Brittney Clyde  
*MUSTANG DAILY*

Two able and qualified people — incumbent Jim Patterson and candidate Debbie Arnold — are vying for the 5th District seat on the County Board of Supervisors.

Patterson and Arnold both have specific areas of concern they would like to pursue to better the community.

Patterson said the most important aspect of being a supervisor is "directing the county’s growth patterns, directing growth where there are services (police and fire) and infrastructure (roads and water) available," he said.

"Doing that preserves our agricultural land and open space and provides more affordable housing, which is our single most important need in our county," he added.

Arnold stressed land use as one of her main issues. "It’s my goal to preserve our beautiful scenery and open space, our recreation areas, and also to address the opportunity for affordable housing and jobs for young people," she said.

Arnold feels that with a vast amount of experience, he said he feels he is a good fit for the district.

In regards to Cal Poly, Patterson said that he really likes the "interest in sustainability and the various student organizations to work together to provide a sustainable future," not only for Cal Poly but also for the community at large.

He said his goals for Cal Poly if re-elected are "to continue to work with students and faculty to provide a sustainable educational institution and a sustainable community surrounding." Arnold comes from a ranching family in North County that has been here for nearly 100 years. For this reason, she said "keeping agriculture alive and protecting open space is hugely important."

She was originally an animal science major at Cal Poly but switched to early childhood education and received her degree from Cuesta College. She then went on to own and operate Small Wonders Preschool in Atascadero for 17 years until 2000, and was also an aid to County Supervisor Mike Ryan and Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee.

Arnold said that because she worked for Ryan and Blakeslee she knows exactly what this job entails. "I understand how the county agencies interact and how you can work together to benefit the county in the area."

After attending Cal Poly, the alma mater of her two children, Arnold said she understands student issues. "I have always been an advocate for students," she said. "The students face up in half of the population of the city, and their lifestyles and specific needs should be addressed and grown as much weight as the other half of the population."

This district that Patterson and Arnold are running for includes Atascadero, Santa Margarita and parts of San Luis Obispo.

The primary election will take place June 3, and if no candidate receives more than 50 percent of the vote, the race will be decided during the November general election.

Dems push for swift end to primary race

David Espo  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Top Democratic leaders intend to push for a quick end to the battle for the presidential nomination when primaries are over next week. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said Thursday, adding that he, Speaker Nancy Pelosi and party chairman Howard Dean will urge uncommitted delegates to choose sides.

"By this time next week, it will all be over, we give or take a day," Reid said of the marathon race between the front-runners Barack Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Obama is within 44 delegates of clinching the nomination, according to The Associated Press tally, and leads Clinton by roughly 200 delegates.

Reid made his comments in an interview and a speech in San Francisco. He and numerous other Democrats have expressed concern that a protracted nomination campaign could harm the party’s chances of winning the White House in the fall. John McCain effectively wrapped up the Republican nomination in March.

Tantalizingly close to the nomination, Obama stands to gain a minimum of roughly 20 delegates in remaining primaries in Puerto Rico, Montana and South Dakota under party rules that distribute them proportionally to the popular vote — even if he loses all three. He would need to enlist the support of uncommitted superdelegates to amass the raw.

Slightly fewer than 200 superdelegates remain uncommitted, including 64 members of Congress.

One, Rep. James Clyburn of South Carolina, the Democratic whip in the House, was quoted during the day as saying he intended to disclose his preference as the final primaries are held on Tuesday.

see District, page 2

see Democrats, page 2
Soldier suicide hits highest recorded rate: 115 last year

Cal. Elspeth Ritchie, a doctor in the Office of the Army Surgeon General, discusses soldier suicide studies.

Pauline Jelinek

WASHINGTON — Army soldiers committed suicide in record numbers last year, and the toll is climbing ever higher this year as long war deployment stretches on.

At least 115 soldiers killed themselves last year, up from 102 the previous year, the Army said Thursday.

Nearly a third of them died at the battlefront — 32 in 2007 in Afghanistan. But 26 percent had never deployed to either conflict.

"We see a lot of things that are going on in the war which contribute — mainly the longevity and multiple deployments away from home, exposure to really terrifying and horrifying things, the easy availability of loaded weapons, it's a force that's very, very busy right now," said Col. Elspeth Ritchie psychiatric consultant to the Army surgeon general.

"And so all of those together we think are part of what makes the number rise. Especially if somebody's having difficulties already," she told a Pentagon news conference.

Some common factors among those who took their own lives were trouble with relationships, work problems and legal and financial difficulties, officials said.

More U.S. troops also died overall in 2007 than in any of the previous years in Iraq and Afghanistan. Violence increased in Afghanistan with a Taliban resurgence and to a lesser extent in Iraq even as violence there declined in the second half of the year.

Increasing the strain on the force last year was the extension of deployments to 15 months from 12 months, a practice ending this year.

The 115 confirmed suicides among active-duty soldiers and National Guard and Reserve troops who had been activated amounted to a rate of 18.8 per 100,000 troops — the highest since the Army began keeping records in 1980. Two other deaths were suspected suicides but still under investigation.

