

Mountain View VOICE

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**Fancy tables
for holiday
feasts**

| P.11



MICHELLE LE

Peifeng Zhang checks out the solar panels on a rooftop of a Google building during a Mountain View Reads Together tour of Google's campus.

Tour reveals Google's efforts to go green

By Daniel DeBolt

Google headquarters is a wealth of environmental friendliness, from plants that clean the air to toxin-free furniture.

In a tour organized by Mountain View Reads Together to go with the environmental book "Eaarth," guide Anthony Ravitz recalled his first day on the job in

Google's real estate and workplace services department.

A co-worker had him sniff a sample of carpet. "I don't smell anything," Ravitz said. He was told, emphatically, "That's good!"

To Google, that new home smell is a bad one, the "off-gassing" of toxics. With an eye toward preventing toxic exposure, Google has been pushing a campaign to reduce the use of chemicals such as

formaldehyde, an EPA-designated "probable human carcinogen" found ubiquitously in building materials, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) found in paint, and PVC in plumbing, which gives off highly toxic dioxin when burned, Ravitz said.

Ravitz pointed to the ceiling in the lobby of Google's building

► See **GOOGLE TOUR**, page 6

Schmidt quits day job for water board post

By Chris Kenrick

Locally elected water board member has quit his day job with an environmental organization, citing, in part, "a little more conflict than I'd anticipated."

Mountain View resident Brian Schmidt, elected last year to represent northern Santa Clara County on the Santa Clara Valley Water District Board, said

the overlap between his board work and his job at the Committee for Green Foothills had caused him some frustration.

The conflict between the two roles contributed, in part, to his decision to resign from the Committee for Green Foothills after nine years, Schmidt said.

He cited two issues in particular — a county-wide habitat plan and a possible 2012 elec-

tion that will ask water-district voters to extend a parcel tax for watershed restoration and flood control.

Schmidt has recused himself from water-district participation on the habitat plan because the Committee for Green Foothills is involved in it.

In the case of the tax, "the

► See **WATER BOARD**, page 8

MV Whisman eyes new school bond

MEASURE WOULD PAY FOR BUILDING UPGRADES, SAFETY FEATURES

By Nick Veronin

Local elementary and middle school district officials are weighing whether to put a bond measure on the 2012 ballot, and have hired a consultant to help them decide.

Last week the Mountain View Whisman district's board of trustees unanimously approved a contract with Gene Bregman & Associates, giving the public opinion and marketing research firm the go-ahead

to conduct a local telephone poll to help district officials gauge whether the community would support a bond measure, which would come on top of a parcel tax — Measure C — currently in place.

"Part of the purpose of the poll is to determine what funding level voters would be willing to support," said Craig Goldman, superintendent of the district.

The district will pay \$18,000 for the poll — \$9,000 in advance and the balance after all of the data is delivered.

The poll will take approximately 15 minutes per phone call and around 400 people will be contacted, according to the agreement between the district and Gene Bregman & Associates. Spanish interpretation will be available.

At this point, Goldman said, the district does not know how much it would seek in the bond measure, or if it will even place a measure on the ballot. However, considering the type of bond measure the district is looking into, Goldman said Mountain View Whisman might seek to

issue a bond for as much as \$200 million.

Facilities need work

With the district still stretched thin financially, and with the probability of further state education cuts looming, Goldman said Mountain View Whisman could use revenues generated by a bond to help pay for projects identified in its master plan.

The district's Student Facilities Improvement Plan calls for construction and renovation projects across all Mountain View Whisman schools. The plan is meant to address health and safety require-

ments, enrollment growth and failing infrastructure, as well as accommodate new educational programs and make for a more energy efficient school district.

"The master planning is essential to ensure the safety and quality of our school facilities," Goldman said. "We also need to consider whether our facilities meet both our current and future enrollment and program needs." He also noted that there are many housing projects in the works around the city; the district needs to be mindful of that fact when planning for future growth.

It's unlikely that the district will complete all of the projects outlined in its master plan, Goldman said, emphasizing that the district doesn't expect to pay for all improvements with bond revenues.

If the district decides to move forward with the bond, Goldman

**District might seek
up to \$200 million.**

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INSIDE

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Randy, Firefighter, PAMF patient

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Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked in Downtown Mountain View. Photos and interviews by Anna Li.

What are your plans for Black Friday?



"I plan to actively boycott all retailers on Black Friday."

Christine Bush, Mountain View



"For Black Friday, we try to avoid the crowds and shopping and have a nice, quiet day."

David Lin, Mountain View



"For Black Friday, I'm going to Canada. Because of Thanksgiving, it's actually cheaper to go out of the U.S."

Gaurav Bansal, Mountain View



"My plans for Black Friday are to enjoy the holidays, not shop, not do much of anything else except visit friends and enjoy their company."

Tracey Stanelun, Mountain View



"We try to make it a kinder, gentler Black Friday to shop here (at Boutique 4). We'll have cookies and hot chocolate to make it a more relaxing, comfortable experience than fighting the crowds at bigger department stores."

Tamara Michel, Mountain View

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CRIME BRIEFS

WALLET SNATCHED

A Mountain View man was robbed of his wallet on Nov. 21 while he sat outside of The Better Bagel in the Grant Park Plaza Shopping Center, police said.

The 53-year-old victim was sitting at a table between Rite Aid and the bagel shop at about 1:25 p.m. when a young man approached, pushed the table into the victim and snatched the man's wallet, which was sitting on top of the table, according to Liz Wylie, spokeswoman for the Mountain View Police Department.

The thief fled with the wallet, which contained \$23 in cash, an ATM card, credit cards and identification, Wylie said. He got into the passenger side of an older, green four-door sedan.

The victim was not injured, Wylie said. The suspect is described as being in his late teens, thin and standing about 5 feet 7 inches tall. He wore a black cap and black jacket.

had fled the scene, according to Liz Wylie, spokeswoman for the Mountain View police.

According to Wylie, a bouncer at Zen went outside when a fight was reported. He saw a man dragging another man from the sidewalk into the street—the victim hit his head hard when he was dragged over the curb — and the impact may have knocked out the victim, the bouncer told police.

The assailant continued to beat the man who was lying on the ground — sitting on top of him and punching him in the face and head until the bouncer pulled him off and he ran away, Wylie said.

The victim, a 31-year-old man from San Jose, was taken to the hospital in a semi-conscious state with cuts and abrasions on his face and a broken nose, Wylie said. "Alcohol may have also been a factor in his state of mind."

Police located Alejandro Vidales, a 44-year-old Fremont man, sitting nearby in the 300 block of Hope St. Vidales had bloody clothes, bloody fists and the bouncer identified him as the man who beat the victim.

Vidales was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon — the deadly weapon being his fists, as he continued to hit the victim in the face even after he had been rendered defenseless.

ASSAULT WITH DEADLY WEAPON

A San Jose man was severely beaten Nov. 20 after closing time outside the Zen Lounge on Castro Street, police said.

Security staff at the club called police at 2:20 a.m. to report a fight, saying that a man had been knocked into a stupor by another man who

POLICE LOG

ASSAULT W DEADLY WEAPON

200 block Castro St., 11/20

AUTO BURGLARY

1600 block Miramonte Av., 11/14
 600 block Rainbow Dr., 11/16
 900 block High School Way, 11/16
 500 block Minton Ln., 11/16
 400 block View St., 11/16
 1200 block Villa St., 11/18

BATTERY

700 block Luce Ct., 11/15
 W. El Camino Real and Palo Alto Av., 11/21

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 11/20

GRAND THEFT

900 block High School Way, 11/17

ROBBERY

Nob Hill Foods, 11/21

SEXUAL ASSAULT

1700 block W. El Camino Real, 11/13

STOLEN VEHICLE

300 block Escuela Av., 11/17

VANDALISM

200 block Hans Av., 11/21

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Photo of Denley Rafferty attempting to tackle the subway system in Russia.
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MICHELLE LE

NEW PLACE TO PLAY

The new playground structure at Del Medio Park gets a work-out from David, who dangles from the slide, as his friend Aeb watches from above. On Sunday, the city officially opened its 36th park, providing recreation space to a neighborhood that hasn't had easy access to it. Del Medio Park is located at 380 Del Medio Ave. near the west end of California Street, and its one-third acre includes a grass area, benches and exercise equipment.

Whisman near decision on boundary change

By Nick Veronin

The superintendent of the Mountain View Whisman School District is confident that the community approves of his district's plan to reorganize the attendance boundaries of three local schools.

The proposed changes were publicized in emails, direct mail, on the school district's website, in school newsletters and written about in news stories in the *Voice* and another local paper, said Craig Goldman, superintendent of Mountain View Whisman.

After hearing only a handful of concerns at the district's Nov. 17 board meeting, Goldman said he feels safe assuming that "overall, people understand the boundary changes make sense and that the district is planning to implement them in a way that is respectful."

The district will vote on the proposed changes at its next meeting on Dec. 8. Should the new boundaries be approved, two areas currently assigned to Bubba would become a part of Castro's attendance pool, and students from a third area, cur-

rently assigned to Castro, would switch to Monta Loma.

Four people addressed the board with concerns about the proposed boundary changes — not enough to convince Goldman that there is any kind of significant opposition to the plan.

"If people are concerned about the actions of the district and the board, they do attend school board meetings," he said.

One of the community members who spoke at the meeting

► See **BOUNDARY**, page 10

Taglio appointed to LASD board vacancy

By Nick Veronin

The Los Altos School District's board of trustees has chosen Steve Taglio to replace outgoing board member Margot Harrigan when she leaves her post approximately one year before the end of her term in early December.

He is a longtime volunteer at Covington Elementary School, where his two children attended, and he served as PTA president and as a member of the school's site council. Taglio said he is looking forward to joining the board of trustees.

"To me, there was a natural progression there," he said of being asked to serve on the board. "It just made sense."

"What tilted it for Steve was his obvious knowledge of goings on," said Bill Cooper, president of the board of the Los Altos School District. Taglio has been to every school district meeting for the better part of two years, Cooper noted. "I believe he will be able to be up and running right from the start, given his knowledge of the range of issues facing the district."

Taglio said he hopes to help the district improve its communica-

tion with non-parent community members in Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and the portions of Mountain View within the district's boundaries.

Taglio is not sure whether he will seek reelection when his term ends at the end of 2012.

"I want to make sure that I'm able to bring something to the table that's unique and helpful," he said, adding that he also wants to get a feel for the workload before he commits to run next year. It is his intent, however, to run in 2012 if his experience on the board is positive, he said.

