

Mountain View VOICE

MAY 4, 2007 VOLUME 15, NO. 18

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IN BUSINESS | P.29



Lawyer blasts farm plan

OWNERS' ATTORNEY SAYS GRANT ROAD PROPERTY CAN'T BE USED AS A TAX DEDUCTION

By Daniel DeBolt

A local group's proposal to save part of the Grant Road farm from development is dubious, erroneous and would cost the property owners millions of dollars, the owners' lawyer wrote in a letter sent Tuesday to the *Voice*.

The letter, sent by attorney Lex Watson and copied to City Council members, described the plan by the Mountain View Farmlands Group as using the city "to coerce the owners into transferring 35 percent of their property to the Farmlands Group without compensation of any nature." Watson concluded that the group "seems hell bent to take the property away from them without compensation." (The letter is printed in its entirety on page 18.)

The city plans to annex and rezone the 15 acres of county land at Grant Road and Levin Avenue sometime this year. The property owners, sisters Pauline King and Betty Moore, have been working with developer SummerHill Homes to build 55 single-family homes on the site.

Last month the Farmlands Group unveiled an economic feasibility study, developed by Bay Area Economics, which determined that an alternative plan — involving fewer homes, but a tax deduction of as much as \$8 million — could be as or more lucrative than developing the entire lot. That plan would set aside five acres of the property for use as a local farm.

The City Council is scheduled to hold its first study session on the project on Tuesday, May 8, and members are expected to

decide whether city staff can study the Farmlands Group's proposal. Also, SummerHill will present a conceptual layout of its proposal and show preliminary architectural sketches.

Farmlands Group member Vicki Moore said her group has always said the proposal to put five acres into a tax-deductible easement should be voluntarily adopted, not forced on the owners.

"The council would not be requiring this to happen," Moore

► See **FARM**, page 13

Council to review general plan

By Daniel DeBolt

City Council members were relieved Tuesday to finally come to an agreement on how to move forward with updating the city's development blueprint — the general plan.

Culminating a discussion that began after last year's election, the council decided to revise only those parts of the general plan

► See **COUNCIL**, page 12



SAM TENNEY

GO WITH THE FLOW: Dancers from SF State perform a student-choreographed modern dance piece during the Mountain View Dance Festival on Sunday. The event, which brought 30 dance companies from around the Bay Area, was one of several over the past few days drawing hundreds of residents downtown.

Thousands flock to May Day rally

DAY WORKER CENTER LEADS MARCH TO CITY HALL, WHERE SPEAKERS DECRY LACK OF IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS

By Alexa Tondreau

Roughly one thousand people showed up Tuesday for the May Day march and rally for immigrants rights, which started at Escuela Avenue and made its way to City Hall in the late afternoon.

Maria Marroquin, executive director of the Day Worker Center in Mountain View, said the turnout was somewhat smaller than last year's rally, but the crowd's passion for the cause was not diminished.

"The amount of people is relevant but not the most important thing," Marroquin said. "What's important is that a lot of people from the community

are calling for an end to the raids."

All of the center's regular clients were at the rally, Marroquin said, and many brought their families.

"We are on your side."

SUPERVISOR LIZ KNISS

In the past year, federal immigration agents have staged raids across the Bay Area, arresting and deporting undocumented workers and their families. The raids have drawn heavy criticism

from local community members who view them as pointless, cruel and even inhumane.

Reports from school districts in Redwood City, where a substantial number of the Peninsula's raids took place, said parents were keeping their children out of school for fear the families could be broken up.

Speakers at the rally included Mayor Laura Macias, joined by council members Margaret Abe-Koba and Ronit Bryant, East Palo Alto council member Ruben Abrica, a representative from Assembly member Sally Lieber's office, and Supervisor Liz Kniss.

All of the speakers at Tuesday

► See **MAY DAY**, page 8

INSIDE

GOINGS ON 26 | MARKETPLACE 33 | MOVIES 23 | REAL ESTATE 41 | VIEWPOINT 17

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

Jack Earl



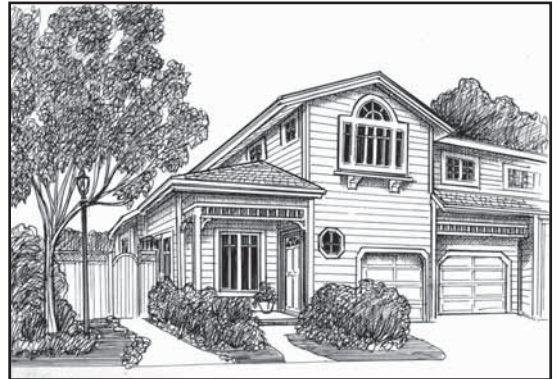
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Annette Hull



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

Janis Ahmadjian-Baer



MOUNTAIN VIEW ■ End-unit town home, 3bd/2.5ba, 1753+/- sf, 16 years old with upgrades. Separate FR, central AC. 2-car garage. Quiet yard, small complex. **\$765,000**

Betty Rooker



CUPERTINO ■ Comfy 1bd/1ba cottage in the popular Monta Vista neighborhood. New paint, refinished HW floors + air-conditioning. Nicely landscaped. **\$749,000**

Maisy Young



CUPERTINO ■ 3bd/2ba home, 1,888+/- sf with remodeled kitchen and hardwood floors. 7,405+/-sf. lot + great yards. Monte Vista schools. **\$1,368,000**

Dean Asborno



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Margaret Grant



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Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

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

Who is the best teacher you've ever had?



"Professor Wilcox. He was my grandfather and a progressive engineer in Silicon Valley. He inspired me to become an electrical engineer."

Steve Mylroie, Mountain View



"Ms. Jones. She was my English teacher. She taught me that you can do whatever you want if you put your mind to it."

Queen Shalom, Mountain View



"Gretchen Fisher. She was my son's first grade teacher. She instilled in me the joy of learning and reading with my son. He got the joy of learning instead of treating it like a task for grades."

Julie Wilkinson, Mountain View



"My mom. I have seen my family through tough times. She never let me feel less in any way financially or socially. She's my super mom."

Rajat Agrawal, Mountain View



"Mrs. Franco. She was my morality teacher. If you didn't know about a test she would say 'Go home, study for it' and give it the next day. She would try not to fail anyone."

Sydney Butler-Teroy, Mountain View

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Events & Lectures

"Osteoarthritis: Beyond COX-2 Inhibitors"
Tuesday, May 8, 7 – 8:30 p.m.
David Fischer, M.D., PAMF
Rheumatology

Dr. Fischer will discuss the causes and treatments of osteoarthritis, the most common cause of joint problems in adulthood. The focus will be on the risks and benefits of medication, surgery and lifestyle changes.

"FREE Skin Cancer Screening"
Saturday, May 12, 8 a.m. – noon
Presented by Department of
Dermatology, Palo Alto

Board-certified dermatologists will screen up to 300 patients. The event is open to the public and all ages are welcome. No appointment is necessary. **Located in the Clark Building.**

"Hearing Health Fair"
Wednesday, May 30, 2:30 – 5 p.m.
Presented by The Center for
Hearing Health, Palo Alto

The Center for Hearing Health will offer lectures presented by various experts on hearing-related topics. Numerous vendors will also be available to provide the latest information on products and services for individuals living with hearing loss. **RSVP to (650) 853-5374.**

Hearst Center for Health Education, Level 3, Jamplis Building, Palo Alto Medical Foundation, 795 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. RSVP to (650) 853-4873.

Classes

"Managing Your High Blood Pressure," Tuesday, May 22, 6 – 8 p.m.

This class provides information on causes, risks and treatment of high blood pressure, and approaches to successful reduction, such as exercise and medication.

"What You Need to Know About Warfarin," Wednesday, May 23, 6 – 8 p.m.

Learn what warfarin is, why you are taking it and how you can help yourself.

"Supermarket Wise," Wednesday, June 6, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Learn techniques for making healthier food choices in a local supermarket with dietitian Karen Ross, M.S., R.D.

"Advance Health Care Directives," call for available dates and times.

PAMF's specially trained volunteers will provide advice and answer questions about the advance health care directive form. No cost.

Support Groups

Cancer (1st & 3rd Tuesdays) • Diabetes (1st Wednesday) • Multiple Sclerosis (2nd & 4th Mondays) • Sleep Apnea (1st Thursday) • Alcohol and Drug Education (Every Tuesday) • Healing Imagery for Cancer Patients (May 9 & 23)

For information on class fees and to register, call the Education Division at (650) 853-2960.

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■ **CRIMEWATCH**

BANK ROBBERY, BANK OF AMERICA INSIDE ALBERTSONS, 4/28

On Saturday at 12:58 p.m., a man approached the teller window at Bank of America inside Albertsons, provided a bag to the female teller, and demanded cash. He didn't indicate that he was armed. The teller put the money in the bag and the man fled. The suspect, described as a Hispanic male, was wearing a blue denim jacket, blue denim fishing hat, and black T-shirt. Police haven't located the suspect and the case is still being investigated.

BRANDISHING WEAPONS, 1800 BLOCK EDNAMARY WAY, 4/26

A man says he was walking on Ednamary Way when he saw two Hispanic males point guns at him from inside two different vehicles. The man fled and no suspects were located. There were no other witnesses. The suspects' cars were described as an Oldsmobile Cutlass and a black Honda.

■ **POLICELOG**

ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON

2000 Latham St., 4/27

ATTEMPTED MURDER

2300 block Leghorn St., 4/27

AUTO BURGLARY

600 block El Camino Real, 4/26
 800 block Heatherstone Way, 4/26
 2600 block Terminal Blvd., 4/27

BATTERY

1700 block Ada Ave., 4/24
 500 block Central Ave., 4/26

BRANDISHING WEAPON

1000 block Ednamary Way, 4/25

CORPORAL INJURY TO SELF

300 Escuela Ave., 4/26

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

1800 block California St., 4/26
 Del Medio Avenue / Fayette Drive, 4/28
 2100 W. El Camino Real, 4/28
 Caltrain, 4/28
 300 Higdon Ave., 4/28

DISTURBANCE

1900 block El Camino Real, 4/26
 100 block Del Medio Ave., 4/27
 1800 block Vassar Ave., 4/28

DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE

400 block San Antonio Rd., 4/26

FORGERY

100 block Castro St., 4/27

GRAND THEFT

100 block Franklin, 4/26
 2300 block Rock St., 4/26

PAROLE VIOLATION

600 block Showers Dr., 4/28
 N. Shoreline Boulevard/ Terra Bella Avenue, 4/30

PETTY THEFT

The Office Bar, 4/24
 Rite Aid, Grant Rd., 4/24
 2400 block W. El Camino Real, 4/24
 3900 block Martens Ave., 4/24
 100 block Rose Ave., 4/25
 1000 block College Ave., 4/25
 Sears Department Store, 4/26
 Marshalls, 4/27
 Target, 4/27
 Mervyns Dept. Store, 4/27

POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA

1900 W. El Camino Real, 4/28

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

800 block San Veron Ave., 4/25
 2400 block W. El Camino Real, 4/26
 500 block W. Middlefield Rd., 4/26

STOLEN VEHICLE

500 block S. Rengstorff Ave., 4/28
 1300 block Montecito Av., 4/30

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES/PERSON

500 block Taylor Ct., 4/25
 Wal-Mart, 4/25
 1600 block San Luis Ave., 4/26
 Charleston Road / Independence Avenue, 4/26
 2000 block Middlefield Way, 4/27
 500 block Walker Dr., 4/30
 800 block Williams Way, 4/30
 200 block Easy St., 4/30

ROBBERY

1900 block W. El Camino Real, 4/28
 700 block E. El Camino Real, 4/28

TRESPASSING

Crittenden School, 4/27

VANDALISM

2600 block Casey Ave., 4/24
 The Milk Pail Market, 4/26
 McKelvey Park, 4/27
 300 block Easy St., 4/28
 1900 block California St., 4/30

■ **CORRECTIONS**

A story in last week's *Voice*, "Fight brews over school boundaries," incorrectly attributed a quote to Nancy Morimoto. Last week's "Seen Around

Town" photo misidentified the bird in the photograph. The bird is actually a young red-tailed hawk. The *Voice* regrets the errors.

