

Mountain View VOICE

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best of
MOUNTAIN VIEW
2007

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the favorites
BEST OF | P.25

APRIL 27, 2007 VOLUME 15, NO. 17

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Fight brews over school boundaries

LASD FAMILIES WORRIED THEIR KIDS MAY BE SENT ACROSS TOWN

By Alexa Tondreau

Concerned parents gathered Monday night to attend a Los Altos School District board meeting where adjustments to school boundaries were being discussed, includ-

ing changes affecting neighborhoods north of El Camino Real that fall in the city of Mountain View.

District officials plan to redraw school boundary lines for the 2008-09 school year because of the potential for overcrowding in the elementary schools, particularly at Santa Rita and Almond elementary schools, which fall in the northernmost part of the district.

Without any changes, Superintendent Tim Justus said, the district would surely exceed the target range of 580 students per school in just a few years.

But the northern area of the district — including the Monroe and Crossings neighborhoods in Mountain View, where children attend Santa Rita — is growing the most rapidly, while a majority of the district's nine elementary and middle schools are located in the southern portion.

Additionally, Justus said, the re-opening of Bullis in Los Altos Hills means that there are no additional resources to expand the other schools.

The result of the redistricting could mean some Los Altos and Mountain View families could be faced with sending their children to schools across town, which has parents upset, especially in light of the re-opening of Bullis as a neighborhood school in the Los Altos Hills, they said Monday.

"All Los Altos School District

► See **BOUNDARIES**, page 11

CMG makes it official

FORMAL DEDICATION BEGINS MOVE-IN PERIOD, TO LAST THROUGH MONTH OF MAY

By Alexa Tondreau

Camino Medical Group has evolved significantly in the past 50 years, from a small band of local physicians to one of the largest non-Kaiser group practices in California today.

That evolution was nowhere more evident than at the new CMG facility last

► See **CMG**, page 10



SAM TENNEY

KEEPER OF THE FLAME

A firefighter ignites a pile of hay and wooden pallets inside an empty Mountain View home Monday during training exercises for the city's Fire Department. Three adjacent properties which are set to be demolished will first be used by the department for realistic training on how to extinguish a structure fire.

Fabulous prefab

LOCAL HOPES HIS 1930S PREFAB DINER WILL TAKE UP RESIDENCE ON MIDDLEFIELD ROAD

By Daniel DeBolt

Mountain View may soon be the only Bay Area city to have a genuine 1930s-era prefab diner, trucked out from the East Coast by local auto shop owner Larry Mertl and his partner, Wayne Day.

Only two genuine diners exist in the state, Andy's Diner in Truckee and Phil's Diner in Los Angeles. Fog City Diner in San Francisco is a reproduction.

Prefab diners are like the Air-stream trailer of the restaurant world — but they aren't always

a trailer or a former rail car, as some people think.

While drive-ins were springing up in California, prefab diners

— where patrons sat on bar stools and booths while food was cooked

► See **DINER**, page 8



COURTESY PHOTO

A view from the diner's interior.

INSIDE

GOINGS ON 23 | MARKETPLACE 36 | MOVIES 21 | REAL ESTATE 44 | VIEWPOINT 15

REDEFINING QUALITY SINCE 1990
Reading between the emotional line makes the difference between finding a house and a home.

Stephanie Schley



CAMPBELL ■ Designer's own home, a must see! 2087+/- sf., beautifully maintained 3bd/3ba home in a much sought after neighborhood. 7405+/- sf. lot. **\$1,199,000**

Chuck & Tori Atwell



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Barb Conkin-Orrock



SUNNYVALE ■ Nicely updated and maintained duplex. Two units: Each with 1bd/1ba + double-paned windows, fireplaces and updated kitchens. **\$749,000**

Cindi Kodweis



SANTA CLARA ■ A touch of Italy in the heart of Santa Clara! 2bd/2.5ba with fireplace in living room + lovely balcony. 2-car attached garage. **\$589,000**

Mary Marley



SUNNYVALE ■ Newer downtown home. 3bd/2.5ba features an open floor plan, vaulted ceilings, and hardwood floors. Secluded cul-de-sac locale. **\$848,000**

Erika Ameri



MOUNTAIN VIEW ■ Designer's delight! 3bd/2ba condo newly painted and carpeted + new HW floors. Many amenities, indoor laundry, private master suite. **\$595,000**

Jim & Jimmy Nappo



LOS ALTOS ■ Charming 4bd/3ba home located on a quiet street in desirable neighborhood. 13,501+/- sf lot with mature landscaping. Cupertino schools. **\$1,290,000**

Annette Hull



LOS ALTOS ■ Exceptional corner penthouse. Updated 2bd/2ba condo with great views! Reserved garage parking + storage, pool, spa and cabana. **\$498,500**

Margaret Grant



MOUNTAIN VIEW ■ Light and bright 1bd/1ba with remodeled kitchen, skylights, Berber carpeting and plenty of storage. 2 patio doors. Great location. **\$380,000**

Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked in Downtown Mountain View. Pictures and interviews by Zunaira Durrani.

Will you miss Sanjaya on "American Idol"?



"No. I thought he was cool but too bizarre. He was talented but more of an entertainer. He's comical."

Michelle Balladarez, San Jose



"Yes. He was totally adorable. Not much talent but fun to watch. From a business perspective, he was entertainment and "American Idol" is an entertainment company. Sanjaya brought eyeballs to the show."

Polina Steier, Palo Alto



"He sounded like an interesting character. I guess I'll be hearing more of him."

Shalini Venkatesh, Santa Clara



"I tuned into the show once and he came on. I thought he was off key. He has personality but is not a terribly good singer."

Diane Holcomb, Los Altos



"Not Sanjaya. I would vote for Melinda."

Myra Gerson, Palo Alto

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NOTICE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

VTA Fiscal Year 2008 and 2009 Recommended Budget and Fare Modification Review Meetings

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) is holding five public meetings to review and to obtain public input regarding the fiscal year 2008 and 2009 Recommended Budget and proposed fare modifications.

Proposed fare modifications include reducing fares for all categories of Day Passes and Youth and Senior/Disabled Monthly Passes, as well as reduced fare for VTA's Community Bus lines. The VTA Board of Directors will consider the recommended budget and fare modifications at its June 7, 2007 meeting. If approved, Community Bus fares will go into effect in July 2007 and all other fare modifications in September 2007.

The recommended Budget and Proposed Fare Modifications can be viewed at www.vta.org. A written copy can be obtained by contacting VTA Customer Service (see below).

Comments are also welcome by phone: (408) 321-2300; Hearing Impaired (TDD only) (408) 321-2330; fax: (408) 321-7535; Email: customer.service@vta.org.

ADA and language accommodations: To receive an accessible format version of this notice, or if you require an interpreter, including sign language services, or other accommodations at the public meetings, please contact VTA Customer Service five days prior to the meeting date(s) at (408) 321-2300 or TDD for the hearing impaired (408) 321-2330.

The meetings will be an open house format and include a brief presentation. The general public is invited to attend any of these meetings. Meeting dates, times, and locations:

San Jose
Monday, April 30, 2007
 6:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.
 San Jose City Hall, Room W-120
 200 E. Santa Clara Street
This location is served by VTA Bus Lines 22, 63, 64, 65, 72, 73, 81 and 522 and Light Rail.

Milpitas
Tuesday, May 1, 2007
 6:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.
 Milpitas City Hall
 Committee Conference Room
 455 E. Calaveras Boulevard
This location is served by VTA Bus Line 47.

Morgan Hill
Wednesday, May 2, 2007
 6:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.
 Morgan Hill Community & Cultural Center
 Madrone Room
 17000 Monterey Road
This location is served by VTA Bus Line 68.

Sunnyvale
Monday, May 7, 2007
 6:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.
 Sunnyvale Community Center
 Neighborhood Room
 550 E. Remington Drive
This location is served by VTA Bus Lines 22, 55 and 522.

Campbell
Tuesday, May 8, 2007
 6:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.
 Community Center
 Activity Room C46
 1 W. Campbell Avenue
This location is served by VTA Bus Lines 26 and 60.



07/04-5854

■ CRIMEWATCH

ARMED ROBBERY, 2600 BLOCK CALIFORNIA ST., 4/22

On Sunday at 3 a.m., a man wearing a ski mask entered a 7-Eleven carrying a gun and demanded money from the employee at the register. At this point, a second man wearing a ski mask and carrying a gun entered the store. The suspects also asked for the store employee's cell phone but he did not have one. Both suspects, described only as black males, fled the store on foot westbound towards Del Medio Avenue.

RESTRAINING ORDER VIOLATION, DRUNK IN PUBLIC AND RESISTING ARREST, 2500 BLOCK EL CAMINO REAL, 4/20

On Friday at 10:15 p.m., police were called to Chili's due to a man and a woman caus-

ing a disturbance. Police arrived to find both people were intoxicated and arrested them for being drunk in public. The man was also arrested for violation of a restraining order and was charged with resisting arrest.

