

# Mountain View VOICE

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MOVIES | 30



MICHELLE LE

**Sylvia Targ** cleans the glass of the tank that houses Seascape's most famous denizen, Trinity, the giant gourami. The specialty pet store is closing down after failing to find a buyer to take over the longtime Castro Street business.

## It's no fish story: Seascape set to close

NO NEW BUYER FOUND FOR DOWNTOWN SPECIALTY PET STORE

By Kevin Forestieri

A niche shop known for its exotic fish, reptiles and brightly-colored coral will be shutting its doors later this month, ending its

decades-long run in the heart of downtown Mountain View. Seascape, a pet store located on the corner of Castro and Dana streets, has been a hub for reptile and fish enthusiasts, but attracts just about every-

one during its evening hours, according to store owner Chloe Mezilis.

"We get everybody here," Mezilis said. "People coming

► See **SEASCAPE**, page 14

## Local political consultant joins El Camino Hospital board

By Kevin Forestieri

After rapid-fire interviews and a handful of questions, the El Camino Healthcare District board welcomed a Stanford lecturer, long-time political consultant and vocal opponent of the Affordable Care Act onto El Camino Hospital's governing board.

The district board voted 3-2 in a secret ballot to add Lanhee

Chen of Mountain View to the nine-member hospital board at a June 16 meeting. Chen was one of three finalists who showed up at the meeting to give their pitch for why they would make a good addition to the board if appointed to the seat



Lanhee Chen

vacated by Nandini Tandon, who did not seek a second term. Chen's three-year term began on July 1.

The *Voice* requested details about how the five health care district board members voted on the appointment — a vote conducted by paper ballot during the public meeting — but El Camino officials did not respond by Wednesday's press deadline.

► See **HOSPITAL BOARD**, page 16



Sing for  
your  
supper

WEEKEND | 25

## Locals cheer successful mission to Pluto

NASA AMES SCIENTISTS HOST PARTY FOR NEW HORIZONS FLY-BY FOR AVID AUDIENCE AT MOFFETT FIELD

By Mark Noack

In what is being called a "flawless" mission, the NASA spacecraft New Horizons this week successfully performed the first-ever flyby exploration of Pluto after a nine-year and 3-billion mile voyage — a success met with cheers by scientists and the public gathered at NASA Ames Research Center in Mountain View.

The New Horizons probe produced the first up-close images of the icy dwarf planet which are astounding the astronomy world. More data is expected to be transmitted over the coming months for researchers to pore over.

But like all space exploration missions, there was a significant element of uncertainty. The critical test came on Tuesday, July 14, as the probe went silent to collect data as it crossed Pluto from a distance of about 7,800 miles.

At the NASA Ames at Moffett Field, hundreds gathered to watch the outcome, including

several scientists involved in the mission. New Horizons' ground operations were centered at the John Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory in Maryland, but the events were live-streamed for the Ames attendees.

Just before 6 p.m., the onlookers burst into cheers as mission operations manager Alice Bowman announced the probe had transmitted its "phone home" signal.

"We have a healthy spacecraft," she said. "And we're outbound from Pluto. We did it."

With the successful visit to Pluto, NASA scientists celebrated a new milestone — exploring all nine planets of the classic solar system. The probe, powered by heat from radioactive plutonium-238, is expected to continue functioning for 20 years. It will continue traveling farther out into the Kuiper belt, the outer region of the solar system.

Even though New Horizons

► See **PLUTO**, page 7



MICHELLE LE

A new image of Pluto, the icy dwarf planet at the edge of the solar system, was released by NASA on Wednesday.

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**For further information, contact Sheri Bogard-Hughes**  
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# Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked in downtown Mountain View. Photos and interviews by Shannon Chai.

*If you could have one wish come true, what would it be?*



"I'd probably wish for all the education that I want to achieve in one go. It's like you could just download it and have it instantly."

**Richard Chierle**, Los Altos



"To have a good career. And of course, I don't want to be poor either. I don't want to be rich, but I want to have enough money to do things that I want."

**Margaret Krasina**, Moscow



"To be honest, I'd wish for good health. I just finished two months of chemo and so far, knock on wood, they didn't find any more."

**Jeanette Nanez**, San Jose



"I want to see my family. It's been six months, and it's my first time being away from them for so long. I'm from Pakistan, and I just got married. My husband is Canadian but he works here."

**Sania Shafi**, Islamabad



"It's hard not to sound trite, but world peace would be pretty nice."

**Emil Eidt**, Campbell

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7/26 Anat Cohen	Allison Miller's Boom Tic Boom 7/18
	John Santos 8/1
	James Farm 8/5
	Charles Lloyd 8/8

CRIME BRIEFS

**BICYCLIST HOSPITALIZED AFTER COLLISION**

A bicyclist was critically injured in Mountain View last Friday after he was struck by a driver on San Antonio Road. The bicyclist, a 63-year-old Palo Alto man, crossed onto San Antonio Road outside of the crosswalk near El Camino Real at around 7:30 p.m. on July 10 when he was hit by the vehicle.

Multiple witnesses called 9-1-1 and told police that the man was unconscious but still breathing, according to police spokeswoman Shino Tanaka. The man was not wearing a helmet.

He was taken to a local hospital, where he remains in critical condition, Tanaka said on Monday.

The driver of the vehicle, a 70-year-old Los Altos Hills man, stayed at the scene and cooperated with police throughout the investigation. The driver was not injured and did not appear to be influenced by drugs or alcohol, Tanaka said.

The northbound lanes of San Antonio Road were closed for hours following the collision.

Anyone who witnessed the incident is asked to call Sgt. Saul Jaeger at 650-903-6344 and refer to case number 15-3916.

**PURSE THEFT ARREST**

A 43-year-old Gilroy man was arrested in Mountain View over the weekend after he allegedly grabbed a woman's purse inside a restaurant and tried to flee.

The victim, a 25-year-old Sunnyvale woman, reported that her purse had been stolen at the Sushi 88 restaurant at 506 Showers Drive at around 9:40 p.m. Sunday. Officers reviewed video surveillance and identified the suspect, Sean Wada, taking the purse, according to police spokeswoman Shino Tanaka.

Wada was found leaving the parking lot near the restaurant and was stopped and arrested by police without incident. The purse and all of its contents were returned to the victim, Tanaka said. Wada was booked into Santa Clara County Main Jail on grand theft charges.

—Kevin Forestieri

POLICE LOG

- AUTO BURGLARY**  
900 block W. El Camino Real, 7/7  
800 block California St., 7/9  
2600 block Charleston Rd., 7/9  
1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 7/10  
2100 block Leghorn St., 7/10  
W. Evelyn Av. & Franklin St., 7/10  
2100 block W. El Camino Real, 7/11  
1000 block N. Rengstorff Av., 7/12  
1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 7/12  
Rose Av. & Springer Rd., 7/12  
W. Evelyn Av. & Franklin St., 7/12  
2400 block Charleston Rd., 7/13
- BATTERY**  
700 block Sylvan Av., 7/7  
2100 block Old Middlefield Way, 7/7
- COMMERCIAL BURGLARY**  
900 block Rich Av., 7/13  
500 block South Dr., 7/14
- GRAND THEFT**  
300 block Bush St., 7/7  
1200 block Dale Av., 7/7  
1900 block W. El Camino Real, 7/7  
200 block Castro St., 7/8  
500 block S. Rengstorff Av., 7/8  
500 block Showers Dr., 7/12
- 1900 block W. El Camino Real, 7/13
- POSSESSION OF DANGEROUS WEAPON**  
100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 7/9
- RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY**  
700 block Continental Cir., 7/7  
1 block Mercy St., 7/8  
1100 block Bruckner Cir., 7/9  
1100 block Cuesta Dr., 7/9  
1900 block Orangetree Ln., 7/9  
500 block South Dr., 7/14
- RESISTING POLICE OFFICER**  
N. Rengstorff Av. & Rock St., 7/9
- STOLEN VEHICLE**  
2200 block Latham St., 7/8  
2300 block W. Middlefield Rd., 7/8  
800 block Wake Forest Dr., 7/10  
1300 block Montecito Av., 7/10  
500 block Vincent Dr., 7/12  
2400 block Old Middlefield Way, 7/13  
100 block Fairchild Dr., 7/14
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MICHELLE LE

**Dana Nachman** said the outpouring of support for a young cancer survivor became the focus of her documentary *"Batkid Begins: The Wish Heard Around the World."*

## Dispute over human rights measure in Mountain View

WHERE SOME SEE LIBERTIES, OTHERS SPOT LIABILITIES IN U.N. DECLARATION

By Mark Noack

When it comes to basic human rights, there's surely some fundamentals that most can agree on. For instance: Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security. Slavery, in all its forms, is patently illegal. Every person deserves to be treated equally.

