

TWO DISASTERS
STRIKE CAMBRIAN
BOY SCOUT TROOP
373 MEETING

Kiwanis club plans to help
restock camping supplies

By TIFFANY CARNEY

Lesson No. 1: Duck and cover.

Earthquake safety was not a scheduled topic for Boy Scout Troop 373 members at their Oct. 30 meeting, but after the 5.6-magnitude earthquake rattled the gathering, they received a crash course.

Lesson No. 2: When a fire is blazing, keep your distance.

After the boys recovered from the minor jolt, they continued to practice tying knots at their weekly meeting. When the meeting came to an end at the Cambrian Park Methodist Church, they heard someone yell that the shed housing all of their camping supplies was on fire.

Everyone ran outside to witness the unfortunate event. Parents and troop leaders urged the boys to stand back, while others rushed to tame the blaze.

"Many [parents] went to put out the fire with some water and the fire extinguisher, but then the propane tanks caught on fire," said 15-year-old Boy Scout Preston McPeak.

He and the other Boy Scouts stood nearly 50 feet away and could hear the propane tanks exploding within the shed. The San Jose Fire Department arrived shortly thereafter and put out the fire before it spread to the adjacent sheds on the premises.

"It was kind of scary and kind of an unusual experience," said Preston, who had never seen an out-of-control fire.

Although it was a frightening experience, no one was hurt or injured.

"It was an eye-opening experience to see what a fire can do," Preston said.

Stephen Thomas, committee chair for the troop, said it was a night many of

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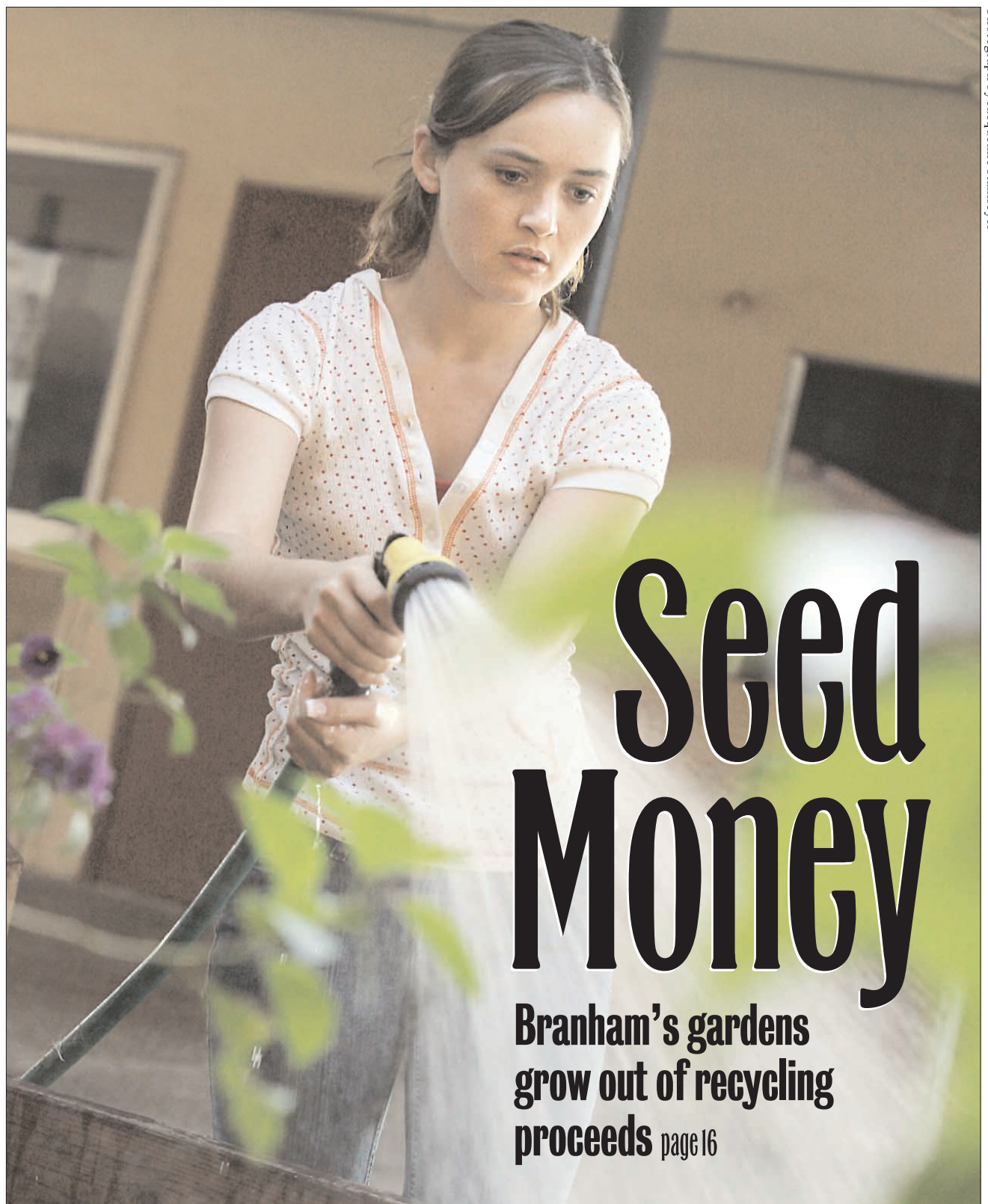
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City's waste diversion goals would help extend the lives of landfills [page 10](#)