BRANDISHING A WEAPON, AMPHITHEATRE PARKING LOT, 4/18

Last Wednesday at 5:47 p.m., a private security guard was driving through the parking lot of Shoreline Amphitheatre when she saw a man shouting. The security guard asked the man if he needed assistance. The man took out a baseball bat and raised it in a threatening manner as he continued to yell at the security guard. The guard left and called police. Police found the suspect and placed him under arrest.

■ POLICELOG

AUTO BURGLARY

800 block Independence Ave., 4/18
 100 block Whits Rd., 4/20
 900 block Flynn Ave., 4/20
 100 block Flynn Ave., 4/20

DISTURBANCE

1900 block E. El Camino Real, 4/23
 7200 block Mariposa Ave., 4/23

BRANDISHING A WEAPON

Granada Drive / Wildrose Way, 4/17
 Amphitheatre Parkway, 4/18

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

Moffett Plaza, 4/17
 4100 block Chiquita Ave., 4/22

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

600 block Showers Dr., 4/19
 1000 block W. El Camino Real, 4/19
 1200 block Villa St., 4/23

DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE

2400 block W. El Camino Real, 4/17
 2500 block W. El Camino Real, 4/20
 900 block Clark Ave., 4/20
 2100 block Calderon Ave., 4/22
 1900 block E. El Camino Real, 4/22



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Workers unite

By Don Frances

MAY DAY is this Tuesday, and the Day Worker Center will be on the march.

May Day is a strange holiday with a long history. Over the centuries it's gone through several permutations (in pagan times it signified the first day of summer), but it was the Haymarket Riot of 1886 in Chicago which gave it its modern meaning as a celebration of workers' rights.

So, in the spirit of workers' rights, the Day Worker Center is organizing a march from the center — located at the Calvary Church on the corner of Escuela Avenue and California Street — to a rally at City Hall. The march begins at 5 p.m.

This year the event takes on special significance after the recent immigration raids on the Peninsula. At the rally, participants will speak about the raids' effects on immigrant families.

For more information, call the center at (650) 903-4102.

A FEW announcements are in order:

Congratulations to Jane Molony, a social worker at Avenidas Rose Kleiner Senior Day Health Center in Mountain View, who recently was honored with a Quality Care Award from the California Association of Adult Day Health Services. The Rose Kleiner center is located on Escuela Avenue right next to the Senior Center ...

Speaking of, the Senior Center is looking for "substitute volunteer receptionists." The center is located at 266 Escuela; call (650) 903-6330 for more. ...

St. Joseph School is holding an open house on Thursday, May 3 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The school is located at 1120 Mira-

► See **EDITOR'S DESK**, page 12

■ CITY COUNCIL

Long story, small project

COUNCIL SEEKS COMPROMISE IN ONGOING DISPUTE OVER HOME REMODEL

By Daniel DeBolt

City councils sometimes must set aside discussion of the mega-projects and settle disputes over small ones. That happened at Tuesday's council meeting, when two hours were spent finalizing a second-story addition to a small home in the Old Mountain View neighborhood.

The council usually doesn't deal with home remodels, but because members already ruled on a neighbor's appeal in 2006, the homeowners had to return to make revisions.

"I'm just wondering why we're here again," said Nancy Pollastrini, a neighbor two doors down and landlord of the house next door to 545 Sierra Avenue. "While I wasn't totally in approval [in 2006], I compromised; now they are asking for even more."

The owners of the home,



SAM TENNEY

The owners of 545 Sierra Avenue want to build a second story, an idea which has upset some neighbors.

Yadunath Zambre and Carrol Titus, were returning to City Hall to request a slightly larger floor area on the second story, a larger window and a rear balcony. They said they simply wanted a decent space to fit furniture and raise their children.

But some neighbors opposed the changes, saying the alterations would ruin the charm of

neighboring homes and that second-story views would invade their privacy. The council eventually came to a compromise.

One tenant living next door — who rents from Pollastrini — said the Zambre's kitchen already looked into his eating area, but "it's not a big issue." He

► See **PROJECT**, page 9

■ CITY COUNCIL

City pursues use of recycled water

By Daniel DeBolt

As water agencies warn of a drought this summer, the city is pursuing an innovative program to bring recycled water to the North Bayshore area.

If the council approves the project, 10 percent of the city's water could be saved with help from dual plumbing systems in North Bayshore buildings. With such a system, one set of pipes carries recycled water for flushing toilets, cooling air conditioners and feeding fire sprinklers, while the other carries potable water for sinks and drinking fountains.

The recycled water would also be used for landscaping the large district north of Highway 101. The city has acquired grant funding for the \$26 million project, but the rest, about \$5 million, would be paid over several years with a zero-interest loan the state has recently committed to.

During a study session at Tuesday's council meeting, as council members discussed using the water for landscaping, Ronit

► See **WATER**, page 9

Search still on for Rengstorff rape suspect

POLICE RELEASE SKETCH, BUT LACK ANY NEW CLUES IN APRIL 16 ASSAULT

By Zunaira Durrani

Mountain View police continue to hunt for the suspect in the rape of a 55-year-old homeless woman on April 16 in the 1000 block of N. Rengstorff Ave.

Mountain View Police spokesman Jim Bennett said the case



remains open and active. "A sketch of the suspect has been released and investigators

will be contacting members of the community who are homeless and providing them with the sketch, information and safety tips," he said.

On April 16, police received a call at 3:30 a.m. to the 1000

block of N. Rengstorff Ave. near Highway 101 after neighbors heard a woman screaming. According to a police statement, the victim was sleeping near some bushes when she was woken up by an unknown male pulling her sleeping bag off her. The victim screamed for help as the suspect started strangling her. He sexually assaulted the victim prior to fleeing. The victim received minor injuries and was treated at a local hospital.

Police describe the suspect as a Hispanic male in his 30s

with a muscular build, wearing all black clothing and a black beanie-type hat with two light-colored horizontal stripes on it. The suspect was clean shaven with a smooth complexion and had a slight accent.

Community members are asked to contact the Mountain View Police Department with any information about the rape at (650) 903-6344. ■

E-mail Zunaira Durrani at zdurrani@mv-voice.com

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■ SEEN AROUND TOWN

Squirrel hunter



This photo of a forest falcon (a.k.a. harrier hawk) eating a squirrel was taken a few weeks ago at Shoreline Park. It was sent in by Jan Switick of Grant Road and photographed by her son, Tim Switick.

If you have a photo taken around town which you'd like published in the Voice, please send it (as a jpg attachment) to editor@mv-voice.com.



Los Altos History Museum 6th ANNUAL SPRING HOME & GARDEN TOUR



Saturday, May 12, 2007
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

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■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

129TH SENDS GUARDSMEN TO AFGHANISTAN

Moffett Field's 129th rescue wing of the Air National Guard is deploying 35 of its reservists to Afghanistan, officials announced this week.

Reservists were scheduled to leave Moffett Field on Wednesday, said spokesperson Alyson Teeter.

The 129th includes reservists from all over the Bay Area. They are equipped with helicopters and specialize in search-and-rescue missions when boats capsize, planes crash and hikers get lost. So far this year the group has not had any West Coast emergencies to respond to. The biggest disaster faced by the group in recent years was hurricane Katrina.

Teeter said the deployment would mean less people at the Middlefield Road base, but that it shouldn't hurt the unit's ability to respond to regional emergencies.

In 2005, the Voice reported that the wing had 900 reservists, 250 of which were full-time. Only five of the officers were stationed in Iraq.

— Daniel DeBolt

STUDENT DIES IN BOATING ACCIDENT

Daniel Barclay, a 22-year-old MIT student from Menlo Park, has died in a boating accident in Massachusetts, his family reported.

Barclay graduated from Menlo-Atherton High School in 2003, was an Eagle Scout with Troop 109 and had many friends in Mountain View, family members said. He was only six weeks away from graduating from MIT with simultaneous master's and bachelor's degrees in political science.

Barclay was reported missing from MIT on April 8. Last Friday, after 12 days of searching, his body was discovered in the surf at a Cape Cod beach, along with part of his boat and bailing bucket, his family said.

He is survived by his parents, Sue Kayton and Michael Barclay, and his sister Rachel, 19. There will be a memorial service in Menlo Park on a date to be announced, the family said.

— Menlo Park Almanac

PILOT OK AFTER PLANE CRASHES IN BAYLANDS

The pilot of a small plane that crash-landed in marshland just south of East Palo Alto after taking off from Palo Alto on Monday morning appears to be alright, Menlo Park Fire Protection District Chief Harold Schapelhouman said.

"The aircraft suffered some damage, there's no doubt about it," he said.

The pilot, the sole occupant of the aircraft, reported problems after taking off from Palo Alto Airport and landed in marshland just south of Bay Road in the Baylands Nature Preserve. The crash was reported around 10 a.m.

The plane was no more than a few hundred feet in the air when it began its descent, Schapelhouman said, adding that the soft marshland probably eased the impact.

— Bay City News



The Crebars took this photo of the listing Sea Diamond from their lifeboat.

COURTESY PHOTO

Local couple takes shipwreck in stride

By Alexa Tondreau

Carl and Kathy Crebar were wrapping up their Mediterranean cruise earlier this month, taking in the views as their ship approached the beautiful Greek island of Santorini, when things took an unexpected turn.

