



VERONICA WEBER

Mark Hoerber, left, Manu Sharma and student Jay Alexander check out Hoerber's graduate project for studying bacteria growth in space at the Hacker Dojo's workshop for "space hackers."

Not your grandfather's space program

By Daniel DeBolt

With the promise of more affordable space flight on the horizon, "citizen scientists" are eyeing the possibility of conducting inexpensive research experiments in space.

Dozens of "space hackers" participated in a two day work-

shop at Mountain View's Hacker Dojo last weekend, with companies presenting various technologies that promise to make it easy and cheap to do research in space, from learning how fluids mix in microgravity to measuring the effects of outer space on plants and animals.

A group of community college students made the drive

from Sacramento's American River college, hoping to become the first group of community college students to do research in space.

Conducting an experiment in space "would be beautiful" for students of a community college and "completely unheard

► See **SPACE PROGRAM**, page 6

Council split over union wages

MEMBERS AGREE TO MORE STUDY OF COMPENSATION FOR CITY JOBS

By Daniel DeBolt

After deliberations that highlighted differing values among its members, the City Council voted on Tuesday to study a "prevailing wage" for workers on the city's affordable housing projects.

The discussion pitted members of local construction unions against council members Mike Kasperzak, John McAlister, Chris Clark and John Inks, who questioned or hesitated to support a prevailing wage for affordable housing projects, though only

Inks opposed the study.

Prevailing wage requirements allows union construction contractors to competitively bid on projects, but increase project costs.

► See **UNION WAGES**, page 16

Lush property could become city park

UNANIMOUS VOTE TO BUY 1.2 ACRES
ON NORTH RENGSTORFF AVENUE

By Daniel DeBolt

The City Council approved the purchase of a 1.2 acre property Tuesday night, offered by its longtime resident, who wants to see the wooded property turned into a park.

City officials say they received an unsolicited offer to buy the property from owner Frances Stieper for the land at 771 North Rengstorff Ave., near Old Middlefield Road. Council members on Tuesday unanimously approved the \$3 million purchase price. It includes a garden, a 1953 home and 125 trees, half of which are fairly large "heritage trees" according to the city.

John Miguel, retired Mountain View firefighter, said he had

come to know Stieper well after meeting the elderly woman on a medical call. He said he volunteered to help her maintain the property when he realized she was "doing things I didn't want her to do, like getting on the roof and taking leaves off."

"It's an amazing piece of property," Miguel said. "It is an amazing thing she's come to you to say she wants it turned into a park. I hope we will consider her wishes in this. I want to publicly thank Frances for being a dear, dear friend and for giving back to the city."

Stieper kept a file "three inches thick on developers that want to develop that property for profit," Miguel said. "She

► See **FUTURE PARK?**, page 15



COURTESY CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

Neighbors hope a park will be built on a largely undeveloped 1.2-acre property the city is buying.

10590 Chardonnay Lane, Los Altos Hills



Sweeping Views

Secluded at the end of a private lane, this beautifully appointed home benefits from sweeping views of San Francisco Bay and Silicon Valley. Towering cathedral ceilings, expansive windows topped with angled transoms, and an open flow of rooms combine for a sense of volume and a seamless connection with the views – dazzling by day and by night. Adding to the appeal are Santos Mahogany floors, all remodeled bathrooms, a spacious chef's kitchen, and a tremendous wrap-around deck overlooking the views. With 5 bedrooms plus a large family room, this home offers ample space for a variety of lifestyle needs – all at a location that puts Silicon Valley within easy reach.

- Beautifully appointed, spacious and updated with towering ceilings and expansive windows
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- Top-rated Los Altos schools

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- Custom gated estate home built in 2005
- 5 bedrooms, 4 full baths, plus 3 half-baths and partial fitness bath
- Approximately 6,729 square feet; 3 levels all accessible by an elevator
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- Wine cellar, media room, recreation room, fitness center, and sauna
- Attached 3-car garage; Landscaped and terraced grounds of just over one acre
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- Guest house with 2 bedrooms and 1 bath
- Approximate 9,000 square feet of living space plus 1,200 square feet of unfinished area
- Garage parking for more than 10 cars; approximately 2,628 square feet
- Approximately 2.16 acres with sweeping views of the Western Hills, San Francisco Bay, East Bay Hills, and Quarry Lake
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Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked in downtown Mountain View. Photos and interviews by Samson So.

When did your family come to America?



"My mom is Polish, German and Caucasian. Her grandma came to America putting dill pickles on tacos. You should definitely try it before you judge. My dad is Native American. He's Chickasaw Choctaw and he grew up in Oklahoma."

Emily Marshall, San Jose



"I don't know when we came here. It was a long time ago, but we're Irish, Scottish, English, German, French, and a little bit of American."

Katie Hutchison, Palo Alto



"My parents are from Puerto Rico. I grew up as an Army brat. I was born in Frankfurt, Germany. I moved to San Jose, California in 1979 and I still live here today."

Rafael Cuilan, San Jose



"I'm originally from South Korea. About 13 years ago, I came here by myself to go to school at Boston University. None of my family members are here."

Suzy Kang-Heisele, Mountain View



"My mom moved to the U.S in 1989. I followed a few years later in 1996. My two sisters and I came from the Philippines. I remember it taking almost 19 hours in the plane to get here. My parents wanted a better life in America for us."

Hazel Guivarra, Sunnyvale

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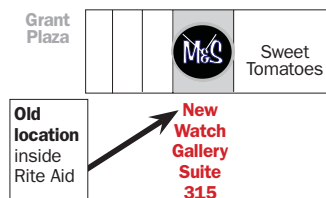
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CRIME BRIEFS

BIKE STOLEN FROM GARAGE

A Mountain View woman living on Tulane Drive watched as a man walked up her driveway, into her open garage and rode away with her mountain bike on May 3, police said.

The victim of the burglary told police she chased after the man for a short way down the 1100 block of Tulane Drive, but it was no use, said Sgt. Sean Thompson of the Mountain View Police Department. The man got away with the orange, Giant-brand bicycle. The mountain bike, which had the word "Yukon" printed on it was estimated to be worth around \$500.

The resident described the thief's appearance as Hispanic, between 20- and 25-years-old, about 6 feet tall and wearing a baseball cap, according to Thompson. Police searched the area but could not find the man.

TACO BELL BURGLED

Sometime after "Fourth Meal" on May 2, someone got hungry for more than just a late-night bean-and-cheese burrito, smashing through the drive-through window of the Taco Bell at 975 N. Shoreline Blvd.

According to Mountain View police, a burglar or burglars broke into the fast food restaurant between 1:30 a.m. and 7:27 a.m. — taking \$300 after the last closing employee had locked up, but before the morning shift began.

After opening the store in the morning, an employee discovered that the drive-through window had been busted out and three cash registers were on the floor, police spokesman Sgt. Sean Thompson said.

No alarm had been set and security footage did not capture images of whomever broke into the store, Thompson said.

Taco Bell has been promoting late-night dining as "Fourth Meal" in a series of ads.

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE

A resident living in the 600 block of Hans Avenue told police that three window screens had been cut and partially removed from the outside of her home sometime between the end of April and beginning of May.

Nothing was taken from inside the home and it doesn't appear anyone broke in, according to Sgt. Sean Thompson, public information officer from the Mountain View Police Department. Still, the woman said she had not removed the screens herself, suggesting that someone may have been trying to break into the home.

The screens were likely tampered with between April 28 and May 4, according to Thompson.

► See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 7

POLICE LOG

AUTO BURGLARY

2400 Block Charleston Rd., 4/30
400 Block Ortega Av., 5/1

BATTERY

1500 Block N Shoreline Bl., 5/1
2000 Block Latham St., 5/4

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

900 Block N Shoreline Bl., 5/2
1 Block Showers Dr., 5/2
1600 Block Amphitheatre Wy., 5/2

GRAND THEFT

700 Block Sylvan Av., 5/6

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

1100 Block Tublane Dr., 5/3
600 Block Hans Av., 5/3
600 Block Hans Av., 5/4

SHOPLIFT BURGLARY

600 Block Showers Dr., 4/30
1000 Block N Rengstorff Av., 5/3

STOLEN VEHICLES

500 Block Tyrella Av., 5/1
1 Block Evandale Av., 5/2
100 Block E El Camino Real., 5/3
400 Block Ravendale Dr., 5/4

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Immigration march draws a crowd

By Daniel DeBolt

Over 600 people called for immigration reform during a march and rally on Wednesday evening, one of the city's largest demonstrations in years.

The May 1 event, coinciding with International Workers Day, started at Rengstorff Park, circled San Antonio shopping center and marched for 2 miles along El Camino Real, with demonstrators calling on President Barack Obama to take action and stop the high deportation levels under his administration. As the march rounded the corner of Castro Street and El Camino Real, 635 people were counted.

The turnout could be explained by the involvement of churches

up and down the Peninsula, mostly Catholic and Unitarian-Universalist churches.

"It's the good side of churches, they can be compassionate, though not always and not all," said Steve Rovno, who had come with his wife from San Mateo where they attend a Unitarian church. "We are all people and should be treated as equals. These are the people that do the hard work. I'm appalled at the disparities between the rich and the poor."

In a rally at the Civic Center plaza, event organizer and Mountain View Day Worker Center director Maria Marroquin told the crowd, "There's 11 million people living in the dark

► See **IMMIGRATION**, page 10



MICHELLE LE

Immigration reform supporters wave signs at Rengstorff Park before marching downtown on May 1.

New leadership named at Castro Elementary School

By Nick Veronin

Castro Elementary School found its new principal and is adding an assistant principal to its head office.

A month after Principal Judy Crates announced her plans to retire this summer, the Mountain View Whisman School District has announced the outgoing principal's replacement, as well as the creation of the assistant principal position, which previously did not exist at the school.

Theresa Lambert, who goes

by Terri, will take over as head of Castro in the 2013-14 school year, according to a district press release. Lambert will be joined by Marcela Simoes de Carvalho, who will fill the brand new role of assistant principal — a position created to address Castro's ballooning student population.

According to Craig Goldman, superintendent of MVWSD, Castro is expected to have some where near 650 students next year. That's more than any other elementary school in the district, and even more than Crittenden

Middle School, he said.

Additionally, with its traditional elementary school track and its "dual-immersion" Spanish-English program, Castro is a bit like "two schools under one roof," according to Crates. Each program has its own challenges and bringing on a second site administrator will help bring the proper level of oversight to each program.

Lambert and Simoes de Carvalho are each bilingual in Spanish and English, and both have experience with dual immersion

programs. Lambert successfully started a dual immersion program in a previous district and Simoes de Carvalho currently teaches a third-grade dual-immersion class at Castro.

Lambert has worked in the field of education for more than 27 years, according to Goldman. She has experience working with every elementary school age group and has a track record of successfully accelerating student achievement. She is currently working a masters in educational leadership from San Jose State

University.

Goldman said he was personally impressed with Lambert's track record as principal of Rose Ferrero Elementary School in Soledad, Calif. "Over the last two years the school has gained 94 points on the (Academic Performance Index)," Goldman said, noting that the school was also nominated for the National Blue Ribbon School award.

Additionally, Goldman said he believed Lambert would

► See **CASTRO ELEMENTARY**, page 8



COURTESY JACQUELINE ERNST

Mountain View artist Jacqueline Ernst makes art books on a variety of topics.

Art you can read

ARTIST SHOWS OFF HER HAND-MADE BOOKS AT SILICON VALLEY OPEN STUDIOS

By Nick Veronin

As electronic reading devices and tablet computers become more ubiquitous, it is not uncommon to hear book lovers proclaim their preference for the genuine article — words printed on paper. Local artist Jacqueline Ernst is one of these people.

But Ernst's affinity for bound volumes goes beyond some of the more common arguments in favor of books over Kindles or

iPads. Yes, she does think books smell "wonderful" and she enjoys the feel of the paper between her fingers.

