

Mountain View VOICE

DECEMBER 31, 2010 VOLUME 18, NO. 52

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OUR NEIGHBORHOODS IN THIS ISSUE



Profiles, maps and vital facts of featured neighborhoods in the community

2010: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Tough year for public education

FALTERING ECONOMY, HUGE STATE DEFICIT HIT SCHOOLS HARD

By Nick Veronin

A nationwide recession, combined with a \$19.1 billion state budget deficit, forced local school officials to make some difficult decisions in 2010. Programs were cut, class sizes increased and positions were eliminated.

But despite the cuts, the show went on at Mountain View schools and Foothill-DeAnza community colleges.

Community members, along with local and national charities and educational foundations, chipped in, while two area school districts asked voters to approve two tax bonds — one was approved, one was not.

Elementary and middle schools

With about \$3 million less to



MICHELLE LE

THE YEAR IN PICTURES: NASA Ames' annual Yuri's Night in April had a sort of Burning Man-meets-space flight theme with music and art installations like the Five Ton Crane, above. It's one of the top images of 2010. See the rest of Voice photographer Michelle Le's top picks, beginning on Page 10.

spend this school year, Mountain View Whisman School District made cuts to teacher benefits, raised class sizes, crafted a new district-wide bell schedule that allowed for a reduction in bus drivers and eliminated some programs entirely.

Target class sizes for kindergarten through third grade were bumped up from 20 to 25; GATE, the district's "gifted and talented education" program, will now rely entirely on parent support for funding; and, for the first time, next year it is likely that teachers who choose

the lowest tier health care plan offered by the district will have to contribute to the premiums.

This year proved to be a delicate balancing act for Craig Goldman, the newly appointed district

► See **SCHOOLS**, page 8

The city imagines its future

OFFICIALS MULL WORLD'S FAIR SITE, NEW GROWTH, TRAIN STATIONS AND POT CLUBS IN 2010

By Daniel DeBolt

It was a year for futuristic visions for the city. A car-less Googletopia surrounding the headquarters of Google was envisioned along with a 2020 World's Fair at Moffett Field showcasing Silicon Valley's cutting edge.

INSIDE

El Camino Hospital's financial woes P.5

But it wasn't always dreamy. The city also survived major budget cuts, a City Council election, a battle with an unwell-

► See **CITY FUTURE**, page 8

The Grinch who stole the Christmas flamingo

By Daniel DeBolt

The morning after Christmas, a thief stole more than just a Christmas-themed flamingo from a home on Wright Avenue — he appears to have stolen some Christmas cheer as well.

"It's not so much the cost,

it's like, how rude is that?" said Andrei Fenner, who put up the flamingo on his front lawn with his wife and kids, ages 3 and 7. "The kids are saying, 'Why would someone take this from us?'"

It wasn't just any plastic lawn flamingo; it was a motorized one with Christmas lights and a Santa Claus hat. There was even a faux

palm tree with Christmas lights to go with it. The uniquely Californian set-up stood apart from the typical snowmen and nativity scenes and neighbors loved it.

"It just became a neighborhood joke because no one else really has this type of thing," Fenner said. "We all really got into decorating like crazy. Everyone in the neighborhood came by to take pictures of it with their kids. We were just glowing about all this."

Police told Fenner that they don't have the resources to look for a flamingo thief, even if the thief's fingerprints were left on a screwdriver used to unscrew the flamingo. Fenner found the screwdriver on the lawn.

And that is a shame, he said. "For the kids who probably did it, it is probably not going to be

► See **FLAMINGO**, page 6

Anya Fenner, 3, poses next to the Christmas flamingo before it was stolen from her front lawn. "A bad man came and took it," she says.



INSIDE

GOINGS ON 19 | MOVIES 17 | REAL ESTATE 23 | VIEWPOINT 13

To our Anthem Blue Cross Patients:

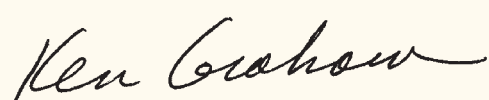
We are very pleased to announce that El Camino Hospital and Anthem Blue Cross have reached resolution on terms of our contract and have signed a new multi-year agreement.

For Anthem Blue Cross patients, it means that you will experience no interruption in service from your health plan and that you can continue to choose El Camino Hospital for your medical care.

We appreciate the diligence and work of the negotiating teams from both parties as they moved toward reaching a positive resolution for all involved. If you have any questions about your coverage, please call your Anthem Blue Cross representative.

We wish all those in our community a safe and happy holiday season.

Sincerely,



Kenneth Graham

President and Chief Executive Officer

El Camino Hospital



Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked in Downtown Mountain View. Pictures and interviews by Nick Veronin.

What do you think of this latest holiday storm?



"I think it's a good thing. It's turning everything green, although it isn't great when you are trying to walk around."
Alexander Finch, Luxembourg



"It's good. The planet needs the water and this is a good time of year for it."
Ana Guzman, Mountain View



"I like the rain. I think it's pretty, but it's no fun to drive in."
Michelle Dong, Burlingame



"Rain means the reservoirs are filling up, which is good. It makes driving crazy, though."
Gary Yee, San Francisco



"I love it. We need it. It clears everything up and makes things clean again. It's kind of cold, but that's OK."
John Krautkramer, Mountain View

Got a question for **Voices Around Town**? E-mail it to editor@mv-voice.com

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best of
MOUNTAIN VIEW
2010

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Photo of Dominik Marinovich, Tommy Marinovich, Ogie Marinovich, Ayelet Arbuckle, Dana Marinovich, Erik Marinovich, Tiffany Marinovich and Karen Marinovich, on the Adriatic Sea, near Bacina, Croatia.
Take a photo with the Mountain View Voice on your next trip and email to digitalads@paweekly.com

■ POLICELOG

ASSAULT

Shell on W. El Camino Real., 12/27

AUTO BURGLARY

1800 block Appletree Ln., 12/22
YMCA, 12/24
YMCA, 12/26
Shoreline Park, 12/28

BATTERY

400 block Dell Av., 12/27
100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 12/28

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

CVS on El Monte Av., 12/21
CVS on California St., 12/22
1200 block Dale Av., 12/28

INDECENT EXPOSURE

1700 block W. El Camino Real, 12/26

GRAND THEFT

2500 Charleston Rd., 12/20
BMW of Mountain View., 12/22
1500 Fordham Wy., 12/22

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

800 block High School Wy., 12/21

ROBBERY

Walmart, 12/23

STOLEN VEHICLE

2100 block Rock St., 12/26
200 block Horizon Av., 12/28

■ CRIME BRIEF

WALMART TV THIEF

A man threatened to run over two Walmart employees with his minivan on Dec. 23, after walking out of the store with a shopping cart filled with a television and several handheld videogame consoles he hadn't paid for, police said.

The thief — who the employees described as a Hispanic male in his 40s, of medium build and

wearing a dark shirt and light blue jeans walked out of the rear emergency exit of the Mountain View Walmart, pushing a shopping cart filled with a flat screen plasma TV and multiple Nintendo DSi devices, setting off a door alarm, Mountain View police spokeswoman Liz Wylie said.

► See **CRIME BRIEF**, page 6

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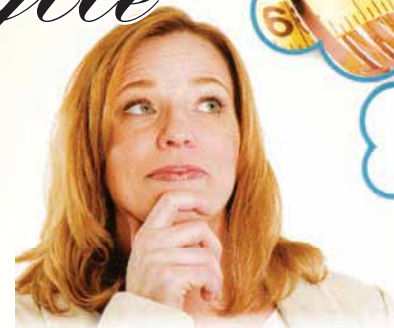
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MICHELLE LE

Shannon Shih plays violin as **Jove Yuan** plays piano, assisted by his brother **Titan Yuan** serving as page-turner, during a rehearsal for the Merit Scholarship Ensemble concert at the Community School of Music and Arts on Dec. 17.

Art and music 'essential' to our humanity

CSMA HELPS FUELS CREATIVITY IN A TECH-MINDED VALLEY

By Nick Veronin

Silicon Valley is a practical, logical place. The region runs on technological innovation, driven by complex algorithms and scientific breakthroughs.

All of the high tech bustle that propels a Bay Area city like Mountain View would be impossible without creative people, according to Kathy Thibodeaux. And that is exactly what makes the Community School of Music and Arts critical in her view.

"Probably here, more than anywhere else, art and music in the schools are absolutely essential," said Thibodeaux, interim executive director of



CSMA. "Art and music are crucial components of a 21st century education. Silicon Valley thrives on creativity."

On a given day, a visitor to the Community School of Music and Arts might hear a student running scales on a trumpet, see the work of a local visual artist or drop into one of the many free concerts and performances regularly held in Tateuchi Hall.

Located at the Finn Center in Mountain View, the CSMA serves as an art and music school, gallery and performance space.

"We offer music, art and artistic experiences

► See **CSMA**, page 6

2010: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Ailing economy takes toll on El Camino

HOSPITAL'S FINANCIAL WOES SHOW SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT AT YEAR'S CLOSE

By Nick Veronin

One of the last industries to feel the impact of the recession, health care fell ill in 2010, and El Camino Hospital was no exception. However, what began as a rough fiscal year for the local hospital was beginning to show signs of improvement at the start of December.

In July, the first month of the organization's fiscal year, El Camino lost \$3.65 million from operations at its Mountain View and Los Gatos campuses.

To make up for falling revenues, the hospital announced in August that it would lay off 140 employees. El Camino spokeswoman Chris Ernst said the layoffs could save the hospital as much as \$14 million annually, although hospital employees were not happy with the solution.

Ernst said that the hospital had been working hard through its Accelerating Continuous Excellence — or ACE — initiative to find ways to save money without cutting employees. Due to the recession, she said the hospital had seen a big drop in patient volume, as people are holding off on voluntary procedures and all but the most necessary health-related needs.

"Even with the ACE improvements, we continue to see a very challenging economy," she said.

"It is ultimately the right business decision for the long-term health and strength of this hospital."

In the end, however, the vast majority of proposed layoffs were avoided, as the hospital's nursing and service workers unions were able to move most at-risk employees to different positions within the organization. Still, some employees not represented by either union did get laid off, while others represented by the nurses union decided to take buy-outs or leave.

Yet, while most nurses kept their jobs, the nurses union had another bone to pick with El Camino's administration. In a divided decision at the November board meeting, the hospital unilaterally approved a new contract with the nurses' union although outstanding issues such as paid time off, retirement benefits and pay were not resolved.

"Obviously we would prefer not to need to implement these changes," said Charlene Glinieki, chief people officer for the hospital. However, in order to meet the financial challenges the hospital is facing, "these changes are necessary," she said.

The president of the union, Pat Briggs, said that nurses were "extremely unhappy" with the decision.

► See **ECH**, page 6

Siegel next in line for mayor

RETIRED LOCKHEED EXECUTIVE SEES MANAGER HIRE AS MOST IMPORTANT JOB

By Daniel DeBolt

According to tradition, it is Vice Mayor Jac Siegel's turn to take the mayor's seat for a year, and he is expected to be appointed to the job during the Tuesday, Jan. 4, City Council meeting.

Current mayor Ronit Bryant will step down after a year of running meetings, setting the council agenda and serving as its spokesperson, ribbon-cutter and ambassador.

He's not counting on it, but Sie-

gel said, "I hope somebody nominates me and I hope I'm elected. I really look forward to it."

It is city tradition to rotate the mayor seat every year, first to those with highest seniority and the most votes when elected. Council members have been passed over for the mayor job before, but the city has stuck to tradition in recent years. And Siegel, 66, has been an energetic and respected council member who has lived in the community for over 40 years.

A retired TRW and Lockheed Martin executive, Siegel has been

an advocate for "quality not quantity" in housing development since he was first elected in 2006. He was re-elected last November, despite a challenge from three newcomers.

Siegel said he is taking a serious look at what he thinks is the "most important single act any of us in our council careers will ever make" — the selection of a new city manager when Kevin Duggan retires in April. Next year the city also faces more budget cuts and Siegel wants to make sure the city's "quality services" are maintained. And the council will also make a decision in

the spring on whether to allow medical marijuana dispensaries in Mountain View, something Siegel has opposed.

