

Mountain View VOICE



**Pretty glads
plus
Saving water**
HOME & GARDEN | P.29

JUNE 22, 2007 VOLUME 15, NO. 25

INSIDE: WEEKEND | PAGE 22

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■ **CITY COUNCIL**

'I'll be out there with my hammer'

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY PROJECT WOULD BUILD 20 ROW HOMES ON MIDDLEFIELD ROAD

By Daniel DeBolt

Jimmy Carter's Habitat for Humanity could soon be coming to Mountain View, where a small army of volunteers and future homeowners would build 20 row homes on Middlefield Road.

At a study session Tuesday, the City Council expressed unanimous support for the project even though it poses some challenges. For one, the city would have put up \$4.5 million for the 1.15 acres — itself not a problem because of the city's large "below market rate" housing fund.

The problem is that the property owner wants to make a sale by Aug. 1, 2008, and staff said that in order to do that the city's other affordable housing project on Evelyn Avenue would have to wait, even though it is only six months away from construction bids.

Staff said the purchase would take time because a re-zoning from office space to R3-2 housing would have to be processed. Ever so, council member Nick Galiotto said, "there's got to be a way" to do both projects.

"I in no way want to sidetrack the project on Evelyn," he said. "It would be really shameful to sidetrack it just because there is this August 1 deadline."

At the end of the meeting, city manager Kevin Duggan said the key may be getting an extension on the Aug. 1 deadline with the

► See **COUNCIL**, page 10

District makes the call on boundary change

BOARD PICKS 'SCENARIO 2.3,' SHIFTING 200 MOUNTAIN VIEW STUDENTS TO NEW SCHOOLS

■ **BY THE NUMBERS**

Number of Mountain View students being transferred:

FROM	TO	NUMBER
Santa Rita	Covington	122
Santa Rita	Bullis	22
Almond	Springer	60

Total number of Mountain View students switching schools: **204**

By Alexa Tondreau

After considering nearly 50 different proposed scenarios for boundary changes in the Los Altos School District, board members Monday night reached a decision that will affect more than 200 Mountain View students.

In a 3-2 vote, the school board chose "Scenario 2.3" over two other scenarios on the table, "L.1" and "V.2."

Scenario 2.3 addresses the



MARJAN SADOUGHI

Los Altos School District president Bill Cooper led the final discussion on boundary adjustments at a board meeting Monday.

overcrowding in the district's northernmost schools, Almond and Santa Rita, in several ways. It moves 122 students living north of El Camino Real in the Crossings and Showers Drive neighborhoods out of Santa

Rita Elementary School and into Covington Elementary, which is located south of El Camino Real.

It also shifts 22 students living in the Yerba Santa Triangle neighborhoods south of

El Camino, currently attending Santa Rita, into Bullis Elementary School. And it takes about 60 Mountain View students living in the Hollingsworth

► See **BOUNDARIES**, page 14

Did one gang bust tip the scales?

POLICE BELIEVE ARREST OF 'ZIP-TIE ROBBERS' CAUSED SLOWDOWN IN CITY'S VIOLENT CRIME RATE

By Daniel DeBolt

Late last year, a string of vicious robberies put local police in overdrive. The robberies — more than a dozen in all — all followed the same m.o.: A small group of armed men burst in on a business, bound up employees using zip-ties, and fled with the cash.

Police got a break in tracking down the so-called "zip-tie robbers" in January, arresting

two young men after a routine traffic stop. They had just robbed a store in Santa Clara.

Eventually police arrested five more members. All seven are believed to be high-level Sureno gang members frequently active in Mountain View.

Because of the arrests police say that crime rates appear to be down this year compared to 2006.

"We can only speculate, but that's our

GANGS
IN MOUNTAIN VIEW
FIFTH IN A SERIES

► See **GANGS**, page 18

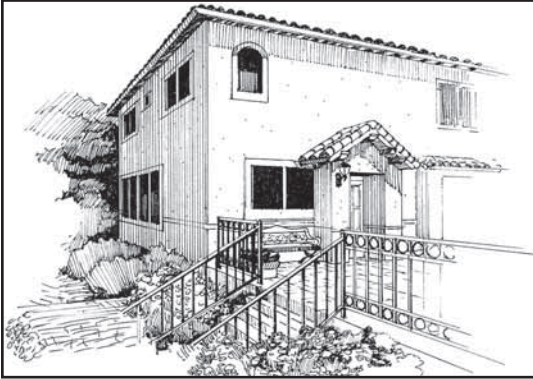
REDEFINING QUALITY SINCE 1990
Reading between the emotional line makes the difference between finding a house and a home.

Dorothy Liu



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Ellen & Katie Saviano



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Barb Conkin-Orrock



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Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked in Downtown Mountain View. Pictures and interviews by Melody Dye.

Do you remember any pranks from your high school days?



"We didn't do much in high school since we were so goody-goody. This one time though we used the school letterhead to send a scandalous note to one of our friends. Unfortunately we addressed it wrong and the post delivered it back to the principal!"

Kim Ahmad with Syrous,
Mountain View



"When I was a junior, the senior class turned the school's Olympic-sized swimming pool into a lake of dog food. A bunch of guys hopped the fence and poured something like a thousand tons of Kibble into the pool."

Jordan Blake, San Mateo



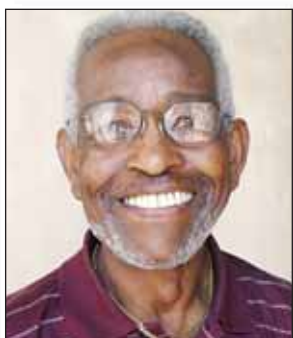
"Our school had this band practice room where all the band geeks congregated to rehearse for concerts. This one time, as a prank, I opened the steam radiator and it flooded the room an inch or two deep while all the guys were practicing."

Rocky, New York
(formerly Mountain View)



"In Japan we don't have that kind of thing. Always though we gave very funny nicknames to the teachers, like Gorilla, Cute Boy, Talky Talky. Another custom was to go to a teacher and to ask him to 'free the class' when we didn't want to hear lecture anymore."

Marty Matsuo, Los Gatos

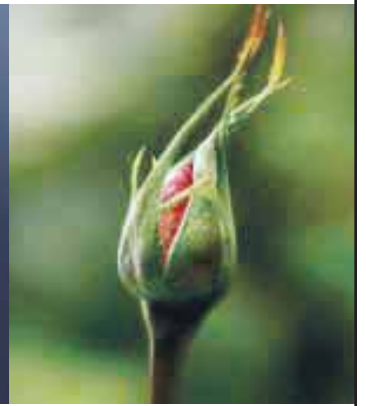


"This one guy had a starter gun, the type they use in track races that shoots blanks. Well, we get down to the stop-light and one car pushes a guy out the backseat and fires at him with the starter gun, then races off. The kid goes flat on the pavement. Then the other car pulls up, picks up the 'body,' and stuffs it in the back seat."

Richard Hudson, San Jose

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July 23: **BLACK GOLD** (2006)
Ethiopia, directed by Marc and Nick Francis

July 2: **HOTEL RWANDA** (2004)
Rwanda, directed by Terry George

July 30: **BAMAKO** (2006)
Mali, directed by Abderrahmane Sissako

July 9: **CHOCOLAT** (1989)
Cameroon/France, directed by Claire Denis

August 6: **SOMETIMES IN APRIL** (2005)
Rwanda, directed by Raoul Peck

July 16: **LUMUMBA** (2000)
Zaire/Democratic Republic of Congo,
directed by Raoul Peck

August 13: **TSOTSI** (2006)
South Africa, directed by Gavin Hood

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LocalNews

CRIMEWATCH

ROBBERY, 100 BLOCK W. EL CAMINO REAL, 6/14

At around 9 p.m., a local business called to report that two men had entered, displayed handguns, and fled with cash. Five minutes later, a business a block away reported another robbery, with the bandits matching the same description: Two black men armed with handguns. The suspects are still at large.

struck the man, while another took his water bottle. The man was transported to El Camino Hospital while police located and arrested the youths, who were booked into Juvenile Hall.

DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE, 200 BLOCK CALIFORNIA ST., 6/16

A man initially called 911 to report that his wife battered him. However, the ensuing police investigation revealed that the man had returned home, intoxicated, and had actually battered his sleeping wife. The befuddled suspect was then booked at the Main Jail.

BATTERY, CENTRAL AVE./ MOFFETT BLVD., 6/14

A middle-aged man was riding his bicycle along a trail when he was accosted by a group of teenagers. One of the youths

POLICELOG

BATTERY

800 W. Evelyn Ave., 6/14
Central Ave./Moffett Blvd., 6/15
500 Villa St., 6/14

DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE

800 N. Rengstorff Ave., 6/14
200 California St., 6/16
W El Camino Real/Miramonte Ave., 6/18

BURGLARY/AUTO

2000 California St., 6/15
900 W. Evelyn Ave., 6/15
300 Escuela Ave., 6/18

GRAND THEFT

300 Castro St., 6/17

BURGLARY/COMMERCIAL

300 Showers Dr., 6/18

POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA

Nita Ave./San Antonio Rd., 6/18

BURGLARY/RESIDENTIAL

10 Flynn Ave., 6/18

ROBBERY

100 W. El Camino Real., 6/14
200 W. El Camino Real., 6/14
2500 California St., 6/15

CORPORAL INJURY

1900 Latham St., 6/18

STOLEN VEHICLE

400 Clyde Ave., 6/14
100 W. El Camino Real., 6/14
200 S. Rengstorff Ave., 6/15

CRUELTY TO DEPENDENT

100 Jasmine Ct., 6/14

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES/PERSON

100 Mount Vernon Ct., 6/14
Ellis St./SB 101, 6/15

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

600 Showers Dr., 6/15
200 Castro St., 6/16
Whisman Park, 6/17
200 W. El Camino Real., 6/17
Calderon Ave./W. El Camino Real., 6/17
200 S. Rengstorff Ave., 6/17

VANDALISM

300 Bryant St., 6/16
100 Bryant St., 6/16
800 Villa St., 6/18
Castro St./Villa St., 6/18
Higdon Ave./Villa St., 6/18

DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE

200 Sierra Vista Ave., 6/14

CORRECTION

Due to a production error, the list of Mountain View High School graduates in last week's *Voice* omitted those students whose last name begins with J. The students are:

Leshawn Deaunte James, Emily Anne Janzer, Eric Jason Jenkins, Justin S. Jiang, Ju Jin, Clémentine Noémie Louise Joly, William Tres Jorajuria, Jessica Christina Jung
The *Voice* regrets the error.