“It was nice and sunny,” said Kathy, a retired 40-year IBM employee. “We were gawking at the view and then all of a sudden there was this loud scraping noise.”

The Crebars thought nothing of it at first, assuming it might have been a mechanical noise, but subsequent reports said the captain had run their cruise liner, the Sea Diamond, into a group of rocks just minutes before it was supposed to dock.

It didn’t take long for the 469-foot ship to begin sinking, and the Crebars were forced to evacuate along with the other 1,600 passengers.

“It added some adventure to the vacation,” Carl chuckled Monday.

The Crebars, Mountain View residents for 24 years, were on the last day of their 10-day cruise through the Mediterranean when the disaster, publicized around the world, struck on April 5. The ship later sank to the bottom of the Aegean Sea, and two French passengers are still missing and presumed dead. The Sea Diamond’s captain and five crew members have been charged with negligence.

As for the Crebars, they lost about \$7,000 worth of luggage, but were otherwise unscathed.

“In the scheme of things, it’s just stuff,” Carl said.

The day began like any other on the trip, they said. Carl, a retired “corporate troubleshooter” who volunteers as a mediator in Mountain View, said he had spent the morning watching other ships “go in and out of [Santorini] like they were on rails.”

Within an hour of hitting the

rocks, the ship began to list to one side. The Crebars said staff members did not follow safety procedures — urging passengers to return to their rooms, collect belongings, and put on their life vests — despite the fact that passengers had been run through the procedure when they first boarded four days earlier.

“I think they were kind of in a panic themselves,” Kathy said of the ship’s crew.

What happened next was an all-out rescue endeavor, spanning three hours and including the assistance of the Greek Navy and even, the Crebars said, a handful of local fishermen whose boats were among the first at the scene.

The Crebars got a seat on the first lifeboat out, which held about 50 people. Their only feeling of panic during the rescue came as the lifeboat was clumsily lowered into the water.

“It went in at a rakish angle and it looked like it would dump us,” Carl explained. “It was the only moment of angst. We were all saying the word ‘Titanic’ a lot.”

Once safely onshore, the Crebars actually grabbed a few hours of sightseeing before being transferred to a smaller ship that took them back to Athens, where they were scheduled to fly out the next day. Despite the shipwreck and rescue, the Crebars said there were no serious delays and they caught their scheduled flight home.

Back in Mountain View, life has returned to normal. The couple is still waiting to hear whether they will recoup any of their losses through insurance.

The Crebars loved their trip despite the fiasco at Santorini, and say they wouldn’t hesitate to take another cruise.

As for their favorite Greek isle: “I liked Mykonos the best,” Carl said. ▀

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

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DINER

► Continued from page 1

inches away — sprang up on the East Coast. Neighborhoods there were already built out, so a compact diner made sense.

Now that Mountain View is increasing in density the concept fits better: Yet another 1950s trend that won't go away, Mertl joked.

Used as a functioning diner up until a few years ago, Mertl's 576-square-foot 1938 Sterling, which he bought for \$7,300, has aged as well as a 1957 Chevy. It can be disassembled and will be restored in his shop, B & L Auto on Middlefield Road.

The diner is currently sitting in a Massachusetts warehouse, waiting for the OK from the city's zoning administrator to issue a zoning variance next month. If approved, it will be trucked across the country and, eventually, serve breakfast and lunch on a landscaped area in front of B & L Auto.

It's an unusual project, Mertl said,

and at first city officials didn't know what to make of it. But slowly it gained the support and excitement of city officials, he said.

Mertl said he's pursued the diner because he likes to collect all things vintage, such as jukeboxes and Chris-Craft boats. But he believes the diner will serve an important purpose for the neighborhood — and for himself, a self-described "picky eater."

"We're doing it for the food," Mertl emphasized. "No matter what kind of place you have, if the food isn't good you aren't going back."

I really think we need a down-home, family-cooked meal here. One of my second loves is cooking food for people, home-style food, like corned beef pastrami sandwiches. I'm actually going to serve food you can't get here."

Mertl said there used to be some good places to eat in the neighborhood, like Woody's, a popular diner once located where the Toyota dealer is now on Middlefield Road. But like most other breakfast and lunch places, it fell by the wayside as real estate was snapped up.

"No matter what kind of place you have, if the food isn't good you aren't going back."

LARRY MERTL



This 1938 Sterling diner was purchased by Mountain View resident Larry Mertl.

COURTESY PHOTO

Mertl imagines his diner will be a gathering spot for the mechanics and shop employees on Middlefield as well as for the proposed housing development across the street — not to mention the whole Monta Loma neighborhood and those northward.

"Everybody wants to work" at the proposed diner, Mertl said. A cook is already lined up, and he said his friends' wives are asking to work Saturday mornings just for fun. Mertl said he has tentative plans to be open from 6 a.m. to 3

p.m. during the week.

Besides corned-beef pastrami sandwiches, the imagined menu would include pastrami dogs and Philly cheese-steak sandwiches. There would also be daily specials like lasagna and meatloaf. And of course breakfast would be served all day.

Mertl said storyboards about the diner and its history would hang on the walls. And he already has a jukebox ready to go — a "Chicago coin band box," with figures inside that dance when a curtain opens.

If the city gives the green light on the project, Mertl wants to document the diner's trip from Philadelphia and subsequent restoration in his Mountain View shop. He said KQED has already expressed interest in a show about it, as have some independent filmmakers.

"When it's done I think it will add a nice little dimension to this whole little area," Mertl said. ▀

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

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SHARP

WATER

► Continued from page 5

Bryant surprised fellow members with her comments on 400 redwood trees in the Bayshore area that would be sensitive to the recycled water's clay content.

"Redwoods really don't belong in North Bayshore," she said. "Everyone knows I'm a tree hugger, I can say what I want about trees."

Council members laughed. She continued.

"It's marshland, there are trees that will survive there much happier than redwoods," she said. "I don't think we should spend millions of dollars to water grass that doesn't belong there either."

Bryant recommended using native, drought-tolerant plants.

"We're going to be spending a lot of money ... let's do something better," she said.

She later clarified her position, saying she wouldn't necessarily advocate for cutting down the redwoods, but would have definitely opposed them when they were planted.

"Hearing Ronit say some trees can be done away with shocked me so much I forgot what I was going to say," joked council member Nick Galiotto.

Council member Tom Means

said he could just imagine the political fallout if the redwoods were to go.

"Redwoods really don't belong in North Bayshore. Everyone knows I'm a tree hugger, I can say what I want about trees."

RONIT BRYANT

About 90 percent of the city's water comes from Sierra Nevada snowpack through the Hetch Hetchy aqueduct, controlled by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission. The price of this water is expected to triple over the next 10 years, as repairs are made to the aqueduct and demand increases with population growth. Statewide demand for water is expected to increase 20 percent over the next 25 years.

There is concern that other cities could fight for a larger share of the SFPUC water, taking away from Mountain View's allotment. "We'll vigorously resist that," said city manager Kevin Duggan.

Voluntary rationing is cur-

rently in place for SFPUC users due to a lack of snowfall this year in the Sierras. The remaining 10 percent of Mountain View's water comes from the Santa Clara Valley Water District, where there isn't a water shortage this year.

Council member Jac Siegel cited concerns about introducing recycled water into buildings in the North Bayshore area, including illnesses he had seen in other countries using dual water systems. But he also said that maintaining a stable water supply into the future was about as important to the city's safety as a fire or police department.

Mayor Laura Macias said she grew up with a dual water system in Arizona, a desert necessity that worked fine.

The first building to use the dual water system may be a large one proposed by Google for the Shoreline area. The building is expected to represent the pinnacle of green building design.

Duggan said it's becoming clear that water will be one of the resources people will fight over in the future, just like oil is fought over today. With that in mind, the city has already built an eight-million-gallon reservoir under the new football field at Graham Middle School. ▀

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

PROJECT

► Continued from page 5

added that he felt torn between the two sides.

"We want to respect her [Pollastrini's] wishes," he said. "We get along with Carrol and Yadu. This is the strain of this process I don't think many people can relate to."

Council member Jac Siegel cautioned neighbors to not let the disagreement divide the neighborhood.

It turned out, however, that the majority of neighbors were in favor of the addition, saying the family deserved a livable space and that it could only increase property values.

"I think the city should be embarrassed with the way it plays with the money and dreams of its residents," wrote neighbor Chuck Darrah in a letter to the city.

Two other neighbors said they live next to two-story homes without problems.

"I wish I looked better in a bikini when out there sunning [in the backyard], but too bad guys," one of them joked.

Another neighbor said that if the homeowners weren't allowed to increase the size of their study, the room would be one of those

rooms "you are always trying to find furniture for."

The family said larger windows would improve the look for neighbors. Their architect, Pedro Sandoval, gave an emotional presentation on the design, saying the clerestory windows the

"I think the city should be embarrassed with the way it plays with the money and dreams of its residents."

