

Mountain View VOICE

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mv-voice.com

Child care center squeezes through

NEARLY \$2 MILLION COST OVERRUN DOESN'T
DETER MAJORITY OF COUNCIL

By Daniel DeBolt

Further cementing the future of the long-debated child care center proposed for Rengstorff Park, the City Council approved \$1.9 million in unforeseen project costs Tuesday before the city's 2006-07 budget was approved.

During several weeks of discussions, a majority of the council said the project had veered from its intended goal of providing a substantial amount of subsidized child care to low-income families in the neighborhood. But in the end, members approved the funding 5-2, with Jac Siegel and Matt Pear opposed.

I feel very strongly that there is a

need for this," said council member Margaret Abe-Koga, later adding that "we're not going into a deficit to do this."

This year, 27 families became qualified to receive subsidized child care from the county, Abe-Koga said. By building this facility that number could double, she argued, because 30 percent of the spaces are guaranteed as subsidized spots.

Council member Nick Galiotto said Abe-Koga had convinced him that the center would be a good idea because it could provide free or discounted child care to city employees in the future. Galiotto's opinion was quite a change from a previous council meeting, when he said the center might become one of those projects that he "might very much regret being the swing vote" on.

"I did approve it once. I guess I'll go ahead and do it again," Galiotto said.

Several members said that, once loans are paid off in eight years, the child care center is expected to generate about \$200,000 a year in revenue for the city, which could subsidize even more child care for either low-income families or city employees.

Community Action Team member Volga Mela was one of three residents who spoke through a translator in favor of the project. She said there has been a lot of discussion about gang problems in the neighborhood, and that preschool could be one more way to prevent gang activity by preparing children to do well in school.

"Our children deserve a good education," Mela said. "These children are going to be our future."

The center will be operated by the



NORBERT VON DER GROEBEN

Mountain View High graduates Monisha Hill and Nhi Huynh race to see their friends before throwing their caps in the air at Tuesday's commencement program.

Good-bye, seniors

HAPPY CROWD OF NEARLY 900 GRADUATE FROM MVLA HIGH SCHOOLS

By Alexa Tondreau

For the almost 900 students graduating from Mountain View and Los Altos high schools, Tuesday evening was the last time they'd ever stand together as a class.

A sea of gown-clad seniors, the Class of 2007 appeared giddy with excitement as they stood before a football field filled with parents and friends.

Mountain View High School principal Keith Moody, officiating the school's 105th graduation ceremony, reminded students of just how far they had come over the course of their high school careers.

"If you can think back to your freshman days four years ago, you can recognize the tremen-

dous transformation that has occurred," Moody said.

Moody recommended that as students go forward in the world they "value what you do for others as much as the size of your paychecks."

"I wish for each of you to win your own personal Super Bowl," Moody said, to loud cheers.

Valedictorian Elizabeth Mark began her speech with some much-needed sympathy for the band students, who played "Pomp and Circumstance" for what seemed like hours as the graduates filed into place.

"I played trumpet during three graduations. I hate 'Pomp and Circumstance,'" Mark said.

Mark advised that as students enter "the adult world of coffee-drinking, nine-to-five schedules

and credit card bills" they hold on to their sense of individuality.

"As Hallmark and cliché as it sounds, high school allowed me to push beyond what people wanted me to be and allowed me to find myself," she said.

But Mark said she was also aware that she and her peers had just begun their long journeys of self-discovery, and assured her classmates that they weren't alone if they hadn't yet figured it all out.

"My name is Elizabeth Mark," she concluded, "and I have no idea what I want to do with my life."

Freestyle Academy wraps up first year

Previously, the district's multimedia program, Freestyle Acad-

► See GRADUATION, page 16

Boundary options down to two

SCHOOL BOARD
CLOSER TO A DECISION
— SWITCH LIKELY FOR
MOUNTAIN VIEW KIDS

By Alexa Tondreau

In an effort to close in on a controversial change in elementary school boundaries, the Los Altos School District board on Monday narrowed its choices to two options, both of which would force 100 or more Moun-

► See BOUNDARIES, page 14

► See COUNCIL, page 8

INSIDE

GOINGS ON 29 | MARKETPLACE 37 | MOVIES 26 | REAL ESTATE 43 | VIEWPOINT 20

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

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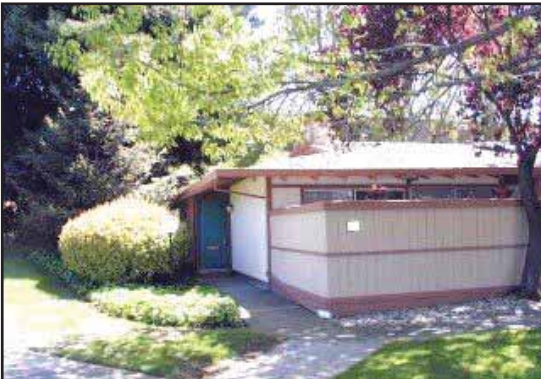
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Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

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

Do you feel you have a good balance between your work life and home life?



"I'm a student and done with my coursework for the summer. For me, maintaining a balance is all about scheduling. If you don't set aside time for fun or work, it's easy for either to take over."

Jason Smart, Mountain View



"I'm a self-employed sitar-player and musician so I have more than average free time. But there's a trade-off since I don't make as much money as I'd like."

Mike Seeba, Mountain View



"No, I don't have a balance. I'm a jewelry artist and have a home studio so I'm always at work. But the upside is that I love what I do! I could do it 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

Lin Schroeder, San Jose



"I work the night shift for UPS operations. I think my job is pretty balanced but sometimes I wish I had more time to sleep."

Marie Alcaez, Sunnyvale



"No, it's highly unbalanced. I'm an international loafer. I'm a gypsy and have neither a job nor a home. The world is my home."

Oska Shaw, Mountain View

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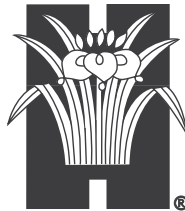
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■ CRIMEWATCH

BATTERY, 1500 BLOCK GRETEL LANE, 6/8

Two neighbors got into an argument and one hit the other with a garden hose. The female neighbor became angry when a male neighbor took a photo of a house on their street. They began to argue, and the woman hit her neighbor with the hose.

males and one white male, walked away towards Castro Street.

BATTERY, SHORELINE AMPHITHEATRE, 6/9

Two female concert-goers were dancing at the Live 105 BFD music festival when a drunk man punched them both in the face, causing minor injuries. According to police, the man got angry because the two were dancing together very closely and it was difficult to move.

When other concert-goers saw this, they held the man until security arrived. The women then signed a private person's arrest and the man was cited and ejected from the concert.

ROBBERY, MOLLY MAGEE'S, 6/9

A man was walking through the breezeway alongside Molly Magee's and talking on his cell phone when he was accosted by three men, who demanded the phone. One of the men then ripped the phone out of his hand. The suspects, described as two black

■ POLICE LOG

AUTO BURGLARY

Century 16 Cinema, 6/7
Burgoyne Street/Montecito Avenue, 6/9

MISSING PERSON

300 Block Sierra Vista Ave., 6/10

BATTERY

600 Block Showers Dr., 6/7
1500 Block Gretel Lane, 6/8
Shoreline Amphitheatre, 6/9
Shoreline Amphitheatre, 6/10

PETTY THEFT

100 Block Castro St., 6/7
10 Block Castro St., 6/7
600 Block Showers Dr., 6/7
500 Block W. El Camino Real, 6/7
Sears, 6/8
1800 Block Vassar Ave., 6/9
In N Out (W. El Camino Real), 6/9
Seascapes, 6/9

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

2100 Block Old Middlefield Way, 6/6
10 Block N. Shoreline Blvd., 6/7

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

1700 California St., 6/9
400 Block Franklin St., 6/9

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

E. El Camino Real/Highway 85, 6/6
Diablo Avenue/Whitney Drive, 6/6
Molly Magee's, 6/9
Shoreline Amphitheatre, 6/9

ROBBERY

Molly Magee's, 6/9

DISTURBANCE

1900 Hackett Ave., 6/9

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES/PERSON

1100 Block Doyle Place, 6/6
500 Block Cypress Point Dr., 6/8
Montecito Avenue/N. Shoreline Boulevard, 6/8
1900 Montecito Ave., 6/10

DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE

500 Block Walker Dr., 6/8
Shoreline Amphitheatre, 6/9
McDonald's (Rengstorff), 6/10

TRESPASSING

400 Block Villa St., 6/6

GRAND THEFT

800 Block Maude Ave., 6/8
Shoreline Amphitheatre, 6/9

VANDALISM

Park Vista Apartments, 6/6
100 Block Farley St., 6/7
400 Del Medio Ave., 6/9
Amphitheatre Pkwy., 6/10

LEWD CONDUCT

10 Block S. Rengstorff Ave., 6/7

MISSING PERSON

500 Block W. Middlefield Rd., 6/6

Inspirations

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Walk ins Welcome



That's them in the corner

By Don Frances

ALLOW ME TO introduce the greatest Mountain View pop band you never heard of.

The Corner Laughers don't have to be called pop. If I were a music writer, I'd probably use some obscure description, like "mod folk" or whatever. But despite being smart, and defying easy categorization, the tunes are easygoing and may force listeners to tap their feet, dance a jig, drive fast, etc. depending on circumstance.

Started by Mountain View's Angela Silletto and Karla Kane, who write the songs and front the band — the former on guitar, the latter on ukulele and lead vocals — The Corner Laughers favor simple, appealing melodies, a clear sound that borders on folk (is that an accordion I hear? ... is that a musical saw?), and lyrics evoking a bright college girl who's daydreaming instead of studying for her finals.

(This theoretical college girl seems to be an English major, with a possible minor in the natural sciences. Subjects include geography, geology, ecology, primatology, Greek mythology and 19th century English literature, particularly Lewis Carroll and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.)

Kane's vocals are delicate and affecting, not dressed up with a lot of breathy "oooo's" and "yeahs" and other rock-ish posturing. Yet a good, rock-ish guitar riff lends backbone to the songs and overlays nicely with her jaunty uke. (By an odd twist, and having nothing to do with me, Kane was recently hired as an editorial assistant at the *Palo Alto Weekly*, the *Voice's* sister paper.)

Last year The Corner Laughers went to Sunnyvale and recorded

► See **EDITOR'S DESK**, page 10



NORBERT VON DER GROEBEN

Hayden Hilton, 13, races in the first annual Valley Soap Box Derby in Mountain View last Saturday.

And they're off

YOUNG RACERS BRAVE DANA STREET OVERPASS IN CITY'S FIRST SOAP BOX DERBY

By Daniel DeBolt

Mountain View's first Soap Box Derby went off without a hitch last weekend on the Dana Street overpass in front of Landels Elementary School, and organizers plan to make the event a yearly tradition.

Celeste Greaves, 11 and Tom Nelson, 13, will be going to the Soap Box Derby nationals in Akron, Ohio next month after taking first place in their categories. Nelson rolled to a super-stock win and Greaves, the "Queen of the Hill," took the stock class.

"I've raced more than all the other people, so I probably had an advantage," Nelson said after the win. He added that others could win just as easily

with some experience.

The final race in super stock was between Nelson and Kevin Barbano, 13, who was sponsored by the Lions Club. Organizers billed it as "The Lions vs. The Elks."

"Who wants the Elks?" said the announcer. "Who wants the Lions?"

In the class for disabled and special-needs children, a.k.a. the "Superkids" division, Brandon Le, 8, was the winner and will be going to Ohio. Two Superkids cars were hand-built over two months by Fortes Auto Body and the Iron Warriors motorcycle club, which is made up of local police officers and firefighters. The specially built two-seat cars are co-driven by another soap box-racer.