As any high school student should know, these freedoms are guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution. Fewer might know these rights are also packaged in the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a 1948 document that outlines these same liberties as a framework for international law.

Yet these indisputable human rights have somehow become a matter of dispute in Mountain View. The U.N. declaration has become Exhibit A in a curious local debate over whether Mountain View should formally

declare itself a "human rights city." That title would mean adopting the U.N. declaration as official city policy.

In doing so, Mountain View would be part of what advocates describe as a growing national movement of cities burnishing their commitment to respecting the dignity of all people by adopting the U.N. declaration in its entirety. Yet some City Council members and skeptics have approached the idea with caution, expressing fears that the city could be committing itself wholesale to a foreign set of laws and liabilities.

The idea of a human rights city originated with the city's Human Relations Commission, a seven-member group of volunteers tasked with providing advice on how Mountain View can bolster its social tolerance and inclusiveness. After conducting a series

► See **HUMAN RIGHTS**, page 9

## New Batkid film has local origin story

By Mark Noack

On Nov. 15, 2013, 5-year-old cancer survivor Miles Scott had his wish come true — for one day, he got to don a costume and become Batman's new sidekick, "Batkid." In what became the ultimate feel-good event, thousands cheered as Batkid raced throughout San Francisco to solve criminal capers in the largest stunt ever attempted by the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

The origin story of the school-age superhero and how he suddenly became a worldwide sensation is now being told in "Batkid Begins," a new documentary that began screening in Mountain View last weekend. The production, which details the flurry of preparations that came together for the big day, was made possible by the hard work of

local filmmakers.

The Batkid documentary is the fourth feature-length film by Los Altos resident Dana Nachman and her production company KTF Films. Nachman, a former NBC Bay Area news producer, began getting interested in long-form documentary storytelling after a career in working on short two-minute news clips.

The uplifting story of Batkid is a quite a divergence from Nachman's earlier films. Her first independent documentary, the 2008 "Witch Hunt," chronicled the judicial problems in Bakersfield after a tough-on-crime prosecutor sought to convict dozens of people on trumped-up sex crimes. Her next documentary, 2011's "Love Hate Love," profiled local victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks who were coping with loss and despair.

How did such a hard-nosed journalist get charmed by the Batkid tale? As a mother of three, Nachman explained that she really wanted to produce something her kids could relate to and enjoy.

"Everything about this story resonated with me," Nachman said. "I didn't come into this with any preconceived notions. For me, this wasn't really a story about Miles. It was about a community coming together for good."

On the day of the event, thousands of people participated in making Batkid a reality, including a throng of professional volunteers. Hollywood actors played the roles of Batman, the Riddler, Penguin and a cast of other characters. A former video-game designer helped outfit a Lamborghini to resemble the

► See **BATKID**, page 9

## From seeds to student lunches

NEW PROGRAM BRINGS STUDENT-GROWN PRODUCE TO MOUNTAIN VIEW WHISMAN CAFETERIA TRAYS

By Kevin Forestieri

This fall, students can look forward to dining on homegrown carrots, eggplants and tomatillos during lunch. A new program will allow kids to grow their own produce on campus and send it straight to the district's kitchens to supplement school meals.

Living Classroom, a nonprofit group dedicated to teaching kids about nutrition and gardening, has been running its program at the Mountain View Whisman School District for years. The group got a breakthrough this year when it was awarded \$74,000 by the El Camino Healthcare District to expand its nutrition and garden education program, including new opportunities to send fruits and vegetables grown by students to

the cafeteria.

Living Classroom founder Vicki Moore said the group will be hiring a consultant to help the program become real, small-scale food producers. The garden won't be able to produce enough for the entire student body, Moore said, but it will be enough for schools to set aside a special day once in a while for kids to taste the fruits of their labor.

"We want students to make that connection between growing the food yourself and eating it, and understanding where the food comes from," Moore said.

The new program is intended to curb childhood obesity, which continues to be a problem in the Bay Area, particularly among minority groups. By fifth grade, only 30 percent of the

► See **LUNCHES**, page 8

# Celebrating life and death at the Obon Festival

MOUNTAIN VIEW BUDDHIST TEMPLE GEARS UP FOR ANNUAL FEST WITH JAPANESE CULTURAL PERFORMANCES, DANCES AND FOOD

By Shannon Chai

If you hear a deep, sonorous rumbling in Mountain View this weekend, don't worry. It's not a rogue Caltrain or Google testing a self-flying plane. It's the annual Mountain View Obon Festival and its powerful taiko drummers.

This year's Obon Festival, hosted by the Mountain View Buddhist Temple, will take place on Saturday, July 18, from 4 to 10 p.m. and Sunday, July 19, from noon to 9 p.m. The festivities are held on the temple grounds, at 575 N. Shoreline Blvd., across from the Bailey Park Shopping Center. Admission and on-site parking are free.

The Obon Festival is a Japanese Buddhist tradition that celebrates the spirits of one's ancestors. Traditionally, the festival serves as a homecoming opportunity when relatives come together to remember loved ones and celebrate the joy of life, according to organizers.

The family-focused holiday will be celebrated with a variety of family-friendly events and entertainment.

On Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m., the festival offers hands-on Japanese cultural activities. Children can learn how to write their names with brush calligraphy, fold origami, arrange flowers in traditional ikebana style and create their own hachimaki headbands.

The temple grounds will be open for strolling, with Japanese cultural displays that include ikebana floral arrangements, bonsai trees, suiseki rock gardens and Japanese doll exhibits. A flower shop, bookstore and crafts stand will be available for souvenir shopping.

The festival's selection of food and drink is prepared with the help of a week-long community volunteer effort. Classic Japanese dishes will include chicken and beef teriyaki, tempura, sushi and udon noodles. Non-Japanese fare will be available as well, in the

form of corn dogs, fries, Polish sausages and corn-on-the-cob.

"It's a time of homecoming for many families," said Mountain View Buddhist Temple board member Mike Inouye. "In fact, there are family recipes involved that have been passed down through the generations."

But the festival attraction that guests come back for year after year is the Bon Odori dancing and taiko drumming. Dance is a key element of the Obon festival. According to the folk origins of the festival, the music and dance are intended to welcome the spirits of the dead.

"For decades, visitors have lamented that the dancing is only on Sunday night. This year, both days will finish off with a dance, and all are welcome to share in the festival experience," said Inouye.

New this year is the "Maui Style" dance on Saturday at 8 p.m. According to Inouye, the term refers to a more relaxed, communal dance celebration,



MICHELLE LE

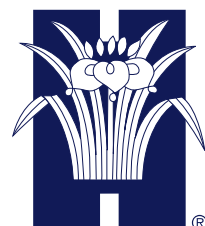
John Arima leads a taiko drumming rehearsal at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple on July 14. The temple's annual Obon Festival is this weekend.

compared to the more formal Bon Odori on Sunday evening. For the Sunday performance, dancers spend a lot of time and effort getting dressed in kimonos or yukatas for the dances, which have been rehearsed for two weeks prior to the festival.

