

Mountain View VOICE



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IN BUSINESS | P.29

AUGUST 25, 2006 VOLUME 14 NO. 35

INSIDE: WEEKEND | PAGE 18

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Mountain View High School principal Keith Moody signals his teachers to stop pulling a 24,000-pound school bus across the student parking lot on the first day of school. Moody arranged the "tug-of-war" to help teachers realize how important it is to work together as a team.

NICHOLAS WRIGHT

Techies get their school

FREESTYLE HIGH MIXES
READING AND WRITING WITH
FILM AND AUDIO PRODUCTION

By Alexa Tondreau

For the 65 Mountain View-Los Altos students lucky enough to get in, there was a new dimension to their high school classes as school began this week.

Instead of the traditional math, English, history and science, these students will tackle Web design, video and audio production, film and other high tech subjects during their afternoons at Freestyle High, the new supplementary high school that attempts to blend its curriculum with the real world of Silicon Valley.

Considering the several years of collective

effort it took to get the project off the ground, Monday's launch party and open house at the Freestyle campus felt appropriate. Located behind the district office on Bryant Avenue, the innovative school is the brain child of former Superintendent Rich Fisher but has been steadily nudged through its various stages of development by a loyal following of MVLA teachers, board members, parents and the community at large.

The concept for Freestyle was two-fold: Open a school that will engage students who haven't connected with the subject matter offered at Mountain View and Los Altos high schools, or who simply desire something different; train these students for job skills relevant to the industries in the area.

►See **FREESTYLE**, page 10

Welcome back

SCHOOL YEAR STARTS EARLY FOR
THOUSANDS OF LOCAL STUDENTS

By Alexa Tondreau

Wednesday was the first day of school for the 2006-07 school year, strategically placed before Labor Day to allow districts time to iron out any kinks.

Enrollment for Mountain View High School is projected to be 1,750 students this year, down slightly from 1,763 in 2005. At Los Altos High, the projected enrollment is the same as the previous year, at 1,722.

However, districts tend to see a lot of flux before Labor Day, and enrollment usually drops by the time the first standardized

►See **SCHOOL**, page 14

Shoreline auditors issue denial

LAWSUIT ACCUSES
FIRM OF HIDING
MILLIONS FROM
CITY COFFERS

By Daniel DeBolt

The auditors the city once hired to conduct annual audits of Shoreline Amphitheatre are denying allegations of any wrongdoing in a story of alleged cooked books and two-faced business practices that already got the city a \$10 million settlement in a previous lawsuit.

"We believe the case has absolutely no merit," said Farley Neuman, one of the attorneys representing defendants Daoro, Zydel & Holland and several corporate ancestors, including Wilson, McCall & Daoro; Wilson, McCall & Associates; Creed & Associates; and auditor Robert Yoshioka.

"Unfortunately I can't tell you much because the case is in litigation," Neuman said.

The auditing firm was employed by the city for almost 20 years to do auditing of its complex lease arrangement with Shoreline Amphitheatre's promoter, originally Bill Graham Presents, which was later bought by Clear Channel. The promoter was obligated to give the city a percentage of its profits as part of its

►See **AUDIT**, page 6

INSIDE

GOINGS ON **25** | MARKETPLACE **33** | MOVIES **22** | REAL ESTATE **41** | VIEWPOINT **16**



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Jeff Stricker & Steve TenBroeck



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Jeff Stricker & Steve TenBroeck



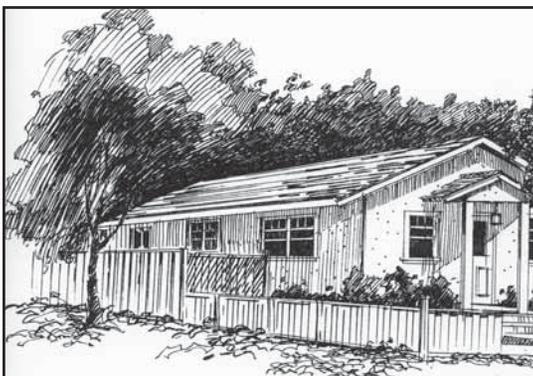
CUPERTINO ■ Lush, private 2 bedroom + den, 2 bath town home in a gated community in the Cupertino foothills. Private deck providing hills and golf course views. **\$998,000**

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Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked in Downtown Mountain View. Pictures and interviews by Andrea Pyka.

Are you excited to use the new free WiFi Internet access?



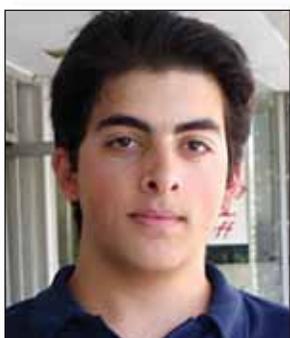
"I'm excited, but I haven't tried to access it yet."

Christine Oebert-Parikh,
Mountain View



"I'm jealous because it's a great idea and it's all paid for."

Amanda Walker, East Coast



"It's a great start. It helps a lot of people who don't have Internet access at home. Hopefully soon they'll have free wireless everywhere."

Mandhi Ashktorab, San Jose



"I think it's cool. I have to admit, I don't have a laptop, but if I did I would love to sit in a cafe and use the free Internet access."

Dzintars Arots, Mountain View



"I tried to find the wireless Internet on my laptop but I couldn't get to it, but I still think it's a great idea."

Jeffrey Chang, Mountain View



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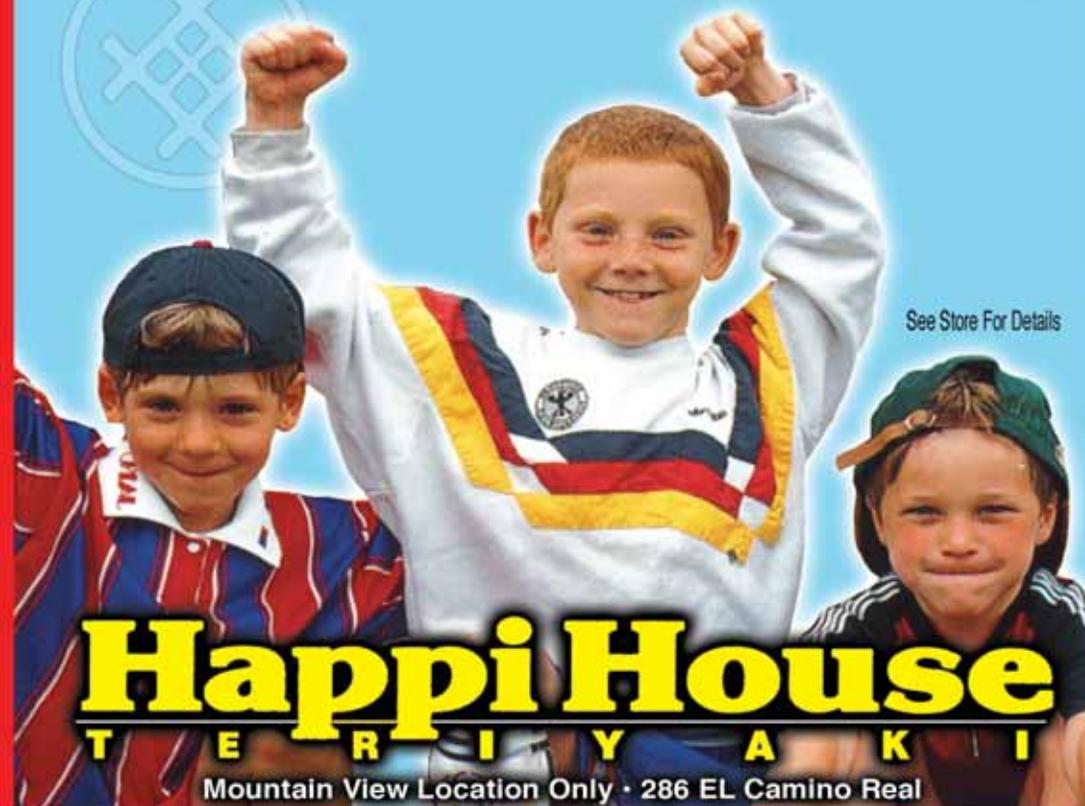
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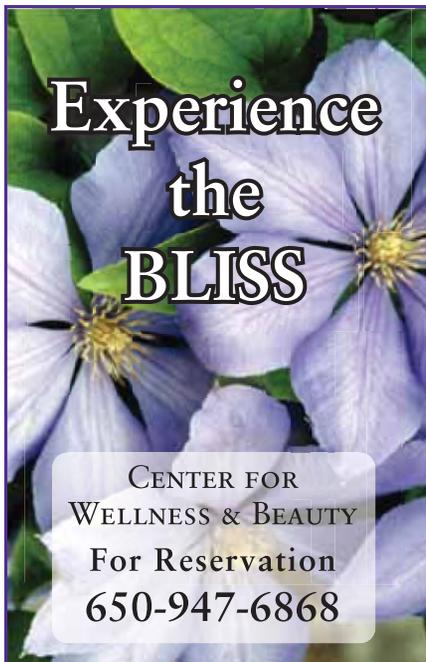
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CRAIG SHEROD

Marvel Girl to the rescue

KIMBERLY KRUPSKI SWITCHED CAREERS IN PURSUIT OF HER LONGTIME PASSION: MODELING

By Andrea Pyka

Standing at 5-foot-6, with medium red hair and a slender shape, Kimberly Krupski could be mistaken for Jean Grey, the comic book superhero from the "X-Men" series who went by code names Phoenix and Marvel Girl.

Krupski lacks supernatural powers, but she did get the childhood nickname, Marvel Girl, from her resemblance to the heroine and her love of comic books.

A farm girl at heart, and a once aspiring actress, lawyer and doctor who grew up on a potato farm in Rhode Island, Krupski thought hard about several career options before she found her true calling.

"I wanted to be everything," Krupski said, "but as I grew up, I found my niche, modeling, which allowed me to express my artistic ability."

Krupski, 26, said she enjoyed the business aspect and stability of her previous job as manager of a Peninsula retreat center. But, she said, "My management job required me to follow certain rules and present proper etiquette, but modeling let me look outside of the box and beyond

certain boundaries."

"When you model," she added, "you are on a stage, even if it's just for an hour. ... You show poise, posture and grace just as if you were dancing."

When she's not posing in front of the camera, Krupski plays guitar, reads books, writes and helps promote her friend's T-shirt business.

Though she only recently made the career change, the downtown resident now models around four times a week, and says it takes plenty of persistence. She advises people who decide to go into the business to be sure that modeling is their serious career choice—and to pick the right photographer.

"Always know your best features and go with what you want," Krupski said.

While she may not venture out anytime soon to save lives, Krupski says she does enjoy going out on adventures — that is, when she's not in front of the camera as Marvel Girl.

To learn more about Kimberly Krupski, check out her profile at www.myspace.com/marvelgirl-phoenix. ▀

E-mail Andrea Pyka at apyka@mv-voice.com

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.



End-of-summer doldrums

By Don Frances

CAN IT BE school is back in session? And the city council too? Does that mean summer's over and no more fun for nine months?

Well, at least there's politics to keep us occupied. To that end, there will be a "candidate information exchange" on Thursday, Aug. 31, at 5 p.m. at city council chambers. Sponsored by KMVT, the local Chamber of Commerce, this here *Mountain View Voice* and something called the California Apartment Association, the event is a chance for council candidates to field questions from both residents and local businesses.

The coming November election promises to be a lively one on all levels, from the federal to the local. Perhaps this meeting at City Hall will give us an early taste of what I'm talking about. ...

THERE'S ALSO the series of art and wine festivals, ubiquitous to the Peninsula, to keep us occupied. Mountain View's is coming right up: Sept. 9 and 10 downtown, 10

► See **EDITOR'S DESK**, page 7

■ CORRECTION

In an article last week titled "A 12-acre swimming pool?" the *Voice* reported that a proposal to create a 16-foot-deep hole over 12 acres at Cuesta Park Annex could flood for two days every 10 years to protect thousands of parcels north of El Camino Real from major flooding. It is true that the Annex could flood for two days every 10 years, but the parcels north of El Camino are only expected to flood completely during a "100-year flood" — that is, once every 100 years — as is mentioned later in the article. The *Voice* regrets the error.



NICHOLAS WRIGHT

Evelyn Meier and several other Raging Grannies showed support for racial tolerance during a demonstration at City Hall last week.

City rallies against hate crime

PARTICIPANTS SAY RACIST INTIMIDATION WON'T GO UNPUNISHED

By Daniel DeBolt

ABOUT 70 people gathered outside City Hall last week to make it clear that the city doesn't turn a blind eye to hate crimes.

"This crime was inflicted on all of us," said council member Laura Macias, referring to the July 29 incident downtown where a young black man was allegedly beaten

by two young white males, Jonathan Rhodes and Joseph Krueger. According to police, the pair did Nazi salutes and shouted racial epithets and "white power" slogans.

Present at the Aug. 16 rally were police officers, city council members, immigrant workers, city staff, postal workers, activists and citizens of all different backgrounds. They took turns reading Martin Luther King's "I Have a

Dream" speech and signed a large board with a felt-tip pen.

But few knew that the victim of Mountain View's recent hate crime in Pioneer Park also attended the rally. And along with 50 others, he attended the workshop on dealing with prejudice that followed.

"The victim was here and saw the gathering in the room," said

► See **RALLY**, page 14

Fire totals two-unit complex

FOUR-ALARM BLAZE SPARKED BY CHEMICALS ON BACK DECK

By Daniel DeBolt and Andrea Pyka

PLUMES of smoke, a crowd of people and dozens of firefighters surrounded the Shorebreeze apartment complex last Friday, as bystanders watched a two-unit apartment building become enveloped in flames.

Just after 5 p.m. on Aug. 18, the Mountain View Fire Department responded to a report of a fire at 429 Mountain Laurel Ct., located inside the large Shorebreeze condo complex on N. Shoreline Boulevard near Middlefield. When firefighters arrived at the scene,

they found the fire had reached into the attic above the first unit and was spreading to a second.

