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HOME & GARDEN | P.33



MAY 18, 2007 VOLUME 15, NO. 20

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Council weighs in on boundaries

MEMBERS LEND THEIR SUPPORT TO KEEPING
MOUNTAIN VIEW STUDENTS AT NEAREST SCHOOL

By Alexa Tondreau

The City Council voted Tuesday to support the Mountain View families who oppose a change in school boundaries which could force their children to attend a different school farther from their home.

The controversial changes have been proposed by the Los Altos School District, which serves about 1,200 Mountain View students who mostly live near the city's northern border. Three of the four scenarios presented by the district would force students currently attending their neighborhood elementary schools, Santa Rita and Almond, to attend Covington or Bullis, both of which are about three miles away.

Tuesday's council action endorses sending a letter to the school district expressing support for the residents who might be affected by the boundary change, and encouraging district officials to keep students in schools close to their home.

Council member Margaret Abe-Koba, who brought the item to the table, said 30 percent of the district's students are Mountain View residents, and the council should weigh in as a matter of representation.

All agreed that boundary changes should support "walkability" — making it possible for students to walk or ride their bikes to school — but members hesitated to get into specifics and wanted to keep the letter generally supportive of local residents.

"I can see resentment with a different elected body telling

▶ See **BOUNDARIES**, page 12



SAM TENNEY

WAITING IN THE WINGS

Students from the Graham Middle School Choral watch the Crittenden Jazz Choir perform Monday at Mountain View Whisman's sixth annual Choral Fest at Shoreline Amphitheatre.

Farm critics rally

NEARBY NEIGHBORS
SAY TRAFFIC, DUST
ARE GOOD REASONS
TO NIX PLAN

By Daniel DeBolt

The idea to preserve five acres of the Grant Road farm has always had its opponents. But few knew how emphatic the opposition had become until a score of neighbors arrived at last week's City Council meeting and stated their opposition in no uncertain terms.

The newly formed group, Defending Our Neighborhood, is largely steered by Tom Holmes, a real estate consultant, and Dominick Garofano, a retired aerospace engineer, who are residents of Preston Drive, next to the farm. Both are concerned about increased auto and pedes-

▶ See **FARM**, page 11

Day Worker Center looking for a home

LEASE AT CALVARY CHURCH EXPIRED, OPTIONS ARE RUNNING OUT

By Molly Stenhouse
and Alexa Tondreau

After five years at Calvary Church, the Mountain View Day Worker Center is facing the end of its lease, with no prospect for a new location in sight.

With July 31 its last day at Calvary, pressure is mounting, director Maria Marroquin said. If they don't find a new location soon, she said, "we're out on

the street."

Currently housed at the church, located at Escuela Avenue and California Street, the center matches day workers and employers from out of Calvary's small Sunday school room. It also provides financial protection for the 90 or so workers, verifies skills and experience for employers, and offers other programs such as English classes and medical check-ups.

Marroquin said the center ideally will stay in Mountain View — "We love this community and we believe it is where more of the workers live," she said — but it won't renew its

lease with Calvary Church.

"We always thought of it as temporary, and we've been here more than five years now," Marroquin said.

Calvary's pastor, Jim Stringer, said he found the center to be a good tenant, but he's not sure a church is "the right place for a worker center."

Stringer added that before Calvary offered to let the workers use the church's Sunday school facility, the center had been "told no by every church in the area."

▶ See **DAY WORKER**, page 7

GANGS
IN MOUNTAIN VIEW

SEE PAGE 10

INSIDE

GOINGS ON 30 | MARKETPLACE 41 | MOVIES 27 | REAL ESTATE 48 | VIEWPOINT 19

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

Ryan Gowdy



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Ginny Zachow



SUNNYVALE ■ Dramatic 3bd/2.5ba town home in the sought after Traditions complex. This turn-key is a must see. 2013+/- sf. New paint and carpet. **\$715,000**

Karen Bella



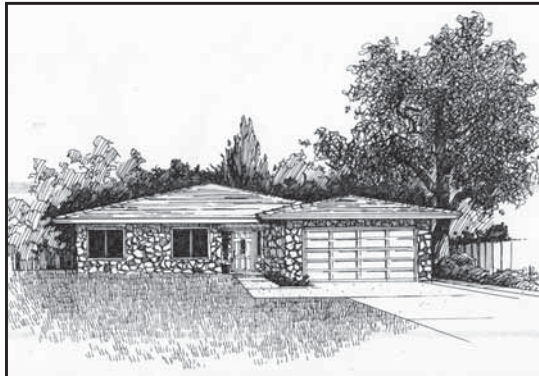
MOUNTAIN VIEW ■ Cuesta Park charmer offering 3 bedrooms, 2 baths + separate family room. HW floors, new carpets + double-pane windows. 1638+/- sf. **\$1,029,999**

Susan Sweeley



MOUNTAIN VIEW ■ Los Altos Schools. Updated 4bd/2.5ba home with granite kitchen + gorgeous hardwood floors and vaulted ceilings. Central AC. 3-car garage. **\$1,495,000**

Chuck & Tori Atwell



MOUNTAIN VIEW ■ Downtown 3bd/2ba with formal dining room, FP, HW floors + new paint. 2-car garage. Close to schools, parks and Castro Street. **\$1,175,000**

Cheryl Okuno



SUNNYVALE ■ Charming 2000+/- sf home, 3bd/2ba located on a cul-de-sac. Oversized backyard. 12,600+/- sf lot. Close to schools. **\$975,000**

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**

Barb Conkin-Orrrock



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

Margaret Grant



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

Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked in Downtown Mountain View. Pictures and interviews by Molly Stenhouse.

Do you think that a farm can be an educational tool?



“People who grew up in a rural environment need farms so they can learn about other parts of the country. They can see where all the foods they take advantage of come from. It teaches respect for the land for the children and future generations.”

Synita Luckey, Mountain View



“Kids or adults don’t really see how their food is produced. Any experience that someone hasn’t had can be useful.”

Noam Livnat, Mountain View



“For my parents and the older generation who’ve grown their own food, it could be useful to gain small secrets about how other farms grow their potatoes and tomatoes.”

Irina Sulorikhina, Los Altos



“Working on a farm gives people a work ethic and teaches teamwork, because the work can’t be done alone.”

Hillary Wartinger, Sunnyvale



“You can learn where the food on your table comes from. People concerned about eating organic food can learn what ‘organic’ actually means. You can have a real-life experience with your food.”

Nan Thongsamut and Kelvin Ng, Foothill College students

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LocalNews

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“We always thought of it as temporary, and we’ve been here more than five years now.”

— MARIA MARROQUIN

DIRECTOR OF THE DAY WORKER CENTER,
ON THE CENTER'S LEASE RUNNING OUT AT CALVARY CHURCH

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CRIMEWATCH

STOLEN VEHICLE RECOVERY, LA AVENIDA/SHORELINE BLVD., 5/11

A police officer spotted a car which had been reported as stolen from San Jose. When the officer stopped the car, the driver ran from the vehicle. A K-9 officer and his dog were called in, and the dog tracked the suspect to some bushes on the Highway 101 clover leaf. He was arrested without a struggle.

BRANDISHING WEAPON AND VANDALISM, BRYANT AND DANA STREETS, 5/12

Three men were arrested after using a tire iron to smash the passenger front window of another person's truck. They were also charged with brandishing the tire iron at the victim.

POLICE LOG

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE

El Camino Hospital

AUTO BURGLARY

300 block Escuela St. 5/9
100 Del Medio Ave. 5/10
900 block High School Way 5/10
1500 block N. Shoreline Blvd. 5/12

BATTERY

400 block Thompson Ave. 5/9
1100 block N. Rengstorff Ave. 5/12
Bryant Street/W. Dana Street 5/12
200 block Castro St. 5/12

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE

Plymouth Street/Sierra Vista Avenue 5/7

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

1300 block W. El Camino Real 5/10

DISTURBANCE

Moraga Drive/Muir Drive 5/10
400 Moffett Blvd. 5/10
800 block E. El Camino Real 5/10
Tropicana Motel 5/10

DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE

1900 block Montecito Ave. 5/9
300 block Higdon Ave. 5/9

IDENTITY THEFT

2500 block Hospital Dr. 5/9

PETTY THEFT

300 block Truman Ave. 5/7
600 block Showers Dr. 5/7
1700 block Rock St. 5/9
3000 block Truman Ave. 5/9

PETTY THEFT

1000 block N. Rengstorff Ave. 5/9
1600 block Amphitheatre Pkwy. 5/10
3500 block Truman Ave. 5/10
1100 block Castro St. 5/10
Mountain View High 5/10
1800 Higdon Ave. 5/10
10 block N. Rengstorff 5/12
1000 block Barbara Ave. 5/12

POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA

100 block N. Rengstorff Ave. 5/9

STOLEN VEHICLE

1800 block Landings Dr. 5/9
1900 block Charleston Rd. 5/9
600 block Showers Dr. 5/10
1900 block Plymouth St. 5/10
800 block E. El Camino Real 5/12

STOLEN VEHICLE -RECOVERED

1900 block Plymouth St. 5/10
La Avenida/N. Shoreline Boulevard 5/12

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES/PERSON

10 block Gladys Ave. 5/7
1300 block Montecito Ave. 5/9
1900 block Plymouth St. 5/10
1500 block W. El Camino Real 5/10
1900 block San Ramon Ave. 5/12

THEFT BY FRAUD

10 block E. El Camino Real

VANDALISM

800 block Church St. 5/7
2200 block California St. 5/7
300 block Bryant St. 5/12



Tulliver's travels

By Don Frances

WHEN SHE ISN'T traveling to some exotic locale or writing health articles for this paper, Diana Reynolds Roome is known to write very cute and engaging children's stories.

Some time ago she gave me a copy of "The Elephant's Pillow," about an elephant who couldn't fall asleep. My then-2-year-old, no famous sleeper herself, ate it up.

Her latest, "Tulliver's Tunnel," came out only recently, and Diana will be holding a reading and book signing for it at Books Inc. this Saturday, May 19, beginning at 11 a.m.

"Tulliver's Tunnel" follows the journey of Tulliver, a capricious little bunny who decides to run away from home. As you can imagine, he doesn't get far.

A departure from "The Elephant's Pillow," which has an epic, folktale feel to it, "Tulliver's" is a simpler, more modest tale perfect for bedside reading. It also features terrific art by Susan Winter, who brings us the texture of underground life, with all its bugs, roots and runaway bunnies.

Coinciding with Saturday's book signing, from 9 a.m. to noon at Books Inc., the families of Huff Elementary School will be hosting a "shopping event" whereby some percentage of all the store's sales will be donated to the school.

A GROUP OF socially conscious Mountain View High School musicians calling itself "Rock the Cause" has alerted me to a Darfur benefit show next week in Los Altos.

Says spokesperson Indu Sudhakar, the coming show "will display musicians (of both

► See **EDITOR'S DESK**, page 18



COURTESY ILLUSTRATION

This illustration depicts Hangar One with the proposed fabric covering.

Fabric covering for Hangar One?

PROCESS SIMILAR TO THAT USED TO COVER SHORELINE'S TENT

By Daniel DeBolt

If the Navy decides to preserve Hangar One later this year, the historic structure may be covered in a fabric stronger than steel, resulting in an all-white look reminiscent of the hangar when it was first built.

At last week's Moffett Field Restoration Advisory Board meeting, architect Linda Ellis made a presentation on a Teflon-coated Fiberglass fabric that could make preservation of the hangar a more practical option. The fabric is already used on

large structures, including the Denver airport, the San Diego convention center and the Georgia Astrodome, which survived Hurricane Katrina. In fact, the oldest example of its use is right here in Mountain View: the 34-year-old Shoreline Amphitheatre.

The Navy is considering the fabric as one of many options in its environmental cleanup of the structure. In 2003, Hangar One was found to have toxic PCBs — short for polychlorinated biphenyls — washing off the coated steel siding and

floating in the air inside. The Navy is required to remediate the pollutants, and in the past has stated that dismantling the structure is its best option.

The Navy had initially taken Ellis' presentation off the agenda, which caused an e-mail stir among Hangar One advocates. At the meeting, RAB member Lenny Siegel requested it be put back on the agenda, and Navy environmental coordinator Rick Weissenborn relented on the condition it was brief and general in

► See **HANGAR**, page 14

■ CITY COUNCIL

Preparing for the Big One

By Daniel DeBolt

Two long council study sessions on Tuesday began with residents speaking passionately about emergency preparedness, and ended with some council members expressing regret over the planned Escuela Avenue child care center.

