interventional cardiologist at El Camino and clinical advisor for HeartFlow.

According to St. Goar, more than 50 percent of patients who undergo the invasive procedure, known as an angiogram, do so unnecessarily.

In an angiogram, a catheter is inserted into the patient — often through an artery in the groin or arm — and threaded all the way up to the heart. Then, X-ray-visible dye is injected into the blood to give doctors a view of blockages in the heart and nearby arteries. HeartFlow aims to eliminate all unnecessary angiograms.

It works by taking data collected by non-invasive heart-monitoring technologies, already in use at hospitals and doctors' offices across the country, and funneling that data through fluid dynamics equations — similar to those applied by aerospace engineers to cut down on aircraft drag.

The HeartFlow software uses these equations to calculate the rate at which blood is flowing before and after a blockage. If the software shows that blood flow is being significantly impeded by a blockage, cardiologists may then proceed with more drastic procedures. If, however, blood flow is not significantly hindered, doctors will

be able to say with confidence that no invasive procedure is necessary. And the fewer invasive procedures, the better, representatives from HeartFlow said.

"Patients are going to have better outcomes with less risk," said Dr. John Stevens, a cardiovascular surgeon and CEO of HeartFlow. "At the same time, we are going to save the health care industry billions and billions of dollars."

Costs for angiograms vary from hospital to hospital. According to a representative at O'Connor Hospital in San Jose, the average cost for an angiogram there is \$10,587. St. Goar estimated that an angiogram could cost as much as \$15,000. An Associated Press article, which ran in USA Today on May 3, said that more than a million Americans get an angiogram each year.

Fogarty Institute

The system, created by two Stanford cardiologists — Dr. Christopher K. Zarins and Dr. Charles A. Taylor — had no trouble attracting support from Dr. Thomas J. Fogarty, founder of the Fogarty Institute for Innovation.

"It's one of the more exciting technologies that I've ever been involved in," Fogarty said.

Fogarty's medical startup incubator was instrumental in bringing the HeartFlow system to fruition.

"The Fogarty Institute was the gestational ground, the nurturing ground" that allowed HeartFlow get up and running, Stevens said.

Fogarty opened his non-profit institute on the El Camino Hospital campus in September 2007 with the intent to nurture innovators in the field of medicine. The 4,000-square-foot collection of offices and a laboratory are home to Fogarty's handpicked startups, which receive funding and logistical support.

The medical entrepreneurs working out of the institute have access to free legal and business advice. And because it is located on the El

Camino campus and has Fogarty's name attached to it, the institute attracts doctors willing to try out new products on their patients.

"They were really critical in the first 18 to 20 months," Stevens said. The institute provided HeartFlow "all of the things a young company has a hard time getting" — including the "sage advice and experience" of Fogarty.

Fogarty is a world-renowned cardiologist and innovator, who has been in the medical field for more than 40 years. Among his many inventions is the balloon embolectomy catheter, which is the industry standard tool for removing blood clots in and around the heart.

"Fogarty is just one of those rare breeds," said Ann Fyfe, executive vice president of Fogarty Institute. She said that as a surgeon, businessman and entrepreneur familiar with bringing new products to market, Fogarty is uniquely positioned to help fellow inventors reach their goals.

St. Goar agreed, saying that it is difficult to get new medical treatments patented, approved by the FDA and successfully to market.

"Many hundreds of great ideas have died on the vine," St. Goar said.

It would seem that HeartFlow has escaped that fate. El Camino is just one of 18 trial sites nationwide conducting clinical validation trials of the system.

The system's success is not only providing validation for its creators, but for the Fogarty Institute as well. HeartFlow is the first company to move successfully from concept, through development and into clinical trial.

"It feels wonderful," Fogarty said of HeartFlow's success and his institute's role in it. "As a surgeon and a cardiologist, you help one patient at a time. Even more rewarding is when you are involved in something that benefits a whole bunch of patients. ▣"

SCIENCE

► Continued from page 7

acid and dropped a bit of the solution on the rock, making it bubble in a fizzy chemical reaction.

Justin Valestra, one of Hidalgo's students, said it was "amazing to see that rocks from all the way back in the ocean could end up on this hill."

Although Justin said he was

familiar with many of the concepts Brooks was describing, he said being able to observe the geologic formations helped.

"If I see it in person I can understand it better," he said.

For Persia Fakhr, another of Hidalgo's students, the field trip was less about science and more about getting outdoors. "The mountains look beautiful from far back," she said, before turning her attention to a moss-covered tree and exclaim-

ing, "Cool!"

Marc Burton, another volunteer on the hike, said that teachable moments are always plentiful on the Environmental Volunteers' field trips.

"Through the joy of discovery they are introduced to the outside world," Burton said of the children. "I don't think there is anything more important than teaching kids to be good stewards of the environment." ▣

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■ COMMUNITY BRIEF

Give blood, give shelter

Donors who go to Stanford Blood Center next week can give more than blood — for every two donors, the center will contribute money to Hotel de Zink, enough to provide one bed at the homeless shelter for one night.

The blood center's Mountain View and Palo Alto locations are participating in the shelter benefit, running Monday through Wednesday, Nov. 22-24. The locations are: 515 South Drive, Suite 20, in Mountain View; 3373 Hillview Ave. in Palo Alto; and 780 Welch Road, Suite 100, in

Palo Alto.

While the Stanford Blood Center usually offers donors T-shirts or other gifts, said spokeswoman Michelle Hyndman, during those three days the center will donate \$20 for every two donors to InnVision's Hotel de Zink. "This is a wonderful opportunity for Stanford Blood Center blood donors to double their donation," she said.

Hotel de Zink is a 15-bed emergency shelter that rotates locations and is hosted by congregations in Palo Alto and Menlo Park. Families or individuals are referred

through InnVision's Opportunity Services Center.

"As Hotel de Zink struggles to keep its doors open, our partnership with Stanford Blood Center provides much-needed financial support and will hopefully create more visibility for the program in our community," said Philip Dah, director of Peninsula programs at InnVision.

Donors should be in good health with no cold or flu symptoms. Call (888) 723-7831 or go to bloodcenter.stanford.edu.

—Andrea Gemmet

MCKELVEY

► Continued from page 5

he's heard "loud and clear" from a group of neighbors who are now saying they want the larger, major league-sized field removed for more neighborhood-oriented features.

McKelvey neighbor Lloyd Yu is among those leading that group. He believes that two baseball fields in the works on Garcia Avenue near Shoreline Park could replace the baseball fields at McKelvey. But advocates for youth baseball,

including council member Tom Means, say that those fields were designed to compensate for a lack of baseball fields in the city as demand for McKelvey's fields is intense.

The City Council was presented with a petition last week signed by 200 neighbors who "would like McKelvey to be transformed from a single-use baseball facility to a multi-use neighborhood open space." Yu has gone farther in coming up with his own design for the park removes the park's two baseball fields altogether.

Yu points out that the St. Fran-

cis Acres neighborhood has no neighborhood park within a half-mile walking distance, which is a goal for every neighborhood in the city. He adds that McKelvey, at 4.7 acres, is too small to be classified as a regional sports facility, though it is used as one.

"While we obviously recognize an historical use of McKelvey for Little League baseball, it is equally obvious that McKelvey does not serve the needs of the neighborhood," wrote Yu in a letter to the City Council.

He doesn't believe the city should

even be working with the youth sports leagues in designing the park either. "Whether we should have ball fields is primarily a neighborhood decision," according to city policies, Yu said.

Fuller said it would be up to the City Council whether the ball fields would be removed.

The vision for McKelvey outlined by Yu, which is not endorsed by the St. Francis Acres neighborhood, removes the baseball fields and replaces them with a field that could be used for lacrosse, soccer, football and Frisbee. Yu notes that those sports have a shortage of space as well.

Yu's design also includes tennis and basketball courts, a water feature and a playground.

Yu said that it would be "irresponsible" for the Water District to spend a proposed \$9.1 million on the new baseball fields with new snack shacks with garbage disposals in the sinks, batting cages, bleachers, even WiFi throughout the facility — when a suitable neighborhood park could be built for only \$4.6 million.

