

# Mountain View VOICE

NOVEMBER 8, 2013 VOLUME 21, NO. 41

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MOVIES | 26



**No ice  
for this  
ice cream**  
WEEKEND | 23



COURTESY THE ROBERT KOCH GALLERY

Sgt. Ed Drew, who serves with the 129th Air Rescue Wing stationed at Moffett Field, is getting acclaim for his tintype images made during his deployment in Afghanistan.

## The timeless art of war

AIR GUARDSMAN USES CENTURIES-OLD TECHNOLOGY  
TO CAPTURE MODERN SOLDIERS' PORTRAITS

By Nick Veronin

A local member of the California Air National Guard is grabbing headlines by using Civil War-era photo technology to capture

images of modern soldiers serving in Afghanistan.

Ed Drew, a staff sergeant serving with the 129th Rescue Wing stationed at Moffett Field, has received critical acclaim for his series of portraits of men

and women who served along with him in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan.

The images, captured in April during Drew's deployment,

► See **TINTYPES**, page 11

## NASA Ames' persistent star

KEPLER'S PRINCIPLE INVESTIGATOR RECOGNIZED BY PRESIDENT OBAMA

By Daniel DeBolt

NASA's Kepler mission was a dream that NASA Ames scientist William Borucki shared with Carl Sagan and others — a telescope floating in outer space that could peer deeper into the heavens than ever before. But Borucki was told repeatedly by

NASA administrators that the proposal was a non-starter.

Both technology and cost were factors.

"No one had ever built a photometer with that kind of precision," Borucki said of the key component of the telescope.

But Borucki kept at it. When Kepler was proposed in 1992

and again over the coming years, "they said there's no such detectors, it would cost too much, that it would cost billions of dollars. Once the cost was under control, they said nobody has done automated photometry."

Kepler was finally approved and

► See **BORUCKI**, page 9

## No support found for big bond issues

By Daniel DeBolt

This week City Council members faced survey results that found too many voters don't share the council's enthusiasm for some long-desired new facilities.

As a result, Council members said Tuesday that they did not want to ask voters

tion building, which could cost \$35 million to \$65 million.

To fund such projects with a bond measure, two-thirds of voters would have to say yes.

In a poll of 700 likely voters, the best result was for a bond measure for new park facilities, which mustered only 56.3 percent voter-approval. The least likely to pass was the grade

*'There isn't a pressing need in (voters') minds for any one of these particular facilities'*

BRIAN GODBE

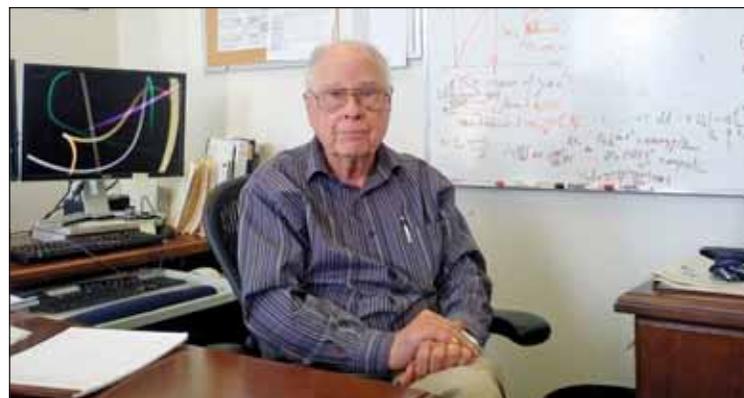
separation at Rengstorff Avenue, which got only 51.7 percent approval. The survey had a margin of error of 3 percent.

"There isn't a pressing need in (voters') minds for any one of these particular facilities," said Brian Godbe of

Godbe Research in Tuesday's council study session.

"The reality is the public doesn't really have these conversations we've had about what our needs are," said council member Margaret Abe-Koga. "A poll with no education done, you are probably going to get

► See **BOND**, page 16



DANIEL DEBOLT

William Borucki, in his office at NASA Ames, worked for years to make the Kepler mission a reality.

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# More Top Reasons to work with our Team

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# Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked in downtown Mountain View. Photos and interviews by Daniel DeBolt.

## How would you react to evidence of life on another planet?



"It would be interesting. Some people would think it's a conspiracy. For other people, it would shake their beliefs. There are people who still believe the world was created 6,000 years ago."

**Ellie De La Rosa**, San Jose



"I would be scared. I would probably hide and never come out."

**Chantelle Noelck**, Livermore



"I'd celebrate. I'd say, 'What a wonderful, mysterious world we live in.'"

**Chris Schalge**, Mountain View



"I don't think there's any evidence anybody is going to be developing at a greater rate than we (are) intellectually. Everything started at the same moment, so I think we'll all figure out how to talk to each other at the same time."

**Ryan Zweng**, San Francisco



"I don't think about humans, but maybe other creatures, bacteria or plants. I never thought a lot about that."

**Danielle Sharon**, Mountain View

Have a question for **Voices Around Town**? Email it to [editor@mv-voice.com](mailto:editor@mv-voice.com)



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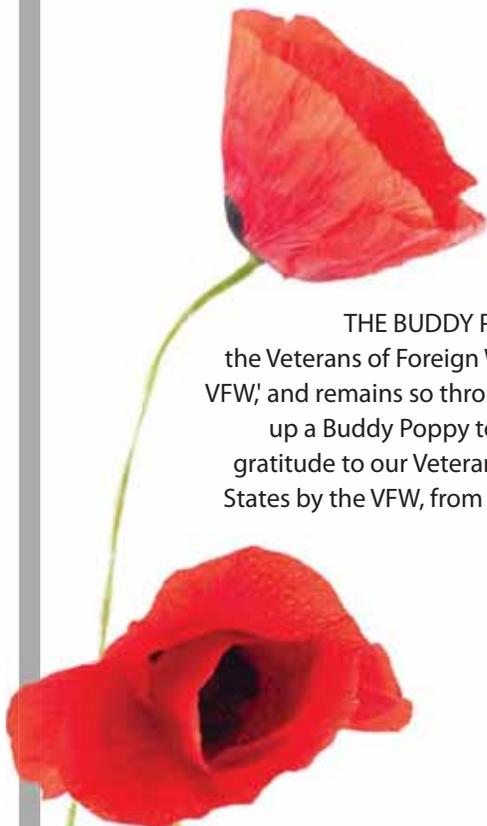




On Veterans' Day, we gratefully recognize the contributions of our Veterans for their service to our country. For, if they are ever forgotten, surely all will have been given in vain.

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■ **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

**EPA MEETING ON TOXICS**

A community meeting is set for Tuesday, Nov. 12, for residents concerned about the Environmental Protection Agency's discovery of toxics in the ground along Leong Drive and Evandale Avenue.

The EPA is set to update the community on groundwater and soil testing in the area, as well as tests of indoor air of homes on the two residential streets.

Late last year, sky-high levels of trichloroethylene (TCE) were found under Evandale Avenue, in a "hot spot" that is separate from the nearby MEW Superfund site's plume on the east side

► See **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**, page 15

■ **CRIME BRIEFS**

**CLUSTER OF CAR BREAK-INS**

There were at least 20 car break-ins in Mountain View over the last week — between Oct. 30 and Nov. 5. That's a much higher number than is seen in a typical week in the city.

A spokeswoman with the Mountain View Police Department said it wasn't clear if there was a link between any of the break-ins, although she said investigators would certainly look for similarities in the crimes.

The largest cluster of car burglaries occurred over the course of the evening of Oct. 30, when six cars were broken into on View, Hope and Bryant streets near downtown.

**GUN STOLEN IN BURGLARY**

A revolver was stolen from a home in the 1700 block of Spring Street, police said.

The owner of the gun was out of his house from about 3:45 p.m. until 5:15 p.m. on Nov. 2, according to Shino Tanaka, spokeswoman for the Mountain View Police Department.

The 63-year-old man told police he had locked up all of his doors, but when he returned home he discovered that his front door was open, Tanaka said. Police believe the burglar, or burglars, entered through a window that was closed but not secured.

The interior of the home was ransacked and the gun was taken from its unsecured storage place.

