

Mountain View VOICE

JULY 13, 2007 VOLUME 15, NO. 28

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mv-voice.com



Teen Clinic
Catering to a
younger set

**HEALTH &
FITNESS | P.29**



KELLEY COX

COOL IN THE POOL:

Charmane Lovell enjoys the water with her son Zack and daughter Erin at Eagle Park Pool on Friday, July 6. A heat wave last week sent many residents seeking out cool spots around town. Although temperatures dipped back down this week, meteorologists predict another heat wave in the coming week, with possible record highs in the 90s.

Phony cops were actually robbers

By Melody Dye

Police continue to search for a couple who impersonated police officers in order to detain people and steal their money.

The impersonators, described as a middle-aged white couple, robbed an unsuspecting Hispanic victim in Mountain View on Tuesday, July 3, then robbed

another shortly afterward, police say. They are also wanted in connection with a similar crime in San Jose.

According to police, the first victim was walking on Latham Street near Shoreline Boulevard when an SUV blocked his path and flashed its lights at him. A man



wearing dark clothes and a black baseball cap reading "Police" exited the vehicle and demanded the victim's identification.

The victim believed he was being stopped by law enforcement, and willingly handed over his wallet. The man then took it back to the

car with him, handing it to the woman in the passenger seat. After several minutes, the man returned the wallet to the victim and the couple sped off. The victim then realized that all his cash was gone.

Shortly afterward, the victim witnessed the same couple robbing another Hispanic man in

► See **PHONY COPS**, page 8

A series of misleading reports in several news outlets boil down to one big correction: Mountain View has never received, requested or required \$250,000 from Home Depot to help pay for the city's Day Worker Center.

The "bizarrely inaccurate" stories, as city manager Kevin Duggan described them, portrayed Mountain View as having "forced" Home Depot to pay money towards accommodations

► See **HOME DEPOT**, page 11

Knock-down drag-out over Mayfield

IN MARATHON MEETING COUNCIL AGREES
TO ADD A PARK, LIMIT DEVELOPMENT
PROJECT'S SIZE TO 450 UNITS

By Daniel DeBolt

The Mayfield housing development wasn't killed by a "make or break" City Council study session Tuesday, billed as the last such session on the project after 29 meetings.

Instead a unanimous "fork in the road" decision, as Mayor Laura Macias put it, was made to reduce the project from 476 to 450 units for the Mountain View side, and for the city to spend \$4 million for additional park space.

The chambers were packed with neighbors opposed to the project, but there were a handful of environmental groups and housing advocates in support of it as well.

The project seemed threatened earlier this year by the new council, which had talked about making many changes to a large plan inherited from last year's

"pro-growth" council.

"We have to strike a balance," said council member Margaret Abe-Koga.

Another member of the council's slower-growth contingent, Ronit Bryant, recused herself from the meeting because her

► See **COUNCIL**, page 12

Home Depot story a goof

REPORTS FALSELY
CLAIMED CITY 'FORCED'
COMPANY TO FUND
WORKER CENTER

By Daniel DeBolt

INSIDE

GOINGS ON 26 | MARKETPLACE 32 | MOVIES 24 | REAL ESTATE 37 | VIEWPOINT 18

Cheryl Okuno



SUNNYVALE ■ Spacious 5 bedroom, 3 bath, tri-level home, freshly painted inside and out with new carpets and linoleum. **\$799,950**

Marc Roos



SAN JOSE ■ Exceptional 2bd/1.5ba downtown Willow Glen townhome. Many upgrades including Pergo wood floors, dual paned windows, + central A/C. **\$519,000**

Helen & Ki Nyborg



MOUNTAIN VIEW ■ Huge 2-story home, very close to Springer Elementary School and Saint Francis High School. 4bd/4ba, 3600+/-sf.. 2-car garage. **\$1,825,000**

Stephanie Schley



SANTA CLARA ■ Remodeled in 2004, and located in the heart of Silicon Valley, this 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo is the perfect place to call home! **\$439,000**

Maisy Young



SUNNYVALE ■ End-unit offering great architectural design. Built in 1991, 3bd/2ba + loft with partial hardwood floors. Homestead High School **\$788,000**

Margaret Grant



MOUNTAIN VIEW ■ Cuesta Park charmer on internal street. 3bd/1ba with open floor plan, newly painted interior, new fixtures + refinished HW floors **\$799,000**

Mary Marley



MOUNTAIN VIEW ■ Downtown Mountain View. Spacious 2bd/2ba TH with vaulted ceilings, hardwood floors, and inside laundry. Large private yard, + garage. **\$615,000**

Barb Conkin-Orrock



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

Margaret Grant



MOUNTAIN VIEW ■ Light and bright 1bd/1ba with remodeled kitchen, skylights, Berber carpeting and plenty of storage. 2 patio doors. Great location. **\$376,000**

Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

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

Do you think J.K. Rowling killed off Harry Potter in the final book?



"I haven't read the sixth one yet because I haven't had time for it. But I think Harry's going to die in the end."

Anthony Yeh, Mountain View



"Oh, I highly doubt it. Americans aren't very responsive to depressing endings and she's writing for an American audience. It wouldn't make any sense as a writer to develop a character like that just to kill him off. That sort of thing is pretty uncommon in Western literature."

Grant Pollock, Palo Alto



"You know, I haven't read 'Harry Potter' but it's the kind of thing we joke about at work. ... I think she will. She needs closure for the series and this is an easy way to resolve everything."

Harrison Blackwood, Los Gatos



"I'm a 'Lord of the Rings' fan, so I'm thinking Harry's going to die and be reincarnated as Frodo."

Alex Gonzalez, Mountain View



"No, she couldn't! I think she's a good writer and each book just keeps getting better and better. She'll have something better than that."

Vanessa Ruiz, Mountain View

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The City of Mountain View announces the release of the 2006 Consumer Confidence Report.

As mentioned in the 2006 Consumer Confidence Report, Mountain View's high quality drinking water continues to meet State and Federal water quality standards. The report also emphasizes the importance of saving water in order to preserve the limited water supply currently available and to avoid significant water use reductions during 2008.

For more information or to request a copy of the 2006 Consumer Confidence Report, please contact the Public Services Division at (650) 903-6329 or visit the City's website at:

http://www.mountainview.gov/services/city_publications/water_quality_report.asp



■ CRIMEWATCH

BATTERY, 1300 BLOCK W. DANA ST., 7/7

A man kicked his mother-in-law during a family disturbance. No charges were filed.

him. He was described as a 20-year-old Hispanic male.

PEEPING TOM, 100 BLOCK PERMANENTE WAY, 7/6

A man was spotted peering into the windows of a neighborhood house and lurking behind the bushes and a parked car. A witness reported the suspect to police, who apprehended and booked

ARMED ROBBERY, 700 BLOCK E. EVELYN AVE., 7/2

Two men robbed the clerk at a local Shop & Save at gunpoint. They then fled the store and hopped a fence towards Ayala Street, making off with cash and alcohol. The suspects are black, thought to be in their mid-20s, and around 5-foot-7. They wore black hoods and sweats.

■ POLICELOG

ASSAULT WITH DEADLY WEAPON

1900 Block W. El Camino Real, 7/3

BATTERY

1800 Block Fordham Way, 7/4
1600 Block Lloyd Way, 7/5
1200 Block Grant Rd., 7/6
1300 Block W. Dana St., 7/7

BRANDISHING WEAPON

Ampitheatre Parkway, 7/4

BREAKING/REMOVING VEHICLE

600 Block Franklin St., 7/3

BURGLARY/AUTO

1900 Block Orisanto Ave., 7/4
2600 Block N. Shoreline Blvd., 7/5
Shoreline Park, 7/6
5300 Block W. Middlefield Rd., 7/9
1200 Block Pear Ave., 7/9
1300 Block Shorebird Way, 7/9
400 Block E. Middlefield Rd., 7/9
300 Block E. Middlefield Rd., 7/9

BURGLARY/COMMERCIAL

600 Block E. Middlefield Rd., 7/5
2300 Wyandotte St., 7/9

CORPORAL INJURY

400 Block Tyrella Ave., 7/4
2500 Block Mardell Way, 7/5

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

100 E. Evelyn Ave., 7/5
Castro St./W. Dana St., 7/6
7-Eleven, Pear St., 7/7
800 Block E. El Camino Real, 7/7
2200 Block Rock St., 7/7
Central Expressway/Thompson Ave., 7/9

DISTURBANCE

2300 Block Rock St., 7/5
100 Block Palmer Ave., 7/6

DOMESTIC BATTERY

200 Block Escuela Ave., 7/7

DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE

1000 Block Space Park Way, 7/7
2000 Block Latham St., 7/9

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Mabelle/El Camino Real, 7/5
Crisanto Ave/S. Rengstorff Ave., 7/5
Central Ex/N. Rengstorff Ave., 7/9
600 Block Midrock Corners, 7/9

FORGERY

100 Block E. El Camino Real, 7/9

GRAND THEFT

100 Block E. Evelyn Ave., 7/9
300 Block Ravendale Dr., 7/9
1500 Block N. Shoreline Blvd., 7/9
300 Block N. Whisman Rd., 7/9

IDENTITY THEFT

600 Block Moorpark Way, 7/9

MISSING PERSON - ADULT

2500 Block Grant Rd., 7/3
2100 Block Wyandotte St., 7/6

MISSING PERSON - JUVENILE

Castro St/W. Evelyn Ave., 7/5

PEEPING TOM

1200 Block Springer Rd., 7/4
600 Block E. Middlefield Rd., 7/5
100 Block Permanente Way, 7/6

PETTY THEFT

2400 Block Old Middlefield Way, 7/4
100 Block N. Rengstorff Ave., 7/5
2600 Block California St., 7/5
600 Block Leona Lane, 7/6
100 Block Flynn Ave., 7/6
Seascape, 7/6
YMCA, 7/7
Books Inc., 7/7
200 Block N. Rengstorff Ave., 7/7
1900 Block San Luis Ave., 7/7
1900 Block Colony St., 7/9

POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA

100 Block E. El Camino Real, 7/2

PROSTITUTION

Pacific Inn, 7/6

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

1200 Block Crittenden Lane, 7/6

RESIST OR INTERFERENCE

Mora Dr./Ortega Ave., 7/9

ROBBERY

700 Block E. Evelyn Ave., 7/2
200 Block S. Rengstorff Ave., 7/5

STOLEN VEHICLE

Castro School, 7/5
2300 Block Fairchild Dr., 7/5

STRIPPED VEHICLE

3300 Block Nita Ave., 7/5

SUICIDE AND ATTEMPT

100 Block Permanente Way, 7/3

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES/PERSON

100 Block Gladys Ave., 7/6
Hwy. 101/N. Shoreline Blvd., 7/6
300 Block Moffett Blvd., 7/9

TRESPASSING

VANDALISM

900 Block Sierra Vista Ave., 7/4
2200 Block California St., 7/7
900 Block W. Middlefield Rd., 7/9
1300 Block Shorebird Way, 7/9
300 Block Palo Alto Ave, 7/9



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After the battery starts your vehicle's engine, the alternator assumes its task of providing electricity to meet the vehicle's needs. Symptoms of alternator failure include illumination of the charge warning light or a discharge indication on the anmeter. However, before a decision to replace the alternator is made on the basis of these signs, the alternator drive belt should be checked for looseness, and the voltage regulator should be examined to see if it is working properly. Either of these conditions could cause the charge warning light or the discharge indication on the anmeter to appear. Another indication of a failed alternator is a shrill noise that increases in pitch as engine speed increases, which is caused by a bad diode.