CHUCK DARRAH

family was expected to use were not conducive to growth or happiness, but would make them feel like they were at the "bottom of a well." He said that when viewed from the outside, the house would look like it had only bathrooms on the second story.

"You can't ask neighbors to design the walls facing them," Sandoval said. "We are being challenged by public opinion which really isn't the right way to design a house."

Council member Ronit Bryant is a resident of the neighborhood, but not close enough to the project to recuse herself from the meeting. She said the architect's plans were good on their face, but because the home was so close to the adjacent homes a compromise would have to be made, and she recommended letting most of the 2006 ruling stand.

The council decided to let the family enlarge the study area, but a balcony and larger window on the 531 Sierra side of the house would not be allowed.

Mayor Laura Macias commended the family for not bulldozing their classic cottage home and the heritage tree behind it to build a giant house.

According to the meeting minutes from last year, one council member said the project would not be a "monster home" and that it should be a priority to allow families like this one to build out on their homes so they can stay in Mountain View.

Council member Margaret Abe-Koga lives nearby on Church Street, so she recused herself from the meeting. Council member Matt Pear was absent. ▀

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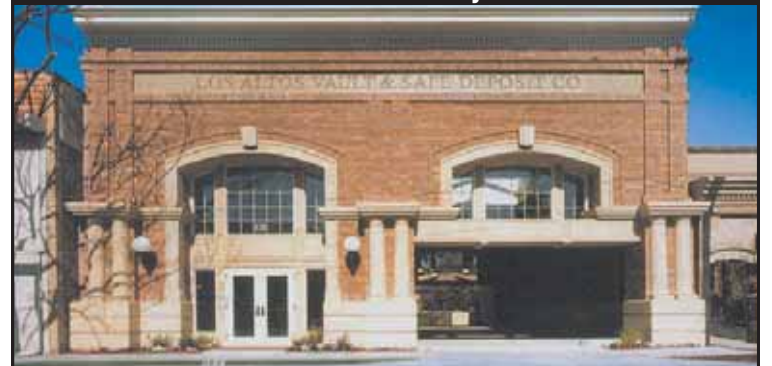
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CMG

► Continued from page 1

Wednesday evening, where hospital personnel gathered amidst the modern grandeur of the foyer and multi-level atrium to formally dedicate the medical center.

A theme expressed at the ceremony, which had roughly 200 people in attendance, was of CMG's newest partner: the city of Mountain View.

Pat Frye, CEO of Sutter Health, paid his compliments.

"It takes a lot of leadership and courage to approve a plan that takes up so much space," he said.

"To invest in health care, you've left an indelible imprint on the community, and we're very proud to be here."

Dr. Richard Slavin, CEO of Camino Medical Group, said he "felt like a proud papa" with the completion of the new facility.

"We looked at a lot of different sites before we arrived at this one," he said, "and it's just perfect."

CMG is consolidating nine of its 15 sites into the Mountain View location. Its remaining physi-

cians will be housed in Sunnyvale, where CMG plans to break ground on a new medical center in 2008.

Slavin said the entire process in Mountain View, from initial plans to construction to moving in, has been smooth.

"The city of Mountain View knows how to do things," he said.

Slavin made special mention of early advocates of the CMG project, including council members Matt Pear, Nick Galliotto and Laura Macias, as well as city manager Kevin Duggan and his staff.

After a ribbon-cutting ceremo-

ny, attendees were given tours of the facility, which Frye said dur-

"It takes a lot of leadership and courage to approve a plan that takes up so much space."

PAT FRYE

ing his speech was "laid out very simply."

"Facilities like these have a propensity to be designed by non-health care providers," Frye said. "Physicians here put a lot of thought into the design; it's extremely efficient."

The tour featured stops at the public artworks CMG has amassed throughout its 250,000-square-foot building. These include the


Chihuly chandelier, a two-tiered glass sculpture hanging in the atrium; the Chi-Lin Yen Garden, a "healing garden" complete with waterfall located outside of the oncology department; and a miniature model of a train and village located in pediatrics, which was created by the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of European Train Enthusiasts.

CMG began to expand significantly in 2000, when it formed an affiliation with the Palo Alto Medical Foundation. The sign outside of the new facility gives equal billing to both groups.

The Palo Alto Medical Foundation, meanwhile, is an affiliate of Sutter Health, which has 29 medical centers throughout Northern California.

CMG will host an open house and health fair for the public at the new site on Saturday, June 16. ▀

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



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This is an excellent refresher course on labor and delivery techniques, including how subsequent labors differ from the first, as well as sibling and family adjustments.

- Saturday, May 12
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- Wednesday, May 16
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- Wednesday, May 23

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BOUNDARIES

▶ Continued from page 1

children deserve a neighborhood school," parent Nancy Morimoto said. "If you lived where we live, how would you feel about taking your kids to the fourth-closest school?"

Mountain View resident Beth Dinorio, whose children attend Santa Rita, said parents living north of El Camino feel picked on.

"We definitely prefer to stay at our neighborhood schools," she said. "We feel like we're being divided because we're not really part of the city."

During the meeting, a committee formed to evaluate the redistricting proposal presented four scenarios of adjusted boundary lines. Only one scenario kept the neighborhoods north of El Camino in their present formations, making adjustments to areas south of El Camino near the Covington and Springer neighborhoods. However, the committee did not favor that scenario, even though it would keep the boundaries contiguous.

"You would run the risk of filling up Santa Rita again," committee chair Stephanie Friend

said. Friend said the committee preferred scenarios where "contiguous boundaries are abandoned to achieve stability."

The other three scenarios split students living north of El Camino between Bullis and Covington elementary schools. Parents sending their children to Bullis would be forced to cross the Foothill Expressway, creating a significant commute, Friend said, but those scenarios presented more permanent solutions for the district.

Board members said they needed more time to examine the issue and promised two more meetings on the topic to be held in May, with a final vote scheduled for a meeting in June.

Board president Bill Cooper said he was frustrated to have to confront a redistricting issue so soon after the Los Altos Hills redistricting, which resulted in the reopening of Bullis.

"Someone will be disappointed from this," Cooper said, adding that during his time on the school board, "It's the most frustrating issue I've ever faced." ▣

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



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OBITUARY
LORETTA MARIE TOVAR

Former Mountain View resident Loretta Marie Tovar passed away on April 16. She was 79.

Tovar was one of twin girls born to John and Gertrude Sondgroth on June 2, 1926 in Bonesteel, S.D. She moved with her family to Mountain View soon after, and eventually graduated from high school here. She married Charles Tovar and raised a family in Mountain View before moving to her new home in Sunnyvale.

Tovar is survived by her husband of 58 years, Charles Tovar; children Steven, Michelle and Kelly; five siblings; and several grandchildren.

A vigil service was held in Tovar's memory on Sunday, April 22 at the Cusimano Family Mortuary. A Funeral Mass was celebrated on Monday, April 23 at St. Joseph's Church.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be sent to Hospice of the Valley, 4850 Union Ave., San Jose, 95124.

EDITOR'S DESK

► Continued from page 5

monte Ave. ...

Twana Karney will speak at an upcoming "Energy Solutions Workshop," where she'll give a presentation on Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth." That's at City Hall chambers this Sunday, April 29, from 3 to 5 p.m.

Also Sunday is the Mountain View Dance Festival. Dozens of dancers will do their thing on an outdoor stage at Centennial Plaza, located at the end of Castro Street next to the Caltrain station. The free event is 1 to 4 p.m.

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

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Greg Morganroth, MD

El Camino Hospital, back of cafeteria, 2500 Grant Road, Mountain View

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George Triadafilopoulos, MD

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Panel: Gaming no danger to kids

By Zunaira Durrani

A four-person panel of media experts and computer execs gathered at the Computer History Museum last week to address the issue of computer gaming, and urged parents to set aside their phobias and take more personal responsibility.

"The buck stops with me and I am fully involved in what they do and what they play," said Peter Moore, vice president of Microsoft's entertainment and devices division, on his own children's gaming habits.

The panel spoke to a hundred or so gamers, parents and teachers with the aim of shedding light on today's computer gaming, regarded by some to be a dangerous influence on children. The discussion was titled "Taming Gaming in Your Home."

Audience members looked for answers to questions such as, "Does playing violent PC games make children shooters?" and "How many hours of gaming are appropriate?" Such questions — and fact that Microsoft was giving away an Xbox at the end of the discussion — kept the audience rapt.

The all-parent panel included Lucy Bradshaw, vice president and executive producer at leading game-builder Electronic Arts; Gerard Jones, author of books on violence and children; Microsoft's Moore; and moderator Linda Burch, vice chair of Common Sense Media.

Taken together, the message from the panel was simple: The best way for parents to deal with gaming is to play the games with their children.

First-hand accounts of making children responsible game-players were shared freely. Moore, for instance, said he put time limits on game sessions.

"I learned about the investment kids put in the game," he said. "If they got 45 minutes to play, I would give a warning after 30 minutes."

On the other hand, Jones felt that as long as children were good at school, sports and getting enough sleep, limiting their access to gaming was no good. "If a kid is excited about gaming, he could be a future game designer or engineer," he said.