McKelvey neighbor and council member Laura Macias supports her neighbors' increasing involvement in the process, but she said, "It would be hard to see no baseball" at McKelvey. She said it had become a "convenience and a tradition."

"I can live with what is now being proposed," Macias said. "There is a generous piece being laid out for a neighborhood park. It is larger than Mercy-Bush Park at .7 of an acre for the playground and open space. That's pretty good. It is a lot more than we have now."

"As selfish as it might be to say I don't want ball fields as a neighbor, as a city dweller I'd say we all have to carry the load for being part of city facilities," Macias said.

Nevertheless, Yu says the city should have asked for more input from the neighborhood. "The city's guidelines say the city should be working very closely with us and they are not. I don't feel that process is being adhered to in the slightest."

Vice Mayor Jac Siegel said making McKelvey a council agenda item would be a priority as he is in line to be mayor next year.

"If somebody is talking about it, let's talk about it," Siegel said. "I will push to have the Water District, the neighborhood and the ball players all get together and really see where we can go with this."

More information about the project can be found on a Water District Web page devoted to the Permanente Creek flood detention project: tinyurl.com/McKelveyPark.

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

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Clockwise from top left: Michelle Salinas, 11, center, rehearses with fellow actors. From left, Layla Kovacevic, 17, rehearses with Diana Bautista, 11, Michelle Salinas, 11, and Fernanda Maria Lupian, 10; Diana Bautista, 11, playing the role of Kendra, and Michelle Salinas, 11, playing Molly, rehearse the final song, "Brand New You;" Charione Berry, 12, jokes with Dani Grant after rehearsal at Willow Oaks Elementary School in Menlo Park.



MUSICAL

► Continued from page 5

unpopular masses.

The musical details Evan's struggles to balance popularity and friendship, romance and geekdom, manipulation and integrity — the same issues confronting Willow Oaks students as they face the leap into high school.

After securing a license to stage "13," Dani decided to ask if any schools in the Ravenswood School District were interested. An initial agreement with Cesar Chavez Academy fell through right before rehearsals were to start, but she found another home for her project, this time at Willow Oaks, which has no room for a music program in its budget. But the school had a key element — support in the form of after-school program coordinator Mauricio Rodriguez.

Dani had the school and the musical; now she needed the students.

"The Lamest Place in the World"

Musical theater isn't on the list of things "cool kids" do. Dani got worried the first time she and a group of volunteers visited Willow Oaks to invite kids to perform. "A

few students stood up, but were immediately shot down by their peers, who made fun of them," Dani said. "For the first 10 minutes, we had no students."

Now they have 16 students who rehearse up to four times a week. And too cool to sing or not, classmates wander in to watch.

To be sure, the performers' motivations vary. "It beats doing homework," said Jesus Magaña, 12, who sings a solo as "Archie." However, he's discovered that a lot of studying goes into performing, too. "The hardest part has been learning the song," he said.

Others possess a flair for the dramatic. Sixth-grader Diana Bautista plays a leading role as "Kendra," and looked as comfortable onstage as any American Idol contestant as she danced.

At each rehearsal, the high school student directors set goals for each actor to meet, dangling a reward of stickers. Some days, Dani said, the goal is, "We have to be able to hear you on the other side of the cafeteria!" Or, as was the case on Wednesday, Nov. 10, "Sitting on the stage and not getting up once!" The stickers provided enough motivation to keep the cast in one place, although they still managed

to dance even while sitting down.

If maintaining harmony onstage requires strategy, so does keeping order offstage. At this reporter's request, Dani started a journal about the rehearsals. The entry for Tuesday, Nov. 9, read in part:

"Although what was happening onstage was good work, offstage was the land of chaos. This time, we planned ahead for this, and brought a giant tub of stickers, markers and paper for the kids to make thank-you cards for Mauricio. Besides having to sometimes pry the stickers out of the students' hands to get them to go onstage, this method was largely successful!"

In 40 minutes, she wrote, they completed a run-through, a stack of "thank you" cards, and personal makeovers, as the students went home dotted with stickers from head to toe.

Dani thanked her own "goddess of knowledge," Jill Denny, the choir director at Mountain View High School, for passing along the tricks of the teaching trade.

"Opportunity"

The difference between the cast's lack of stage experience, and the extensive background of their



Dani Grant is the founder of the musical theater project.

high school directors, mirrors the contrasts between Willow Oaks Elementary and Mountain View High.

Dani reflected on her high school's thriving theater program. "I actually choreograph all of their productions, and the involvement has changed my life," she said. "Most of my friends are in the shows, and we listen to show music in the car, and we are full-on musical theater geeks."

She, along with her band of volunteers, wanted to share that passion with students who didn't have the same opportunities.

It was impossible, watching the

kids dance on a small battered linoleum stage in the Willow Oaks cafeteria, to not contemplate the new, versatile stages at renovated public schools on the other side of Menlo Park.

"Big Day"

A week before their opening performance, the cast proved up to the challenge as they rehearsed without half of their leading actors, who were otherwise occupied by parent-teacher conferences, and, possibly, football practice.

On Wednesday, Nov. 10, a group of students from Mountain View High set up drums, guitars, and a piano for the musical's first practice with a live band.

"That does not look like a band," observed actor Jaime Avia, 11, but once the conductor lifted a baton and cued the musicians, he realized they did sound like a band.

The kids sounded like performers.

The show goes on Friday, Nov. 19, at 5 p.m. in the cafeteria of Willow Oaks Elementary at 620 Willow Road in Menlo Park. The public is invited.

Props or not, costumes or not, funding or not, the kids just want to sing. ▀

Note: The subheads are from song titles in the musical.

Going for a trial run

LOCAL SKEPTIC GIVES NYC MARATHON A TRY

By Alyssa Berezna

On a cool, windy Sunday in New York City, Mountain View resident Kelley Blalock ran for four hours, 32 minutes and 10 seconds, with no walking or bathroom breaks. She stopped running only when she completed the 26.2 miles required to finish the ING New York City Marathon. This time last year, she would have laughed off any suggestion that she could run that far.

"I'd tell you (that) you were crazy," she said.

Zippering through all five of the city's cement-paved boroughs is not the easiest endeavor for a first-time marathon runner, but this 27-year-old personal trainer ended up running the New York City Marathon because she said she needed a challenge.

Mad for marathons

Sandy-haired with bright eyes and a bubbly smile, Blalock has been an athlete since she ran track and cross-country at Saint Francis High School. While she was

earning her psychology degree at Loyola Marymount University, she worked summers at Runner's High, a Menlo Park athletic shoe store. She'd see customers jazzed about an upcoming marathon and wonder why they were so obsessed. "It was just kind of like the thing to do," she said.

After she graduated from college in 2005, Blalock was promoted to manager at the store and met some customers who belonged to Focus-N-Fly, a Bay Area group that helped runners reach their long-term goals. When she first started training with them for a half-marathon, she found herself scurrying alongside hardcore athletes, the kind who only skipped Bay to Breakers if they were expecting a baby. Blalock was both the youngest and slowest person on the team.

"There were 50-year-old men that could kick my (butt) easily," she said. "I just kind of had to check myself and say, 'I'm out here for myself to make myself feel good.'"

Last January, after realizing she needed to aim higher if she wanted to really push herself, Blalock made a New Year's resolution to run the

New York marathon. She was working as an in-home personal trainer and had completed several 5K races and half-marathons. (Her favorite, as she recalls, was the Nike half-marathon in San Francisco, where tuxedo-clad firemen lined up to give out silver platters of Tiffany's necklaces, in place of medals, at the finish line.)

Safety first

Still, Blalock was weary from seeing so many of her clients and customers injure themselves while preparing for a marathon, only to continue training. So when she found out she made it into the marathon in March, she proceeded with caution. For fear of overexerting herself, she trained with intense care. Blalock has measured herself in every sort of wellness test imaginable. She knows her resting metabolic rate ("How many calories you would burn in the day if you were laying in bed with the flu") and her VO2 (the rate of carbon dioxide and oxygen exchange).