Investigators later determined that some cleaning chemicals used for wood refinishing had spontaneously combusted on the back deck of the building on the Shoreline side. The fire then climbed up a gazebo to the attic, according to department spokesman Lynn Brown.

At first, the fire generated only two alarms, but at 6:30 p.m. a third alarm was called. Finally, due to the large number of people occupying the complex, a fourth alarm was called.

Once all nearby residents were evacuated from their homes

► See **FIRE**, page 13

Woman tied up, robbed in her home

INTRUDER ON MARILYN DRIVE MADE OFF WITH CAR, VALUABLES

By Andrea Pyka

MOUNTAIN View police are continuing to search for a man who broke into an elderly woman's home Tuesday, tied her up and made off with her car and valuables.

Police said the incident occurred at in the 900 block of Marilyn Drive at the home of a 70-year-old woman, who was sleeping at 2:35 a.m. when the robber woke her up and demanded that she give him her cash, purse, and several of her

gold antique pocket watches.

When he had the items in hand, the man tied up the woman and forced her into a closet, then fled in her Honda CRV.

Moments after the man fled, the woman escaped from the closet and called police. She was not injured, and her car was later found a few blocks from her home, parked and unoccupied.

The woman described the intruder as between the ages of 25 and 35, dark skinned, about 6 feet tall and 200 pounds, with a strong Southern accent. He remains at large, according to police.

Anyone with information about the suspect or the crime is asked to call (650) 903-6344. ■

■ CITY COUNCIL

Members back from summer break

By Daniel DeBolt

THE city council returned to business last Tuesday, revisiting many of the same problems it faced before it left.

The six-member council found itself deadlocked 3-3 several times throughout the night, leaving members visibly frustrated on deceptively simple questions, such as where to put a driveway on a 39 unit development on Dana Street. The council, which discussed the issue for more than an hour, had been debating the subject before it left for summer break.

The seat vacated by former council member Matt Neely will stay open until the November election. Eight candidates will run for council, vying for three seats. Potential candidate Barbara Goodwin did not finish filing her election papers after the *Voice* went to press last week, though Tian Harter did.

Speed limit reduced on four streets

At the behest of city traf-

► See **COUNCIL**, page 8



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Left to right: A fine and rare white jade pendant and imperial storage box, Qianlong Mark and Period Sold for \$105,750, June 2006
 A mounted nephrite scholar's object 17th/18th century Sold for \$23,900, June 2006
 A fine and rare rhinoceros horn libation vessel of ding shape, 17th/18th century Sold for \$832,250, June 2006

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LocalNews

■ POLICE LOG

AUTO BURGLARY

400 block Sierra Vista Ave., 8/15
 1600 block Montalto Dr., 8/17
 1500 block Tyler Park Way, 8/17
 1700 block Fordham Way, 8/17
 300 block Foxborough Dr., 8/17
 500 block S Rengstorff Ave., 8/21
 1600 block Villa St., 8/21

BATTERY

Mountain View High School, 8/18
 Laser Quest, 8/19

DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE

200 block Pamela Dr., 8/16
 1800 block California St., 8/17
 1 block Amphitheatre Parkway, 8/19
 Library, 8/19

GRAND THEFT

1600 block Villa St., 8/15
 Evandale Ave., 8/15
 Trader Joe's, 8/16
 1700 block W. El Camino Real, 8/17
 500 block Piazza Dr., 8/17
 100 block Whisman Rd., 8/17
 1000 block Mountain View Ave., 8/18

VANDALISM

200 block Higdon Ave., 8/16
 Bryant St./California St., 8/18
 100 block E. El Camino Real, 8/19
 200 block S. Rengstorff Ave., 8/20
 Villa St./Wild Cherry Ln., 8/20
 300 block Gladys Ave., 8/21
 2400 block W. El Camino Real, 8/21

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

500 block Logue Ave., 8/18

■ CRIMEWATCH

ROBBERY, SHOWERS DRIVE, 8/18

Last Friday, Aug. 18, a man described as a Hispanic male in his 20s, sporting a pencil-thin mustache, dark suit and fedora, reportedly tried to steal a camera from the back seat of a person's car.

Prior to the attempted robbery, the person in the car had posted his high-end camera for sale on Craigslist. Later he was contacted by a man who said he was interested in buying the camera, and they arranged to meet at an

apartment unit on Showers Drive.

The man selling the camera became uneasy and nervous after he spotted a suspicious man when he was on his way to the apartment. He was later confronted by that same suspicious man, who brandished a handgun and demanded the camera. As the owner of the camera tried to drive away, the man with the handgun broke the rear window of the car, attempting to grab the camera but was unsuccessful. He is still at large.

AUDIT

► *Continued from page 1*

lease agreement.

But the auditing firm also took on Clear Channel as a client as well. According to the city's recent lawsuit, filed June 20, this led to a conflict of interest. The city says the firm began hiding Clear Channel's true profits in its city-commissioned audits.

City attorney Michael Martello said the fraudulent practices went on as far back as 1986, with the auditors concealing tens of millions of dollars owed to the city in the subsequent decades. The venue is on city-owned land and opened with the help of an \$8 million loan from the city.

In a short response issued late last week to the city's initial filing, the auditors "deny each and every allegation of said complaint" and say the case is barred by the statute of limitations.

The firm also claims the city failed to take reasonable steps to mitigate its "damages," and that "any such failure was a proximate cause of alleged damages, if any." And it claims the damages were caused by parties other than the auditors.

The response also says the case is barred by the doctrine "Collateral Estoppel," which means the previous lawsuit with Clear Channel — which was finally settled earlier this year with Clear Channel spin-off Live Nation — bars any further suits against the auditors.

The city settled with Live Nation in May for \$10 million, as well as a renegotiated contract with \$1.8 million flat annual payments and a shortened lease term.

Martello had few comments on the case, stating that the firm's response was a "standard denial." ▽

*E-mail Daniel DeBolt at
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Nominations still open for Mayor's Award

Mountain View's mayor, Nick Galiotto, is still taking suggestions for the Mountain View Mayor's Award Program — but time is scarce for making nominations.

This award, a tradition since 1969, is an opportunity for Mountain View residents to honor those people who are responsible for the development of successful programs, such as social and educational programs, that have had positive effects on the community.

Mountain View residents are allowed to nominate any private or public projects or programs, while city employees are only able to nominate private projects.

The awards cover a range of categories, including physical projects — for environmental enhancement to the community — and social programs, which make Mountain View a better place for its residents and businesses.

The deadline to submit the nomination application is Friday, Aug. 25 at 5 p.m. For an online nomination form, visit www.mountainview.gov or pick up a copy at the Senior Center, City Hall or the nearest library.

— Andrea Pyka

EDITOR'S DESK

► Continued from page 5

a.m. to 6 p.m. both days. Be there, and bring a hat. ...

IF YOU'RE A KID, of course, you're not looking for things to do. School has begun — even at the very small and very unique German International School, located on Mountain View's Easy Street.

What kid wouldn't want to go to school on Easy Street?

Anyway, Saskia Thamm wrote in to tell me about the school's opening day on Aug. 17. After a talk by German Consul General Rolf Schuette, she said, the school's 25 new first-graders partook in two excellent traditions:

"As in Germany the first-graders get a 'Schultuete,' a large cornet filled with little presents and some sweets. In addition every new child gets to know his or her buddy from a higher grade who supports the new student while entering school."

Kind of makes me wish I went to a German school. At any rate we'd like to wish all the kids, Schultuete or no, a happy first week of school.

Don Frances can be reached at dfrances@mv-voice.com.

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pain and illness



Council gadfly denied candidacy

CITY SAYS DON LETCHER FAILED TO FILL OUT RESIDENCY FORM CORRECTLY

By Daniel DeBolt

Mountain View's veteran city council gadfly, Don Letcher, may not be popular with the city council here, but he is apparently very popular in a few other counties, according to paperwork he filed recently to run for city council.

According to the residency verification form, filed by Letcher on Aug. 14, he has lived in "approximately 40 different resident addresses in at least four California counties during the past six months." The fact that none of those places was declared to be in Mountain View has disqualified him from running for office, city officials say.

The *Voice* received a phone message from Letcher last week, in which he said he was not allowed to run for city council because city attorney Michael Martello and city clerk Angie Salvador claim he isn't a resident. Letcher undoubtedly does own property on N. Rengstorff Ave.

(where he periodically paints disparaging messages about Mountain View's leaders on the side of his house).

A copy of the one-page form shows that Letcher did not declare his Rengstorff house to be his place of residence. The form features a box to check and reads, "I am a resident and a registered voter of the City of Mountain

View address as his home, but Letcher refused.

"We actually tried to get him to say he lived in Mountain View," Martello said. "But we confirmed that he does not reside in Mountain View. It's a very fascinating story."

Letcher, a retired firefighter, said he regularly visits friends and takes trips, as he did this weekend when he visited a friend in the hospital who had knee problems. But if he were to be a council member he would have to be a resident of Mountain View. When asked if he ever stays at his Mountain View residence, he said, "Occasionally I do."

Letcher said his main gripe was that the city attorney can define what residency is however he likes, and that the city's definition wouldn't hold up in a state election. He said he filled out the application knowing that Jim Lohse, a self-proclaimed homeless man, had problems proving he was a resident. ■

'We actually tried to get him to say he lived in Mountain View.'

MICHAEL MARTELLO,
CITY ATTORNEY

View and currently reside at the following address," with a line below. Letcher checked the box, and put his Rengstorff address on the line, but crossed out "currently reside" and wrote in "my voting address is."

Martello said he and Salvador pressed Letcher to list his Reng-

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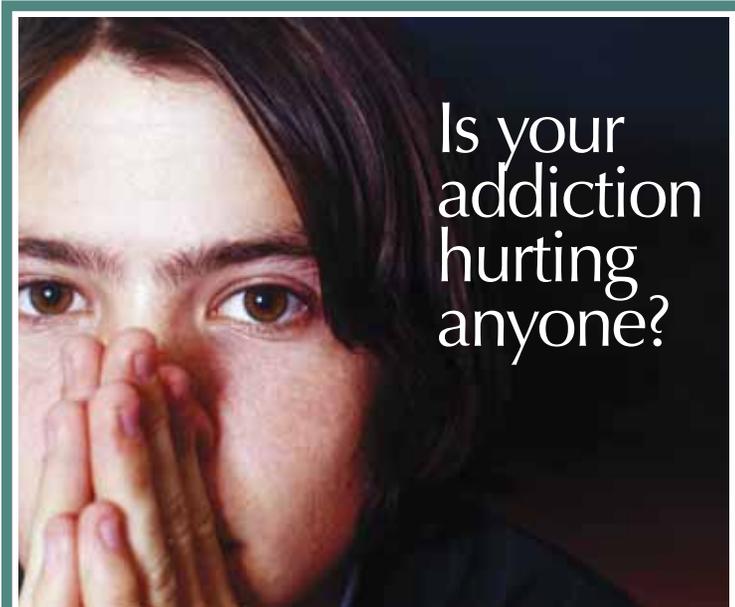


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COUNCIL

► Continued from page 5

fic engineers, the city council unanimously voted to reduce the speed limit on four streets. City staff said recent state-mandated speed surveys called for the change. The effected streets are:

■ Springer Road between El Monte Avenue and Cuesta Drive, reduced from 35 to 30 miles per hour

■ Shoreline Boulevard between Highway 101 and the Shoreline Park gate house, reduced from 40 to 35 mph

■ Sierra Vista Avenue between Middlefield Road and Leghorn Avenue, reduced from 30 to 25 mph

■ Independence Avenue between Middlefield Road and Charleston Road, reduced from 30 to 25 mph.

There will be a grace period for tickets on these streets, the length of which will be determined by police, who will issue warnings at first. A radar trailer may be used as well.

There were four public speak-

ers on the subject, and all were in favor of reducing the speed limits, specifically on Springer Road and Phyllis Avenue.

New signs for the project cost \$8,000.

City annexes land from county

With little fanfare, the city took advantage of a soon-to-expire state law allowing the quick annexation of small pockets of land that were left behind as the city quickly grew in the 1960s and '70s.

The only piece of private property to be annexed is the Wunderman Trust at 655 Eunice Ave., which includes a large house that was once a brothel and speakeasy during Prohibition. City staff said the property owner's concerns with the change from county to city control of sidewalks and water were adequately addressed.

The council also voted unanimously to take control of a .78-acre piece of land, along with a small parcel owned by the Santa Clara Valley Water District, on Crittenden Lane, as well as another small SCVWD property and a 21-acre strip along Highway 85 owned in part by the city and the California Water Trust.

The Local Area Formation Commission waived its fees for

the process, so the annexations cost nothing for the city.

The Grant Road farm is also on a list of properties to be annexed, but has been deferred along with the 19 acres under the Shenandoa housing complex at 750 West Middlefield Road.

Dana Street development approved

A 39-unit townhouse development at the corner of Calderon Avenue and Dana Street had its single driveway moved from Dana Street to Calderon Avenue. The move came after neighbors complained about the effects a Dana Street driveway would have on children walking there on their way to Landels Elementary School next door.

The council discussed concerns about fire department access, parking, visibility of pedestrian traffic near driveways and how much traffic each street could support.

In order to move the deadlocked council forward, council member Matt Pear voted for the Calderon driveway even though he didn't think it was a good idea to load the small street with so many cars. ■

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FREESTYLE

► Continued from page 1

With these goals in mind, Freestyle's program took on a multimedia emphasis. Now, after the 65 selected students take their math, science and history classes in the morning, they transfer to Freestyle in the afternoons to study film and video production, Web and graphic design, audio and writing — all subjects in line with Bay Area careers and the preferences of today's media-savvy students.

Taking in the facilities at his new school, student Charlie Cohen, 16, said, "When I come home every day, I make music on my computer. It seemed like a relevant program for me and a nice change for the afternoons."

Additionally, the small student body allows for maximum immersion in the curriculum. Gordon Jack, program coordinator, said "All of our research found that the way to engage kids is to have smaller classes with project-based material and authentic tasks that they can perform."

The students will take both a writing lab and a fine arts class where the fundamentals of art, narrative and critical thinking will be stressed. The point of this subject core, fine arts teacher Elizabeth Pedinotti explained, is to "give them a place to get their content."