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Your Everyday Farmer's Market

MOFFETT FIELD
Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

New Meeting Location

The next regular meeting of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) for former Naval Air Station (NAS) Moffett Field will be held:

On: Thursday, May 10, 2007, 7 to 9:10 p.m.

At: * NEW MEETING LOCATION *****
Moffett Field, Building 943, Mountain View, CA

Building 943 is located just before the main gate on NASA Parkway.

The RAB reviews and comments on plans and activities about the ongoing environmental studies and restoration activities under way at Moffett Field. Regular RAB meetings are open to the public and the Navy encourages your involvement. **To review documents on Moffett Field cleanup projects, please visit the information repository located at the Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin Street, Mountain View, CA 94041, 650-903-6887. For more information, contact Mr. Rick Weissenborn, Navy BRAC Environmental Coordinator, at 619-532-0952 or richard.weissenborn@navy.mil.**



We love a parade

By Don Frances

AS IT IS every year, the city's Spring Family Parade was a big hit last weekend.

For 29 years now, people from all over town have gathered on a spring morning to watch their neighbors march down Castro Street in silly garb, or representing their respective clubs, groups or neighborhoods.

It's one of those events that never seems to get too big or too small. It's not over-promoted or "sold out." It just is what it is — and everybody comes away smiling.

This year's parade featured a few additions, most notably the MVPD's mounted patrol. Introduced last holiday season, the mounted patrol is another way for Mountain View police to engage the community, and the horses are always brought out (they're stabled in Alviso, I believe) for special occasions such as this.

Beautiful as they are, horses don't come without certain pitfalls. Max Houser asked one of the mounted cops whether "this unusual Castro Street traffic posed, uh, risks to contingents following."

"The officer pointed out that it was, not by chance, the end of the parade."

THE END OF the parade didn't mean the fun was over. People gathered afterwards at Pioneer Park for various events, including, as Tracy Ferea noted, "Preparedness in the Park."

That's where you might have seen Jac Siegel at a booth, brandishing a monkey wrench to demonstrate how to shut off the gas in your home should we experience an earthquake.

Jac's demonstration was a repeat performance of the "Get-

► See **EDITOR'S DESK**, page 13



ZUNAIRA DURRANI

The parade ended at Pioneer Park, where members of AllStar Kung Fu delighted the crowd.

City turns out for spring parade

ANNUAL EVENT LIVENS UP CASTRO, BRINGS COMMUNITY GROUPS TOGETHER

By Zunaira Durrani

Mountain View's Little League teams, Kung Fu artists, Samba dancers and Elks Club soap box derby enthusiasts were

among the many community groups that came to Castro Street last Saturday for the 29th Annual Downtown Spring Family Parade.

The warm weather enhanced this year's Hawaiian theme,

"Surf's Up," and gave many residents the opportunity to don floral shirts and sandals. At 11:30 a.m., crowds had already lined both sides of

► See **PARADE**, page 14

Police probe double stabbing

Staff Reports

Two Mountain View men suffered serious injuries after being stabbed multiple times during a fight last week near the intersection of Independence Avenue and Leghorn Street, police reported.

The stabbing took place at about 10:20 p.m. last Thursday, April 26, police said, after "an altercation with multiple persons" took place near the intersection. Police did not release the identities of the victims, described only as 23-year-old Hispanic males. The suspects fled the scene, and none were identified as of press time.

After the stabbing, the two men managed to call an acquaintance, who picked them up to take them to a hospital. While driving to the hospital, the victims flagged down a Menlo Park police officer and reported the incident. Menlo Park police then contacted the Mountain View Police Department.

Police say the motive is unknown, and the suspects are described only as Hispanic males. Anyone with information on the incident should call Mountain View police at (650) 903-6395. ▀

Giants' bats score for Castro

SCHOOL GETS \$100 EVERY TIME SAN FRANCISCO CROSSES HOME PLATE

By Alexa Tondreau

Castro Elementary School was chosen last week for Wells Fargo's annual "Adopt-a-School" program, and will receive \$100 from the bank every time the San Francisco Giants score a run.

Bob Ceglie, the bank's regional director on the Peninsula, said donations could total roughly \$20,000 for Castro by season's end. So far the Giants have scored 74 runs this season, for a total of \$7,400.

Five Bay Area schools are chosen every year to receive the funds. Green Oaks Elementary School in

East Palo Alto was the other Peninsula school chosen for the program. Two elementary schools in San Francisco and one in Novato made the cut as well.

Ceglie said he went to Santa Clara County Superintendent Colleen Wilcox for recommendations of schools that could benefit from additional funds, and was pointed in Castro's direction.

"We are looking for diversity and economic need," he said of criteria for school participants. He added that many of the bank's customers at the Castro Street branch in downtown Mountain View are parents in the district, and the collaboration seemed to fit.

Adopt-a-School gives free rein to each school to spend the money — delivered as a lump sum at the end of the baseball season — however it sees fit. Castro has created a wish list, which can be viewed at knbr.com, composed of what Principal Carmen Mizell referred to as "luxuries." The list includes books on CD, field trips, and electronic equipment. The list also includes recreational equipment such as bowling balls and pins, hula hoops, and supplies for classrooms, offices and the school garden.

Mizell said the funds will be distributed equally throughout the school, adding that the pro-

gram helps generate a "climate of support and encouragement" at the school, which has struggled in recent years to meet federal and state academic standards.

Over the past three seasons, the Giants scored 2,245 runs, resulting in nearly \$225,000 in contributions to local schools.

Ceglie said Adopt-a-School was designed as a way for Wells Fargo employees to root for the Giants while giving back to the community. He said it can also be entertaining for Castro parents and students, who get an extra benefit whenever their home team scores a run.

Mizell said parents and children have already been informed of the program. "I'm sure they will follow the Giants' success," she said, adding, "I know I will." ▀

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■ SEEN AROUND TOWN

Lesser goldfinch



"We enjoy observing the urban wildlife in Mountain View, especially the variety of birds at our backyard feeders," wrote Gillian Zaharias of Lotus Lane. "Here's the silhouette of a lesser goldfinch getting at the last of the nyjer thistle seed."

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.

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BIG CINCO DE MAYO PARTY THIS SATURDAY

For several years, the only large-scale Cinco de Mayo celebration in town has been at Graham Middle School. This year, community leaders are taking a more city-wide approach.

Thousands are expected to come to Pioneer Park this Saturday, May 5, and the list of groups contributing to the party has snowballed to include the YMCA, city firefighters, the new mounted police division, the Police Activities League, the Red Cross and the Community School of Music and Arts. Mesa de la Comunidad is hosting the event.

The family event will feature games, pinatas, music, arts and crafts and food from Taqueria Los Charros. Performances include Marco Romero's Dance Studio, Raises de Mexico Dance Group, Mariachi Aztlan and the Castro

School Folkloric Dance Group.

Pioneer Park is located behind City Hall on Castro Street. The event will run from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

— Daniel DeBolt

ALSO SATURDAY: STEVENS CREEK CLEAN-UP

Community members are invited to help clean the trail at the annual Trail Work Day and Stevens Creek Clean-up Day on Saturday, May 5.

Activities include creek clean-up, painting and weeding. Participants are advised to wear sturdy shoes, long sleeves and pants and a hat for sun protection. Food and refreshments will be served. The event is jointly organized by the Friends of the Stevens Creek Trail and the city of Mountain View.

The event is 9 a.m. to noon at Whisman Park, 310 Easy Street, Mountain View. To sign up,

contact Tom Cronin at (408) 255-5780. For more information, visit www.stevenscreektrail.org.

LAG BAOMER BARBECUE ON SUNDAY

The Chabad of Los Altos and Mountain View is inviting community members to celebrate a Lag Baomer BBQ on Sunday, May 6 in Los Altos.

Families are invited to enjoy food, games, hoola hoops and a "Moon Bounce" in the park. The event is 1 to 3 p.m. at the Heritage Oaks Park on Miramonte Avenue, across the street from Portland Avenue.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for children. To RSVP, e-mail Rabbi Shmuel Volovick at rabbiv@jewishlosaltos.com. For more information, visit the Chabad of Los Altos and Mountain View Web site at www.jewishlosaltos.com.

— Zunaira Durrani

Teen rockers on a roll

MOUNTAIN VIEW HIGH LADS WOW THE SCREAMER SET AT RECENT GRAHAM GIG

By Alexa Tondreau

For a band called “Jaded,” these boys seem to have a bright future.

Tyler Bush, 16, and friends Adam Grubb, 17, and Peter Korrington, 17, all juniors at Mountain View High School, have been contacting local venues to get the word out about Jaded, their recently formed rock band which already has a growing following.

At a recent show during the inauguration of Graham Middle School’s new football field, Jaded inspired a host of middle school-aged converts.

“The screaming was staggering,” said Michael Bush, Tyler’s father. “It really took them aback. It was like the Beatles.”

Jaded was formed through Bush and Grubb’s friendship, which began in the third grade at Bubb Elementary, and

Bush’s inherent musical talent — besides being an accomplished guitar player who practices several hours a day, he also fronts the band and sings with near-perfect pitch.

Michael Bush, himself a lifelong guitar player and a single parent to Tyler and Brittney, 14, was an early proponent of the idea and now acts as the band’s manager.

“Tyler and Adam had become what I call ‘vidiots.’ All they did was play video games,” he said. “I wanted to redirect their energy.”

With Tyler on guitar and Korrington on drums, Grubb was asked to join as the bass player, an instrument he picked up for the first time three months ago.

“I’ve gotten a lot better,” Grubb said. “They voted me most improved.”

At a recent gig at Britannia Arms Restaurant and Pub in Cupertino, Jaded (which specializes in Green Day covers while the boys work on original music) brought in a crowd that was a cross-section of the Mountain View community they’ve known all their lives.

Friends, parents, teachers, neighbors and co-workers showed up, as well as a representative from Atlantic Records in San Francisco. All the interest resulted in Jaded getting its first serious case of the jitters.

“When we play for the younger

kids, I get nervous a couple of hours before. This time, I was nervous a full day before,” Bush said.

By all accounts the show was a success, inspiring the crowd to rise from its seats and dance. But the show was a success in another way as well — it generated funds for the band’s newly created charity, “Feed the Hunger,” the brainchild of Tyler Bush.

At all of Jaded’s shows, money and food is collected, which then gets funneled back to the local community through the Second Harvest Food Bank. From the beginning, Bush was clear that he wanted families in Mountain View to receive support.