When she had a question about her diet, she called her sister Casey, who's a nutritionist. When she strained the ligaments in the top of her right foot on an Oregon road trip this summer, she took time off of training and got massage work done.

The night before the marathon Blalock made sure to drink some coconut water (a good source of electrolytes and potassium). The next morning, she put on her smelly, worn shoes—a pair of teal Mizuno Inspires she wore for the New York half-marathon last year—and hurried to check in on Staten Island. When she first started running, it took a while for her lungs to warm up, but she kept a wide smile and a steady pace, slowing down only to text friends along the sidelines. When she finally crossed the finish line in Central Park, her eyes were filled with tears.

"That was my biggest, proudest moment," she said. "Even though I ran a little slower than I expected, I didn't stop once."

Draped in an orange, blue and white plastic "heat sheet," Blalock collected her things and headed straight to meet her friends for a drink at Jake's Dilemma, a bar on



ALYSSA BEREZNA

Kelly Blalock, a Mountain View personal trainer, wraps up in a "heat sheet" after completing the ING New York City Marathon.

the Upper West Side. Though her knees ached and her blood sugar was low, she'd made up her mind about marathon running.

"I did it today," she said. "And I'd do it again." ■

Alyssa Berezna is a Sunnyvale native and a graduate student at New York University's Arthur L. Carter Institute of Journalism.

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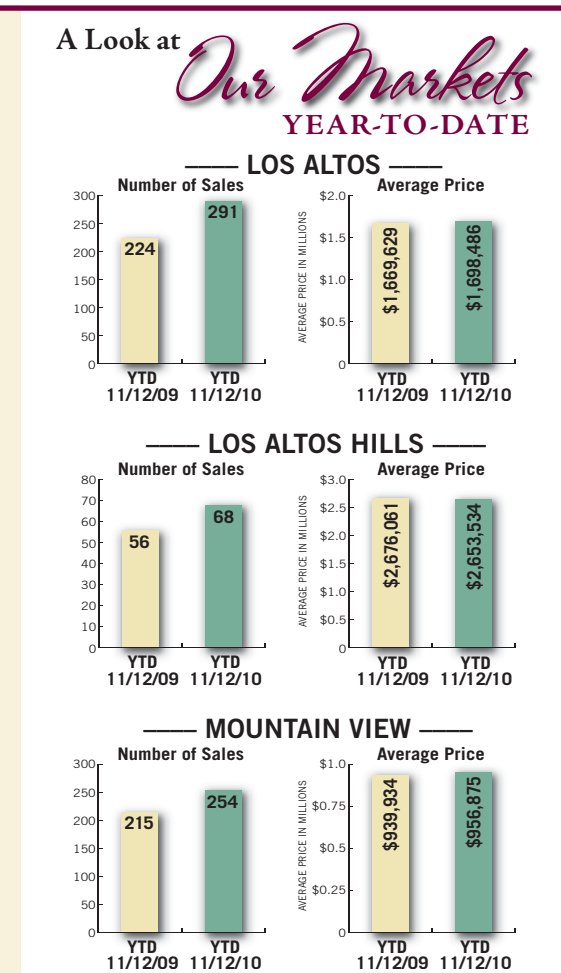
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NURSES

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go back to the table and reach an agreement," Briggs told the board, noting that she and other nurses understand the tight financial situation the hospital is facing.

Of the 15 items that were altered or cut in the new contract, Briggs said PRN members could live with most. There were four major points of contention, however.

Sticking points

Previously, nurses accrued paid time off while they were taking time off — on vacation, sick leave or while attending conferences or classes for their required continuing education, for example. Under the new contract, nurses will no longer accrue time off when they aren't working. "That is a major cut in our benefits," Briggs said.

The second sticking point had to do with retirement benefits. The hospital used to contribute more to the retirement accounts of veteran employees. Those who had been with the hospital between 15 and 19 years were matched with 5 percent of their contributions. Those who worked more than 20 years at El Camino were matched with 6 percent. Now, the hospital will only match 4 percent of the nurses' contributions.

Third, Briggs said, nurses who regularly worked evening and night shifts earned a better rate for their paid time off. It was a motivator, which encouraged nurses to take the unpopular shifts. With that incentive gone in the new contract nurses may be less eager to take those shifts, Briggs said, which could adversely impact the stability of staffing those shifts.

The final issue, according to Briggs, is that the hospital is

stalling on giving the nurses a wage increase until September 2011. Furthermore, the wage increase, when it comes, will only be 3.5 percent — low compared to other health care institutions in the area, Briggs said. The last time nurses saw a wage increase was in 2009. She said that nurses' wages have been "stagnant" for the past 30 years, barely keeping up with inflation and cost of living increases.

"It's just too much," Briggs said of the cuts and changes to the contract.

Cuts widespread

"I would disagree," said Chris Ernst, a spokeswoman for El Camino. "We are all taking the same cuts the nurses are taking."

No hospital employees will be seeing salary increases and no one will earn paid time off while taking time off anymore, Ernst said. She also noted that while all the nurses who wished to continue working at the hospital were able to stay, some in administrative positions lost their jobs.

Over the summer El Camino Hospital announced that it would have to lay off 140 employees, including support staff, nurses and administrators, in order to deal with falling revenues. The majority of support staff and nurses jobs were saved, however, after union negotiations shuffled employees around to different positions within the hospital.

The hospital implemented a multitude of cost-saving measures to non-labor-related expenses before making cuts to compensation and benefits packages, which were a last resort Ernst said. Cuts to labor, compensation and benefits throughout the hospital are projected to save the organization more than \$10 million — about 14 percent of the \$70 million the hospital aims to save through its

Accelerating Continuous Excellence, or ACE, program.

Ernst did not know how much of that \$10 million would be saved by the changes made to the nurses' contract.

Continue negotiations

Before taking a vote, board members voiced their opinions on the dispute. Both Einarson and Kladd indicated that they saw no reason why the hospital could not continue discussions with PRN, which triggered applause.

"We hear you," board member Reeder said, addressing the nurse. "None of us want to be where we are today."

He said that the hospital had experienced a long streak of financial stability, but said that things have changed and that the cuts to the contract were necessary. "We are in a recession that just isn't going away."

Board member Alles brought up the recent fervor over what some have said are unreasonably high salaries, benefits and pensions drawn by police and fire fighters. Alles acknowledged that, like police and firefighters, nurses work to save lives. However, he said, as a community hospital, funded in part by the tax payers, El Camino has an obligation to ensure that it compensates nurses at a sustainable level.

"I think the contract that is being proposed is competitive," Alles said.

"It is a specious argument and criticism in general," Briggs said, responding to Alles. "It is a particularly egregious argument in relation to the nurses at El Camino Hospital."

Nonetheless, whether Alles' point is valid, Briggs said she is worried that the imposition of a contract most nurses feel is unfair would adversely affect the work life, and subsequently the productivity, of El Camino nurses.

"The nurses are extremely unhappy," she said. "Morale is extremely low." ■

SUPERVISORS

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"I think she'll be the next Anna Eshoo," Macias said of Abe-Koga's potential to run for congress.

"At this point in time I would really like to focus on my new term on council and see what opportunities come up and probably do a little bit of exploration," Abe-Koga said. "I'll make a decision down the road."

It may make sense for Abe-Koga to run in order to advance her political career. She says there is

"no way" she would run against her former boss Sally Lieber for state Senate when Elaine Alquist terms out in 2012. Her other options could be a run for state Assembly when her friend Paul Fong terms out in 2014, or to run for a Mountain View school board seat, she said.

Abe-Koga said her top focus would be on transportation issues, the environment and health issues, as the county runs several health programs and Valley Medical hospital. She also wants Mountain View to "get its fair share" of projects and funding, which she says she has done on the VTA.

"You have to like the work you are going to do," Abe-Koga

said. "You have to be passionate about it. I definitely have really enjoyed the work I've been able to do with the VTA."