There are many possible causes to electrical problems in

your vehicle. It takes a trained eye to effectively diagnose electrical issues. At Larry's AutoWorks, our technicians are experts, which allows us to find out exactly what is wrong with your car, truck or SUV. If you think that you may have an electrical problem come to 101 Freeway on Leghorn between San Antonio and Rengstorff in Mountain View. Take the Rengstorff exit south, then right on Leghorn., or call us to schedule an appointment. We are an AAA approved facility.

HINT: A diode is the solid state electronic device in the alternator that changes or rectifies alternating current into direct current for use by the car's electrical system.

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A change in plans

By Don Frances

SEVERAL PEOPLE wrote in to call attention to last week's "Voices Around Town," which asked, "What's your plans for Fourth of July?"

A fine question — except the grammar is terrible. It should have read, "What are your plans for Fourth of July?"

Perhaps most upset by this error was Amy Laden, who wrote, "I appreciate the Voice, but I was really appalled to see the headline of your 'Voices' column dated July 6." She added, "I usually don't take the time to write when I see errors in various newspapers, but this was too much."

Ann Coulston took a more confident posture, saying she was "a bit surprised" at seeing it and asking, "Can you explain your reasoning?"

I haven't got any, Ann — unless you consider lack of sleep to be a form of reasoning.

Jay Rawson, meanwhile, scolded with a simple "Now, please."

I actually love the response over this, because it tells me two things: 1) Our readers are literate, which means they're good readers, and 2) We don't have too many mistakes on our pages.

I admit that second point may be a bit of wishful thinking.

THE LEAGUE of Women Voters asked if I would help highlight the upcoming session in its "immigration series," so here goes:

"The economics of immigration — authorized and unauthorized — is the topic for the third in a series of five study sessions, 7 p.m. Monday, July 23 at the Los Altos Public Library. Dan Siciliano, executive director of Stanford Law School's program in law, economics and business, is the featured speaker."

Contact Gloria Siciliano at (650) 947-0847 for more.

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



KEITH WILSON

Linnea and Julianne Wilson, first and third graders at Landels Elementary, take "Lanny the Lion" on the teacups ride at Disneyland with mom LeeAnn.

The worldly Landels lion

SCHOOL MASCOT'S TRAVELS BRING GEOGRAPHY TO LIFE FOR STUDENTS

By Alexa Tondreau

THIS summer, many families from Mountain View will travel across the country and around the world, and a select few will have a special, furry friend in tow.

The mascot for Landels Elementary School, a small stuffed animal named "Lanny the Lion," became more than just a mascot

last year. Through the creative thinking of Landels principal Phyllis DeMattos and Marti Wright, the grandmother of two Landels students, Lanny has traveled across the globe, visiting locations both commonplace and exotic.

The idea was simple: Let Landels families take Lanny on vacation with them, posing him in photographs in front of land-

marks and cultural institutions. Later, Wright would compile the photos along with a story about Lanny's travels, highlighting important facts about the country and culture, to be distributed in Landels classrooms and through e-mail.

"We hatched this idea as a way to involve the community

► See **LANDELS**, page 16

Dogs injure woman, kill pet

POLICE STILL LOOKING FOR ATTACKERS, DESCRIBED AS TWO LARGE CHOWS

By Daniel DeBolt

TWO stray dogs attacked and killed a small poodle on Preston Drive last month, injuring the poodle's elderly owner in the attack.

Tina Koza said she had just taken Spike, her six-pound toy poodle, for a walk on Friday, June 29, when the dogs showed up on her



Spike

front porch and attacked her pet. Koza said she tried to pry her poodle from the mouth of one of the dogs, and sustained a large cut to one of her fingers in the process. She said she wasn't strong enough to pry open its jaws to save her dog.

Police are still looking for the strays, described as large chows, two-and-half-feet tall and black with tan on the sides.

"I can't describe it — the horror," Koza said. "The dog in the mouth of this big black dog — this dog chewing my pet, you know. If, in the future, this dog hurt a little baby, I would feel terrible."

Police knocked on doors for two days looking for the dogs. Police spokesperson Liz Wylie said she believes the dogs may have found their way back home. It is now up to the chows' owners, or others who know of their whereabouts, to come forward.

Koza's husband, Walter Koza, came home right after the attack. He said he unsuccessfully tried to approach the dogs, which had blood on their mouths, to read any tags on their collars. But with little time to spare, he had to take his wife to the hospital and the dog to the vet.

► See **DOG ATTACK**, page 10

City presents 'Thursday Night Live' series

By Melody Dye

THIS week the city of Mountain View is kicking off its "Thursday Night Live" series, a kid-friendly attraction featuring music, food and more on Castro Street downtown. All events are free and open to the public.

The four Thursdays — July 12, Aug. 2, Aug. 16 and Sept. 13 — will see Castro Street closed to car traffic between Evelyn

Avenue and Church Street, creating a "pedestrian mall" where residents can stroll and dine. Downtown will play host to a farmers market, children's games and activities, and live entertainment, with several performers scheduled for each evening.

The two Thursdays in August will also coincide with the city's Music on the Plaza concert series at the Civic Center plaza.

The events all begin at 5 p.m. and end at 10 p.m. Parking is available a block off Castro in the public lots, and in the new parking garage on California and Bryant.

For more information, contact Peter Skinner at (650) 903-6228 or Karen McNaught of the Central Business Association at (650) 964-3395. Or e-mail the public works department at public.works@mountainview.gov.

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■ SEEN AROUND TOWN

Pelicans taking flight



Some things never change. Even though this photo of two pelicans taking flight was shot by Roy Day (at his place of employment at Shoreline Golf Links) two years ago, it could just as easily have been yesterday.

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.

Ron Paul to speak at Charleston Park

Unlike other presidential candidates who visited Google to speak only to employees inside its auditorium, Ron Paul will be speaking at Charleston Park next door on Saturday — and everyone's invited.

Other candidates, including John McCain, Bill Richardson and John Edwards, have visited the Googleplex auditorium, but the events were not shown to the general public except as a broadcast on YouTube.

Paul will also speak at the Google-

plex Auditorium on Friday, but the Saturday event was organized by Paul and his staff for the general public. Google said it had little to do with the plan and that it was a "coincidence" that the rally would be next door to Google's headquarters.

Paul's office said it was important to talk to everyone, not just Google.

Paul, a former Libertarian, is now running as a Republican. He's been credited for "spicing up" the presidential debates, where he calls



Ron Paul

for less government and sharply opposes the war in Iraq.

The event starts at 10 a.m. this Saturday, July 14 at Charleston Park, located just east of the Googleplex at 1665 Charleston Road.

Questions for Paul can be submitted at www.ronpaulrally.com.

— Daniel DeBolt

Eshoo calls for federal probe of Cheney

Rep. Anna Eshoo has called for a federal investigation into the role of Vice President Dick Cheney in diversion of water from the Klamath River Basin in 2002.

The diversion killed 80,000 salmon and devastated commercial salmon fishing in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, Eshoo said.

The issue came up after the *Washington Post* reported that Cheney pressured officials in

the Department of the Interior to divert water flowing into the Klamath River Basin to benefit Oregon farmers. Eshoo, a Democrat who represents Mountain View, joined 36 other members of Congress from California and Oregon last Wednesday to request hearings on the issue by the House Natural Resources Committee.

"The vice president is not above the law or immune from Congressional oversight," Eshoo said.

A low number of salmon reaching the ocean in 2006 forced the closure of commercial and recreational fishing along the Pacific Coast. Eshoo and her colleagues have pushed Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez to declare a fishing disaster for the West Coast, and last month were able to get \$60 million in federal funds to help the beleaguered fishing industry to recover.

— Palo Alto Weekly

Memories in rhyme

JACQUELINE VALENCIC WRITES POEMS ABOUT GROWING UP IN MOUNTAIN VIEW

By Melody Dye

According to Jacqueline Chan Valencic, the '50s and '60s were a great time to grow up in Mountain View.

During those years her parents owned and operated a popular Chinese restaurant on Castro Street, where their brood of seven would play during the twilight hours.

Valencic fondly remembers the local toy store, Toy Chest, where her brothers and sisters would buy "toys and kites and yo-yos," and the record shop next door where they would spend hours browsing the 45s and LPs.

Some days, she said, they would ride their bikes along the street, looping around the blocks until they were breathless. Other days they would climb the old evergreen trees in the park. Sundays it was always the same: the Mountain View Theater for the matinee. The children would scroll around the block, lined up with their five cents in hand to see the double bill.

"Those were wonderful times," Valencic said recently, "that generation, the '50s and '60s, it was a good time to grow up, a safe time."

Valencic is nostalgic not only in conversation, but on the page. Now living in Las Vegas, the Chinese-American writer recently released a collection of poems reflecting on her years growing up in Mountain View during those years.

Her poems, she says, are a store for her memories — such as the one from 12 years old, when she went door to door collecting for the March of Dimes.

"Being that age," she recalls, "I still believed that the world was good and that people were generous. But no one gave! Every house I stopped at, they shut their doors."

Still she kept on. At dusk, empty handed, she came up to a shabby old house, its windows stained with rust. Hesitantly, she knocked. To the door came an old man, grinning to see her.

"And from the back room he



Jacqueline Valencic

brought me a coffee can of pennies that he had been saving. Can you imagine? That's been with me for all these years; that you can't judge by the look of things."

Valencic says she knew from a young age that she wanted to write. As a child she was different from her brothers and sisters, who were content to color books or watch television. She would go out into the backyard and swing by herself or sit by the koi pond, watching the light reflect off the water.

"It was a time to be alone, and that's what writers do, we need to have time to be alone and to create."

"I t was a time to be alone," she says, "and that's what writers do, we need to have time to be alone and to create." Writing, she feels, is a natural extension of her self and a way of making sense of the world. When you're a writer, she says, "You write everywhere, you write anything. ... Your thoughts just run down to your hands, just naturally you do it and naturally you have to do it."