"More than any time in history, our soldiers and their families, officials also have battled more mental health workers, increased screening to measure the psychological health of soldiers and worked to reduce any stigma that keeps them from going for treatment when they have symptoms of depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress and other emotional problems.

The efforts include more training and education programs for troops and their families. Officials also have teamed up with mental health professionals and have so far hired 180 of them.

"We still believe there is more to be done, and we are committed to maximizing prevention and treating those who need help," she said.

Suicides have been rising nearly each year of the five-year-old war in Iraq and the nearly seven years of war in Afghanistan. The 115 deaths last year and 102 in 2006 followed 85 in 2005 and 67 in 2004. The rate of 18.8 per 100,000 last year compared to a rate of 17.5 in 2006 and 13.4 in 2005 — the first full year after the start of the war in Afghanistan.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said the rate for U.S. society overall was about 11 per 100,000 in 2004, the latest year for which the agency has figures. The Army said that when civilian rates are adjusted to reflect same-age and same-gender mix that exists in the Army, the civilian rate is more like 19.5 per 100,000.

Other findings in the 2007 report included:

- Nearly three-fourths of the 115 suicides were active-duty troops; 22 were members of the Army National Guard or Reserve who had been mobilized.
- Five were women.
- In addition to completed suicides, there were 166 attempted suicides among troops in Iraq and Afghanistan and 935 over the whole Army.
- Young, white, unmarried junior enlisted troops were the most likely to attempt suicide.
- Firearms were the most common method for those who succeeded in killing themselves. Overdoses and cutting were the most common for all attempts.
- Thirty percent of all cases reportedly involved drugs and/or alcohol rates were higher for failed attempts.
- The majority of people who committed suicide did not have known histories of mental disorders.
- Six percent of suicides and eight percent of attempts reportedly were among people who had prior diagnoses of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).
- Fifty percent of soldiers who killed themselves had recently suffered a failed relationship with a spouse, girlfriend or other loved one.
- Seven percent of those who killed themselves — and of those who attempted to — had served multiple tours of duty to the wars.
- The highest number of attempts occurred among soldiers who were in the second quarter of their tours.

The Army, which is the largest force serving in both of the wars, is the only military branch that releases numbers every year by polling troops at the war from on mental health issues. President Bush's buildup of forces in Iraq last year — the number peaked at over 170,000 — led officials to increase tour lengths to 15 months. With a drawdown under way, officials are terminating the longer tours and returning to 12-month deployments.

Officials said they hoped that would help ease the strain on troops. But a number of other efforts have failed to make a dent in the rising suicide rates.

Among those efforts are a bolstered suicide prevention program, as well as a program last year in which 900,000 soldiers were taught how to recognize mental health problems in themselves and others.

"Since troubled relationships are a main trigger for soldiers, the chaplain corps is expanding its "Staying Bonds" program to teach troops and families how to improve relationship-building skills.

The "Staying Bonds" program helps troops and family members on what to expect before a deployment and identifies problems to look for after homecoming.

Officials also approved the hiring of more than 300 additional psychiatrists, psychologists and other mental health professionals and have so far hired 180 of them.
Scott McClellan told NBC's "Today" show that his affection for President Bush was more important than his apprehension about rushing into war.

Connie Cass

Former White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan defended his bombshell book about the Bush administration on Thursday, saying he didn't speak up against the overwhelming of war in Iraq at the time because he, like other Americans, gave the president the benefit of the doubt.

"My beliefs were different then. I believed the president when he talked about the grave and gathering danger from Iraq," McClellan said. "I was not convinced that our forces in Afghanistan were at risk, as they are today."

McClellan said he came to view the war as a mistake by a president and advisers who were not acting in accordance with their own beliefs.

President Bush was more important than his apprehension about rushing into war.

The four teens were arrested after The Sun Times reported about Iraq's weapons capabilities to help deflect criticism of his case for war.

``The president was leaving an event in North Carolina, McClellan recalled, remembering a day in April 2006, when the unfolding perjury case against Libby was "the most pressing issue in our lives and we are excited to share the happy news and start our family."

Atascadero's Cathy Amschel voted and other trade workers when the public money is used in a private project.

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Suicide bomber kills 16 people in northwestern Iraq

Hamid Ahmed
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A suicide bomber blew himself up Thursday in a crowd of police recruits in northwestern Iraq, killing at least 16 men and wounding 14 others, an official said.

The blast occurred in Sinjar, a town near the Syrian border that was the site of the deadliest attack of the war—a series of suicide-truck bombings that killed an estimated 500 people.

Nobody has claimed responsibility for the latest attack, but it bore the hallmarks if al-Qaida in Iraq, underscoring Iraqi claims that insurgents have fled from Mosul to remote areas to escape a U.S.-Iraqi offensive under way in that city, about 75 miles east of Sinjar.

The top official in Sinjar, Dukhl Qasim, said the casualties would have been higher but the security services received tips that police recruiting centers would be targeted and had issued a warning on Wednesday advising people to stay away.