But she also likes the way the graphic design, typefaces, page binding and method of page-cutting add to the experience of reading a book.

For the past 10 years, Ernst has worked in partnership with her husband to create one-of-a-kind and limited-edition "artist books." Hers is a form of art that has sprung from the ubiquity

of the cheap paperback and the burgeoning e-reader market.

"Some people contend that books are outmoded," Ernst says, speaking on the phone from her home studio in Mountain View. "Like any craft that becomes endangered, artists kind of pick it up and it is elevated to a different level. It becomes fine art."

Ernst's artwork will be on display this weekend at her Pig Wings & Promises studio —

► See **OPEN STUDIO**, page 9

SPACE PROGRAM

► Continued from page 1

of,” said one of the students, Nile Mitto. He said his group was expecting to spend as little as \$500 on their first experiment.

Whether Mitto and his fellow students will pull that off depends on the success of private companies building spacecraft designed to make several trips a day into space. One such company is Mojave-based XCOR, which claims to be nearly finished with its Lynx spacecraft.

“We intend to bring it down, fill it up and go again — and we intend to do that four times a day,” said Khaki Rodway, calling Lynx capable of “aircraft like operations” carrying experiments and passengers — anyone willing to pay for an experience once limited to astronauts.

A digital video illustrated the wild concept — a small aircraft that takes off so quickly that it’s already rocketing straight into outer space before it could hit the end of most runways. And most any runway will do — no launchpad required.

“We’re very confident we’ll see the Lynx flying a few months from now,” said Edward Wright, founder of Citizens in Space, which organized the event.

“And a year after that, if all goes well, it will be in commercial service.”

Citizens in Space has purchased space for 10 “citizen astronauts” to fly aboard Lynx, as well as space for 100 experiments conducted by “citizen scientists.”

“This is a chance for citizen scientists to develop and test new technologies, like bioreactors and 3D printing, in zero gravity; to collect microorganisms from the extreme upper atmosphere; to experiment with new processes for creating new materials; and do many more cool things,” Wright said.

One local company that intends to profit from Lynx is NASA Ames-based Infinity Aerospace, founded by Singularity University graduates Manu Sharma and Brian Rieger. On display were the company’s “Ardulab” experiment enclosures and program-mable hardware which allow experiments in space to be operated from the ground.

If humans are to settle in space, “you have to have plants, you have to have bugs,” Rieger said as he described a possible experiment using a small video camera to watch how bees are able to fly in space.

While commercial spacecraft like the Lynx may spend only a



VERONICA WEBER

Jim Kerevala, COO of Shackleton Energy Company, gives a presentation at Hacker Dojo’s workshop hosted by the Silicon Valley Space Center on May 4.

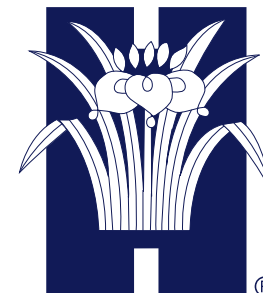
few minutes at a time in space, the fact that it can make the trip several times a day is invaluable for research, Rieger said. It currently costs \$30,000 to send an experiment to the International Space Station and it would be a “two-year experiment,” Rieger

said, a long time if a researcher who wants to make changes to his experiment and then try again.

Sharma said the goal of the workshop was to provide “plenty of resources, plenty of tools and lots of inspiration to create your very own space program.

You could literally create your own experiments in space, raise money on Kickstarter and do things for yourself.”

Sharma encouraged participants to share ideas from the conference on Twitter using the hashtag #makersinspace. ▀



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MICHELLE LE

Country Gourmet won't be serving breakfast anymore. The popular restaurant is closing May 19.

Country Gourmet closing after 30 years

After 30 years in business, Mountain View's Country Gourmet restaurant is set to close on Sunday, May 19.

Manager Eddie Shaw said the restaurant's building at the corner of Rengtsorff Avenue and El Camino Real had been sold and may reopen soon as another

restaurant. The building was sold by the Shaw family trust because of "increasing overhead costs and the retirement of both sons" of founder Herman Shaw, who originally built it as a Burger Barn in 1966.

Sunnyvale's Country Gourmet, which serves a slightly

different menu, will remain open as it is no longer owned by the Shaw family. It doesn't serve the popular banana french toast however, which will surely be a disappointment for regular patrons in Mountain View. ▀

—Daniel DeBolt

CRIME BRIEFS

► Continued from page 4

CALTRAIN HITS CAR

A Caltrain hit a car at the railroad crossing at Rengstorff Avenue and Central Expressway around 5:20 p.m. this evening, May 3.

No one was in the car when it was struck, and there were no injuries to anyone, including the passengers and crew aboard the train, said Caltrain spokeswoman Christine Dunne.

Dunne said that the car, which had an automatic transmission, stalled somehow while in the most inopportune of spots. The driver, a young woman, saw the No. 366 train coming and decided to get out of her car while she still had time.

"She was very fortunate," Dunne said. "She did exactly what she was supposed to do."

The car was towed off the tracks about 6:05 p.m. and by 6:30 p.m. the southbound track was opened. As a result of the incident, trains were delayed from 10 to 60 minutes.

Mountain View Police Department posted a picture on its Twitter account of a silver sedan, the rear end badly damaged at the crossing, which can be found on the Voice website.

—Mountain View Voice staff



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LAHS earns award for civics work

By Nick Veronin

Los Altos High School is being recognized for its efforts to educate through engagement in social issues both near and far.

The school is scheduled to be presented with a Civic Learning Award in a ceremony at the high school's campus on May 9. Presented by the State of California, the award is meant to "celebrate successful efforts to engage students in civic learning and to identify successful models that can be replicated in other schools."

According to an LASD press release, the school is receiving the award in part due to student organizations such as the Students for Haiti Solidarity Club; school events such as History Week — which this year focused on "The Pursuit of Rights" — and the "muckraking project," which has U.S. history students take up the role of investigative journalists in order to shed light on and recommend fixes to a local problem.

Principal Wynne Satterwhite called the honor "fabulous."

"It's an enormous honor for Los Altos to be recognized as one of the first in California to receive an award like this," Satterwhite said in a statement. "Our teachers strive to help cre-

ate both responsible and knowledgeable individuals in their school experience, and we are very proud that our efforts have been so successful."

Satterwhite told the *Voice* that the award-winning social studies programs at LAHS could not have happened without the work from her school's committed teachers and the input from an enthusiastic community of parents. "I'm really proud of them," she said.

The programs at her school being recognized through the Civic Learning Award lead LAHS students to be better citizens by opening their eyes to the world around them, Satterwhite said. But more than that, she added, it shows students that they can pursue humanistic endeavors not just as hobbies, but as careers.

"With History Week, the attempt there was to not only expose students to different points of views but to also show the students here are are group of people who actually make a living doing this."

The recognition ceremony begins at 3 p.m. in the Eagle Theater at LAHS. ▀

Email Nick Veronin
at nveronin@mv-voice.com

CASTRO ELEMENTARY

► Continued from page 5

be a good fit as she has been following a similar path as MVWSD schools — "implementing Explicit Direct Instruction and Common Core state standards."

Simoes de Carvalho has been in the field of education for 19 years and has been with the dis-

trict for 17. She has worked at Landels Elementary and in the district office as director of English learner programs and summer school director. She holds a doctorate of education degree in Organization and Leadership from the University of San Francisco. ▀

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COURTESY JACQUELINE ERNST

Hand-made books are among the artworks on display at this weekend's Silicon Valley Open Studios.

OPEN STUDIO

► Continued from page 5

along with a wide range of work from other local artists. She is opening her studio to the public as part of the 27th annual Silicon Valley Open Studios event, which has artists from all over San Mateo and Santa Clara counties inviting the public into their world in a series of free events during the first three weekends in May.

Her open studio will be the largest event in Mountain View, with 16 artists, including Ernst, displaying their work in her converted garage at 247 Velarde St. The free event runs from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, May 11 and 12.

More than paper and words

Ernst creates books on subjects that interest her — how perfume is made, the evolution of the written world, forgeries in the art world, a history of holidays. All of her books have lush illustrations accompanying the text.

Her books come bound

between elaborate covers, which are often made of wood carved by her husband. Others come in still more elaborate presentations — encased in ornate wooden boxes, also made by her husband.

In this way, the books are somewhat “sculptural,” Ernst says.

Ernst says she has always been drawn to old books. While studying abroad in Europe, the heavy, leather-bound, illustrated books she would find in old libraries were the most interesting to her. They were symbols of power and wealth, she explains. In ancient times, books were incredibly expensive to produce and during times of conflict they became “the spoils of war.” Conquering armies would either burn the enemy libraries or absorb them.

Books, she says, “are amazing creatures. They come to life and pull you in.” The idea behind artists books is to make the experience of reading a book that much more engaging.

Other artists

The 15 other artists will be displaying their work at her

gallery include: acrylic painter, Lisa Berry; ceramic sculptor, Vered Binyamini; bead jewelry designer, Wesley Brando-Barrow; pastel artist, Jerry Carpenter; mixed-media jewelry maker, Elizabeth Chen; potter and acrylic painter, Rona Foster; photographer, Jodi McKean; illustrator and watercolor painter, Michael McLaughlin; precious metal and gem jeweler, Stephanie North; photographer, Rich Osiecki; watercolor painter, Judi Richards; pastel artist, Karen Sandoval; oil painter, Anat Shmariahu; ceramic artisan, Nussy Varzilay; and semi-precious stone and bead jewelry designer, Mary Helen Weinstein. Local landscape painters Barbara von Haunalter and Robert Schick will be showcasing their paintings and drawings at Studio No. 106, 13781 Cicerone Lane in Los Altos Hills.

For a full list of local artists participating in this weekend's Open Studios, go to www.svos.org. ▣

Email Nick Veronin
at nveronin@mv-voice.com

Caltrain ridership skyrockets

BUT RAIL AGENCY STILL FACES AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE, OFFICIALS SAY

By Sue Dremann

After years of seeking emergency funding to keep from drastically slashing services, Caltrain is on track to balance its budget in fiscal year 2014 after high ridership numbers this year, rail officials recently announced.

The Peninsula commuter rail line has had three years of unprecedented ridership growth, leading to a major increase in revenue. Caltrain's

ridership has surged more than 11 percent each year for the last three years, and its strong ticket sales have helped to offset its deficit and increases in operating costs. The agency on May 2 announced that it is projecting ticket revenue of \$66.1 million and parking revenue of \$3.7 million for fiscal year 2014.

But officials are not exactly breaking out the champagne. Caltrain's financial future remains uncertain beyond the next fiscal year, officials said.

In 2015, Caltrain faces a significant budget shortfall that could result in service cuts and fare increases.

The rail agency continues to grapple with a lack of dedicated funding and surging demand for its services.

