

Mountain View VOICE

JUNE 30, 2006 VOLUME 14 NO. 27

INSIDE: WEEKEND | PAGE 19

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its office space in
Mountain View

IN BUSINESS | P.29



MICHAEL MULLADY

CARTED AWAY: Employee Sergio Alexandre pulls shopping carts full of soda from vending machines at the Albertsons at San Antonio Shopping Center, which is closing Aug. 6, one of 31 closing in the Bay Area. Alexandre plans to move to a Sunnyvale store, but low-seniority workers face layoffs. [See full story on page 7.](#)

■ CITY COUNCIL

Up to 530 homes OK'd for Mayfield

HIGH-DENSITY
DEVELOPMENT
APPROVED IN
MARATHON MEETING

By Daniel DeBolt

In a meeting packed with residents and which ran into the wee hours, the city council voted Tuesday to approve a set of guidelines for a 530-unit housing development at the site of the old Mayfield Mall.

Many residents were not happy with the outcome, though it could have been worse, said Elna Tymes, president of the Monta Loma Neighborhood Association. Council members approved a maximum of 530 homes for the site, though neighbors wanted fewer homes to mitigate concerns such as traffic, parking and loss of heritage trees.

Kelly Snider of Toll Brothers, the site's developer, said that although she still had some concerns of her own, she was "thrilled that the city took the time to listen to residents" and finally approved a set of guidelines for the development.

By the end of the night — the meeting ran till 2 a.m., one of the latest in memory — the council had changed the zoning for the site from industrial to residential, certified a final Environmental Impact Report and decided on details for development guidelines, or a "precise plan."

Traffic and trees

Residents of the Monta Loma, Rosewalk and Green Meadow neighborhoods stood along the walls and wore stickers reading

"More trees, less traffic." About 30 residents stayed late into the evening to see how their thousands of hours of study, discussion and advocacy would turn out.

A three-dimensional model of the development, made by neighbors, was placed in front of the council and frequently used as a reference.

According to the city planning department, the development would not have more traffic than if it were to become office space again, as it was when Hewlett Packard occupied the site.

Residents weren't buying it. "Only in the Lewis Carroll world of traffic analysis does traffic disappear on this scale," said one of the many neighbors who found flaws in the EIR.

Tymes said members of her neighborhood group were unable to download all of the staff report, which was put on the city's Web site released four days before the meeting. Neighbors said problems with the process of involving the public left the city open to lawsuits.

It was pointed out that a rare type of redwood tree found on the highest part of the site may

► See **COUNCIL**, page 14



Hospital selects new CEO

BOARD STARTS NEW CHIEF WITH BUMP IN SALARY

By Molly Tanenbaum

More than half a year after CEO Lee Domanico left for an executive job at a Portland hospital chain, El Camino Hospital has selected his replacement.

Kenneth D. Graham, 12-year CEO of Overlake Hospital Medical Center in Bellevue, Wash., will begin work at El Camino on Aug. 7.

"It's my personal opinion he will be an outstanding CEO for our hospital. He was the overwhelming favorite," said board president Edward Bough after the board made the announcement at a special Tuesday night meeting.

In a unanimous vote, the board approved Graham's contract, with

board member Dominick Curatola absent and CFP Marla Gularte (also interim CEO) abstaining.

Graham's compensation package includes a base salary of \$543,000, and health benefits and incentives worth up to 30 percent of the salary, according to hospital legal representative Mitch Olejko. Hospital officials would not release additional details of the compensation package until Graham signed the contract, after the *Voice* went to press, but said that the compensation fell under the 75th percentile for CEO pay at comparable hospitals.



**Kenneth
Graham**

Graham's starting salary is higher than Domanico's, whose total compensation was in the \$900,000-a-year range, including benefits. Just before Domanico resigned in December, the board increased his base salary from \$500,000 to \$520,000 a year.

El Camino employed an executive search firm, Witt/Kieffer, to conduct a national CEO hunt. Board members — and a panel that included additional staff and community members — interviewed candidates over the past few months to narrow the choice down to Graham. The hospital also hired a new compensation consulting firm, Buck Consultants, to help set

► See **EL CAMINO**, page 14

INSIDE

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Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked in downtown Mountain View. Pictures and interviews by Chelsea Young.

What are your most exciting summer plans?



"I'm going to New York to visit some friends and family. And no work for two weeks."
Stacey Greenblatt, Mountain View



"I'll be working my first job ever, at Plumeria."
Jana Davies, Mountain View



"I'm going back to Seattle to stay with my parents. I'll be spending my time just sewing."
Amanda Leonard, Menlo Park



"Our son and daughter-in-law from China are visiting. He's a journalist. He writes for Newsweek."
Linda Frank, San Francisco



"To take advantage of opportunities as I see them."
James Krieg, Mountain View



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■ QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“We’ve consistently removed heritage trees from developments because it’s just easier that way.”

— LAURA MACIAS

COUNCIL MEMBER, ON PLANS TO REMOVE TREES FOR THE MAYFIELD MALL PROJECT

■ CRIME WATCH

GRAND THEFT, 100 BLOCK CARMELITA DR., 6/25

An alert resident saw an unknown young man walk out of his neighbor’s yard at 7:45 a.m. The neighbor called police to report the suspicious person. When police arrived, they found the man walking near the residence, as well as some valuable property in the area where the neighbor had reported seeing the man.

The neighbor confirmed the identity of the alleged robber, a 17-year-old boy. During their investigation, police determined that the boy had stolen some property from the residence. The suspect was charged with Possession of Stolen Property and Grand Theft. Police booked him into Juvenile Hall.

DUI ACCIDENT, 300 BLOCK PALO ALTO DR., 6/25

Around two in the afternoon, an intoxicated man got into a car accident at the intersection of Shoreline Boulevard and Villa Street. Police received a call reporting the accident at 2:29 p.m., but when they reached the scene of the impact, the intoxicated man had driven away.

Subsequently, a number of calls came in reporting that a car had crashed into a house in the 300 block of Palo Alto Ave. The driver, 30 years old, again attempted to flee the scene, but could not move because his car was stuck on some large rocks. As officers arrived at the house, the man again attempted to flee, this time on foot, but due to his level of intoxication police easily apprehended and arrested him.

■ POLICE LOG

ASSAULT

Jamba Juice, 6/21
2000 block California St., 6/21

BATTERY

Old Middlefield Way, N Rengstorff Ave., 6/21
200 block Castro St., 6/23
900 block Independence Ave., 6/26

BURGLARY (AUTO)

2400 block Grant Rd., 6/20
Hans Ave. and Montalto Dr., 6/21
2200 block California Street, 6/22
200 block Easy Street, 6/22
700 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 6/22
200 block Lassen Ave., 6/22
700 block Sierra Vista Ave., 6/24
200 block S. Rengstorff Ave., 6/25
200 block S. Rengstorff Ave., 6/25
200 block S. Rengstorff Ave., 6/25
40 block Showers Dr., 6/25
40 block Showers Dr., 6/25
40 block Showers Dr., 6/25

BURGLARY (COMMERCIAL)

1000 block, Castro St., 6/22
700 block W. Middlefield Rd., 6/24
400 block N. Bernardo Ave., 6/26
Castro School, 6/26

BURGLARY (RESIDENTIAL)

900 block Rich Ave., 6/22
200 block Ada Ave., 6/26

GRAND THEFT

2500 block Bayshore, 6/21
Nob Hill Foods, 6/21
200 block Hamilton Ave., 6/21
2500 block W. El Camino, 6/22
1300 block Dale Ave., 6/22
1700 block Rock St., 6/23
200 block Castro St., 6/26

ROBBERY

800 block Sonia Way, 6/21
400 block San Antonio Rd., 6/22
600 block San Antonio Rd., 6/26

STOLEN VEHICLE

1800 block, W. El Camino Real, 6/20
200 block Easy Street, 6/20
200 block Monroe Dr., 6/21
300 block Higdon Ave., 6/21
Mervyns Department Store, 6/22
700 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 6/23
2000 block California St., 6/24
700 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 6/25
1900 block Latham St., 6/25
40 block Showers Dr., 6/26
1000 block La Avenida, 6/26

VANDALISM

700 block Devonshire Ave., 6/22
700 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 6/23
500 block Chesley Ave., 6/26

SUICIDE

100 block Brenton Ct., 6/24

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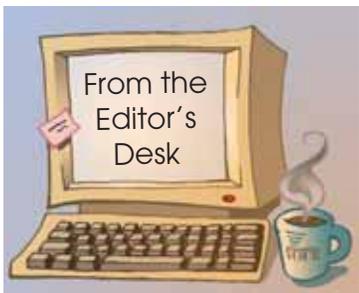


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They call him Bruce

By Don Frances

LAST WEEK I wrote that an invitation to an Olympics in Mountain View thank-you party was signed by “Vicki, Bruce & Oscar” — who must be Vicki Schultz, Bruce Karney and Oscar Garcia.” I was guessing at the Bruce and it seemed like a reasonable guess — our friend Mr. Karney has got his fingers in nearly everything in this town.

Well, I got the Vicki and Oscar right, but the Bruce was actually Captain Bruce Barsi of the Mountain View Police Department. Sorry, Captain Barsi.

Oscar was the first to set me straight on this, and he added that Barsi is an “incredible champion of youth.” Karney himself wrote in soon after:

Much as I would love to take credit for the work of ALL other Bruces — particularly Mr. Springsteen and Mr. Willis — the credit for the kids’ Olympics belongs to Bruce Barsi of the MVPD.

While it has recently fallen out of favor, back in the late ’40s and early ’50s “Bruce” was a popular name. Believe it or not, there are about 80 of us in town. We should get together and see if any of us remember all the words to Monty Python’s “G’day Bruce” skit.

A roster of semi-famous Mountain View Bruces would not be complete without:

■ Bruce Barton, editor of your cross-town rival, the Los Altos Town Crier

■ “Loose” Bruce Kerr, our local song parodist, whose work reminds me of Weird Al Yankovic

■ Bruce Liedstrand, our esteemed former city manager, and, of course

► See **EDITOR’S DESK**, page 12



NORBERT VON DER GROEBEN

Planned Parenthood volunteer Hilton Brown, of Mountain View, watches protestors in a parking lot at a clinic in San Jose on Saturday, June 24.

Protecting women in their time of need

MV’S HILTON BROWN HONORED BY NATIONAL PLANNED PARENTHOOD

By Molly Tanenbaum

Entering the parking lot of Planned Parenthood’s San Jose clinic on the last Saturday of June, a patient passes 30 praying protestors, someone in a grim reaper costume, and overblown sidewalk signs depicting bloody fetuses.

After parking her car and heading toward the clinic, trying to block out protestors’ calls of “It’s not too late to save your baby!” she hears a gentle voice.

“Good morning. May I walk you in?”

She nods yes, and approaches the 6-foot-2 elderly man in red-starred suspenders and a dress shirt under his “Planned Parenthood Mar Monte” clinic defender uniform with a “Trust Women” pin on it. He walks her inside.

He is Hilton Brown, a 78-year-old Mountain View resident with a distinguishing white beard and soft eyes. He has volunteered at Planned Parenthood Mar Monte since he retired as an electrical engineer from IBM in 1992, and this March, the Planned Parenthood Federation of America named him Volunteer of the Year

for his service and his implementation of a successful nonaction policy when dealing with protestors.

For the past 14 years, Brown has spent his Saturdays at the San Jose clinic and his Thursdays at the Mountain View clinic (which was previously in Sunnyvale) as a patient escort, volunteer leader and clinic defender. He makes sure patients at the clinic — who come for all types of medical attention and not just pregnancy termination — can enter the building safely without harassment from sidewalk

► See **BROWN**, page 11

An upbeat ‘State of the City’

MAYOR, CITY MANAGER SAY FINANCIAL PICTURE HAS TURNED AROUND

By Daniel DeBolt

Optimism reigned as Mayor Nick Galiotto and city manager Kevin Duggan paired up to present the annual “State of the City” update last week.

Despite the financial situation the city found itself in since the tech bubble burst in the

late 1990s, the economy has shifted over the last year to a pattern of “normal growth,” Duggan said, adding that city revenues are projected to steadily increase



Nick Galiotto

over the next few years.

The city will hire new staff for the first time in four years, which is a sign of how good the city’s financial situation is, Duggan said. Under Galiotto, who is halfway through his one-year-term as mayor, six to seven positions are scheduled to be filled.

Duggan took turns with Galiotto in giving the presentation

at an Environmental Planning Commission meeting on June 20. It was re-broadcast on KMVT the next day.

“While we are very happy that things have turned around,” Duggan said, “we can’t get too complacent as we go forward.”

In a quest to find more revenue, Duggan said the city has a new focus on leasing land to businesses. Galiotto added that the city hopes to use new-found lease income to kick-start a “major hotel we’ve always

► See **CITY**, page 13

New venue for Farmers’ Market

SUNDAY TRADITION MOVING BRIEFLY TO CALTRAIN LOT STARTING JULY 9

By Chelsea Young

If on some future Sunday you wander over to the intersection of Evelyn and Hope Street and don’t see booths with friendly vendors selling wild pacific salmon, fresh-picked corn, or delicious cherries, peaches and nectarines, don’t be alarmed. The market hasn’t disappeared, it’s just been relocated.

Due to construction, the Mountain View Farmers’ Market will temporarily move one block east from its current location to the Caltrain parking lot, 600 W. Evelyn Ave.

The market will still be open every Sunday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The move will come into effect on July 9, and continue until construction is finished. Parking at the Caltrain station is free.

For more information, customers are invited to call the California Farmers’ Markets Hotline at (800) 806-3276 or visit the Web site at www.cafarmersmkt.com. ■

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Jim Lohse (right) stands with David Herrera and Tina Flora, his homeless campaign workers.

'Homeless' gadfly tweaks City Hall

WOULD-BE COUNCIL CANDIDATE JIM LOHSE SAYS HE DESERVES A SHOT

By Jon Wiener

Mountain View residents know Jim Lohse as a medical marijuana activist. If he succeeds in convincing city election officials that he is homeless, they will soon get to know him a lot better.

Lohse wants to run for city council as a homeless resident of Mountain View. But city clerk Angee Salvador says Lohse, who sleeps at his sick mother's house in Cupertino, still needs to prove he lives in Mountain View.

"They don't say how to prove you're a resident," said Lohse. "I don't see anywhere in the law where there's a black-and-white definition that residency means where you put your head down at night."