The Obon Festival is the main fundraiser for the Mountain

View Buddhist Temple, a non-profit organization. "The funds go, annually, to a variety of things including operational costs, facility maintenance and upgrade, retrofit and maintenance of the temple structures, plus any future expansion," Inouye said. ▣

Email Shannon Chai at [schai@embarcaderopublishing.com](mailto:schai@embarcaderopublishing.com)



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# Vallejo kidnapping suspect linked to local cases

SIMILARITIES TO UNSOLVED MOUNTAIN VIEW AND PALO ALTO HOME INVASION CASES

By Sue Dremann

**M**atthew Daniel Muller, the man who was recently arrested in the bizarre kidnapping of a Vallejo woman, is a suspect in a home invasion and restraint of a Palo Alto woman, and may be linked to a similar case in Mountain View, police confirmed on Tuesday.

Muller, 38, a former Marine, Harvard Law School graduate and disbarred attorney, was arrested for the March 23 alleged kidnapping of Denise Huskins, 29, of Vallejo during a home-invasion robbery. Her boyfriend, Aaron Quinn, was also present when the kidnapping took place at a home on Mare Island, according to against Muller filed in U.S. District Court on June 29.

Huskins was found two days later in Huntington Beach, where she said she was dropped off. Her kidnapper or kidnappers left a ransom note for \$8,500, according to the affidavit. Vallejo police initially branded the case as a hoax, but Huskins and Quinn

maintained it was not. The Federal Bureau of Investigation began to tie Muller to the Vallejo crime after he was connected to a later home-invasion case in Dublin. He was arrested on June 9 in South Lake Tahoe in the Dublin case.

Muller told Alameda County sheriff detectives in an interview that he suffered from Gulf War illness, psychosis, and was diagnosed with bipolar disorder in 2008, according to the affidavit.

Palo Alto police have long suspected Muller in a home invasion that took place on October 18, 2009 on the 2000 block of Amherst Avenue. In that case, a man entered a woman's bedroom at 3:30 a.m. and blindfolded and restrained the victim. The victim heard at least one other male voice in the bedroom but could not provide a description due to the blindfold, according to police.

The suspect allegedly told the victim he was there to commit a robbery and threatened to sexually assault her, but nothing was taken and the victim was not

harmed, Palo Alto police spokesman Lt. Zach Perron said. He could not say what led police to suspect Muller, but the case has been actively investigated for the past six years, he said.

The case stood out to police not only because it was a home invasion but because of its unusual nature: the victim was blindfolded and bound, but nothing was taken, Perron said. Mountain View police had a similar case in September 2009 in the 1900 block of Silverwood Avenue, and the two law enforcement agencies conducted a joint investigation, Perron said.

In the Mountain View case, like the Palo Alto case, the victim was a woman of similar age, both crimes occurred in the early morning and both victims were restrained and blindfolded. The perpetrator in both cases was described as a tall, lean man wearing black clothing and a black mask, and allegedly threatened sexual assault and robbery in both cases.

Palo Alto police are collaborating with the FBI, Dublin police

and allied law enforcement to uncover any evidence that might link Muller to the crimes, Perron said.

The arrest of Muller in the Vallejo case culminated a bizarre series of events that included an elaborate kidnapping scheme and a number of emails sent to the San Francisco Chronicle and the Vallejo police department's public information officer.

In the Vallejo case, a person or people allegedly broke into Quinn's home on Mare Island and used a Taser on him, according to the FBI affidavit. They drugged him and Huskins by force with a tranquilizer and Nyquil. The victims were bound with zip ties at the hands and feet and made to wear swimming goggles covered with masking tape. They were initially put into a closet; Huskins was eventually moved to a bedroom.

Quinn said he was made to listen through headphones to a prerecorded message with specific instructions on how to act, and he was told to pay a \$15,000 ransom for the safe return of

Huskins, who was apparently mistaken for another targeted woman, Quinn's ex-fiance, according to the FBI affidavit.

Police later found Quinn's car at the Department of Veterans Administration Mare Island Clinic parking area with the keys left on top of a rear tire. Two strips of red duct tape were on top of the car, according to the affidavit.

San Francisco Chronicle reporter Henry Lee received an email about the victim being returned. An audio file, stripped of all identifying data, had the voice of a woman claiming to be the victim. Quinn and Huskins' father verified the voice was the victim's.

On March 25, Huskins called her father and said she had been dropped off by her kidnapper in Huntington Beach near her family's home.

Vallejo police initially called the kidnapping a hoax, but they publicly apologized to Huskins and Quinn during a press conference announcing Muller's arrest.

Someone claiming to be the kidnapper sent threatening emails demanding an apology from Vallejo police Lt. Kenny

► See **KIDNAPPING**, page 14

## PLUTO

► Continued from page 1

has already encountered Pluto, its primary objective to gather data and send it back to Earth remains a work in progress. Radio waves from the probe can transmit at a data speed of only one to four kilobytes a second. At the best rate, it would take just under a half-hour to send an mp3 file, for example.

Measuring about the size of a baby grand piano, New Horizons was outfitted with a variety of analysis equipment, including an infrared scanner, radiometer and an array of spectrometers. NASA officials say they expect to gradually receive the full payload of photos and other data from New Horizons' flyby of Pluto over the next 16 months. For now, the few images of Pluto already sent back by the probe have caused a sensation among astronomers.

"We've arrived at exactly the right time in exactly the right place and turned the camera on," described Dale Cruikshank, a NASA Planetary Scientist. "As far as anyone can tell, it's gone absolutely flawless."

There were many surprises in the new visuals of Pluto, which showed a reddish planet with sharp boundaries between light and dark areas. Cruikshank opined that the red color likely came from organic material —



**Brian Day**, who leads the Planetary Mapping for Citizen Science and Outreach program, explains how anyone explore Pluto on personal electronic devices.

not a sign of life, he assured. Methane could be broken up by the sun's cosmic rays and reformed into complex hydrocarbons, which might explain the distinctive color, he said.

In many ways, the early data confirmed what scientists already knew about Pluto's physical makeup, including the presence of nitrogen ice and ethane ice. But some questions prompted by the images — such as what causes the dark regions on the planet

surface — will for now remain mysteries.

Geologists and other experts will be poring over the information for months to come, Cruikshank assured. In fact, just one day after the event, NASA officials announced their latest images appeared to show an icy mountain range rising as high as 11,000 feet on Pluto's surface.

Despite years of preparations, a countless number of things could have gone wrong for the New

Horizons mission. Traveling across the solar system at about 36,000 miles per hour, the probe could have been seriously damaged by no more than a "speck of dust," explained Michael Bicy, the Ames director of science.

"Exploring space is hard, and failure comes as often as success," he said. "This (was) the first point at which we understand if the spacecraft survives its journey or not."

In fact, for every success-

ful space mission, such as the Galileo or Curiosity, there are roughly an equal number of explorations that didn't pan out. Taking Mars, the most-visited planet, Bicy pointed out that 47 total explorations have been attempted by NASA and its Russian counterpart — but only 21 were deemed successful.

But interestingly enough, some successful missions far surpass what the original planners envisioned. The Voyager II probe, which famously made the only visit to Uranus and Neptune, still remains operational and continues to send back data after 37 years of journeying through space.

With New Horizons, the NASA team had to be very conservative about what items they could include on the voyage, but they did have a little room for sentimentality. Among the science gadgetry, engineers also packaged a CD-ROM with the names of all of the NASA team members as well as a few other small items.

The spacecraft included the ashes of Clyde Tombaugh, the U.S. astronomer who originally discovered Pluto in 1930. The NASA team sent one other token — a 1991 U.S. postal stamp proclaiming: "Pluto: Not Yet Explored."