Macias will be terming out of her seat on the council in 2012, while Abe-Koga would be halfway through her second term on the council. Kasperzak will be finishing his third council term. He could still run for re-election to the council and run for the county seat at the same time, but said he wouldn't. "If I got through the (June) primary I would clearly have to say the council would be out," Kasperzak said. ■

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Viewpoint

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■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

Park neighbors deserve better

Although they may have come late to the game, a band of residents who live near McKelvey Park have every right to come out swinging against a plan to devote most of a \$9.1 million park upgrade to a pair of baseball fields that have been at that location for many years.

The McKelvey upgrade is part of a Santa Clara Valley Water District flood control project which will drop the park floor 15 feet to act as a catch basin in the event of a 100-year flood. A design concept including two new fields and a new .7-acre playground area passed on a 4-1 City Council vote in March, but a final plan has not been approved. The water district was to take public comments on the park plan featuring the two ball fields at a special meeting Thursday, Nov. 18.

Among their many complaints, St. Francis Acres neighborhood residents say they had little or no say in the decision to continue to devote a major portion of McKelvey to one major league-size field and a smaller Little League diamond. If neighbors prevailed and the two fields were closed, community park supporters say baseball leagues could play at two new city fields that will be built next year on Garcia Avenue near Shoreline Golf Links.

City policy on establishing new neighborhood parks, usually less than one acre, is to survey residents and involve them in the design process. McKelvey, at 4.7 acres, is not new and is considered more of a regional park, although the carve out for a .7 acre playground area was looked on by some City Council members as meeting the city's guidelines for neighborhood park. In part, the council's decision to support the ball fields is likely a nod to the long, 50-plus-year tenure of baseball fields at the site.

But the need for that tradition needs to be re-examined with the new Shoreline ball fields in the works. And neighbors are beginning to see McKelvey as the neighborhood's park, and believe they should have a say in any redesign that will be done courtesy of the water district. They back up that claim with a petition signed by more than 200 residents of St. Francis Acres, which was presented to the City Council two weeks ago.

Yu contends a community park could be built for only \$4.6 million, instead of the \$9.1 million for the baseball fields, that will come equipped with new snack shacks, batting cages, bleachers and WiFi throughout the facility. Mr. Yu has already presented a design for a community park that features one large field that could be used for lacrosse, soccer, football and Frisbee, along with tennis and basketball courts and a playground.

So despite the council's 4-1 vote in favor of the baseball fields in March, it is appropriate now for the City Council to give the petitioners at least one more hearing and belatedly survey the neighborhood about what residents want in their park.

There is no doubt that removing the ball fields from McKelvey would bring a chorus of boos from the baseball community. And we know that city approval of the Shoreline fields was made in the hopes of opening up more fields for the north side of town. Taking away the McKelvey fields would mean the city's stock of playing fields will simply remain even.

Nevertheless, it is hard to argue against giving McKelvey Park neighbors more space for community use. The large baseball field boasts 90-foot base paths and is 300 feet down the foul lines, nearly as large as AT & T Park used by the San Francisco Giants. A ball field this size is hardly a neighborhood use, and in fact monopolizes McKelvey for a sport that few neighbors care about.

If the council reconsiders the McKelvey redesign, members will have a tough decision to make. And if they don't, there will be a crowd of St. Francis Acres residents who are going to cry foul.

■ GUEST OPINION VOICE FROM THE COMMUNITY

A teacher's lament: I'm no Superman

By Sabrina Strand

I realize Davis Guggenheim's recent documentary film "Waiting for Superman" wasn't intended to bash teachers.

In fact, most viewers probably left the theater impressed by the educators he documented, the ones who cared enough to fight: the Michelle Rhee, David Levins, and Mike Feinbergs of the world (all fellow Teach for America alums). I'm here to argue that glorifying these teachers and the schools they've created undermines our end goal of fundamental change in the way we educate our children.

If we want to make real, long-term progress in schools, we need to create a system that's

beneficial to students and sustainable for educators.

At best, the unrealistic expectations set forth by the Teach for America world and acclaimed by the mainstream media drive competent, passionate teachers to other careers; at worst, it drives them to ill health, cynicism, and crushed morale. I knew dozens of teachers who fell into that first category. I, unfortunately, fell into the second, until I picked myself up by my bootstraps and moved to a small private school in Silicon Valley.

Trying to turn 65 fifth-graders into model readers, writers, students, and people is an enormous challenge in and of itself; when

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■ LETTERS VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

IS IMMIGRATION A FACTOR IN SCHOOL PERFORMANCE?

Whenever I read about problems in local public schools, such as the Nov. 5 article about the problems of first-grade teacher Kathy Patterson, I wonder how many students in the class are not legal residents in California.

Many Bay Area schools have students who do not speak English at home, whose parents are not well educated and cannot effectively help the education of

those children. This makes it difficult for any teacher to spend lots of time with such students while also trying to teach the other students in the class.

I believe that the best way to improve our schools and help our teachers is to enforce the immigration laws and get those students back to school in their home country. We should amend our Constitution so that parents who are not legal residents must pay

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SUPERMAN

► Continued from page 15

you tack on poor academic foundations, troubled home lives, and a slew of emotional and behavioral problems, you get a picture of the miracle expected by charter school teachers.

No one ever talks about what it takes for schools to achieve the kind of success that's plastered all over the media. I'll tell you; it takes the blood, sweat, and tears of every teacher on staff. It takes waking up at 5 a.m. and traveling on a bus to a school that smells like urine; having to shell out money for basic necessities like drinking water; working 12-hour days, Saturdays, summers. It takes being a teacher, counselor, warden, nutritionist, coach, friend and parent wrapped into one very exhausted package. It takes a school run by naive 20-somethings with no dependents and no obligations outside their work lives.

A friend of mine recently moved to the Bay Area from New York, where she taught for six years in a renowned charter school. Over the course of her last year, her principal took leave for a mental breakdown, and the dean was hospitalized twice for kidney problems stemming from exhaustion.

Is this what we now expect from our educators?

Though I worked nonstop for the entire school year, the founder and CEO of my former school, Deborah Kenny, refused to write me a letter of recommendation upon my resignation. To add insult to injury, I only received a few hundred dollars of a prospective bonus because the students' test scores fell short of perfection. Students, keep in mind, who had entered the school reading three to four grade levels behind, 90 percent of whom had improved to at least a fourth grade reading level by the end of my year with them.

Students who consisted of those who wanted to learn, those who didn't want to learn, and those who threw chairs at me. My colleagues, who had also sacrificed their lives at the altar of charter school education, were dealt the same blows. Yet Deborah Kenny, the school administrator made famous through the efforts of her teachers, didn't cut into her own paycheck; a New York newspaper reported she paid herself \$400,000 in 2009, making her the highest-paid charter school executive in New York City.

Through Teach for America and the charter world, we have placed the burden of failing schools on the backs of privileged 22-year-olds.

Not only do we expect them to be miracle workers, we make them feel extremely guilty when their efforts fall short of the miraculous. Why do we expect nothing from our community? Our parents? The students themselves? Why is no one held accountable but teachers?

I am a teacher. Some might even call me a good one. I make a fraction of what my peers make in the worlds of law, business, and medicine. No one expects my lawyer friends to be freeing innocent prisoners from death row, though they make at least four times my salary. But since I am in a helping profession, I must defend myself from the sanctimony of people like Davis Guggenheim, Wendy Kopp, and Deborah Kenny — all of whom know the solution to public education, none of whom currently teach. As Stephen Colbert said to a humorless Kopp on "The Colbert Report," do as I say, not do as I do, right? That never goes over well with my students.

Sabrina Strand fulfilled her Teach for America commitment at J.H.S. 126 in Brooklyn, N.Y. before teaching at Harlem Village Academy. She now teaches at Pinewood School in Los Altos Hills. She holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from Northwestern University and a master's degree in teaching from Pace University.

LETTERS

► Continued from page 15

non-resident tuition for their children in our public schools.

**Charlie Larson
Sylvan Avenue**

ACCOLADE FOR SUPES ON SMOKING BAN

Kudos to the Board of Supervisors for protecting residents from second-hand smoke by banning smoking in condominiums, apartments and parks.