"Make sure you lock up your firearms," Tanaka said, adding: "If you come home and find that your front door is ajar, please

► See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 4

■ **POLICE LOG**

**AUTO BURGLARY**

- 400 block Sierra Vista Av., 10/30
- 2400 block Charleston Rd., 10/30
- 1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 10/30
- 200 block View St., 10/30
- 400 block Bryant St., 10/31
- 500 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 10/31
- 100 block E. El Camino Real., 10/31
- City Lot 3, 11/1
- 2500 block W. El Camino Real, 11/2
- 600 block Rainbow Dr., 11/4
- 100 block Calderon Av., 11/4
- In N Out Burger Rengstorff Av., 11/5
- Chevy's restaurant, 11/5

**BATTERY**

- 1900 block Latham St., 11/4
- 1900 block Leghorn St., 11/4

**STOLEN VEHICLE**

- 1500 block Salado Dr., 10/30
- 200 block E. Dana St., 10/31

- 100 block E. El Camino Real., 10/31
- 600 block Tyrella Av., 11/3
- Cypress Point Dr., and Moffett Bl., 11/3
- 700 block N. Shoreline Bl., 11/4
- 1 block Devonshire Av., 11/5

**COMMERCIAL BURGLARY**

- 600 block Showers Dr., 10/31

**GRAND THEFT**

- 200 block S. Rengstorff Av., 10/31
- 800 block California St., 11/5

**RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY**

- 400 block Sierra Vista Av., 11/1
- 1700 block Spring St., 11/2
- 300 block Nita Av., 11/2
- 1300 block Montecito Av., 11/3
- 1100 block Solana Dr., 11/4
- 1500 block Thomas Ct., 11/4

**VANDALISM**

- 300 block Easy St., 11/3

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## Salt pond restoration moves ahead

By Daniel DeBolt

The process of turning two former salt ponds along Shoreline Park's northern edge back into tidal marshes soon will speed up — with some careful rearranging of dikes and levees.

City Council members were briefed Tuesday on a plan to breach levees and dikes around two former Cargill salt ponds to allow Permanente Creek and Charleston Slough to flow in and out of them freely, speeding up their return to marsh lands. It is a process of “taking down berms and dikes and letting nature take over,” said South Bay Salt Pond restoration project manager John Bourgeois.

To achieve that, levees and dikes around the former salt ponds would be breached in certain places adjacent to Permanente and Stevens Creek and Charleston Slough.

“We’ve been waiting 30 years for that marsh to develop and it’s been doing it very slowly,” said public works director Mike Fuller of the ponds and Charleston Slough, which feeds the Shoreline sailing lake.

The project would also replace levees along Shoreline Park’s northern edge that provide some level of flood protection from the bay.

► See **SALT POND**, page 15



MICHELLE LE

Former salt ponds in Mountain View are the target of restoration efforts.

## Ideafarm may be headed to jail

By Nick Veronin

Who? Ideafarm, the local man known for displaying signs with controversial and sometimes strange messages on the streets of Mountain View, may be heading to jail.

The self-proclaimed “public

speaker” was convicted of charges stemming from an incident earlier this year, when police arrested him for allegedly blocking a public street and causing a disturbance. In a ruling issued on Oct. 28, Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge Allison Danner found Ideafarm guilty of multiple counts of willfully and

maliciously obstructing a public street and of being a public nuisance.

He could face a maximum sentence of up to two years in jail. His sentencing hearing has been scheduled for Nov. 8 at 1:30 p.m. in Dept. 89 of the Palo Alto Courthouse.

Those familiar with Ideafarm may have noticed his absence of late. According to a string of emails Ideafarm recently sent to the *Voice*, the 58-year-old has been keeping a low-profile since he was arrested for allegedly battering and falsely imprisoning a

62-year-old woman on Jan. 14, 2011.

During that incident, Ideafarm said he was attempting to make a citizen’s arrest on a woman he had observed tampering with one of his signs. According to police statements from the time, he had the wrong woman and the Mountain View Police Department did not accept his citizen’s arrest.

Shortly after his arrest, Ideafarm, who at the time was unemployed, managed to bail himself out of jail.

He has kept mostly quiet since

that incident — refraining from displaying any signs publicly for just over two years. But on Jan. 21 of this year, he decided to break his silence and hold a sign that read “One for all and all for one” while standing just off the sidewalk at the corner of Castro Street and El Camino Real.

While some, including the police officers who responded to the scene that day, might say Ideafarm was standing in the path of traffic, he argued that he was not breaking any laws, even

► See **IDEAFARM**, page 14

## Rock ‘n’ roll high school

LAHS BEST FRIENDS HOPE TO KICKSTART THEIR WAY INTO THE MUSIC BIZ

By Nick Veronin

Students from high-performing schools like Los Altos High School are often encouraged to pick up extracurricular activities. Participating in a robotics club or an after-school sport, teens learn to work with others while pursuing a passion. But for Zach Gospe, a self-identified “introvert,” working with others is not a part of his extracurricular equation.

Just about every day, Gospe spends a few hours alone — locked away in his room, or

down in the basement of his parents’ house in Los Altos — hunched over his acoustic guitar, practicing and refining the original compositions that he hopes will one day land him a recording contract.

It’s a goal that both Gospe, and his best friend and manager, Riley Soward, believe is within reach. The LAHS senior recently connected with producer and recording industry veteran Mark Mazzetti, who is helping the teen fine-tune his songs before cutting a professional quality EP in Los Angeles

early next year.

There’s just one catch. Gospe and Soward have to come up with \$10,000 for the recording session.

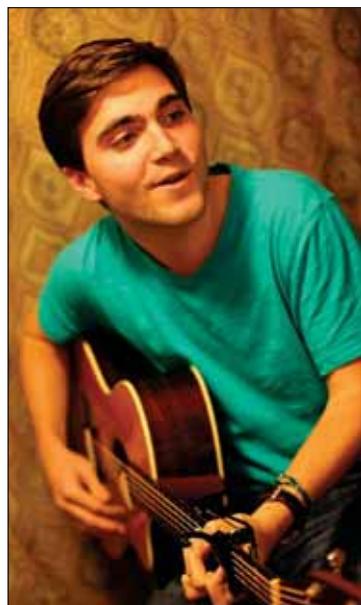
And so, like so many independent musicians, the two 17-year-olds are turning to the crowdfunding site Kickstarter, where they’ll have 38 days to reach their funding goal. If they hit the \$10,000 mark, Gospe and Soward will travel to L.A. in February to record with Mazzetti and a group of studio musicians. After that, the two hope they’ll be able to find a

record label interested in signing Gospe, or at least one willing to distribute the album.

### Early days

Gospe has been playing music as long as he can remember. At the age of 5 his parents plopped him down in front of a piano. Gospe’s father, Mike, said that both he and his wife, Mary, were raised in musical households, and they believed that teaching their son to read and play music was important.

► See **ROCK ‘N’ ROLL**, page 12



MICHELLE LE

Zach Gospe



# Better Bagel says goodbye

By Daniel DeBolt

The Better Bagel's last day in business was a teary one, as loyal regulars said goodbye on Oct. 31 before the doors closed for good at 1040 Grant Road, to make way a new fitness center.

"I'll miss the people, all my customers, because I've been here so long," said manager Annie Ngov, employed there 10 years by her cousin, owner Ted Lam. "All my customers don't want us to leave."

In a June City Council meeting, seniors decried the loss of the bagel shop, to be replaced by "City Sports Club" — a 24-hour fitness center for the "upwardly mobile." New York Pizza and Rite Aid also closed Thursday to make way for the fitness center.

One of Better Bagel's regulars is 104 years old, and comes just to hang out with his friends every morning, Ngov said.

"Retirees, they just cover this place," said regular customer Steve Alpine.

He said the draw was the convenient location near many homes, the fresh bagels and the friendly service. Alpine used to own a bagel shop himself, on Pier 39 in San Francisco. He said he could understand how hard

► Continued on next page

MICHELLE LE  
Steve Alpine, a longtime customer, hugs Annie Ngov goodbye on the last day before the Better Bagel closed for business.



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**Sisters Srey Seauve and Srey Nech Voeut** wait behind the counter after bagels sold out at the Better Bagel on its last day.

MICHELLE LE

► Continued from previous page

it was for the owners to let go of their business, which can feel like “a part of the family.”

While City Council members wanted to save the Bagel Shop in its place, they couldn't legally require the building owner to do anything. The owner was said to have worked for years to bring a new tenant in to replace Rite Aide — the bagel shop sits in front of it — and the Better Bagel space would have to go to

make the building attractive to a major new tenant.

The store was offered a new space elsewhere in the building, where Rite Aide's garden center was, but the shop would have had to be closed for months. Ngov said her cousin Lam had bought a donut shop in San Jose at 459 South Capitol Avenue called World Donut. But she won't have enough work there.