NASA officials have already pressed the U.S. Postal Service to issue a new stamp to correct the record. ■



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## ERIC ANTHONY LAWRENCE

Eric Anthony Lawrence died June 22 from glioblastoma brain cancer. He was 53.

He was born on August 19, 1961 in San Jose Hospital to Daniel Anthony Lawrence and Marian Lessa Lawrence of South Pasadena, and grew up in Monte Vista and Cupertino. He earned his bartender's license and worked in many restaurants in the Cupertino area, his family said. He also spent time working in San Francisco selling flowers. He was a Mountain View resident for several years.

His family remembers him as a kind and loving person who loved music, and playing drums, cards, checkers and chess. He had a fondness for



Eric Lawrence

roses and liked to share them, family members said.

He was preceded in death by his father, Daniel Anthony Lawrence, and his sister, Mary Lou Lawrence Montez of Sierra Madre, California.

He is survived by his mother, Marian Lessa Lawrence; older brother Mark Lawrence of San Jose and older sister, Victoria Lawrence Haymart of Sacramento.

A funeral Mass will be held at 6 p.m. on Monday, July 20, at St Joseph's Catholic Church, 582 Hope St., Mountain View. A brief reception will be held downstairs immediately following Mass.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society. His remains were donated to science in the hopes that they will benefit many others, his family said.

## LUNCHES

► Continued from page 5

students in the Mountain View Whisman School District can meet the statewide fitness standards, and over 38 percent of Latino children in Santa Clara County are classified as either overweight or obese.

The incidence of obesity has flattened out a little bit in recent years, but it's still high, according to Barbara Avery, director of the hospital's community benefit program. She said right around fifth grade is when students in Mountain View school begin gaining weight, and it shows on the fitness test results. Better eating habits will hopefully stick once kids learn about how produce is grown and are exposed to new kinds of food, she said.

"The goal is to get kids to want to eat these (healthier) foods," Avery said. "It's hard to compete with the food industry."

The grant funding also will bolster the existing Living Classroom lessons, where elementary students across the district get a chance to visit the gardens and learn about plant anatomy, how to grow fruits and vegetables, and the kinds of health benefits that come from eating produce. Kids as young as pre-kindergarten are taught about the health benefits associated with different colored vegetables.

In the "seed to pretzel" lesson, for example, students go through the process of growing wheat and learning about what kind of nutrition is lost when producing white flour. By the end of the lesson, students get a good idea of the origins of the food they eat.

As of this year, Living Classroom has installed edible gardens at all Mountain View Whisman elementary school campuses.

The effectiveness of the program will be based on how many kids try new fruits and vegetables, are directly involved in planting and harvesting in the edible gardens, and whether the students can demonstrate greater nutritional knowledge and improved eating habits.

Moore said the goal is to find an effective way of keeping a close eye on whether students are eating more produce on a regular basis, and whether their knowledge of healthy eating habits change throughout the lessons.

To get students to try more fruits and vegetables while on the campus, Living Classroom will be running "Charlie Carts" during lunch and recess — carts that can be rolled out onto the campus to prepare food for kids looking to get a quick bite between classes.

School district staff has been more than happy



COURTESY PATTY BERRYHILL/LIVING CLASSROOM

**First-graders** in the Mountain View Whisman School District pick winter vegetables during a "grow your own soup" lesson.

to incorporate the fruits and vegetables into the food services program, Moore said, particularly the new child nutrition director, Juan Cordon.

"He said they love what we're doing and they will incorporate anything the students grow into the recipes," she said. ▣

## HUMAN RIGHTS

▶ Continued from page 5

of study sessions earlier this year, the advisory commission voted to bring the idea to the City Council with the recommendation to sign the U.N. human rights declaration into law. The council reviewed the proposal with the Human Relations Commission at a study session preceding its July 7 meeting.

One of the main backers on the Human Relations Commission, Chairman Lucas Ramirez, explained that becoming a human rights city is more than a symbolic gesture or a “feel good” exercise. He and his colleagues want to use the action as a springboard to promote diversity, outreach and transparency in local government. In that spirit, one idea would be for city staff to analyze the human rights impacts on actions brought before the council, he said.

“We would be voluntarily committing ourselves to advancing those rights,” Ramirez explained. “It’s an ambitious goal to completely revise the way the city reviews any item before making a decision.”

The discussion came before the City Council for the first time last week in a study session in which the idea received a mixed response. Multiple council members admitted some degree of confusion over what they were being asked to approve. Council members Chris Clark and Pat Showalter explained they weren’t entirely sure what the ramifications would be if they signed off on the idea. If the city wanted to promote social goals, becoming a human rights city might not be the best way to do it, Clark demurred.

“What are the legal implications of adopting these resolutions?” he asked. “If someone thinks that we passed an ordinance that conflicts with the

(U.N. declaration), can they challenge it?”

City staff and experts in attendance gave assurances that the U.N. declaration would be non-binding and would instead operate as a set of guiding principles. The state and federal constitutions would still take precedence, they said. Nevertheless, Community Resources Manager Kim Castro admitted the full implications hadn’t been fully analyzed yet and council members would need to decide what approach they wanted to take.

The proposed action reflects a larger trend of human rights becoming a bigger concern at the local government level as well as in U.S. foreign policy dealings, said William Armaline, human rights director at the San Jose State University Department of Justice Studies. He described the significance of being a human rights city as framing the “context” to guide the city in future decision-making.

“At the local level, when a municipality passes a resolution to become a human rights city, (it is) similarly making a public statement concerning the spirit and intention of the (U.N. declaration),” Armaline wrote in an email. “In itself, such a resolution does not in any way undercut or supersede existing law.”

In that regard, Mountain View had some examples to follow. Seven other U.S. cities have already declared themselves human rights cities, including the East Bay city of Richmond, Seattle and Eugene, Ore. In general, most cities have signed the U.N. declaration as a way to project their commitment to serving the community after some type of civil-rights violation spurred a public dialogue.

That kind of event hasn’t occurred in Mountain View, Mayor John McAlister pointed out. Since local residents already had their freedoms enshrined in U.S. laws, formally adopting

## ‘Basically, this is the U.N. agenda for socialism.’

COUNCILMAN JOHN INKS

the U.N. declaration seems like a redundant gesture, he said.

“I haven’t seen any incident where rights were taken away from anybody,” he said. “I think you already have the tools to do what you want, but I haven’t heard anything to say this would give us rights that we don’t already have.”

Other opponents perceived the U.N. declaration as a way to snooker Mountain View into adopting certain social policies.

“Basically, this is the U.N. agenda for socialism,” said Councilman John Inks, making it clear he wouldn’t be supporting the human rights declaration. He seized on one section of the declaration — Article 29 — stipulating that “everyone has duties to the community,” as a warning that the document was really a guise to impose a political ideology on Mountain View.

That position was further stoked when local attorney Gary Wesley pointed out that the human rights language in the city’s staff report had different wording from the original 1948 U.N. version, including the addition of protections for a person’s sexual orientation and immigration status.

City staff later admitted they had mistakenly used the wrong language by including an updated working draft provided by an outside agency. Staff declined to say which agency provided the working draft.

A string of public speakers at the meeting encouraged the council to support the idea.

to get the help of John Crane, a local film producer who trailed the Batkid events throughout the day with a 12-person camera crew. Crane, a former Palo Alto High School football star, helped produce a shorter 10-minute documentary on behalf of the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

“It was a true labor of love,” Crane said. “At one point, we were shooting (Batkid) from downtown to AT&T park, and the street was lined with people cheering the whole way. We saw some winos on the street, and they also had their phones out shooting pictures!”