Siegel's "pet projects" include the preservation of Hangar One at Moffett Field, and he is a member of the Moffett Field Restoration Advisory Board. He also says a "dream of his" is for the city to run its own shuttle system, which some have priced at \$1 million a year.

Even with his many goals, "my agenda will be second to the entire council's goals," Siegel said. "As mayor my job is to help lead and facilitate the wishes of the council."



Vice Mayor Jac Siegel

Siegel said he would continue the tradition of having open office hours for his constituents, as other mayors have: Bryant's "Meet with Ronit" and Margaret Abekoga's "Chat with MAK." Siegel said he was thinking of adding "Yack with Jac" to that list.

Either Mike Kasperzak or Jon Inks will likely become vice mayor. Kasperzak has already served as mayor and vice mayor, but has yet to do so since taking a break from the council in 2008-2010. ▀

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

ECH

► Continued from page 5

Clinical trials

Financial woes did not keep the hospital from pursuing its tradition of cutting-edge medicine.

El Camino partnered with the Sunnyvale-based Parkinson's Institute on a massive, international clinical trial, sponsored by the Michael J. Fox Foundation. The study will search for biological markers of Parkinson's, a degenerative disease that causes sufferers to slowly lose control over all volun-

tary muscle function.

Another clinical trial focusing on early detection of lung cancer has also just begun at El Camino. The study will use a genetic test to identify smokers most at risk for lung cancer, then administer regular computerized tomography scans to those patients. If the trial goes as hoped, doctors may have a new and powerful method for detecting lung cancer early enough to save patients' lives.

Income down

In the coming fiscal year, factoring in all operational and non-

operational expenditures and revenues, the hospital is budgeting an operating income of \$14.3 million, down from \$36.6 million last year and \$71.37 million in 2008.

"We are still not at a sustainable operating income performance level," Bob Dvorak, interim chief financial officer for El Camino, wrote in an e-mail to the *Voice*, "but are starting to see the benefits from our ACE initiative generating positive operating income and have guarded optimism of achieving our budgeted operating income targets by the last quarter of fiscal year 2011." ▀

El Camino, Anthem agree on rates

By Nick Veronin

After a dispute over the terms of their contract, El Camino Hospital and health insurance provider Anthem Blue Cross have reached an agreement.

Earlier this month, El Camino CEO Ken Graham announced in an open letter that his hospital might discontinue its contract with the insurance provider at the beginning of 2011, due to what he and others in his organization called "inequitable" reimbursement rates from Anthem.

In the letter, which was published on the hospital's website, Graham wrote that reimbursement rates — the money paid to the hospital for procedures for patients covered by Anthem — were "significantly lower than all the major HMO/PPO plans with whom we contract."

Representatives from Anthem, however, disputed that claim.

Aldo De La Torre, Anthem's vice president of contracting in California, called El Camino's demands "very excessive."

"We are being asked by our clients and members to control cost," De La Torre said. "The request of El Camino works counter to that

request and demand."

If no agreement had been reached, patients covered by Anthem would no longer have been able to receive insured care — other than emergency care — from El Camino.

Yet, in a joint statement issued Dec. 22 from the two organizations announcing that an agreement had been reached, both Graham and De La Torre struck a decidedly different tone.

"The agreement we have reached with Anthem Blue Cross ensures that patients will continue to have the choice of receiving care at El Camino Hospital and that we will be reimbursed for that care at a fair rate," Graham said in the statement. "We are glad that we have reached a positive resolution with Anthem Blue Cross — one that benefits our physicians and patients by emphasizing high-quality care."

"We are pleased that by working with El Camino Hospital we have reached agreement on a contract that will continue to fairly reimburse the hospital for the fine medical services they provide each day, while allowing Anthem to help control the escalating costs of health care for our members," De La Torre said in the statement. ▀



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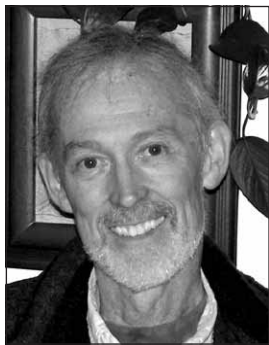
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WILLIAM MCCAA TAYLOR



George William "Bill" and Patricia Weisel Taylor.

The family lived in California and New York before settling in Bellevue, Washington where William graduated from high school. He received a B.S. degree in Aeronautics and Astronautics from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1962, and a master's degree in the same field from Stanford University in 1963. Beginning in 1966 he worked on the Apollo lunar program at the NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston. Since 1979, he has worked at the NASA Ames Research Center in Mountain View, most recently in the Intelligent Systems Division, specializing in visual interface development. Among the many projects he worked on were a system for self-diagnosis and repair on the Deep Space 1 spacecraft, and a learning-based monitoring system for the International Space Station.

William was on the crew team at MIT from 1958 to 1962. He was a member of the team that won the Compton Cup in 1962, defeating Harvard and Princeton. MIT has not defeated Harvard since then. Rowing remained a favorite activity for him throughout

his adult life, and he enjoyed comparing notes with his youngest niece who rowed crew for Navy from 1998 to 2001. He gave it up only last year, when lifting the shell out of the water became too much for his back.

William was a lover of nature and a committed supporter of environmental causes. He made six trips to Africa, and was also a frequent birder. He became enamored of wolves early in their reintroduction to the U.S. West, visiting a wolf sanctuary in 1980. Over the past four years he renewed this love in Yellowstone Park, making four trips there to observe wildlife in various seasons; the park's wolf reintroduction program became a cause he vigorously championed. Locally, he took part in monthly creek monitoring with the San Gregorio Environmental Resource Center.

William is survived by his younger sister, Margie Taylor Dixon of The Woodlands, Texas, nieces Megan Dixon Knickerbocker of Caldwell, Idaho, Lisa Dixon of Arlington, Virginia, and Beth Dixon of Annapolis, Maryland, and new grandnephew, Rowan Knickerbocker. He is also survived by many loving friends, including a dear companion, Joni Campbell of Irvine, who was within three weeks of moving to the Bay Area to share a home and life with William at the time of his death.

A memorial celebration of William's life will be held on Sunday, January 2, 2011 at 4 p.m. at the Palo Alto Unitarian Church, 505 E. Charleston Road, Palo Alto. In lieu of flowers, a donation to the Yellowstone Park Foundation (phone 406-586-6303) would be appreciated, designated for the wolf collaring program in honor of William Taylor.

PAID OBITUARY

CSMA

► Continued from page 5

in the form of performance and art shows to the community, and encourage people to have some sort of artistic expression in their lives, whether they be a preschooler or a 90-year-old," said Mary Holmes, director of the music school at CSMA.

The vast majority of performances and shows put on at CSMA are free, and for a good reason, Holmes said. The school wants to make art and music easily accessible to all. "We want people to think of music and art as just natural extensions of their daily life," she said. "The arts are fundamental, not ornamental."

CSMA does charge for indi-

vidual lessons and group classes in music and art. For adults, an 18-week semester of 30-minute private lessons costs about \$725; art classes, which cover painting, ceramics and fashion, last 10 weeks and range from \$180 to \$225; children's classes are cheaper and merit scholarships are offered to Bay Area musicians who have demonstrated great talent.

According to Holmes, the faculty would likely make more money teaching private lessons out of their homes, but choose to work at CSMA not only to contribute to the community, but also to be a part of a community.

"The artists and musicians really

► See **CSMA**, next page

FLAMINGO

► Continued from page 1

the last time they are going to do something bad or illegal," Fenner said.

The family hopes that some-

one reading this knows where the flamingo is and will return it to its home at the corner of Wright and Granada streets. Police can also be tipped about the flamingo's whereabouts at (650) 903-6344. ▀

CRIME BRIEF

► Continued from page 4

Two employees, who heard the alarm, pursued the man and yelled for him to stop, Wylie said. He refused, and said he

would run the employees over if they attempted to stop him.

He loaded the TV into his car but left the Nintendo units, and drove off, Wylie said. Police do not know the make of his light blue minivan or where he went.

—Nick Veronin

CSMA

► Continued from previous page

get to know each other,” Holmes said. “They form bonds as they collaborate with one another.” The networking opportunities and the chance to showcase their work at the CSMA makes the school a desirable destination for artists and musicians.

In addition to all the work that is done at the Finn Center, CSMA is also very active outside of its campus, providing arts education for 30 schools in Mountain View and the greater Bay Area.

The school, in coordination with the Mountain View Educational Foundation and the City of Mountain View, is responsible for providing all music and arts

education in all of the Mountain View Whisman School District’s elementary schools.

CSMA runs entirely on donations, therefore, “It’s absolutely imperative that the community get on board, because the school district doesn’t have the money for” arts education, Thibodeaux said.

Donations made by readers and local foundations to the *Voice*’s Holiday Fund will go, in part, to help CSMA and six other local organizations that are making a difference in Mountain View.

By Holmes’ count, CSMA is certainly making a difference.

“We are creative beings,” she said. “We aren’t meant to sit in an office all day and not observe beauty. Having some sort of artistic expression helps to serve our intellectual curiosity and make us better human beings.” ▣

Holiday Fund Donations

Anonymous (33).....10,940

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TOTALS:

As of December 27, 2010, a total of 95 donors have given \$40,230 to the Mountain View Voice Holiday Fund.

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

How to Give

Your gift helps children and others in need

Contributions to the Holiday Fund will be matched dollar for dollar to the extent possible, and will go directly to the nonprofit agencies that serve Mountain View residents. Last year *Voice* readers contributed nearly \$49,000, up significantly from the prior year. With an additional \$20,000 from the Wakerly Family Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the David and Lucille Packard Foundation, the total raised was almost \$69,000, or nearly \$10,000 for each of the seven participating nonprofit agencies supported by the Holiday Fund.

No administrative costs are deducted from the

gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law. All donations will be shared equally with the seven recipient agencies listed here.



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

- **PARTNERS FOR NEW GENERATIONS**
Trains volunteer mentors who work with local youth in education and community programs.
- **THE COMMUNITY HEALTH AWARENESS COUNCIL**
Serves Mountain View, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and seven school districts. Offers school-based programs to protect students from high-risk behaviors, such as drug and alcohol abuse.
- **MOUNTAIN VIEW ROTACARE CLINIC**
Provides uninsured community residents with medical care and medications, and is frequently the last resort for this under-served clientele.
- **DAY WORKER CENTER OF MOUNTAIN VIEW**
Provides a secure place for workers and employers to negotiate wages. Serves 50 or more workers per day with job-matching, English lessons and guidance.

- **THE SUPPORT NETWORK FOR BATTERED WOMEN**
Operates a 24-hour bilingual hotline, a safe shelter for women and their children, and offers counseling and other services for families facing this problem.
- **COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND ARTS**
Provides hands-on, skill-building art and music curriculum tied to state standards at Mountain View Whisman district elementary schools. Over 50 percent of the district’s students are low-income, and nearly 40 percent have limited English proficiency.
- **COMMUNITY SERVICES AGENCY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW AND LOS ALTOS**
Assists working poor families, homeless and seniors with short-term housing and medical care and other services.

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CITY FUTURE

► Continued from page 1

come marijuana dispensary and requests from the school district for the city to share Google's tax revenue.

Future vision

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger himself used his star power to back the idea of having the 2020 World's Fair in Silicon Valley at Moffett Field, with major implications for Mountain View. Dreams for what it could do to spur the redevelopment of the former Navy base soon followed in the form of an attractive rendered image that included a ferry terminal on the bay. A college campus could be left behind when the fair closed its gates, long sought after by the University of California and other universities.

Google would surely have its own pavilion at the World' Fair, but it also worked on a vision for its Mountain View headquarters next door to Moffett Field which included as many as 1,500 homes amid new shops and restaurants on Shoreline Boulevard. The City Council discussed going completely car-less in Google's neighborhood in a discussion that pleased Google employees. Council members wrestled with the drawbacks of allowing Google's industrial land to become housing, but decided to study the idea anyway.

The city's general plan update took shape as well, and while not yet approved, the city is on track to allow buildings up to five stories on much of El Camino Real, and double the densities allowed for businesses in the Whisman and North Bayshore areas, including Google. Also part of the city's new future was a proposal to redevelop a large portion of San Antonio Shopping Center with a new Safeway and 350 homes. The design was disappointing to some, who wanted more of a Santana Row feel in Mountain View.

