

Mountain View VOICE

MAY 19, 2006 VOLUME 14 NO. 21

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A fine diner
Bajis' Cafe shakes
up breakfast
WEEKEND | P.24

Skater heaven

RENGSTORFF PARK
FACILITY A HIT FOR ITS
RAILS, RAMPS AND
HALF PIPE

By Molly Tanenbaum

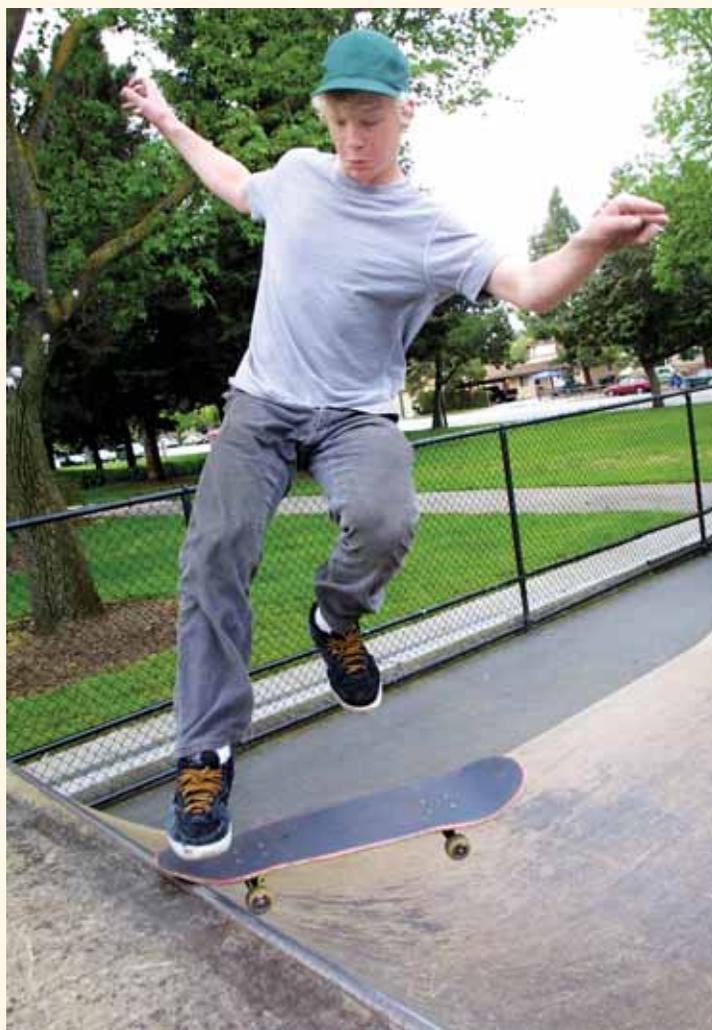
Sixteen-year-old John Hanley decided to pick up skateboarding as a hobby six years ago, and since then, it has taken over his life.

"Now it's not a hobby anymore. It's something I do every day and I won't stop doing it."

The Mountain View High sophomore and his friends go to the Rengstorff skate park every day, and sometimes twice a day, to practice tricks and experience the exhilarating freedom of whizzing their boards around the ramps, rails and the half pipe.

"I'd sleep here," Hanley said while taking a break from skating last Thursday. "If there were lights, I'd skate early in the morning."

► See **SKATE**, page 8



ADAM HEYMAN

Steve Strand, 18, rides the halfpipe at the Rengstorff Park skate park. Strand has been skating for six years and is a regular at the popular hangout.

Home Depot taking Sears site

NEW STORE SLATED
FOR SAN ANTONIO
MALL WITHIN NEXT
COUPLE YEARS

By Jon Wiener

Four years after community opposition shot down Home Depot's plan to build a store on El Camino Real near Highway 85, the Atlanta-based retailer is back knocking at Mountain View's door.

The company filed a long-awaited application Monday with the city planning division, formalizing plans to take over the current Sears site at San Antonio Shopping Center.

The proposed store has approximately 130,000 square feet of floor space, counting a mezzanine level, according to company spokesperson Kathryn Gallagher. That is similar in size to the controversial store the company had wanted to build at the former Emporium site.

"It's a different time and they're

two completely different projects," said Gallagher. "This time, the site that we found is just a perfect location."

The company spent more than \$500,000 on a 2002 referendum to rezone the Emporium site, but a fierce grassroots campaign sent that plan to defeat. At the time, one of organizers' main concerns was the store's proximity to resi-

► See **HOME DEPOT**, page 13

■ HANGAR ONE

Locals question demo costs

STUDY PUT HANGAR
TEARDOWN AT MORE
THAN TWICE NAVY'S
\$12 MILLION

By Jon Wiener

A 2003 NASA engineering study pegged the cost of tearing down Hangar One at more than \$30 million, about 2.5 times the amount listed in a recent Navy report that urged demolishing the Moffett Field landmark.

The 27-page NASA study, marked on each page with "For Official Use Only," has a much more detailed cost analysis than the recently released Navy report that said demolishing the hangar would cost only \$12.2 million.

The Navy recommended demo-

► See **HANGAR ONE**, page 14

Tears can't save hospital unit

BOARD REAFFIRMS DECISION TO END SUBACUTE CARE IN 2008

By Molly Tanenbaum

Though community pleas to reverse plans to close the hospital's subacute care unit moved some El Camino Hospital board members to tears, it was not enough to change their minds at their meeting last Wednesday.

With nearly 50 community members, hospital staff and Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 715 representatives spilling out of the meeting room, the board of directors voted unanimously to shut down the subacute unit — which provides long-term care for patients with

severely debilitating conditions — to free up those beds for other patients.

This public decision came five months after a similar closed-session decision that upset patients and family members who must relocate when the unit closes in December 2008.

"I feel for the families. I physically hurt," said board member Mark O'Connor before the vote on May 10, expressing that this decision was one of the hardest he has had to make as a board member.

Pressure from family members and the SEIU landed the issue on the board's

► See **SUBACUTE**, page 11

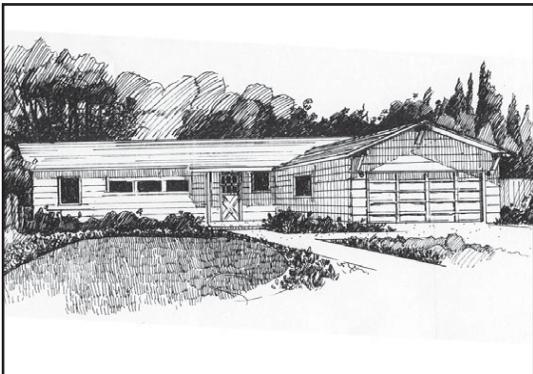


NORBERT VON DER GROEBEN

Fire guts mountain view businesses.
See page 5



Chuck & Tori



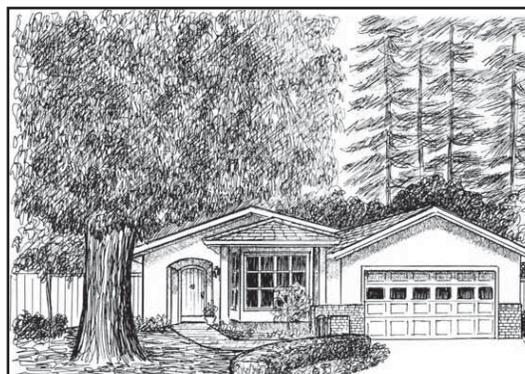
MOUNTAIN VIEW ■ Cuesta Park! 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with 2-car garage. Fireplace hardwood floors, + eat-in kitchen. Lovely yards, great location. **\$898,000**

Susan Enzmann



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Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked in Downtown Mountain View. Pictures and interviews by Elizabeth Lasky.

What did you do for Mother's Day?



"Our children were all with us at the First Presbyterian Church."

Nancy Crippen, Mountain View



"Went to brunch and saw a jazz show."

Michelle Lee, Menlo Park



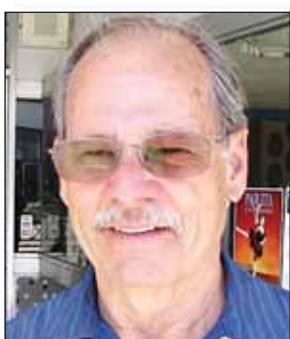
"I called my mom in New Jersey."

Krysta Curtis, Mountain View



"Went to Princeton Point in Half Moon Bay, watched the waves come in. It was beautiful. Took Mom to Duart's in Pescadero for dinner. It was a nice Mother's Day."

Dean Johnson, Mountain View



"I allowed my son to take my wife and myself to dinner, and I sent my mother some flowers."

Bob Howe, Danville



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■ QUOTE OF THE WEEK

'Apparently we did do an engineering estimate. How correct it is, I really don't know. What it is based on, I'm not sure. We're going back and looking at that now.'

— NASA ENVIRONMENTAL CHIEF SANDY OLLIGES,
ON A NASA REPORT ESTIMATING THE COST OF TEARING DOWN HANGAR ONE

■ CRIMEWATCH

ARMED ROBBERY, EL PAISANO MARKET, 889 LEONG DR., 5/12

Two suspects entered the market and committed a take-over robbery. The first suspect confronted the cashier at gunpoint and then walked behind the counter looking for money. Meanwhile, the second suspect controlled two store employees at gunpoint, taking wallets and cell phones from them. Then an unwitting customer entered the store and was directed to the ground by suspects. At this point, the store employees activated a silent robbery alarm. The suspects fled the area with an undisclosed amount of cash. They were not apprehended.

ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON, 1900 BLOCK ROCK ST., 5/13

Police responded to a report

of a fight and yelling. As officers were en route to the scene, they also received a report of a green Blazer leaving this location. One of the officers spotted the Blazer and stopped it. This officer determined that a passenger in the vehicle had committed an assault with a deadly weapon on a victim in the reported location. This weapon was a baseball bat used to "settle" a personal dispute. Using the bat, the suspect broke several items inside the victim's apartment and then struck the victim several times. The victim suffered severe but not life-threatening injuries as a result. The suspect and the individual driving the Blazer were arrested and charged with several crimes, including assault with a deadly weapon and burglary.

■ POLICE LOG

AUTO BURGLARY

200 block Escuela Ave., 5/11
1100 block Castro St., 5/11
1000 block Gest Dr., 5/15

BATTERY

300 block N. Rengstorff Ave., 5/11
Crittenden School, 5/12
Rengstorff Park, 5/13
100 block Permanente Way, 5/14
600 block Mariposa Ave., 5/15

DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE

200 block Pettis Ave., 5/14
600 block California St., 5/15

ROBBERY

800 block Leong Dr., 5/12

GRAND THEFT

1900 block Plymouth St., 5/09
300 block Ravendale Dr., 5/12
1600 block Villa St., 5/13
Amphitheatre Pkwy., 5/13

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

700 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 5/13

VANDALISM

500 block Escuela Ave., 5/09
Albertson's, 5/09
Whisman Park, 5/10
100 block Pachetti Way, 5/11
800 block Castro St., 5/12
500 block Cypress Point Dr., 5/13

RAPE

2000 block Montecito Ave, 5/10

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9:30am Breakfast@Union #2 Worship
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■ CRIME

Woman attacked after being chased from her home

By Molly Tanenbaum

A Mountain View woman was cut and sexually assaulted early Sunday morning after she and her roommates were frightened into fleeing their California Street apartment, police say. There have been no arrests in the attack, and police are still searching for leads.

The incident began around 3 a.m. on Sunday, May 14, when three female roommates in an apartment



Suspect sketch

on the 2600 block of California Street heard a suspicious noise coming from outside the patio window. The women, who were awake at the time, spotted a man standing in the window. He was later described as 18 to 30 years old, possibly Hispanic, and about 5-foot-7 with black hair.

The man then attempted to enter the apartment forcefully. Fearing for their safety, two of the women immediately fled into the street. The third resident fled to a neighboring apartment, where she dialed 9-1-1.

While running on Del Medio Avenue, the two fleeing women encountered a man standing on the sidewalk. Police are not saying whether they think it was the same man who tried to break into the apartment. The women turned to run the other direction, but he chased after them, grabbed one of them and dragged her down the street.

Once in the secluded area, the man pulled the victim to the ground and injured her with a knife or other sharp object. She attempted to fight back, and police believe the subject sexually assaulted the victim. The attacker then fled on foot. The victim was transported to a local hospital for

► See **CRIME**, page 13



ADAM HEYMAN

SALUTE TO MUSIC: *The Castro School Chorus performs "I Lost my Homework" at the fifth annual ChoralFest at Shoreline Amphitheatre on Monday. The performance, which features hundreds of kids, is put on through a collaborative effort of the Los Altos-Mountain View PTA Council and the Community School of Music and Arts.*

Where the windfalls fall

TWO SCHOOL DISTRICTS SPEND TECHNOLOGY FUNDS IN VERY DIFFERENT WAYS

By Molly Tanenbaum

Last summer, the Mountain View City Council decided to allocate a large chunk of property tax revenue to both the Mountain View-Whisman and Mountain View-Los Altos School districts for the purposes of strengthening technology education.

In their first year with the

funds, the two school districts have taken drastically different spending approaches, based on their immediate technology needs. While one will launch a new, alternative technology-based high school in the fall, the other has had to focus on getting simple e-mail up and running.

The funds — \$400,000 to each district every year for 15 years — come from property tax

revenue from the city's Shoreline Regional Park Community, and the districts entered a joint powers authority agreement with the community last summer for use of the funds.

The Shoreline Regional Park Community is home to Google, Intuit, Microsoft and other high tech companies. The hope is that,

► See **TECHNOLOGY** page 6

Survey: All's good in the neighborhood

Bay City News

The overwhelming majority of Mountain View residents are "very" or "somewhat" satisfied with the programs and services offered in their city and the quality of life they enjoy there, according to a new survey that lists the scores as "one of the highest" for a city.