Valencic's collection of poems, "When the House Was Bright Pink," arose out of a desire to share her childhood memories with her brothers and sisters and with others of her generation.

Her style, she says, is inspired by Ogden Nash, the late American poet known for his pithy light verse. The way Valencic tells it, she came upon Nash almost by accident. On a whim, she bought a collection of his at a second-hand shop and just as whimsically filed it away. When she picked the book again up a couple years ago, it brightened her spirits, moving her "to lift up the pen and start writing poems again." Nash, she says, is what really got her rhyming.

To read excerpts of her poems, or to order "When the House Was Bright Pink," visit www.jcvstudios.com.

E-mail Melody Dye at mdye@mv-voice.com

The City of Mountain View-Recreation Division is pleased to offer FREE Thursday evening concerts!

*All concerts are from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
*For more information call, 650-903-6446 or visit our website at www.mountainview.gov

City of Mountain View 2007 Summer Concert Series!

Cuesta Park Concerts
July 12- Bell Brothers
July 26-Flashback
August 9- Big City Review
Cuesta Park is located on Cuesta Drive

Civic Center Plaza
July 19-Cocktail Monkeys
August 2- Tito y Su Son de Cuba
August 16- Joe Sharino
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LocalNews

PHONY COPS

► Continued from page 1

much the same manner. This second victim has not yet reported the crime to police.

The suspects are described as a muscular, clean-shaven white man in his 50s and a blonde woman in her 40s. They were driving a newer-model, light-colored SUV equipped with a flashing light like those seen on police cars. Both were wearing

The couple is wanted for impersonating police officers, conducting a fraudulent pedestrian stop, and robbery.

dark clothing identifying them as police officers.

The couple is wanted for impersonating police officers, conducting a fraudulent pedestrian stop, and robbery.

The crime resembles a string of robberies that took place in San Jose and Mountain View six years ago. In that case, two men with official-looking police badges detained Latino victims on the pretense that they were wanted for drug dealing, demanded to see identification, then made off with their wallets.

Mountain View detectives think the recent case may be linked to a similar crime in San Jose and are urging any other witnesses or victims to contact police. Witnesses should call (650) 903-6348; victims should call (650) 903-6395 or, if the incident just happened, dial 9-1-1. ■

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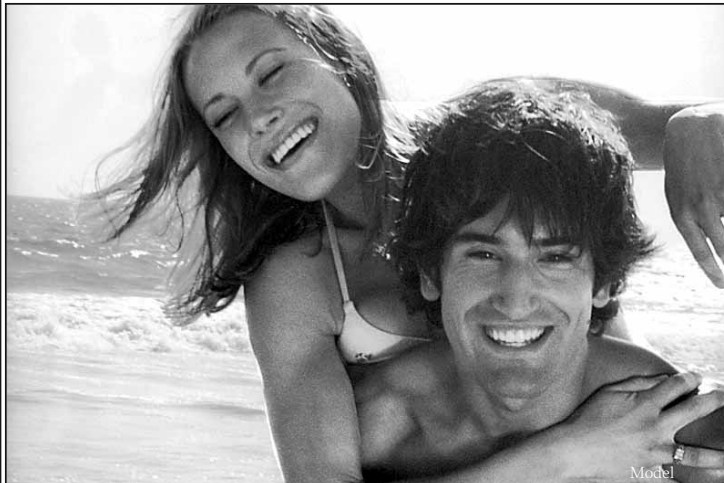
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LocalNews

DOG ATTACK

► Continued from page 5

Koza said a nurse she met at the hospital had seen the dogs wandering through the former farm on Grant Road. There were also reports of the dogs being seen on Rosa Court off Covington Road.

Wylie recommends that people steer clear of stray dogs. She added that police can often track down a stray if notified quickly.

For several days after the attack, Koza thought she might require rabies shots, but her doctor has since assured her that her hand is healing well enough to avoid the painful procedure. If the dogs were to be found, they could be tested for rabies.

Wylie recommends that people steer clear of stray dogs. She added that police can often track down a stray if notified quickly. Anyone with information on the whereabouts of the dogs can call the police non-emergency line at (650) 903-6395.

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

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MountainView VOICE Online

Worker center gets reprieve

CALVARY CHURCH EXTENDS DEADLINE, GIVING CENTER
AN EXTRA MONTH TO FIND NEW HOME

By Alexa Tondreau

With its lease rapidly expiring, the Day Worker Center caught a lucky break this week: The center has been given an extra month in its current spot, giving its board members valuable time to continue their search for new digs in town.

For the past five years, the center has been located at the Calvary Church on California Street. The center now has until Aug. 31 to find a new site, said center director Maria Marroquin.

The decision came from Calvary's pastor, the Rev. Jim Springer, and was characterized by Marroquin as a "huge blessing."

The main factor preventing the center from finding a new location boils down to price, said staff member Matthew Tompkins. The center can afford a monthly lease somewhere between \$3,000 and \$5,000 — "hopefully more like three," Tompkins said — but hasn't had luck finding anything in that

price range.

"This is a really pricey area, it's tough around here. We're having such a difficult time," he said.

The center must find a location in an area of the city that is zoned for business use, and will have to submit a proposal to the city for approval once a location is found, a process that could take several weeks, Marroquin said.

Ideally, the space would be at least 1,500 square feet in size and located on or near El Camino Real, Marroquin said, but she isn't sure if they will be able to find anything matching that description in their price range.

Besides working as a liaison and pick-up place where clients can coordinate with workers, the center offers services like translation assistance and English language training for workers. The center provides a place where workers can gather while they wait for jobs, and there is a daily car-wash service offered to clients.

Marroquin said one option is to find a much smaller and

cheaper space, but that will mean whittling down the center's operations to just a desk and a phone, where Marroquin or other staff can coordinate clients to pick up workers from their homes or other locations.

Additionally, Tompkins said, they might have to do without a rental space for awhile, and would then coordinate the services using their own cell phones.

"At this point, we need to consider all the possibilities," Marroquin said.

What they don't want to consider is moving out of the Mountain View area, where the center has established deep roots with the local community.

"Most of our constituents live here, and if we went somewhere else transportation would be difficult for them," Tompkins said. "That's not what we want to do."

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

HOME DEPOT

► Continued from page 1

for day workers. The false stories (none of which ran in the *Voice*) gained traction nationally, helping to stir up the already contentious immigration debate.

The confusion seems to have started with a late-June story by the Associated Press that ran in dozens of newspapers. The article, which concerned the immigration bill that recently failed in the U.S. Senate, stated in its third paragraph that Mountain View was one of several American cities that have "forced Home Depot to build facilities for day laborers on-site or elsewhere, hire security staff and offer bathrooms in order to get the permits necessary for its operations."

Duggan said he was befuddled by the story, because the city has yet to make any decision on Home Depot's application for the Sears site at San Antonio Center. When the issue was last discussed at a study session in March, the council didn't take a position on how it should mitigate the presence of day workers outside.

"How much confusion could be generated about a thoroughly simple topic?" Duggan asked. "We had radio stations calling, TV stations calling. We have spent an inordinate amount of time trying to clarify misinformation about this topic."

The *Voice* also received e-mails from people misled by the stories, who were angry over what they'd heard: That the city was requiring Home Depot to help pay for the Day Worker Center.

As late as last Thursday, the "non-story," as city officials put it, continued to be reported by media outlets such as San Francisco radio station KCBS, which posted a story on its Web site that read, "The unofficial report is that Home Depot would give \$250,000 to the city of Mountain View to help with labor issues."

The false story was given a boost by the *San Jose Mercury News*, which ran a story last Tuesday — picked up from its sister paper, the *Palo Alto Daily News* — headlined "Home Depot gives city cash."

That story was also based on false information, but this time Home Depot itself was guilty. With little explanation, the paper quoted an e-mail from Home Depot spokesperson Kathryn Gallagher that read, "We have contributed the \$250,000 to the city to work toward a solution in regards to day labor issues."

Gallagher told the *Voice* last week that she "misspoke about it."

"I had actually said we had given the money and we hadn't," she said. "It was one of the many solutions discussed."

Although the original story began with the Associated Press, those reporters apparently received their information from U.S. Sen.

Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., a player in the immigration debate. On Tuesday, Isakson's office repeated the false information to the *Voice* — Mountain View is among 16 cities requiring or requesting day worker accommodations — and even listed six requirements the city has supposedly forced on the retail giant, including the creation of an on-site day worker center and a \$250,000 donation.

When confronted about the incorrect information, Isakson's spokesperson, Sheridan Watson, passed the blame to Home Depot — the original source, she said.

"That would be an issue to take up with Home Depot then," Watson said.

Last March, six options for dealing with day workers at the site were discussed in a council study session. One of them would have required Home Depot to pay \$250,000 towards the Day Worker Center, but the council has yet to take a position on the subject.

At the time, Home Depot's Greg George told the council that \$250,000 would be an unprecedented requirement.

"In our opinion, that's extremely aggressive," he said.

Gallagher said earlier this week that it's "safe to say" that is still the opinion of Home Depot.

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

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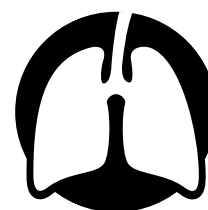
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Contact Diana Moreno at (408) 361-4643 for questions and the BMR Program Guide. Deadline to submit applications is 5:00 PM on July 31, 2007.



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■ COUNCIL BRIEFS

HOMES TO MAKE WAY FOR PARK ON DEL MEDIO

Floating through on the consent calendar with no discussion Tuesday was the purchase of two lots on Del Medio Avenue for a mini-park.

In its quest to serve another northern neighborhood that lacks park space, the city has become the landlord of six homes at 380 and 390 Del Medio Ave. City officials say there is no immediate need to relocate the tenants because no funds are available yet to build the park.

At the single-family home at 390 Del Medio Ave., the former owner was given \$750,000 and will be allowed to stay there indefinitely for free. At 380 Del Medio Ave., five households will pay their current rents.

The city purchased the property, near California Street and San Antonio Road, for just over \$2 million, using park in lieu fees and park land dedication funds.

MUSEUM AT CUESTA ANNEX CONFIRMED

The council unanimously confirmed its wish for a history museum at the Cuesta Annex on Tuesday night, giving the green light for the Mountain View History Association to raise \$6 million for the project.

What was more vaguely termed

a “cultural and agricultural structure” during the Annex planning process last year was designated a “museum” in Tuesday night’s decision, although details about its size and exact location were not determined.

Bob Weaver, president of the history association, said the group was planning to take up no more than 12 percent of the site’s 12 acres. He said the association had little time to waste because of rising construction costs and the many years it takes to raise funds.