Glory days of video games

TOURNAMENT CELEBRATES 8-BIT ART OF EARLY GAMES

By Nick Veronin

Explosions, gunshots and a confluence of overlapping eight- and 16-bit musical loops all combined into a digital din, as young men, eyes glued to one of the many screens around the room, tapped on control pads and wiggled joysticks, occasionally crying out in joy or dismay.

The game of the hour was Bomberman, which pits four players and their blocky avatars against one another in an explosive fight to

games, such as Zork — an early text-based game where players keyed in responses to questions and choices, a bit like a choose-your-own-adventure novel. At the tournament, Haemmerle had the original Fortran code for Zork on display, along with an Atari 2600 console and a RedOctane guitar controller for the game Guitar Hero.

Haemmerle acknowledged that for some the RedOctane controller might seem more like a toy

than an object of cultural significance. She pointed out that when film was in its infancy, many never thought of it as being

very important, so many films have now been lost forever, due to neglect or a lack of maintenance altogether.

"A lot of early television shows have been taped over," Haemmerle said — a piece of human history, gone. Video games "have become a serious part of our culture. We want to do what we can to save as much of gaming history as possible," she said.

Dustin Preuss agrees with Haemmerle. He paid the \$5 admission to the tournament for two reasons: "I'm here for fun and to support the cause."

Preuss, a lifelong gamer, said he believes video games are more

'You can play classic games forever.'

LAURA ALLAN

mostly for fun, camaraderie and free pizza at the first ever Fall Classic Games Tournament, Nov. 19.

Held at the Hacker Dojo — a shared work space for techies in Mountain View — the tournament was a fundraiser for the Digital Game Museum, which aims to preserve all computer-driven games — from the earliest text-based adventure games written in the Fortran programming language, all the way through the first-person shooters so popular today.

The museum has no physical address, though founder Judith Haemmerle has every intention of one day having a space to present her extensive collection of old computers, consoles and

► See **HACKER**, page 8



NICK VERONIN

A man played the original Nintendo game Duck Hunt while others completed in a Bomberman tournament at the Hacker Dojo on Nov. 19.

GOOGLE TOUR

► Continued from page 1

43, where sheets of insulation are held up by fasteners instead of glue. Several different types of glue were tested, including Elmer's, but "we couldn't find a glue to make it stick that wasn't high in VOCs," Ravitz said.

Ravitz said Google has been using its buying power to require companies to disclose what's in its furniture and building materials. It's apparently become advocacy work for Google.

"We won't have achieved success until you can go to the Home Depot or Ikea and know what's in those products you are buying," Ravitz said.

Google has gone as far as turning the quest for clean air into art. In the lobby of the former Alza Pharmaceuticals headquarters at Charleston Road and Amphitheatre Parkway, the two-story lobby walls are covered with plants hanging in special pouches, watered by a mist that trickles down into a decorative basin of pebbles. Ravitz said microbes in the plant roots clean the air for the building's HVAC system, while the water provides some cooling as well.

The focus on employee health

that can be attributed to co-founders Larry Page and Sergei Brin, Ravitz said. Googlers get free massages and medical care on site, and nearly every outdoor recreation activity you can imagine is available. Google's newest facility, called the Google Athletic Recreation Field, or G.A.R.field, for short, includes a soccer field, basketball courts, bocce ball, outdoor exercise equipment, and solar panels so it uses "net-zero energy," Ravitz said.

Net-zero energy use is of interest for Google for other facilities as well. Plans submitted to the city several years ago for a new headquarters building on the vacant lot at Shoreline Boulevard and Charleston Road impressed local architects and planners, as it should have little or no impact on the environment. Google is expected to submit new plans very soon for the project, which was put on hold.

A zero waste future?

Google is also looking at reducing the environmental impacts of garbage to zero. "Zero waste is definitely our goal," Ravitz said. To that end Google has been composting its food waste for three years. All of the dishes used in Google's cafes are "washables" and workers are encouraged to take the dishes with them if they want to take

lunch back to their desks. (To-go containers are made of recyclable materials.)

Googlers are even discouraged from drinking bottled water, as it is seen as an unnecessary waste of plastic. Instead, Ravitz said workers are encouraged to use the plastic bottles from juice drinks found in vending machines around campus as bottles for tap water.

The purple pipe

"A great benefit of being here in Mountain View is the purple pipe," Ravitz said, referring to the large pipe that takes recycled water into the North Bayshore area from Palo Alto's sewage treatment plant. The pipe is purple so no one confuses it with potable water. It can be seen crossing Permanente Creek at Charleston Road, carrying water to Google's landscaping, including at G.A.R.field, where purple boxes can be seen poking from the ground.

Ravitz said toilets are being flushed with recycled water in one of Google's buildings that is used as a sort of testing ground. Google is also experimenting in packing workers into tight spaces. At Google almost no one gets a private office and everyone shares smaller spaces, which Google finds is good for productivity, Ravitz said. Google tends to pack so many employees into a



MICHELLE LE

Mountain View Reads Together tour Google's green campus.

space that it can overwhelm the air conditioning systems in some of Google's buildings, Ravitz said. It's also caused parking problems and the need for parking requirement exceptions from the city.

Biodiesel and batteries

The greenness begins before Google employees even arrive to work if they are among the 4,000 who use Google's biodiesel shuttle system every day to commute in from all over the Bay Area. Google claims the system saves the equivalent in emissions of taking 2,000 cars off the road. But that also factors in the electric vehicles loaned

to workers once they arrive: 30 Nissan Leafs and Chevy Volts and 10 Toyota Prius Hybrids.

In "a perk for our employees," Ravitz said Google has 250 charging stations so that employees who drive electric vehicles longer distances to work won't be left without a charge to help them get back home.

Solar panels galore

Much of Google's energy is produced on site by solar panels and fuel cells. As of now a solar panel array provides 30 percent of the

► See **GOOGLE TOUR**, next page



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El Camino cuts dangerous infection rates

By Nick Veronin

El Camino Hospital has seen a significant drop in reported cases of a serious infection commonly found in hospitals and nursing homes across the country, hospital officials said.

In May of this year, Dr. Eric Pifer, chief medical officer at El Camino, began a concerted effort to reduce the instances of Clostridium difficile, or “C. diff,” a bacterial infection that causes diarrhea, fever, bowel irritation, and in severe cases has been known to be fatal.

Pifer, who attributes the spread of the infection to excessive use of antibiotics and certain heartburn medications, said the hospital has succeeded in cutting instances of the infection by more than half since 2009.

The hospital has accomplished this by adopting a much stricter policy around the prescription of antibiotics, which destroy the body’s good bacteria, and certain medications — known as proton-pump inhibitors — that reduce levels of stomach acid. When friendly bacteria and stomach acids are depleted, it raises the possibility of contracting the disease, especially

when one is living in a hospital setting.

Another tactic that Pifer is convinced played a part in reducing the rates of C. diff infection at El Camino is good old-fashioned hand-washing.

Antibiotic liquid hand sanitizer — used by medical professionals to keep their hands clean when moving from room to room in the hospital — kills many forms of bacteria, but it isn’t strong enough to kill C. diff spores.

A quick wash with hand sanitizer is no longer considered sufficient in any case at El Camino Hospital, Pifer said.

Pifer is happy with the accomplishment but he said that the hospital must remain vigilant in battling C. diff infection. He said community awareness must be raised on the issue and that the hospital is exploring just how to spread the word. Too many primary care physicians are too quick to prescribe antibiotics and heartburn medications to patients who do not need them.

“I think the accomplishment is great,” he said. “But we’ll never be successful unless we start to get some culture change with physicians in our community.”

GOOGLE TOUR

► Continued from previous page

power used by Google, Ravitz said. Google also receives power from “Bloom Boxes” that use natural gas-powered fuel cells to produce electricity on site. Google also makes use of gas generators that run on the methane gas collected by an underground network of pipelines at Mountain View’s former landfill sites at Shoreline Park.

Google’s photovoltaic setup is so big that only three companies in the world were willing to bid on the project to install the 9,000 solar panels, Ravitz said.

Googlers get creative

Google employees are encouraged to take it upon themselves to meet the challenges of climate change one day a week with their “20 percent time.” Googlers can spend a day a week working on projects or ideas that are interesting to them personally, but also somehow related to Google’s mission.

It is this self-starting attitude that probably caused Google employees to build something that shocked Mountain View city employees a few years ago. Google employees had been tired of walking around the creek to get to the former Alza Pharmaceuticals building at Amphitheatre Parkway and Charleston Road, so a zip-line was set up, and for a time Googlers were gliding over the creek hanging from the cable.

The city stepped in and ended the fun once it was discovered, but later approved a foot bridge. It was designed in such a way that it can easily be raised if climate change and rising sea levels causes Permanente Creek to run higher than it does now. Google also added bioswales to each side of the creek, so that run-off would drain into the ground before it hit the creek.

Google’s relentless greenness doesn’t just stay at the office, either. For a Googler facing a home remodeling project, for instance, “We’ll help you make the best choices given what we know,” Ravitz said.



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WATER BOARD

► Continued from page 1

Committee for Green Foothills has not been involved with that, by agreement with the committee, so I'd be free to be involved with it at the water district.

"In either case, there's a cost to it," Schmidt said.

"It's not a financial cost, but in the case of the habitat plan I can't contribute at the water district, and in the case of the special tax, the Committee for

Green Foothills can't contribute its involvement."

A larger reason for his decision, Schmidt said, is that "I've just been at the Committee for awhile, and it's time to move on. I've really enjoyed working there."

Schmidt said his replacement at the Committee by Alice Chang-Kaufman represents "an important local environmental group successfully managing a staff transition."

As for his own future, Schmidt said he is interested in climate change issues, "but also is just open to trying something different, to figure out an interesting way to make a difference."

Schmidt, a lawyer, has lived in the area since 1996 when he arrived to attend Stanford Law School.

He defeated Los Altos City Council member Lou Becker in last year's water-board race for a seat representing Palo Alto, Mountain View, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Monte Sereno and Los Gatos.

The district is responsible for oversight, construction and maintenance of various water-related structures, facilities, trails and other projects in the county. ■

HACKER

► Continued from page 5

than just a serious part of our culture. To him, they are works of art. Unfortunately, he said, these games are often tossed into a dollar bin at someone's garage sale, or worse, thrown in the garbage.

"A lot of the older hardware — people don't realize how significant it is," Preuss said. He has kept all of his old gaming systems, including an original Nintendo, Super Nintendo, Nintendo 64, Sega Dreamcast, Nintendo GameCube, Nintendo Wii and Microsoft Xbox 360.