Godbe Research President Brian Godbe, whose Half Moon Bay-based company has conducted surveys for more than 15 years, said Mountain View received "one of the highest scores Godbe Research has seen for a city."

The results show that Mountain View residents' priorities for the city have shifted since 1995, when reducing crime topped the list. Today, increasing affordable housing is in the top spot at 27 percent, compared to only 9 percent in 1995. Improving local schools is also deemed more urgent today, with 17.2 percent citing it as a top issue. Reducing traffic is third at 10.7 percent.

Programs and services ranked on the lower end of the importance scale include building more parks and increasing recreation offerings.

Library and fire protection/paramedic services, meanwhile, scored the highest among the services residents are the most satisfied with. Traffic flow measures and land use regulation ranked lowest. ■

■ BREAKING NEWS

Four-alarm blaze guts El Camino businesses

Bay City News

Fire crews spent four hours battling a four-alarm blaze in a Mountain View strip mall early Wednesday that sent flames high in the sky and destroyed four businesses, a fire department spokesman said.

The fire began in a dry cleaning business at 803 W. El Camino Real at Castro Street, according to Mountain View Fire Department spokesman Lynn Brown. It was first called in as a two-alarm fire

at 12:21 a.m. Wednesday, and was raised to a three-alarm fire around 1 a.m. At about 1:40 a.m., a fourth alarm was raised as the fire spread to neighboring businesses.

Flames were clearly visible from the street, as units from at least four different fire departments worked from ladder stations to spray water on the roof, Brown said.

El Camino Real and Castro Street were both closed outside the building as hoses were pulled across the roadways, but police were able to open El Camino by

the morning commute.

By 2:05 a.m., the fire had stopped spreading, but it was not until after 4:30 a.m. that the fire was under control enough for crews to enter and put out hotspots and lingering flames.

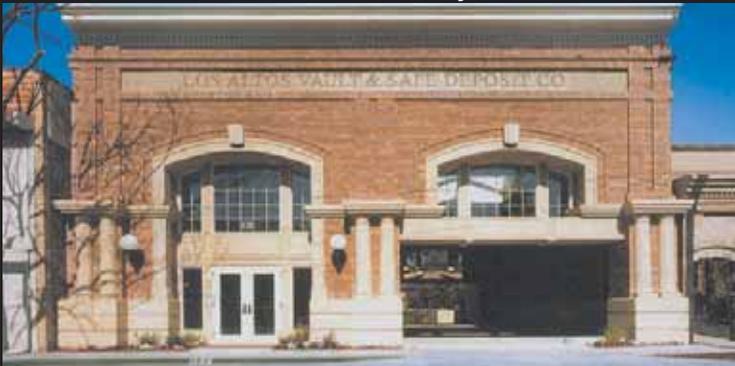
According to Brown, the fire began at Super Fluff Cleaners and Laundry; the cause of the fire remains under investigation. A beauty salon, a Postal Express and a liquor store at the strip mall also sustained major damage.

Brown did not have an exact dollar amount of the damages

caused by the flames, smoke and water, but he did estimate that the fire could cost hundreds of thousands of dollars at the least. The businesses were empty at the time of the fire, Brown said, and no firefighters were injured.

Units from the Santa Clara County Fire Department, the Sunnyvale Fire Department and the NASA Ames Fire Department based at Moffett Field all aided the Mountain View Fire Department in controlling the fire, Brown said. ■

IF IT'S NOT IN THIS VAULT, IT'S NOT SAFE.

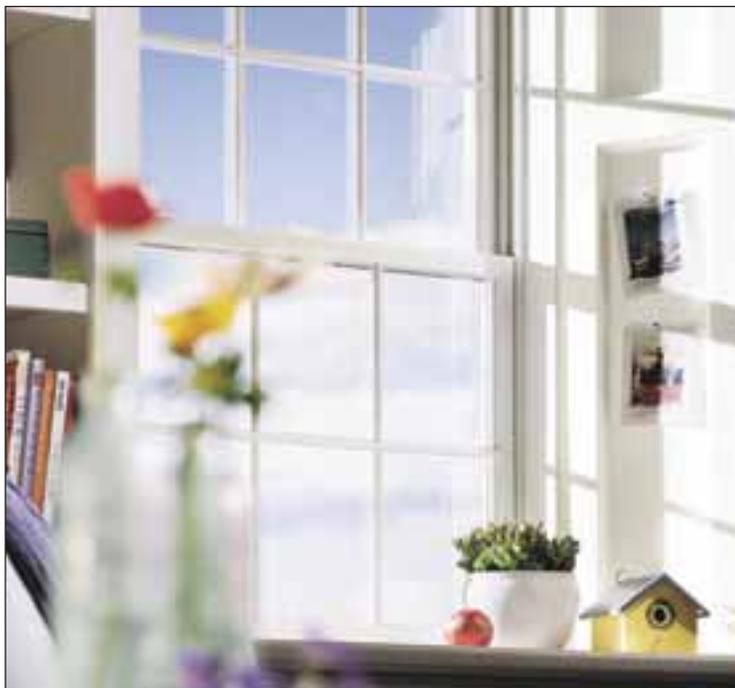


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LocalNews

TECHNOLOGY

► Continued from page 5

by contributing funds to schools to support technology education, companies will help create the next generation of technologically adept employees right in their backyard.

"It was viewed as an amount that seemed reasonable to the Shoreline Community but would also have a positive impact on the two school districts," said city manager Kevin Duggan. "We think [the school districts] are best suited to determine how they can get the most bang for the buck

in regard to using technology."

A tech-savvy high school

The Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District appears well on its way to creating future high tech employees. It has decided to allot the annual \$400,000 to fund to what it calls Freestyle High School: A New Academy of Communication Arts and Technology.

The school has already accepted 64 students into the program, which will start in the fall and provide juniors and seniors with education in Web and graphic design, filmmaking, audio engineering and digital photography.

According to Joe White, associate superintendent of business services for Mountain View-Los Altos, about half of the city money will be spent by the end of this school year on staff time and equipment.

"We're trying to conserve that money as much as possible and carry it over into the first year," he said.

Since receiving the joint powers funds, Freestyle High has been able to secure additional grants: \$100,000 from the state, \$60,000 from Hewlett-Packard and \$15,000 from Microsoft to

► See **TECHNOLOGY**, next page

Challenge Team honors Bob Adams, Oscar Garcia

By Molly Tanenbaum

The Mountain View-Los Altos-Los Altos Hills Challenge Team recognized Bob Adams and Oscar Garcia as "2006 Challenge Team Champions for Youth" at its benefit breakfast last Thursday.

Adams, a member of the Los Altos Rotary Club, founded Partners for a New Generation, a volunteer mentoring program at Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District. Adams also helped found Alta Vista High School's

basketball program.

Garcia, a graduate of Castro School and eventually of UC Berkeley, co-founded Mesa de la Comunidad last year. Collaborating with city organizations and the school districts through Mesa, Garcia has organized a citywide soccer tournament, has planned the upcoming Mountain View Olympics event on June 4, and is working toward creating citywide after-school programs.

The Challenge Team presented a surprise award to Rich Fischer, retiring MVLA

superintendent. The 130 audience members at the May 11 breakfast also watched a guest speech by Richard Santana, a former gang member turned Harvard graduate.

"I was supposed to be dead. I was supposed to be locked up, and because of someone like you, I graduated from that university," he told the audience.

The Challenge Team is a nonprofit partnership of students, school districts, police departments and community groups organized to prevent alcohol and drug-related problems facing youth. ■

EDUCATION BRIEFS

SUMMER SCHOOL SIGN-UPS EXTENDED

The Los Altos School District is still accepting registrations into its two enrichment summer school programs, which run June 19 to July 14. The primary grade program is open to students entering grades two to four and will be held at Loyola School. The upper grade program is for students entering fifth through seventh grades and will be held at Oak School.

Some of the available classes include architectural design, French conversation, robotic Olympics, creative writing, computer projects and forensic sciences. For more information, call district office at (650) 947-1150.

REGISTER EARLY FOR FOOTHILL'S FALL QUARTER

Students currently enrolled in spring quarter classes at Foothill College are eligible to par-

ticipate in early fall registration through May 26. Early registration provides the best selection of available courses. This service is only available by registering online or by calling (650) 917-0509 or (408) 777-9394.

Fall quarter classes begin the week of Sept. 25. Visit www.foothill.edu to view online course listings and to register. General online and phone registration for continuing students runs July 31 through Sept. 24, while new and former students may register online or by phone Aug. 4 through Sept. 24.

GRAHAM QUARTET WINS SECOND IN STATE

Four Graham Middle School eighth graders received a second-place prize for their performance in the California Association for Music Education (CMEA) solo and ensemble festival in Sacramento on May 13.

Blair Bacsí, Emily Fisher, Lau-

ren Fischer and Alice Shen made up a flute and clarinet quartet that qualified to compete in the state contest last weekend based on their performance at San Jose State. They were the only Graham students to travel to Sacramento to compete. They played "Gavotte" from Suite #3 in D Major by Bach.

MEET THE NEW SUPER

The Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District Board of Trustees will host a reception on Tuesday, May 30 to welcome Barry Groves, the new superintendent, to the district. Groves replaces Rich Fischer, who will retire at the end of this school year.

The community welcome reception for Groves will take place from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Los Altos Community House at 183 Hillview Avenue in Los Altos.

— Molly Tanenbaum

TECHNOLOGY

► Continued from previous page

fund salaries, equipment and software.

White believes that having the city's funds — which he called “the basic seed money for the operation” — helped Freestyle to approach companies and the state and successfully pursue the additional funds.

“It shows that there's commitment to the program and that the district is willing to put time and effort into this to be an ongoing project,” White said.

Getting up to speed

The Mountain View-Whisman School District, meanwhile, has had to address its basic technology needs.

Superintendent Maurice Ghysels, who came to the district this school year from Campbell Union High School District, said that in comparison to his old district, Mountain View-Whisman was way behind.

“I can tell you when I first walked in, just basic e-mail was very spotty,” Ghysels said. “Where I came from, there was an infrastructure and it was working. I was very concerned in terms of communication inside and out. We needed a really reliable Web-based system and e-mail system.”

This past year, Mountain View-Whisman has spent its entire \$400,000 on beefing up its technology infrastructure. Ghysels created a new director of technology position, and added a new network coordinator and technology trainer to the staff. About \$114,000 of the city money has gone toward personnel, while the remaining funds have been used for new equipment, establishing a new e-mail system and setting up a server and network.

But Ghysels says this is all just a start. In the coming years, he hopes to allocate the city funds toward data analysis programs that help teachers better assess their students and provide individualized instruction.

“We really want to create a connection between learning and technology and not just buy the new, new thing,” he said. “The technology that we purchase for students ultimately has to show that it has an effect on achievement and an engagement in learning.”

He has also mentioned the potential for future use of blogs, iPods and laptops in the classroom. But for now, he believes the district has made big strides in the right direction this year.

“We're crawling before we can run,” Ghysels said. ▀

E-mail Molly Tanenbaum at mtanenbaum@mv-voice.com

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SKATE

► Continued from page 1

Last Thursday after school, the 15 skaters there were all boys, ranging in age from 12 to 21. Some arrive as early as 7 a.m. before school, and they all return after school to skate until the sun sets. Occasionally, a couple of girls with skateboards will come by and use the park, but Dominic Benitez, a Los Altos High freshman, said girls mainly hang around outside the fenced-off skate park, located at the northeast

corner of Rengstorff.

"They sit there and watch. They're kind of annoying," he said.

Some of the structures at the skate park include the Spine, the Steep Quarter Pipe, the Fun Box and the Kinked Rail. Skaters weave around each other and practice moves, sometimes focusing on one of the structures, or using one to gain enough momentum to land a trick on another.

But skaters avoid one low bar in the corner called the Curvy Rail.

"No one skates it because they

hit their head and face," Hanley said, adding that "only rollerbladers use it and they suck."

Some skaters listen to music with headphones as they wheel around in their own worlds, while others take breaks to socialize on the side, resting on their boards.

Skaters at Rengstorff Park define their abilities in terms of fun, not competitiveness. The more fun you have, the better you are.

"The people who have more fun teach the people who have less fun," explained 12-year-old Angel Chaerr, a Crittenden Middle School 7th grader who started skating about a year ago. It's common for young skaters like Chaerr to get their start in the park, learning tricks from the older, more experienced skaters.

"We don't compare ourselves to each other," added Benitez, who has been skating for six years.

Chaerr is one of the youngest at the park, and is also one of the few who still wears a helmet, at his parents' request. But there's one problem: His helmet's buckle is missing, so the straps dangle on either side of his head.

"I'm used to [wearing a helmet] and I'm not a bad kid like you," he said to Andrew Elliott, a Los Altos High School freshman who abandoned his helmet long ago.

"You're not going to wear a helmet forever. You're going to get sick of it and take it off," Elliott replied.

Rules posted outside the skate park's gate say that skaters must wear appropriate protective gear like helmets and elbow pads. Skat-

ers say the police come by regularly for a week out of every year, and then they go away.

"The cops come and scare everybody," Chaerr said.

Benitez added, "Once they leave, we just skate again. They don't understand."

Though wearing protective gear isn't the norm, falling is a way of life for Rengstorff skaters. It's how they become better skaters.

"You learn from every fall you take," Hanley said. "I get up and try again. It's not a big deal."

Hanley's friends couldn't forget his big fall, when he landed on a rock that embedded into his elbow.

"Everyone's fallen really hard at least once. Everyone's hit their head," Benitez said.

Of course, the skaters have their gripes about the park, like when police come by to enforce helmet

■ INFORMATION

What: Rengstorff Skate Park

Where: The corner of South Rengstorff Avenue and Crisanto Avenue

When: Open daily from 6 a.m. until one half hour before sunset. On Saturdays and Sundays, the park is reserved exclusively for skaters age 12 and under from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Also: All skaters must wear helmets, kneepads and elbow pads. All scooters and bikes, including BMX bikes, are prohibited at this facility.