The U.S. Surgeon General has long stated that there's no safe level of exposure to second-hand smoke. Even relatively brief exposure to secondhand smoke increases your risk for heart attack and stroke, according to the American Heart Association.

Tobacco is the single greatest cause of disease and premature death, and is responsible for more than 435,000 deaths annually in the U.S. As a cardiologist, I see patients suffering from smoking-related illnesses every day. Smoke-free laws like the county's new ordinance will save lives and help reduce the number of new smokers.

**Neal A. Scott, MD
Mountain View**

THANKS FOR QUICK WORK ON STOLEN CAR

Sometimes we are too busy to thank people for what they have done for us.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Mountain View Police Department for the speedy recovery of my car, which I reported stolen Friday morning,

Nov. 12. The car was recovered by evening the same day thanks to a tip from a local resident. The car was found parked in front of a fire hydrant.

Again, many thanks to everyone involved in making this a very happy ending for a grateful Mountain View resident. I salute you!

**Britt Bredstad
Mountain Avenue Avenue**

KEEP ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WILD

We need an arctic refuge national monument. The 50th anniversary of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge will happen on Dec. 6, 2010 and presents us with an historic opportunity.

We just returned from traveling to the arctic wilderness, traveling the Dalton Highway from Fairbanks to Prudhoe Bay (500 miles) then to Kaktovik, Alaska on the Beaufort Sea. We had a chance to view firsthand all the animals that live there.

The Arctic has been kept wild for generations, but still lacks vital protections. President Obama has a chance to help protect this most amazing wilderness for all the mammals, such as the iconic polar bear, and the millions of the world's birds that feed and nest there.

It is important to keep it wild, so the cycle of life can continue. As Americans, we have a moral and civic duty to ensure that this cycle is not broken. I urge President Obama to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as a national monument. It would be a wonderful gift on this 50th anniversary.

**Marti Wright
Sunnyview Lane**

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■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

Plenty to savor

HUGE SELECTION, GENEROUS PORTIONS AND MODEST PRICES AT CAFE YULONG

By Ruth Schechter

With the zillions of Chinese restaurants on the Peninsula, how do you go about finding the place that makes the mark? When your criteria include huge portions of traditional Mandarin and Szechuan dishes at very reasonable prices, you might want to put Cafe Yulong on your list.

Located just off Castro Street, the 9-year-old restaurant is basic and casual, with a large fish tank at one side and an entryway divider of greenery at the door. About 15 tables fill the open dining room, and a counter toward the back of the room remains

busy with people ordering take-out meals. All menu items are available to go.

A big selling point is how affordable the meals are, particularly in light of the generous portions. Most dinner entrees cost less than \$10, and in most cases you get enough food for at least two meals.

Cafe Yulong has a very impressive menu with pages and pages of traditional dishes organized by main ingredients. There's a fowl section, with established favorites like Kung Pao chicken and General Tso's chicken, as well as some more unusual offerings like

► See **CAFE YULONG**, page 18



Dumplings stuffed with chopped fish, ginger and Chinese chives are featured at Cafe Yulong.

MICHELLE LE

Experience the taste of Italia
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TO THE SEA BREEZES OF THE AMALFI COAST AND WINDING BACK THROUGH THE ANCIENT TOWNS OF TUSCANY, CUCINA DI VENTI HAS CAPTURED THE SOUL OF ITALIAN COOKING. WE TAKE PRIDE IN BRINGING YOU THE VERY BEST. THE INGREDIENTS ARE SIMPLE—IMPORTED ITALIAN WATER FOR THE DOUGH; FRESH HERBS TO BRING OUT THE TRUE TASTE OF THE REGIONS AND EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL ENHANCE CLASSIC DISHES FROM THE WORLD'S FINEST CUISINE. OUR LOVE OF ITALIAN FOOD KNOWS NO BOUNDS.

LA CUCINA DI VENTI RECIPE



COTOLETTA ALLA BOLOGNESE

- 4 VEAL CUTLETS, 6 OZ. EACH
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- 4 SLICES PROSCIUTTO
- 1/2 CUP UNSALTED BUTTER
- 2 EGGS, BEATEN
- 1/2 CUP FINELY GROUND BREADCRUMBS
- 1 JAR GOOD QUALITY TOMATO SAUCE, HEATED
- SALT
- FRESHLY GROUND PEPPER
- A LITTLE BUTTER FOR THE BAKING DISH

PREPARATION:

PREHEAT YOUR OVEN TO 350 F POUND THE CUTLETS FLAT, TRIM AWAY ANY FAT, AND REMOVE ANY MEMBRANE. SALT AND PEPPER THE MEAT TO TASTE, DIP IT IN THE BEATEN EGG, AND DREDGE IT IN THE BREAD CRUMBS, PRESSING DOWN TO MAKE SURE THE CRUMBS ADHERE.

MELT BUTTER IN A LARGE SKILLET, AND WHEN IT BEGINS TO BUBBLE. FRY THE CUTLETS UNTIL GOLDEN, TURNING THEM ONCE. TRANSFER THEM TO A BUTTERED BAKING DISH, LAY A SLICE OF PROSCIUTTO AND ONE OF CHEESE SLICES ON EACH PIECE, AND BAKE FOR 10 MINUTES OR UNTIL THE CHEESE MELTS. SPOON A WARM TOMATO SAUCE OVER EACH AND SERVE WITH CRUSTY BREAD.

buon appetito!

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Above: Waiter George Phang serves lunch at Cafe Yulong.

Left: Yulong shrimp is cooked in a house tomato sauce with ginger and broccoli.

MICHELLE LE

CAFE YULONG

► Continued from page 17

vinegar chicken, fermented black bean chicken and tea-smoked duck. There's a vegetable section, with fresh spinach and garlic, sweet and sour tofu, and spicy garlic eggplant. And there are long listings for seafood, noodles, soups, dumplings, appetizers and pork.

Pay attention to the entrees marked with a pepper — these dishes are spicy, and the restaurant isn't kidding about the heat. Our servers were quite diligent about asking us about the level of intensity we could handle, and medium was about our limit.

After sipping tea and sampling the complimentary kimchi, we started our dinner with spring rolls (\$5.95 for four) and crab Ragoon (\$5.95 for eight). The rolls were crisp, delicate and flaky, and the minced cabbage, mushrooms and celery were a wonderful contrast to the deep-fried wrappers. The deep-fried turnovers seemed to be lacking crab, although the cream cheese encased in crunchy pastry had a nice textural balance.

Do try one of the mu shu entrees, which come with beef, pork, chicken, shrimp or lamb (\$8.95-\$11.95). Our shredded pork was mixed with scrambled eggs, mushrooms, scallions and cabbage in a soy and hoisin sauce mixture, which we then rolled up in thin steamed pancakes. This was one of our favorite dishes — tasty, refined and well balanced.

We also savored the Yulong shrimp (\$11.95), a house specialty



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of stir-fried shrimp in a tangy tomato-based sauce. Another winner was the clay pot ma por tofu, a steaming bowl of minced tofu blended with cabbage, mushrooms and spices. This dish was too zippy for my dinner companions, which left all the more for me to enjoy over a mound of well-made brown rice.

The lunch menu is also extensive, with dozens of traditional dishes served with steamed rice, egg roll and small bowl of soup (\$7.95-\$9.95). An enormous bowl of chicken and black mushroom noodle soup (\$7.95) needed a good dose of tabletop soy sauce and chili to give it some bite, but the house-made noodles were a delight. A weekend brunch special (\$10), with two plain buns, a bowl of porridge and a hot dish selection of calamari, however, was beige and

innocuous. The brunch has been temporarily discontinued since our visit in late October.

Service throughout was exemplary. The restaurant remains a family affair, run by James and Miya Pei (and helped out by their sons), and the personal touch shows in their welcome attentiveness to their patrons. Servers were friendly, prompt and stopped by often to see how we were doing. Dishes were staggered so that everything didn't arrive at the table at once, and water glasses and teacups were filled constantly and unobtrusively.