Chris Zielewski and Laura Allan both said they were at the event because of their passion for classic video games. All three of the games being played in the tournament — Bomberman, Duke Nukem and Super Smash Bros.



NICK VERONIN

Judith Haemmerle hopes to move her collection of vintage video games into a museum.

— were released before 2000.

"You can play classic games forever," Allan said, noting that she has played The Legend of Zelda: A Link to the Past for Super Ninten-

do at least six times. These games are an important part of people's lives, she reasoned. "If we don't preserve our old video games they'll disappear." ■

MVV BOND

► Continued from page 1

said, the measure will follow the rules outlined in Proposition 39 — meaning it will be supported by up to \$30 per \$100,000 of assessed property value and require only 55 percent of the vote to be

passed. It would come on top of Measure C, the eight-year, \$3 million voter-approved parcel tax that went into effect in 2009. Depending on parcel size, property owners are assessed anywhere from nearly \$150 to over \$1,000 a year under Measure C.

A consultant from TBWB Strategies, which has worked with the

district on prior bond measures, recommended the June ballot if Mountain View Whisman decides to go ahead with a bond measure. While there will likely be a much larger turnout for the November 2012 presidential election, the consultant determined that the district will have a greater likelihood of success in June. ■

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Daniel Villa, left, speaks to a group of men about how to improve their skills and expand employment through self initiative at the Day Worker Center of Mountain View.

MICHELLE LE

After 15 years, a new era for Day Worker Center

By Daniel DeBolt

Though the recession might be easing, workers at the Day Worker Center of Mountain View are still having little luck in finding employment. But that doesn't mean they aren't productive.

As it celebrates its 15-year anniversary, the Day Worker Center of Mountain View is wrapping up its first year in a new building at the north end of Escuela Avenue, a permanent home bought and renovated by the center after rotating through local churches. Along with the new furniture and paint on the walls there is a new energy in the building.

As they wait their turn to take a job from a contractor or homeowner, perhaps gardening or even a fairly complex home repair, day laborers are teaching each other skills or learning from volunteers. Some are learning to blog in a new class that has workers posting stories online, others are using donated sewing machines and learning how to sew from a day worker with experience as a tailor. In some cases, the workers are teaching the volunteers. It's not uncommon for volunteers to learn Spanish, but in one unusual case, a worker is teaching a volunteer how to play the saxophone.

"Self esteem and confidence are really important," said center director Maria Marroquin. "Lack of jobs and lack of family makes a lot of depression and stress. If they are involved in new activities that require more attention to the present, it gives them more support and helps them achieve their goals."

And it couldn't come at a better time. The average worker at the center is finding work one day a week, and for only three to four hours, Marroquin said. Last

Friday, only 24 of 77 workers who came to the center got work. An employer who might have had their houses cleaned once or twice a month before the recession is now coming once a month, Marroquin said.

Day laborers on average are earning about \$40 a week at the Center, not counting the workers who are more popular with employers. Marroquin says some workers are homeless, living out of their cars or sharing in crowded apartments.

As a result, the center's role has become even more important for the survival of many workers. And not just for the free lunch and the free medical care provided by a mobile clinic that regularly visits, but also for a sense of community, Marroquin said.

Volunteers find meaning

It turns out that many of the volunteers are also unemployed or underemployed. According to Marroquin, the center has

► See **HOLIDAY FUND**, page 10

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For more information on the Holiday Fund go to siliconvalleycf.org/mvv-holiday-fund

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Contributions to the Holiday Fund will be matched dollar for dollar to the extent possible and will go directly to nonprofit agencies that serve Mountain View residents. Last year Voice readers contributed nearly \$49,000, up significantly from the prior year. With additional funds 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.

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■ DAY WORKER CENTER OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

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Simitian aide arrested for vandalism

By Sue Dremann

A senior field representative to California Sen. Joe Simitian (D-Palo Alto) was arrested for public drunkenness and vandalism on Nov. 13, after two police officers witnessed him lift a city-owned concrete cigarette receptacle and smash it on the sidewalk, according to Palo Alto police.

Police were monitoring activities at Lytton Plaza on University Avenue and Emerson Street after a crowd of Stanford University football fans had gathered. Tyler Haskell, 30, and a friend were observed walking in the plaza at 1:15 a.m. when he bumped into the heavy, freestanding ashtray and knocked it over, Agent Rich Bullerjahn said.

"Instead of picking it upright, he

picked it up and threw it in the air and shattered it on the sidewalk," Bullerjahn said Wednesday (Nov. 16).

Police approached Haskell and observed that he was "so intoxicated he couldn't take care of himself," Bullerjahn said. He was arrested on one count of public drunkenness and one count of misdemeanor vandalism and booked into the San Jose Main Jail. He was released on bail.

Haskell joined Simitian's district office in Palo Alto in September 2008, according to the state senator's website. He previously worked as a legislative assistant and was a U.S. Senate Budget Committee staff assistant for two years.

His work with Simitian includes community outreach, constituent assistance, health and human

services, labor, gay and transgendered communities, seniors and the "There Oughta Be a Law" contest. He is the Santa Clara County liaison, according to the website.

Simitian on Wednesday praised Haskell's work for his office but also said that he expects accountability from his employee.

"Tyler has done first-rate work in my office for the past three years," Simitian said. "The only thing I said to him was that whatever did or didn't happen, he needs to accept responsibility for his actions."

Haskell declined to comment.

Cindy Hendrickson, supervising deputy district attorney, said she did not yet know if Haskell would be charged. Misdemeanor cases in which the person is released usually take awhile before arraignment, she said. ▀

HOLIDAY FUND

► Continued from page 9

become a popular place to volunteer, with 100 volunteers available. Around 10 come in on any given day, teaching the workers English or helping out in the office, among other things. The center isn't necessarily a route to a job for these folks, as many are college educated and would likely work in an office if they could.

On Friday, a young college graduate named Chris had stopped by to see about volunteering. Like some of the other volunteers, Chris is a recent college graduate unable to find full time work. When asked why he wanted to volunteer he said he wanted to brush up on his Spanish by immersing himself in a Spanish-speaking commu-

nity, but he also talked about something that was a little more intangible.

"The kids I grew up with all had way more than they needed," Chris said of growing up in Palo Alto, where he recently returned to live with his parents. "It baffles me that they don't think they should help other people."

Center reaches out to the neighborhood

Marroquin sees more and more support from a neighborhood that once aggressively opposed the center's relocation into the vacant cinder block building at 113 Escuela Ave. She fondly recalls one neighbor, who was a real opponent, welcome the center to the neighborhood during its grand opening. It probably doesn't hurt that the center has been organizing walks around

the neighborhood every month to pick up trash.

The availability of tailoring services has also created a buzz in the neighborhood and Marroquin beamed when talking about an older woman who was very happy to know that tailoring is now available in her neighborhood. Marroquin hopes that next Halloween workers can make costumes for kids who couldn't otherwise afford them.

Neighbors have been learning about the Day Worker Center in quarterly meetings required by the city's conditional use permit, and while the last meeting the city requires will be on Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. at the Center, Marroquin said she expects to continue the practice.

For more information about the center, visit dayworkercentermv.org. ▀

BOUNDARY

► Continued from page 5

was Bridget Harrison. "School rankings are very important to home owners, home buyers and parents," Harrison told the board. She said she was concerned with what the change could portend for property values, even though she doesn't have children, and is living just outside of one of the areas that may soon change.

Harrison was also concerned that the reorganization would make for a less diverse student population at Bubb. "I feel that redefining the boundaries as they have proposed is going to decrease diversity and increase segregation along socioeconomic and ethnic lines."

Harrison said she plans on hav-

ing children some day and hopes that she will be able to send her kids to a diverse Bubb Elementary School. She suggested that instead of changing the boundaries, the district might simply increase the number of children Bubb could accept.

"We want to keep reasonably-sized schools and we want our schools to be reasonable in size," Goldman said, by way of explaining why Harrison's suggestion would not work. "We have other schools that have capacity, so it doesn't make sense for Bubb to have significantly larger enrollment, particularly when there are more logical changes that allow students to attend schools closer to their homes."

The three areas under consideration are:

■ Area No. 1, currently a Bubb

attendance area, would switch to Castro and comprises homes bounded by Latham Street, Escuela Avenue, El Camino Real and South Rengstorff Avenue.

■ Area No. 2, currently a Bubb attendance area, would switch to Castro and encompasses all homes bounded by Central Expressway, Chiquita Avenue, California Street and Escuela Avenue.

■ Area No. 3, currently a Castro attendance area, would switch to Monta Loma and includes homes bounded by Central Expressway, South Rengstorff Avenue, California Street and Ortega Avenue.

No students will be transferred out of their current schools, Goldman emphasized, and siblings of current Bubb and Castro students would be given special consideration for intradistrict transfers. ▀



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Designers offer advice
to create a festive décor

Dressing up holiday tables

By David Ruiz

photos by
Veronica Weber

Entertaining at the holidays, from Thanksgiving through New Year's, is an opportunity to introduce seasonal themes, colors and materials into one's home.

More than two dozen designers, florists and interior designers came together last month, putting their heads together to produce "tablescapes" at the Holidays on a High Note fundraiser for the Family Service Agency of San Mateo County.

A key theme this year was use of natural materials, including succulents.



Kris Forbes incorporated lavender and gold colors in her orchid arrangement with decorative gold pears.

"You don't need to set up a fancy table, you just need to know how to use natural resources," Jenna Bayer, of Jenna Bayer Garden Design in Mountain View, said. Bayer's table used imported vegetation, fresh produce and trimmings from her own garden.

The best way to approach home decoration is to start indexing early, Bayer said. "Create an inventory over the year of what grows best in your area and what you like

the most. Use those plants next year for a more intimate setting."

Bayer also chose her materials based on color. The fall season works around a lot of reds, greens, yellows and browns. Many



of the trees in this season are naturally going through these colors and can be used to accent the décor, she said.

"A good part about these plants is that they are basically zero-care and have such magnificent color," Bayer said, pointing to her green cascade myrtle.

Also important are the senses other than sight. "Smells, textures and even taste are important. Use fruits and vegetables whenever you can," Bayer said. Bayer purchases many of her flowers in San Francisco, but also spoke highly of Boring, Ore., the city from which she imports many of her trees. "The quality is astoundingly better," she said.

Her floral arrangement, including dahlias, barberries and pheasant feathers, was collected from cuttings of her own garden, minus the feathers. The apples used were also imported from Oregon.

A year-long inventory isn't possible for many who are expecting the holidays in a matter of weeks. Kris Forbes, event chair and designer for Pomegranate Designs, Woodside, had a different approach, with similar ideologies.