During the open house, a curriculum plan on display in all of the classrooms showed that the first project the students will do is a self-portrait. The question posed to them by their teachers will be: "How do I know



MICHAEL MULLADY

Freestyle High School held an open house to showcase its teachers, classrooms and equipment. Juniors **Conor Tiffin** and **Evan Arnold**, seen here in the recording studio, say they want to be professional musicians.

my values are my own?" The students will take this question and examine it in their writing lab and fine arts classes, developing a personal essay and an illustration. From there, they will translate their work into a three-minute film, a personal Web site, a personal blog or an audio podcast, depending on their elective.

The students will have access to state-of-the-art technology thanks to the sponsorship and support of Adobe, Microsoft, Hewlett-Packard and Sony. Monday's crowd pleaser had to be the fully stocked recording

studio for sound engineering students, complete with computers, mixers, soundproof walls and a drum set. Projects in this studio will allow students to develop proficiency in ProTools, DreamWeaver and Flash.

In the video production elective, students will learn to scout locations and organize actors but will also walk away with an expertise in Adobe Final Cut, the film industry's editing standard.

Freestyle High student Elizabeth Sweeney, 16, seemed all too aware of the importance of technological proficiency

in today's world.

"Being in Silicon Valley, it's almost a necessity to know these skills. It would be career suicide if you don't have them."

And she added, "Plus, I just love this kind of thing. I've always loved seeing stories come to life."

No experience required

There are no prerequisites for getting into Freestyle High and no previous multimedia experience or knowledge is needed. The student body this year is evenly split between juniors and seniors, males and females, and the academic range varies between students in AP and special education classes.

Mostly, editing teacher Sue Kefauver said, "We want students who recognize this as a different kind of approach."

And walking around the grounds of the Freestyle Campus, it just feels different. There are small touches: the colorful rug in the sound studio, a poster in the writing lab that looks like your standard "Motivation" message, but on closer look, reads, "If a pretty poster and cute saying are all it takes to motivate you, you probably have a very easy job. The kind robots will be doing soon."

But there are also big differences: the abundance of computers and equipment, and the way that the classrooms are fashioned more as studios, with students sitting around conference tables instead of personal desks. This arrangement is meant to simulate a business environ-

► See **FREESTYLE**, page 14

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Test grades looking up

LOCAL DISTRICTS SEE SOME GOOD NEWS IN STATE STAR REPORTS

By Alexa Tondreau

The California Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) score reports were released last week, and both the Mountain View Whisman and Mountain View-Los Altos school districts fared well.

Mountain View-Whisman saw overall improvement in six of seven grade levels in language arts, and in five of seven grade levels in mathematics. Both Slatner and Huff Elementary schools showed improvement in the majority of grade levels.

Scores at Mountain View-Los Altos also improved, especially in ninth grade language arts at Mountain View High, rising from 74 percent in 2005 to 79 percent in 2006, and in 10th grade world history at Los Altos High, at 51 percent up from 48 percent in 2005.

The STAR report is important because the results are a critical part of California's accountability system for schools and districts in accordance with the federal No Child Left Behind Act. The scores generated by each school must reach the Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) goal, or they will be deemed "in need of improvement." Any school that is found to be "in need of improvement" for two years running is required to offer parents the option of transferring their students elsewhere in the district.

Last year, Castro Elementary School was in its second year of program improvement. Low scores again this year would result in a "corrective action" phase that can result in removing staff, implementing relevant experts and extending the length of the school day or year.

As of right now, the AYP score has not been generated and so, as Mountain View Whisman Assistant Superintendent Mary Lairon explained, "We don't know whether they did well enough." However, Lairon did report that Castro's second and third grades had huge growth in mean scaled scores, which could predict that the school will have met its goals for the 2006 school year.

The STAR report can also provide important feedback for teachers and administration. Brigitte Sarraf, associate superintendent of Mountain View-Los Altos, said the district can best "engage with the scores by looking at the performances of sub-groups."

Sub-groups in the STAR report include gender, English language fluency and parent education, to name a few.

For example, a comparison of language arts scores for Mountain View Whisman's fourth grade boys shows that the percentage who scored at a proficient level in 2005 was 27 percent, while in 2006 only 16 percent of the sub-group scored proficiently. A specific reading of the STAR report like this can help educators figure out "what type of intervention to put in place," Sarraf said.

To maximize the data, MV Whisman implemented a new computer program for fall called Edusoft. Edusoft not only tracks and compiles data but also allows teachers to monitor the progress of their classes. Additionally, a "test builder" feature allows teachers to design tests that are tailor-made for the students' needs.

"We really wanted a better system," Lairon said, speaking to the complexity of analyzing the thousands of scores a district must process each year.

At Mountain View-Los Altos, where students must take both the STAR tests and the state exit exam, Sarraf says that the similarity of content between the two allows for a practical approach.

"We tell students that the reason they should care about STAR is because it is a good indicator of how well they will do on the exit exams, which is high stakes for them. For example, if you do well on the algebra portion of STAR, we know that you'll pass the math portion of the exit exam."

A lawsuit in Alameda County that challenged the constitutionality of the state exit exam was shot down by the Court of Appeals last week. Therefore, students from the MVLA school district who did not pass it by their senior year will not be granted diplomas.

Students can take the exit exam up to five times during high school. Those who do not pass have several options: They can take the GED, transfer to adult education, or receive a certificate of completion which states that they have met local requirements but did not pass the state-issued exam.

Twenty-five students from the district took the test for one last time in July. Those scores have not yet been reported, and so for now the students do not know if they will graduate. ▽

E-mail Alexa Tondreau at atondreau@mv-voice.com

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COURTESY PHOTO

Beby Kells, a Literacy in the Garden volunteer, reads a book called "Bugs and Slugs" to Castro Elementary students.

Garden a catalyst for English-learners

CASTRO THIRD GRADERS
GET HELP FROM ADULT
SCHOOL, UC VOLUNTEERS

By Andrea Pyka

The theory that nature can help young students learn is regularly put to the test at the Mountain View Senior Center, where third graders from Castro Elementary School visit to work on their English skills. Last spring, the students once again took part in the "Literacy in the Garden" program sponsored by the Mountain View-Los Altos Adult School and the Master Gardeners from the University of California.

About 40 children took part in a 40-minute tour around the senior center's colorful garden, pointing out and naming everything they saw around them, from the bright green leaves to the small insects perched on branches.

Through this literacy project, the children are able to spend a day admiring the natural surroundings of the garden and at the same time improve their English language skills.

Every fall and spring, approximately 15-20 community volunteers gather at the senior center to work with children from Castro Elementary, helping them in language development.

After a long walk around the garden, the students got together in small groups with one of the volunteers and wrote down, as well as drew, what they saw in the garden.

"The children give vocabulary to what they see in the garden, including the insects and plants," said Linda McCrary, coordinator of the garden program. "The

kids are even able to identify the California state flower, the golden poppy."

The program not only focuses on developing their English vocabulary and spelling skills, but also has a scientific aspect, as the kids learn about the different kinds of leaves based on shapes and scents. Castro Elementary School is also offering an upcoming class called "Literacy in the Classroom." Similar to "Literacy in the Garden," this class also offers non-English-speaking children the opportunity to improve their reading, writing and vocabulary.

About 20 volunteers from the community participate in the hour-long class, which requires an additional half-hour training. The class focuses on vocabulary, penmanship and editing.

These classes have led to improvements in children's test-taking abilities, McCrary said. Yet what the children seem to value most are the relationships they develop with the volunteers.

"Many of the volunteers have a love of children and want to see them succeed," said McCrary. "They enjoy supporting children who in the end feel satisfied with their academic progress."

Starting Sept. 26, the seven-week class will meet every Tuesday from 8:30 until 10:30 a.m. The program is always looking for new volunteers, and there is no requirement for teaching or writing experience, just an interest in helping the children with their reading and writing skills.

For more information about the class and for enrollment, contact Linda McCrary at lmccrary@mvlaae.net or (650) 940-6024. ▀

E-mail Andrea Pyka at apyka@mv-voice.com



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VALERIE HARRIS

FIRE

► Continued from page 5

and the building was completely searched, firefighters began spraying the fire down — an apparently futile battle until backup arrived almost an hour later.

“I’d be awfully scared if I were a neighbor,” said one onlooker as embers danced on rooftops and the fire crept toward a third unit.

“I hate to say it, but I’m waiting for something to fall off,” said another onlooker.

Backup for Mountain View firefighters began to come in from neighboring departments, including Santa Clara and Los Altos Hills.

According to Brown, after the fire got into the building’s attic, it smoldered in tight spaces that were difficult for firefighters to reach. That’s when the department called for extra help. Other fire departments that arrived at the scene included Sunnyvale, Palo Alto, San Jose and Santa Clara County.

The fire was completely extinguished at around 6:49 p.m.,

leaving a burned-out skeleton of a building.

Brown said the fire should serve as a warning to people using chemicals such as the wood cleaners.

“Be careful with those types of cleaning supplies,” he said. “If you don’t properly separate and contain them, they can self-combust.”

No damage estimate was available. Fire officials said no one was injured in the blaze, but it left two families looking for a place to live. ▀

■ NEWS BRIEFS

POLICE ARREST SIX IN PROSTITUTION SWEEP

Six women at two separate Mountain View businesses were arrested last week in a police sweep intended to curb prostitution at massage parlors.

In all, three businesses fell under the police investigation: Great East Acupuncture at 240 Pamela Drive, Mountain View Acupuncture Health Center at 451 W. El Camino Real, and an unnamed business at 948 Bay Street.

In the Pamela Drive and Bay Street businesses, police arrested three female staff members each on charges of prostitution and operating a massage parlor without a license. No arrests were made at 451 W. El Camino, but three female staff members working there were cited for conducting massages without a license.

Police conducted the sweep on Aug. 16 following several leads, includ-

ing online advertisements. Police also conducted interviews, surveillance and undercover operations before obtaining search warrants.

HOMES EVACUATED DUE TO GAS LEAK

A dozen people were evacuated from eight homes last week after a contractor hit a gas line on Sierra Vista Avenue.

Mountain View Emergency Communications received a call last Friday, Aug. 18 at around 11:35 a.m. that a contractor broke a gas line on the 200 block of Sierra Vista. A half inch of the gas line was damaged and leaking, officials said. Nearby roads were closed to traffic while PG&E crews capped the leak and began repairing the line.

All evacuated residents were allowed back into their homes later that day.

— Staff reports

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RALLY

► Continued from page 5

supervising district attorney Jay Boyarsky. "That's typically a very beneficial thing."

Five officials, all white, sat on the council dais, including Boyarsky, assistant city manager Nadine Levin, county Supervisor Liz Kniss, police Chief Scott Vermeer and human relations Commissioner Scott Burley.

The workshop was moderated by Delorme McKee-Stovall, an African American and director of the county's Network for a Hate-Free Community, whose calming, yet assertive voice kept the meeting focused.

But first, officials took turns speaking.

"Their actions were clearly designed to send a message to the people there and the people who would hear about it," Boyarsky said, referring to Rhodes and Krueger's alleged attack. "That message is not acceptable, not in our town."

"People feel victimized just reading the newspaper," he added.

Officials praised the police for their quick and appropriate response.

"This is an example of when law enforcement is at its best," said McKee-Stovall. "They took care of business."

Boyarsky agreed with the praise, noting that "It wasn't very long ago that the police department wasn't very conscious about calling something a hate crime." Vermeer, along with police

Captain Bruce Barsi, spoke out against hate crimes.

"We average one hate crime a year," Vermeer said at the rally. "Obviously that is one too many."

At one point during the workshop, a woman, apparently frustrated at what seemed like a meeting of community leaders going through the motions, said, "Where the hell are all the citizens?"

McKee-Stovall responded. "Don't get frustrated because you think you are talking to the choir," she said.

Even though it may have seemed like a small meeting, McKee-Stovall said the message given there would travel by word of mouth and through the media.

The workshop wasn't a first for the county. McKee-Stovall helps to organize them in response to major hate crimes.

"This is a golden opportunity for discussion," she said.

McKee-Stovall said hate crimes are prevalent on school campuses, and that her office can provide curriculum and workshops for schools on tolerance. The Network for a Hate-Free Community also provides mediation for neighborhood disputes.

For Burley, of the Human Relations Commission, being a role model for youth is important.

"Between what happens to us and how we respond is a space," Burley said at the rally. "In that space lies our power and our freedom." ▀

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

FREESTYLE

► Continued from page 10

ment, in keeping with Freestyle's commitment to training kids for future careers.

The school would like to expand and diversify the curriculum it can offer in the future, Jack said, "adding a new career-themed academy every couple of years, like biotechnology, and we've talked to Google about maybe an infotechnology program."

The assistance of industry professionals has been critical in making Freestyle High into a reality for the MVLA school district. As luck would have it, the corporate vice

president of business development at Microsoft, Dan'l Lewin, is also a parent in the Mountain View High School community. Lewin, along with Microsoft, has supported the project through its inception, and at one point invited program coordinator Gordon Jack to spend time at the company to learn about implementing programs of this scale.