Lohse began coming to council meetings last fall to support Jonathan Lustig's proposal to open a cannabis dispensary in Mountain View. Frustrated with the city's inaction on the issue, he kept coming to council meetings long after the council had dropped it. Over time, he became more and more interested in Mountain View politics, registering to vote in the city and tracking the council's activity on his Web site, www.councilwatchers.com.

If the city clerk decides to let Lohse run, it would undoubtedly

make the campaign for the three open council seats more colorful. He has resorted to a wide variety of tactics in his effort to get the city to change its medical marijuana policy, which he continues to argue is unclear and unnecessarily harsh.

At one meeting, he played back a tape recording of Mayor Nick Galiotto's comments from a previous discussion. He has also written an essay about his dealings with the city. One chapter is titled, "Other People With Whom I Have a Bone To Pick."

When he began considering a run for office, he switched his mailing address to the downtown post office and listed his DMV address as 500 Castro Street, which happens to be City Hall.

No dice, says city attorney Michael Martello.

"You couldn't just be homeless and run for three different cities," he said. "You could be a resident without a home, but you can't live in another town and [say], 'I'm going to run here and claim I'm homeless. I think Jim Lohse is doing that.'"

The filing period for council candidates doesn't start until July 17, so the city attorney and city clerk have a few weeks to decide whether to let him run. If they decline, Lohse says, he'll be ready with a lawsuit.

"You've got to fight for your rights or you're going to lose 'em," he said. ■

'You've got to fight for your rights or you're going to lose 'em.'

JIM LOHSE

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

California St. Albertsons to close

WORKERS LACKING SENIORITY FACE THE AXE

By Daniel DeBolt

Outside the Albertsons grocery store on California Street, a large banner reads "huge inventory blowout."

Inside, customers push shopping carts past "15 percent off" signs. The flower display case that greets customers by the door is noticeably empty, and some of the milk on the shelves is two days expired. Worst of all, morale is down for some workers, as they may soon be out of a job.

"There's not a whole lot you can do about it," said one employee who wished to remain anonymous.

This is only one of 31 Albertsons closures in the Bay Area, nine of which are in Santa Clara County.

Workers say it's hard to tell who will be collecting unemployment money in August and who will have a job. Workers at the store will be employed at least until Aug. 6, when higher seniority workers at the California Street store will bump lower seniority workers out of nearby stores. This ripple effect is causing anxiety among Albertsons workers throughout the Bay Area.

One worker said she estimates that 200 Albertsons employees will be out of a job throughout the county. The president of the United Food and Commercial Workers local seemed more optimistic, however.

Local 428 president Ron Lind said the union is working with



MICHAEL MULLADY

other grocery stores in the area, some which the UFCW represents, to find jobs for those being bumped out. Draegers and Safeway are among the stores interested in new workers, he said.

'In our opinion [Albertsons] lost interest in Northern California.'

RON LIND,
UFCW LOCAL 428 PRESIDENT

"The people who used to shop there are going to shop somewhere else," Lind said. Nearby stores will "have to hire others to handle increased sales."

Workers at the California Street store had not heard of the union's plans to find workers new jobs.

News of the store closures came on the heels of a \$17.4 bil-

lion purchase of 661 of 2,500 Albertsons stores country-wide by a consortium of buyers lead by Cerberus Capital Management. The stores marked for closure in various states reportedly have not been solid profit-makers.

"In our opinion [Albertsons] lost interest in Northern California," Lind said. The company had previously focused on reducing costs by cutting staff, as evidenced by the use of automated check-out stands. But the new company has stated there will be a new emphasis on increasing sales, Lind said.

"That's what we like to hear," he said.

The new company, Albertsons LLC, plans to close 37 of its 168 stores in Northern California, equal to 22 percent of Albertsons Northern California stores but only 12.4 percent of Northern California sales. The majority of the closures are in Santa Clara County.

Two other Albertsons will be closed in area: a Palo Alto store at 2080 Channing Ave. and a Sunnyvale store at 580 E. El Camino Real. The Albertsons in Mountain View at 715 East El Camino Real will remain open.

"Concentrating our resources on a base of solidly performing stores will allow Albertsons to be more competitive and better serve the community," said Donna Robbins, president of Albertsons Northern California division, in a statement.

Whether the location of the California Street Albertsons will continue to be the home for a grocery store remains to be seen. City officials say there are no plans to change zoning. Council member Matt Neely said he was skeptical, however, that it would remain a grocery store with competition from Safeway right across the street and a Trader Joe's nearby. ■

E-mail Daniel DeBolt at ddebolt@mv-voice.com



Deborah Sanderson, a teacher at Gunn High School, says she is upset the California Street Albertsons is closing.

MICHAEL MULLADY

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■ NEWS BRIEFS

**MOBILE HOME FIRE
DISPLACES OWNER**

Only a week and a half after an apartment fire left 47 residents displaced from their homes, another blaze broke out in the New Frontier mobile home park on Sylvan Avenue, apparently due to a malfunctioning dishwasher.

The home's owner, residing in Unit No. 120, had left for work and was absent at the time of the fire. The resident's neighbors, hearing the fire alarm sound, placed a call at 8:56 a.m.

Reaching the scene quickly, firefighters had the blaze under control by 9:12 a.m., taking special care to keep the fire contained, according to Mountain View Fire Department spokesman Lynn Brown.

Brown added that, had the neighbors not placed the emergency call, the blaze would have likely spread very quickly since mobile homes tend to burn easily.

The fire destroyed the

interior of the home almost completely, causing about \$150,000 in damage. The woman who owned the structure will be living temporarily with a family member.

— Chelsea Young

**KIDS TRY TO STEAL
BOOZE FROM BURNED-
OUT STORE**

A group of juveniles broke into an abandoned and burned-out Mountain View liquor store about midnight last Thursday, June 22 in an apparent attempt to steal booze, Mountain View police said.

The store, at El Camino Real and Castro Street, suffered extensive damage last month in the city's largest fire in recent years.

A passerby spotted several teenagers on top of the roof of the gutted building and flagged down nearby police officers, Mountain View police Sgt. Dale Messimer said. Officers then set up a

perimeter around the building before spotting a juvenile leaving the liquor store and running east on Castro Street.

A foot chase began that continued onto northbound El Camino Real, where the juvenile apparently ran into traffic, causing three cars to bump into each other with minor property damage.

Officers caught up with the boy on Hope Street at El Camino Real, where he was cited and released, Messimer said.

Police discovered several bags stuffed with liquor and beer on top of the roof, where Messimer said the juveniles had climbed to access the store. The cited boy was not found to be in possession of any stolen goods.

Neither the liquor store nor the three other businesses ruined in the May 17 blaze have been operating since the fire, though some of their property remains inside.

— Bay City News

Smog or not, free transit rides over

VTA OFFERS LOWER FARE, CALTRAIN MULLS AN INCREASE

By Jon Wiener

Commuters won't be getting any more free rides on Bay Area transit agencies this year, with three consecutive "Spare the Air" days in the past week draining the federal funds set aside for that purpose.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District designated this past Thursday, Friday and Monday as Spare the Air days due to unhealthy levels of smog caused by car exhaust and other pollutants. Commuters rode public transportation for free on those days.

Meanwhile, the Valley Transportation Authority is hoping to see some results this weekend from the new "excursion pass" the agency is using to draw new riders to light rail. Unlike the regular day pass, the excursion pass is cheaper (\$3.50 compared with \$5.25), expires after 8 hours and does not

give riders free transfers on buses.

"The purpose is the leisure traveler, not your regular rider or somebody's who's using light rail for commuting purposes," said VTA spokesperson Jayme Kunz.

Kunz said the agency believes the pass is a cheaper solution for people who just want to take light rail to special events, such as concerts or fairs or hockey games. This weekend's July 4 festivities will present the big test for that concept, she said.

For its part, Caltrain is considering a fare increase of 25 cents, plus 25 cents per zone traveled. The increase would be the second in a little over a year for the agency, which continues to struggle to stay on top of a budget crunch borne by higher fuel and personnel costs.

The Bay Area only had one Spare the Air day all of last year. While commuters got free rides from the deal, people with respiratory problems were warned to stay indoors. ■

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

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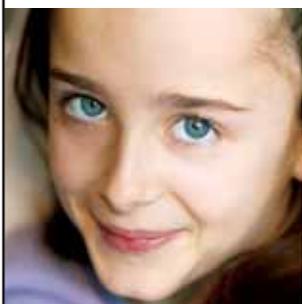


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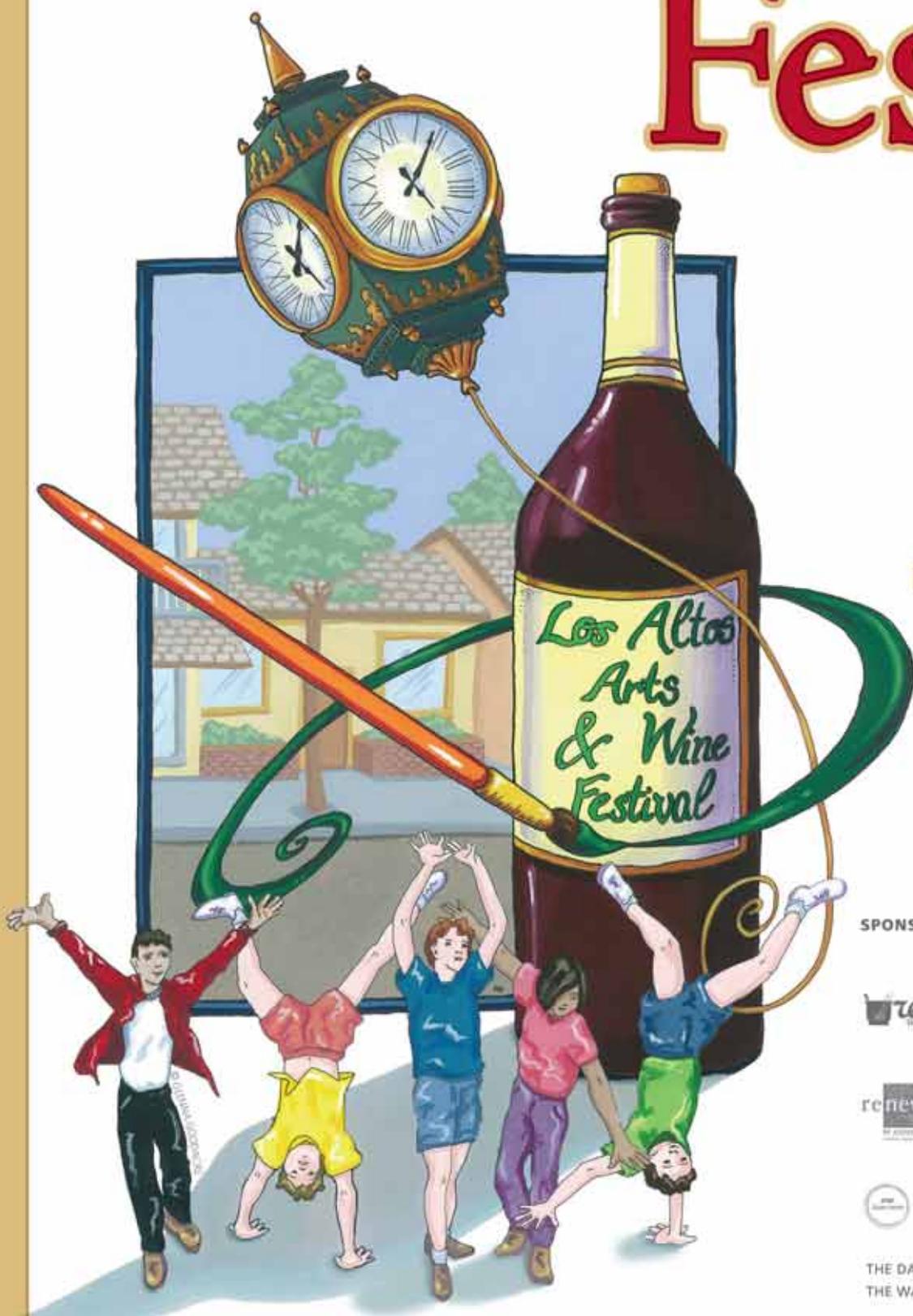
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BROWN

► Continued from page 5

demonstrators.

On Saturdays in San Jose, Brown is first to arrive and last to leave, and he routinely checks the entire clinic for anything out of the ordinary.

Fellow Mountain View clinic volunteer Lorraine Actor believes Brown deserved the national award "because he's Old Faithful. We don't know what we'd do without him."

While Linda Williams, Mar Monte's executive director who encouraged Brown to volunteer in 1992, says he goes beyond the call of duty, he doesn't see it that way.

"I pace the quarters and assure them a woman alone in the building is alright," he said, adding, "Nobody asked me to do it. I just do what I think is necessary."

Employees and patients at Planned Parenthood Mar Monte are thankful for his dedication to the San Jose and Mountain View clinics, Williams said.

"[Clinic staff] find his presence enormously reassuring. He's a fixture," she said. "Everyone feels safer when Hilton's there."

Receiving the Volunteer of the Year award was not the first honor Brown earned for his volunteer work. In 1996, Planned Parenthood Mar Monte nominated him to carry the Olympic torch through Mountain View on its way to Atlanta. But this time, he was chosen out of the 25,000 volunteers across the country to be recognized at the annual conference in Washington, D.C. in late March.

In his acceptance speech to 1,000 Planned Parenthood representatives, Brown said the strong women in his life — particularly his mother and his wife, Flora — instilled in him respect for all women and a desire to protect them against pro-life agitators.

"Their character and strength ... lead me to conclude that the middle-aged men at the heart of the protesters are frightened and cowardly bullies and the real motivation of the pro-lifers is not abortion. It is the subjugation of women," he said.

An Indiana native who has lived in Mountain View for 24 years, Brown added that he felt his work with Planned Parenthood was more than a choice. It is his duty.

"I would be dishonoring my mother and my wife if I did not do my utmost to keep them [the protesters] from winning," he said.

Afflicted by an advanced stage of Alzheimer's, his wife of 55 years now resides in a nursing home. Brown visits her as often as he can, and struggles with the grief that accompanies losing a

life partner to a degenerative illness.

"Every time I'm alone, I sink into a deep funk about my wife," he said solemnly.

Staying active through Planned Parenthood and the Humanist Community of Silicon Valley helps Brown cope with his wife's illness.

It was with his wife that he first became involved with Planned Parenthood in the early 1970s in New York, just before the 1973 Supreme Court decision on Roe v. Wade. After retiring, he returned to volunteer at Planned Parenthood in 1992 in the Bay Area.