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9:45 am Church School Nursery
11:00 am Worship in the Sanctuary,
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Close indeed

By Don Frances

NOW THAT WE'RE wrapping up the school year, this may be my last chance to relate an amusing incident as told by Rich Freedland a few weeks ago.

"I wish the hole in one had been an MV High parent," he began, "but it's still a good local story."

Freedland tells it best, so here's the rest of the story in his own words:

Jeff Cashen, a parent of a junior at Los Altos High School, hit a hole-in-one on the 17th hole at Shoreline Golf Links during the annual MVLA High School Golf Tournament. The tournament, in its eighth year, has raised over \$50,000 for Grad Night, music and sports programs at the two high schools.

Cashen's hole-in-one was the obvious winner of the "closest to the hole" contest held on the par 3 No. 17. All four par 3 holes are "closest to the hole" contests during the tournament. Cashen used an 8 iron on the 137-yard hole. Playing with partners John Galli and Jerry Lipson, Cashen proclaimed, "This is my first and probably last hole-in-one."

The MVLA High School Golf Tournament has become an annual May event at Shoreline Golf Links. This year's tournament was the first for new district Superintendent Barry Groves. Rich Fischer, the former superintendent, was previously a regular at the tournament. ...

A small awards banquet was held at Michael's Restaurant following play. Cashen, true to tradition, offered to buy drinks for the "house," or at least everyone who stayed until the end of the award ceremony. Many left early for Cinco de Mayo celebrations.

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



COURTESY PHOTO

Steelhead rescue at Stevens Creek

By Daniel DeBolt

With time running out before the summer heat, volunteers woke up at the crack of dawn last Friday to rescue dozens of steelhead trout from stagnant pools in Stevens Creek, then moved them to safer waters upstream at McClellan Ranch Park in Cupertino.

"This is the driest the creek has been in a number of years," said Mondy Lariz, executive director of the Stevens and Permanente Creek Watershed Council. "There are a lot of barriers in the stream they can't make it over every year. In less than a quarter of a mile we picked up 51 fish. That's a lot of fish."

Most of the rescued steelhead were just a few inches long, though

17 of them were over five inches, and one was 11 inches long.

In 2005 the Santa Clara Valley Water District rescued 200 fish in the same area, but this year volunteers stepped in "because nobody else was doing it," Lariz said.

The fish were taken from the Central Avenue fish ladder, where the city gave volunteers — driving a specially equipped truck — access onto Stevens Creek trail. Large nets were used to catch the fish before they were put into cooled, oxygenated water tanks.

The Central Avenue fish ladder was installed in 2003 and was expected to help the Bay's steelhead



COURTESY PHOTO

trout swim up one of the region's last viable spawning areas.

The rescue was organized Lariz, who wears many hats, including one as chairman of the water committee for the Sierra Club's Loma Prieta chapter. Volunteer organizations included the Northern California Council Federation of Fly Fishers, Coastal Habitat Education and Environmental Restoration, and Flycasters, Inc. ■

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

Arrest in year-old rape case

MILPITAS MAN, ALREADY IN JAIL FOR OTHER CRIMES, LINKED TO DNA EVIDENCE

By Melody Dye

Mountain View police announced a break in a 2006 rape case with the arrest last Friday of a Milpitas man accused of the crime.

Police say Oscar Mayorga, 21, assaulted a woman during the twilight hours of March 26, 2006, near the intersection of Phyllis Avenue and Pamela Drive. Police believe he came up behind the woman, put his arm around her, and threatened her with a handgun. He then pulled her into a dark secluded area where he violently assaulted and then robbed her.

Following the attack, the woman called the police from a neighbor's house and then sought aid at a local hospital. Because the assault was reported immediately, medical personnel and detectives on the scene were able to gather concrete forensic evidence for a "sexual assault kit," helping them use DNA evidence to find a match.

The Santa Clara County Crime Laboratory identified Mayorga as a suspect after lab analysis linked him to the crime. Mayorga is

► See **RAPE**, page 12

Supervisors approve strict budget

CUTS TO COUNTY SERVICES SIGNIFICANT, THOUGH NOT AS PAINFUL AS SOME EXPECTED

Bay City News

The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors last Friday passed a controversial budget that one supe said was not as bad as many had feared.

"We've passed a balanced budget," said Supervisor Don Gage. "My colleagues and I have had the difficult task of hold-

ing the line on spending, while restoring services in program areas where the county could maximize matching federal and state funds. This budget has a lot of pain in it and this is not the end because the county will be facing deficits for the next few years."

Among the programs that took cuts are the district attorney's cold case unit and the life

sentence hearings program. Completely cut from the office are community prosecution and the innocence project, which tests DNA to reexamine convictions.

Tobacco prevention, some tuberculosis patient services, sexually transmitted disease services, community education for communicable diseases and violence prevention programs

at 57 schools will all see reductions or be cut completely.

A total of 276 full-time positions have been eliminated effective January 2008.

"Listening to the moving testimony of residents describing how they have been helped by county services and appealing for the continuation of

► See **COUNTY**, page 11

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■ SEEN AROUND TOWN

White-faced ibis



Ron Fulks of Lee Drive captured this rare image of a white-faced ibis fishing at Shoreline.

"The ibis is a marsh wader with a long curved bill, and here has its breeding plumage with its characteristic white face," Fulks wrote.

"This was the first time I had ever seen this bird at Shoreline!" He added that the bird was "probably on his way to Montana for the summer. I saw him at Shoreline for only two days."

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.

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Warrants issued for alleged sign thieves

By Daniel DeBolt

Arrest warrants were issued for local 18-year-olds Jeffrey Chan and David Girdley for allegedly stealing anti-farm signs as a prom week-end prank, according to the district attorney's office.

The former Mountain View High seniors face one charge each of misdemeanor or petty theft, which carries a maximum sentence of six months in jail. The maximum penalty is unlikely, however, if they pay restitution, said deputy district attorney Rob Baker.

Authorities said Chan and Girdley admitted to taking at least some of the signs as a prank. On Tuesday police said that even though the warrant had been issued, it had not arrived yet at the police station. It is likely that police will wait for the two suspects to turn themselves in before seeking

them out for arrest.

The two were lucky, Baker said: They could have faced 45 individual counts of petty theft and felony charges because the stolen property was valued at

The former seniors face one charge each of misdemeanor petty theft, which carries a maximum sentence of six months in jail.

about \$420 — just over the \$400 mark to qualify the crime as a felony.

"We've been seeing a lot of pranks from high school students," he said. "I think it's important for kids to realize we take these cases seriously. Even though the students might just think it's a prank doesn't mean they aren't

also committing a crime."

In Palo Alto, graduating 18-year-old Daniel Blaine Marchant sparked a furor after he overturned his car on school property, causing hundreds of dollars in damages and getting himself booked into county jail on felony vandalism charges. Last week the charges were reduced to misdemeanor vandalism, and he was allowed to graduate.

Council member Tom Means said incidents like these 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." ▽

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

The next step

MAJORITY OF HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS IN MVLA DISTRICT ARE COLLEGE-BOUND

By Alexa Tondreau

With high school graduation day come and gone, students from Mountain View and Los Altos high schools are set to embark on the next chapter of their lives.

Happily, the majority of graduating seniors will be moving on to college next year, said counselors from both high schools.

133 headed to UC campuses, while 83 will move on to two-year schools.

In addition, four students from Mountain View high will attend colleges abroad, including the European Business School of London and Queens College of Canada.

“For us, to have that many students going to international schools is a little unusual,” Brock said.

Students from Mountain View high will also attend Yale, the University of Pennsylvania — and two students will go to Stanford University.

Brock said all those numbers are tentative until students

begin attending college classes in the fall.

“Plans change in the last month of school and over the summer. A few of the students will not graduate and will therefore have to change their plans in the fall,” Brock said.

And even then, the district may not know exactly what happens to them. Brock said tracking students after high school is a frustrating and often fruitless endeavor for

From Los Altos High School, approximately 406 of the 419 seniors, or 97 percent, have been accepted to colleges, counselor Kristin Joseph said.

Joseph said the percentage was in keeping with trends over the past five years.

“It has stayed pretty consistently between 95 and 97 percent for awhile. We expect the majority to move on to college,” she said.

About 260 of those graduates will start at four-year colleges, and 134 will go to two-year community colleges in the state, she said.

Of those moving on to four-year colleges, 85 will go to schools in the University of California system, and many others will attend prestigious schools like Harvard, Boston College, Columbia, Dartmouth and MIT, Joseph said.

From Mountain View High School, 396 of the 424 seniors, or 93 percent, will move on to college, also in keeping with recent trends, said counselor Laurel Brock.

Of the total, 313 will attend four-year colleges, including

staff in the college and career center.

“They’ve moved on, and a lot of time they don’t necessarily want to talk to their high school,” Brock said.

The college and career center is implementing an online database next year which will compile information about where past years’ students have gone to college, and hopefully will include details on their college experience.

Brock said it would be an

► See COLLEGE, page 9



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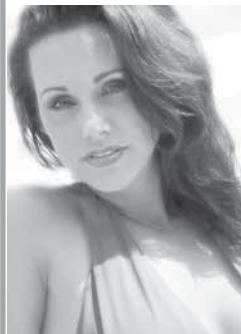
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NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS PARCEL TAX – MEASURE J

In accordance with the ballot language of the Parcel Tax Election of March 2, 2004 (Measure J), applications and renewal forms are now available for property owners in the Mountain View Whisman School District for:

1. Senior Exemptions
2. Parcel Tax Contiguous Property Classification Application, Single-owner Use of Multiple Parcels for One Economic Interest.