"Always forage," she said, adding that the materials necessary for in-home design can be found from friends, family and neighbors. Forbes recalled a story in which she needed branch trimmings for an upcoming piece, and simply asked her neighbors for any materials. They were glad to help, she said, and it was entirely free of cost.

Forbes noted that, due to the fast expiration date on many floral arrangements, a good approach is to have decorations that can be switched out every few weeks around a central element. "Every few days the flowers around it will die, but you can replace it one week with mini-poinsettias, the next week with pinecones," she said.

Indelisa Montoro, of Royal Bloom in Menlo Park, focuses heavily on monochromatic decorations. Her table, a stark silver winter set complete with a 2.5-foot



Jenna Bayer Garden Design in Mountain View created this fall-themed table arrangement.

conical Christmas tree and assorted baubles of white and polished silver, stood out with its reliance on one color. The materials are easy to find, she said, and can be purchased at her store in the Allied Arts Guild in Menlo Park. Montoro finds some of her other materials, such as fake snow, Christmas lights and plastic cones, at Target.

"Vintage is still popular; people like those old-world touches," Montoro said, surrounded by repurposed bracelets, salvaged silver and ornaments of mercury glass hung in her shop.

Montoro said that monochromatic sets work well because small moments of color can gain more prominence. "Bouquets stand out beautifully," she said. For her floral arrangements, Montoro shops at wholesale markets in San Francisco that are not typically open to the public, though she does take orders.

Besides those San Francisco markets Forbes suggested that individuals go to their local Trader Joe's or Safeway to look at their cactus selection. "They've really increased their selection this

year, people seem to really like them," Forbes said.

Each designer agreed on the idea of using natural resources for decoration at home. The increased popularity in cacti and other succulents reflects the sustainable aspects of using natural resources.

"Right now you can see people either going for a modern, sleek look or a more natural, organic one," Christine Le of Magnolia Floral Design, Palo Alto, said. Le pointed to a table with rectangular, purple vases filled with water lilies as an example of modern decoration. She hopes the flowers are home grown, she said.

"It's best to go local," Le said, mentioning Roger Reynolds Nursery in Menlo Park as a good resource. Much like Forbes, Le said that arrangements can be switched every few weeks by using flowers that bloom naturally throughout each season.

Elegance and simplicity also shone brightly. "You can't enjoy anything if you have a house full of everything," Montoro said. ■

Editorial Intern David Ruiz can be emailed at druiz@paweekly.com.

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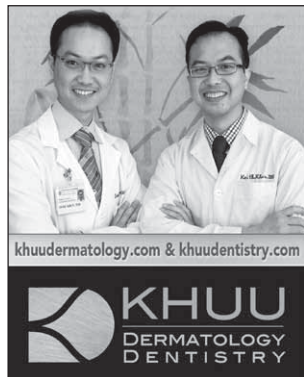
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The Art of celebrating

By Rebecca Wallace

Marking the season with artistic flair can mean many different things in the Peninsula's arts community. There are several performances of the "Nutcracker" ballet, of course, and more than one chance to let your singing voice out to play in the rippling vocal runs of the "Messiah."

For something a little different, families might check out a LEGO-brick holiday display, a latke cook-off or a performance by 20-plus harps. A list encompassing many of the options begins below.

Music

The Ragazzi Boys Chorus sings festive music from the last thousand years (chants, hymns, carols and more modern adaptations) in "Christmas Classics: A Millennium of Song." The holiday show is 5 p.m. Dec. 3 at the First Congregational Church, 1985 Louis Road, Palo Alto. Tickets are \$25 reserved, \$15 general, \$12 for seniors and \$10 for students. Go to ragazzi.org or call 650-342-8785.

Selections from Handel's "Messiah" pair up with Mozart's "Requiem" at the Peninsula Cantare choral group's concert at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 3. Joined by musicians from the Redwood Symphony, the group will perform at the First Baptist Church of Palo Alto, 305 N. California Ave. Tickets are \$20/\$15. Go to peninsulacantare.org or call 650-593-4287.

Spanish *villancicos* — works that combine sacred and folkloric — from the 16th to the 18th centuries are the focus of the California Bach Society's holiday concert. "A Belen (To Bethlehem)" will be performed with Richard Savino on Baroque guitar and Peter Maund with Renaissance drums at 8 p.m. Dec. 3 at All Saints' Episcopal Church, 555 Waverley St., Palo Alto. Tickets are \$25 general, \$18 for seniors and \$10 for students. Go to calbach.org or call 415-262-0272.

"Christmas 3D" means holiday music from composers including Bob Chilcott and William Hawley, sung by Soli Deo Gloria. The audience gets to join in on carols. The concert is at 5 p.m. Dec. 3 at the First Lutheran Church, 600 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. Tickets are \$25 general, \$20 for students and seniors, and free

for students up to eighth grade. Go to sdgloria.org or call 888-734-7664.

Mountain View's East West Books hosts the Celtic/medieval ensemble Broceliande for a winter-solstice concert at 8 p.m. Dec. 2. Traditional and early music will be sung and played on Celtic harp, recorders, mandolin, fiddle and other music-makers. Admission is \$15 through Dec. 2 and \$20 on the day of the concert, which is at 324 Castro St. Go to eastwest.com or call 650-988-9800.

Classical harpist Natalie Cox joins a studio ensemble of harps in the annual concert "20 Harps for the Holidays" at Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Ave., Los Altos. The performance starts at 4 p.m. Dec. 3 and benefits the Harpeggio Music group. Admission is \$12/\$15; go to harpeggio.com or call 408-366-8810.

San Francisco Choral Artists looks at the Christmas story from an earthier point of view — that of the animals, shepherds and farmers — in Daniel Pinkham's "Company at the Creche." The group will perform the premiere work with handbells at 4 p.m. Dec. 4 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto. Tickets are \$12-\$25. Go to sfca.org or call 415-494-8149.

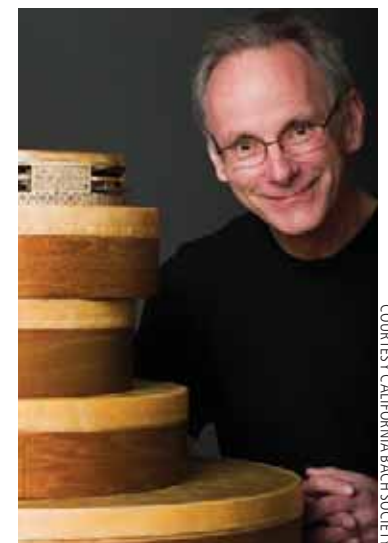
J.S. Bach's epic *Mass in B Minor* will fill the First United Methodist Church at 625 Hamilton Ave. in Palo Alto at 8 p.m. Dec. 6, presented by the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, the Philharmonia Chorale and four vocal soloists: soprano Sherezade Panthaki, countertenor Daniel Taylor, tenor Thomas Cooley and baritone Nathaniel Watson. Tickets are \$25-\$100. Go to philharmonia.org or call 415-392-4400.

"Weinachtsfest" is the name of the Bay Choral Guild's holiday program this year, featuring J.S. Bach's "Christmas Oratorio" and other works. The Jubilate Baroque Orchestra and four vocal soloists — soprano Helena Zindarsian, alto Dianne Terp, tenor John Davey-Hatcher and baritone Jeff Fields — will perform at 8 p.m. Dec. 9 at the First United Methodist Church, 625 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto. Tickets are \$25 general and \$20 for students. Go to baychoralguild.org.

The Friends of Music at Stanford hosts its yearly "Holiday Musicale" at 2:30 p.m. Dec. 10 in the university's Memorial Church. Featured performers include the Early Music Singers, organist Adam Detzner and harpist Alessandra Serrano. Admission is \$10 general, \$5 for students and \$9 for seniors. Go to music.stanford.edu or call 650-725-ARTS.

"A Schola Cantorum Christmas" happens at 3 p.m. Dec. 11, with Oxford Street Brass along for the ride. The

The local art scene marks the holidays with harps and hymns, concerts and a cook-off



COURTESY CALIFORNIA BACH SOCIETY

Peter Maund will play Renaissance drums with the California Bach Society in a performance of Spanish music from the 16th to the 18th centuries. A Palo Alto concert is scheduled for Dec. 3, at All Saints' Episcopal Church.

concert includes "Twas the Night Before Christmas" and takes place at First Congregational Church of Palo Alto, 1985 Louis Road. Adults pay \$20 to get in, and kids pay \$5. Go to scholacantorum.org or call 650-254-1700.

"A Holiday Celebration!" is a program of festive music presented by the Stanford Chamber Chorale, Bay Brass and Stanford pipe organist Robert Huw Morgan. Music includes Daniel Pinkham's "Christmas Cantata." Admission is free to the 1:30 p.m. Dec. 11 concert, held at Memorial Church.

Schola Cantorum's Gregory Wait conducts the group's "Messiah Sing" at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 12 at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St. Loaner scores will be available. Admission is \$20 general and \$16 for seniors, students and children. Members of groups of 10 or more get in for \$12. Go to scholacantorum.org or call 650-903-6000.

The Magnificat Baroque ensemble will perform Henrich Schutz's Christmas oratorio "Weihnachtshistorie" together with the Palo Alto-based ensemble The Whole Noyse (which performs on reproductions of 16th-century instruments). The concert is 8 p.m. Dec. 16 at the First Lutheran Church, 600 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. Tickets are \$35 general, \$28 for San Francisco Early Music Society members, \$30 for seniors and \$12 for students. Go to sfems.org or call 510-528-1725.

The Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir sings gospel arrangements of traditional holiday tunes in its "Gospel Holiday Concert" at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 16. Admission is \$36 general, \$31 for seniors and students, and \$28 for children 12 and under. Go to oigc.org or call 650-903-6000.

The ebullient Stephen M. Sano is back conducting the annual "Messiah Sing-Along/Play-Along" at Stanford's Memorial Church at 8 p.m. Dec. 16. Attendees bring their instruments and/or voices,

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The clear-voiced men of Chanticleer return to Stanford's Memorial Church for the annual **"A Chanticleer Christmas"** concert at 8 p.m. Dec. 13. Carols, gospel classics and chant are on the program. Admission is \$52 general and \$10 for Stanford students. Go to livelyarts.stanford.edu or call 650-725-ARTS.

Festive tunes played only on trombones — that's the plan for the Gordon Stewart Peninsula Trombone Choir's free **holiday concert**, to be held at 2 p.m. Dec. 17. Holiday music with traditional, jazzy and classical flavors will be played at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church, 4111 Alma St., Palo Alto. Call 650-493-4257.