He worries about the possibility of Roe v. Wade being overturned in the near future, and about states like South Dakota that are creating abortion ban laws. Hearing about violence and threats of violence at clinics around the country motivates him to defend

'Everyone feels safer when Hilton's there.'

LINDA WILLIAMS,
MAR MONTE'S
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

the Mar Monte clinics.

"I'll be damned if they're gonna intimidate me," he said.

The Mountain View clinic attracts just a handful of older women protesters, while the San Jose clinic sees as many as 50 church members on the last Saturday of every month. Few serious incidents have taken place at the clinics recently, which could be due to the strategy of nonaction that Brown started employing early on.

"When I first started coming here, we were very confrontational," he recalled.

After the summer of 1993, when pro-life Operation Rescue mobilized thousands throughout the country to protest abortion clinics, including 1,500 protesters in San Jose, Brown and fellow

volunteers had a realization.

"Of our regulars, most of them were here for the excitement. They weren't here for the issues," he said.

So Brown and his team developed a new method of clinic defense. He demonstrated this tactic last Saturday, when 30 members of Our Lady of Peace church in Santa Clara gathered on the sidewalk outside the San Jose clinic to sing and pray and call out to incoming patients. Brown walked over and stood close to them, reminding them of his tall presence and the rule that they are not allowed to step off the sidewalk and onto the clinic's property. No yelling, no escalating fights, no physical contact.

As a result of these tactics, he said, "Over a period of months, all but the hardcore ones disappeared."

"He's unperturbable," said fellow San Jose clinic volunteer Alex Havasy, who has worked with Brown for a decade. "He doesn't let anything they say upset him."

Occasionally, Brown said, demonstrators will try to provoke the husbands and boyfriends who escort women into the clinic, and he and other volunteers must prevent fighting. But overall, the nonaction method has had a dramatic effect on the number and type of protesters outside the clinics.

After Brown and other volunteers implemented the new policy in the early 1990s, it didn't take long for the method to become standard procedure at Planned Parenthood clinics throughout the country.

"His philosophy and his approach have set the tone and have had an influence on the whole approach nationally," Williams said.

Some of the protesters, like 55-year-old Gary Pomeroy, of San Jose, have been coming to the San Jose clinic for as long as Brown has. Pomeroy often wears a "prayer pin" on his shirt with Brown's picture on it.

"I'm convinced every morning he wakes up and rubs his thumb over my face hoping he'll destroy me," Brown said.

Pomeroy is the owner of the large posters of dead fetuses that he displays in front of the clinic, and was not impressed upon learning of Brown's honor from Planned Parenthood.

"That's a legacy I wouldn't want to carry with me," he said on Saturday, adding, "Hilton's just as precious as the babies being destroyed here."

Still, Brown respects Pomeroy's

and other demonstrators' right to express their views publicly.

"I spent a lot of time protesting. I've a lot of respect for First Amendment rights," he said.

Brown does not plan on quitting his volunteer duties any time soon, and for as long as he can, he will make sure that Planned Parenthood patients can enter clinics safely.

"I'll be here as long as I can stand up," he said. ■

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

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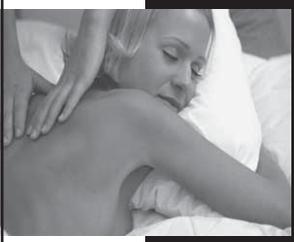
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EDITOR'S DESK

► Continued from page 5

■ *Police Captain, CHAC Board member, Rotarian, and all-around great guy Bruce Barsi.*

I think Bruce is really onto something here: He should start a Mountain View Bruces Club. The theme song could be "They Call Me Bruce" by Rick Springfield. They could have a "Bruces' and Bruces' Spouses' Night." I suggested all this to Bruce, and he said "I haven't heard 'They Call Me Bruce,' I'll have to check it out after I finish my weekly viewing of 'Bruce Almighty' on DVD."

"OUR OBON Festival & Bazaar is quickly approaching," warns organizer Margaret Abe. The much-loved event — with its delicious Japanese food, dancing and cultural activities — takes place next Saturday and Sunday, July 15 and 16, at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple at 575 N. Shoreline Blvd.

This Sunday, however, you can go to the Temple for the annual Kangi-e Obon Service and the First Obon Memorial Service, called "Hatsubon." The services, which begin at 10 a.m., will be conducted by the Rev. Dean Koyama with guest speaker the Rev. Kosho Yukawa.

According to Koyama, Obon is a deeply religious Buddhist holiday, "a time to remember and honor all those who have passed on before us, appreciate all that they have done for us, and recognize the continuation of their deeds upon our lives."

Don Frances is editor of the Mountain View Voice. He can be reached at dfrances@mv-voice.com.

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CITY

► Continued from page 5

wanted and never had.” Many people are tired of seeing major functions being held outside the city, he said.

Projects, projects, projects

“As you can see there is a lot of activity going on in our community,” Galiotto said after he had finished running through a long list of projects, some of which are finished, most not.

One slated for completion this year is the parking garage under construction downtown at Bryant and California streets. The garage will earn the city \$120,000 a year through its lease agreement with Longs Drugs for space on the bottom floor.

“Again, we try to be entrepreneurial,” Duggan said. “We realize sales tax revenue won’t provide all the services we want.”

The “nicest senior center in the state” is expected to open this fall in Mountain View, Duggan said. There will be a party for its opening in September or October. There will be no residency requirement for users of the center.

Open space an open question

“When we have funds our goal is to increase open space,” Galiotto said, adding that it is a challenge to do so in some neighborhoods.

The mayor said the Cuesta Annex — the piece of undeveloped land next to Cuesta Park — will be discussed at a series of workshops to solicit public comment on its future use.

As for the Grant Road farm, Galiotto said, some neighbors are opposed to a plan to turn it into a housing development. Owners of the popular farm on Grant Road — well known for its annual Halloween pumpkin patch — plan to sell it for housing, although many neighbors want to keep some of the land as a farm.

“We have allowed that to go through the gate and will go through the process,” Galiotto said, regarding a proposal from developer Summerhill Homes.

The Stevens Creek Trail will continue to be improved with the addition of a crossing under El Camino Real near Highway 85.

Natural light will enter the tunnel from a block-glass window inserted into the meridian on El Camino. The four- to six-month construction project will close a lane each way on El Camino while the underpass is made.

Technology and equipment

After Google launches its public WiFi program, which will serve the city with free wireless Internet access, Mountain View plans to upgrade its new bookmobile into something more than a bookshelf-on-wheels. It will be, in part, a traveling access point for the new WiFi system, with computer stations for public use inside, Duggan said.

Among other high-tech upgrades, a modernized city Web site is expected to launch by August. And city librarians will enjoy new technology for processing returned books.

Also, firefighters will be getting a whole new fleet of fire trucks valued at \$3.5 million.

In a question-and-answer session, Duggan was asked if there were incentives for having a retail store in a downtown dominated by restaurants.

“It’s true there have not been any major incentives,” Duggan said. Low interest loans have been used as incentives for places such as Books Inc. and the Tied House, Duggan said.

“Right now uses are determined by property owners,” Duggan said. “It appears restaurants have paid higher rent, and buildings appear to be more conducive to restaurants than retail,” he said.

It was asked how the city caters to a large company like Google without over-favoring it.

“We recognize the importance of Google, no question about it,” Galiotto said. But what the city tries to do is figure out what the business community as a whole wants, and caters to the whole rather than individual parts, he said.

“We have to strike this balance and not take for granted having the hottest company in the world in town,” Duggan added. “There are cities and countries all over the world who would love to have [Google]. Hopefully their presence will continue.” ■

E-mail Daniel DeBolt at ddebolt@mv-voice.com

Mountain View online

GOOGLE WIFI NOW LOOKING FOR ‘TRUSTED TESTERS’

Google is getting ready to roll out its long-awaited free citywide wireless network this summer, but those who just can’t wait can apply now to join the company’s list of “trusted testers.”

To sign up, e-mail mvwifi-support@google.com. Google’s Chris Sacca tells the *Voice* that the not everybody will get to participate.

“The goal here is to get testers across the city, from across ages,” said Sacca, principal of new business development for the company. “The goal here is to learn.”

Google spokesperson Megan Quinn said the company expected to be finished installing its devices by the end of this month. The testing phase will come shortly afterward, followed by the debut of the system.

To take advantage of the service, users need only to supply a username, e-mail address and password. Sacca said this is far less personal information than most Internet service providers require.

“In the end, we’re really proud about how private this network really enables people to be,” he said.

The network will be one of the first of its kind, and will enable all sorts of new applications of the Internet. For example, according to Sacca, dry cleaners can target their advertising to people within an eight-block radius. Diners can search for sushi restau-

rants or tacquerias within walking distance of their parking space, and locals will be able to create their own content specific to the network.

“This is one of the first times that we’ve tried a product that deeply connects us to the community,” said Sacca. “We have just built the platform ... and then we get out of the way and let the community build the content.”

— Jon Wiener

NEW CITY WEB SITE TO BE FASTER, EASIER TO NAVIGATE

Finance Director Bill Locke said a modern Web site for the city has been in the works, and will come online — featuring a faster T-1 connection — as early as July.

As a result, the speed for page loading is expected to triple or even quadruple, Locke said. The new setup will make online work easier for city staff as well.

A new document retrieval system has been in use since April, but the rest of the site is still undergoing major changes. Locke said the site was initially expected to be finished in June, but upgrades hit a few roadblocks, and the date has been pushed back to the end of July and possibly August.

— Daniel DeBolt



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COUNCIL

► Continued from page 1

have to be removed to level the property.

Council member Laura Macias bemoaned that fact, saying that "We've consistently removed heritage trees from developments because it's just easier that way."

Discussions about requiring developers to save a certain number of heritage trees on the site didn't lead to a decision at Tuesday's meeting.

Despite residents' concerns that it wouldn't be enough, the city also approved its standard 2.3 spaces-per-unit parking requirement. A Mayfield neighbor traveled to a similar Toll Brothers development in Dublin and took pictures of streets crowded with parked cars after work hours, even though the Dublin development required 2.5 parking spaces per unit.

Clearly, "something isn't working there," she said.

Residents challenged the assertion that the project was a transit-oriented development because of the nearby Caltrain station, which is barely used by residents — 5 percent, according to the 2000 Census. But environmental advocates of high-density development, such as the Sierra Club, encouraged the council to think about the future, when gas prices go up and fewer people will be driving cars.

To address immediate traffic concerns, a letter will be sent to Palo Alto about widening San Antonio Road where traffic often backs up. The pedestrian undercrossing at Central Expressway is also hoped to relieve some congestion from people crossing the street.

Near the end of the night, council member Matt Neely said that the council had adequately addressed traffic concerns, causing some residents to gasp.

Toll Brothers is expected to

■ INFORMATION

Details of the new precise plan include:

- The maximum number of units for the Mountain View side of the property will be 530.
- A maximum height for homes adjoining the existing neighborhood will be 28 feet instead of the 22 feet asked for by neighbors and recommended by the Environmental Planning Commission.
- Any retail on the site must be mixed-use.
- Windows in second-story walls immediately adjacent to existing homes will need to be installed near the ceiling to provide privacy for neighbors, or be clouded glass.
- Sixty percent of on-street parking will be made public.
- Streets in the development will not have bike lanes.
- A pedestrian underpass will be built under Central Expressway to reduce traffic problems associated with street crossings.
- A .4-acre parcel at the edge of the site owned by the city will be given to the developers in exchange for park space in addition to the 3.2 required acres. Developers will have to make one acre of extra park space available if a private or public party can pay for it. The city of Palo Alto may pay \$290,000 towards park space.

come up with a project plan for the council to approve in the coming months. Tymes said the Monta Loma Neighborhood Association and others will continue to follow the development. ▣

E-mail Daniel DeBolt at ddebolt@mv-voice.com

EL CAMINO

► Continued from page 1

Graham's salary.

Graham will relieve Gualarte of her duties as interim CEO, and will take on the task of leading the hospital through the costly construction of a new, earthquake-safe building. Work began on the new hospital earlier in the month.

Overlake Medical Center, the hospital Graham will be leaving, is a not-for-profit, 337-bed center. Board members think Graham's experience at Overlake, which includes overseeing significant

construction projects, will help him lead El Camino through the next several years.

"It's not only the skills he has," said board member Wes Alles. "He brings with him a set of personality characteristics that will benefit El Camino and the community."

Previously, Graham had worked at Long Beach Community Hospital, Grossmont Hospital in the San Diego area, and the Daughters of Charity Health System in Northern and Southern California. He earned his bachelor's degree in public health and a master's in hospital administration from UCLA. ▣

Flush times at high school district

FLAT ENROLLMENT,
HIGHER TAXES MEAN
MORE DOLLARS

By Molly Tanenbaum

Thanks to rising property taxes and flat enrollment, the Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District's budget will be comfortably in the black, at least for the next couple years.

The high school board adopted the \$40 million budget on Monday night, after a presentation by Joe White, associate superintendent for business services.

"There's virtually no negatives at all, so basically everything is in improvement mode," White said.

The district will benefit from a 7.25 percent rise in property taxes, bringing tax revenue up \$2 million to nearly \$30 million for 2006-07.

"We're in a good position. There's not a lot to say. We expect it's going to be a couple of good years and we're looking forward to it," said board trustee David Williams.

Combined with increased property tax revenue, slowed enrollment growth at the high schools is a plus for MVLA, which as a "basic aid" district does not receive funding on a per-student basis like the Mountain View Whisman School District. Instead, revenues come from property taxes, meaning that fewer students results in more money per student.

"For a basic aid district, this is a huge, huge positive," White said. "We're flattening out."

Over the last four years, the district gained 200 students a year, but now the 2006-07 student body will be basically the same size as the previous year, at 3,690 students, according to White.

This is due in part to enrollment trends, and to the district reregistering all students this past winter to weed out nearly 100 students who did not live within district boundaries, according to Associate Superintendent Brigitte Sarraf.

Additional revenue for the coming school year will include \$650,000, raised by the Mountain View-Los Altos foundation — up \$50,000 from the previous year. Those funds will go to reducing class sizes, tutorial centers, college career centers and extended library hours at the

schools, according to White.

Another plus for next year's budget is that experienced teachers from Los Altos High School — Leo Florendo, Sue Kefauver and Elizabeth Pedinotti — will join the faculty at Freestyle High, the new multimedia high school. So beginning next year, their salaries will be paid out of the \$400,000 the school district will receive for technology education from the city.