"We're like hamsters in a cage," Hanley said.

But the park is close and convenient for the skaters, who

come from Mountain View, Los Altos and even Palo Alto to use the half-pipe, rails and ramps.

Most Rengstorff skaters buy their boards at Skate Works on Castro Street in Mountain View, where they also hang out and watch skating videos. After purchasing the board and wheels separately, they assemble the pieces, sometimes adding personal touches like colored screws and wheels, spray paint or

decal. Each board ends up costing about \$50, they said.

"No one really cares what it looks like," said Benitez, whose only personal touch on his board was using metallic red screws to fasten the wheels. "Some people think it looks cool. It's still expensive for a piece of wood."

But there's no point in putting too much effort into decorating a board, Hanley said, since they tend to break pretty frequently with heavy use. He's broken so many that he lost count long ago.

Hanley isn't the only one for whom skating has gone far beyond a hobby. Foothill College student Brian Oandasan, 21, started skating at 14 and views the activity as a means of artistic expression.

"It's more of an art form than anything else," he said. "You have to be creative about the kind of trick you do."

For the skaters, the park is more than a place to learn new tricks and socialize with friends. It provides a sense of identity.

"We're from the skate park," Hanley said. "We all skate together as one big Rengstorff family." ▀



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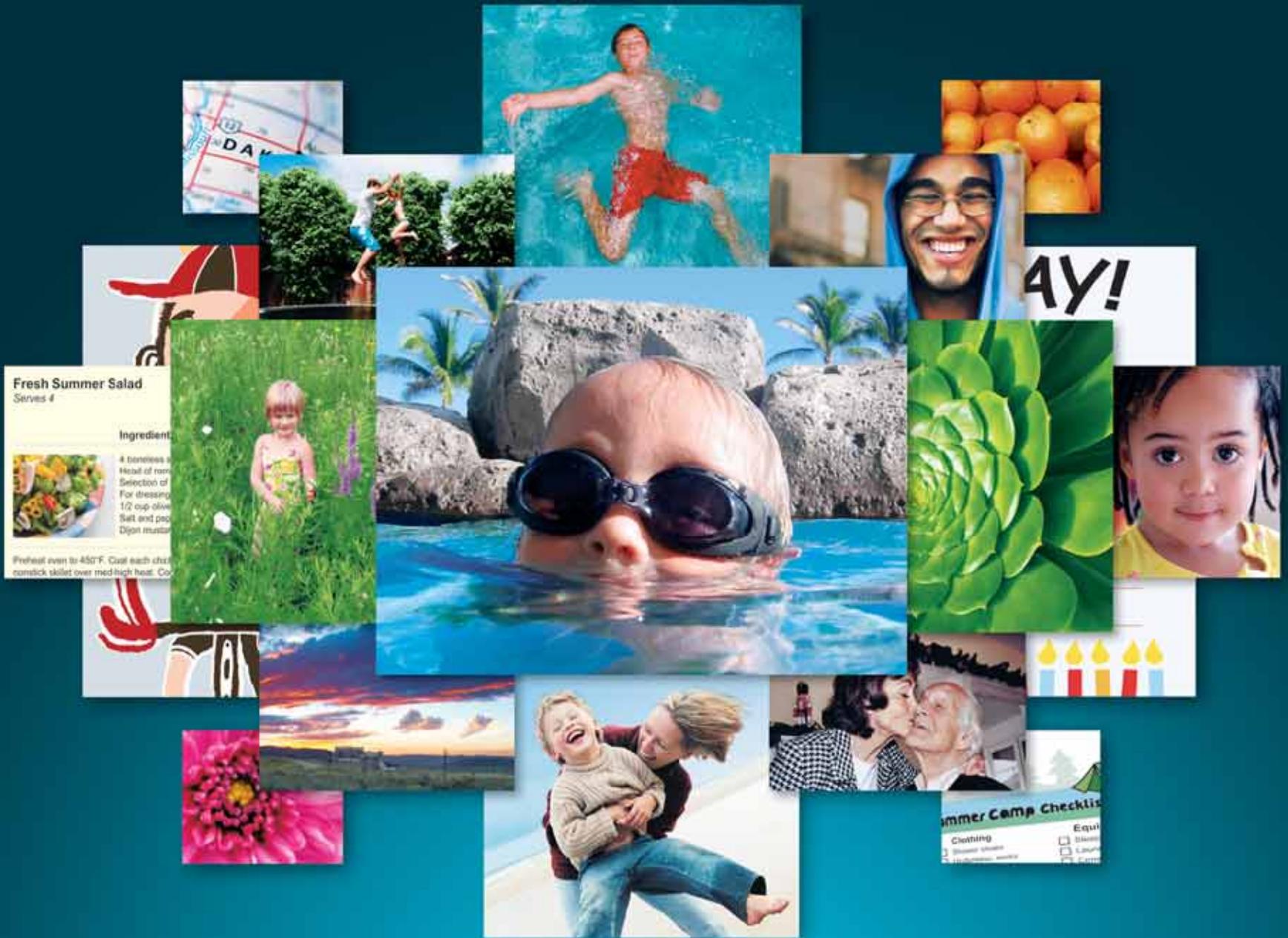
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SUBACUTE

► Continued from page 1

agenda in open session months after hospital management had notified staff, patients and families on Dec. 12. About half of the 48 subacute patients who had received care at El Camino Hospital have already transferred, leaving 22 patients, according to a hospital official.

More than 10 members of the audience spoke at the meeting, including representatives from the offices of State Assembly members Sally Lieber and Ira Ruskin, who expressed the legislators' support of preserving the unit, and criticized the board for not holding a public hearing earlier about the issue.

Dawn Dunn, whose quadriplegic husband resides in El Camino's subacute unit, said she was afraid to send him elsewhere because of the excellent care he has received at El Camino.

"I feel as though I'm sending him to his death," Dunn said, adding that her husband had almost died of bed sores at a prior facility.

Diana Russell, vice president of patient care services, outlined the need for subacute beds to become beds for patients with acute needs such as cancer, cardiac care and bariatric surgery.

"On an everyday basis, we run very tight, and oftentimes this results in delays or total cancellations of procedures," Russell said. "We currently lack the capacity to meet the acute care needs now and in the future."

She noted that one bed used for a subacute long-term patient at El Camino could serve 83 inpa-

tients over the course of a year.

Victor Bazan, whose wife Adela has spent six years in El Camino as a subacute patient, did not think it was right to say Adela's bed could be better used by 83 other patients.

"It means I have to say, OK, Adelita, die!" he said to Russell during public comment. "I am going to fight with all my strength to keep it open. Please change your mind."

Russell said the late 2008 closure date would give patients and their families ample time to find another facility. She also noted that out of the 69 full-time workers in the subacute unit, 44 remain and the rest have either transferred or voluntarily terminated their positions.

In their comments, each member of the board of directors pointed out that El Camino Hospital's mission is to provide acute care to the community. Many said they took exception to community remarks implying a lack of public accountability in the decision-making process to close the subacute unit, using the fact that it was on the May 10 agenda as proof of public accountability.

"Just because we didn't come out with the decision they wanted doesn't mean we're not accountable to the public," said David Reeder, board vice chair, after the meeting.

But Reeder then admitted that the process should have been different, and his eyes welled up with tears when he said how hard a decision it was to make to close the unit.

"The board probably should have said right then and there that we should have addressed this

publicly [in December]," he said.

After the meeting, Bazan looked neither surprised nor defeated. He said, "I'm going to keep talking to the community and to the politicians." ▀

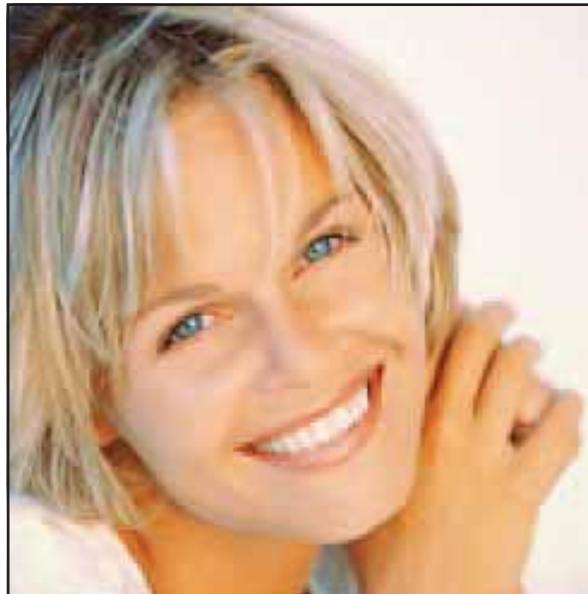
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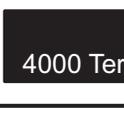
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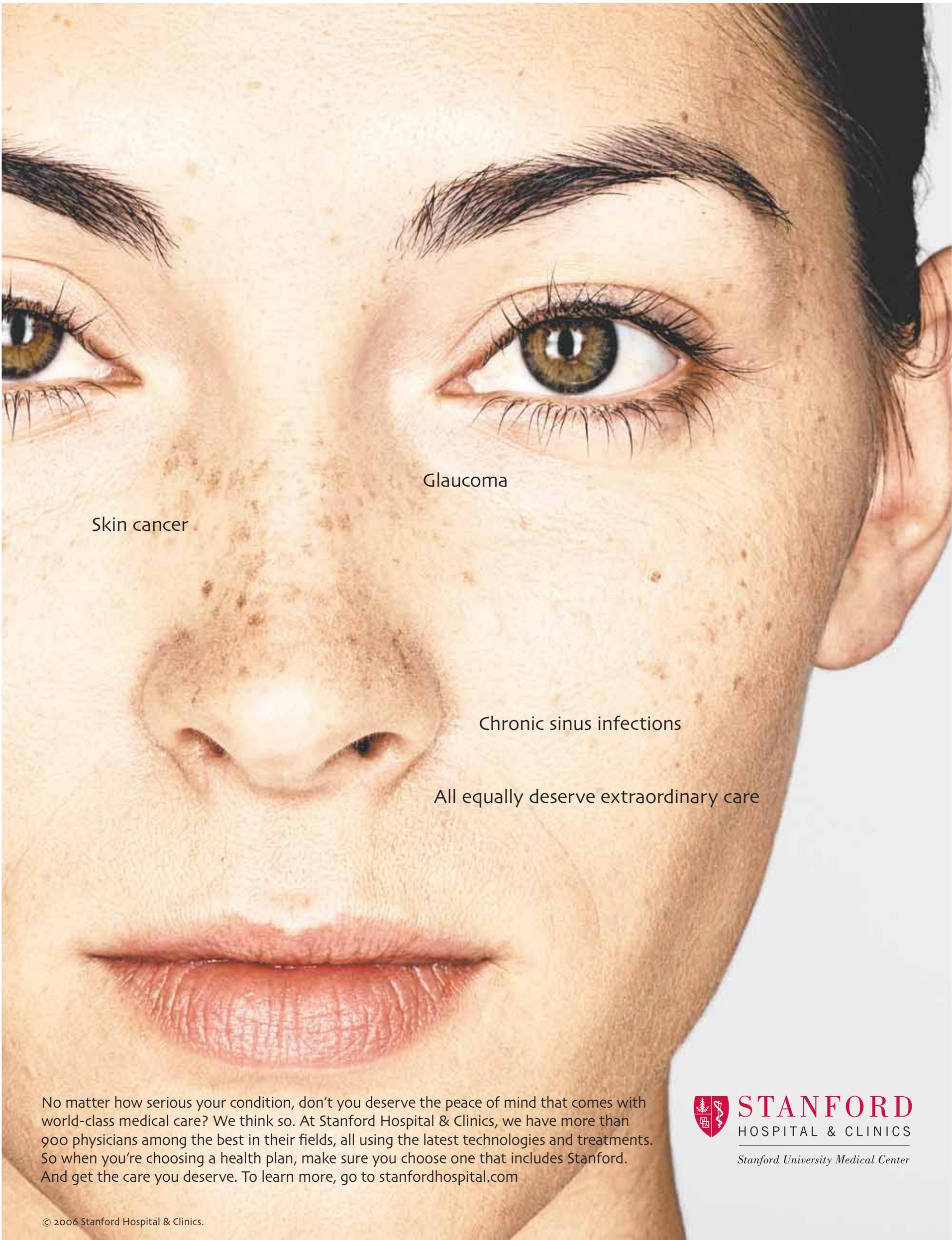


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HOME DEPOT

▶ Continued from page 1

dential neighborhoods.

The Emporium site eventually became the new home of the Camino Medical Group, after the nonprofit made a \$5 million contribution to the city in order to make up for the loss of potential sales tax revenue. But Home Depot, despite operating stores in Sunnyvale and East Palo Alto, did not give up on its plans.

In early 2005, Palo Alto-based Thoits Brothers took over direct control of its land at San Antonio Shopping Center and quickly began looking for a new tenant to replace Sears, whose lease was expiring in March 2007. Talks with one retailer had fallen through when Home Depot representatives came up with an offer.

Fred Thoits said the new store would restore San Antonio's status as a regional shopping center.

"What we have seen is that the center has taken a sort of tired look, a run-down look," he said. "It's not a vital and active center, and we think it has a lot of potential."

Gallagher said that Home Depot has been working closely with city officials and is planning a community meeting for residents of local neighborhoods. Though the site is already zoned for commercial uses, the city will hold hearings on design and traffic elements.

One issue, according to city economic development director Ellis Berns, will be ensuring that the new building, in particular its lumber storage, manages to fit

in well with the existing stores.

"We want it to look clean in terms of design and appropriate for the community," said Berns.

Berns said the city cannot

release information about sales tax revenues generated by individual businesses, but that Home Depots in the region generally produce between \$225,000 and

\$450,000 a year. Sears stores tend to come in at about two-thirds of that, he said.