“I know there are a lot of people in our community trying to make ends meet,” Bush said. “I see kids at school who don’t have money for lunch. Instead of sending the money to another

country, I wanted to keep it local.” Jaded has proved fertile ground for a number of offshoots. Besides “Feed the Hunger,” the boys have also formed a club at Mountain View High they call “School of Rock.”

The club was designed as a meeting ground for veteran and amateur musicians at school, who come together to talk, play and generally do all things music-oriented.

That sense of community permeates all of Jaded’s activities. A demo is scheduled to be recorded at Freestyle Academy — the district’s multimedia program, complete with a state-of-the-art sound studio and audio equipment — and announcements of upcoming shows are made through Graham Middle School’s television station, where Brittney Bush is an anchor.

The group has several upcoming gigs, including a personal invitation from Graham Middle School’s principal, Alicia Henderson, to do a repeat performance, as well as a gig at Stanford University for the college’s upcoming grad night.

And the rep from Atlantic records told Bush he loved the band, and will be back to see them again when they have original material.

For more on Jaded, visit www.myspace.com/jadedonline. ■

“I see kids at school who don’t have money for lunch. Instead of sending the money to another country, I wanted to keep it local.”

TYLER BUSH

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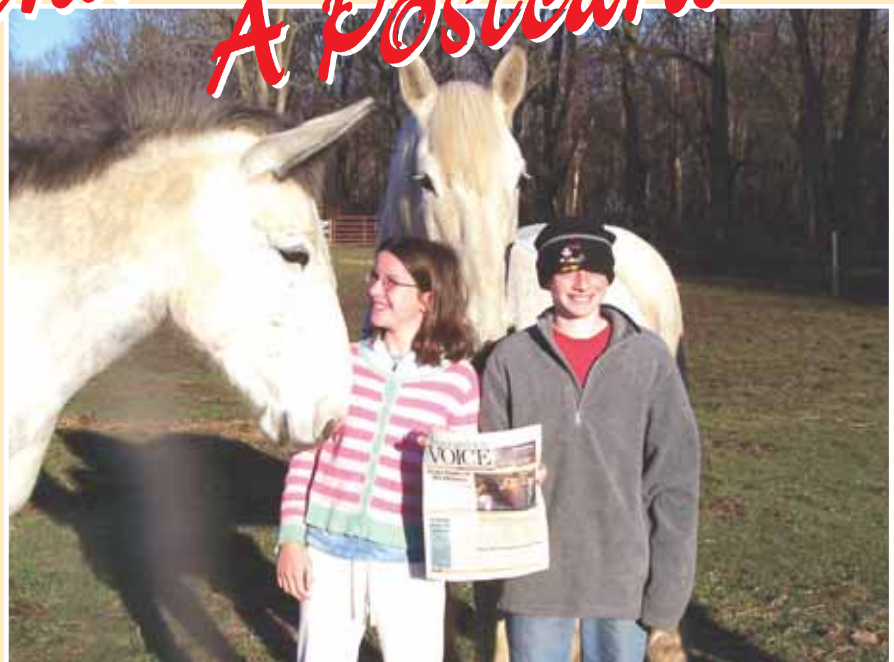


Photo of Jocelyn and David Baird (with animal friends Robin, Lea and Tristan) at their Aunt and Uncle’s farm in Brighton, Michigan.

Take a photo with the Mountain View Voice on your next trip and email to dmartin@mv-voice.com or mail to Postcards, P.O. Box 405, Mountain View, CA 94042.



MAY DAY

► Continued from page 1

night's rally spoke out against the raids.

Kniss told the crowd the raids had produced "a culture of fear which has grown among us like a bad ulcer." She said the raids caused embarrassment and humiliation among the Hispanic

community.

"We stand here today with other elected officials to say, 'We are on your side,'" she said.

The Raging Grannies, an activist group from Mountain

View, also took part in the march. They asked for laws to allow immigrants to have drivers licenses, and said they will continue their protests in Redwood City on May 3.

A common theme among the rally's protestors was the need for a comprehensive immigration bill from the federal government, one which would put an end to families living in fear of deportation.

Oscar Garcia, president of Mountain View's Mesa de la Comunidad, who told the crowd he grew up the son of an undocumented worker, said that until an immigration bill is passed, "the legacy of perseverance and overcoming will continue."

The crowd at City Hall featured a multi-generational gathering from the Latino community as well as community members from all sectors of Mountain View and the surrounding Peninsula.

Macias, who took a brief intermission from a council meeting to speak, said, "I'm so happy you are part of Mountain View. It creates the beautiful diversity our city is known for."

The Day Worker Center, which coordinated the rally, is an 11-year-old organization in Mountain View helping workers to find daily work. The center also offers classes in English. ▣

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District dumps Styrofoam

WHISMAN STUDENTS
BEING WEANED OFF
THROWAWAY LIFESTYLE

By Alexa Tondreau

The Mountain View Whisman School District recently decided to do its part in the growing trend toward environmentally friendly living, and found the effort paid off in more ways than one.

The change occurred in the cafeterias and lunch rooms of the elementary and middle schools in the district. Up until several weeks ago, students had used five-compartment Styrofoam trays to collect their food from the lunch lines.

Now, students are using washable and reusable plastic trays which serve the same purpose — without all the waste.

Gail Burke, the general manager of food services in the district, said the change reflects “savings in paper costs and trash removal.”

“We want our community to know that we’re trying to do something to help the environment,” she said. “Styrofoam takes so long to decompose.”

Estimates from MV Whisman’s food service department say 3,500 Styrofoam trays were being used by the district every day, which amounts to 630,000 trays every year. That’s five cubic yards of trash every day that is not delivered to the landfill. The savings in garbage fees alone add up to \$60 a day, or more than \$10,000 a year, the district says.

Burke also thinks neighbors will notice the difference, as the old Styrofoam trays won’t be littering the ground any longer, or spilling out of the overloaded garbage bins.

“We’re already getting kudos from the maintenance department because of the trash reductions,” Burke said, noting that the district also recycles cardboard and mixed recyclables.

New lunch room protocol has students dump leftover waste from their plates into garbage cans, and then put their trays into marked containers.

Burke said the switch to plastic is a good long-term habit to instill in the students.

“Recycling will become old hat to them,” she said. ▀

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

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Downtown artists mourn loss of Michael Smuin

BAY AREA CHOREOGRAPHER COLLAPSED WHILE TEACHING A BALLET CLASS

By Alexa Tondreau

Michael Smuin, famed choreographer and director of San Francisco's Smuin Ballet Company, died last week due to an apparent heart attack, leaving behind an acclaimed body of work which spanned four decades and pushed the boundaries of classical ballet.



Michael Smuin

Smuin, 68, brought his shows to the Mountain View Center for Performing Arts for the better part of a decade, and was scheduled to bring "Carmina Burana," his spring season headlining show, to the center beginning May 30.

Personnel from the downtown center have confirmed that the performances, six in all, will continue as scheduled.

Smuin's popular "Christmas Ballet" ran in Mountain View for the past eight years, making it an institution of sorts during the Peninsula's holiday season. The ballet was composed of two acts, with the first embracing the traditions of classical ballet, and the second more free-form, incorporating modern dance styles including tap, jazz and swing.

The combination spoke perfectly to the duality of Smuin's work, which always held true to the tenets of classical ballet while finding new and exciting ways to expand its modern vocabulary.

"His shows were so much fun. You didn't feel like had to get a dance degree first to understand them," said Scott Whisler, executive director of the Center for Performing Arts. "I think he sought to make the shows entertaining and accessible to everyone."

Smuin formed his 16-member ballet company in 1994 and brought its first show to Mountain View the following year, much to the delight of the arts center.

"We had been working pretty hard to attract talent that had his recognition and following," Whisler said.

Smuin began his career as a dancer, first with the San Francisco

Ballet and then on Broadway, where his work included the Bob Fosse-directed "Little Me" in 1962.

From 1973-85, Smuin was the choreographer and co-director of the San Francisco Ballet, helping to raise the company's national and international profile through such notable productions as "Romeo and Juliet" and "The Tempest," both of which won Emmys as part of the PBS "Dance in America" series. Smuin also choreographed shows on Broadway and in film and television.

But as the director and main choreographer of his own dance company, Smuin was able to follow his own vision. The shows he choreographed celebrated ballet while embracing dance traditions from around the world.

Whisler said Smuin aimed to thrill and entertain his audience.

"I feel like Michael really was about breaking down an intellectual barrier that surrounds dance. He was about making it fun and just getting it across."

This past December, Smuin spoke with the *Voice* about his latest rendition of "Christmas Ballet," which had been revamped with new sets and costumes and included additional dance numbers.

"We always do something new, but this is a big move up for us. It's particularly ambitious," he said.

At the time, Smuin said the athleticism and diversity of the dancers in his company inspired his choreography.

"I try to find people who have different dancing backgrounds and take advantage of that," he said.

As for whether the "Christmas Ballet" will continue in Mountain View, Whisler said there has been no word yet from Smuin Ballet, but the dance company is always welcome.

He added that Smuin's presence around the Center for Performing Arts, as his ballet troupe was preparing for their Christmas show, will be missed by staff.

"When Michael was around, everyone knew. He was such an energetic and engaging person," he said. "It's hard to imagine that kind of creativity and vibrancy as being gone." ▣

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

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LocalNews

COUNCIL

► Continued from page 1

needing an update, and to do it in two years. Reasons for the update given by council members include the need to address the conversion of industrial land, new development trends on EL Camino Real, the need for environmental policies and the need to improve transportation planning.

Though formal action has not been taken yet and details have yet to be sorted out, members expressed interest in extensive public input during the process. Council members Jac Siegel, Matt Pear and Ronit Bryant formed a subcommittee to look at options for moving forward.

During the discussion, council member Nick Galitto impressed colleagues with his research, showing that the city's 1982 general plan and the current 1992 update shared similar guiding principles. Pear expressed concern about the costs, which could run as high as \$1.5 million for a comprehensive update if it were to last more than three years.

Council member Tom Means said he wanted to make sure time wasn't wasted heavily examining the whole general plan, which he and most city staff seem to think is already in good shape.

Elaine Costello, community services director, said staff's main concern is the "trade offs" for other city projects that would

get less attention. According to the staff report, a general plan update could require the full-time attention of two to four staff members for several years.

Staffers in the planning department have already expressed concern this year about the workload, proposing that most projects requiring a zoning change be delayed until next year.

Three options were presented by city staff, ranging from the recommended two-year, \$500,000 update requiring the attention of two staffers, to a comprehensive update that could take more than three years, cost \$1.5 million for consultants and require the full-time attention of four staff members. City manager Kevin Duggan said it was premature to give any details as to what the council's direction would require.

The general plan is the blueprint for the city outlining its goals for long-term planning. Aspects covered include historic preservation, zoning, traffic, safety, art and open space.

So far, \$500,000 has been allocated in next fiscal year's proposed budget for updates to the general plan. Another \$300,000 would begin an update to the housing element, scheduled to be completed in 2009 as required by state law. Neighborhood meetings have already begun to update the city's parks and open space plan, a section of the general plan. ■

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

■ COUNCIL BRIEF

CITY TOPS THE HEAP FOR RECYCLING

The city recently managed to recycle 74 percent of all of its waste, giving it one of the highest recycling rates in California, according to a state study.

The city was recognized for the success at last week's council meeting. Credit was given to various programs, including the free business recycling program and the city's SMART station, which sorts garbage both mechanically and manually.