Medical marijuana

The City Council took up the issue of whether to allow medical marijuana to be sold in Mountain View in February, and a short time later battled with Buddy's, a marijuana dispensary that opened up before the city could come up with regulations.

A judge eventually ordered Buddy's to close its Bayshore Parkway location, and it left Mountain View despite threats from Buddy's operator, lawyer Matt Lucero, to bring a lawsuit against the city to the state Supreme Court.

Regardless of the trouble with Buddy's, five of seven council members expressed support for sale of medical marijuana in Mountain View, but the idea could be threatened by the unwillingness to compromise over how heavily to

regulate the dispensaries. A draft ordinance is set for a council vote in February.

Birds and ball fields

The city finally got a handle on some bird problems that have plagued Shoreline Park for years, namely Canada Geese, American Coots and the poop the birds leave everywhere, annoying golfers and park users.

After trying a wide range of scare tactics, including remote-controlled boats and fake alligator heads, to frighten the geese away from the Shoreline Golf Links freshwater ponds, the city decided to drain most of the ponds to get rid of the geese. That happens to also provide additional hunting grounds for the rare burrowing owl, which is declining in numbers at Shoreline Park, and would lose foraging ground to the new playing fields planned next door.

But the plan for new fields at Shoreline had neighbors of McKelvey Park saying that park no longer needed to be dominated by youth sports, and they called on the Santa Clara Valley Water District and the city to turn it into more of a neighborhood playground when it is modified to double as a flood basin for Permanente Creek.

Belt-tightening

After a year of running a structural deficit, the city was able to close a \$4.6 million budget deficit in its \$87 million general fund budget. City officials spent a year hammering out a budget that spread the pain with \$1 million in fee hikes for almost all city services, the elimination of 11 vacant employee positions, a restructuring of the police department and reducing equipment costs and city vehicle use, among other things.

The city's tight fiscal situation made a request by the Mountain View Whisman School District for more money all the more stressful for city officials who said they felt blindsided by it. Facing their own budget problems, the city's elementary schools want the city to share more of the property taxes Google and other companies pay exclusively to the city as part of the unique 1969 Shoreline tax district, which funds Shoreline Park and the redevelopment of Google's neighborhood.

The school district says it is missing out on \$5 million a year because of the Shoreline tax district's existence, but the city points to over \$2 million in programs and services it provides for the district, such as field maintenance and after school programs.

Some of those Shoreline property taxes could have gone to subsidize a long-desired boutique hotel and conference center next to Google headquarters, but after lengthy negotiations council members decided to call off the deal, saying

the city's subsidy was too large and its return in the form of land lease payments too risky.

A train runs through it

The possibility of building a new station in downtown Mountain View for high-speed trains wasn't the only major development considered along the Caltrain corridor this year. The council approved a 203-unit apartment building to be built across the street from the train station on the site of Minton's Lumber and Supply, which closed its doors in November.

The city also approved a new 50-unit affordable housing development across the street from the train tracks at Evelyn Avenue and Franklin Street, and a new four-story office building on the corner one block east of it on Evelyn Avenue.

Further up the tracks at San Antonio Road, there was big news in August about the massive Mayfield housing development, which was reduced in size from 436 to 253 units — to the chagrin of housing advocates but pleasing to neighbors worried about traffic. Developer Summit Land Partners said larger buildings would have been too large an investment in the shaky housing market.

While the council had supported a study of a large downtown station for high-speed trains last year, members decided this year to say no to building the depot in the city, as did Palo Alto. And in design workshops, residents stated a preference for building the tracks below ground level, either in a trench or tunnel, if the fast trains come to Mountain View's train corridor.

Incumbents survive council election

It seemed there wasn't much excitement in store when election season started this year, but the city was in for a surprise when three newcomers decided to file papers to challenge council members Ronit Bryant, Margaret Abe-Koga and Jac Siegel.

Longtime resident Greg David and Google employees Dan Waylonis and Aaron Jabbari lost to the incumbents, but they said they were proud to have provided a "legitimate challenge," raising issues about the city budget, the money-losing golf course and city employee compensation costs.

Meanwhile the city's phone tax was expanded to include broadband, national and international calls, thanks to an overwhelming approval by city residents. There was some controversy however, about whether an assistant to the city manager was too involved in the campaign to pass the phone tax, Measure T. ▀

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

SCHOOLS

► Continued from page 1

superintendent, who took over from Maurice Ghysels on July 1. Goldman started in the district as a principal and then served as chief financial officer, using his experience to make do during dire financial times. As 2010 drew to a close, he worked out a deal with the teachers union, getting them to accept certain cuts to their benefit packages in exchange for a one-time bonus of 1.5 percent and a base salary raise of 3 percent.

And even as programs were slashed, fourth- and fifth-graders in Mountain View schools were given the opportunity to go on one science and nature field trip sponsored entirely by the Palo Alto-based Environmental Volunteers.

High schools

Local high schools also had to confront budget cuts at the start of the 2010-11 year. The Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District's budget was down \$2.8 million from last school year.

To make up for the gap, the district scaled back programs, including high school exit exam prep courses and some sports and after-school activities. In addition, office positions were eliminated, empty positions were left unfilled, a class aimed at helping teachers set up their websites was cut and the superintendent's annual budget was reduced.

On the bright side, voters approved Measure A, a \$41.3 million bond, which extends the Measure D bond voters approved in 1995. Measure A funds will go to build new school classrooms and infrastructure.

The first of the Measure A projects broke ground at the end of November — a \$7 million solar panel project at Mountain View High School that ultimately will help generate about 25 percent of the district's energy needs and earn millions of dollars in rebates from PG&E.

Next on the Measure A to-do list: a new pool at Mountain View High School.

District merger?

Over the summer, the Santa Clara County Civil Grand Jury issued a report recommending that three local school districts merge, estimating that consolidation of the Los Altos, Mountain View Whisman, and Mountain View-Los Altos school districts could save \$9.4 million annually.

The recommendation was one of many similar proposals made by the grand jury for districts throughout the county, which would save money through "administrative staff reductions and operational efficiencies," according to the report.

However, administrators from both Mountain View districts doubted that they would ever come together to form a larger district.

While Craig Goldman of the Mountain View Whisman district, said his schools might benefit from a merger, he noted that the financially better off Mountain View-Los Altos high school district would not like the idea.

"There would be some fiscal disadvantages for the high school district," said Barry Groves, superintendent of the Mountain View Los Altos.

Foothill-De Anza

Courses were discontinued, positions eliminated, pay packages downsized and faculty complained of being overworked at Foothill and De Anza colleges at the start of the 2010-11 school year.

"The state is broke and 90 percent of our money comes from the state," said Linda Thor, chancellor of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District.

This year, Foothill and De Anza colleges will offer 500 fewer programs than they did in the 2008-09 term.

To save money, the district eliminated 117 full- and part-time positions from the budget between 2009 and 2010. That includes five administrators, 11 faculty members and 101 other support staff. However, 39 of the support positions eliminated from the budget will be funded through June of next year using \$7.7 million in reserve funds the district has set aside to help preserve critical positions.

But voters were not sympathetic when the college district placed a parcel tax on the November ballot.

The tax would have cost district property owners up to \$69 per parcel annually for six years and, according to proponents, would have raised about \$42 million.

Even though a majority of voters favored the tax, the measure did not reach the two-thirds vote needed to pass. Opponents said that administrators, faculty and staff ought to cut back salary and benefits packages before seeking more money from taxpayers.

Despite tough times, however, Foothill-De Anza was able to continue serving the community in meaningful ways.

Organizers had to scramble, but did come up with the money for the third year of the Math Acceleration Program — a free summer program that buses struggling math students to Foothill, feeds them breakfast and lunch, and gives them a three-week crash course in numbers. The idea is to keep kids on track in math, which the program's organizer called the "gateway to higher education."

The program scraped together \$36,000 at the last minute, thanks to donations from various college departments. ▀

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CHENG VOTED Foothill-DE ANZA BOARD PRESIDENT

The Foothill-De Anza Community College District's board of trustees has a new president. Pearl Cheng was elected to replace outgoing president Bruce Swenson at the board's Dec. 6 meeting.

"I am delighted to serve as board president even at such a challenging time," Cheng said in a prepared statement issued by the district. "Foothill-De Anza is a wonderful community asset with outstanding students, faculty and staff. I will continue to work hard as part of a team to keep us moving forward."

Cheng, who joined the board in 2008 to fill a vacancy and was elected in 2009, worked for eight years on the board of education for the Cupertino Union School District and has assumed leadership roles with the Santa Clara County School Boards Association.

She lives in Cupertino and for many years has worked at NASA Ames Research center, where she is the associate director for man-

agement operations in information sciences and technology.

— James Tensuan

TOROK TAKES MVLA TRUSTEE POSITION

Debbie Torok was sworn in to her new position on the board of trustees for the Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District on Dec. 13.

Torok, who has volunteered for local parcel tax and bond measure campaigns, sports, scholarship organizations and a variety of Los Altos committees, said she is honored to serve on the board.

"I look forward to working with the staff, parents, administration, the community and continuing board members to ensure that MVLA continues to be one of the best high school districts in California," Torok said in a press release.

Torok, who currently works at Lockheed Martin, plans to continue volunteering for numerous local organizations during her tenure on the board, she said.

She replaces outgoing trustee Julia Rosenberg.

— James Tensuan

Class breaks down college barriers

AT-RISK KIDS LEARN HOW TO GET INTO HIGHER EDUCATION

By Nick Veronin

Sometimes, the most important step in getting at-risk youths to consider college is simply getting them to believe they can be accepted at a college or university in the first place.

But even if they can be convinced, reams of paperwork and daunting questions about tuition and financial aid are in the way — and, all too often, prove to be insurmountable obstacles for on-the-fence students.

The Bridge to College Program, which launches at Alta Vista High School in January, aims to convince some of those students to pursue higher degrees using positive reinforcement and a little bit of "hand holding," according to Denise Swett, associate vice president of Foothill College's Middlefield Campus and community programs.

The program comes in the form of a 12-week class, taught on the Alta Vista campus for two days each week. There, students will learn how to register

for classes, make appointments with counselors, and apply for financial aid and scholarships — the basics, Swett said.

"Instead of having them go find the information, we bring the information to them and show them that they can do it," Swett said. Students at Alta Vista, the Mountain View-Los Altos high school district's continuation school, "are some of our most high-risk students. They've had difficulty in the education system already. You want to take down whatever barriers are in their way."

While Swett knows how hard it can be to get some students interested in college, she also knows the consequences awaiting those who forgo a higher education.

"Sure, you can go get a job without a degree, but I'm not sure you're going to be able to live off of it or support a family," Swett said. "The data show that people with more education make more money."

The data also show that as an individual's level of education rises, the likelihood that he or

she will be unemployed drops. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in November the unemployment rate for adults 25 and older with a high school degree but no college was 10 percent. That rate drops to 8.7 percent for those with some college or an associate's degree. Only about 5 percent of those with a bachelor's degree or higher were unemployed.

Swett hopes that Bridge to College will help students who normally would give up on education after high school to continue into community college and maybe even make it to a four-year school.

"It's critical that everybody has an opportunity for education," she said. "Education is the only thing that will get them out of poverty and change these families' lives."

The program, which runs from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m., Mondays and Wednesdays at Alta Vista, is free and open to anyone who is a junior in high school or older. Swett said there will be about 35 seats available in the class. ■

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The year in pictures



Young hopefuls get ready to audition for newly offered scholarships to study dance at Western Ballet on Aug. 28.