Nachman complemented that footage of the day with her own follow-up work, including inter-

views with Miles’ family, the Make-A-Wish organizers and the large cadre of volunteers. She also made use of video that Miles’ family shot of him getting acrobatics training at the Circus Center the day before the event.

Her film was meant to showcase the outpouring of effort to make one child’s dream come true. In the end, that theme became the real focus of her documentary.

“Batkid Begins: The Wish Heard Around the World” is screening at Century Cinema 16 at 1500 N. Shoreline Blvd. in Mountain View. ■

Email Mark Noack at [mnoack@mv-voice.com](mailto:mnoack@mv-voice.com)

But they and council members wholeheartedly in support of the human rights effort were unable to convince opponents of its merits.

Mountain View has no shortage of issues that involve human right concerns, such as a housing shortage and gentrification, said Councilman Ken Rosenberg. Shelter should also been seen as a human right, he said.

“This is bold; this is something where we take a stand as the government of Mountain View,” Rosenberg said. “The idea that we’d put the rights and dignity

of our residents forward should mean something. We might over time make better decisions for our citizenry.”

The Human Relations Commission will continue to analyze the idea of making Mountain View a human rights city. The council urged the group to study what kind of impacts the decision would bring. The issue is expected to be brought back to the council sometime next year. ■

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## BATKID

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Batmobile. Apple Inc. puts its public-relations team to work to promote the event. Even President Barack Obama participated in a video to congratulate the pint-sized caped-crusader.

Yet Nachman was one person who wasn’t involved in the events of the day. In fact, she only heard about Batkid after the fact. As she learned more, she became eager to make it the subject for her next production. But as a filmmaker, she had a big problem since she lacked any of her own footage of the Batkid event.

Nachman said she was lucky

# A helping hand in mental health

By Kevin Forestieri

People hospitalized for a mental illness have a long road ahead of them, with plenty of pitfalls to sidestep as they try to re-integrate themselves back into society. But they don't have to go it alone.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Santa Clara County is kicking off a program this year called Peers on Discharge, which pairs up a

person hospitalized for a mental illness such as clinical depression, schizophrenia or bipolar disorder with someone with the same disorder who has been discharged and is farther along on the path to recovery.

It's not exactly a new concept. Dawn Brown, NAMI's development manager, explained that the program works much like peer support groups for physical health and traumatic injuries. "It just makes sense to have someone

who has been on the journey advocating, cheering, and helping navigate hurdles and roadblocks," she said.

Cindy McCalmont, a NAMI program supervisor, said the months-long peer program will have mentors meet with patients in the hospital three times a week — once in person and twice by phone — to support them through the recovery and reintegration process.

The patients continue to have

one-on-one support meetings well after being discharged from the hospital; in some cases, these sessions may be even more important than the meetings in the hospital.

"There can be so many different issues that someone coming out of the hospital could be dealing with," McCalmont said. "It could be housing or employment issues; they may be trying to apply for disability. That peer, having been through those things, can break down a monumental task into manageable steps."

McCalmont has experience with the tough process of re-

entering society. She said she was hospitalized for five weeks in a psychiatric unit, and that it felt as if she had a giant neon sign above her head that said she was now "suspect" because of her mental diagnosis. She said people like herself coming out of the hospital have to deal with recovery on top of a slew of self-esteem and self-critique issues amid misconceptions surrounding mental health.

"It's just enormous. And to have somebody there who says, 'I do know what it's like,' and to have that person be this beacon of hope," she said. "You don't have words for what that companionship at that time is like."

The yearlong program is funded through a \$100,000 grant by the El Camino Healthcare District, and began July 1, according to Barbara Avery, community benefit director with El Camino Hospital. The funding will pay for part-time program coordinators, part-time peer mentors, and informational programs.

Avery said the target is to help 60 hospital patients at Stanford, El Camino Hospital and Kaiser. She said it will be the first program of its kind in the county, and that the hospital will be looking at re-admission rates and patient surveys to see how well the program is working.

"Part of the evaluation is interviews with participants and checking for any changes in isolation and how they feel in their recovery," Avery said.

Several health care district board members, including David Reeder, have been pushing for a better "continuum of care" for patients to provide better services and oversight for patients before and after they are admitted into the hospital. Avery said this is one more way the hospital can provide for mental health patients following their discharge.

"We have a pretty good continuum of programs for mental health issues, but we really are always looking for something else," she said.

The program has a good track record so far in other parts of the Bay Area, according to Kathy Forward, executive director of NAMI of Santa Clara County. Forward said NAMI of Alameda County South ran an 18-month study of a program similar to Peers on Discharge, and was able to reduce re-hospitalization by 72 percent.

"They thought they would get 40 percent if they got lucky," Forward said.

Much like existing support groups for injuries and other illnesses, Forward said, there's a lot to learn from a mentor on how to manage symptoms, medication and treatment on a day-to-day basis, especially since most medi-

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The panel discussion will be followed by a community workshop starting at 12:30 pm. Lunch will be provided between the panel and workshop. All are welcome to this community event. A second workshop is planned in October that will build on the work from the July 25<sup>th</sup> workshop!

#### MORE INFORMATION

Contact: Terry Blount  
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## SEASCAPE

► Continued from page 1

out to dinner, customers from San Jose and San Francisco.”

People who step inside Seascope are greeted by Trinity, a tremendous 15-year-old giant gourami that has become the main attraction at the store. The goggle-eyed fish is native to Southeast Asia and has a peculiar diet, eating vegetables and even bananas.

Sylvia Targ, 16, works at Seascope and said the fish is nearly

as old as she is. Trinity’s story, she said, is that the store wanted to buy 15 1-inch fish, and instead was sent a single 15-inch fish.

In the past, the store has displayed a rotation of rare and exotic fish, and is not shy about tracking down any requested species, Mezilis said. In the past, the store has showcased nautilus, electric eels, octopuses and electric catfish.

While fish are certainly the most prominent pets in the store, Seascope also carries a range of reptiles, including geckos, beard-

ed dragons and snakes, many of them bred in the store.

But now Trinity and the rest of the fish, reptiles and rodents will have to find a new home as the store prepares for its last day on July 24. Mezilis, who has been the owner for 11 years, said she’s ready to move on and has been intending to sell the store for quite some time.

She said her goal was to make sure Seascope remains a tropical fish store, and while she found some good potential buyers, they could only afford the business if

the rent stayed about the same. After negotiating with her landlord, Mezilis said it was clear the rent would increase by about 40 percent if a new store owner took over the shop.

When Seascope closes, there won’t be many local options for reptile and fish enthusiasts. Specialty, independent fish and pet stores like Seascope are hard to come by in the Bay Area, Mezilis said.

“Most small independent fish stores have closed down,” she said.

Now, Seascope has a little more than a week remaining to clear out the entire inventory, including all the fish, reptiles, hamsters, rats and dozens of tanks. Any animals that don’t find new homes during the closing sale will need to be relocated. Mezilis said she knows people who can take some of the leftover fish and she has the option to donate them, but said she isn’t too worried about any fish going homeless.

Part of what gave Seascope its quaint, independent feel is the

level of advice and education employees gave customers interested in owning fish and reptiles, she said. Setting up a reptile terrarium or fish tank can be a complex task for exotic pets, Mezilis said, and it was important to make sure customers could set up a good environment. Even after it closes, the Seascope Facebook page encourages customers to continue to send emails with any questions about their aquariums.

“We pride ourselves on taking good care of the animals and our customers being successful in providing the proper care for their animals,” she said.