These applications can be obtained from the Mountain View Whisman School District, 750-A San Pierre Way, Mountain View, the City of Mountain View Library, 585 Franklin Street, Mountain View, or the Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Avenue, Mountain View. If you wish to have an application mailed to you, please call 526-3582.

The deadline for submitting the above forms is **Friday, July 13, 2007.**

Rebecca G. Wright
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LocalNews



Life as a banana slug

THREE MOUNTAIN VIEW
HIGH ALUMS RECALL THE
EXCITEMENT OF MOVING
TO UC SANTA CRUZ

By Andrea Pyka

As the latest crop of high school grads prepare for college, a few Mountain View High School alumni recalled the feelings which took hold of them as they prepared to cross over into adulthood.

For Mountain View High graduate Bryan Black, the big day meant leaving behind his family and close friends.

"Sitting in the bleachers of our football field in front of tons of parents and relatives, I remember the excitement of leaving my life

"Sitting in the bleachers of our football field in front of tons of parents and relatives, I remember the excitement of leaving my life as I knew it behind and entering the next chapter."

BRYAN BLACK

as I knew it behind and entering the next chapter," he wrote in an e-mail. "I remember looking around at all the people that surrounded me that I had been so close to for the past few years, and thinking about how we were all

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splitting up indefinitely.”

Black, who graduated in June 2004, focused on picking a college that offered a good film program. Although he looked into different schools, in the end he chose to join the free-spirited UC Santa Cruz.

Now in his third year there, Black continues to enjoy the campus atmosphere and picturesque landscape. Still, he said, he misses driving around Mountain View at night in his mother’s Mazda and listening to music.

Fellow Mountain View grad Natalie Aratow also attends UC Santa Cruz, and says she embraces her inner banana slug, despite missing her old life.

“I miss my friends from high school and being able to spend lots of time with them,” she said. “Whether it was our lunch breaks at In N’ Out Burger or prom shopping at the mall, we always had a blast.”

The school’s location, just “over the hill” from Mountain View, made moving away from home slightly less difficult for Aratow, who graduated from Mountain View in 2005. These days, she returns every weekend to visit her 6-year-old brother.

For others, life after college has already set in. Such is the case for Matthew Davis, a Santa Cruz alumni who graduated from Mountain View in 2002.

According to Davis, the hardest part of moving away from Mountain View and starting college was adjusting to people with such dramatically different lifestyles.

“It was almost surreal in that I knew I was no longer a permanent resident at my family’s home,” said Davis. “Of course I am always welcome to visit, but now I am on my own, especially since I have graduated and I have a career.” ▼

Andrea Pyka is a former Voice intern currently attending UC Santa Cruz. She can be reached at apyka@ucsc.edu.

COLLEGE

► Continued from page 7

invaluable tool to give current high school students access to such information in order to help them make informed college decisions.

But there’s still the matter of getting students immersed in college life to give their time back to their high school.

“Even private schools have found you have to pay them to get them to participate in surveys,” Brock said. ▼

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



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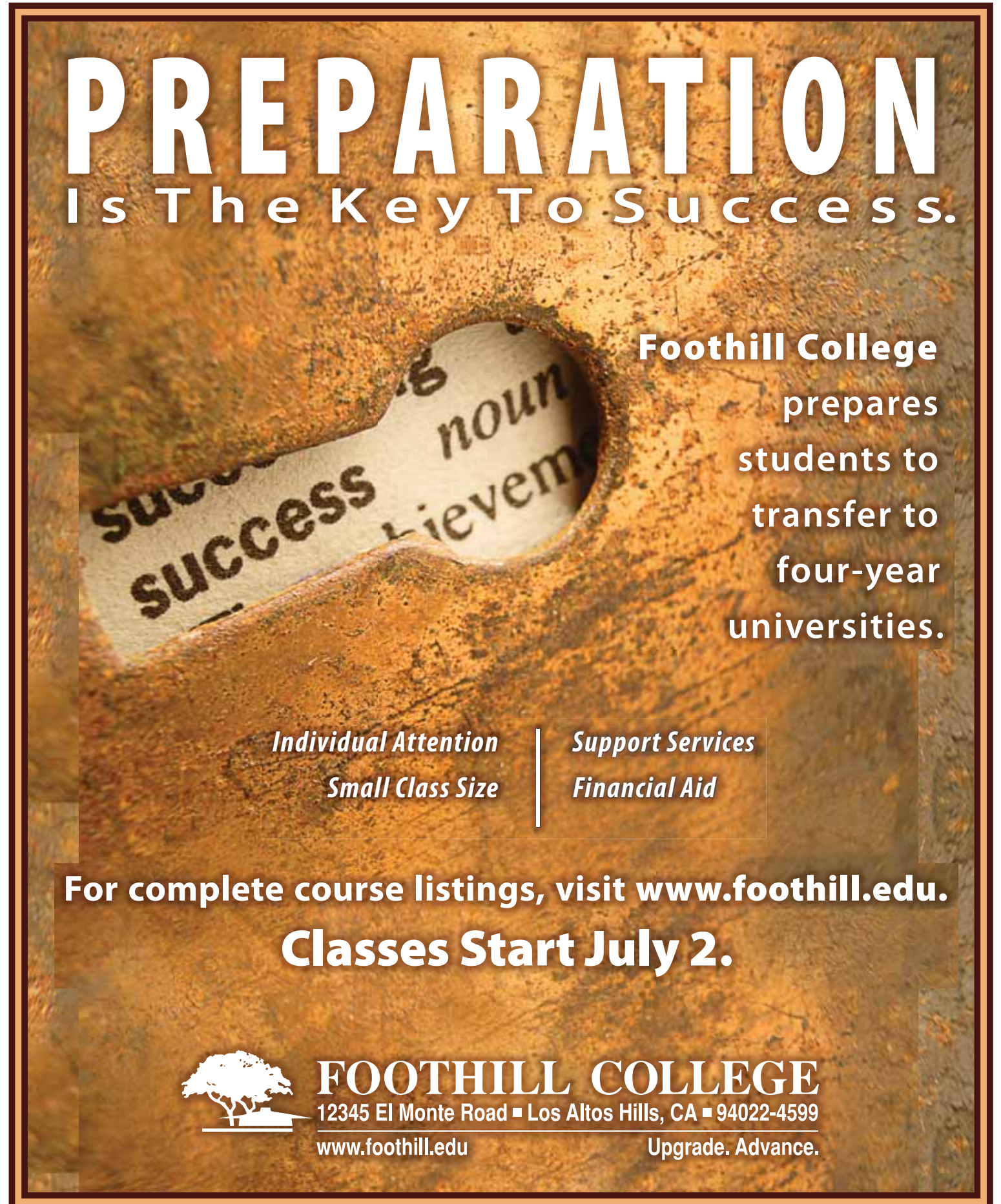
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COUNCIL

► Continued from page 1

property owners.

Habitat for Humanity found the site after years of looking for a place to do a project in Mountain View. The property is next to the Rotten Robbie gas station on the corner of Middlefield Road and Whisman Road. It used to be the site of the Wagon Wheel, a famous watering hole in the heyday of Silicon Valley which was closed in 2000 and later demolished.

Notices of the meeting were sent to neighbors, and two

spoke with

concerns.

One neighbor said she has a great view from her home next door, and that the R3-2 zoning would allow

a tall building to block her view. She concluded, however, by saying "If it goes through I'll be out there with my hammer, OK."

Mayor Laura Macias was the only council member who agreed that lower density zoning may be necessary. Staff said the R3-2 zoning would fit with the surrounding neighborhood.

Resident Doug Bailey, a former Habitat volunteer who says he can now "sink a nail with a single blow," spoke with enthusiasm about the project. The homes would be built completely by volunteers like Bailey and the future homeowners, who must spend at least 500 hours doing everything from laying a foundation to installing sheetrock on walls.

"You'll be amazed at the energy released in this community," said Roy Hayter, speaking on behalf of Advocates for Affordable Housing. He added the

project would be a "rare opportunity" for affordable housing — "ownership, no less."

The 20 families to live in the "very below market rate" project would be selected through a rigorous process. Applicants must meet certain income requirements, but Habitat for Humanity said it is looking for potential homeowners who can make a long-term commitment to the project.

Council member Matt Pear praised Habitat for Humanity for having "a very good model," though he raised concerns about accountability. He said a whole Tuesday evening meeting should

be set aside

for discussion

of the project, so it

wouldn't be

caught up

in the "convoluted"

and drawn-out

process

most recent

projects have been

stuck in

lately.

Former council member Mike Kasperzak agreed, saying the project should not require "a six month outreach."

Council members Ronit Bryant and Jac Siegel said they supported the re-zoning for the site to allow housing, even though they have both expressed concerns about the conversion of industrial and office space in the city.

The \$4.5 million for the land

would come from the city's

developer-generated BMR housing

fund, which is currently at

\$14.2 million. Half of that, \$7

million, is reserved for the 50

units of high-density family

housing on Evelyn Avenue and

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Monta Loma, Toll Bros. discuss Mayfield

By Daniel DeBolt

The multi-use room at Monta Loma Elementary School was filled with neighbors last Thursday for a presentation by developer Toll Brothers on the huge Mayfield project near Central Expressway and San Antonio Road.

The developers again gave a history of the project, emphasizing how much smaller it is now than when it was first conceived. Neighbors raised concerns about building size, the loss of heritage trees, construction mitigations and green building practices.

As far as green building goes, "At a minimum we'll make provisions for that," said Kelly Snider of Toll Brothers. The developer also plans to recycle the cement and steel in the existing building during demolition.

Toll Brothers plans to set up a 24-hour hotline for neighbors to call if there are problems during construction. Snider said neighbors would also be able to contact

her with concerns during meetings and by phone.