Police closed the recruiting center due to the threat, but a crowd of desperate jobseekers still gathered at the center in Sinjar. Those killed included 14 recruits and two policemen, while 14 other people were wounded, Qasim said.

"We told them that there (is) no more recruiting for security reasons," Qasim said."But people gathered at recruiting center anyway hoping that some official might register their names.

Despite the risks, jobs in the police force are prized in areas of the country where unemployment runs high.

Sinjar is dominated by Kurds, a small Kurdish-speaking sect whose members are considered to be blasphemers by Muslim extremists.

The U.S. military blamed al-Qaida for the Aug. 14 bombings that devastated nearby villages and killed some 500 people.

U.S. and Iraqi forces have met relatively little resistance during the operations in Mosul, although there have been sporadic attacks. Commanders have said they believe insurgent leaders had fled to neighboring areas and would try to regroup.

U.S.-allied Sunni fighters acting on tips that insurgents were trying to sneak from Mosul to Baghdad found 12 gunmen hiding inside the tank of an oil truck with a driver who was wearing an explosives belt.

The militants were killed after clashes broke out and the driver blew himself up, according to a police official who read the report but spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to release the information.

Another suicide bomber driving a police vehicle struck Iraqi commandos earlier Thursday in Mosul, killing three of them and wounding nine other people, according to battalion commander Capt. Aniz Latif.

The victims were from a unit sent from the southern city of Kut to participate in the Mosul crackdown, Latif said.

Gunmen in Baghdad lobbed grenades at a minibus carrying Iraqi army recruits to join the army at the Muthanna base, killing two men and wounding five other people, including a woman bystander, a police official said.

The official, who declined to be identified because he wasn't authorized to release the information, said the attack occurred on a heavily guarded road leading to the base.

The operation in Mosul is one of three recently launched by the U.S.-backed Iraqi government in a bid to clamp down on violence in the country. The other two have focused on Shiite extremists in the southern city of Basra and Baghdad's Sadr City district.

Despite continuing attacks, death tolls among Iraqi civilians and U.S. troops have dropped sharply in Iraq this month.

An average of 17 Iraqis have been killed by violence each day this month, the lowest level since December 2005, according to an Associated Press tally.

At least 20 U.S. troop deaths have been recorded so far this month, putting May on track to be the lowest monthly toll this year, an AP count shows.


"Iraq has achieved major success in the battle against terrorism with the support of the international community," he said.

(Above) Iraqi police officers inspect a crater as firefighters clean the road with water after a bombing.

(Top) An Iraqi police officer inspects a damaged police vehicle, next to a pool of blood after a suicide bomber attacked. (Above) Iraqi police officers inspect a crater as firefighters clean the road with water after a bombing.
Chemical fire, rain hamper China earthquake recovery

William Foreman

A stockpile of chemicals being used to disinfect an earthquake-shattered Chinese town ignited Thursday and injured scores of soldiers doing relief work, adding to a day of problems for urgent recovery efforts.

Heavy rain also added to the misery of crowds of homeless survivors living in tents or lean-tos, and hampered troops rushing to drain a quake-spawned lake before it floods a valley filled with villages.

The chemical fire took place in the town of Beichuan, devastated Beichuan county. The official Xinhua News Agency reported that more than 800 people were evacuated to avoid a cloud of dense chlorine gas caused by the blaze.

As in many destroyed towns, officials have been spraying disinfecting bleach on streets and rubble in an effort to prevent disease breakouts. Thousands of people are still missing and their bodies could be buried in the rubble, while rats and other scavengers have been reported in some places.

State-run television showed smoke billowing over Beichuan and reported that a stockpile of bleach powder had ignited in a storage building. CCTV footage showed soldiers spraying down the building and exfiltrating the threat, and then several soldiers who were gapping for air being treated by medics.

“The soldiers have inhaled the fumes, it has affected their bodies, and they are in the military hospital now,” said a soldier, identified by CCTV as the leader of the fire crew. His name was not given. He said 61 soldiers were injured. Xinhua reported that four people were injured. It was not immediately possible to reconcile the different injury tolls.

It was not immediately clear why the bleach ignited, though substances in it can turn explosive if heated or mixed with hydrocarbons such as those in diesel fuel.

Rain, meanwhile, grounded helicopters helping in operations to drain the Tangjiashan lake, which formed above Beichuan town after a quake-triggered landslide blocked a river.

With roads to the area cut off, helicopters have airlifted 40 heavy earth-moving machines to dig drainage channels. Heavy rain prevented aircraft from flying Thursday, CCTV reported, though workers were able to continue clearing debris. The rain added marginally to the rising waters, but was a minor factor compared to the river feeding into the lake.

In three days of around-the-clock work, troops have dug a 50-yard-wide channel running 300 yards long, CCTV said, without saying how much further work was needed.

The government Thursday raised the confirmed death toll from the quake to 68,516, with 19,350 people still missing. The government has said it expects the final tally to surpass 80,000.

The rain made conditions worse for the 5 million people left homeless by the quake, increasing the threat of more mudslides.