Gallagher said the store will focus on home design and decor,

and will employ about 150 full- and part-time workers. ■

E-mail Jon Wiener at jwiener@mv-voice.com

Hangar 1

Community Update

Former NAS Moffett Field



Background

In 1997, contaminants such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), asbestos, and lead (common in building materials in years' past) were found at wetlands near Moffett Field's Hangar 1, and in the hangar's interior and exterior materials. In 2003, the Navy and NASA took *temporary* actions to prevent harmful effects from the pollution at Hangar 1, including applying a coating on the hangar surface. The coating was expected to last three to five years. The Navy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board agreed that a long-term solution would be necessary.

Finding the Best Solution

To find the best long-term solution, the Navy used a process called an engineering evaluation/cost analysis (EE/CA). This would allow the Navy to find a cleanup remedy in a relatively short time. The Navy realized the importance of involving the public in cleanup efforts and invited the public to attend open houses, a cleanup alternatives workshop, and Restoration Advisory Board meetings. The Navy also provided written information to the public. Suggestions from the community were evaluated as part of the EE/CA process.

The EE/CA summarizes the evaluation of 13 alternatives and describes the Navy's recommended alternative. The recommended alternative consists of complete demolition and removal of Hangar 1. Removing the hangar provides the highest degree of protection and will allow for future uses of the site and cleanup of nearby wetlands (Site 25). Because contaminants are embedded in the inner and outer layers of the siding's composition, and in the hangar's interior structure, the Navy cannot cost-effectively clean the hangar or rebuild its parts.

Protecting the Environment

The recommended alternative provides the best solution because the contaminant source (the hangar siding and structure) would be completely controlled by removing the source from the site. The Navy is aware that many community members object to demolition of the hangar because of its historic and personal significance. It is important to the Navy's history too. But the number one priority for the Navy is to make Moffett Field environmentally safe. Human health and the environment take precedence over any other issue.

Preserving History

Because the Navy values the historic nature of the hangar, it is working with the State Historic Preservation Office, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and NASA to ensure future generations can still learn about and appreciate the hangar. The site will be marked to denote the size of the Hangar 1 structure. The Navy is also preserving the history of Hangar 1 by making drawings, photos, interactive archives, and an oral history available to the community.

To get more information or comment on this action, please attend the public meeting on Tuesday, May 23. Open House, 5 to 6:45 p.m.; Public Meeting, 7 to 9:00 p.m. at Building 943, Moffett Field, Mountain View, Calif.

Richard Weissenborn is the Navy's BRAC Environmental Coordinator charged with the environmental cleanup programs at the former NAS Moffett Field.

He can be reached by e-mail at richard.weissenborn@navy.mil or by phone at (619) 532-0952.

CRIME

▶ Continued from page 5

treatment of her wound, which was not life threatening.

Police currently have no suspect in custody. Detectives are trying to determine the connection between the attempted break-in and the assault on Del Medio, and to determine the nature of the sexual assault, said police spokesperson Josef Kachman.

Anyone with information about this incident may call the Mountain View Police Department's investigative services division at (650) 903-6344. ■

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POWER UP!

If you like to drive with your A/C on, the stereo cranked up, and the DVD player on, it should be clear that today's nominal 14-volt DC electrical systems and 12-volt batteries are barely keeping up with the increased demand. With the plethora of new electronic devices on the market, it is not hard to see a day soon when vehicles' electrical systems will strain to keep up. In addition, car manufacturers are increasingly using electric motors rather than belts to drive components such as the water pump. With this in mind, a consortium sponsored by the Society of Automotive Engineers has advocated introduction of a 42-volt system with a 36-volt battery, which we may see within a few years.

The most important thing as far as a battery goes is making sure you get it replaced, or at least recharged, if the "juice" just doesn't seem to be there when you start your car. At Larry's AutoWorks, our technicians are highly trained professionals skilled at working with all sorts of vehicles. We are just off the 101 Freeway on Leghorn between San Antonio and Rengstorff in Mountain View. Take the Rengstorff exit south, then right on Leghorn. We offer loner cars when you leave your car with us for repair. Call us today!

HINT: Fortunately, battery technology is developing in tandem with hybrid technology.

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HANGAR ONE

► Continued from page 1

lition as the cheapest and best choice to resolve the chemical contamination in the hangar's siding and roof. It said replacing the panels would cost about \$24.6 million, the same price range as encapsulating the toxic panels in a rubber or other coating. NASA environmental chief Sandy Olliges had refused to release the cost estimate as recently as last Thursday's meeting of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB), repeatedly referring to it as a "back-of-the-envelope calculation."

She apologized Monday, saying she had made a mistake.

"Apparently we did do an engineering estimate," Olliges said. "How correct it is, I really don't know. What it is based on, I'm not sure. We're going back and looking at that now."

An engineer on her staff is reviewing the report and comparing it to the Navy's recent report, she said.

But Lenny Siegel, a founding member of the RAB and the Save Hangar One Committee, said the disclosure of the NASA study points to the need for an independent review of the Navy's analysis.

The Navy report is "fundamentally flawed," RAB Chair Bob Moss of Palo Alto said, concurring in the need for an independent review.

"Their position now is we'll do the absolute minimum necessary to get out from under [the liability]. They don't feel like they have an obligation to do anything for the future of the site, which biases

you towards 'tear it down and throw it away,'" Moss said.

The \$30 million includes a 15 percent contingency fee for contractors and likely underestimates the salvage value of the steel, given the recent run-up in steel prices. But those factors go only part of the way in explaining the discrepancy between the two estimates.

The report also lists several concerns with demolishing the 200-foot-high hangar, many related to its sheer size.

"Due to the height at which work will be performed, and the prevailing winds, fall protection and protection of personnel from falling debris will be a constant problem on this project," it states.

Navy cleanup manager Rick Weissenborn downplayed discrepancies between the reports, and said more exact cost figures would not be available until after the Navy has made its final choice to demolish, restore or try to encapsulate the hangar.

The actual costs of the alternatives could be anywhere from 30 percent less to 50 percent more than the figures in the Navy's report, Weissenborn said. But he said he expects the costs of each alternative to stay the same relative to each other.

Meanwhile, Siegel and Moss sent letters to Weissenborn earlier this week asking for the release of the supporting documents the Navy used in coming up with the estimates. Weissenborn has already agreed to the RAB request to extend the comment period on the report until June 5.

The Navy is hosting an open house at NASA's public affairs building Tuesday, May 23, from 5 to 7 p.m. and will accept public comments from 7 to 9 p.m. ■

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GREETINGS FROM THE CEO



El Camino Hospital has a long and proud history of helping and healing the families of our community. As most of us probably realize, in most of those families, it is the woman who is most involved in safeguarding the family's health – managing the checkups, the appointments, the trips to the ER. We salute all of these family health CEOs, and are proud that we have been able to provide not only the medical care, but the resources and education that they need to do this most important job.

Whether as mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, friends or neighbors, women have specialized health care needs and preferences. With an outstanding reputation for quality care, customer service and responsiveness to community needs, El Camino Hospital is a leader in this area in providing services directly focused on the needs of women.

Women are discerning consumers, maybe more so when choosing health care. I'm proud to say that El Camino Hospital has earned the trust of generations of women in our community over the years. It will be our privilege to continue to do for generations to come. When nothing but the best will do, El Camino Hospital truly delivers the right care, right here.

Marla Gularte
Interim CEO
El Camino Hospital



LEFT- ANTOINETTE MEADOWS WITH BABY XIARA
RIGHT- TESS BAKER, RN

This special section is brought to you by El Camino Hospital in recognition of National Women's Health Week, May 14-20. A leader in women's services in this area for more than four decades, El Camino Hospital has the complete services and resources that women need to safeguard their own and their families' health. Taking even the simplest steps to improve health can have significant results. This week would be a perfect time to start!

A joyous beginning

In the nearly 45 years since El Camino Hospital welcomed its first baby, Tammy Louise Joyce, Sunnyvale, born on the day the hospital opened, September 1, 1961, more than 150,000 babies have been safely delivered at the hospital. El Camino Hospital's birthing facilities are now one of the busiest and most sought after in the area. With more than 4,000 births a year and consistently earning awards such as Bay Area Parent Magazine's "Best Place to Have a Baby," the hospital has provided a safe and joyous beginning for countless numbers of families in the area.

What makes El Camino Hospital's Maternal Child Health Center so special? "We provide everything expectant families could want as they approach the birth of a child," says Marilyn Swarts, manager of labor and delivery. "From classes for expectant parents, to orientation to the hospital, to spacious, private birthing suites and caring,

dedicated nurses – we provide a calm, nurturing environment for families to experience the wonder of childbirth."

The hospital's Maternal Child Health Center is a family centered, nurturing place, with many amenities, including light filled rooms with courtyard views, room for family members to stay during the birthing process, personalized meals and attention to cultural needs. The center also provides the highest quality medical care for both normal and high risk deliveries, including anesthesiologists and neonatologists available 24 hours a day, seven days a week; a prenatal diagnostic center for mothers with special pregnancy needs, board certified lactation consultants for assistance with breastfeeding.

INTENSIVE CARE NURSERY

In addition to the nursery, for premature and critically ill infants, the hospital offers a Level III



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neonatal intensive care nursery, staffed by neonatologists who are on site 24 hours a day to provide care.

Medical Director Marian Adams, is a board certified neonatologist and also on the staff at Stanford University Medical Center. "With such a high level neonatal nursery here at El Camino Hospital, we do not have to transfer babies out of the community and away from their families," Dr. Adams says. "Both the baby and the family are in extremely good hands here at El Camino Hospital."

STAYING CONNECTED

After the baby is born, the hospital offers several resources to help new families begin their journey. Maternal Connections, now conveniently located in the Orchard Pavilion, offers lactation services, a library with videotapes and books for new parents,

See **STAYING CONNECTED**, page 16

HELPING WOMEN IN OUR COMMUNITY

Over the years, El Camino Hospital has reached out to the women in the community with a number of special programs, many designed to help women and families in need.

- *RotaCare free clinic, including gynecological care for women*
- *Low cost mammography services*
- *OB/Gyn services for Medi-Cal patients; nurse midwives*
- *Immunization services at schools, homeless shelters, senior centers*

GETTING TO THE HEARTS OF SOUTH ASIAN WOMEN

Research shows that coronary artery disease affects the South Asian population, people who trace their origins from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan or Sri Lanka, at a rate four times higher than the general population. The disease affects both men and women, occurring earlier and causing a higher rate of fatalities. El Camino Hospital's new South Asian Heart Center is addressing this high incidence of heart disease by offering free and low cost consulting services and screenings as well as help in managing individuals' risk factors.

To learn more, go to www.southasianheartcenter.org

WOMEN HELPING OTHER WOMEN

Hope to Health, or H2H, is a newly formed committee of concerned women in the El Camino Hospital community who care about women's issues and believe in the power of philanthropy to help. Projects are studied throughout the year and annual funding is determined through a vote of all members.

"Several famous women, such as Oprah Winfrey and Meg Whitman of eBay have used the success they have achieved in their careers to make a difference in the lives of other women," says Joan Rosselle, H2H chairperson. "Through H2H, like minded women can make a difference, too, right here in their own community."

For more information about H2H, please contact Ms. Rosselle at 650-988-7659 or joan_rosselle@elcaminohospital.org.



INFUSION NURSE JEN BARGMANN, RN AND PATIENT

El Camino Hospital is a leader in providing services directly focused on the needs of women.

WOMEN MANAGING FAMILY'S HEALTH CARE

Surveys show that women make more than 75% of their families' health care decisions. From choosing pediatricians, family doctors and specialists to making appointments for everything from routine checkups to special diagnostic screenings, women typically play a leading role in their families' health.

Except for the occasional (hopefully) trip to the emergency room, this may be the time in a woman's life when she depends on the hospital more as a trusted resource to guide her to services that will protect and enhance her health and the health of her family.

HELP IN AN EMERGENCY

What is more comforting than to know that when an emergency arises, as they inevitably do in life, that your area's emergency facilities are close by and always open to provide help. El Camino Hospital's ER is equipped to handle all minor and major child and adult emergencies, counting more than 37,000 emergency department visits last year. To lessen wait times, the hospital offers a "fast track" service for minor emergencies and other service improvements including a bedside admitting process.

CHOOSING A DOCTOR

With more than 800 physicians, representing all specialties on the medical staff, women can find the information they need to select just the right family physician or specialist for their families. On El Camino Hospital's medical staff are physicians who have received training at some of the



Carla Paul and Mom Thelma Wheeler

best educational facilities in the world and who have chosen to live in the beautiful Bay Area and establish their careers at a community hospital. Information about the hospital's physicians is available by calling 800-216-5556 or by going to the web site, www.elcaminohospital.org.

CREDIBLE HEALTH INFORMATION

Women today are actively seeking information that will help themselves and their families

live healthy, active lives. With health information available on numerous web sites and at every newsstand, women need a trusted source to be a guideline when making health care decisions. When it comes to sorting through the vast and often conflicting health information available today, the hospital's Health Library and Resource Center can be a woman's best friend. If she chooses, she can visit the center at the hospital and browse through the large collection of health related books and videotapes. She can also take advantage of the library's newest service – a free library card that allows the user to access the same subscription-only online databases that physicians and other health professionals use.

WOMEN AS CAREGIVERS

One of the most difficult times a woman faces is when she takes on the responsibility for the care of an elderly or frail parent in addition to caring for her own family. The hospital's Health Library and Resource Center also offers professional Family Caregiver Assistance consultations to help in planning for or dealing with the care of an aging parent, family member or spouse facing life changes. These specialized consultants can help caregivers create a personalized plan using available resources in the area where the parent or family member lives. The resource center also offers free health insurance counseling for both seniors and persons under 65; assistance with preparing Advance Health Care Directives; and special programs on medications and nutrition.