As of this week, most of the reptiles have been cleared out, and many of the tanks have been sold. Mezilis said Trinity and her tank mates, an albino oscar and a catfish, will be heading to their new home in a exotic wildlife sanctuary called Wild Things in the Placer County community of Weimar. ▀

Email Kevin Forestieri at [kforestieri@mv-voice.com](mailto:kforestieri@mv-voice.com)



### GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND PROJECT – MEASURE G ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRE-QUALIFICATION PROCEDURES AND OPEN DATES FOR ANNUAL PRE-QUALIFICATION OF MEP SUBCONTRACTORS

Notice is hereby given that the Mountain View Whisman School District has determined that all mechanical, electrical and plumbing subcontractors on public works to be undertaken by the Mountain View Whisman School District must be pre-qualified prior to submitting bids for public works for Measure G projects. Bidders must hold either a valid “C-4”, “C-7”, “C-10”, “C-16”, “C-20”, “C-34”, “C-36”, “C-38”, “C-42”, “C-43” or “C-46” California Contractors License. No bid will be accepted from a Contractor that has failed to comply with these requirements. If two or more business entities submit a bid on a project as a Joint Venture, or expect to submit a bid as part of a Joint Venture, each entity within the Joint Venture must be separately qualified to bid.

Pre-qualification applications may be submitted once a year: from August 1 through August 15. Contractors who submit a complete pre-qualification package will be notified by first class mail of their qualification status, such notice to be mailed no later than twenty business days after the final deadline date of each submission period. The Mountain View Whisman School District’s decision will be based on objective evaluation criteria.

Pre-qualification approval will remain valid for one (1) calendar year from the date of notice of qualification, except that the Mountain View Whisman School District reserves the right during that calendar year to adjust, increase, limit, suspend or rescind the pre-qualification ratings based on subsequently learned information and after giving notice of the proposed action to the Contractor and an opportunity for a hearing consistent with the hearing procedures described below for appealing a pre-qualification determination.

To request pre-qualification packets contact District Construction Managers, Greystone West Co., 621 W Spain Street, Sonoma CA 95476, 707-933-0624.

Pre-qualification packages should be submitted in a sealed envelope and marked “CONFIDENTIAL” to Mountain View Whisman School District, Attn: Robert Clark, 750-A San Pierre Way, Mountain View, CA 94043.

The pre-qualification packages (questionnaire answers and financial statements) submitted by Contractors are not public records and are not open to public inspection. State law requires that the names of contractors applying for pre-qualification status shall be public records subject to disclosure, and the first page of the questionnaire will be used for that purpose.

Each questionnaire must be signed under penalty of perjury in the manner designated at the end of the form, by an individual who has the legal authority to bind the Contractor on whose behalf that person is signing. If any information provided by a Contractor becomes inaccurate, the Contractor must immediately notify the Mountain View Whisman School District and provide updated accurate information in writing, under penalty of perjury. Mountain View Whisman School District reserves the right to waive minor irregularities and omissions in the information contained in the pre-qualification application submitted, to make all final determinations, and to determine at any time that the pre-qualification procedures will not be applied to a future public works project.

A contractor who has submitted a completed application form, and who receives a rating of “not qualified” from Mountain View Whisman School District may appeal that determination. There is no appeal from a finding that a contractor is not pre-qualified because of a failure to submit required information, but re-application during the designated time period is permitted.

Note: A contractor may be found not pre-qualified for bidding on a specific public works contract to be let by Mountain View Whisman School District, or on all contracts to be let by Mountain View Whisman School District until the contractor meets Mountain View Whisman School District’s requirements. In addition, a contractor may be found not pre-qualified for either:

- (1) Omission of requested information or
- (2) Falsification of information

## KIDNAPPING

► Continued from page 7

Park after he publicly called the kidnapping a hoax.

Henry Lee at the Chronicle also received a series of emails from the kidnapper, who said he was part of a ring to extract money through kidnappings, but the kidnappers expressed deep remorse about the trauma they had caused Huskins and Quinn, and he did not want them to suffer further because the incident was being called a hoax.

The emailer claimed that the Mare Island kidnapping was a “training mission” to prepare for kidnappings of high net-worth targets. Lee also received photos of several items used in the kidnapping as corroboration, according to the affidavit.

According to the email, the kidnappers gathered information on potential victims through the Internet and other schemes.

On June 5, a Dublin couple and their daughter were asleep in their bedrooms when an alleged burglar entered the home through a window in the early morning hours, according to the affidavit. The suspect shined a bright flashlight into the couple’s eyes.

He allegedly tried to zip tie them, but the male victim tried to fight him off. The intruder allegedly struck the man on the head with a hard object, presumed to be the flashlight, causing a gash. The female victim fled to the bathroom, where

she locked herself in and called 911 from her cellphone while her husband and the assailant continued to struggle for four minutes, according to the affidavit. The husband managed to pull the intruder’s mask off during the struggle. The intruder fled, but police found a cellphone that he allegedly left behind.

Dublin police traced the TracFone to a Target store where video captured a man fitting Muller’s description purchasing the phone. Officers learned the phone was registered to the residence of Muller’s mother. She told police that the phone belonged to her son, who claimed to have lost it on June 5, according to the affidavit.

Police tracked the cellphone to an address in South Lake Tahoe, and arrested Muller for the Dublin home invasion. He was booked into custody for attempted robbery, burglary, assault with a deadly weapon, and assault with great bodily injury.

At Muller’s residence, police said they located a stolen vehicle the kidnapper had referred to in one of his emails to Lee regarding other vehicle thefts that he and his reputed gang were involved in, a laptop that appeared to be the same type as the one stolen from Quinn, a toy Supersoaker water gun spray-painted black, which appeared in a photo sent to Lee, swimming goggles covered with duct tape, and zip ties, among other evidence linking him to the Vallejo incident. ▀



## 1 Portola Green Circle, Portola Valley Offered at \$3,988,000

### Enchanting European Storybook Home

Surrender to the fairytale charm of this 4 bedroom, 4.5 bath home of 4,654 sq. ft. (per appraisal) on a lot of 18,295 sq. ft. (per appraisal). An additional 19,200 sq. ft. of exclusive-use land surrounds the grounds. A three-car garage, an expansive motor court, and verdant natural landscaping accent the distinguished Tudor-style residence. Over 40 custom stained-glass windows line the interior, which features a turret dining room with a 23-foot ceiling, a state-of-the-art home theater, and a two-story game room. Topped with an A-frame ceiling, the rustic island kitchen includes a wood-burning fireplace, stainless-steel appliances, and a breakfast nook. A rear gallery opens to the paved terrace hosting a hot tub with slate surround and an outdoor speaker system, while the master suite provides a dazzling bathroom with a steam shower and a jetted tub. Granting easy access to Interstate 280 and just moments from Roberts Market, the home is within walking distance of Woodside Priory and also nearby Ormondale Elementary (API 923) and Corte Madera School (API 937) (buyer to verify eligibility).

For video tour & more photos, please visit:  
[www.1PortolaGreen.com](http://www.1PortolaGreen.com)



Ken DeLeon  
CalBRE #01342140



Michael Repka  
CalBRE #01854880



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## UP Academy, Inc.

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The UP Academy, Inc. admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school.

It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs and athletic and other school-administered programs.

## HOSPITAL BOARD

► Continued from page 1

Voting by secret ballot is a violation of the state's open meeting laws, unless the written ballots are tallied in open session and disclosed as public records indicating how the elected officials voted.

Chen's extensive political background includes serving as Mitt Romney's chief policy adviser during the 2012 presidential election, which included developing all of the domestic and foreign policies of the Romney-Ryan 2012 campaign. He is a staunch

critic of the Affordable Care Act, and has railed against it on social media, on television news and in his Bloomberg View column since its inception.

Chen was also the policy director and deputy campaign manager for Steve Poizner's California gubernatorial bid in 2010, a role in which he oversaw campaign public policy positions and media messaging. He currently sits on the national Social Security Advisory Board, and is a lecturer at Stanford University.