That means those funds will not come from the district's regular budget, but from a joint powers agreement to share property tax revenue from Mountain View's Shoreline Regional Park Community, White said.

This week's good news is in contrast to the gloom of three years ago, when the district had rising enrollment and the possibility of losing its basic aid status due to a decision by Gov. Gray Davis. Although he threatened to do so, Davis did not take away basic aid from school districts throughout the state, which was a relief to Mountain View-Los Altos.

Nevertheless, in the 2003-04 school year, the district cut thousands of dollars from its budget, including funds for substitute teachers, overtime pay, travel and conference expenses, vacation and compensatory time and the school board.

"It seems like an entirely different era, then and now," said board president Julia Rosenberg. "We're working very hard to make sure we're keeping our expenses down as much as possible."

Many of these cuts are still in place, but since then, the board has allocated \$50,000 per year to improving algebra achievement, and will give \$30 more per student to both high schools' discretionary funds.

At the Monday meeting, White also mentioned a few places that could use additional funding, such as hiring a testing coordinator for the district who would handle the administration of the exit exam, Advanced Placement tests, the SAT and other state tests. This added position would cost \$60,000, White said, and would cover work now being done by several administrators.

The other unknown is employee contracts. Salary negotiations are currently underway. ■

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



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Season of dominance for Mountain View track

BOTH BOYS AND GIRLS TEAMS ENDED '06 WITH LEAGUE TITLES

By Justin Bull

The Spartans dominated the El Camino Division in track and field this spring, with both the boys and the girls teams taking league championships, rounding out one of the most successful seasons in recent MVHS history.

"It was a great year for us," said head coach Sam Read. "Great" appeared to be an understatement for this group of Spartans. Overall, 12 school records were broken, 24 league champions were crowned, and 11 Spartans finished ranked in the CCS top 20 in their individual events.

Leading the boys were seniors Kevin Metsers and David Lee, as well as juniors Devin Moores, Robbie Reid, and Nikolai Lemak. Metsers broke the school record in the long jump by six inches with a jump of 22-5 at the SCVAL League meet on May 3. Moores was a consistent point-getter in both the high jump and the 110 meter hurdles, while Reid dominated the 800 meter run, ultimately finishing fourth at

CCS (1:57.75).

Juniors Haley Nahman and Kate Kornegay stood out on the girls' side, continually winning their events in the 800 meter and the 100 meter hurdles, respectively.

The field team was where Mountain View would repeatedly earn their most points. Sophomores Katherine Johnson and Angelica Williams were the top two throwing threats. The Spartans also had three girls — juniors Ronnie Amsden and Cheryl Kaestner and sophomore Kelly Thom — jumping 5-0 or over, and all three will return next season. Thom and Amsden were joined by senior Abby Daam as three of the division's top four long jumpers.

Many members of this Spartan team will be back again next year. Along with stellar seasons by both of MV's junior varsity squads — the girls finished first and the boys second — the outlook for the 2007 season looks very good for Mountain View.

ST. FRANCIS REMAINED UNRIVALLED

The 2006 track season was an epic one for St. Francis, whose boys team overcame all forms of competition to win the West

Catholic Athletic League, earn a CCS championship, and place eighth overall at the California State meet.

The St. Francis boys had three state medalists in Casey Roche, Ben Sitler and Kyle Mills-Bunje, but it was their depth of competitive athletes that earned the Lancers both the WCAL and CCS championships. Junior Andy Vargas and senior David Wernick threw the discus for the Lancers and both picked up state-qualifying marks in the shot put. Sophomore Omar Bourgoub was a qualifier for the June 3 state meet in the high jump (6'3") and was joined by senior 800 meter runner Sam Pompei (1:55.66).

The Lady Lancers tied for first place with Valley Christian in the WCAL this year after a 7-0 season, and later placed third in the CCS Championships on May 26. St. Francis had two girls who eclipsed 12 feet in the pole vault — junior Natasha Barthel and senior Taylor Franklin. Both competed at the state meet and Barthel tied for second with a vault of 12-9.

Senior discus hurler Sela Painsi also qualified for state with a throw of 148-4, establishing a new school record in the process.

The boys and the girls of St. Francis will be fully capable of defending their WCAL titles next season.

CHALLENGING YEAR FOR LOS ALTOS

Los Altos did not fare well in track and field this season. The girls tied for fourth in the De Anza Division with a 2-4 record, while the boys went winless on their way to a last place finish.

The Eagle boys' 0-6 record was somewhat deceiving, as five of their six losses were by a narrow margin. Junior Eric Hersey won both hurdle events at the league meet, finishing with 39.94 in the 300 meter and 14.3 in the 110 meter. Junior Alec Nickolls also placed first at the league meet for Los Altos. He ran the mile in 4:24.81.

For the girls, Junior Bria Nelson won the 400 meter at league (58.60) and came in second in the 200 meter (26.13), while sophomore Alyssa Biondi took second in the 100 meter sprint (12.66). The Eagles' mile relay team also finished first at league, and senior Alicia Yanez and junior Briana Spears also contributed strong performances for Los Altos all season long. ▀

Eagles had strong tennis season

NARROW LOSS AT CCS ENDED TITLE HOPES

The Los Altos boys ended their tennis season with a respectable 12-5 record — and two second-place league finishes and a second overall in the CCS playoffs.

Seeded third, the Eagles stormed into the CCS tournament by defeating Leigh and Monta Vista en route to the finals match on May 11. It was there where Los Altos would lose to Bellarmine 4-3 in a close CCS championship match-up, marking the second year in a row in which Bellarmine ended the Eagles' tennis season.

Denny Fafek went to the CCS singles tournament representing Los Altos, but the unseeded junior drew top-ranked Steven Benvenuto as his opening round opponent. Fafek was defeated by Benevento, who eventually won the entire tournament, but he gave the Aragon High School senior his toughest match in the tournament, forcing a third and final set.

Fafek is a top prospect to take the CCS crown next season.

MOUNTAIN VIEW BOYS TOOK DIVISION TITLE

"This year's boys' tennis team at MVHS was strong," said Frank Smyth, "the strongest in my six years as coach." The Spartans finished the spring season with an 11-4 overall record and the El Camino Division Championship.

Mountain View advanced to the second round of CCS under the leadership of seniors John Doty and Aaron Shaw and on

strong performances all around, including that of freshman Toki Sherbakov.

"A star emerged this year," Smyth said of Sherbakov, who was ranked No. 1 in division singles play at season's end, "He established himself as an elite high school player."

The Spartans defeated Milpitas 5-2 in Round One and would later lose to Bellarmine 6-1 in the quarterfinals.

Next year, Mountain View will move up to the De Anza division, or what Coach Smyth calls "The premier tennis division in Santa Clara Valley." With Sherbakov and several other players set to return, the Spartans hope to contend against a much tougher slate of competition.

LANCERS STRUGGLED IN WCAL

St. Francis struggled in the West Catholic Athletic League this spring, ending their boys tennis season in sixth place with a 6-13 record. The Lancers sent two seniors to compete in the CCS doubles tournament, Calvin Leung and Nik Marathe, although both would fall early in Round One.

The year was the first for head coach Dudley Battle, and athletic director Michael Pilawski showed great appreciation for Battle's work.

"I'm excited about the program he's going to build and the philosophies he has," Pilawski said. The Lancers have had three coaches in the past four years, but Battle appears to be solidifying a St. Francis program that has a lot of potential.

— Justin Bull



The 2005-06 Los Altos High gymnastics team

COURTESY PHOTO

The powerhouse gymnasts

ST. FRANCIS, LOS ALTOS GIRLS TOPPED LEAGUE, WITH LANCERS TAKING 7TH CCS TITLE

By Justin Bull

The Lancers celebrated another girls gymnastics championship this season, making 2006 the seventh straight year that St. Francis has finished first in CCS.

With a 15-0 record, few teams in the SCVAL even came close to toppling St. Francis. At the league finals Lancer gymnasts broke the record for highest team point total (189.4) — a record they already owned.

Of the top 10 All-Around gymnasts in the league, eight were Lancers. Linda Lund, Kelsey Hoag, Dana D'Amico, Caty Chung, and Wendy Shue were only a handful of the all-stars from St. Francis this spring. The Lancers will shoot for an eighth straight CCS Championship next season; a scenario that — for this athletic program — wouldn't be too unlikely.

Meanwhile, Los Altos gymnasts also had a great 2006 season, although the team would take second place once again behind the St. Francis program in both the SCVAL and CCS championships.

Leading the Eagles was Arla Rosenzweig, who notched a second-place finish at CCS as a mere freshman. She tied for third in the bars (9.825) and the floor (9.75) and took first in the vault competition (9.875). With her was junior Avery Gee, the SCVAL league champion in four of five categories: the vault, the beam, the floor and in all-around competition.

Although St. Francis defeated Los Altos handily in dual-meet competition this season, the Eagles could have enough young talent returning next year to try and break the Lancers' unprecedented streak of seven straight CCS titles. If they can overcome the depth of the St. Francis lineup, a new champion could emerge in Silicon Valley. ▀

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Molly Tanenbaum

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Contributors

Angela Hey

Sheila Himmel

Diana Reynolds Roome

Elaine Rowland

Kathy Schrenk

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Norbert von der Groeben

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E-mail Editorial

editor@MV-VOICE.com

E-mail Classified

ads@MV-VOICE.com

E-mail Circulation

circulation@MV-VOICE.com

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■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

Slater School closure takes its toll

For most kids, the last day of school is a happy time. Everyone looks forward to vacations, sleeping late and no tests. But at Slater Elementary, June 14 was not only the last day of the 2005-06 school year, but the last day of school, period. And it wasn't a happy time. One second grader told *Voice* reporter Molly Tanenbaum, "I'm going to cry. I like this school."

Unless the Mountain View Whisman School District changes its mind sometime in the future, Slater will simply be a child care site for the children of Google employees, for which the company is paying \$650,000 a year. The income will help the district maintain lower class sizes, and special instruction in reading and math at the remaining six elementary schools.

That's the good news. The bad news is that the 364 Slater students will have to be squeezed into the district's remaining schools, which will drive the average school size to 504, up nearly 100 students from the current school year. Every school will take some Slater students, although the majority will go to Landels and Castro schools. But due to boundary changes and busing, all the other schools will feel some impact from the Slater closure.

With 37 classrooms, Castro's 571 students will make it the district's largest, although Bubb, with 550, will not be far behind. Monta Loma will have 525 students in September, and the remaining schools are all comfortably under 500.

The real crunch will come as each school converts more of its excess classrooms to regular classes in the coming year, resulting in increased pressure to find space for special programs. Castro used only 17 of its 37 classrooms last year, but 10 more will be needed to accommodate the increased enrollment. The extra classrooms on all campuses are rarely vacant, housing programs like art, music, counseling centers or special reading classes.

And this fall, Castro will shoulder the heaviest special program load, as it will be the site for both the dual-immersion language program (which mixes native Spanish and English speakers in the same classroom), and the PACT (Parent, Teacher, Student) program, which emphasizes increased parental involvement. Including incoming kindergartners, the PACT program will account for 160 students at Castro, and another 240 will enroll in the dual immersion program. Nearly 60 percent of Castro students are eligible for free or reduced price lunch program, and about the same number are learning English. During the last school year, Castro finished with a score of 644 out of 1,000 on the state STAR test, below its target.

With new principal Carmen Mizell taking over Aug. 7 and Castro facing the possibility that its test scores could again be short of No

Child Left Behind guidelines, the school will have plenty of motivation to improve. Luckily, the dual immersion program has been in place for several years, and the PACT program will transfer with most of its teachers as a unit from Slater, so little new oversight will be required.

Landels School expects just over half of its 525 students to qualify for school lunch assistance, and 55 percent are English language learners. But unlike Castro, Landels has easily reached its No Child Left Behind target with a score of 831 on the state test, and school officials expect similar results when this year's test results are made public in a few months.

In the long run, there is no doubt that Mountain View Whisman (at the request of new Superintendent Maurice Ghysels, the hyphen was dropped) will work just as well as a six-school district as it did with seven schools. With flat enrollment and rising costs, the district was forced to contract. But that doesn't mean the job will be easy.

With 47 percent of all students qualifying for lunch assistance and 51 percent qualifying as English language learners, the district has always had a big job to do. One less school won't make it any easier.

■ GUEST OPINION

Home Depot will be good for Mountain View

COMPANY EXPECTS TO CONDUCT FULL TRAFFIC ANALYSIS

By Greg George

Since Home Depot announced its plans for a store in Mountain View's San Antonio Shopping Center, there has been a lot of discussion and press coverage regarding the issue. There are a few points I would like to clarify:

The proposed store will occupy the same footprint as the current Sears store and will fit in nicely with the nearby retail stores. The store will be designed to blend in with the shopping center and the community. It will be located next to other retail stores, not immediately adjacent to residential homes. Home Depot has studied this location thoroughly and sees it as an ideal location for local residents, who will now be able to shop for a variety of goods and services in one convenient location inside the city.

It is important to note that the project will undergo thorough environmental review by the city, which will include a detailed analysis of the potential traffic impacts and required mitigations. The project plans also call

for traffic improvements on San Antonio Road, including a new traffic signal, to help ease traffic in and out of the center.

Mountain View residents currently spend millions of dollars shopping at the Home Depot stores in East Palo Alto, Sunnyvale and Cupertino. Building a store in Mountain View would bring the benefits of those purchases back to the city. The City of Mountain View is expected to receive upwards of \$400,000 in taxes and fees annually from Home Depot. The city can use these general fund revenues for city services like road repairs, parks and recreation and police and fire services.

Home Depot is planning to conduct extensive outreach for this project. We are working very closely with the city and hope to meet with many neighborhood groups, local organizations and residents in the near future. We are looking forward to the discussion with and feedback from the community. We are excited to be a corporate citizen of Mountain View and part of the popular San Antonio Shopping Center.

Greg George is real estate manager for Home Depot, and is based in Orange, Calif.

■ LETTERS VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

HOW TO SAVE HANGAR ONE

Editor:

Kudos to the *Voice* for last week's editorial about the Navy's "Catch 22" plans to keep bids secret for demolishing or preserving Hangar One.

There is still time for us to have a say. The Navy is accepting citizen comments until July 5. If we can swamp their coordinator's office with letters, faxes and e-mails by the 5th, it may just do the job.