Photos by Michelle Le

If a picture is worth a thousand words, these images taken by *Voice* photographer Michelle Le tell the story of Mountain View in 2010 on a scale that's at once grand and yet intimate. The struggles and triumphs, the work, the quirks and the works-in-progress, all captured by her camera's lens, reveal the spirit of the community we call home. Here are the top photos from the past year. ▀



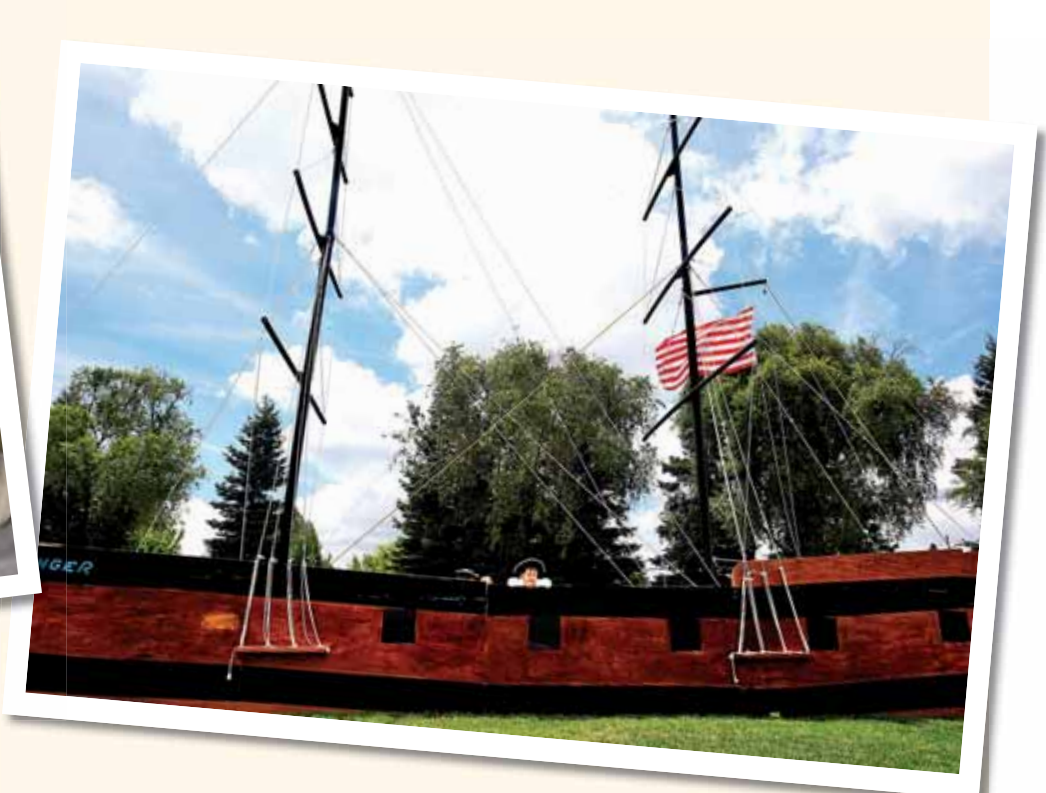
Volunteers work to restore historic military aircraft, including this P-2 Neptune, at Moffett Field's Hangar Three.

Christine Case-Lo tries to calm her son Alex, 7, who has autism, in the middle of his music therapy session with Spencer Hardy on Nov. 22.





Amberlin Wu, who suffers from Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, grimaces as she's helped back into bed by Lua Finau. Wu has started a local support group for people with the poorly understood disease.



Above: In May, **Bubb School** students create their annual version of Colonial Williamsburg — or WilliamsBubb, as they call it — which includes a 40-foot ship façade.



At Left: **Adam Spielman** celebrates the start of summer vacation by doing a flip off the diving board during Santa Rita school's end-of-the-year party at Rengstorff Park.



Jose Oriana sorts through drywall during construction on Mountain View's new Dayworker Center on Escuela Avenue.



Mountain View protesters wave signs to counter the hate messages from Westboro Baptist Church members in front of Gunn High school in January.

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Applications must be returned by mail to Lytton Gardens, P.O. Box 51907, Palo Alto, CA 94303, no later than February 18th, 2011. Applications postmarked after February 18th, 2011 cannot be considered and will be returned to sender.

Selection will be made by a lottery process to determine applicants' order on the waiting list. Names will be chosen between March 14th, 2011 and March 18th, 2011.

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Ringling in the new

'STRIKING 12' AND OTHER CONCERTS, PARTIES AND DINNERS CELEBRATE 2011

By Rebecca Wallace

Six years ago, the indie-pop trio GrooveLily brought a new kind of holiday show to Palo Alto.

Developed at TheatreWorks, "Striking 12" was part musical theater, part alternative-rock concert, telling the old chestnut "The Little Match Girl" in a new key. The band gave the tale a modern take by turning the girl into a seller of holiday lights billed as mood-boosters. Then there was this cranky office guy who just wanted to spend New Year's alone.

In a 2004 review, the Palo Alto Weekly theater critic Jeanie K. Smith called the show "almost unclassifiable — a new breed of performance unto itself." She wrote, "Original songs combined with a dash of role-playing and at least three intertwined story levels all add up to something quite wonderful and new."

Now GrooveLily is bringing "Striking 12" back to the Lucie Stern Theatre at 1305 Middlefield Road, with five performances on Dec. 28 through Dec. 31. The closing show starts at 10 p.m., timed to conclude with a New Year's champagne toast. Tickets are \$56-\$75; go to theatreworks.org or call 650-463-1960.

"Striking 12" is one of several New Year's Eve events happening in the area this year. In case alternative rock isn't your cup of joe, here's a selection of the other New Year's options around:

The Zen Lounge at 251 Castro St. in Mountain View is hosting **NYE Bash 2011** starting at 7 p.m. Dec. 31. Hip-hop, dance, rap, house and mash-ups with Dynamic D, hors d'oeuvres and a champagne toast are planned. Admission is \$35 (ages 21 and up only). Go to zenmv.com or call 650-969-4847.

A **ballroom-dancing party** is planned at the Cubberley Community Center Pavilion, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. The evening starts with beginning and intermediate waltz lessons at 8 p.m., followed by a dance party from 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. No partner or dance experience is needed, and admission is \$20. Midnight toast and dance demos included. Go to readybyte.com/fridaynight-dance or call 650-856-9930.

Local pipe organist James Welch presents his annual **New Year's Eve concert** at 8 p.m. on the 4,568-pipe organ at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Ave. Titled

"Big Bach" this year, the program features J.S. classics including Fantasia in G and Toccata, Adagio and Fugue in C, with works by French Baroque and Romantic composers. Admission is \$10. Go to welchorganist.com or call 650-856-9700.

Palo Alto's Club Illusions hosts a **singles' party** put on by groups including Your Asian Connection, from 7:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. The party features live music from the '60s through the '90s, a buffet dinner and singles' game, a raffle and champagne. Dressy attire is required. Tickets are \$25-\$60. The club is at 260 S. California Ave. in Palo Alto. Go to yourasianconnection.com or call 650-321-6464.

The city of Palo Alto presents a **seniors' party** from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Oshman Family Jewish Community Center, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. Tickets are \$13 in advance and \$18 at the door, and include lunch, live music, dancing and champagne. Call 650-463-4953.

Dancing in two ballrooms is the focus of the **singles' dance party** at the Palo Alto Sheraton at 625 El Camino Real from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. New Year's Eve. One ballroom will be playing music "preferred by young single professionals," with the other aimed at baby boomers (but anyone can dance anywhere). Admission is \$30. The event is organized by The Society of Single Professionals and Singles Supper Club. Go to thepartyhotline.com or call 415-507-9962.

Various local restaurants also have **special New Year's Eve menus**, including Quattro at the Four Seasons at 2050 University Ave. in East Palo Alto (four courses or seven courses; call 650-566-1200). In Palo Alto, Shokolaat at 516 University Ave. has a prix fixe tasting menu with four courses, wine flights and a sparkling-wine toast; call 650-289-0719.

On New Year's Day, cellist Nathan Chan, bassist Michel Taddei and soprano Anja Strauss will be featured at the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra's free **Jan. 1 concert**. Held from 3 to 5 p.m. at St. Mark's Episcopal Church at 600 Colorado Ave. in Palo Alto, the performance includes Mozart's Symphony No. 1 and Jon Deak's "Ugly Duckling." Go to sfchamberorchestra.org or call 415-692-5297. ■

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Published every Friday at
450 Cambridge Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94306
(650) 964-6300
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E-mail letters to:
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The Voice is published weekly by Embarcadero Media Co. and distributed free to residences and businesses in Mountain View. If you are not currently receiving the paper, you may request free delivery by calling 964-6300. Subscriptions for \$60 per year, \$100 per 2 years are welcome.

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■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

Another panic on Hangar One

The roller coaster existence of Hangar One on Moffett Field took a downward spiral last week when Democratic Congresswoman Anna Eshoo announced that the \$8 million she had inserted in the omnibus funding bill before Congress failed to pass, due to opposition to its so-called “earmarks.”

Built in the 1930s to house the USS Macon, one of the Navy's Hindenberg-size giant dirigibles, the massive hangar's siding has been declared toxic and must be removed. The Navy, which is responsible for cleaning up all toxins left around Moffett, has said it has only enough funding to remove the toxic siding, not replace it. The Navy intends to start the siding project in the first half of the New Year, which historians fear could leave the hangar's superstructure exposed to the elements and subject to rust.

The prospect of funding from Rep. Eshoo's earmark was exciting news and many hangar supporters thought that finally, the drama to save Hangar One was over. But now there is a very real prospect that a giant skeleton will loom over Moffett Field unless enough capital can be raised to finish the job. No firm estimate of that cost is available, but preservationists say it will likely be no more than \$30 million, and probably less.

In our view, it makes no sense to remove the siding, which is loaded with asbestos, PCBs and lead paint, unless there is funding to recover the building at the same time. Rep. Eshoo remains optimistic that NASA, which took over Moffett from the Navy in 1994, will step up and complete the job. That would be the best solution, although she said that the space agency was counting on the money from Congress to complete adequate funding.

Preservationists have talked about raising private funding to help out, and developing a business model that could put the restored hangar to good use in the years ahead. Their idea is to make Hangar One the heart of a new western branch of the Air and Space Museum, chartered by the Smithsonian. The hangar is certainly suited for displaying hundreds of historic planes and other artifacts, many of which are in storage due to lack of display space in Washington, D.C. It would also be a great place to showcase Silicon Valley's technological feats, of which NASA Ames has played a significant role over the years.

As in the past, it is difficult to understand any Hangar One solution until funding is in hand and work has begun. In the meantime, the City Council and other local government agencies should make as much noise as possible about the need for some government agency to preserve this unique building that has seen so much aviation history pass through its massive doors. At this stage of the game, it is far too late for the private sector to develop a plan to preserve Hangar One. To rely on that solution would doom the structure to shamefully whither away as a skeleton of its former self.

■ LETTERS VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS OFFER HOPE, INSPIRATION

Newspaper readers have surely noticed the well-deserved praised for Palo Alto high school's football team which upset Centennial of Corona (Riverside County) for its first state football championship. Mention has also been made of the Palo Alto high girls volleyball team, which also won its first state championship last month.

To put these accomplishments in some perspective, note that there are several divisions in the high school sports playoffs and that Palo Alto football finished 13th in the final MaxPreps poll behind top-ranked De La Salle of Concord and fifth-ranked Folsom (near Sacramento). Palo Alto volleyball ended up ranked second in the nation — just below top-ranked St. Francis of Mountain View.

In high school sports, students learn the importance of hard work,

teamwork and physical fitness. In a country of so many youngsters and older folks who are getting fat and lazy, high school sports programs offer some hope and inspiration.

Gary Wesley
Continental Circle

CENSORSHIP IS A SLIPPERY SLOPE

It is easy to support freedom of speech for those who think like us and say things that we agree with. The true test is when we are faced with people who think differently and say things we don't like.

I don't necessarily agree with what Ideafarm says, but I do support his right to say it. Censorship is a slippery slope that leads to state-controlled media and jail terms for those who speak their mind — see China, North Korea, and many others.