Speaking against the action was Kevin McBride, a member of Save Open Space and of the Cuesta Park Neighborhood Association. He said the museum should be discussed as part of the ongoing Annex master plan process.

In response, council members noted that details would be worked out in the future, and that they were simply confirming their original intent from last year.

ROCK STREET TENANTS TO GET BMR FUNDS

At 1 a.m. Tuesday night, after a marathon meeting, the council voted to use the city’s “below market rate” housing fund for the second time to help relocate tenants, this time after clearing the way for 20 row homes at 2215 Rock St.

The plan to use BMR funds brought out several advocates for affordable housing, who once

again criticized the practice of using BMR money for any use other than what it was intended for — the construction of affordable housing.

Following a plan similar to what was used at 291 Evandale Ave., the council voted to allow up to \$80,000 in BMR funds to be used, though it’s likely the cost will be closer to \$50,000.

Three tenants of the 25-unit apartment complex spoke about losing some of the most affordable housing in the city, apartments with rents averaging \$1,050.

The developer is providing free last month’s rent, a full refund of the security deposit, a \$500 moving allowance and bilingual tenant relocation assistance — the minimum package required by the city.

CITY ENTERS NEW LEASE WITH GOOGLE

Google is now free to build on 9.2 acres east of its campus on Amphitheatre Parkway after the council approved a ground lease Friday.

Google has proposed a 310,000-square-foot building on the city property, known as the “Charleston East” site, which could house over 1,000 workers. The other half of the site is slated for a long-desired hotel and conference center for the city.

— Daniel DeBolt

COUNCIL

► Continued from page 1

husband works for Hewlett Packard, which still owns the site.

Council member Jac Siegel, who in the past has had harsh words for the project, said the 26 acres ideally should be turned into one big park, but unfortunately “that’s just not in the cards.” He said people hoped the decision wouldn’t divide the Monta Loma neighborhood, and that in the end everyone could say, “We didn’t get what we wanted, but we sure tried.”

The major opponents of the project, residents and members of the Monta Loma Neighborhood Association, were under the leadership of newly elected president Wouter Suverkropp. He said the negative impacts of the large high-density development concern many residents.

“They feel the development affects them even if they don’t live next to it,” Suverkropp said, adding that residents think, “We may be next.”

Nola Mae McBain, a former president of the Monta Loma group, said the project is “not smart growth — this is irrespon-

Several neighbors criticized a major selling point of the project — that it is easily accessible to the San Antonio Caltrain station and within biking distance of the bus station near Wal-Mart.

sible growth.” She said there is little access to public transportation and not enough space in nearby schools to accommodate the children who will live in the new housing.

Several neighbors criticized a major selling point of the project — that it is easily accessible to the San Antonio Caltrain station and within biking distance of the bus station near Wal-Mart. Neighbor Andy Rose said Caltrain service at the San Antonio station has been reduced to one train per hour.

In response, council members noted that it was enough that there was simply “transit-oriented potential.” Macias said she had inquired about getting more service once Mayfield is developed.

“They don’t increase service unless they have a demand for service,” said council member Matt Pear.

With a long night ahead of them — the meeting ran until 1 a.m. — and passions running high, Macias was compelled to tell speakers to keep their comments brief, especially if the council had heard their opinions at previous meetings.

► Continued on next page

► Continued from previous page

"Believe me, we remember," she said.

Neighbors reminded the council of the traffic impacts of roughly 1,000 more cars on the road, assuming each household drives two cars. But Abe-Koga said the old Hewlett Packard offices on the site had 2,000 employees and likely even more cars than the proposed housing.

From an aesthetic standpoint, Suverkropp criticized the architecture of the proposed buildings, saying "they could be anywhere in America."

The city had been under "pretty good pressure" from the state and the Association of Bay Area Governments to build homes or face the loss of local control over housing projects.

NICK GALIOTTO

He continued by saying, "These homes will do nothing to alleviate housing shortage or housing price."

Council member Nick Galiotto had a difficult time speaking due to laryngitis, but reflected briefly on his long involvement with the project, which began with the city's housing element in the late 1990s. He said the city had been under "pretty good pressure" from the state and the Association of Bay Area Governments to build homes or face the loss of local control over housing projects.

He said the project was indeed transit-oriented growth, noting the increasing prevalence of biking, which could be used to get to nearby office buildings and bus stops, and the potential of the San Antonio train stop to increase service.

"If you don't create the opportunities, obviously none of that is going to happen," Galiotto said.

Siegel initially made a motion for 400 units, a 55-foot height limit and \$1 million towards additional park space. Toll Brothers had proposed 3.4 acres. The motion failed with only Macias in support.

Council member Tom Means made the winning motion for 450 units, existing height limits and \$4 million towards park space. ■

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

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LOCAL SOFTBALL LEAGUE SEEKS FINANCIAL SUPPORT
TO TRAVEL TO NATIONALS TOURNAMENT

Two competitive teams from the NOVA division of the Mountain View-Los Altos girls' softball league have qualified for the Nationals tournament in Las Cruces, New Mexico in August. These teams are currently seeking support to cover the expenses associated with travel and participation in the tournament.

The qualifying teams are made up of girls representing the cities of Mountain View and Los Altos, many of whom attend local schools. The girls practice three to four times

a week and play at least four games each weekend during tournament season.

The league has created several sponsorship packages which offer discounts for next year's season and promotion deals for local businesses. All donations are tax deductible under Tax ID #20-8212658.

Those interested in helping out are urged to visit www.novasoftball.com. Checks may be mailed to MVLA Softball/Nova, P.O. Box 949, Los Altos, 94043.

—Melody Dye

Got a nose for news?

The *Voice*, an award-winning community newspaper, seeks a fulltime reporter to tackle local education and other community issues, break stories and work under deadline. Candidates must be self-motivated and eager to learn, working with experienced editors in a creative environment. Experience preferred.

Please e-mail a cover letter, resume and two or three writing samples to Don Frances at editor@mv-voice.com. Or fax to 964-0294. The mailing address is 655 West Evelyn Ave., Suite 3, Mountain View, CA 94041.

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Halberstam driver pleads not guilty

FAMOUS JOURNALIST WAS KILLED IN MENLO PARK CRASH
ON WAY TO AN INTERVIEW IN MOUNTAIN VIEW

Bay City News

A November trial date was set Wednesday morning in San Mateo County Superior Court for the student who was driving David Halberstam to an interview in April when their car crashed in Menlo Park, killing the Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist.

Kevin Jones did not appear for his arraignment that morning on misdemeanor vehicular manslaughter charges, but his attorney Laurel Headley entered a plea of not guilty on his behalf.

A pretrial conference was scheduled for Aug. 30 at 1:30 p.m. and a jury trial for Nov. 13 at 9 a.m. Jones remains out of custody.

Headley declined to comment on the case Wednesday

morning.

Halberstam, 73, of New York City, was killed in a three-car collision near the Dumbarton Bridge in Menlo Park on April 23. The crash was reported shortly after 10:30 a.m. on the

Graduate School of Journalism, as they were on their way to Mountain View for a book interview. Halberstam was pronounced dead at the scene.

District Attorney James Fox announced June 21 that a review by his office of the circumstances surrounding the crash warranted a charge of vehicular manslaughter without gross negligence against Jones.

According to Chief Deputy District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe, multiple witnesses to the crash reported seeing Jones' Camry drive through a red light at the intersection before being

broad-sided by another car. Halberstam is best known for his journalism during the Vietnam War, and for his subsequent books on the topic, including "The Best and the Brightest."

Multiple witnesses to the crash reported seeing Jones' Camry drive through a red light at the intersection before being broad-sided by another car.

westbound Bayfront Expressway at Willow Road, according to Menlo Park police.

At the time, Halberstam was in the passenger seat of a Toyota Camry being driven by Jones, a 26-year-old student at the University of California, Berkeley

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notice of intent

topic

Vacancy to be filled on the Board of Directors, District No. 5

who

Santa Clara Valley Water District
5750 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118

description

The Board of Directors of Santa Clara Valley Water District intends to fill the unexpired term of office for the Board member in District No. 5. This seat is vacant as of July 10, 2007. The District No. 5 boundaries are the boundaries of the County Supervisorial District No. 5, and the unexpired term ends December 31, 2008.

In order to be eligible for election or appointment, an interested party must be a qualified elector in District No. 5 and must continue to reside therein during incumbency in office; however, no change in boundaries of a supervisorial district affects the term of office of any director.

Interested parties should notify the Clerk of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara Valley Water District in writing no later than 4 p.m., on July 19, 2007, at 5750 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California, 95118. Please submit a letter of interest which includes your name, residential address, occupation, summary of interest in the position, and qualifications and experience.

The Board currently anticipates conducting interviews of candidates on July 31, 2007.

Information packets can be obtained online at www.valleywater.org or in person at District Headquarters, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California.

For more information contact **Natalie Dominguez** at (408) 265-2607, ext. 2659, or by e-mail at ndominguez@valleywater.org.

**Santa Clara Valley
Water District**

LANDELS

► Continued from page 5

and get all the kids to learn more about geography and culture," said Wright. "He's been all over the world now, and everybody wants to take him."

To date, Lanny has been on trips to Japan, Mexico, France, Denmark and Australia, to name just a few. This summer alone, Lanny will travel with Landels families to London, the Hawaiian island of Maui, and Vancouver, B.C. He's also taken more modest trips to places within the state, like Disneyland.

The Molander-Eckburg family is just days away from taking Lanny to Telluride, Colo. — their second family vacation with the little lion, who also traveled with them last year to Guatemala and Argentina.

Karin Molander, mother of Landels third grader Anders, said Lanny acts like a "cultural ambassador" for the elementary school.

"Lanny's travels give children a sense of wonder about the world, the exotic places become that much closer to home," she said. Additionally, she said, she watched her son "take on a sense of pride and responsibility" when he took Lanny

along with them.

Teachers incorporate Lanny's travels — which Wright presents as individual chapters told from Lanny's point of view — into their curriculum as a way to talk about geography, history, culture, and to stimulate writing exercises for the children.

"Lanny's travels give children a sense of wonder about the world, the exotic places become that much closer to home."

KARIN MOLANDER

When student Isabella Wenneberg visited her father's native country of Denmark earlier this year, her account of Lanny's travels incorporated useful information about Denmark's government and national flag, as well as historical facts about the Vikings and biographical information on storyteller Hans Christian Anderson, whose "Little Mermaid" tale is well-known to Landels children.

"I think Lanny has really increased an understanding of the eclectic cultural backgrounds of our community, and he's made the study of

geography so much more fun and personable," Molander said.

Word of the stuffed lion's travels has spread quickly, with many jumping onto the Lanny bandwagon. Mountain View Assemblywoman Sally Lieber brought Lanny to Sacramento with her, where he posed in front of the state Capitol building.