“Before the earthquake the mountains here were completely covered with trees and it was green everywhere. You could not see any naked rock in the mountains,” said Zhou Liqiong, resident of Hanwang town. “Now the continuous landslides have changed the look of the place. You can see the naked mountains everywhere.”

Some 158,000 people downstream from Tangjiashan lake have been evacuated, and officials have pledged to warn other nearby residents in case of flooding so they have time to flee. Troops have sealed off Beichuan to the public.

Of 34 lakes created by the earthquake, 28 are at risk of bursting, Xinhua said.

The government is investigating the same details of the massive recovery effort. Lu Dengmeng, commander for the area around Chengdu, the capital of hardest-hit Sichuan province, said more than 2,500 miles of damaged roads have been repaired and 70 million cubic feet of rains cleared, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

Some 178,000 troops, militia and reservists were taking part in the operation, and had delivered more than $100,000 tons of relief materials by land and air, including tents and prefabricated houses and schools, including tents and prefabricated houses and schools.

Chemical fire, rain hamper China earthquake recovery

China earthquake recovery

Chemical fire, rain hamper China earthquake recovery

International Briefs

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP) — The Balkans, a hotbed of crime and violence during the Yugoslav wars and the chaotic transition from communism, has become one of the safest areas in Europe to live, according to a U.N. report released Thursday.

The report concluded that nine Balkan countries — including Bosnia and Herzegovina, which saw vicious ethnic bloodletting in the 1990s — now boast lower levels of homicide, robbery and rape than Western Europe.

“Surprising as it may be, the Balkan region is one of the safest in Europe,” the report said.

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — Tropical Storm Alma lashed the coast of Central America with heavy rains and high winds on Thursday, after becoming the first such storm of the eastern Pacific season.

The National Hurricane Center in Miami said Alma had maximum sustained winds near 65 mph (100 kph) and was expected to strengthen to a hurricane before plowing into the northwest corner of Nicaragua late Thursday.

The storm was located about 50 miles (80 kilometers) southwest of Managua and was moving north at 7 mph (11 kph).

YANGON, Myanmar (AP) — Myanmar’s ruling junta lashed out Thursday at aid donors who promised millions of dollars for cyclone relief, saying survivors didn’t need “bars of chocolate.”

State-run media criticized donors for only pledging up to $150 million — a far cry from the $81 billion the junta said it needed to rebuild.

The Myanmar Ahlin newspaper, a government mouthpiece, said cyclone victims from the hardest-hit areas could get by without foreign handouts.

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Jazz prodigy Taylor Eigsti will join forces with the Cal Poly University jazz bands tonight, where he will perform with both the Cal Poly University Jazz Band No. 1 as well as the Cal Poly Jazz Combo.

The quartet's style of progressive jazz has been closely defined as a combination of funk, R&B, and classic rock, which is discernable from the wide range of musical influences that the quartet draws its inspiration from: Eigsti, 23, said he finds motivation in both traditional jazz artists such as John Coltrane and Miles Davis, as well as in more pop-oriented, mainstream artists including Nirvana, Outkast and Nine Inch Nails.

While Eigsti's style of jazz is a glimpse of what the genre will become over the coming years, he's always been one to rethink the opportunity to showcase his skills and understanding of one of jazz's most cherished and established forms: the big band.

"I'm very much down with more progressive rhythms, and I've always been in love with the mechanics of improvisation that are a part of jazz," Eigsti said. "I've really grown used to playing in quartets, but I've always had fun playing with a big band. I'll be a fun chance to be able to perform some different stuff!"

Eigsti, who began playing piano at age 4, was quickly labeled a child prodigy after he began doing stage performances at age 8. Since then, he's performed with highly regarded jazz artists such as Red Holloway, Pat Austin and James Moody. He's also been featured on Marian McPartland's award-winning Piano Jazz series on NPR on two separate occasions.

Having such an acclaimed young jazz artist come to perform with the student jazz bands not only has the performing students excited, but also the faculty organizing the performance.

"It's a great opportunity to have our students be able to play with a top-ranked jazz musician, and one who is young enough to be their peer nonetheless," said music professor Paul Kinzler. "It will be a very inspiring experience for the Cal Poly Jazz Band to have a peer with you performing at such a high level as he does."

The set will consist of what Rinzler described as some "straight-ahead jazz," and will feature a variety of big-band tunes that have Eigsti's own twist on them.

"The performance will be a fresh look at jazz with a contemporary sensibility," Rinzler said.

Eigsti came out with his first CD at age 14 and has released five more since then, the most recent being "Let It Come To You," which was released earlier this month. Eigsti, originally from Menlo Park, Calif., now bases himself out of New York City and is touring to both promote his latest album and spend some time away from the studio.