Konrad M. Sosnow
Trophy Drive

■ TOWN SQUARE

HERE'S WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ON TOWN SQUARE:

EL CAMINO, ANTHEM BLUE CROSS REACH AGREEMENT ON REIMBURSEMENT RATES

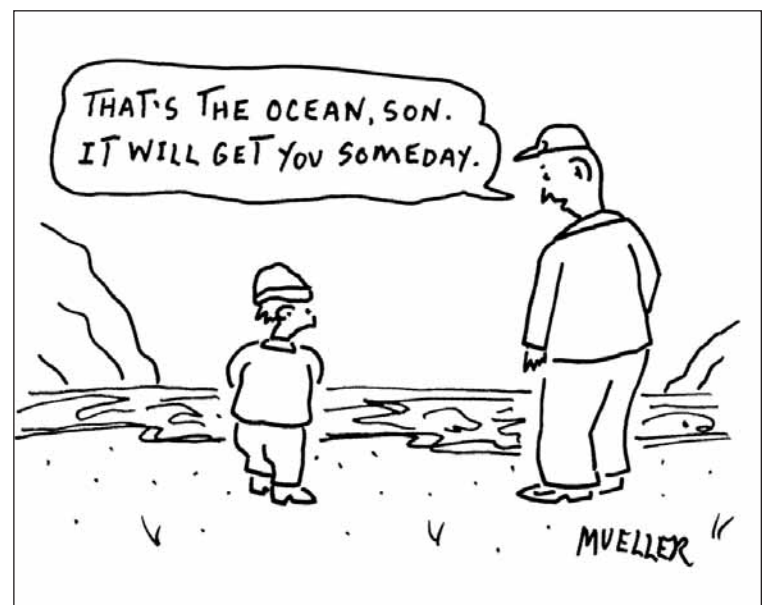
Posted by PH, a resident of another community:

The medical community should be ashamed of the way they publicize the money problems and create stress among the people that need their care and then settle on a solution. Many people were clearly upset and worried about their care options only to be told it's no longer an issue.

Everyone in this country should get good health care, and even though it might not be considered

a right by many, we still need to provide health care and education to our people. We are Americans and should find the way to be and have the best for all of us. These great dreams need to be kept alive and fulfilled and it is in the common interest of everyone to see that this happens, as it will not just make the economy better, but make us a better people as a whole.

The government and private sector have the means to do the right thing, but it will take the will of the people to push them to fix the problems. It is your country, tell them how you feel.



■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

■ MOVIE TIMES

■ BEST BETS FOR ENTERTAINMENT



Muracci's Japanese restaurant features tofu and vegetable curry noodle soup.

MICHELLE LE

■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

Currying flavor

MURACCI'S JAPANESE CURRY & GRILL GIVES LOS ALTOS A TASTE OF OSAKA

By Sheila Himmel

On a cold, rainy or otherwise discouraging day, step into Muracci's Japanese Curry & Grill for warm nourishment. As if you are in Japan, the restaurant is small and cozy. The decor is simple and utilitarian, with tables easily pushed together or pulled apart depending on the size of your party.

Japanese curry, rich and well-spiced, traces back to 19th century Japanese Navy chefs adapting a British dish that came from India. We can thank

Yasuyuki and Tamiko Murata for introducing it to Los Altos.

The Muratas had moved to the Bay Area from their native Osaka in 2000, and a few years later opened a dime-sized, mostly takeout joint in San Francisco's Financial District. In downtown Los Altos, Muracci's #2 offers full-service dining. Muracci is the nickname of the owners' son, the thumbs-up guy pictured on their menus. As if the restaurants were sites of rock concerts, Muracci's workers wear black T-shirts reading "San Francisco, Los Altos" on the back.

Dining on the Town

<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">AMERICAN</div> <p>CLARKE'S CHARCOAL BROILER 615 W. El Camino Real Mtn. View 650/967-0851 Voted Best Hamburger 16 Yrs in a Row. Beautiful Outside Patio Dining.</p>	<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">CHINESE</div> <p>NEW TUNG KEE NOODLE HOUSE 520 Showers Drive Mtn. View 650/947-8888 (Inside San Antonio Center) Voted Best Noodle House in 2003/2004 Mountain View Voice. Meals starting at \$4.75</p>	<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">MEDITERRANEAN/ PERSIAN</div> <p>BEST BITE RESTAURANT Falafels, Gyros and Kababs 1414 W. El Camino Real Mtn. View 650/988-8895 Bring this ad in for 10% Off Minimum \$20 pre-tax purchase.</p>	
<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">CHINESE</div> <p>CHEF CHU'S 1067 N. San Antonio Road corner of El Camino Los Altos 650/948-2696 "2010 Best Chinese" MV Voice & PA Weekly</p>	<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">FRENCH</div> <p>LE PETIT BISTRO 1405 W. El Camino Real Mtn. View 650/964-3321 Casual and cozy French restaurant. 15 tables.</p>	<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">PIZZA</div> <p>KAPP'S PIZZA BAR & GRILL 191 Castro Street Mtn. View 650/961-1491 Happy Hours Mon-Fri 4pm-6pm.</p>	
<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">ICE CREAM</div> <p>GELATO CLASSICO 241 B Castro Street Mtn. View 650/969-2900</p>			

If you would like to be listed in **DINING ON THE TOWN** please call Anna or Brent at the Voice at 964-6300.

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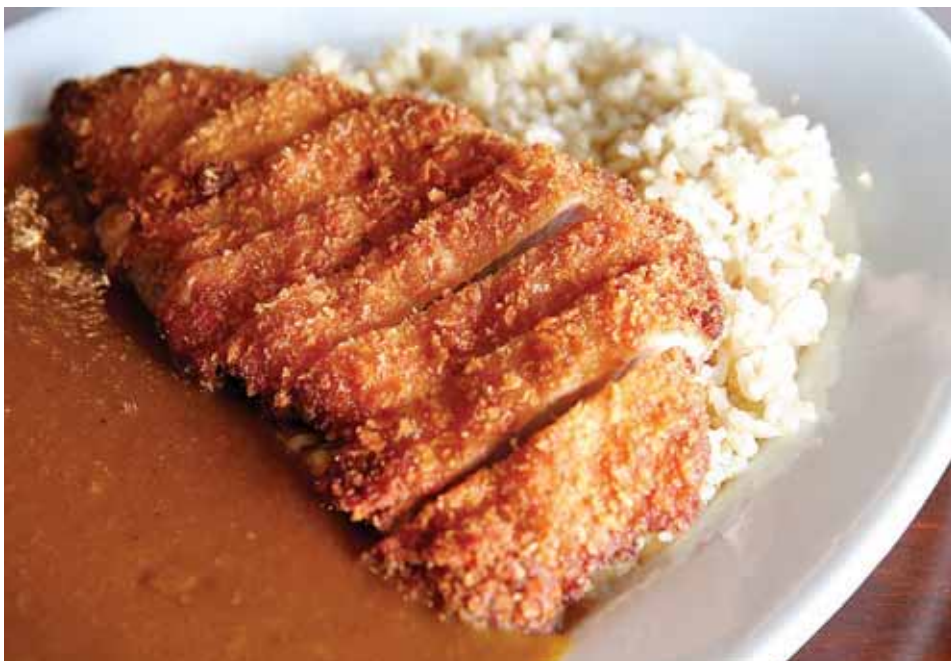
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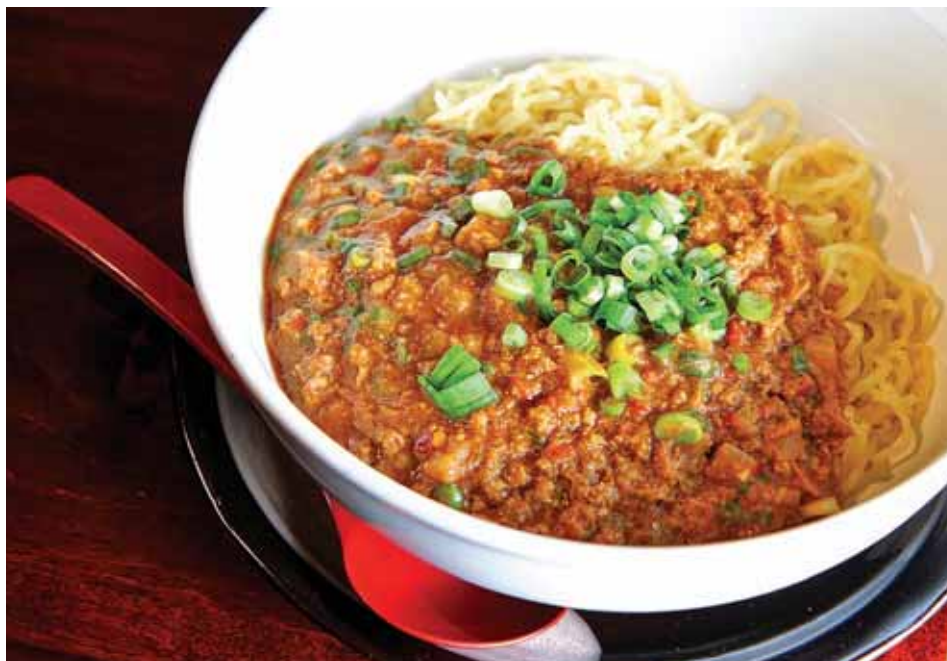
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MICHELLE LE

The **katsu** curry is a pork cutlet served with rice and curry sauce.



MICHELLE LE

The **spicy noodles** offer a hearty portion of ground beef.

Japanese curry follows a grand tradition of fusion cuisine in Japan. Dishes like hamburger, that the Japanese adapt to their tastes, have their own food group: yoshoku. The meat-based curry sauce, which simmers for two days, is exquisite over deep-fried and breaded seafood and meats, a technique acquired from Portuguese traders in the 16th century.

The basic, very hearty curry meal can be supplemented with extra curry sauce, rice and meat. There's also a weekly curry special. Recently it was chicken curry nanban (\$12.50 at dinner) featuring buckwheat noodles, chicken, shimeji mushrooms, green onions, bonito stock and curry sauce.

The tonkatsu dinner (\$13.75) started with an appetizer of

Japanese curry follows a grand tradition of fusion cuisine in Japan.

shitake mushrooms, stuffed and grilled. Then came a creamy miso soup, dotted with cubes of soft tofu. A mortar and pestle came next, with instruction to grind up the sesame seeds and mix in the sweet sauce. Perfectly cooked panko-crust pork was accompanied by shredded cabbage (for health), potato salad and rice.

The seafood curry dinner

(\$14.95) started with a crisp iceberg lettuce salad. A large bowl simmered with three prawns, lots of calamari, and a few scallops in curry sauce. Thinly sliced daikon with shredded lemon rind made a refreshing side dish.

Your menu choices runneth over. Steamed rice: white or

► See **MURUCCI'S**, page 16

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MICHELLE LE

Service at Muracci's is friendly and effusive.

MURACCI'S

► Continued from page 15

brown. Curry spice levels: mild to hot. (Medium will be plenty

hot for most palates.) A gratin-like curry-flavored bechamel sauce with melted cheese on top. A hamburger with curry sauce. Vegetarian items: tofu salad (\$8.50) and vegetarian curry.

Extras: boiled egg, spinach, vegetables, potato, cheese.

Another exercise in yoshoku involves omelets. In the grand American equivalent of yoshoku, Muracci's offers the six-piece California roll (\$3.50) and other sushi Americana. And there's a kid's plate (\$7.95) of chicken teriyaki or hamburger curry, fruit, salad and rice.

As the name implies, Muracci's Japanese Curry & Grill offers dishes besides sushi that may be more familiar in the Bay Area than Japanese curry. The usual grilled beef, chicken and salmon teriyaki are here, plus meal-size donburi bowls of rice topped with chicken, pork, seafood and egg.

The T-shirted Muracci's staff is welcoming, efficient, and effusive in their good-byes. As in: "Thank you! Thank you very much!" ▣

■ DINING NOTES

Muracci's Japanese Curry & Grill
244 State St., Los Altos.
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www.muraccis.com

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MOVIE TIMES

127 Hours (R) ★★★ Aquarius Theatre: 4:30 p.m.; Sat.-Thu. also at 9:30 p.m.

Black Swan (R) ★★★ Century 16: 11:40 a.m.; 2:15, 4:55, 7:40 & 10:25 p.m. **Century 20:** 12:20, 3:05, 5:55, 7:35, 8:50 & 10:15 p.m.

Burlesque (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)
Century 20: 2 p.m.; Fri.-Tue. & Thu. also at 7:40 p.m.

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (PG) (Not Reviewed) Century 16: 2 & 10:20 p.m.; In 3D at 11:05 a.m.; 4:50 & 7:30 p.m. **Century 20:** 1:45 & 9:50 p.m.; In 3D at 11:05 a.m.; 4:25 & 7:10 p.m.

The Fighter (R) ★★1/2 Century 16: 11:05 a.m.; 1:50, 4:40, 6:20, 7:25, 9:20 & 10:10 p.m. **Century 20:** 11 a.m.; 1:40, 4:30, 7:15, 8, 9:55 & 10:45 p.m.