“I need to find another job for myself,” Ngov said. ▀



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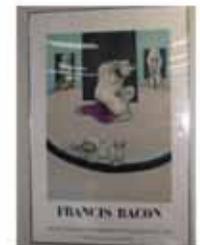
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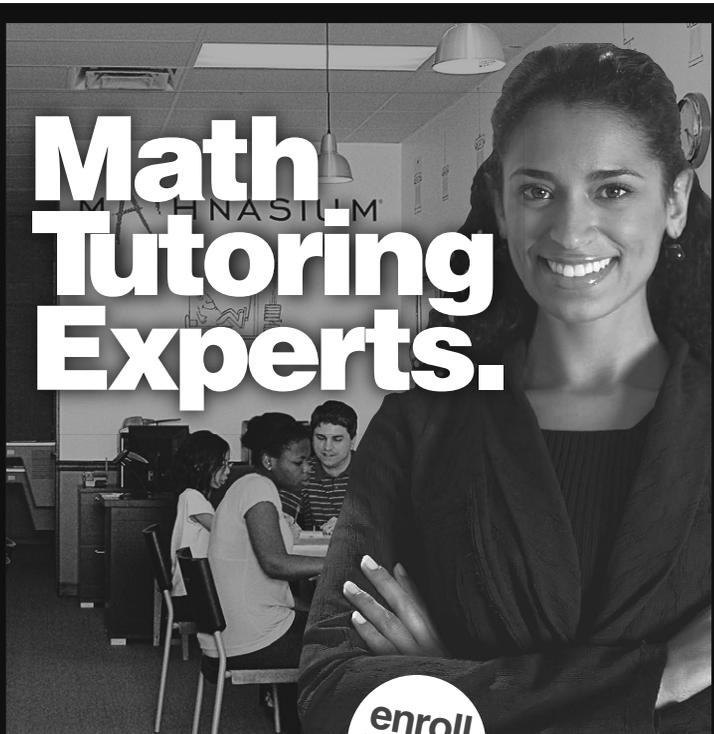


**Francis Bacon**  
 (England/Ireland, 1902-1995) Limited Edition Lithograph #108/170, 1975



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# New track and field proposed for Crittenden Middle School

By Daniel DeBolt

The city's middle schools may soon have some parity when it comes to playing field quality, after City Council members supported a plan Tuesday for new track and field at Crittenden Middle School.

The \$1.4 million proposal would replace Crittenden's western-most softball field with a track and field similar to that of Graham Middle School's. The 100-yard field could be used for football, soccer, lacrosse or rugby. The turf would be synthetic, allowing it to be used all year. The grass fields now there have to be closed for three months every year to keep the grass alive.

"The word we use is equity," said Mountain View Whisman school board member Ellen Wheeler as she thanked the city for working cooperatively with the school district on the fields, one of many the city maintains for the school district. District staff also praised the project.

Construction on the new fields

is expected in 2015. The softball teams that use the Crittenden field slated for replacement have been told that the city's new ball fields near Shoreline Park, on Garcia Avenue, should be ready to use by then.

Wheeler and others also thanked the city for planning to extend the Permanente Creek Trail along the edge of Crittenden, providing a route to the new Shoreline ball fields for students.

Not included in the project is a concessions stand, which exists at Graham, council member John McAlister pointed out.

In 2006, the city installed the track and field at Graham above an eight-million gallon underground emergency water reservoir, a \$12 million project. City staff members said the artificial turf there is near the end of its life.

Email Daniel DeBolt at [ddebolt@mv-voice.com](mailto:ddebolt@mv-voice.com)



A new synthetic turf field at Crittenden Middle School got the City Council's OK on Tuesday.

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# Caltrain trenching study wins green light

By Gennady Sheyner

Declining to stand idle while change arrives along the Caltrain corridor, Palo Alto officials on Monday agreed to commission a study that would evaluate the cost of digging a trench for trains in the southern half of the city near the Mountain View border.

In a 7-2 vote, with Larry Klein and Karen Holman dissenting, the City Council voted to approve a contract with the engineering firm Hatch Mott MacDonald to evaluate the trenching of Caltrain between the city's southern tip at San Antonio Road and Matadero Creek, just south of Oregon Expressway. The study would also look at the cost of building underpasses at Churchill Avenue, Meadow Drive and Charleston Road.

The \$127,550 study was prompted by a number of changes looming on the near- and long-term horizons for the roughly four-mile Caltrain corridor in Palo Alto. In the long run, the corridor is envisioned as a conduit for California's highly controversial \$68 million high-speed rail system, which under the current plan would share two tracks with Caltrain on the Peninsula. In the more near future, Caltrain is looking to convert from diesel to electric trains, a long-awaited change that would enable more trains to travel along the already busy corridor.

The looming changes have created angst in the community, argued Vice Mayor Nancy Shepherd, who chairs the council's Rail Committee and who was one of the seven council members to support the study. Her committee had discussed the proposed analysis over a series of meetings this year before narrowing down the list of options to be studied to the two in its recommendation.

Shepherd said the study would provide the council with valu-

able information about which options, if any, are feasible for the potential future redesign of the Caltrain corridor.

"If there is a 'no' here for some of our options, we need to know what that 'no' is," Shepherd said.

The study is also expected to address a common local concern about the Caltrain corridor — its effect as a barrier between east and west Palo Alto. Last year, when the council received a report from a citizen task force charged with forming a "vision" for the corridor, one of the main themes in the task force's report was the limited number of roads that run east/west.

"The Caltrain corridor represents the most significant barrier to east-west connectivity in central Palo Alto. ... It is a difficult barrier that divides the city in half," the report stated.

Councilman Pat Burt argued that the study will allow the council to hold informed discussions with the community about addressing the relative lack of grade separations in Palo Alto. He noted that that the problem is particularly bad in the south. Building underpasses would ostensibly help relieve the traffic jams that already occur at the crossings and that will only get worse as Caltrain ramps up its service.

"That entire half of Palo Alto already doesn't have good access from the east to the west," Burt said. "We only have seven points where we cross east to west across Palo Alto."

Burt called the information in the proposed study "a critical part of our long-term future"

"If we just kick this down the road and don't even evaluate our alternatives until it essentially hit us in the face, we're not going to have the options at that time," Burt said.

Councilman Larry Klein, the sole member of the Rail Committee who opposed the

## BORUCKI

► Continued from page 1

launched in 2009. Since then it has discovered 167 planets outside our solar system, while over 3,000 more are waiting to be confirmed.

"What we've discovered is really very startling," Borucki said. "Most stars have planets. If you look in old astronomy textbooks, they said it was very unlikely old stars had planets."

Borucki has worked at NASA Ames Research Center in Mountain View for over 50 years. In 1984 he published "The photometric method of detecting other planetary systems," the paper that was the start of his three decades of work for Kepler, a mission he conceived and implemented as principle investigator. For his work on Kepler last month Borucki was awarded the Samuel J. Heyman Service of America Medal by President Barack Obama, an annual award known as the "Oscars for public service."

NASA says that independent analysis of Kepler data finds that one in five stars like Earth's sun has a planet orbiting it that is up to twice the size of Earth, with a temperate environment.

Borucki says the next mission may be to develop sensors that could look into space and sense the sort of unnatural gases that only a technological society could emit into their atmospheres. "We need to design the next missions to look at the

atmospheres of those planets," Borucki said.

The end result of all this research is right out of Star Trek, the ability to zero in on a habitable planet to visit over 1,000 light years away. "If you invented a faster-than-light space drive, where would you go?" Borucki asked. "You are much younger than me, your job is to build that light drive."

On the wall of Borucki's office — amid early prototypes of Kepler's sensors, calculations on a white board and two flat screen monitors he uses with his computer — is a letter from the late Sagan, dated a month before his death in 1996. In it, Sagan tells Borucki that he was proud to be associated with the Kepler mission.

"During all these proposals, Carl Sagan was a member of our team," Borucki said. "Kepler has a great history of trying and failing and trying again," he said.

Borucki says his work on Kepler is what he's most proud of in his career.

"It was designed to be a stepping stone for the exploration of life in our galaxy," Borucki said. "That first step is: 'Are there any other earths in the habitable zone around stars we could live around?' It has accomplished that."

In May, the second of Kepler's four "thruster wheels" failed, and NASA decided not to fix them. Borucki and others are looking for ways to use Kepler without the thruster wheel

"tracking" needed for the high definition photometry of planets outside the solar system. It is still "one of the world's great telescopes" that can be pointed anywhere NASA wants, with enough fuel for four more years, Borucki said. One possibility is to look at comets that could strike earth. Borucki says a proposal for "Kepler 2" will compete for NASA funds in January. So far Kepler has cost over \$600 million.