Contributing to the high recycling rate was the Highway 85/Highway 101 interchange project, which resulted in huge amounts of asphalt and cement being ground down and reused. Without that project, the city's diversion rate would have been 67 percent — still well above the state requirement of 50 percent.

A state official recommended that the council continue the trend by using asphalt made from recycled rubber for future road projects.

— Daniel DeBolt

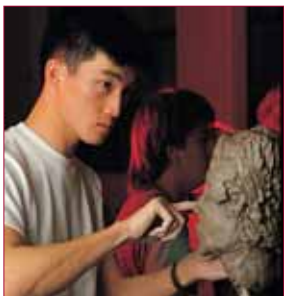
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FARM

► Continued from page 1

said. "We are simply suggesting it as a means to the council. It is a big deal that the landowner makes as much money as possible. We never said it should be a condition of approval."

Moore added that it's the duty of the City Council to make a decision that is best for the city.

"If the council majority is only concerned with how much money that landowner will make ... then that calls into question who they are representing," Moore said.

City attorney Michael Martello has said the council cannot force the owners to farm the land, but it can decide how the land will be zoned.

In his letter, Watson warns that if the council were to require that five acres remain agricultural open space, the owners would not qualify for a tax deduction, as the Farmlands Group's study claims. That's because, "As any decent tax attorney or tax accountant will tell you, a charitable deduction

may be claimed *if and only if* the gift is made out of 'disinterested generosity' and is not being made in exchange for other benefits (e.g., zoning or development approvals)."

He also wrote that the owners would not qualify for a tax deduction because they aren't in a high enough income bracket. Depending on when the donation took place, they would have to earn at least \$35 million or \$60 million over six years, he

"We are simply suggesting it as a means to the council."

VICKI MOORE

wrote.

Moore disagreed, saying capital gains taxes that would be counted from developing the land were probably left out of the equation. Those taxes could tip the owners into the qualifying tax bracket, she said.

Watson also questioned why

the sisters should give away \$18 million worth of land for a \$4 million to \$8 million tax break. Moore responded that Watson was "comparing apples to oranges." She said her group's plan — opting for more houses on less space — would increase the value of the remaining 10 acres to compensate for any loss.

It's still uncertain how the council will decide later this year. Four of the seven members appear to be open to the five-acre-farm idea, and two appear to oppose it. The Farmlands Group says more than 150 letters have been sent to the council from residents in support of its plan, and the results of a door-to-door survey of the site's neighbors will be presented at the meeting.

Last week, Vicki Moore said the Farmlands Group's plan was the only one that follows the city's general plan, which mentions the farm site in the housing element as well as in the parks and open space section. Meanwhile, Katja Kamengar of SummerHill Homes said the developer's plan is the only one that fits with the city's pre-zoning at the site. ■

wish they had a bigger say in how the agency runs its trains. Well, now's your chance: Volunteers are being sought to fill vacancies on the agency's Citizen Advisory Committee, or CAC.

The nine-member committee (which meets monthly for public meetings at Caltrain headquarters in San Carlos) provides feedback to Caltrain's board of

directors on the needs of rail customers, says agency spokesman Jonah Weinberg. Applications are due by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 15 through the Caltrain Web site, www.caltrain.com. For more information, call (650) 508-6223. ■

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

EDITOR'S DESK

► Continued from page 5

ting Earthquake Ready" event on April 22, Ferea said. And he'll be out again with his monkey wrench during the Cinco de Mayo party this Saturday.

Ferea is helping to organize these activities on behalf of the city's Community Emergency Response Team, or CERT, which as most people know is dedicated to preparing the city in case of disaster.

"We actually had multiple booths at 'Preparedness in the Park,'" Ferea said. She added that this was CERT's first year in the park following the parade, "but it was extremely successful and we were asked by Parks and Rec to do it again next year." Visit www.readysmart.com/events.html for more.

ALMOST-STAR POWER will be in effect at a CHAC event next week, when RJ Helton, a first-season finalist on "American Idol," will be a guest performer at "Out to Eat."

Out to Eat is a fundraiser put on by Outlet, a local gay support group and part of CHAC (which needs no introduction). The fundraiser is being held Thursday, May 10 at the Computer History Museum. Besides Helton, it will feature food, youth speakers and a silent and live auction. Visit www.projectoutlet.org for more.

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PARADE

► Continued from page 5

Castro Street in anticipation of

the parade. Evia Castilla, who was lucky to have found a spot in the shade, was watching out for her grandson.

“He’s part of the Giants [Lit-

tle League] team and the entire team is here. I love parades. It’s always a nice outing,” she said.

Mayor Laura Macias and City

Council members Margaret Abe-Koga, Ronit Bryant, Nick Galimoto, Matt Pear and Jac Seigel led the parade, which pushed off at noon from the 200 block of Cas-

tro Street and culminated at City Hall.

Over 50 groups, including a contingent from the city, took part in the hour-long event. The Golden Gate Chapter of the Volkswagen Club of America drew a loud cheer for its motorcade of vintage cars, and performances from Sambao O Povo and Gold Star Gymnastics also received heavy applause.

Mountain View resident Xenia Heklebrant gave thumbs up to the dancers from Sambao O Povo, saying that “the Samba was the most exciting part.”

Meanwhile, San Jose resident Daisy Troup was surprised at the turnout that gathered on Castro Street.

“It was a lot bigger than I thought. I think it is neat that a city like Mountain View can get such a crowd,” she said. Troup, like several onlookers, enjoyed the All Star Kung Fu display of martial arts.

The parade was followed by a carnival in Pioneer Park. Families enjoyed food, face painting, outdoor games and music until 3 p.m. The city’s parade coordinator, Lauren Merriman, hasn’t revealed the theme for next year’s parade, but promised it would live up to the tradition of “having fun.” ■

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Bill would shutter state's youth prisons

LIEBER'S MEASURE COULD RETURN 2,500 YOUTHS TO COUNTY FACILITIES

By Daniel DeBolt

Assembly member Sally Lieber, D-Mountain View, is shepherding a bill through the Legislature that would completely eliminate the state's troubled youth prison system, potentially placing 2,500 youths into county-run facilities.

The bill, AB 1655, passed the Public Safety Committee on April 24 on a party-line 5-2 vote.

Lieber said it has been proven that the Division of Juvenile Justice, formerly known as the California Youth Authority, "cannot be reformed." But the bill may not be as groundbreaking as it sounds; the state has been slowly decreasing the population of its youth prisons for years. Only the most troubled youth, about 2,500 of them, currently occupy the state's youth prisons.

In recent years Santa Clara County took "a very courageous and principled stand," Lieber said, and stopped sending its youth to state prisons. One of the advantages of local control is that it allows families to get involved in the rehabilitation of

their children, providing oversight for the facilities.

After a recent landmark court decision, the state allocated \$100

"We could provide intensive psychotherapy and full tuition at Stanford for a lot less."

ASSEMBLY MEMBER SALLY LIEBER

million to reform its youth prison system, but few changes have been made, Lieber said. Youth inmates still spend as much as 23 hours per day in solitary confinement and receive as little as 1 percent of the education they are entitled to.

"We have a special responsibility towards troubled youth to make sure they have psychological support," Lieber said, and "to make sure there is fam-

ily involved and that they have adequate education and health services. It's clear the state has failed at that."

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is already proposing to send 1,500 of the youth in state prisons to county facilities, but Lieber hopes he will support sending all of them back to the county level. If he does, the bill could pass later this year.

One advantage for state lawmakers is cost savings. While the state spends \$216,000 a year on each detainee, the county spends much less on average.

"We could provide intensive psychotherapy and full tuition at Stanford for a lot less," Lieber said.

County officials are looking to Missouri as a model for running its juvenile hall and ranch programs. According to a staff report from Lieber's office, "Missouri closed their youth facilities in the 1970s and today has one of the highest success rates in the country. Missouri's youth recidivism rate is only 15.7 percent compared to California's 75 percent."

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



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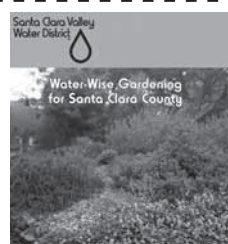


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Ernie was a carpet installer, and years of lifting and working bent-over had taken their toll. His MRI's revealed massive disc and joint degeneration. The surgeons he consulted were not optimistic about the outcome of surgery, given the extent of damage to the discs of L4 and L5 that had protruded and were pressing against the nerves causing his pain.

This was clearly a case for Spinal Decompression, a method of reducing the pressure on the disc, reducing the bulge and allowing the nerves to heal.

The outcome? Ernie was able to return to his work with zero pain. He lifts and installs carpet, water skis, surfs, and feels **"Fabulous!"**

Call to schedule a no-charge consultation. Feel free to bring any MRI's, X-rays or lab studies you may have. Please mention MV-10.

EDUCATION BRIEFS

LANDELS RECEIVES ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

For the second year in a row, Landels Elementary has received the prestigious Title I Academic Achievement Award, Mountain View Whisman district officials announced last week.

The award is given to Title I schools that have demonstrated an ability to close the achievement gap or maintain an Academic Performance Index (API) score of 800 or above. For the last two years, Landels has met these criteria.

CHALLENGE TEAM HONORS BRIGITTE SARRAF

The high school district's associate superintendent, Brigitte Sarraf, will be honored at the upcoming Champions for Youth Breakfast, sponsored by Mountain View's Challenge Team.

For her work and dedication to youth in the community, Sarraf has been selected as the annual champion for youth. She will receive special recognition at the ceremony for her service in the Mountain View community.

The Youth Breakfast, now in its 20th year, will be held May 7 at Michael's at Shoreline, beginning at 7 a.m. Michael Pritchard will be the keynote speaker.

— Alexa Tondreau

GRAHAM TEACHER NAMED 'EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR'

The California League of Middle Schools has announced its Educator of the Year awards for 2007, and math teacher Scott McGhee of Graham Middle School is among the honorees.

According to the CLMS Web site, McGhee "teaches math with enthusiasm and passion. His instruction is clear, challenging and highly interactive. Humor is a prominent professional tool."

McGhee was also lauded for helping to establish Graham's highly successful video production class, which takes place at the "zero period" before school starts.

The awards are given annually to 11 educators from different regions of the state. Awardees are picked based on how well they "implement elements of educational reform" in the classroom.

— Don Frances

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■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

Time is right for water recycling

When it comes to vital services, it is difficult to think of anything more important than providing clean, pure water to every household and business in the city.

But just like other commodities, water is too often taken for granted. The illusion is that there is always plenty. Just turn on a tap, flush the toilet, water the lawn or wash the car anytime you want.

But sooner or later, as demand increases and the price of water goes up, abundant supplies may dry up. This year is a perfect example of how warm weather in the Sierra can suddenly produce panic among water managers who depend on the snowpack to keep reservoirs at full capacity. Mountain View obtains about 90 percent of its water from this source, which flows through the Hetch Hetchy aqueduct to the Peninsula and San Francisco.

This year's talk of conservation underscores the importance of the city's interest in a system that would save about 10 percent our water by recycling it.

Very simply, such a system would rely on piping water from a Palo Alto treatment plant into dual plumbing systems installed in Bayshore buildings so that recycled water is used to flush toilets, cool air conditioners and supply fire sprinklers, while potable water is delivered to sinks and drinking fountains. Irrigation is another major use of recycled water, although there are questions about its impact on the Bayshore area's 400 redwood trees.