In response to a request from the fire department, a council majority supported adding a department position dedicated to public education and training of residents to respond to major emergencies. Salary and benefits for the position would cost \$110,000 a year.

"It's cheap insurance," said council member Nick Galiotto, who said the main purpose is to prepare for the big earthquake "everyone says is coming," which will overwhelm public safety departments and hospitals. Citizens are also being trained to deal with a pandemic flu outbreak.

The plaza room was filled with residents who have trained for at least 20 hours to be part of the city's Community Emergency Response Team, or CERT. There are currently four teams, but the city's goal is to have a total of 30, one for each neighborhood association. The new fire department position is expected to help

► See **COUNCIL**, page 15

■ EDUCATION

Help for students in college hunt

HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT ADDS STAFF, SOFTWARE FOR COUNSELING

By Alexa Tondreau

Knowing just how difficult it can be these days to get into college, the Mountain View-Los Altos High School District is ramping up its efforts to prepare students for life after

high school.

During Monday's board meeting, officials said college and counseling services at both Mountain View and Los Altos high schools have been improved to provide more assistance for students in the highly competitive venture of applying to college. The board requested the improvements one year ago.

Brigitte Sarraf, associate superintendent of educational services,

said all improvements were made with the students in mind.

"We want to help students with their college search and with the application process," she said.

Mountain View High has hired four additional full-time guidance counselors, Sarraf said, and Los Altos has made structural changes to its career development program.

The extra counseling staff at Mountain View High means

that beginning in freshman year, each student is required to meet a counselor once per school year to hash out a plan.

The number of individual counselor meetings is increased to once per quarter for "at-risk" students, Sarraf said, referring to students in danger of failing. Additionally, the district has implemented test preparation

► See **COLLEGE**, page 7

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SEEN AROUND TOWN

Huge hive



This enormous hive, apparently of honey bees, was photographed by Ed Perry of Franklin Street. "The hive is maybe 60 feet in the air, in the central deodar cedar tree in Pioneer Park," Perry wrote. "Stand at the sundial and look up and northeast, you'll see it." Perry added that the colony has been there for several months, and that "There were lots of curious and excited kids and parents stopping and pointing as they looked to see the object of my photo."

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.



Larry's Knows...

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MORE MILES TO THE GALLON

If you are serious about getting better mileage, slow down. On the highway, wind drag is responsible for about a 10 percent loss of economy for every 5 mph over 60 mph. Maintain constant highway speed by using cruise control. Also be mindful that the air conditioner uses less power at highway speeds than the drag caused by open windows (with the AC off). In addition, a drop of 6 pounds per square inch (psi) under the recommended tire pressure can increase fuel consumption by 5 percent. Changing the spark plugs, fluids, and filters at the recommended intervals helps maintain engine efficiency. And, ignoring the check-engine light and failing to replace components such as oxygen sensors unnecessarily increases fuel consumption.

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DAY WORKER

► Continued from page 1

The center has struggled in its 10-year history to find a permanent home. Established in 1996 at St. Joseph's Church in Mountain View, the center moved to Jordan Avenue in Los Altos after only a year.

About that time, Los Altos passed an ordinance banning street or sidewalk solicitation in response to business complaints of loitering by day workers. The center was forced to leave Jordan Avenue for "overburdening the building," said John Renaldi, lawyer for the center.

The Los Altos decision was soon overturned as unconstitutional, and now the day workers are "more informed about not going on private property" said Ron Packard, former mayor of Los Altos. But the loitering issue may still affect the willingness of businesses to rent out space to the Day Worker Center.

As the move-out date draws near, board members, volunteers and workers alike are scrambling to find a new location within close range of the current center.

"We're literally handing out maps to the workers and they're looking for lease signs on nearby properties," said Craig Sherod, vice president for the board that oversees the center. "We're trying to get creative."

A coalition of key community leaders from Los Altos and Mountain View are behind the center, including Packard and

members of both city's police departments and Rotary clubs. They had been hopeful about striking a deal with Mi Pueblo, a grocery store at Rengstorff and Central Expressway that closed, but the deal fell through.

The City Council has also proposed that Home Depot, which plans to move into San Antonio Center, partner with the city to create a permanent day worker center on the site. But the mall's property owners and Home Depot opposed the idea.

Former council member Mike Kasperzak said he believes a "combined effort by Mountain View, Los Altos and Palo Alto" and a "greater push from the community and government agencies" is needed, because many workers come from the surrounding communities.

It's a "multi-jurisdictional issue" he said.

If a suitable space isn't found before the end of July, Sherod said, "Our fallback position is getting a tiny storefront — big enough for Maria and a couple people but no programs — and communicating with a runner on the street by pager or cell phone."

The center was scheduled to hold a press conference on the issue at Calvary Church on Friday, after the *Voice* went to press. Marroquin said county Supervisor Liz Kniss and state Assemblywoman Sally Lieber were scheduled to speak at the event. ▀

E-mail Molly Stenhouse at mstenhouse@mv-voice.com and Alexa Tondreau at atondreau@mv-voice.com

COLLEGE

► Continued from page 5

courses for the high school exit exam at both high schools.

At Los Altos High, the career development program offers a class of 30 to 35 "at-risk" seniors a tutorial session every Tuesday.

Those students, Sarraf said, "really need some guidance for what they should do next."

To the applause of the board and audience, Sarraf said counselors successfully had all 35 students apply to local community colleges for next year and take the required placement tests.

A significant technological improvement was put in place as well, she said. A state-of-the-art computer software database, called "Naviance," which acts to streamline student information for college applications, has been installed at both schools, along with extra computer stations to provide increased access.

The acquisition of Naviance was suggested by Superintendent Barry Groves, who observed it at Los Gatos High School and believes it

will be valuable for students and their families, as well as counselors looking to compile student data. The database contains individual accounts for each student, where they and the school can upload grades, test scores and college application files.

The program also provides data on potential college choices and the odds of getting in, based on the number of students from the previous year at Mountain View and Los Altos who were accepted, and what their grade point averages and SAT scores looked like.

"It really helps to inform families about what's realistic," Sarraf said.

The program goes a step further in providing a personality test to help students align their skills and preferences with different types of colleges, Sarraf said.

"This is such an incredibly useful tool," she said. "It helps students identify their goals, put an action plan in place and reach those goals."

Naviance will be available to students beginning in the 2007-08 school year. ▀

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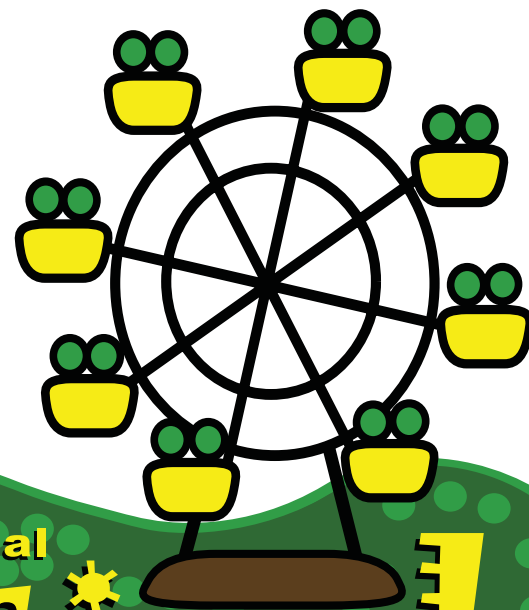
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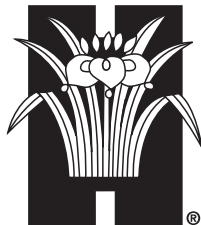
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Santa Clara Valley Water District

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'Pancake Man' Kenneth Pruitt dies at 83

HIS WALKER'S WAGON WHEEL WAS AN IMPORTANT MEETING PLACE DURING TECH BOOM

Well-known restaurateur Kenneth H. Pruitt, who became known as the "Pancake Man" after opening his first Ken's House of Pancakes in Menlo Park in 1959, died April 13. He was 83.

A native of Shawnee, Oklahoma, Pruitt opened his first restaurant, a little place called "The Shack" in Palo Alto, in 1953. Six years later, on Dec. 10, 1959, he opened Ken's House of Pancakes at 888 El Camino Real in Menlo Park — the first of several. Others were opened in Millbrae, Mountain View, Campbell, Vacaville and Hilo, Hawaii.

Ten years after opening the Menlo Park "Ken's," he sold the restaurant to his nephew, Jim Cunningham. The restaurant closed in 1999.

In addition to the pancake houses, Pruitt took over Walker's Wagon Wheel in Mountain View, which became known as the site of many high-level, high-tech business meetings in the early stages of Silicon Valley's tech boom. When the Tech Museum was built in San Jose, Pruitt was asked to donate some

Wagon Wheel memorabilia.

Other restaurants he ran over the years include the Melody Inn Pizza & Pipes in Los Altos, Doran's Supper Club in Belmont, Dubby's and Ken's Cabaret in Millbrae, Tio Pancho's Mexican Restaurant in Vacaville, and The Old Mill and Munchies Copper Cooker in Arizona.

Despite having only an eighth-grade education and losing his parents at a young age, Pruitt faced life's challenges with a strong and independent spirit, family members said. He was primarily self-taught, but had a strong ambition as well as a natural business sense, they said. He benefited from the hard work and loyalty of many long-term employees, they added.

Pruitt's wife of 35 years, Eileen, died in 1987. In 2002, he married Janette. He is survived by Janette, his son Dan Pruitt, daughter Dana Willson, brother Jack Pruitt, sister Gladys Pruitt, three grandchildren and a great-grandson.

A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 20, at Spangler Mortuary, 399 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos.



Ken Pruitt

MARY MARGARET TUTMAN

Mary Margaret Tutman, a distinguished nurse who was once head of pediatrics at Stanford Hospital, died on May 9 in Vancouver, Wash. She was 91.

Tutman was born Sept. 21, 1915 in Globe, Ariz. to Croatian immigrants. Her family moved to Texas and finally settled in California in 1922. She married Jack Tutman in 1940, and they were married for 54 years, residing in Mountain View until his death in 1995. She called her family her "pot of gold," and moved to Washington in 2001 to be closer to them.

Tutman was said to be most proud of her nursing work at Hendy's Defense Plant during World War II. She was also a talented gardener, painter, and crossword puzzler.

She is preceded in death by her husband and survived by her daughters Lonna and Stephanie; her son Gerald; nine grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.


A viewing was held at Spangler Mortuary in Mountain View on Wednesday, and a Mass at Saint Joseph's Church on Thursday. Donations in memoriam can be made to the Lucille Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford. Call (650) 497-8141 or visit www.lpfch.org/fundraising/makeagift/index.html.

HAL LESSER

Hal Lesser, a local barber better known as "Hal of London," died May 4 after a long illness. He was 79.

Lesser had been a barber in Palo Alto and Mountain View for 37 years. His first Hal of London barber shop was in downtown Palo Alto, and he later moved the shop to Mountain View. For the last decade, he had been in a shop on El Camino Way in Palo Alto.

Lesser's family included his wife, Jo, two sons in California, two daughters in New Orleans, a granddaughter and two grandsons.



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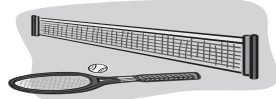
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For more information, call the Recreation Division at
650-903-6331

The deadline for applications is May 18, 2007



Dozens of high school students came to St. Joseph Church last week to call for a new youth center in the city.

DANIEL DEBOLT

Local teens want a center of their own

THEY SAY A PLACE TO HANG OUT AFTER SCHOOL WOULD HELP KIDS AVOID GANG ACTIVITY

By Daniel DeBolt

Editor's Note: Mountain View's gang problem isn't just the concern of parents and police. In fact, a local student group is calling for a teen center in Mountain View, which they say will go far in preventing gang activity by giving teens a place to hang out after school.

This is the second in a series of stories about the impact of gang activity in Mountain View. Other installments will focus on what schools and non-profit groups are doing to combat the problem.

Last Wednesday, 200 Latino youths and parents filled the basement of St Joseph Church with a mission in mind. With council members Tom Means and Ronit Bryant in attendance, the group demanded that the city build a teen center to help keep kids out of trouble after school.

The meeting was organized by Peninsula Interfaith Action, or PIA, and a newly formed group called Youth United for Action and Involvement. It kicked off with a prayer from Pastor Bob Moran.

"God, please inspire our leaders and give us some plans," Moran said. "We promise to cooperate between us and with our council to realize these ideas. Amen."