Gulliver's Travels (PG) (Not Reviewed) Century 16: 11:30 a.m.; 1:45, 4, 6:50 & 9:15 p.m. **Century 20:** 1:10, 5:50 & 10:20 p.m.; In 3D at 10:50 a.m.; 3:30 & 8:05 p.m.

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 (PG-13) ★★1/2 Century 16: 2:20 & 8:30 p.m. **Century 20:** 12:25 & 6:55 p.m.

How Do You Know (PG-13) (Not Reviewed) Century 16: 12:10, 3:30, 7 & 9:55 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:15 a.m.; 12:40, 3:35, 6:25 & 9:15 p.m.; Fri.-Tue. & Thu. also at 4:50 & 10:30 p.m.

I Love You Phillip Morris (R) ★★★ Aquarius Theatre: 2:30, 5 & 7:30 p.m.; Sat.-Thu. also at 9:45 p.m.

The King's Speech (R) ★★1/2 Century 20: 11:20 a.m.; 2, 4:55, 7:45 & 10:25 p.m. **CinéArts at Palo Alto Square:** 1:30, 3, 4:20 & 7:15 p.m.; Fri.-Tue. & Thu. also at 5:55 p.m.; Fri.-Sun. also at 8:45 p.m.; Fri. & Sat. also at 10 p.m.

Little Fockers (PG-13) (Not Reviewed) Century 16: 11 a.m.; noon, 1:30, 2:30, 4:10, 5:15, 7, 7:55, 9:30 & 10:30 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:30 a.m.; 12:50, 2:10, 3:20, 4:35, 5:50, 7:05, 8:20, 9:35 & 10:45 p.m.

Made in Dagenham (R) (Not Reviewed) Guild Theatre: 2, 4:30 & 7 p.m.; Sat.-Thu. also at 9:30 p.m.

Megamind (PG) ★★1/2 Century 16: 11:35 a.m. **Century 20:** 12:30 p.m.

The Metropolitan Opera: Don Carlo (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed) Century 20: Wed. at 6:30 p.m. **CinéArts at Palo Alto Square:** Wed. at 6:30 p.m.

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

The Social Network (PG-13) ★★1/2 Aquarius Theatre: 1:45 & 7 p.m. **Century 20:** 3:40 & 10:05 p.m.

Tangled (PG) ★★★ Century 16: 11:50 a.m. & 5:50 p.m.; In 3D at 11 a.m.; 1:25, 3:50, 6:40 & 9:05 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:25 a.m.; 1:50 & 4:35 p.m.; In 3D at 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:10 & 10:35 p.m.

The Tourist (PG-13) ★1/2 Century 16: 11:25 a.m.; 2:05, 4:45, 7:20 & 10 p.m. **Century 20:** 11 a.m.; 1:30, 4:10, 6:50 & 9:25 p.m.

Tron: Legacy (PG) ★★1/2 Century 16: 12:20, 3:10, 6:30 & 9:25 p.m.; In 3D at 11:20 a.m.; 2:10, 5, 7:50 & 10:40 p.m. **Century 20:** Noon, 2:55, 6:10 & 9:05 p.m.; In 3D at 10:45 a.m.; 1, 1:50, 4, 4:45, 7, 7:50, 10 & 10:40 p.m.

True Grit (PG-13) ★★★ Century 16: 11:15 a.m.; 1:55, 2:35, 4:30, 5:10, 7:10, 8, 9:50 & 10:35 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:10 a.m.; 1:55, 3, 4:40, 6, 7:25, 8:45 & 10:15 p.m.

Yogi Bear (PG) (Not Reviewed) Century 16: 11:10 a.m.; 1:20 & 3:45 p.m.; In 3D at 11:45 a.m.; 2:15, 4:35, 7:05 & 9:35 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:50 a.m.; 2:15 & 4:20 p.m.; In 3D at 10:55 a.m.; 1:05, 3:25, 5:35, 7:55 & 10:10 p.m.

Note: Screenings are for Friday through Tuesday only.

AQUARIUS: 430 Emerson St., Palo Alto (266-9260)
CENTURY CINEMA 16: 1500 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View (800-326-3264)
CENTURY PARK 12: 557 E. Bayshore Blvd., Redwood City (800-326-3264)
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



MOVIE REVIEWS

ALL GOOD THINGS ★★★

(Guild) The story is modeled after the mysterious disappearance of Kathie Durst in 1982 and the subsequent investigation of her husband, a Manhattan real-estate scion. In the film, the pair are named Katie and David Marks and played by Kirsten Dunst and Ryan Gosling. Few good things exist in the dark world of this disturbing fictional account of a true-crime saga. *Rated R for drug use, violence, language and some sexuality. 1 hour, 41 minutes.* — S.T.

BLACK SWAN ★★★

(Century 16, Century 20) Longtime ballet ensemble player Nina Sayers (Natalie Portman) covets the leading dual role in a high-scale New York ballet production of Tchaikovsky's "Swan Lake." Though she has the attention of artistic director Thomas Leroy (Vincent Cassel) — or is that the "attentions"? — he questions her ability to play both the innocent White Swan and the sinful Black Swan. Still, Leroy takes the leap of casting Nina. "Perfection is not just about control," he purrs. "It's also about letting go." Letting go is, of course, dangerously close to coming unhinged, as Nina steadily does over the course of the film. *Rated R for strong sexual content, disturbing violent images, language and some drug use. One hour, 48 minutes.* — P.C.

THE FIGHTER ★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) Christian Bale plays a crackhead in mid-'90s Lowell, Mass. Ex-boxer Dicky Eklund milks his status as "The Pride of Lowell" as he struts the streets, crowing, "Making my comeback!" Walking a half-step behind Dicky, younger half-brother Micky Ward (Mark Wahlberg) wears a weary smile. Co-dependency zig-zags through Micky's extended family as he pursues his own light welterweight boxing career Micky trusts Dicky's boxing instincts, but Micky's no fool. When a promoter dangles a deal with the condition of "no crazy-time nonsense," Micky recognizes the opportunity, though it takes the moral support of new girlfriend Charlene (Amy Adams) to take a leap. *Rated R for language throughout, drug content, some violence and sexuality. One hour, 54 minutes.* — P.C.

HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS: PART 1 ★★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) The boy wizard who has captivated audiences since his literary introduction in 1997 is ready for his final curtain call. Harry Potter is officially a young man in this film ("Part 2" is due out in July 2011). From the onset it is clear "Hallows" is a darker, more intense offering than past installments. Harry (Daniel Radcliffe) and his best friends, Ron (Rupert Grint) and Hermione (Emma Watson), are still reeling from the death of their beloved headmaster, Albus Dumbledore. But there is little time for grief. Dark wizards led by the serpentine Lord Voldemort (Ralph Fiennes) have seized control of the wizarding world, casting an ominous shadow on all things magical. *Rated PG-13 for some sequences of intense action and frightening images. 2 hours, 27 minutes.* — T.H.

I LOVE YOU PHILLIP MORRIS ★★★

(Aquarius) Jim Carrey plays real-life convicted felon Steven Russell who, on his first stint in

► Continued on next page



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► *Continued from previous page*

jail, falls in love at first sight with fellow inmate Phillip Morris (Ewan McGregor). The story just gets weirder as it goes along, with Russell pulling jaw-dropping legal chicanery and multiple prison escapes, all in the name of love for Morris. The narrative bite and twisted, even cruel humor suit the true-crime elements, but also balance what's at heart a story of the extremes to which people will go for all-consuming love. *Rated R for sexual content including strong dialogue, and language. One hour, 34 minutes.* — P.C.

**THE KING'S
SPEECH** ★★1/2

(Palo Alto Square) Colin Firth stutters, sweats and swears his way through British history — and to a certain Oscar nomination for best actor — in director Tom Hooper's blue-blood biopic of the man who would be King George VI. Firth conveys the man's resolve and his unwavering sense of duty and service to England. Public speaking is a requirement, so he and his wife (Helena Bonham Carter) seek a stuttering cure. The heart of what could have been a too-proper period piece comes in the form of the relationship between the prickly prince and a congenial Australian commoner, the unorthodox speech therapist Lionel Logue, played to perfection by Geoffrey Rush. *Rated R for some language. 1 hour, 41 minutes.* — S.T.

**MADE IN
DAGENHAM** ★★1/2

(Guild) "We are the working classes, the men and the women." So goes the rallying cry in the quivering-lip climax of "Made in Dagenham," a dramatization of the pivotal

1968 Ford autoworkers' strike that led to the 1970 Equal Pay Act in the United Kingdom. Sally Hawkins plays Rita O'Grady, a chipper machinist for Ford's Dagenham plant. Having languished under unfair treatment for years, the women begin to feel that the times may be on their side, and Rita finds herself the popular choice to be their spokeswoman. *Rated R for language and brief sexuality. One hour, 53 minutes.* — P.C.

THE TOURIST ★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) Depp and Jolie essentially play themselves in this hapless attempt at a romantic romp: the former a goof itching to take on new roles, and the latter an unearthly creature who makes every sidewalk her runway. Jolie puts her inaccessibility to work for the part of Elise Clifton-Ward, a person of interest to police tracking her boyfriend, Alexander Pearce. As part of his plan to keep breathing, Pearce sends missives to Elise, directing her how to throw Scotland Yard and Shaw's Russian thugs off his trail. His latest scheme forces Elise to pick out a suitably built stranger and convince her observers that the stranger is Pearce. Elise lights on Frank Tupelo (Depp). *Rated PG-13 for violence and brief strong language. One hour, 44 minutes.* — P.C.

TRON: LEGACY ★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) Released in 1982, the original "Tron" film boasted groundbreaking graphics and established a tech-savvy fan base. But "Tron: Legacy" arrives about 15 years too late. Leading the foray this go-round is Sam Flynn (Garrett Hedlund), the 20-something son of video-game guru Kevin Flynn (Jeff Bridges). When family friend Alan Bradley (Bruce Boxleitner) tells Sam that he's

received a cryptic message from Kevin — who vanished some 20 years earlier — Sam goes to visit his dad's old arcade to find clues. After reckless computer use, he's transported to "the grid," a digital world where gladiatorial games and luminous attire are the norm. *Rated PG for sci-fi action violence and brief mild language. 2 hours, 7 minutes. Rated PG for sequences of sci-fi action violence and brief mild language. 2 hours, 7 minutes.* — T.H.

TRUE GRIT ★★★

(Century 16, Century 20) The Coen brothers place their indelible stamp on this impressive remake of the classic John Wayne western. Assertive young lass Mattie Ross (Hailee Steinfeld) is determined to track down her father's killer, Tom Chaney (Josh Brolin), who is hiding out deep in rugged Indian territory. Mattie is headstrong and defiant, and seeks to hire only the very toughest bounty hunter to bring in Chaney. Enter Rooster Cogburn (Jeff Bridges), a no-nonsense U.S. Marshal who speaks with a gruff voice and sports an eye patch. Also on Chaney's trail (for a separate crime) is cocky Texas Ranger LaBoeuf (Matt Damon). After considerable dissension, the three odd companions elect to travel together in hopes of hunting down Chaney. *Rated PG-13 for some intense sequences of western violence including disturbing images. 2 hours, 8 minutes.* — T.H.

■ **MOVIECRITICS**

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

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Do You Suffer From Cancer-Related Bone or Tissue Pain?

El Camino Hospital and UCSF are seeking adult patients who have cancer-related pain in their bones or tissues for a research study to determine the effectiveness of a program to help patients and family caregivers manage cancer pain.

Participants will receive education in their homes regarding their pain medicines, pain management, and techniques for managing side effects.

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To see if you are eligible or to learn more, call:

UCSF Cancer Pain Management Research Office
415-476-4516, Ext. #1

UCSF School of Nursing

Goings On

MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE

■ HIGHLIGHT

RAINN WILSON

Rainn Wilson, Emmy-nominated star of *The Office*, shares "Soulpancake: Chew on Life's Big Questions," which covers such topics as life and death, love and sex, and science and religion. Jan. 6, 7 p.m. Free. Books Inc., 301 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-428-1234. www.booksinc.net

ART GALLERIES

"San Francisco Views" Viewpoints Gallery features "San Francisco Views: Oil Paintings by Diana Jaye." Through Dec. 31, Viewpoints, 315 State St., Los Altos. Call 650-322-0148.