With Kepler's data available to the public, scientists from around the world are paying close attention. Nearly 400 scientists from over 30 countries were expected to gather at Ames from Nov. 4 to Nov. 8 for the Kepler Science Conference. The number of attendees illustrates the impact of Kepler, Borucki said.

"The world is very, very interested in what the Kepler mission has been able to do," Borucki said. "Not only have we found planets of all sorts, we found out things about stars no one knew before. There's just a huge amount of info that has come from this mission."

And there's still a year's worth of data to be analyzed. Borucki hopes to find an "earth-sized in the habitable zone around a star that's just like the sun. We're getting close but we're not there yet." In a few months people may say, "We have found that," he said.

Email Daniel DeBolt  
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study, rejected this argument and argued that the council shouldn't spend another dime on studying alternatives that would be way too expensive for the city to implement. Earlier projections from Hatch Mott MacDonald had estimated that trenching the Caltrain tracks along the entire four-mile corridor would cost between \$500 million and \$650 million. The committee agreed to limit the scope of the study to the 1.7-mile segment between San Antonio and Matadero Creek because of the high complexity of building trenches in the northern half of the city, which would require overhaul of the two Caltrain stations and extensive work around the San Francisco Creek.

"I think this is an example of Palo Alto hubris," Klein said. "We have a tendency to think we can do everything. We can't. We don't control the money on this and we're not likely to."

Klein also argued that the city is moving too fast on the proposed study and urged his colleagues to at least wait until

the ongoing lawsuit against the California High Speed Rail Authority is settled before determining whether to commission the analysis. He also argued that the council should get a "buy-in" from the community about the benefits of grade separations before proceeding with the study. The study, he argued, "will be a classic report that will be put on the shelf and not used."

Councilwoman Karen Holman also argued that the city should seek more feedback from the public before studying any dramatic proposals involving the Caltrain corridor, particularly any proposals that would require seizure of houses.

"We have to do a better job in reaching out to the public and getting them involved and engaged in this proposal, Holman said.

Others took the opposite stance and sided with Burt. Councilwoman Liz Kniss, who also sits on the Rail Committee, agreed with Klein that the city is in some ways ahead of the big regional agencies in studying the alternatives. That,

however, is a good thing, she said. The city needs to conduct the necessary analyses to make sure it can be as competitive as jurisdictions in San Mateo County in lobbying for grade-separation funds, she said.

"I think Palo Alto should stay ahead of it all," Kniss said.

Councilwoman Gail Price agreed.

"I don't think we should wait until respective agencies feel the need or responsibility to provide this information," Price said, adding that the study will make the city "better prepared" for conversations with regional agencies. "This is a very, very modest cost to set us on one way."

The approved study would be split into two phases, with the council having a chance to revise the scope after the first \$59,790 phase, which would look at the underpass and trenching scenarios and include "draft cost estimates and design exhibits." The second phase would cost \$67,760 and would refine the data and include a "final feasibility report." ■

## CRIME BRIEFS

► Continued from page 4

don't go inside, call 911. It's safer for the police to come investigate the scene."

### FRONT DOOR FORCED OPEN

A woman came home to find her home in the 1500 block of Thomas Court had been broken into and jewelry stolen on Nov. 4, police said.

The 55-year-old woman told police that she returned home to find that her front door was ajar, according to Shino Tanaka, a spokeswoman with the Mountain View Police Department.

Tanaka said it appeared the front door had been forced open.

—Nick Veronin

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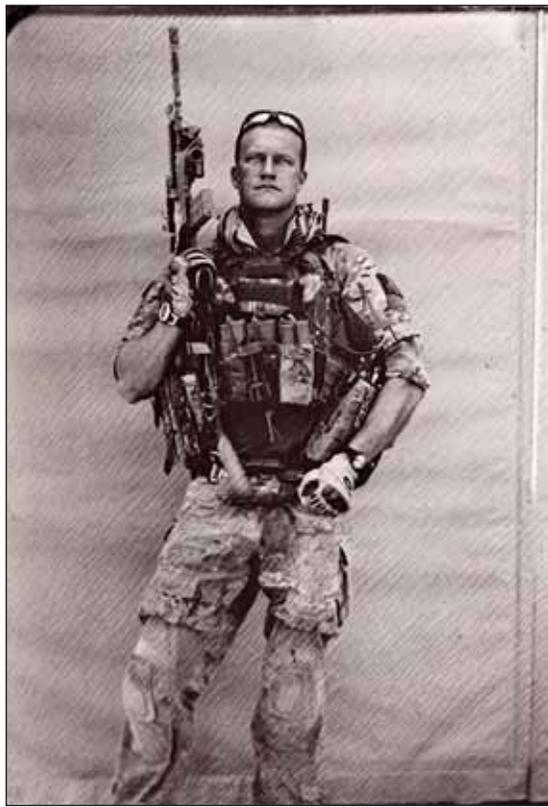
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## TINTYPES

► Continued from page 1

were made using a method first popularized during the mid- to late-1800s. Commonly referred to as “tintype,” the photos are created by exposing a chemically treated metal plate to light for several minutes, before finishing the process in a darkroom. The result is a black and silver mirror-image of the subject.

In Drew’s case, his subjects were his partners in the 129th Rescue Wing. He asked them to hold their poses for around five minutes, while the chemical reaction between the light and silver nitrate caused an image to bloom on the metal plates.

By the end of Drew’s deployment, he had amassed a collection of stark and dusty simulacra — an anthology of faces and personalities. The soldiers, mostly clad in their camouflage uniforms and flak jackets, stare into the camera lens or off into the distance. They sit, crouch and stand, many of them clutching their weapons, while a few are unarmed. All wear a solemn expression.

The images have a rugged feel, driving home the grit it takes to throw oneself into a combat zone. The spare, two-tone palette lends a gravity to the pictures. And as Drew put it, the ancient feel of the tintype technique reminds the viewer of the “timelessness of war.”

Capturing an image on tintype

is an arduous process, Drew said. Over the course of the project he got to know his colleagues in a way he likely wouldn’t have otherwise, as he actually had to sit with them in silence and stillness, as they posed.

“There was that connection to the medium, to the actual photographer and that was very important to me,” he said. “I literally had to have their time.”

He also said he likes the physicality of the technology. Drew has been taking photos since 1998, but he is now studying sculpture at the San Francisco Art Institute, and said he wanted to get away from the ephemeral nature of digital images and make something with both literal and figurative weight.

In addition to his interest in working in three dimensions, he said the birth of his son also influenced his decision to work with tintype. “I wanted my son to be able to say, ‘My father actually made a photograph of these people he cared about.’”

Drew’s work has been featured in the New Yorker’s blog, Photo Booth and on the KQED program Spark.

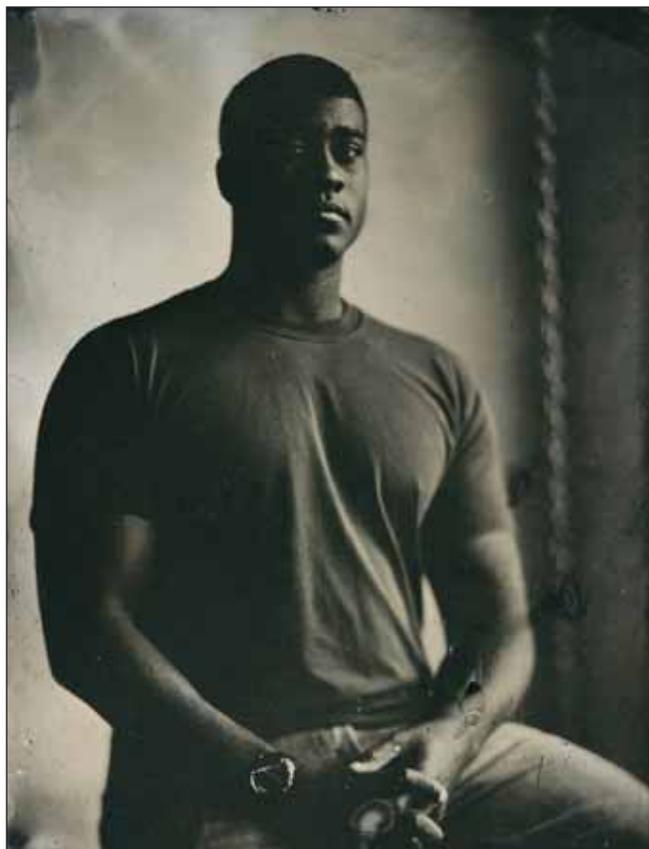
“I think what everybody was blown away by was the story,” he said, referring to the fact that the entire project was simply a work of passion. He isn’t a photojournalist and he wasn’t paid to take the images. Indeed, it took determination to set up a functional tintype production studio at his outpost in the middle of rural

Afghanistan.