One of our new moms

STAYING CONNECTED continued from page 15

and a well stocked mother-baby store featuring often hard-to-find breastfeeding supplies and special clothing for mother and baby.

For the thousands of parents who have had babies at El Camino Hospital over the years and who are beginning their journey to family life, the hospital's weekly New Moms' classes have been an especially

valuable lifeline. Starting when their babies are just a few weeks old, new moms gather in one of the hospital's classrooms to share the fears and joys that come with parenthood and to ask questions of the experienced teachers. "Everything I learned about parenting, I learned at New Moms group," a young mother said recently. "If I didn't hear it in class,

then I got it from another parent who had been in one of the classes."

A bonus to the New Moms classes is that the strong bonds that have formed between women during the classes continue after "graduation" and the women go on to form lifelong friendships among themselves and among their families.

PREVENTION IS A WOMAN'S BEST ALLY

To help women meet their own unique health needs and stay healthy throughout life, El Camino Hospital offers a comprehensive array of health screenings, programs, classes and wellness programs.

GUARD AGAINST BREAST CANCER

El Camino Hospital's Breast Screening Center, one of the largest in Northern California, offers comprehensive mammography services. Its state-of-the-art equipment includes high quality imaging equipment, a stereotactic breast biopsy unit and ImageChecker technology, a computer aided detection system that "double checks" images from mammograms.

KNOW IF YOU HAVE OSTEOPOROSIS

One out of every two women past menopause has osteoporosis. Seventy-five percent of women who have osteoporosis don't even know they have it. To help prevent and treat this disease, the hospital offers bone density testing, a low dose X-ray scan of the spine, hip or both. The test measures the amount of mineral in the bones which helps physicians determine whether a woman has or is at risk for osteoporosis. With the bone density equipment located conveniently near the Breast Screening Center, many women schedule this test along with their annual mammograms.

LEG PAIN COULD MEAN HEART DISEASE

A common and yet often undiagnosed medical



EL CAMINO HOSPITAL OFFERS COMPREHENSIVE MAMMOGRAPHY SERVICES

condition in both women and men is peripheral vascular disease (PVD). Related to cardiac disease, PVD occurs when arteries carrying blood to the arms or legs become narrow or clogged, causing pain when walking or exercising. Screenings, in which blood pressure readings are taken from each arm and leg, can help detect PVD. To help women minimize their risk of heart disease – the number

one killer of women – El Camino Hospital offers free PVD screenings every other month.

As another heart-healthy measure for women, the hospital offers a free Heart Track membership program, offering free educational newsletters, notices of screenings and special heart-related lectures and events, and other special offers.

CANCER SCREENINGS

The Cancer Center at El Camino Hospital, opening fall 2006, will offer screenings as part of its cancer prevention program.

WELLNESS CLASSES AND RESOURCES

Women can take advantage of several wellness programs available through the hospital including a smoking cessation program, diabetes and nutritional counseling, an ongoing mindfulness-based stress reduction program, free blood pressure screenings every Friday morning and the community wellness lecture series, featuring El Camino Hospital medical staff members presenting the latest on various health topics.

SPECIALTY WOMEN'S HEALTH PROGRAMS

Other specialty programs include the El Camino Vein Center, offering treatments for varicose veins; the weight loss surgery program, featuring some of the most experienced bariatric surgeons in the area; and an outpatient adult eating disorders program. Finding out her own health-related risks is one of the most important steps a woman can take to guard her health. As an encouragement towards good health, El Camino Hospital offers a free health risk assessment on our website, www.elcaminohospital.org.

OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO WOMEN

LUNG CANCER—STILL A DEADLY DISEASE

As Dana Reeve's death from lung cancer earlier this year shows, lung cancer can affect anyone – even a non smoker.

"Although up to 90 percent of lung cancer cases occur in smokers, women who do not smoke cannot be complacent about this often deadly disease," says cardiothoracic surgeon Linda Martin, MD, a lung cancer specialist on the medical staff at El

Camino Hospital. "Lung cancer kills more women every year than breast cancer and is the leading cancer killer in both men and women in the United States, killing more people than colon, breast and prostate cancer combined."

According to the American Cancer Society, lung cancer deaths among women has increased 150% over the last 20 years, while increasing 20% in men. Research now shows that women are approximately 1.5 times more likely to get

lung cancer than men.

"Because of new treatments, the cure rate for lung cancer has increased," Dr. Martin says. "For example, new sophisticated CT scanning can detect abnormalities earlier and hopefully will lead to earlier treatment and more lives saved."

Her message to women who want to improve their odds against lung cancer is clear.

"Quit smoking. Learn about early detection if you are a former smoker

or are still smoking. Limited your exposure to second hand smoke."

Linda Martin, MD, is a graduate of UCSF and has completed specialized



thoracic surgery at the MD Anderson Cancer Center. She is also the first woman trained in heart surgery at the Texas Heart Institute.

DENIAL ABOUT HEART DISEASE: COMMON BUT DANGEROUS

The facts about women and heart disease – half of cardiovascular disease related deaths occur in women; a woman's risk of dying of heart disease is nearly 1 in 2 while dying of breast cancer is 1 in 30 – are beginning to sink in among women, but there's much more work to do, according to El Camino Hospital cardiologist Catherine Collings, MD.

"More and more women now realize that heart disease is not for men only, but what they still don't

fully appreciate is that these facts apply to them personally," she says. "Even in pre-menopausal women, the seeds of future heart disease are often being planted. High blood pressure, high cholesterol, excess weight, smoking, lack of exercise – all can have a negative affect in later years even though a woman considers herself in good health now."

WHAT CAN WOMEN DO TO LOWER THEIR RISKS?

"First, know your risk factors," says Dr. Collings. "Approximately one third of people with high blood

pressure and about half of the people with high cholesterol do not know it. About 2.8 million women in this country have diabetes and don't know it.

"Have your blood pressure, weight, waist measurements, fasting blood sugar and lipid levels tested regularly," she continues. She also advises to know your family history – whether your parents or a sibling had heart trouble at an early age.

Of course, you should also lower your risk of heart disease by adopting a heart-healthy lifestyle that includes not smoking eating,

a healthy diet, and getting regular exercise, Dr. Collings says. "Doing these simple things will reduce your risk of problems even if you have already been diagnosed with heart disease, or have major risk factors."



Catherine Collings, MD, a board certified cardiologist, is medical director of the hospital's cardiac rehab program.

RESOURCES FOR WOMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES

- Classes and support groups
- Health Library and Resource Center
- El Camino Health Line, a complete information and referral service
- RotaCare clinic and immunization program
- Diabetes management
- Maternal Connections at the Gift Basket, a mother-baby store
- Healing Arts Program, including free art classes for cancer patients
- Lifeline, in-home emergency response system
- Family Caregiver Assistance Program
- RoadRunners Transportation Service

WELLNESS PROGRAMS

- Ask the Pharmacist
- Consult the Dietician
- Advance Health Care Directive assistance
- Health insurance counseling
- HICAP counseling for seniors
- For information about any of these programs, call 800-216-5556 or visit our website www.elcaminohospital.org



SARI LEVINE, MD

YES *I would like to learn more about the following El Camino Hospital services for women:*

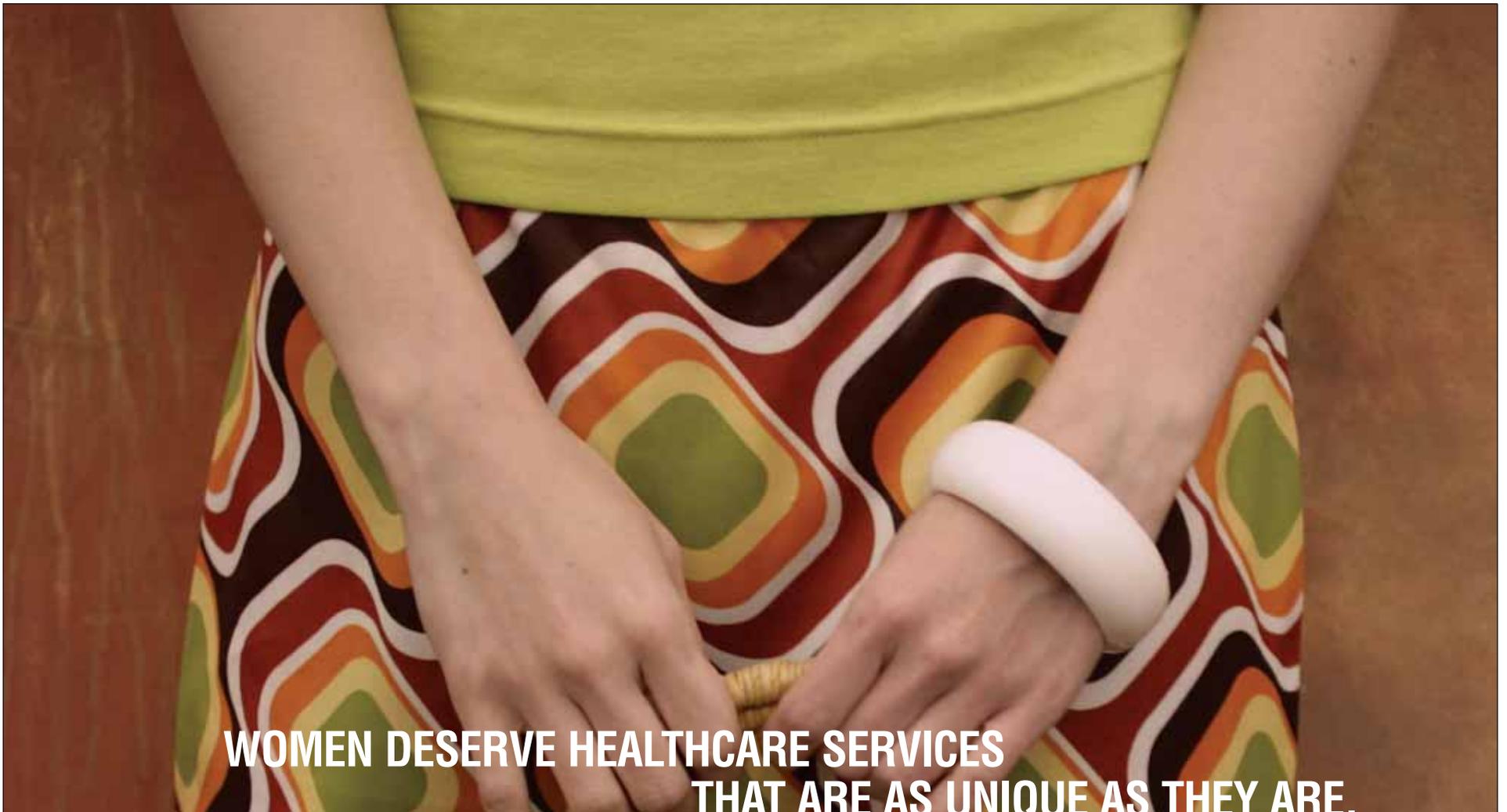
- Vein Center
- Bone densitometry
- Breast Screening Center
- Weight loss surgery
- RotaCare Clinic
- Please send me a free Heart Healthy Pack**
- Family Caregiver Assistance Program
- Maternity services
- Heart health
- Diabetes management
- Cancer services

FOR CLASS, SUPPORT GROUP INFORMATION AND PHYSICIAN REFERRAL Please Call **800-216-5556**

Visit www.elcaminohospital.org

Mail to:

**El Camino Hospital
Community Relations Department,**
2500 Grant Road, Mountain View
CA 94040



WOMEN DESERVE HEALTHCARE SERVICES THAT ARE AS UNIQUE AS THEY ARE.



THE RIGHT CARE, RIGHT HERE. Women spend so much time and energy taking care of others that they sometimes need help taking care of themselves. That's why El Camino Hospital offers specialized services that make it convenient to get quality care for health issues that are particularly important to women. We've always been renowned for our expert maternity care, and we've expanded our services to include a Level III neonatal nursery. We also offer specialized women's cancer services, a Vein Center, bone density screening, breast screening, joint replacement and weight loss surgery. What's more, our unique Health Library & Resource Center provides access to the latest medical information on all kinds of women's health topics, along with wellness programs and consultation on caregiving, nutrition, insurance, and community resources. We hope it's comforting to know that while women are thinking of others, we'll keep thinking of them.



FOR YOUR **FREE** MEMBERSHIP TO OUR HEALTH LIBRARY & RESOURCE CENTER,
CALL 650-940-7210 OR VISIT WWW.ELCAMINOHOSPITAL.ORG.

Biking to work gains converts

HIGH FUEL PRICES
ANOTHER REASON TO
TRY TWO WHEELS

By Jon Wiener

Bicycle advocates had been planning Thursday's Bike to Work Day activities for months, once again hoping to draw commuters out of their cars.

This year, though, they had more than energizer stations and giveaway bags to increase their numbers.

"High gas prices get people upset," said Corinne Winter, executive director of the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition. "A lot of people are figuring out that if they hop on their bike and they bike for transportation, they can save the money for something more fun than sitting in traffic."

New members are joining the organization twice as fast as before, as the visibility of gas prices calls people's attention to other costs associated with driving, including insurance and maintenance, Winter said.

Caltrain also is making hay out of the cost of gas, which is now at well over \$3 a gallon, making driving more expensive than riding the train. The agency has been advertising a "commute calculator" on its Web site that compares the cost of fuel with day and monthly passes on the train.

MV cyclists raise funds to fight MS

By Elizabeth Lasky

The WeFightMS.com bicycle team set out to raise \$20,000 for multiple sclerosis research this year, and wound up with \$21,657 and counting.

The 20-member team, which is mostly from Mountain View, raises funds with humor and enthusiasm that have proved infectious. This is evident from the team's Web site, www.wefightms.com, which features videos like "Brokebike Mountain," a parody of the popular movie, where two men face prejudice for riding a tandem bicycle.