Likewise, the Mountain View Chamber of Commerce, along with Mountain View Whisman Superintendent Maurice Ghysels, brought Lanny to Beijing, China, on a cultural exchange trip this past December.

Wright said an elementary school in Illinois with a family connection to Landels requested digital copies of Lanny's travels, as did a school in Denmark, which hopes to create a similar project.

For her part, Wright will continue to put together the many chapters of Lanny's adventures, and seems happy to have found a volunteer opportunity that puts her in close contact with her grandchildren's school and serves an important educational purpose.

"It's really worked. I never knew where it would go, but then it just kind of went," she said. ▀

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

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The Mountain View Whisman School District invites the school community to enjoy free meals this summer at Castro Elementary and Graham Middle schools.

From now until July 27, Monday through Friday, free breakfast and lunch will be offered to any child between the ages of 1 and 18 as a part of the district's summer school program.

At Castro Elementary School, located at 505 Escuela Ave., breakfast will be served from 7:15 to 8 a.m., and lunch from 12:15 to 1 p.m.

At Graham Middle School, located at 1175 Castro St., brunch will be served from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

No proof of income is required. Meals are served in the cafeterias of both schools.

FOOTHILL LAUNCHES MEASURE C WEB SITE

The committee formed to review the Foothill-De Anza Community College District's Measure C bond now has a Web site up that makes it easier to monitor spending and track the progress of bond projects.

The site, www.measurec.fhda.edu, provides information related to the bond program, including background material on Measure C; the committee's members, meetings schedules, agendas and minutes; related planning documents; and information about bond projects and related business opportunities. The site also provides a place for members of the public to make comments and ask questions.

District voters approved Measure C in June 2006, authorizing the sale of \$490.8 million in bonds. The measure is intended to enable the district to continue modernizing and properly maintaining its campuses, improve safety and fund equipment and technology purchases. Measure C also authorizes money for new furniture and equipment, and to help with maintenance of the district's 2.2 million square feet of buildings.

— Alexa Tondreau



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■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

Gang solution means early intervention

Recently, the *Voice* wrapped up a five-part series on gangs in Mountain View, which sought to shed light on the presence of gangs here and their influence on our neighborhoods, schools and culture.

In our effort to examine the issue from various angles, we reported on, among other things:

■ An alternative to prison, the William F. James Boys Ranch, where we interviewed two Mountain View teens who had experience with gangs;

■ Gang infatuation among elementary- and middle school-aged children, where gang involvement begins in earnest;

■ The need for a teen center in Mountain View;

■ Three girls, weeks away from graduating high school, who confirmed they were as much at risk to join gangs as their male peers.

The series drew favorable support from the community, which seemed glad to have the issue out in the open. And some expressed surprise as well — many people associate Mountain View with Google, not gangs.

While reporting for this series, we experienced a few surprises of our own. Perhaps most profound was the realization that the murder of Alejandro “Alex” Fernandez, who was shot to death on Rengstorff Avenue in 2004, continues to reverberate among Mountain View’s gangsters and at-risk youth. Three years later, several of the young subjects we spoke with continued to bring up his name, and emphasized the impact his murder had on their community. One even said her older sister was so affected by Fernandez’ death that she left gang life forever.

In a strange way, this can be taken as a positive sign: While other cities in the Bay Area suffer from weekly, and sometimes daily, gang killings, with no apparent long-term affect on behavior there, here a single death three years ago continues to be regarded with the seriousness it deserves.

Still, the problem persists, and no single event nor newspaper series — nor even stepped-up efforts by the Mountain View Police Department — will solve it. It seems that most of Mountain View’s gang members were steered into gangs at an early age, and that the solution lies with offering our youths better options — culturally, economically, even recreationally — at an earlier age.

To this end, money channeled into resources to get kids off of the streets and involved in meaningful pursuits seems like money well spent. The lack of a teen center, for one, appears to be a black hole in the city’s services, and the city should pursue development of such a space, especially one which offers mentoring and counseling services, as well as a safe place to hang out.

Counselors at the middle school level confirm this about at-risk youth: Stress from difficult situations in their families, as well as pressure from their peers, makes young people extremely vulnerable to gang life. Getting to these kids early and effectively could make all the difference.

■ LETTERS VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

A WARNING FOR THOSE CONSIDERING GOING SOLAR

Editor:

If someone wants to put up solar panels, this is information that I learned the hard way — by spending lots of money and lots of hours trying to reach people to answer questions:

1. If you live in an old house without much electrical capacity, you will need to get an electrical panel upgrade (several thousand dollars).

2. The least expensive way to do it is to have a new box mounted above the old box — however, if the box cannot be reached by the wire bringing electrical current into your house, the line will have to be extended by PG&E, which takes three to nine months and several thousand dollars more.

3. PG&E says they are supposed to be involved before the outside line is moved. The electricians say they have to do it themselves because PG&E takes so long to do everything. You will be the one left with the large bills, and no solar for a long time.

I got my panel upgrade in mid-March. I filled out the form for PG&E to extend the line in late March. My solar panels are now up, and have been approved by the city, but PG&E won’t authorize the meter change and hook-up to their system until the line extension is done. I still do not have an estimate of cost from them — never mind having the job done. Hopefully, I’ll get the line extension before my solar rebate from PG&E expires.

Susan Perkins
Franklin Street

HOW TO MAKE A SOLDIER’S DAY

Editor:

While meeting some business associates at a downtown restaurant recently I noticed two soldiers come in and sit down. They wore combat fatigues.

I watched them out of the corner of my eye and when they got up to pay their bill I got up and went over to the one near the cash register. I said, “I’m buying your lunch today.” The soldier stood in stunned silence for several moments and then gently said, “Thank you, I really appreciate it.”

I said, “I appreciate you, I only wish this were a more expensive restaurant.” He said they had recently returned from Afghanistan and they were talking about how tired they were.

We shook hands and I saw a faint tear in his eye, I had one too. I thanked him and went back to my table.

Then both soldiers came to my table and the one I hadn’t talked to yet extended his hand. He thanked me and told me how much he appreciated it. I said I am the one who is appreciative and it is my great pleasure, I told them both to take care of themselves.

My business associates were moved, they’d never thought of doing something like this but swore they will do the same at every opportunity from now on.

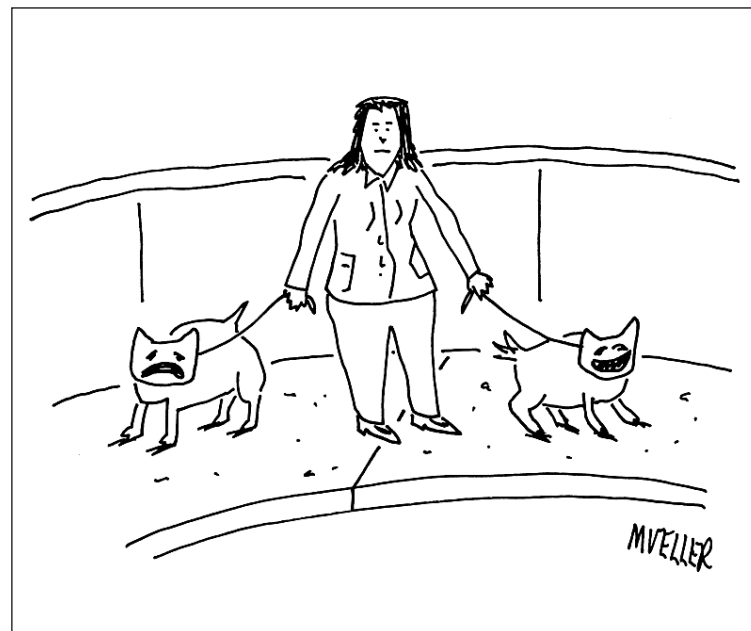
“Did you notice their rank?”

“No, but I think they are in the 101st.”

“They’re captains.”

They couldn’t have been more than 27 years old. I love them.

Jack Perkins
Anza Street



Flood basin editorial is all wet

By Robert Schick

The Voice's June 6 editorial, "Let's consider Annex flood basin," says the Santa Clara Valley Water District was heavy-handed when it first proposed a deep catch basin in the Cuesta Annex. But I would say they were underhanded, and still are.

During the extensive city-wide community workshops to decide the Cuesta Annex's future, residents placed preserving the Annex's natural seasonally changing beauty, and the creation of a heritage orchard, as their top two priorities. The water district did write numerous newspaper articles, participate in the community workshops, give public presentations — and should have gotten the message the first time: Leave the Cuesta Annex alone.

But repeatedly the district has been trying to bypass public opinion by making presentations in private to our City Council, our Chamber of Commerce, and now our local newspaper.

There were good reasons why the public and City Council decided on Concept B in 2006, and not a flood basin or farm for the Cuesta Park Annex:

1) The grading of the Annex to create a flood basin would kill the existing heritage oaks there;

2) The additional users of a farm would require that more Annex open space be lost to needed parking lots which would

cover two acres of the Annex (in fact, a demonstration garden rather than community gardens was discussed for this reason);

3) The gophers in the natural half of the Annex would eat up any vegetables planted in the farm of the Annex;

4) The area's three great blue herons (two males, one female) need the open natural front Annex meadow to hunt in, so that they don't damage their wings on tree branches;

5) The heritage museum *was the compromise* the majority of Annex users were willing to accept (the size of the building has yet to be negotiated) — no other compromising of nature and agricultural history is welcome. Of even greater historic significance than a new history museum is the experience of walking in a piece of Mountain View which has largely remained unchanged for over 100 years.

In the Annex, people experience the mountain view that gave our city its name, the changing of the seasons, the historic prune trees (now mostly plum rootstocks) that preceded apricot orchards in our Valley, and a diversity of birds and wild animals. Anyone can read in a book about the local history our society has killed, but people have almost no opportunity to still experience the sensual living history that the Annex provides.

Robert Schick lives on Park Drive.



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KELLEY COX

■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

El Grullense, anyone?

CHAIN OF QUALITY TAQUERIAS CROPPING UP EVERYWHERE, INCLUDING DOWNTOWN PALO ALTO

By Sheila Himmel

A quick search yields 25 restaurants named El Grullense within driving distance. Who is El Grullense, a man or a multinational corporate chain, and what does it want with us?

The answer to the second question is simple: El Grullense wants only to satisfy our hunger for homey, fast Mexican-American staples. A few signature items:

Excellent carnitas, crisp strings and tender shreds of pork.

Cold cantaloupe juice that

tastes fresher than most cantaloupes.

Fluffy tamales stuffed with perfect roasted chicken.