The proposed 2014 budget was balanced using “one-time only” stopgap money. That funding is part of the same life-saving measures revenue used

► See **CALTRAIN**, page 14

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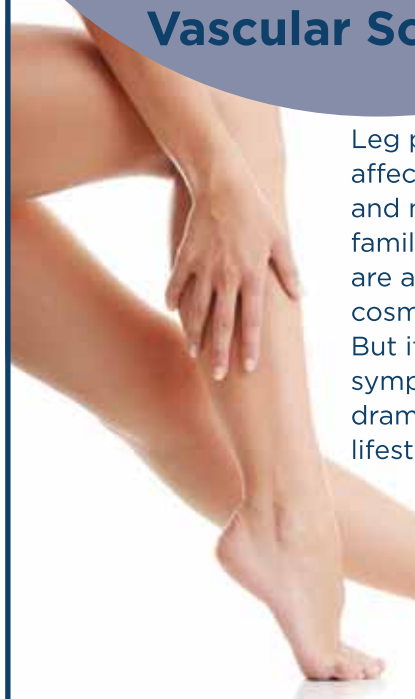
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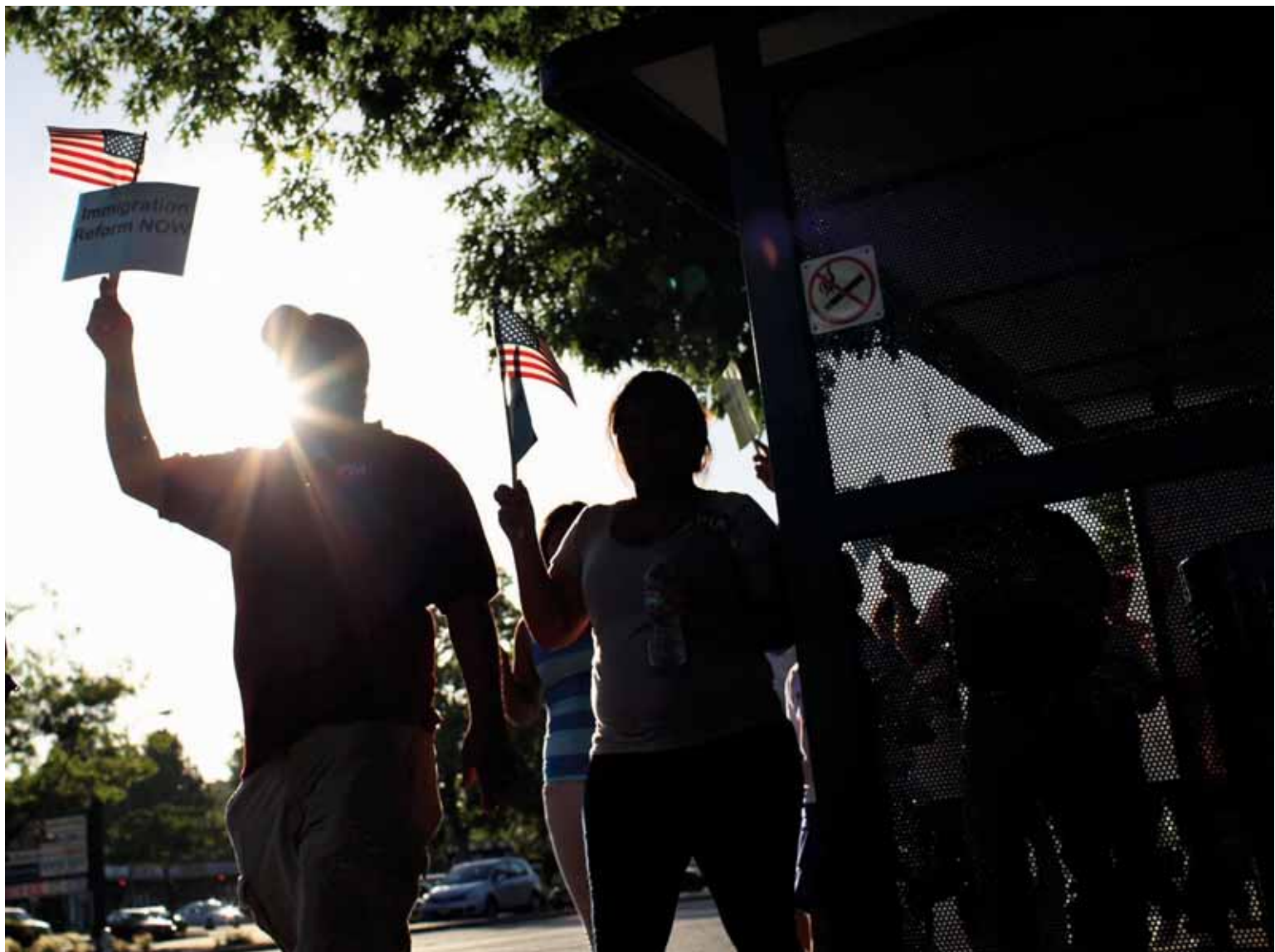
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IMMIGRATION
► Continued from page 5

who need to be legalized in this country,” and vowed to start a movement nationwide.

Marroquin was set to begin a fast and vigil for 11 days after the march, 11 days to represent the estimated 11 million immigrants in the country without legal status. The fasting was set to begin with a blessing from clergy members that evening, and would travel to various churches up and down the Peninsula each day.

“The fast, to me, is a radical thing,” said Sylvia Villasenor, a Mountain View resident who once worked with Cesar Chavez. “It’s an ancient form of prayer. Jesus fasted before he worked. That is awesome to me — no small contribution.”

Above:
Andrea marches down the street with her mom.

Left:
Marchers wave flags as they walk down El Camino Real.

PHOTOS BY MICHELL LE

Last year the federal government deported 409,842 immigrants, about 11,000 a day. Organizers say that is causing a crisis for families and children who are separated from their parents.

"It is immoral that families must wait more than 20 years to be reunited with a loved one," said Patrick J. McGrath, Catholic Bishop of San Jose, to the crowd in the plaza. While trying to cross the border, "over 400 people die every year in the desert. This must end and it must end now."

Organizers of the march publicized a set of demands for immigration reform, saying it must include protections for worker's rights and civil rights, reject militarization of the border and provide a path to citizenship for all of the approximately 11 million immigrants in the U.S.

Among the signs in the march was one that read "Mountain View Dreamers," referring to immigrants brought here as kids who would have been given a path to citizenship under the DREAM Act if it had passed Congress.

One "DREAMer" is Guadalupe Garcia, who has worked at a popular Castro Street eatery for years, despite having a degree from Cal State East Bay.

"It is like living two lives — what people see of you and your other side," she said. "People who know me, they assume I have



a legal status. They ask, 'Why aren't you doing your career?' I have to find reasons they will believe."

The truth is, "Once you go higher, they always ask, 'Do you have a driver's license? A car?'

There's all these obstacles in the way. Even volunteering is hard without a social security number," she said.

Garcia's life changed last year when President Obama allowed certain immigrants under age

30 — who were brought here as children — to be able to legally work in the U.S. Garcia is now applying to graduate schools to become a social worker.

"There are so many open doors now," she said. ▀

Above:

Speakers address the crowd of demonstrators outside City Hall.

Below:

Marchers called for immigration reform and a halt to deportations of parents of American citizens.

PHOTOS BY MICHELL LE



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MV's Kaazing has a need for speed

Kaazing is a Mountain View company that is fueling the Internet of Things for enterprises. Its server connects people and devices instantaneously and efficiently. Kaazing bases its technology on the World Wide Web Consortium's (W3C's) HTML5 WebSockets. It also works with Java and XML messaging interfaces.

The W3C is a standards body that is increasingly advocating an open web for all that runs on any device.

In a web address, "http:" describes how data is transferred from a web browser to a server. If you fill in a web form with your name and address and then hit "Submit", the http protocol sends many other bits besides the characters you typed. Traditional http technology creates a new connection every time you transmit information. This leads to delays, or what is known as latency.

WebSockets is a new features in HTML5 that keeps the connection between browser and server open, so each request requires far less information than with the http protocol. It is designated by "ws" instead of "http" and "wss" for secure WebSockets, analogous to "https." HTML5 with scripts becomes a foundation for software applications that run over the Internet, rather than on a single tablet, smartphone or laptop. Web connections become real-time and super fast.

Peter Moskovits, head of Real-Time Solutions at Kaazing, demonstrated how an iPhone can control a remote-controlled car, how presenters can engage huge audiences with interactive presentations and how sports fans can interact with games in real-time.

Peter turned on the car by plugging in its Raspberry Pi control computer. When it was ready it sent a message to Kaazing's server that responded by turning on the car's lights and moving its wheels.

To set up the phone, Peter typed a web address into his iPhone browser and entered a security PIN number. By merely tilting the phone, Peter controlled the car. The phone didn't need a special app. The HTML5 language running in the browser controlled the car.



"Hey Tech!"
By Angela Hey

You can check out the next demo, at Prezing.com, a Kaazing website. If you choose "Create Presentation" you will see presentation slides that are downloaded to your tablet or computer. Hit an arrow key on your computer keyboard and the slides fly by very fast. You can also control the slides from a smartphone. I set up a slideshow on my desktop computer, then displayed it on my Kindle and controlled the presentation on my iPhone, which simply shows two arrows and a password to connect.

The third demo showed a baseball game where viewers could predict the result of the next ball. It reminded me of PicksPal, a Mountain View company that sold its assets to Liberty Media in 2009, then disappeared. Using WebSockets lets the many fans watching a game like baseball or cricket to interact very quickly, as a ball is being thrown or a batsman is running. Traditional technology tends to be slow when there are many viewers.

When money is transferred from one bank account to another, it is useful to show the account balances in real-time so that the accounts are not put on hold. Transaction-based businesses like banking and telecommunications are potential customers for Kaazing.

Kaazing is located at 444 Castro Street. From their orange-themed 11th floor offices are wonderful views of the Bay, encircled by mountains. As Peter told me, looking from Grizzly Peak near Berkeley to the telescopes on Mt. Hamilton above San Jose, you can see how Mountain View got its name. The company just received an infusion of \$15 million in funding from New Enterprise Associates (NEA), raising its total financing to \$39 million. The company is pursuing enterprise customers and expanding globally.

Angela Hey advises technology companies on marketing and business development. She can be reached at amhey@techviser.com.

COUNCIL BRIEFS

PERMANENTE CREEK TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

The creekside trail that runs through Google headquarters will soon have better crossings at Charleston Road and Amphitheatre Parkway.

The City Council voted Tuesday to move ahead on a \$400,000 crosswalk and stoplight project along the Permanente Creek trail at Charleston Road, where no crossing currently exists. At Amphitheatre Parkway, an exist-

ing under-crossing will have a \$1.36 million flood wall installed, the council decided, to allow the under-crossing to be used all year because it floods in the winter.

Council members opted against a \$4.2 million tunnel for the Charleston Road crossing because it would infringe on wildlife habitat and required the removal of 20 trees that block views of adjacent Google parking lots.

City officials continue to work on extending the trail south to Rock Street and Middlefield Road, though a design for a portion that must run through Crittenden Middle School has been

delayed as school district officials draft plans for the site and raise concerns about student safety.

BOND MEASURE SURVEY

In a study session Tuesday, City Council members supported a survey to determine voter support for a bond measure to fund several large facilities the city needs, including a new community center.

Council members supported adding a large new community park to the list of projects a property tax measure or sales tax increase could fund, which include a revamped community

center at Rengstorff Park (\$14 to \$17 million), a new police and fire administration building (\$35 to \$65 million), a new emergency operations center (\$7 to \$8 million), a new Rengstorff Park aquatics facility (\$8 to \$12 million) and a new fire station at 301 North Rengstorff Ave. (\$11 to \$12 million), replacing the city's oldest. Removed from the list was an extension of the Stevens Creek Trail because other funding sources were found.

The yet-to-be-drafted survey will cost an estimated \$170,000 and would ask voters questions about their satisfaction with city

services and their likely support for a bond measure.

If the bond were for \$50 million — an amount has yet to be set — finance director Patty Kong said the city would be looking for ways to make an annual debt service payment of between \$2.8 million to \$3.2 million. One potential funding source is lease revenue from city property at Moffett Boulevard and Highway 101, where a shopping center may be developed.

After 12 to 18 months of public outreach, the measure could be placed on the ballot as soon as November 2014.

—Daniel DeBolt

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Public hearing

Flood Control Benefit Assessment Rates for Fiscal Year 2013-2014

Santa Clara Valley
Water District

You are invited

Topic : Flood Control Benefit Assessment Rates for Fiscal Year 2013-2014

Who : Santa Clara Valley Water District

When : Tuesday, May 14, 2013 at 9:00am

Where : Santa Clara Valley Water District Headquarters—Board Room
5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of Santa Clara Valley Water District (District) will hold a public hearing on a report recommending: **Flood Control Benefit Assessment Rates for Fiscal Year 2013-2014** in flood control zones of said District.