The low-key family event began with practice runs Saturday morning and ended with the final races Sunday afternoon. In the Landels parking lot, event sponsor Air Systems Inc. brought out a space capsule display that was an attraction for small children. Groups like the Iron Warriors and the Elks had booths selling food and drinks. And Landels loaned out its multi-purpose room to store the cars after they were weighed with their drivers Friday.

Between runs, trucks used special trailers to take four cars at a time to the top of the hill. There the cars were carefully lined up on gated

► See **DERBY**, page 15

Senior pranks become costly

POLICE SAY MOUNTAIN VIEW SIGN STEALERS LUCKY NOT TO FACE FELONY CHARGES

By Daniel DeBolt

The two youths who admitted to stealing several signs protesting the proposed Grant Road farm may face only misdemeanor charges, according to the district attorney's office — a lucky break for the sort of high school prank that often lands graduating seniors in hot water.

The value of the stolen property, totaling \$420, was just over the \$400 mark to qualify the crime as a much more serious felony, according to the district attorney's office. No reason for the lighter charge was given, but the 18-year-old students, one from Mountain View High and the other a freshman at Chico State who graduated last year, are expected to get a break from prosecutors.

Police recently recovered 42 of the stolen farm signs from a house on the 600 block of Springer Road. Police spokesperson Liz Wylie said the resident had no idea where the signs were from and had not removed them for several days. A passer-by noticed the signs and told police.

► See **PRANKS**, page 13

MVLA trustee David Williams stepping down

By Alexa Tondreau

Citing career and family responsibilities, David Williams, the longtime trustee of the Mountain View-Los Altos High School District, submitted his resignation earlier this week, effective June 30.

Williams has been a board member for nine years, serving with six different colleagues

and two superintendents, Rich Fisher and Barry Groves.

Williams, a Mountain View resident who works for Tyco Electronics, was on vacation at press time and could not be reached for comment. In a letter addressed to Colleen



David Williams

county superintendent of schools, Williams said he made the decision "after much thought and internal debate."

"Career and family responsibilities have, in my opinion, limited me from spending the appropriate amount of time to be an effective

this continuing for the foreseeable future," Williams said.

In his letter, Williams said he was proud of many of the board's achievements over the past nine years. He highlighted facilities improvements in new construction and classroom upgrades, district financial stability, and especially con-

► See **WILLIAMS**, page 10

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SEEN AROUND TOWN

Orange-eating squirrel



Walt Schnalle, a self-described "depressed gardener" on Rustic Lane, sent this picture of a squirrel eating an orange from his neighbor's tree.

"Orange-eating squirrels were rampant in our Cuesta Park neighborhood early this spring," Schnalle wrote, "and we found many half-eaten oranges lying on the sidewalks and fences. They're cute little animals, but destructive."

"I have a small garden in the back of my house in which I grow vegetables," he continued. "I have given a lot of thought to just quitting and letting the squirrels be the winners."

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.

One hurt, several displaced in Church Street fire

The Red Cross has provided lodging for seven people, including an infant, after a two-alarm fire destroyed part of a Church Street apartment building Monday night.

In all, about a dozen people were displaced by the blaze at 91 Church St., which firefighters

say was caused by an unattended candle in one of the units.

Red Cross officials said the resident of that unit was hospitalized. No other injuries were reported.

Firefighters received the initial call at 10:30 p.m. Monday, and the blaze was "under control

within a few minutes," said fire department spokesman Lynn Brown. No damage estimate was immediately available, although several units were uninhabitable due to fire, smoke or water damage.

— Staff Reports

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

OPEN HOUSES AT CMG ...

The community is invited to attend a "celebratory open house and health fair" at Camino Medical Group's new medical care facility this Saturday, June 16, from 1 to 4 p.m.

Guided tours of the facility, which houses 27 specialty departments in 250,000 square feet of space, will be conducted from 1 to 3:30 p.m. The tours will include information about the health services offered by CMG.

A main stage will feature a lineup of speakers and musical acts, including Assemblywoman Sally Lieber, New World jazz

flamenco by Tomas Michaud, and local entertainer Daffy Dave. Several booths will also provide free health screenings, product samples and other activities.

The event is free and open to the public. The new facility is located at 701 E. El Camino Real, and parking is provided in its two-level parking garage. For more information, visit www.caminomediagroup.com/news/2007/0507mv.html.

... AND AVENIDAS HEALTH CENTER

The Avenidas Rose Kleiner

Senior Day Health Center will open its doors to local residents interested in touring the facilities on Thursday, June 21, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

In business for 23 years, the center just moved to its new facility a year ago. In setting up the new facility, Avenidas worked with the city to coordinate programs and give the adult day care center a similar look and feel to the Senior Center.

Refreshments will be served, and no reservation is required. For more information, call (650) 289-5499 or visit www.avenidas.org.



Robot mania!

MOUNTAIN VIEW BOT-BUILDERS PREPARE FOR ROBOGAMES THIS WEEKEND

By Molly Stenhouse

Robot builders from 30 countries will bring together 800 of their creations — designed to engage in combat, play soccer, sumo-wrestle, lift weights or fight fires — to compete at the fourth International RoboGames this weekend in San Francisco.

As in prior years, there will be stiff competition, including in the android soccer event, in which Brazil is expected to challenge last year's gold medal-winner, the United States.

As of press time, several Mountain View residents were racing the clock to get their bots completed before the weekend. Sixth grader Steven Murray, for one, is nervously anticipating the games. He'll enter Tribble 2.0 in the adult league for the first time after two years of competing in kids' events.

"Some adults get quite serious," says Steven's father Mike, an electrical engineer who's helped Steven cultivate his interest in robotics since third grade.

Tribble 2.0, built from 200 legos, will compete in the lego-sumo contest, where each robot, weighing no more than two pounds, must push opponents out of a three-foot ring to be declared victor.

Mike Murray says winning is all about anticipating your opponent's strengths.

"Some robots go fast and hit you hard; others move slowly but have a powerful push," he said.

Young David added that Tribble 2.0 was given an unassuming name — derived from an old "Star Trek" episode — so no one will suspect its strength.

Wael Chatila, a software engineer who created Gåglebot, won't tell you much about his robot, particularly if you're a reporter. "I don't want to give away any secrets," he said.

But the name Gåglebot (pronounced google-bot) provides enough of a clue to its abilities, he says. In his native Swedish tongue, gå means "go."

Chatila was inspired to compete when he brought his family to RoboGames last year and thought he could build a better bot than the winner of Best of Show, a miscellaneous category open to what David Calkins, founder of RoboGames describes as "cool-looking" robots.

"I wanted to build a bot that's cool and useful," says Chatila, "one that I can use from day-to-day" and "won't stick on a shelf somewhere."

He did reveal that his bot has a camera and an on-board computer, and that he programmed its functions using the

iRobot platform.

While competitors are working hard to perfect their bots, Calkins said he was in the middle of "hell week." He said he and his wife are single-handedly setting up the huge venue at Fort Mason Festival Pavilion with the help of two forklifts.

Even though "we're in the Guinness Book of Records for world's largest robot event, we're not well funded," Calkins said. ■



Steven Murray

■ INFORMATION

What: RoboGames, an international robotics competition

Where: Fort Mason Festival Pavilion, San Francisco

When: June 15-17; Friday noon-6 p.m., Saturday noon-10 p.m., Sunday noon-7 p.m.

Cost: \$20 adults, \$15 kids ages 7-17, Free for kids 6 and under

Tickets: Available online at www.robogames.net or at the competition

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Give and take on Mayfield project

TOLL BROTHERS REPS AGREE TO MAKE CHANGES AFTER RECENT COMMITTEE MEETING

By Daniel DeBolt

Toll Brothers' planned 521-unit development at 100 Mayfield Ave. drew more criticism during an update at the city's Development Review Committee meeting Thursday.

The developer brought in five representatives to present its latest architectural design plans, and once again neighbors described some of its structures as too "massive," while committee members said they looked like large office buildings.

In response, Toll Brothers division president Rick Nelson said the company would make the structures "more residential in character."

The criticism was directed at the three- to five-story condo buildings that take up the center and southwest corner of the 27-acre site. Committee members and neighbors said they were happy with the design of the single-family homes that will be built adjacent to the existing neighborhood, but they said the condos did not have enough "openness," would look "overwhelming" and "hard-edged," and would not be a place one could call home.

Toll Brothers said it had been

trying for a design for the condos that would reflect the square-edged Eichler homes in the Monta Loma neighborhood, but as committee member Larry Cannon put it, "I don't think it has been successful."

"Obviously we didn't do a good job," said Nelson. "This has been a challenge for us. It's nice to get this feedback." He later added that "We were happy to hear you want it more residential in character. We will make it that way."

Toll Brothers, however, defended the size of the condo buildings, saying that the heights and overall size were well within the city's requirements.

"One thing we have consistently done is make the buildings smaller," said Kelly Schneider of Toll Brothers. "The four buildings total 80,000 square feet. That's less than a fifth of the existing building," she said, referring to the 500,000-square-foot Hewlett-Packard office building.

"I think you make a good argument compared to what's there," Cannon said.

Neighbors were still concerned, however, and suggested "story poles" be placed on the site around and atop the existing office building. The poles could provide an idea



This condo structure

was among the plans presented at last Thursday's Development Review Committee meeting. In response to criticism, Toll Brothers representatives said they would likely scrap the design.

of "how big is this elephant," said Elna Tymes, president of the Monta Loma Neighborhood Association.

"I would like to see them up as soon as possible rather than wait further down the design process," Tymes said.

Schneider said it was an idea that had been considered and would be considered again.

Another hot-button issue at the meeting was guest parking. Toll Brothers plans for one level of parking below each 50-unit condo building and another at grade level with 15 spaces. Because city requirements won't allow a garage to be seen from the street, condo units will line the outside of the street-level parking garage, and fumes will vent through to the open air courtyard on top of the garage. The courtyard would serve as a community space at the center of each building.

Toll Brothers reps said there would be five guest parking spaces per building — street parking would provide the rest of city-required guest parking at the rate of half a space per unit — causing a stir among neighbors at the meeting.

"That's not enough at the Crossings and it won't be enough here," said neighbor Elaine Lu. She later added that "It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that it will be easier to park here" in the surrounding neighborhood.

Neighbors also raised concerns about the substantial balconies on the condo units, which neighbors imagined would provide new residents with views into the backyards of the existing neighborhood.

"These are not token terraces," said one Toll Brothers employee. "We want people to be able to use these."

The lower priced condos will be

targeted at the "newlywed, younger crowd," another Toll Brothers employee said. In the three- and four-story buildings, condo units will be in the 1,250-square-foot range, while the units in the four- and five-story buildings will be in the 1,600-square-foot range. There will be two-story lobbies and "stoop" entrances at the street level.

They also said "younger" colors will be used — lighter tones that will make the buildings appear smaller. One neighbor commended Toll Brothers for using "earth tones."

Neighbor Jeffrey Baumgartner was unimpressed.

"When I am sitting in traffic it's not going to look any better to me," he said. ■

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

COUNCIL

► Continued from page 1

Children's Creative Learning Center, whose chief executive, Ty Durekas, also spoke at the meeting.

"I've been doing this for 15 years," he said, adding that the plan "is fiscally sound. It's not going to be a burden for the city."

When asked how much it would cost to subsidize the 30 children, Durekas estimated between

\$200,000 and \$300,000 a year. The operator has already committed to providing \$50,000 to subsidize about six children, and the rest of the funding is expected to come from the county voucher program and other sources.

The building would be provided to the operator for free.