Means and Bryant, who had no idea how large the meeting would be until a few days beforehand, are council youth committee members along with

Margaret Abe-Koga, who was unable to attend.

Many observers of local gang activity say there has been a recent uptick in gang activity. PIA member Irene Yoshida said she and others researched the problem, talking to police, local nonprofits and hundreds of community members.

"We have learned that gangs

Spanish-speaking people in the city, and that 2,307 families qualified for financial assistance for recreation programs, but only 200 used it. The city's annual recreation program guide is sent to over 40,000 homes but none are printed in Spanish. Means said the city was working on reformatting the guide and translating parts of it into Spanish.

Yoshida rallied the audience by shouting, "Do our youth deserve the best?" to which there was applause.

"We are not asking for things that are not possible," said PIA member Gabriel Ventura though an interpreter.

Rosemary Bracero, a trustee on the Mountain View Whisman school district board, said she was "stunned by the gathering."

"If we don't have safety, there is no learning," she said.

There were some awkward moments when Means and Bryant were asked to commit to working with the group, one issue at a time. At one point, Bryant turned the tables a bit and asked that the group commit to working with the city. She also encouraged the audience to call her with their concerns.

"It's very important to me to have a teen center," Bryant said. "Even if you have a lot of money, it takes time."

Bryant reported back to the City Council on Tuesday, saying that it may be time to start work on a community center. City officials say it's unlikely a teen center will be built in the near future, but a community center, which could hold a teen center, has been in the works since the late 1990s.

► See **TEENS**, page 13

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SPEAKING UP
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VOICE

FARM

► Continued from page 1

trian traffic, parking on neighborhood streets and the dust they say comes from the 15-acre farm, which is closed now and ready to be sold for a housing development.

Garofano estimates the group has five to six core members. The initial meetings were held when members realized that the Mountain View Farmlands Group first appeared as a "large, well-organized, intelligent group that looked like it was making a major push and they could be a threat to the neighborhood," he said.

"We consider them outsiders," Garofano said, pointing to two of the group's most active members, Robin Iwai and Vicki Moore. Both live just outside Waverly Park, the subdivision that surrounds the farm.

"They wouldn't have the problems we have with the farm," he said. "We are the ones that would have to suffer."

Chris Hildebrand, another active member of the pro-farm group, countered that rather than being outsiders, "Three of us have lived here 22 years within two blocks" of the farm.

She also found the new group's name, Defending Our Neighborhood, objectionable. "We are not the Taliban," she said. "We

are a very nonviolent group. We have never come across as being unreasonable."

Holmes said he had read everything the Farmlands Group put on its Web site, and realized that their plan for a five-acre farm was a "disaster in the making."

"Nothing addressed what the impact on the neighborhood would be," he said. "We were completely ignored."

He said neighbors already have concerns about traffic on Grant Road, and that trying to turn left from Preston Drive or Levin Avenue was often dangerous. He believes that with 48 more homes and a year-round farm, it would only get worse.

Holmes also pointed to the Farmlands Group's recommendation that Blach School be used for overflow parking, which would send visitors on foot across dangerous Grant Road. Visitors would also end up parking on neighborhood streets, he said.

Everything adds up to lower property values for the neighborhood, Holmes said.

Sudden appearance

Hildebrand said she saw anti-farm neighbors at the Farmlands Group's forum in September, where residents provided feedback on the proposal for a five-acre farm.

"They did not say a word," Hil-

debrand said. "I wish they would have spoken up. We would have sat down with them and listened to their concerns."

She said her biggest concern was with the "hostile" nature of the group's presentation at the May 8 meeting. Iwai said she was surprised.

"We were not anticipating the large number of anti-farm neighbors who did not participate in the survey, did not call us with any questions or concerns, and *did* come to the study session," Iwai wrote in an e-mail.

Holmes denied accusations that the owners or others outside the neighborhood had encouraged their presence at the May 8 meeting. He did say that he had been contacted by the owners of the farm and had met with them.

Garofano said he had not seen the owners at any of his group's meetings, but that he knew the sisters' parents, Paul and Anne Mardesich, had lived near the farm. Paul died in 2004, leaving the property to daughters Betty Moore and Pauline King.

Members of Defending Our Neighborhood also say the sisters should be able to develop their property any way they like. During the May 8 council meeting, King made an appeal to the older neighbors present, saying that delays on the development would place a financial burden on two senior citizens.

"We think it's a land grab and if the Farmlands Group wanted it they should have bought it," Garofano said.

Survey vs. petition

The anti-farm neighbors presented a petition May 8 that they claim is signed by residents representing 57 of the 78 homes closest to the farm. The petition appears to contradict a survey done by the Farmlands Group, which had 48 people answering "yes" to the question, "Do you think that the city of Mountain View should consider the possibility of both new houses and a small farm?"

The Farmlands Group's survey also asked, "What would you like to see happen to this land in the future?" to which 30 people answered something along the lines of "a mix of housing and a farm" and 20 more said to keep it a farm.

By contrast, Defending Our Neighborhood's strongly worded petition begins, "Do not preserve a

piece of the Grant Road (Pumpkin Patch) Farmland."

Council member Tom Means, who lives in Waverly Park a few blocks away, said he also walked the neighborhood and came up with similar results.

"They asked softball questions," Garofano said of the Farmlands Group's petition, adding that it was like asking someone if they like ice cream. "That's why we got signed names and signatures."

Hildebrand said the Farmlands Group's survey doesn't compare well with the petition, partly because the respondents were kept anonymous.

The City Council is expected to direct staff June 5 to study how the property will be zoned after it is annexed from the county. The decision may be permanent, since any zoning would have to remain for two years. ▀

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

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BOUNDARIES

▶ Continued from page 1

another elected body what to do in their jurisdiction,” council member Nick Galiotto said. “I really believe it’s in the hands of that school board.”

Audience members pointed out that two of the five LASD board members — Bill Cooper and Margot Harrigan — are Mountain View residents, providing some Mountain View representation on the school board.

The letter will be drafted and sent by Mayor Laura Macias, and the council agreed it should also encourage the full participation of Mountain View residents in the discussion process.

Many residents who live north of El Camino Real — a major dividing line in the district between Los Altos and Mountain View — feel the northern portion is being unfairly targeted in the redistricting. Under current proposals, more students from those neighborhoods would have to change schools. Bullis and Covington are both south of El Camino Real.

The crux of the problem for the district is that a majority of students live in the northern section of the district, which continues to grow, while most of the schools lie in the south. Overcrowding at Santa Rita and Almond, the schools that most Mountain View students attend, has resulted in the need to shift boundary lines.

Amanda Aaronson, a Mountain View resident of the Crossings neighborhood, told council members that three of the four proposals for boundary changes unfairly target Mountain View residents.

“It’s an attempt not to disrupt Los Altos proper,” Aaronson said.

Aaronson is part of a group of parents called the North of El Camino Neighborhood Coalition who are working to make sure children in their neighborhoods — including the Crossings, Del Medio, Monroe and Showers Drive neighborhoods — attend nearby schools.

The coalition says it has collected 1,147 signatures, all of them parents living in the district, in a petition asking the district to guarantee students can attend their first or second closest school.

The coalition objects to what it sees as the district placing the burden of boundary changes on the northern neighborhoods alone.

“We are asking for something fair and equitable across the district and not just targeting

▶ Continued on next page



PUBLIC NOTICE

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has received a Letter of Intent from the Center for Public Environmental Oversight to apply for a Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) for the the former Moffett Naval Air Station National Priority List (NPL) site in Mountain View, CA. The purpose of a TAG is to help the affected community become involved in the Superfund cleanup process and selection of a final cleanup remedy. The grant provides up to \$50,000 in funding for the grantee to hire an independent expert to review and explain technical documents about the site and to undertake community outreach efforts.

By law, only one grant may be awarded for each Superfund site; therefore, citizen groups interested in applying for a TAG are encouraged to contact Lenny Siegel, Executive Director, Center for Public Environmental Oversight at 278-A Hope Street, Mountain View, CA 9404, phone: 650-961-8918, email: lsiegel@cpeo.org to see if there is interest in working together as a coalition. The application period is from May 24, 2007 through June 25 2007.

Groups wishing to file a separate grant application must submit a Letter of Intent by May 21, 2007 to EPA at the address below. EPA would then provide an additional 30 days for each organization to submit its own application. This additional application period would run from representation and highest capacity for outreach to the directly affected community. For more information call Viola Cooper in EPA's Office of Community Involvement at (415) 972-3243 or toll-free at (800) 231-3075, or write to U.S. EPA Region 9, attn: Viola Cooper SFD-3, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105.

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LocalNews

► Continued from previous page

one group,” coalition member Shakeel Khader said.

Khader said the petition contained a majority of signatures from parents living in the northern part of the district but also included signatures from those living in the south.

The coalition also presented the district with two scenarios it drafted itself, one of which includes converting the Egan Camp School Site, in the northern part of the district and currently housing the Bullis charter school, into a sixth grade campus for students from Santa Rita and Almond.

The board said it will review the coalition’s maps and discuss its findings at its next meeting, scheduled for Monday, May 21. The board has said it will make a decision on the boundary change sometime in June.

The North of El Camino Real coalition is also said the district is moving too fast on the matter, and should delay a decision to provide more time for study.

“We want to collaborate with the district,” Khader said. “Such an important decision that displaces kids should not be done in haste.” ■

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

TEENS

► Continued from page 10

James Teixeira, recreation manager, said the city’s teen center programming has been temporarily moved to the senior center on Escuela and the community center at Rengstorff Park. About 30 middle-school-aged kids walk to the programs after school, which is about the maximum it can handle, he said.

The city is also pursuing public comment for an update to its recreation plan, and Teixeira encouraged teen center advocates to speak at upcoming meetings. ■

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COURTESY ILLUSTRATIONS

These illustrations depict the interior of the hangar with and without the fabric covering, which would let sunlight shine through.

HANGAR

► Continued from page 5

nature. Weissenborn said, "It would be good to learn about it, it will help me a lot."

Ellis, who was not permitted to go inside the closed hangar, analyzed images of the inside provided by the Moffett Field Historical Society. The barrel vault construction of the hangar suits the fabric well, Ellis said. The frame and foundation are strong enough without the "shear" provided by the current steel siding,

which must be removed for toxic cleanup. In the end, the hangar would have fabric stretched over its frame, much like the airship it once housed.

Added benefits would be cost savings on maintenance, since the fabric does not corrode, and it is also translucent enough to allow sunlight through, Ellis said. The fabric can be made with different color patterns, and Ellis proposed the exterior be all white, as it was originally.

The hangar's roof is currently painted black to prevent rain clouds from forming inside the

massive structure. Since the fabric is breathable in one direction, it would allow condensation to escape outward, which may negate the need for the black color on the upper section.

The target cost of the fabric covering is \$12 million. It is not known exactly how that compares with new steel siding, but Ellis said it would be competitive.

"Thank you, Linda," Weissenborn said after the brief presentation. "That gave me a lot of info I didn't know."

The Navy is preparing a revised Environmental Evalu-

ation and Cost Analysis, which will include the decision for Hangar One and provide a list of alternatives for the its remediation ranging from demolition to restoration. The analysis will be released sometime later this year, and Weissenborn said there will be an effort to reach out to local newspapers so the announcement is not a surprise.

Weissenborn then said that the meeting was his last, and that he would be replaced by another base realignment and closure coordinator, Darren Newton. Siegel moved

that the RAB commend Weissenborn for his service and "duress under fire," and jokingly added that his replacement need not wear body armor.

Jill Votaw, the region's public affairs officer, has also been reassigned. Votaw said it was a regular reshuffling of the organization, and mentioned that the new people could provide fresh eyes for the cleanup project.

As part of his handoff to Newton, Weissenborn gave a presentation on Moffett Field cleanup accomplishments, which included a map of 161 pipes and tanks that have leaked petroleum into the ground water. Of the 161, 76 are closed, 51 are being closed and 34 are in operation. Tons of contaminated soil has been removed, he said, and water channels and ponds, and several endangered species, including over 40 turtles, have been saved.

Later that evening the Navy revealed that it has spent \$155 million cleaning up Moffett Field over the past 18 years, and estimates it will spend another \$78 million before it's done, including the costs of Hangar One cleanup. It could take 200 years to completely remove all groundwater contamination. ▀

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

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COUNCIL

► Continued from page 5

with the training of new CERT members, since firefighter and department spokesman Lynn Brown is currently unable to meet the demand from citizens wanting to be trained.

“We should try and get to 30 [CERT teams] as quickly as possible,” said Mayor Laura Macias.