Dance

Pacific Ballet brings Clara and her dancing chums to the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts at 500 Castro St. for the annual **"Nutcracker."** Performances are Nov. 25 at 1 and 6 p.m., Nov. 26 at 1 and 6 p.m., and Nov. 27 at 12:30 and 4 p.m. Admission is \$24/\$28. Go to mvcpa.com or call 650-903-6000.

"Falling Snow," the tale of a jewelry-box ballerina who comes to life, is on the program for the Foothill College Repertory Dance Company's **"Jingle & Mingle Holiday Open Studio"** at 7 p.m. Dec. 2. Led by dance-department director Bubba Gong, the program also includes a jazz suite, a hip-hop duet and a tango tap number. The event is in the Dance Studio, Room 2504 at Foothill College, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. Admission is free, and parking is \$2. Go to foothill.edu or call 650-949-7354.

The Western Ballet Company leaps into its performances of **"The Nutcracker"** on at 7 p.m. Dec. 2, at 1 and 7 p.m. Dec. 3, and at 1 and 6:30 p.m. Dec. 4 at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St. Tickets are \$25-\$30; go to westernballet.org or call 650-903-6000.



The dancers of **Smuin Ballet** perform their **"Christmas Ballet"** at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts from Dec. 7 through Dec. 11.

Another **"Nutcracker"** will be presented by Dance Connection of Palo Alto at 7 p.m. Dec. 2 through Dec. 4, at Spangenberg Theatre, 780 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto. Admission is \$15-\$25. Go to danceconnectionpaloalto.com or call 650-322-7032.

Smuin Ballet dancers will take the stage to gospel singer Mahalia Jackson's version of "Oh, Holy Night" as part of the company's annual **"Christmas Ballet"**. The eclectic program will be performed at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts at 500 Castro St. from Dec. 7 through Dec. 11, at 8 p.m. weekdays, 2 and 8 p.m. Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$23-\$65. Go to smuinballet.org or call 650-903-6000.

The Bayer Ballet Company will perform **"A Winter Fairy Tale,"** a Russian forest tale set to music by Tchaikovsky and Rimsky-Korsakov, at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500

Castro St. Performances are 5 p.m. Dec. 17 and 2 p.m. Dec. 18; tickets are \$30 general and \$25 for seniors and children 12 and under. Go to bayerballetacademy.com or call 650-903-6000.

Arts & crafts and exhibits

Artistic nativity scenes from a wealth of nations, incorporating such materials as bamboo, crystal, driftwood and eggshells, are on display in the 24th annual **Christmas creche exhibit** at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints at 3865 Middlefield Road in Palo Alto. The free exhibit can be viewed noon to 9 p.m. Dec. 3 through Dec. 7. Periodic special events during that time will include choral performances and daily marionette shows. Go to christmas-creche.org or call 650-856-3781.

Palo Alto's Cubberley Artists and the Palo Alto Art Center team up to hold a **family day** and **open studios** at the Cubberley Community Center, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, from 1 to 5 p.m. on

Dec. 3. Artwork will be shown and sold, with artists available to answer questions, and craft activities for kids will be held. Admission is free. Go to cityofpaloalto.org/artcenter or call 650-329-2366.

Handcrafted gifts will be for sale against a background of student performances and live music at the **German Holiday Market** from 3 to 7 p.m. Dec. 3 at the German International School of Silicon Valley, 310 Easy St., Mountain View. Admission is free. Go to gissv.org or call 650-254-0748.

Kids and families

Hanukkah arts and crafts, carnival games and, of course, lots of prepared potatoes will abound at the **"Whole-Lotta-Latke Cook-off"** at the Oshman Family Jewish Community Center, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. Intended for families with preschool or school-age children, the event goes from 2 to 5 p.m. Dec. 4 in the Schultz Cultural Arts Hall. Admission is free; latke-tasting tickets are a quarter each. Go to paloaltojcc.org.

Kids' games, pony rides, craft tables, a petting zoo and face-painting are among the activities planned for the free **holiday barn-lighting** at Westwind Community Barn, 27210 Altamont Road, Los Altos Hills. The event goes from 1 to 4 p.m. Dec. 4 and also includes wine tasting for the parents, along with hot-cider tasting. Go to losaltoshills.ca.gov or call 650-947-2518.

The trains will be rollin' again soon at Palo Alto's Museum of American Heritage. The annual **"LEGO Holiday Extravaganza"** exhibit, a huge layout featuring Bay Area landmarks done up in LEGO blocks with model trains passing through, will be open 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Dec. 9 through Jan. 15, Friday through Sunday. The museum is at 351 Homer Ave.; admission is \$2 general and free for members of the Bay Area LEGO User Group and the Bay Area LEGO Train Club. Go to moah.org or call 650-321-1004.

For a **puppet "Nutcracker" version**, families can attend several holiday pup-

pet shows at Gamble Garden, 1431 Waverley St., Palo Alto. The shows are intended for children ages 3 and up, with light refreshments served; performances are at 10 and 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Dec. 10. Admission is \$15 general and \$10 for members. Reservations are required; go to gamblegarden.org.

Theater

Marley may be dead, but **"A Christmas Carol"** is very much alive at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts' SecondStage at 9:30 and 11 a.m. Dec. 9 and 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Dec. 10, presented by Peninsula Youth Theatre. Admission to the shows at 500 Castro St. is \$8 on Friday and \$10 on Saturday. Go to pytnet.org or call 650-903-6000.

In a Secret Santa drawing, protagonist Junie B. draws antagonist May's name. The drama unfolds in the kids' play **"Junie B. in Jingle Bells Batman Smells,"** presented by the Palo Alto Children's Theatre at 1305 Middlefield Road in Palo Alto. The show runs Dec. 8 through Dec. 18 with afternoon and evening performances; tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for children. Go to cityofpaloalto.org or call 650-463-4930.

Potpourri

The historic Rengstorff House offers up refreshments and carols during its free **holiday open house** from 7 to 9 p.m. Dec. 6. The house is at 3070 N. Shoreline Blvd. in Mountain View. Go to r-house.org or call 650-903-6392.

Local folks who don't celebrate Christmas often spend Dec. 24 at **"Chopsticks,"** an annual comedy night. This year's event features comedian Brad Zimmerman, who has performed in New York comedy clubs and appeared on "The Sopranos." The event, which includes hors d'oeuvres and dessert, starts at 7:30 p.m. in the Schultz Cultural Arts Hall of the Oshman Family Jewish Community Center, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. Admission is \$55 general and \$50 for JCC members in advance, and \$65 at the door. Go to paloaltojcc.org or call 650-223-8609. ■

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- YOUR LETTERS
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Founding Editor, Kate Wakerly

■ STAFF

Editor & Publisher

Tom Gibboney

Editorial

Managing Editor Andrea Gemmet

Staff Writers Daniel DeBolt, Nick Veronin

Intern Anna Li

Photographer Michelle Le

Contributors Dale Bentson, Angela Hey, Sheila Himmel, Jennifer Pence, Ruth Schecter, Alissa Stallings

Design & Production

Design Director Raul Perez

Designers Linda Atilano, Gary Vennarucci

Advertising

Vice President Sales and Marketing

Tom Zahralis

Advertising Representatives

Judie Block, Brent Triantos

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Real Estate Advertising Coordinator

Samantha Mejia

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450 Cambridge Avenue
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fax (650) 964-0294

Email news and photos to:

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Email letters to:

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■ WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

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

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223-6507

■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

Donate to the Holiday Fund this year

We encourage *Voice* readers to help those less fortunate by donating to the Holiday Fund this year. With the economy still struggling, the nonprofit agencies supported by the Holiday Fund need extra help. And for the first time, donors will be able to use their Pago account to make a small donation when purchasing items from participating local merchants.

Voice readers came through last year, contributing nearly \$50,000, up from just over \$40,000 the prior year. With an additional \$20,000 from the family of *Voice* co-founder Kate Wakerly, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the David and Lucille Packard Foundation, the total raised was nearly \$69,000, or about \$10,000 for each of the seven nonprofit agencies supported by the Holiday Fund.

If you are able, please make a contribution by using the coupon in this issue or by giving directly via the link on the *Voice* website. Your contribution will help provide a safety net to those who are down on their luck. These are our neighbors who may have been laid off unexpectedly, had a catastrophic illness or suffer from addiction or mental health problems. They deserve our help.

Money contributed to the Holiday Fund, now in its ninth year, is held by the Silicon Valley Community Foundation and will be distributed to the nonprofits in February or early March. No administrative costs or fees are deducted from Holiday Fund gifts, so 100 percent of all donations will be received by the nonprofits supported by the Fund.

Here are the agencies that will benefit from this year's *Voice* Holiday Fund:

COMMUNITY SERVICES AGENCY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW AND LOS ALTOS

CSA assists homeless families and seniors with short-term housing, medical care and more. The nonprofit is a cooperative effort of 17 faith-based communities in Mountain View and Los Altos.

COMMUNITY HEALTH AWARENESS COUNCIL

CHAC serves Mountain View, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and seven school districts. Among other things, it offers school-based programs to protect students from high-risk behaviors, such as drug and alcohol abuse.

MOUNTAIN VIEW ROTACARE CLINIC

The RotaCare Clinic provides uninsured local residents with medical care and medications and is frequently the last resort for this underserved demographic.

DAY WORKER CENTER OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

The Day Worker Center provides a secure place for workers and employers to negotiate wages. It serves 50 or more workers per day with jobs, English lessons and guidance.

YWCA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUPPORT NETWORK

This group operates a 24-hour bilingual hotline and a safe shelter for women and their children. It also offers counseling and other services for families dealing with domestic violence.

COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND ARTS

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

PARTNERS FOR NEW GENERATIONS

Partners for New Generations matches adult volunteer mentors with at-risk youth in the Mountain View, Los Altos and Los Altos Hills area.

■ LETTERS

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

HOW TO FIND OUT ABOUT PEDESTRIAN ISSUES

Fantastic that the latest Voices Around Town asked how downtown Mountain View can be made safer for pedestrians. Your readers might be interested in knowing that a Pedestrian Master Plan is in development by the city, and it stands to be an important step forward toward greatly improving related infrastructure throughout Mountain View.

You can find the draft plan on the city website (<http://www.mountainview.gov>) included in the packet for the Nov. 16 City of Mountain View Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) meeting (see Public Records > Council Appointed Boards & Commissions). The draft plan will next be

reviewed by the Council Transportation Committee early next year, and by the full City Council shortly thereafter. Meanwhile, I encourage readers to submit their comments and concerns through Ask Mountain View on the city web site.