Another previous critic of the center who changed his mind was council member Tom Means. He said the project was "an example of

how the public process sometimes doesn't work well," but he agreed to support it with future discussion "to figure out where we're going."

"I'm still convinced we're all over the map on this," he said.

Means mentioned several child care facilities that could not fill openings, including one near Google which is using only 138 spots out of the 168 available.

Abe-Koga, however, said that there is already a wait list for

Google's own child care center at the old Slater School, suggesting that there is a huge demand for lower-cost child care in the city. Costs can be over \$1,000 a month to send a child full-time.

There was some discussion about a lack of parking at Rengstorff Park, where the new Senior Center routinely packs the current parking lot beyond capacity. The new child care center would go next door, and its staff would use

about 15 of the 195 spaces.

For Siegel, a dissenting voter on the project, reducing parking at the Senior Center for seniors who couldn't walk very far was a big issue. So was the fact that the center would not serve enough low-income families.

Council member Ronit Bryant, an ardent parks advocate, expressed support for building the center at Rengstorff even if it meant increasing the park's density.

The surrounding area "will only become more dense," Bryant said. "We need a lot of services there."

Mayor Laura Macias agreed.

"It's always been my goal that Rengstorff Park be just as nice as Cuesta," Macias said. "I think this just adds to it."

Bryant added that the project "has taken absolutely forever." She said she wants the council to examine its processes for future projects "so it doesn't take 10 years."

Cautioning the council was dissenter Pear, who said the city would be forced to bear any more cost increases for the project. ■

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

■ COUNCIL BRIEFS

COUNCIL APPROVES NEW BUDGET

With little fanfare, the City Council unanimously approved the 2006-07 budget Tuesday night, concluding a series of public hearings that spanned the first half of the year.

This year the city is adding back city several city services that had been cut in previous years during tougher economic times.

"Overall the budget is fiscally prudent," said city manager Kevin Duggan.

Council member Matt Pear, however, said he wanted to see more "zero budgeting" next year, because he didn't want to see services cut during the next economic slowdown as sales taxes decline for the city. Pear said sales taxes have yet

to fully bounce back from previous economic downturns.

The general fund this year is predicted to grow to \$86 million in revenue to fund \$85 million in services.

The overall budget is \$242 million, while total revenue is only expected to be \$218 million. Much of the budget is going to short-term projects that will be funded through carry-over balances and reserves, which have reached unprecedented levels this year.

Copies of the city budget are available at City Hall, 500 Castro Street.

UTILITY RATE INCREASE PASSES

The city received a total of 31 written protests

of its proposed utility rate increases by Tuesday — somewhat short of the 10,000 necessary to put them to a legally binding halt.

Property owners complained about having just had a water rate increase of 11 percent a year ago, and that even those who barely fill their garbage cans have to pay as much as everyone else. Letter writers also criticized unions which require the rate increases to pay cost-of-living adjustments in union contracts.

Duggan said new information from water companies is allowing the city to only require a 6 percent increase in water rates, rather than the proposed 8 percent.

— Daniel DeBolt



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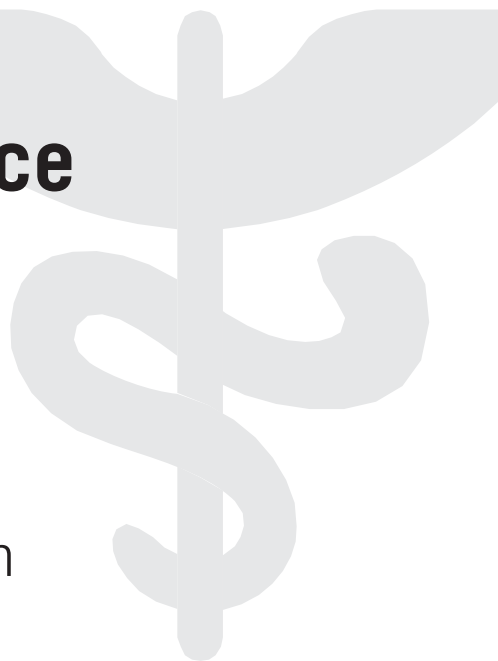
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WILLIAMS

▶ Continued from page 5

tinuous improvement in student achievement in the district's schools and alternative programs.

"With his background in business, Dave was an especially good resource on financial and facilities issues," board president Susan Sweeley said.

Sweeley further praised Williams' tenure on the school board, saying, "Dave has always been dedicated to ensuring that all students receive a quality education. He is an advocate for the average student who sometimes does not get the attention of others."

The trustees will fill the vacancy through a provisional appointment. Interested parties may contact Mary Moore at (650) 940-4669 to obtain the district application, procedures for completing it, and a timeline for appointment. The deadline for submitting an application is July 16 at 4:30 p.m.

More information can be found on the district Web site, www.mvla.k12.ca.us. ▀

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

EDITOR'S DESK

▶ Continued from page 5

a full-length album, "Tomb of Leopards," which I highly recommend. It's available online at cdbaby.com/cd/cornerlaughers. (Or visit the band's Web site, www.myspace.com/cornerlaughers, to learn more.)

They've only performed live a few times, Kane tells me, and those shows have always been in San Francisco. The next gig is coming right up: Tuesday, June 19 at The Make-Out Room, 3225 22nd St. The show starts at 9 p.m. and tickets are \$6. Get out there! ▀

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



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Cathy Baur nets top teacher honor

MONTA LOMA INSTRUCTOR ALWAYS MAKES SURE ' KIDS UNDERSTAND THE PURPOSE OF THE LESSON'

By Alexa Tondreau

For first grade teacher Cathy Baur, the rewards of teaching can be observed every day in the classroom.

"Just watching the first graders in my class and the other students I work with grow," she said, "makes teaching interesting every day."

Last week, Baur was named "Teacher of the Year" by the Mountain View Whisman School District. Baur has worked at Monta Loma Elementary School for 12 years, teaching first grade and as the coordinator of the English Language Learner and intervention programs.

"I feel overwhelmed when I think of being named Teacher of the Year," she said.

Monta Loma Principal Linda Haines said the recognition is greatly deserved, and added that staff celebrated when it heard one of its most popular teachers had been given the honor.

"The first word that comes to mind when I think of Cathy is 'dedicated.' She follows through with all of her students and has great commitment," Haines said.

Haines said Baur is skilled at drawing kids in and getting them to stay interested in the subject matter.

"She always explains why they're doing what they're doing, so the kids understand the purpose of the lesson," Haines said.

Stephanie Totter, director of administrative services in the district, highlighted Baur's ability to work well with students during last week's recognition ceremony at the district board meeting.

"She has the ability to communicate subject matter creatively. She is a leader and a mentor," Totter said.

"What is most motivating is watching the students I work with grow and develop over the course of a school year," Baur said. "It is amazing how much change a first grader goes through in one school year, and I get to play a role in that."

This year, Baur coordinated Monta Loma's English Language Learner program, which helps students become fluent in English. She worked with students in grades 1, 2, 4 and 5 in small groups to support their language development in both reading and writing.

Baur credits the Monta Loma school community with providing a supportive environment in which a teacher can blossom.

"I feel very lucky to work with such an outstanding group of teachers and our principal. They work hard to put students first and ensure their success," Baur said.

Great parents help too, she said.

"There is also a very supportive parent community that works to enrich students and support teachers."

Baur also involves herself with the school community beyond her classroom. Totter said that Baur "serves on more committees than anyone here could count."

Currently, Baur volunteers with the Student Success Team, the literacy program, and the health and wellness and strategic planning committees, to name a few.

"Serving on committees gives me a different perspective about students, Monta Loma, and the district," Baur said. "They serve as a way for me to continue to learn and grow as a teacher."

After a year of hard work at Monta Loma, Baur is looking forward to summer vacation, though she won't be completely idle. She said she will participate in the district's continuous improvement training, and she plans to share the summer school principal job at Castro Elementary.

Beyond that, she said, she will spend plenty of time with her children, McKenzie, 6, and Jake, 4, and her husband.

"I am the mom of two fabulous children," Baur said. "I am very lucky."

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

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PRANKS

► Continued from page 5

The high school prank was one of several in the area this year. In Palo Alto, another prankster, 18-year-old Daniel Blaine Marchant, sparked a furor after he overturned his Volvo on school property at Palo Alto High, supposedly causing \$3,000 in damage. He was booked into the county jail on charges of felony vandalism, but on Wednesday police announced the charges would be reduced to misdemeanor vandalism after it was found the damages only totaled \$530.

Last Friday, three Gunn High School students woke to find their cars and driveways covered in paint, tape, peanut butter, plastic wrap and whipped cream. Painted onto their driveway and taped on cars were words like “whore” and “slut.” One victim, senior Ana Kostioukova, said the foul words took the prank to a new level, and wondered what sort of “hate” motivated it.

Council member Tom Means said the earlier incidents brought to mind a few egregious pranks in the 1970s that resulted in property damage, but back then no one ever went to jail.

“I guess people are less tolerant for it these days,” he said, adding that school officials and others are often “worried about lawsuits and someone getting injured.”

Former *Voice* reporter Jon Wiener recalled several pranks from his days at Los Altos High School in the late 1990s. Before he even got to high school, he said, some students famously pushed a VW bug into the campus pool, ruining the car and damaging the pool — but the perpetrators were never caught.

Years later, some of Wiener’s Los Altos classmates rearranged the letters on the sign in front of Mountain View High school to spell out a derogatory message to their rivals. Those students were caught, but received a sentence of minimal community service.

A 2005 prank wasn’t taken as lightly at Mountain View High School. Baseball players filled the locks on lockers with glue, resulting in expensive property damage and expulsion from school for those involved.

The consequences for a prank can rise dramatically for graduating seniors once they turn 18. If they had been only 17, the farm sign thieves probably would have been sent home to their parents with a warning, police said. Instead, the district attorney’s office is processing a misdemeanor or arrest warrant, which typically takes up to two months. ■

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BOUNDARIES

► Continued from page 1

tain View students to change schools.

At the meeting, the district veered away from recommendations made by a committee of parents and educators several weeks ago and chose two new scenarios, dubbed "L.1" and "2.3."

District demographer Jeanne Gobalet warned at the beginning of the meeting that the board must stop accepting new scenarios — or "tweaking" old ones — or there would be no progress.

She said an "exhaustive effort" had been made by parents to provide alternatives to district boundary adjustments, but more often than not the scenarios were self-serving.

"People are driven to do what they want for their own neighborhood, and who cares about the other folks. This is only natural, but a very strong issue here," Gobalet said.

"We have to narrow down our search," Superintendent Tim Justus said, stressing that a decision had to be made by the next board meeting on June 18.

Justus added that choosing a scenario was only the first step in a long process that includes a thorough traffic study of whichever scenario the board chooses to pursue as well as making decisions on grandfathering policies and junior high attendance boundaries.