As long as most Palo Altans can remember, this flat, formerly turquoise building on El Camino Real was Señor Taco. In October 2004, it became Taqueria El Grullense and turned a pale peach color. It also became a real restaurant, with a tile floor, counters and comfortable indoor tables. The memory of Señor Taco is preserved in painted tiles near the entry.

Palo Alto owner Gustavo Per-

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KELLEY COX

The exterior (above), and the interior (below) of El Grullense.

ez is the brother-in-law of Juan Gamez, whose family started frying carnitas in an abandoned A&W in Redwood City after getting too many parking tickets with their taco trucks. Juan's father, Rafael Gamez, started the Northern California business nearly 30 years ago, but the originals are in Los Angeles.

The newest in our area is El Grullense Grill in downtown Mountain View (152 Castro St., (650) 965-4753), with a menu that includes grilled chicken breast, steak and a full bar. You'll also see signs of El Grullense in San Jose, Salinas and Stockton.

Many people think the bird on those signs is a flamingo. It's a grullo, a crane, as in the restaurant's name. And for anybody like my husband who thought the name had something to do with grilling, oops again. The founder came from the town of El Grullo, in the state of Jalisco, Mexico. He is El Grullense.

Fans say El Grullense reminds them of beloved taquerias in

their Southwestern hometowns. Others find the fare too greasy. We found the al pastor burrito (\$4.99), spit-roasted pork with pineapple, guilty of this charge, drenching its flour tortilla.

Otherwise, El Grullense does very well or better. And good luck finding other big menus this cheap and satisfying.

For \$1.25 each, two small corn tortillas embrace tender beef tongue, crisp carnitas and many other meats. Besides the usual, El Grullense carries variety meats, like beef tripe. And for vegetarians: salad, tacos, burritos and tortas.

The immaculate condiment bar, protected by glass, carries green, red and fresca salsas as well as fresh cucumbers, radishes and hot pickled carrots with jalapenos.

Wedges of ripe avocado surround a generous mound of fresh bay shrimp in the shrimp ceviche tostada (\$4.50).

On the tamale plate (\$9.99),

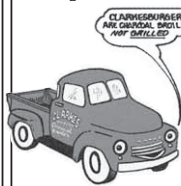
► See **EL GRULLENSE**, page 22



CLARKES

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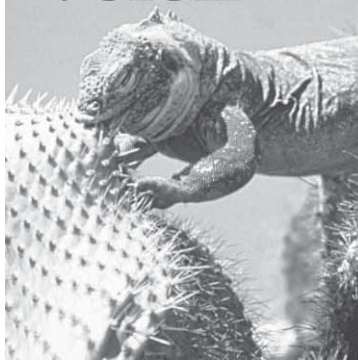
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KELLEY COX

EL GRULLENSE

► Continued from page 21

you can get two of the same or one pork and one chicken, both meats tender and juicy, in a light cornmeal sleeping bag. Plates like this come with a smidgen of shredded lettuce salad, fluffy rice and sticky refried beans. The beans had an unfortunate

burned tinge.

The menu goes on and on, from breakfast burrito to goat soup and menudo (on week-ends) and flan.

The must-have drink is cantaloupe juice. All the juices come in three sizes, starting with a 16-ounce "small" (\$1.75). Order the very sweet horchata or tamarind juice and you're going to say, "Oops, I could've had a cantaloupe juice." ▀

DINING NOTES

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Mary Lou Torre and George Murrell give strong performances in "Space Is Blue (and the Birds Fly In It)."

COURTESY PHOTO

The little play that could

PEAR AVENUE THEATRE TAKES FLIGHT IN 'SPACE IS BLUE (AND THE BIRDS FLY IN IT)'

By Kevin Kirby

One of the riskiest things that any theater company can do, at least from a box office perspective, is to produce a play that no one has ever heard of. And yet, almost since its inception, the Pear Avenue Theatre has shown a commitment to cultivating original scripts by local playwrights, dedicating two of its seven production slots each season to new works.

The company's latest offering, Gregory Meyer's "Space Is Blue (and the Birds Fly in It)," proves that the risk is worthwhile.

Meyer's play is surprisingly polished. Witty, packed with ideas and inhabited by three-dimensional characters, it culminates with a moral dilemma that is indeed worthy of dramatization. In the hands of director Ann Kuchins and a talented cast, "Space Is Blue" comes alive, exploring the morals of academia and the meaning of family in the story of a boy facing a life-altering surgical procedure.

The play is set in a boarding house in an American college town. The house is owned by Helen, whose two boarders — Corinne, a Hungarian-born professor of American pop culture, and Walter, a grad student in theoretical physics who, we soon learn, is also Helen's lover — have come to represent a family of sorts. Also part of this clan of unabashed intellectuals is Dr. Cheevy, a respected neurobiologist from the university.

The story begins with the arrival of Philip, a British orphan with a degenerative neurological disease that has confined him to a wheelchair. Philip has come to the U.S.

to participate in the clinical trial of an experimental treatment pioneered by Cheevy, and the doctor has arranged for him to stay with Helen for several weeks before and after the procedure.

Philip is an exceptional child with an intuitive genius for theoretical physics and a gift for poetic expression. Surrounded by the publish-or-perish world of cutthroat academia and high-stakes research, he soon becomes a pawn for well meaning people with conflicting agendas.

Mary Lou Torre, a familiar face on local stages these days, turns in some of her best work as Helen. She is the emotional center in a house full of intellectuals, yet she is never "merely" emotional. Torre portrays a woman who can easily hold her own in academic discussions while still holding on to her pragmatic, real-world sensibilities.

For such a young actor, newcomer George Murrell gives a fine performance as Philip, his believability aided by the fact that his English accent is authentic. While his Sussex dialect makes his opening monologue a challenge to understand, the ear quickly adjusts. Murrell is particularly good in Philip's scenes with Walter, his excitement obvious as he explains his cosmological theories — probably for the first time — to someone who can understand them.

Rob Dario, as Walter, is also good in these scenes. We see him warming, almost against his will, to this boy who threatens to steal so much of Helen's attention. Dario's performance is nicely understated throughout, and he manages to keep Walter a sympathetic character despite his actions later in the play.

Susan Jackson is delightful as Corinne. Meyer has peppered her intellectual discourse with references to "The Brady Bunch" and "Gilligan's Island," which are that much funnier when delivered in Jackson's carefully cultivated Hungarian dialect.

As Dr. Cheevy, Dean Burgi is most believable in moments of anger or defensiveness. In his less emotional scenes, Burgi's amiable demeanor seems staid and his dialogue baldly expository. (In fairness, the latter flaw may be the playwright's fault as much as the actor's.)

There are hardly any set changes to speak of, yet the transitions between scenes often drag. This is at least partly due to the difficulty of maneuvering Philip's wheelchair through the tight spaces on stage and the no doubt tighter spaces backstage. A bit of music during these transitions might help to cover this down time. ▀

■ INFORMATION

What: "Space Is Blue (and the Birds Fly In It)," a play by Pear Avenue Theatre

Where: Pear Avenue Theatre, 1220 Pear Ave., Unit K, Mountain View

When: Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 2 p.m., through July 15

Cost: Tickets are \$15 for Thursday and Sunday performances, \$20 for Friday and Saturday (\$5 less for students and seniors)

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MOVIE TIMES

1408 (PG-13) ★★1/2

Century 16: 7:45 & 10:25 p.m.

Century 20: 11:20 a.m.; 1:45, 4:25, 7 & 9:35 p.m.

A MIGHTY HEART (R) ★★1/2

Century 20: 1:40, 4:40, 7:15, & 9:55 p.m.

CAPTIVITY (R) (NOT REVIEWED)

Century 16: 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45 & 10:20 p.m.

Century 20: 12:40, 3:10, 5:35, 8:05 & 10:35 p.m.

EVAN ALMIGHTY (PG) ★★

Century 16: 7:05 & 9:30 p.m.

Century 20: 12:05, 2:35, 4:55, 7:25 & 9:55 p.m.

EVENING (PG-13) ★★

Century 16: 11:25 a.m.; 2:15 & 5 p.m.

Century 20: 11:25 a.m.; 2:15, 5, 7:50 & 10:30 p.m.

FANTASTIC FOUR: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER (PG) ★★

Century 20: 12:20, 2:50, 5:15, 7:35 & 10:05 p.m.

HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX (PG-13) (NOT REVIEWED)

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

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

JOSHUA (R) (NOT REVIEWED)

Century 20: 12:10, 2:45, 5:20, 7:55 & 10:30 p.m.

KNOCKED UP (R) ★★1/2

Century 20: 1:30, 4:30, 7:30 & 10:25 p.m.

Palo Alto Square: 1:30, 4:20, 7:20 & 10:20 p.m.

LA VIE EN ROSE (PG-13) ★★

Guild: 2, 5 & 8 p.m.

LICENSE TO WED (PG-13) (NOT REVIEWED)

Century 16: 11:50 a.m.; 2:25, 4:50, 7:25 & 9:55 p.m.

Century 20: 11:50 a.m.; 1, 2:15, 3:25, 4:45, 6, 7:05, 8:20 & 9:30 p.m.

LIVE FREE OR DIE HARD (PG-13) ★★

Century 16: 12:50, 3:55, 7:10 & 10:10 p.m.

Century 20: 11:35 a.m.; 1:10, 2:30, 4:10, 5:25, 7:10, 8:30 & 10:10 p.m.

NANCY DREW (PG) ★1/2

Century 20: 11:15 a.m.; 1:40 & 4 p.m.

OCEAN'S THIRTEEN (PG-13) ★★

Century 16: 11a.m.; 1:50, 4:45, 7:40 & 10:30 p.m.

Century 20: 11:10 a.m.; 1:55, 4:55, 7:45 & 10:35 p.m.

ONCE (R) ★★1/2

Aquarius: 1, 3, 5, 7 & 9:30 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 20: 6:25 & 10 p.m.

RATATOUILLE (G) ★★

Century 16: 10:45 & 11:35 a.m.; 1:30, 2:20, 4:15, 5:05, 7:50 & 10:30 p.m.

Century 20: 11:15 & 11:55 a.m.; 12:35, 1:20, 2, 2:40, 3:20, 4:05, 4:50, 5:30, 6:15, 6:55, 7:40, 8:20, 9, 9:40 & 10:25 p.m.

SICKO (PG-13) ★★

Century 16: 12:45, 3:40, 6:45 & 9:35 p.m.

Century 20: 1:05, 3:55, 7 & 9:50 p.m.

SURF'S UP (PG) ★★

Century 20: 11:30 a.m.

TRANSFORMERS (PG-13) ★★

Century 16: 10:35 & 11:30 a.m.; 12:20, 1:50, 3, 3:45, 5:05, 6:40, 7:20, 8:20, 10 & 10:35 p.m.