The public hearing will be held on **Tuesday, May 14, 2013 at 9:00 a.m.**, in the District's Headquarters Building, Board Room, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California.

Said report is in writing and incorporates by reference a description of each parcel and the expected amount of assessment under the approved assessment formula for each parcel within the flood control zones of the District.

A copy of the report may be inspected at the Office of the Clerk of the Board at the above address at any time during business hours. Copies of the report have also be made available for inspection at the following locations:

Campbell City Hall
70 North First Street
Campbell, CA

Los Altos Hills Town Hall
26379 Fremont Road
Los Altos Hills, CA

Morgan Hill Library
660 West Main Avenue
Morgan Hill, CA

Pearl Avenue Library
4270 Pearl Avenue
San José, California

Campbell Library
77 Harrison Avenue
Campbell, CA

Los Gatos Civic Center
110 East Main Street
Los Gatos, CA

Mountain View City Hall
500 Castro Street
Mountain View, CA

Santa Clara City Hall
1500 Warburton Avenue
Santa Clara, CA

Cupertino City Hall
10300 Torre Avenue
Cupertino, CA

Los Gatos Library
100 Villa Avenue
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Mountain View Public Library
585 Franklin Street
Mountain View, CA

Santa Clara Central Park Library
2635 Homestead Road
Santa Clara, CA

Cupertino Library
10800 Torre Avenue
Cupertino, CA

Milpitas City Hall
455 East Calaveras Blvd
Milpitas, CA

Palo Alto City Hall
250 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, CA

Saratoga City Hall
13777 Fruitvale Avenue
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Gilroy City Hall
7351 Rosanna Street
Gilroy, CA

Milpitas Library
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San Jose City Hall
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Saratoga Library
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Gilroy Library
350 West Sixth Street
Gilroy, CA

Monte Sereno City Hall
18041 Saratoga-Los Gatos Rd
Monte Sereno, CA

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library
150 E. San Fernando Street
San José, CA

Sunnyvale City Hall
650 W. Olive Avenue
Sunnyvale, CA

Los Altos City Hall
1 North San Antonio Rd
Los Altos, CA

Morgan Hill City Hall
17575 Peak Avenue
Morgan Hill, CA

Hillview Branch Library
1600 Hopkins Drive
San José, CA

Sunnyvale Library
665 W. Olive Avenue
Sunnyvale, CA

Los Altos Library
13 South San Antonio Rd
Los Altos Hills, CA

To secure information on an individual parcel assessment, you will need your Assessor Parcel Number. If you do not know your parcel number, please contact the County Assessor at (408) 299-5000 and ask for it, giving your name and street address. Using that parcel number, you can learn your proposed assessment by calling the Santa Clara Valley Water District Tax Assessment Hotline at (408) 630-2810.

At the hearing, the Board of Directors will hear any and all protests. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Board may adopt, revise, change, reduce, or modify any assessment and will make its determination upon each assessment referred to in the report and thereafter, by resolution, will confirm the assessments.

CALTRAIN

► Continued from page 9

to sustain Caltrain through the last few budgets.

These funding sources have included using regional money through the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, stopgap funds and funds repaid to San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans) for purchase of the rail line. But those funds are exhausted, and Caltrain will need to identify new funding or consider reducing service in 2015, Gigi Harrington, Deputy CEO for finance said of a preliminary report to the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board.

Annual ridership counts conducted in Feb. 2013, show that Caltrain serves more than 47,000 average weekday riders, nearly doubling its ridership since introducing the “baby bullet” service in 2004. The increase in demand has meant a further strain on operating and infrastructure costs. During the peak-hour commute, some trains are operating at 130 percent of capacity.

“Caltrain is straining at the seams,” said Chuck Harvey, deputy CEO of operations, engineering and construction. “We need to look for ways to add capacity to the existing system to take some pressure off the most popular trains and to provide a more comfortable ride for our passengers.”

Caltrain’s total proposed operating budget for fiscal year 2014 is \$120 million, an increase of 7 percent over the previous year’s budget. The increase is caused by ridership growth, officials said.

Harrington said staff will continue to look for solutions to Caltrain’s long term structural deficit, but the refrain the agency has repeated in years past still remains:

“Without a dedicated funding source, Caltrain struggles to put together a balanced budget each year, making the long-term planning needed more difficult,” she said. Most of Caltrain’s operational funding comes from SamTrans, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority and San Francisco’s Municipal Transportation Agency. ▀

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FUTURE PARK?

► Continued from page 1

didn't contact them."

While council members didn't decide on a use of the land Tuesday, members appeared grateful for the opportunity to buy it.

"I thought, 'What a gift,'" said council member Margaret Abe-Koga.

"We've talked about needing open space in that area, so it's perfect. It is an absolutely gorgeous piece of property."

Using it for park space is "going to be a strong consideration."

Condo-dwelling neighbors of the site also praised the beauty of the property, saying their views of it from their windows was a reason they moved in.

"This is a beautiful property and I'm really happy you are considering buying it," said Shani Kleinhaus, wildlife advocate for the Audubon Society. "I don't see a reason to go really quickly into clearing vegetation (which is) important to what lives there."

Until a plan can be made for the site, council members voted not to demolish the 60-year-old house on the property, said to be in "fair condition." Stieper built

with her husband in the early 1950s.

"To develop the home there now, it took them three years," Miguel said. "It is solid redwood. That house is amazing. Every brick that's laid in that house, the tile and cabinets, everything was done by Frances and her (late) husband Vern, incredibly talented individuals."

Neighbors want a park

After having called for more park space in the area for years, residents of the neighboring Monta Loma neighborhood backed the land purchase.

"The more parks, the better in this area," said Monta Loma resident Elna Tynes, who has noted a significant disparity in park space per-capita for residents living north of El Camino Real. "It's under-served."

Though it's been a goal to have a mini-park in the city within walking distance of every resident, the adjacent blocks of homes don't have one. The nearest parks are Thaddeus and Sierra Vista, which for many require crossing busy Middlefield Road or Rengstorff Avenue or both. The crosswalk in front of Thad-

deus park across Middlefield Road is in the middle of a blind corner, Tynes says, and at an intersection with no stoplight.

"It's mostly apartments right along Rengstorff and then along Middlefield," Tynes said. "There are families that live there with small children. Where do they go to get out and play?"

'The more parks, the better in this area.'

ELNA TYNES,
MONTA LOMA RESIDENT

Firefighters have more recently spent "hours" helping Stieper around her property, said firefighter Greg Cooper.

"We had firefighters out there chopping wood, cutting down trees," Cooper said. He said Stieper hoped that the space would be made a park and that "people would be able to enjoy the blossoming trees and fruit that came from those trees that

meant a lot to her."

Miguel said that Stieper has an amazing garden on the site with "the most delicious artichokes you'll ever eat."

"If you do turn it into a park, I'd like to talk to you about the name of the park," Miguel said.

The price tag

The \$3 million would come from the city's "strategic property acquisition fund," which has been used to assemble properties and spur private redevelopment downtown.

"A (private) housing development of some type would probably be more appropriate there," said Mayor John Inks before the meeting, explaining why he might vote against the purchase. He ended up voting for it.

On top of the \$3 million price, there is another \$400,000 in costs, including \$150,000 for demolishing the house, \$207,000 in administrative costs and \$25,000 to relocate Stieper, who is allowed to live on the site 90 days after the sale. The \$3.4 million total could be repaid by the park fees the city levies on development.

Council members expressed concern about how extensive the city's planned "cleanup" of the

site would be. City staff members said it would be limited to removing dead tree branches and foliage at the front of the site to allow police to see into the property. ▀

Email Daniel DeBolt
at ddebolt@mv-voice.com

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Council Neighborhoods Committee CENTRAL NEIGHBORHOODS AREA Neighborhood Meeting

EDITH LANDELS ELEMENTARY
115 West Dana Street
May 16, 2013
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

The City of Mountain View Council Neighborhoods Committee will be meeting with residents in the Central Neighborhoods area on May 16, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. (area designated on the map below). Residents are encouraged to participate in a forum to discuss:

- What would you like to see changed in your neighborhood?
- How can the City work with your neighborhood to make it a better place to live?

This is an opportunity to make a difference in the future of your neighborhood and express your thoughts about ways to improve city services.

For further information, please call the City's Neighborhood Preservation Division at (650) 903-6379.



UNION WAGES

► Continued from page 1

Prevailing wage “actually allows them to support their family and pay taxes,” said Rick Solis, field representative for Carpenters union local 405. Without the requirement “contractors have free reign on what they pay workers,” he said, leading to “creative and unscrupulous” measures just to get the job.

“Help stop this race to the bottom that non-prevailing wages create,” he said.

Council members decided to take a look at the issue when the city approved a contract for 48 affordable studios at 819 North Rengstorff Avenue without a prevailing wage requirement, despite protests from union officials.

Two union construction workers who said they were Mountain View residents said prevailing wage jobs allow them to live locally and not commute from places with cheap housing, such as the Central Valley.

“If I didn’t get prevailing wage I wouldn’t be able to provide for my three daughters,” said a sheet-metal worker who said he was a Mountain View resident.

A union official pointed to problems in Palo Alto where shoddy work by a non-union contractor on the Mitchell Park library caused a year in delays and required another contractor be hired to fix the problems. Council members noted that Palo Alto doesn’t require prevailing wage on city projects. In Mountain View, it is required for all capital improvement

projects but not for subsidized housing projects, maintenance services or janitorial services.

Mayor John Inks said he opposes prevailing wage laws in general.

“I think wage laws are very problematic because you artificially inflate pay scales at the expense of someone else” he said, adding that putting the cost on merchants and employers is fundamentally unfair.

“It’s a political decision about who is favored over another. People talk about exploitation — maybe there’s a fine line between exploitation and choice — where you are willing to work,” he said.

Council member and small business owner John McAlister said he didn’t like the picture union members painted of non-union contractors.

“It doesn’t help the cause to say that if you pay prevailing wage it guarantees the best possible people will go out there,” McAlister said.

Council member Mike Kasperzak said he was “really conflicted” about the issue because residents would ask, “Why are my tax dollars going to ensure that some people can work a project in Mountain View so they can live in Mountain View? Nobody is helping me live in Mountain View other than the market.”

In response, council member Margaret Abe-Koga said to Kasperzak: “You say we don’t owe anybody the right to live here, but with affordable housing units that’s what we are doing. What’s the difference between

that and paying people who live here already?”

As he was in the vote on prevailing wage for 819 N. Rengstorff (he ended up supporting it) council member Chris Clark appeared to be on the fence again on Tuesday, saying he needed more “data points” to make the decision.

“I support prevailing wage in general,” Clark said. “For affordable housing — that’s where it gets a little bit trickier for me.” When additional funds for higher wages could also be spent on additional units for low income workers — “which is a greater benefit to Mountain View?” Clark said. “You have to make that value judgment.”

To council member Jac Siegel, the issue was clear.

“You are skilled and talented people. I really think we need to set an example on this one,” Siegel said.

“You gotta do your own soul searching about what this means to you. You are not going to get any mathematical analysis” that tells you what makes most sense, he told other council members.

Council member Ronit Bryant said she once voted against prevailing wage for a project and “it is one of the few decisions I’ve really regretted on council.”

“It’s really saying, do you give someone a fish or do you teach them how to fish?” Bryant said. “Do you build affordable housing with workers who will need affordable housing?” ■

Email Daniel DeBolt
at ddebolt@mv-voice.com

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EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

City's hard times are over, for a while

Led by the continuing expansion at Google and more start-ups than ever before, the city is riding a high-tech boom that is expected to finally trickle down to the bottom line this year in the form of the first budget surplus in years. In fact, it looks like about \$3 million will be left over this year, a welcome relief after years of struggling to make ends meet. In the last four years, the city has saved or reduced general fund spending by more than \$7 million and cut 30.5 vacant job positions.

