

Mountain View VOICE

JULY 28, 2006 VOLUME 14 NO. 31

INSIDE: IN BUSINESS | PAGE 21

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Paradise found
Chaat Paradise
a tasty choice
for vegetarians
WEEKEND | P.15



NICHOLAS WRIGHT

READY TO ROCK: Henry Carges, Brent McCoy and Christian Ciabattoni learn the art of rock and roll at the Community School of Music and Arts' week-long "School of Rock Workshop." The students put on a show at the end of the week. [See page 11.](#)

'Arbitrary at best'

CITY OFFICIALS OUTRAGED AT 'F' GRADE IN HOUSING REPORT

By Daniel DeBolt

A Bay Area group's "report card" giving Mountain View an "F" for not providing adequate housing for its residents is drawing the ire of city officials.

City Hall roundly rejected the report from the Bay Area Council, saying that it does not reflect the housing realities of a city that already has the highest housing density in the county.

Among its shortcomings, officials said, the report didn't take into account the 2,902 units likely to be built here in the near future. In order to receive an "A" grade, the city would have had to issue permits for 3,423 units between 1999 and this year — more than triple the 1,267 permits actually issued. (The

report incorrectly stated that Mountain View issued only 1,136 permits.)

"I'm not sure how anyone can reach any conclusions except that there is a really strong commitment to building housing in

'The cities doing the heavy lifting are expected to do more heavy lifting.'

COUNCIL MEMBER LAURA MACIAS

Mountain View," said city manager Kevin Duggan. "In our view it doesn't tell the whole story."

Council member Laura Macias

lambasted the report, calling it "arbitrary at best" and "classist at worst."

"Classist" because the report, released last Wednesday, awarded "A" grades to cities with expensive housing and low density such as Los Altos, Los Gatos and Saratoga, and "F" grades to cities with lots of industrial development such as Mountain View, Sunnyvale and Redwood City — despite the fact that those are the cities working toward "smart growth," i.e. transit-oriented, high-density housing.

"The cities doing the heavy lifting are expected to do more heavy lifting," she said. "We are providing jobs for Los Altos — we should be given credit for that."

► See **HOUSING**, page 8

Record temps scorch region

MOUNTAIN VIEW RESIDENTS SCRAMBLE TO KEEP COOL, TWO HOSPITALIZED

By Alexa Tondreau

Over the weekend the sweltering heat managed to impose itself on all aspects of daily life, breaking records, dominating conversation and sending hordes of people running for air-conditioned cover.

Saturday and Sunday each set the new record high in Mountain View for those dates, reaching 101 degrees on Saturday and 97 degrees on Sunday.

As the heat rose, so did concerns about the possibility of power outages and heat stroke. Lynn Brown, spokesman for the Mountain View Fire Department said "there were a few reports of heat-related illnesses and hospitalizations," adding that "the heat exacerbates pre-existing [health] issues people have."

At the Moorpark Mobile Homes, two residents were taken to the hospital over the weekend, both senior citizens unable to tolerate the heat. Moorpark lost its power on Friday, and PG&E wasn't able to turn it back on until 1:30 p.m. Monday.

"Myself and several others kept calling PG&E, and they would tell us a time they would come out, but then we'd just be waiting and waiting," said Claude Ellis, manager at Moorpark.

Ellis described a scene where the residents were becoming increasingly dehydrated and the food was beginning to spoil. Approximately 20 people opted to leave, seeking cooler shelter at local hotels and

RECORD HIGHS

Last weekend broke a string of all-time high temperatures in Mountain View.

Friday **90**
Saturday **101**
Sunday **97**
Monday **93**
Tuesday **90**

(Temperatures recorded at Moffett Field)

with family and friends. Ellis said they "took all the food with them from their refrigerators and brought their pets."

Of the two who were hospitalized, one has returned to Moorpark while the other remains in professional care.

Elsewhere in Mountain View, residents used varying means to keep cool, including buying all of the 300 fans and portable air con-

► See **HEAT**, page 7

Ball fields vs. open space

PUBLIC READIES FOR WORKSHOP ON CUESTA ANNEX

By Daniel DeBolt

A long Cuesta Avenue next to Cuesta Park is 12 acres of open space with some serious question marks hanging over it.

Local residents have been working to preserve this piece of land, known as the

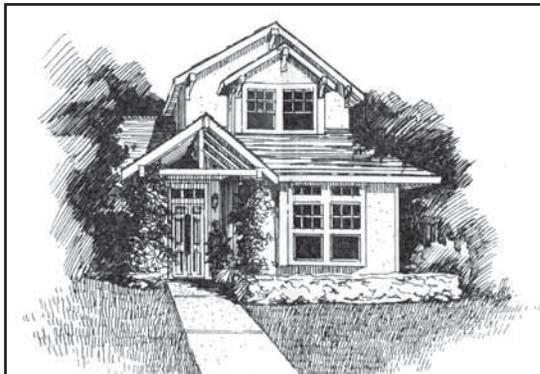
► See **CUESTA**, page 7

INSIDE

GOINGS ON 25 | MARKETPLACE 28 | MOVIES 18 | REAL ESTATE 35 | VIEWPOINT 13



Chuck & Tori Atwell



MOUNTAIN VIEW ■ Loaded with special features! 3bd/2.5ba 7-year-old home located in old Mountain View. Family kitchen, custom paint, + front porch. 2-car garage. **\$988,000**

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Helen & Ki Nyborg, & Scott Rutley



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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.

How do you deal with the hot weather?



"We go to the beach and I go swimming."
Albert Odom, Mountain View



"Go to restaurants with air conditioning."
Jeff Brush, Mountain View



"One way I'll be escaping is, I'm going to the hospital tomorrow to have a baby."
Lindsey Eulate, San Jose



"I went and saw motorcycle races. Distraction is the best thing unless you have a mister."
Jessica Moe, Mountain View



"I think of it as a sweat lodge, like getting your impurities out."
Jennifer Sarrat, Mountain View

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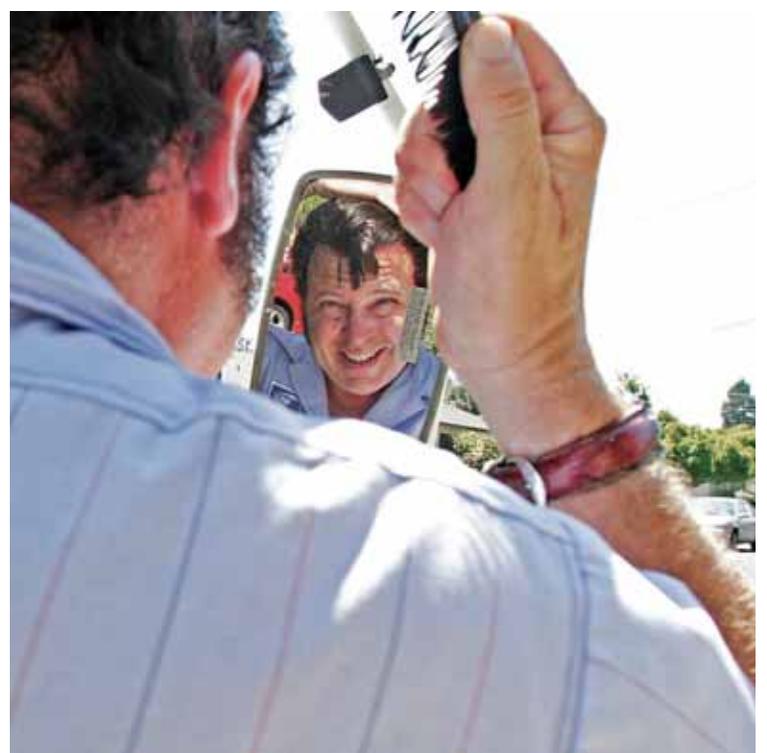
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MICHAEL MULLADY

Return to Sender

AFTER DELIVERING THE MAIL, CHARLES DUPRE IS THE KING OF KARAOKE

By Chelsea Young

At a going-away party for a coworker from the post office, Mountain View postman and resident Charles Dupre found his calling.

"There was a karaoke D.J. there, so I did a few songs and everybody liked it. And then I did one Elvis song, yeah, that's where it all started," he recalled with a laugh.