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

WAITRESS (PG-13) ★★

Century 20: 11:20 a.m.; 1:50, 4:35, 7:20 & 10 p.m.

Palo Alto Square: 2, 4:30, 7 & 9:40 p.m.

Note: Screenings are for Friday through Tuesday only.

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★ Skip it
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★★★ A good bet
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MOVIE REVIEWS

EVENING ★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 12) The bond between mothers and daughters is the hook of the screen adaptation of Susan Minot's beloved novel of a wealthy family on the cusp of crisis. Ann Lord has traveled to snooty Newport, R.I. to play maid of honor at her best friend's wedding. Lila Wittenborn is the bride-to-be, professing to be absorbed in lavish wedding preparations while secretly dreading a future attached to a man she doesn't love. Lila's brother Buddy is the story's titular voice of reason, a be-soaked and bewildered charmer who secretly pines for Ann while cutting too close to the high-society truths of his stoic family. The epicenter of this social whirlpool is unwitting villain Harris Arden, who appears to have his hooks in more than Lila's heart. That's just the flashbacks. The adult Ann lies on her deathbed, mulling over thrills and regrets to the consternation of daughters Nina and Connie, who puzzle over the identity of mystery man "Harris" as mom waxes remorseful about the one that got away. There's a better movie somewhere inside this saccharine weepy that telegraphs its melodramatics with shameless glee. *Rated: PG-13 for some language, nudity and mature themes. 1 hour, 57 minutes.* — J.A.

FANTASTIC FOUR: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER ★★1/2

(Century 12, Century 16) Life has gotten a tad too Hollywood for the Fantastic Four. Despite scientific breakthroughs by the brilliant Reed Richards (loan 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.

LIVE FREE OR DIE HARD ★★

(Century 16, Century 20) Modern technology intrudes on New York detective John McClane's world when a group of Internet-savvy terrorists led by the bitter Thomas Gabriel begins to take advantage of America's tech dependence. McClane is escorting young hacker Matt Farrell to the FBI's command center when things go haywire. Gabriel and his team of tat-

tooted thugs and IT geeks systematically disrupt the American way with computer viruses and hacker know-how. Chaotic street lights snarl traffic, a faux anthrax threat evacuates the U.S. Capitol and police stations are overrun with panicked citizens. Only McClane and Farrell have the brawn and brains to shut down Gabriel's sinister ambitions. Gabriel's complicated plan is far more confusing than the straightforward snatch-and-grab job of the first "Die Hard" film, and McClane has grown less empathetic since then, violently dispatching villains without the slightest remorse. The complex action sequences are impressive, with brilliant graphics and top-notch stunt work tugging viewers to the edge of their seats. *Rated: PG-13 for intense sequences of violence and action, language and a brief sexual situation. 2 hours, 10 minutes.* — 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 show-biz 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.

SICKO ★★★★★

(Century 12) "Sicko" looks at the lucky Americans, the 250 million who have private health-care insurance. Applying the Michael Moore method of documentary filmmaking, the director combines humor with tales of personal tragedy — and then veers into audacious, unexpected territory. The folksy firebrand again puts himself in front of the camera, making his

position clear: His nonfiction film functions as a personal essay that includes pointed commentary, offers a politically charged vision and raises big questions. As Moore's most brilliantly structured work, "Sicko" starts off with ordinary Americans whose claims and coverage have been denied for ridiculous reasons. Close-ups capture their emotional testimonies, appealing to our hearts more than our minds. Then doctors and industry insiders testify about how insurance companies maximize profits by keeping benefits from the premium-paying patients who need them. Eventually the ruffled rabble-rouser throws his

questioning back at us: "Who are we? A nation that dumps its own citizens like garbage on the curb because they can't pay their medical bills?" *Rated: PG-13 for brief strong language. 1 hour. 56 minutes.* — S.T.

MOVIE CRITICS

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

MOVIE REVIEWS

Read more reviews online at
www.PaloAltoOnline.com.



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Chamber WIB Luncheon

Tuesday, July 10th, 11:45 am – 1:15 pm
Michael's @ Shorline

Guest Speakers: MB Deans, of Douglas Partners
Topic: 2007-2008 Economic Forecast: What Does It mean for my Business?

July Chamber Mixer

Wednesday, July 11th – 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Google

Come out and join chamber members and local businesses at our Annual Mixer @ Google!

Google Headquarters

Tunis Tech Talk Room

1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View

You must RSVP to reserve your spot by July 3rd!! (Sorry, no exceptions)

Email mvchambermixer@gmail.com or call 650-968-8378 today!

Evite invitation to follow

\$5 for Chamber Member, \$15 for non-Member

The 36th Annual Art & Wine Festival is Coming!!!

Make some new friends as you help pour flavorful wines and tasty beers!

Recruit your friends, family & co-workers to volunteer!

Sat, Sept 8th or Sun, Sept 9th.

Contact Jacqui at jmarch@chambermv.org for more info or to sign up.

Pre-Tour Briefing China Trip 2007

Friday, July 13th @ 5:30 pm
Complimentary Home-Made Treats!

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RSVP to 650-968-8378 or
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Dec 2-10 China Trip Added!

Because of the popularity of our sold-out November Trip, we are now taking reservations for a December 2-10 trip to China – perfect for Holiday shopping!

All inclusive trip is \$1,399 per person, based on double-occupancy.

Pre-tour briefing will be held July 13, 2007

5:30 pm @ the Hilton Garden Inn

(840 E. El Camino Real, Mountain View)

Questions can be answered there or emailed to Jennifer Low at trip2china@chambermv.org or Jennifer at 650-968-8378.

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MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE

HIGHLIGHT

THEATREWORKS PRESENTS "THEOPHILUS NORTH"

TheatreWorks presents the West Coast Premiere of "Theophilus North." Based on Thornton Wilder's autobiographical novel. Leslie Martinson directs. Weds., July 18 through Sun., August 12, Tue. & Wed, 7:30 p.m., Thu. through Sat., 8 p.m.; Sun. 2 & 7 p.m. \$20-56. TheatreWorks at Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. www.theatreworks.org

SPECIAL EVENTS

CONNOISSEURS' MARKETPLACE Mid-summer festival of the arts with live jazz, R&B and rock 'n roll music headlined by the Joe Sharino Band, fine art and crafts by 250 artists, seasonal cooking demos for the home chef. July 21-22, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Free admission. on Santa Cruz Ave., between El Camino Real and Johnson St., Menlo Park. Call 650-325-2818. www.miramarevents.com

FLOWERS IN THE HOME A week-long celebration of plants in the home including floral demonstrations, cutting garden tours, plant talks, displays and more. This event will coincide with the 9th Annual Botanical Art Exhibition at Filoli. July 17-21, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Admission free, except where noted, for members or with paid admission to Filoli. Filoli, 86 Canada Road, Woodside. www.filoli.org

OSTERIA NIGHT AT QUATTRO FEATURING OROGENY VINEYARDS Chef Alessandro Carturnini presents a family-style, multi-course feast, pairing Quattro's rustic Italian cuisine with wines from Orogeny Vineyards, including their Green Valley Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. Fri., July 13, 5:30-10 p.m. \$85. Quattro, 2040 University Ave., East Palo Alto. www.fourseasons.com/siliconvalley

ART GALLERIES

BEYOND THE SURFACE New clayprints by Martha Castillo & "multi-orientation" paintings on rotation devices by Sydel Lewis. Through July 21. Free. Gallery House, 320 California Ave. (via Printers Cafe), Palo Alto. Call 650-326-1668. www.galleryhouse2.com

KAY CULPEPPER'S WATERCOLORS/HOMMAGE A CEZANNE "En hommage a Cezanne": a watercolor show inspired by Cezanne's paintings viewed during the year of his anniversary show in Aix en Provence, 2006. Music by la rive gauche opening night, Fri., July 6. 6-9 p.m. Free. Norton Gallery, Pacific Art League, 668 Ramona St., Palo Alto. Call 650-857-0640.

LE JARDIN: FLORAL PHOTOGRAPHS Featuring the photographic works of Christina Florkowski and Joanne Koltnow. Through July 30, 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.

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." Through 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.paac.org

PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW More than 40 local fine art photographers explore the theme of "Captured Light" in this annual, juried photography show. Through Aug. 31, Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. & Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Pacific Art League - Norton Gallery, 668 Ramona St., Palo Alto. Call 650-321-3891. www.zivkov.com/pete/PHIG.html

ROADTRIP: DEATH VALLEY, MONO LAKE AND AMARGOSA OPERA HOUSE Photos in color and sepia by D. Cichon. From sand dunes to still lifes, the exhibit encompasses views of well-known and little-known places along with writings about them and the stories and inspirations behind the photos. Through July 25, 10-4 p.m. Free. Fire House Gallery, 450 Bryant St., Palo Alto. Call 650-289-5430.

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

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

BEST QUIET WATER PADDLING IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA Northern California offers paddlers who prefer calm water a variety of destinations. Join author and photographer John Coale for a slide presentation on his favorite places to paddle quiet water. Wed. July 18, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. REI, 2450 Charleston Road, Mountain View. Call 650-969-1938. www.rei.com/mountainview

EXPLORING DESOLATION WILDERNESS Southwest of Lake Tahoe and only a three-hour drive from the Bay Area, Desolation Wilderness is a 99-square mile area with many of the features of the high Sierra. Former U.S. Forest Service wilderness ranger Tim Longo presents a slide show. Wed., July 25, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. REI, 2450 Charleston Road, Mountain View. Call 650-969-1938. www.rei.com/mountainview

HONKY TONK SPECIAL Taught by choreographer Hedy McAdams. Classic couple and line dances. July 3-31, 7-9:30 p.m. Basics - \$50 on-site/\$45 prepaid, Interm. \$62/\$57, Both \$102/\$90, Drop-ins - \$15. The Woman's Club of Palo Alto, 475 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-856-1249. www.danceadventures.com

LINE DANCE SUMMER CAMP FOR ADULTS Line dance classics taught to upbeat music. Taught by Hedy McAdams. Through



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NAOMI MINDELZUN

"CROSS CURRENTS": Summer exhibit features all 30 Gallery 9 artists. New works: painting, sculpture, ceramics, printmaking, photography, collage and jewelry. Meet the artists at Gallery 9 reception: Thurs., July 12, 5-7:30 p.m. Through Aug. 25, Tues.-Sat., 11-5 p.m. Gallery 9, 143 Main St., Los Altos. www.gallery9losaltos.com

July 31, 9:15 a.m.-11:45 p.m. Intro \$40 on-site/\$36 prepaid; Interm./Adv \$56/\$51; Both \$87/\$79; Drop-ins \$12. The Woman's Club of Palo Alto, 475 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-325-3371. www.DanceAdventures.com