Drew took time between flying rescue missions in his unit’s HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter where he served as a combat gunner — manning the large .50 caliber machine gun to provide covering fire when necessary.

Drew has two exhibitions of his work on the horizon. He will be featured in the Veteran’s Voices IV group show opening on Nov. 8, to be held at Rhythmix Cultural Works, at 2513 Blanding Ave. in Alameda. After that it’s off to the Paris Photo international art photography exhibition.

“For me, it’s like a dream come true,” Drew said. “I can’t believe I’m part of this. I never thought in a million years this would have happened.”



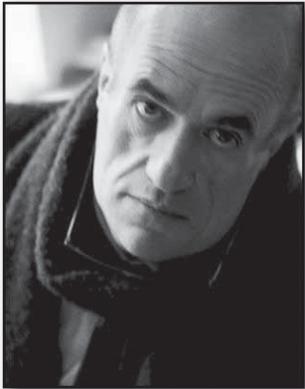
**Clockwise from top left:** “Staff Sergeant, Support, Helmand Province Afghanistan;” “First Lieutenant, Co-Pilot, Helmand Province Afghanistan;” “Staff Sergeant, Pararescue, Helmand Province Afghanistan;” “First Lieutenant, Co-Pilot, Helmand Province Afghanistan;” and Ed Drew’s self portrait tintype.

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ROCK 'N' ROLL

► Continued from page 5

"Being able to read music, I think it helps you learn how to think," the elder Gospe said. "We look at music as an important base skill."

In addition to the cognitive benefits he might gain from learning to play music, his father said he also hoped it would help his son be more attuned to what it means to be human.

According to Gospe's father, it was clear that his son had a knack for music early on. Although the young Gospe didn't fall in love with his first instrument, piano — he said that practicing with his teacher as more of a chore than anything else — by the time he was 8, he had taken a liking to the drums.

By the time he was 10, he was playing in a jazz combo with his mother and father. The group, which had been organized through the Community School of Music and Arts, was supposed to be for adults. However, an official at the school deemed that he had the chops, and made an exception.

"We're a regular Partridge Family," Mike said, standing in the middle of his Los Altos liv-

ing room, flanked by a drum set and a grand piano.

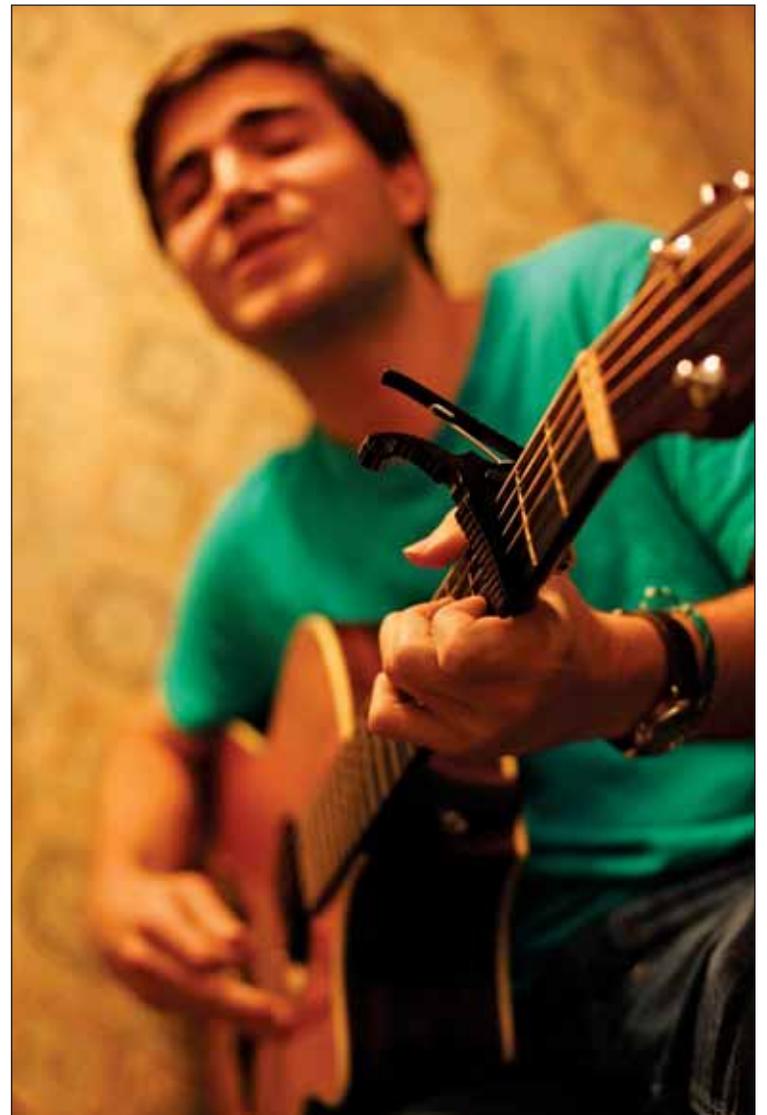
As a tween he picked up a bass guitar for a time, playing in a band with Soward — The Flaming Ice Cubes — but that didn't go very far.

Then he picked up the guitar. Looking back, Gospe said that the guitar immediately appealed to him because it was "freeing." He no longer had to play with others to create a full sounding song, he could bring the guitar down into the basement or up into his room. "Whenever I got inspired, it was easy to just pick up the guitar," he said. And it was with the instrument that he was able to reproduce the sounds of some of his favorite musicians.

Strumming along

It wasn't long after he began playing the guitar that Gospe started penning his own compositions. When he became comfortable enough with his abilities, he started to record himself playing in his parents' basement — singing into the built-in camera of his family's iMac and uploading the videos to YouTube.

Though he has experimented with making full rock 'n' roll arrangements — replete with bass, drums and piano — Gos-



Zach Gospe croons a tune of his own composition.

MICHELLE LE



Zach Gospe plays a song while his friend and manager Riley Soward listens.

MICHELLE LE

pe said he prefers writing songs using just his acoustic guitar and his voice. "Before anything else, I'm a songwriter," he said. "That's how I identify myself."

Both Gospe and Soward describe Gospe's songwriting style by comparing him to his biggest influence — John Mayer. It is a fitting parallel.

Recently the 17-year-old performed a few original compositions for the *Voice*. Gospe's voice was smooth and a bit breathy as he crooned through titles "Can't Figure You Out" and "The Girl in the Yellow Dress." His soulful and bluesy melodies were complimented by intricate, finger-picked guitar lines and strum patterns that showcased his sense for rhythm and syncopation, as he alternated between strummed chords and plucked arpeggios — sometimes slapping the strings with an open palm to create a stomping beat.

#### With a little help

Soward watched the impromptu set, smiling and nodding his head along to the tunes. Gospe's "best friend since the first day of kindergarten," Soward has been serving as his pal's manager since the two were sophomores.

Around that time, Soward said he began to see how seriously his friend was taking songwriting. "I was so excited, so I jumped in and started booking gigs for him." Since then, Soward has been helping

manage Gospe's various social media outlets — including his YouTube page and Facebook profile. He's booked Gospe shows — including a showcase at Red Rock Coffee. "We're both very committed to this."

Gospe agreed. He said that Soward has been a great help — especially recently. As it turns out, Gospe met Mazzetti thanks to Soward's "no-shame, go-for it attitude."

*'With any parent, you want your kids exposed to a variety of experiences.'*

MIKE GOSPE

Both Soward and Gospe attended the West Coast Songwriter's conference at Foothill College in September. Soward was there to network and Gospe went to attend songwriting seminars. On the first day of the conference, Soward recognized Mazzetti, introduced himself as Gospe's manager and talked up his friend — handing the producer his demo.

A week later, Mazzetti reached out to see if Gospe would be interested in working with him.

"As a person, I'm much more on the introverted side," Gospe said. "Having someone like Riley

on my team is a very important way to contrast the introverted character of my music. Riley jumps into the middle of it."

#### A valuable experience

While Gospe has high hopes that he might make a living as a musician, he isn't banking on it. He plans to attend college and major in something other than music — maybe English or physics. "Music is such a risk," he said.

Despite their son's level-headed approach, Mike Gospe said he and his wife feel it is important to support their son and give him a fighting chance to make his dream come true.