That was seven years ago by Dupre's count, and he has been working ever since to perfect his Elvis performance. "Everybody says I sound just like Elvis," he explained, "So I started growing my sideburns, just different things, just slowly but surely looking more like Elvis and sounding more like Elvis, learning more and more songs. Yeah, just slowly making the transformation."

Dupre said he had never sang before he started doing karaoke, although he had taken guitar and piano lessons and played the trumpet in high school. His desire to sing came naturally from his love of listening to jazz, salsa and rock and roll.

"I was listening like crazy, all the time, so then I learned about karaoke and I started doing karaoke at different bars," he said.

His ability to sing like the King comes from a natural talent that

he claims to have had since being a young kid: "I've always been good at impressions. ... All my singing that I've ever done, all I do is mimic."

In order to capitalize on this unique talent, Dupre, an ex-Marine Corps serviceman, practices his songs whenever he gets a chance. He wants to get his repertoire up to 20 songs and add to his costume collection, which currently includes one gold lame suit.

Dupre said he performs about once every two months, mainly for company or block parties. For the last five years he has performed for free at the Christmas party at El Camino Hospital's Dialysis Center.

Dupre is optimistic but not insistent about his future in performance: "Maybe in a couple of years I might be doing some gigs in Vegas. ... I heard you can make a lot of money, but I dunno. And maybe the competition's really tough over there so I'd have to be a lot better than I am now."

"I'm almost 50, and so time is not on my side," Dupre admitted. "But my goal is to try to stay as young-looking as possible, and as far as getting old is concerned, I'm gonna go down kicking and screaming." ▣

E-mail Chelsea Young at cyoung@mv-voice.com

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2006

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Editor's Note: Snapshot is an effort to give Voice readers an inside look at the people who make Mountain View one of the liveliest cities on the Peninsula. Watch for future installments in this space.



Pedal power part II

By Don Frances

BACK IN January I wrote about some local high school grads, now attending Yale, who planned to spend the summer bicycling across the country to raise money for Habitat for Humanity.

"Well, after nine weeks," writes Terese Tricamo, mother of one of the riders, "they are about to cross the finish line."

"My daughter, Laura Hess, who is on the Northern route, is arriving in Seattle on Saturday." She added that Daniel Weisfield, whom I also wrote about, arrives in Portland on Sunday.

It's good to know that these plucky locals have managed to safely pedal their way 4,000 miles through sleet, heat or whatever else was thrown at them. To Laura, Daniel and the rest of you selfless cyclists, Mountain View congratulates you.

RECREATIONAL Equipment, Inc. — you know it as REI — is opening its huge 30,000-square-foot store in Mountain View next Friday, Aug. 4. Thus begins a series of big-box openings at the site where Charleston Road meets Highway 101. Will any of you be biking there to do your shopping? ...

That's not the only imminent opening: Chipotle Mexican Grill is kicking things off with a fundraiser on Tuesday, Aug. 1, when all of the restaurant's proceeds will go to the Community Health Awareness Council. Can't speak for the food (yet), but CHAC is great, so might as well go. Chipotle is located at 2400 Charleston Road.

LOIS POPPEMA of Chiquita Avenue wonders if I wouldn't give a belated welcome to another of Mountain View's fine shepherds, whose name happens to be Shepard.

Pastor Paul Shepard comes to

► See **EDITOR'S DESK**, page 7



NORBERT VON DER GROEBEN

Sunny Singh stands next to his cab on View Street as he waits for a fare to walk over from the Mountain View Caltrain station on Monday.

Never a cab when you need one

CITY OFFICIALS LOOK INTO WHY TAXIS CAN'T PARK AT CALTRAIN LOT

By Daniel DeBolt

Neither cabbies nor neighbors nor commuters seem happy with a recent city move preventing taxi drivers from parking in the Caltrain parking lot while they wait for a fare, prompting officials to look into the situation.

To catch a cab, Caltrain riders arriving at the Mountain View station — even those with a disability or carrying heavy bags — must cross the parking lot and busy Evelyn Street to where the taxis line up, sometimes as many as eight at a time, on View Street in front of a newer housing development.

"I didn't buy in the area to see that type of environment," said resident Greg Bolden, who lives on View Street and complained that "the taxi drivers like to get out of their cars and socialize and smoke."

Neighbor Scott Neuman emphasized a different aspect.

"In my opinion that's much less of an issue than someone getting injured crossing the street," he said.

Neuman said he has written the city requesting that stop signs be installed at the intersection of View and Evelyn. He said there have been several accidents there over the last year, including one

just last month.

The taxi drivers are also unhappy with the arrangement. The drivers, mostly of Middle Eastern decent, declined to be named for this story. All are employed by the main cab company in Mountain View, Yellow Cab.

One driver said he used to park in the Caltrain lot near the bike lockers, but three months ago the curb there was painted red "for no reason at all." He said the arrangement was "inconvenient for customers and hurts business."

He added that he had seen people with heavy luggage struggle

► See **TAXI**, page 10

Navy revising its report on Hangar One

ADVOCATES WIN MINOR BATTLE, CONSIDER LEGAL QUESTIONS

By Daniel DeBolt

Hangar One advocates are enjoying a small victory after hearing that their comments have spurred the Navy to reconsider demolition and preservation options for the historic structure.

"It is gratifying to know that the Navy is listening," wrote Lenny Siegel, a member of

the Restoration Advisory Board for Moffett Field, in an e-mail response to the news.

Navy spokesman Rick Weissenborn made the announcement on Tuesday, saying that because of public comment and new information, the Navy would be doing another draft of its Environmental Evaluation and Cost Analysis (EE/CA) of demolition or preservation options for Hangar One and will seek additional public comment after the new draft is released.

► See **HANGAR**, page 10

Castro St. patio erupts in flames

FIREFIGHTERS QUICKLY CONTROL BLAZE AT THAI RESTAURANT

By Chelsea Young

The Mountain View Fire Department responded quickly on Sunday to a downtown fire that broke out on the back patio of King of Krung Siam, bringing it under control within 30 minutes.

Numerous onlookers, alerted by the black smoke billowing from the rear of the Castro Street restaurant, called in immediately to report the July 23 fire. The first call came at 4:47 p.m., and firefighters responded within four minutes, according to fire spokesman Lynn Brown.

By then the entire patio and a wooden awning above it had begun to burn, but the blaze was under control in a half hour, Brown said. There were no injuries.

"We all noticed the 20-foot flames and black smoke coming from behind the Thai restaurant and Zucca's," said Mountain View resident Theresa Sanders, who was directly across Castro Street when the fire started. "We called 911, but I think someone had already called. MVFD was there very quickly."

Due to the close proximity of the buildings, the high occupancy of the restaurant and the hot weather, firefighters called in a second alarm for support. To avoid heatstroke, the chief rotated firefighters quickly and encouraged hydration.

The cause of the fire is under routine investigation, Brown said. Total damages are estimated at a few thousand dollars. ■



NICHOLAS WRIGHT

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■ POLICE LOG

ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON
500 block S. Rengstorff Ave., 7/22

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE
700 block Cornelia Ct., 7/18

AUTO BURGLARY
500 block S. Rengstorff Ave., 7/21
Century 16 Cinema, 7/21

BATTERY
200 block S. Rengstorff Ave., 7/18
1100 block Castro St., 7/19
Century 16 Cinema, 7/22

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY
1300 block Grant Rd., 7/19

DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
700 block E. El Camino Real, 7/18
800 block Heatherstone Way, 7/18
300 block Escuela Ave., 7/22

GRAND THEFT
1100 block Karen Way, 7/19
2500 block Leghorn St., 7/20
Castro St./W. Dana St., 7/20
100 block Calderon Ave., 7/23
Boat House, 7/23

PROSTITUTION
2600 block Miller Ave., 7/21

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY
2100 block Stanford Ave., 7/22

ROBBERY
700 block W. El Camino Real, 7/19

STOLEN VEHICLE
400 block Showers Dr., 7/18
2000 block W. Middlefield Rd., 7/19
2200 block Latham St., 7/19
1200 block Montecito Ave., 7/20
100 block Rock St., 7/20
2000 block Latham St., 7/20
200 block N. Rengstorff Ave., 7/20
300 block Escuela Ave., 7/22
400 block Ortega Ave., 7/23

VANDALISM
200 block Castro St., 7/20

■ CRIMEWATCH

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY, 2960 N. SHORELINE BLVD., 7/20
Officers received an "alarm activation call" at 2:15 a.m. from Michael's Restaurant at Shoreline Park. Patrol officers quickly arrived at the scene and began checking the perimeter of the building for signs of entry. As they were doing so, an employee left the restaurant through the front door. The officers stopped the employee and began to question him. After a little investigating, officers discovered that the man had no reason to be at the restaurant at

the time of the alarm. Officers found a significant amount of tip money, which should have been shared by all the employees at the restaurant, and they deduced that the man had broken in to steal the money. The employee was arrested and booked, and the stolen tips were returned.