Tell the Navy that you want them to release the *totals* of the bids prior to a final decision. Tell them of the importance

this landmark is to us. Tell them they should agree to the Historic Preservation Act regarding the hangar. Remind them we bought the whole 1,000 acres the base sits on and gave it to them for a dollar in 1931.

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**Ben DeBolt
Franklin Avenue**

A pleasant surprise at City Hall

HIGH SCHOOL CENSORS TURN INTO GOOD GUYS ON LOCAL BEAT

By Jon Wiener

In 2002, when Matt Neely won the most votes of nine candidates for city council, I wrote in the alumni newsletter to my high school water polo teammates that he was “perhaps my highest-ranking personal enemy.”

Imagine my excitement then, when after dreaming of taking my revenge on Neely for six years, the *Voice* hired me to cover Mountain View city politics.

Neely and I met when I was a senior at Los Altos High School. That year, some of my friends

had cut the locks on Mountain View High’s marquee and made a rather vulgar but clever anagram with the letters.

Neely, an assistant principal at Mountain View High, for some reason decided that if he interrogated me for long enough, I would roll over on my friends. As one of the editors of the high school paper, I stayed true to my sources and kept my mouth shut. Neely told me I lacked integrity and later convinced the principal and Superintendent Rich Fischer to violate the state education code

and censor the newspaper’s illicitly obtained photo of the marquee, ultimately embarrassing themselves when 12 different news outlets picked up the story.

Oh yes, I was definitely going to get Matt Neely.

I was disappointed to learn, however, that he was actually a pretty good guy.

In two and half years at the *Voice*, my most surprising discovery has been that the public officials we cover are, generally speaking, decent human beings driven by a desire to serve.

Neely has, of course, given those of us in the Fourth Estate plenty of opportunities to attack him — he once gave me a commemorative city watch in front of two other reporters, and made a reference to “Chinese fire drills” at a council meeting earlier this year — even though we’ve never taken them. But like his colleagues, he has always appeared to be in it for the common good, and his respect for the role of the press has been refreshing.

At a time when the mayor of San Jose is facing criminal charges for a back-room promise to give away millions of dollars of public funds, and the White House is excoriating reporters for telling the truth about its covert snooping operations, Mountain View

is lucky to have people of Matt Neely’s caliber in charge.

Legacies of an indicted mayor

Ever since a jury removed Mayor Mario Ambra from office four years ago, transparency has ruled in the local city government. Council members are very careful to obey the Brown Act and take allegations of misconduct seriously. Senior city staff members — several of whom put their careers on the line testifying against Ambra — broadly interpret what information is public record and quickly respond to requests to release it.

The city’s employee unions and its legal adversaries do not always like this, of course, and it occasionally embarrasses other agencies. But it is a clear indication of the respect that civic leaders have for both the press and the public at large, even on those occasions when neither appears to deserve any.

None of this is to say that city leaders are perfect. Over the last two and a half years, I have seen council members skip meetings to attend Jimmy Buffett concerts, strike out with KMVT interns (in front of the camera), and drive to Bike to Work Day energizer stations. And on more important issues, the council often seems to pay lip service to resident concerns about open space or economic diversity without doing much to promote those causes. Members often hide behind a mantra of property rights as they bend over backwards for residential developers.

But even when we have slung arrows — over development in Rengstorff Park, cops with Tasers, or free tickets to Shoreline Amphitheatre — the city has always dealt with us, and by extension the readers, openly.

Thwarted, once again

This is my last issue with the paper, and Neely is leaving the city council and high school district for a job in Rome. Rich Fischer, too, is leaving the community for retirement in the Sierra Foothills.

Perhaps more than anyone else, those two are responsible for getting me interested in journalism, a field that I respected much more after being pressured to reveal sources and having my high school work censored. And despite the positive things I can say about both of them, I still believe the press is at its best when it serves as a watchdog for the community and exposes the truth for all to see.

Eight years later, the powers that be (this time, my editors) have once again thwarted my efforts to run the photo. And though taking my revenge ultimately proved unnecessary, I am giving both Neely and Fischer framed copies to remind them of the importance of a free press, even when it’s being petty.

Jon Wiener would like to thank his readers for putting up with him over the last two and half years. He invites them to visit his blog at nemesisofevil.blogspot.com, where they can finally view the offending photo.



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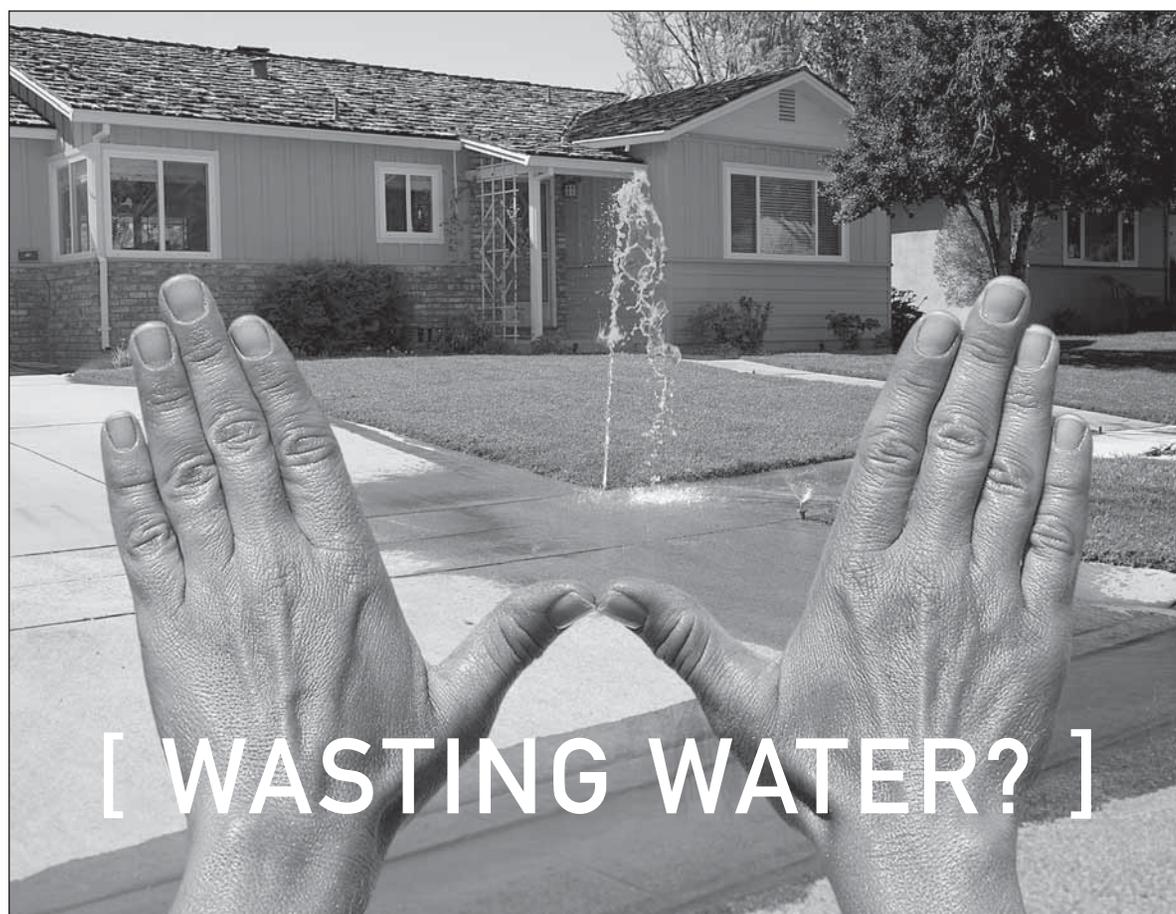
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Junnoon in the crown

FOOD AND DÉCOR CREATE A MODERN INDIAN BUZZ

By Sheila Himmel

The word Junnoon looks like a jumble of letters that correctly assemble some other way. So many n's and ooh's. A Hindi word destined to be misspelled even in Palo Alto, Junnoon is nonetheless an exciting new place to eat and meet. The menu pronounces the word "juh-noon" and translates it as "passion, energy, obsession."

A little more obsession in the service department would pump up Junnoon's passion.

You can't tell much from the outside of what used to be an all-you-can-eat sushi joint on University Avenue. A nicely landscaped arbor shades a short line of tables outside. Except for that, what goes on



MICHAEL MULLADY

Junnoon restaurant, on the corner of High Street and University Avenue in Palo Alto, specializes in contemporary Indian-American fusion with plates like these, the bean chaat salad and sea bass.

► See **JUNNOON**, page 20

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MICHAEL MULLADY

Customers are served appetizers during lunch at Junnoon.

JUNNOON

► Continued from page 19

in Junnoon stays in Junnoon. You enter the lounge, populated by couples and groups at a few low tables, where you're welcome to nibble or eat a full meal, messy as that would be. The handsome bar, using bottles as design, works as a room divider of basically one big open space. Well-placed mirrors help you notice the curios planted around the room. Sleek mesh placemats are swept away with your finished entrees, so you move to dessert with a clean slate of dark wood table.

Servers in black shirts with swoopy "J's" stay in the background, with mixed results. They're a friendly bunch, not burdened by a lot of information. Why is the \$15 two-course lunch called a Power Lunch? "The owner's idea." What is jaggery? "An Indian spice."

Cocktails suffer from the same innocence. Haphazard mixing keeps them from being all they could be, which is important with names like Drunken Darjeeling and Manic Masala Mary (\$9). Still, they pair very well with the Indian-spiced California-fresh dishes.

Junnoon opened in late February, with a manageable 60 seats in the dining room, plus 28 in the

lounge and 24 outside. Owner Sabena Puri has a Harvard MBA and lots of good ideas.

The Power Lunch (\$15) offers choices among five appetizers and four entrees, trimmer versions of regular menu items.

Coriander-fennel chicken tikka (\$9) was hot and juicy at dinner, lukewarm and less exciting as a lunch appetizer. It comes with a chopped salad of fennel, cucumber and red pepper. Another excellent dinner companion from the tandoor oven, grilled shrimp, rest on a bed of snappily dressed arugula salad (\$10). Pan-fried cod as a lunch appetizer was stuck in a lukewarm pakora coat, but the inner fish and accompanying baby green salad were splendid.

Many appetizers come with mint-coriander chutney. So if you go for the chutney sampler (\$9 for three types), don't get the mint-coriander (another bit of info our server should have mentioned). Spinach raita and tamarind chutney (the one with jaggery) are fine choices.

Junnoon's breads range from simple butter naan (\$3) to goat cheese naan (\$6). Lacha paratha (\$4), layered and flaky like a croissant, is a winner. Whether lunch or dinner, the meal starts with baked lentil wafers and a subtly satisfying avocado-cilantro dip.

Vegetarians don't have full range of motion on this improvised Indi-

dining **on the** town

american	french
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DINING NOTES

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an menu, except among intriguing side dishes like French beans tempered with mustard seeds, curry leaves and coconut (\$7). Roasted eggplant sauteed with peas, tomatoes and garlic (\$8) was more of a dip than a dish, but there are two vegetarian entrees. One of them is a spicy wrap with house-made cheese (\$14). The kaathi roll also comes with tender chicken tikka (\$16) for meat eaters.

Red-meat eaters, go for the flat-iron steak (\$19). Garlic-infused pomegranate molasses may be one of the year's best glazes. Also delicious is tandoori halibut (\$22) in coconut sauce. At our Power Lunch, a small entree of five-chili salmon (\$19 as a regular entree) lacked spark, surprisingly.

The power at lunch is that everyone comes between noon and 1:30 p.m., but at this point the staff isn't up to rushing. Dinner also shows the interior better.

I'd skip dessert altogether.

For \$7 each, sorbets were icy and bland, Champagne-poached peaches were one peach, and mango mousse just sat there.

Junnoon's all-India team includes consulting chef Floyd Cardoz, famous in New York City for Tabla and Bread Bar. Cardoz's job at Junnoon is to question and massage the creative menu.

Contemporary Indian cuisine is accelerating in the South Bay, and many diners prefer traditional, cheaper fare.

But the wheels keep turning. Four years ago, purists tsk-tsked about Tamarine, a new, modern Vietnamese restaurant in Palo Alto; they charged it with dumbing down Vietnamese cuisine for an American audience. It's been such a success that a sister restaurant, Bong Su, recently opened near San Francisco's Moscone Center.

Junnoon could be the Tamarine of contemporary Indian food. ■

Junnoon restaurant also has a full bar which serves numerous specialty drinks. The Mystic Mohito is one signature drink.

MICHAEL MULLADY



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Stiles and
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star in
"Vanities"

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Sixties come alive in 'Vanities'

GREAT MUSIC AND CAST IN THEATREWORKS' LATEST, BUT PLOT FALLS SHORT

By Julie O'Shea

THEATER REVIEW

TheatreWorks began its 37th season by taking us back to the '60s, complete with do-wop music, bad hairstyles, cheesy one-liners and, of course, a lovely-looking lady with a "Make Love Not War" sign in tow.

This may all sound like one big cliché, but really, "Vanities" — a new musical by Jack Heifner and David Kirshenbaum, which is having its world premiere at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts — strives to be more than just cotton-candy fluff.

And it almost succeeds. The songs are catchy. The cast is direct from Broadway. What it's lacking, however, is a compelling plot.

The opening number, "Hey There, Beautiful," holds much promise. The year is 1963, and we are introduced to three high school cheerleaders — Kathy (Leslie Kritzer), Mary (Megan Hilty) and Joanne (Sarah Stiles). They are best friends, airheads and totally in love with their own reflections.

The second scene is the same three girls, now roommates in a college sorority house. They are still airheads and still in love with themselves, but slightly less sure of their direction in life. They sing more catchy, fun songs with names like, appropriately enough, "Fly into the Future" and "Open up Your Mind."

However, by the time Scene Three rolls around (there is no intermission), we begin to wonder if

this isn't a '60s version of "Saturday Night Live": Small, quirky vignettes pieced together by song and performed by a kooky cast of bellbottom-clad characters who have annoying nasally voices and a bit with pom-poms.

Up until now, the show's been entertaining, but shallow. We don't really know these characters very well; much less do we care whether they marry the hottest guy on campus or end up running away to Europe.

But then, the playwright surprises us in the last third of production by giving us a reason to care. Heifner, who originally wrote "Vanities" as a stage play, decides to give us a glimpse of a plot. Finally, the three girls get a chance to talk, really talk; their lines no longer punctuated by lyrical notes every few sentences. And we, for the first time, get a chance to really listen.

While Kirshenbaum's ("Summer of '42") score is a treat, it tends to dominate the show a bit too much. A little less keyboard and a little more dialogue would no doubt give "Vanities" the balance it's lacking.