The expectation of a surplus is behind a series of new hires planned by City Manager Dan Rich, who got the attention of the council last week when he proposed hiring a person to head a new Information Technology department that could cost up to \$250,000 a year. In all, more than half a dozen jobs would be added to the city's roster of employees, a cost that can easily be absorbed, Rich said, with money left over.

In a council discussion about the new IT division that would result from the city manager's plans, council member Margaret Abe-Koga said, "We have all these startups coming to us saying, 'This is the technology we are developing; do you want to beta test it?'" In her view, the new director of IT would be the person who could field such questions, and also be able to discuss and understand startups that are on "the cutting edge of what's going on in the world," she said.

Expansion in this realm is a no-brainer for Mountain View, which one could argue should have been planning for this moment several years ago. But given the downturn and the initial loss of revenue, the city wisely stayed away from adding even arguably critical personnel in public safety and other departments. But now the time is right. Increased income from sales tax, property taxes and other sources are making the city

flush and able to bankroll a much more capable work force, equipped to talk on the same level as the startups or the long-established high-tech firms like Google and Microsoft which are looking at expansion in the city.

And although the council gave tacit approval to Rich's plan last week, members should be cautious, too. Now is the not the time to be adding long-term obligations to the budget like across-the-board salary or pension increases. Compensation and benefits for city workers is already generous, and at this point we see no need for an increase beyond the 2 percent cost of living adjustments already in the city's union contracts for next year.

In making his presentation to the council, the city manager noted that Silicon Valley's economy is leading the country out of recession. "I would argue that that we (Mountain View) are leading Silicon Valley."

With this economic wind at his back, Rich rolled out a mix of other initiatives, ranging from \$85,000 to back the popular "Energy Upgrade" program, which funds energy audits of homes to help residents reduce energy use, to funding more janitorial service, which was cut last year. Other chunks of the expected surplus were spread around, to buy new computer hardware and software, for supplies and staff at the teen center, to pay for an additional 80 youths to attend city-run summer camps and to subsidize new youth and adult classes operated by the city.

Although not final yet, the city manager's proposals were well-received last week, and are expected to be endorsed by a majority of the council. So far, we see no reason to put on the brakes. The city can afford to be more generous, so it can remain competitive in the Valley's super-heated economy.

TOWN SQUARE

HERE'S WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ON TOWN SQUARE

CALTRAIN STEAMS TOWARD BALANCED BUDGET

Posted by Editor

After years of seeking emergency funding to keep from drastically slashing services, Caltrain is on track to balance its budget in fiscal year 2014 after high ridership numbers this year, rail officials announced.

Posted by Ron, a resident of
another community

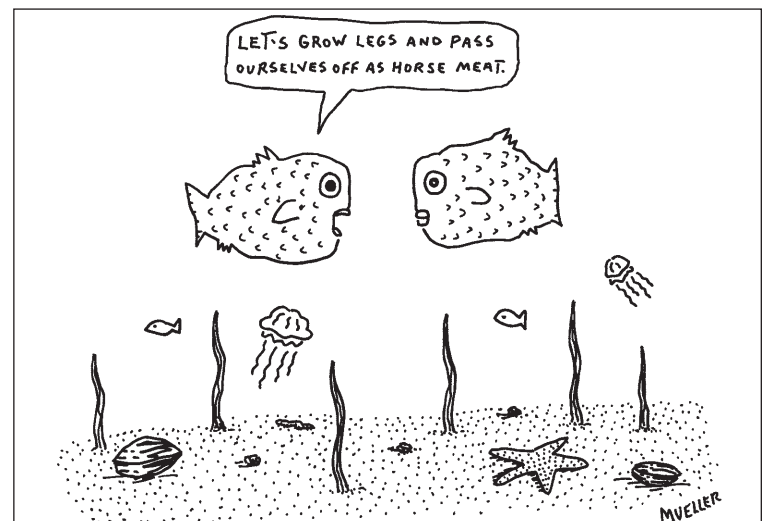
I've ridden CalTrain a number of times and I love it. The article is good news in that ridership is way up. However, how is it that some trains are running at 130 percent capacity at peak hours and the service is not financially self-sufficient, or at least close to it? If the average load on the trains is say 70 percent over a whole week and it is not able to sustain itself, there is something seriously wrong with the cost structure that someone needs to look at.

Posted by kman, a resident of the
Monta Loma neighborhood.

Simple, if they need funding, raise the price of tickets. Oh, I forgot, this is a government-run business. This will be the same issue with high-speed rail, lack of funding.

Posted by Jay Park, a resident of
the Jackson Park neighborhood.

@kman: It's not that simple. The ticket prices must be considered reasonably priced vis-a-vis other mass transit systems (both local and elsewhere) and the cost of driving your own vehicle (the IRS 2013 mileage rate for business travel is \$0.565/mile). Expensive ticket prices discourage the general public from adopting mass transit. It can't just be a novelty for the well-heeled. There's a threshold where increased ticket prices starts depressing ridership, which ends up reducing total revenue. Same thing with reducing service. At some point, decreased frequency



of trains/slower service discourages people from using the service, since they have to wait too long for a train, the ride takes too long, or the service starts too late/shuts down too early.

Caltrain is operated by a joint powers board, not a single agency, which makes funding a perennial issue. One unrealized solution: a parcel tax could be assessed to property owners in San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties. That might not be enough to cover the entire budget,

but it would make things easier. A gasoline tax surcharge in the three counties would be another possibility, but probably one harder to sell to local voters.

CORRECTION

Due to an editing error last week in a letter from the Mountain View Visual Arts Committee about one of its members, Janis Zinn was omitted from the signature line. The Voice regrets the error.

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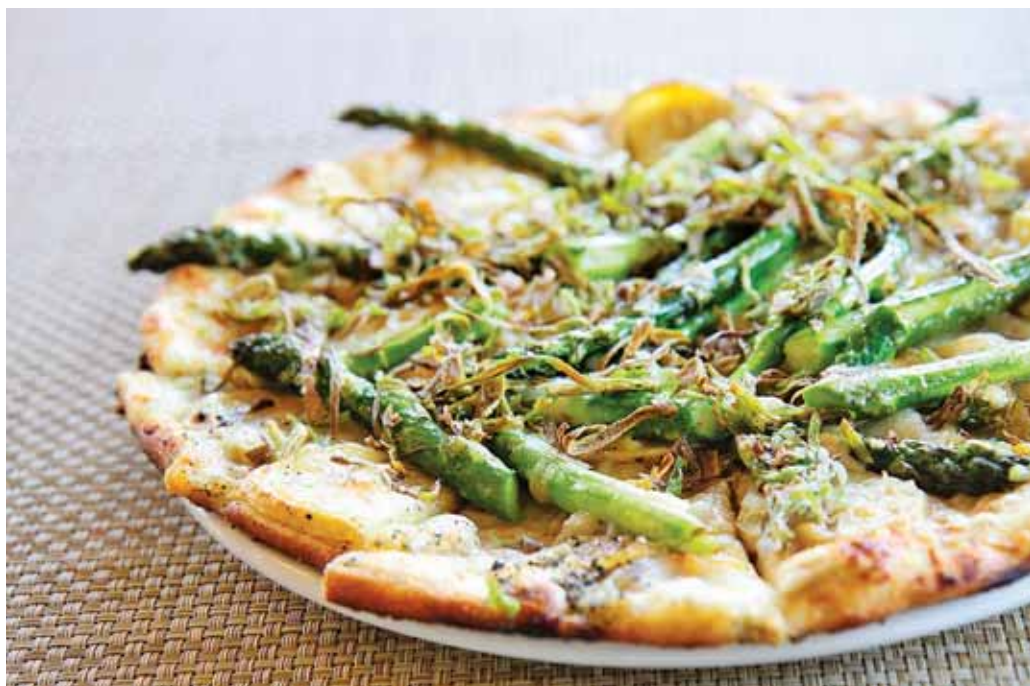
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MICHELLE LE

Above: A savory pizza made with asparagus, potatoes and Manchego cheese from Calafia's Charlie Ayers is a seasonal treat for a Mother's Day brunch. **Top:** Topped with fresh berries, a traditional German pfannkuchen from Esther's German Bakery & Cafe appeals to those looking for something a bit sweet.

By Audra Sorman

As a child in Germany, Esther Nio used to bake bread and pastries with her mother every Friday. Sitting in her Los Altos cafe on a recent afternoon, she recalled the aromas that danced around the kitchen and the taste of the baked goods that she and her family would eat throughout the weekend.

For many people, food is central to family traditions and celebrations, and marking Mother's Day with a special meal is no exception. Those looking to cook an a Sunday brunch for their loved ones on May 12 can try out a sweet or savory brunch recipe, provided by Nio, owner of Esther's German Bakery & Cafe in Los Altos; and Charlie Ayers, the chef/owner of Calafia in Palo Alto.

The dishes, which feature a seasonal fruit or vegetable, are popular with res-

taurant patrons, Nio and Ayers said.

Nio's dish, the German pfannkuchen (pancake), is akin to the French crepe because it is thin and slightly crisp, she said. Pfannkuchen is more flavorful than the American pancake, which can be dry and lose its flavor because of its density, she said.

Nio and her husband Robert, who opened their retail location in 2008, serve up German pastries, breads, and dishes. She said the pfannkuchen is one of the most well-known dishes in Germany.

"Everybody in Germany grew up with it. Everybody. And it's so easy to make, and you can put whatever on it you like," Nio said.

Pfannkuchen is so easy to make that Nio's four sons, ages 10, 13, 15 and 17, often cook them at home, she said.

► See **MOTHER'S DAY**, page 21

FOOD FEATURE

Cooking up a sweet and savory Mother's Day brunch

RECIPES FROM LOCAL RESTAURANT OWNERS FEATURE
SEASONAL INGREDIENTS



MICHELLE LE

Above: Aaron Grimm, Calafia Cafe's sous chef, slides a hot pizza onto a plate while pizza chef Omar Morrino looks on. **Top:** Alejandro Otero, the head chef at Esther's German Bakery & Cafe, garnishes a pfannkuchen with berries.

RECIPES

GERMAN PFANNKUCHEN

Ingredients:

1 1/4 cups sifted all-purpose flour
 2 tablespoons granulated sugar
 1 teaspoon baking powder
 1/4 teaspoon salt
 1 1/4 cups milk
 1 extra large egg
 1 tablespoon olive or canola oil
 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
 Olive or canola oil
 Berries such as strawberries, blueberries and blackberries
 Powdered sugar

Directions:

Sift the flour, sugar, baking powder and salt into a small mixing bowl and make a well in the center. In a 1-quart liquid measuring cup, whisk the milk, egg, oil and vanilla until smooth. Pour wet ingredients into the dry ingredients and whisk until creamy. Cover and let stand. (Tip: The longer the batter stands, the thicker the pfannkuchen will be. Esther prefers to let batter stand only until oil in pan is heated.)

Heat oil in pan. Spoon a full ladle of batter in pan and spread it out. Let it fry until crisp. Flip and fry other side.

Enjoy with fresh fruit and a dusting of powdered sugar on top.

Serves 2-4 people.

ROASTED ASPARAGUS, POTATOES AND MANCHEGO PIZZA

*Ingredients:**Sauce:*

6-7 shallots
 1 cup vegetable stock
 1/4 bunch thyme
 1/2 cup shredded Parmesan cheese
 kosher salt and fresh ground pepper to taste

Pizza:

1 ball of pizza dough
 1/8 pound Yukon gold potatoes
 1/2 bunch asparagus
 1/4 cup Manchego cheese (shredded)
 1 cup extra virgin olive oil
 1/4 cup cornstarch
 1-2 tablespoons of flour
 kosher salt
 fresh ground pepper

Directions:
Sauce:

Toss shallots in oil, salt and pepper. Roast in oven at 350 degrees for 25 minutes. Once shallots are soft, add to pot with thyme leaves and vegetable stock. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat to a simmer for 15 minutes. Transfer contents to a blender and slowly add in Parmesan cheese. Puree until smooth. Salt and pepper to taste.