Although Cafe Yulong is not the first place you'd pick for special occasions or a romantic night out, it will certainly hit the spot when you are in the mood for Chinese and want a lot of variety without denting your wallet. ▣



MICHELLE LE

Fresh, house-made *spinach noodles* are the star of Cafe Yulong's garlic buo tsai noodles.

DINING NOTES

Cafe Yulong

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MICHELLE LE

Dumplings stuffed with chopped fish, ginger and Chinese chives are featured at Cafe Yulong.

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MOVIE TIMES

127 Hours (R) (Not Reviewed) Aquarius Theatre: 2, 3, 4:30, 5:30, 7, 8 & 9:30 p.m.; Fri. & Sat. also at 10:30 p.m.

Burlesque (PG-13) (Not Reviewed) Century 16: Tue. at 12:01 a.m.

Due Date (R) (Not Reviewed) Century 16: 11:05 a.m.; 1:45, 4:15, 7:15 & 10 p.m. **Century 20:** 12:25, 2:55, 5:25, 7:55 & 10:15 p.m.

Fair Game (PG-13) ★★1/2 Century 20: Fri.-Thu. at 11 a.m.; 1:35, 4:20, 7:05 & 9:40 p.m. **CineArts at Palo Alto Square:** 1:55, 4:30 & 7:15 p.m.; Fri., Sat., Wed. & Thu. also at 9:50 p.m.

Faster (R) (Not Reviewed) Century 16: Tue. at 12:01 a.m.

The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest (R) ★★★★★ Guild Theatre: 1:45, 5 & 8:15 p.m.

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hollows: Part 1 (PG-13) (Not Reviewed) Century 16: Fri. & Sat. at 8, 9, 10, 11 & 11:30 a.m.; noon, 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3, 3:30, 4, 5, 6:10, 7, 7:30, 8, 8:50, 9:50, 10:30, 11 & 11:15 p.m.; Sun. at 8, 9, 10, 11 & 11:30 a.m.; noon, 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3, 3:30, 4, 5, 6:10, 7, 7:30, 8, 8:40, 9:40, 10:30, 11 & 11:30 a.m. **Century 20:** Fri.-Sun. at 10:30, 11 & 11:35 a.m.; 12:10, 12:40, 1:20, 1:50, 2:20, 3, 3:35, 4:05, 4:40, 5:15, 5:45, 6:25, 7, 7:25, 8:05, 8:40, 9:10, 9:50, 10:25 & 10:45 p.m.; Mon.-Thu. at 11 & 11:35 a.m.; 12:10, 12:40, 1:20, 1:50, 2:20, 3, 3:35, 4:05, 4:40, 5:15, 5:45,

Hereafter (PG-13) ★★1/2 Century 20: 1:55 & 7:15 p.m.

Inside Job (PG-13) ★★1/2 CineArts at Palo Alto Square: 2, 4:40 & 7:20 p.m.; Fri., Sat., Wed. & Thu. also at 9:55 p.m.

Jackass 3 (R) (Not Reviewed) Century 20: 10:40 p.m.

Love & Other Drugs (R) (Not Reviewed) Century 16: Tue. at 12:01 a.m.

Megamind (PG) ★★1/2 Century 16: Fri.-Sun. at 10:20 a.m.; 12:45, 3:10, 5:40, 8:20 & 10:45 p.m.; In 3D at 9:10 & 11:40 a.m.; 2:10, 4:40, 7:20 & 9:55 p.m.; Mon. & Tue. at 10:30 a.m.; 12:55, 3:15, 5:40 & 8:20 p.m.; In 3D at 11:40 a.m.; 2:10, 4:40, 7:20 & 9:55 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:55 a.m.; 2:30, 4:55, 7:20 & 9:55 p.m.; In 3D Fri.-Sun. at 10:25 & 11:10 a.m.; 12:50, 1:40, 3:20, 4:15, 5:55, 6:45, 8:20 & 9:15 p.m.; In 3D Mon. & Tue. at 11:10 a.m.; 12:50, 1:40, 3:20, 4:15, 5:55, 6:45, 8:20 & 9:15 p.m.; In 3D Wed. & Thu. at 11:10 a.m.

Morning Glory (PG-13) (Not Reviewed) Century 16: 12:10, 1:20, 2:50, 5:30, 7:25 & 8:30 p.m.; Fri.-Sun. also at 9:30 a.m. **Century 20:** 11:45 a.m.; 2:15, 4:50, 7:30 & 10:05 p.m.

The Next Three Days (PG-13) (Not Reviewed) Century 16: 12:20, 3:40, 7 & 10:20 p.m.; Fri.-Sun. also at 9:20 a.m. **Century 20:** Fri.-Thu. at 1:05, 4:30, 7:30 & 10:30 p.m.

Paranormal Activity 2 (R) (Not Reviewed) Century 20: 11:40 a.m.; 5 & 10:20 p.m.

Red (PG-13) ★★★ Century 16: 10:50 a.m.; 1:40, 4:35, 7:35 & 10:25 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:30 a.m.; 2:20, 5, 7:35 & 10:10 p.m.

Secretariat (PG) ★★1/2 Century 20: 11:05 a.m.; 2, 4:45, 7:40 & 10:25 p.m.

Skyline (PG-13) (Not Reviewed) Century 16: 11:20 a.m.; 2, 4:50, 7:50 & 10:30 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:50 a.m.; 2:25, 4:50, 7:15 & 9:45 p.m.

The Social Network (PG-13) ★★1/2 Century 16: 10:40 a.m.; 1:35, 4:25, 7:40 & 10:35 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:15 a.m.; 2:10, 5:05, 7:50 & 10:35 p.m.

Tangled (PG) (Not Reviewed) Century 16: In 3D Tue. at 12:01 a.m. **Century 20:** In 3D Wed. & Thu. at 11:20 a.m.; 2, 4:30, 7:15 & 9:45 p.m.

Unstoppable (PG-13) ★★ Century 16: 11:10 a.m.; 12:50, 1:50, 3:20, 4:30, 6:20, 7:10, 9:20 & 10:10 p.m.; Fri.-Sun. also at 10:10 a.m. **Century 20:** 11:25 a.m.; 12:35, 1:50, 3:15, 4:35, 5:40, 7:10, 8:15, 9:35 & 10:45 p.m.

Waiting for Superman (PG) (Not Reviewed) Century 16: Fri.-Sun. at 10:30 a.m.; 4:20 & 10:15 p.m.; Mon. & Tue. at 10:35 a.m.; 4:20 & 10:15 p.m.

Note: Screenings are for Friday through Tuesday only.

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CENTURY 20 DOWNTOWN: 825 Middlefield Road, Redwood City (800-326-3264)

CINEARTS AT PALO ALTO SQUARE: 3000 El Camino Real, Palo Alto (493-3456)

GUILD: 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park (266-9260)

SPANGENBERG THEATRE: 780 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto (354-8263)

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

For show times, plot synopses, trailers and more movie info, visit www.mv-voice.com and click on movies.



MOVIE REVIEWS

FAIR GAME ★★★1/2

(CineArts) Beltway power couple Valerie Plame (Naomi Watts) and Joe Wilson (Sean Penn) find themselves under attack after diplomat and consultant Joe pooh-poohs what George W. Bush called "the smoking gun that could come in the form of a mushroom cloud": Saddam Hussein's purported purchase of yellowcake uranium from Niger. Wilson's investigation finds no threat, but the war machine doesn't stop, leading Wilson to poison-pen the New York Times op-ed "What I Didn't Find in Africa." Somewhere in the shadows, senior Bush adviser Karl Rove decides "Wilson's wife is fair game," precipitating the outing of Plame as a CIA covert operations officer. With her operations burnt (and her contacts in danger), Plame's career implodes. And thus begins "the war at home" on two fronts: in the media and in the house of Plame and Wilson. *Rated PG-13 for some language. One hour, 48 minutes.* — P.C.