"I'll probably be at these meetings for the next five years of my life," she said. A final decision on the project is probably at least a year away, said project planner Peter Gilli.

Meanwhile, the Monta Loma Neighborhood Association, which has led local action regarding the Mayfield project, has picked itself a new president.

Wouter Suverkropp was elected to lead the association during last Thursday's meeting, beating out incumbent Elna Tymes.

Tymes had led the neighborhood last year in its fight against the Mayfield project before the city decided to zone the property for it. In a short speech, she called for "effective dialogue" and "calm, well-reasoned negotiations" over the development, mentioning that the emotional fight over the Grant Road farm property set a bad example. ▀

COUNTY

► Continued from page 5

these programs was agonizing," said Supervisor Blanca Alvarado, chair of the public safety and justice committee. "We recognize the value of these programs and wish we could continue funding all of them."

Some programs escaped being entirely cut, including the truancy abatement program that found a niche through an unusual cost-sharing plan between schools. Testimony from school officials is credited with saving that program, which was slated for elimination.

Besides saving those programs, supervisors also authorized staff to go ahead with a plan for a new countywide emergency dispatch and disaster preparedness fee that would apply to just over two million land and wireless phone numbers. The new fee would add about 27 cents per month to the cost of maintaining a phone line.

Supervisors chose to spend remaining funds for public health nurses in the regional offices, mental health outpatient services, and the drug and alcohol treatment services. These three topics generated the most attention in the weeks before Friday's vote.

Supervisors chose to spend remaining funds for public health nurses in the regional offices, mental health outpatient services, and the drug and alcohol treatment services.

"We're very happy we got as much as we did," said Brian O'Neill, spokesman for the Service Employees International Union. "We didn't get everything we wanted. We did the best we could."

O'Neill said initially the county had 1,500 jobs on the chopping block, but that finally dwindled to 271 for Friday's vote. He said many of those 271 employees will find jobs in other departments or offices.

"Next year we expect to start all over again," O'Neill said.

The county was also able to maintain a 4.7 percent contingency reserve, which will allow the county to borrow in the future at favorable rates.

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Lieber seeks 'home for every Californian'

By Daniel DeBolt

Assemblywoman Sally Lieber has proposed a joint committee on homelessness which she hopes will eventually lead to "a home for every Californian," her office announced earlier this week.

Last week, Santa Clara County released its 2007 survey on homelessness, which recorded over 7,000 homeless people on the streets during only two nights. The report estimates that 1,800 people were homeless throughout the year.

Lieber's resolution would establish a joint committee of five state senators and five assembly members to study possible legislation to address homelessness through 2008. There are only six such joint committees, compared to 133 separate senate and assembly committees.

"Proposing a joint Assembly-Senate committee indicates the high priority that ending homelessness should receive," Lieber said.

Assemblyman Dave Jones is "joint author" of the resolution, along with numerous "co-authors." According to Lieber's office, the governor does not have to approve the resolution for it to pass.

"Less than 30 years ago, virtually every child, every adult who was willing to work, and everyone who was unable to work could have someplace to call home," Lieber said in a press release. "Has our state become so impoverished, economically or morally, that we can't aim for a home for every Californian once again?"

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

RAPE

► Continued from page 5

already serving a sentence at Jamestown State Prison, located in the California foothills, for an unrelated felony conviction.

He is now charged with forcible rape, two counts of penetration with a foreign object, and other crimes. His arraignment in Santa Clara County Superior Court has not yet been scheduled.



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COMMUNITY BRIEF

IMMIGRATION STUDY SESSION WITH LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

On Monday, June 25, the League of Women Voters of Los Altos/Mountain View and the Los Altos Library will kick off a series of five informational study sessions on issues related to immigration and immigration policy.

All five meetings, which are free and open to the public, will run from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Los Altos Public Library, 13 South San Antonio Road.

The first study session on Monday will provide an overview of current federal immigration policy. Featured speaker Rosemary Langley Melville, district director of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service's San Francisco Office, will put current policy into historical context.

Other topics include the demographics and social implications of present immigration policy, the economic aspects of authorized and unauthorized immigration, and an analysis of comprehensive policy reforms. The sessions are intended to help the League shape a comprehensive position on immigration.

For more information on the series, contact Gloria Siciliano at (650) 947-0847.

— Alexa Tondreau

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BOUNDARIES

► Continued from page 1

and Gilmore neighborhood schools out of Almond and into Springer Elementary.

The changes would be effective beginning in the 2008-09 school year. Exactly which students will be taken from each school (referred to as the “grandfathering policy”) will be debated next year.

Board members Bill Cooper and Mark Goines voted against 2.3, favoring other plans.

“It’s done,” Cooper said, immediately after the motion passed. The audience applauded the ending of an extended process which had gone on for nearly six months and concluded just after midnight.

Parents living in the Hollingsworth and Gilmore neighborhoods — dubbed ‘H2G’ during the process — have opposed the plan from the beginning, because it would require them to drive their children to Springer, when they can currently walk to Almond.

“I feel badly for the H2G group that will have to drive,” said Goines. But he said there was no way to please every neighborhood during the process.

Board member David Luskin reasoned that “If we keep H2G at Almond, we go to a four-school solution north of El Camino.” He said he opposed splitting the neighborhoods north of El Camino into four different schools, because it would be too many schools for one area.

Residents of the Hollingsworth and Gilmore neighborhoods vented their frustrations over a drawn-out process that was not going in their favor. One father from there said it appeared that “students are being arbitrarily sacrificed to make the numbers work.”

Mark Friedman, a parent from the H2G area, said the board “veered from scenario to scenario, tweaking them all the time. I don’t know if the latest set of scenarios is any better than the ones we started out with.”

The district’s hired demographer, Jeanne Gobalet, seemed to support that interpretation, saying at one point that the process had “invaded her nightmares.” However, she also noted that in her experience, the pro-

cess of redrawing boundary lines is always especially difficult in affluent communities like these.

“In communities where there are quite a large number of well-educated and successful people, you find they want to get involved in the process, they want to exhaust every option and use every tool they can,” she said.

“People who are more successful get used to influencing their lives,” she said.

While Gobalet was satisfied with the district’s choice — “it will work,” she said — she added there was no perfect solution for the community, based on the distribution of students and the locations of the school sites.

A common theme among speakers Monday night was the need to look into creating another school in the north of El Camino area. Several suggested converting the Egan Camp site, located at Egan Junior High School, into an elementary school.

Board member Margot Harrigan warned against that path because, she said, it would diminish the quality of the junior high school at Egan, and would create an unfair imbalance between the Egan and Blach in the district.

“Let’s not get too far down the



MARJAN SADOUGHI

Board member David Pefley speaks during the five-hour board meeting to determine boundary adjustments.

road,” she said. “Let’s work with what we have.”

Harrigan also said there was no way the district could afford to buy enough land — about 16 acres — north of El Camino for a new elementary school, but board member Goines disagreed.

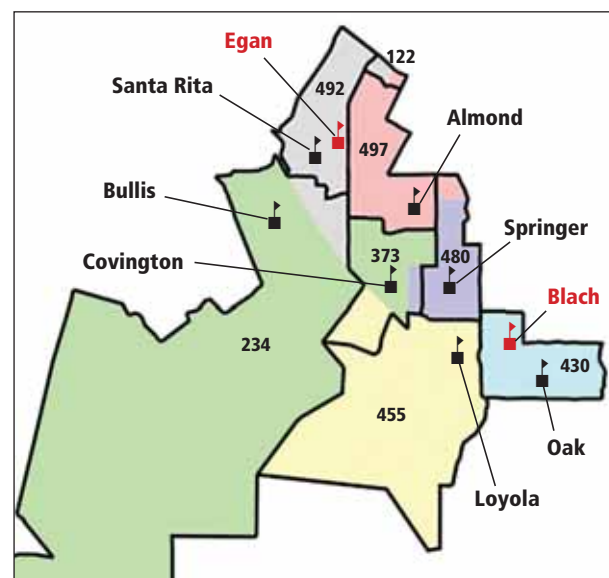
“It would cost about fifty million,” he said, adding that the district would need a new parcel tax to generate the funds.

“We should rule it out only if we think the voters wouldn’t support it,” he said.

The board has agreed to allow a task force to be formed to study that issue. For now, the district is going ahead with a traffic study of Scenario 2.3, the results of which will be released in the fall.

The board did not line up a backup scenario, and members were confident that Scenario 2.3 will pass muster in the traffic study.

“We’ve put this community through enough,” Cooper said. “It’s going to work. It’s obviously not perfect for everyone, but parents can know their kids will still be going to great schools.”



This map of Scenario 2.3 shows how 122 students would switch to Covington, bringing its enrollment to 495 students.

E-mail
Alexa Tondreau
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Mars beckons local teacher, students

By Alexa Tondreau

Mountain View High School physics teacher Stephen Widmark and students Caitlin Wright and Moiz Mian have been assigned a special mission — to Mars.

Widmark and the students were selected recently to participate in NASA's Phoenix Student Intern Program (PSIP). Over the coming year they will work alongside scientists and engineers at the NASA-Ames facility in Mountain View on the Phoenix Mars Mission, which launches this August.

The team will be working with Dr. Carol Stoker of NASA-Ames Research Center to learn the geology of Mars, the mechanics of the lander, and the software needed to analyze the data that will be sent to Earth during the mission.

Widmark, who said he has always been "very, very interested in space exploration," chose the students for their interest in science and engineering and their contributions in his classroom.

"Moiz is a very studious science student and Caitlin will bring a lot of energy," Widmark said.

"We're here to try to aid Dr. Stoker for whatever tasks she wants help with," Widmark continued.

The team will spend one week in residence at the University of Arizona in Tucson, working in the Science Operations Center with their scientist mentor and participating in the day-to-day operations of the lander.

After the summer, the students will return to school and share what it's like to work on a Mars mission, using presentations, Webcasts and publications.

"We hope they can bring the excitement of the project and the learning back to other people," said Cassie Bowman, the project coordinator at NASA-Ames.