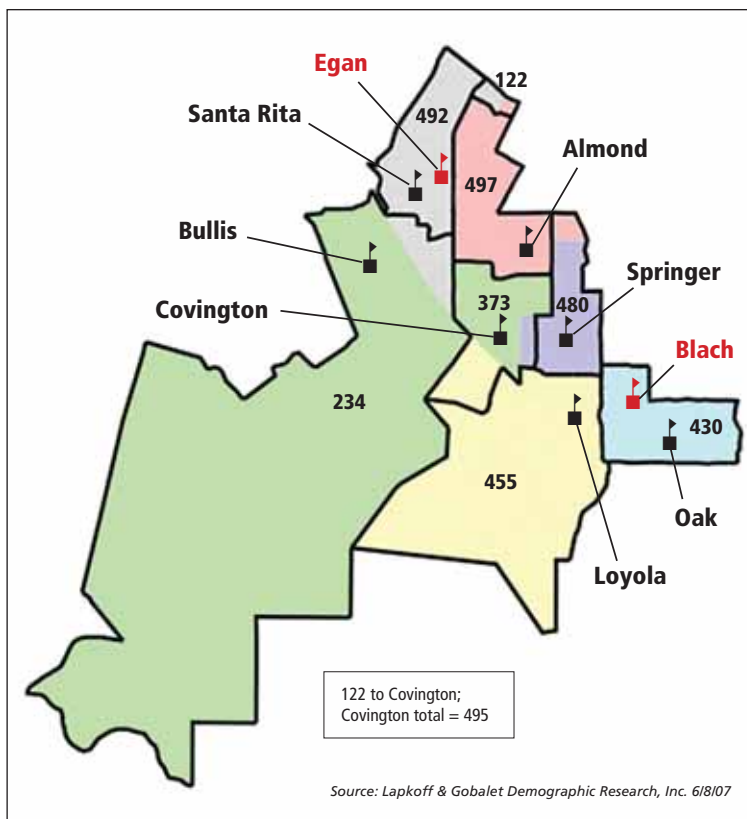
The district plans to implement its new boundary policies in the fall of 2008.

Board members seemed hard pressed to narrow their choices, but ultimately agreed that scenarios L.1 and 2.3 best met their priorities. Those priorities included not forcing kids to ride to school where they're currently walking, and putting a long-term plan into place.

Major adjustments in both scenarios take place in Mountain View neighborhoods.

In scenario L.1, 100 students who live north of El Camino Real in Mountain View would be reassigned from Santa Rita to Covington, and another 91 to Springer. Approximately 200 additional students from neighborhoods north of El Camino would stay at Santa Rita and Almond elementary schools.

"I'm not comfortable with taking north of El Camino and dividing it into four or five schools," said board member



This map of scenario 2.3, favored by many Mountain View residents, shows current school boundaries as colored shadings and proposed boundaries as black lines. In this scenario, 122 students would switch to Covington, bringing its enrollment to 495 students.

David Luskin.

Luskin was in favor of scenario 2.3, which sends 122 students who live north of El Camino to Covington and leaves the rest at

Santa Rita and Almond.

Tanya Raschke, an outspoken parent for the families who live north of El Camino, also said she favors scenario 2.3 and said

parents she has talked to in the area agreed.

"I prefer 2.3 for the north of El Camino because it takes out a slightly bigger group and sends us all to one school," she said.

Raschke said it was better to be "a larger presence at one school than nobodies at a bunch of schools."

Board president Bill Cooper felt less sure about the need to keep the north-of-El Camino communities intact, saying that El Camino Real was a physical dividing line in the district, but not necessarily an emotional one.

"They all have the common bond of living north of El Camino, but does someone in Monroe really feel more of a connection with families in Del Medio or the Crossings" than neighborhoods south of El Camino, he asked.

Another Mountain View community located in the Hollingsworth and Gilmore Drive neighborhoods would be affected by scenario 2.3, which would move approximately 60 students from Almond to Springer.

Scenario L.1, however, would keep the Hollingsworth and Gilmore Drive communities at Almond.

Elizabeth Gardner, a resident

► See story next page



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NORBERT VON DER GROEBEN

Kevin Barbano, 13, races in the first annual Palo Alto Elks Silicon Valley Soap Box Derby in Mountain View last Saturday.

DERBY

► Continued from page 5

ramps.

“Red lane ready? Blue lane ready? Three, two, one, go!”

The metal gates drop simultaneously, and racers tuck down as low as they can to reduce wind resistance. Because the hill has a slight “crown” to it, the best drivers don’t always drive in a straight line, but instead try to follow the crown to get the most momentum.

Cars silently coasted down the hill, reaching speeds of over 24 miles per hour. Pairs of competitors raced each

other twice, taking turns in each lane. In one instance, a race was won by only .007 seconds.

The event was the first in the area since the 1970s, when interest in the sport waned following a cheating scandal at the national level. The cost to build a stock class car is at least \$550, organizers say, though many of the kids had sponsors.

Both Greaves and Nelson were sponsored by the Palo Alto Elks Club, which fielded four cars in the stock and super-stock classes. Clocktower Coffee Roasting Co. owner Joe Sparaco and the

Elks organized the event. A total of 37 cars entered from around the region.

When asked if the derby would continue next year, Sparaco wrote in an e-mail, “As long as I’m alive and well, and the families support and appreciate my efforts, this sport will live on in Palo Alto and/or Mountain View. My team members feel as I do at this point, so it’s safe to say ‘yes.’”

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

► Continued from previous page

of the Hollingsworth to Gilmore Drive community and a member of the neighborhood parent committee, said scenario L.1 is preferable because it prevents parents from having to drive their children to school when they currently can walk to Almond less than a mile away.

“Shifting dozens and dozens of students from walking and biking to driving is no good for kids, or schools, or for the whole community,” Gardner said.

“Shifting dozens and dozens of students from walking and biking to driving is no good for kids, or schools, or for the whole community.”

ELIZABETH GARDNER

During the meeting, board member Mark Goines also gave a presentation on possible “outside the box” solutions to address overcrowding in the northern part of the district and the need to shift school attendance boundaries.

Goines suggested the district might change its policy on a maximum of 580 students at one school.

“It’s not a law; it’s a number we chose. If we relax school target size, it does a lot in terms of our criteria,” he said.

Goines also thought there might be better ways to spend the

\$12 million currently allocated to re-open Bullis in Los Altos Hills. He suggested relocating the Bullis Charter School, currently housed at the Egan Camp School site, to Bullis, and rebuilding the Egan Camp School site as a new K-6 school in the northern part of the district.

Goines’ suggestion received subdued support from several board members, though they advised sticking with the scenarios on the table.

Board member Margot Harrigan suggested a task force be formed to study Goines’ suggestions for future changes in the district.

The board will reconvene for a final vote on Monday, June 18 at Egan Jr. High School starting at 7 p.m.

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

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NORBERT VON DER GROEBEN

Mac Osoteo celebrates with friends after graduating from Mountain View High on Tuesday.

GRADUATION

► Continued from page 1

emy, celebrated the end of its first year, which gave 65 students high-tech training in video production, graphic design, digital photography and audio engineering.

"It was a great year," said Gordon Jack, Freestyle's program coordinator, "and it was hectic."

The students, a combination of juniors and seniors from both high schools, received professional-level training from instructors on equipment and programs that met industry-wide standards, Jack said. They were required to produce five projects through the first year of the course, with the goal of displaying their ability to utilize technology while expressing their creative points of view.

Jack said the results were impres-

sive.

"The students surpassed my expectations by leaps and bounds," he said. "The biggest thing I took away from this year was how truly capable they are of producing professional work."

Already Freestyle Academy is delivering on its promise to prepare students for real-world opportunities in communications and multimedia fields. One student, a graduating senior, has been accepted to UCLA's graphic design program, primarily because of a design portfolio she created at Freestyle.

Several other Freestyle students will attend Chapman University's arts program, and another was accepted at UC Berkeley.

School officials credited much of the program's success to the assistance and support from the Silicon Valley community. Freestyle has

received sizeable technological donations from Microsoft, Adobe, Hewlett-Packard and Sony.

Last Friday, Microsoft held an end-of-the-year celebration for the program's students and parents at the company's Mountain View campus. Students displayed their final projects, which were free-form and allowed them to use the technology to explore themes, events and topics important to them.

The affair drew nearly 400 people, Jack said, among them many young converts hoping to enter the program themselves some day.

"It was just amazing to see all the people take interest in their work. We are so proud of them," Jack said. ▀

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



NORBERT VON DER GROEBEN

Mountain View High graduates march off the field.

Los Altos High School Class of 2007



KELLEY COX

Graduate **Maria Victoviano** is photographed by her father Gregario after the Los Altos High School Commencement Ceremony on Tuesday.

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MVHS

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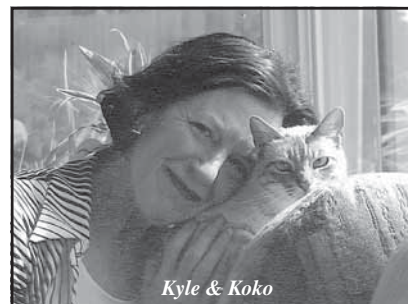
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■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

Lessons from the farm

Following last week's decisive 6-1 vote to halt any more discussion of zoning the Grant Road farm property for agriculture, up to 77 new homes will sprout on the property, rather than corn, beans or pumpkins.

During a tension-laden discussion last week, the council, in some cases reluctantly, shot down the Farmlands Group's proposal to zone only 10 of the parcel's 15 acres for housing. In that scheme, a third of the property would have been set aside for a demonstration farm (modeled after the original farm there, which had been in operation for nearly two decades), surrounded by up to 44 new homes.

But that doesn't mean that the idea for a farm has to die on the vine. During the spirited discussion before the council last week, it appeared that there could be support for finding a city-owned parcel to establish a farm, perhaps in the same mold that the Farmlands Group envisioned at Grant Road.

And why not? In the high-tech world of Mountain View, which encompasses Google and other bright lights of Silicon Valley, a working farm or orchard would demonstrate to our children and many others what this land was like before the microchip took over.

The legacy we have from the Farmlands Group is the germ of an idea that continues to focus attention on our heritage, and on how the world worked in the days when farmers tilling the fields or large tracts of fruit trees were the economic engines of the community.

A smaller version of the Grant Road farm — or even a more crop-intensive model, as seen at places like Ardenwood Historic Farm in Fremont — could be an excellent use of a small piece of vacant city property.

The interest piqued by the Farmlands Group's proposal shows once again how eager many residents are to support small farming enterprises that can bring fresh vegetables and fruit to market during the summers. For more evidence of this, look at the great success of the Mountain View Farmers Market and similar markets up and down the Peninsula.

For many reasons, including the critical question of how the owners would be compensated if they were forced to "donate" valuable property to establish a farm, the Farmlands Group's plan fell short. But the idea may survive in another setting, using city property. If that effort materializes, all their work may not go to waste.

■ LETTERS VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

A SIGH OF RELIEF OVER FARM DECISION

Editor:

I am glad to see that the five-acre farm plan was soundly defeated by the City Council. It didn't make sense morally, legally or financially.

Morally, it was equivalent to theft of other people's property. Its end did not come close to justifying its means. Legally, it was questionable and almost certainly would have dragged Mountain View into a long and expensive lawsuit. Financially, it was a nightmare, particularly the poorly conceived and researched "tax break" as well as the clear lack of ongoing break-even funding. In my opinion, whoever dreamed up that financial plan is either incompetent or ideologically blinded.

City Council member Jac Siegel was correct when he said, "These folks are visionaries." What he didn't add is that some time, visionaries are delusional, as they appear to have been in this case.

William R. Hitchens
Sunnyview Lane

REACTION TO FARM PLAN IS NO SURPRISE

Editor:

I have lived in the Waverly Park neighborhood since 1992. In that time, I have witnessed the truth of this comment: "There is nothing as reactionary as a middle-class suburbanite who is faced with a potential change to his neighborhood."

The flap over the Grant Road

farm is only the latest example. Look at the reaction over proposals to extend the Stevens Creek Trail and to allow the Morgan Center to share the Cooper School property with Primary Plus.

I regret that the council did not see fit to even study the possibility of keeping a farm at the Grant Road site. But I agree with Mayor Laura Macias that the council should look very carefully at the zoning of this site. No place else in the city would get 8,000-square-foot zoning for a new housing development. I think it is only right and fair that the city zone this property to allow for housing of mixed sizes and cost.

Since the larger community will not be reaping the benefit of an organic farm on the property, at least the community should be able to benefit from the availability of more affordable housing than what is currently proposed.