Pizza:

Slice potatoes into 1/4-inch thick discs. Toss in large bowl with 1 tablespoon olive oil, salt and pepper. Lay out evenly on a parchment-lined baking sheet. Cook at 375 degrees for 25 minutes, making sure the potatoes do not become too dry or crisp.

Snap off ends of asparagus. Peel the asparagus from top to bottom of stalk and place the peels in a bowl, setting aside. Leave the peeled asparagus whole and toss in bowl with 1 tablespoon olive oil, salt and pepper. Lay out asparagus spears evenly on a parchment-lined baking sheet. Cook at 375 degrees for 25 minutes.

Toss the asparagus peels in cornstarch. Heat 3/4 cup of olive oil on stovetop in heavy pan. Once the oil in the pan

begins to smoke, fry the asparagus peels quickly and remove to a plate lined with paper towels. Season with salt.

Using a lightly floured surface, work pizza dough from center until the dough is flat and even. If using a pizza stone, place on stone. If using a pizza pan, lightly coat pan in olive oil and sprinkle a little cornstarch onto the oil to keep pizza dough from getting soggy.

Spread sauce on dough, followed by potatoes, asparagus spears and then the shredded Manchego cheese.

Place pizza on center rack of oven. Cook at 450 degrees for 8-10 minutes. Garnish with crispy asparagus peels.

Serves 1-2 people.



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*Salad**Summer in Sorrento*

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*Entrees**Filet Mignon*

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Braised Short Ribs in a light red wine sauce

Served with Polenta and seasonal fresh cut Vegetables.

Linguine Pescatore

Fresh salmon, snapper, clams, mussels and prawns in a spicy tomato sauce.

Heart shape Ravioli

A Portobello & Shitake mushroom filling with Roma tomatoes and fresh spinach, in a light Marsala cream sauce.

Grilled Salmon

Served with sautéed spinach wild rice and vegetables.

*Dessert**Tiramisu*

Italian dessert, consisting of alternating layers of coffee-soaked lady fingers and sweet mixture of mascarpone cheese, eggs and sugar.

Linzer Hearts Cookies & Gelato

Old fashioned ground nut dough cut into hearts and sandwiched with raspberry jam served with your choice of vanilla or chocolate gelato.

MOTHER'S DAY

► Continued from page 19

Nio's sons enjoy putting different jams and chocolate-hazelnut spread on the pfannkuchen, though Nio's cafe tops them with a strawberry and powdered sugar. For those looking to take advantage of California's seasonal berries, Nio said that pfannkuchen would be delicious with a hearty serving of strawberries, blueberries and blackberries.

Charlie Ayers, whose restaurant looks to provide a healthy take on Latin and Asian-inspired cuisine, knows plenty about local, seasonal produce.

Asparagus, which is currently in season, is one of the ingredients included in a dish on Calafia's brunch menu. "Roasted Asparagus, Potatoes and Manchego Pizza" is a recipe created by Ayers, the former Google executive chef.

Although Ayers' restaurant makes its own pizza dough, he suggested that anyone preparing the dish at home could simplify the recipe by purchasing pre-made pizza dough from a retailer like Trader Joe's or Whole Foods Market.

He noted that the sauce that goes on the dough, which is made of shallots, vegetable stock,

thyme and Parmesan cheese, resembles a Caesar salad dressing.

Ayers said that people like the pizza because "the ingredients balance very well and the shallots create that wonderful sweet flavor profile."

'She would say the best meal was the meal that she never had to cook.'

CHARLIE AYERS OF CALAFIA

Of course, if people do not want to cook at home, Esther's and Calafia — along with many local restaurants — offer Mother's Day brunch.

People who visit Esther's may see Nio at work, although not in the early-morning hours. Nio said that she usually has breakfast in bed and gets to decide upon the day's activities every Mother's Day. This year, she will be able to spend the first part of the day with her sons, who have busy school and extracurricular schedules of their own, she said.

Nio said she also wants to celebrate with her customers. Any woman who walks into Esther's

on Sunday will receive a rose — "Every mother deserves to be spoiled," Nio said.

"Being a mother is hard. I think it's the most demanding job there is," she added.

Ayers said he will be at home with his wife and son for the entirety of Mother's Day, likely cooking his wife her favorite salmon dish.

He said his mother, who died last year, did not like going out on Mother's Day because restaurants are always crowded on the holidays. Instead, she preferred to stay at home, where he would cook her a meal.

Ayers' mother was not a cook, he said. "She was happy with anything I would make for her."

Ultimately, Ayers said, his mother had a saying that likely applies to many other mothers on their special day:

"She would say the best meal was the meal that she never had to cook." ▀

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MOVIE REVIEWS

AT ANY PRICE ★★1/2

The Midwest farm, she ain't what she used to be, many long years ago. That's the sociological underpinning of Ramin Bahrani's new film "At Any Price," in which agribusiness puts the squeeze on an Iowa farming family. Henry Whipple (Dennis Quaid) would like to see at least one of his sons show an interest in one day running the farm, but the elder boy, Grant, has relinquished his golden-boy status and gone away to see the world, leaving his younger brother, Dean (Zac Efron), to feel the brunt of Dad's expectations. With Henry's farm leveraged in the millions, he's had to double as a salesman for Liberty Seeds, a Monsanto surrogate that has effectively taken ownership of American farms by enforcing its patents on GMO corn. Still, if Dean evaporates, Henry resonates, as emblematic of an American economy — and American soul — in crisis. And even if making a move toward the mainstream, after such micro-indies as "Man Push Cart" and "Chop Shop," stymies Bahrani a bit in his conflicting impulses toward realism and the broader sweep and cinematic classicism afforded by the wide-open, widescreen-friendly Midwest setting and movie stars (not to mention the race cars), the subject of the changing farm landscape feels fresh, and the stinging critiques of corporate greed and mutable personal values are enough to make "At Any Price" a thought-provoking drama. *Rated R for sexual content including a strong graphic image, and for language. One hour, 45 minutes.* — P.C.

THE CROODS ★★1/2

Monty Python alum John Cleese once co-wrote a book called "Families and How to Survive Them." Given that, I suppose my jaw shouldn't have dropped, then, to see his co-story credit on the animated adventure "The Croods," in which a bickering modern Stone Age family daily enthuses, "Still alive!" Nevertheless, Cleese's name comes as a surprise after an hour and a half, given the degree to which "The Croods" — though set in a world of mortal danger — plays it safe. Writer-directors Kirk DeMico and Chris Sanders (the latter best known for "How to Train Your Dragon") carry the rock over the finish line with enough slapsticky action and mild gags to hold kids' attention. But discerning audience members will wish for more in the plot department and greater courage in convictions. Even as it panders to kids, "The Croods" takes care not to offend parents too badly for being behind the times, as there's also a theme of parental sacrifice and unspoken love, rewarded with hugs all around at the end. It's just disappointing that "The Croods" feels an obligation to be reassuring and noncommittal, wrapping up with the thought "Anyone can change. Well, sort of." *Rated PG for some scary action. One hour, 38 minutes.* — P.C.

IRON MAN 3 ★★1/2

This ambitious third installment in the "Iron Man" franchise offers (Robert) Downey (Jr.) another opportunity to shine. He continues to add layers to an already complex character and infuse the often somber genre with comedic charm (this is a comic-book movie, after all). Despite a somewhat slow start and occasional plot missteps, "Iron Man 3" ultimately soars thanks to its charismatic leading man and director Shane Black's man-on-wire balancing act of humor and action. After helping defend Earth from a horde of alien invaders and nearly dying in

the process (as seen in 2012's "The Avengers"), Tony Stark is content tinkering in his Malibu mansion and sharing a bed with his girlfriend/personal assistant Pepper Potts (Gwyneth Paltrow). But he's quickly reminded of the pitfalls of being a high-profile superhero with the introduction of two new adversaries: Aldrich Killian (Guy Pearce), a fellow tech genius and founder of A.I.M. (Advanced Idea Mechanics); and a shadowy Osama bin Laden-esque terrorist known as The Mandarin (Ben Kingsley). The visual effects and action sequences are stunning, especially when Tony's Iron Man armor(s) take flight. The costuming, however, is more hit-and-miss. Iron Man, with Downey playing pilot, continues to launch Marvel into the cinematic stratosphere. *Rated PG-13 for intense sci-fi action/violence and brief suggestive content. 2 hours, 20 minutes.* — T.H.

THE PLACE BEYOND THE PINES ★★★1/2

This new drama announces with its first shot that it is a film with risk on its mind, both in front of and behind the scenes. The three-minute-plus tracking shot follows a tattooed motorcycle stunt rider through carnival fairgrounds, through a tent and into the "globe of death" that is his workplace. It helps that the director is Derek Cianfrance and the actor is Cianfrance's "Blue Valentine" star Ryan Gosling. Laden with stigmata that include a dripping-dagger tattoo by his left eye, Gosling's Luke Glanton will prove violent and reckless but also highly sensitive, traits that could describe the actor-director team's volatile approach to cinematic narrative. Glanton's latest stint in Schenectady unexpectedly reunites him with an ex-lover (Eva Mendes' Romina), who in turn introduces him to the 1-year-old boy he didn't know he had. There's a third act, with a baton pass to another set of characters, but perhaps I've already said too much. The film offers the most satisfying cinematic experience we've had at the multiplex thus far this year, and largely through its disinterest in playing along with movie trends. Rather, it's complicated — and proudly so, big-heartedly embracing timeless themes with the bold dramatic impact of an ancient Greek tragedy writ 20 feet tall. *Rated R for language throughout, some violence, teen drug and alcohol use and a sexual reference. Two hours, 21 minutes.* — P.C.

RENOIR ★★1/2

Perhaps it's damning "Renoir" with faint praise to call it agreeable, but Gilles Bourdos' film about the waning days and household entanglements of Impressionist painter Pierre-Auguste Renoir shows an admirable restraint, quiet simplicity and lush pictorial beauty. Screenwriters Jerome Tonnerre, Michel Spinoso and Bourdos walk us through the summer of 1915, when 74-year-old Renoir (Michel Bouquet) receives his latest muse: "a girl out of nowhere, sent by a dead woman." She is Andree Heuschling (Christa Theret), a teenage aspiring actress referred by the painter's recently departed wife. Andree quickly establishes herself as a free spirit who punctures pretension and wants to seize "everything life has to offer," starting with men. All the Renoir men betray their neuroses about their own and the others' uncertain futures, particularly Auguste's should his shaky hand refuse to cooperate. Despite all the opportunity for (figurative) hand-wringing, "Renoir" tends to the understated and accentuates the positive. "A painting should be something pleasant and cheerful," says Auguste. "There are enough disagreeable things in life." With the inherent interest of its subjects and its every frame a painting, "Renoir" is, indeed, agreeable enough. *Rated R for sequences of art-related nudity and brief language. One hour, 51 minutes.* — P.C.

MOVIE TIMES

All showtimes are for Friday through Sunday only unless otherwise noted. For other times, as well as reviews and trailers, go to mv-voice.com/movies.

42 (PG-13) **Century 16:** 11:50 a.m. & 3, 6:30 & 9:55 p.m. **Century 20:** 10:25 a.m. & 1:20, 4:20, 7:20 & 10:20 p.m.

A Kiss Before Dying (1956) **Stanford Theatre:** Fri 5:45 & 9:15 p.m.

At Any Price (R) ★★1/2 **Palo Alto Square:** 2, 4:30 & 7:15 p.m. Fri-Sat also at 9:45 p.m.

The Big Wedding (R) **Century 16:** 11:30 a.m. & 1:50, 4:10 & 6:20 p.m. Sat-Sun 11:30 a.m. & 1:50, 4:10, 6:40 & 9:30 p.m. **Century 20:** 10:35 a.m. & 12:55, 3:15, 5:40, 8:25 & 10:45 p.m.