The program is designed to give high school students and teachers active experience in the areas of science, engineering, mathematics and technology. Thirteen teams, each consisting of one teacher and two students, were selected from across the country following a national application process. ■

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■ OBITUARIES

HENDERSON T. CHAMBLISS

Henderson T. "Pete" Chambliss, Sr., a World War II veteran who flew submarine blimp patrols out of Moffett Field, died June 10 in Sunnyvale. He was 89.

Born in Texas, Chambliss served in the U.S. Navy during WWII as a blimp pilot, flying submarine patrols and training fellow pilots. He was stationed at Moffett Field, and at the end of the war decided to stay in Mountain View and raise a family with his wife Beth.

Chambliss, a native Texan, was a proud descendant of George Washington and a member of the George Washington Society. He was also a member of the Lighter Than Air Society of Akron, Ohio.

He is survived by his two daughters Karen and Margaret; his three sons Tom, John and Robert; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held June 18. Donations may be made to Wildlife Rescue, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, 94303.

ROBERT PAUL LEONARD

Robert Paul Leonard, a World War II veteran and Lockheed engineer, died June 13. He was 80.

A Washington native, Leonard loved telling stories of his boyhood escapades in the Scouts and his adventures in the Navy during World War II. He moved to Mountain View in 1956 with his wife Zeta and their three small children, and they eventually raised a family of nine children.

With an engineering degree from Oregon State University, he soon landed a job at Lockheed, becoming one of the company's first 300 engineers. For the next 36 years, he worked on the Agena and Gemini spacecraft pro-

grams, the C-5 Aircraft, and the Deep Water Rescue Submarine.

He is survived by his wife Zeta; their children Stephen, Thomas, Daniel, Kathleen, Robert James, William, John, Paul and Sarah; 21 grandchildren; and his brothers Raymond and Theodore and his sisters Mary Joe and Anne.

Visitations began Wednesday at Cusimano Family Colonial Mortuary, 96 W. El Camino Real, Mountain View. A Funeral Mass was scheduled for Thursday at 9:30 a.m. at St. Joseph's Church, 582 Hope St., followed by Interment at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Los Altos.

Contributions may be made to the Serra Club, PO Box 4637, Mountain View, 94040; and Brothers of Holy Cross, 1885 Miramonte Ave., Mountain View, 94040.

DORIS DANIELSON

Doris Danielson, a 40-year resident of Los Altos, died on June 7 in Nevada City, Calif.

For many years Danielson was actively involved at Foothill Covenant Church as a member of the choir and as a Sunday school teacher. In the last few years she was also very active with the Friends of the Los Altos Library. She loved spending time with her children and being "Grammy" to her grandchildren.

Danielson is survived by her brother Curt; by her three children Laurie, David and Lisa; and by her six grandchildren. Her husband Peter died 13 years ago.

A memorial service and celebration of Danielson's life will be held on Saturday, June 23, at 11 a.m. at Foothill Covenant Church, 1555 Oak Ave., Los Altos, 94024. (Call (650) 967 7447 for more information.)

Memorial donations can be made to the Friends of the Los Altos Library or to Foothill Covenant Church.

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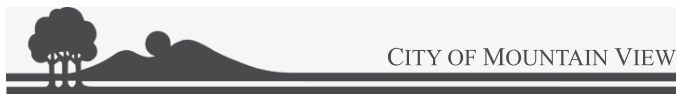
Hydrant Flushing

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



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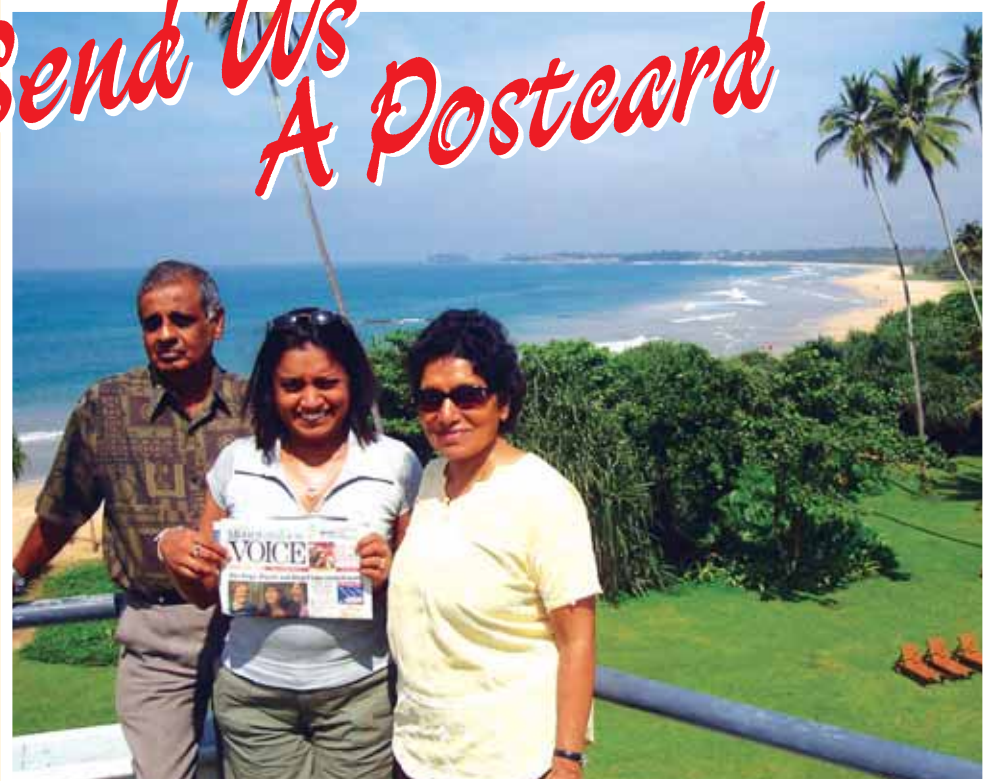


Photo of Nishani Fonseka and her parents enjoying the seaside in Bentota, Sri Lanka.

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.

GANGS

► Continued from page 1

guess,” said police spokesperson Liz Wylie. “Busts like that really help combat gang activity.”

Only two of the alleged robbers grew up in Mountain View, but Wylie said the others were considered to be major “shot callers” among the Surenos here. The adult suspects include Alan Martinez, Chris Kramer and Juan Luna from Santa Clara; Ricardo Fitz and Cruz Magana from Mountain View; and Ramon

Ortiz and Carlos Barrera of Los Altos. The district attorney’s office said there may be juveniles involved in the case as well, but no details were available by press time.

“I can tell you they don’t always live in the same place,” said David Boyd, head of the district attorney’s gang unit. He said the DA’s office considers them to be hardened criminals, adding that Magana is being held in San Mateo County on attempted murder.

In December and January, police believe, the gang was

responsible for 14 robberies in Santa Clara, Sunnyvale, Milpitas, San Jose and Mountain View where zip ties were used to tie up store clerks. Three of the robberies in December took place in Mountain View, including one at Las Mustaches Aquaria on Old Middlefield Road: After tying up the store employee, they also approached a son of the store owner in the parking lot, locked him in the trunk of his own car, and stole his stereo speakers and amplifiers.

Police say it was easy to link the crimes because of video surveil-

lance and suspect descriptions. They say two of the suspects had stolen property in their possession at the time of arrest. Once the first suspects were apprehended, police were able to track down the others, Wylie said, using databases which keep track of gang members and who their fellow gang members are.

Preliminary hearings have been held in the case, but a trial isn’t expected for several months.

Serious gang crimes declining this year

While lesser gang crimes such as vandalism are up slightly this year, more serious gang crimes are down slightly. From January to May, city records show, there were six reported cases of serious gang crime — compared to nine during the same period last year.

Police define a gang crime as an incident done “specifically for the purposes of the gang,” Wylie said, which means it can’t simply be a crime done by an individual gang member.

Another way police define crimes is in two categories: “Part I” — which includes more violent crimes such as homicide, rape and burglary — and “Part II” — which includes nonviolent crimes such as fraud, vandalism and prostitution.

Looking at only Part I crimes, police say that out of 2,858 reported in 2006, the most significant gang crimes were 11 assaults with a deadly weapon, one felony battery (a gang fight), and three robberies. That’s not a

large fraction compared to the total crime statistics for 2006, which included 533 assaults and 71 robberies that year.

Other gang crimes from 2006 include two “brandishing a weapon” incidents and a school fight at Terra Bella Academy. An example of a common but less serious gang crime would be vandalism or graffiti.

Police say crime in general is down this year compared to last. Serious violent crimes have averaged 167 a month in the first three months of 2007, compared to 256 a month for the first three months of 2006 — a 35 percent drop.

Despite these numbers, less serious gang crime is up slightly so far this year. There were 21 gang crimes from January to April of 2007, but during the same period in 2006 there were only 17.

How much the alleged zip-tie robbers’ arrests have to do with the decrease in serious gang crime is a matter of speculation. But Mountain View police hope to see a noticeable effect for many years to come.

Because the suspects are facing so many robbery charges with gang enhancements, “They may not be in our city for decades,” Wylie said, “which will be great for our crime rate. These were some of the shot-callers.” ■

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

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■ **CRIME STATISTICS**

CRIMES IN 2006:

Robberies:	71
Assaults:	533
Weapons Offenses:	42
Total, including all other crimes:	6,438

GANG-RELATED CRIMES IN 2006:

Robberies:	3
Assaults:	13
Weapons offenses:	4
Total, including all other gang-related crimes:	67

TOTAL GANG RELATED INCIDENTS, JANUARY TO APRIL

In 2006:	17
In 2007:	21

For more crime statistics, see www.ci.mtnview.ca.us/city_hall/police/crime_prevention/crime_statistics.asp

Source: Mountain View Police Department

The new face of the MVPD

FORMER DETECTIVE LIZ WYLIE TAKES OVER AS COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICER

By Daniel DeBolt

Starting this month, the Mountain View Police Department has a new public relations pro — former detective Liz Wylie.