Speaking to the audience of students, parents, teachers and community members Monday night, Lewin said, "It's important that we pay close attention to what happens in our own backyards." ▀

E-mail Alexa Tondreau at atondreau@mv-voice.com

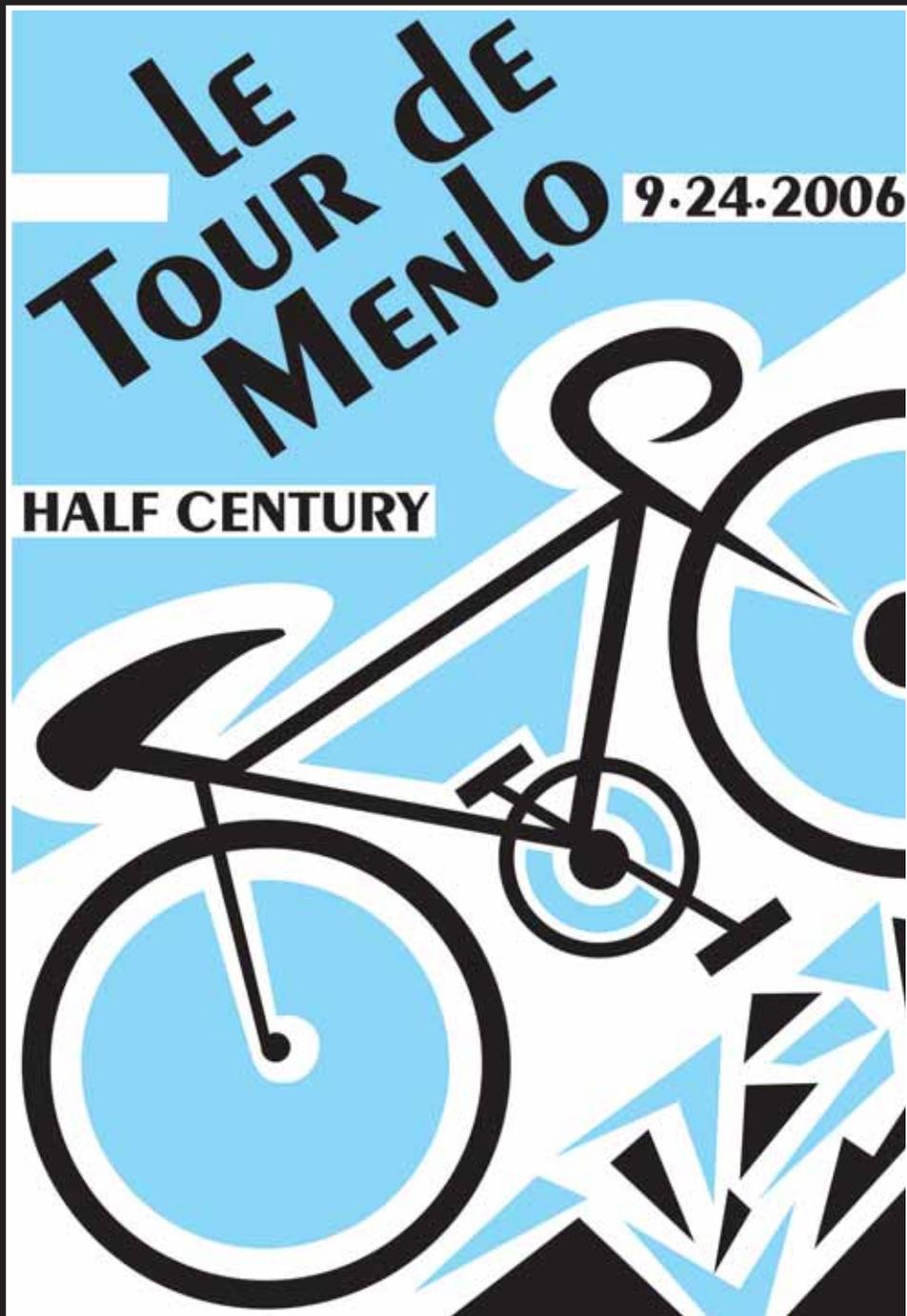
SCHOOL

► Continued from page 1

testing takes place in October. According to Assistant Superintendent Brigitte Sarraf, MVLA is doing "a big sweep of residency verification," which will confirm the number of students

who have moved away or are in the district illegally. This could lower the projected enrollment.

Mountain View Whisman's projected enrollment is 4,358, up from 4,250 last year. This number could change as well, based on a district policy that drops any student who is a no-show by this Friday. ▀



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Police: Nazi items found in suspects' homes

CONVICTION IN HATE CRIME COULD MEAN NINE OR MORE YEARS IN PRISON

By Daniel DeBolt

New evidence labeled "Nazi paraphernalia" was reportedly found in the Central Valley homes of Jonathan Rhodes and Joseph Krueger, indicating that Mountain View's recent alleged hate crime "wasn't a spur-of-the moment lapse in judgment," said supervising district attorney Jay Boyarsky.

Mountain View police detectives Cary Sueh and Jessica Serb went to the suspects' homes in Ceres, a small town outside Modesto, with a search warrant to find the items, which included numerous drawings of swastikas, white power slogans and racial epithets.

The two young men are being held on \$1 million bail for beating a black man in downtown Mountain View in an alleged hate crime, described this way from a compilation of eyewitness accounts by police Detective Jessica Serb:

"At one point during the humiliating attack, Rhodes grabbed the victim by his head and pulled his head back in order to expose the victim's neck to Krueger. Krueger had the knife over the victim's head and the victim pleaded, 'Please don't stab me, please.'"

New evidence allegedly found in Krueger's home included a magazine with swastikas and the words "I hate nigas," scribbled on it. A plastic container had graffiti and a large swastika. A school discipline report was found for someone named Jeremy Goodman that said Goodman had written "white pride" in a schoolbook along with sex-

ual harassment comments. Krueger's mother, Cathy Krueger, was listed as Goodman's parent in the discipline report, according to police.

In Rhodes' home, a notebook was found with the words "Silence is f---ing golden, nigger," according to police. A CD with what may be white supremacist-inspired music, and a white T-shirt with three iron crosses and "USA" emblazoned across the front, were also found. (The Nazis used the iron cross as a medal of honor.) A cigarette case with the iron cross was also found, as was a notebook with the Nazi SS lightning bolts drawn inside, police reported.

Modesto is described by some law enforcement groups as a gathering place for fringe racists in the Central Valley region. The anti-immigration group Save Our State held a rally in Modesto in June. The group has been called a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center and is believed to be supported by neo Nazis. Modesto is also known as the headquarters for the American Klan Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

In police reports, the victim of the crime said that the two suspects called out a gang name during the incident. However, Boyarsky and Serb say no evidence of gang activity has been found.

The suspects face up to nine years in prison and have been charged with false imprisonment, criminal threats, assault with a deadly weapon and a hate crime enhancement. If a gang enhancement is added, it could mean an additional 10 years.

The suspects' attorneys have not commented on the case. ▀

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

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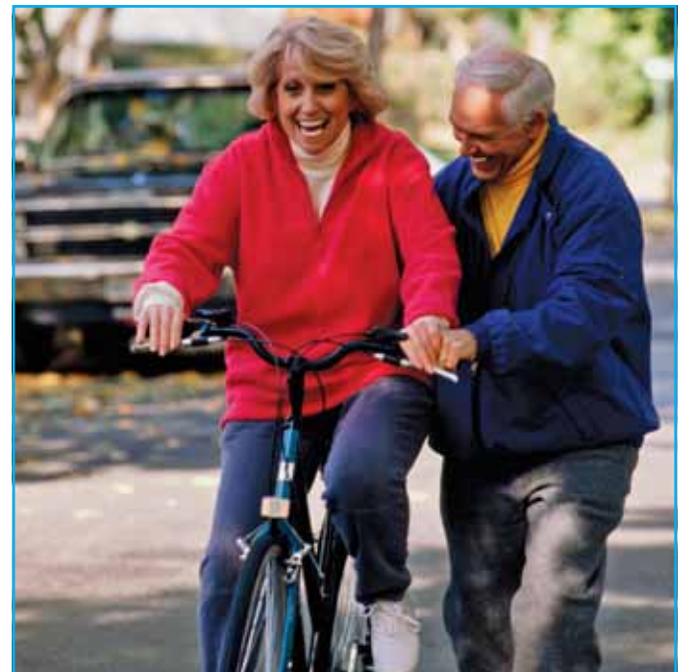
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EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

Annex wrong spot for flood control

The idea of preparing for a 100-year flood by making a giant hole out of the 12-acre Cuesta Park Annex may make sense to Santa Clara Valley Water District officials, but it is our guess that such a drastic solution to this potential problem is simply not going to fly.

First of all, we have to hand it to the district for thinking about such a calamity and having the courage to suggest such a bold plan for solving it — by dropping the floor of Cuesta Park Annex 16 feet to hold flood overflow waters. It is hardly a plan that city officials are going to embrace, even with the threat of a flood staring them in the face.

In last week's *Voice*, we published a map provided by the water district that showed areas of the city that would be susceptible to flooding if a rare calamitous flood should occur. This means homeowners in this area may pay higher flood insurance, and that if the worst case happens, their homes might flood.

Note that we said "might," because this idea is based on a statistical average used by water agencies everywhere to plan for the worst-case scenario. In other words, the worst flood in 100 years or so could come this winter, or it could come 80, 90 or 100 years from now. With that kind of expectation, it will be pretty hard to sell residents or the city council on the urgency of digging up Cuesta Annex to make way for a giant catch basin.

The future use of the Annex has been under discussion for the last several years, and at recent hearings, the most popular choice was keeping the area an open space, and possibly adding some small buildings to house the city's historical association and the equipment needed to maintain the property.

These plans would obviously be out the window, along with the heritage fruit trees and other vegetation, if the water district's plan were to proceed.

Digging up a historically important area doesn't make sense when there already exists a large area that was meant to be a lake at Cuesta Park right next door. We suggest the water district take a close look at running a few hundred more feet of pipe to use these areas instead, and possibly create new basins for flood control at Cuesta Park, not the Cuesta Annex.

In 1998, Palo Alto suffered a major flood that was caused in part when San Francisquito Creek waters backed up behind bridges and flood drains. In response to that event, cities and other interested parties around the creek have formed an organization with the goal of finding a way to prevent such flooding in the future.

We respect the water district's effort to find a way to alleviate the risk from a 100-year flood, but we would urge the district to bring other communities and organizations into the planning process. There has to be solutions that don't involve taking one of the last large open spaces in the city and turning it into a giant sinkhole.

LETTERS VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

COURT DESERVES SOME BLAME FOR KATZ PROBLEM

Editor:

I read with interest Craig Acosta's letter, "How can we fix the Katz problem?" (Aug. 18). I hear over and over the frustration people throughout the community have, not only with Mr. Katz and his egregious tactics, but also with the Superior Court.

It is hard to believe there is no established precedent settling the legality of how we have voted on parcel taxes all these years. Maybe it is one of those things that courts and lawyers have taken for granted for so long that nobody filed such a ridiculous lawsuit. If that is the case, the court should recognize the "clarity" of our long-established voting laws and act promptly to end such clear attempts to thwart the legitimate exercise of democracy.

As for me, Mr. Acosta, I wonder if I have a potential small claims action against Mr. Katz to recover my share of the tax dollars I pay that were exacted from my school and hospital districts?

Mike Kasperzak
City Council member

IN SEARCH OF THE INVISIBLE MR. KATZ

Editor:

I completely agree with Craig Acosta's letter. It was his last sentence, regarding "how Mr. Katz can show his face in this community," that prompted me to write with this question:

Does anyone have a photo of Aaron Katz?

For years this person has been wasting so much time and money from agencies in our community, yet in every article I keep wishing someone would put his picture in the paper. I would also like to know what properties he owns in our area. The next step is to find a court or judge that can actually stop this man from leeching off of the hospitals and schools. There must be a punishment for this behavior in our system.

I am sure many of us would like even five minutes with him in order to understand why he is so unreasonable. I would like to invite Mr. Katz to a community meeting to let us all know what makes people like him tick. Not sure if he reads his "local" paper in an attempt to know what is going on in the city in which he wishes to vote — if so, Mr. Katz, please send a photo to this editor.

Betsy Dwyer
Begen Avenue

SOME WORDS ON THE RECENT HATE CRIME

Editor:

Below are a few personal words reflecting on the recent hate crime incident in Mountain View and yesterday's vigil, the community's response to this intolerable act.

Mountain View prides itself in being a diverse community. On the evening of July 29th, a young black man was the victim of a beating and racial slurs.

► See **LETTERS**, next page



LETTERS

► Continued from previous page

This heinous and intolerable act occurred in our own backyard. Many of us are shocked, angered and, in the words of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, ready to counter hatred not with “physical force, but soul force.”

We must acknowledge that the hate crime committed against a member of our Mountain View family is not an isolated incident, but rather a reminder that racial tensions in America still exist. Whether it is our African American brother being harassed because of the color of his skin, or our Sikh brother because of his dress attire, or our Mexican sister because of her immigration status, or our gay or lesbian brother and sister because of their sexual orientation, the embers of discrimination still burn in our country. And it is our duty to stand for and defend human dignity.

To those who want to sow seeds of violence, we say “Not in Our City!”

To those who want to sow seeds of hatred, we say “Not in Our City!”

To those who want to sow seeds of discrimination, we say “Not in Our City!”

My fellow neighbors, I ask you to stand for and defend human dignity and say, “Not in Any City!”

Oscar Garcia
President,
Mesa de la Comunidad

A GOOD CIGAR IS BETTER THAN FAITH

Editor:

I appreciate your profile of Mark Thomas from Atheists of Silicon Valley (“Proof positive, Aug. 18). Nice to see some positive coverage of we godless.

Your philosophical position baffles me, frankly. You criticize atheists as science-centric — perhaps obsessively — then chastise us for shining the light of reason on religion, a matter of faith. Why in God’s name would you believe something on faith? Noted Christian Archie Bunker said, “Faith is something you believe that nobody in his right mind would believe,” and he was right. When all the evidence suggests something ain’t so, look elsewhere.

Ultimately, though, talking about gods is boring. We spend far more time hoisting cocktails than hoisting dopey ideas on dopes’ petards. Now, get out there and have casual sex, eat fatty food, smoke \$8 cigars and enjoy life. It’s a hell of a lot more fun than Jesus!

Mark Berger
San Mateo



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City of Mountain View State of the City Address and Candidate Information Exchange

It’s your City, your Council, and your opportunity to be informed. Please join the Mountain View Chamber of Commerce for a very important event on August 31st held at the City of Mountain View Council Chambers. This event is free and open to the public. Refreshments provided.

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Thursday, August 31, 2006 @ 5 pm



The Chamber of Commerce Mountain View is pleased to announce the Mountain View City Council Candidate Information Exchange on Thursday, August 31st from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm. The event will be held in the City Council Chambers located in the Mountain View City Hall.



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The Information Exchange will be hosted by the Chamber of Commerce and Tri-County Apartment Association. Sponsors include the Mountain View Voice and KMTV.

The purpose of the event is to provide an opportunity for the local community to learn more about the City Council candidates and to encourage the flow of information between candidates, businesses, and residents.