The neighborhood groups are supplied with \$15,000 trailers packed with search-and-rescue tools, medical supplies and blankets, all of which would be distributed by CERT members in an emergency. There are currently six trailers, located at Graham, Crittenden, Bubba and Landels schools, and one each in the Monta Loma and Cuesta neighborhoods. The fire department said more are needed.

“Once we got the trailer, we got some respect,” said one CERT member.

Later on in the meeting, during a study session on capital improvement projects, staff presented an update on the design of

“I think I might very much regret being the swing vote.”

COUNCIL MEMBER
NICK GALIOTTO

the child care center at Rengstorff Park. Galiotto, once a swing vote on the project, made a surprising statement.

“I think I might very much regret being the swing vote,” he said.

City staff said the center would realistically only serve about 30 low-income children out of a total of 104. Council member Tom Means reiterated a statement he made in 2005 that it would be a “Cadillac project in a poorer neighborhood that won’t get to use it.”

Council member Jac Siegel agreed. Member Matt Pear said he still opposed the project and that new child care facilities, such as Google’s facility at Slater School, would fill the need. Council member Margaret Abe-Koga spoke passionately in favor of the center, having herself recently gone through a search for preschools.

Macias said funding could be pursued for more subsidized child care. “We’re not constrained by anything but our creativity,” she said.

She also said the city was not committed to using the building for child care.

“We could change the building to a teen center,” she mused. ■

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

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The City of Mountain View Parks and Recreation Commission invites you to attend a Public Outreach Meeting for the San Antonio, Thompson and Rengstorff Neighborhoods regarding the Parks and Open Space Plan Update

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Monta Loma Elementary School – 460 Thompson Avenue

The Commission would like to hear your ideas regarding park and open space needs in your neighborhood. For more information, please call (650) 903-6254.



Comprehensive Operations Analysis Public Meetings Notice

What is a Comprehensive Operations Analysis (COA)?

The COA is an effort to analyze VTA’s existing transit services, identify underserved markets and ultimately restructure and improve VTA’s bus transit services. Phase One of a new Service Operating Plan is scheduled to be implemented in January 2008.

How will the COA affect VTA riders?

Many VTA bus routes will be affected. The majority of VTA bus riders will experience more frequent and faster service, particularly during off-peak hours and weekends.

For More Information:

Additional information about the COA is available at www.vta.org or by calling VTA Community Outreach at (408) 321-7575, hearing impaired TDD only at (408) 321-2330. If you wish to provide comments regarding the proposed COA, please e-mail them to coa@vta.org.

If you require special accommodations to participate in the meetings, please call one of the above numbers at least five days in advance of the meeting.

Meeting Locations:

Monday, May 21, 3 p.m.
Hillview Branch Library Community Room
1600 Hopkins Drive, San Jose
Transit Service: Bus Line 70

Monday, May 21, 6 p.m.
Great Mall Community Room
447 Great Mall Drive, Milpitas
Transit Service: VTA Light Rail, VTA Bus Lines 33, 47, 66, 70, 71, 77 and 180

Wednesday, May 23, 3 p.m.
Lucie Stern Community Center Fireside Room
1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto
Transit Service: VTA Bus Line 35

Wednesday, May 23, 6 p.m.
Mountain View City Hall Council Chambers
500 Castro Street, Mountain View
Transit Service: VTA Bus Lines 22, 35 and 522 provide service near City Hall

Thursday, May 24, 3 p.m. & 6 p.m.
Gilroy City Hall, Council Chambers
7351 Rosanna Street, Gilroy
Transit Service: VTA Bus Line 19 provides southbound service until 5:30 p.m. and northbound service until shortly before 9 p.m.

Thursday, May 31, 3 p.m. & 6 p.m.
Campbell Community Center Activity Room
1 West Campbell Avenue, Campbell
Transit Service: VTA Bus Lines 26 and 60

Tuesday, June 5, 3 p.m. & 6 p.m.
San Jose City Hall, W-119
200 E. Santa Clara Street, San Jose
Transit Service: VTA Bus Lines 22, 63, 64, 65, 72, 73, 81 and 522



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Our local heroes are this year's Honor Roll Realtors. These dedicated professionals, with a strong commitment to the Mountain View community, have graciously contributed to the Mountain View Educational Foundation. Their sense of community and contribution is invaluable in helping us nurture the next generation of community leaders.

We thank them for their support, and encourage you to refer to this group for your real estate needs!



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EDITOR'S DESK

► Continued from page 5

high school and college age) with distinguished talents. One hundred percent of the admission fees, food proceeds and other donations that we collect from this event will be donated to UNICEF to drop food in Darfur."

The show is Friday, May 25, 7-11 p.m. at the Shoup Park Garden House, 400 University Avenue, Los Altos. Tickets are \$5 in advance (e-mail kewarock@gmail.com) and \$8 at the door.

ALEXA TONDREAU reports: The Santa Clara County chapter of the Society of Women Engineers wants to get the daughters of Silicon Valley interested in the field of engineering, and they're staging a free event to jumpstart their efforts.

On Saturday, May 21 at Los Altos High School, an event called "Wow! That's Engineering," is being held for all interested high school-aged girls in the communities of the Peninsula, South Bay and beyond.

With sponsorships from IBM and the Girls for Change club of Los Altos High, the society will treat girls to a day of engineering-related activities presented by women who presently work in the field, including representatives from Intel and Yahoo, and those who teach in the field as well.

The event is 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Los Altos High's Eagle Theatre, and is free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.swe.org/wow.

FINALLY: Don't forget A La Carte & Art this weekend. ▣

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



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- GUEST OPINIONS

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■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

History in the making

Right now, the idea of a Mountain View history museum is just a twinkle in the eyes of supporters, who want to build a special place dedicated to the study and remembrance of early settlers of this area.

The dream of a museum took on a tangible feel last Sunday during a presentation inside the recently built Los Altos Historical Museum. Bob Grimm, president of that city's history society, explained how his community began the drive and ultimately, 11 years later, moved into the spiffy 8,000-square-foot museum on San Antonio Road.

The Mountain View Historical Association was all ears, and it didn't hurt that almost the entire City Council and city manager Kevin Duggan were also present to hear the story: In just over a decade, an idea becomes a working building, paid for by private funds and finally donated to the city of Los Altos.

Grimm had plenty of tips on how to move from the vision to fundraising and beyond. Each step takes work and perseverance, and the project will need the support of the entire community if it is to be successful.

Bob Weaver, president of the Mountain View Historical Association, said his group is eager to begin and only needs some reassurance from the council that there will be room in the Cuesta Park Annex for a museum and a barn. The former would house the exhibits, the latter the farm implements needed to maintain a small demonstration orchard at the site.

If the council can make a solid commitment for a museum in the park space, the association is ready to begin raising the funds necessary to pay for a museum and barn. The Los Altos museum cost \$3.5 million to build several years ago. The Mountain View association is hoping for a facility of about the same size, although increases in construction costs will probably push the total to as much as \$6 million.

All of this is daunting but not overwhelming to Weaver and his committee, who already have promises from two members to "prime the pump" with a \$15,000 donation if the city backs the plan.

The next step is for the council to signal that a majority continues to support using the Cuesta Annex site for a history museum, barn and demonstration orchard that would illustrate the area's early agriculture heritage. With that assurance, the history committee can move forward and begin a quest to make their vision come true.

Each step takes work and perseverance, and the project will need the support of the entire community if it is to be successful.

■ LETTERS VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

GRANT ROAD FARM CAUSES TERRIBLE TRAFFIC

Editor:

We are the original owners of our home on Preston Drive very near the Grant Road farm. We and the majority of our neighbors are against the Farmlands Group's proposal.

At the council study session on May 8, there were many voices from nonprofit organizations and from people outside of our neighborhood and city. We sincerely hope that the council can hear our voice. We, who actually live in the neighborhood, have had both the blessing and the burden of the farm and its activities.

We've been blessed with open space and a charming Pumpkin Patch, but for years we've endured the ever-increasing traffic and parking problems, with families and young children spilling onto Levin Avenue.

Grant Road is a nightmare. Drivers hold their breath making a turn on and off Grant Road to Levin, slowing down to avoid running into anyone, yet hoping their car won't get rear-ended from the bumper-to-bumper traffic on Grant.

We do not want the farm because of traffic, parking and liability issues. We have endured all the traffic and parking problems for many years. The Farmlands Group seems very dedicated to their cause. Why don't they find a city-owned piece of land?

The other alternative is to do what the Glumaz/Mardesich fam-

ily did: Take the initiative, pool their resources, purchase a piece of property, pay the mortgage, pay the taxes and do the hard work required to raise crops.

It's time for the Farmlands Group to take responsibility for themselves. Responsible grown-ups don't try to take what belongs to someone else. The property belongs to the Mardesich family. We hope the council will respect their heritage and their land.

Janet and Thomas Holmes
Preston Drive

FARM OWNERS' LAWYER MISSES THE POINT

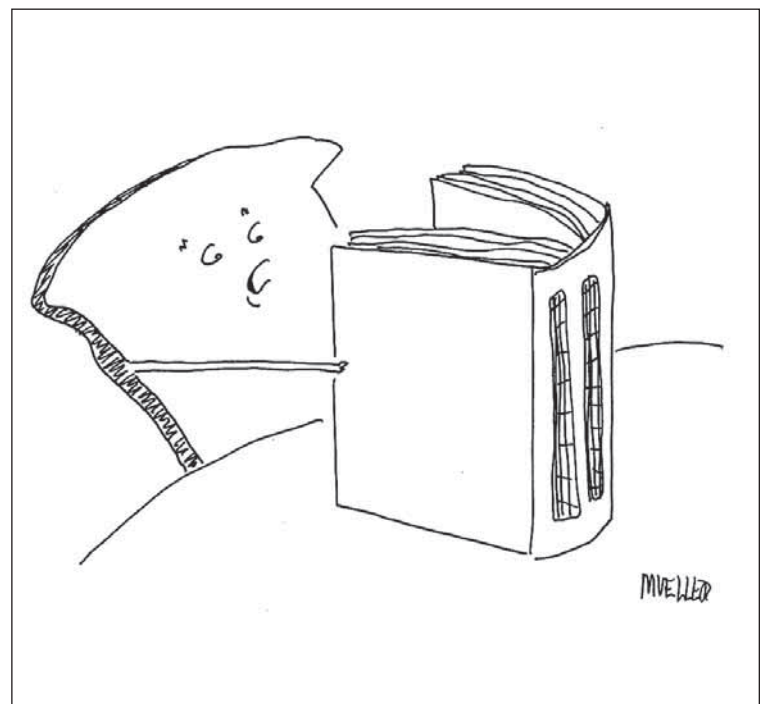
Editor:

In hearing the comments made at last week's City Council meeting by Lex Watson, the Atlanta lawyer who represents the owners of the Grant Road farm property, I was struck by the sense of entitlement he expressed on their behalf.

Watson seems to think that the owners should be allowed to do anything they want with their land, and that any reduced profit as a result of the council's decision, whether from delays or preservation, was in effect "stealing" from the landowners.

I beg to differ. We have just spent a little over two years building an extra 1,400-square-foot home behind our family's home. Among other things, we've paid over \$50,000 in city-required improvements so the project could move forward. We

► See **LETTERS**, page 20



LETTERS

► Continued from page 19

also paid over \$19,000 in city and school fees.

Part of living in an urban setting is that your land is not entirely your own. You do not have the right to develop it however you please. Any proposed development must be reviewed by the city, and is most certainly subject to the ideas and influences of the community.

Had I strode into the council chambers and told them I would do whatever I please without city review, simply because it is my land, I would have been laughed out the door. To have a high-paid lawyer imply this for a piece of land as historically important as the Grant Road farm is just as laughable, but a lot more dangerous.

I would suggest to council that

it is not just their right, but in fact their duty, to explore all the possibilities for this land with diligence and patience. Their first priority is to safeguard the city's future, not landowners' profit margins. I speak from personal experience.

Liz Snyder-Liles
Chiquita Avenue

FARM OPPONENTS NOT A 'CROWD'

Editor:

The article in the May 11 *Voice* concerning the Grant Road farm issue leaves a lot to be desired.

The homeowners surrounding the farm were described as a crowd. The farm advocates were described as a group. There is a big difference between a crowd and a group. In my view, "crowd" is a negative description.

Our group against the farm took a survey of the 78 homes surrounding the farm; we contacted 70 homeowners and asked if they wanted the farm. Seventeen said yes, 53 said no. That is a disapproval rate of 75 percent. Our group signed their names to a petition, which was submitted to the City Council. The 120 homes that the pro-farm crowd says were for the farm were not identified by name or address, just a blind number.