STOLEN VEHICLE, 1901 ROCK STREET, 7/20
A citizen called in to report suspicious happenings in the parking lot of Crittenden School at 6:59 p.m. Arriving at the scene, an officer saw four young

men sitting inside a car. As the boys saw him approaching, they all got out of the car at the same time. The officer, who had suspicions that the car may be stolen, detained the boys at gunpoint as he waited for other officers to arrive to assist him. Officers called the owner of the car and verified that the vehicle had indeed been stolen from somewhere in Santa Clara. Police arrested the vehicle's driver, who was not licensed. All four boys were eventually released to their parents.

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED FOR FOREIGN EXCHANGE PROGRAM
Pacific Intercultural Exchange (PIE) is looking to recruit a few more local families to host foreign students coming to the U.S. for semester or year-long home stays. The students, ages 15 to 18, come from all over the world, including Argentina, Australia, Brazil, China, Vietnam, Iraq, Qatar and Yemen. They speak English and have their own spending money and accident

and health insurance, according to PIE. Designated by the U.S. State Department, PIE is a nonprofit, educational organization that has sponsored more than 25,000 exchange students, hailing from 45 different countries, since its founding in 1975. To learn more, call (800) 546-1402 to arrange a meeting with local PIE representatives.

STOP IN THE NAME OF SAFETY
The Traffic Safe Communities

Network, a program funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, will be holding activities throughout the month of August for its Stop on Red Campaign, designed to decrease injuries and fatalities associated with red-light running. Activities include radio public service announcements and increased law enforcement at intersections throughout the county, including in Mountain View, between Aug. 6 and Aug. 12.

— Chelsea Young

■ OBITUARIES

MARIE BASS
Marie Bass, a Mountain View resident for nearly 60 years, passed away on Thursday, July 19 after battling a long-term illness. Bass was born in New Mexico in 1919 and moved to California in the 1940s. She bought a home on Bonita Avenue in 1947 and stayed there until 1998. Bass kept lush gardens at her home, a koi pond, many flowers, giant pine trees, fruit and flowering trees and a vegetable patch. The family said she taught her granddaughters how to can fruits and vegetables and dry apricots, and her grandsons how to prune trees and plant seeds. Bass was predeceased by

her husband Samuel Bass, a World War II Navy veteran, in 2000, and her only son, Robert "Buddy" Williamson, passed away in 2003. She is survived by her daughter-in-law, seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. The family held a viewing at Spangler Mortuary on July 26, followed by services at the Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Los Altos.

DELLA SMITH
Della Smith, born Della Eunice Boyd, passed away on July 16. She was 91. A homemaker, Smith raised three kids, Dewey, Mary and Tom Smith. She served as dea-

con in her church, promoting an active ministry. She also enjoyed making rag dolls for the Stanford Children's Hospital with the Women's Assistant League of Los Altos. Smith is survived by her daughter Mary and son Tom, three grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. Her husband Alton B. Smith and son Dewey, as well as eight brothers and sisters, passed on before her. A service was held on July 22 at the First Presbyterian Church in Mountain View. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the FPCMV Facilities Wish List.

CUESTA

► Continued from page 1

Cuesta Annex, for years. It is now fairly certain the land will remain undeveloped, but in what form exactly is up in the air.

Citizens will have a chance to discuss options for the city property on July 29 at a community workshop at City Hall.

Residents hope to find a compromise at the workshop between two different notions for the land. Several youth sports organizations have participated in “stakeholder interviews” with the city expressing interest in a new ball field. Such a field is needed, they say, because of a serious shortage of fields for youth sports in the city.

Meanwhile, others who have worked to preserve the area want an orchard and historical museum — or they want it left as-is.

Bob Schick, a longtime advocate of preserving the annex, said youth sports groups should make use of the large fields at St. Francis High next door to the Cuesta Annex and at nearby Mountain View High; neither school has public-use agreements for its fields.

He also pointed out that Mayor Nick Galiotto proposed a six-acre ball field at Shoreline Park along



Garcia Avenue in his state of the city address.

Council member Matt Pear said a compromise was possible, with ball fields taking up some of the land and the history museum — in a barn surrounded by fruit and oak trees — taking up the rest.

Schick recommends that people walk through the annex before the workshop. There among the old orchard trees — alluding to what used to be called the “valley of heart’s delight” — there are red tailed hawks and blue herons.

The view of the mountains, he said, is a rare sight.

With the Grant Road farm leaving, he added, the Cuesta Annex is the minimum for historic open space the city should provide.

Saturday’s workshop will be from 10 a.m to 12:30 p.m at City Hall. It will be facilitated by a city-hired consultant. Call the city manager’s office at (650) 903-6301 for more information.

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

HEAT

► Continued from page 1

ditioning units off the shelves of a local Orchard Supply Hardware.

The Eagle Park Pool was filled to maximum capacity, with people lining up to join the nearly 120 people already swimming inside.

Brown said he heard that “every seat in the library was filled,” and suggested that when temperatures reach as high as they did this past weekend, that residents go to the local “cooling center,” located at 266 Escuela Ave. The center is fully air conditioned and provides comfortable seating and water.

As of press time, forecaster Diane Henderson of the National Weather Service predicted that temperatures would drop to the low 80s by Friday, ushering in a more temperate and bearable weekend.

The highest temperature ever recorded in Mountain View is 105 degrees on July 15, 1988. ▀

Foothill teacher dies after bike-auto collision

Foothill College teacher Tom Colby Maddox, 65, died of apparent head injuries on July 15, three days after he was hit by a car while bicycling on Skyline Boulevard.

Maddox, a Portola Valley resident, was biking with longtime friend and fellow Foothill teacher Tom Strand in Woodside just north of Highway 84 when he was hit. He died at Stanford Hospital.

Strand, a Los Altos resident, said the two men were traveling south on the two-lane road in a section with a steep bank but no shoulder or bike lane. They were just emerging from a series of S turns on a slight downhill grade and moving at the “speed of traffic,” about 30 miles per hour, he said.

Strand said he was about 50 yards ahead of Maddox when he “heard a crash, like somebody dropping a tray full of dishes.” He turned back to find Maddox splayed in the road, his helmet still on and two cars pulled over.

Damage to Maddox’s helmet indicated an impact just behind his left ear, Strand said, adding

that he was told by a physician at Stanford that Maddox died from head injuries.

Maddox was hit by a blue Subaru Forester driven by Redwood City resident Beverly Oaks, 81, according to CHP Officer Steve Perea.

— The Almanac

EDITOR’S DESK

► Continued from page 5

Abundant Life from the Menlo Park area, and according to Lois, “Pastor Paul is becoming a national figure; he is heard all over the United States. The church is one of the best examples in the

country of a truly multicultural body — thanks to no one’s earthly efforts.”