The El Camino Healthcare District board is made up of five publicly elected members who oversee the taxpayer-funded district, but also serve a dual role as members of the hospital board that oversees management of hospital operations. In an effort to improve governance of the hospital and bring in more expertise, the district board decided in 2012 to appoint four additional members to the hospital board.

One of the other two candidates, Meg Kellogg, has spent the last 15 years as a health care consultant for Kaiser Permanente, the Pan American Health Organization, and financial institutions including the World Bank. She is also the program director for the Global Health Leadership Forum at the University of California, Berkeley, which is a collective of health care executives focused on innovations in technology and finding new ways to work with health care providers.

Another candidate, John McCreedy, is an entrepreneur who founded and managed several businesses designed to market health care services. At the meeting, McCreedy said he wanted to bring consumerism into the health care industry, similar to the marketing he did while working at Procter & Gamble. His most recent venture is San Francisco-based PartneraHealth, which acts as a general consulting firm for hospitals.

Chen said it's important for the hospital to be forward-thinking as the Affordable Care Act reaches full implementation and reducing health care costs becomes a top priority for the country.

"Health care over the next 25

years will look nothing like what it's looked like for the last 25 years," Chen said. "To be stuck in the thinking of the past, I think, is the biggest mistake that an institution like this one can make."

While Chen touted a deep understanding of the complex new health care law, he said it's also helpful to be a Mountain View resident, just across the street from the hospital, who is familiar with health coverage in the area. He said El Camino Hospital needs to continue to engage independent physicians in the Bay Area and maintain constructive and sometimes competitive relationships with Stanford Hospital and the Palo Alto Medical Foundation.

"I think understanding the dynamic of the area ... is going to be critically important as the hospital goes forward," Chen said.

District board member Dennis Chiu questioned how familiar Chen was with the inner workings of hospitals, and asked him how many hours he has spent working "solely" on health care-related operations and policies. Chen's answer was a ballpark number of 400 hours. Chiu later told the board that Chen's apparent lack of experience beyond an advisory capacity makes him a less attractive candidate.

"It does affect my opinion as to who is more capable (and) who has seen more of the health care industry outside of theory," Chiu said.

When asked how he felt about the Affordable Care Act and how it will affect hospitals, Chen said the new health care law has both positive and negative elements, and that it's too early to say. He said one of the biggest issues coming up is the so-called "Cadillac tax," which will put a hefty 40 percent excise tax on the most expensive insurance plans as of 2018.

"This is really going to change how employers think about the provision of health care services to their employees," he said.

In an October Bloomberg View column, however, Chen called the plan a "job-slashing, deficit-deepening disaster," and later said the plan led to higher premiums, lost jobs and slow economic growth. ▣

## MENTAL HEALTH

► Continued from page 10

cations take the edge off symptoms rather than eliminate them.

"When you think of any other catastrophic illness in (a patient's) lifetime, there (are) systems set up for support groups and educating families," she said. "With mental illness it's not that way, but I think it's changing."

Forward said peer mentorship is a key part of the mental health

recovery process and should be at "every level of treatment," including the emergency room. She said the sooner patients and their families can start to understand the illnesses and that there is a chance for recovery, the sooner they will be able to get back on their feet.

"So many people go in and out of these systems so many times because of the stigma," Forward said. "People can manage these illnesses and lead productive lives." ▣

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## 12841 La Cresta Drive, Los Altos Hills Offered at \$2,388,000

### Striking Design Overlooks 1+ Acre

Savor the lush views offered by this 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath home of 2,802 sq. ft. (per county) with a lot of 1.04 acres (per county). Designed by Morgan Stedman, the house displays walnut wall paneling, red oak floors, and abundant storage options, with high ceilings and clerestory windows to allow a light-filled interior. The beautiful great room provides a brick fireplace, and sliding panels open to a den. A fireplace and new carpet enhance the master suite, while both large upper-level bedrooms offer vaulted ceilings. Additional spaces include a two-car carport, a private home office, and a spacious dining and family room ensemble with a fireplace. A waterfall accents the front patio, while the home's expansive decks provide astounding foothill views. Less than a mile from Purissima Park and Fremont Hills Country Club, this home is also close to Interstate 280 and beautiful downtown Los Altos. Excellent schools include Nixon Elementary (API 955), Terman Middle (API 968), and Gunn High (API 917) (buyer to verify eligibility).

For video tour & more photos, please visit:  
[www.12841LaCresta.com](http://www.12841LaCresta.com)



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## 1031 Sierra Drive, Menlo Park Offered at \$2,498,000

### Bright Interior Offers Fresh Amenities

Surrounded by the peaceful Sharon Heights neighborhood, this 4 bedroom, 2.5 bathroom home of 2,130 sq. ft. (per county) is nestled on an oak-shaded lot of 13,899 sq. ft. (per county). Sizable gathering areas, like a formal dining room and a great room with a fireplace, feature expansive windows and natural hardwood floors. Bursting with sunshine, the sky-lit kitchen offers a breakfast bar linking to the family room, which boasts a wet bar. Spacious bedrooms include a master bedroom with two closets and an en-suite bathroom, and another bedroom presents a private entrance. Additionally, the home provides cedar-lined closets, an attached two-car garage, and an immense backyard retreat with a large, partly covered terrace. Near Sanford University and the Dish, this home is also within moments of Sharon Hills Park and popular restaurants along Alameda de las Pulgas. Top schools close by include Las Lomas Elementary (API 943), La Entrada Middle (API 963), and Menlo-Atherton High (buyer to verify eligibility).

For video tour & more photos, please visit:  
[www.1031Sierra.com](http://www.1031Sierra.com)



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a Clown



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

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the Viewpoint desk at 223-6528

### EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

## Sound approach on 'human rights city' issue

The City Council is taking an “easy does it” approach to deciding on whether Mountain View should become an official “human rights city,” an action it can take by signing the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It’s a good approach, given the vagueness of information at this time about the practical effects of such an action.

The council is being asked by the city’s advisory Human Relations Commission to sign the declaration, and council members met with commissioners on July 7 to study the matter.

In sending the question back to the commission to study possible real-world effects of adopting the declaration, the council majority indicated that more clarity is needed. For example, what’s the benefit of signing a resolution affirming the city’s commitment to human rights when there are more practical strategies the city can focus on to advance that commitment? In questioning the value of signing the declaration and taking on the Human Rights City designation, Mayor John McAlister noted, “... I haven’t heard anything to say this would give us rights that we don’t already have.”

But supporters argue that adopting the declaration would enshrine guiding principles for future decisions that will affect the rights, dignity and equality of every member of the community. Councilman Ken Rosenberg, a former member of the Human Relations Commission and a strong advocate of the proposal, said that by signing the declaration, “We might over time make better decisions for our citizenry.”

In gathering more details about the possible impacts of signing the declaration, commission members are able to look at seven U.S. cities that have signed the declarations. Earlier this year, the commission invited a representative of Eugene, Ore., to share details about how that city’s residents have benefited from programs developed following the Eugene City Council’s signing of the human rights declaration. It was an impressive presentation.

The commission should consider putting together a list of human rights-related projects that might be undertaken in the next two or so years, and elaborate on how a Human Rights City designation might help the city launch those efforts. Doing so might turn lofty goals into something more concrete, giving council members firmer ground on which to base their final decision.

As this process plays out, we hope that elected leaders and residents who have serious concerns about the Human Rights City proposal will tone down the rhetoric. Already, we’re seeing hints of ideology nudging into what should be a focused and reasoned discussion. For example, at the July 7 study session, Councilman John Inks called the declaration “the U.N. agenda for socialism.” Really, Mr. Inks? Socialism? Right here in River City?

A conversation about promoting and protecting the human dignity of all members of the Mountain View community should not devolve into a polarizing fight. Nor will it if the discussion remains civil, logical and fact-based. ▣

### LETTERS

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

### GREAT POTENTIAL FOR NORTH BAYSHORE

North Bayshore is Mountain View’s opportunity to demonstrate that we are a world-class community.