Chiaroscuro Woodcuts from 16th-Century Italy: Promised Gifts from the Kirk Long Collection Drawn entirely from the collection of Kirk Edward Long, this display traces the evolution of thematic and compositional styles in Italy from the High Renaissance through Mannerism. Through Feb. 27, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford.

Let The Sun Shine Viewpoints Gallery and Gallery 9 have joined to bring the sun to Los Altos in January with all gallery group shows. The artists are all local. Receptions to meet the artists: Jan. 15, 1-4 p.m. at both galleries. Gallery 9 is located at 143 Main Street in Los Altos. See websites for Sun. hours. Free. Viewpoints Gallery, 315 State St., Los Altos. www.viewpointsgallery.com

The New Contemporary Gallery When the museum reopened in 1999 as the Cantor Arts Center, the top floor of its new wing was devoted to art of the past four decades. Since then, more than 750 works of European and American art in diverse media have been added to the contemporary collection. Opens Dec. 15, 2010, then ongoing. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford.

Views of San Francisco December featured artist Diana Jaye will exhibit oil paintings of San Francisco during December. Jay's work is mostly plein air and includes scenes from the Arboretum to Land's End and cityscapes of downtown San Francisco. The gallery closes 3pm Sun. 11 a.m.-5

p.m. Free. Viewpoints Gallery, 315 State St., Los Altos. www.viewpointsgallery.com

Vodoun/Vodounon: Portraits of Initiates This exhibition presents diptychs by the Belgian photographer Jean Dominique Burton, who portrays Vodoun practitioners in Benin and their sacred shrines. Through March 20, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford.

AUDITIONS

"Seussical, Jr." Auditions Jan. 4 and 5, 4-6 p.m. Callbacks Jan. 6, 4-7 p.m. Musical, casting ages 10-20. Prepare two-minute song showing character and humor. Bring sheet music or instrumental recording. Come prepared to move. Performs March 11-26. Fee after casting. Hillview Community Center MPR, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. Call 650-947-2796. losaltosrecreation.org

Silicon Valley Boychoir Auditions For boys ages 6-12 who love to sing. SVB rehearses after school in downtown Palo Alto. Boys are placed in a level based on their skills and experience. The choir is taught by Julia Simon who specializes in training the voices of boys and young men. Jan. 8, 10 a.m. Free audition, semester fee. First Lutheran Church, 600 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. www.svboychoir.org

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

Breast- and cervical-cancer prevention Join Linda Pham, from Cancer Detection Program: Every Woman Counts, to learn about this organization and who qualifies for free screenings. Jan. 11, 1 p.m. Free. Moun-

tain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6330.

Flutist Robert Dick, Extended Flute Technique Workshop Robert Dick leads a workshop on extended flute techniques. Jan. 8, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Class fee: \$25 adult/\$15 student. UUCPA, Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto, 505 E. Charleston Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-961-1566.

Masterclass with Flutist Robert Dick Acclaimed master flutist Robert Dick leads winners of masterclass competition in a class, open to public auditors. This event completes the weekend of music making with flutist/composer Robert Dick. Jan. 9, 2-5:30 p.m. Class auditor fee: \$25 adult/\$15 student. Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto (UUCPA), 505 E. Charleston Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-961-1566.

CLUBS/MEETINGS

Senior Center Book Club Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month in Multipurpose Room B. The next book for review is "Loving Frank" by Nancy Horan. February's book will be "Mockingbird" by Charles J. Shields. Jan. 11, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6330.

Team In Training Information Meeting Join The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Team In Training fitness program. Learn more at a local Information Meeting. Jan. 8, 10 a.m. Free. Avenidas Senior Center, 450 Bryant St., Palo Alto. www.teamintraining.org/sj

COMMUNITY EVENTS

How To Tell if Your Teen Needs Help... and What to Do About It. Moodiness, defiance, lack of focus, unpredictability, dieting, worrying, anger, over-sensitivity: typical behaviors or a cry for help? Dr. Lisa Boesky, psychologist, national speaker, and author helps parents distinguish what's "normal" and how to help a troubled teen. Jan. 12, 7-9 p.m. Free. Mountain View High School Spartan Theater, 3535 Truman Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-906-3771. www.mvla.net/mvhs/Parents/PTSA/Pages/PTSAparentEd.aspx

Learn about Wireless Telecom Facilities in your Neighborhood "Is there a wireless telecom facility going up right in your neighborhood? Talk to others facing the same issue. Learn about the technology, the impacts, and what you can do," even organizers say. Jan. 4, 8-10:30 p.m. Hacker Dojo (in the Upper Deck), 140 South Whisman Road, Mountain View. www.stophetheeple.com

CONCERTS

Bach for the New Year James Welch presents the annual New Year's Eve concert at St. Mark's. Concert includes several Bach works for organ: *Fantasia in G; Toccata, Adagio, and Fugue in C; Passacaglia in C minor*, plus seasonal works by French Baroque and Romantic composers. Performed on the organ with 4,568 pipes. Dec. 31, 8-9 p.m. \$10 at the door. St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-856-9700. welchorganist.com

Cornell University Glee Club The Cornell University Glee Club, recognized as one of the premier collegiate ensembles in the United States,

appears at Stanford as part of their California tour. The ensemble is directed by Scott Tucker and accompanied by Director Emeritus Thomas A. Sokol. Jan. 7, 8 p.m. Free admission. Stanford Memorial Church, Stanford. <http://music.stanford.edu/Events/calendar.html>

Pianist Samira Tabraue in Concert Samira Tabraue, international concert pianist and PAUSD parent, will perform a concert to benefit the Palo Alto School PkE Foundation in a special preview performance before she departs for several concerts in Europe. The program features Schumann's *David'srdlerntanze*, Beethoven and Schubert. Jan. 8, 8 p.m. \$20 adult/\$15 senior/\$10 student. All Saints' Episcopal Church, 555 Waverley St., Palo Alto. asaaints.org/music-arts/performance

SFCO Main Stage Concert #1: Bottoms Up (Palo Alto) Celebrate the New Year with Nathan Chan (cello) and Michel Taddei (bass). Pre-concert talk 30 minutes before show. Doors open 45 minutes before show. Jan. 1, 3-5 p.m. Admission free, but tickets required -- available at door or online. St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto. Call 415-692-5297. www.sfchamberorchestra.org/concerts/mainstage/

DANCE

Affordable New Years Eve Singles Bash Includes dancing, party hats and favors. Adults of all ages welcome. Dressy attire recommended. Fri., Dec. 31, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Sheraton Hotel, 625 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. Call 415-507-9962. www.thepartyhotline.com

Ballroom Dancing Rumba will be taught Fri., Jan. 7, 8 p.m. Lessons for beginning and intermedi-

► Continued on next page

SUMMER 2011

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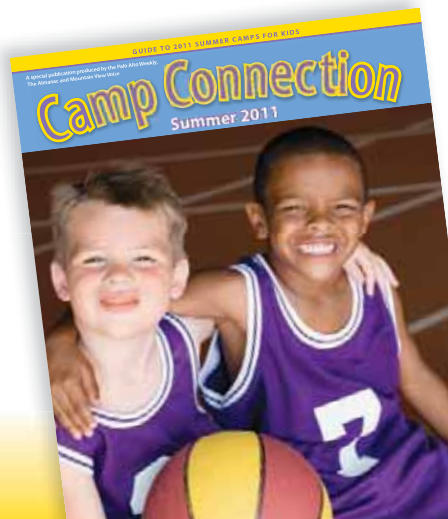
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Wednesday Study Groups: 10-11 a.m.

Pastor Kenny Fraser, B.A.M. DIV

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www.mtviewda.adventistfaith.org Phone: 650-967-2189

► Continued from previous page

ate levels, no experience and no partner necessary. General dance party 9 p.m.-midnight. Singles and couples welcome. Free refreshments. Dressy casual attire. Cubberley Community Center Pavilion, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-856-9930. www.readybyte.com/fridaynightdance

Ballroom Dancing - New Year's Eve Party Waltz will be taught at the New Year's Eve Dance Party Fri., Dec. 31, 8 p.m. Beginning and intermediate lessons, no experience or partner necessary. General dance party 9 p.m.-12:30 a.m. with dance demos, games, prizes, gifts, food, midnight toast, toys. Singles/couples welcome. Casual/dressy. 8 p.m.-12:30 a.m. \$20. Cubberley Community Center Pavilion, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-856-9930. www.readybyte.com/fridaynightdance

Vintage Ballroom Dance Dance to authentic arrangements of music from the 1900s to 1930s: Grand March, Tango, Foxtrot, Waltz, One Step, Two Step, Charleston, mixers, and more. Dressy attire; vintage dress admired but not required. Sundays, 4-6:30 p.m. \$20. Palo Alto Masonic Center, 461 Florence St., Palo Alto. www.PaulPriceOrchestra.com

Zumba Fitness Zumba, the Latin-dance-inspired fitness classes, start Jan. 3. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:45-6:45 a.m. \$14 drop-in or less with punch card 4000 Middlefield Road, Room L4, Palo Alto. Call 408-625-7130. 102119.zumba.com/

EXHIBITS

"Celebrating Mexico" Exhibition commemorates the bicentennial of Mexico's independence from Spain and the centennial of the Mexican Revolution. Books, manuscripts, movie posters, photographs, and other materials from the collections of the Stanford University Libraries illustrate key events in Mexico's history. Through Jan. 16, Free. Peterson Gallery, Green Library Bing Wing, Stanford University. Call 650-725-1020. library.stanford.edu/depts/hasrg/latinam/celebmex/

Haiti Works Documentary photography of rural

Haiti, a mountain zone just above the epicenter of the Jan. 12 earthquake. Works by Stanford alum, Marie Josee Mont-Reynaud. Dec. 21-Jan. 28, 5-7 p.m. Free. St. Mark's Parish Hall, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-858-1558.

Pancakes, Coffee and Heroic Actions Exhibition of drawings and paintings by artist Norm Rosenberger. Opening reception and artist talk on Friday, Dec. 10, 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Free. Mohr Gallery, Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA) at Finn Center, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. Call 650-917-6800 ext. 306. www.arts4all.org/attend

Stanford Art Spaces - Stanford University Textile Art by Alice Beasley, paintings and pastels by James Su, and paintings and charcoal drawings by John A. Sundstrom are on exhibit at the Paul G. Allen (C.I.S.) Art Spaces Gallery. Through Jan. 20, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Stanford Art Spaces, Paul G. Allen (C.I.S.) 420 Via Palou, Stanford. Call 650-725-3622. cis.stanford.edu/~marigros

FAMILY AND KIDS

Kindermusik Preview Classes Attend a music class to prepare for spring semester. Check online for class details. Jan. 11-13, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. 1404 Bonita Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-968-4733. wendyofmv.kindermusik.net

Let's Play in Spanish Free Demo Class Kids can learn Spanish with puppets, songs, games, dancing and more in Let's Play in Spanish classes. There will be a "Mommy & Me" demo class (dads, nannies, grandparents welcome) Jan. 5 at 9:45 a.m. and Jan. 8 at 10:30 a.m. 2483 Old Middlefield Way, Suite C., Mountain View. www.letsplayinspanish.com/

Preschool Open house MVPNS is an NAEYC-accredited parent cooperative nursery school, where parents' involvement is key. Programs are offered for 3s, 4s, and 4/5s who are not quite ready for kindergarten. Tour the school and meet staff at the open house. Jan. 15, 10 a.m.-noon. Free. MVPNS School, 1325 Bryant Ave., Mountain View. www.mvpns.org/events.html

Writing Buddies --volunteers needed

Writing Buddies pairs adults 1:1 with schoolchildren at Castro School in a six-week program that meets for two hours on Tuesdays, once per week at Castro School. All training is provided, and you don't need to be an educator to volunteer. Tuesdays, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Free. Castro School Writing Buddies, 505 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 408-462-5883.