MASTER GARDENERS ROUND TABLE Annual get-together of UCCE master gardeners. Stump the master gardeners with soil, plant and pest problems. Landscaping problems welcomed. No reservations needed. Sat., July 14, 9-11 a.m. free. Gamble Garden, 1431 Waverly St., Palo Alto. Call 408-282-3105. www.gamblegarden.org

MICROWAVE DYEING Learn what makes good color composition, mix a stock solution, and pre-soak take home. For ages teen to adult. Bring an apron or old shirt and lunch. July 15, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. \$100. Community School of Music and Arts at Finn Center, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. Call 917-6800. www.arts4all.org

STAG SHABBATON A men's shabbat in Palo Alto. Includes Friday night lodging (home hospitality), meals and Saturday night activity. Hotels available for extra cost. Fri., July 13, Relationship classes 7-9 p.m. \$54. Jewish Study Network, 2584 Leghorn St., Mountain View. Call 650-961-4576. www.jsn.info

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

THE BEST DANCE WORKOUT Class combines elements of modern ballet & jazz; yoga & core Pilates. Lose stress & weight; gain confidence & strength. Beginners welcome. All adults. Teacher has 20-plus years experience. Lots of personal attention. Please email/call to register. July 17-Aug. 21, 7:30-8:30 p.m. \$15 single/\$50 for 4. Mountain View Masonic Lodge, 890 Church St., Mountain View. Call 650-969-4110. www.livelyfoundation.org

YOGA AT ALL SAINTS Small-group, meditative Kundalini yoga classes held every Saturday 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/parishlife/activities/yoga.html

COMMUNITY EVENTS

AIDS KITS FOR AFRICA Help with AIDS crisis in Africa. Assemble caregivers kits to be distributed in Africa by World Vision. Kits contain important items for both patients and caregivers alike. All are welcome. Donations also accepted. Fri., July 13 & Sat., July 14, Fri. 6-9 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Peninsula Bible Church, 3505 Middlefield Road, Mountain View. Call 650-494-3840 ext. 237. www.pbc.org

CANOPY TREE WALK The Giant Sequoia grows in Palo Alto. Ask Dave Dockter why this tree does not offer a good source of firewood as he leads a guided walk around the Southgate neighborhood's trees. Sat., July 14, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Free. Palo Alto High School Parking Lot, Meet in the Palo Alto High School Parking Lot at Churchill and Castilleja, Palo Alto. Call 650-964-6110. www.canopy.org

IMMIGRATION SERIES STUDIES DEMOGRAPHICS The demographics of current U.S. immigration policy is the second of five immigration study sessions open to the public. Steven Levy, senior economist for the Center for Continuing Study of the California Economy, leads the discussion. The Los Altos Library and League of Women Voters are sponsors. Mon. July 16, Free. Los Altos Public Library, 13 South San Antonio Road, Los

Altos. Call 650-941-4846. www.lwviamv.org

KIDS ART ON MAIN STREET Showcases works by 30 young artists (grades K-6) from CSMA's Arts in Action program. Sponsored by the Los Altos Town Crier and Community School of Music and Arts. July 3-31, Free. Main Street Cafe and Books, 134 Main St., Los Altos. Call 650-917-6800 ext. 305. www.arts4all.org

SUMMER SINGS Join singers from all over the Bay Area to sing selections from Bach's Mass in B-minor. Conducted by Joshua Haberman, San Francisco Symphony Chorus. Music available on loan. 50 percent discount for full-time singers. Tickets available at the door. Mon. July 16, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$15 (\$7.50 for students). Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Ave., Los Altos. Call 650-254-1700. www.scholacantorum.org

CONCERTS

"MUSICAL FIREWORKS!" Organist James Welch lights the fuse on "Musical Fireworks!" Music to celebrate the 4th of July and Bastille Day, with variations on The Star Spangled Banner, The Marseillaise, a Sousa march and other pieces by American, French and Austrian composers. Sun., July 15, 7:30-8:30 p.m. \$10. St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto. www.welchorganist.com

BROWN BAG CONCERT SERIES Baguette Quartette: the music of Paris between 1920-1940, led by accordionist Odilie Lavault. Thu., July 19, 12-1 p.m. Free. Cogswell Plaza, Lytton and Ramona St., Palo Alto. Call 650-463-4940. www.cityofpaloalto.org/concerts

CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW SUMMER SOUNDS The Flashback Band plays songs from the '50s, '60s, '70s, '80s & '90s and pride themselves for being able to play special requests. Thu., July 26, 6:30-8 p.m. Cuesta Park, Mountain View. <http://www.mountainview.gov/>

CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW SUMMER SOUNDS The Cocktail Monkeys perform rock and roll (classic and contemporary), Motown, pop and disco. Thu., July 19, 6:30-8 p.m. Civic Center Plaza, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. <http://www.mountainview.gov/>

JEB PATTON TRIO FEATURING TOOTIE HEATH Pianist Jeb Patton is a member of the "Sharp Nine Class of 2001" and the regular accompanist to the Heath Brothers. Mentored by Sir Roland Hanna, his style is described as post or neo bop. Drummer Tootie Heath has played with John Coltrane, Herbie Hancock, Art Farmer and dozens more. Tue., July 17, 7:30 p.m. \$14-28. Campbell Recital Hall, Braun Music Center, 541 Lasuen Mall, Stanford. Call 650-736-0324. www.stanfordjazz.org

MARIA MARQUEZ QUINTET Venezuelan singer Maria Marquez. Formerly of Wild Mango, she has collaborated with John Santos and Omar Sosa. Fri., July 13, 8 p.m. \$14-28. Campbell Recital Hall, Braun Music Center, 541 Lasuen Mall, Stanford. Call 650-736-0324. www.stanfordjazz.org

MUSIC@MENLO CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL Encounter I: "Handshakes Across the Centuries." Encounters are multi-disciplinary presentations led by musicologists, musicians and journalists guiding audiences through the festival. Sun., July 22, 7:30 p.m. \$30 Adult; \$15 Student. Martin Family Hall, Menlo School, 50 Valapraiso Ave., Atherton. www.musicatmenlo.org

NEW STANDARDS NIGHT WITH PETER STOLTZMAN Called a "monster jazz piano player" by Jack Elliot (music director of the Grammy Awards and Mancini Institute), Stoltzman is a graduate of both the Berklee College of Music and the New England Conservatory. He will present an array of pop tunes adapted as contemporary jazz arrangements. Wed., July 18, 7:30 p.m. \$10-20. Campbell Recital Hall, Braun Music Center, 541 Lasuen Mall, Stanford. Call 650-736-0324. www.stanfordjazz.org

PATRICK WOLFF TRIO Emphasizing an eclectic mix of influences from old-style swing to roots music, New York-based saxophonist and jazz educator Patrick Wolff brings his modern



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jazz Trio to the Workshop, playing selections from their first recording, "Petals." Mon. July 16, 7:30 p.m. \$10-20. Campbell Recital Hall, Braun Music Center, 541 Lasuen Mall, Stanford. Call 650-736-0324. www.stanfordjazz.org

PETER APFELBAUM SEXTET The Berkeley-born Apfelbaum formed the Hieroglyphics Ensemble while still in his teens. His exploration of non-traditional music forms continued with the acclaimed MultiKulti. Now based in Brooklyn, saxophonist Apfelbaum brings his new sextet to Stanford. Sun., July 15, 7:30 p.m. \$14-28. Dinkelspiel Auditorium, 471 Lagunita Drive, Stanford. Call 650-736-0324. www.stanfordjazz.org

SUMMER SYMPHONY FEATURING DIONNE WARWICK Dionne Warwick takes the stage for the 48th annual Summer Symphony, a benefit concert for the Children's Health Council. Sunday, July 15, 4:30-8:30 p.m. \$50 - \$75 Stanford's Frost Amphitheatre, Galvez Street & Campus Drive, Stanford. Call 866-468-3399. www.summersymphony.org

ON STAGE

"SWEET CHARITY" Peninsula Youth Theatre will present the Tony-winning musical "Sweet Charity" July 28-Aug. 5. Show times are 2 and 7:30 p.m. July 28, 29 and Aug. 4; 7:30 p.m. Aug. 3; and 2 p.m. Aug. 5. Discounted shows will be at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 2 and 1 p.m. Aug. 3. Group discounts are available. \$10-\$18 Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. www.pytnet.org

SPACE IS BLUE (AND THE BIRDS FLY IN IT) Gregory Meyer's script dwells on the link between scientific truth and human experience, as a self-styled "family" of loners, related by friendship but not by blood, struggles over the fate of a brilliant child. This marks the Pear's sixth world premiere. Through July 15, 8 p.m. \$10 - \$25. The Pear Avenue Theatre, 1220 Pear Ave. Unit K, Mountain View. Call 650-254-1148. www.thepear.org

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

SENIORS

ASAP Mountain View seniors who are interested in attending free performances at the Mountain View Center for Performing Arts but are unable or unwilling to drive at night, can participate in the ASAP program. Volunteer drivers provide transportation to and from designated performances. Call for more info. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6330.

NEWCOMER'S GROUP An orientation and tour of the Mountain View Senior Center, in which an overview of classes, upcoming events, social services and general information will be presented. Tue., July 17, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6330.

WORKSHOP: CARING FOR YOUR DENTURES Join Bernard Hume, D.D.S. as he gives a lecture on dental care, quick tips for caring for dentures and advice on oral hygiene. Thu., July 26, 1-2:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6330.

TALKS/AUTHORS

RON PAUL CAMPAIGN RALLY Republican presidential candidate Ron Paul is coming to Silicon Valley. Hear the nine-term congressman's message to bring home the troops, abolish the federal income tax and restore constitutional values. Sat., July 14, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Free. Charleston Park, Charleston Road (east of 101), Mountain View. www.ronpaulrally.com

SHIRLEY TALLMAN, HISTORICAL MYSTERY AUTHOR Shirley Tallman, author of the Sarah Woolson series, introduces her new novel The Cliff House Strangler. Set in 1880s San Francisco, it features a female attorney/detective and plenty of local color. Meet the author and hear her read from this new title. Books available for purchase and signing. Tue.,

July 24, 7-9 p.m. Free. Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6337. www.mountainview.gov

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

OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL EVENT Volunteers will work on Stage II of the District's large-scale yellow star thistle removal program in the South Skyline Area. Participants will be working in the Monte Bello, Los Trancos and/or Skyline Ridge Preserve. Sat., July 14, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Free. Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, Santa Cruz Mountains, Mountain View. Call 650-691-1200. www.openspace.org

MORE LISTINGS

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

The Children's Health Council presents...
48th Summer Symphony
DIONNE WARWICK
SUNDAY, JULY 15, 2007
Frost Amphitheater, Stanford University

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