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Photograph by Jacqueline Ranseyer

Seed Money

Branham's gardens
grow out of recycling
proceeds [page 16](#)

Branham High School student Valorie Guillet is one of four officers in the SPARE Club.

NEWS



Photograph courtesy of Stephen Thomas

Boy Scout Troop 373 members stood back as a shed containing their camping equipment went up in flames Oct. 30 at the Cambrian Park Methodist Church. Nearly 50 feet away, they could still hear the propane tanks exploding within the shed.

Boy Scouts

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them will not forget.

"It was a very emotional thing for the boys to witness," Thomas said.

After the stressful night, the boys and troop leaders realized they would have to make alternative arrangements for an upcoming camping trip. In the days following the incident, parents tried to salvage what they could from the shed that once held backpacks, cookware, tents and other outdoor equipment collected over the years.

"We have some ovens that survived the fire, and we hope to use them this weekend," said Preston, adding that parents had to purchase other necessary supplies for the Nov. 10 camping trip. Aside from day trips and some family hikes, Troop 373 does not have other overnight trips scheduled for the winter months.

The Cambrian Park Kiwanis shares a meeting facility with Boy Scout Troop 373, and Kiwanis member Pat Littau said they want

to be part of the solution. She hopes the Kiwanis members will take part in replacing at least a portion of what was lost to the fire.

"It is a terrible shame these boys lost all of this because they are so active in the community, and they love to go camping," Littau said.

A large part of the Boy Scouting program includes camping and outdoor trips to teach survival techniques, leadership and other life lessons. The troop goes on 10 to 12 camping trips per year.

Each outdoor adventure promotes self-sufficiency outdoors through fishing and first aid exercises, Thomas said, adding that the boys will now have to use their creativity and improvise until they restock their supplies.

At the end of the day, they had to look at what was really important.

"Nobody was hurt," Thomas said. "And we are very thankful for that."

Some speculated that the fire started as a result of the earthquake.

According to Thomas, the fire department conducted an investigation and couldn't determine the cause.

San Jose soccer stadium talks continued to June

By STEPHEN BAXTER

City leaders are taking strides toward allowing a professional soccer stadium to be built near Norman Y. Mineta San Jose International Airport, and soccer fans are cheering the progress.

The San Jose City Council decided on Nov. 6 to continue working with San Jose Earthquakes officials on a proposed 18,000-seat stadium through June 2008. The stadium would be privately funded and

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