Under the direction of Gordon Greenberg, Kritzer, Hilty and Stiles never slow down for a second. As the production's sole actors, they are onstage virtually the entire time and manage to keep things amusing even when a scene runs longer than it should. The three women are all extraordinary singers who move from screechy school girls to hardened 20-something-year-olds with incredible ease. They definitely deserve an "A" for effort, pom-poms or no pom-poms. ■

INFORMATION

What: TheatreWorks presents "Vanities" by Jack Heifner and David Kirshenbaum

Where: Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St.

When: Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. (no performance July 4); Wednesdays through Fridays 8 p.m. Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. (8 p.m. only on June 24, July 15); Sundays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., (2 p.m. only July 2 and 16); closes July 16.

Cost: \$20-\$62

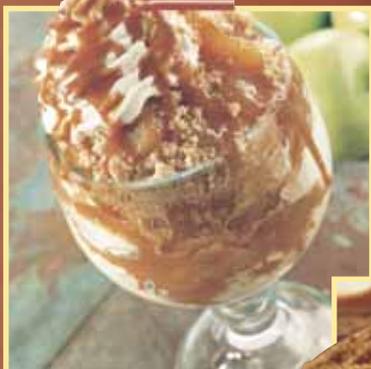
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MOVIE TIMES

A PRAIRIE HOME COMPANION (PG-13) ★★1/2

Guild: 11:15 a.m.; 1:45, 4:15, 7 & 9:40 p.m.

AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH (PG) ★★1/2

Palo Alto Square: 2, 4:25, 7 & 9:35 p.m.; Sat., Sun. & Tue. also at 11:40 a.m.

THE BREAK-UP (PG-13) ★★

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

CARS (G) ★★1/2

Century 16: 11:05 a.m.; 1:45, 4:35, 7:30 & 10:20 p.m.
Century 12: 11:10 a.m.; 2, 5, 7:45 & 10:30 p.m.

CLICK (PG-13) ★★

Century 16: 11:20 a.m.; 12:15, 1:50, 2:40, 4:25, 5:20, 7, 7:55, 9:25 & 10:25 p.m.
Century 12: 11:20 a.m.; 12:10, 2, 2:50, 4:35, 5:25, 7, 7:55, 9:40 & 10:35 p.m.

THE DA VINCI CODE (PG-13) ★★

Century 16: 12:20, 3:35, 6:50 & 9:50 p.m.
Century 12: 12:30, 4, 7:15 & 10:25 p.m.

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA (PG-13) (NOT REVIEWED)

Century 16: 11 a.m.; noon, 1:35, 2:35, 4:10, 5:05, 6:45, 7:40, 9:15 & 10:15 p.m.
Century 12: 11:55 a.m.; 2:40, 5:20, 8 & 10:30 p.m.

THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS: TOKYO DRIFT (PG-13) (NOT REVIEWED)

Century 16: 5:10, 7:45 & 10:05 p.m.
Century 12: 11:50 a.m.; 2:15, 4:55, 7:35 & 10:10 p.m.

GARFIELD: A TAIL OF TWO KITTIES (PG) (NOT REVIEWED)

Century 16: 11:25 a.m.; 1:25 & 3:20 p.m.

THE LAKE HOUSE (PG) ★

Century 16: 12:05, 2:25, 5:05, 7:40 & 10:20 p.m.
Palo Alto Square: 2:20, 4:40, 7:15 & 9:40 p.m.; Sat., Sun. & Tue. also at noon.

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE III (PG-13) ★★

Century 16: 7:35 & 10:30 p.m.

NACHO LIBRE (PG) ★★1/2

Century 16: 11 & 11:50 a.m.; 1:10, 3:30, 5:40, 8:05 & 10:15 p.m.
Century 12: 11:40 a.m.; 2:20, 5:10, 7:25 & 9:50 p.m.

OVER THE HEDGE (PG) ★★1/2

Century 16: 11:10 a.m.; 1:15, 3:25 & 5:30 p.m.
Century 12: 12:25 & 2:35 p.m.

SUPERMAN RETURNS (PG-13) ★★1/2

Century 16: 11:15 & 11:55 a.m.; 12:45, 1:20, 1:55, 2:30, 3:15, 4:05, 4:40, 5:15, 5:45, 6:35, 7:25, 8, 8:35, 9:05, 9:55 & 10:45 p.m.
Century 12: 11:15 a.m.; 12:15, 1:20, 2:30, 3:35, 4:40, 5:45, 6:55, 8, 9:05 & 10:15 p.m.

WAIST DEEP (R) (NOT REVIEWED)

Century 16: 6:55 & 9:10 p.m.
Century 12: 4:45, 7:05 & 9:35 p.m.

WORDPLAY (PG) (NOT REVIEWED)

Aquarius: Noon, 2:15, 4:30, 7 & 9:30 p.m.

X-MEN: THE LAST STAND (PG-13) ★★1/2

Century 16: 12:10, 2:45, 5:05, 7:20 & 9:40 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)

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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

A PRAIRIE HOME COMPANION ★★1/2

(Century 12, Guild) Garrison Keillor heads up an all-star lineup of down-home folks who work an old-fashioned radio variety show that has withstood the test of time and the onset of cutting-edge electronics. But time marches on and the St. Paul, Minnesota-based Prairie Home Companion is on its last legs, forced into the show biz graveyard by a curmudgeonly producer (Tommy Lee Jones) whose eye is on the bottom line. "Prairie" focuses on the last hurrah of "Prairie," a bittersweet tribute to the guys and gals of radio of yore warbling over the airwaves from the disintegrating majesty of the Fitzgerald Theater. From singing siblings Yolanda and Rhonda (the excellent Meryl Streep and Lily Tomlin) to sandy trail hands Dusty and Lefty (Woody Harrelson and John C. Reilly), the gang shakes the dust off the classics. But overall this is an uneven yarn of pregnant pauses punctuated by charm. I'm giving director Robert Altman an A for average effort. *Rated: PG-13 for language and mature themes. 1 hour, 45 minutes.* — J.A.

THE BREAK-UP ★★

(Century 16, Century 12) Although Vince Vaughn, Jennifer Aniston and the rest of a stellar cast somehow escape unscathed, "The Break-Up" itself falls apart. Gary (Vaughn) and Brooke (Aniston) seem like a happy couple. The pair enjoys scintillating chemistry and a plush Chicago condo. But that all changes when Gary brings home three lemons — not the 12 Brooke needs for a dinner party — and all heck breaks loose. Brooke emotionally and prematurely ends the relationship, and what should have been a resolvable argument turns into a downward spiral of miscommunication and bickering. A clean break-up is impossible as both Gary and Brooke refuse to leave their plush living space. Soon both are immaturely trying to one-up each other through jealousy or sheer malice. When Brooke takes over the bedroom, Gary buys the pool table he's always wanted. When Brooke brings a date home, Gary stages a strip-poker night. The unfortunate thing is that they still genuinely love one another and would welcome the opportunity to work things out — if they could stop acting like 4-year-olds long enough. This bad "Break-Up" is better left for DVD and the hours after a disappointing blind date. *Rated: PG-13 for sexual content, some nudity and language. 1 hour, 46 minutes.* — T.H.

CARS ★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 12) The star of this animated road-running adventure is Lightning McQueen (voice of Owen Wilson), a sporty red racer whose lifelong ambition is to win the coveted Piston Cup. A big race-off between Lightning and two tough challengers is set to take place in California, but a late-night mis-cue sees Lightning speeding along Route 66, lost and very frustrated. Salvation arrives in the forgotten little town of

► See **MINI REVIEWS**, page 24

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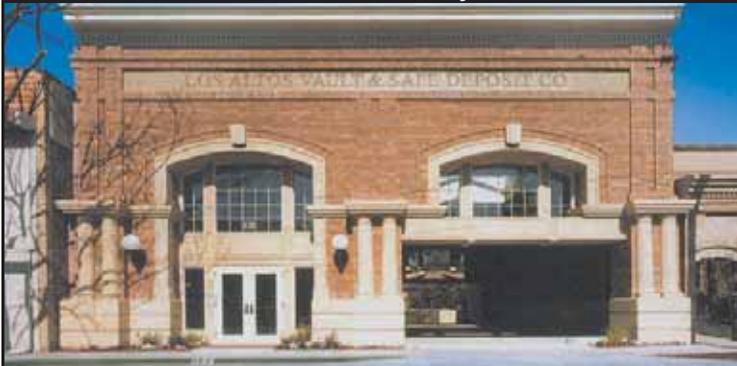
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Weekend

A painful 'Truth'

AL GORE'S DOCUMENTARY STRIKES AT THE HEART OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR

By Jeanne Aufmuth

Director David Guggenheim strikes a nerve in this searing documentary about the frightening state of global warming and the harsh reality of Earth's questionable future.

Former Vice President Al Gore didn't just sit on his hands after the 2000 election didn't go his way. His controversial defeat and a sobering family emergency was the wake-up call Gore needed to pour his turbulent emotions into a fiery traveling road show focused on a calamitous planetary emergency.

The facts are startling. In less than a decade there will be no more snows of Kilimanjaro, and our frosty glaciers will have dwindled. Tornadoes and torrential flooding will continue to peak at a devastating rate — Katrina was just a warm-up.

Unrestricted fossil fuel burning may be the culprit, but Gore puts a personal spin on his message: It's deeply unethical of us to let our planet slip through our



Al Gore makes a presentation in "An Inconvenient Truth."

MOVIE REVIEW

fingers.

Our rapidly changing ecosystem and the onset of 30 new diseases in the last quarter century are just a couple of the revealing facts that Gore has at his fingertips, doling out information with moral, not political, zeal. The occasional dry spot pertaining to charts, numbers and contrived humor is overcome by Gore's persistent wizardry.

The truth hurts when it comes to global warming, but Guggenheim has an equally important and inconvenient truth up his sleeve: Al Gore has charisma, and lots of it. Passionate and world-weary, Gore works a room with

multi-media splendor, nary a missed beat in his quest to make big changes in the way we live our lives. We missed the boat, and neither director nor star is going to let us forget it.

Are we living in an era of consequences? Political will is a renewable resource; we cannot continue the mindless patterns of our past if we hope to secure our future.

Illuminating and distressing, "Truth" is a grave message indeed. ▀

MOVIE NOTES

Stars: ***1/2

Rating: PG for mature themes

Run Time: 1 hour, 40 minutes

MINI REVIEWS

► Continued from page 23

Radiator Springs, where Lightning meets a handful of oddball vehicles who value history and family over fame and fortune. Doc (Paul Newman) is a gruff old Hudson Hornet, Sally (Bonnie Hunt) is a smooth-talking Porsche 911, and Mater (voiced perfectly by Larry the Cable Guy) is a sincere and goofy tow truck. While the media is in a frenzy about Lightning's disappearance, he finds himself bonding with Sally and Mater — and finally starting to appreciate life in the slow lane. Make no mistake — "Cars" is the best animated film this year. But with Disney/Pixar behind the wheel, the film should have cruised to must-see status. Instead, it stalls. *Rated: G. 1 hour, 56 minutes.* — T.H.

CLICK ★★★

(Century 16, Century 12) Adam Sandler plays it straight as architect/family man Michael Newman. Michael is at odds with himself. He wants to spend more time with his gorgeous wife, Donna (Kate Beckinsale), and two adorable kids, but thankless work for his sleazy boss (David Hasselhoff) usually takes priority. Late one fateful evening, Michael embarks on a mission to find the perfect universal remote control for

the family's array of high-tech devices when he finds himself wandering into the "beyond" section of Bed Bath & Beyond. There he meets eccentric scientist Morty (Christopher Walken), who offers Michael a non-returnable universal remote to help control his frantic life. But there's something unearthly about this unique gadget: he can use it to mute his barking dog or fast-forward through arguments with Donna. Too bad the remarkable invention begins to program itself based on Michael's tendency to fast-forward, leaping him into a future he doesn't want and forcing him to reflect on a life he zipped through. Fans of Sandler shouldn't skip past this surprising treat, a soulful and silly comedy with plenty to pause and appreciate. *Rated: PG-13 for language, crude and sex-related humor, and some drug references. 1 hour, 37 minutes.* — T.H.

THE DA VINCI CODE ★★★

(Century 16, Century 12) "The Da Vinci Code" has already been cracked. Even if you haven't bought or borrowed one of the 50 million sold copies of Dan Brown's theological thriller, chances are you know all about this controversial take on the legend of the Holy Grail. The film opens on the run with a Louvre curator (Jean-Pierre Marielle) gunned down in the Grand Gallery by a murderous monk (Paul Bettany), and

the action never stops. A French police captain (Jean Reno) escorts renowned Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon (Tom Hanks) from his book signing to the museum crime scene, asking for help interpreting the dead man's bloody trail of mysterious symbols and clues. When police cryptologist Sophie Neveu (Audrey Tautou) arrives and secretly informs Langdon that he is the prime suspect and the deceased was her grandfather, the pair go on the lam. So Dan Brown isn't Umberto Eco, and "The Da Vinci Code" can't hold a rosebud to "Citizen Kane." Howard still plays by the book closely enough to entertain fans and the uninitiated alike. *Rated: PG-13 for disturbing images, violence, some nudity, thematic material, brief drug references and sexual content. In English and in snippets of French, Italian and Latin with English subtitles. 2 hours, 33 minutes.* — S.T.

THE LAKE HOUSE ★

(Century 16, Century 12) Sandra Bullock and Keanu Reeves reunite but can't get the romantic sparks up to "Speed" in this lifeless love story. Dr. Kate Forester (Sandra Bullock) moves from her rented lake house in rural Illinois to work in a Chicago hospital. She leaves the next tenant a note requesting that her mail be

► Continued on next page

► *Continued from previous page*
 forwarded. Architect Alex Wyler (Keanu Reeves) moves into the striking architectural structure, which was designed by his famous but distant father (Christopher Plummer). He's baffled by certain statements in Kate's letter and sends her one in return. Soon they confirm the date: April 14. But Kate insists the year is 2006, while Alex lives in 2004. It's strange but seemingly true. By the time they try to arrange a real-time meeting (cue pretentious dialogue about Jane Austen's "Persuasion"), you'll wish that Keanu Reeves would bump into Bill, start acting like goofy Ted and take off on another excellent adventure through time and space. *Rated: PG for some language and a disturbing images. 1 hour, 48 minutes.* — S.T.