You can hear Pastor Paul every weekday at 2:30 p.m. on 1100 AM (KFAX). ▀

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

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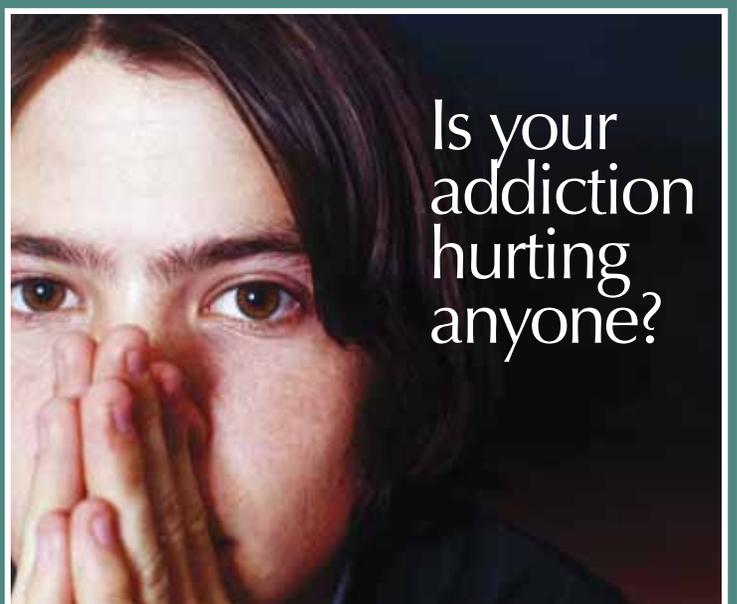
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HOUSING

► Continued from page 1

According to an e-mail from city staff, Mountain View averages 8.4 units per acre “compared to 4.5 units per acre for Palo Alto and densities ranging from 0.6 to 2.8 units per acre for the “A” cities of Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Monte Sereno, and Saratoga.”

In contrast, a report from the Greenbelt Alliance ranked Mountain View eighth in the Bay Area out of 101 cities for its “smart growth” efforts.

The 60-year-old Bay Area Council describes itself on its Web site as “a business-sponsored, public-policy advocacy organization” which “advocates for a strong economy, a vital business environment, and a better quality of life for everyone who lives here.”

Its report gave the Bay Area a “B” grade overall, and Santa Clara County got a “C” in meeting housing needs.

The report was based on how successfully cities met growth targets set by the Association of Bay Area Governments. City officials say ABAG’s numbers, set in 1999, were flawed and that last week’s report just amplified those flaws.

Jobs-to-housing balance

While council member Greg Perry said that he preferred other projection methods over ABAG’s, he differed from his colleagues by calling the report “a sign that neither we nor other cities have done enough to accommodate the growth we’ve spurred.”

Perry said people can “quibble”

over the grades, but the bottom line is that no city is doing its share.

While Mountain View is dense relative to other cities, there are more jobs here than there are places for workers to live. As a result, Perry said, many people end up commuting from the “bedroom communities” into Mountain View each day, creating air pollution and traffic problems. This is illustrated, he said, by 15,000 more car trips coming into Mountain View every morning than leaving it.

Perry said it’s easy for someone who can afford to own a home with a yard to criticize efforts to build high-density housing, like that which was recently approved at the old Mayfield Mall. While many in Mountain View complain about the loss of old trees and open space, many more people would just like to be able to afford a home, he said. And building homes to meet demand makes homes more affordable.

The report said the median home price in the Bay Area has more than tripled since 1990, when it was \$208,000.

Density vs. charm

Council member Matt Pear said it wasn’t an issue of being for or against housing, but rather what is plausible and what isn’t.

Mountain View is already built out, he said, which is why it is behind only San Francisco in terms of density in the Bay Area. The city also has 57 percent of all homes as rental units, the highest ratio of rentals in the county.

“You don’t want to build housing and diminish the charm of the city,” Pear said.

Pear pointed out that what most people seem to want in Mountain View is a little bit less development, as made evident by the large organized effort on the part of the Monta Loma Neighborhood Association and

others to preserve old trees, save open space, build more parks and design new housing to fit in with existing neighborhoods.

“How does one group say we don’t have enough, and another group say we have too much?” Pear asked.

Perry said a solution would require the city be more willing to approve housing developments the way it approves office and business space. He pointed to the difficult and time-consuming process to build 530 homes at Mayfield. A few weeks later, with little fanfare, the city zoned an area near Shoreline Park for more than 1,000 jobs.

The housing-to-jobs balance just goes from bad to worse, he said, and the only thing that may change it is when businesses start

complaining about having to pay people to convince them to drive long distances to get to work.

“Every politician and city staff member is aware that the Bay Area is in a housing crisis,” said ABAG spokesperson Leah Zippert. “Figuring out how to accommodate people who live here is part of cities’ and counties’ roles.”

With 2,932 units in the pipeline, Mountain View officials predict enough housing is in the works to meet the projected ABAG housing allocation for the next seven-year cycle.

City officials say ABAG didn’t listen to them when making projections in 1999. Zippert responded that while developing the state-mandated predictions for the next cycle — a process slated to begin soon — the city would be listened to, just as it was in 1999. (ABAG’s numbers weren’t changed in response to the city’s concerns.)

If a city’s housing needs can be met in another city, Zippert said, the two cities can approach ABAG to help satisfy the housing requirements for the city in need. And smart growth will be taken into account as well, she said, because ABAG has started to place importance on transit-oriented development so that the region as a whole can develop in a beneficial way.

The Bay Area Council report can be read at www.bayareacouncil.org/hp3. ▣

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

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TAXI

► Continued from page 5

to get a cab.

The change coincided with the introduction of the "Baby Bullet" Caltrain service, which brought more cars into the lot.

"Caltrain gets lots of money for parking, but there are no amenities for customers," the driver said.

At first the drivers got warnings about parking at their old spot, then some got tickets.

Neuman said he had sympathy for the drivers. "I can't imagine they are any happier with the situation than anybody else is," he said.

Neuman said he had gone to other Caltrain stations and saw designated taxi parking in each one. He wondered why the city and Caltrain built such a nice transit hub where riders can catch a bus, train, light rail, or

shuttle to Google or Microsoft, but not a taxi.

"The easy answer is for Caltrain to carve out a half-dozen spots for taxis," he said.

According to transportation and policy manager Joan Jenkins, after the *Voice* contacted her about the issue, she took the train into work the next day to have a look, then contacted staff at the Joint Powers Board that oversees Caltrain in order to address the problem.

She said the city's fire department made the call to paint the curb red where the taxis used to park. She said she was optimistic a solution would be found, and added she would meet with Caltrain staff within the next few weeks.

Caltrain spokesperson Jonah Weinberg said, "We definitely want to try come to some amenable agreement so everybody can be as happy with the situation as possible." ■

HANGAR

► Continued from page 5

"This decision to revise the EE/CA is based on concerns expressed by the public" as well as "new information received by the Navy in response to those concerns," Weissenborn wrote in an e-mail. He wouldn't comment on what specifically will change in the report.

The Navy transferred control of Moffett Field to NASA in the early 1990s, but is still responsible for cleaning up toxics, including the 188,000 parts-per-million of PCBs in the hangar's siding.

Bob Moss, co-chair of the Restoration Advisory Board, said the decision to write a new report signals a change in the Navy's position.

"It says they recognize there were some holes and now they are trying to fill them," he said.

"Its a real tribute to the community — the city of Mountain View, the city of Sunnyvale, 12 members of Congress all complaining about the demolition of Hangar One. Obviously these concerns have had an effect."

Legal questions remain

Siegel, also director of the Center for Public Environmental Oversight, responded to the news from Weissenborn by raising some legal questions that have been floating in the background for some time.

From the beginning, the RAB has wanted the Navy to consider addressing Hangar One as a "remedial action" rather than a "removal action" — in other words, as a cleanup rather than a demolition. But now, Siegel says, the time seems right to raise some newly discovered legal reasons for doing so. If the project continues to be considered a removal action, it may prevent the public from chal-

lenging demolition in court.

The Environmental Protection Agency has guidelines for what can be considered a removal action, Siegel said, and the Hangar One project is too expensive and has taken too long to be considered a removal action.

But whether the EPA guidelines apply to a Navy site is up to the courts. Siegel said there is a legal precedent set during cleanup at Fort Ord that may mean the Navy would have to start calling the project a remedial action if it were brought to court.

"Of course, if the Navy simply decides to preserve the hangar, I doubt that anyone in our community will seek to challenge that result in court," Siegel said. "The Navy would save a lot of people a lot of time and energy and angst by just coming out and saying that that is their goal."

A date for the release of the revised EE/CA has not been set. ■

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MountainView VOICE

The kids are alright

At Mountain View's Community School of Music and Arts, 18 kids took part in a "School of Rock Workshop" last week, learning how to cultivate the rock persona and image as well as the music.

By the end of the week, four bands, including one all-girl band, had recorded songs in a professional studio and performed original songs in concert for family, friends and an NBC Channel 11 camera crew.

The Community School of Music and Arts at Finn Center held the workshop as part of a summer series covering a broad range of musical subjects. A "Train for American Idol Vocal Workshop" will be held in August.