THE GIRL WHO KICKED THE HORNET'S NEST

★★★★★ (Guild) Lisbet Salander, the girl with the dragon tattoo, the girl who played with fire, doesn't literally kick any nests in this last installment of Stieg Larsson's Millennium trilogy. In fact, Lisbet, again played by Noomi Rapace, spends the first half or more of the film in a hospital bed. Though the target of various killers, Lisbet is not as much the center of this film as is investigative journalist Mikael Blomkvist (Michael Nyqvist). After a violent pre-credits sequence, the action becomes more political than physical. Mikael, together with his editor and occasional lover Erika Berger (Lena Endre) and the rest of the staff of their magazine, digs deep to get the goods on the corrupt officials and shrinks who put Lisbet into a mental hospital at age 12. *Rated R for strong violence, some sexual material and brief language. Two hours, 28 minutes.* — R.P.

HEREAFTER ★★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) Three characters in different parts of the world are united by death. A devastating tsunami leaves famed French journalist Marie LeLay (Cecile de France) with remarkable glimpses of the afterlife; soft-spoken British lad Marcus (played by real-life identical twins Frankie and George McLaren) struggles with the untimely death of his twin brother Jason; and San Franciscan George Lonagan (Matt Damon) has an uncanny ability to communicate with the deceased — whether he likes it or not. And the lives of these three individuals seem fated to intertwine. *Rated PG-13 for mature thematic elements including disturbing disaster and accident images, and for brief strong language. 2 hours, 6 minutes.* — T.H.

INSIDE JOB ★★1/2

(CineArts) Sometimes a good documentary is one for the history books. "Inside Job" — written, produced and directed by Charles Ferguson — may end up being that sort of film. The wounds recounted may be too fresh just now for "Inside Job" to be broadly appreciated,

but it's a cogent synthesis of the factors leading to, defining and resulting from the global economic crisis of the last couple of years. Even the most casual observers of the economic crisis will have to consider much of "Inside Job" to be old news, but Ferguson delivers it doggedly and without succumbing to blatant emotional appeal. *Rated PG-13 for some drug and sex-related material. One hour, 49 minutes.* — P.C.

MEGAMIND ★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) Will Ferrell plays the dastardly doofus Megamind, the perpetual loser of epic matches with superhero Metro Man (Brad Pitt, amusingly channeling buddy George Clooney). Always drawn into the middle, reporter Roxanne Ritchi (Tina Fey) fills the Lois Lane role. Metro City goes topsy-turvy when Megamind appears, almost accidentally, to vanquish Metro Man. What is a supervillain without his hero? This question, at times addressed seriously in the pages of comic books, gets a comic treatment — or, rather, a romantic comedy treatment as Megamind attempts to win over Roxanne, for whom he's long carried a torch. The story's loose parameters of good and evil put forward the ideal that everyone is capable of redemption. *Rated PG for action and some language. One hour, 36 minutes.* — P.C.

RED ★★★

(Century 16, Century 20) "Red" stars Bruce Willis as Frank Moses, a retired CIA black-ops agent with a fearsome reputation. Of course, news of Frank's skills haven't reached his suburban neighbors or Sarah Ross (Mary-Louise Parker), the Social Security office cubicle worker he's taken to chatting up over the phone. Frank's quiet life doesn't last long: his plan to travel to Kansas City to meet up with Sarah hits a snag when armed commandos attempt to kill him. For Sarah's safety, he'll have to abduct her and keep her in line while looking up old friends also classified as "RED": "Retired — Extremely Dangerous." *Rated PG-13 for intense sequences of action violence and brief strong language. One hour, 51 minutes.* — P.C.

THE SOCIAL NETWORK ★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) The riveting film about Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg defines a generation. Director David Fincher helms with a deft touch; the screenplay by Aaron Sorkin is beautifully crafted; and the acting is exceptional. In fact, the only thing missing from "The Social Network" is a likable protagonist. Zuckerberg (Jesse Eisenberg) wasn't always the world's youngest billionaire. In 2003, the computer whiz was an undergrad at Harvard University, more interested in dating than status updates. Harvard students (and twin brothers) Cameron and Tyler Winklevoss (Armie Hammer and Josh Pence) and a colleague approach Zuckerberg to enlist his help with the development of Harvard Connection, a MySpace-esque site for Harvard students. Zuckerberg enlists the financial and moral support of his best friend, Eduardo Saverin (Andrew Garfield), to create his own social-networking site. In less time than it takes to fix a transmission, Zuckerberg designs and builds TheFacebook.com. *Rated PG-13 for language, drug and alcohol use and sexual content. 2 hours, 1 minute.* — T.H.

UNSTOPPABLE★★★

(Century 16, Century 20) Screenwriter Mark Bomback takes his "inspiration" from a true story that unfolded in 2001 in Ohio, where an unmanned train got away from its conductor and hurtled 66 miles with a cargo of toxic, non-flammable molten phenol. The same scenario unfolds in "Unstoppable," only with much louder music and exclamations about "thousands of gallons of highly flammable fuel." The villains, then, aren't terrorists, but rather the fat cats making executive decisions from the golf course. Don't they understand that they're making it nearly impossible for the clever and hard-working bourgeoisie to save the day? With its one-track premise, "Unstoppable" derails thrills.

Rated PG-13 for sequences of action and peril, and some language. One hour, 39 minutes. — P.C.

■ **MOVIE CRITICS**

R.P.-Renata Polt, S.T.- Susan Tavernetti, P.C. Peter Canavese, T.H.-Tyler Hanley



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■ HIGHLIGHT

2010 HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Annual Holiday Bazaar features a selection of handcrafted goods for sale. Shopping, live entertainment, lunch available for purchase, an ornament contest, a raffle and more. Nov. 20, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6330.

ART GALLERIES

Cubberley Artists Holiday Open Studios An afternoon of art viewing, holiday-gift shopping, raffles and refreshments. Nov. 21, 1-5 p.m. Free. Cubberley Community Center, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. www.cubberleyartists.com

Foothill Ceramics Department Pottery Sale Featuring handmade ceramic functional ware and sculpture. Nov. 30-Dec. 2, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Cesar Chavez Plaza, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. Call 650-949-7584.

Mixed Media Prints by Pantea Karimi Exhibition of prints by CSMA faculty member Pantea Karimi. Gallery Hours: 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Sat. Exhibit runs through Nov. 21, Free. Mohr Gallery, Community School of Music and Arts, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. www.arts4all.org/attend

BENEFITS

Friends of Mountain View Library Book Sale Friends of Mountain View Public Library Book Sale Located in Bookmobile Garage Sat. Nov. 20, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sun., Nov. 21, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Bag Sale is 2-4 p.m. Friends of Mountain View Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. Call 650-526-7031. www.mvlibraryfriends.org

Holiday Boutique Sponsored by the PACT Foundation to benefit Stevenson Elementary School. Bake sale, craft table for the kids, holiday decorations and gifts from multiple vendors (including Discovery Toys, homemade crafts, books, organic spices, jewelry, antiques, etc.). Nov. 19, 12:30-7 p.m. Free. Stevenson Elementary School, 750-B San Pierre Way, Mountain View. Call 650-903-6950. www.pactschool.net/

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

Filing for Medicare Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program advisor Connie Corales discusses new changes and how to file for Medicare and Medicaid during November and December. Nov. 23, 1 p.m. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6330.

Successful Bulbs for California

Climate A talk on bulbs that do well in the local Mediterranean climate - flowering bulbs from South Africa and other Mediterranean climates as well as California Natives and edibles like garlic. Nov. 30, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Los Altos Library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. Call 408-282-3105. mastergardeners.org/scc.html

Your Cell Phone A class on basic cell-phone functions and features. Nov. 24, Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6330.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

"Race to Nowhere" documentary screening The education documentary "Race to Nowhere" will be screened free of charge. Childcare available for \$15/child, and Stanford professor, educational advocate, and author Denise Clark Pope will lead a panel discussion afterwards. Pre-registration requested at <http://www.rtbetham.eventbrite.com/>. Nov. 20, 7-10 p.m. Congregation Beth Am, 26790 Arastradero Road, Los Altos Hills. Call 650-493-4661. www.betham.org

Sleep Train's Secret Santa Toy Drive Sleep Train is helping foster kids celebrate a bright Christmas this year by collecting new, unwrapped gifts. Drop off donations at any Sleep Train location or donate cash online. Nov. 1-Dec. 12, Sleep Train, 2098 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. Call 1-800-378-BEDS (2337). www.sleeptrain.com

Trade as One Holiday Fair Gifts and foods for sale. Proceeds go to charity. Nov. 20-21, Sat., Nov. 20, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sun., Nov. 21, from noon to 3 p.m. Free Open Door Church, 1667 Miramonte Ave., Mountain View. Call 408-626-3327. www.tradeasone.com

Wonderful, Marvelous Celebration of Life for Mary Davey The family of Mary Davey, the Committee for Green Foothills, and Hidden Villa are hosting an event to honor the recent passing of Mary Davey. Car pooling is highly recommended as parking is extremely limited. The family request that donations be made to CGF and Hidden Villa in lieu of flowers. Nov. 20, 2-4 p.m.