NACHO LIBRE ★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 12) Absurdist humor hits the squared circle in this whimsical ode to lucha libre (Mexican wrestling). Funnyman Jack Black hams it up to perfection as Nacho, the humble chef at a dilapidated Mexican monastery. Nacho cares immensely for the orphans in his stead but the expired ingredients he's forced to cook with make the meals so disgusting even he can't swallow a bite without gagging. If only he could pursue his lifelong dream of becoming a famous luchadore and use the earnings to provide the children food they can actually stomach. Enter Esqueleto (Hector Jimenez), a wiry and agile vagabond who Nacho convinces to become his lucha libre tag-team partner. But the beautiful Sister Encarnacion (Ana de la Reguera) is forced to remind Nacho the monastery forbids wrestling, sending him into a spiral of internal doubt. Does he do what he loves, or what the monks demand? For audiences able to set their brains to "low-brow" for 100 minutes, the ridiculous moves of "Nacho Libre" will leave stomach muscles and swollen cheeks sore from laughter. *Rated: PG for rough action, and some crude humor including dialogue. 1 hour, 40 minutes.* — T.H.

THE OMEN ★★★

(Century 16) Showtime at the Vatican: a dour clergyman delivers a doom-and-gloom prediction with a flashy slideshow of contemporary disasters including the falling towers of 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina. Satan's child is on his way, so everyone duck and cover. Nearby in Rome, rising diplomatic star Robert Thorn (Liev Schreiber) suffers the painful news that his son has died in childbirth. Salvation arrives in the form of an obsequious priest who insists that another child has been born that night and has lost his mother. Why not replace one infant with the other and keep the little woman happy? Anxious to spare wife Kate (Julia Stiles) the gory details, Robert agrees to the deception and the child is christened Damien. All is well until the troubled nanny of Damien (Seamus Davey-Fitzpatrick) throws herself off a balcony in the name of her tiny charge. Which sets off a chain of unsettling events and an impending sense of doom as both Kate and Robert reluctantly acknowledge that their child is the Antichrist and a stout course of

Ritalin isn't going to help. Director John Moore has re-fashioned the 1976 horror classic for a new generation, creating a near shot-for-shot remake that retains spine-chilling impact while utilizing the benefits of modern technology. *Rated: R for extreme violence and bloodshed. 1 hour, 50 minutes.* — J.A.



OVER THE HEDGE ★★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 12) Dreamworks dips into backyard suburbia for this crowd-pleasing picture about family, friendship and the ugliness of gluttony. Conniving raccoon RJ (voice of Bruce Willis) bites off more than he can chew when he tries to steal a wagon full of

food from a hibernating bear (Nick Nolte as Vincent), but loses the grub instead. And Vincent offers RJ an ominous ultimatum: Replace the items by week's end or it's raccoon burgers for breakfast. Segue to a woody nook where one diverse animal "family" is waking for spring — only to find a massive hedge has severed its tranquil refuge. The crew includes a pragmatic turtle (Garry Shandling as Verne), a manic squirrel (Steve Carell as Hammy) and other engaging critters. Soon Verne, RJ and company are having misadventures in the human world, where binge eating and SUVs are commonplace. Families should flock over to theaters for "Hedge" — a colorful charmer that proves Disney/Pixar is not the only animation powerhouse. *Rated: PG for some rude humor and mild comic action. 1 hour, 27 minutes.* — T.H.

■ **MOVIE CRITICS**

S.T.-Susan Tavernetti,
 J.A.-Jeanne Aufmuth, J.S.-Jim Shelby,
 T.H.-Tyler Hanley



CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

**Council Neighborhoods Committee
 Community Meeting For
 Mobile Home Residents**

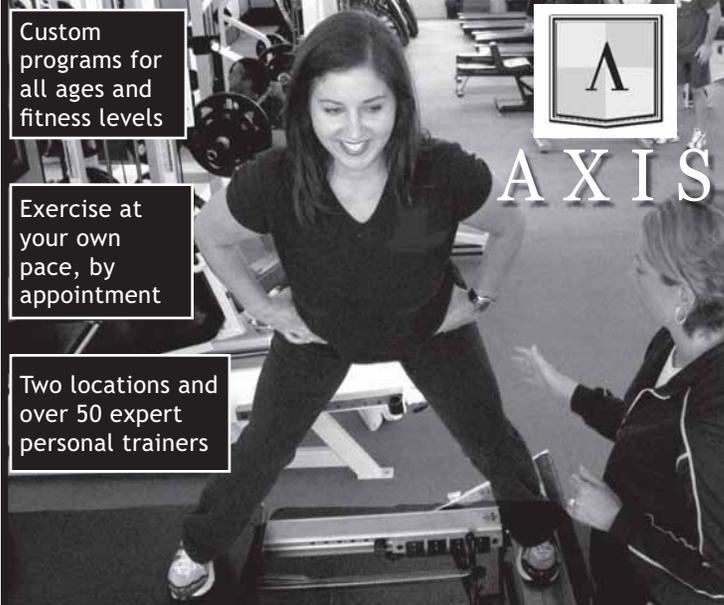
**Mountain View Senior Center
 266 Escuela Avenue
 July 13, 2006 at 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm**

The City of Mountain View Council Neighborhoods Committee will be holding a community meeting with mobile home park residents starting at 6:30 pm on July 13, 2006.

Residents are encouraged to participate in this meeting to discuss your thoughts about City services and how they might be improved. Council Committee members and City staff will be available to respond to your questions and comments. This is an opportunity for you to express your ideas about ways to make your mobile home park and the community a better place to live.

For further information, please call the Neighborhood Preservation Division at (650) 903-6379.

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8th Annual Charity Golf Tournament Registration Announcement

Don't miss the opportunity to play in the 8th Annual SILVAR Scramble!

July 17th, 2006

Palo Alto Hills Golf & Country Club,
 3000 Alexis Drive, Palo Alto
 Noon Shotgun Start – Scramble Format

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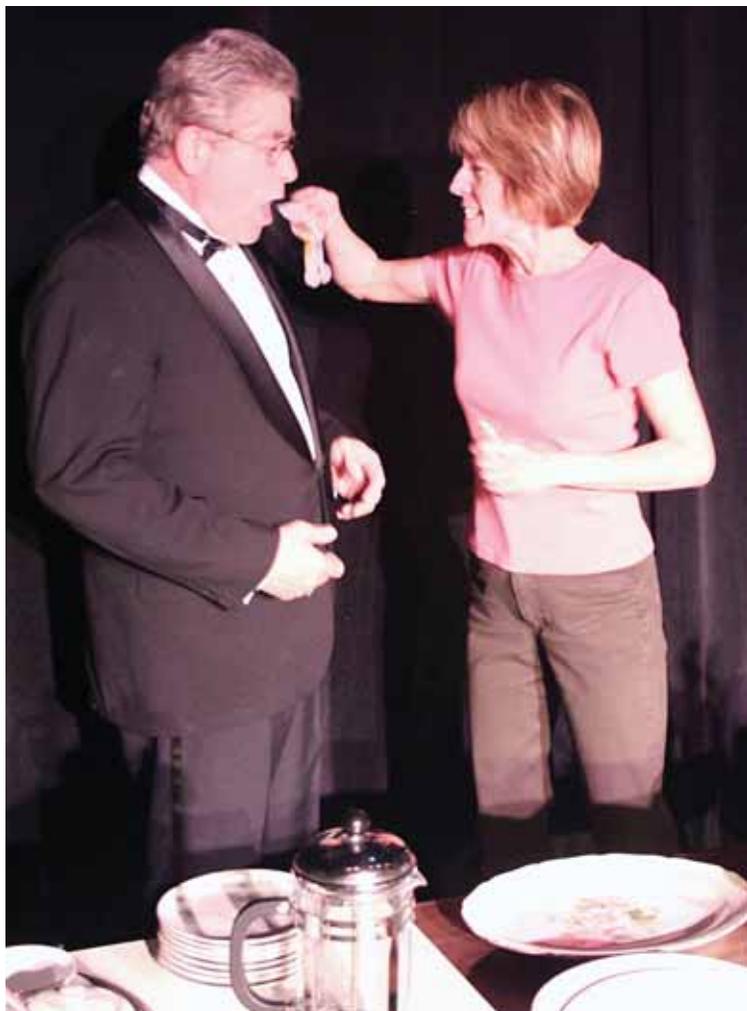
Goings On

MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE

■ HIGHLIGHT

FOURTH OF JULY: SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY PRESENTS THE MAGIC OF MOVIES WITH CONDUCTOR RANDALL FLEISCHER & FIREWORKS SHOW

Tuesday, July 4 at 8:00 pm. Doors open at 5:00.
Tickets: \$28.50 to \$23.50. Lawn Seats for Children: \$15.00.
Shoreline Amphitheatre at Mountain View. Call 967-3000.



"THE ART OF DINING" BY TINA HOWE:

Ellen and Cal have risked everything to pursue their dream of operating their own gourmet restaurant. Their reputation, livelihood, and marriage are on the line as they struggle to live up to the high praise of early food critics and the strange demands of their customers. Through July 2, Thu.-Sat., 8 p.m.; Sun., 2 p.m. \$10-\$15. Dragon Theatre, 535 Alma St., Palo Alto. Call 493-2006. www.dragonproductions.net

ART GALLERIES

"ANIMA MUNDI: BEASTLY BEAUTY" New installation and mixed media work by Belinda Chlouber and Judith Serebrin explores social awareness issues and sentient creatures. On display through July 2. Hours: Wed.-Fri., 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The Main Gallery, 1018 Main St., Redwood City. Call 701-1018. www.themaingallery.org

"JOURNEYS" Construction, paintings and mixed media collages by Gerald Huth. On display through Aug. 6. Hours: Thu.-Sun., 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free to Public. 1870 Art Center, 1870 Ralston Ave., Belmont. Call 261-1086. www.1870artcenter.com

"TERESA STANLEY: WORKS ON PAPER" EXHIBITION Through July 29. Gallery hours: Thu.-Fri., 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m.-4 p.m., or by appointment. Stellar Somerset Gallery, 539 Bryant St., Palo Alto. www.stellarsomersetgallery.com

A MONOTYPE AND PAINTING RETROSPECTIVE Over four decades of work by Bay Area artist, Maida Kasle. A two-part retrospective featuring monoprints, paintings and other works on paper. Through July 22; meet the artist June 30-July 14, 5-8 p.m. Hours: Tue.-Sat., 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Gallery 9, Los Altos, 143 Main St., Los Altos. www.gallery9losaltos.com

AFRICAN ABSTRACTS African experiences in watercolor by Nancy Calhoun. Hours: Mon.-Sat., 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Through July 2. Viewpoints Gallery, 315 State St., Los Altos. Call 941-5789. www.viewpointsgallery.com

FEATURING ESTELLE AKAMINE AND NINA ELSE Through June 30. Gallery exhibition featuring woven basket reed wall-sculptures by artist Estelle Akamine and new ceramic sculptures by Nina Else. Hours: Tue.-Sat., 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Tercera Gallery, 534 Ramona St., Palo Alto. Call 322-5324. www.terceragallerypaloalto.com

INAUGURAL EXHIBITION: JULIA PARKER AND THEA SCHRACK Through Aug. 26. Parker's recent works resembles Nathan Oliviera's paintings with shadowy figure diffuse into

the background. Schrack's mixed media photography recalls the works of the 19th Century Eng master painter W. Turner. Art Mirage Gallery, 435 University Ave., Palo Alto. www.art-mirage.com

MAYA BABISZEWSKA A solo exhibit by Polish painter, Maya Babiszewska. Through July 4. Reorganizing perspective, with an emphasis on color juxtaposition. ART21 Gallery & Framing, 539 Alma, Palo Alto. www.art21.us

NEW LINES: DRAWN, STITCHED AND SCULPTED Exhibit explores the vitality of lines that have their origins in the unique properties of drawing. Tue.-Sat., 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Through July 14. Spur Projects, 888 Portola Rd., Portola Valley. Call 529-2040. www.spurprojects.com

TORRID TROPICS Watercolors of Kauai, Costa Rica, St. John's and Florida. Hours: Mon.-Sat., 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m.-3 p.m. July 2-29. Viewpoints Gallery, 315 State St., Los Altos. Call 941-5789. www.viewpointsgallery.com

AUDITIONS

"GRAND HOTEL" THE MUSICAL Audition by appointment, prepare Ballad and Up-Tempo Broadway show tune. July 8, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; July 9, noon-6 p.m. Hillbarn Theatre, 650 Shell Blvd., Foster City. www.hillbarntheatre.org

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

DESIGNING FOR SUPERHEROES Class explores the history and continuity of early industrial designs. Projects include the design of objects for video games and Superhero characters of today using historic design concepts. Saturdays, July 8 and 15, 10 a.m.-noon. Ages 10 and up. Members \$30/non-members \$40. Register by July 1. Museum of American Heritage, 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. Call 321-1004. www.moah.org

EARLY MUSIC CHORAL WORKSHOP Sing and learn about Jean Mouton's "Missa Alleluia" and motets of Josquin des Prez under the direction of Suzanne Elder Wallace. July 22, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. \$45, includes music and lunch. Register by July 8. Private Location, Address given upon registration, Palo Alto. www.calbach.org

INTERNET WORKSHOP With Claudia Navarro Northrup. Thu., July 6, 1:30 p.m. Call or sign up at front desk. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View.

CLUBS/MEETINGS

LITTLE HOUSE BOOK CLUB Wed., July 5, 1 p.m. The book to be discussed is "1776" by David McCullough. Little House, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 326-0665.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

GOURMET VEGETARIAN DINNERS Mondays at 6:30 p.m., \$14. Call to reserve by 9:30 a.m. Lecture each month. Hosted by Peninsula Macrobiotic Community. \$14. First Baptist Church, 305 N California Ave, Palo Alto. Call 599-3320. www.peninsulamacro.org

HANNA HOUSE TOURS Open to the public for tours by docents. The house was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and built in 1937. First and third Sundays and second and fourth Thursdays, monthly. Reservations required; \$10 plus parking. Call or e-mail Alana Doyle, email alana2@stanford.edu. Hanna House, Frenchman's Road, Stanford. Call 725-8352.