The program will include candidate opening and closing remarks as well as questions provided by the Chamber and various local businesses and school districts. There will be time provided at the end for networking. All Mountain View businesses and residents are encouraged to attend.



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MICHAEL MULLADY

■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

Illusions has grandeur

LEBANESE-MEDITERRANEAN FUSION FLIES HIGH AT PALO ALTO NIGHTCLUB

By Sheila Himmel

Sometimes a restaurant site changes personalities so many times you stop paying attention. Ho-hum, another name for the California Avenue restaurant and club that used to be the Edge.

My editor made me go.

Surprise! Illusions Fayrouz Dining & Entertainment is better than good. Freedom of choice rules the menu, covering kebabs, lots of vegetarian dishes, small plates and large plates that make a meal. Have lunch, dinner, or just a snack, outdoors or in. And, service is delightful. Really.

Often, restaurants plunk tables on the sidewalk and call it a patio. Illusions' breath

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MICHAEL MULLADY

Illusions server Mina Fahmy sets a table with appetizers, entrees and a salad.

of fresh air is protected from the street, with murals of Italian vineyards and the cedars of Lebanon dancing up the restaurant's wall.

Inside you'll notice an attractive bar and a handy place for large parties to the left, a human-size dining area to the right. Tables are dressed in white. It feels a little formal, but don't worry. Business casual, jeans, the usual California dress code applies.

On a weeknight, the dining room was sparsely populated. What often happens in those situations is that servers and kitchens get lax. There isn't much to do, and they don't do it. At Illusions, all engines were firing when the restaurant was slow as well as when it got busier later in the evening.

While studying the menu you get a dish of olive oil studded with sesame seeds and zesty zatar, a symphony of spices. The pool is held in place by a circle of creamy Lebanese yogurt, so you can mix or not. Freshly grilled pita bread, cut into triangles, is warm and chewy.

The small-plates section of the menu is particularly enticing. A sampler plate (\$10.99) introduces you to three hot dishes and three cold, artfully presented. No offense to the hummus, baba ghanoush and tabouleh, but the hot appetizers star in this show. Varied in their spices, fillings and fried coats, they make you feel you are eating an exotic food.

Entrees make you feel very full. Each immense dinner starts with a small chopped salad of romaine lettuce, tomatoes and cucumbers drizzled in lemon.

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► See **ILLUSIONS**, page 20

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ILLUSIONS

► Continued from page 19

infused with tomato sauce. Also there are stewed carrots and potatoes.

Half a boneless chicken (\$15.95) sings with lemon and garlic.

The mixed grill (\$20.95) tops the price list, with a particularly wonderful version of minced lamb and beef. Lamb cubes also were good. Only the chicken kebabs had gotten a little dry.

At this point we asked the server to recommend one dessert for three people to share, and it was luscious kenafteh (\$5.95), warmed sweet cheese in shredded wheat and honey.

At lunch, the server was even more personable, and reliable with suggestions.

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in your mouth, not in a pool of grease. Four kebabs (\$5.95) are lemon-shaped wonders of ground meat, pine nuts and bulgur, deep-fried in a thin falafel coat. You can dip them in creamy tahini sauce that doesn't overdose on garlic.

Under the heading "House Dishes," sheikh mehsi (\$12.50) offers up a good-size baby eggplant cut in half lengthwise and stuffed with minced beef, pine nuts and onions, baked in tomato sauce. It comes with rice.

For dessert, Turkish coffee (\$2.25) stays hot in a little metal pitcher.

The Fayrouz part of Illusions comes from the name of a legendary Lebanese diva and the restaurant in Malta where Chef Paul Sarkis worked for five years. It also means turquoise in Arabic.

If Illusions Fayrouz has a loser, I didn't find it. Only the roasted tomatoes were disappointing. At this time of year, they should be at their peak. ▣

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Pilar Alvarez, Emily King, Heidi Kobara and Emmy Faresse in Brecht's "Caucasian Chalk Circle."

ROBYN VASQUEZ

The challenge of Brecht

PALO ALTO COMPANY OFFERS STRONG PERFORMANCE OF 'CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE'

By Kevin Kirby

German-born playwright Bertolt Brecht is widely regarded as one of the most influential European dramatists of the 20th century. He may also be among the most confounding.

"The Caucasian Chalk Circle" is the latest ambitious offering from the talented people at Dragon Productions in Palo Alto. While lighter and perhaps more accessible than many of Brecht's plays, "Chalk Circle" serves as a good example of the challenges inherent in his work.

The story is simple enough. It is set in the fictional land of Grusinia in the southern Caucasus region that straddles Europe and Asia (thus "Caucasian"). When the local governor is murdered in a populist uprising, his young wife is forced to flee for her life. Overwhelmed by the task of choosing which gowns to take into exile, she inadvertently leaves behind one tiny thing: her infant son, Michael.

Knowing the boy will be killed by the rebels if found, Grusha, an unwed servant from the governor's household, scoops him up and goes in search of a family to take him in. When she is unable to find a safe place for the child, she raises him as her own for many years.

When peace is finally restored in the region, the governor's wife comes looking for her son. (It seems that Michael, not she, is sole heir to her husband's estate.) Grusha is discovered but refuses to relinquish her claim to the child. The matter ends up in court, in the hands of Azdak, the most unorthodox judge imaginable. He devises a test to settle the case, and it is from that test that the play takes its name.

But while the story is simple,

the play is not.

Dragon's production is smart, concise and accessible, featuring several memorable performances and a spare design concept that is applied to all technical elements, from sets and lights to costumes, props and makeup. Director Ana-Catrina Buchser has obviously done her homework, even composing original music (evocative of simple Russian folksongs) for the sung passages in Brecht's script. Fourteen actors play 70-odd parts, and, while they vary widely in their level of experience, there is not the awful sense of unevenness that is found in so much community theater.

In other words, there is nothing glaringly wrong with the show (and much to be praised). Yet the show as a whole feels unsettled, as though it has missed some unseen mark. Which brings us back to Brecht.

In Brecht's view, art was "not a mirror held up to reality, but a hammer with which to shape it." His work was unapologetically political, and his communist sympathies are evident in many of

his plays, "Chalk Circle" among them.

The primary aim of theater was, for Brecht, to incite critical thinking and debate, to open the public's eyes to the socioeconomic forces that shaped their lives. So he felt that many typical aims of theater — forging emotional connections between characters and audience, or presenting an illusion that viewers would accept as reality — were counter-productive and amounted to pandering and/or escapism.

Instead, Brecht employed devices to keep the audience engaged as thoughtful participants in a dialectic. He had characters address the audience directly, telling parts of their own stories in the third person. He eschewed naturalistic acting in favor of a less emotional, more presentational style. He even argued that actors should hold microphones whenever their characters burst into song, simply to point up the artificial nature of the performance.

In the current Dragon production, director Buchser almost embraces these off-putting stylistic devices, and that may be the problem.

The actors seem generally to understand the presentational nature of the material, yet at other points they attempt to carry self-referential third-person narrative as though it were naturalistic dialogue. In attempting to soften Brecht's intentionally jarring style, Buchser has created something that is not quite at home in either world.

Although "The Caucasian Chalk Circle" is lighter than many of Brecht's plays, it is still not an easy show to embrace. Nonetheless, there are enough positive elements in Dragon's production to make it a worthwhile theatrical experience. ■

■ INFORMATION

What: "The Caucasian Chalk Circle," a play by Bertolt Brecht, presented by Dragon Productions Theatre Company

Where: Dragon Theatre, 539 Alma St., Palo Alto

When: Thurs.-Sat. at 8 p.m. and Sun. at 2 p.m., through Aug. 27

Cost: Tickets are \$15 general admission, \$10 for students and seniors

Info: Call the box office at (650) 493-2006, or for ticketing online, go to www.dragonproductions.net

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MOVIE TIMES

ACCEPTED (PG-13) Century 16: 11:45 a.m.; 2:20, 4:45, 7:05 & 9:35 p.m.
 Century 12: 11:30 a.m.; 1, 2, 3:20, 4:25, 5:35, 6:40, 7:50, 8:55 & 10:15 p.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) Century 20: 11:30 a.m.; 1:35, 3:40, 5:45 & 7:55 p.m.

BARNYARD: THE ORIGINAL PARTY ANIMALS (PG)
 Century 16: 12:05, 2:40, 5:05 & 7:10 p.m. Century 20: 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 6:55 & 9:10 p.m.

BEERFEST (R) Century 16: 11:55 a.m.; 2:25, 5:10, 7:40 & 10:15 p.m.
 Century 20: Noon, 1:25, 2:45, 4:10, 5:20, 6:45, 7:55, 9:20 & 10:30 p.m.

BOYNTON BEACH CLUB (NOT RATED) ★★★
 Guild: 1:30, 4, 6:30 & 9 p.m.; Fri.-Sun. also at 11 a.m.

THE DESCENT (R) ★★★ Century 12: 12:30, 3, 5:30, 8 & 10:30 p.m.

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA (PG-13) ★★★
 Century 16: 11:15 a.m.; 1:45, 4:10, 6:55 & 9:20 p.m.
 Century 20: 11:45 a.m.; 2:25, 5:15, 7:45 & 10:15 p.m.

FACTOTUM (R) ★★★1/2 Century 16: 12:10, 2:15, 4:50, 7:15 & 9:30 p.m.

HOW TO EAT FRIED WORMS (PG)
 Century 12: 12:20, 2:45, 4:55, 7:05 & 9:25 p.m.

IDLEWILD (R) ★★★1/2 Century 16: 11 a.m.; 1:40, 4:20, 7 & 9:40 p.m.
 Century 12: 1:30, 4:35, 7:30 & 10:20 p.m.

THE ILLUSIONIST (PG-13) ★★★
 Century 16: 12:25, 2:55, 5:25, 7:55 & 10:30 p.m. Century 20: 11:25 a.m.; 12:20, 1:50, 2:55, 4:20, 5:20, 7, 7:50, 9:30 & 10:20 p.m.

INVINCIBLE (PG) Century 16: 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45 & 10:15 p.m.
 Century 12: 11:45 a.m.; 1:15, 2:15, 3:45, 4:45, 6:15, 7:20, 8:45 & 9:50 p.m.

JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE (PG-13) ★★★1/2 Century 20: 10:05 p.m.

LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE (R) ★★★ Century 20: 11:40 a.m.; 12:30, 2:15, 3, 4:40, 5:25, 7:10, 8, 9:35 & 10:25 p.m. Aquarius: 1:15, 2:30, 3:45, 4:40, 6:15, 7:30, 8:45 & 9:50 p.m.; Fri.-Sun. also at 12:10 p.m.

MATERIAL GIRLS (PG) Century 16: 12:30, 3, 5:30, 7:50 & 10:05 p.m.
 Century 12: 11:50 a.m.; 2:20, 4:40, 7:35 & 10 p.m.

MIAMI VICE (R) ★ Century 20: 12:55, 3:50, 6:50 & 9:40 p.m.

MONSTER HOUSE (PG) ★1/2
 Century 20: 11:50 a.m.; 2:30, 4:50, 7:15 & 9:25 p.m.

THE NIGHT LISTENER (R) ★★★1/2
 Century 20: 12:25, 2:50, 5, 7:30 & 9:55 p.m.

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST (PG-13) ★★ Century 16: 12:20, 3:40, 6:50 & 9:50 p.m.
 Century 12: 12:40, 4, 7:10 & 10:25 p.m.

PULSE (PG-13) Century 20: 1:10, 3:30, 5:40, 8:15 & 10:20 p.m.

QUINCEANERA (R) ★★★1/2
 Palo Alto Square: 2:40, 5, 7:20 & 9:45 p.m.; Sat. & Sun. also at 12:20 p.m.

SCOOP (PG-13) ★★ Century 16: 9:25 p.m. Century 20: 12:05, 2:20, 4:55, 7:25 & 9:45 p.m.

SNAKES ON A PLANE (R) ★★★ Century 16: 11:30 a.m.; 12:45, 1:50, 3:10, 4:15, 5:35, 6:45, 8, 9:15 & 10:25 p.m. Century 20: 11:30 a.m.; 12:10, 12:50, 1:30, 1:55, 2:40, 3:20, 4, 4:30, 5:10, 5:50, 6:30, 7, 7:40, 8:20, 9, 9:30 & 10:10 p.m.

STEP UP (PG-13) Century 16: 11:50 a.m.; 2:30, 4:55, 7:30 & 9:45 p.m. Century 20: 11:35 a.m.; 2, 4:25, 7:05 & 9:50 p.m.

TALLADEGA NIGHTS: THE BALLAD OF RICKY BOBBY (PG-13) ★★★ Century 16: Noon, 2:35, 5, 7:35 & 9:55 p.m.
 Century 12: Noon, 2:30, 5, 7:40 & 10:10 p.m.

TRUST THE MAN (R) ★★ Century 16: 11:05 a.m.; 1:20, 3:35, 5:50, 8:05 & 10:20 p.m. Century 20: 11:55 a.m.; 2:35, 5:05, 7:35 & 10 p.m.

WORLD TRADE CENTER (PG-13) ★★★1/2
 Century 16: 11:10 a.m.; 1:55, 4:35, 7:20 & 10 p.m. Century 12: 12:50, 4:15, 7:15 & 10:05 p.m.

ZOOM (PG) Century 12: 12:15, 2:25, 4:50, 7 & 9:15 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

THE DESCENT ★★★

(Century 12) The Appalachian Mountains, Chattooga National Park. Six feisty females with a thirst for high-octane adventure tackling the unexplored caves of the Carolinas, ostensibly going where no woman has gone before. The girls haul belays, ropes, maglites and personal baggage galore. Sarah (Shauna McDonald) is still recovering from the mental collapse brought on by the horrific deaths of her husband and child in a grisly car wreck. Girl warrior Juno (Natalie Mendoza) has a hidden agenda involving a fellow caver's main squeeze. In true spelunking style, "Descent" is a claustrophobic journey to an underground hell, a visceral plunge into madness. Disorientation, hypothermia, panic attacks: check, check and check. When a nasty rockslide unexpectedly blocks the exit, the group endeavors to find a way out, any way out. Naturally the gals encounter the one thing they didn't expect: predatory nocturnals with an unquenchable thirst for blood. Greed, betrayal, pluck, fear and buckets o' blood: all juicy elements accounted for in this gutsy horror classic. Faint of heart, beware! *Rated: R for extremely intense violence, language and gore. 1 hour, 39 minutes.* — J.A.