Last week's article mentioned the Google food service chef wanting local grown produce. That mention took an inch of print. The demand for a member of the City Council to recuse herself because of a conflict of interest was not mentioned.

Dominick Garofano
Preston Drive

WHO WOULD PAY IF THE FARM IS SAVED?

Editor:

When it comes to establishing a farm as part of the Grant Road development, it seems the basic issue has been forgotten.

I am sure we all (including the owners) agree farming is generally good, the availability of fresh local produce is good and educating our children as to how food is produced is good.

These are not the issues; the issue is who will pay for the farm so we can have all these things. The Farmlands Group has provided no real alternatives for funding other than the owners simply giving it away. Does this really make sense?

I would like to see a farm or open space as part of the development, as would the majority of people in Mountain View, but it is a moot point if no one or no group

is willing to pay for it. Sure, the owners could give the land to the city (whether or not they get a tax deduction), but it is their decision not to and I respect that decision. Many of us would do exactly what the owners have chosen to do.

The Full Circle Farm argument about food production is nothing more than misdirection. A five-acre farm will not produce a large quantity of food and certainly will not overcome the need for imports or save the world from climate change. We as a community are responsible for these issues. Maybe a citywide ordinance should be put in place making it mandatory for all of us to have a vegetable garden. That way we wouldn't need to drive our carbon-producing cars to a farm on Grant Road to show our children how food is grown.

Michael Brooker
Fairmont Avenue

IMPORTANT HEALTH CARE FORUM FRIDAY

Editor:

On Friday, May 18, there will be a forum focusing on State Sen. Sheila Kuehl's single-payer health care bill, SB-840, currently in the state legislature.

The future of health care in California is being debated all

over the state, and in all the media. Yet, for reasons perhaps best known to powerful lobbies, the Kuehl bill is often left out of the discussion. It was passed by both houses of the legislature in 2006, but fell victim to a pocket veto by the governor.

Kuehl reintroduced it in the 2007 legislature, and it was the first bill out of the gate this year, passing the Senate Health Committee on April 19. It differs from all the other proposals in that it eliminates the enormous up-front cut (15 to 30 percent) that insurance companies take out of the state's health care expenditures.

Supporters of SB-840 focus on the problems the present system causes to people. Opponents focus on its effect on insurance companies. Who are we hoping to insure, the insurance companies or people?

Concerned users of health care should attend the free public forum, "California's Health Care Crisis: What Can You Do About It?" It will be held on May 18, 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Willow Park Condominiums Clubhouse, 500 W. Middlefield Road, at the corner of Middlefield and Moffett Blvd. A 25-minute DVD featuring Sen. Kuehl explaining her concept will be shown.

Jane Bahr
Redcliff Court

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Let us hear yours.

E-mail editor@mv-voice.com



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■ GUEST OPINION

Saving the farm is a good, but costly, idea

EFFORT WILL TAKE MORE THAN A TYPICAL PTA FUNDRAISER

By Pat Showalter

It was quite a study session last Tuesday, as the council heard presentations for and against the city developing a plan to investigate saving a small farm near the corner of Grant Road and Levin Avenue.

As neighbors who have lived two blocks away from the farm for over 22 years, we have enjoyed watching the seasons change there and having the opportunity to buy local produce. I spoke in support of the precise plan option at the council meeting.

In the lobby after the meeting, a woman who is on the other side of the issue, grabbed my arm and commented through clenched teeth something along the lines of why didn't I just buy the five acres at millions of dollars apiece.

Then she moved on without waiting for an answer. I don't know this woman, but I thought it was a good question. It's led me to write this letter. The reason I am not offering to buy the farm property is that I don't have that kind of money.

When I started thinking about how the farm could be saved, of course the first thought that came to mind was purchasing the farm. Talking to some friends about it led me to other residents who thought preserving part of our agricultural heritage was a goal worth pursuing.

The first step was to try to figure out how much the property was worth. Experts argue about the exact amount, but basically the answer was tens of millions of dollars. As an active commu-

nity member, I am accustomed to taking part in all sorts of fund-raising efforts through PTA, Friends of Steven Creek Trail, Girl Scouts, Leadership Mountain View and a whole host of other great causes that many of us work through in the process of raising our children. In those efforts, our goals are usually on the order of hundreds of dollars, or at the most tens of thousands of dollars — far from tens of millions.

So even though we were daunted by the prospect of raising tens of millions of dollars, we thought it was worth investi-

gating whether there were other ways for the current owners to get the return on the investment of this land which they have held for so long. Getting reasonable return on the land investment

was the crux of the matter. Our investigations brought us to the concept of easements for open space preservation and the tax implications of charitable giving. The usefulness of charitable deductions depends on the financial situation of the individual, but in this case they look promising.

So, arm-grabbing neighbor, that's your answer. I would have been glad to talk to you at the meeting, and I will be glad to talk to you if you contact me. I'm presuming that you are a neighbor and share my desire to preserve and enhance the quality of our neighborhood, even if we don't see eye-to-eye on the best way to do it. ■

Pat Showalter lives on Levin Court.

Getting reasonable return on the land investment was the crux of the matter.

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■ GUEST OPINION

Foothill-De Anza on wrong path with PLA

TRUSTEES PICK DISCRIMINATION OVER FAIRNESS WITH UNION-FRIENDLY CONTRACTS

By Eric Christen

Imagine applying for a job and being told that you certainly could apply for the job but that as a condition of employment you would be required to join the Republican Party. Worse, you would be forced, should you take the job, into paying into the Republican Party's health, welfare, and pension plans, despite the fact that you would never see those benefits again as you had no intention of remaining a Republican once your job was complete. You would be told that you were not actually "being forced" to join the party, but would just pay dues for the duration of the job and then you would be free to go your way, or stay in the party should you "wish."

Sound unfair and absurd? Yet replace the "Republican Party" with "unions" and this is what

union bosses are asking the Foothills-De Anza Community College Trustees to do when it comes to who can and cannot work on their recently approved \$496 million construction bond. How, in 2007 in America, is this possible?

As union construction market share has fallen (from 70 percent in 1960 to 18 percent today), the leaders of these once-dominant organizations have been faced with two choices: Adapt to the changing market place and become more efficient and productive, or attempt to force the market place to change and adapt to your often archaic work rules and wasteful ways.

Through a tool known as a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) they have chosen the latter. A PLA is an agreement that forces anyone work-

ing under it to pay union dues, pay into union health, welfare and pension plans, and to be hired through a union hiring hall.

Unions will tell you they are not discriminatory because a contractor can "choose" not to bid a project covered by a PLA. Correct — just like black Americans 100 years ago could choose not to vote if they felt the poll tax was too high a price to pay.

The Foothill-De Anza trustees have an obligation to look out for the best interests of everyone in the community, not just political allies who want payoff for their cynical support of the bond campaign. In 2006, local voters overwhelmingly approved Measure C so that the

college could have new construction. This measure was passed with support from union and non-union workers alike, and there was no mention in the ballot language that the trustees would give unions a

monopoly on the work if the bond was approved.

Being forced to join private organizations as a condition of employment is morally reprehensible and intellectually vapid. Unfortunately, this seems to be the course taken by Foothill-De Anza trustees, who directed staff at their April 30 meeting to negotiate a PLA with the unions while allowing no other group a seat at the table. Our members, and all fair-minded citizens, would hope that when the final PLA agreement comes before the trustees, it will be rejected and replaced with open competition and freedom of association. ■

Eric Christen is executive director of the Coalition for Fair Employment in Construction, based in Sacramento.

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■ MOVIE TIMES

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■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

Retro brunch at Brian's

SEASONED COFFEE SHOP OWNERS DUPLICATE THEIR SUCCESS IN LOS ALTOS

By Elaine M. Rowland

Those who've eaten at the Los Altos Coffee Shop, on Second Street, may have a déjà vu moment when picking up a menu at Brian's Restaurant: it all looks extraordinarily familiar.

That's because Brian and Jeanie Whitlock, owners of Los Altos Coffee Shop, opened a second location at Rancho Shopping Center last summer and called it Brian's. Now, with the help of daughter Marisa, the family runs both coffee shops using the same hours and menu.

Serving breakfast and lunch, Brian's offers a hearty variety of sandwiches, pancakes, omelets

and waffles. And it has an attractive, open patio with great umbrellas — not those sissy decorative umbrellas that provide only enough shade to tan half of each diner (a burning issue for us pasty Celts). Brian's is also larger than its parent coffee shop, with booths and table configurations designed to accommodate larger groups.

I tried Brian's for brunch recently and found the results mixed. The buttermilk pancakes in the pancake breakfast (\$7.25) were chewy, as if they'd been sitting too long. But the scrambled egg that came with the order was



SAM TENNEY

Monterey chicken sandwich at Brian's Restaurant in Los Altos.

► See COFFEE SHOP, page 24

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Weekend



SAM TENNEY

Chocolate milkshake at Brian's Restaurant.

COFFEE SHOP

► Continued from page 23

just fine, and the bacon (choose from bacon or sausage) was some of the best I've eaten in a restaurant: thick and perfectly cooked. I wouldn't recommend their coffee if you like it strong, but it was fresh and plentiful.

OJ, in regular and fresh-squeezed versions (\$2.95 for a large, or \$3.95 fresh), was one of many juices on offer. Brian's even has soda fountain drinks such as

ice cream floats (\$3.95). However, the best drink at Brian's has to be the old-fashioned milk shakes (\$4.95) which are big enough to share, or not. For another three thick and creamy shakes come in vanilla, chocolate or strawberry.

Eggs Benedict (\$10.25) was another winner, with flavor and texture right on the money. The menu says, "two perfectly poached eggs," and they were.

During the week, the best strategy is to avoid the lunch-time crush, which is between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Even at

■ DINING NOTES

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SAM TENNEY

Interior of Brian's Restaurant.

high noon, however, the service was pretty efficient, and always friendly. For that meal we dined indoors, where the classic design and retro booths attracted both older and younger crowds than brunch on the patio did. Maybe it's just easier to corral kids and their crayons in a booth. At any rate, indoors and out felt like two different restaurants.

If you decide not to have breakfast for lunch, there are still many choices of hot or cold sandwiches and grilled foods. I chose not to decide, ordering a Reuben sandwich (\$8.25) with a Belgian waffle (\$6.25; or choose multi-grain waffles). I enjoyed the waffle more — hot and a little crunchy. The Reuben had good flavor, but the corned beef was chewy. (New Yorkers will say you can't get a proper bagel outside of their fair state, but they may have cornered the market on corned beef as well.) The rest of the sandwich was fine.

Lunch orders tend to come with potato salad, slaw, or chips, with fruit cup or fries available as substitutes, and I really liked the home fries here, which are thick-cut and golden brown.

The fish sandwich (\$7.95) is

an unremarkable breaded sole on a French roll. I think the grill might be the best option for lunch (unless you want waffles).

In an interesting twist, the side orders section of the menu here is one of the largest I've come across, and seems to double as a kid-friendly menu, with sliced banana and chicken nuggets. It also includes a range of choices from fruit to rib-eye steak. The portions for the main menu are generous, but if you want to add more, it won't add much to the bill.

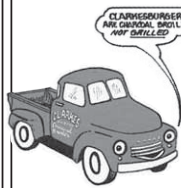
Brian's is a reasonably priced place with good service — seemingly retro concepts when you're looking for them. But they're obviously important to the Whitlocks, who trade on the retro look and concept of a coffee shop through this restaurant's interior design (check out the starburst wall clock), logo, Web site design, and — was that mock crab I saw on the menu?

A bustling place at lunchtime, Brian's has the energy but not the din of a diner, while outside, the patio is an oasis of upscale-mall calm, with diners discussing second homes and real estate appreciation. ■

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New take on a classic tragedy

TRAVELING JEWISH THEATRE SEEKS OUT
JEWISH SPIRIT OF 'DEATH OF A SALESMAN'

By Kevin Kirby

In its 28-year history, San Francisco's Traveling Jewish Theatre has created and toured with scores of original productions, exploring Jewish history and culture through everything from Yiddish poetry to hip-hop beats. But this season marks the first time it has mounted a production of a major American classic.

For the next three weeks, TJT is presenting Arthur Miller's "Death of a Salesman" at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts. "Salesman" opened last month in San Francisco, where it earned favorable reviews from numerous Bay Area publications.

"I see this play as an opening, as a way of looking at the Jewish-American experience, which is something we haven't done much previously," said director Aaron Davidman, who is in his fifth season as TJT's artistic director.