Around the time Gospe started recording his own tunes and his parents got to hear the quality of what their son was doing, "We started to think, 'Hmm, maybe there's something here that should be further encouraged and allowed to blossom,'" his father said.

Besides, he believes his son is getting more out of this experience than simply following his heart. He is learning how the music business works, he is building professional relationships and he is meeting new and interesting folks. "With any parent, you want your kids exposed to a variety of experiences," Mike Gospe said.

To find out more about Gospe, his music and his Kickstarter campaign (which had not officially launched by press time) check out his Facebook page at facebook.com/ZachGospeMusic. ▀

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## IDEAFARM

► Continued from page 5

though he admits he was not standing on the sidewalk.

On Jan. 22, he was warned by officers and given a citation after standing in a similar manner at the intersection of Central Expressway and Moffett Boulevard. He was arrested on Jan. 23, after returning to the same spot and holding a sign that read "Mtn. View vs. free speech."

In his communications with

the *Voice*, Ideafarm has maintained his innocence, insisting that the City of Mountain View and Santa Clara County District Attorney Jeff Rosen are bent on silencing him.

In an email to the *Voice* dated Oct. 6, Ideafarm wrote: "According to Ideafarm, all of this is an incredible waste of taxpayer money, that he was always very careful to obey the law, and that the only reason that the police interfered with his 'speech operation' is that they somehow think that they can get away with it." ■

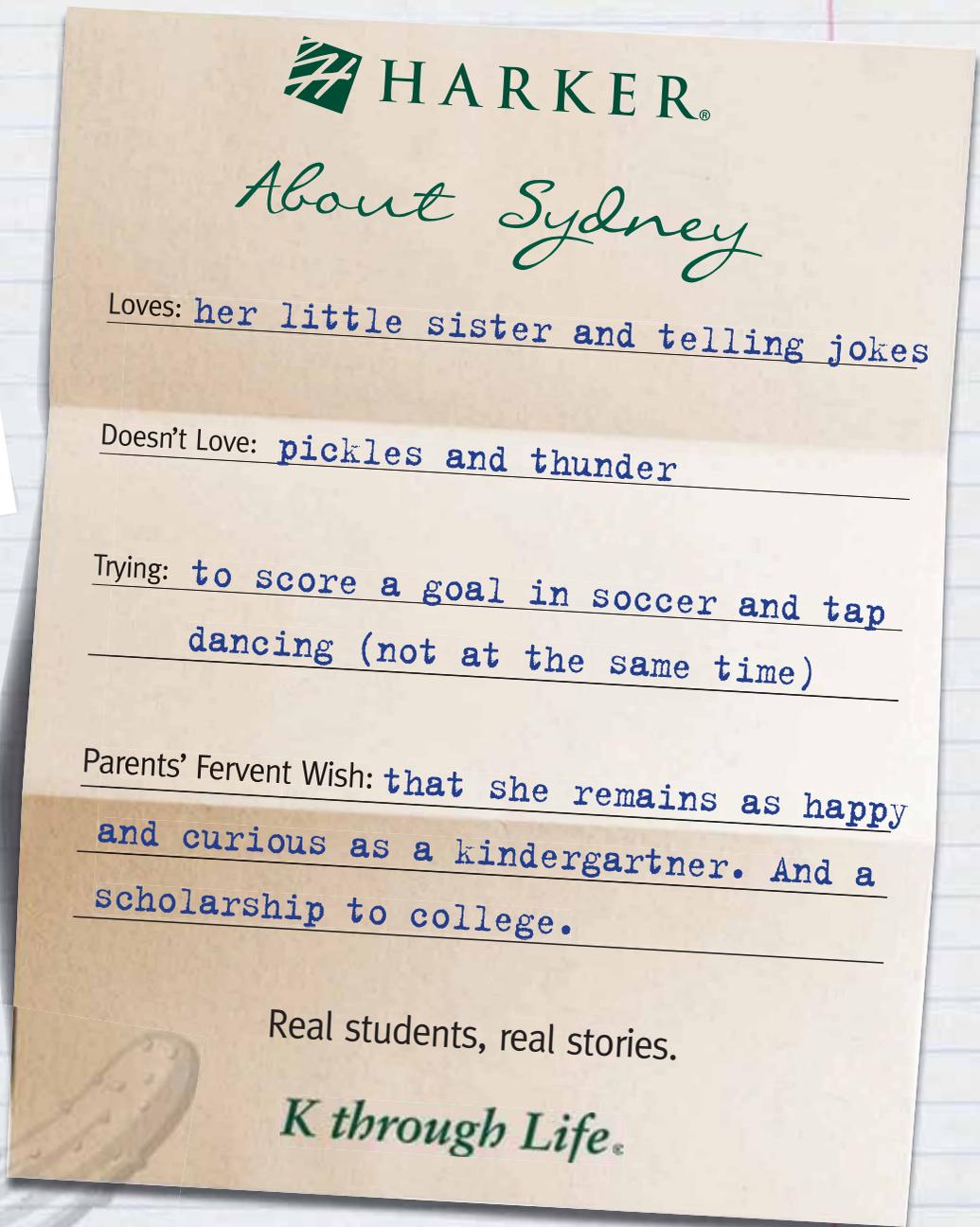


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MICHELLE LE

**Salt pond restoration** may cause the temporary relocation of sections of the Bay Trail.

## SALT POND

► Continued from page 5

“These levees weren’t even engineered to be flood protection,” Bourgeois said. “As we take these down we want to make sure the nearby communities are safe.”

Bourgeois said that SBSP is working with a “dirt broker” to put in the new engineered levees at no cost. It’s an economical way to dispose of dirt excavated from nearby development projects, Bourgeois said.

“Improving those levees is one of the projects identified in our sea level rise project,” said Fuller. “If we coordinate with the salt pond restoration project we have the opportunity to

reduce the scope of that project for us. It could really be a win for the city.”

Fuller added that “On the downside we’ve probably got 10,000 truckloads of dirt that have to come through the park,” Fuller added. “We’ve hauled a lot of dirt out there, it’s something we’re used to doing.”

The former salt ponds, known as A1 and A2W, are part of a larger project to restore 15,000 acres of former salt ponds in the South Bay obtained from Cargill in 2003, an area the size of Manhattan. An environmental report on the project is expected to come out in the first quarter of next year.

*Email Daniel DeBolt at [ddebolt@mv-voice.com](mailto:ddebolt@mv-voice.com)*

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

► Continued from page 4

of Whisman Road. Two nearby homes on Evandale Avenue were also found to have elevated levels of TCE vapors, which can cause cancer and other health problems to those exposed over long periods, and birth defects when breathed in by expectant mothers over short periods.

The meeting will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Adobe building, 157 Moffett Blvd. near Central Expressway.

For more info, visit [epa.gov/region9/mew](http://epa.gov/region9/mew).

—Daniel DeBolt

## TURKEY DAY TROT

Mountain View High School is hoping to raise some money while you raise your heart rate at the fourth annual Spartan Turkey Trot, scheduled for Thanksgiving morning.

All are welcome to walk, jog or run in the 5K race, which will kick off at 7:30 a.m. on Nov. 28 at the MVHS track, according to a press release for the event.

Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. and the race will start at 8:30 a.m. for runners. Those who chose to walk will begin their jaunt five minutes later at 8:35 a.m.

After the race, a series of “fun runs” will be held — including a 60-yard dash, a 400-yard dash and a one-mile run.

“This is an ‘all-comers’ format,” the press release says. “No child is too young to run and there is no limit to the number of races you enter.”

A home-baked pumpkin pie and a gift certificate to On Your Mark Performance running store in Los Alto will be awarded to the top three male and female contestants.