The city used recycled water delivered by a pipeline from Palo Alto from 1989 until 1998, when the line malfunctioned. It was not repaired, so in 2004, the two cities began planning a project to again deliver recycled water to the Bayshore area, including the city's golf course.

Most City Council members had supportive words for the project last week. Its cost, while high at \$20 million, could turn out to be a bargain in the years ahead, especially if there are more drought years. The city will shoulder about half the cost, mostly from the Shoreline Community Fund, with the remainder coming from Palo Alto and state grants. A long-term state loan will make up the difference if bids for the project come in higher than expected, as they did in an earlier version of the project.

Over the next 10 years, the city estimates, the cost of water will triple due to higher demand and the cost of long-overdue repairs to the Hetch Hetchy system. In such an environment, it makes sense to conserve such a valuable resource, which ultimately could slightly reduce water rates. The council should move ahead with this measure in order to safeguard the city's water supply.

■ LETTERS VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

FARM'S FUTURE NOW IN COUNCIL'S HANDS

Editor:

Thank you for your recent article describing the economic feasibility of preserving a five-acre farm as part of the development of the Grant Road farm property ("Study: More lucrative to save farm," April 6).

The study, prepared by Bay Area Economics and available at www.mvfarmland.org, describes the costs of various development scenarios and concludes that a housing development with a new five-acre farm provides equivalent land value to the developer, significant tax benefits to the owners, and no use of city funds.

The outcome of the City Council study session on May 8 will be a make-or-break decision for a farm option. If the council decides to annex the property from the county with the existing pre-zoning, then that zoning is fixed for two years and there is virtually no possibility of creating a mixed-use development of housing and a farm. The Farmlands Group would like the council to annex the property with a precise plan designation that would preserve Mountain View's heritage.

The group has demonstrated in the study that a win-win compromise is fair to the owner/developer and is economically feasible. We have a viable economic plan, community support, numerous endorsements, and even a local farming group (Full Circle Farms) that would like to run the farm operations along with educational programs.

The only thing needed now is

the political will of a City Council that recognizes how a local working/educational farm will benefit our entire community. It is essential that everyone interested in preserving Mountain View's last farmland attend the 5 p.m. study session on May 8 at City Hall, before the regularly scheduled council meeting.

Deborah Clark
Sierra Vista Avenue

SOME NEIGHBORS OPPOSE FARM PLAN

Editor:

I am a resident of Mountain View and I live in the Waverly Park area, just a few houses away from the proposed farm.

I am opposed to the Farmlands Group's plans because the design will cut off access to Levin Avenue, the feeder street to Grant Road. It also will prevent the homes on Winfield and LaSalle streets direct access to Levin Avenue. They will only be able to get to Levin by using Mansfield and Preston Drive.

This will force the cars in the new development to drive through the old areas to get to Grant Road. (The hole in the wall at the end of Preston Drive will be closed by the development.) As Grant does not have a traffic signal, these new cars will have to join the long lines of cars presently trying to get on Grant Road.

If the City Council approves the Farmlands Group's proposal, we will all have plenty of time while waiting at Grant Road to think about who we won't vote for in

► See **LETTERS**, page 18



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■ GUEST OPINION

Farm proposal is no 'win win'

IDEA PUT FORTH BY FARMLANDS GROUP AMOUNTS
TO LAND GRAB WITHOUT COMPENSATION

By Lex A. Watson II

In reading the *Voice's* April 27 editorial regarding the development of the property on Grant Road ("Farm idea deserves council's attention"), I couldn't help but notice several factual errors and felt it necessary to point out some of the conceptual errors with the Farmlands Group's proposal.

First, the editorial speaks of "offers" being made by the Farmlands Group to the owners, Betty Moore and Pauline King. However, no actual offers have been made by the Farmlands Group, and their Web site openly admits the group cannot purchase the property and the city will not fund a purchase. If the Farmlands Group had offered to pay fair value for the property, there would have been something to discuss. Instead, the "offer" the group seeks to advance is to have the city employ its vast powers to coerce the owners into transferring 35 percent of their property to the Farmlands Group without compensation of any nature. The owners have responded to, and rejected, this dubious "offer" more than once. How many times do the owners need to say "No" before people begin to acknowledge that the owners are not going to make a donation of property voluntarily?

It is also erroneous to say that there are tax benefits that will "make up" for the economic losses that the owners will suffer if their

property is taken in this manner. As any decent tax attorney or tax accountant will tell you, a charitable deduction may be claimed *if and only if* the gift is made out of "disinterested generosity" and is not being made in exchange for obtaining other benefits (e.g., zoning or development approvals). This is the base requirement to claim a charitable deduction that has been imposed by the courts, including the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and no coerced "gift" is ever made out of "disinterested generosity." End result, no tax deductions, no tax benefit and the owners are the economic losers — there is no "win win," only a loss on the part of the owners.

But let us assume that by some miracle the courts would permit the owners to perjure themselves without penalty and allow the transfer to be classified as a charitable gift. To utilize the charitable deductions, the owners would have to have more than \$36 million of income over the next six years if the "gift" took place in 2007, or more than \$60 million of income if the "gift" took place after 2007 — otherwise the alleged tax deductions are simply lost and of no benefit. As retirees, the owners do not have, and will not have, that kind of income, or anything remotely approaching it — a fact that the Farmlands Group has conveniently chosen to ignore.

And even if the owners could

call the transfer a "charitable gift" (which they can't) and even if they had the income to utilize the deductions (which they don't), why should they be required to transfer land that the Farmlands Group says is worth \$18 million in exchange for alleged tax benefits that, as noted in your editorial, the Farmlands Group says are worth \$4 million to \$8 million? Why should the Farmlands Group be entitled to require the owners to be out of pocket to the tune of a minimum \$10 million (and in actuality \$18 million since no tax benefits exist)? SummerHill Homes is not going to pay for property it doesn't receive, so where is the money coming from to make the owners whole for the much vaunted "win win"? The answer is simple — nowhere!

The bottom line in all of this is that two retired women have lost their parents and have inherited a valuable tract of land from their parents — and the Farmlands Group now seems hell bent to take the property away from them without compensation. One certainly hopes that our liberties have not been so eroded that our property can be stolen away simply because a vocal minority wants it. ■

Lex A. Watson II is attorney at law with Merritt & Tenney, LLP, based in Atlanta. He represents Betty Moore and Pauline King, the owners of the Grant Road farm property.

LETTERS

► Continued from page 17

the next election. I don't know any of my neighbors who are in favor of this farm.

Dominick Garofano
Preston Drive

LOSING FARM WOULD BE A TERRIBLE LOSS

Editor:

I am writing on behalf of myself, my family and thousands of others who love the Grant Road farm and would feel a terrible loss if it were plowed over.

I live on Eunice Avenue and go by the farm many times during the course of the day. When I drive by the farm, peacefulness comes over me — a true gift in this ever-so-busy world we live in. It is amazing what land and space can do to you.

I hope the City Council will consider, at its May 8 meeting, the value that having a piece of farm-

land in the middle of Mountain View has. It could be used to serve an educational purpose, it could be an indicator for the changing seasons, and it could remind us that we do not always need immediate gratification, that sometimes watching and waiting (such as finally eating corn that you've seen growing) produces a far greater sense of satisfaction.

I am urging all those who would like to see five acres of the Grant Road farm preserved to attend the May 8 City Council meeting. Show your support.

Colleen Mullenex
Eunice Avenue

FARM'S PARKING A RECIPE FOR DISASTER

Editor:

I have lived in close proximity to the Grant Road farm since September 1971 and I believe this is the right project but in the wrong area.

The fomenters of this idea

provide studies of how well this concept has worked in other areas but fail to take into account the demographics of this area when compared to their study samples.

My major concern is the impact this will have on automobile and pedestrian safety and neighborhood peace. In their plan, farm promoters have allocated parking to less than the size of my lot, which is 75 by 105 feet, and say they can park 25 cars there. Of course, if the lot is full, attendees will park at the nearest place possible. That place will be the new neighborhood. How does this enhance values?

Another scheme is to have "overflow" parking at Blach School. Then we will have pedestrians trying to cross Grant Road at a point where traffic reduces down to two lanes from four. Traffic on Grant has grown exponentially over the years and will not be reduced in the near future. This will create a real hazard to drivers and pedestrians.

I have watched the farm over the years and can tell you that even with all the parking they had available there was still overflow on Levin, with cars making dashes across and into Grant Road and children coming out from behind cars parked on Levin instead of crossing at the corner.

This proposal is a recipe for disaster. I don't believe the council members who oppose this idea have their heads in the sand but the proponents have their heads in the clouds. I hope you will get down to earth and rethink your position.

Thomas E. Holmes
Preston Drive

WORKING TO SOLVE GANG PROBLEM

Editor:

A Mountain View group known as the Challenge Team Gang Task Force, an arm of the larger Mountain View-Los Altos Challenge Team, is working very hard to solve the frightening problem of gangs. It is approaching the problem at every level, with a large emphasis on preventing kids from ever joining a gang.

A variety of groups have combined to work on the problem. One is CHAC, Mountain View's nonprofit which offers counseling to families and kids in local schools. Another is Victory Outreach, made up of ex-gangsters and people with family members in gangs, which reaches out to kids who have already joined a gang.

Our local police department is also pitching in by reviving the Police Action League. The department is also making more home visits to families with kids at risk of becoming gang members. Other groups and agencies involved include Mesa de la Comunidad, Peninsula Interfaith Action, the Mountain View Recreation Department, Fresh Lifelines for Youth and our local school districts.

There is tremendous interest in the Challenge Team Gang Task Force from outside parties. The Santa Clara County probation office, as well as the District Attorney's office, have sent representatives, adding insight and expertise. The San Jose mayor's gang task force has also sent representatives.

Mountain View and Los Altos, unlike other communities, have recognized that there is a gang problem, and have made serious attempts to deal with it, rather than ignoring the situation and hoping it will solve itself or go away. The problem will not go away, and only gets worse if ignored, just like a fire burning out of control.

Frank Jara
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■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

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MARJAN SADOUGH

A Trio Sampler Platter, right, with Imperial, vegetarian, and spring rolls served with peanut and hot sauce; and a Bird Nest Noodle Plate, left, with sauteed mixed vegetables and choice of beef, chicken or shrimp served in a basket of crispy egg noodle.

■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

Make mine Minh's

LOS ALTOS VIETNAMESE CUISINE
FASHIONED TO LOCAL TASTES

By Sheila Himmel

Vietnamese restaurants long ago conquered the South Bay. From Mountain View to Milpitas, diners practically trip over tiny dives that focus tightly on pho, spring rolls or a regional specialty. Nouveau Vietnamese bar scenes, dives and everything in between, all are easy to find.

Los Altos and Palo Alto have been left in the dust, dive-less to be sure, but considering Peninsula rents, that's never going to change. It's time they got their share of that middle ground, the restaurants where families and people over 40 can feel comfortable.

Dung Nguyen noticed this crying need. Six months ago, he opened little Minh's in downtown Los Altos. He and his wife, Jenny Nguyen, are members of the family that owns three larger, more industrial Minh's. They started in Milpitas about 16 years ago, and now have restaurants in San Jose and Arlington, Va.

There is no Minh. "It's just a name that's easy to pronounce," says Dung Nguyen.