The Jazz Nights concert begins at 8 p.m. at the Christopher Cohan Center. Tickets are $10 for students and $15 for general admission.
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WHY: Help shape the future of the Rec Center
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Provide feedback on the project

WHEN: Friday, May 30 1-3 p.m.
WHERE: Rec Center
Fitness Room

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<table>
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<th>Film</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Cast &amp; Crew</th>
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<tr>
<td>Baby Mama (PG-13)</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Tina Fey, Amy Poehler, Greg Kinnear, Dan Sheikh, Ronny Molloy, Mauna</td>
<td>Summary: Unable to get pregnant, successful businesswoman Kate Holbrook won't wait any longer to have a baby. But when she hires a surrogate mother, she gets more than she bargained for.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian (PG)</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Ben Barnes, Shander Keynes, William Moseley, Anna Popplewell, Georgie Henley; directed by Andrew Adamson</td>
<td>Summary: In the second installment of C.S. Lewis' fantasy, the Pevensie siblings find themselves again in Narnia (1,300 years later) to help Prince Caspian, the kingdom's rightful heir, overthrow his evil uncle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forgetting Sarah Marshall</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>Jason Segel, Kristen Bell, Mila Kunis, Bill Hader, Russell Brand, Jonah Hill, Paul Rudd, Liz Cackowski; directed by Nicholas Stoller</td>
<td>Summary: After being dumped by his girlfriend of five-and-a-half years, Peter Bretter (Segel) escapes to Hawaii. But in a sick turn of fate, Sarah (Bell) and her new beau happen to be staying at the same resort.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull (PG-13)</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Harrison Ford, Shaia LaBoof, Cate Blanchett, Ray Winstone, Karen Allen, John Hurt, Jim Broadbent; directed by Steven Spielberg</td>
<td>Summary: Indiana Jones (Ford), Marion (Alison) and her son Mutt (LaBoof) have to get a mystical crystal skull back to its temple before the Soviets catch up and use the skull to wage war.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iron Man (PG-13)</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>Robert Downey Jr., Terrence Howard, Jeff Bridges, Gwyneth Paltrow, Leslie Bibb, Shaun Toub, Fanj Tian; directed by Jon Favreau</td>
<td>Summary: Robert Downey Jr. plays Tony Stark, the brilliant head of a large weapons company who creates a suit of metal to get out of the desert after being taken hostage. Paltrow plays his nosy assistant.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Made of Honor (PG-13)</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Patrick Dempsey, Michelle Monaghan, Kevin McKidd, Kathleen Quinlan, Sydney Pollack; directed by Paul Weitz</td>
<td>Summary: Tom and Hannah have been best friends since an awkward college encounter. Ten years later, Tom realizes he's in love with Hannah when she leaves for Scotland — and returns engaged.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Priceless (PG-13)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Gad Elmaleh, Audrey Tautou, Marie-Christine Adam, Vernon Dobtchett, Jacques Spleisser, Annette Hesme; directed by Pierre Salvador</td>
<td>Summary: Jean, a shy bartender, is mistaken for a millionaire by beautiful, scheming opportunist Irene. When she discovers his identity, she abandons him, only to find that he has no intention of letting her go.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sex and the City (R)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sarah Jessica Parker, Kim Cattrall, Kristen Davis, Cynthia Nixon, Chris Noth, Jennifer Hudson, Lynn Cohen; directed by Michael Patrick King</td>
<td>Summary: The film finds the girls four years after the hit series ended, as our favorite friends continue to juggle jobs and relationships while navigating motherhood, marriage and Manhattan real estate. The Good: &quot;SATC&quot; has lost none of its bawdiness yet has gained a more profound sense of soberness.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Strangers (R)</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Liv Tyler, Scott Speedman, Gemma Ward, Kip Weeks, Laura Mingold, Glenn Howerton; directed by Bryan Bertino</td>
<td>Summary: A couple's remote getaway becomes a place of terror when masked strangers invade. The Bad: Younger viewers may find the pace and psychological upsets slow-going.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Then She Found Me (R)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Helen Hunt, Bette Midler, Colin Firth, Matthew Broderick, Ben Shankman; directed by Helen Hunt</td>
<td>Summary: After losing her adoptive mother and separating from her husband, schoolteacher April Epner finds an unlikely path toward personal fulfillment when her birth mother contacts her in this dramedy.</td>
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<td>The Visitor (PG-13)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Richard Jenkins, Oliver Bokelberg, Hiam Abbass, Maggie Moore; directed by Thomas McCarthy</td>
<td>Summary: The film follows Walter Vale, a disillusioned Connecticut economics professor, as he transforms by a chance encounter and newfound connection in New York City. The Good: The film goes more or less where you think it will, but still manages to surprise.</td>
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<tr>
<td>What Happens in Vegas (PG-13)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Cameron Diaz, Ashton Kutcher, Rob Corddry, Treat Williams, Dennis Farina; directed by Tom Vaughan</td>
<td>Summary: After a newly weekend in Las Vegas, strangers Jack Fuller and Jo McShay find themselves hitched, then must try to survive six months of &quot;wedding bliss&quot; to keep their Vegas earnings. The Good: An exceedingly bright comedy with smart lines and superb comic acting. The Bad: The stars lack the classic sparring but me dough for each other.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Young@Heart (PG)</td>
<td></td>
<td>The Young@Heart vocal group; directed by Stephen Walker</td>
<td>Summary: A documentary tracking the progress of the Young@Heart Vocal Group, comprised of elderly men and women who sing covers of songs by Bob Dylan, The Clash and others, as they prepare for a major gig. The Good: An enjoyable film with a built-in cute factor (TD and R0ures singling good music). The Bad: Some claim it &quot;reeks of commercial exploitation&quot; and lacks the grit of the group it follows.</td>
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Tired of the endless bickering about national presidential politics? Yeah, we are too. We think Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton should throw in the towel. She should allow some methods to fade away, like climate change, our failing economy or the Iraq war — all of which are interconnected if you think about it. But if you’re like us and are looking for multiple opportunities to voice your choice, then we encourage you to take a break from the race for 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. and focus your attention on the race for 105/3 Monterey St.