USING EVOLUTION TO UNDERSTAND HUMAN GROWTH AND DISEASE A discussion by Matthew Scott. Bring lawn chairs and blankets. July 6, 7-8:30 p.m. Free Cantor

Arts Center, Lawn Outside Cantor Arts Center, Stanford. Call 723-7957. http://continuingstudies.stanford.edu

CONCERTS

"FIRST THURSDAY" ORGAN CONCERT A free lunchtime recital of Baroque organ music. First Thursdays monthly, 12:15-12:45 p.m. All Saints' Episcopal Church, 555 Waverley St., Palo Alto. www.asaints.org/parishlife/activities/yoga.html

BIG BAND MUSIC OF DUKE ELLINGTON AND COUNT BASIE Featuring a 16-piece ensemble of local musical luminaries. Sun., July 2, 2:30 p.m. \$24 general/\$12 student. Dinkelspiel Auditorium, 471 Lagunita Ave., Stanford. Call 725-2787. www.stanfordjazz.org

DESCARGA 3: SALSA MEETS JAZZ Sat., July 1, 8 p.m. \$24 general/\$12 students. Dinkelspiel Auditorium, 471 Lagunita Ave., Stanford. Call 725-2787.

MUSIC AT MENLO Chamber music open house. Offers visitors an opportunity to get behind the scenes of the festival. Q&A breakfast with Artistic directors Wu Han and David Finckel. Aug. 5, 8:30 a.m. Music at Menlo, 50 Valparaiso Ave, Atherton. www.musicatmenlo.org

PAULA WEST QUARTET Fri., June 30, 8 p.m. \$28 general/\$14 students. Campbell Recital Hall, 541 Lasuen Mall, Stanford. Call 725-2787.

DANCE

CHURCH OF ECSTATIC DANCE Barefoot boogie. Free instruction. No children. Sundays, through Aug. 20, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$10. Flex-It-Gym, 425 W. Evelyn Ave., Mt. View. Call (408) 245-4543.

JACKI'S AEROBIC DANCING Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9-10 a.m. Strength training, ab work, and aerobic routines for all ages and abilities. Childcare provided. Mt. View Masonic Lodge, 890 Church St., Mountain View.

EXHIBITS

"FOUR ARTISTS" Pastel drawings by Kelvin Curry; paintings by Daniel Gautier; mixed media by Midori McCabe; paintings and drawings by Olga Tsareva. Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Through July 13. Paul Allen Center for Integrated Systems, 420 Via Palou, Stanford. Call 725-3622. cis.stanford.edu/~marigros

AFRICA COMES TO PALO ALTO Local artist Tracy Fereais photographs capture the contrasts of beauty and harshness in southern Africa. Through July 31, Tue.-Wed., 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; Thu., noon-7 p.m.; Fri.-Sat., 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Downtown Library, 270 Forest Ave., Palo Alto. Call 248-0655.

CREATIVE COMMERCE: GERMAN LITHOGRAPHIC LABELS, 1920-1938 Explores an unparalleled time in commercial printing and showcases the lithographic processes of the time. Through Sept. 10. Tue.-Sat., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., 1-5 p.m.; Thu., 7-9 p.m. Free admission. Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Rd., Palo Alto. Call 329-2366. www.paacf.org

FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT Color photographs by Judy Kramer exhibited through July 10. Free. Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The Fire House Gallery, 450 Bryant St., Palo Alto. Call 289-5499 ext. 430.

IDEO PROTOTYPES THE FUTURE Showcasing the comprehensive collection of recent concepts and prototypes created by Ideo. Through Sept. 10, Tue.-Sat., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., 1-5 p.m.; Thu., 7-9 p.m. Free. Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Rd., Palo Alto. Call 329-2366. www.paacf.org



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TACKLING A TRANSMISSION

If your vehicle is equipped with an automatic transmission, be advised that abuse and negligence can lead to costly repairs. With this in mind, maintain the transmission fluid at the proper level, and note any burnt odor or off-color. One of the first signs of trouble is delayed engagement, which occurs when there is a longer-than-normal delay between the shift from Park into Drive. There should also be a smooth shift without delay from Park into Reverse. If there is a jerk or longish delay, the transmission should be checked by a technician. Also, take note of anything less than smooth transitions through the forward gears. Generally speaking, the quicker you address transmission problems, the less costly the repair.

Transmissions make the car run, and they also can be costly to fix if not well-cared for. At Larry's Autoworks, we will be happy to check your car's fluid levels to keep your transmission and engine running smoothly. 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. Every car our customers bring to us for service has a technician who is factory-qualified and trained on that vehicle. Keep that in mind. There is a difference here and our customers know it.

HINT: If there is a persistent red fluid leak under your vehicle, have the transmission and power-steering system checked.

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OKSANA V. JOHNSON: FLORALS AND LANDSCAPES IN OILS Art Exhibit by Russian-American Impressionist Oksana Valentinova Johnson. Through Aug. 31. Atherton Library, 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton. Call 592-7267. www.athertonlibrary.org

MANUEL SANTANA, PAINTINGS, ETCHINGS AND LITHOGRAPHS Through July 26. Body of 40 works. Hours: Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Community School of Music and Arts at Finn Center, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. Call 917-6800. www.arts4all.org

PAINTINGS AND COLLAGE Work of Susy Siddens. Open daily, 6 a.m.-6 p.m. Showing July 1-Aug. 31. All pieces available for purchase. Canyon Coffee Roastery, 3203 Oak Knoll Dr., Redwood City. www.paintingsandcollage.com

PHOTO EXHIBIT "Floral Fantasy" by local photographers Bob and Joy Rewick. An array of over 70 close-up floral images transformed into designs. Through Aug. 27, Tue.-Sat., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., noon-5 p.m. Coyote Point Museum, 1651 Coyote Point Drive, San Mateo. Call 254-0110. www.coyoteptmuseum.org

SAILING THROUGH HISTORY WITH MODEL SHIPS The Museum of American Heritage in partnership with South Bay Model Shipwrights tell the story of maritime heritage from ancient to modern times through a collection of two dozen exquisite ship models and related objects. Fri.-Sun., Through Sept. 24, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Free admission. Museum of American Heritage, 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. Call 321-1004. www.moah.org

STEVENSON HOUSE FOURTH MONO-PRINT SHOW Vlasta Diamant, a resident artist/teacher, presents her students' monoprints. Through June 30. Stevenson House, 455 East Charleston Road, Palo Alto. Call 493-1478. www.stevensonhouse.org

THE GALLERY SHOP Continuous exhibits of ceramics, glass, jewelry and fiber by American artists. Mon.-Sat., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Tue.-Thu.,

7-10 p.m.; Sun., 1-5 p.m. Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Rd., Palo Alto. Call 329-2366. www.paacf.org

THE PERFUME OF SADNESS: SYMBOLIST ART FROM THE KIRK LONG COLLECTION The 30 works offer a succinct introduction to Symbolism, a short-lived but immensely influential literary and pictorial movement. Through July 23. Wed.-Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thu. 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; closed Mondays and Tuesdays. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford. Call 723-4177. museum.stanford.edu

FAMILY AND KIDS

AMANDAZILLA: STORIES PROJECTS PLAYTIME Provides art, science and tactile projects and open ended activity areas. Stories and drama circles held throughout the day. Saturdays, Aug. 26, 12:30-8:30 p.m. \$15 per hour for 1st chld/\$5 per hour for siblings ages 3-8. Cubberly Community Center, 4000 Middlefield rd, Palo Alto. Call 331-7374. www.amandazilla.com

FINDING THE RHYTHM AROUND US WITH CROSSPULSE Sat., July 1, 10 a.m. Dinkelspiel Auditorium, 471 Lagunita Ave., Stanford. Call 736-0324.

FILM

LICENSED TO THRILL FILM SERIES The Wicked Wit Rakes and Rebellion in the Restoration Festival presents films. Licensed to Thrill focuses on the period's fascination with rakes, libertines, and sexual liberation, featuring post-film discussions led by Stanford faculty and theater company. Mondays, July 3rd Aug. 21, 7 p.m. Free. Cubberly Auditorium, 485 Lausen Mall, Stanford. Call 725-5838. http://summertheater.stanford.edu

MONDAY MOVIES 1 p.m.: July 3: "Chronicles of Narnia"; July 10: "Constant Gardner"; July 17: "Duma"; July 24: "Wallace & Gromit"; July

31: "Miss Congeniality". \$1 members/\$2 others. Little House, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 326-2025. www.peninsulavolunteers.org

STANFORD THEATRE GUIDE July 1: "A Double Life" 7:30 p.m.; "The Masquerader" 6 and 9:25 p.m.; July 2: "The Rescue" 7:30 p.m.; "The Masquerader" 9:05 p.m. Stanford Theatre, 221 University Ave., Palo Alto. Call 324-3700. www.stanfordtheatre.org

ON STAGE

"A YEAR WITH FROG AND TOAD KIDS" A Hotdog Suppertime Show. Bring a picnic or purchase food there. The musical follows the friendship of a Frog and grumpy Toad through four seasons. Wed.-Sat., July 5-8; Tue.-Sat., July 11-15, 6:30 p.m.; gates open at 5:45 p.m. \$4 children/\$8 adults Palo Alto Children's Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto.

"BY JEEVES" A Wingspread Show. Bertie Wooster tries to help his friends find love, but ends up in predicaments from which only his clever manservant Jeeves can free him. A musical based on the books by P.G. Wodehouse. June 30, July 1 and 7-8, 7:30 p.m.; July 2, 2:30. \$4 children/\$8 adults Palo Alto Children's Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto.

"PRIVATE LIVES" Presented by Palo Alto Players'. Celebrating 75th Anniversary Season with Noel Coward's comedy following the riotous, romantic escapades of Amanda and Elyot as they discover what happens when you run into your first spouse on your second honeymoon. Wed.-Sat., through July 2, 8 p.m.; Sun., 2:30 p.m. \$22-\$27. Lucie Stern Theater, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. www.palayers.org

"THE THREE LITTLE PIGS" Hotdog Suppertime Show. Bring a picnic or buy food there. Widow Hogwash and her daughters may lose their home when Reginald Wolf comes to collect the mortgage or marry one of the girls. July 1, 6:30 p.m.; gates open at 5:45 p.m. \$4 children/\$8 adults Palo Alto Children's Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto.

"MOSCOW, UTAH" BY KRISTA KNIGHT The story of two sisters Janel and Irene Stevens who work from home to care for their sister Laura. July 6-8. Thu.-Sat., 8 p.m. \$12. Bus Barn Theatre, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. Call 941-0551. www.busbarn.org

THEATREWORKS PRESENTS Its 37th season with the World Premiere musical "Vanities." The comedy captures the spirit of a bygone era and the eternal complexities of friendship. Through July 16. Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.; Wednesdays-Fridays, 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 2 and 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 and 7 p.m. \$20-62. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. www.theatreworks.org

SPORTS

U.S. YOUTH VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE Registration is open for the USYVL Mountain View at Sylvan Park. Meets Tuesdays, 6-7 p.m.; Saturdays, 10-11 a.m. Season begins Sept. 12. Register by July 1. Coed format for boys and girls ages 8-14. www.usyvl.org

SUPPORT GROUPS

"AMIGUITOS" MOTHER/CHILD SPANISH PLAYGROUP For native Spanish speaking mothers and their children newborn-5 years. Meets Thursdays, 4-6 p.m. \$10 annual fee Call 964-4677. www.amiguitos-siliconvalley.org

BREAST CANCER DCIS SUPPORT GROUP For women diagnosed with Ductal Carcinoma In Situ. Facilitated by Merry Astor, MFT at her Los Altos office. Every other Thursday, through July 27, noon-1:15 p.m. Free. Merry Astor's office, Call for info, Los Altos. www.cbhp.org

BREAST CANCER RECOVERY AND RENEWAL Ongoing support for women who have completed treatment and are now focusing on continued physical, emotional, spiritual well-being. Topics include: ongoing wellness, relevant medical topics, life and relationship transitions. 2nd and 4th Mondays, through July 24, 5-6:30 p.m. Free. CBHP or Stanford Cancer Center, Call for information, Palo Alto. www.cbhp.org

VOLUNTEERS

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS TO VISIT THE ELDERLY A Christian based 501 non-profit needs volunteers of all ages and walks of life to visit the elderly forgotten in nursing and convalescent homes for more information contact by email. Locations include Mountain View, Palo Alto, Sunnyvale and other cities in the Santa Clara County.

■ MORE LISTINGS

For a complete listing of local events, see our website at www.PaloAltoOnline.com.

HOUSING DISCRIMINATION ARE YOU A VICTIM?

Call Project Sentinel, a non-profit agency (888) F-A-I-R-H-O-U-s-i-n-g, (888) 324-7468

Imagine A Great Place to Work ADVERTISING SALES

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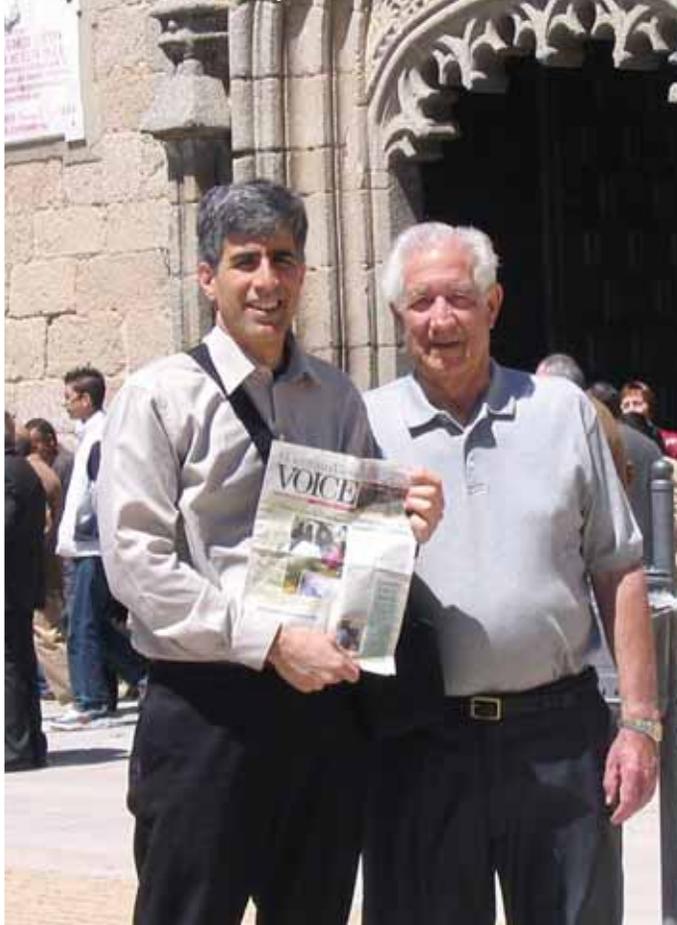
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