In this and other ways, Minh's reaches out. In Los Altos, the menu is all in English, with helpful descriptions of each dish. Los Altos has lots more vegetarian options than do the South Bay Minh's, and higher prices to go

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MARJAN SADOUGHI

Minh's restaurant owner Dung Nguyen sets a table.

with the nicer decor.

Diners walk through the bar into two cheerful dining rooms, brightened with deep-set arched windows, stunning orchids and Minh's pleasant staff. Painted light green, chocolate brown and purplish red, the walls strike a tone of mint chip ice cream with a side of blackberry sorbet.

How do they keep the orchids alive without humidity? They don't. A plant service regularly

replaces the orchids.

Green papaya salad (\$10) comes with your choice of poached shrimp or calamari, drizzled in an appealing sweet-tart citrus dressing. Beef salad (\$9) also balances textures, flavors and colors, but the beef was too tough.

Appetizers are easily adapted to tables for two or 12. The spring rolls — fresh, fried and vegetarian

► See **MINH'S**, page 22

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MINH'S

► Continued from page 21

— come in \$5 and \$8 sizes. There are grilled chicken and beef skewers, fried prawns and calamari, and large sampler platters.

The shrimp cake starter (\$8) is cake in the sense of ingredients packed together, but not in the usual crab cake format. Lightly battered yams jam with juicy shrimp, looking like a mess of matchsticks. Break off a piece, roll it up in the accompanying green leaf lettuce, mint and cilantro, and dip in sublime fish sauce.

Asian crepe (\$8) also takes a surprising shape. Rather than thin pancake, this crepe is puffy like an omelet, but it's a rice-flour envelope stuffed with pork, shrimp and bean sprouts. You break off pieces and do the lettuce and dip routine.

In Northern-style charbroiled pork (\$8), marinated meat comes with angel-hair rice noodles, anchovy sauce, lettuce, julienne carrots, cilantro and mint. Combine at will.

Chicken lemongrass (\$10) claims to be spicy, but it's more aromatic than hot, with tender pieces of breast meat.

Curry prawn (\$12) carries the richness of coconut milk. Sea bass (\$16) comes grilled, steamed and sauteed. The tasty entree called banana boat (\$16) wraps the fish in banana leaves to be steamed with lily buds, ginger and meaty shiitake mushrooms.

Tofu can be substituted on much of the menu, so that although there isn't a separate vegetarian section, vegetarians can find lots of choices. Also accommodating, rice can be white (\$1 per person) or brown (\$2).

At the long, dark and handsome bar, Cognac fans may be satisfied but the wine selection needs help.

Banana fritters (\$5) come to the table in flaming brandy, with a scoop of vanilla ice cream. You will want to lap up the sauce. Minh's also has lychee ice cream and house-made flan.

In San Jose and Milpitas, the stuffed escargot appetizer and escargot soup are popular. They didn't go over in Los Altos. Catfish also has been a tough sell, but unlike the snails it's still on the menu. ■



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MountainView
VOICE

Dinner and a movie?
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Weekend Section.

MOVIE TIMES

300 (R) ★★★1/2 Century 20: 11:45 a.m.; 2:35, 5:10, 7:50 & 10:30 p.m.

AFTER THE WEDDING (R) ★★★ Aquarius: Fri. & Sat. at 12:45, 3:30, 6:30 & 9:15 p.m.; Mon. & Tue. at 12:45 & 3:30 p.m.

ARE WE DONE YET? (PG)
Century 20: 11:40 a.m.; 1:55, 4:10, 6:50 & 9:05 p.m.

BLACK BOOK (R) ★★★
Palo Alto Square: Fri.-Mon. at 1:30, 4:45 & 8 p.m.; Tue. at 1:30 p.m.

BLADES OF GLORY (PG-13) ★★ Century 16: 12:10, 2:30, 4:55, 7:55 & 10:15 p.m. Century 20: Noon, 2:30, 4:45, 7:25 & 9:50 p.m.

CIVIC DUTY (R) Century 12: 12:10, 2:30, 4:55, 7:20 & 9:45 p.m.

THE CONDEMNED (R) ★
Century 20: 11:25 a.m.; 2:20, 5:05, 7:45 & 10:35 p.m.

DISTURBIA (PG-13) ★★★ Century 16: 11:45 a.m.; 2:20, 4:45, 7:20 & 10 p.m. Century 12: 12:30, 3:10, 7:50 & 10:25 p.m.

FIREHOUSE DOG (PG) Century 12: 12:50, 3:30 & 7 p.m.

THE FLYING SCOTSMAN (PG-13)
Century 12: 1:20, 4:30, 7:30 & 10:30 p.m.

FRACTURE (R) ★★★★★ Century 16: 11:05 a.m.; 1:45, 4:30, 7:10 & 9:55 p.m. Century 12: 1:30, 4:20, 7:25 & 10:20 p.m.

GRINDHOUSE (R) ★★1/2 Century 12: 9:40 p.m.

THE HOAX (R) ★★★★★1/2
Century 20: 11:30 a.m.; 2:15, 4:55, 7:35 & 10:15 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.; 2:15, 5, 7:45 & 10:30 p.m.

IN THE LAND OF WOMEN (PG-13)
Century 16: 9:30 p.m. Century 12: 1:10, 3:50, 6:30 & 9:10 p.m.

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

KICKIN' IT OLD SKOOL (PG-13)
Century 12: 11:55 a.m.; 2:40, 5:20, 8 & 10:35 p.m.

THE LAST MIMZY (PG)
Century 20: 11:50 a.m.; 2:20, 4:35, 7:05 & 9:25 p.m.

THE LIVES OF OTHERS (R) ★★★★★ Guild: 2, 5 & 8 p.m.

LUCKY YOU (PG-13) ★★ Century 16: 11 a.m.; 1:50, 4:40, 7:35 & 10:25 p.m. Century 12: 1, 4, 7:10 & 10:10 p.m.

MEET THE ROBINSONS (G) Century 16: (in Disney Digital 3D) 11:10 a.m.; 1:35, 4:15, 6:55 & 9:20 p.m. Century 20: 11:25 a.m.; 1:50, 4:25, 6:55 & 9:20 p.m.

THE NAMESAKE (PG-13) ★★★ Century 20: 1:30, 4:15, 7:40 & 10:25 p.m. Palo Alto Square: 1:35, 4:25 & 7:20 p.m.; Fri. & Sat. also at 10:10 p.m.

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

PERFECT STRANGER (R) ★★★
Century 12: 12:20, 3:20, 6 & 8:40 p.m.

THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW (1975) (R)
Guild: Sat. at midnight.

SPIDER-MAN 3 (PG-13) ★★1/2 Century 16: 11:25 & 11:50 a.m.; 12:15, 12:50, 1:30, 2, 2:45, 3:10, 3:35, 4:10, 4:50, 5:20, 6:15, 6:30, 7, 7:30, 8:10, 8:40, 9:35, 9:50 & 10:20 p.m.; Fri.-Sun. also at 10:10 & 10:40 a.m.; Fri. & Sat. also at 10:50 p.m., 11:30 p.m. and midnight. Century 20: 11:15, 11:35 & 11:55 a.m.; 12:15, 12:45, 1:10, 1:35, 2, 2:25, 2:45, 3:05, 3:25, 3:55, 4:20, 4:45, 5:10, 5:35, 5:55, 6:15, 6:40, 7:10, 7:35, 8, 8:25, 8:50, 9:10, 9:35, 10 & 10:25 p.m.; Fri.-Sun. also at 10:50 a.m.; Fri. & Sat. also at 10:45 p.m.

VACANCY (R) Century 20: 11:45 a.m.; 1:50, 4:05, 6:20, 8:30 & 10:35 p.m.

THE VALET (PG-13) ★★
Aquarius: 2:30, 4:45, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m.; Sun. also at 12:15 p.m.

YEAR OF THE DOG (PG-13)
Century 12: Noon, 2:35, 5:10, 7:35 & 10:05 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)

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

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

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



MOVIE REVIEWS

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 (Sidse Babett Knudsen), with whom he shared a mercurial past. What transpires is an outbreak of closeted 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 monikered 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.

THE CONDEMNED ★
(Century 20) Egotistical media tycoon Ian Breckel (Robert Mammon) makes grand plans to stage an epic contest that pits the world's strongest men and women against one another in a gruesome fight to the death. Live snuff film disguised as a grisly morality tale.

► See **MINI REVIEWS**, page 25

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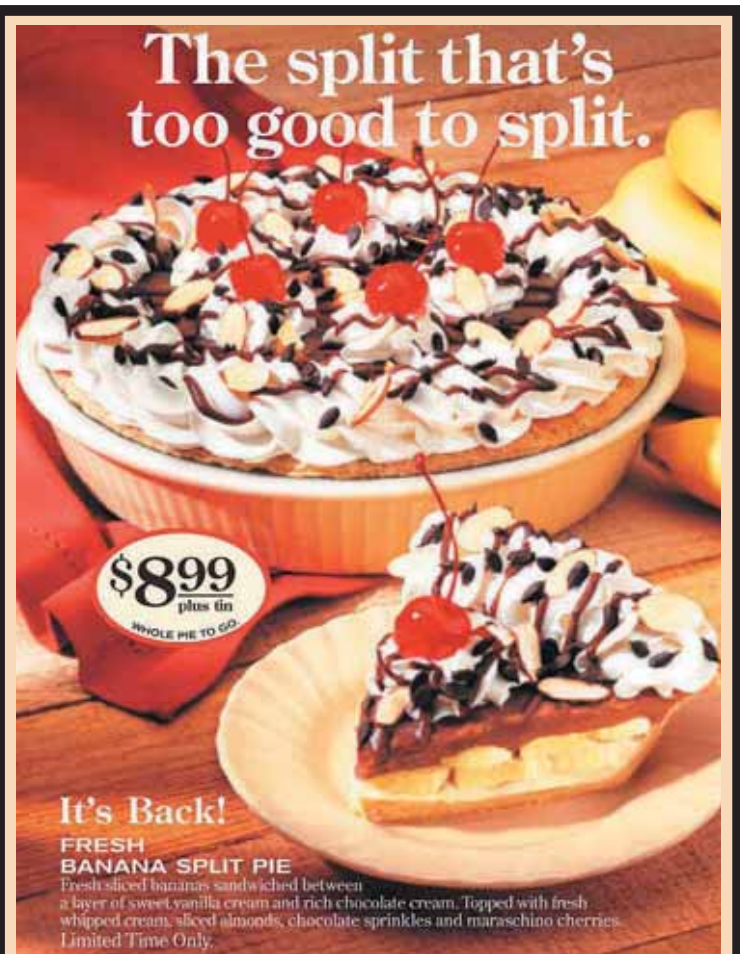
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■ MOVIE REVIEW

Spider-Man's tangled web

THIRD INSTALLMENT COURTS ITS OWN DARK SIDE,
BUT TRIES TOO HARD TO PLEASE EVERYONE

By Jeanne Aufmuth

Despite an overwhelming sensation of been-there-done-that, Tobey Maguire and company inject enough fresh material into "Spider-Man 3" to keep both fans and converts happy. Or happy enough.

Its business as usual for Peter Parker (Maguire) and lady love Mary Jane Watson (Kirsten Dunst). The duo is in a good space — Parker with plans of popping the question and Mary Jane finally nailing down her thespian dream job. And the city is happily enjoying a newfound crackdown on crime thanks to its favorite arachnid superhero.