That’s right, it’s the big building with trees on top near the Fremont Theater. Inside, decisions are made that shape our community and day-to-day lives, such as the amount of renewable energy we buy, the way we get to and from school, and the amount of affordable housing we can access. These decisions are determined by a board of five county supervisors. On June 3 you have the power to elect two individuals who can change the policy needed for sustainable development in San Luis Obispo. Adam Hill and Jim Patterson.

Adam Hill is running to represent the 3rd District, which includes Avila Beach, Pismo Beach, Grover Beach and much of San Luis Obispo. As the former president of the county’s Food Bank Coalition and an advisory member of the Workforce Housing Coalition, Hill is an established community leader.

The 3rd District candidate is an outspoken advocate for smart growth, increasing the amount of affordable housing, public transportation options, and mixed-use development. Hill is also committed to local job creation and wants to work with Cal Poly to incubate businesses and begin growing a green economy. He is a former Carrera corporate officer allowing students to stay, live and work in meaningful jobs on the Central Coast. As a Cal Poly lecturer for the past 13 years, Hill understands the challenges students and the community are facing.

Jim Patterson is running for re-election to San Luis Obispo’s 5th District, which includes the Cal Poly campus, the surrounding neighborhoods, and wants to work with Cal Poly to incubate businesses and begin growing a green economy. He is a former Carrera corporate officer allowing students to stay, live and work in meaningful jobs on the Central Coast. As a Cal Poly lecturer for the past 13 years, Hill understands the challenges students and the community are facing.

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Sustainability starts at the local level; emissions and pollution affect local people, local flora and fauna, and the environment. Hill and Patterson represent a new type of government official who sets priorities based on sustainability principles. And their political abilities transcended into many areas of their campaigns giving them the true “green” credibility often criticized by eco-experts. When asked “What do you drive?” at the local political forum at Focus the Nation, students learned that Hill drives a hybrid and that on sunny Patterson can be seen biking from Atascadero to work in San Luis Obispo.

Leaders in sustainability have been emerging at all levels, from our recently elected student body president to our national presidential candidates. Electing leaders at the county level is just as important to create tangible sustainable solutions, one step at a time. The Empower Poly Coalition has endorsed Hill and Patterson because they have a strong understanding of the challenges facing our generations and the need to make San Luis Obispo County a leading community in sustainability.

Chad Work and Nancy J. Cole are industrial engineering and city and regional planning seniors, respectively, and environmental columnists for the Mustang Daily. They encourage everyone to find their voting location at smartvoter.org and vote on June 3.
How to play the Daily Dots

1. Find a playing partner.
2. Each person takes a turn drawing one line connecting two dots. Only horizontal and vertical lines can be drawn.
3. The first person to close a square, wins that square. To keep track, place winners initials in the box.
4. Once one square is closed, that player gets to go again. They continue until no more squares can be closed.
5. Player with the most squares win.
Honors continued from page 12

each of the three years he's been here. Right in the middle of our lineup, he was our catcher hitter throughout the course of the year."

Along the way to finishing fourth in Mustangs single-season runs in his junior and sixth in RB, Morl produced a 17-game hitting streak, the second-longest in school history since 1995.

Although he said "you never know until it happens," Morl said he plans to pursue a professional career stemming from Major League Baseball's First-Year Player Draft held June 5-6.

"If everything works out, I should be signing this year," said Morl, who added he'd been told of likely being taken in the first five rounds.

Fischback, a right-hander, was honored with the Mike Krukok Outstanding Pitcher distinction (as well as the Bobbi Beggs Scholar-Athlete Award).

"It is an honor," said Fischback, who tied for second with San Jose's Guinness (listening to Krukok add broadcast commentary during their games," but he said "the kind of way the year went, it's not quite as sweet as it could be").

A sophomore from Walnut Creek, who posted a 5-4 record and 3.53 ERA as a Sunday starter, struck out 79 in K5 innings, included five strikeouts.

"You never know, but if everything works out, I should be signing this year," said Fischback will play this summer for the San Diego Padres, which selected him in the first five rounds.

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Hikes continued from page 12

outside of San Luis Obispo, but before the Cuesta Ridge turn right on Reservoir Canyon Road. Follow the road to a locked gate and small turnoff.

Cuesta Ridge Road

Along the top of the Cuesta Ridge a service road that extends from the parking lot and was where the freeway passes the summit. The paved road follows a trail along the grade toward the Cuesta Ridge Botanical Gardens, which features large groves of cypress, manzanita and pine trees growing out of the granite serpentine bedrock.