—Nick Veronin

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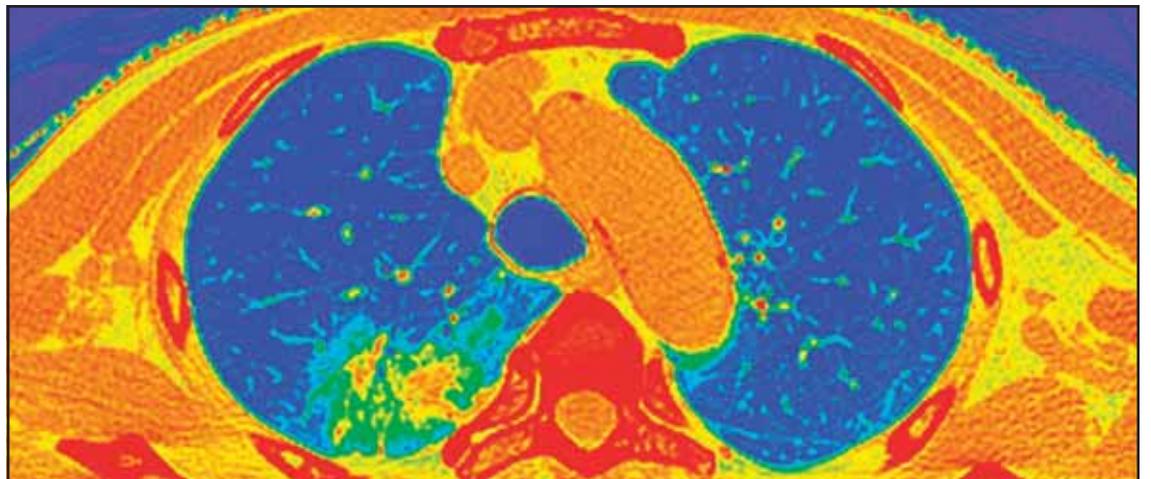


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**BOND**

► Continued from page 1

these kinds of results. We need to do a better job of educating the public and making a case.”

Sinking Rengstorff Avenue under the Caltrain tracks was estimated to cost \$45 million in 2004.

“Grade separation has been on books for years and years,” said member Jac Siegel. “We just haven’t been able to fund it. We went to Washington and asked. We don’t have any money internally to do anything really significant.”

**VOTERS HAPPY WITH CITY SERVICES**

The survey found that 93 percent of likely voters were “satisfied” with city services, down from 95 percent in 2006.

“Voters are satisfied with the way things are,” said council member Mike Kasperzak. “A

case was not made for why certain things are needed. What does a grade crossing get us? It doesn’t get into that level of detail. I think going into 2014 is a non-starter. I don’t think it’s worth putting any more into that.”

The survey found that a two-thirds majority of voters would only approve a property tax increase of \$19 a year for every \$100,000 of property value, not enough for city staff members to recommend a ballot measure in 2014. A parcel tax increase of \$24 would be needed to generate a \$50 million bond.

The survey’s questions indicated that there is some concern about the city’s emergency facilities withstanding an earthquake, including Fire Station No. 3, which council member Abe-Koga said is actually a favorite station among firefighters because of its “traditional” design.

If the city’s dispatch center were to be destroyed, “We would have the ability to (have) mobile dispatch out of our mobile command van, but that is pretty rudimentary,” said police Chief Scott Vermeer. He added that in January, the police department will go live with a virtual consolidation of emergency communication operations with Sunnyvale and Palo Alto. “We will be able

to dispatch from Palo Alto or Sunnyvale. There will be a quantum leap in next few months to have a more robust response.”

**‘Voters are satisfied with the way things are.’**

CITY COUNCIL MEMBER  
MIKE KASPERZAK

**COUNCIL EYES ALTERNATIVES**

“I think we should not consider raising taxes,” said council member Ronit Bryant. “Let’s see what we can do with what we have. And there’s 2016. I always prefer to wait until it hurts.”

Council members said they wanted to look at other funding sources and ways to save money on costly projects. One way around voter approval would be for the council to approve a bond itself, but that would require a source of new revenue to pay it off. Such a bond could be had by committing property and sales taxes from the phase two of Merlone Geier’s San Antonio shopping center rede-

velopment, from which Merlon Geier promised \$2.7 million in property and sales taxes. A new shopping center on city property known as the “Moffett Gateway” at Highway 101 and Moffett Boulevard could also provide lease revenue. City staff members said that the city could get a \$20 million bond if \$2 million a year in new revenue could be found. The bond would be paid off in 15 years.

The city could also more than double the city’s relatively low business license fee to the same fee level as nearby cities, making another \$350,000 a year. Such an increase would require voter approval, but survey results showed some promise that voters would approve.

“If you double my business license fee I don’t think it would kill me,” said council member John McAlister, who said he pays the city \$60 a year for his business license as the owner of the Baskin Robbins on El Camino Real.

The survey also indicated that voters may approve an increase in a tax on hotel stays known as a “transient occupancy tax,” which would raise nearly \$940,000 a year in new revenue. Mountain View would have to match the highest hotel tax in the county, raising rates from 10 percent to 12 percent.

**NEW PARK LAND OR NEW COMMUNITY CENTER?**

There’s \$19.8 million in existing funds that could be used for a better community center, collected from fees paid by real estate developers to acquire new park space in the city. The “park land dedication” funds are often used to acquire space for “mini-parks” and build park facilities in undeserved areas of the city particularly in residential areas of northern Mountain View.

If the city follows through with recent plans to renovate the center rather than build a new one, the park fees might cover it.

“That’s something we could do right now,” said Abe-Koga, saying she supported the idea.

“Do we really need to go out and buy four more mini-parks or do we rehabilitate what we have?” asked Kasperzak.

McAlister was the only member to express opposition to the idea.

“I would be very hesitant to use open space fees,” McAlister said. “Developers are finding money to buy space — we should be able to find money to keep this going.”

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- EDITORIAL
- YOUR LETTERS
- GUEST OPINIONS

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### ■ WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

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

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### ■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

## Milk Pail fights for life at San Antonio Center

The circumstances bring to mind David and Goliath, but in this case it is the humble Milk Pail Market, which has served Mountain View for nearly 40 years, up against an out-of-town developer apparently bent on wringing every possible dollar out of its plan to redevelop nearly 26 acres of the San Antonio Shopping Center.

Steve Rasmussen owns the site his tiny Milk Pail Market occupies on California Street, which has only enough space to park five cars, 17 short of what the city requires. He has survived by leasing spaces from adjoining businesses, but the deal ends in five years. And if developer Merlone Geier has its way, the Milk Pail will move off its site and into a rental space, which Rasmussen doesn't want.

Amid this nose-to-nose drama, the City Council is wrestling with the developer's final plan for the redesign of the north end of the mall at the corner of San Antonio Road and California Street. With Mayor John Inks forced to recuse himself because he owns property near the mall, the council has split into two, three-vote factions. One, composed of Chris Clark, Mike Kasperzak and Margaret Abe-Koga, is generally supportive of the company's plan, while Ronit Bryant, Jac Siegel and John McAlister would like to see changes. But at last week's study session Bryant signaled she may be ready to compromise if the developer makes better accommodations for bicyclists and pedestrians and hires a "place-making consultant" to make the center unique.

We have a better idea for Bryant and her colleagues: Tell Merlone Geier to accommodate the Milk Pail's needs if they want the council to approve their next phase plan. This should not be an unfamiliar experience for Merlone Geier, which has to make trade-offs every day to accomplish its goals. Why should the council allow the Milk Pail, or any small property owner, to be pushed out and forced to sell out to the developer, when all it would get in return is an opportunity to become one of Merlone Geier's tenants?

The Milk Pail has been a part of Mountain View culture for nearly 40 years. The council will lose no friends by taking on a developer that last year made an ill-conceived attempt to pressure Barron Park Supply and Halal Market into leaving their properties by putting up a fence to block their customers' access to the center's parking lot. The city intervened and the fence came down, a process that underlined the city's authority to oversee development issues at the center property.

At last week's study session, Council member Bryant said she wished she could lock Milk Pail owner Rasmussen and Merlone Geier in a room until they could find a workable solution, but that is not within her powers. In the end, all Vice Mayor Chris Clark could muster was a half-hearted statement of support for the Milk Pail. "We really like the Milk Pail and we'd really like them to stay," he said after the meeting.

But just as it did before, the council needs to step up and take a much more aggressive stance to end Merlone Geier's refusal to accommodate the Milk Pail. One way out, suggested by resident Bruce England, would have the council declare the Milk Pail a "community benefit" of the project, a position few residents would contest.

If the council cannot resolve the issue, some have suggested disgruntled Milk Pail supporters could mount an initiative drive that would force a settlement. Such an extreme measure seems unnecessary when four votes on the council are all it would take to end the stand-off. That would be a much better way to resolve this problem.

### ■ LETTERS

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

#### SUPPORT MILK PAIL

Residents of Mountain View, even if you've never stepped foot into the Milk Pail, please take a loud stand when it comes to preserving this unique produce and cheese store.

I make an analogy to the XL Pipeline. It's such an obvious no-win scenario for the vast majority of people to have such a thing, and yet the monied interests continue to push for it. In our local case, it makes absolutely no sense for this unique and low-cost fresh food source on property next to Merlone Geier's mega-project to be driven out of business, when some modifications to the project can help both businesses thrive.