Wylie is no stranger to the department — she recently turned in her gun and badge after serving as an MVPD detective for two years and a patrol officer for two years before that. Wylie said she would have happily continued as a detective working on sexual assault cases, but the Mountain View department, like many small police departments, only allows officers to be detectives for four years before rotating out.

“If I could have done it for the rest of my life I would have done it,” Wylie said, adding that “it makes you a much better police officer.”

When longtime community relations officer Jim Bennett announced he was leaving the department last year to move with his family to Oregon, the job opportunity immediately sparked Wylie’s interest, in part because she has a public relations background.

It also encompasses the things she likes about working as a public servant, Wylie said, including her expertise as a cop and what she calls the “touchy feely stuff” — “reaching out to people.”

She also said she wants to start a family soon, and a 9-to-5 desk job seemed to suit that goal a little better.

While many will no doubt get to know her by her quotes in the *Voice*, Wylie’s role as police spokesperson will only be part of the job. She will also manage dozens of department volunteers and educate the public at information booths, school visits and in classes, such as the one the department holds on women’s safety. She will also be responsible for checking building plans for safety requirements.

To prepare for the new role, she attended a four-day boot camp for police public information officers, and spent a month working with Bennett. She also happens to have a degree in communications from Boston University, the “best communications school in the country,” she said.



Liz Wylie

Wylie said she decided to become a police officer sometime after meeting her husband in what was supposed to be a short stay in California after college. She’s lived here ever since.

“Mountain View was the only place I applied,” she said about becoming an officer. Before that she worked at a public relations firm in Mountain View, where she realized she didn’t like corporate life. “It just isn’t rewarding,” she said.

Being the police spokesperson is quite a change from her public relations days, when she used to pitch stories to newspaper editors and reporters who often were “mean” when they didn’t have time to hear about something they weren’t interested in.

Now she deals in information and services that are important to local residents. Wylie seemed excited about the opportunity and said she was ready to hold the job “forever.”

In her previous role in the department, Wylie kept track of the city’s sex offenders under Megan’s Law, a delicate neighborhood issue which she is passionate about. She said she often tells people to be careful not to drive sex offenders from their neighborhoods, because then they often become homeless, more difficult to track and are more likely to offend again.

Despite her new role, Wylie said she would be open to talking to concerned residents about sex offenders, at least until her replacement learns the ropes. ■

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

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■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

Good value in child care center

Acknowledging that the cost of child care is pushing far out of reach for many of the city's low-income families, the City Council last week took a compassionate view of a \$1.9 million cost overrun for the proposed child care center, keeping the idea on track, at least until bids are received for the project.

When passed by the council in 2004, the child care center proposal was criticized for its high cost and lack of subsidized spaces for low-income families. While the cost has risen above expectations, we believe it is still worthwhile given the payoff: providing a good, modern facility where working families can drop off their kids without worry.

The shocking fact in any discussion about building new space for child care is the tremendous cost per seat. The latest projections estimate the new center will cost \$5.3 million, or about \$500,000 per student space, and that is before contractors have even been asked to bid. One thing in the project's financial favor is the use of modular building units. The city estimates that the construction cost will be about \$285 per square foot, compared to more than \$400 per square foot if the center was built from scratch at the site.

The building's design and location, nestled in the trees at Rengstorff Park next to the Senior Center, is a reflection of the site and other constraints at the park. The odd-shaped site has been designed to accommodate a large heritage oak tree in a courtyard, although three walnut trees, said to be diseased, will be cut down. But the floor plan for the 9,000-plus-square-foot center is functional and will offer distinct spaces for the various age groups of the students it serves.

The center's financial plan includes a 1 percent loan of \$2.9 million from the Packard Foundation that can be paid down using the \$200,000 a year in fees paid by the provider for the first eight years. At that point, the city will face a balloon payment for the remainder of the loan. As noted by council member Margaret Abe-Koga at last week's meeting, "We're not going into a deficit to do this."

Due to the rapidly rising cost of just about any new construction, and particularly fully approved spaces for child care, it will no doubt by quite a few years before another project like this comes along. The council did the right thing in approving this project, even though the cost seems high now. We hope the bids come in near the project's cost estimate. If they do, the price undoubtedly will look like a bargain five or 10 years from now.

As for the issue of subsidized spaces, the city must work to guarantee that this facility is most useful to those who need it most.

■ LETTERS VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

RED CROSS VOLUNTEERS DESERVE KUDOS, SUPPORT

Editor:

I salute the eight Red Cross volunteers who responded to displaced residents following the nighttime Church Street fire on June 11. They made sure that the immediate, emergency needs were met, including lodging, food, medication and clothing. Red Cross volunteer and retired nurse and Mountain View resident Rada Ford is working with the family of the woman hospitalized as a result of the fire.

One of our volunteers is working with the Community Services Agency to provide a bridge from immediate, emergency needs to those of a longer-term nature. This disaster response partnership was forged in June 2006 in the aftermath of the Latham Court fire, which displaced 47 people from 18 families.

The June 11 fire was the 10th since July 1, 2006. Two of the Mountain View fire volunteers had led the response team for the fatal fire in which an elderly woman died on June 5 in Palo Alto. Our trained and dedicated volunteers are on call 24/7 to respond to residential fires in Mountain View, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Palo Alto, Stanford and Moffett.

These disaster response services are provided free of charge to our clients. The services are supported through the generosity of the American people. Our chapter receives no govern-

ment funding and no funding from the National Red Cross. If you would like to make a contribution to our local disaster response, please visit our Web site at www.paarc.org or call (650) 688-0425.

Trish Bubenik
Executive Director,
Palo Alto Area Chapter,
American Red Cross

THANKS FOR EFFORTS TO PRESERVE FARM

Editor:

On behalf of the Mountain View Farmlands Group, I would like to thank the Voice for supporting the concept of a working farm in Mountain View, which would honor our agricultural heritage, offer locally grown produce, provide an opportunity for children to see where food comes from, and serve the entire community as a visual and open space amenity.

We'd like to thank the several hundred Mountain View residents who gave time, money, letters and petition signatures, as well as groups such as Fairview Gardens, Full Circle Farms, Bon Appetit, Google Cafe, the Sierra Club and the Mountain View Chamber of Commerce. We especially thank current and past council members Ronit Bryant and Mike Kasperzak for supporting the study of our proposal.

Robin Iwai
Carmelita Drive

► Continued on next page



■ GUEST OPINION

Some final thoughts on the Grant Road farm vote

COUNCIL DEMONSTRATED A LACK OF VISION IN ITS DECISION TO DEVELOP THE PROPERTY

By Denise Sacks

I wish to share the following thoughts, as I did with the City Council following its June 5 meeting to decide the fate of the farm on Grant Road.

After attending that meeting, where the council voted 6-1 to zone for developing the last large plot of agricultural land in Mountain View, I have the following issues I would like to put to Mountain View residents:

■ The very important point and underlying fact that I did not hear addressed by any member of the council is that this is currently, and has been for a long time, agricultural land. Thus it is special. And this is the reason why it's the best place to have a farm in Mountain View. Healthy soil is the basis for growing things, and takes much time and care to develop.

■ Another point that I did not hear addressed is that all the owners of homes around the farm bought their homes when there was agricultural land at this spot. So rather than "No Farm," the slogan "Develop the Farm" would have been more accurate.

■ Yet another point, which was not brought up at all, is consideration of factors that are "priceless." The economic models presented did not factor in those costs and benefits which cannot be measured in dollars. The following benefits, if factored in, put farmland in a city at "priceless" value: connection to food for children, local food for com-

munity, beauty of the space, benefit to birds and other wildlife in the area, to name just a few.

■ Finally, consideration of creative and alternative funding possibilities for maintaining a portion of the current farmland were not given a chance to burgeon — for example, a public fund where individuals could contribute and grants could be sought.

With these above-described themes left out of the debate on June 5, I am left with a sense that this council does not represent the values that I hold dear. In addition, I believe that the pressure of the homeowners around the land in question caused the council to limit its vision.

I do appreciate the move to consider developing a farm somewhere in Mountain View, but again this does not address the loss of good agricultural soil to single-family dwellings.

The zoning that has been given to the land does not allow for much else than large plots and large homes, so those issues concerning "high density" or "affordable housing" or any other services for the greater community are now also lost.

After attending that council meeting, it has become clear that the kind of vision that resulted in projects like Shoreline Park is not alive in our city now.

Denise Sacks lives on Creeden Way.

► Continued from previous page

CASTRO SIDEWALKS ARE DANGEROUS

Editor:

Every time that I am downtown I feel unsafe walking on Castro sidewalks. The design is extremely poor, with the 3-inch drop step which is not marked. It is simply there, and one has to be careful and aware of it in order to not fall.

It is very, very dangerous, and many times I have had to pay special attention so as not to fall. The city should look into that drop-off, as it is liable to really cause a terrible accident.

I advise, in the meantime, that a yellow, white or red strip be painted on the edge of the walk to signal the sudden drop-off. That strip could save someone a broken leg or hip.

Luz Guerra
S. Rengstorff Avenue

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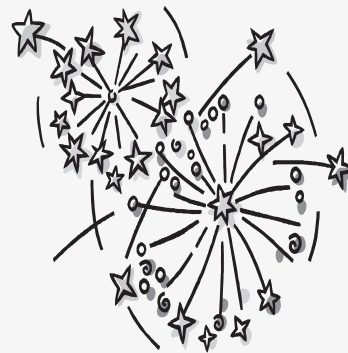
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Sidewalk seating at Tour Eiffel, a French and Vietnamese restaurant at the corner of Third and State Street in downtown Los Altos.

■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

Joie de vivre

TOUR EIFFEL OFFERS VIETNAMESE AND FRENCH DISHES WITH CASUAL COMPETENCE

By Elaine M. Rowland

Years ago, you could dine atop the Eiffel Tower in Paris, overlooking the grandest of views. The restaurant building eventually found its way to New Orleans, where it now houses the Culinary Institute of New Orleans.