Mountain View has a world-class collection of technology companies, including Google, LinkedIn and others. Because of this, we have the opportunity to create world-class urban livability and personal mobility in NBS that is equal to the best neighborhoods of Amsterdam, Copenhagen or Paris. An NBS neighborhood where people of all ages and income levels can live well without needing to own a car.

Because we are in Silicon Valley, we have access to the needed resources. Do we as a community have the long-term vision to seize this opportunity and do it? Do we have the community leadership?

The city of Mountain View is conducting a community workshop on planning for a new residential neighborhood in North Bayshore. The workshop will be at the Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

Let’s have a shared community vision and reach for greatness in NBS.

Bruce Liedstrand  
(Former Mountain View city manager)  
Bentley Square

### HEY, VOICE, STOP IT ALREADY

Week after week, the pages of the Voice are pervaded with articles slamming (Mountain View Whisman school board member) Steve Nelson. Please, Voice, find something else to report on other

than reporting the latest gossip about a school board member. (among) readers who have never even met this guy. We need to all be kind to one another and stop spreading prejudices.

▸ Continued on next page



# Seeking partners in healthy ecosystems efforts

By Gary Kremen

Promoting healthy ecosystems is an important part of what the Santa Clara Valley Water District does. To help this effort, the district has put out a call for proposals for approximately \$2.5 million in grants and partnerships for projects that will prevent pollution and restore wildlife habitat in Santa Clara County.

The water district has made \$700,000 in grants available to eligible nonprofits, schools, universities and government agencies for preventing pollution from reaching waterways and groundwater. We have made \$1,857,000 in grants and partnerships available for wildlife habitat restoration. Applications for this round of funding are due Aug. 10.

The funding will be awarded through a competitive selection process to projects that meet the water district's priority themes for the next fiscal year. For pollution prevention, those are:

- Implementing specific pollution prevention or reduction activities identified in existing countywide or regional plans.

- Increasing the permeability of urban areas.

- Decreasing trash in riparian areas.

- Preventing pharmaceutical waste and other pollutants from entering our waterways.

For wildlife habitat restoration, the priority themes are:

- Furthering the wildlife habitat restoration goals of existing plans.

- Restoring and protecting riparian corridor, tidal or other wetland habitats, including freshwater wetlands and vernal pools.

- Protecting special-status species and supporting habitat improvements.

- Emphasizing projects with ecosystem, watershed-scale benefits.

The funding comes from the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program, a parcel tax that voters approved in 2012. Over the 15-year life of the program, we expect to distribute nearly \$35 million in grants, partnerships and rebate programs. For further information on applying for grants and partnership funding, visit [valleywater.org/Grants.aspx](http://valleywater.org/Grants.aspx).

Recently, this program helped fund the five projects listed below, which will prevent pollution, restore wildlife habitat and

## Guest Opinion

improve fish habitat and passage.

City of San Jose -San Jose Watershed Community Stewardship & Engagement Project (\$196,250): This project involves three community partners — the Downtown Stream Team, Friends of Los Gatos Creek and Keeping Coyote Creek Beautiful — to engage community volunteers and homeless individuals to assist with 24 trash cleanup events in both Coyote Creek and Guadalupe River over the next year.

San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory-Vegetation Management at Levees (\$690,000): This award for vegetation management on levees in the South Bay Salt Ponds will help create native plant communities on a 15-acre site, providing the habitat structure needed by several federally listed species and state "species of special concern."

Trout Unlimited-Carnadero Creek Agricultural Ford (Creek Crossing) Project (\$24,450): This project will locate, design and construct a free-span bridge across a stream just south of Gilroy as an alternative crossing that could result in improved water quality and fish habitat. Currently,

the only way to cross is to drive through the stream. The water district funds will match state grant funding and are intended for site investigation, topographic and right of way surveys, and hydrologic modeling.

City of San Jose-Coyote Creek Trail Fish Passage Remediation and Pedestrian Project (Singleton Road Crossing): Up to \$1 million is being negotiated to fund the removal of a barrier to fish passage on Coyote Creek and associated bank stabilization activities. The work will allow state and federally endangered steelhead trout species to access 18 miles of higher-quality habitat.

County of Santa Clara-Green Business Program (\$40,000): This adds to an existing partnership with the county of Santa Clara that began in 2013, though the water district's funding has supported this program since 2003. The program steers businesses toward operating practices that protect water quality, conserve water and prevent pollution.

*Gary Kremen is chair of the Santa Clara Valley Water District board, and is writing on behalf of the district. Email him at [gkremen@valleywater.org](mailto:gkremen@valleywater.org).*

## LETTERS

► Continued from previous page

another. Stop the drama. Pet some dogs or something.  
*Susannah Zellers*  
(Student, Los Altos High)  
Farley Street

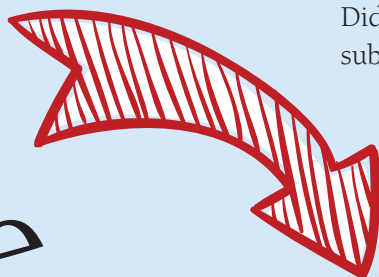
## MUSK FOR PRESIDENT?

If Donald Trump wasn't such a bombastic egomaniac his real-world understanding of economics (as opposed to worthless ivory tower degrees in economics) might make it worth having him as president because 99.99 percent of politicians never create anything except more oppressive laws.

Elon Musk is one of my technological icons. He's the quintessential doer. America doesn't need anymore do-nothing idiots as we see running in both parties for 2016. America needs an engineer, inventor, scientist, successful entrepreneur in the Oval Office.

Of course I'm sure Elon Musk is way too enlightened to run for public office. But I can fantasize, can't I?  
*Jeffrey Van Middlebrook*  
Easy Street

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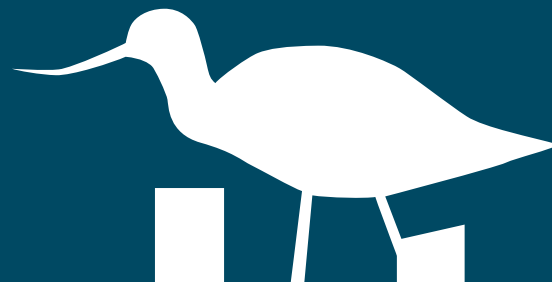
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SheaXero is available as standard features in select communities only, ask your Community Representative for details. A SheaXero™ Home is intended to be able to produce, on average, as much electricity as it consumes on an annual basis. Non-consumption based fees and surcharges may remain. Estimate based on base home without structural options with average use by household of 2 with published data from manufacturers, suppliers and others and calculated using software approved by the U.S. Department of Energy using base home sq. footage. Energy usage not guaranteed and energy production and consumption may vary based on home, structural option selections, home orientation, climate and usage of electric appliances. Electricity production via photovoltaic (PV) panels. PV system subject to 20 year lease with Solar City. Seller may provide lease payments as an inducement to Buyer. Features and specs vary by location, subject to change, not available on all homes and must be on the contract. Trilogy<sup>®</sup> is a registered trademark of Shea Homes, Inc., an independent member of the Shea family of companies. Trilogy at The Vineyards is a community by Trilogy Vineyards, LLC., sales by Shea Homes Marketing Company (CalBRE #01378646) and construction by Shea Homes, Inc., (CSLB #672285). Homes at The Vineyards are intended for occupancy by at least one person 55 years of age or older, with certain exceptions for younger persons as provided by law and the governing covenants, conditions and restrictions. This is not an offer of real estate for sale, nor a solicitation of an offer to buy, to residents of any state or province in which registration and other legal requirements have not been fulfilled. Void where prohibited. Models are not an indication of racial preference. © 2015 Shea Homes, Inc. All rights reserved.