Blazing Saddles (1974) (R) **Century 16:** Wed 2 & 7 p.m.

The Company You Keep (R) **Guild Theatre:** noon & 2:45, 5:30 & 8:15 p.m.

The Croods (PG) ★★1/2 **Century 16:** Fri 12:40 & 3:20 p.m. In 3D 10:15 a.m. Sat-Sun 1:30 & 4:20 p.m. In 3D 10:50 a.m. **Century 20:** 10:45 a.m. & 3:55 & 9:10 p.m. In 3D 1:15 & 6:40 p.m.

Disconnect (R) **Century 20:** 1:45, 4:30, 7:45 & 10:35 p.m.

Double feature: Star Trek & Star Trek: Into Darkness (PG-13) **Century 16:** Wed 9:15 p.m.

The Great Gatsby (PG-13) **Century 16:** 10 a.m. & 1:40, 5:10 & 8:50 p.m. In 3D 11:10 a.m. & 12:10, 2:40, 3:30, 6:10, 7:10 & 9:50 p.m. **Century 20:** 10 & 11:40 a.m. & 1:15, 4:35, 6:20 & 7:55 p.m. In 3D 10:50 a.m. & 2:10, 3, 5:25, 8:45 & 9:35 p.m. In XD 12:30, 3:45, 7 & 10:15 p.m.

Houseboat (1958) **Stanford Theatre:** Sat-Sun 5:30 & 9:20 p.m.

In the House (R) **Aquarius Theatre:** 1, 4, 7 & 9:45 p.m.

Iron Man 3 (PG-13) ★★★ **Century 16:** Fri 10 & 10:40 a.m. & 12:40, 1:10, 4, 4:40, 5:30, 7:40, 8:10 & 11:05 p.m. (Sun last show 10:40 p.m.) In 3D 11:20 a.m. & noon & 2:10, 2:50, 3:30, 6:20, 7, 9:40 & 10:30 p.m. (Sun last show 10:10 p.m.) **Century 20:** 10 & 11:30 a.m. & 1, 2:30, 4, 5:30, 7:05, 8:35 & 10:10 p.m. In 3D 10:30 & 11 a.m. & noon & 12:30, 1:30, 2, 3, 3:30, 4:30, 5, 6, 6:35, 7:35, 8:05, 9:05, 9:40 & 10:40 p.m.

Kon-Tiki (2012) (PG-13) **Palo Alto Square:** 2:15, 4:45 & 7:25 p.m. Fri-Sat also at 9:50 p.m.

The Long, Long Trailer (1953) **Stanford Theatre:** Sat-Sun 3:40 & 7:30 p.m.

Mud (PG-13) **Century 16:** 10:10 a.m. & 1:05, 4, 7:20 & 10:25 p.m. (Sun last show 10:20 p.m.) **Century 20:** 10:30 a.m. & 1:25, 4:25, 7:25 & 10:25 p.m.

Niagara (1953) **Stanford Theatre:** Fri 7:30 p.m.

Oblivion (PG-13) **Century 16:** 10:10 a.m. & 1, 3:50, 7:25 & 10:40 p.m. (Sun last show 10:25 p.m.) **Century 20:** 11:05 a.m. & 1:55, 4:50, 7:45 & 10:35 p.m.

Oz the Great and Powerful (PG) ★★1/2 **Century 20:** 3:45 & 9:50 p.m. In 3D 12:15 & 6:50 p.m.

Pain & Gain (R) **Century 16:** Fri 10 a.m. & 12:55, 3:50, 7:10 & 10:20 p.m. Sat 10 a.m. & 12:55, 3:50, 7:10 & 10:20 p.m. Sun 10 a.m. & 12:55, 3:50, 7:10 & 10:20 p.m. Mon 10 a.m. & 12:55, 3:50, 7:10 & 10:20 p.m. Tue 10 a.m. & 12:55, 3:50, 7:10 & 10:20 p.m. Wed 10 a.m. & 12:55, 3:50 & 7:10 p.m. **Century 20:** 1:30, 4:35, 7:45 & 10:40 p.m.

Peeples (PG-13) **Century 16:** 11 a.m. & 2, 4:50, 7:50 & 10:40 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:10 a.m. & 1:40, 4:10, 7:15 & 10:45 p.m.

The Place Beyond the Pines (R) ★★1/2 **Century 16:** 11:40 a.m. & 3:10, 7 & 10:25 p.m. **Century 20:** 12:30, 3:40, 7 & 10:15 p.m.

The Reluctant Fundamentalist (R) **Aquarius Theatre:** 3 & 8:30 p.m.

Renoir (R) ★★1/2 **Century 16:** Fri 6:10 p.m. Sat-Sun 6:50 & 9:45 p.m.

The Sapphires (PG-13) **Aquarius Theatre:** 12:30 & 6 p.m.

Star Trek: Into Darkness (PG-13) **Century 16:** Wed 12:01 a.m. In 3D 12:01 a.m. Thu 12:01 a.m. in 3D 11:30 p.m.

★ 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.



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16 ARTIST OPEN STUDIO

PigWings and Promises Studio hosts an open studio with acrylic, oil, pastel and water-color painting; book arts, pen and ink drawing; mixed media; fine precious metal and gemstone jewelry; contemporary fashion and vintage bead jewelry, photography, ceramic sculpture, portraits and pottery. The event is Silicon Valley Open Studio Site 144. May 11-12, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. PigWings and Promises Studio, 247 Velarde St., Mountain View. Call 650-965-0869. www.PigWingsAndPromises.com

ART GALLERIES

‘Rooms and Blooms’ Gallery 9 features acrylic paintings by Bay Area artist, Jan Meyer. “Rooms and Blooms” is on display through June 2 and features interior room scenes painted with bold colors and graphic patterns. A reception for the artist will be held Friday, May 3, 5-7 p.m. March 30-June 2, Tuesday-Saturday, 11-5 p.m.; Sundays, noon-4 p.m. Free. Gallery 9, 143 Main St., Los Altos. www.gallery9losaltos.com

BENEFITS

Casino Night Fundraiser Michaels at Shoreline hosts a casino night fundraiser with proceeds benefiting the Campbell Relay for Life team. With one ticket, attendees receive \$100 in “Fun Money” to be used at the gaming tables. Many sponsors will be showing their support by donating prizes. May 11, 7-11 p.m. \$60. Michaels Restaurant Shoreline, 2960 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. Call 408-643-8602. www.shufflers.myevent.com

Friends of the Mountain View Library Book Sale The Friends of the Mountain View Public Library are hosting a book sale, located in the Library Bookmobile Garage. Members of the Friends of the Mountain View Library have early entrance at 9 a.m.-9:45 a.m. on Saturday. There will also be a bag sale from 2 p.m.-4 p.m. on Sunday. (New bag sale price \$5/each). May 18-19, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Friends of the Mountain View Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. Call 650-526-7031. www.mvlibraryfriends.org

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

‘Learn to Square Dance’ Classes are held by the “Bows & Beaus Square-Dance Club” on Mondays at 7:30 p.m. First class free; \$5 per class thereafter. Loyola School, 770 Berry Ave., Los Altos.

Comprehensive Digital Photography The Mid Peninsula Media Center is offering a weekly comprehensive digital photography class, in which students will learn how to use digital cameras and edit their images using Lightroom. Students will then learn to present their images to others by using consumer or professional printing services. Every Tuesday for four weeks, starting May 7, with one Saturday field shoot from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. 7 - 10 p.m. \$145. Midpen Media Center, 900 San Antonio Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-494-8686. www.midpenmedia.org

Genealogy Research Learn about basic sources and strategies of genealogy research, centered on a few personal case studies. Topics covered include the U.S. Census, vital records and immigration research. While the focus is on American genealogy, some international resources will be covered as well. May 14, 1-2 p.m. Free. Los Altos Library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. Call 650-948-7683.

CLUBS/MEETINGS

Astronomy Club Meeting Monthly meeting of the Peninsula Astronomical Society including a talk open to the public. The speaker for May is Dr. Franck Marchis of the SETI Institute on “Breaking the Seeing Barrier.” Foothill Observatory will open after the meeting from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m., weather permitting. May 10, 7:30-9 p.m. Free; \$3 parking fee. Foothill College Room 5015, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. www.pastro.org/dnn/

Charity-of-the-Month Knit & Crochet Club Inaugural meeting of a new club dedicated to making items for charity. Participants will make squares to be joined into afghans for homeless shelters and nursing homes. Tuesdays, April 9-Sept. 10, 3-5 p.m. Free. Los Altos Library program room, 13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. Call 650-948-7683. sccd.org

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Fine Arts Event FabMo will host a fine arts selection event on Friday, May 10, 4 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, May 11, 4 to 7 p.m. The event will feature over 100 off-set lithographs, art prints and posters, 50 assorted sized picture frames

and a huge amount of high-quality acid-free mat board. Free. FabMo warehouse, 2423 Old Middlefield Way, Mountain View. Call 650-269-6104. fabmo@fabrix.org

Party for Book Lovers Linden Tree Books hosts four book publishing professionals who will share their top picks for the summer with at a special party for book lovers, to coincide with Los Altos Farmers Market. May 16, Kids and book lovers of all ages are welcome to join you! RSVP appreciated: info@lindentreebooks.com 4:30-5:30 p.m. Free. Linden Tree Books, 265 State St., Los Altos. Call 650-949-3390. www.lindentreebooks.com

Rummage sale The Los Altos United Methodist Church hosts a two-day rummage sale with a huge selection of household items, clothing, baby needs, toys, books, electronics, garden, jewelry, sports, furniture and more. “Quality Corner” features finer items and collectibles. Lunch can be purchased from food trucks. Friday, May 17, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturday, May 18, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Proceeds benefit local charities. Free. Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Ave., Los Altos. Call 650-948-1083.

Silicon Valley Open Studios 2013 As part of Silicon Valley Open Studios, seven local artists will be exhibiting works in jewelry, mixed media, painting and photography. Attendees can buy directly from the artists. May 11-12, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Jordan Ave Open Studio, 750 Jordan Ave., Los Altos. Call 650-380-1853. www.krishnamitra.com

CONCERTS

Silicon Valley Boychoir sings ‘Upwards!’ The Silicon Valley Boychoir performs “Upwards!” The choral music is directed by Julia Simon and Cathy Doyle with pianist Brian Connor, flautist Barbara Gurnari and boys from Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Mountain View, Redwood City, Burlingame and San Jose. May 11, 5-6 p.m. \$15, \$10, under 5 years free. First Congregational Church, 1985 Louis Road, Palo Alto. svboychoir.org

ENVIRONMENT

‘Pathways Run/Walk’ Raises funds to install owl houses at Westwind Community Barn, encouraging the use of natural predators to control unwanted rodents. 5K, 10K and 1-mile run. May 11, 9 a.m. \$20-\$35. Westwind Community Barn, 27210 Altamont Road, Los Altos Hills. Call 650-947-2518. lahpathwaysrun.org/

Old Mountain View Neighborhood Tree Walk Deanne Eckland, an ISA Certified Arborist and recent vice-chair of Mountain View trees, will lead a short walk providing information about many local trees. This Tree Walk features the trees that can be found on the very northern three blocks of Bush Street in Mountain View. Children accompanied by an adult are welcome. Refreshments provided. May 11, 10 a.m.-noon Free (donations accepted). Mercy-Bush Park, Mercy and Bush Streets, Mountain View. Call 650-564-7620. www.mountainviewtrees.org

Pandemonium Aviaries Enchanted Garden and Exotic Bird Tour Over Mother’s Day weekend, Pandemonium Aviaries will open its doors to the public for a behind the scenes tour of their rare bird conservation facility. May 11 and 12, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$75. Pandemonium Aviaries, 221 Main St., Los Altos. Call 650-380-9374. pandemoniumaviaries.org

DANCE

Smuin Ballet presents ‘Spring Program’ Smuin Ballet ends its season with the West Coast premiere of the ballet “Petal” by Helen Pickett, the Bay Area premiere of Darrell Grand Moultrie’s piece “Jazzin’” and “Chants d’Auvergne” by Michael Smuin. May 22-26, 8 p.m. \$52-\$68. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. www.smuinballet.org

EXHIBITS

Ry Smith Los Altos Hills-sponsored art exhibit

of paintings by Ry Smith, a designer of high-tech products. Exhibit up through Aug. 28. Free. Los Altos Hills Town Hall, 26379 Fremont Road, Los Altos Hills. Call 650-941-8073.