If that sounds too far afield, you might instead try Tour Eiffel in Los Altos. The interior, with its stone fireplace and overhead timbers, may seem more Alpine than Gallic, but the French influence is there on the menu. Call it old-fashioned Asian fusion.

This small, low-key restaurant

easily fills its 14 or so indoor tables, and at least some of the half-dozen sidewalk tables, during the week-day lunch rush. Businessmen, fiscally endowed "O.C." fans, single diners and Los Altos moms freed of kids for the afternoon all rub elbows in this après-ski-looking place at Third and State.

In fact, lunch hour seemed to push the wait staff slightly beyond capacity. There were several abrupt return trips to confirm my order (better than getting the wrong food, but my order had been written down originally), no water offered, and slow table bussing. Still the cooks in the back were appar-

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ently unfazed, because the food was very good.

The lunch menu offered quiches, puff pastries, crepes and — if you choose to include them — French roll sandwiches. Although appetizers are limited to types of “egg rolls,” they are indeed mighty fine. Tour Eiffel’s vegetarian egg rolls (\$5.50) are frequently called “spring rolls” on other restaurant menus. They are smaller than a typical Chinese egg roll, immaculately wrapped and fried, and so savory you’d swear there was something meatier than mushroom and tofu in there. At lunch you can order a single roll (\$2.15), or go for the regular order of three.

The lunch menu differs from the dinner menu by featuring more French-influenced dishes, as well as vermicelli dishes and pho. The beef and chicken vermicelli (\$7.95) — clear rice noodles with large pieces of tender chicken and beef — is a disarmingly simple-looking dish that’s richly flavorful: savory, and a tiny bit sweet.

Dining at Tour Eiffel on a weeknight is a very different experience. Quaint little State Street dies a quiet death. Service is more relaxed (not to be confused with lax), and the food is still great.

The fresh salad rolls (\$5.50), a.k.a. “summer rolls,” are light and fresh, and not fried like their better-known cousins, egg rolls. Prawns, clear noodles, mint and other herbs

are rolled up in soft rice paper and served chilled, with a hoisin sauce. Great summer food.

The dinner menu includes clay pot dishes such as sautéed rice with chicken. This was the only food I tried that was a little greasy, but not so oily as to be off-putting. The recipe, too, was deceptively simple-looking — firm rice, green onions and a modest amount of tender chicken — yet the rich flavor had as much character as the clay pot it arrived in. At \$11.95, it’s a glorified rice dish, but that’s Silicon Valley living for you.

With no pho available at dinner, I went for a chicken sweet-and-sour soup in a clay pot (\$11.95). It was very sweet (using pineapple), and slightly sour, with lots of broth and not a lot of chicken. Still, I liked it. It’s the first time I’d eaten taro in a non-poi format, and was surprised at its sweetness. Along with the spongy-looking (but not spongy-tasting) sliced taro, the soup also had bean sprouts.

And what’s Vietnamese food without tamarind? So we tried the Tamarind Prawns (\$12.95). Usually, what restaurants call “prawns” are a little larger, stiffer and fishier tasting than shrimp. The ones at Tour Eiffel were pretty big, but tender like shrimp. They may have been prawn in flavor, but I didn’t notice it under the

► See **TOUR EIFFEL**, page 24

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TOUR EIFFEL

► Continued from page 23

heavily seasoned, slightly sweet tamarind sauce. Another good choice for dinner.

It's interesting to note the contrast between flashy restaurants (designed by consultants creating a comprehensive style, from waiters' dress, to the menu, to lighting and design), and restaurants run by individuals who focus more on the food than the ambience. As one of the latter, Tour Eiffel seems more French than any of the Peninsula's Left Bank bistros. Maybe it's not the tile floors and casual flower accents here so much as the irrelevant Alpine interior — as if the whole tidily incongruous look was shrugged off with a, "Well, let's get back to the food now, shall we?"

Unlike dining in France, however, you won't be dizzied by the alcohol list: two house wines (\$5.25 a glass), a few beers (like Saigon, \$2.95), and otherwise an emphasis on tea and non-alcoholic drinks.

There don't seem to be lunch specials, per se, but entree prices are lower on the lunch menu than dinner menu. It's not "cheap eats," but not expensive either, at least not by Los Altos standards. ▀



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MOVIE TIMES

- 1408 (PG-13)** (Not Reviewed)
Century 16: 12:30, 3, 5:30, 8 & 10:30 p.m.
Century 20: 11:25 a.m.; 12:30, 1:55, 3, 4:25, 5:30, 7, 8:05, 9:35 & 10:40 p.m.
- 28 WEEKS LATER (R)** (Not Reviewed)
Century 20: 12:20, 3:05, 5:35, 8:05 & 10:30 p.m.
- A MIGHTY HEART (R)** ★★1/2
Century 16: 11:15 a.m.; 1:50, 4:30, 7:10 & 9:45 p.m.
Century 20: 11:20 a.m.; 12:15, 2, 2:50, 4:40, 5:25, 7:15, 8, 9:50 & 10:35 p.m.
- EVAN ALMIGHTY (PG)** ★★
Century 16: 11:20 a.m.; 12:10, 1:40, 2:30, 4:05, 5:10, 7, 7:50, 9:25 & 10:15 p.m.
Century 12: Noon, 12:40, 1:20, 2, 2:40, 3:20, 4, 4:40, 5:20, 6, 6:40, 7:20, 8, 8:40, 9:20, 10 & 10:30 p.m.
- FANTASTIC FOUR: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER (PG)** ★★ ★★
Century 16: 11:10 & 11:45 a.m.; 12:20, 12:55, 1:35, 2:15, 2:45, 3:20, 4, 4:35, 5:05, 5:45, 6:25, 6:55, 7:35, 8:10, 8:50, 9:20, 10 & 10:30 p.m.
Century 12: 12:20, 1, 1:40, 2:20, 3, 3:40, 4:20, 5, 5:40, 6:20, 7, 7:40, 8:20, 9, 9:40 & 10:10 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 & 7:35 p.m.
- HOSTEL PART II (R)** (Not Reviewed)
Century 12: 10:15 p.m.
- HOT FUZZ (R)** ★★ ★★ **Century 20:** 11:35 a.m.; 2:15, 5, 7:45 & 10:25 p.m.
- KNOCKED UP (R)** ★★ ★1/2
Century 16: 1:10, 4:10, 7:15 & 10:20 p.m.
Century 20: 11:45 a.m.; 1:30, 2:45, 4:30, 5:50, 7:30, 8:50 & 10:25 p.m.
- LA VIE EN ROSE (PG-13)** ★★ ★★ **Guild:** 1, 3:45, 6:40 & 9:30 p.m.
- MR. BROOKS (R)** ★★ ★★ **Century 12:** 7:30 & 10:20 p.m.
- THE NAMESAKE (PG-13)** ★★ ★★
Century 20: 1:25, 4:15, 7:20 & 10:20 p.m.
- NANCY DREW (PG)** ★1/2
Century 16: 11:30 a.m.; 2, 4:25, 6:50 & 9:15 p.m.
Century 20: 11:30 a.m.; 12:45, 1:55, 3:15, 4:20, 5:40, 6:55, 8:10, 9:20 & 10:35 p.m.
- OCEAN'S THIRTEEN (PG-13)** ★★ ★★
Century 16: 11 a.m.; 1, 1:55, 3:55, 4:50, 7:05, 7:45, 9:55 & 10:35 p.m.
Century 20: 11:15 a.m.; 12:05, 12:50, 2, 2:50, 3:40, 4:50, 5:40, 6:35, 7:40, 8:30, 9:30 & 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 p.m.; Fri. & Sat. also at 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 a.m.; 2:35, 6:30 & 10:05 p.m.
Century 12: 11:50 a.m.; 1:10, 3:30, 4:50, 7:50 & 9:10 p.m.
- SHREK THE THIRD (PG)** ★★ ★★1/2
Century 16: 11:25 a.m.; 1:45, 4:15, 6:45 & 9:10 p.m.
Century 20: 11:15 a.m.; noon, 1:35, 2:25, 3:55, 4:45, 6:15, 7:10, 8:40 & 9:40 p.m.
- SPIDER-MAN 3 (PG-13)** ★★ ★1/2
Century 20: 12:35, 3:50, 7 & 10:10 p.m.
- SURF'S UP (PG)** ★★ ★★
Century 16: 11:05 a.m.; 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 6:55, 7:55 & 10:05 p.m.
Century 12: 12:20, 12:50, 2:30, 3:50, 4:45, 7:10 & 9:30 p.m.
- WAITRESS (PG-13)** ★★ ★★
Century 20: 11:20 a.m.; 1:50, 4:35, 7:25 & 10 p.m.
Palo Alto Square: 1:30, 4:15 & 7 p.m.; Fri. & Sat. also at 9:45 p.m.

Note: Screenings are for Friday through Tuesday only.

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- ★ 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

FANTASTIC FOUR: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER ★★ ★★

(Century 12, Century 16) Life has gotten a tad too Hollywood for the Fantastic Four. Despite scientific breakthroughs by the brilliant Reed Richards (Ioan Gruffudd), the buzz around town is centered instead on his upcoming wedding to Sue Storm (Jessica Alba). Meanwhile, Johnny Storm (Chris Evans) lands endorsement deals as the Human Torch and Ben Grimm (Michael Chiklis as The Thing) enjoys a blossoming relationship with girlfriend Alicia (Kerry Washington). Too bad there's a cloud-gliding stranger in the city to toss a cosmic wrench into Reed's and Sue's romantic plans. The Silver Surfer (voiced by Laurence Fishburne) zips across the skies like a comet, sparking environmental anomalies and creating massive craters in the Earth at every turn. With frightened citizens wondering if God's wrath is upon them, the U.S. government enlists the aid of Richards and crew to stop the mysterious Surfer. "Rise" is exactly what a superhero movie should be: an entertaining, family-friendly popcorn flick with even doses of humor, heroism and heart. *Rated: PG for sequences of action violence, some mild language and innuendo.* 1 hour, 29 minutes. — T.H.