The dirt road to the east of the freeway leads to the Mount Lowe radio facility, and eventually Lopez Canyon a few miles beyond.

Both roads offer the most pristine panoramic vistas anywhere available in San Luis Obispo County, spanning from Los Padres National Forest and Arroyo Grande in the north, to Morro Bay and Los Osos Valley in the west, to San Luis Obispo, the Five Cities area and the Pacific Ocean in the south.

Directions: Take Highway 101 north to the top of the Cuesta Ridge. Turn left into the large parking lot to park the cars. Continue past the view point and turn right into the turnoff to the eastern trail.

San Luis Obispo Footpaths

Southbound across Highway 101 from the Cal Poly campus is a range of footsteps that resemble a smaller version of the Cuesta Ridge just a few miles north. Practically looming over San Luis Obispo and Cal Poly, these trails offer an up-close and personal view of downtown and campus from a different vantage point than Bishop Park or Madonna Mountain.

The steep trail travels up the side of the range facing San Luis Obispo to a red tower at the summit. Although mostly devoid of trees, wildflowers and yucca plants are plentiful along the trail. During the summer months, yucca plants bloom a decorative stalk of flowers that can reach several feet tall.

Directions: Take Johnson Avenue south toward the airport. Turn left on Little Creek (across from French Hospital) and then left into the adult school. The trail starts at the rear of the baseball field.

Shell Beach Bluffs Range

Just north of Shell Beach lies a small mountain range, which runs parallel to the coastline between Arroyo Grande and the upscale Shell Beach neighborhood of San Simeon. This trail travels through a tree-less, open area with beach access located for impressive views of the ocean, Shell Beach, Pirate's Cove and the surrounding mountains.

On a clear day, the Oceano Dunes become visible beyond Pismo Beach to the north. The main trail, which is steep at first, levels out along the top of the range from San Simeon all the way to Avila Beach.

Directions: Head south on Highway 101 toward Shell Beach. Exit the freeway at Avila Beach Drive before coming to the ocean. Proceed straight to Shell Beach Road (parallel to the freeway) and continue a few yards to a small turnout at the foot of the range.

Loney continued from page 12

" Officials took us around and showed us the really hard-hit ar­ ea," Loney says. "A lot of the guys were able to help out."

Perhaps fittingly, Loney is quick to downplay his contributions, rather playing up the charity of his teammates, some of whom traveled to local youth hospitals.

On the field, his biggest impact comes in protecting star quarter­ back Mark Grieb, but in limited defensive action, Loney has career totals of 24 tackles, two sacks, two forced fumbles and two fumble recoveries for touchdowns.

"I've never been too much of a vocal leader," Loney says. "I try to lead by example. Just going out there and locking my guy down for the whole game, not letting him touch Mark. I just want to be known as a consistent player."

Last week, Loney was inactive for a win over the Colorado Crush charity game, which made him touch Mark. Loney says, "Dan's demeanor doesn't change, but he is a fierce competi­ tor — you can see it in his eyes."

Loney describes the AFL as football with "twists" making the game faster and massive momentum swings commonplace.

With the height and speed of the game, the ball can take wrong bounces and things can change like that," he says. "No lead is safe."

Both Loney and Trippe agree that the biggest misconception about the AFL is its skill level, citing that the fact of the most players had multiple years of NFL ex­ perience but were casualties of the cost to keep veteran players versus signing younger, less experienced ones.

The idea of leaving the game is one Loney is not looking for­ ward to, but preparing for. In the offseason, he works as a substitute teacher and coach in Atascadero, and wants to continue in that ca­ pacity after his playing days are done.

"I love coaching, trying to give back some knowledge that I might have from the great coaches who have taught me," Loney says. "I think I'm really going to miss the game when I'm done play­ ing, so that's one of the ways I can stick around it."

For now, though, Loney is fully focused on the Sabercats' up­ coming playoff run, which con­ tinues after the league's regular season concludes June 22.

"It's a lot of fun, it's almost a lost sea­ son if we don't go all the way," he says.

The Sabercats visit the Los Ange­ les Avengers at 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

Loney continued from page 12

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**Take a hike, buddy**

Patrick Barbieri  
**mustangdaily.net**

It's no secret that the Central Coast is home to some of the world's most breathtaking scenery. What better place to view it than from a mountain top?  

"Hiking doesn't just provide awesome cardiovascular exercise," kinesiology senior Cole Hughlett said. "It relieves harmful stress, making you healthier both mentally and physically."

Many students hike Bishop Peak, Cerro San Luis Obispo (more commonly known as Madonna Mountain) and Poly Canyon, but there are dozens of less-frequented trails close to campus just waiting to be explored. Here are a few nearby trails that should serve to get your feet dirty.

**El Chorro County Regional Park**

More than 700 acres of open space rests about five miles northwest of Cal Poly's campus. Home to Daisy Creek Golf Course, campgrounds and a botanical garden, the park also features miles of trails through shady oaks, sycamore groves and chaparral fields.