Most council members say Merlone Geier and the owner should be able to work it out, but they are unwilling to get involved in a civil matter. I don't think that this David and Goliath story will have a happy ending. However, if the council can tell the developer how wide the sidewalks should be, they can also deem the preserving of adjacent businesses as a community benefit and not approve a project that doesn't at least address the parking needs of the Milk Pail, and better yet, not approve anything that doesn't integrate the Milk Pail into a layout that makes sense with this 40-year local business neighbor.

*Nancy Morimoto  
Whits Road*

#### LIMIT GOOGLE TRAFFIC

In response to the Oct. 25 article about Google joining a transit agency:

Any plans that Google and Mountain View may make to

reduce Google's traffic and parking disasters north of Highway 101 must not shift any of those problems south of Hwy. 101. It is unacceptable for Google to choke the rest of Mountain View with its traffic problems. Let Google deal with its problems in its own neighborhood and not in our neighborhoods. Our traffic and parking already are unacceptably crowded.

Google must pay for any road or infrastructure improvements north of and across Hwy. 101, and they also must share those improvements with the public with no cost or limitations. Mountain View must not pay a penny for these improvements, nor give below-market leases for Google construction on Mountain View land, neither north and absolutely not south of Hwy. 101.

Any Google plans must not increase traffic or parking levels south of Hwy. 101 along Shoreline, Rengstorff, Charleston, or San Antonio, nor in the neighborhoods bordering those routes.

If Google builds new vehicle, bicycle, or pedestrian walkways over Hwy. 101, this same rule holds true for the impacted roads and neighborhoods — no increases in traffic or parking levels south of Hwy. 101.

Any Google "improvements" absolutely must not increase traffic levels or parking problems in Downtown or Old Mountain View. This is critically important because Mountain View already is doing such a "wonderful" job of ruining traffic in downtown and Old Mountain View with irresponsible high-density housing projects.

*William R Hitchens  
Sunnyview Lane*



## Bus Rapid Transit options still being studied

By Margaret Abe-Koga

There's been quite a bit of traffic on neighborhood email listservs regarding the Bus Rapid Transit project along the El Camino Real corridor, and I wanted to clarify some information and address some concerns.

First, I want to make clear that no final decision has been made about how the future bus rapid transit system will operate along El Camino Real. VTA is currently studying the impacts of seven project alternatives that emerged after an initial round of public meetings held in 2012. The alternatives cover a range of possible projects — from making

no improvements to the transit system to installing 14.1 miles of dedicated bus lanes from Embarcadero Road to Lafayette Street along El Camino Real. Though dedicated lanes were not embraced by every city along the corridor, I supported studying its impacts and benefits as that information is crucial to providing an accurate comparison to the other project alternatives, using various criteria like how smoothly traffic will flow, transit usage, traffic impacts, and cost.

The goals of BRT are clear: to improve reliability, travel times, amenities, safety and access for the 15,000 daily weekday riders (Route 522 and 22 combined)

that take VTA bus service to work, school, and appointments on El Camino Real; and to accommodate the demand that future growth will put on our road network by providing solutions that make non-auto modes like public transit and bicycling more appealing. This will be a benefit to auto users as well as non-auto users.

In an effort to decrease greenhouse gases and improve mobility, many cities along El Camino Real, including Mountain View, adopted the practice of focusing development along corridors already served by public transit, as opposed to areas that can only be reached by car. Young people today have increasingly supported that shift through more affordable and environmentally conscious alternatives such as going car-free and living closer to job centers to have other travel

options. The numbers are showing increased ridership on most all transit systems.

We're not trying to force people to live a certain way; we're planning so that we can meet the variety of competing needs that will arise. An effective, green-vehicle rapid transit solution will increase transit usage and benefit other modes of transportation as well. The additional infrastructure investments this project will bring to the area will provide safe and better access for bicycles and pedestrians. The El Camino Real corridor is one of three corridors being considered for the Bus Rapid Transit network.

The current environmental review process is an opportunity to study and determine the most beneficial transportation improvement for both current and future residents and commuters. Public review and input

is expected again in summer 2014, and I look forward to having those discussions again with VTA staff and the many stakeholders, who care as much as I do about the future of our city and valley.

It's certainly been a pleasure for me to serve as Mountain View and North County's representative on the VTA board of directors and be a part of moving the BART extension into San Jose forward. The BART project is ahead of schedule. Also under consideration is the light rail double-tracking project into Mountain View to allow for increased express service, and the BRT, which all contribute to a bright outlook for increasing transit options in our county.

*Margaret Abe-Koga is a member of the Mountain View City Council and is a member of the Valley Transportation Authority board of directors.*



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November 2013

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**Thursday, November 14, 2013, from 7:00 to 9:15 p.m. at:**

**Mountain View Senior Center Social Hall**

**266 Escuela Avenue**

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The RAB reviews and comments on plans and activities about the ongoing environmental studies and restoration activities underway at Moffett Field. Regular RAB meetings are open to the public and the Navy encourages your involvement. **To review documents** on Moffett Field environmental restoration projects, please visit the information repository located at the Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View, CA 94041, (650) 903-6337.

**For more information,** contact Mr. Scott Anderson, Navy Base Realignment and Closure Environmental Coordinator at (619) 532-0938 or [scott.d.anderson@navy.mil](mailto:scott.d.anderson@navy.mil).

**Visit the Navy's website:** <http://www.bracpmo.navy.mil/basepage.aspx?baseid=52&state=California&name=moffett>

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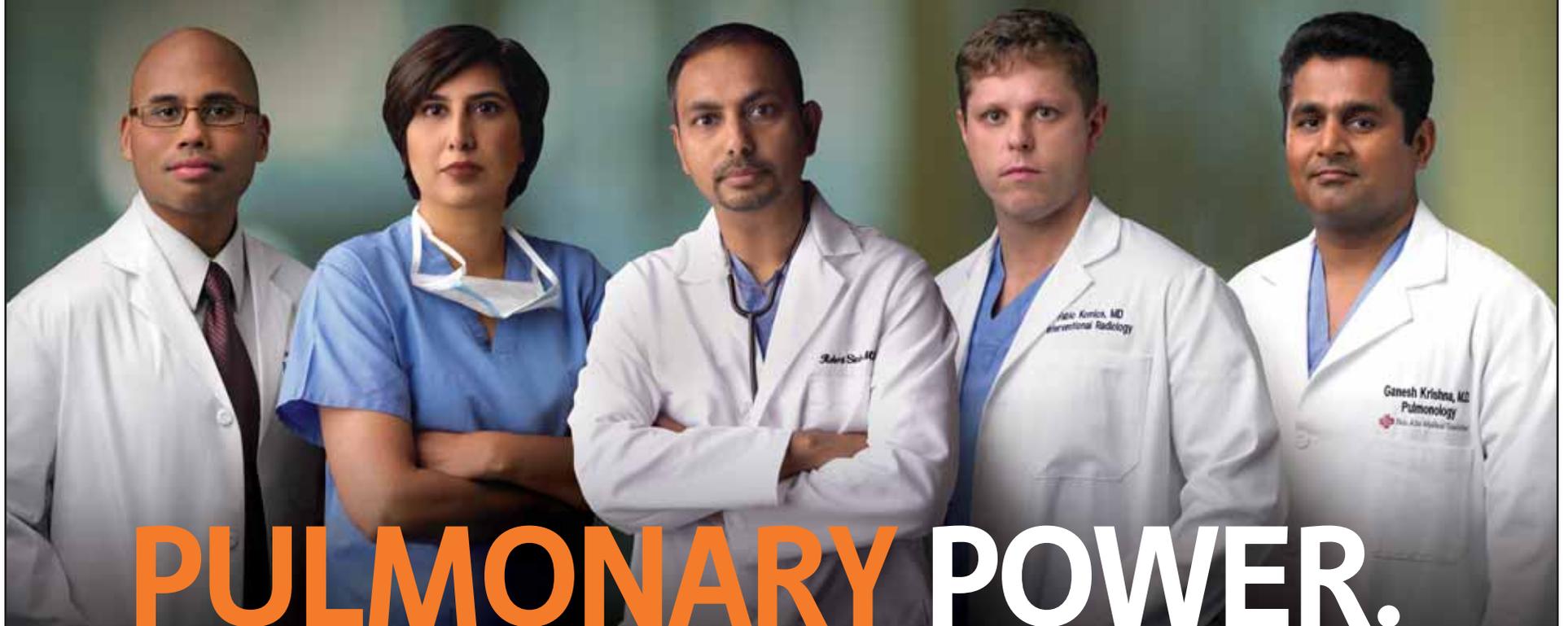
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