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.

LA VIE EN ROSE ★★ ★★

(Guild) Marion Cotillard burns down the house as France's gifted but self-destructive superstar Edith Piaf. Piaf wasn't called "Little Sparrow" for nothing; her lilting voice made the angels weep. But the psychological damage from a dysfunctional upbringing left scars that would impact the rest of her life. Raised by alcoholic parents and left to her own devices at her grandmother's dreary brothel, a rejected Edith knew plenty of hard times. Ultimately she hoped to leave her harrowing past behind and struck out on her own, singing in the streets for paltry francs. Piaf's star rose astronomically, but not without the whiff of scandal. Cotillard manages to embody all of Piaf's agonizing glory, from her staggering talent to the frivolous martyrdom and stunning flaws. As arresting as Cotillard's performance is, her movie is a tousled biopic both bleak and

► Continued on next page

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► *Continued from previous page*
disturbing, a lengthy bad dream that wrings out every drop of sympathy and sentiment. *Rated: PG-13 for unsettling themes and language. In French with English subtitles. 2 hours, 20 minutes.* — J.A.

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.

NANCY DREW ★1/2
(Century 16, Century 20) Regardless of the revisions Nancy Drew has undergone since debuting in the 1930s, the plucky teen detective has always been associated with a good mystery story. But director Andrew Fleming doesn't have a clue about successfully adapting this beloved franchise to the big screen. Emma Roberts plays the title character with winsome charm. The story takes Nancy and her attorney father (Tate Donovan) from their fictional hometown of River Heights to Los Angeles. Although the devoted daughter has allegedly sworn off the sleuthing business, the Drews have rented a dilapidated mansion that comes with a scary caretaker and a story: Former owner Dehlia Draycott (Laura Harring), a famous movie star, died there under mysterious circumstances. Nancy explains every cliched development immediately after the fact to make sure the audience gets it. Worse yet, the tale of a secret pregnancy and greedy showbiz types may not be the best subject matter for the PG crowd. Similar to the books, the movie ends with news of Nancy's next case. Let's hope the sequel sticks to mystery instead of spending

time on super-spy heroics and convincing everyone that a good-girl detective can be cool. *Rated: PG for mild violence, thematic elements and brief language. 1 hour, 30 minutes.* — S.T.

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 retreat 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 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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■ 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, 7:30pm, Th-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 2, 7pm. \$20-56
TheatreWorks at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. www.theatreworks.org

SPECIAL EVENTS

5TH ANNUAL PALO ALTO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GOLF TOURNAMENT Cocktail Reception and Auction to follow. Register today to play. Golf scramble format played. Monday, June 25, 10 a.m. \$250 per player; \$1,000 per foursome, \$35 Cocktail Reception; \$30 in advance. Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce, 122 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto. Call 650-324-3121. www.paloaltochamber.com

DESIGNER SHOWCASE HOUSE TOUR The Jewel in the Hills Showcase Tour, held to benefit the senior pet adoption program at the Humane Society Silicon Valley. Tue.-Sat., May 25-July 6, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. \$30/\$20 students and seniors. Canada College lot # 3, 4200 Farm Hill Blvd., Redwood City. Call 995-7141. www.seniorpetadoption.com

FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION A celebration of the Fourth of July with a BBQ luncheon and entertainment by songwriter Wiley Rankin. All are welcome. Purchase tickets by June 22. Wed., July 4, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. \$12 members, \$17.50 non-members. PV Inc Little House, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-326-2025. www.peninsulavolunteers.org

SUMMER FUN SALE Sale hosted by 300 families. Quality, slightly used bikes, outdoor toys, wading pools, beach equipment, camping gear, garden supplies, DVDs and more. Sunday, June 24, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Congregation Etz Chayim, 4161 Alma St., Palo Alto. www.EtzChayim.org/SummerFun

TOWNFEST CHAMBER BUSINESS MIXER Join the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce for its annual all-member meeting. Prospective members welcome. Wednesday, June 27, 5:30-7 p.m. \$10.00 Members and \$15.00 Non-Members. Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce, 122 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-324-3121. www.paloaltochamber.com

ART GALLERIES

"DOPPELGANGER" A GROUP SHOW BY GERMAN AMERICAN ARTISTS Exhibit explores influences of Germany and America. On display Thu.-Sun. through July 15, 1-5 p.m. Free. 1870 Art Center Gallery, 1870 Ralston Ave., Belmont. Call 650-261-1086. www.1870artcenter.org

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.

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, Reception for the Artists will be held June 1, 7-10 pm. 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Free. Modernbook Gallery, 494 University Ave., Palo Alto. www.modernbook.com/exhibitions.html

LF CONTEMPORARY ART GALLERY Featuring work by established and emerging artists Hank Buckholdt, Lea Feinstein, Gretchen Frank and William Lynam. Through July 31 (open Thursdays, 5-7 p.m., first Fridays 6-8 p.m., and by appointment). Free. LF Contemporary Art, 825 Emerson St., Palo Alto. Call 650-743-0852.

PLEIN AIR & BEYOND Outdoor oils and other paintings by mural artist Erin Tajime Castelan are currently on display through July 7, 7-9 p.m. Free. Avalon Art & Yoga Center, 370 California Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-424-9363. web.mac.com/tajime

SIMULTANEOUS SHOWS "Invincible Summer," mixed media by Lois Parks DeCastro and cast acrylic monotypes by Jeannine Redon. Through July 1. Artist's reception with Lois Parks DeCastro June 16 and 20, noon-3 p.m. Free. The Main Gallery, 1018 Main St., Red-

wood City. www.themainingallery.org

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

LET FREE.DOM RING "Let Free.dom 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

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

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.commongroundinpalalto.org

GERMAN LANGUAGE CLASS Conversation, reading, writing, basic grammar and Germanic culture will be covered. This course is meant for those wanting basic communication skills for use with friends and relatives and/or for business, travel and everyday purposes. Tuesdays, June 19-July 17, 7-9:15 p.m. \$62. Palo Alto High School, Room 404, Embarcadero Road at El Camino Real, Palo Alto. Call 650-329-3752.

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

REMIX 07 SILICON VALLEY Due to the sold-out status of MIX07 last month, Microsoft has decided to 'ReMIX' with a twist right here in the Silicon Valley. Fri., Jun. 22. 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Microsoft Silicon Valley Campus, 1065 La Avenida, Mountain View. <http://www.underthedaradblog.com/remix07.html>

SATURDAY PRENATAL YOGA CLASS The practice of yoga enhances awareness of the



"FALLING APART," 1995: OIL ON CANVAS, 44X36", BY FRANCES MCCORMACK

PALO ALTO ART CENTER: SUMMER 2007 EXHIBITIONS

"From The Ground Up: Painting, Process & the Garden - Frances McCormack"; "Photography: Beyond Botanica"; "Renee Adams: Under Fragile Skies." June 21-Sept. 9, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (Tue.-Sat.); 1-5 p.m. (Sun.); 7-9 p.m. (Thu). Free. Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-329-2366. www.paacf.org

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

SUMMER WATERCOLOR PAINTING CLASS Learn watercolor techniques while experimenting with ways to paint landscapes, still life and figures. Mondays through July 23, 9 a.m.-noon. \$55 members; \$60 non-members. PV Inc. Little House, Garden Room, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-326-2025, ext. 230. www.peninsulavolunteers.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 discussion 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

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

YOGA AT ALL SAINTS Small-group, meditative Kundalini yoga classes held every in the All Saints' Church Parish Hall. Drop-ins welcome, no sign-up necessary. Through Aug. 25, 8-9 a.m. \$5/person. All Saints' Episcopal Church - Parish Hall, 555 Waverley Street, Palo Alto. Call 650-322-4528. www.asaints.org/parish-life/activities/yoga.html

CLUBS/MEETINGS

MID PENINSULA WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS ASSOCIATION Nonprofit, 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

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

CREATING GREAT COMMUNITIES Join us for a workshop on creating great new neighborhoods in the South Bay. The day will include a "Smart Growth Scavenger Hunt." Sat., June 30, 12-4 p.m. Free. King of Krung Siam Restaurant, 194 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 415-543-6771.

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

MENTAL HEALTH FORUM An expert panel will discuss county mental health cuts and expected impacts. Speakers: Veronica Tincher (Mental Health Board), Navah Statman (NAMI), Nancy Pena (Director, county Mental Health Dept). Martin Gorfinkel (Mental Health Board) will moderate. Audience questions will be answered. Mon. June 25, 7-9 p.m. None Mountain View City Council Chambers, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-856-7430.

WOMEN'S WEALTH COMMUNITY - CREDIT EDUCATION WWC June and July presentations will focus on credit usage. Speaker: Paul Leary, credit specialist for Credit Line Financial. Reading credit reports, tri-merged report, credit card secrets. Thu., June 28, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free. for first time guests, or \$25 for non-members. St. Timothy's Church, Edwards Hall, 2094 Grant Road, Mountain View. Call 650-960-8229. womenswealthcommunity.com

FAMILY AND KIDS

GUITAR FOR KIDS Learn to play guitar this summer. Kids ages 6-15 are welcome. Classes will be divided by age and levels. Weekly meetings with flexible summer schedule. Small groups. June 25-July 30, 4:15-5:15 p.m. Monthly \$60 278 Hope Street, Mountain View. Call 650-306-0332.

SENIORS

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 posture and the art of stretching for good health. Thu., June 28. 1-2:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6330.

VOLUNTEERS

CAMINO MEDICAL GROUP Camino Medical Group is seeking adult volunteers to staff information desks at its new medical center in Mountain View. Shifts are weekdays 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. or 12:30-5 p.m. Volunteers receive training, resources and lunch on the days they volunteer. Camino Medical Group, 701 East El Camino Real, Mountain View. Call 650-934-7072. www.caminomedical.org

■ MORE LISTINGS

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

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