The main trail climbs up the hillside, past stone mortar bowls used by the Chumash Indians to grind acorns into meal, to a large outcropping known as "Eagle Rock."

While not very high, the rock provides spectacular views of Cuesta College and the volcanic mons of Cerro Romualdo, Hollister Peak and Cerro Caledillo in the distance.

Directions: Head north on Highway 1 toward Morro Bay. Turn right on Daisy Creek Road (across from Cuesta College) and follow it past the baseball diamond to a parking lot and locked gate.

**San Luis Obispo Reservoir Canyon**

Just north of Cal Poly before the Cuesta Grade, is an undeveloped open space maintained by the City of San Luis Obispo. During the rainy season, the reservoir is actually a small pond fed by Reservoir Creek, which spills over at one end as a large waterfall, before finally merging with San Luis Obispo Creek a few miles later.

Behind this waterfall is a dripping-verticle andleads directly underneath the reservoir. The least-forested creek-side trail follows Reservoir Creek from the pond as it meanders up through the forested canyon for about 3 miles, before fading into private property. Cascades and smaller waterfalls can be seen along the path during the rainy season.

Directions: Head north on Highway 101. Just

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**Loney living the life**

Dan Loney, a former Cal Poly standout, has carved out a career as a star center for the Arena Football League's perennial playoff-bound San Jose Sabercats

Kory Harbeck  
**mustangdaily.net**

When you make a career out of protecting people, recognition from others is replaced by pride in their accomplishments.  

"As an offensive lineman, you don't get a lot of attention. You learn to enjoy attention through others," says Dan Loney, a former Cal Poly star and current center of the Arena Football League’s San Jose Sabercats.

Anonymity is valued over acknowledgement as a byproduct of the fact that the only time the media or average fan recognizes a blocker’s hardwork is when the quarterback is on the ground or a yellow flag is in the air.

But even Loney, a seven-year Sabercats veteran who attended Atascadero High School, is occasionally recognized on the streets of the Bay Area and around the Central Coast.

"The ESPN coverage the last two years has helped a lot," Loney says.

Loney, one of a dozen former Mustangs currently playing professional football, was an all-state selection and San Luis Obispo County Player of the Year at Atascadero when he was recruited by current Cal Poly defensive line coach Bill Tripp.

"He was a really good player, a really strong guy that had chances to go to bigger schools but wanted to stay close to home," Tripp says.

At Cal Poly, Loney fulfilled his potential by becoming a three-year starter, including for the 1997 team that went 10-1 and had two running backs each rush for more than 1,000 yards.

When he received no professional offers following his senior year in 2000, he became a graduate assistant at Cal Poly and planned on entering a career of teaching and coaching.

His opportunity to continue playing football in the AFL came about by chance.

Tripp, who was an assistant head coach from 1995-00 before resigning the staff in 2005, had joined the Sabercats coaching staff in 2001 and convinced the team to give Loney a tryout.

The Sabercats were impressed with his combination of strength and quickness, and signed him to the practice squad for the 2001 season. The next year, Loney was the backup center and moved into the starting lineup in 2003.

"He’s powerful, but Danny moves really well," Tripp says. "Before the rule change in ‘05 that made linemen using both ways obsolete, he was a pretty good defensive player, too. He was strong on both sides of the ball."

During his time in San Jose, the Sabercats have won three Aren­­-­AL titles, and he’s played in the third-most games of any lineman in team history.

A memory he says stands out from his time in the league is last year’s ArenaBowl, a 55-33 victory over the Columbus Destroy­­ers. The game was held in New Orleans, and was the first major sporting event to use the city as a venue after Hurricane Katrina.

He remembers being skeptical at first, but recalls how warmly the city welcomed the teams and how great the atmosphere was.

See Loney, page 11

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**Morel, Fischback honored**

Donovan Aird  
**mustangdaily.net**

Brent Morel and Steven Fischback were named Thursday the Cal Poly baseball team's player and pitcher of the year, respectively.

Morel, a junior third baseman bestowed the Ozzie Smith Most Valuable Player award (as well as the Mon­­ry Waltz Big Stick Award and the Jason Mass Captains' Award, led the Mustangs with a .308 batting average, 60 RBIs and 140 total bases.

"I'm pretty happy to get it," Morel said. "We've got so many good players on our team, it's an honor to be recognized as one of the best. It's cool being a little part of history like that, seeing all the great players who've come through Cal Poly."

The Bakersfield native, who was named Tuesday to the All-Big West Conference First Team after a campaign in which he added 18 doubles, five triples and eight home runs, capped Cal Poly's 25-32 season with a 10th-inning grand-slam during a 12-7 win over UC Riverside.

"He had a solid season from beginning to end," Mustangs head coach Larry Gains said. "Brent's a big reason why we're on the field, and continued to get better

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**Notes**

- 2000 Mustangs went 10-1 and produced two 1,000-yard rushers.
- Morel, a junior third baseman, led the Mustangs with a .308 batting average, 60 RBIs and 140 total bases.
- The game was held in New Orleans, and was the first major sporting event to use the city as a venue after Hurricane Katrina.