

Dene Bustichi named mayor

Bicycle race slated for May 2011

✓ *Memors*

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SCOTTS VALLEY — Dene Bustichi and Donna Lind were sworn in as the new mayor and vice mayor of Scotts Valley on Wednesday, while former Mayor Jim Reed and Councilwoman Stephany Aguilar were sworn in to four-year terms after running unopposed in last month's elections.



BUSTICHI



LIND

After a brief recess for cake and punch, Bustichi presided over the evening's agenda, which included a discussion about the Scotts Valley Twilight Criterium bicycle race scheduled to take place in May 2011.

Council members directed city staff to work with Mark Davis and Scotts Valley-based Syzygy Sports Group to work out details of the race. The final date depends on the date of the Los Gatos Cat's Hill Criterium, which falls on a Saturday, since that would allow racers to compete in two consecutive races.

Davis previously represented Third Pillar Racing, which hosted the Scotts Valley Grand Prix Bicycle Race on May 15. That company also submitted an application, but the city can only accommodate one racing event a year because of its impact on city staff and area businesses.

Asked by Councilman Randy Johnson what kind of feedback he received from race participants this year, Davis responded that they described it as "an awesomely fun and safe course," and expressed a desire to turn the race into an annual event that would raise the visibility of and provide an economic benefit to the city.

COUNCIL

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"I think for some of us here last year, we were a little skeptical ... but you definitely stepped up and made it a pretty darn good event," Bustichi said. "We wish you the best of luck this year."

Though some business owners expressed concerns over the economic impact of this year's race, he said after the meeting, those fears proved to be unfounded.

"In some ways, it helped," he said, add-

ing that the event provided free advertising for Scotts Valley.

Council members also listened to a presentation by library system Director Teresa Landers, who discussed the latest annual report for the Santa Cruz City/County library system, with a special emphasis on the new Scotts Valley library scheduled to open next year.

The Scotts Valley branch is responsible for 13 percent of all library visits, the second-busiest in the 10-branch public library system behind the Aptos branch. When the new facility opens in May, it's expected to top even Aptos. Some new measures

have been implemented to free up staff time, including the introduction of a self-check system, she said, and a task force is meeting twice a month to discuss which business model to move forward with that will allow the libraries to provide services in the face of reduced revenue.

Suggestions during the public comment period included offering books and other items in Spanish, which would benefit both children and non-English speaking parents. Landers said she hopes to buy a bilingual early-literacy software program soon and that a new computer system is scheduled to be in place by summer.