Bruce England
Pedestrian Advisory
Committee chair

THIEF ASKED TO RETURN WEDDING RING

To the person who recently broke into our mother's house in the 600 block of Lola Lane, just know you not only walked off with her jewelry, you also walked off with her memories.

One of the things you stole was her wedding ring. My parents

would have celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary had our father lived. Now the symbol of that is gone and my mother she is heartbroken. If you still have

the ring, please mail it to the Mountain View police department. No questions asked.

Sylvia Medeiros
Ashland, Oregon



■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

Refueling stop

COCOLA LURES SHOPPERS WITH TASTY LUNCHES AND FRENCH-INSPIRED PASTRIES

By Dale F. Bentson

If you're in need of a break from holiday shopping at Stanford Shopping Center, or are returning those not-quite-right gifts after the holidays, or are taking advantage of post-holiday, mid-winter, or early-spring sales, I suggest you cool your heels at Cocola, the ebullient sandwich and French patisserie that supplanted the sadly lost Oakville Grocery.

Cocola is the brainchild of mother Sue and son Amir Aliabadi, open since 2002 in San Jose and October 2010 at Stanford Shopping Center. Sue is the executive pastry chef and Amir is in charge of operations.

Sue Aliabadi learned cooking by observation, trial and error. When she and her husband were living in pre-revolution Iran, he was a banker and a picky eater. He hired a cook to prepare meals after the couple wed, but Sue was not happy with that arrangement and determined to do it herself. She quickly learned and took over.

"Mom always had a talent," Amir said. "She picks up techniques very quickly."

Amir graduated from the University of California at Berkeley with a degree in genetics, but was drawn to the world of business. After he completed a master's degree in business administration,

► Continued on next page



VERONICA WEBER

The tuna nicoise sandwich at Cocola is albacore tuna with red onions, bell peppers, celery, caper salsa and mixed greens.

DINNER BY THE MOVIES AT SHORELINE'S Pizzeria Venti



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Spaghetti alla Carbonara

The origins of Spaghetti alla Carbonara are obscure but few dishes conjure up a more loyal following. The name is derived from the Italian word for charcoal where the dish was made popular as a meal for the charcoal makers. Still others going so far as to say it was named for a secret society the "Carbonari" as tribute during Italy's unification. Since the dish is unrecorded prior to 1927 it will forever be intertwined with the closing days of World War II. And while some historians attribute its creation to hungry American soldiers in Rome, it rarely reaches the heights in this country that it does in Rome. Beyond assumptions, it is most likely an old recipe passed down for generation to generation in the shepherding regions surrounding Rome. Carbonara is the pinnacle of perfection in pasta, surpassing even the more foundational Aglio e Olio (garlic and oil). In a good Carbonara, the creaminess comes not from cream, but from the perfect use of eggs against the residual heat of the spaghetti. Correctly done, spaghetti alla Carbonara is a textural and sensual study in classic cooking. Never made ahead of time, only to order, your culinary journey to Rome during the war years begins here at Pizzeria Venti.



From our kitchen to yours. Buon appetito!

Chef Marco Salvi, Executive Chef

Spaghetti alla Carbonara

- 4 eggs, at room temperature
- 1 cup pecorino Romano, Parmigiano-Reggiano, or a combination
- 1/8 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 3 ounces pancetta, cut about 1/4-inch thick, slices cut into 1/2-inch long strips
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 1 pound imported spaghetti

Preparation: In a small bowl, lightly beat the eggs. Add the cheese and black pepper and set aside. In a medium skillet over low heat, cook the pancetta slowly, turning the pieces occasionally, for until they are cooked through and beginning to crisp. Meanwhile, bring a large pot of salted water to a boil over high heat. Add the spaghetti. Cook, until the pasta is al dente. Save 1 cup hot pasta water. Drain the pasta, add back the hot pasta water and return it immediately to the skillet. Stir to combine pasta and pancetta. Stir in the egg and cheese mixture and toss well to coat the pasta thoroughly to distribute it evenly. Serve with a sprinkle of pecorino cheese.

► Continued from previous page

his ambition was to work for a high-tech startup. Those plans evaporated with the crash of 2000.

"I quickly rethought what I wanted to do. Food seemed a natural. We borrowed from family and started our own business," he said.

Now with five busy locations, Cocola closes only on Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.

Longtime Stanford Shopping Center devotees might remember Alice Medrich's Cocolat. She introduced America to chocolate truffles from her original Berkeley shop in the early 1970s. By the '80s, Cocolat was a Bay Area chain including a store at Stanford Shopping Center. Medrich sold Cocolat in 1990 and her successors soon failed the business. Cocola is not related.

The space was cramped for the Oakville Grocery operation but is near-cavernous for a sandwich and pastry shop. French-inspired tile-topped iron tables are scattered throughout with additional tables on the food-court piazza for al fresco repasting. Indoors, one corner is cozily set with leather sofa and chairs meant to inspire long philosophical coffee shop discussions — or for taking advantage of the free Wi-Fi connection.

Left: Strawberry cake at Cocola features whipped cream, strawberries and marzipan.
Right: Caramel chocolate mousse.

VERONICA WEBER



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<p>CHINESE</p> <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>	<p>ICE CREAM</p> <p>GELATO CLASSICO 241 B Castro Street Mtn. View 650-969-2900</p>
<p>ITALIAN</p> <p>LA CUCINA DI PIZZERIA VENTI 1390 Pear Avenue, Mtn. View 650-254-1120 Fresh, Chef Inspired Italian Food www.mvpizzeriaventi.com</p>	

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VERONICA WEBER

Jin-Hee Kim admires the large display case of Cocola's pastries and desserts.

There are a half-dozen soups du jour offered in daily rotation. The tomato tarragon (\$5.90) was a large bowl with generous chunks of tomato, minced celery, onion, carrots et al. Flavors were right and the tarragon judiciously imbued. It was plenty for lunch and came with slices of house-made baguette. I wish they had offered a smaller bowl of soup coupled with a small salad or half a sandwich. Portions were too large to order a regular size of each.

The tuna nicoise sandwich (\$8.90) was brimming with alabaster-white albacore tuna, capers and mixed greens all dressed with a lemony vinaigrette. The toasted baguette was soft and crunchy. A flavorful celery root salad accompanied.

The roast turkey sandwich (\$8.90) featured fresh-baked tender turkey breast, cranberry sauce and slices of French brie. The brie and cranberry were surprisingly compatible and livened the crusty baguette. A carrot salad supplemented the plate.

Chicken breast salad (\$9.90) was piled with tender, room-temperature but still juicy chicken, atop a medley of baby greens, carrots, cabbage, croutons and a tomato salsa. It was dressed with a tangy lemon vinaigrette. Large tasty

salad, reasonable price.

Adjacent to the ordering counter are glass display cabinets that show off a multitude of tempting French breakfast and dessert pastries. I felt like the kid in the candy store but with a vastly more sophisticated assortment to agonize over.

The individual apple tart (\$3.90) had a sweet soft crust, not gooey soft, but easy to cut and eat. Bite-sized slices of golden delicious apples sat atop a delectable vanilla pastry cream. Sweet but not cloying, it made a satisfying ending.

The chocolate brioche (\$2.80) was flaky and studded with rich chocolate bits. It was probably intended as a breakfast pastry but was just as good with lunch. The mini hazelnut cake (\$3.10) had layers of chocolate sponge cake, coffee and hazelnut mousses.

Besides offering individual servings, Cocola has whole cakes and tarts in sizes that can accommodate everything from small family gatherings to large events. Beverages include richly brewed coffee specialties, Italian sodas, beer and wine.

Cocola is a welcome addition to the food court area of Stanford Shopping Center. The soups, salads and sandwiches are high-quality and the pastries are worth seeking out. ▣

■ DINING NOTES

Cocola
Stanford Shopping Center
E715, Palo Alto
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cocolabakery.com

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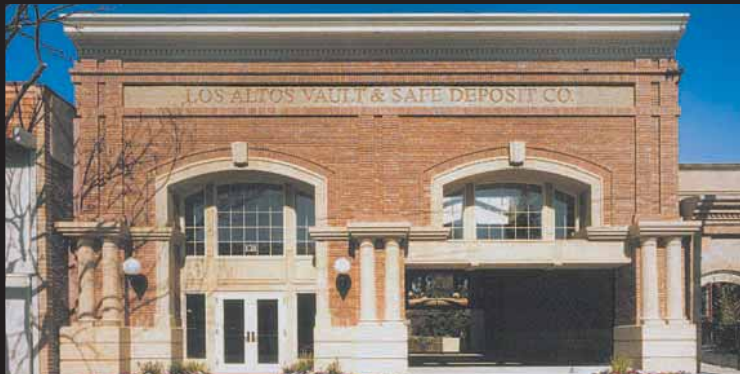
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Weekend

MOVIE TIMES

A Bill of Divorcement (1932) (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed)

Stanford Theatre: Fri. at 7:30 p.m.

The Bitter Tea of General Yen (1933) (Not Rated)

(Not Reviewed) Stanford Theatre: Wed. & Thu. at 5:50 & 9:30 p.m.

Camille (1936) (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed)

Stanford Theatre: Sat. & Sun. at 3:30 & 7:30 p.m.

The Descendants (R) (Not Reviewed)

Aquarius Theatre: 1:15, 1:45, 4, 4:30, 7:30 & 10 p.m.;
 Fri.-Wed. also at 7 & 9:30 p.m.

Double Indemnity (1944) (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed)

Stanford Theatre: Wed. & Thu. at 7:30 p.m.

Morning Glory (1933) (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed)

Stanford Theatre: Fri. at 6:05 & 8:50 p.m.

My Week With Marilyn (R) (Not Reviewed)

Guild Theatre: 1:30, 4:15, 7 & 9:45 p.m.

Ninotchka (1939) (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed)

Stanford Theatre: Sat. & Sun. at 5:30 & 9:30 p.m.

Note:

Complete Century 16 and 20 movie times were not available at press time.
 Go to mv-voice.com for full movie listings.

AQUARIUS: 430 Emerson St., Palo Alto (266-9260)

CENTURY CINEMA 16: 1500 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View (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)

STANFORD THEATRE: 221 University Ave., Palo Alto (324-3700)

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

- ★ Skip it
- ★★ Some redeeming qualities
- ★★★ A good bet
- ★★★★ Outstanding

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



MOVIE REVIEWS

HAPPY FEET TWO ★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) Elijah Wood returns as the voice of Mumble, now a penguin dad fretting over the direction of his son Erik (Ava Acres). Erik fears he has two left not-so-happy feet, but he excitedly latches onto an impossible dream of flight. An airborne puffin named The Mighty Sven (Hank Azaria) passes as a penguin, causing the confusion, but more intimidating problems face "the Penguin Nation" in the form of a dangerously shifting landscape (due to climate change) and how best to get the attention of passing humans. *Rated PG for some rude humor and mild peril. One hour, 40 minutes.* — P.C.