The notion of "Death of a Salesman" as a Jewish-American story may be surprising to some. After all, Miller did his best to make his protagonist, Willy Loman, an American Everyman, a symbol of that mass of men who, in Thoreau's words, "lead lives of quiet desperation."

Davidman himself refers to "Salesman" as "the great American tragedy, not the great Jewish-American tragedy," acknowledging the universality for which Miller aimed. But, he added, "If you look at Miller's upbringing, the Jewish-American influence can't help but be in there." Miller was born to middle-class Jewish parents in New York in 1915 and raised in Harlem and Brooklyn.

TJT's Jewish-American "Salesman," then, is not the sort of capricious "re-imagining" in which a director decides, for instance, to set "Hamlet" in the Old West. TJT is not adding a veneer of Jewishness to "Salesman" so much as revealing — rediscovering — the Yiddishkeit ("Jewishness" or "Jewish essence") that has always been there, Davidman said.

TJT co-founder Corey Fischer, who plays Willy Loman in the current production, speaks of "clues" in the script: certain cadences or turns of phrase that suggest the implicit cultural context. "I'm tired to the death," Willy says at the outset of the play. At the top of Act II, when his wife remarks that he looks rested, he replies, "I slept like a dead one."



Corey Fischer and Jeri Lynn Cohen star as Willy and Linda Loman in Traveling Jewish Theatre's production of "Death of a Salesman."

THEATER REVIEW

Fischer also cites Linda Loman's famous line: "Attention must be paid." In English, the syntax is somewhat stilted. "But," Fischer said, "in Yiddish, that's the proper word order."

Davidman and his cast have been sensitive to clues such as these, and as a result, he says, "a whole texture has emerged. It's in the rhythms of the language. It's subtle."

So subtle, in fact, that some audience members hardly notice it, Davidman reports. Others approach company members after the show with comments like: "It's so obvious! Why did I never notice this was a Jewish story before?"

It is a respectful, text-based approach — not a word of Miller's script has been changed — that the company hopes will highlight the play's hidden cultural context while still giving full voice to the universal themes that Miller set out to explore.

By bringing forth the Jewish-American context of the play, TJT hopes to shed an even greater light on its universal aspects. "The deeper issue is one of an

immigrant generation seeking to assimilate to an American dream that ultimately fails them," Fischer said.

And therein lies the play's greatest irony, according to Davidman. In his view, it is not merely that the American dream has failed Willy Loman. Rather, Willy Loman fails, at least in part, precisely because of his tremendous desire to assimilate.

"If you don't know who you are," Davidman said, "it's hard to find your way in the world." ▀

INFORMATION

What: "Death of a Salesman," a play presented by Traveling Jewish Theatre

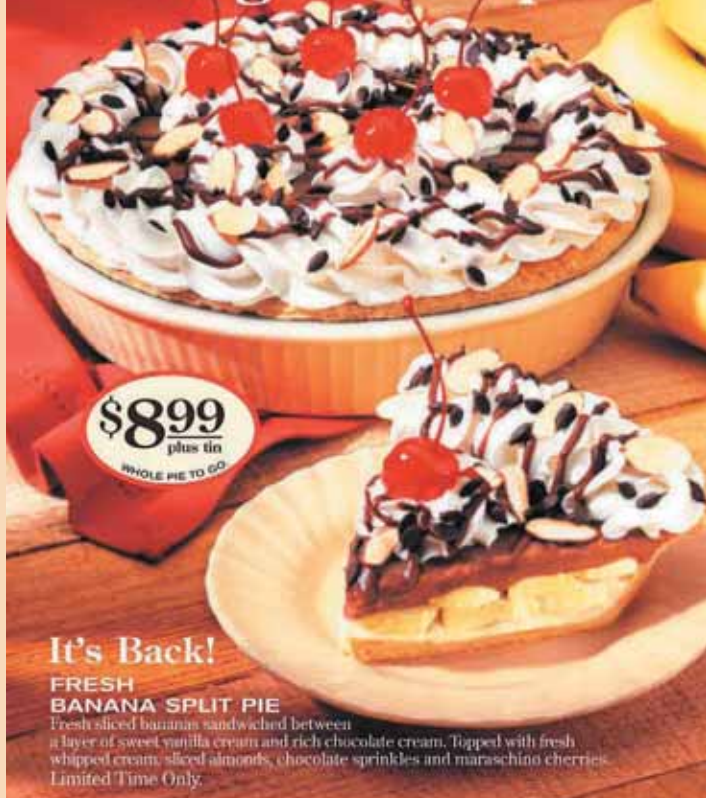
Where: Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View

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MOVIE TIMES

28 WEEKS LATER (R) (Not Reviewed) **Century 16:** 12:10, 2:35, 5:10, 7:35 & 10:10 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:25 a.m.; 12:35, 1:55, 3:15, 4:35, 5:40, 7:05, 9:30 & 10:35 p.m.

300 (R) ★★☆☆1/2 **Century 12:** 1, 3:50, 7:10 & 10 p.m.

ARE WE DONE YET? (PG) (Not Reviewed)
Century 20: 11:40 a.m.; 1:55 & 4:10 p.m.

AWAY FROM HER (PG-13) ★★☆☆
Palo Alto Square: 1:45, 4:30 & 7:15 p.m.; Fri. & Sat. also at 9:50 p.m.

BLACK BOOK (R) ★★☆☆ **Century 16:** 7:05 & 10:15 p.m.

BLADES OF GLORY (PG-13) ★★☆☆
Century 20: 11:50 a.m.; 2:30, 4:45, 7:25 & 9:50 p.m.

CIVIC DUTY (R) (Not Reviewed) **Century 12:** 1:30 & 7:35 p.m.

DELTA FARCE (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)
Century 12: Noon, 2:20, 4:40, 7 & 9:30 p.m.

DISTURBIA (PG-13) ★★☆☆ **Century 12:** 1:20, 4:20, 8 & 10:30 p.m.

THE EX (PG-13) ★★☆☆ **Century 16:** 9:55 p.m.
Century 12: 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30 & 9:45 p.m.

FAY GRIM (R) ★★☆☆ **Aquarius:** 1:30, 4:15, 7 & 9:40 p.m.

FIREHOUSE DOG (PG) (Not Reviewed) **Century 12:** 1:10, 4 & 7:15 p.m.

FRACTURE (R) ★★☆☆★ **Century 16:** 11:05 a.m.; 1:50, 4:30 & 7:10 p.m.
Century 12: 12:50, 3:35, 7:05 & 10:25 p.m.

GEORGIA RULE (R) ★ **Century 16:** 11:15 a.m.; 12:45, 2, 3:30, 4:45, 6:45, 7:25, 9:30 & 10:05 p.m. **Century 12:** 12:20, 1:40, 3:10, 4:30, 6, 7:20, 8:50 & 10:10 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:** 11:25 a.m.; 2:15, 5, 7:45 & 10:30 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:20 a.m.; 2:15, 5, 7:45 & 10:30 p.m.

IN THE LAND OF WOMEN (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)
Century 12: 12:05, 2:30, 5, 7:25 & 9:55 p.m.

THE INVISIBLE (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)
Century 12: 12:40, 4:10, 7:45 & 10:15 p.m.

THE LAST MIMZY (PG) (Not Reviewed)
Century 12: 12:10, 2:40, 5:20 & 7:50 p.m.

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

LUCKY YOU (PG-13) ★★☆☆ **Century 12:** 10:20 p.m.

MEET THE ROBINSONS (G) (Not Reviewed) **Century 16:** 11:10 a.m.; 1:35 & 4 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:25 a.m.; 1:45, 4:20, 6:50 & 9:15 p.m.

THE NAMESAKE (PG-13) ★★☆☆ **Century 16:** 12:30, 3:45, 6:55 & 9:45 p.m. **Century 20:** 1:30, 4:15, 7:30 & 10:25 p.m.

NEXT (PG-13) ★★☆☆1/2 **Century 20:** 7 & 9:25 p.m.

PERFECT STRANGER (R) ★★☆☆ **Century 12:** 4:50 & 10:05 p.m.

THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW (1975) (R) (Not Reviewed)
Guild: Sat. at midnight.

SHREK THE THIRD (PG) (Not Reviewed) **Century 16:** 11, 11:20 & 11:50 a.m.; 12:15, 12:35, 1:10, 1:30, 1:45, 2:25, 2:45, 3, 3:35, 3:55, 4:10, 5:05, 5:25, 6, 6:15, 7, 7:20, 7:40, 8:25, 8:45, 9:20, 9:40 & 10 p.m.; Fri. & Sun. also at 10:45 a.m.; 4:50, 8 & 10:20 p.m.; Sat. also at 10 a.m.; 4:55, 7:50 & 10:15 p.m.; Mon. & Tue. also at 4:50, 8 & 10:20 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:20 & 11:35 a.m.; noon, 12:25, 12:45, 1:10, 1:25, 1:45, 2, 2:25, 2:50, 3:10, 3:35, 3:50, 4:10, 4:30, 4:50, 5:15, 5:35, 6, 6:15, 6:35, 6:55, 7:15, 7:40, 8, 8:25, 8:40, 9, 9:20, 9:40, 10:05 & 10:25 p.m.; Fri.-Sun. also at 10:45 & 11 a.m.

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

VACANCY (R) (Not Reviewed) **Century 20:** 9:50 p.m.

THE VALET (PG-13) ★★☆☆ **Aquarius:** 2:30, 4:45, 7:20 & 9:25 p.m.; Sat. & Sun. also at 12:15 p.m.

WAITRESS (PG-13) ★★☆☆ **Palo Alto Square:** 1:30, 4:15 & 7 p.m.; Fri. & Sat. also at 9:45 p.m.

Note: Screenings are for Friday through Tuesday only.

AQUARIUS: 430 Emerson St., Palo Alto (266-9260)

CENTURY CINEMA 16: 1500 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View (960-0970)

CENTURY PARK 12: 557 E. Bayshore Blvd., Redwood City (365-9000)

CENTURY 20 DOWNTOWN: 825 Middlefield Road, Redwood City (369-3456)

CINEARTS AT PALO ALTO SQUARE: 3000 El Camino Real, Palo Alto (493-3456)

GUILD: 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park (266-9260)

SPANGENBERG THEATRE: 780 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto (354-8263)

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

AWAY FROM HER ★★☆☆

(CineArts) Only a superb cast and the most delicate directorial touch could successfully adapt Alice Munro's devastating short story "The Bear Came Over the Mountain" to the screen. Accomplished actor Sarah Polley ("The Sweet Hereafter") found both for her feature debut as a writer-director. With poignancy and maturity beyond her years, Polley deals with Alzheimer's disease and its effect on a steadfast love tested when synapses slip away. But she could hardly go wrong given the remarkable talents of Julie Christie and Gordon Pinsent in the lead roles. The narrative never submits to a simple descent-into-disease formula. Although the ravages of Alzheimer's form the drama's core, the emotional power of the story arises from Munro's construct: What does a devoted husband do when his wife no longer remembers him and falls in love with a fellow patient (Michael Murphy)? Ultimately, "Away From Her" offers a moving, thoughtful drama for adults who have felt abandoned by the movie industry. *Rated: PG-13 for some strong language. 1 hour. 50 minutes.* — S.T.