The panel argued that parents are not doing enough to learn about their children's likes and dislikes, and urged them to explore by playing along. "We are the tourists and children are

the natives," said Burch. "We should know how to participate in their environment. My kids and I always sit down so I know what they enjoy."

Bradshaw pointed to the Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB) which provides an age-appropriate label for each game, as a resource.

"Take a look at the game's screenshots so you see what your children are playing. Educating yourself about the content rating system is the first step," she said.

Parents were urged to try several games with their children, including Dance Dance Revolution, Flight Simulator, Rise of Legends and Age of Empires.

For more information on parental controls and settings, visit the Microsoft Xbox Web site on family gaming at www.xbox.com/isyourfamilyset. The ESRB Web site is www.esrb.org.

E-mail Zunaira Durrani at zdurrani@mv-voice.com

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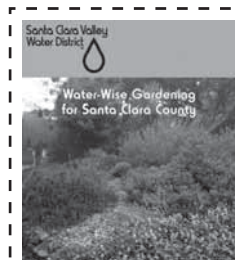


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Moths cause alarm

Staff and wire reports

Two species of moths — one an invasive species, the other causing an infestation — have made unwelcome appearances across the Peninsula this week, including in Mountain View.

The more serious problem involves the Australian light brown apple moth, an invasive species whose voracious eating habits led the California Department of Food and Agriculture to set up a Bay Area-wide quarantine last Thursday.

More than 250 plant species are now being quarantined in a 182-mile radius that includes Santa Clara County, where the apple moth was discovered earlier this month. Authorities are asking nurseries and community gardens to restrict movement of plants and plant waste in an effort to contain the pest.

Traps set throughout the Bay Area have so far yielded 170 specimens of the apple moth, which stunts and deforms host plants. Due to the moth's wide menu of plant species — including tomatoes, avocados, strawberries, stone fruits, citrus, grapes and even coastal redwoods — it is considered a very serious threat to the California agriculture industry and to the state's ecosystems.

Future plans to combat the moth are only speculative, but could pesticides, mass trappings and use of pheromones to attract male moths.

By appearance, the apple moth is nearly indistinguishable from other moths. Officials say there isn't much the average homeowner can do except refrain from transporting plants and properly dispose of trimmings.

Meanwhile, a less harmful species, the Western tussock moth, is having a very good year, and in recent weeks hairy little tussock moth caterpillars have been so numerous they've overpopulated oak trees throughout the Peninsula. Under some trees, they are producing an audible rain of tiny brown droppings.

The caterpillars are notable for their bristling coat of hair, including four distinctive white-gray tufts on their backs. These hairs detach and can cause allergic rashes and respiratory problems. Their tan-brown cocoons are also irritating to the skin.

Though the creatures can defoliate individual oak trees, they are not an ecological threat, experts said. ▣

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Viewpoint

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■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

Farm idea deserves council's attention

If Mountain View residents are really serious about preserving agriculture on a small portion of the Grant Road farm, they will need to speak up at the May 8 City Council meeting at City Hall.

The issue is simple: Should the city pass zoning restrictions requiring owners of the property to accommodate a small growing space among the 40-plus homes that are planned for the site? Supporters say a small farm on the property could continue to provide fresh vegetables and pumpkins for the families of Mountain View and Los Altos, as the Grant Road farm has done for years.

Advocates of the plan, the Farmlands Group, believe the site can and should accommodate a small farm, and they have commissioned a study by a respected Bay Area consultant that suggests the owners could actually come out ahead by donating a portion of the property to a nonprofit. Such a tax write-off would be worth an additional \$4 million to \$8 million, the study says.

It is a tantalizing idea, and already the group has collected more than 1,300 signatures on a petition and count Google, the Los Altos City Council and the county Office of Education among their supporters. They plan to bring out all their supporters on May 8 to convince the City Council to consider the idea.

But so far, owners Pauline King and Betty Moore, the sisters who inherited the property when their father, Paul Mardesich, died in 2004, have not personally responded to the offers. The only comment the two have made has come through an attorney, who said they are not interested.

Much of the Farmlands Group's estimated gain for the sisters revolves around the size of the homes and lots sold when the property is subdivided. It is complicated and only an estimate.

But there is no doubt that including a working farm in the midst of 40-plus single-family homes on the site is very appealing. If the group's study is accurate, it could be a win for the property owners, and an extraordinary win for Mountain View and Los Altos, whose families have patronized the Grant Road farm for years.

When the farm's status was discussed prior to placing it on the May 8 agenda, council members Matt Pear and Tom Means seemed to indicate their disdain for the Farmlands idea. Pear made a motion that would have restricted city staff from considering the Farmland Group's proposal, which thankfully died for lack of a second when Means withdrew it, after he was assured that no city staff time would be invested in the plan.

In our view, this is precisely the kind of head-in-the-sand behavior that gives government at all levels a bad name. This proposal is a golden opportunity to preserve a swath of land that not only would define the neighborhood, but provide residents of the entire community with a working, self-sustaining demonstration farm. It might also raise property values.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to save a piece of the city's heritage with a plan that is entirely generated by local residents. We urge all members of the council to study the matter intently, and to give it the widest possible airing. There is nothing to lose.

■ LETTERS VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

UGLY S.F. NO MODEL FOR CITY'S GROWTH

I can't figure out whether Matt Karnes' guest opinion ("A true city embraces density," April 20) is a tongue-in-cheek look at the concrete jungle most of us are trying to avoid or a serious proposal for growth and density in Mountain View.

I can't imagine anything uglier than the cheek-by-jowl residential landscape of most of San Francisco. While the city has its charms, I need more greenery than the token street trees or parks. I also need the security of living in one of the most crime-free areas in the Bay Area. And I like that visitors can park near my house, as opposed to the search-forever tactics required in San Francisco.

It's true we don't have the same number of "cabarets," but there is plenty to do in Mountain View, much of it within walking or biking distance, for those who care to look. There are also lots of shopping places, most of them convenient to Mountain View's residents. As for parks, Karnes says we have enough parks, but offers no quantitative measure of what's "enough."

I love his suggestion of building "barracks for our young unmarried police officers and in-school housing for teachers." I doubt the officers would find barracks tempting. And I doubt our schools have room for on-site housing.

Finally, Karnes' dismissal of the Monta Loma neighborhood as an example of "automobile-centric

design" could be applied to San Francisco itself, with its mile after mile of concrete canyons. Yes, San Francisco has its convenient stores, but we do too — only here we call them 7-Elevens.

Those of us who live in suburban communities in the Bay Area do so because we don't want to live in ugly, urban environments. The scale of living in Mountain View is different from that of San Francisco, and most of us like it that way.

Elna Tymes
Adele Avenue

MOUNTAIN VIEW IS ALSO A 'TRUE CITY'

Editor:

Among the preposterous statements in last week's guest opinion by Matt Karnes is the claim that there is only one definition of a "true city." I would never trade Mountain View's pleasant neighborhoods, parks, our unique Castro Street, and view of the mountains for the increased traffic problems, air pollution, overcrowded schools, robberies and homicides that come with the increased density of a "true city" such as San Francisco. I only hope that our elected representatives will try their best to protect us from that fate and to nurture the characteristics of Mountain View that make it such a special place.

Mildred Halpern
Whitney Drive

► See **LETTERS**, page 16





The City of Mountain View Parks and Recreation Commission invites you to attend a Public Outreach Meeting for the Central, Stierlin, Whisman and North Bayshore Neighborhoods regarding the Parks and Open Space Plan Update

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

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LETTERS

► Continued from page 15

TOO MUCH DENSITY WILL CHOKE OUR STREETS

Editor:

The plan for the old Mayfield Mall site should be reasonable, but we need a cap on the number of homes built. We must consider how wrong it would be to increase the number of units to be built on the site as proposed by Matt Karnes.

The cap must keep the number of homes to be built as low as possible. If this is not done, our environment will be choked from the exhaust from the added number of automobiles in the area.

A number of issues would arise by increasing housing units on the site. Already the Rengstorff, Thompson and Mayfield on- and off-ramps from Central Expressway to San Antonio Road, the left-turn lane to California from San Antonio Road, and the turn lanes entering San Antonio shopping center are a mess with heavy traffic. Those streets could not handle additional traffic from a high-density project at the Mayfield site. Where does the city propose parking the large number of cars in this area?

What we need is not a lot more housing but more shopping in this area of Mountain View, and some open space for cleaner air, to go along with a few homes.

Barry and Diane Cavanaugh
Anna Avenue

minivan. After investigation we've had to conclude that the van must have been stolen.

Dear Good Samaritan: If you should read this letter, I would appreciate it very much if you would communicate with us for two reasons: To allow us to express our thanks in detail, and to tell us where it was that you encountered my wife, as that information might be of use in tracking down the missing van. E-mail us at lwestcottj@aol.com.

Larry Johnson
Los Altos

COME VISIT DEER HOLLOW

Editor:

Mountain View manages a working homestead farm for the benefit of thousands of Bay Area residents. Deer Hollow Farm, located in Rancho San Antonio County Park, will host special docent-led tours on May 19 and June 16 featuring visits with the farm animals in their pens and tours of century-old farm buildings and a large organic garden.