INTO THE ABYSS ★★★

(Palo Alto Square) German director Werner Herzog plops himself down smack in the middle of Texas to talk to convicted criminals serving hard time and the hardest time (on Death Row), and to their keepers, police, clergymen and victims' family members. Perhaps there's a coldness to this existential curiosity, but Herzog shows an interest in personality and the psychic toll of the strange events on which he performs a post-mortem. *Rated PG-13 for mature thematic material and some disturbing images. One hour, 47 minutes.* — P.C.

J. EDGAR ★★★

(Century 16, Century 20) It seems like a winning formula: Unite an accomplished director (Clint Eastwood) with a gifted actor (Leonardo DiCaprio) to tell the story of a notable historical figure (J. Edgar Hoover). Sadly, Eastwood's drab and awkward "J. Edgar" steers closer to the disappointments category. DiCaprio is slightly miscast as Hoover, the first and longest-tenured director of the FBI. Eastwood endeavors to cover a lot of territory in Hoover's lengthy career, which spanned the better part of four decades. The film is interesting but not compelling, about a protagonist who is neither likable nor despicable. It's a solid character study, but one better suited for

► *Continued on next page*

MOVIE CRITICS

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

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► Continued from previous page

the History Channel or an HBO special. Rated R for brief strong language. Two hours, 17 minutes. — T.H.

TOWER HEIST ★★

(Century 16, Century 20) Ben Stiller plays Josh Kovacs, the building manager of a deluxe apartment in the sky, called simply "The Tower." Josh's tight ship hits an iceberg when he learns that penthouse tenant Arthur Shaw (Alan Alda) — who agreed to invest the pensions of the building's staff — has committed securities fraud "of epic proportions," losing the pensions in the process. When he becomes convinced that Shaw has \$20 million in cash hidden in the apartment, Josh hatches a scheme to break in, steal the money and play Robin Hood to his devastated co-workers (fun fact: Stiller's salary for the picture was \$15 million). Rated PG-13 for language and sexual content. One hour, 45 minutes. — P.C.

■ **MOVIE REVIEWS**

Read more reviews online at www.PaloAltoOnline.com.

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PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

You are invited to a public informational meeting regarding a new City proposed law to reduce exposure to second-hand smoke.

The following areas are under consideration for this law – outdoor dining areas accessible to the public, picnic areas in City parks; and a 25 foot buffer zone near operable doors and windows. The meeting will be held on:

**Tuesday, November 29, 2011
2:00 – 3:00 PM
City of Mountain View City Hall
Plaza Conference Room, 2nd Floor
500 Castro Street**

The City Council will consider the proposed law in early 2012. An online survey will be available on the City's website by November 30. If you have questions, please Kim Castro, at (650) 903-6301 or at kim.castro@mountainview.gov.

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Goings On

MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE

■ HIGHLIGHT

'ALMOST, MAINE'

The comedy "Almost, Maine" will be performed through Dec. 18, 8 p.m. \$24-\$32. Bus Barn Theater, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. www.busbarn.org

ART GALLERIES

'Cuba In Focus, An Exhibition by American & Cuban Photographers' The exhibit features the work of 11 American photographers, all of whom were Foothill College students, in conjunction with images from seven Cuban photographers. Exhibit runs through Dec. 8. 7:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Admission to the gallery, lecture and reception are free; parking is \$2. Krause Center for Innovation at Foothill College, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. Call 650-949-7082. cubainfocus.wordpress.com/

'Seeing Red!' Gallery 9 An all-gallery exhibit running through Dec. 24. Thirty local artists present: painting, sculpture, ceramics, printmaking, photography, mixed media, metal work and jewelry. Tue.-Sat., 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sun. noon-4 p.m. Gallery 9, 143 Main St., Los Altos. www.gallery9losaltos.com

'The Bird Show' Watercolors on board and canvas by Floy Zittin are on display throughout November. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Viewpoints Gallery, 315 State St., Los Altos. www.viewpointsgallery.com

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

Aerobic Dancing Classes A Jacki Sorensen fitness class incorporating strength training, abdominal work and aerobic routines. Complimentary child care provided. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. 9-10 a.m. Mountain View Masonic Lodge, 890 Church St. (next to library), Mountain View. Call 650-941-1002.

Communication Workshop (Toastmasters Orbiters) Toastmasters meet every first and third Thursdays to work on communication skills in a friendly environment. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Community Center, 210

South Rengstorff Ave., Mountain View. Call 408-571-1844. orbiters.freetoasthost.us

Lego Manic Class A class on engineering and design using LEGO bricks. Thursdays, 3:30-5 p.m. \$180-\$194. Town Hall, 26379 Fremont Road, Los Altos Hills. Call 650-947-2518. www.losaltoshills.ca.gov/

Pruning to Maintain Natural Form and Beauty Master Gardener Roberta Barnes for a talk on fall pruning and more. She will discuss thinning and shearing, and have some branches to demo on. Nov. 29, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Los Altos Library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. Call 408-282-3105. mastergardeners.org/scc.html

Save Japan USA -Dance! Fundraiser dance workshop for 2011 Japan earthquake and tsunami relief. Contemporary I will be offered Sundays, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Western Ballet, 914 N. Rengstorff Ave., Mountain View. dance.101280.net

Yoga for Moms A yoga class for moms will be held Thursdays, 9-10 a.m. Donation-based. Mountain View Community Center, 201 South Rengstorff Ave. Lower Social Hall, Mountain View. www.yogawithgloria.com

CLUBS/MEETINGS

Bootstrappers Breakfast A breakfast for entrepreneurs to share ideas. Nov. 25, 9-10:30 a.m. \$5 in advance; \$12 at door, plus breakfast. Red Rock Coffee, 201 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 408-252-9676. www.bootstrappersbreakfast.com

COMMUNITY EVENTS

'Giving Blood Saves' Donate blood at any Stanford Blood Center location until Dec. 6 and attend a free financial planning presentation on Dec. 6. Conducted by Pat Vitucci and Associates,

this seminar will include estate planning with attorney Kira King. 7:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Free. Stanford Blood Center, 3373 Hillview Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-723-7265. bloodcenter.stanford.edu/givingbloodsaves.html

Annual Tree Lighting Celebration Live holiday music, refreshments, lights and the arrival of Santa Claus. Bring a can of food to help support the Community Services Agency. Dec. 5, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Civic Center Plaza, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6331.

Holiday Barn Lighting Westwind Community Barn will offer home-baked cookies and hot cider and/or wine tasting with local vintners while kids participate in seasonal games, craft tables, face painting, pony rides, petting zoo, equestrian expo and visits with Santa. Dec. 4, 1-4 p.m. Free. Westwind Community Barn, 27210 Altamont Road, Los Altos Hills. Call 650-947-2518. www.losaltoshills.ca.gov/

Rengstorff House Holiday Open House Rengstorff House dresses up for the holidays and the annual open house on Dec. 6. There will be treats, carolers, Father Christmas, a Charles Dickens reader and more. 7-9 p.m. Free. Rengstorff House at Shoreline, 3070 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. www.r-house.org

Toys for Tots Toy Drive Toys for Tots and Allied Auto Works are partnering together for a holiday toy drive, through Dec. 15, 8:15 a.m.-4:45 p.m. Toys for Tots, 1540 Miramonte Ave., Los Altos. Call 650-947-7228. www.alliedautoworks.com/

CONCERTS

'20 Harps for the Holidays' Harpeggio Music and LAUMC present the annual holiday harp concert. The program includes festive holiday music, a studio ensemble of more than 20 harps, and classical harpist Natalie Cox as guest artist.

Proceeds go to Harpeggio Music to support studio activities, including this concert. Dec. 3, 4 p.m. \$12/\$15. Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Ave., Los Altos. Call 408-366-8810. harpeggio.com/concert.html

Stanford Symphony Orchestra The Stanford Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Jindong Cai, gives its first concert of the season with a performance of Mahler's Symphony No. 5 and Schumann's Cello Concerto in A minor. Dec. 2, 8 p.m. \$5-10. Dinkelspiel Auditorium on Stanford Campus, Stanford. music.stanford.edu/Events/calendar.html

DANCE

'Jingle & Mingle Holiday Open Dance Studio' Foothill College Repertory Dance Company presents its holiday open studio. The event showcases a diverse program of original student choreography, experimental works and repertory classics. Bring a new, unwrapped toy to donate. Dec. 2, 7-9 p.m. Free. Foothill College Dance Studio (Room 2504), 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. Call 650-949-7354. www.foothill.edu/dance/index.php

Ballet Class For the Love of Dance studio is offering ballet class for teens and adults. Students will stretch and learn ballet technique in a comfortable setting. Wednesdays through June 26, 7-8 p.m. \$60 per month. For the Love of Dance, 2483 Old Middlefield Way, Suite B, Mountain View. Call 650-861-0650. fortheLoveofDance.com

Hip-Hop Class For the Love of Dance Studio is offering hip-hop class for teens and adults. Mondays through June 24, 8-9 p.m. \$60 per month. For the Love of Dance, 2483 Old Middlefield Way, Suite B, Mountain View. Call 650-861-0650. fortheLoveofDance.com

Jazz-Dance Class For the Love of Dance Studio is offering jazz-dance classes for teens and adults. Mondays through June 24, 7-8 p.m. \$60 per month. For the Love of Dance, 2483 Old Middlefield Way, Suite B, Mountain View. Call 650-861-0650. fortheLoveofDance.com

ENVIRONMENT

Mountain View Green Garden Showcase Share and explore sustainable landscapes in Mountain View. Call or visit website for more information. Event is ongoing through Dec. 30, www.gardenshowcase.mountainview.gov

EXHIBITS

'Reflections on Water' "Reflections on Water" is a multimedia art exhibit displayed at the Los Altos Library. Presented in conjunction with the "Shaped By Water - Past, Present and Future" exhibition at the Los Altos History Museum. Through Nov. 30, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Los Altos History Museum, 51 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. Call 650-948-9427. www.losaltoshistory.org

FAMILY AND KIDS

Autism Parent Support Group Sponsored by the Stanford Autism Center at Packard Children's Hospital. Topics for discussion will include advocating, dealing with the impact on the family; navigating school and learning issues; investigating treatment options and resources. Thursdays through Dec. 8, 7-9 p.m. Free. Stanford University, 401 Quarry Road, Stanford. Call 650-721-6327. childpsychiatry.stanford.edu