As farm proponents have long said, the zoning should be about what is good for the city, not what will maximize profits for the owner — and not necessarily what will appease neighbors who, in the words of one anti-farm resident at the public input session, want "nothing but 8,000-square-foot lots with single story houses, just like ours."

Martha Young
Swanson Way

CHERISHED MEMORIES, BUT FARM SHOULD GO

Editor:

I have been a Mountain View

► See **LETTERS**, page 22



New history museum may be praiseworthy replacement for old farm

By Christopher Sater

Hope for the preservation of a portion of the Grant Road farm disappeared early last week. Though many are sad to see the farm go, the change presents a unique opportunity for the city to provide a valuable new resource by establishing a history museum. Doing so will also allow the City Council to address many residents' concerns regarding the coming housing development on the Grant Road site.

The Mountain View Historical Association has been trying in recent months to get construction of a history museum underway. The group has no definite plans, but envisions a two-building complex. One building would be a museum, the other a farmhouse furnished with period-correct equipment to maintain a heritage orchard. The museum's location has not been determined, but where better to have a heritage farmhouse than on the site of the last remaining farm in the city?

The farm is important to the community for three main reasons: its aesthetic value, its value as a heritage landmark, and the educational opportunities it could provide. Through the heritage museum, the city could address these specific reasons some citizens had hoped to preserve the farm.

First, the aesthetic value of the farm and its open fields are a welcome break from the home-

covered landscape that dominates the South Bay. If the museum's orchard is laid out around the perimeter of the lot, the large housing development could be quite visually appealing. A local resident has already donated an old 30-foot windmill to the historical association that could be installed as part of the museum complex, going a long way to appease residents concerned with the aesthetic appeal of the Grant Road farm property.

Second, people cherish the farm as a reminder of the history of Mountain View, which was principally a farm town during the last hundred years. If the orchard consists of apricot and fig trees that would have been original to the property, it will provide a beautiful crop that is more true to Mountain View's history than the "truck farm" which has occupied the land for the last 18 years. This tribute to the farm's original purpose will also increase the value of the new homes in the development, as it shields them from the noise and dust from busy Grant Road.

Third, residents are interested in educational opportunities at the farm. The proposal to preserve the farm included ambitious plans for teaching children about organic farming and healthy food choices. However, a history museum will be a more valuable educational resource than the farm because it will be designed with the primary intent of teaching. The museum will be able to provide this valuable educational opportunity through

collaboration with local schools and children's groups.

Land and money are the two biggest problems for the historical association as its members work towards the opening of a museum, but building it on part of the Grant Road farm property could help with both hurdles. First, this prime real estate will soon be available for purchase. Second, many

residents have shown willingness to invest in plans to keep the land from becoming just another densely inhabited neighborhood. Presenting the museum as a way to address the numerous concerns with the new development could prove to be a lucrative fundraising technique.

To make the best of the impending loss of our beloved farm,

it is important to abandon the unrealistic hope for its preservation and work instead to establish the history museum in its place before this window of opportunity closes.

Christopher Sater, a former Los Altos resident, is a student at Stanford University.

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■ GUEST OPINION

Stop development before it's too late

FARM VOTE WAS ONLY THE LATEST EXAMPLE OF BAD DECISION-MAKING

By Daniel Mart

The news of City Hall giving the ax to the farm on Grant Road is extremely disappointing and upsetting to me. I am still in shock.

I mean forget zoning laws and all that — open space is open space and we must protect it, if not for the good of ourselves, then for the good of our community, our children, and this planet.

How many laws must be conjured up before we realize the harm we are inflicting? How much wilderness and open space must be destroyed before it is too late?

It's ironic that, in the name of "progress," man kills and destroys. Man builds houses; man destroys other animals' homes. Man constructs shopping malls and golf courses; man gives local wildlife nowhere else to go. And when that wildlife attempts to return to their

home, acres of land now developed and invaded by humans, man murders them.

The decision to develop the entire farm on Grant Road is beyond devastating, not so much because many of my childhood memories revolve around times spent there, but mostly because historical, agricultural and biological significance has taken a backseat to man-made laws that in this case undermine common sense.

The farm on Grant Road has survived changes in traffic all these years; why must those who oppose its preservation use the zoning laws as their main argument? I mean, in this case, why not develop Coyote Valley right now? Bulldoze Hidden Villa; get rid of every acre of preserved open space in and surrounding this Valley. What is the limit here?

As a whole, humans are not a ruthless species; none of you are bad people, nor by constructing

houses, malls and golf courses do you intend to do any harm. It is just that our world has become so brainwashed and fed such garbage by huge corporations and others.

Somewhere along the way, we have gotten the idea that human beings are morally superior to everything else.

It is finally time for us to sit back and look at what is happening; to take notice of what is being destroyed for the so-called "betterment of mankind." It is time for us to look at how our tax-dollars are being spent, how many of our own government's anti-environmental dealings are being kept out of the news, and how many of our own actions are destroying "our" home, not to mention the homes of other species. It is time for us to finally wake up.

Daniel Mart lives on Awalt Drive.

LETTERS

► Continued from page 20

resident for all 21 years of my life, 20 of which have been in the Sleeper neighborhood near the Grant Road farm. I will always cherish my childhood memories at the farm and its beloved pumpkin patch. However, that doesn't mean I think that it should stay.

The farm is not city property; it is private property that our community has been fortunate enough to enjoy over the past decades. It is the right of the owners to put homes there if they wish. If the city wants a five-acre farm for educational and recreational purposes, it should be done on city property, not private property.

If my neighbors insist that there

must be a farm at that particular location, they should pool their money and buy it from the owners, not force them through city zoning laws.

Matt Savage
Woodleaf Way

PROPOSAL WOULD ADD TO HATE CRIMES LAW

Editor:

It is time our Congress passes a law adding gender identity and sexual orientation to the federal hate crimes law already on the books since 1969. Approximately 17 percent of the hate crimes in the U.S. are in this category, yet are not considered to be hate crimes due to the absence of appropriate language in the law.

The Matthew Shepard Act (S. 1105) is a bipartisan bill, endorsed by over 230 civic, religious and law enforcement organizations, that would expand the definition of hate crimes to include violent attacks based on a victim's gender, gender identity, sexual orientation or disability. It would also add federal assistance to local law enforcement agencies to help carry out the intent of the law.

The Shepard Act is not a law dealing with "special treatment." It applies across the board regardless of race, creed or sexual orientation, and is meant to protect all citizens from serious acts of violence.

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■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

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A tranquil respite

APPEALING MENU, SPLENDID AMBIANCE AWAIT AT THE DUCK CLUB

by Dale F. Bentson

The Stanford Park Hotel is a lovely oasis perched just north of San Francisquito Creek, which marks the Menlo Park/Palo Alto town border. Catty-corner to the Stanford Shopping Center, the walled-off, shingled hostelry is a serene setting amid the hubbub of El Camino Real.

The four-story English Colonial luxury hotel boasts an elegant lobby and a spacious interior central patio that is used for special events. It's European stylish with American down-to-earthiness.

To the left of the lobby, just before the massive stone fireplace, is the

entrance to The Duck Club. The roomy, smartly decorated restaurant is imbued with pale yellow walls festooned with duck prints; green tartan upholstered chairs; and roman shades and tables aligned to view the fountain and palm trees in the reception courtyard.

Tables are draped with white linens and there is enough space between to allow conversation at low-decibel levels. On my visits, the waitstaff was not terribly polished, but professional enough and eager to please.

Executive Chef Philippe Raynaud, who hails from coastal France, is responsible for the Duck Club menu as well as all other food-



KELLEY COX

Stanford Park Duck Two Ways prepared by executive chef Philippe Raynaud at the Duck Club Restaurant.

related activities in the hotel, from room service to weddings.

Raynaud, with native French culinary acumen, honed his skills at Michelin-rated restaurants in Germany, London, Nassau and several in the South Bay, including AP Stumps in San Jose. His Duck Club menu is a meld of Californian and

French with hints of Asian fusion.

While patrons are perusing the menu, the chef will send his welcome with an amuse-bouche. It could be a bite-sized morsel of anything: a green-lipped mussel, a dollop of gazpacho. It is the French way of exciting the taste buds.

For starters, the lobster corn

bisque (\$10), a bowl of creamy broth made from lobster stock and fresh sweet corn, was subtly luscious but not too rich to impinge on the appetite.

The duck salad (\$12) was especially good. The large portion

► See **DUCK CLUB**, page 24

3ta
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Your Everyday Farmer's Market



KELLEY COX

Duck salad served at the Stanford Park Hotel Duck Club.

DUCK CLUB

► Continued from page 23

featured duck confit, mixed greens, pine nuts and green beans with walnut dressing and a slice of warm foie gras atop. Confit is a method of cooking and storing duck in its own fat, then re-cooking at a later date. The flavorful duck was fall-off-the-bone tender.

The calamari (\$10) was terrific. The dinner-sized portion featured tempura-battered, deep-fried Meyer lemon slices and baby zucchini along with the Monterey Bay calamari. A peppery piquillo chili aioli sauce complemented.

Dungeness crab timbale (\$11) was a shredded combination of fresh crab and celery root remoulade with slices of grapefruit sitting on a bed of greens. The remoulade had just enough mayonnaise to hold the cold timbale together without overwhelming its delicate flavors.

I know many of you will cringe, but I fancied the imported foie gras, that delicacy of despair (\$11). What restaurant named the Duck Club would be complete without it? The buttery, rich pan-seared liver was served with crostini, quince paste and pear chutney. The California ban on foie gras, by the way, doesn't take effect until 2012.

For main courses, the Stanford Park Duck Two Ways (\$27) featured duck leg confit and bacon-wrapped tournedos of duck breast that were over-cooked and dry. The dish was served with sauteed apples in calva-

dos cream and withered tatsoi, an Asian green similar to bok choy.

Chicken Grand Mere (\$23) was a pan-seared free-range chicken breast with Yukon gold potato fondant (think mashed potatoes with bacon bits), porcini mushrooms and caramelized pearl onions. While the flavors were good, the breast was smallish and the fondant barely room-temperature. What saved the dish was the delicious porcini and onion melange.

The filet of salmon (\$22) was solid. The pan-seared, oven-roasted Chinook came with rosemary mashed potatoes, Provencal ratatouille and lemon beurre blanc sauce.

Cornmeal-encrusted fillet of Alaskan black cod (\$24) was equally good and featured an enjoyable stew of white asparagus, morels and tomatoes. Buttermilk-whipped potatoes accompanied.

The braised lamb shank (\$18) was mouthwatering with cannellini beans and caramelized cipolini onions. The grilled pork chop (\$22) was appetizing in a pool of pomegranate reduction with bacon mashed potatoes and braised greens.

Desserts were uneven and undistinguished. The chocolate park (\$8.50), a dense ganache cake, was paired with fresh pear and caramel compote. It was the signature dish, according to the menu, but I had a difficult time recalling it when I arrived home to make my notes.

Philippe's Bread Pudding (\$8.25)

► Continued on next page

dining town

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Weekend

► Continued from previous page

fares better. It was fresh-tasting and moist, studded with chocolate chips and drizzled with creme anglaise sauce.

Apple Three Ways (\$8.25) featured apple slices on a buttery pastry and an attractive apple confit. The third component was supposed to be green apple sorbet, but the kitchen had none and offered vanilla gelato instead.

Twice I ordered the goat cheese cheesecake (\$8) and was informed the kitchen had none prepared but had a substitute non-house-made New York cheesecake if I was interested. I was not.

The wine list is upscale yet the labels are fairly common, considering the quality of the food. That is not to say that it is a poorly constructed list. The primarily California menu offers little from small premium producers: nothing rare or exotic that would make dining at The Duck Club a singular

experience.