Clockwise from right: The Flying Horse Monkeys perform at CSMA's Tateuchi Hall on July 21. The band Edible Cement recoils after their amp let out a screech as Nick Eyrie makes adjustments (Greg Manoukian is pictured to the left of Jason Spielman). Hannah Rubin sings and plays Green Day's "American Idiot" with her band, Edible Cement. Klaira Beaudet, left, Zoe Papakios, center, and Elize Manoukian try to figure out how to harmonize the keyboard and guitar sounds while practicing for their two-song concert at the end of the week. Henry Carges, in a Jimi Hendrix T-shirt, practices with Brent McCoy and their band Highway 280.

PHOTOS BY NICHOLAS WRIGHT



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Eva Mozes Kor stands in Auschwitz in "Forgiving Dr. Mengele," a movie showing this weekend at Century 16.

The power to forgive

HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR
BRINGS MESSAGE OF
LOVE TO MT. VIEW

By Rebecca Wallace

Eva Mozes Kor, a 72-year-old spitfire of a real estate agent, is rolling toward another sale in Terre Haute, Indiana. In a scene from a film about her life, she pounds a "For Sale" sign into the grass. She shows off the house's crown moldings. She rarely stops talking.

Decades ago, the Romanian native says, no one in the business would hire her because of her accent. She was hardly going to let this stop her.

"I survived Auschwitz," Kor says. "Do you mean to tell me I cannot sell real estate?"

There seems to be very little Kor can't do. Besides selling homes, she founded the C.A.N.D.L.E.S. Holocaust Museum in Terre Haute. She also speaks widely about her life experiences, and has given about 60 talks so far this year. She'll do so again on Sunday, July 30, in Mountain View.

But there is one thing Kor has done that seems to define her, something she did for herself but that caused enormous controversy among other survivors: She has forgiven the Nazis.

In 1995, on the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, Kor stood at the former death camp in Poland and read out a declaration of forgiveness. The action, she says, helped heal her. It meant she wasn't a victim any more.

"It was the feeling of complete freedom," Kor said in the film. "As a victim, all of us feel extremely helpless. ... I had no idea that I had the power to forgive a Nazi."

That forgiveness is all the more

remarkable when you consider the title of the film is "Forgiving Dr. Mengele." Kor and her sister, Miriam, were among those twins subjected to medical experiments by Josef Mengele in Auschwitz, a place where, Kor says, she lived "between life and death."

The 2005 film, directed by Bob Hercules and Cheri Pugh, will be shown at the Century Cinema 16 in Mountain View this Sunday as part of the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival. Afterwards, Kor will speak as part of a panel discussion on forgiveness.

(Also scheduled to take part are John K. Roth, professor of genocide studies at Claremont McKenna College, and Jack Weinstein from the Massachusetts-based group Facing History and Ourselves, which focuses on issues of racism and human rights.)

One of the most powerful images in the film is a photo taken as Russian soldiers were liberating Auschwitz in 1945. Eva and Miriam, tiny in striped uniforms, walk between barbed-wire fences at the

head of a line of Mengele twins. The girls' faces are blank.

After being liberated, she and her sister went back to Romania and then to Israel. In 1960, she met Holocaust survivor Michael Kor, and they married and moved to Indiana.

Kor thought she was coping well with her past, but she became terrified on a flight to Europe in 1984 when she heard German spoken. In Vienna, she kept hiding the tattooed number on her arm.

Then Kor's sister fell ill with kidney problems, and Kor's donation of a kidney didn't help. Because Miriam had been injected with something by Mengele, her kidneys had never grown beyond those of a 10-year-old, Kor said in the film.

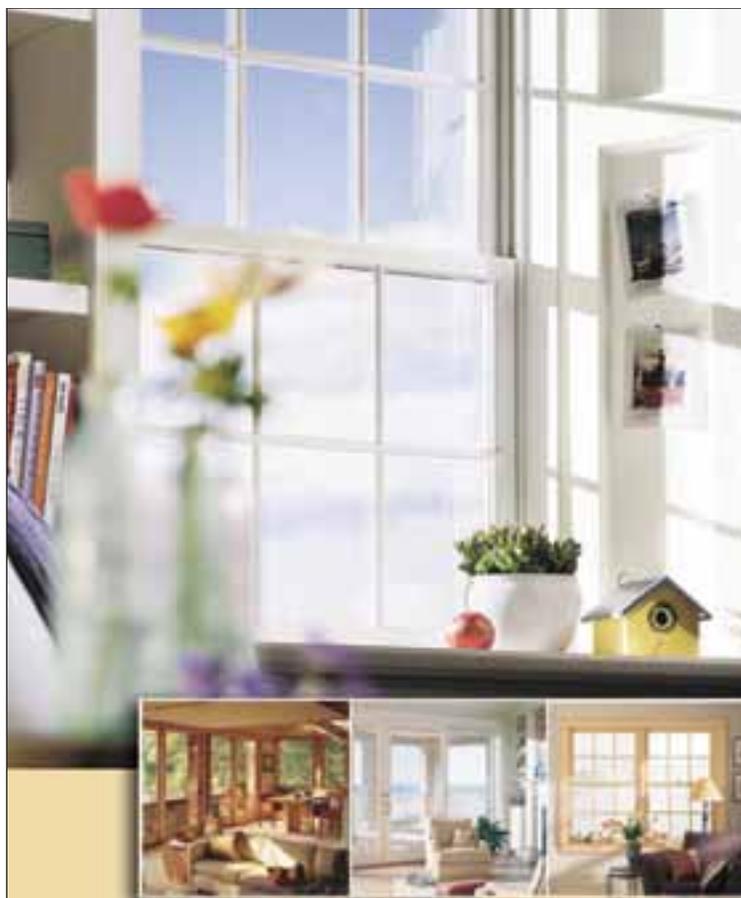
Doctors said they could help Miriam if they knew what she had been injected with, but Mengele's files remained lost to time, and Miriam died of her illness in 1993.

Kor became determined to learn more about the experiments. As for herself, she knew only that she had been injected with a germ that had nearly killed her in the camp.

An estimated 1,500 sets of twins were experimented upon by Mengele, with only 200 surviving Auschwitz, according to the C.A.N.D.L.E.S. Web site.

When Kor comes to Mountain View, there may very well be other Holocaust survivors who want to debate with her, said Leslie Kane, who will moderate the panel discussion. Kane is executive director of the Holocaust Center of Northern California.

Kane herself is impressed with Kor. "Who she is, what she is, how she goes about it, is breathtaking, and you can't turn away," she said. ▣



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■ INFORMATION

What: "Forgiving Dr. Mengele," a film about Holocaust survivor Eva Mozes Kor, is being shown as part of the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival, which screens about 50 films this year around the Bay Area. A panel discussion including Kor will follow.

Where: The Century Cinema 16, 1500 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View

When: The screening begins at 4:15 p.m. on July 30

Cost: Single tickets to festival films are \$11, with some discounts available

Info: Go to www.sfjfff.org.

Viewpoint

- EDITORIAL
- YOUR LETTERS
- GUEST OPINIONS

Mountain View VOICE

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■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

Unfair shake in housing report

Last April saw the grand opening of San Antonio Place, a handsome 118-unit building of “efficiency studios” designed to provide affordable housing for those most in need of it.

That’s only a taste of what’s to come. According to planning department estimates, Mountain View will build about 3,000 new housing units in the near future, with most of them adhering to smart-growth philosophies, such as locating the housing close to other neighborhoods, businesses and mass transit.

But don’t tell that to the Bay Area Council, a business-friendly group which last week released a report claiming that Mountain View deserved an “F” for its work in providing housing.

The report has some Mountain View officials hopping mad, and for good reason. They don’t need to be told that their painstaking efforts to increase housing — in what is already one of the densest cities in the Bay Area — are worthy of nothing more than a slap on the wrist.

Of course, the Bay Area Council merely churned out its grades based on “projected need” goals as determined by ABAG, the Association of Bay Area Governments. By ABAG’s reckoning, Mountain View had a “fair share” allocation of 3,423 units, meaning that between 1999 and 2006, the city must approve that many units or fall short of its goals. The city only approved about a third of this “fair share” allocation, hence the failing grade of 34 percent.