FRACTURE ★★☆☆★

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

THE EX ★★☆☆

(Century 12, Century 16) The classic winners-and-losers theme takes on hilarious implications in Jesse Peretz's domestic, dysfunctional comedy. Zach Braff is pitch-perfect as Tom Reilly, a slacker-ish lunch chef with a high-powered lawyer wife (Amanda Peet as Sofia) who's about to deliver the couple's first child. Quick as a wink Tom is fired from his job: rather inconvenient considering that Sofia has her heart set on playing stay-at-home

► Continued on next page

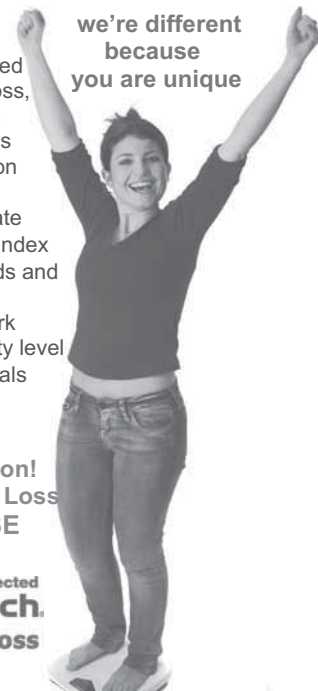
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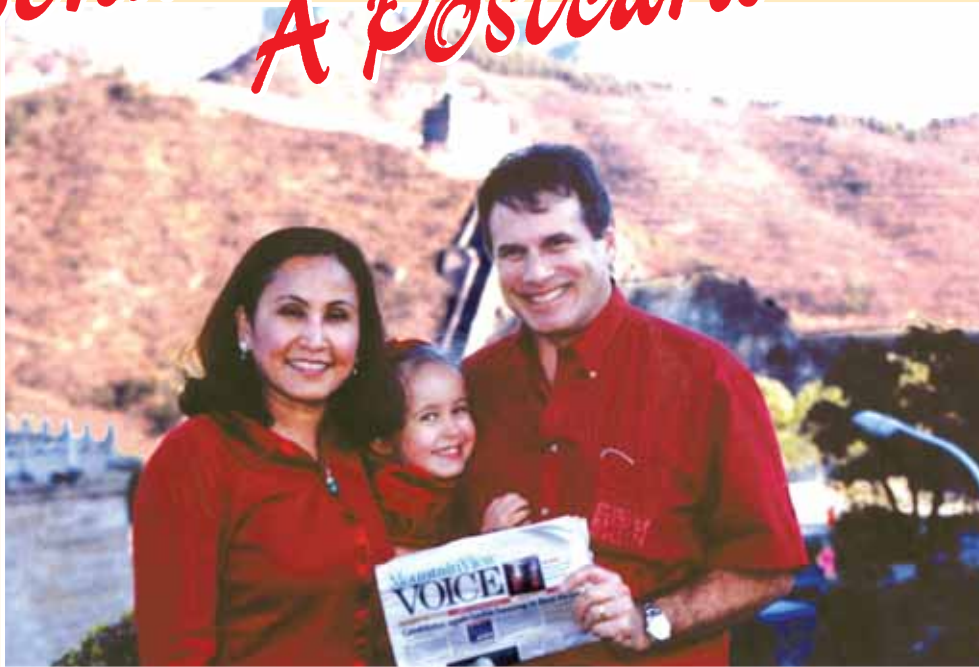


Photo of Usha, Paul and Hannah Jane Lesti at the Great Wall of China

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.

► Continued from previous page

mom. Time for him to bite the bullet and accept that ad agency job that Sofia's dad (Charles Grodin) has been touting from the get-go. The wounds run deep: a move from the Big Apple to the groomed suburbs of Ohio, a surprise interior-design makeover courtesy of mom-in-law (Mia Farrow), and a new gig as "assistant associate creative" for hippy-dippy Sunburst Creations. It goes from bad to worse when Tom locks horns with new boss (and ex-Sofia squeeze) Chip Sanders (Jason Bateman), a master manipulator whose sinister mother-ship is a wheelchair. Granted, we've seen it all before. But just when "The Ex" looks like it's anxiously casting about for the finish line, it cuts its inevitable losses and wraps up neatly and without a fuss. No year-end awards but boy, did I laugh. *Rated: PG-13 for language and mature themes. 1 hour, 29 minutes.* — J.A.

GEORGIA RULE★

(Century 16, Century 12) Lindsay Lohan

flaunts designer threads and a shabby attitude in this messier-than-thou melodrama that's guaranteed to repel. Lohan is Rachel, a spoiled California tramp and one in a long line of screwed-up family females. Antagonism runs rampant between mom and daughter, and mom (Felicity Huffman as Lilly) finds herself at wit's end. The only reasonable solution is to ship Rachel off to her grandmother Georgia (Jane Fonda) who lives a God-fearing life in Hull, Idaho, a paean to idyllic small-town living. Courtesy the clunkiest dialogue this side of the Mississippi, dark secrets are revealed. Lohan overplays her hand, not that the role demands subtlety. "Georgia" never finds its groove, vacillating wildly between pathetic pathos, emotional blackmail and stabs — only stabs — at gentle humor. Skip it. *Rated: R for language and sexual situations. 1 hour, 43 minutes.* — J.A.

LUCKY YOU★★

(Century 12) Poker is the protagonist of this drawn-out dramedy from director Curtis Hanson ("L.A. Confidential"). But when a deck of cards trumps plot and character

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development, the film is bound to fold. Texas hold 'em is more than just fun and games for accomplished gambler Huck Cheever (Eric Bana). The slick Las Vegas mainstay earns his keep at the card tables, a skill he learned from his estranged father (Robert Duvall as L.C.). Huck's entire life revolves around the casino — until he meets naive lounge singer Billie Offer (Drew Barrymore). But Huck can't get his mind off the upcoming World Series of Poker and the possibility of head-to-head action against L.C., a two-time champ. Soon his obsession with poker — and "getting even" with dad — begins to interfere with his newfound love life. Poker hasn't been depicted this well on screen since "Rounders," and the atmosphere gets tense as Huck gets closer to the World Series finals. But ten bucks and a long two hours ultimately make "Lucky" a bad bet. *Rated: PG-13 for some language and sexual humor. 2 hours, 4 minutes.* — T.H.

NEXT ★★1/2

(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 FBI 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.

SPIDER-MAN 3 ★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) Despite an overwhelming sensation of been-there, done-that, Tobey Maguire and company inject enough fresh material into Spider-Man's third outing to keep both fans and converts happy. It's 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. 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 slithering 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 sequences, has an unfortunate run-in with a scientific de-molecularizer that renders him rather, um, granular. Goodbye Mr. Marko, hello Sandman! How

far to go to ensure that "Spider-Man" can hang onto its blockbuster cachet yet retain its core values and keep 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. *Rated: PG-13 for intensity and violence. 2 hours, 17 minutes.* — J.A.

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 Levasseur (Daniel Auteuil) with his top-model mistress Elena (Alice Taglioni). To avoid scandal and an expensive divorce, Levasseur tells his wife (Kristin Scott Thomas) that he was accidentally caught in the shot while passing by. The unidentified man, park-

ing valet Francois Pignon (Gad Elmaleh), must be the model's lover. The complications and comedy of errors mount as Levasseur 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 Taverneti,
J.A.-Jeanne Aufmuth, J.S.-Jim Shelby,
T.H.-Tyler Hanley

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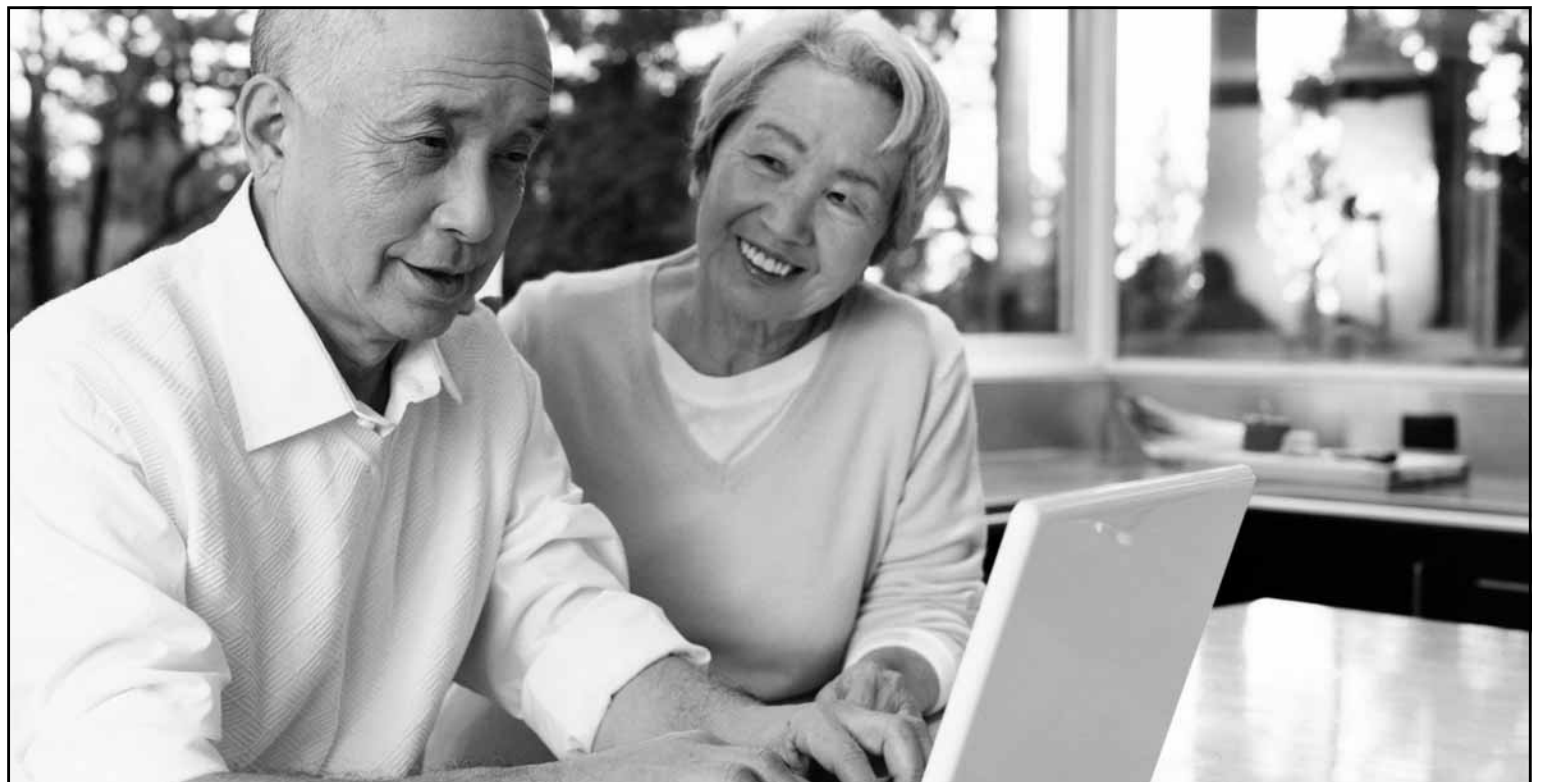


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■ HIGHLIGHT

A LA CARTE AND ART

May 19-20, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Live music, a juried arts and crafts show with 250 "indie" exhibitors showing latest handcrafted wares, savory food and drink, chef demonstrations, a farmers' market, amusements for kids. TV Star Delta Burke appears Sat., May 19. Free. Castro St., Mountain View. www.miramarevents.com

SPECIAL EVENTS

NATIONALLY KNOWN ARTISTS' OPEN STUDIO Local, national and internationally known artists show latest artwork. View and purchase fine art ceramics, bronzes, oils, prints, and watercolors directly from Doris Fischer-Colbrie, Susan Kraft, Paula Schales, and Nancy Wong. May 19-20, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Nancy Wong Studios, 970 Palo Alto Ave., Palo Alto. Call 444-1354. www.kraftart.com

POST PRESENTS AUTHOR TIM CAHILL 14th Annual Wallace Stegner Lecture Series, sponsored by Ambassador Bill and Mrs. Jean Lane. May 24, 8-9:30 p.m. \$22. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 854-7696. www.openspacetrust.org

YOGA FOR MOOD AND FOOD Vinyasa Yoga instructor, Rebecca Snowball and nutritionist/chiropractor, Marina Rose for a fun asana practice combined with an informational talk to help take the guess work out of eating healthy. May 19, 3-5 p.m. Free. Elephant Pharm, 4470 El Camino Real, Los Altos. Call 472-6800. www.elephantpharm.com

ART GALLERIES

CALIFORNIA LANDSCAPES BY LINDA PATTERSON Capturing the essence of nature through the media of oils, acrylics and pastels Linda Patterson's paintings are inspired by her appreciation and reverence for the natural environment. Through May 31. Portola Art Gallery, 75 Arbor Road, Menlo Park. www.portolaartgallery.com

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

MISPLACED REALITIES/BLURRED PERCEPTIONS Paintings by Sheldon Greenberg, explore moments and memories recollected and reinterpreted. Tue.-Sat., through June 9, 11-6 p.m. Free. Spur Projects, 888 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 529-2040. www.spurprojects.com

OPEN STUDIOS Featuring five gallery artists through May 26. Sculpture, ceramics, jewelry, brush painting, prints and more. Hours: Tue.-Sat., 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Gallery 9, 143 Main St., Los Altos. www.gallery9losaltos.com

PHOTO EXHIBIT "Red Rock Country of the Grand Staircase," by digital photographer Judith Kramer. Through May 25. Fire House Gallery features local artists and handcrafted gifts. A portion of each sale is donated to Avenidas in support of senior programs. Hours: Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Fire House Gallery, 450 Bryant St., Palo Alto. Call 289-5430. www.avenidas.org

PHOTOGRAPHY Nature photography by Gil Draper and Robert Terrebonne through May 27. "Along the Shoreline" focuses on the ocean while Terrebonne shows his passion for bark "Among the Trees." Hours: Wed.-Sun., 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. The Main Gallery, 1018 Main St., Redwood City. Call 366-8055. www.themaingallery.org

AUDITIONS

"A LITTLE PRINCESS" PYT invites youths ages 7-11 to audition for the musical by Vera

Morris and Bill Francoeur. May 19, 10 a.m. or 2 p.m.; May 20, 2 p.m. Prepare song and one-minute prose monologue. Bring sheet music or instrumental tape or CD. \$160. Peninsula Youth Theatre, 2500 Old Middlefield Way, Mountain View. www.pyt.net

DISNEY'S 101 DALMATIANS KIDS Auditions May 22-23, 3:45 p.m. for the second Hot Dog Supper Show. Open to ages 8 through high school. Auditions may include cold readings and group improvisation. Show performs on the Magic Castle stage, July 5-14. Palo Alto Children's Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 463-4930. www.city.palo-alto.ca.us/community-services/theater-index.html

BENEFITS

9TH ANNUAL VINE AND DINE Sat., May 19, 4-7 p.m. Benefiting Today's Youth Matter to help keep at-risk youth off the streets. An outdoor reception featuring gourmet hors d'oeuvres and ultra-premium wines. \$95 advance/\$120 at the door. Private Estate, Atherton. Call (415) 845-8834. www.wineanddine.org

ANTIQUES APPRAISAL DAY Bring antiques and collectables up to 3 items for an informal appraisal by local experts. A benefit for the Palo Alto Woman's Club House Preservation Fund. May 19, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. \$45. Palo Alto Woman's Club, 475 Homer, Palo Alto. Call 321-5821.