Deer Hollow Farm has been a renowned environmental education center for the past two decades. Each year, more than 4,000 elementary students attend Deer Hollow Farm field trips, half of them from Mountain View. The tours, which cost \$5 for adults and \$2 for children, raise funds for scholarships for these field trips.

Call (650) 965-FARM for more information.

Sue Gale
San Jose

THANKS FOR THE HELP

Editor:

Perhaps you can help us thank the Good Samaritan lady in a white SUV who, on the afternoon of Tuesday, April 10, very kindly brought my dear wife back to our home in Los Altos when she couldn't find our

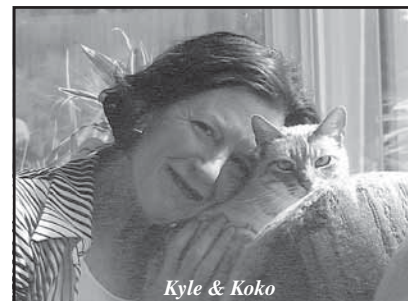
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■ GUEST OPINION
VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

Set limits for smart, responsible growth

By Godfrey Baumgartner

The recent guest opinion by Elna Tymes ("Smart growth doesn't mean no growth," March 23) has some valid points. We need to consider the long-term results of continual growth and accept that there are limits to population density.

What population density will be supported by finite resources such as water, police and fire services, parks and schools? Problems of traffic congestion, air quality and disaster response for a dense population in earthquake country are at a critical point. Will more time, even with slow growth, allow the city to solve these problems?

As for water resources, Hetch Hetchy, this city's primary water source, is already earthquake vulnerable. According to the officials who oversee it, demand has already outpaced assured supply. A hundred years from now, where is the water going to come from when we are facing unknown weather conditions due to global warming?

This land is not the Wild West open space that it was in the past. Limits must be set if we care about Mountain View's livability for generations to come. We already do this in other ways; occupancy limits, for example, are what city ordinances set for theaters, restaurants and other public gathering places. They do it for the health, safety and welfare of the community, not as a "shut the gate" policy.

Similarly, individual property owners near the former Mayfield Mall site can't just change

the zoning to allow a three- or four-story addition to their house. But when a big developer wants to pack in four- and five-story buildings, we are expected to take it, because the developer can get the zoning changed.

Volumes of environmental impact reports have not prevented gridlock or the loss of open space for parks. Developers try to maximize their profit; the impact of high-density housing is not their concern, they just take the money and run. Their high-density developments in Mountain View will only encourage, not deter, other developers to take up similar development opportunities.

It is the responsibility of city governments to call a halt to this opportunism. Individual citizens and neighborhood organizations lack the power or financial reserves required. Only the Mountain View City Council can stand up to developers and

protect the community from the wasteful destruction of the Mayfield site and the building of dense housing in an already overdeveloped area.

Mountain View is barely over 100 years old. What will become of the city in the next 100 years? The citizens of Mountain View should look at its history and consider what the next 100 years will be like for their descendants. Then they might discover a balance between population density and livability.

Mountain View should call a moratorium on development until it is determined whether we are going, or have gone, beyond the carrying capacity of our resources and environment with the growth that has already occurred. Only the City Council can set limits and determine the vision for the future of this area. ▣

Godfrey Baumgartner lives on Betlo Avenue.

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■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

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SAM TENNEY

Vegetarian Antipasti at Zucca, a new bistro in downtown Palo Alto.

■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

The more Zuccas the better

DOWNTOWN PALO ALTO ENJOYS AN ECLECTIC EUROPEAN MENU

By Sheila Himmel

First came Zucca Mediterranean in Mountain View. Now we have Zucca European in Palo Alto. Soon, Zucca Latin is expected to appear somewhere in the vicinity.

Restaurants are a risky business, but owner Praveen Singha's cheerful optimism never wanes. He says it's because he's from Canada.

Zucca Mediterranean opened in downtown Mountain View in December 2001, just in time

for the recession. When Singha showed his son what he'd bought, the teenager said, "Dad, you've made a big mistake." That Zucca is now a bustling sidewalk scene, carved out of a less-than posh tavern, the Town Club.

Now that Zucca European has four months under its belt in downtown Palo Alto, Singha can't help dreaming up what's next. His family remains cautious. "Please chew before you swallow," his wife told him.

Downtown Palo Alto already has a bellyful of Italian restaurants, so Zucca European veers north. The winter menu featured Swiss fondue. Danish open-faced sandwiches are coming, as are British bangers

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THE VOICE OF MOUNTAIN VIEW
2006 9 Years in a Row

and mash. Singha is sure that his young chef, Cecilia Garza, can conjure excitement out of British food.

Also on the menu are California-style dishes from Turkey, Spain and France. Some Zucca Mediterranean signatures, such as lamb shank and the Greek appetizer platter, appear in Palo Alto too.

Zucca European opened Dec. 10 in space formerly occupied by Nouveau Trattoria. Singha hopes to fill the patio between the restaurant and Gitti's Fine Lingerie

with outdoor diners. But the restaurant itself is floor-to-ceiling glass, and an extensive facelift makes it very pleasant inside. One oddity is putting chairs with wheels on a cement floor. They roll.

Although Zucca means pumpkin or squash in Italian, the current Zuccas are zucchini-shaped. In Palo Alto, you enter through the bar, which offers its own menu of small plates and conversation with charming manager

► See **ZUCCA**, page 20

ZUCCA

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If you would like to be listed in DINING ON THE TOWN please call Britt Callaway at the Voice at 964-6300

ZUCCA

► Continued from page 19

Muriel Moulin. The tapas are half price from 5 to 7 p.m. and

again from 9 to 11 p.m.

The central dining area features a ruby-red wall of wine bottles, bottoms facing out. Including the more formal "French room" used for private

parties, Zucca European seats 98 people.

The menu flies around the continent, mostly on small plates that are easy to share or keep to yourself, and a handful of entrees. In the extensive \$4.95 category called Small Plates-Tapas-Meze-Amuse Bouche, Spanish piquillo peppers are stuffed with goat cheese, and sauteed eggplant is done in a smoky, delicious Turkish style with garlic yogurt. Then there are appetizers, ranging from fondue (\$9) to a charcuterie plate (\$12) and spicy prawns

(\$12).

Besides the vegetarian antipasti plate (\$9.50), two pasta entrees are vegetarian, as are several salads and soups, and six or seven of the \$4.95 tapas plates.

The miniature morning cut green salad (\$7.50, as are all the salads) is a Chez Panisse-worthy mound of crisp lettuces interspersed with the colorful petals of edible flowers, lightly spritzed in vinaigrette.

Salads can be upgraded with blue cheese and almonds (\$5), grilled shrimp (\$6) and roast chicken (\$5). Zucca European is adaptable, never doctrinaire. And very fairly priced. The bountiful Mediterranean seafood stew (\$18) is stocked with flaky fish, tender prawns and mussels in a light tomato broth, accompanied by a big hunk of garlic bread. Greek-spiced lamb shank (\$22) is extra-large and meaty.

Braised Sonoma rabbit (\$22) is perfect with risotto that captures the flavors of truffle oil



SAM TENNEY

Chilled Poached Mussels with Pepper Relish at Zucca.

and rosemary. The meat tastes wilder than chicken, but not gamey or greasy.

Garza, 26, picked up a varied repertoire at Brigitte's French bistro in Santa Clara, the Left Bank, Alexander's Steakhouse in Cupertino, and Zucca in Mountain View. And while manager Madame Moulin clearly knows what she's about, the servers may not. If you have a serious question, about wine for example, ask for her.

Zucca European stocks 18,000 bottles of wine, from Santa Cruz producers to Argentina. What a treat to have 17 Italian white wines to choose from, and a South African called Goats Do Roam. There are trophy wines, but most welcome is the strong showing in bottles running \$28 to \$34.