On April 21, the 20-member team flew to Houston for an "MS-150," a 150-mile bicycle ride with the purpose of raising money for MS research. May 23 is the fundraising cutoff date for this ride.

Dunagan Pearson formed the team in 2004. His father, John Pearson, was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis 12 years ago. Despite this, the elder Pearson has ridden the MS-150 in his hometown of Houston for the last eight years. Also known as "Daderoo," he spends the rest of the year training for this ride.

■ PEDALPOWER

Despite being named a bicycle-friendly city by the League of American Bicyclists, less than 3 percent of Mountain View residents regularly bike to work, according to the last census. Here are some of the steps the city is taking to coax people out of their cars:

- Extending Stevens Creek Trail across El Camino Real
- Publishing an updated bike map of Mountain View
- Recruiting bike safety instructors to teach classes
- Designing a "bike boulevard" from downtown to the Palo Alto border
- Building a bicycle/pedestrian bridge over Highway 101 along Permanente Creek

Meanwhile, the city continues to gradually increase facilities for bicyclists (see box), going so far as to use eminent domain in order to provide a straighter route for future commuters on the Stevens Creek Trail. The city is set to begin tunneling under El Camino Real this summer.

"That's really the biggest push right now, to secure as much funding ... as possible," said public works analyst Peter Skinner. "We're working hard to start construction." ■

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Child Advocates of Silicon Valley seeks caring adults to become Court - Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs).

Over 2,000 children in our communities have been placed in foster care due to abuse or neglect.

Our next volunteer training begins on July 8th. Please consider joining this special daytime, accelerated training.

Prior orientation is required.



Location: Milpitas, CA	Monday, July 17th
Saturday, July 8th	Tuesday, July 18th
Monday, July 10th	Wednesday, July 19th
Tuesday, July 11th	Graduation:
Wednesday, July 12th	Thursday July 20th



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May 20-21, 2006
10 am to 5 pm

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- Meet the *Sunset* editors and learn some of their favorite tips for food, gardening, home design, travel, and recreation.
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Tickets:	
General admission	\$10
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<small>Receive \$1 off general admission with a Safeway Club Card.</small>	

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Receive \$1 off admission when you park at Sun Microsystems.
 - Menlo Park train station



sunset.com/cw
(800) 786-7375

A portion of the event proceeds benefits The Children's Health Council. No pets please.

ALPHA

Alpha is a close-up look at the person and significance of Jesus Christ. Alpha answers questions like: who is Jesus, why did Jesus die, and what does it mean to have a personal relationship with Jesus? Please consider coming and inviting someone to attend either of our two sessions offered.

Here are the dates:

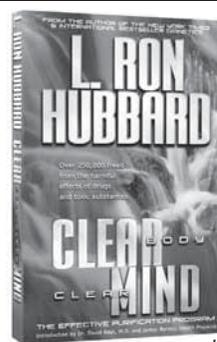
Session #2: Sundays, 5/21, 5/28, 6/4, and 6/11

Session #3: Sundays, 6/18, 6/25, 7/2, and 7/9

Alpha is offered at:
First Baptist Church of Los Altos
625 Magdalena Ave.
Los Altos, CA 94024

To sign up for either of these two sessions, please contact **Sheri Lee** in the church office at 650-948-5698 x 112 or sheri.lee@fbcla.org.

For any Alpha-related questions, contact Alpha leader **Rob Glenister** at glenisters@juno.com.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS**SOCCER WORLD CUP FESTIVAL OF THE BAY AREA**

This summer, Germany will host the Soccer World Cup. To celebrate, the German International School of Silicon Valley, located in Mountain View, is holding a festival on Sunday, May 21. There will be soccer-themed movies, music, food, and World Cup "face painting." Visitors can also partake of a free soccer clinic with Jerry Smith, women's head coach at Santa Clara University.

The German International School is located at 310 Easy Street. The festival is free and takes place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, see www.gissv.org or call (650) 254-0748.

BRING US YOUR TIRED, YOUR POOR, YOUR PENTIUM II'S

No need to trash that old Commodore 64, because Huff Elementary School is raising funds by recycling old electronics. These include computers, monitors, mice, keyboards, printers, fax machines, telephones, radios, microwaves, TVs, VCRs, DVD players, stereo components and speakers. Even your old Betamax.

The drop-off site is at the Huff Elementary School parking lot, 253 Martens Ave, on Saturday, May 20, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. For more information, call (408) 468-0230.

ROTARY CLUB ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Rotary Club of Los Altos has announced the recipients of the group's Community Service scholarship and Outstanding Intermediate School student awards.

The recipients of the 2006 Community Service Scholarships, from Alta Vista High, are Amanda Campbell, Jennifer Ireland, Terrance Johnson, Marisela Lozoya and Diana Molina. From Mountain View High, Leslie Cervantes and Nancy Li. From Los Altos High, Ross Coyle and Kate Hsieh. Hsieh also won the Charles Cowan Scholarship for Science and Technology.

The winners of the 2006 Outstanding Intermediate School Student Awards are, from Blach Intermediate School, Natalie Rich and Markus Rutner. From Egan Intermediate School, Sarah Loebner and Scott Stephens.

The awards will be presented by the Rotary Club of Los Altos on Thursday, May 25.

— Elizabeth Lasky

ANNIVERSARY SALE

— NOW THROUGH JUNE 11TH —

Win a Diamond & Save Up to 50% on All Jewelry & Most Watches

Gleim the Jeweler is celebrating its historic 75th anniversary with a very special event. Now through June 11, all jewelry and most watches will be on sale for up to 50% off at all three Gleim locations. And, as a "thank you" to our customers, Gleim's is giving away a spectacular diamond and other fabulous prizes. No purchase is necessary. So come in, take advantage of a once in a lifetime sale, and register to win a 75 point diamond.



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- YOUR LETTERS
- GUEST OPINIONS

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■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

Measure C college bonds a good buy

Voters who live in the Foothill-De Anza Community College District have a big responsibility on June 6, when they will be asked to approve a \$490.8 million bond package to finance upgrading campus buildings and building new ones.

And although the cost sounds high, residents should remember that community colleges rarely receive enough help from the state to finance capital improvements or perform long-overdue maintenance. Passage of this bond issue is especially critical at a time when so many students — 44,000 — are relying on community colleges to provide an affordable and easily accessible answer to their education needs.

Many of these young students are minorities, including a good number of Asians and Hispanics, who may be the first of their family to enroll at a college. The low tuition and proximity to home are major attractions to these students, who may have the grades but simply cannot afford to attend a four-year college. And like all community colleges, Foothill-De Anza caters to large numbers of adults who may take courses just for the fun of it, or to attain a degree.

The bond issue is designed to address many years of deferred maintenance that has rendered some buildings incapable of addressing the needs of modern students. Inadequate wiring, lighting, heating and ventilation systems, substandard science labs and the failure of most classrooms to meet current earthquake standards are just some of the issues that the largest part of bond issue monies — 40 percent — will address. As for the rest, 30 percent is earmarked for one new building at each campus, 20 percent for new technology equipment, and 10 percent for a reserve to purchase a possible new campus site.

It will take a 55 percent “yes” vote to approve the measure, due to a recent change in state law. If it passes, property owners will pay an average of \$117 a year based on the average assessed valuation of homes in the district, but will not be charged that rate immediately, as sale of the bonds will be spread out over a 15-year period.

The last bond measure for the college district was for \$240 million, passed in 1999 to address urgent structural work. It came after another measure failed a few years earlier. If the bonds pass this time around, an independent citizens’ oversight committee representing a cross-section of the community will review the use of all bond funds.

We believe this bond measure addresses the needs of the district for the next 15 to 20 years, and is a responsible effort to maintain and update classrooms and other facilities, as well as plan for several new buildings. These upgrades will enable the district to continue to meet the education needs of the young men and women who need more than a high school diploma to succeed in today’s economy, as well as the adults who are looking for enrichment classes. We urge a “yes” vote on Measure C.

■ LETTERS VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

SHIPPING, FUNERAL EXPENSES NOT SO HIGH

After reading your article in the *Mountain View Voice* concerning the accident and subsequent funeral services for Sandra De Anda “Body of MV resident returned to Mexico,” May 12), I feel it necessary to correct a couple of misconceptions about which you wrote.

First, the person quoted is uninformed about the costs for transportation of human remains out of the United States. She states that it can cost \$15,000 to ship a body. That is just not true. Shipping a body to Mexico (as in the case of Sandra) costs less than \$1,000. To ship a body to Turkey costs from \$3,500 to \$5,000 depending on the weight of the decedent and casket required by the shipping airline and consulate. Nowhere does the fee even approach \$15,000. We have shipped to Turkey twice in the past 12 months, several times to Mexico, and often to the Philippines (usually a shipping charge of \$1,200 to \$1,500).

In addition to this charge, there will be the expenses of funeral services. We work

very conscientiously with the Mexican Consulate in San Jose to provide service to families (including a casket of a type required by the airline) for under \$5,000. Such has been the case in recent examples.

I am certain that the family is grateful for any contributions made in her memory to the fund for her children, Marilyn and Odalis. An Act of Remembrance is an act of honor. There is no better way than that to honor the memory of someone so loved as Sandra De Anda.

Matthew Cusimano
Cusimano Family Colonial Mortuary

KATZ IS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF TAXPAYERS

Editor:

Since El Camino Hospital is a public institution, I would like to understand more about the financial settlement between the hospital and Aaron Katz. In the May 5 edition of the *Voice* (“ECH settles with Katz”), the confidentiality of the settlement

► See **LETTERS**, page 22

BUSINESS AS USUAL FOR THE PANCAKE SAVIOR



LETTERS

► Continued from page 21

was hinted at. As a public entity, what are the hospital's legal obligations to make available the details of this settlement? Furthermore, what did the hospital pay in legal expenses in order to fight the suit, and then to settle?

I take umbrage with Mr. Katz taking money from our districts, both the hospital and the Mountain View-Whisman School District. He should not be allowed to take financial advantage of publicly funded institutions, or to compromise their bonds or parcel taxes. We did not approve of these measures in order to fund Mr. Katz's lifestyle of owning property in Mountain View while living elsewhere.

As a longtime Mountain View resident and a homeowner, I would like to challenge Mr. Katz's right to tap into publicly funded institutions. What are our personal rights and resources to counter his lawsuits? Frankly, we would like our taxable portion lost due to Mr. Katz's lawsuits returned to us and to every property owner

in the city of Mountain View.

Joseph Pagano
Lola Lane

KATZ LAWSUITS AMOUNT TO BLACKMAIL

Editor:

The actions of Mr. Katz are nothing more than blackmail by lawsuit, and they should be called as such.

Perhaps it would be appropriate for the hospital to initiate a lawsuit against Mr. Katz to reimburse them for the additional millions of dollars in construction costs caused by the delay, while awaiting a decision on the lawsuit.

In addition, the judge or judges who reviewed this case and did not throw it out because of its frivolous nature have demonstrated their lack of common sense, and should be removed from the bench. The plaintiff's (Mr. Katz's) assertion is one that should be addressed by lawmakers, not the courts.

Paul N. Johnson
Dale Avenue

COUNCIL SHOULD WARN PUBLIC BEFORE BIG VOTES

Editor:

I was very surprised and dismayed to glance at the May 9

city council agenda to see an item initiated by one of our council members. The item was a recommendation to repeal the city's BMR (below market rate) ordinance. The fact that such a recommendation would be introduced without *any* public forums by an elected official is inconceivable.

Thankfully, the item failed to get enough votes, but it disturbs me that such a measure would be introduced without public input beforehand. I can't help but wonder if the vote might not have gone the other way had the few people who were aware of this agenda item not waited around for four-plus hours at the council meeting to speak against it.

Based on the 2000 census of our city, nearly 60 percent of the population is comprised of renters, and repealing the city's BMR Ordinance would have sent a message that non-homeowners carry little weight and are not taken into consideration by the city.

I sincerely hope that such a reckless council-initiated item will not sneak up on us again. I implore everyone who can to take a few minutes each Monday to go online (or stop by or call City Hall) and review

the city council's agenda for the week. We should be able to rely on our elected officials to communicate to us on a more interpersonal level when items such as these come before them. However, we must take an extra step ourselves to be aware.

Alicia Crank,
Human Relations Commission
California Street

ENOUGH PEOPLE COULD SAVE HANGAR ONE

Editor:

The Navy now plans to demolish Hangar One at Moffett Field, rather than explore the more feasible options available for saving it. Why should we care?

Hangar One is the closest thing the Mid-Peninsula has to a truly jaw dropping building that could host a great museum — think the Guggenheim in New York or Spain. No, I'm not saying the Guggenheims are exact equivalents or that Hangar One should become an art museum.

I'm saying great buildings make a difference. And Hangar One is an unparalleled great building. It is a modern engineering feat, with a floor the size of ten football fields, walls made of an astounding network

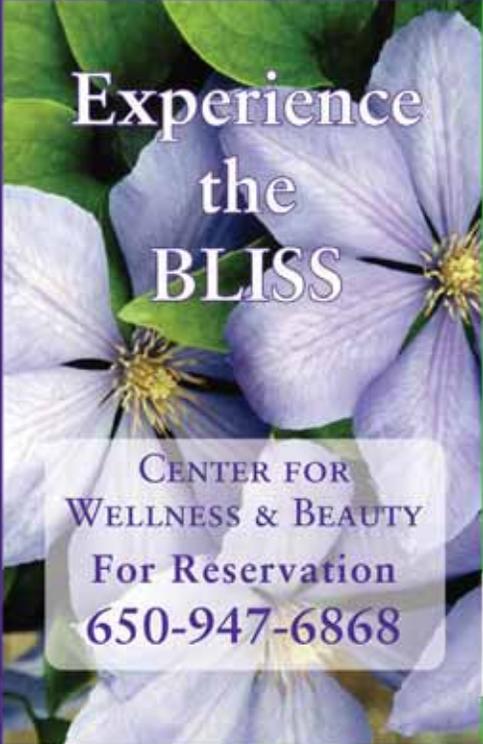
of steel girders, and unique 500-ton "orange peel" doors.