RENEGADE THEATRE EXPERIMENT HOSTS FUNDRAZOR 2007 Wine tasting, silent and live auctions, and preview performances of Renegade's 6th season will directly benefit the South Bay's voice for Alternative Theatre. May

19, 4-8 p.m. \$30 advance/\$40 at the door. Vino Locale, 431 Kipling St., Palo Alto. Call (408) 351-4440. www.renegadetheatre.com/fundrazor

SANCTUARY NOW? JUSTICE FOR IMMIGRANTS Benefit for grassroots programs in El Salvador featuring Mark Silverman, Director of Immigration Policy at the Legal Resource Center in San Francisco and Rev. Carol Been, a Lutheran pastor in San Jose and Deputy Director of Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice. Pupusa and enchilada dinner. May 20, 4-7 p.m. \$20/\$15 for students. Palo Alto First Presbyterian Church, 1140 Cowper St., Palo Alto.

SETON GOLF SCRAMBLE FOR KIDS Mon., May 21, 9 a.m. contests; 11 a.m. shotgun start. 4-ball scramble format. Benefits St. Elizabeth Seton School for underprivileged children. Stanford Golf Course, 198 Junipero Serra Blvd., Stanford. Call 326-1258. <http://seton.ca.campusgrid.net>

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

"BE THE STAR FOR PROM" Prom Makeup class, have fun, play with colors, glitters, shimmers, and glosses and shine like a star for your Prom, using makeup that is healthy for your skin. May 19, 1-2 p.m. Free. Elephant Pharm, 4470 El Camino Real, Los Altos. Call 472-6800. www.elephantpharm.com

A DRUG FREE APPROACH TO ADHD Jenny C. Lee, Certified Nutrition Response Clinician, will talk about alternative drug-free approach to ADHD. May 22, 6:30-7:30 p.m. \$10. Whole Foods Market, 4800 El Camino Real, Los Altos. Call 380-1999. www.healinglab.com

ANNUAL KARA/VA GRIEF CONFERENCE A

conference for medical/mental health professionals on end-of-life issues and grief. Includes presentations on helping suicide survivors heal, how the brain processes grief, and the relationship between grief and forgiveness. Speakers include Dr. Fred Luskin and Dr. Jim Hallenbeck. May 18, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. \$115. SRI Conference Center, 333 Ravenswood Ave., Menlo Park. www.kara-grief.org

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

BEADING WORKSHOPS Free workshops in honor the 25th anniversary. May 22: Integrating Beads with Leather Cord; May 23: Branch Wire Focal Point Necklace; May 24: Cascading Charm and bead Necklace. 6-8 p.m. Free instructions; cost for materials. The Bead Shop, 158 University Ave., Palo Alto. Call 383-3411. www.beadshop.com

CONFIDENT CONNECTED PARENTING: A JOURNALING WORKSHOP Parent workshop with Lucy Rector Filppu. Wednesdays, May 30 and June 6, 7-8:30 p.m. \$50 for two sessions. Pre-registration required. Parents Place, 200 Channing Ave., Palo Alto. Call 688-3040. www.parentsplaceonline.org

LEADERSHIP, GLOBAL BUSINESS, STRATEGIC ALLIANCES First session: lecture and discussion on the three topics; second session: case study of an International CRM firm. Thu., May 24, 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$20. FieldDay Solutions, Inc., 1000 Elwell Court, Palo Alto. Call 323-6509. www.chalkinstitute.org

RAISING BOYS: BOYS AND DISCIPLINE COVERING AGES 3-8 Parenting workshop with Jomary Hilliard to explore what is unique to setting limits with boys, and learn new strategies of discipline. Thu., May 24, 7-9 p.m. \$30. Pre-registration required. Parents Place, 200 Channing Ave., Palo Alto. Call 688-3040. www.parentsplaceonline.org

SOLAR OVENS: COOKING, BUILDING, AND BUYING Learn how to prepare vegetables, grains, and beans, as well as tender meat dishes and bread with the Sun's energy. Learn heating and aiming techniques. To call register 493-6072. May 19, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$24. Common Ground Garden Supply and Education Center, 559 College Ave., Palo Alto. Call 493-6072. www.commongroundinpalto.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

HEALTH CARE REFORM PANEL Panelists explore how health care reform will benefit the common good and how the single-payer system, now before the state legislature, will work. The event includes a documentary on health care issues such as insurance that is unaffordable, unavailable, or denied for pre-existing conditions. May 18, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Free. Willow Park Condos, 500 W. Middlefield Road, Mountain View. Call 947-0369.

RUMMAGE SALE Selection household items, clothing, baby needs, toys, books, electronics, garden, jewelry, sports, furniture and more. Fri., May 18, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sat., May 19, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. All proceeds benefit local and global missions. Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Ave., Los Altos. Call 967-5649.

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NATIONAL FESTIVAL Includes international food booths, carnival rides and live entertainment. May 18-20. Free. St. Joseph School, 1120 Mirimonte Ave., Mountain View.

CONCERTS

CALIFORNIA YOUTH SYMPHONY The California Youth Symphony continues its 55th season with CYS Young Artist Competition winner Zenas Hsu as violin soloist. The program includes The Chairman Dances by John Adams, the Shostakovich Violin Concerto No. 1, and Bartok's Concerto for Orchestra. May 20, 2:30 p.m. \$12/\$6 students and seniors. San Mateo Performing Arts Center, 650 N. Delaware St., San Mateo. Call 325-6666. www.cys.org

CATHERINE HO, OBOE Catherine Ho presents her senior recital accompanied by Steve Lightburn. Included will be Poulenc's Oboe Sonata and Arnold's Sonatina for oboe and piano. 8 p.m. Free. Campell Recital Hall, 541 Lasuen Mall, Stanford. Call 723-2720. <http://music.stanford.edu/Events/calendar.html>

COMPLINE SERVICE Sun., May 20, 9 p.m. A reflective 30-minute service of hymns and chant in the candlelit ambience of Memorial Church. Free. Memorial Church, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford. Call 723-2720. <http://music.stanford.edu/Events/calendar.html>

DAVID LEE, PIANO Sun., May 20, 2:30 p.m. A program of Bach, Haydn, Rachmaninoff, Scriabin's Sonata-Fantasy No. 2 in G# Minor, and Ravel's Gaspard de la nuit. Free. Campell Recital Hall, 541 Lasuen Mall, Stanford. Call 723-2720. <http://music.stanford.edu/Events/calendar.html>

NOON CONCERT SERIES Fri., May 18, 12:15 p.m. Featuring a Chinese guzheng recital. Free. Campell Recital Hall, 541 Lasuen Mall, Stanford. Call 723-2720. <http://music.stanford.edu/Events/calendar.html>

PALO ALTO PHILHARMONIC YOUTH/FAMILY CONCERT Sun., May 20, 3 p.m. Classical music performed. Partially supported by the City of Palo Alto. \$10/\$5. Cubberley Theatre, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. www.paphil.org

PALO ALTO TWO-PIANO CLUB CONCERT Sun., May 20, 7 p.m. Seven teams of duopianists playing piano ensemble music of Beethoven, Debussy, Gershwin, Piazzolla, and our own award-winning Sondra Clark. Free. Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto. Call 494-6934.

SIMON PRESTON, ORGAN Noted organist Simon Preston plays works by Mendelssohn, Schumann, Jongen and others on the Murray Harris organ. May 23. 8 p.m. \$10/\$5/Free. Memorial Church, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford.. Call 723-2720. <http://music.stanford.edu/Events/calendar.html>

SINFONIETTA SPRING DANCE Presented by The El Camino Youth symphony. The Sinfonietta Spring Dance with Dr. Camilla Kochinsky, Conductor, and featured soloists Jeremy Hsia, clarinet, and Sunli Kim, violin. Program includes the works of Beethoven, Mozart, Bruch, and Glinka. May 19, 8-10 p.m. \$10/\$5. Cubberly Theatre, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. www.ecys.org

STANFORD SYMPHONIC CHORUS Fri., May 18, 8 p.m. The Stanford Symphonic Chorus performs Vaughn Williams' Five Mystical Songs and Rutter's Requiem with solos by soprano Georgia Duan and baritone Kenneth Goodson. \$10/\$5. Memorial Church, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford. Call 723-2720. <http://music.stanford.edu/Events/calendar.html>

STANFORD WIND ENSEMBLE Wed., May 23, 8 p.m. The Stanford Wind Ensemble under the direction of Giancarlo Aquilanti presents A. Reed's Armenian Dances, J. de Meij's La Quintessa, and O. Reed's La Fiesta Mexicana. \$10/Free. Dinkelspiel Auditorium, 471 Lagunita Dr., Stanford. Call 723-2720. <http://music.stanford.edu/Events/calendar.html>

TAI-JIN LEE, VIOLIN Sat., May 26, 2:30 p.m. Violinist Tai-Jin Lee presents works by Mozart, Bach, and Chopin. Free. Campell Recital Hall, 541 Lasuen Mall, Stanford. Call 723-2720. <http://music.stanford.edu/Events/calendar.html>

THE CHROMATIC HARPSICHORD Thu., May 24, noon. Michael Peterson presents works by Mayone, Trabaci, del Buono, Rameau, and Bach. Free. Campell Recital Hall, 541 Lasuen Mall, Stanford. Call 723-2720. <http://music.stanford.edu/Events/calendar.html>

VOICES IN HARMONY Northern California's Premier Men's A Capella Chorus plus A Capella quintet Clockwork. May 19, 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. performances. \$20 seniors and student/\$25 genarl/\$35 gold circle. Spangenberg, 780 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto. Call (877) 684-3844. www.vihchorus.org

WOODSIDE VILLAGE BAND SPRING CONCERT The Woodside Village Band will present its 20th annual Spring concert Sun., May 20, 3 p.m. The program will feature music from George Gershwin, Cole Porter, and Irving Berlin, among others. Free; donations accepted. Woodside Village Church, 3154 Woodside Road, Woodside. Call 851-1642. www.windband.org/woodside

DANCE

ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCING Traditional

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

EXHIBITS

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

FAMILY AND KIDS

AL'AFIZOON MIDDLE EASTERN ENSEMBLE Folk songs and modern works from far-off lands using traditional and contemporary instruments. Sponsored by Applied Materials. Suitable for pre-school and young children. May 20, 2 p.m. preschool and young children; 4 p.m. school age children and adults. Free. Community School of Music and Arts, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. www.arts4all.org

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

ON STAGE

"CINDERELLA" Peninsula Youth Theatre will present Kate Hawley and Gregg Coffin's madcap musical panto. May 19, 2 and 7:30 p.m.; May 17, 9:30 a.m.; May 18, 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; May 20, 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$7-\$18. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. www.pyt.net

MORE LISTINGS

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

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