20 Harps for the Holidays Harpeggio Music presents its annual holiday harp concert. The program includes classical and holiday music, harp solos and ensembles. Sponsored by LAUMC. Dec. 4, 4 p.m. \$12 / \$15. Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Ave., Los Altos. Call 408-366-8810. harpeggio.com/concert.html

Donations accepted. Holbrook Palmer Park, 150 Watkins Ave., Atherton. Call 650-968-7243 ext. 314. www.greenfoothills.org

ENVIRONMENT

Lawn Replacement Workshop Learn how to replace a lawn with site-appropriate native plants using cost effective, do-it-yourself techniques. The workshop includes a short lecture on lawn removal, a hands-on demonstration of sheet mulching and planting into already mulched areas, and a nursery tour. Nov. 20, 9 a.m. \$35. Foothills Park Oak Grove Picnic Area, 3300 Page Mill Road, Palo Alto. www.acterra.org/stewardship

Tree Planting on Inigo Way Mountain View Trees volunteers' first planting of our 2010-11 season breaks new ground. Plant trees on a new street. Children ok, if each accompanied by an adult. No experience needed -- instructions, trees, tools, & refreshments provided. Wear gardening clothes. Nov. 20, 10-11:30 a.m. Free. Inigo Way, between Pear Av & La Avenida, 1450 Inigo Way, Mountain View. Call 650-450-6881. www.mountainviewtrees.org

EXHIBITS

Cuba from Inside and Out In September, 18 U.S. photographers, led by art photographer and Foothill College professor Ron Herman, traveled to Cuba to participate in a research and cultural exchange program. Their photographs will be displayed. Through Dec. 6, 1 p.m. Free. Krause Center for Innovation, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. Call 650-949-7082. cubainsideoutphoto.wordpress.com

FAMILY AND KIDS

Wild Cat Adventure Wild Cat Adventure features five live wild cats from around the world. Each cat is shown on stage as information about the species is shared with the audience. Nov. 21, 2-3 p.m. adult - \$10 children under 12 - \$5. Foothill College - Appreciation Hall, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. www.wildcatfund.org

FILM

Literacy Night at YCIS - A screening of "Speaking In Tongues" Yew Chung International School's Parent Literacy Night

will feature the film for viewing. The film asks, "what are the advantages of having a child that is bilingual or fluent in other languages other than your native tongue? Why do parents send their child to a bilingual school?" Nov. 19, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Yew Chung International School Auditorium, 310 Easy St., Mountain View. Call 650-903-0986. www.ycis-sv.com

HEALTH

Self-Healing for Lyme Disease Elma Mayer, an energy healer who overcame Lyme Disease, will give a demonstration of simple self-healing techniques for Lyme sufferers. Nov. 21, 5-7 p.m. \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. East West Bookstore, 324 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-988-9800. nowhealing.com

LIVE MUSIC

Jack Conway Trio The Jack Conway Trio plays jazz Nov. 20, 8-10 p.m. Free. Dana Street Roasting Company, 744 W. Dana St., Mountain View. www.jackconwaytrio.com

ON STAGE

"CTRL+ALT+DEL" "CTRL-ALT-DELETE" skewers the obsession with making making it rich at all costs while introducing notions of integrity and ethics in the corporate world. Nov. 5-21. Thu. - Sat. 8 .pm., Sundays at 2 p.m. \$15 - \$30 Pear Avenue Theatre, 1220 Pear Ave. Unit K, Mountain View. www.thepear.org

"The Wizard of Oz" Peninsula Youth Theatre presents the musical "The Wizard of Oz" Nov 13-21. Times vary. \$7 - \$20. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-988-8798. www.pyt.net.org

RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

Insight Meditation South Bay Shaila Catherine and guest teachers lead a weekly Insight Meditation sitting followed by a talk on Buddhist teachings. Tuesdays, 7:30-9 p.m. free/donation. St. Timothy's/Edwards Hall, 2094 Grant Road, Mountain View. Call 650-857-0904. www.imsb.org

RESEARCH SUBJECTS

Learning Speech Translation from Interpretation Globalization spurs the need for cross-lingual verbal communication. This is reflected in ongoing research in the field of speech translation. Speaker, Matthias Paulik is a member of Cisco's Speech and Language Technology (C-SALT) team, where he conducts product driven R&D. Nov. 30, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Free. Carnegie Mellon Silicon Valley, NASA Research Park, Bldg 23, Moffett Field. Call 650-335-2852. www.cmu.edu/silicon-valley/news-events/seminars/index.html

SPECIAL EVENTS

Food and Wine Pairing Seminar A class on pairing wine and food for Thanksgiving. Nov. 20, 2-5 p.m. \$19-25. Artisan Wine Depot, 400A Villa St., Mountain View. Call 650-969-3511. www.artisanwinedepot.com/ProductDetails.asp?ProductCode=EVENT-THANKSGIVINGSEMINAR

Wine Tasting Event "Premium ports and artisanal chocolates tasting." Nov. 19, 4-7 p.m. Advance ticket price: \$19.22 /walk-in ticket price: \$24.71 (if space permits). Artisan Wine Depot, 400 A Villa St., Mountain View. Call 650-969-3511. www.artisanwinedepot.com/ProductDetails.asp?ProductCode=EVENT-PORTANDCHOCOLATES

TALKS/AUTHORS

Amy Sedaris Actress, author, and comedienne Amy Sedaris will talk at this benefit. Tickets include the book "Simple Times." Nov. 23, 7:30 p.m. \$38. Spangenberg Auditorium, 780 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto. <http://bbconnections.org/events/community>

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Multitasking and your Tween/Teen (Grades 6-12) Talk by Clifford Nass, professor Stanford University, on today's adolescents and technology. Dec. 2, 7-9 p.m. Free. Mountain View High School Spartan Theater, 3535 Truman Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-906-3771. www.mvha.net/mvhs/Parents/PTSA/Pages/PTSAParentEd.aspx

Who Should Fight? The Ethics of the Draft A panel discussion at Stanford University with David Kennedy, Eliot Cohen and Jean Bethke Elshtain. Focuses on the draft versus the volunteer army in the U.S. Our panelists examine "who should fight" in a democracy, focusing on the ethical dimension of a state's system of military service. Dec. 2, 4-5:30 p.m. Free. Tresidder Union, Oak Lounge, Stanford University, Stanford. Call 650-723-0997. <http://ethicsinsociety.stanford.edu/ethics-events/events/view/976/>

TEEN ACTIVITIES

Teen Open Gym Teen Open Gyms are open every Saturday night for various sports. Middle School and High School students only; bring student ID. 6:30-9:30 p.m. Free. 6:30-9:30 p.m. Free. Whisman Sports Center, 1500 Middlefield Road, Mountain View. Call 650-903-6410.

VOLUNTEERS

Writing Buddies Volunteers Needed Write stories with second-graders. Writing Buddies pairs adults 1:1 with Mountain View schoolchildren in a six-week program. Two hours/week, Tuesdays. All training provided. 1:30-3:30 p.m. Free. Castro School, 505 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-323-1183.

MORE LISTINGS

For a complete listing of local events, see our website at www.MountainViewOnline.com

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INFORMATION NIGHTS

FRENCH INFO NIGHT
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CHINESE INFO NIGHT
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