Studies estimate that saving Hangar One would cost only 6 percent more than the \$200 million the Navy aims to pay for base cleanup. We can't build a building like the hangar for anywhere near \$12 million. And this one is irreplaceable, a fantastic icon of modern architecture's origins and Silicon Valley's transformation from orchard to world technology center.

With Hangar One, Moffett Field has the potential to be one of Silicon Valley's greatest places. The hangar is an architectural anchor to ensure that the converted base becomes a real destination. We're losing the building and the opportunities that coalesce around great buildings if we let them tear it down.

The Save Hangar One Committee (www.savehangarone.org) thinks that getting as many people as possible to the May public meeting may well save the hangar. The meeting is on Tuesday, May 23 at 7 p.m. in Building 943 in Moffett Field. This is one we could win if people speak up.

Alison Hicks
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■ FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Ride into the wild blue yonder

By Don Frances

I PHONED UP Larry Goldstein, president of the Eighth Air Force Historical Society and a Mountain View resident, to ask him about the "Wings of Freedom" tour, which is bringing World War II aircraft — the B-25 Mitchell, the B-24 Liberator, and the B-17 Flying Fortress — to Moffett Field for a week beginning May 31. Apparently, the old war birds have an especially big following out here.

"This is their biggest money maker," Goldstein said, referring to the Collings Foundation, which puts the planes on tour twice a year. "People are standing in line with four hundred dollars in their fists. ... That weekend it's just unbelievable how many people come out."

Goldstein, who hails from New York but has lived here for four years, said the WWII vets would be out at Moffett too. "We don't sell anything," he said, "we just try to get people into the history" of that war.

A B-17 pilot who flew 25 missions, Goldstein has plenty of history (and more than a few jokes) to share all on his own. As a Jew who grew up in a New York neighborhood alongside lots of Christians — including a Catholic woman whom he called his "second mother" — Goldstein wore two symbols around his neck during the war: a Star of David and a St. Christopher which had been blessed by a priest. One day he found himself discussing them with a fellow soldier.

"He said so are you Jewish or are you Christian?" Goldstein recalled. "I said why do you ask. He said because you've got those two necklaces around your neck. I told him considering what we're going through, I'm not taking any chances."

Wings of Freedom will be at Moffett Field, at the Main Gate near the Control Tower, from May 31 to June 5. Times for all days are 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., except on May 31, when it kicks off an hour later, at 10 a.m., and on June 5, when it closes at 1 p.m. The foundation requests a "walk-through tour donation" of \$8 for adults, \$4 for children under 12. Never mind the planes, meeting Goldstein may be worth the price of admission.

As for all those people with the four hundred dollars in their fists: For a price of \$325, \$400 or \$425 (depending on the ride), true aficionados can take a flight in a restored war bird. Call (978) 562-9182 for reservations, or (408) 807-0950 for more information. ...

THE CHALLENGE TEAM has been busy lately. Last Thursday, the group — a consortium which works to fight problems facing youth, including alcohol and drug abuse — put on a big benefit breakfast to honor this year's "Champions for Youth" (see page 6).

But that was just the capper. The previous day, the Challenge Team's Gang Task Force gathered up more than 400 middle and high school students at the Mountain View Sports Pavilion for an inspirational event called "The Winner Within."

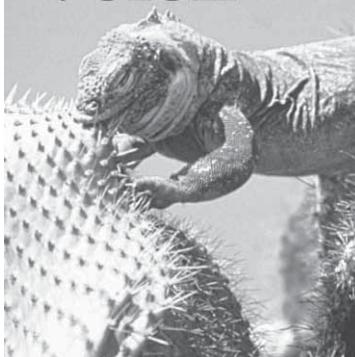
Nancy Vandenberg, youth resources manager for the city, explained that during the two-hour rally, students from all over "were inspired to achieve their full potential and make positive choices." She added that "a resource fair populated with representatives from local agencies with positive opportunities for youth concluded the event."

Anyone interested in helping the Challenge Team's efforts can contact Vandenberg at (650) 903-6301, or police Captain Bruce Barsi with the Gang Task Force at (650) 903-6350. ...

ALSO ... Attend a home composting class this Saturday, May 20, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Mountain View Community Center at 201 S. Rengstorff Ave., and learn more about how the leaves turn. Call (408) 730-7262 or visit www.reducewaste.org. ... Happy birthday to Henry Fagundes, who turned 90 on May 13. ... Locals are invited to a free "Evening of Remembrance" hosted by Pathways Hospice on May 30 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church, 728 W. Fremont Ave. This is an annual event held around Mother's Day, Father's Day and Memorial Day each year. Call (888) 905-2800 ext. 4241 to RSVP.

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Coming next month ...

Foot Health: Get Off on the Right Foot

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

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■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

Great eggs 'Down the Street'

BAJIS' CAFE OFFERS FRESH, HOT AND BOUNTIFUL BREAKFASTS

By Elaine M. Rowland

Tucked into an industrial corner of Mountain View, off Highway 101, Bajis' "Down the Street" Cafe has been determined to please for breakfast and lunch since 1979. They start with a warm greeting when you walk in the door and keep the coffee coming until your eyes turn brown.

Biker, engineer, suburban mom on Mother's Day — all get the same courteous service and attention throughout the meal to make sure each patron has everything he or she wants. You'll never sit abandoned at your table, wondering if your waiter died in the kitchen.

Inside, the cafe has a diner feel, with booths and offerings from the soda fountain. Outside, there's pleasant tables with flower boxes between them

and the parking lot. In good weather, the flowers and shaded breezes lure plenty of diners outdoors.

Bajis' expansive menu includes not only standards of the American diner, but some Mexican and Middle Eastern cuisine. And while the majority of the menu covers basic

breakfast and lunch fare (griddle foods like omelets and pancakes, biscuits and gravy, and steak), some of the items take on an intriguing new aspect when they're followed on the page by comments like, "I dare you to order it!" (Bajis' Omelet) or one-word descriptives like, "refreshing," "yuppie," "nutritious," and "explosive," giving each food its own Zagat's-like review.

I didn't order anything "explosive." Instead, I tried the Southern Palo Altan ("favorite") and Cross the Border ("zesty") omelets (\$9.25, each). The first, with linguica, mushrooms, onions, a smattering of jalapeno peppers and Monterey Jack cheese, was hearty and garlicky. The zesty Border omelet used chorizo instead of linguica, and though the other ingredients were the same, chorizo has such a distinct

Bajis' expansive menu includes not only standards of the American diner, but some Mexican and Middle Eastern cuisine.

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NORBERT VON DER GROEBEN

Miguel Gonzales, a line cook at Bajis' Café in Mountain View, prepares Huevos Rancheros.

smoky flavor that the omelet tasted completely different.

Both were so laden with fillings they were more like scrambles than omelets, but that's not a complaint by any means. You don't usually find an omelet loaded with meat the way these were. They came with "country red potatoes," tender and tasty. The only down side to these breakfasts was the salsa for the potatoes, which tasted tomatoey and canned, not fresh.

The pancakes here are good — a side order (\$3.50) gets you one large, fluffy buttermilk griddle cake. Maple syrup purists

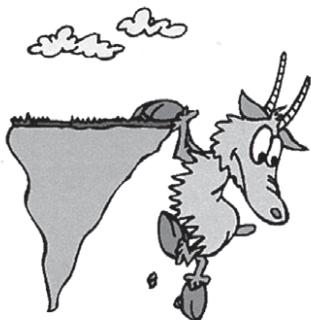
may be a little disappointed, but the cakes are good enough to eat with butter or jelly.

Juices (\$2.45, large) are a respectable size, and as I said, the coffee keeps on coming: The Arabica brew (\$1.85) is fresh, and while not overly strong, it's served with rich cream, not milk.

For lunch, I ordered one of Bajis' hot sandwiches — the Reuben on rye (corned beef) with sauerkraut and Swiss cheese, but no pickle (\$8.95). Sigh. You choose a side of fries, potato salad, pasta salad, cole slaw, chips,

▶ See *BAJIS' CAFE*, page 26

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BAJIS' CAFE

▶ Continued from page 25

or a few other things designed to keep you from going hungry. The slaw was a little on the bland side, though the texture was of fine-crunchy cabbage in a sauce with a good consistency. I grew up eating a spicier version of this salad, so the simpler version seemed too tame. My co-conspirator-in-lunch thought it was just fine, and told me to grow up. So I drowned my sorrows in a 24-ounce chocolate shake (\$4.45) with whipped cream and felt better instantly. Feel free to make up your own excuse to order one of these easy-to-gulp shakes.

Wanting to try something different, I had the side order of tabbouleh with pita (\$3.75),

a large portion of bulgur wheat intensely flavored with lemon and parsley and served with several pieces of soft, delicious pita. I think I'd like the tabbouleh better if it had less lemon or sat longer for the flavors to meld.

I didn't ponder the tabbouleh too long—I got distracted by the K.O. Chicken open-faced sandwich (\$9.95). It was truly a knock out, with grilled onions, sauteed mushrooms, and melted Monterey Jack cheese.

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'Rake's Progress' comes to West Bay Opera stage

"The Rake's Progress," Igor Stravinsky's take on the Faustian legend, opens Saturday, May 27, on the West Bay Opera stage for a two-weekend run.

Mary Chun is music director and conductor of the production, staged in the Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road in Palo Alto.

Tenor Gerald Seminatore sings the role of the Rake — Tom

Rakewell — who makes a bargain with the shadowy Mick Shadow, performed by baritone Kirk Eichelberger.

The role of the Rake's wronged sweetie, Anne Trulove, is performed by soprano Rhoslyn Jones.

The cast also includes mezzo-soprano Carla Lopez-Speziale as Baba the Turk, and mezzo-soprano Ariela Mor-

genstern as Mother Goose.

Performances are at 8 p.m. opening night; 8 p.m. Friday, June 2 and Saturday, June 3; and 2 p.m. Sunday, May 28 and Sunday, June 4. Tickets are \$46 to \$50 general; half price for youth and for students with identification.

For tickets, call (650) 424-9999, e-mail boxoffice@wbopera.org, or order online at www.wbopera.org.

ARTS BRIEFS

HARMONIC CONVERGENCE AT EAGLE THEATER

The Peninsulaires, an a capella men's chorus, will share the stage with OC Times, a barbershop quartet, in their Spring Performance concert. The program includes traditional barbershop harmony and contemporary music. The show starts at 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 21, at the Eagle The-

ater, Los Altos High School, 201 Almond Ave., Los Altos. Tickets are \$23 for adults, \$20 for seniors, \$15 for students and children. To order, visit www.barbershop-harmony.org or call (650) 249-4352.

BALI IN THE BAY AREA

Next month, the ensemble Gamelan Sekar Jaya will sing and dance in the Balinese tradition.

The performance will feature an episode of the drama "Kali Yuga," which is a multi-year project for the ensemble. It begins Saturday, June 10 at 8 p.m. at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St. Tickets are \$24 general admission, \$18 for students and seniors, and \$12 for children. To order, visit www.mvcpa.com or call (650) 903-6000.

— Elizabeth Lasky



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MOVIE TIMES

AKEELAH AND THE BEE (PG) ★★

Century 16: 11:45 a.m.; 2:30 & 4:55 p.m.

Century 12: 11:35 a.m.; 2:15 & 4:55 p.m.

ART SCHOOL CONFIDENTIAL (R) ★★1/2

Aquarius: 4:45, 7:30 & 10 p.m.; Fri.-Sun. also at 11:45 a.m. & 2:15 p.m.

THE DA VINCI CODE (PG-13) (NOT REVIEWED)

Century 16: 11 & 11:40 a.m.; 12:30, 1:05, 1:40, 2:15, 3, 3:50, 4:25, 5, 5:30, 6:20, 7:10, 7:45, 8:20, 8:50 & 10:30 p.m.

Century 12: 10:25 & 11:10 a.m.; noon, 12:50, 1:40, 2:30, 3:20, 4:10, 5, 5:50, 6:40, 7:30, 8:20, 9:10 & 9:55 p.m.

DOWN IN THE VALLEY (R) ★★

Palo Alto Square: 2:15, 4:55, 7:45 & 10:15 p.m.;

Sat. & Sun. also at 11:30 a.m.

GOAL! THE DREAM BEGINS (PG) (NOT REVIEWED)

Century 16: 11:35 a.m.; 5:05, 7:40 & 10:20 p.m.

HOOT (PG) (NOT REVIEWED)

Century 16: 11:05 a.m. & 1:10 p.m.

INSIDE MAN (R) ★★

Century 16: 7:20 & 9:55 p.m.

JUST MY LUCK (PG-13) ★1/2

Century 16: 11:20 a.m.; 1:50, 4:15, 7 & 9:20 p.m.

Century 12: 12:05, 2:35, 5:05, 7:35 & 10:10 p.m.

KINKY BOOTS (PG-13) ★★

Century 16: 3:15, 5:35, 7:55 & 10:15 p.m.

THE LOST CITY (R) ★★1/2

Guild: 5 & 8 p.m.; Fri.-Sun. also at 11 a.m. & 2 p.m.

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE III (PG-13) ★★

Century 16: 12:15, 1:45, 3:05, 4:30, 6:15, 7:15, 9 & 10 p.m.

Century 12: 12:20, 3:15, 6:20, 7:45, 9:15 & 10:30 p.m.

OVER THE HEDGE (PG) (NOT REVIEWED)

Century 16: 10:50 & 11:50 a.m.; 1, 2, 3:10, 4:10, 5:20, 6:25, 7:30, 8:25, 9:40 & 10:25 p.m.

Century 12: 10:20, 11 & 11:30 a.m.; 12:30, 1:10, 1:45, 2:40, 3:20, 4, 4:50, 5:30, 6:15, 7, 7:40, 8:20, 9:10 & 10:25 p.m.