While prices aren't bashful at The Duck Club, they're not exorbitant either. The menu is well-crafted and, for the most part, well-executed

by the kitchen. The ambiance is lovely and it is a great place for a special occasion. In my book, special occasions can be just about any night of the week. ▀

DINING NOTES

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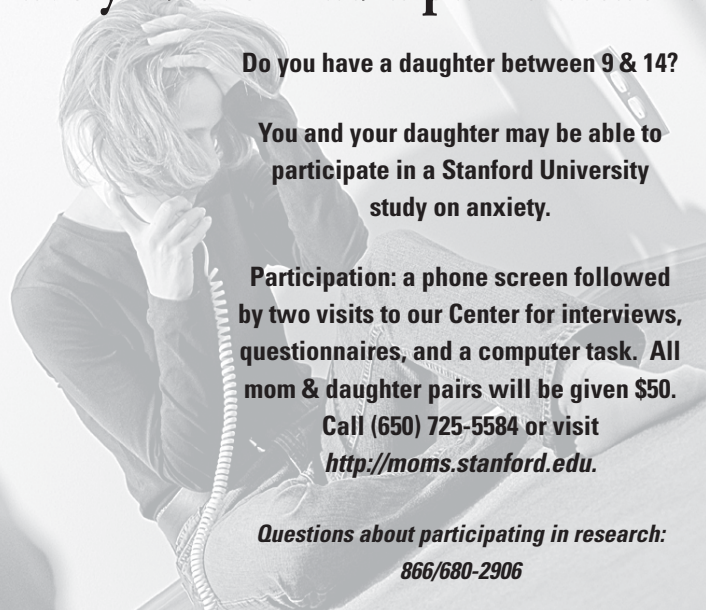
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Weekend

MOVIE TIMES

28 WEEKS LATER (R) (NOT REVIEWED)

Century 20: 12:20, 3:05, 5:40, 8:05 & 10:30 p.m.

BUG (R) ★★1/2 Century 20: 7:55 & 10:20 p.m.

DOA: DEAD OR ALIVE (PG-13) (NOT REVIEWED)

Century 20: 12:05, 2:20, 4:40, 7:10 & 9:45 p.m.

FANTASTIC FOUR: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER (PG) (NOT REVIEWED)

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

FRACTURE (R) ★★★★★ Century 20: 1, 4, 7:05 & 9:55 p.m.

GRACIE (PG-13) ★★1/2 Century 20: 11:55 a.m.; 2:35 & 5:05 p.m.

HOSTEL PART II (R) (NOT REVIEWED)

Century 16: 12:15, 2:40, 5:20, 8:05 & 10:30 p.m.
Century 12: 12:00, 1:30, 2:30, 4:15, 5:00, 6:45, 7:40, 9:10 & 10:00 p.m.

HOT FUZZ (R) ★★★★★

Century 20: 11:20 a.m.; 2:15, 5, 7:45 & 10:25 p.m.

KNOCKED UP (R) ★★1/2

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

LA VIE EN ROSE (PG-13) ★★★★★

Guild: 1, 3:45, 6:40 & 9:30 p.m.

MR. BROOKS (R) ★★★★★

Century 12: 12:40, 4:10, 7:20 & 10:10 p.m.

THE NAMESAKE (PG-13) ★★★★★

Century 20: 1:25, 4:15, 7:20 & 10:20 p.m.

NANCY DREW (PG) (NOT REVIEWED)

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

OCEAN'S THIRTEEN (PG-13) ★★★★★

Century 16: 11 a.m.; 12, 1, 1:55, 2:50, 4, 4:50, 5:50, 7:05, 7:50, 8:45, 9:55 & 10:40 p.m.
Century 20: 11:15, 11:50 a.m.; 12:30, 1:10, 2:00, 2:40, 3:20, 4, 4:50, 5:30, 6:15, 6:50, 7:40, 8:20, 9:10, 9:50 & 10:30 p.m.

ONCE (R) ★★1/2 Aquarius: 1, 3, 5, 7 & 9 p.m.

PAPRIKA (R) ★★1/2 Palo Alto Square: 2, 4:45, 7:15 & 9:40 p.m.

PARIS JE T'AIME (R) ★★★★★ Aquarius: 1:15, 4, 6:40 & 9:20 p.m.

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END (PG-13) ★★1/2

Century 16: 11:20 a.m.; 12:45, 4:20, 6:45 & 8 p.m.
Century 12: 12:10, 1:50, 3:50, 6, 7:50, & 9:35 p.m.

ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW (1975) (R) (NOT REVIEWED) Guild: Sat. at midnight.

SHREK THE THIRD (PG) ★★1/2

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

SPIDER-MAN 3 (PG-13) ★★1/2

Century 16: 3:00 & 10:20 p.m.
Century 20: 12:35, 3:50, 7 & 10:10 p.m.

SURF'S UP (PG) ★★

Century 16: 11:05 a.m.; 12:05, 1:20, 2:20, 3:30, 4:30, 5:40, 6:55, 7:55, 9:15 & 10:05 p.m.
Century 12: 12:20, 1:20, 2, 3:00, 3:40, 4:25, 5:40, 6:30, 7:10, 8:10, 9, 9:40 & 10:30 p.m.

WAITRESS (PG-13) ★★★★★

Century 20: 11:20 a.m.; 1:55, 4:35, 7:25 & 10 p.m.
Palo Alto Square: 1:30, 4:15, 7 & 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

GRACIE ★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) Grace Bowen wants to play high school soccer when only boys are perceived as having the requisite athletic talent and toughness. Carly Schroeder plays the 15-year-old title character with fire in her eyes. Every day, Gracie's soccer-obsessed father (Dermot Mulroney) runs his three sons through drills in their South Orange, N.J., backyard. When the oldest sibling and varsity soccer team star (Jesse Lee Soffer) dies in a tragic accident, Gracie announces that she intends to try out for the team. Forget a level playing field. She just wants a chance to get on it. Despite flaws, this stirring independent production is remarkable for its honest portrayal of a family grappling with grief and a female taking the penalty kick to score points for gender equity. *Rated: PG-13 for brief sexual content. 1 hour. 32 minutes.* — S.T.

MR. BROOKS ★★★★★

(Century 12, Century 16) A philanthropist and family man, Mr. Brooks (Kevin Costner) harbors a dark secret. The seemingly harmless entrepreneur spends his days alongside the devious Marshall (William Hurt), whom only Brooks can see and hear. And Marshall's motivations are purely vicarious pleasure as he slyly encourages Brooks to commit murder, turning him into the Thumbprint Killer. Detective Tracy Atwood (Demi Moore) has been hunting the Thumbprint Killer for years. The headstrong investigator has her own problems, including an ugly divorce from her greedy and adulterous ex-husband. The killing of a sex-crazed couple puts Atwood back on the Thumbprint Killer's trail and provides a distraction from her personal issues. Moody and suspenseful, "Mr. Brooks" is worth taking a stab at. *Rated: R for strong bloody violence, some graphic sexual content, nudity and language. 2 hours.* — T.H.

OCEAN'S THIRTEEN ★★★★★

(Century 16, Century 20) "Ocean's" is a couple of action-packed hours of eye candy with a plot to boot. Not much of one, but the film is still a catchy retread that reworks the concept of the world's most improbable scam. In a nutshell: Key players Danny Ocean (George Clooney) and Rusty Ryan (Brad Pitt) set out to avenge the betrayal of their beloved guru Reuben Tishkoff (Elliott Gould). Tishkoff was a trusting half-partner in Vegas' hottest hotel casino (The Bank) until kingpin Willie Bank (Al Pacino doing his sleaziest lounge lizard) screwed him over to the tune of millions. The duplicity lands Tishkoff in critical condition from sheer shock. Ocean and company want revenge. What else to do but to take down Bank in a high-profile crash-and-burn? The boys are in rare form: smooth and breezy in that cooler-than-thou way that garnered so many fans in 2001. The action is snappy

► Continued on next page

► *Continued from previous page*

enough to mask the narrative missteps. This roll of the dice is a guaranteed winner, summer fun with a safety net. *Rated: PG-13 for language and some sensuality. 2 hours, 2 minutes.* — J.A.

ONCE ★★1/2

(Aquarius) A street troubadour with a mending heart (Irish band The Frames' Glen Hansard) lays bare his soul through poignant tunes and big dreams. He imagines rekindling the spark with his lost love and aspires to a big record deal. Enter an ardent young Czech (singer-songwriter Marketa Irglova) for whom music is an escape from the realities of new country, single motherhood and struggling to make ends meet. A friendship is born of mutual attraction and details are revealed: of an unhappy marriage and ailing parents. Yes, it's the classic take on boy-meets-girl, boy-and-girl-make-beautiful-music-together, but "Once" keeps its narrative close to the vest, never giving up where it's going until it gets there. A dramatic and endearing duet. *Rated: R for language and mature themes. 1 hour, 22 minutes.* — J.A.

PAPRIKA ★★1/2

(CineArts) "Paprika" is a bittersweet tutorial in the form of mind-bending Japanese anime, all sharp edges and caustic wit that veers dangerously close to home. The crux is the DC-Mini, a scientific key that allows access to one's most personal dreams. Naturally the

Mini falls into the wrong hands, sending Police Detective Konakawa (voice of Akio Ohtsuka) into a parallel universe with a gamine redhead named Paprika (voice of Megumi Hayashibara) as his guide. The stolen Mini is used to plant a powerful vision in unsuspecting minds, forcing its victims into permanent hypnosis. With the help of the remaining Minis, Paprika's alter ego, Dr. Atsuko Chiba (Hayashibara again), and corpulent Mini-inventor Tokita Kohsaku (voice of Toru Furuya) can see the invasive reverie that wreaks havoc with their colleagues' psyches. Visually arresting and thoroughly unsettling, "Paprika" is an animated fever dream sure to haunt long after the lights have come up.

Rated: R for mature themes and cartoon violence. In Japanese with English subtitles. 1 hour, 30 minutes. — J.A.

SURF'S UP ★★

(Century 12, Century 16) Hollywood's latest attempt to capitalize on penguin appreciation features a forgettable plot, fountains of toilet humor and enough surfing scenarios to make a viewer seasick. Only top-notch animation and some vocal help from talented actors keep "Surf's Up" from completely sinking. The film unfolds as a faux documentary in which reality-TV producers follow young surfer Cody Maverick (Shia LaBeouf) as he strives to compete in the Penguin World Surfing Championship made famous by his idol, Big Z. Cody's passion for surfing is fueled by his admiration for Z, a surfing legend whose apparent death shocked

fans and rivals alike. Despite discouraging words from his abusive brother and his own mother's disinterest, Cody's tireless spirit earns him an entry into the heated competition. He finds an unlikely friendship when he meets Geek (Jeff Bridges), a reclusive

penguin with an unparalleled knowledge of surfing and making surfboards. Skip this washed-up flick and rent "Finding Nemo" for something with real depth. *Rated: PG for mild language and some rude humor. 1 hour, 25 minutes.* — T.H.)

■ **MOVIE CRITICS**

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



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Poor gas mileage may be due to any number of causes, including an engine cooling system that is malfunctioning. This has to do with the fact that the fuel system supplies a "rich" fuel mixture (more gasoline) when the engine is cold. As the engine warms up, a leaner mixture is sent into the combustion chamber, resulting in more economical engine operation. However, if the fuel system does not know that the engine is warmed up and continues to produce an overly rich gasoline mixture, gasoline is wasted and poor fuel economy results. In such cases, a faulty cooling system thermostat is signaling that the engine is running cool, thereby confusing the fuel system. If so, have the thermostat replaced.