In another burst of internationalism, the restaurant's Web site translates into seven languages. ▀



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MOVIE TIMES

- 300 (R) ★★1/2** Century 16: 11 a.m.; 1:40, 4:40, 7:25 & 10:10 p.m.
Century 20: 11:45 a.m.; 2:25, 5:10, 7:50 & 10:25 p.m.
- AFTER THE WEDDING (R) ★★★** Aquarius: 12:45, 3:30, 6:30 & 9:15 p.m.
- AQUA TEEN HUNGER FORCE (R)** Century 20: 2:35 & 7:20 p.m.
- ARE WE DONE YET? (PG)** Century 20: 11:40 a.m.; 1:55, 4:15, 6:50 & 9:10 p.m.
- BLACK BOOK (R) ★★★** Palo Alto Square: 1:30, 4:50 & 8:10 p.m.
- BLADES OF GLORY (PG-13) ★★** Century 16: 12:10, 2:35, 4:55, 7:55 & 10:20 p.m. Century 20: 11:55 a.m.; 1:05, 2:30, 3:20, 4:45, 5:55, 7:15, 8:15, 9:40 & 10:35 p.m.
- THE CONDEMNED (R) ★** Century 20: 11:30 a.m.; 1, 2:20, 3:45, 5:05, 6:35, 7:45, 9:20 & 10:30 p.m.
- DISTURBIA (PG-13) ★★★** Century 16: 11:45 a.m.; 2:20, 4:50, 7:20 & 9:55 p.m. Century 12: 12:30, 3, 5:30, 8 & 10:35 p.m.
- FIREHOUSE DOG (PG)** Century 12: 12:40, 3:20 & 7:10 p.m.
- FRACTURE (R) ★★★★★** Century 16: 11:05 a.m.; noon, 1:45, 2:40, 4:30, 5:20, 7:10, 8, 9:50 & 10:40 p.m. Century 12: 12:20, 1:40, 3:10, 4:25, 6, 7:20, 9 & 10:20 p.m.
- GRINDHOUSE (R) ★★1/2** Century 16: 2:15, 6:15 & 10:15 p.m.
Century 12: 9:30 p.m.
- THE HOAX (R) ★★1/2** Century 16: 7:35 & 10:20 p.m. Century 20: 11:35 a.m.; 2:15, 4:55, 7:35 & 10:10 p.m.
- HOT FUZZ (R) ★★★** Century 16: 11:30 a.m.; 2:15, 5, 7:50 & 10:35 p.m.
Century 20: 11:20 a.m.; 12:50, 2:15, 3:35, 5, 6:25, 7:45, 9:15 & 10:30 p.m.
- IN THE LAND OF WOMEN (PG-13)** Century 16: 11:40 a.m.; 2:25, 5:05, 7:30 & 9:55 p.m. Century 12: 12:05, 2:40, 5:05, 7:35 & 10:05 p.m.
- THE INVISIBLE (PG-13)** Century 12: 12:10, 1:30, 2:50, 4:10, 5:35, 7, 8:30 & 10 p.m.
- KICKIN' IT OLD SKOOL (PG-13)** Century 12: 11:50 a.m.; 2:30, 5:10, 7:50 & 10:30 p.m.
- THE LAST MIMZY (PG)** Century 20: 11:50 a.m.; 2:20, 4:35, 7:10 & 9:35 p.m.
- THE LIVES OF OTHERS (R) ★★★★★** Guild: 2, 5 & 8 p.m.
- MEET THE ROBINSONS (G)** Century 16: 12:05, 2:30 & 5 p.m.
Century 20: 11:25 a.m.; 12:35, 2, 3:10, 4:25, 5:35, 6:55 & 9:30 p.m.
- MEET THE ROBINSONS (IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D) (G)**
Century 16: 11:10 a.m.; 1:35, 4:15, 6:55 & 9:20 p.m.
- THE NAMESAKE (PG-13) ★★★** Century 20: 1:30, 4:20, 7:40 & 10:25 p.m. Palo Alto Square: 1:35, 4:25 & 7:20 p.m.; Fri. & Sat. also at 10:20 p.m.
- NEXT (PG-13)** Century 20: 11:35 a.m.; 12:40, 2, 3:05, 4:30, 5:30, 7, 8, 9:30 & 10:25 p.m.
- PATHFINDER (R)** Century 16: 12:25, 2:50, 5:15, 7:40 & 10:05 p.m.
Century 20: 8:05 & 10:20 p.m.
- PERFECT STRANGER (R) ★★★** Century 16: 11:25 a.m.; 12:15, 2, 2:55, 5:30, 7, 8:05, 9:35 & 10:40 p.m. Century 12: 1, 3:40, 7:40 & 10:25 p.m.
- THE REAPING (R)** Century 16: 4:35 p.m. Century 20: Noon, 4:40 & 9:45 p.m.
- REDLINE (PG-13)** Century 20: 12:05, 2:30, 4:50, 7:25 & 9:50 p.m.
- SHOOTER (R) ★★1/2** Century 12: 10:10 p.m.
- TMNT (PG)** Century 12: Noon, 2:25, 4:35 & 7:05 p.m.
- VACANCY (R)** Century 16: 11 a.m.; 1:10, 3:20, 5:35, 7:45 & 10 p.m.
Century 20: 11:45 a.m.; 12:30, 1:15, 1:50, 2:40, 3:25, 4:05, 4:50, 5:40, 6:15, 7:05, 7:55, 8:30, 9:25, 10 & 10:35 p.m.
- THE VALET (PG-13) ★★** Aquarius: 2:30, 4:45, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m.; Fri.-Sun. also at 12:15 p.m.
- WILD HOGS (PG-13) ★★** Century 12: 11:45 a.m.; 2:15, 4:45, 7:25 & 9:50 p.m.
- YEAR OF THE DOG (PG-13)** Century 16: 11:35 a.m.; 2, 4:45, 7:15 & 9:40 p.m. Century 12: 11:55 a.m.; 2:20, 4:50, 7:30 & 9:55 p.m.

Note: Screenings are for Friday through Tuesday only.

- AQUARIUS:** 430 Emerson St., Palo Alto (266-9260)
CENTURY CINEMA 16: 1500 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View (960-0970)
CENTURY PARK 12: 557 E. Bayshore Blvd., Redwood City (365-9000)
CENTURY 20 DOWNTOWN: 825 Middlefield Road, Redwood City (369-3456)
CINEARTS AT PALO ALTO SQUARE: 3000 El Camino Real, Palo Alto (493-3456)
GUILD: 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park (266-9260)
SPANGENBERG THEATRE: 780 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto (354-8263)

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

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



MOVIE REVIEWS

AFTER THE WEDDING ★★★
 (Aquarius) Jacob Peterson (Mads Mikkelsen) is one of the good guys, having foregone queen and country to run a struggling, cash-strapped orphanage in one of the poorest regions of Bombay. Summoned home to Copenhagen to meet with a wealthy entrepreneur (Rolf Lassgard as Jorgen) who may be offering a very large donation, Jacob reluctantly sets aside his anxiety over leaving the children and his dislike for the corporate rich and makes the trip. He finds himself in the center of a kinetic storm when he attends a family wedding and comes face-to-face with a familiar visage: Jorgen's beautiful wife Helene (Sidsel Babet Knudsen), with whom he shared a mercurial past. What transpires is an outbreak of doseted skeletons forced to come out to play. Personal and intricate, and worth a night out. *Rated: R for nudity and language. In Hindi and Danish with English subtitles. 1 hour, 59 minutes.* — J.A.

BLACK BOOK ★★★
 (CineArts) Melodrama runs thick as molasses in this epic tale of a woman's struggle to survive the atrocities of World War II. How far to go in order to secure one's life and the God-given right to freedom? That's the question facing Rachel Stein (Carice von Houten), a beautiful Dutch Jew who worked as a nightclub chanteuse before the onset of war. Rachel begins her perilous journey as a virtual slave in a strict Christian safe-house where she hides out with fellow refugees. Forced into the open, she is offered passage on a boat to independence with her reunited family. The promises end in tragedy and, not for the last time, Rachel barely escapes with her life. Next step is the Communist underground and a group of intrepid souls who fight the good fight for liberty and the secure future of Europe. Insisting she be put to work on the front lines, Rachel — now freshly monickered as Ellis de Vries — is offered placement of the most delicate kind, as spy and lover to one of the Gestapo's top agents (Sebastian Koch as Ludwig Muntze) stationed in Berlin. As the masquerade gains steam — literally and figuratively — a genuine affection grows between Rachel/Ellis and the surprisingly conflicted Muntze. Heavily plotted and mainstream to the max but irresistibly entertaining. *Rated: R for some strong violence, graphic nudity, sexuality and language. 2 hours, 25 minutes. In Dutch, Hebrew, German and English with English subtitles.* — J.A.

BLADES OF GLORY ★★
 (Century 16, Century 20) Two male figure skaters — child prodigy Jimmy MacElroy (Jon Heder of "Napoleon Dynamite") and "lone wolf" Chazz Michael Michaels (Will Ferrell) — are at the pinnacle of their profession. The men are heated rivals, a discord that culminates with a melee at the World Championships. The embarrassing clash gets both skaters banned from the sport for life. Flash forward three-and-a-half years. MacElroy works the ice-skates department of a shoe store while Michaels drunkenly performs for a children's ice show. Things perk up when MacElroy's stalker (Nick Swardson) finds a loophole in the skating rulebook. MacElroy can return to competition in pairs' figure skating, and who better to team with than his one-time rival? Soon MacElroy and

► See *MINIS*, page 22

Happy Mother's Day!

DINNER FRIDAY MAY 11TH 5PM-10PM
 Strolling Gypsy Violinist Tibor & Piano Accompanist Yelena

DINNER SATURDAY MAY 12TH
 Dinner and a Show featuring Leland Morine & Kaye DeVries
 Two Seatings 6:00 pm & 8:30 pm

MOTHER'S DAY SUNDAY MAY 13TH

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Weekend

MINIS

► Continued from page 21

Michaels are training under MacElroy's coach (Craig T. Nelson) in hopes of winning championship gold. Ferrell fans will find flashes of hilarity in "Blades," but DVD is a better outlet for these silly skaters. *Rated: PG-13 for crude and sexual humor, language, a comic violent image and some drug references. 1 hour, 33 minutes.* — T.H.