FAMILY AND KIDS

Junior Naturalist Program Youths (grades 3-5) can come and experience nature in the Palo Alto Baylands as part of this after-school program. Each of the program’s four sessions will focus on different subjects, including hands-on activities and scientific exploration. Meet a live bird, play Ohlone games, search for wildlife and more. Wednesdays, May 15-June 5, 3:30-5:30 p.m. \$75 (includes T-shirt, snacks, four sessions). Environmental Volunteers EcoCenter, 2560 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-493-8000. www.evols.org

Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival-Stanford Students in grades 6-12 are invited to test their brainpower and enjoy a hands-on learning experience covering a wide variety of math topics. Activity tables hosted by teachers, professors, graduate students, and others will engage young participants. May 11, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. \$10. Francis C. Arrillaga Alumni Center, 326 Galvez St., Stanford. Call 510-917-0074. hosted.msri.org/jrmf/2013/stanford/register

Marissa Moss at Books Inc. Celebrate Children’s Book Week with Marissa Moss, author of the “Amelia’s Notebook” series. May 14, 4 p.m. Free. Books Inc., 301 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-428-1234. www.booksinc.net/event/2013/05/15/month/all/all/1

Oshman Family JCC Presents ‘Multicultural Ugly Duckling Performance’ The Oshman Family JCC is producing an original musical fable adapted from Hans Christian Anderson’s classic children’s story, “The Ugly Duckling.” May 12, 1:30-5 p.m. \$15 Member/Student/Moldaw resident; \$15 for 10 years & under; Non-members \$18-20. Albert and Janet Schultz Cultural Arts Hall, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. www.paloaltojcc.org/uglyduckling

Picture Book Story Time Story Time at Linden Tree, every Friday and Saturday from 11-11:30 a.m., is ideal for preschoolers, kindergartners or any children ages three to six. Titles are selected from both classic favorites and new books. See website for weekly themes. May 3-July 6, Free. Linden Tree Books, 265 State St., Los Altos. Call 650-949-3390. www.lindentreebooks.com

Sue Fliess at Books Inc. Learn what trucks are for and how they’re used at a special story time celebrating Children’s Book Week with Sue Fliess and her illustrated touch-and-move book, “Tons of Trucks.” May 18, 4 p.m. Free. Books Inc., 301 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-428-1234. www.booksinc.net/event/2013/05/15/month/all/all/1

HEALTH

Women’s Healing Conference Hidden Villa hosts a women’s healing conference with 15 hands-on health & natural medicine workshops, organic food, a “pampering oasis,” nature walks, art, yoga, tai chi, dance, an evening bonfire and music. May 18, 8 a.m.-9 p.m. \$175 per person; Sign up for Hidden Villa, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills. Call 408-813-3743. www.hiddenvilla.org/programs/calendar-of-events/day#2013-05-18

LIVE MUSIC

The Afiara String Quartet The Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA) in Mountain View presents The Afiara String Quartet, a Stanford “Live Informance,” where visiting artists provide interactive performances and conversations with the audience. May 18, 5 p.m. Free. CSMA, 230 San Antonio Road, Mountain View. Call 650-917-6800. www.arts4all.org

ON STAGE

‘Miss Saigon’ By the creators of Les Miserables, this modern musical transports Puccini’s “Madame Butterfly” to the final days of the Vietnam War. “Miss Saigon,” performed by the Palo

Alto Players, tells the story of an American G.I. and a Vietnamese bar girl who fall in love in 1975. May 5-12, Sundays, 2:30-5:30 p.m. \$29-\$32. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield, Palo Alto. Call 650-329-0891. www.paplayers.org

West Bay Opera’s ‘Otello’ West Bay Opera presents Verdi’s take on the Bard’s masterpiece. Fully staged, with orchestra and chorus. Cast includes David Gustafson as Otello, Cynthia Clayton as Desdemona and Philip Skinner as Iago. Performances on 5/24, 5/26, 6/1 and 6/2 at 8 p.m.. Sundays at 2 p.m. \$40-75. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-424-9999. www.wbopera.org

West Bay Opera’s ‘Otello’ - Free Preview A preview with piano of West Bay Opera’s new production of Verdi’s ‘Otello’ will feature an hour of highlights with members of the cast, followed by Q&A, refreshments and a chance to meet the cast and directors. May 16, 8-9:30 p.m. Free. Avenidas, 450 Bryant St., Palo Alto. Call 650-424-9999. www.wbopera.org

SENIORS

Immigration Issues The Mountain View Senior Center hosts representatives from the law firm Hurlbise Weber Law as they provide an overview of the immigration process in the United States. They will discuss potential options for seniors and their family members to obtain Lawful Permanent Residency and Citizenship in the United States. May 16, 1-2 p.m. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6330.

Introduction to Microsoft Word Microsoft Word is a software program that can be used to create documents such as letters, invitations, novels and more. Monica Lipscomb will explain the basics of a program that can help people communicate with family, friends and the world. Basic computer skills required. May 15, 2:30-3:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6330.

Understanding Your Medication 911 Paramedic and Emergency Ambulance Services will host a workshop explaining how to read a prescription, how to talk to doctors about medications and more. May 14, 1-2 p.m. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6330.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Los Altos Rotary Art Show Los Altos Rotary Club hosts its 38th annual Fine Art in the Park Show with Live entertainment, wine and food. Free shuttle from Los Altos High School. May 18-19, 10-5 p.m. Free. Rotary Fine Art in the Park Show, Foothill Expressway at Main St., Los Altos. Call 650-324-2600. rotaryartshow.com

MVHS Annual Art Show Mountain View High School’s annual Student Art Show will feature photography, drawing, painting and sculpture pieces on display in the library. May 6-24, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. Mountain View High School, 3535 Truman Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-940-4600. www.mvla.net/mvhs/Pages/default.aspx

Stanford Night Market 2013 The Taiwanese Cultural Society at Stanford University hosts its annual night market, an evening of food, performances and games hosted by a variety of student groups on campus. 6-8 p.m. Free (50 cents/ticket for food). White Plaza, Stanford University, 519 Lasuen Mall, Stanford. Call 510-771-7669. stanfordnightmarket.org

SPORTS

AYSO Region 45 Walk-in Registration AYSO Region 45, Mountain View and Los Altos, is holding walk-in registration for the fall season. Ages 5-18. May 11, 9 a.m.-noon. Free. Catsro Elementary School Computer Lab, 505 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. www.ayso45.org

Summer Softball for Girls Summer Stars girls softball tryouts begin for girls seven to 12 years old. Participants will develop their softball skills twice a week this June and July. With umpired games on Saturdays. May 19, 1-4 p.m.

Free. Stevenson Park, 1625 San Luis Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-468-3475. www.mvlags.org/summerstars/

TALKS/AUTHORS

‘Revolutionaries: Chroniclers of Technology’ Journalists David Kirkpatrick, Steven Levy and John Markoff will talk with moderator John Hollar about their personal versions of history gleaned from three decades of covering technology. Register online. May 15, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. Computer History Museum, 1401 N Shoreline, Mountain View. www.computerhistory.org/events

Astronomy Lecture: ‘Mars Rover Curiosity’ As part of the Silicon Valley Astronomy Lecture Series, Planetary Scientist Lori Fenton, Ph.D., of the Carl Sagan Center at the SETI Institute, will discuss “Being a Mars Rover: What It’s Like on the Surface of Mars,” an illustrated, non-technical lecture. May 15, 7-8:30 p.m. Admission is free; Parking is \$3. Purchase a parking permit for \$3 from dispensers. Foothill College Smithwick Theatre, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. www.foothill.edu/ast/

Free Public Lecture on the Exploration of Mars In this illustrated talk, Dr. Lori Fenton will give an overview of the Curiosity Rover mission on Mars, explain why it landed where it did and discuss the plans for the mission in searching for signs of water and the conditions that might have been right for life in the past. May 15, 7-9 p.m. Free. Smithwick Theater, Foothill College, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. www.foothill.edu/ast

Humanist Community Forum: ‘Climate Denialism and Why We Need a Carbon Tax’ Sudhanshu Jain will discuss: Bill McKibben’s gigaton limits, the history of climate denialism, info on geoengineering projects, carbon-free Palo Alto, ideas for 100 percent renewable power and the need for a carbon tax. May 12, 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Free (donations accepted) Palo Alto High School Student Center, 50 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-964-7576. www.humanists.org/blog/home/

John Scalzi at Books Inc. President of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America and Hugo Award-winning author John Scalzi shares his novel, “The Human Division.” For the first time in print following a 3 month digital serial of early 2013, the complete novel also includes the first tale of Lieutenant Harry Wilson. May 16, 7 p.m. Free. Books Inc., 301 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-428-1234. www.booksinc.net/event/2013/05/15/month/all/all/1

Technology and Society Committee Luncheon Forum Jay Morewood, owner of Zip-Bit, Inc., full-service providers of 3D engineering services, 3D digitizing and 3D printing, gives an overview of 3D printing technologies and shows examples of printed objects. The talk is called “Everything You Need to Know About 3D Printing.” May 14, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. Lunch is \$12. Hangen Szechuan Restaurant, 134 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-969-7215. tian.greens.org/TASC.shtml

VC Taskforce: ‘Angel Elevator Pitch’ “Angel Elevator Pitch” is an opportunity for entrepreneurs and/or startups currently seeking capital; they can present a pitch to a panel of angel investors. May 16, 6-8:30 p.m. \$45-\$75. Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, 2 Palo Alto Square, Palo Alto. Call 408-505-1464. vctaskforce.com/content/view/1088/

TEEN ACTIVITIES

‘The Grand Finalefest’ The Media Center presents the conclusion of this year’s concert series, featuring: Parent Guardian, Lotus Eater, Elijah Waxman, The Nu Crew and Strangers You Knew. May 18, 7-9 p.m. \$1. The Media Center, 900 San Antonio Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-796-6099. www.facebook.com/events/489168301136919/declines/?notif_t=plan_mail_activity



**IN HONOR OF NATIONAL NURSES WEEK, MAY 6-12,
EL CAMINO HOSPITAL SALUTES OUR NURSES AND PATIENT CARE TEAM.**



NURTURING IS IN THEIR NATURE. WE THANK OUR NURSING TEAM FOR THEIR EXCEPTIONAL CARE, COMPASSION, AND COMMITMENT.

Our patients speak passionately of the personalized, compassionate care our nurses provide. Our physicians rely on the nursing team's tireless dedication and rich expertise. And we have been repeatedly recognized as a Magnet® hospital for nursing excellence from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). Now, we have received a 2013 Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence™ from Healthgrades®, and we couldn't have done it without our exceptional nursing staff. They have worked diligently to roll out innovative, evidence-based programs that enhance patient safety and clinical outcomes. They have also embraced new technologies, pursued additional training, and shared valuable learnings with their peers nationwide. We extend a heartfelt "thank you" to every one of our truly outstanding caregivers.

Mountain View and Los Gatos nurses (main photo, from left): Paul Mariottini, RN, pediatrics; Roxanne Jczyk, RN, labor & delivery manager; Mary Rivera, RN, director of perioperative and interventional services; and Heidi Hatano, RN, interventional services.

For more information about El Camino Hospital, call us or visit our website.



800-216-5556

www.elcaminohospital.org



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