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA ★★★

(Century 16, Century 20) A staff of size 0s in stilettos surrounds Miranda Priestly (Meryl Streep), the high-powered and intimidating editor of the fictional Runway Magazine. Except for one. Priestly takes a chance and hires "the smart fat girl" as her assistant. Andy Sachs (Anne Hathaway), a size 6 with a closet of polyblend instead of Chanel, lands the job that a million young New York women would kill for. She sells her soul the first day she slips on a pair of designer shoes. The story focuses on the wide-eyed (and whiny) Andy, whose transformation from frumpy aspiring journalist to Miranda's stylish slave comes with a hefty price tag. But Aline Brosh McKenna's script fleshes out the Anna Wintour-inspired Miranda, engendering sympathy for the demanding fashion diva and suggesting that successful men never get tagged with labels equivalent to "snow queen" or "dragon lady." Despite themes as outdated as last season's wardrobe, the comedy delivers lightweight entertainment. The devil may wear Prada but so does the Pope, so a guilty summer pleasure probably won't send you straight to hell. *Rated: PG-13 for some sensuality. 1 hour, 35 minutes.* — S.T.

JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE ★★★1/2

(Century 20) "Desperate Housewives" hunk Jesse Metcalfe is John Tucker, a slick player in more ways than one. When Tucker isn't scoring on the high-school basketball court, he's doing so in the bedroom with a varied array of gorgeous women. As the film opens, his three current lovers are as different (and stereotypical) as one could imagine. Carrie (Arielle Kebbel) is the school's snobby journalist, Heather (singer Ashanti) is an attitude-driven cheerleader, and Beth (Sophia Bush) is a promiscuous liberal. Naturally, all three are unaware that Tucker is dating the others, certain his devotion is focused and monogamous. Enter new girl Kate (Brittany

Snow), a self-described "nobody" whose flighty mother (Jenny McCarthy) consistently dates sleazy men. Before long, Tucker's three lovers realize they're not alone in receiving his affection. Carrie, Heather and Beth are a combustible combination, and with the level-headed Kate in the mix, the quartet soon decides it's time to take Tucker down a notch. "Tucker" is strictly for the teen crowd, but the intermittent waves of witty fun are to die for. *Rated: PG-13 for sexual content and language. 1 hour, 27 minutes.* — T.H.

LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE ★★★ (Aquarius, Century 20) The Little Miss in question is sunny 7-year-old beauty pageant hopeful Olive Hoover (Abigail Breslin), a darling dumpling whose cantankerous grandpa (Alan Arkin) is coaching her in pageant etiquette and a flashy talent number. Life is not a bowl of cherries in the Hoover household. Dad Richard (Greg Kinnear) struggles to get his shaky motivational speaking career off the ground, pushing his nine-step, no-excuses tutorial with forced brio. Mom Sheryl (Toni Collette) flutters mother-hen-like over an eccentric brood that also includes Sheryl's brother Frank (Steve Carell), fresh from a suicide attempt over the loss of his gay lover. All systems are go when Olive unexpectedly nabs a spot in the penultimate Little Miss Sunshine competition, kick-starting familial frenzy. The gang is hastily packed into a last-legs VW van in Albuquerque, headed for the sunny climes of Redondo Beach, California. The ensemble acting is first rate, each and every player coming through with vibrant characterizations that mesh with thespian ease. "Sunshine" can be safely crowned a comic winner. *Rated: R for language and sexual content. 1 hour, 41 minutes.* — J.A.

THE NIGHT LISTENER ★★★1/2 (Century 20) Based on the semi-autobiographical novel by San Francisco's own Armistead Maupin, this tidy psychological thriller is taut with tension and intrigue. Robin Williams delights as tortured evening radio personality Gabriel Noone, who develops an intense phone relationship with a disturbed teen (Rory Culkin as Pete Logand) while enduring his own romantic fall-out. Pete is a dying AIDS patient who has written a vivid manuscript about an existence suffered at the hands of abusive parents. Foster mother Donna (Toni Collette) generously provides mandatory physical and emotional support. Noone revels in the friendship, enjoying the quick wit and self-effacing calm of this young and battered soul. When he reluctantly shares details and voice mail messages with ex-lover Jess (Bobby Cannavale), Jess bluntly asserts that the phone voices of Pete and Donna are one and the same. Thus begins a harrowing odyssey of discovery as Noone sets out for rural Wisconsin to uncover the truth behind the existence of the mysterious boy and his fatalistic tale. Seamy, sinuous and satisfying. *Rated: R for language and disturbing adult situations. 1 hour, 22 minutes.* — J.A.

MIAMI VICE ★ (Century 20) "Vice" is a grainy muddle of raw footage and incomprehensible narrative that leeches every bit of spirit from its kitschy '80s namesake. The plot, as such, is nothing but a string of shady busts featuring protagonists Sonny Crockett (Colin Farrell) and Ricardo Tubbs (Jamie Foxx) galivanting around Havana and Port-au-Prince investigating dirty cartels while looking

hipper-than-thou in designer duds, sleek firearms and metrosexual glowers. Tubbs is shacking up with fellow vice cop/intel analyst Trudy Joplin (Naomie Harris), the perfect pretext for gratuitous shower scene number one. Crockett goes for broke by making a dangerous play for drug lord floozy Isabella (Gong Li), thus paving the way for gratuitous shower scene number two. Only Foxx offers up a faint whiff of credibility, which is lost in the jumbled script and grim atmosphere. No style, no substance, no dice. *Rated: R for extreme language and violence. 2 hours, 12 minutes.* — J.A.

QUINCEANERA ★★★1/2 (CineArts) Hummer limos, catered eats and designer dresses are all the rage at a fashionable Quinceanera in Los Angeles' gentrified Echo Park. But not all families can afford fancy trappings to celebrate the fact that their adolescent daughters have become women. For 14-year-old Magdalena (Emily Rios), the dream of a posh coming-of-age party is only that ... a dream. Dad Ernesto (Jesus Castanos-Chima) preaches God's word at a storefront church and shuns the notion of limos outfitted with hot tubs and stripper poles, preferring to focus on the spiritual aspect of this significant occasion. Quick as a wink ambitions are shattered. Magdalena finds herself pregnant by her gangling teenage boyfriend (J. R. Cruz as Herman), whose ambitious mother wants college for him and refuses to let the young couple meet. Ernesto throws Magdalena out of the house, forcing her to bunk with her great-uncle Tomas (Chalo Gonzalez) and big brother Carlos (Jesse Garcia), who was ousted by dad for cruising a gay Web site. Unfortunately the cast, most of them relative unknowns, deliver self-conscious performances that color the narrative's slow and easy charm with the unintentional aura of convention. *Rated: R for language and sexuality. 1 hour, 30 minutes.* — J.A.

SCOOP ★★ (Century 16, Century 20) Woody Allen churns 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 (a.k.a. Sid Waterman), who becomes involved with an ambitious college journalist (Scarlett Johansson) 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) may be the infamous Tarot Card Killer who is offering brunette prostitutes all over merry London town. Madcap hilarity — and recycled gags aplenty — ensues. Pleasant enough trifle but this is no "Annie Hall." *Rated: PG-13 for language and adult situations. 1 hour, 36 minutes.* — J.A.

TALLADEGA NIGHTS: THE BALLAD OF RICKY BOBBY ★★★ (Century 16, Century 12) Will Ferrell brings his daredevil comedic style to the speedway for this hilarious send-up of NASCAR and America's zeal for velocity. Here Ferrell plays Ricky Bobby, a Texas racecar driver literally born for the sport (his mother gave birth in the backseat of a speeding car). Ricky

is the envy of the racing world. His lifelong best friend and fellow driver (John C. Reilly as Cal Naughton Jr.) consistently helps him win, he enjoys an enormous mansion and gorgeous trophy wife, and even Dale Earnhardt Jr. asks for his autograph. Things tailspin for Ricky when French driver Jean Girard (Sacha Baron Cohen of "Da Ali G Show") arrives to challenge the egomaniacal champ. The actors each do their part to rev up the silly fun, whether it's Reilly's goofy "shake and bake" slogan, Cohen's absurd French accent or Ferrell's graceless physicality. Finally the scorching summer offers moviegoers fuel for the funnybone. *Rated: PG-13 for crude and sexual humor, language, drug references and brief comic*

violence. 1 hour, 45 minutes. — T.H.

WORLD TRADE CENTER ★★★1/2 (Century 16, Century 12) Nicolas Cage is perfectly cast as Sgt. John McLoughlin, a gritty port authority police officer sent to respond when the first plane slams into the World Trade Center's Tower One on Sept. 11, 2001. McLoughlin, along with a handful of courageous cops that includes Will Jimeno (Michael Pena) and Dominick Pezzulo (Jay Hernandez), reluctantly enter the tower as chaos erupts around them. McLoughlin and his small team are inside when the tower comes crashing down, trapping him, Jimeno and Pezzulo in the rubble.

Meanwhile, McLoughlin's and Jimeno's respective wives (Maria Bello as Donna and Maggie Gyllenhaal as Allison) suffer through their own quiet torments. Although Stone infuses his "World Trade Center" with one too many Hallmark moments, the gut-wrenching picture is a towering example of important cinema. *Rated: PG-13 for intense and emotional content, some disturbing images and language. 2 hours, 5 minutes.* — T.H.

■ **MOVIE CRITICS**

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

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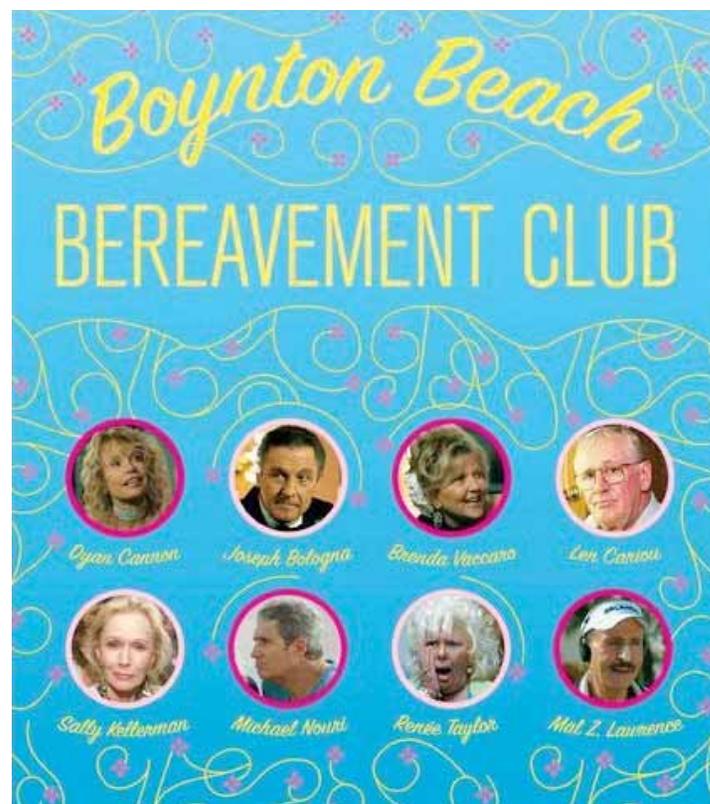
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Sixty and loving it

'BOYNTON BEACH CLUB' MEMBERS CAROUSE IN THE FACE OF DEATH

By Jeanne Aufmuth

■ MOVIE REVIEW

Writer-director Susan Seidelman crafts an old-fashioned romantic comedy that caters to the 60-plus set with bittersweet style.

Boynton Beach, Florida is an active adult community filled with frisky seniors in the transitions of life, many of them revolving around death. Enter the Boynton Beach Bereavement Club, a caring support group for widowed retirees who need to air their grief.

Seidelman plays it light and easy while launching her core ensemble. Marilyn (Brenda Vaccaro) and Jack (Len Cariou) have recently lost their long-time partners and are functioning on auto-pilot, unable to cope with the day-to-day tedium of bills, meals and laundry.

With the help of kindly club members Harry (perennial ladies' man Joe Bologna) and Lois (Dyan Cannon sporting a fright mask of a face-lift), Marilyn and Jack reluctantly jump back into the game. Jack—overwhelmed by condolence casseroles—tentatively starts dating a widow named Sandy (Sally Kellerman) while Marilyn sets her sights on a driver's license. Lois unexpectedly meets the man of her dreams (Michael Nouri of "Flashdance" fame). Or is he?

"Boynton" delivers its message loud and clear: It's never too late to love. Affairs of the heart are neatly packaged with the sticky wickets of adult relations: lies and games masking insecurities and fears.

The reality check of aging Baby Boomers (nary a health or financial woe in sight!) is mired in a cuddly, well-paced ensemble charm. Vaccaro, Cariou and Bologna have still got it going on—genuine to the core and frisky to boot. Nouri puts the va-va in sixties vooom, and Kellerman hasn't lost a bit of her lean and sultry chic.

Despite some clumsy renderings of comic material and a slim-budget sensibility, there is a gentle and persistent undercurrent of yearning and dignity. Sixty is the new forty indeed. ■

■ MOVIE NOTES

Stars: ***
Rating: Not Rated but could be PG-13 for adult situations and images
Run Time: 5 hours, 40 minutes
Guild: 1:30, 4, 6:30 & 9 p.m.; Fri.-Sun. also at 11 a.m.