German Holiday Market Vendors will offer their goods - an array of natural and handcrafted gift items. A visit by Santa, student performances, and holiday inspired live music, will complete the range of entertainment during the afternoon. Dec. 3, 3-7 p.m. Free. German International School of Silicon Valley, 310 Easy St., Mountain View. www.gissv.org

PAAC Holiday Family Day Families are invited for an afternoon of themed art projects, food, music and creative holiday craftmaking. Dec. 3, 1-5 p.m. Free. Cubberley Community Center, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-329-2366. www.cityofpaloalto.org/artcenter

HEALTH

John's Zumba Class Zumba classes every Thursday night, 8-9 p.m. \$10. John's Zumba Class, 2584 Leighorn St., Mountain View. Call 415-990-9965. www.thatzumbaguy.com

LIVE MUSIC

CCRMA Autumn Concert CCRMA musicians present an evening of experimental electronic music Dec. 1, 8-10 p.m. Free. CCRMA, 660 Lomita Drive, Stanford. ccrma.stanford.edu/events/ccrma-concert-autumn-2011

Latin-infused Guitar with Vic Moraga Vic Moraga performs Latin-style guitar Dec. 2, 5-11 p.m. Free. Morocco's Restaurant, 873 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-968-1502. www.moroccorestaurant.com

ON STAGE

'Non-Self - Dance and Chamber Music Collaboration' "Non-Self" is an art, music and dance passage backwards through time, with music composed by Josh Friedman and choreography by Bianca Brzezinski. Dec. 3, 2-10 p.m. \$23-33. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-701-7757. newartsalliance.com/

'Nutcracker Ballet' Palo Alto's Dance Connection presents "The Nutcracker" Dec. 2-4, \$20-\$30. Spangenberg Theater @ Gunn High School, 780 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-322-7032. www.danceconnectionpaloalto.com

RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

'Wake Up Laughing' Swami Beyondananda is an author and humorist. Nov. 26, 7:30-9 p.m. \$20. East West Bookstore, 324 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-988-9800. www.EastWest.com

Advent Lessons & Carols A service of Advent lessons and carols. Nov. 27, 4-7 p.m. Free. First Lutheran Church, 600 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-322-4669. flcpa.org

SPECIAL EVENTS

Blach School Holiday Faire More than 190 students will fill booths with hand-crafted gifts and foods. A portion of the proceeds donated to the Blach PTA. Dec. 2, 12:30-4 p.m. Free. Blach Multipurpose Room, 1120 Covington Road, Los Altos. Call 650-520-4520.

LAHS 2001 Reunion Ten-year reunion for alumni from the Los Altos High School Class of 2001, to be held the day after Thanksgiving. 7-10 p.m. Tied House, 954 Villa St., Mt. View. www.lahs2001.com

TALKS/AUTHORS

'Is a city manager worth \$800,000?' Learn how a team of Los Angeles Times reporters exposed corruption in the small town of Bell, California. The John S. Knight Journalism Fellowships at Stanford and the Pulitzer Prizes present a conversation with Ruben Vives, Jeff Gottlieb and Paloma Esquivel. Nov. 30, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. Paul Brest Hall at Stanford, 555 Salvatierra Walk (off Campus Drive), Stanford. knight.stanford.edu/events/2011/pulitzer/knight-pulitzer-talk.pdf

'Successful U.S. Market Entry Techniques' A seminar for international company founders and executives offered by Next Step, K&L Gates and The Brenner Group. Nov. 29, 7:30-11 a.m. \$25. Computer History Museum, 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. Call 650-361-1902. bitly.com/usy1qa

VOLUNTEERS

Tutor with JustREAD JustREAD is a non-profit, literacy program dedicated to improving the reading/writing skills of students. Volunteers are trained by JustREAD and work one-on-one with students. 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. JustREAD Tutorial Center, 1299 Bryant St., Mountain View. Call 650-691-0416. justREADcenters.org

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Cavalier King Charles Puppies
Dance Expressions
Deep Happiness, Day long Program
Meditation five week class
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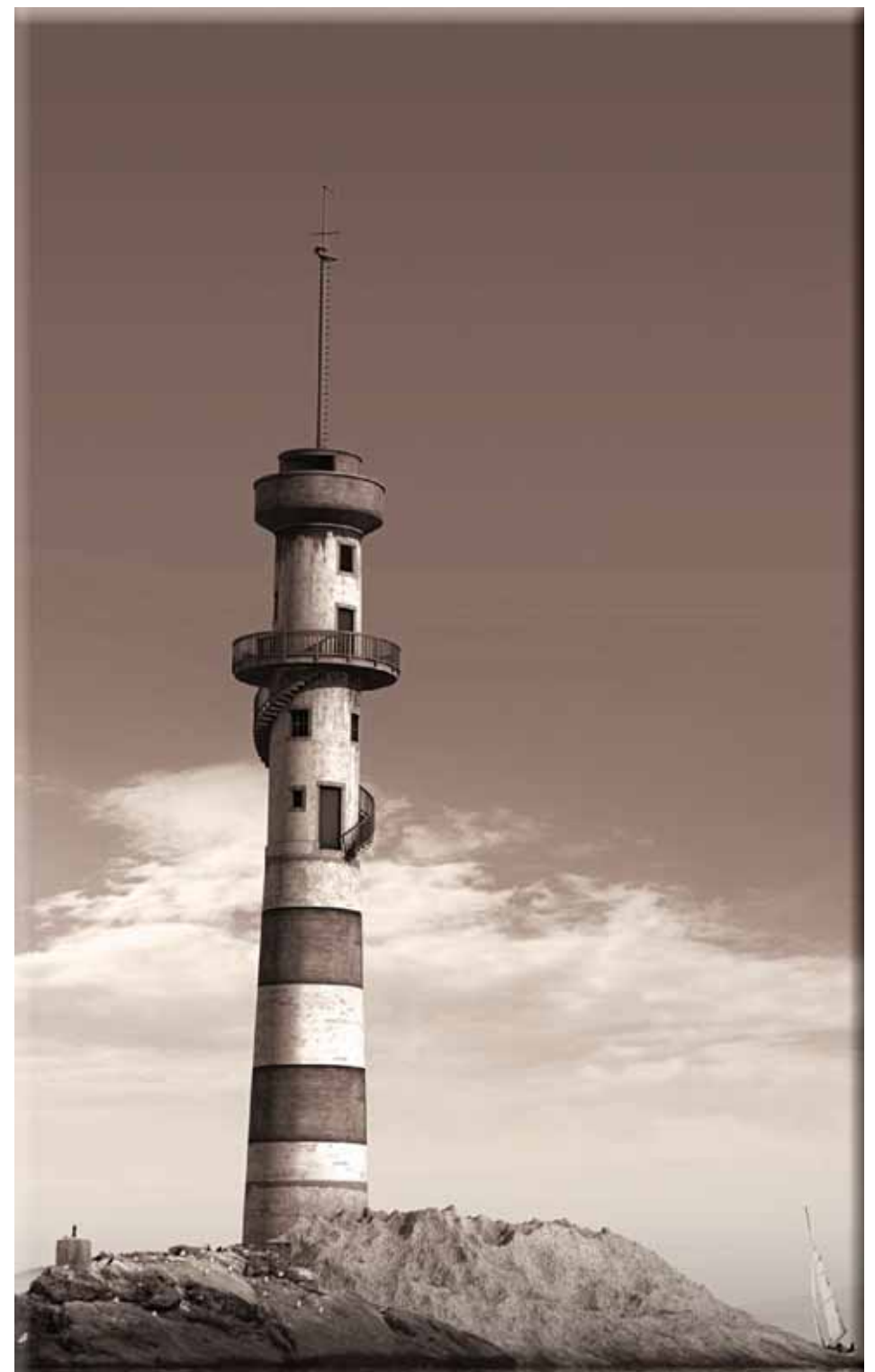
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Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

PRESCOTT PROPERTIES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT
File No.: 557921
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Prescott Properties, located at 922 San Leandro Ave., Ste. A, 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):
PRESCOTT MILLER
922 San Leandro Ave., Ste. A
Mountain View, CA 94043
Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on 09/13/2002. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on November 8, 2011.
(MVV Nov. 18, 25, Dec. 2, 9, 2011)

997 All Other Legals

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF WILLIAM JOHN BUTLER
Case No. 1-11-PR169751

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of WILLIAM JOHN BUTLER

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by John Walker in the Superior Court of California, County of SANTA CLARA.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that John Walker be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

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 Dec. 14, 2011 at 9:00 AM in Dept. No. 3 located at 191 N. First St., San Jose, CA 95113.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, 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 deceased, 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:
JAMES M KOSAREFF ESQ

SBN 174529

COPENBARGER &

COPENBARGER LLP

18831 VON KARMAN AVE

STE 150

IRVINE CA 92612

(MVV Nov. 11, 18, 25, 2011)

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Date of Filing Application: November 7, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:
The Name(s) of Applicant(s) is/are:
BELLAS IMPORTS INC.
listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at:

1380 Pear Ave.

Ste. D & E

Mountain View, CA 94040-1306

Type of license(s) applied for:

47 - ON-SALE GENERAL EATING PLACE
(MVV Nov. 18, 25, Dec. 2, 2011)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE

OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE

COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA

Case No.: 111CV212905

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: J STEVEN YOUNG filed a

petition with this court for a decree

changing names as follows:

CAITLIN ANN MARIE YOUNG to LAILA

ANN MARIE YOUNG.

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons

interested in this matter appear before

this court at the hearing indicated

below to show cause, if any, why the

petition for change of name should not

be granted. Any person objecting to the

name changes described above must

file a written objection that includes the

reasons for the objection at least two

court days before the matter is sched-

uled to be heard and must appear at

the hearing to show cause why the peti-

tion should not be granted. If no written

objection is timely filed, the court may

grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING: January 10,

2012, 8:45 a.m., Room: 107 of the

Superior Court of California, County of

Santa Clara, located at 191 N. First

Street, San Jose, CA 95113.

A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

shall be published at least once each

week for four successive weeks prior to

the date set for hearing on the petition

in the following newspaper of general

circulation, printed in this county:

MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE

Date: November 10, 2011

/s/ Thomas WM Cain

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(MVV Nov. 18, 25, Dec. 2, 9, 2011)

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5 p.m. the previous Friday

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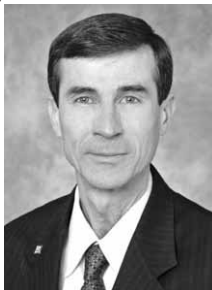
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