By contrast, the sleepy community of Los Altos, consisting primarily of single-family homes on large lots, was given a “fair share” allocation of 261. It nearly doubled that modest goal, and scored an “A+” in the bargain. Los Altos Hills, an even more sprawling community of large homes and estates amid rolling hills, was asked by ABAG to build just 83 units. It nearly tripled that goal (another “A+”).

This raises the question: Why are the wealthier communities asked to build a handful of units, while their denser, more urban neighbors — which already provide the bulk of affordable housing in the area, even as they wrangle with open-space and quality-of-life concerns — are asked to build multiple times that goal? ABAG’s Web site attempts to explain how it arrived at those goals, but the calculations are strange to the point of obtuse.

Unintentionally, the report has underscored the disparity (for anybody who missed it) between cities on the Peninsula, some of which function — worse, are *expected* to function — as upscale bedroom communities for the others.

But that hardly makes up for the report’s shortcomings. Trying to assign grades to housing efforts is a simplistic exercise. And when based on such a narrow range of data, with such ill-conceived criteria, it’s just plain dumb.

The Bay Area Council’s grading system is a poor excuse for a reality check, and should either be made meaningful or abandoned.

■ LETTERS VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

COUNCIL SHOULD STICK TO ITS JURISDICTION

Editor:

Last week’s editorial missed the point on the council’s decision to take no position on this November’s land zoning initiative (“No reason to abstain on open space initiative”).

The question is not whether the initiative is a good idea. The question is whether the council needs to take positions on issues outside its jurisdiction.

We don’t. We could spend our time debating Iraq, national immigration policy, rural land rezoning, and so on. But that isn’t what we were elected to do.

We were elected to read the garbage contract, keep books in the library, decide whether and how to fund new parks for the north side, fund pothole repair, decide whether to increase retirement benefits for city employees, and create a thorough emergency plan.

That work is all a bit boring, perhaps. But it is where we should focus our energy.

Greg Perry
City council member

COUNCIL SHOULD HAVE APPROVED INITIATIVE

Editor:

It was good to read of the Voice’s disappointment that our city council failed to endorse the Land Conservation Initiative, which will sustain and keep healthy Santa Clara County’s beautiful and accessible open spaces.

Having recently traveled through Los Angeles County’s northwestern area, I witnessed the rapid overdevelopment that is taking place there. Seeing those beautiful hillsides and

valleys cluttered with utility poles, subdivisions, big-box malls, warehouses and carved out roads made me appreciate this well thought out initiative.

The Land Conservation Initiative will give our county’s voters a chance to enact a wise process to protect our remaining green open spaces from urban sprawl run amuck.

Thank you, council members Mike Kasperzak and Laura Macias, for demonstrating your support for the initiative that will protect our county’s vulnerable open land. You took the appropriate action.

Fred Duperrault
W. Middlefield Road

MEASURE C’S PROBLEMS

Editor:

Just to clarify my “gripe” against Measure C, as your reporter called it (“Lawyers fight Measure C,” July 21), the California Constitution was amended in 2000 to permit the approval of a local school bond measure, not just by two-thirds of those voting, but also by as little as 55 percent, “only if the proposition approved by voters ... includes” four accountability provisions.

These provisions are: restricted use of the money, a “list of the specific school facilities projects to be funded,” annual internal audits, and annual external audits.

Measure C — the “proposition” — was quite deliberately written to include none of the accountability provisions required by Proposition 39 — perhaps in hope that the measure would garner two-thirds voter approval and not be subject to those requirements at all.

► See **LETTERS**, page 14



LETTERS

▶ Continued from page 13

My main concern was and is that the measure does not provide a binding list of the projects to be funded, but the measure is being challenged on a broader basis. It did not gain two-thirds voter approval and does not qualify for passage under the special 55 percent alternative allowed by Proposition 39.

Gary Wesley
Continental Circle

COUNCIL WON'T LISTEN ON HOUSING

Editor:

As a Monta Loma resident, I have been engaged in the entire process of the Mayfield project and I have come to the point of complete frustration.

Council member Greg Perry has led the charge for higher and higher densities in housing, arguing that we must restore the balance between jobs and homes in Mountain View. I've never opposed housing at Mayfield, but always hoped for a balanced debate on density. We never got that.

Most residents opposed the substantial increase in density to the neighborhood, as evidenced by the many meetings with the Environmental Planning Commission and the council. Yet, despite years of community involvement and hours of debate at the last meeting, the council basically ignored the input of the community and voted for the 530-unit plan.

As a constituent, I would like to think that the council is acting in the best interests of the residents of Mountain View, the voters who elected the council, but it's hard to see that based on the facts.

Adding to my frustration, I now read that there is plan by the council to allocate 9 acres to office space at Charleston and N. Shoreline, providing up to 1,000 jobs. Huh?

Thank goodness Matt Neely has fled to Rome. It gives us an opportunity to vote for one more candidate who might listen to the residents of the city of Mountain View. Are you listening now, Greg Perry?

Michael Fletcher
Dell Avenue

U.S. ROLE WITH ISRAEL ANSWERS ONE QUESTION

Editor:

I'm just writing to observe that our Congress has voted to endorse the Israeli war crimes against the Lebanese people. No one should continue to wonder, "Why do they hate us?"

Bill Michel
Ortega Avenue

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Chaat room

TONGUE-TICKLING INDIAN SNACKS ARE ALL THAT AT CHAAT PARADISE

By Sheila Himmel

If you go to Chaat Paradise, two tips:

1. Do not wear clothes that require dry cleaning. Even a light cotton blouse comes home with a cooking-oil perfume.

2. Put your name in right away. Do not stand around being polite.

Opinions vary wildly about Chaat Paradise, wedged into the Mountain View Shopping Center at the corner of East El Camino Real and Grant Road. (Where East El Camino meets West El Camino.)

For its many devotees, the jammed 4-year-old South Indian vegetarian café is Mountain View's

version of Viks Chaat Corner, Bay Area standard-bearer of Indian snack foods. For others, the paradise part has gone missing.

During a busy weekday lunch, the mother of two screeching children snapped, "I'm tired of these places!" A calm, more upscale place like Amber India might be the ticket for her. Possibly without the kids, both of whom had started the meal by sticking their hands into the bowl of fennel seeds at the entry, despite the spoon provided.

More on children in a minute. Chaat Paradise's mini-lunches are more than I can eat, and I am a big eater. Two cornmeal roti



MICHAEL MULLADY

The pani poori with spicy mint dip and three drinks, gulab lassi, chaas and khus lassi.

► See **CHAAT PARADISE**, page 16

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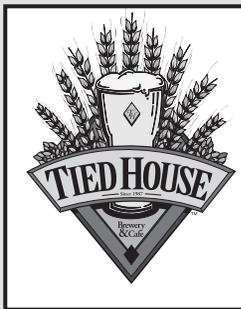
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CHAAT PARADISE

► Continued from page 15

pancakes were delicious, especially when dipped in saag, a creamed spinach, and refreshing raita, yogurt flecked with carrots and cucumbers (\$5.95). A mountain of vegetable biryani (\$6.95) also comes with raita, but you seem to be paying mainly for the cashews. Otherwise it's pricey for saffron-flavored basmati rice sparsely populated with beans, raisins and vegetables.

Mango and other lassis (\$2.25) take the edge off any hot spices. The cold yogurt drink splits the difference between milk and milkshake, thickness-wise, which is just right. Many a lassi is less of drink and more of logistical problem.

The menu is loaded with lassis, under the heading "Exotic Refreshments."

At dinner, go early for less of a crowd. We arrived at 8:30 p.m. and waited 20 minutes. And they kept coming past 10 p.m., when we left, with young children. Expressive children.

Servers range from very pleasant to actively inefficient. When we asked about certain dishes, they were explained cordially. But we had to ask several times for essen-

tial utensils. Then toward the end we were served a dish we didn't order, and couldn't get rid of it.

(The table had been cleared for dessert when along came pav vada (\$2.25) a snack that looks like a small hamburger, but with a ball of fried mashed potato inside the bread. This isn't ours, we told the server, who took it back, cut it into four pieces for easier eating, and served it to us again. We weren't charged.)