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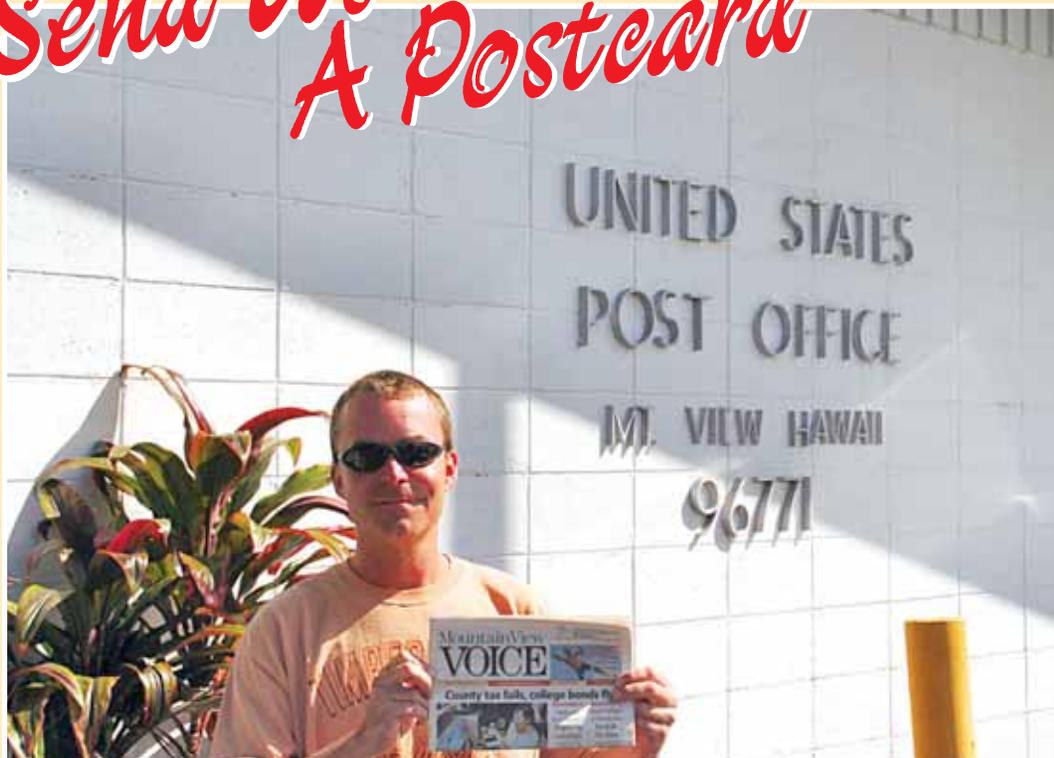


Photo of Jim Imper in front of the Mountain View Post Office on the Big Island of Hawaii.

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GoingsOn

MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE

■ HIGHLIGHT

"M BUTTERFLY" Presented by TheatreWorks. An exploration of love and politics. Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.; Wednesdays-Fridays, 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 2 and 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 and 7 p.m., through Sept. 17. \$20-\$60. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro, Mountain View. Call 463-1960. www.theatreworks.org

SPECIAL EVENTS

KFJC OPEN HOUSE DJ's will offer behind-the-scene tours and items from KFJC's offices will be auctioned. Aug. 26, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Free. Foothill College, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. Call 949-7099. www.kfjc.org

KINGS MOUNTAIN ART FAIR Sept 2-4, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Fine arts and crafts, 135 juried artists, 30 mountain folk artists, kiddie hollow crafts, outdoor breakfast with the artists starts at 8 a.m., free. Benefits Kings Mountain Volunteer Fire Department. Free admission, parking and cable car shuttle to the fair. Kings Mountain Community Center, 13889 Skyline Blvd., Woodside. www.kingsmountainartfair.org

PALO ALTO/MOUNTAIN VIEW REPUBLICANS COCKTAIL SOCIAL Aug. 31, 5:30-7 p.m. Compadres Bar and Grill, 3877 El Camino, Palo Alto. Call (408) 246-6600.

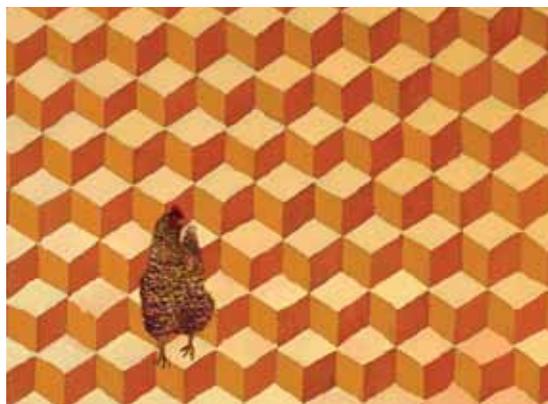
ART GALLERIES

"REFLECTIONS" Artists will exhibit their work for the summer show. Multiple works of painting, printmaking, photograph, ceramics, sculpture, and jewelry will be available. Through Aug. 26. Gallery 9, 330 Covington Road, Los Altos. Call 948-2961.

"ABSTRACTIONS AND PERCEPTIONS" Exhibition of work by Karl L. Jensen. Through Sept. 24. Includes charcoal drawings, ink drawings and sprayed acrylic paintings that explore the continuum between literal and abstract. Thu.-Sun., 1-5 p.m. Free. 1870 Art Center, 1870 Ralston Ave., Belmont. Call 261-1086. www.1870artcenter.com

"PAINTINGS" Painted female figures and ephemeral flora and fauna that thinly camouflage the underlying landscapes of emotional light and darkness by Lauren McIntosh. Through Sept. 30; first Friday reception Sept. 1, 6-9 p.m. Stellar Somerset Gallery, 539 Bryant St., Palo Alto. www.stellarsomersetgallery.com

500 YEARS OF ART Highlights from a collection of over 600,000 original prints include works by Audubon, Besler, Gould, Hiroshige,



Hondius, Piranesi and others, dating from 1490-1920. Genres include architecture, maps, birds, botanicals, manuscripts, children's illustrations, and more. Through Oct. 19, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Free. Lyons Ltd. Antique Prints, 10 Town and Country Village, Palo Alto. Call 325-9010. www.lyonsltd.com

INAUGURAL EXHIBITION: JULIA PARKER AND THEA SCHRACK Through Aug. 26. Parker's recent works resemble Nathan Oliveira's paintings with shadowy figures diffused into the background. Schrack's mixed media photography recalls the works of the 19th Century master painter W. Turner. Art Mirage

Gallery, 435 University Ave., Palo Alto. www.art-mirage.com

IRELAND: CASTLES, CHURCHES AND MORE Black and white photography exhibit by Bay Area artist, Roy Harrington, features images from Ireland. Aug. 29-Sept. 23. Meet the artist Sept. 8, 5-8 p.m. Hours: Tue.-Sat., 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Gallery 9, 143 Main St., Los Altos. www.gallery9losaltos.com

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY AND ART Art exhibit by nature photographer and artist Jeanne Gadol. Display will focus on wildlife and landscapes from northern California, Africa and the Arctic. Through Aug. 31. Allegro

PAINTINGS AND COLLAGE:

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

Gallery, 3130 Alpine Rd., Portola Valley. **SUMMER EXHIBITION** Group exhibition of paintings and sculptures by British and Californian contemporary artists, including artists from the U.K. Ongoing display of work by Andrew Gifford, Judith Cain, and Palo Alto artist Kathryn Dunlevie. Through Aug. 25. Free. Chelsea Art Gallery, 440 Kipling Street, Palo Alto. Call 324-4450. www.chelseartgallery.com

THE POETIC IMAGE The show runs Through Sept 10. 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.

AUDITIONS

CANTABILE CHORALE 2006-2007 AUDITIONS Auditioning for all voice parts by appointment. See website or call for information. Aug. 28, 7-10 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 1140 Cowper Ave., Palo Alto. Call 424-1410. www.cantabile.org

CANTABILE YOUTH SINGER AUDITIONS Cantabile Youth Singers, under the artistic direction of Elena Sharkova, announce auditions for fall enrollment in all levels of choirs. Sat., Aug. 26, 10 a.m.-noon. Call or e-mail for more information. Free. Foothill Congregational Church, 461 Orange Ave., Los Altos. Call 424-1410. www.cantabile.org

EL CAMINO YOUTH SYMPHONY AUDITIONS ECYS invites young musicians ages 6-20 to join the music education program for the 2006-07 season. Audition applications are being accepted for all levels. Auditions will take place through Sept. Submit an audition application online. Call 327-2611. www.ecys.org

SAN FRANCISCO CHORAL ARTISTS AUDITIONS Artistic Director Magen Solomon will hold auditions Aug. 28 or by appointment. For experienced singers. www.sfca.org

TENOR SOLOIST AUDITION St. Ann Chapel is seeking a tenor to join the professional solo quartet that provides service music for masses. Prospective singers must be able to sight-read and be able to produce a straight tone. Call to schedule appointment. Through Sept. 30. St. Ann Chapel, 541 Melville Ave., Palo Alto. Call (408) 480-9730.

TENORS AND BASS AUDITIONS Held by the California Bach Society Aug. 28, 7-9 p.m. Choral ensemble that specializing in Renaissance and Baroque music. The audition includes vocalizing, sight singing, and a short solo of your choice. Address given upon registration, Palo Alto. Call (415) 262-0272. www.calbach.org

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

ARTIST ACCESS 3rd Thursdays through Oct., 3:30-6:30 p.m. Artists and photographers

► Continued on next page

SUBMISSION PROCESS FOR CALENDAR LISTINGS

As part of our **Master Community Calendar**, all calendar listings must be submitted online. You can submit your calendar listing to one, two or all three of our Midpeninsula newspapers as well as to our community Web site, Palo Alto Online, through an easy-to-use Online Submission Form. You can also submit your "Save the Date" notices for events that are months or even years into the future to avoid unnecessary conflicts and help individuals and organizations plan ahead.

It's as easy as:

- 1) Go to www.PaloAltoOnline.com.
- 2) Click on **Master Community Calendar** on the home page.
- 3) Complete the **Online Submission Form** and submit.

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► *Continued from previous page*

have access to the gardens after hours. Limited to artists who work with watercolor, pen, pencil, charcoal, pastels and photography. No oils or acrylics. Pre-registration recommended. \$15 members/\$20 non-members. Filoli, 86 Canada Road, Woodside. www.filoli.org

DANCE WORKOUT Class combines elements of modern ballet and jazz, yoga and Pilates. Beginners and over 40's welcome. Ongoing class, meets Thursdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m. \$15 single; \$50 for 4; \$84 for 8. Mountain View Masonic Lodge, 890 Church St., Mountain View. Call 969-4110. www.livelyfoundation.net

INFORMATION FOR TEACHER EDUCATION Learn about the Waldorf Teacher Education Program. Aug. 30, 7:30-9 p.m. Free. Waldorf School of the Peninsula, 11311 Mora Dr., Los Altos. Call 969-6592. www.waldorf-peninsula.org

SNAKE DISEASES Portola Valley reptile and exotics veterinarian, Dr. Chris Sanders, will discuss this perplexing topic and answer questions about the care and feeding of snakes. Sponsored by the Bay Area Amphibian and Reptile Society. Aug. 25, 8-10 p.m. Free. Curblerley Community Center, 4000 Middlefield Rd., Bldg. H, Palo Alto. Call (408) 450-0759.

CLUBS/MEETINGS

AERONAUTICS/ASTRONAUTICS DINNER EVENT Aug. 31, 6:30-9 p.m. American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics will announce winners of the student essay contest: "What steps can be taken to protect the earth from a major asteroid impact?" Dinner speakers include U.S. Congressman Mike Honda and NASA Astrobiologist Dr. David Morrison. Reserve online at www.aiaa-sf.org. AIAA member/\$guests\$25; non-members \$35; K-12 teachers/students \$15. Michael's Restaurant, Shoreline Park, Mountain View.

TRI-CITY BUSINESS MIXER Aug. 30, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Palo Alto, East Palo Alto and Menlo Park Chambers of Commerce will host the annual Tri-City Mixer, a community business and networking event. \$15 for members/\$20 for non-members. Stanford Park Hotel, 100 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 324-3121. www.paloaltocacoc.weblinkconnect.com. Community Events

22ND PALO ALTO WEEKLY MOONLIGHT RUN & WALK For runners, athletic groups and families. Prize giveaways and refreshments. 5K walk begins at 7:30 p.m.; 10k run

begins at 8:15 p.m.; 5K run begins at 8:45 p.m. Deadline to pre-register is Sept. 29. See website for details. Oct. 6, 6-10 p.m. \$20 pre-registration before Sept. 29./\$25 day of event. Palo Alto Baylands Athletic Center, 1900 Geng Road at Embarcadero Rd, Palo Alto. Call 326-8210. www.paloaltoonline.com

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVES Aug. 28, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.: Coldwell Banker, 161 South San Antonio Road, Los Altos; Aug. 29, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.: Stanford Hospital, Aug. 29, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.: Klutz, 450 Lambert Street, Palo Alto.

CONFLICT AND ART FREE PUBLIC TOURS Docents teach about the exhibition "Conflict and Art." The works in this exhibition represent art from Europe, the Americas, Africa, and Asia. Tours Thursdays, 12:15 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays, 2 p.m. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Dr., Stanford.

GOURMET VEGETARIAN DINNERS Mondays, 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

HUMAN EMBRYONIC STEM CELLS: SCIENCE, ETHICS, AND POLITICS Julie Baker and Hank Greely explore the issues involved in stem cell research and the political complications it raises. Bring lawn chairs and blankets. Aug. 31, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. Cantor Arts Center - Stanford University, Lawn Outside Cantor Arts Center, Stanford. Call 723-7957. <http://continuingstudies.stanford.edu>

OPEN MIC NIGHT Featuring community talent. Arrive at 6:30 p.m. to sign up. Thursdays, through Aug. 31, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. Kepler's, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. www.myspace.com/keplersopenmic

THE "WAR, OCCUPATION, AND THE ARTS OF RESISTANCE" SUMMER FILM SERIES Closing with the films "Globalization at Gunpoint," "Resistance at Home," and "Channels of War." Aug. 30, 7:30-10 p.m. \$5-\$15. Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto, Main Hall, 505 E. Charleston Rd., Palo Alto. Call 326-8837.

USED BOOK SALE Held by the Friends of Los Altos Library. Aug. 26, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Aug. 27, 12:30-3 p.m. Free. Hillview Community Center, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos.