That's all the goodwill to be had before the inevitable onset of doom and gloom. A beautiful star-gazing evening for Parker and Mary Jane turns "War of the Worlds" when a flashy meteor smashes to earth and oozes a slithery black slime that's clearly up to no good.

Across town, the hardened criminal who murdered Parker's uncle (Thomas Haden Church as Flint Marko) escapes

from prison and, in one of the film's more arresting set pieces, has an unfortunate run-in with a scientific de-molecularizer that renders him rather, um, granular. Goodbye Mr. Marko, hello Sandman!

On a more personal note, Parker's best buddy Harry Osborn (James Franco) has a beef of his own, still hanging on to the belief that Parker was responsible for his father's death. A bump on the head, courtesy a dumbed-down superhero conflict, erases Harry's memory and turns him into an amnesiac pussycat who's nothing but sunshine and light.

As in all comic-book-based films worth their salt, Parker gets a brand-new nemesis in hotshot Daily Bugle photographer Eddie Brock (Topher Grace), whose fall from grace at Parker's hands means revenge is just a special effects unit away.

There are moments, in particular those involving the aforementioned black slime (actually an evil symbiote that bonds to a host for survival), that work like a charm. Parker gets up-close and personal with the sticky stuff, resulting in an unnaturally aggressive Spider-Man and Parker as an



Tobey Maguire stars in "Spider-Man 3."

egocentric chick magnet with Saturday Night Fever swagger. The effect is priceless, offering Maguire a chance to strut his stuff both literally and figuratively.

Dunst isn't so blessed, stuck with a one-note role that she phones in with little pizzazz and a surplus of female anxiety.

How far can this series go, ensuring that the "Spider-Man" franchise hang onto its blockbuster cache while keeping the diehard fan-boys happy? That's the predicament facing "3," an overly ambitious mishmash of styles and concepts that ebb and flow and try — too hard — to please everyone.

Yet the concept of dark-side duality is

well crafted, both the Parker/Spider-Man struggle and Parker's tangled relationships with friends and family. This very human element is critical in offsetting some silly superhero battles and an over-the-top finale that leaves us feeling languorous. Oh what a tangled web we weave. ■

■ MOVIE NOTES

Stars: **1/2

Rating: PG-13 for intensity and violence

Run Time: 2 hours, 17 minutes

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MINI REVIEWS

► Continued from page 23

Breckel sends his henchman to some of the world's bleakest prisons to gather 10 desperate "contestants" for a reality show with consequence; nine will die and the grand prize winner will walk away with his freedom. The death-row hopefuls are dropped onto a fully wired island (four hundred lenses!) in Southeast Asia while millions of Internet subscribers the world over tune in (at \$49.99 a crack) for some mortal combat, gladiator-style. Each contestant has an explosive tracking device attached to his or her ankle that will detonate after 30 hours. Kill or be killed — game on! This is a vehicle for World Wrestling Entertainment star "Stone Cold" Steve Austin, a heart-of-gold hooligan whose mano a mano fight scenes generate as much heat as a flickering campfire. Long, loud and pointless. *Rated: R for relentless language and violence. 1 hour, 50 minutes.* — J.A.

HOT FUZZ ★★★

(Century 16, Century 20) London top cop Nicholas Angel (Simon Pegg) is so good he's making the rest of the force look bad. To cool off the heat, Angel's superior officer re-assigns the hardcore over-achiever to the sleepy village of Sandford in the beautiful West Country. It's a disastrous fit from the get-go. Sergeant Angel's on full testosterone tilt and busting everyone from the underage drinkers at the local pub to tipsy dog-walkers: much to the dismay of amiable Police Chief Frank Buttermen (Jim Broadbent), who takes great pride in his Stepford-on-the-Green, where Neighborhood Watch and Saxon the police dog are all that are required to maintain the status quo. But Sandford's rustic aesthetic masks a deeper secret. When a series of grisly murders rocks the village's peaceful aura, they're nothing short of music to Angel's ears — as well as to his bumbling partner Danny (Nick Frost), who dreams of big-city crime and car chases "French Connection" style. Pegg and collaborator Edgar Wright of "Shaun of the Dead" fame have parlayed their own twisted brand of comedy into yet another engaging movie, doing for the action film what "Shaun" did for the zombie genre. *Rated:*

R for graphic images and language. 2 hours, 1 minute. — J.A.

NEXT ★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) To whom should the government turn when a sinister terrorist group threatens to detonate Los Angeles? Why, a gifted Las Vegas magician, of course. Unique Nevada showman Frank Cadillac, a.k.a. Cris Johnson (Nicolas Cage), is more than just smoke and mirrors. The spirited illusionist can literally see the future. But his strange gift comes with a catch: He can only view events within the next two minutes and only those in which he's directly involved. Good enough for the U.S. government. Hardened F.B.I. agent Callie Ferris (Julianne Moore) believes Johnson is the country's best chance at averting a nuclear attack that would make Chernobyl look like a champagne cork. And Cris has no interest in helping the feds, especially with visions of a luminous beauty (Jessica Biel as Liz) racing through his mind. As Cris pursues the woman of his dreams, Callie and her crew pursue him. Kinetic action and riveting "flash forward" scenarios make "Next" an entertaining thrill ride. But a paper-thin plot and cardboard characters may mean this flick isn't in your future. *Rated: PG-13 for intense sequences of violent action, and some language. 1 hour, 36 minutes.* — T.H.

PERFECT STRANGER ★★★

(Century 12) Investigative reporter Rowena Price (Halle Berry) makes a living uncovering scandal and lies. Her childhood neighbor Grace (Nicki Aycox) suggests that big-time ad executive Harrison Hill (Bruce Willis) has something to hide. But Price doesn't probe until Grace turns up dead, a victim of belladonna poisoning. Posing as a temp, Price infiltrates Hill's New York advertising agency and assumes yet another identity as she instigates an online flirtation with the married man. Miles (Giovanni Ribisi), her associate, provides technical support and more than professional interest in their relationship. With the exception of some clunky but essential flashback scenes, the narrative moves at a fast clip. "Perfect Stranger" reflects contemporary fears about trust issues. These themes may have lost their edge, but the thriller will keep you edgy most of the time. *Rated:*

R for sexual content, nudity, some disturbing violent images and language. 1 hour, 55 minutes. — S.T.

THE VALET (LA DOUBLURE) ★★

(Aquarius) The French tabloid headlines scream "The Princess and the Parking Valet" in writer-director Francis Veber's clever but clunky farce about an elaborate charade involving an unlikely couple. A sexy supermodel and an unassuming parking attendant share a bed in this satire that doesn't quite deliver on its enticing premise. A paparazzo's camera catches CEO Pierre Lavasseur (Daniel Auteuil) with his top-model mistress Elena (Alice Taglioni). To avoid scandal and an expensive divorce, Lavasseur tells his wife (Kristin Scott Thomas) that he was accidentally caught in the shot while passing by. The unidentified man, parking valet Francois Pignon (Gad Elmaleh), must be the model's lover. The complications and comedy of errors mount as Lavasseur puts his plan into place. Instead of provoking hearty laughter, this slight French confection may coax only a few smiles. *Rated: PG-13 for sexual content and language. In French with English subtitles. 1 hour, 25 minutes.* — S.T.

MOVIE CRITICS

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



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MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE

■ HIGHLIGHT

4TH ANNUAL MARKET PLACE: A BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY SHOWCASE

Presented by Chamber of Commerce Mountain View. With demonstrations and exhibits from local businesses: technology companies, business and consumer services, community resources, restaurants and entertainment. Keynote address by Microsoft.

May 9, 4-7 p.m. \$5/free with business card. Computer History Museum, 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. Call 968-8378. www.chambermv.org

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

EMERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL TOURS Thursdays, May 10 and 17, 2-3 p.m. Free. Emerson School, 2800 W. Bayshore Road, Palo Alto. Call 424-1267. www.headsup.org

GAMBLE GARDEN SPRING GARDEN TOUR Tour of 5 private Palo Alto gardens and historic Gamble Garden, plant sale, luncheon and boutique. May 4-5, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tickets \$30 in advance/\$25 for members/\$35 day of event. Advanced reservations required for lunch, \$15. Elizabeth F. Gamble Garden, 1431 Waverley St., Palo Alto. Call 329-1356. www.gamblegarden.org

MAKEUP FOR MOMS CLASS May 6, 11:30-12:30 p.m. Free. Elephant Pharm, 4470 El Camino Real, Los Altos. Call 472-6800. www.elephantpharm.com

SPRING USED BOOK SALE Hosted by The Friends of the Los Altos Library. May 5, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; May 6, 12:30-3 p.m. Cash only. Free. Hillview Community Center, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos.

ART GALLERIES

JERRY UELSMANN: DREAM THEATRE A career-spanning look at the work of photographer Jerry Uelsmann. Through May 30, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Free. Modernbook Gallery, 494 University Ave., Palo Alto. www.modernbook.com/jerryuelsmann.htm

AUDITIONS

"ANYTHING GOES" Auditions for Cole Porter's musical "Anything Goes" given by Los Altos Youth Theatre for ages 12-21. May 3, 7-9 p.m.; May 4, 4-6 p.m. Prepare an upbeat song with sheet music in your key. Accompanist provided. Come prepare to dance and bring your conflicts. Los Altos Youth Theatre, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. Call 947-2796.

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

BENEFITS

CIRCLE OF SUPPORT WITH MIKE RIERA Bestselling author and parenting expert, Dr. Mike Riera, speaks on "The Hidden Logic of Children and Teenagers." Proceeds of the 4th

Annual Breakfast benefit Family and Children Services. May 10, 8-10 a.m. \$70. Crowne Plaza Cabana Hotel, 4290 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. Call 326-6576. www.fcservices.org

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

BUILD A SHORTWAVE RADIO Students learn about the basic physics of radio wave generation, propagation, and reception. Students design their own short wave radio receiver in class. Saturdays, May 12-June 2, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$35 members/\$45 non members. Museum of American Heritage, 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. Call 321-1004. www.moah.org

NATURAL SOLUTIONS TO DIGESTIVE PROBLEMS With Jenny C. Lee, Certified Nutrition Response Clinician. May 8, 6:30-7:30 p.m. \$10. Whole Foods Market, 4800 El Camino Real, Los Altos. Call 380-1999.

NUNO FELTING Bring a contemporary style and look to an ancient method to create fabric that is lightweight and flexible. For teens and adults. May 13, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. \$100. 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

6TH ANNUAL LOS ALTOS HOME AND GARDEN TOUR Tour features 5 homes in various Los Altos neighborhoods, a garden boutique, refreshments, and the J. Gilbert Smith house at the Los Altos History Museum. May 12, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$40 non-members/\$30 members. Los Altos History Museum, 51 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. Call 948-9427 ext. 15. www.losaltoshistory.org/events.htm

DOWNTOWN WELCOMES THE 85TH ANNUAL MAY FETE PARADE May 5, 8:30 a.m. live music and a children's backstage "dressing room" at Lytton Plaza for all parade participants. Free. Downtown Palo Alto. Call 462-1795. www.paloaltodowntown.com

OUT TO EAT 2007 Out to Eat honors Outlet youth. To raise money for the Peninsula's resource for queer teens. May 10, 5:30-9:30 p.m. \$100. Computer History Museum, 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. Call 965-2020 ext. 22. www.projectoutlet.org

CONCERTS

"THE BEST OF BROADWAY" Tenor Enrico Saboren heads an ensemble of musicians Sat., May 5, 7 p.m. Neighbors Abroad fund-raiser for children's library in Palo, Leyte, the Philippines, Palo Alto's Sister City. Reception. \$15 donation. Palo Alto Art Center Auditorium, 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto. Call 326-8885.