While waiting, we had seen many colorful plates of Chaat Paradise Chaat Basket (\$4.50) go by. The baskets are like mini tostada shells, four of them filled to overflowing with potatoes and garbanzo beans laced with sweet onions and cilantro. No wonder this is a signature dish.

But what is chaat? The Viks Web site provides this helpful explanation:

"Chaat literally means 'to lick.' Traditionally this roadside snack was served on a leaf and it was so tongue-tickling that one could not resist licking the last morsels from the leaf before discarding it, thereby giving a descriptive name to the cuisine."

Our other best pick was bargain bhartha (\$5.75), a spread of smoky eggplant, onions, tomatoes and garlic.

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MICHAEL MULLADY

Owner Prakash Patel stands behind the counter at Chaat Paradise.

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MICHAEL MULLADY

The interior of Chaat Paradise is decorated with numerous statues and Indian artwork.

Less impressive, aloo gobi mattar (\$5.75) is a spicy stew of cauliflower cooked to pulp with potatoes and peas. A better choice, Chaat Paradise Special Sabji (\$5.75), featured five kinds of chewy little beans.

These all would have been better if the breads had been

fresher, as they had been at lunch. Both the paneer paratha (\$3.50), stuffed with dry cheese, and spinach paratha (\$2.95) had lost their oomph.

Desserts range from soupy rice pudding (\$2.50) to sticky cheese balls (\$2.50). We didn't see many people getting dessert.

Chaat Paradise's cost-effective menu is a medley of 26 snacks, 20 entrees, a dozen types of roti. Even the fully loaded thali combination plates top out at \$7.95. A lot of food you can't find elsewhere, very nourishing portions, mostly budget-priced: Paradise found. ▣



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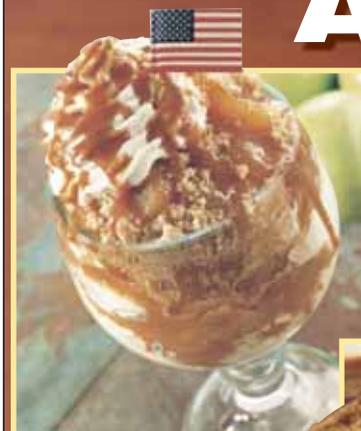
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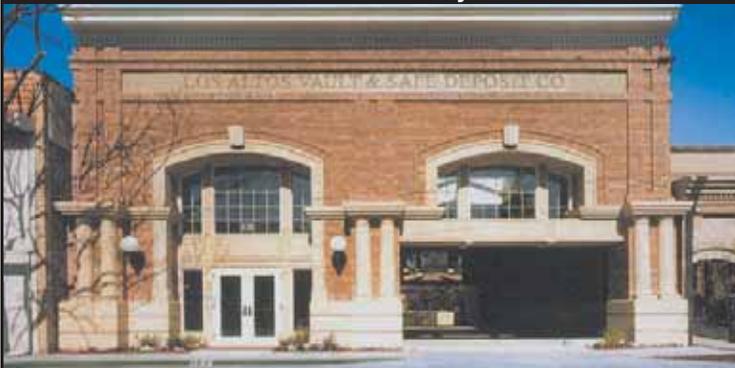
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A PRAIRIE HOME COMPANION (PG-13) ★★1/2

Palo Alto Square: 2:25, 4:50, 7:30 & 9:45 p.m.; Sat. & Sun.
also at 11:50 a.m.

A SCANNER DARKLY (R) ★★1/2

Guild: 2:10, 4:30, 7 & 9:30 p.m.; Fri.-Sun. also at 11:50 a.m.

AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH (PG) ★★★★★1/2

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

THE ANT BULLY (PG) (NOT REVIEWED)

Century 16: 12:15, 2:35, 4:45, 7:10 & 9:20 p.m.

CARS (G) ★★1/2

Century 16: 11:05 a.m.; 1:45 & 4:35 p.m.

CLERKS II (R) ★★

Century 16: 11 a.m.; 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 7:50 & 10 p.m.
Century 12: 11:40 a.m.; 1:55, 4:35, 7:20 & 9:50 p.m.

CLICK (PG-13) ★★

Century 16: 11:30 a.m.; 2, 4:25 & 6:55 p.m.

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA (PG-13) ★★

Century 16: 11:10 a.m.; 1:40, 4:10, 7:05 & 9:35 p.m.

JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE (PG-13) (NOT REVIEWED)

Century 16: 11:20 a.m.; 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8 & 10:15 p.m.
Century 20: 11:15 & 11:45 a.m.; 12:15, 1, 1:25, 2, 2:30, 3:10, 3:40, 4:15,
4:45, 5:20, 6, 6:35, 6:55, 7:30, 8:20, 8:50, 9:15 & 9:45 p.m.

LADY IN THE WATER (PG-13) ★★

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

LITTLE MAN (PG-13) (NOT REVIEWED)

Century 16: 11:40 a.m.; 1:55, 4:40, 7 & 9:15 p.m.

MIAMI VICE (R) (NOT REVIEWED)

Century 16: Noon, 1:20, 3, 4:20, 6:15, 7:20, 9:10 & 10:20 p.m.

MONSTER HOUSE (PG) ★1/2

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

MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND (PG-13) (NOT REVIEWED)

Century 16: 11:50 a.m.; 2:20, 5, 7:15 & 9:30 p.m.
Century 20: 11:55 a.m.; 2:25, 4:55, 7:25 & 10:05 p.m.

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST (PG-13) ★★

Century 16: 11:35 a.m.; 2:45, 5:50, 7:25, 9, 9:40 & 10:30 p.m.
Century 12: Noon, 1:40, 3:20, 5, 6:40, 8:25 & 9:55 p.m.

SCOOP (PG-13) ★★

Century 16: 11:55 a.m.; 2:15, 4:50, 7:30 & 9:45 p.m.
Century 20: 11:25 a.m.; 12:20, 1:50, 2:45, 4:10, 5:05, 6:30, 7:35,
9:05 & 10 p.m.

SUPERMAN RETURNS (PG-13) ★★1/2

Century 16: 12:10, 3:25, 6:45 & 9:50 p.m.

WHO KILLED THE ELECTRIC CAR? (PG) ★★

Aquarius: 2:20, 4:30, 7 & 9:20 p.m.; Fri.-Sun. also at 12:10 p.m.

WORDPLAY (PG) (NOT REVIEWED)

Aquarius: 3, 5, 7:30 & 9:40 p.m.; Fri.-Sun. also at 1 p.m.

YOU, ME AND DUPREE (PG-13) ★★

Century 16: 11:25 a.m.; 2, 4:30, 6:55 & 9:25 p.m.

Note: Screenings are for Friday through Tuesday only.

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

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MOVIE REVIEWS



A SCANNER DARKLY ★★1/2

(Guild) Psychedelic cinema takes center stage in this animated adaptation of the sci-fi story by Philip K. Dick. Seven years in the future, many of America's citizens are hooked on a designer drug called Substance D, even as law enforcement continues to crack down on users and abusers. Undercover cop Bob Arctor (Keanu Reeves) spends his days either dwelling with a handful of addicts (including Robert Downey Jr. and Woody Harrelson) or studying their actions back at the office thanks to an array of hidden cameras. But Arctor's life isn't all subterfuge and excitement. His girlfriend (Winona Ryder) is an enigmatic recluse, his white-picket-fence past perpetually haunts him, and he too is hooked on Substance D. "A Scanner Darkly" is well worth viewing solely because films this unusual are rare in our Hollywood-infused world of pirates and popcorn. But spending 10 bucks at the theater for a cinematic acid trip may have been more enticing in the 1960s. *Rated: R for drug and sexual content, language and a brief violent image. 1 hour, 40 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.

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST ★★

(Century 16, Century 12) Director Gore Verbinski returns to continue the high-

► Continued on next page

Woody Allen scooped his own 'Scoop'

By Jeanne Aufmuth

Woody Allen has churned out another breezy confection, the sort of comic frippery that's wearing thin with age and repetition.

Allen himself jumps back onto the screen as low-budget sorcerer Splendini (aka Sid Waterman) who becomes involved with an ambitious college journalist (Scarlett Johansson as Sondra Pransky) when she encounters an unearthly apparition as part of Splendini's schlocky disappearing wardrobe act.