CONCERTS

CHANTICLEER CONCERT A Summer Event to benefit the men's orchestra of voices Joseph H. Jennings Fund for Music. All contributions

will be used to underwrite the cost of commissioning new choral works for Chanticleer performance, recording and publication. Aug. 26, 2-5 p.m. \$75; \$50 tax deductible. Allied Arts Guild, 75 Arbor Road, Menlo Park. Call (415) 252-8589 ext. 309. www.chanticleer.org

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA ADLER FELLOWS CONCERT David Gockley, San Francisco Opera's general director, will share his insights on the future direction of the company, followed by a concert by five San Francisco Opera Adler Fellows. Champagne and finger food reception follows. Aug. 27, 7-10 p.m. Tickets \$50-\$150. St. Bede's Episcopal Church, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park.

DANCE

SUNDAY MORNING BAREFOOT BOOGIE A volunteer dance cooperative, hosts a 2-hour barefoot boogie. A mix of world music, rock and folk. All ages welcome; under 16 with adult supervision. Sundays, through Oct. 27, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$10-\$20. Flex-It Gym Dance Studio, 425 W. Evelyn Ave., Mountain View. Call 326-8331.

SWEET THURSDAY PLAYS VINTAGE JAZZ Performing Sun., Aug. 27, 1-5 p.m. Full no-host bar and snacks. Separate jam sessions-musicians welcome. \$15 general/\$10 members. Palo Alto Elks Lodge, 4249 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. Call 368-2462. www.southbayjazz.org

ENVIRONMENT

LIONS AND US HIKE Sun., Aug. 27, 11 a.m. With docent Keith Johnsgard. A 3.5-mile hike at Skyline Ridge Preserve. Parents may not wish to expose their children to detailed accounts of lion attacks and should use discretion. Free. Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve. www.openspace.org

RUSSIAN RIDGE RAMBLE Sat., Aug. 26, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. With docent Stretcher Smith. An intermediate bike ride at Russian Ridge Preserve. The ride will cover about 12 miles and climb a total of 1,000 feet on fire roads and single track trails. Suitable for experienced riders age 14 years and older. Free. Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve. www.openspace.org

SARATOGA GAP LOOP Sat., Aug. 26, 8:30 a.m.-noon. With docents Mary Bernstein and Barbara Patterson. 6 mile loop hike along the Saratoga Gap Trail, crossing Skyline Boulevard, and returning along the Achistaca Trail. Meet at the Caltrans vista point on the southeast

corner of the Skyline Blvd and Highway 9 intersection. Free. Saratoga Gap Open Space Preserve. www.openspace.org

WOODS AND WINE WANDERING HIKE Sun., Aug. 27, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. With docents Tommi and Stretcher Smith. A 4 mile, moderately-strenuous hike at Picchetti Ranch Preserve. Along with nature exploration, there will be discussion of the area's local history. Bring a lunch. Free. Picchetti Ranch Open Space Preserve, Monte Bello Road, Cupertino. www.openspace.org

EXHIBITS

"3 ARTISTS" Paintings by father and son, Gilbert Marosi and Robert Marosi Bustamante. Paintings by Nona Haydon. Through Sept 14. At the Center for Integrated Systems. Free. Stanford Art Spaces, 420 Via Palou, Stanford. Call 725-3622. <http://cis.stanford.edu/~marigos>

ACRYLIC AND WATERCOLOR PAINTINGS Exhibit by Christine Oliver through Sep. 4. Hours: Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Fire House Gallery, 450 Bryant St., Palo Alto.

CHINESE PAINTING ON THE EVE OF THE COMMUNIST REVOLUTION Exploring the art of the 20th-century with Chinese artist Zhang Suqi. Wed.-Sun., 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thu. 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; closed Mondays and Tuesdays. Through Oct. 29. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford. Call 723-4177. museum.stanford.edu

CONFLICT AND ART Encompassing a spectrum of responses to conflicts of war and solitary quests, this exhibition conveys how artists and makers of ritual objects have interpreted the harsh realities of conflict in Europe, the Americas, Africa, and Asia. Through Aug. 27. Free. Cantor Arts Center, Museum Way and Lomita Dr., Stanford. <http://museum.stanford.edu>

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

EXHIBIT TOURS Free docent-led tours during exhibitions of IDEO and Creative Commerce. Private tours available. Saturdays, 2 p.m., through Sept. 10. Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Road.

EXHIBITION BY LOCAL ARTISTS Fine Art Show presenting the works of local artists in

various mediums including watercolor, oil, photography, quilting and prints. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Sundays, through Aug. 30, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Rengstorff House, 3070 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. www.r-house.org

FACES OF INDIA An exhibit of nature photography and abstract patterns by Tom Wagner are on display through Aug. 31. Keeble and Shuchat Photography, 290 California Ave., Palo Alto. Call 327-8996. www.kspphoto.com

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

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

OPEN STUDIOS Exhibition of textured oil paintings by Sophie Gauthier. Showing Tue.-Fri., through Aug. 30, 12:30-6 p.m. Free. Harrell Square, 1954 Old Middlefield Way, Unit D, Mountain View. Call 575-3701. www.placebellecour.com/info/news.htm

PAPUA NEW GUINEA SCULPTURE GARDEN Created on-site at Stanford by artists from Papua New Guinea, the garden contains wood and stone carvings of people, animals, and magical beings that illustrate clan stories and creation myths. Tours available 3rd Sunday monthly, 2 p.m. through Dec. 16. Free. Meet at the corner of the Papua New Guinea Sculpture Garden, at Santa Teresa and Lomita Dr. <http://museum.stanford.edu>

PENINSULA PLEIN AIR EXHIBITION A collection of artwork depicting Peninsula places by Bay Area artists. Through Sept. 3. Filoli, 86 Canada Road, Woodside. Call 364-8300. www.filoli.org

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

REGINALD RICE: WATERCOLOR PAINTINGS Paintings, mostly of landscapes, on exhibit weekdays through Aug. 31, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Little House, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park.

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

STRETCHING THE BOUNDARIES, NINE CONTEMPORARY PRINTMAKERS Through Sept. 28, 9:30 a.m.-7 p.m. 40 monotypes by Paper Gem Printmakers with assemblage, etching, transfer, etc. Sponsored by Heritage Bank. Free. Community School of Music and Arts at Finn Center, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. Call 917-6800, ext 306. www.arts4all.org

SUMMER ART SHOW Traditional technique: watercolor on paper and oil on canvas by Jennefer Shpilman and Alexandr Rapoport. Through Aug. 27. Sheridan Exhibition Room, 360 Sheridan Avenue, Palo Alto. Call 330-1623. www.designart.com

SUMMER CELEBRATION Presented by the

Coming September 15 Info Mountain View

A local resource guide published by the Mountain View Voice. Residents look for it in the home delivered copies of the September 15th Mountain View Voice.



local news from
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VOICE
Mountain View

Los Altos art Club. Members of our Club are invited to submit a piece for the exhibit. Library hours: Tue.-Fri., 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sun., noon-6 p.m. Free. Los Altos Art Club, 13 San Antonio Road, Los Altos. Call 302-4733.

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

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. Sat., Aug. 26, 12:30-8:30 p.m. \$15 per hour for 1st child/\$5 per hour for siblings ages 3-8. Cubberly Community Center, 4000 Middlefield rd, Palo Alto. Call 331-7374. www.amandazilla.com

NATURE HIKES Covers 3 miles of trails. Nature Docents describe wildlife, plants, endangered species, and the historical background of the area. Visitors may not hike without a Docent. Saturdays, through Oct. 27, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Free. Filoli, 86 Canada Road, Woodside. Call 364-8300 ext. 507. www.filoli.org

STOP IN AND EXPLORE Aug. 26-27, noon-5 p.m. Visit the David C. Daniels Nature Center and see displays about natural communities, view pond strata mobiles, take a pond prow, and perhaps have an opportunity to study live aquatic organisms "borrowed" from Alpine Pond. Free. David C. Daniels Nature Center, Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve. www.openspace.org

FILM

MONDAY MOVIES Aug. 28: "Balzac &

the Little Chinese Seamstress" 1-3 p.m. \$1 members/\$2 non-members. Little House, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 326-2025. www.peninsulavolunteers.org

STANFORD THEATRE GUIDE Aug. 25-28: "Gilda" 7:30 p.m.; "Laura" 5:55 and 9:40 p.m.; Aug. 29-31: "Strike Up the Band" 7:30 p.m.; "Little Nellie Kelly" 5:40 and 9:50 p.m. Stanford Theatre, 221 University Ave., Palo Alto. Call 324-3700. www.stanfordtheatre.org

WEDNESDAY "KULTUR" MOVIES Aug. 30: "Othello", 1-3 p.m. \$1 members/\$2 non-members. Little House, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 326-2025. www.peninsulavolunteers.org

HEALTH

LIFETIME FITNESS Learn how to keep fit and healthy through exercise, nutrition and mental activities. For people over 50 years of age. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, Sept. 1-Oct. 27, 8:45-9:45 a.m. \$35 for members/\$45 for non-members. Little House, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 326-2025. www.peninsulavolunteers.org

YOGA FOR WELLNESS AND INNER PEACE Wednesdays, Aug. 30-Oct. 25, 5:30-7 p.m. \$95 for 8 weeks. Little House, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 323-5532.

LIVE MUSIC

KFJC RECORD SWAP Hosts more than 40 vendors selling CDs, vinyl, DVDs, T-shirts and other memorabilia. Bay Area bands will perform live and KFJC DJ's will spin records. Aug. 26, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. \$3 plus \$2 parking. Foothill College, Appreciation Hall, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. Call 949-7099. www.kfjc.org

RENGSTORFF HOUSE ARTS FESTIVAL Live Jazz with local percussionist Jim Kassis and his quartet. Lawn seating. Aug. 27, 2-3 p.m. Free;

donations accepted. Rengstorff House, 3070 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. www.r-house.org

ON STAGE

"DON JUAN" Presented by Stanford Summer Theater. Moliere's "Don Juan" in translation by Richard Wilbur. Thu.-Sun., through Aug. 27, 8 p.m. Pigott Theater, 551 Serra Mall, Stanford. Call 725-5838. http://summertheater.stanford.edu

"M BUTTERFLY" Presented by Theatre-Works. An exploration of love and politics. Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.; Wednesdays-Fridays, 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 2 and 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 and 7 p.m., through Sept. 17. \$20-\$60. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro, Mountain View. Call 463-1960. www.theatreworks.org

"THE CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE" By Bertolt Brecht and directed by Ana-Catrina Buchser. A fable infused with both humor and political significance. Through Aug. 27. \$10-\$15. Dragon Productions, 535 Alma St., Palo Alto. Call 493-2006. www.dragonproductions.net

SPORTS

GIRLS SOCCER TEAM TRYOUTS U12 Stanford Lightning class 3 U12 girls soccer team for girls born after 7/31/94. Tryouts during weekday PA practices. Through Sept. 15, 4-6 p.m. Various Fields, call for information, Palo Alto. Call (408) 738-4011. www.stanfordsoccerclub.org

NIKE CLUB RUN SF Free 16 week marathon and 1/2 marathon training runs. Includes refreshments and Nike shoe trials. Sundays, through Oct. 15, 8 a.m. Palo Alto High School, 50 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto. Call (415) 374-0510. www.nikemarathon.com

WOODSIDE PONY CLUB CLASSIC HORSE

SHOW An annual hunter-jumper schooling show. English riders are invited to sign up. Sept. 10. Entry forms are available on online. Entry deadline Sept. 3. All ages welcome to participate. \$15 class in advance; \$20 class on day of event. Horse Park at Woodside, Sand Hill Rd., Woodside. Call 493-7979. www.woodsideponyclub.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. Every other Thursday, noon-1:15 p.m. Free. Merry Astor's office, Address given upon registration, Los Altos. www.cbhp.org

MEN'S STROKE SUPPORT GROUP For men who have survived strokes. Program features tours/open discussions. Group meets the last Monday, monthly. Aug. 28: tour of Stanford Memorial Church. \$10. Lakeside Cafe, 3160 N. Shoreline, Mountain View. Call 565-8485. www.psastroke.org

TALKS/AUTHORS

A NIGHT OF POETRY With Palo Alto poet Sharon Olson. Aug. 29, 7:30 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 324-4321. www.keplers.com

WAKE UP YOUR SPIRIT TO PROSPERITY Tom Marcoux, author of "Wake Up Your Spirit to Prosperity" shares the strategies. Aug. 30, 7:30-9 p.m. Free. East West Bookstore, 324 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 988-9800. www.eastwest.com

TEEN ACTIVITIES

FREE TEEN DANCE CLASSES For Mountain View middle school and high school students. The Waltz and Salsa will be taught. No partner necessary. Sponsored by the Mountain View Recreation Division. Saturdays, through Aug. 26, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Whisman Sport Center, 1500 Middlefield Road, Mountain View. Call 903-6331.

VOLUNTEERS

FILOLI NATURE EDUCATION DOCENT Nature education training Oct.-March. Classes are taught by a naturalist and will focus on plants. Applications are now being accepted. E-mail natureed@filoli.org for more information. Free. Filoli, 86 Canada Road, Woodside. www.filoli.org

NEEDED AT FILOLI Volunteer opportunities as a house and garden docent, assist the horticultural staff, work in the café, garden shop or provide general office support. Contact Bruce Fogel volunteer@filoli.org. Free. Filoli, 86 Canada Road, Woodside. www.filoli.org

OUTDOOR EDUCATION LEADERS Needed for the Mid-peninsula Regional Open Space District's school nature study field trip program, "Spaces and Species." Work with school children grades 3-6 in an outdoor setting. Training begins Oct. 3. Sign up by Sept. 19. David C. Daniels Nature Center, Skyline Blvd. and Page Mill Rd., Los Altos. Call 691-1200. www.openspace.org

■ MORE LISTINGS

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



Len Tillem Esq.
Len Tillem & Associates
Host of KGO's "Legaltalk"

KGO's Len Tillem & Michael Gilfix

MEDI-CAL, TRUSTS, & ASSET PROTECTION

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Biltmore Hotel

Saratoga Room, 2151 Laurelwood Road, Santa Clara CA 95054

2:30-4:30 pm or 6:30-8:30 pm



Michael Gilfix, Esq.
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