KIAI Original works for North American Taiko, including the premiere of three new works, plus a collaboration with Stanford Taiko alumni in celebration of the ensemble's 15th anniversary. May 5, 8 p.m. \$10/\$5. Dinkelspiel Auditorium, 471 Lagunita Dr., Stanford. Call 723-2720. http://music.stanford.edu/events/calendar.html

STANFORD INVITATIONAL CHORAL FESTIVAL A choral festival for ensembles from Stanford and local schools. May 4, 7:30 p.m. Free. Memorial Church, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford. Call 723-2720. http://music.stanford.edu/events/calendar.html

STUDENT RECITAL Jessica Hu, soprano, and Kristen Fuchs, mezzo-soprano, present songs and arias by Cesti, Purcell, Faure, Schumann, and Libby Larsen. May 6, 2:30 p.m. Free. Campbell Recital Hall, 541 Lasuen Mall, Stanford. Call 723-2720. http://music.stanford.edu/events/calendar.html

DANCE

29TH ANNUAL SPRING MIGRATION DANCE CONCERT The program will feature newly commissioned works in a variety of forms, including contemporary ballet, modern, urban and hip-hop and hybrid styles, and live video/dance collaborations. May 4-6, 8-10 p.m. \$15 general/\$10 faculty, staff/seniors \$5. Roble Studio Theater, http://campus-map.stanford.edu/index.cfm?ID=04-650, Stanford. Call 725-5838. http://stanford.edu/dept/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/

ENVIRONMENT

22ND ANNUAL SPRING GARDEN TOUR May 4-5, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$35. Gamble Garden, 1431 Waverley St., Palo Alto. Call 329-1356 ext. 0. www.gamblegarden.org/

EXHIBITS

100 YEARS AT THE WILLIAMS HOUSE Exhibit celebrates the 100th birthday of the Wil-

liams House through revisiting the life and times of the family who built and occupied the home. Exhibit examines life from 1907 to the 1930s. Through June 3. Fri.-Sun., 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Museum of American Heritage, 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. Call 321-1004. www.moah.org

ARCHITECTURAL TOURS OF WILLIAMS HOUSE Docent led architectural tours of the Century Old Williams House. Saturdays, through June 2, 2 p.m. Free. Museum of American Heritage, 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. Call 321-1004. www.moah.org

BARE WITNESS: PHOTOGRAPHS BY GORDON PARKS Exhibition comprised of 73 photographs that were selected by the artist African American photographer, filmmaker, and author Gordon Parks. Hours: Wed.-Sun., 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thu., 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Through July 1. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Dr., Stanford. Call 723-3469. http://museum.stanford.edu

CALIFORNIA FINE PRESS PRINTERS EXHIBIT Exhibition features fine press books from Stanford's Special Collections, ranging from small volumes of poetry to deluxe limited-edition collaborative works representing 40 presses active in California over the past three decades. Through June 17. Peterson Gallery, Green Library Bing Wing, Stanford. Call 326-1235. www.sul.stanford.edu/depts/spc/exhibits/index.html

IN THE AMERICAN WEST: PHOTOGRAPHS By Richard Avedon. Assertive, controversial, and graphically striking, Avedon's oversized images of working-class Westerners provide the opportunity to reexamine the group of photographs and to explore the realities and myths of the American West. Hours: Wed.-Sun., 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thu., 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Through May 6. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Dr., Stanford. Call 723-3469. http://museum.stanford.edu

KEEBLE AND SHUCHAT PHOTOGRAPHY Members of the Traditional Black and White Interest Group are displaying a potpourri of black and white images. Through May 23, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Keeble & Shuchat Photography, 290 California Ave., Palo Alto. Call 327-8996. www.kspphoto.com

MANDALA ART EXHIBIT Artist Maia Apollonia Rode creates luminous mandalas in colored pencil and collages with spiritual themes. Mon.-Thu., 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sun., noon-6 p.m. Free. Free. Institute of Transpersonal Psychology, 1069 E. Meadow Circle, Palo Alto. Call 493-4430 ext. 254. www.shivalotus.com

PAINTINGS By British artist Matthew Radford. Exhibit includes works from 1990 to present. Tue.-Sat., 11 a.m.-7 p.m. and by appointment. Through May 12. Free. Chelsea Art Gallery, 440 Kipling St., Palo Alto. Call 324-4450. www.chelseaartgallery.com

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

STAINED GLASS BY JUDY MILLER Memorial retrospective exhibit of stained-glass pieces by the late Palo Alto artist Judy Miller, along with works in oil by Cheryl Pope, acrylics by Szn Kraft and photography by Jean Slocum. Through July 31. Free. Sheridan Apartments, 360 Sheridan Ave., Palo Alto. Call 473-1179.

FAMILY AND KIDS

DEER HOLLOW FARM TOURS May 19 and June 16, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Tour a working homestead farm with trained docents. Benefits scholarship fund. Includes short film. \$5 adults/\$2 children/under 2 free. Deer Hollow Farm, Rancho San Antonio County Park, Los Altos Hills. Call 965-FARM. www.fodhf.org

MEDITATION AND MINDFULNESS WORKSHOP "Mindfulness for Parents and Children" A Workshop Sponsored by PACT. Two workshops, one for parents and one for kids, designed to increase mindfulness and the joys of family life. Parents will learn meditation and mindfulness techniques. Children will use movement, crafts and games. May 9, 6:30-8 p.m. Free. Mariano Castro School, 505 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. www.pactschool.net

FILM

"HER BROTHER" Kon Ichikawa's portrait of a dysfunctional family in prewar Japan. May 11, 7:30-9 p.m. Free. Cubberley Auditorium, 485 Lausen Mall, Stanford. Call 725-2742. www.japan1960.blogspot.com

"THE BAD SLEEP WELL" Akira Kurosawa's reworking of the tale "Hamlet," set in the corridors of power in corporate Japan. May 4, 7:30-10 p.m. Free. Cubberley Auditorium, 485 Lausen Mall, Stanford. Call 725-2742. www.japan1960.blogspot.com

MONDAY MOVIES May 7: "Wordplay" May 14: "The Pursuit of Happiness" May 21: "Happy Feet" 1-3 p.m. \$1 members/\$2 non-members. Little House, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 326-2025. ext.230. www.peninsulavolunteers.org

PALO ALTO FILM SERIES "MOVIES THAT MATTER" May 4, 7:30-9:30 p.m.: "Jesus Camp" The film is a look into an intense training ground that recruits born-again Christian children, some as young as 6 years old, to become an active part of America's political future.; May 11, 7:30-9:30 p.m.: "My Country, My Country." Director/cinematographer Laura Poitras creates an intimate portrait of Iraqis living under U.S. occupation. The film follows the agonizing predicament of one man caught in the contradictions of US occupation and its project to spread democracy. Donation \$5-\$10. Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto, 505 E. Charleston Road, Palo Alto. www.worldcentric.org/filmseries/pdfs/spring2007.pdf

UNITED NATIONS FILM FESTIVAL May 7, 2 p.m. "Bombies," a documentary of the U.S. secret air war on Laos of 2 million "cluster bombs." Free. Avenidas, 450 Bryant St., Palo Alto. Call 289-5436. www.avenidas.org

WEDNESDAY MOVIES May 9: "To Kill a Mockingbird"; May 16: "School for Scandal"; May 23: "Akira Kurosawa's Dream"; May 30: "Madama Butterfly." 1-3 p.m. \$1 members/\$2 non-members. Little House, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 326-2025. www.peninsulavolunteers.org

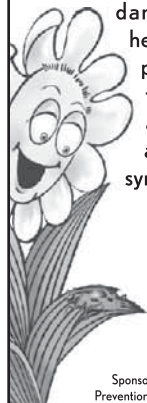
LIVE MUSIC

"SOUTH MEETS NORTH" Presented by Topaz and the Venezuelan Music Project. Featuring

► Continued on next page

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GoingsOn

► Continued from previous page

Mimi Dye, violist, Jackeline Rago, cuatro player and percussionist, and the VMP perform Venezuelan music and American jazz standards. Sat., May 5, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$25 in advance/\$30 at the door. All Saints' Church, 555 Waverley, Palo Alto. Call 856-2423. <http://www.topazmusic.org>

MARGIE BAKER Wednesdays, 7:30-10:30 p.m. Singer Margie Baker performs live. Free. Cafe Fino, 544 Emerson St., Palo Alto. Call 326-6082. www.maddalenasrestaurant.com/

PALO ALTO CHOIRS SPRING CONCERT May 4, 7-9 p.m. \$5. St. Mark's Church, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto. Call 329-3856. www.homepage.mac.com/palychoirs

ON STAGE

"ENCHANTED APRIL" Four English women break free of their rain-drenched sorrows with a holiday in a rented castle in Italy surrounded by wisteria, sunshine, and unexpected love. Wednesdays-Sundays, through May 5, 8 p.m. \$22-\$32. Bus Barn Theater, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. Call 941-0551. www.busbarn.org

"JEKYLL AND HYDE" THE MUSICAL Palo Alto Players presents Frank Wildhorn's Broadway musical adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's tale of the duality of good and evil in the human soul. Through May 13, Wed.-Sat., 8 p.m.; Sun., 2:30 p.m. \$20-\$30. Lucie Stern Theater, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. www.paplayers.org

KIWANIS VARIETY SHOW "DRIVE-IN" A salute to the 1960's and 1970's drive-in movies presented by the San Carlos Kiwanis Club. May 4-6, 8 p.m.; Sunday matinees 2 p.m. \$20/orchestra \$25. Woodside Performing Arts Center, Woodside High School, Redwood City. Call 591-5260.

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

SENIORS

SENIOR HEALTH CHAT iCapturing Our Life Stories with Margriet DeLange, gerontologist. Tue., May 8, 1-2:30 p.m. Sponsored with Senior New Ways and CSA. Free. Los Altos Senior Center, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. Call 968-0836. www.seniorenewways.org

SENIOR HEALTH CHAT iPoetry Therapy with Joy Sherman. Fri., May 4, 10 a.m.-noon. Free. Los Altos United Methodist Church, Creekside Center, 655 Magdalena Ave., Los Altos. Call 209-1119. www.seniorenewways.org

TALKS/AUTHORS

"THE FUTURE OF FUELS: WHAT DRIVES OUR CARS TOMORROW?" A panel of experts from the area of fuel-cell, hybrid, electrical cars and bio-diesel fuels will discuss possibilities to replace conventional fuel. Tue., May 8, 6-9 p.m. Members \$20/non-members \$35/\$50 at the door. Cooley Godward, 3175 Hanover St., Palo Alto. Call 386-5015. www.gaba-network.org/index.php?option=com_events&task=view_detail&agid=210&year=2007&month=05&day=08&Itemid=116

VOLUNTEERS

MY NEW RED SHOES Volunteers needed to organize back-to-school fundraising drives at their offices, churches, country clubs and other organizations during the month of July. For more information, email heather@mynewredshoes.org or visit www.mynewredshoes.org Call 283-5112.

■ MORE LISTINGS

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

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EL CAMINO HOSPITAL CELEBRATES NATIONAL NURSES DAY.



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