POSEIDON (PG-13) ★★1/2

Century 16: 12:25, 2:50, 5:25, 7:50 & 10:10 p.m.

Century 12: 12:35, 3, 5:40, 8, 9:50 & 10:25 p.m.

RV (PG) (NOT REVIEWED)

Century 16: 11:30 a.m.; 1:55, 4:35, 7:05 & 9:25 p.m.

Century 12: 11:55 a.m.; 2:20, 4:40, 7:10 & 9:35 p.m.

SEE NO EVIL (R) (NOT REVIEWED)

Century 16: 11:25 a.m.; 1:35, 3:45, 5:55, 8 & 10:05 p.m.

STICK IT (PG-13) ★★1/2

Century 16: 2:20 p.m.

THANK YOU FOR SMOKING (R) ★★1/2

Palo Alto Square: 2:45, 5:10, 7:30 & 9:50 p.m.; Sun. also at 12:30 p.m.

UNITED 93 (R) ★★

Century 16: 9:35 p.m.

WATER (NOT RATED) ★★1/2

Aquarius: 4:15, 7 & 9:30 p.m.; Fri.-Sun. also at 11:15 a.m. & 1:45 p.m.

Note: Screenings are for Friday through Tuesday only.

AQUARIUS: 430 Emerson St., Palo Alto (266-9260)

CENTURY CINEMA 16: 1500 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View (960-0970)

CENTURY PARK 12: 557 E. Bayshore Blvd., Redwood City (365-9000)

CINEARTS AT PALO ALTO SQUARE: 3000 El Camino Real, Palo Alto (493-3456)

GUILD: 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park (266-9260)

SPANGENBERG THEATRE: 780 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto (354-8263)

For show times, plot synopses and more information about any films playing at the Aquarius, Guild and Park, visit www.LandmarkTheatres.com

★ Skip it
★★ Some redeeming qualities
★★★ A good bet
★★★★ Outstanding

For show times, plot synopses, trailers and more movie info, visit www.mv-voice.com and click on movies.



MOVIE REVIEWS

**ART SCHOOL CONFIDENTIAL**
★★1/2

(Aquarius) Director Terry Zwigoff and comic book artist-turned-screenwriter Daniel Clowes follow up their "Ghost World" success with a less satisfying collaboration. Max Minghella ("Syriana") infuses Jerome, a gifted and committed young artist, with dreams and sweetness and naiveté. An outsider at his suburban high school, he expects to find a community of like-minded Picassos at the art institute. But, as Jerome's new buddy (Joel Moore of "Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story") points out, his fellow students are walking clichés: the vegan holy man, the boring blowhard, the angry lesbian, the beatnik chick, the drop-out. With the exception of Jerome and the model (Sophia Myles of "Tristan & Isolde") whom he adores, all the characters are stick figures with none of the lovable eccentricities that added dimension to those living in "Ghost World." If you're an aspiring artist, prepare to sell out or slit your wrists now. *Rated: R for language including sexual references, nudity and a scene of violence. 1 hour, 42 minutes.* — S.T.

JUST MY LUCK ★1/2

(Century 16, Century 12) Lady Luck is on the side of big-wig executive Ashley Albright (Lindsay Lohan). She has no need for umbrellas because the sun always shines in her presence, and she picks up extra bucks by easily winning scratcher lottery tickets. The opposite can be said for sincere but clumsy Jake Hardin (Chris Pine). Rain clouds trail him and female joggers mistake his good intentions for attempted assault. Serendipity intervenes when Ashley organizes a high-profile masquerade ball for music mogul Damon Phillips (Faizon Love). Turns out Jake has been aching to meet Phillips in an effort to introduce New York to the edgy British band that performs at the bowling alley where Jake works. One mystical moment on the dance floor has Ashley and Jake locking lips — and trading luck. Lohan's latest teen-queen concoction is a ridiculous twist on the 1983 Eddie Murphy comedy "Trading Places," but Lohan's pop-star diva status has grossly diluted her comedic potential. *Rated: PG-13 for some brief sexual references. 1 hour, 43 minutes.* — T.H.

KINKY BOOTS ★★

(Century 16) Based on a true story, "Kinky" centers on the humble son (Joel Edgerton as Charlie Price) of a popular Northampton shoemaker. Charlie is forced to manage the family business following his father's death, and quickly realizes profits are plummeting thanks to cheap labor and cheaper knock-offs.

Weekend

It's time for a change. Enter Lola (Chiwetel Ejiofor), a transvestite/cabaret singer whom Charlie meets while drowning his financial sorrows in alcohol. Lola is friendly but frustrated — her high-heeled boots continually break under the weight of her manly frame. Charlie's brain sparks an unconventional idea: Design shoes that are made for a woman but built for a man. Charlie enlists Lola's expertise despite arguments from his conservative work force and soon Lola is spreading her infectious good vibes throughout the factory. Ejiofor is stellar, bringing true depth and soul to his multi-faceted portrayal, but "Kinky" itself isn't a laugh-out-loud comedy and often feels too familiar. *Rated: PG-13 for thematic material involving sexuality, and for language.* 1 hour, 47 minutes. — T.H.



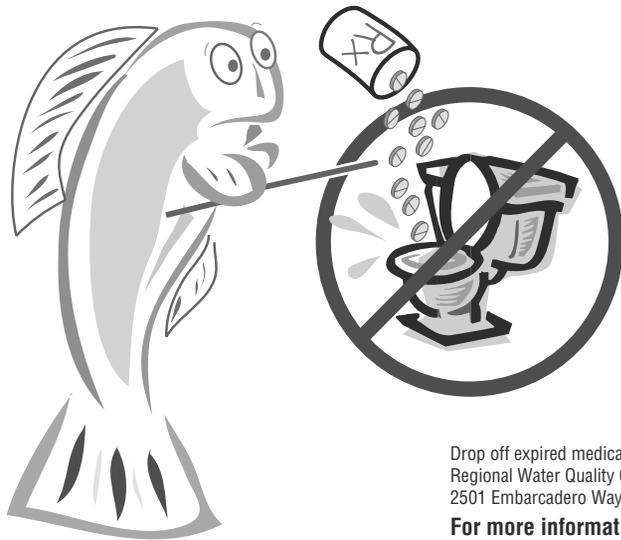
THE LOST CITY ★★1/2

(Guild) Pre-Communist Cuba circa 1958 positively swoons with romance and color, a hedonistic playground of la dolce vita. For Fico Fellove (Andy Garcia) life is all about family and the posh Havana nightclub he operates for well-heeled Cubans. As history dictates, Fulgencio Batista's fascist dictatorship segues into Fidel Castro's ruthless social justice and the good life goes to pot, caught in a vise of anger, discontent and revolution. Fico's handsome younger brothers Luis and Ricardo (Nestor Carbonell and Enrique Murciano) embrace the political upheaval and can't or won't acknowledge that Cuba is destined for ruin. Rather predictably, Fico finds himself mired in tragedy, suffering Ricardo's betrayal (as a puppet for Che Guevara's guerilla left) and the death of Luis in an urban rebel coup. Ultimately he falls for Luis' sultry widow, Aurora (InÈs Sastre), who herself becomes a pawn in Castro's evil game by accepting the titular position of Widow of the Revolution. Handsomely executed but hopelessly flawed, "City" is an historical epic sans the epic. *Rated: R for violence, language and mature themes.* 2 hours, 33 minutes. — J.A.

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE III ★★★

(Century 16, Century 12) Tom Cruise returns to form with this pulse-pounding actioner — the best of the "Mission: Impossible" film franchise. The riveting intro sees IMF agent Ethan Hunt (Cruise) bound and bloody while a sadistic criminal (Philip Seymour Hoffman as Owen Davian) points a gun at Hunt's gagged wife, Julia, demanding to know the location of the "rabbit's foot." Hunt pleads, threatens and despairs while Davian methodically counts to 10 — 10 seconds before Julia will be killed. Flash back several days. Hunt has settled down with Julia (Michelle Monaghan of "North Country"), a beautiful doctor who believes her husband works in transportation. But when Hunt discovers his protégé (Keri Russell) has been captured, he leaps out of retirement and reunites with Luther Stickell

► See *MINI REVIEWS*, page 31



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Silly, watery, fun

'POSEIDON' MAKES IT EASY TO FORGIVE ITS MANY CHEAP CLICHÉS

By Jeanne Aufmuth

Sea-legged fans and land-lubbers alike will enjoy "Poseidon," a watery action-adventure that pushes the limits of plausibility yet reeks of summer fun.

With nary a warning of errant

Mike Vogel and Emmy Rossum in Poseidon

tides, a 100-foot rogue wave takes down the luxury liner Poseidon, a swanky floating hotel of exceptional extravagance. Caught up in the soggy maelstrom are a handful of lucky passengers who miraculously escape the initial round of drownings, flash fires and toppling pillars.

Leading our small band of merry men (and women) to safety is hunky hero Dylan Johns (Josh Lucas), a professional gambler with an intrinsic streak of valor and fantastic baby blues to match. Dylan matches wits and skill with ex-New York City mayor Robert Ramsey (Kurt Russell), whose headstrong daughter Jennifer (Emmy Rossum) is also on board with her beau.

Rounding out the protago-

MOVIE REVIEW

nists is perky single mom Maggie James (Jacinda Barrett) and her obnoxiously precocious son, who insist on joining the ranks of those unwilling to stand with the doomed. Illegal Hispanic stow-away Elena Gonzalez (Mia Maestro) adds to the mix, as does gay architect Richard Nelson (Richard Dreyfuss), who's grieving over the loss of his lover to another.

It's all hands on deck, wherever that is. Bent on maneuvering their way through the ubiquitous blocked passageways and bolted steel doorways (as the ship slowly shifts its way south) our feisty clan overcomes one impossible

► Continued on next page



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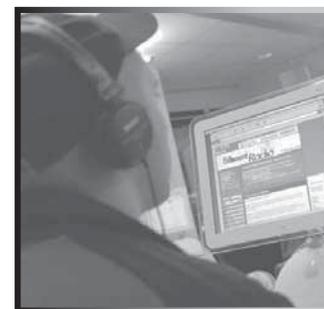
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► *Continued from previous page*

hurdle after another, perpetually surviving catastrophic misfortune while showing off ridiculously courageous derring-do.

There are genuinely scary moments: A passenger hanging on a human chain and forced to kick off the last man while thousands of pounds of elevator come careening towards his head. The group navigating hyper-narrow air conditioning ducts while the sea rises through.

But I can't be convinced that a tiny silver cross necklace will screw open a soldered-down hatch, nor do I believe that the average Joe can hold his breath for minutes on end while swimming under icy seawater through a terrifying tangle of metal and dead bodies.

The pyrotechnics are first-class, as are most of the computerized images involving the capsizing ship. Opulent set pieces, both intact and fatally fractured, impress. The plot is seriously diluted by an admixture of two-dimensional players spouting clunky lines and bringing nothing to the table but testosterone highs and smashing-when-wet good looks.

Reluctant kudos to writer Mark Protosevich and director Wolfgang Petersen ("Das Boot") for

closing a chapter or two with tragic rather than sugar-coated results, as was the case in 1972's kitschier "The Poseidon Adventure." Bottom line: It's easier to forgive the sodden cliches and enjoy the roller coaster ride that is "Poseidon." ■

■ **MOVIE NOTES**

Stars: **1/2
Rating: PG-13, but could be R for gruesome images of death and violence
Run Time: 1 hour, 37 minutes

MINI REVIEWS

► *Continued from page 29*

(Ving Rhames) to rescue her. Director J.J. Abrams (of "Lost" and "Alias" fame) makes his big-screen debut with aplomb, utilizing fantastic sets, capturing tension and pulling tremendous performances from his A-list cast. *Rated: PG-13 for intense sequences of frenetic violence and menace, disturbing images and some sensuality. 2 hours, 6 minutes.* — T.H.

STICK IT ★★1/2

(Century 16) Canadian newcomer Missy Peregrin scores a "10" in this formulaic teen charmer about the pressure

and pitfalls of women's gymnastics. Peregrin is Haley Graham, a former gymnastics breakthrough who gave up the sport following her parents' divorce, opting instead for BMX trick-riding and run-ins with the law. But Haley's wild ways quickly land her in front of a judge, who punishes the rebellious teen by shipping her off to the Vickerman Gymnastics Academy (VGA) rather than Juvenile Hall, much to Haley's chagrin. Burt Vickerman (Jeff Bridges) is a soulful and serious coach. His battered body and hardnosed approach reflect a man who hopes those in his academy will reach the athletic pinnacles that he

never could. Soon Burt is prepping Haley for gymnastics gold and peeling away the layers of her angst-ridden psyche. The real slip-ups in "Stick It" surround first-time auteur Bendinger's direction, from the flashy opening credits to a nonsensical soundtrack and film-school techniques. Fortunately, Peregrin lands on her feet, even if the movie doesn't. *Rated: PG-13 for some crude remarks. 1 hour, 45 minutes.* — T.H.

■ **GOINGS ON**

See our Calendar pages beginning on page 39.



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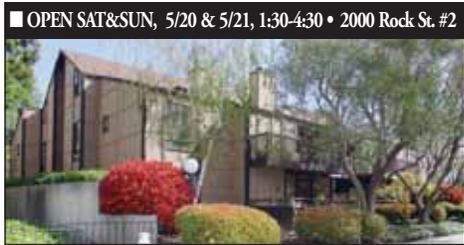
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■ OPEN SUN, 5/21, 2:00-4:00 • 59 Timberhill Court

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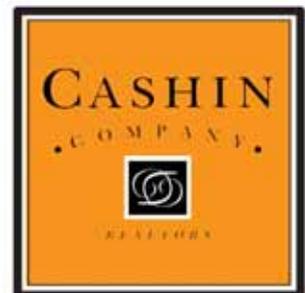
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