The specter is the ghost of Joe Strombel (Ian McShane), a freshly deceased Fleet Street scribe who has the scoop of the century and can't bear to take it to the grave with him. Seems one lordly Peter Lyman (Hugh Jackman — yum) may be the infamous Tarot Card Killer who is offing Brunette prostitutes all over merry London town.

Madcap hilarity — and recycled gags aplenty — ensue as Sondra, masquerading as American tourist Jade Spence, makes a play for Lyman by catching his eye with a slinky red maillot and an ersatz drowning act at a tony swim club. Mission accomplished.



Hugh Jackman, Scarlett Johansson and Woody Allen in "Scoop."

MOVIE REVIEW

Sondra and Sid, who pretends to be Sondra's real-estate mogul dad, amateur-sleuth their way through a potpourri of mixed bits, rubbing shoulders with the hoi polloi and poking for clues with unseasoned gusto. A handful of vignettes inspire laughs, but most lack the snap crackle and pop of Allen's earlier comic work.

Jade's bogus romance is a pleasant distraction from the cliché and convention. Sondra falls hard and fast (he's Hugh Jackman and she's only human) and wants desperately to believe that Lyman is innocent. But repeated visits from the very dead Strombel assure her that she's on the right track and getting warmer. And how.

Allen's schtick is painfully

been-there, done-that — whiny protests of pro-Semite misery tinged with shrill Brooklyn bite. There's an uneasy and bitter edge to this past-his-shelf-life curmudgeon.

Johansson and comedy is a refreshing combination: smart punk, guileless glee and nary a fit of Gen-Y angst. Jackman is as Jackman does, oozing charm and charisma from every pore even while suspected of the darkest deeds.

Pleasant enough, but this trifle is no "Annie Hall." ▣

MOVIE NOTES

Stars: **
Rating: PG-13, for language and adult situations
Run Time: 1 hour, 36 minutes

► Continued from previous page

seas tale of Captain Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp), Will Turner (Orlando Bloom) and Elizabeth Swann (Keira Knightley). All compasses point to a fabled dead man's chest, and Captain Jack owes the legendary Davy Jones (Bill Nighy) a blood debt. To escape eternal damnation in Davy Jones' Locker and aboard the spooky Flying Dutchman ship, Sparrow must recover the key to the chest. Meanwhile, pirate hunter Lord Beckett (Tom Hollander) of the imperialistic East India Trading Company interrupts Will and Elizabeth's wedding, arresting them on false charges and threatening death — unless Will can beat Jack to the booty. The adventure leads to encounters with Will's long-lost dad, Bootstrap Bill (Stellan Skarsgard), a bayou soothsayer (Naomie Harris), sea monsters, an unfriendly island tribe and plenty of swashbuckling. Depp maintains his delightfully eccentric comic performance, but the element of surprise is gone. Ultimately, the action adventure plays like a too-long version of the Disney theme park ride that inspired it in the first place. **Rated:** PG-13 for intense sequences of adventure violence, including frightening images. 2 hours, 31 minutes. — S.T.

WHO KILLED THE ELECTRIC CAR? ★★★

(Aquarius) Rising prices at the gas

pumps are certain to make this incisive documentary de rigueur summer viewing. Writer/director (and Palo Alto native) Chris Paine's requiem for the electric automobile takes the country's reluctance to accept the serious nature of our future (as we continue to pour massive amounts of CO2 into the atmosphere) and runs with it. Are we addicted to oil? Are we afraid of an environmentally clean future? Yes, say the brains behind General Motors' EV1, the first electric car to be manufactured on these shores. In 1996 the original electric car appeared on the backroads; 10 years later they are all gone despite California legislation requiring automakers to manufacture a portion of future assemblies with zero-emission engines. What's wrong with this picture? With well-crafted momentum and a modicum of suspense, Paine analyzes the conspiracy involving the untimely death of the EV1. Paine goes to great lengths to wholly examine his theories, resulting in a too-lengthy running time and a surplus of facts and figures. Yet the specifics create a sit-up-and-take-notice aura of doom that pervades the narrative much like Al Gore's impending disaster in "An Inconvenient Truth." **Rated:** PG for mature themes. 1 hour, 32 minutes. — J.A.

YOU, ME AND DUPREE ★★★

(Century 16, Century 12) Owen Wilson plays it fast and loose and only just spares this tepid romantic comedy from

droll oblivion. Molly Thompson (Kate Hudson) and Carl Peterson (Matt Dillon) are newlyweds in the best sense of the word, glowing with the potential of their young careers, their swanky digs, and a fabulous new life together. All is right in the world of the new Petersons. Almo st. Carl is working for Molly's dad (Michael Douglas), an arrogant land developer who wants only the best for his little girl and doesn't think Carl is it. Adding insult to injury is Carl's best friend Randy Dupree (Wilson), who's on the down-and-out and looking for a place to crash. Naturally Carl can't turn his back on his wildly immature pal, so Dupree moves in until he lands on his feet. Fat chance. Dupree is the classic man-child, high on life but lacking the necessary skills to navigate its tricky wickets. "Dupree" vacillates wildly between the scattered pearls of comic classics and bone-tired comic convention. **Rated:** PG-13 for nudity and language. 1 hour, 48 minutes. — J.A.

MOVIE CRITICS

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

MOVIE REVIEWS

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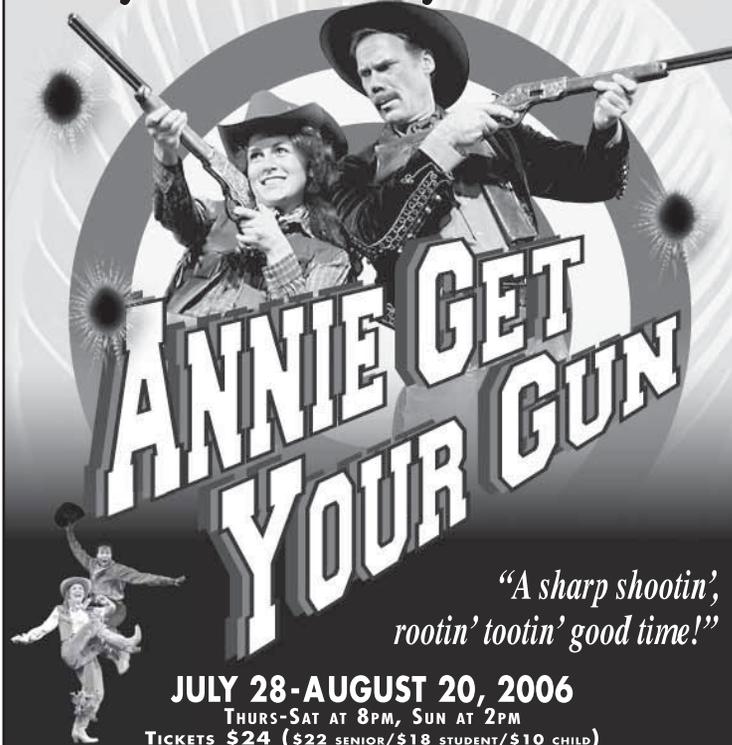
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WELCOMING AGENTS TO OUR OFFICE...

Mountain View, California – July 26, 2006 – Windermere Silicon Valley Properties is pleased to announce the addition of the following sales associates to its Mountain View office:



Sales associate **Mia Eilebrecht** was previously an independent model/actress contractor. Eilebrecht has over twelve years of experience in the customer service and sales industries, ranging from retail management to corporate administration to professional photography.



Sales associate **Nathan Hagan** was previously with Re/max for many years. Hagan brings a vast knowledge in the real estate industry. Hagan looks forward to continue providing the high quality of service through Windermere, that his past, present, and future clients are accustomed to.



Sales associate **Sandy Hess** came from a Service and Marketing background for 12 years at Golden Neo Life Diamite. Sandy has a Human Resource certificate from (UCSC) University of California Santa Cruz.



Sales associate **Cheryl Romero** was previously an agent for Re/max in Saratoga, she's had her Real Estate Agent license for over 13 years. Now joining Windermere, Romero looks forward to contribute her skills and great personality to all her future clients.



Sales associate **Gregory Thenn** began his career with Re/max and looks forward to providing a wide range of expertise in Real Estate as he makes his mark with Windermere.



Sales associate **Nga Tran** was a previous Senior Work Force representative for the city of Sunnyvale. Nga has over ten years of experience developing and managing client relations.

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