FILM

"The Fog of War" "The Fog of War" is a 2003 film about the life and times of former U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara. Directed by Errol Morris, it won the Academy Award and Spirit Award for Best Documentary Feature (2003). Faculty Talk Back will be led by Scott Sagan (CISAC). Jan. 6, 7:30-10 p.m. Free. Annenberg Auditorium, 435 Lasuen Mall, Stanford. Call 650-723-0997. <http://ethicsinsociety.stanford.edu/ethics-events/events/view/1026/?date=2011-01-06>

"Vlci jama / The Wolf Trap" 1957; dir. by Jiri Weiss; 90 minutes; English subtitles. Highly-regarded Czech Drama. An ambitious young provincial politician, who married an older and possessive woman, strikes up a friendship with her young ward. Story of frustration and denial against a backdrop of post-WWI bourgeois banality. Jan. 7, 7-9 p.m. Free. Stanford University, Language Corner, Building 260 (Pigott Hall), Room 113, Stanford. Call 650-725-2563. crees.stanford.edu

HEALTH

Better Breathers Club (BBC) Breathe California hosts BBC for those with lung disease & their families. Guests from health disciplines discuss ways to breathe easier & effectively manage the disease. Topic: iDiscover all of the Fun & Healthy Adventures in the Bay Area! by Anne Ferguson PhD, President Bay Area Older Adult. Jan. 10, 1:30-3 p.m. Free. Avenidas Senior Center, 450 Bryant St., Palo Alto. Call 408-998-5865. www.lungsrus.org

LIVE MUSIC

Flutist/Composer Robert Dick in Concert Robert Dick, with guest artists Areon Flutes, performs a concert featuring his compositions on Fri., Jan. 7, 8-10 p.m. \$20 adult/\$10 student. Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto, 505 E. Charleston Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-961-1566.

Orangutang Orangutang performs Jan. 7, 8-10 p.m. Free. Red Rock Coffee, 201 Castro St., Mountain View.

Professor Gall Professor Gall performs Jan. 12, Red Rock Coffee, 201 Castro St., Mountain View.

Singles Arts Cafe: Yuri Liberzon Live music the first Thursday of each month at Singles Arts Cafe, the only singles program of its kind on the Peninsula. This month features Yuri Liberzon, a Russian-Israeli classical guitarist whose repertoire includes Bach, Ernesto Lecuona, Konstantin Vassiliev, Keith Jarrett & the Beatles. Jan. 6, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$10-\$15. Oshman Family JCC, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. Call 650-223-8605. www.paloaltojcc.org/arts

RESEARCH SUBJECTS

The Creative Revolution: BOOM! "We live in an innovative and creative age. We have more potential to create major, disruptive innovations than ever before. We are all familiar with the power of open source, cheap software, cheap processing and crowd sourced economics. What happens when these trends move from virtual to physical?" organizers say. Jan. 11, 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

SENIORS

Big Bingo Big Bingo in the social hall Jan. 3, 1 p.m. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6330.

Senior New Year's Eve Day Bash Lunch, live band, dancing and champagne. Buy pre-sale(\$13) tickets at Lucie Stern and Cubberley Community

Centers, Avenidas & Oshman Family JCC. Presented by the City of Palo Alto. Sponsored by Palo Alto Recreation Foundation and La Comida de California. Dec. 31, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. \$13 pre-sale/\$18 day of (limited) Oshman Family Jewish Community Center, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. Call 650-463-4953. www.cityofpaloalto.org/recreation

SUPPORT GROUPS

Cancer Support Group/Caregiver Group Ongoing professionally facilitated support groups for people with cancer and/or support persons. Separate groups for those with cancer and support persons. Must attend Newcomers meeting first. Jan. 5, 10-12 a.m. Free. Cancer Support Community, The Vineyard, 455 N. Whisman Blvd., Suite 300, Mountain View. Call 650-968-5000. www.cancersupportcommunity.net

Young Adult Cancer Support Group A monthly drop-in group where young adults, (40 and under) can come to share experiences and build camaraderie. Jan. 11, 7-9 p.m. Free. Cancer Support Community, The Vineyard, 455 N. Whisman Blvd., Suite 300, Mountain View. Call 650-968-5000 ext. 2. www.cancersupportcommunity.net

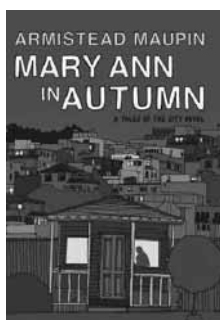
TALKS/AUTHORS

Technology and Society Committee Luncheon Forum Warren Slocum, San Mateo County's chief elections officer and county clerk-recorder-assessor, describes his innovations in voting and election reform and speculates on future uses of the Internet in the public sector, such as internet voting. Jan. 11, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. Lunch is \$12. Hangan Szechuan Restaurant, 134 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-969-7215. tian.greens.org/TASC.shtml

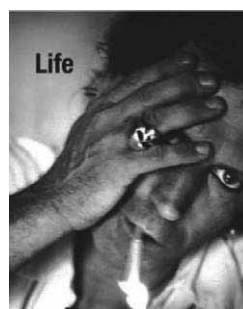
TEEN ACTIVITIES

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.

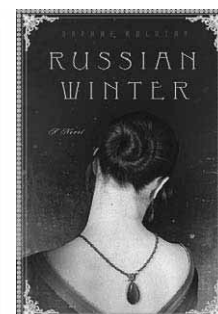
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Mary Ann in Autumn by Armistead Maupin. A hilarious and touching new installment of Armistead Maupin's beloved Tales of the City series.



Life by Keith Richards. The long-awaited autobiography of the guitarist, songwriter, singer, and founding member of the Rolling Stones.



Russian Winter by Daphne Kalotay. A mysterious jewel holds the key to a life-changing secret, in this breathtaking tale of love and art, betrayal and redemption.



Squirrel Seeks Chipmunk by David Sedaris. Featuring David Sedaris's unique blend of hilarity and heart, this new collection of keen-eyed animal-themed tales is an utter delight.

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Bulletin Board

115 Announcements

ADOPTION? TALK WITH CARING AGENCY specializing in matching Birthmothers with Families nationwide. LIVING EXPENSES PAID. Call 24/7 Abby's One True Gift Adoptions 866-413-6293 (Void in Illinois) (AAN CAN)

Breakthroughs for the New Year!
CoDependents Anonymous (CoDA)
Canary Foundation Luncheon
Create your ISC: Individual Sust - free
Dance Classes for Kids - Adults
Do you need a personal CFO?
Free Kids Reiki
Free Shiatsu to the community!
Free talk: Introduction to Reiki
Free talk: Theta Healing
House Cleaning
Prepare for Year End
Teacher Open House
Are you new to teaching? A career changer interested in teaching? Curious about working in an independent school? Menlo School is always interested in meeting exceptional teachers. Get to know our school community and find out what it's like to teach at an independent school at our Open House for Teachers on Thursday, Jan. 13, 3:30-5:30 pm. Menlo School, 50 Valparaiso Avenue, Atherton, CA 94027. RSVP to: teacheropenhouse@menloschool.org
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Public Notices

**995 Fictitious Name
Statement**

COMPUTER MARVELS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT
File No.: 545425
The following person (persons) is (are)
doing business as:
Computer Marvels at 509 Central Ave.
Apt. Q, Mountain View, CA 94043,
Santa Clara County.
This business is owned by: An
Individual.
The name and residence address of the
owner(s)/registrant(s) is(are):

ANDRE ABELLA
509 Central Ave. Apt. Q
Mountain View, CA 94043
Registrant/Owner has not yet begun to
transact business under the fictitious
business name(s) listed herein.
This statement was filed with the
County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara
County on December 7, 2010.
(Voice Dec. 17, 24, 31, 2010, Jan 7,
2011)

PATRAC
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 545384
The following person (persons) is (are)
doing business as:

Patrac at 144 Pacchetti Way, Mountain
View, CA 94040, Santa Clara County.
This business is owned by: An Individual.
The name and residence address of the
owner(s)/registrant(s) is(are):
MICHAEL S. BERNSTAM
144 Pacchetti Way
Mountain View, CA 94040
Registrant/Owner began transacting busi-
ness under the fictitious business name(s)
listed herein on 12/01/2010.
This statement was filed with the County
Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on
December 6, 2010.
(Voice Dec. 17, 24, 31, 2010, Jan. 7,
2011)

997 All Other Legals

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE File No.
7314.20993 Title Order No. 4475177
MIN No. 100039302005271674 APN
158-44-043 & 158-44-044 YOU ARE
IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST,
DATED 05/06/05. UNLESS YOU TAKE
ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY,
IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE.
IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF
THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING
AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT
A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the
highest bidder for cash, cashier's check
drawn on a state or national bank, check
drawn by state or federal credit union,
or a check drawn by a state or federal
savings and loan association, or savings
association, or savings bank specified in
§5102 of the Financial code and author-
ized to do business in this state, will be
held by duly appointed trustee. The sale
will be made, but without covenant or
warranty, expressed or implied, regard-
ing title, possession, or encumbrances,
to satisfy the obligation secured by said

Deed of Trust. The undersigned Trustee
disclaims any liability for any incorrect-
ness of the property address or other
common designation, if any, shown
herein. Trustor(s): Gerardo R. Vizmanos
and Gertrude Vizmanos, husband and
wife Recorded: 05/13/05, as Instrument
No. 18369852, of Official Records of
Santa Clara County, California. Date of
Sale: 01/06/11 at 10:00 AM Place of
Sale: At the Market Street entrance to
the Superior Courthouse, 190 North
Market Street., San Jose, CA The pur-
ported property address is: 207 and
209 Santa Rosa Ave & 784 and 788
Corto Street, Mountain View, CA 94043
Assessors Parcel No. 158-44-043 &
158-44-044 Legal Description: LOTS 32
AND 33, AS DELINEATED UPON THAT
CERTAIN MAP ENTITLED "W.P. ANGELO
TRACT, A SUBDIVISION OF LOTS 36,
37, 38, 3, 4, 5, 6 AND 7 AND PART OF
LOT 9 OF ESTRADA PARK, MOUNTAIN
VIEW, CAL.", FILED FOR RECORD IN THE
OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF THE
COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA, STATE OF
CALIFORNIA, ON JULY 18TH, 1927 IN

BOOK W OF MAPS, AT PAGE 10. The
total amount of the unpaid balance of
the obligation secured by the property to
be sold and reasonable estimated costs,
expenses and advances at the time of
the initial publication of the Notice of
Sale is \$892,066.14. If the sale is set
aside for any reason, the purchaser at
the sale shall be entitled only to a return
of the deposit paid, plus interest. The
purchaser shall have no further recourse
against the beneficiary, the Trustor or
the trustee. If required by the provisions
of section 2923.5 of the California
Civil Code, the declaration from the
mortgagee, beneficiary or its authorized
agent was recorded with the appropriate
County Recorder's Office and reads sub-
stantially as follows: The mortgage loan
servicer declares that (1) it has obtained a
final or temporary order of exemp-
tion pursuant to California Civil Code §
2923.52 and (2) the timeframe for giv-
ing notice of sale specified in subdivision

► See LEGALS, next page

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LEGALS

► Continued from previous page

(a) of California Civil Code § 2923.52 does not apply pursuant to California Civil Code § 2923.52 or 2923.55. Date: December 10, 2010 NORTHWEST TRUSTEE SERVICES, INC., as Trustee Victoria Gutierrez, Authorized Signatory 505 N. Tustin Avenue, Suite 243, Santa Ana, CA 92705 Sale Info website: www.USA-Foreclosure.com Automated Sales Line: 714-277-4845 Reinstatement and Pay-Off Requests: (866) 387-NWTS THIS OFFICE IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE FEI # 1002.178811 12/17, 12/24, 12/31/2010
Voice

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
EUTIMIO VALENZUELA GARCIA
Case No.: 110-PR-168100
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of EUTIMIO VALENZUELA

GARCIA.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by: TIMO E. GARCIA and EDWARD GARCIA in the Superior Court of California, County of SANTA CLARA.

The Petition for Probate requests that: TIMO E. GARCIA and EDWARD GARCIA be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on January 31, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. in Dept.: 3 of the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara, located at 191 N. First St., San Jose, CA, 95113. If you object to the granting of the peti-

tion, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above.

You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner:
/s/ Victoria Li, Esq.
2845 Moorpark Ave., Suite 110
San Jose, CA 95128
(408)386-3998
(Voice Dec. 31, 2010; Jan. 7, 14, 2011)

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*My very best wishes to you
and your family from me and mine!*

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