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Lucky number thirteen

THE LATEST 'OCEAN'S' INSTALLMENT HARKENS BACK TO THE 'ELEVEN' DAYS

By Jeanne Aufmuth

The boys are back in town, with a vengeance.

The members of the current Rat Pack pick up where they left off in "Ocean's Eleven," bypassing their tepid sequel in favor of something more ... Eleven-ish.

No reason to complain, as "Ocean's" is a couple of action-packed hours of eye candy with a plot to boot. Not much of one, but the film is still a catchy reread that reworks the concept of the world's most improbable scam.

In a nutshell: Key players Danny Ocean (George Clooney) and Rusty Ryan (Brad Pitt) set out to avenge the betrayal of their beloved guru Reuben Tishkoff (Elliott Gould). Tishkoff was a trusting half-partner in Vegas' hottest hotel casino, The Bank, until kingpin Willie Bank (Al Pacino doing his sleaziest lounge lizard) screwed him over to the tune of millions.

The duplicity lands Tishkoff in critical condition from sheer shock. Ocean and company want revenge. What else to do but to take down Bank in a high-profile



Matt Damon, George Clooney, and Brad Pitt in "Ocean's Thirteen."

■ **MOVIE REVIEW**

crash-and-burn?

Banks' biggest strength is also his weakness: his ego. And sabotaging his casino on opening day is a plan that feels ever so sweet. But first they have to beat the Greco, an artificial intelligence security system that thinks and reasons and is so impenetrable it can't be beat. Or can it?

The boys won't rest until they make right by Tishkoff, carefully crafting a multi-tasking casino scam that works its way from the bottom (the Mexican factory that manufactures magnetized dice) through the middle (rigged slots, snitched technology) all the way to the top in the form of filthy-rich funds courtesy of formerly swindled money-man Terry Benedict (Andy Garcia).

The boys are in rare form: smooth

and breezy in that cooler-than-thou way that garnered so many fans in 2001. The regulars — Don Cheadle, Matt Damon, Casey Affleck, Scott Caan, etc. — do what they do best, plying criminal dexterity with hip panache. Pacino and right-hand-woman Ellen Barkin ratchet up the tension, sexual and otherwise.

The action is snappy enough to mask the narrative missteps. Cross, cross and double-cross are slick and amusing and oh-so-familiar. This roll of the dice is a guaranteed winner: summer fun with a safety net. ■

■ **MOVIE NOTES**

Stars: ***

Rating: PG-13 for language and some sensuality.

Run Time: 2 hours, 2 minutes

Send Us A Postcard



Photo of Helen Vanderberg and Alice Kemp aboard the sailing vessel Star Flyer off the coast of Thailand.

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.

Hydrant Flushing

The City of Mountain View will begin limited flushing of hydrants at the end of all City water mains. Flushing is done to ensure the water provided to those residents served by water main dead ends continue to receive fresh water.

The City will be conserving water this summer by only flushing water lines with low use.

Flushing will begin the week of June 18th and will continue for four weeks, ending the week of July 16th, or until all dead end hydrants are successfully refreshed.

If you would like more information about the City's flushing program, or have questions or concerns while City personnel are in your neighborhood flushing water main dead ends, please contact the City's Public Services Division at 650-903-6329, or visit our website at www.mountainview.gov.



Goings On

MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE

■ HIGHLIGHT

THEATREWORKS PRESENTS "THE ELEPHANT MAN"
TheatreWorks opens its 38th season with a revival of Tony Award-winning play "The Elephant Man." Robert Kelley directs. Weds., June 20 through Sun., July 15, T-W, 7:30 pm, Th-Sat, 8 pm; Sun, 2, 7 pm. \$20-56
TheatreWorks at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. www.theatreworks.org

SPECIAL EVENTS

PROMENADE OF FILM AND MUSIC FESTIVAL Enter your film in Palo Alto Downtown's (PAAd) first Promenade of Film and Music Festival. Films must be received no later than June 29th. \$20 per DVD Promenade of Film and Music Festival, Downtown Palo Alto, Palo Alto. Call 650-462-1795. www.paloalotodowntown.com

VOICES FOR CHANGE Planned Parenthood Advocates Mar Monte invites you to our 2nd annual Voices for Change reception honoring Karel, KGO radio personality, Carol Mayer Marshall, community member, and the Honorable Joe Simitian, state senator, for their contributions to protecting reproductive freedom and privacy. Saturday, June 16, 4-6 p.m. \$100/person \$50/person under 30 y/o. Private Home, Provided upon purchase of tickets, Los Altos Hills. Call 408-297-9255 x225. www.votingprochoice.org

ART GALLERIES

EXHIBITS OF INKTINTS Exhibits of Inktints: "At the Water's Edge" by photographer and digital artist Meggi Raeder, Ph.D. Portion of sales donated to Avenidas Senior Center. Mon.-Fri. through June 29, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Firehouse Gallery at Avenidas, 450 Bryant St., Palo Alto. Call 650-289-5430.

MFA THESIS EXHIBITION Second-year MFA students Binta Ayofemi, Chris Bell, Julie Chang, Kamau Patton and Heather Sparks display artwork created. Through June 17. Gallery Hours: Tue.-Fri., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., 1-5 p.m. Free. Thomas Welton Stanford Art Gallery, 419 Lasuen Mall, Stanford. Call 650-723-3404. art.stanford.edu

WATERCOLOR: FACULTY & FRIENDS The Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA) at Finn Center will present "Watercolor: Faculty & Friends," featuring local artists and faculty members Karen Bieber, Jean Bradshaw, Steve Curl and special guest Bob Currie. Mon.-Sat. through July 25, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Free. Community School of Music and Arts at Finn Center, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. Call 650-917-6800, ext. 305. www.arts4all.org

BENEFITS

CHEFS WHO CARE Annual picnic BBQ, catered by Armadillo Willy's. Menu: Texas ribs, BBQ chicken. Mail check payable to CSA Chefs Who Care, 204 Stierlin Rd., Mtn. View, CA 94040, or call to use Visa or MasterCard. Friday, June 15, 5:30-7:30 p.m. \$24 by June 7. Cuesta Park, Cuesta Park near Grant Drive, Mountain View. Call 650-961-3584. www.CSAcares.org

LET FREEDOM RING "Let Freedom Ring" festival and benefit concert to support American soldiers stationed in Iraq. Food booths, live music, evening concert, jumpers and petting zoo. Sat., June 30, 3-8 p.m. Free. The Rock Church, 263 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-968-7625.

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

BABY CARE CLASS This class covers issues relevant to parents and their newborns. Small group size allows for demonstration and practice, as well as a pace conducive to discussion of individual needs. Expectant mothers are encouraged to bring a support person. Sun., June 24, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Blossom Birth, 299 S. California Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-321-2326. blossombirth.org

BACKYARD CHICKENS Learn everything needed to raise happy hens. Sat., June 23, 1:30-4:30 p.m. \$36. Common Ground Organic Garden Supply, 559 College Ave., Palo Alto. www.commongroundinpaloalto.org

BEYOND SIBLING RIVALRY (3-8 YEARS) This parenting workshop will address conflict, fairness and sharing. Help children become cooperative, caring and compassionate. Pre-registration



"COREOPSIS" / COLOR PHOTOGRAPH / CHRISTINA FLORKOWSKI



"HELLEBORUM" / COLOR PHOTOGRAPH / JOANNE KOLTNOW

LE JARDIN: FLORAL PHOTOGRAPHS: This summer Modernbook Gallery will be full of flowers with the exhibit "Le Jardin," featuring the photographic works of Christina Florkowski and Joanne Koltnow. Through July 30. Free. Modernbook Gallery, 494 University Ave., Palo Alto. www.modernbook.com/exhibitions.html

is required. Wed., June 20, 7-9 p.m. \$30. Parents Place, 200 Channing Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-688-3040. www.parentsplaceonline.org

LINE DANCE SUMMER REVIEW PLAYSHOPS Three hours of dance for Hedy alumni or by special permission of instructor (call 650-325-3371). Review of dances taught Fall 2006, Winter 2007 and Spring 2007, plus some surprises. All skill levels. Fridays, June 29, July 13 and July 27. 9 a.m.-noon. Each Playshop \$25 for residents/\$29 for non-residents. All three playshops \$65/\$75. Cubberly Community Center Auditorium, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-329-2418 or 650-463-4900. www.danceadventures.com

MOAH MATH AND SCIENCE SUMMER CAMP June 25-29, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Members \$400/non members \$450. Museum of American Heritage, 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-321-1004. www.moah.org

MONDAY PRENATAL YOGA CLASS The practice of yoga enhances awareness of the body and its dramatic changes during pregnancy and after birth. Each class will include a "check-in" and finish with a relaxation/visualization. Mondays through Aug. 13, 10-11:15 a.m. Blossom Birth, 299 S. California Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-321-2326. blossombirth.org

SAFE AND HEALTHY TRAVELS Learn natural ways to stay healthier while traveling including tips on preventing constipation, improving sleep, and increasing your energy level. June 16, 3-4 p.m. Free. Elephant Pharm, 4470 El Camino Real, Los Altos. Call 472-6800. www.elephantpharmacy.com

SATURDAY PRENATAL YOGA CLASS The practice of yoga enhances awareness of the body and its dramatic changes during pregnancy and after birth. Each class will include a "check-in" and finish with a relaxation/visualization. Saturdays through Aug. 11, 9-10:30 a.m. Blossom Birth, 299 S. California Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-321-2326. blossombirth.org

SURVIVING THE FIRST SIX WEEKS WITH YOUR BABY This class will help prepare parents for the changes birth and a new baby will bring and offer practical advice on how to make the transition as smooth as possible. Parents are encouraged to bring their individual concerns and questions, as there will be time for discus-

sion and brainstorming. Sat., June 23, 1-4:30 p.m. Blossom Birth, 299 S. California Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-321-2326. www.blossombirth.org

THURSDAY PRENATAL YOGA CLASS The practice of yoga enhances awareness of the body and its dramatic changes during pregnancy and after birth. Each class will include a "check-in" and finish with a relaxation/visualization. Thursdays through Aug. 9, 6:30-8 p.m. Blossom Birth, 299 S. California Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-321-2326. blossombirth.org

Alto. Call 650-321-2326. blossombirth.org

TUESDAY PRENATAL YOGA CLASS The practice of yoga enhances awareness of the body and its dramatic changes during pregnancy and after birth. Each class will include a "check-in" and finish with a relaxation/visualization. Tuesdays through Aug. 7, 5:30-6:45 p.m. Blossom Birth, 299 S. California Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-321-2326. blossombirth.org

TWINS SUMMER CAMP (2-5 YEARS) While

children play separately, parents discuss development, twin bond, promoting individuality and daily management of twins. Pre-registration required. Tuesdays, June 12 through July 17, 9:30-11 a.m. \$120 for 6 sessions for parents, \$75 for playcare for both children. Parents Place, 200 Channing Ave., Palo Alto. Call 688-3040. www.parentsplaceonline.org

CLUBS/MEETINGS

FASTER! REDUCING TIME TO MARKET WITH A PROJECT PORTFOLIO APPROACH Join Jean-Phillippe Senneville, JAI, Inc. and Anisha Mason, PSG to learn the benefits of combining project portfolio and management techniques. Wed., June 20, 6:30-8:30 p.m. PDMA members, Partners and Students: \$10; others: \$30 (add \$5 at door). Intuit Campus, 2550 Garcia Ave., Building 5, Mountain View. Call 408-839-9041. norcalpdma.org

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

CMG GRAND OPENING HEALTH FAIR Camino Medical Group invites you to a free Grand Open Health Fair at its new medical care center, on the upper level parking structure. Tours, screenings, health exhibits, performances by Daffy Dave and other fun family activities. Sat., June 16, 1-4 p.m. Free. Camino Medical Group, 701 E. El Camino Real, Mountain View. Call 650-934-7281. www.caminomedical.org

COMMUNITY ARTS DAY Community School of Music and Arts' annual free event. Hands-on activities, concerts, refreshments, special info and more for pre-schoolers & families. Co-sponsored by FIRST 5 Santa Clara County. Saturday, June 23, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. Community School of Music and Arts at Finn Center.