DISTURBIA ★★☆☆

(Century 12, Century 16) "Rear Window" gets a facelift for the iPod generation with "Disturbia," which is not so much a remake as a retread. A traumatic car crash leaves 17-year-old Kale (Shia LaBeouf) a distraught mess. One morning, Kale lashes out at his Spanish teacher, assaulting the educator and landing Kale in juvenile court. But the judge takes pity and sentences him to three summer months of house arrest, where an ankle bracelet will alert police if he steps outside a stringent 100-foot perimeter. Extreme boredom soon sets in and Kale turns to a pair of binoculars and his neighbors' varied habits for entertainment. Alongside pal Ronnie (Aaron Yoo) and gorgeous new neighbor Ashley (Sarah Roemer), Kale begins to spy on a quiet resident (David Morse as Robert Turner) whom the trio suspects may be a serial killer. Director D.J. Caruso ("Taking Lives") lures the viewer into a false sense of security before slamming home a pulse-pounding climax. Still, re-visiting familiar territory along the lines of "Rear Window" demonstrates a certain lack of imagination. *Rated: PG-13 for sequences of terror and violence, and some sensuality. 1 hour, 44 minutes.* — T.H.

FRACTURE ★★☆☆

(Century 16, Century 12) Director Gregory Hoblit's elegant thriller could be titled "The People vs. Hannibal Lecter." Playing a clever district attorney with a 97 percent conviction rate, Ryan Gosling shows off his acting chops and matches wits with Anthony Hopkins. The "Half Nelson" Oscar nominee holds his own against the steely-eyed Brit, whose structural engineer confesses to shooting his wife in what seems to be a slam-dunk case. Ted Crawford (Hopkins) trails his wife (Embeth Davidtz) to Santa Monica's Miramar Hotel, where she's having a no-last-names affair with Rob Nunnally (Billy Burke). Later Crawford confronts his wife in their stylish home, gunning her down in cold blood. He confesses, Willy Beauchum (Gosling) gets the open-and-shut case, and then things get interesting. Crawford changes his plea to not guilty — and the prosecutor starts scratching his head when the gun confiscated at the crime scene proves not to be the murder weapon. The issues surrounding this black-and-white case are colored in convincing shades of gray. There's not a fava bean or bottle of Chianti in sight. But if you like your thrillers served chilled, "Fracture" won't disappoint. *Rated: R for language and some violent content. 1 hour, 52 minutes.* — S.T.

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■ **MOVIE CRITICS**

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

GoingsOn

MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE

■ HIGHLIGHT

ST. FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL'S "GREASE"
 April 27-28, 7-10 p.m. \$10. Raskob Gym Theater,
 1885 Miramonte Ave., Mountain View.
 Call 968-1213 ext. 244. www.sfhs.com

SPECIAL EVENTS

9TH ANNUAL RACE FOR LITERACY A professionally timed 5K/10K race and 5K walk. Food, music, free t-shirts. Sun., May 13, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. \$20, 12 and under \$15 before April 29; add \$5 after. Family discounts. Shoreline Park, 2600 N Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. www.raceforliteracy.org

ART GALLERIES

"OPEN SPACES AND OTHER PLACES" Carolyn Shaw will present a solo exhibit of oil paintings of California landscapes through April 29. Free. 1870 Art Center, 1870 Ralston Ave., Belmont. Call 574-4654. www.1870artcenter.org

"SUGAR AND SPICE" "The Wonderful World of Little Girls" presented by Watercolor Artist Berni Jahnke. Through drawings done on site over the past year. Through April 28. Hours: Mon.-Sat., 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. Viewpoints Gallery, 315 State St., Los Altos. www.viewpointsgallery.com

"VIRIDITAS" PAINTINGS, INSTALLATIONS, PHOTOGRAPHY, EARTHWORK AND VIDEO By Tracy Ginsberg. Through April 28, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Free. Spur Projects, 888 Portola Road, Portola Valley. www.SpurProjects.com

AT THE WATER'S EDGE Landscape and oil paintings by Los Altos artist, Carol Hake on display through April 28. Hours: Tue.-Sat., 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Gallery 9, 143 Main St., Los Altos. www.gallery9losaltos.com

AUDITIONS

"SEUSSICAL" MUSICAL Auditions for ages 12-18 May 7-8, 7-9 p.m. Spartan Theater, 3535 Truman Ave., Mountain View.

PENINSULA YOUTH ORCHESTRA AUDITIONS The Peninsula Youth Orchestra invites instrumentalists, ages 6-18. Schedule an audition appointment April 25-26, or 29 for its performing orchestras and chamber ensembles at the beginning through advanced levels. Applications are online, or call the PYO office for more information. John Gill School, 555 Avenue Del Ora, Redwood City. Call 325-7967. www.peninsulayouthorchestra.org

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

ARTIST ACCESS Artists and photographers have access to the gardens after hours. Registration limited to artists who work with watercolor, pen, pencil, charcoal, pastels and photography. No oils or acrylics. Pre-registration recommended. Third Thursdays, through Oct. 18, 3:30-6:30 p.m. \$20 members/\$25 non-member per day. Filoli, 86 Canada Road, Woodside. www.filoli.org

CAREER AND COLLEGE PATHWAYS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION Prospective students can learn about degrees and certificates, becoming transfer ready for CSU schools, child development permits, advising, counseling and financial aid resources, and placement testing. Sponsored by Cañada College and San Francisco State University. May 3, 7-9 p.m. Cañada College Main Theater Gallery, 4200 Farm Hill Blvd., Redwood City. Call 306-3404. www.canadacollege.edu

MAGIC OF WATERCOLOR Learn techniques including: mixing color; brush techniques; using white paper; achieving luminous transparent washes and more. For teens and adults. April 29, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. \$110. Community School of Music and Arts at Finn Center, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. Call 917-6800. www.arts4all.org

CLUBS/MEETINGS

MID PENINSULA WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS ASSOCIATION Non-profit, peer support group for widows and widowers of all ages. Tuesdays, 7:15-9:15 p.m. Free to visitors. Los Altos Lutheran Church, 460 S. El Monte Ave., Los Altos. Call 961-0931.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

STANFORD HISTORIC HOUSE AND GARDEN TOUR The Stanford Historical Society opens 5 historic faculty homes and gardens on campus. Tour celebrates the publishing of Stanford Historic Houses, Book IV, featuring houses on tour. April 29, 1-4 p.m. \$25. Stanford University, Stanford. Call 324-0200. http://histsoc.stanford.edu

CONCERTS

CALIFORNIA BACH SOCIETY CONCERT The Madrigal, the Chanson, and the Lied: A Madrigal History Tour. An evening of Italian madrigals, German lieder, Spanish villancicos, and French chansons, capped off by gems from The Triumphs of Oriana, a collection published in 1601 to honor Queen Elizabeth I. April 28, 8

p.m. General \$25/senior \$18 /student \$10. All Saints' Episcopal Church, 555 Waverly St., Palo Alto. Call (415) 262-0272. www.calbach.org

DANCE

ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCING Traditional and modern set dances to live music. Beginners welcome; no partner required. \$9. First, third and fifth Wednesdays, through June, 8-10 p.m. Flex-It Studios, 425 W. Evelyn Ave., Mountain View. Call 493-6012. www.bacds.org/series/english/mountain_view/

EXHIBITS

PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS AND SCULPTURE Exhibition of works by artist Robert Poplack explores the possibilities of invented forms that rely on an internalized vision culled from years of experience painting directly from nature. Mon.-Sat., through May 28, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Free. Community School of Music and Arts at Finn Center, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. Call 917-6800 ext. 305. www.arts4all.org

FAMILY AND KIDS

"CHARLOTTE'S WEB" Peninsula Youth Theatre will present a Stories on Stage dramatization of E.B. White's classic about friendship and the circle of life. April 27, 9:30 and 11 a.m.; April 28, 11:30 a.m., 1:30 and 3 p.m. Tickets: \$5-\$7. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. www.pyt.net.org

BANTABA, AFRICAN DANCE ENSEMBLE

Music, folklore, dance and culture of West Africa. Sponsored by Applied Materials. Suitable for pre-school and young children. April 29, 2 p.m. preschool and young children; 4 p.m. school age children and adults. Free. Community School of Music and Arts, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. www.arts4all.org

ON STAGE

SHA SHA HIGBY IN PERFORMANCE "THE GLASS JUNGLE" Sha Sha Higby's sculptural costumes and puppetry in dance and drama. Suitable for adults and children of all ages. Call for info or tickets or purchase tickets online at www.ticketweb.com. May 5, 8-9:15 p.m. Community School of Music and Arts at Finn Center, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. Call 964-0494 or (415) 868-2409. www.ShaShaHigby.com

THEATREWORKS PRESENTS "MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG" An American story about dreamers and dreams. Through April 29. Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.; Wednesdays-Fridays, 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 2 and 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 and 7 p.m.; April 28, 2 and 8 p.m.; April 29, 2 and 7 p.m. \$20-\$60. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. www.theatreworks.org

■ MORE LISTINGS

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

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