► Continued on next page



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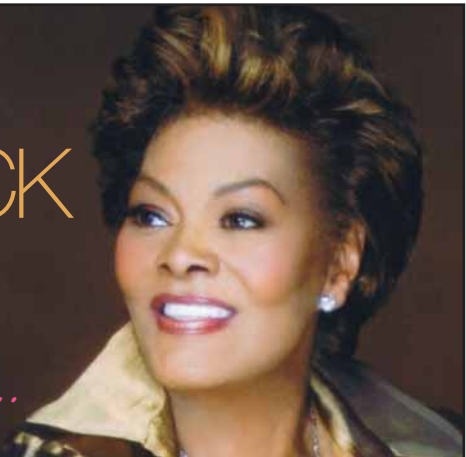
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SPECIAL THANKS Garden Court Hotel, Gentry Magazine, Il Fornaio, KTVU/Fox 2, Sunset Magazine, The Mercury News

► Continued from previous page

ter, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. Call 650-917-6800. www.arts4all.org

HOW TO ADOPT INTERNATIONALLY Come learn about how to adopt from China, Ethiopia, Vietnam, India and many other countries. Mon., June 25, 7-9 p.m. Free. Mountain View Business Center, 465 Fairchild Drive, Suite 215, Mountain View. Call (650) 964-3800. www.BAAS.org

SUMMER SINGS - WEEK TWO Join other choral singers of all ages to sing the Poulenc Gloria and Brahms Liebeslieder, under the direction of Eduardo Mendelievich, Artistic Director, Creative Voices. Sing the choruses and the solos. Music available on loan and refreshments. Discount for high school choral singers. Mon., June 25, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$15. Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Ave., Los Altos. Call 650-254-1700. www.scholacantorum.org

SUMMER SINGS 2007 Choral singers of all ages are invited to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Summer Sings. Sing the magnificent Verdi Requiem under the direction of Gregory Wait, Music Director of Schola Cantorum. You may sing the choruses and the solos - music available on loan. Discount for high school singers. Mon., June 18, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$15/\$75 for the series of 6. Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Ave., Los Altos. Call 650-254-1700. www.scholacantorum.org

VOICES FOR CHANGE Planned Parenthood Advocates Mar Monte invites you to a reception honoring several individuals for their contributions to protecting reproductive freedom and privacy. Honorees include Karel, KGO radio personality, State Senator Joe Simitian and Palo Alto's own Carol Mayer Marshall. Sat., June 16, 4-6 p.m. \$100/person, \$50 for ind. individuals under 30. Los Altos Hills Home, Elena Road, Los Altos Hills. Call 408-297-9255 x225. www.votingprochoice.org

WACKY WEDNESDAY: CREEPIES, CRAWLIES & CRITTERS The East Bay Vivarium will bring their traveling menagerie to amaze everyone. All Ages. Wednesday, June 27, 3:30-4:15 p.m. Free. Main Library, 1213 Newell Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-329-2205.

CONCERTS

BASIE & BEYOND Jamie Davis, vocals; Fred Berry, conductor; and friends. Sunday, July 1, 2:30 p.m. \$28 general Dinkelspiel Auditorium, 471 Lagunita Drive, Stanford. Call 650-736-

0324. www.stanfordjazz.org

DIVAS FOR LIFE BENEFIT Molly Bell will present "Divas for Life," a benefit concert for Relay for Life: American Cancer Society. Some of the Bay Area's most acclaimed singers, women who've collectively performed in dozens of musicals together, gather for one night in the spotlight. Mon., June 18, 7-8:30 p.m. \$25; \$50 (VIP); \$75 (Super VIP) Eagle Theater, Los Altos High School, 201 Almond Ave., Los Altos. www.missmollybell.com

EARLY BIRD: AN INTRO TO JAZZ FOR KIDS Akira Tana, percussion; Jeff Sanford, clarinet/flute; Stefan Cohen, tenor saxophone; Jim Nadel, alto saxophone; David Brigham, trumpet; Wayne Wallace, trombone; Rob Kohler, strings; Dee Spencer, piano; Allegra Bandy, vocals. Saturday, June 30, 10 a.m. Free Dinkelspiel Auditorium, 471 Lagunita Drive, Stanford. Call (650) 736-0324. www.stanfordjazz.org

SAN FRANCISCO CHORAL ARTISTS "Something Borrowed, Something Blue." Magen Solomon, Artistic Director. Love, courtship and marriage, from the Renaissance to today. Brahms, Gesualdo, Ligeti, Marenzio, Vaughan Williams, Wilbye. Four world premieres and New Voices Competition winners. Ages 30 and under free with paid ticket holder. Saturday, June 23, 8 p.m. \$18-25; group rates available. St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto. Call 415-979-5779. <http://www.sfca.org>

DANCE

ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCING Traditional and modern set dances to live music. Beginners welcome; no partner required. Wednesdays through June 20, 8-10 p.m. \$9 standard; \$7 members; \$5 students. Flex-It Studio, 425 Evelyn Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-493-6012. www.bacds.org/series/english/mountain_view/

LIVE MUSIC /CONTRA DANCE Caller: Eric Black. Band: Celtic Junket (Pat Ryan, Morgan Meadow, Tawnya Kovach). A traditional form of American social folk dance. Sat., June 30, 7:30-11 p.m. \$5 students; \$8 Members; \$10 Non Members. 1st United Methodist Church of PA Fellowship Hall 2F, 625 Hamilton Ave. & Byron St., Palo Alto. Call 650-965-9169. www.BACDS.org/NEWCOMERS

VINTAGE DANCE PARTY The Varsity Dance Club's monthly Vintage Dance Party features the 10-piece Paul Price's Society Orchestra. June Moon: Romantic Songs of Tin Pan Alley. Waltz lesson included. Light refreshments included, suitable for dancing or just listening. Sun., June 17, 4-6:30 p.m. \$15. Palo Alto

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EXHIBITS

BARE WITNESS: PHOTOGRAPHS BY GORDON PARKS Exhibition comprised of 73 photographs that were selected by the artist African American photographer, filmmaker, and author Gordon Parks. Hours: Wed.-Sun., 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thu., 11 a.m.-8 p.m. March 21-July 1. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Dr., Stanford. Call 723-3469. http://museum.stanford.edu

FAMILY AND KIDS

DEER HOLLOW FARM TOURS April 21, 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

FILM

STANFORD SUMMER THEATER FILM SERIES Free eightt-week film series focusing on this year's Stanford Summer Theater theme - Africa on stage. 8-10 p.m. Free; open to public. Cubberley Auditorium (School of Education), Stanford University, Stanford. summertheater.stanford.edu

THE 2007 FOOTHILL VIDEO FESTIVAL Showcase of student work: short narratives, movie trailers, documentaries, spoofs and more. Reception to be held at intermission. Thu., June 21, 6-10 p.m. Suggested donation \$5; parking \$2. Smithwick Theatre, Foothill College, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. http://www.foothill.edu

HEALTH

PRE-CONCEPTION INFORMATION Find out about local resources for families and learn about the Mother Friendly Childbirth Initiative. Saturday, June 16, 1-2 p.m. Elephant Pharm, 4470 El Camino Real, Los Altos. Call 650-472-6800. www.elephantpharmacy.com

LIVE MUSIC

BLOW KINGS ABDICATION PARTY Bring a picnic to the farewell performance of The Blow Kings' horn-powered musical craziness. Get a free copy of the Blow Kings' new CD "Royal Flush" at the party if you RSVP at www.blowkings.com. Sat., June 16, 12-3 p.m. Free. Ortega Park, 636 Harrow Way, Sunnyvale. www.blowkings.com

THE JACK CONWAY TRIO Vocalist Juanita Harris sings classic jazz with Jack Conway, guitar, Roger Dahlberg, bass, Reno Brian, drums. June 16, 8-10 p.m. Free. Dana Street Roasting Company, 744 Dana St., Mountain View. Call (408) 828-6705. www.jackconwaytrio.com

ON STAGE

"A YEAR WITH FROG AND TOAD" Arnold Lobel's well-loved characters hop from the page to the stage in Robert and Willie Reale's musical "Year with Frog and Toad." 8-10 p.m. \$22-\$32 Bus Barn Theater, 97 Hillview Avenue, Los Altos. Call 650-941-0551. www.busbarn.org

GEEK COMEDY NIGHT Five comedians talk about their favorite geek topics: everything from video games and ren faire to their day jobs. With headliner Kevin Avery. 21+ please. 8-9:30 p.m. \$12 plus a two item minimum. Rooster T. Feathers, 157 W. El Camino Real, Sunnyvale. www.roostertfeathers.com

OUTDOORS

WILDLIFE TRACKING & NATURE MAPPING Be a wildlife biologist for a day. Join Acterra & Reikes Center for a hike on Preserve trails looking for any signs of wildlife, including tracks, live animals and scat. Learn about wildlife and how to create a wildlife map with a hand-held GPS unit. Lunch provided. All ages. Sunday, June 3, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. \$10 per person. Free for ages 5 and under. Space limited to 30 people.

Pearson-Arastradero Preserve, Arastradero Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-962-9876. www.acterra.org

RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

THE GOD-SHAPED HOLE Motivational speaker, spiritual-life coach and author Victoria Moran has discovered what underlies our woes: that inner emptiness Blaise Pascal called "the God-shaped hole in every man that only God can fill." Sun., June 17, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Offering. Unity Palo Alto Community Church, 3391 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-494-7222. www.unitypaloalto.org

RESEARCH SUBJECTS

SMALL SPACECRAFT INDUSTRY DAY Learn how to leverage NASA's resources to develop

Small Spacecraft for civil and commercial space missions. Register via e-mail or phone. Wed., June 27, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Free. NASA Ames Research Center, Bulding 943, Moffet Field. Call 650-604-2954. technology.arc.nasa.gov/TechConference

SENIORS

CALIFORNIA TELEPHONE ACCESS PROGRAM CTAP is a free California State program with no obligation or income requirement. You can get a free specialized phone for you or anyone you know who has difficulty seeing, hearing, moving, speaking or remembering. Join Christopher as he tells you more in this informative workshop. Wed., June 20, 1-2:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6330.

INCREASING WELLNESS AND VITALITY Join Dr. Khamneipur as this seminar reveals the best kept secrets for preventing headaches and neck aches, back care and exercise 101. Learn exercises to help prefect your posture and the art of stretching your way to good health. Thu., June 28, 1-2:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6330.

MOUNTAIN VIEW HISTORY: RENGSTORFF HOUSE Slideshow of Rengstorff House, a historic Italianate Victorian home located on the grounds of Shoreline Park. Discuss Shoreline's tremendous community resources, volunteer work opportunities, and its spooky and innovative past. Fri., June 15, 1-2:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6330.

NEWCOMER'S GROUP An orientation and tour of the Senior Center. An overview of

classes, upcoming events, social services and general info will be presented. Tue., June 19, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6330.

OPEN HOUSE AND TOUR Come tour Avenidas Rose Kleiner Senior Day Health Center's facility in Mountain View. Light refreshments will be served. Thu., June 21, 6-7:30 p.m. Free. Avenidas Rose Kleiner Senior Day Health Center, 270 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-289-5498. www.avenidas.org

MORE LISTINGS

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

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