

MountainView VOICE



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INSIDE: WEEKEND | PAGE 17

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Neighbors dislike smell of KFC

MAYOR JOINS OTHERS QUESTIONING PLAN FOR DRIVE-THROUGH EATERY ON EL CAMINO

By Daniel DeBolt

Neighbors packed a small meeting room at City Hall last week to oppose a KFC-A&W fast food restaurant to replace the abandoned Austin's BBQ on El Camino Real and Mariposa.

Neighbors within 300 feet of the project received notice of the meeting and about 16 showed up. They expressed concerns about the appearance of a fast food restaurant next to their homes. Some living as close as 30 feet

away complained about future exhaust fumes from the drive-through. Vegetarian neighbors balked at the smell of fried chicken potentially wafting through the neighborhood.

To make the project a little more palatable, neighbors asked that the development use solar panels, composting and gray water recovery, but KFC representatives reportedly told neighbors that the company doesn't do any sort of "green building," said neighbor Christopher Bianchi.

Neighbors like Bianchi would like to see something more in line with the city's "Grand Boulevard" concept for El Camino Real — a two-story mixed-use development with housing on the second story. What they are more likely to get is the drive-through restaurant and another new retail building next door.

The city's hands are often tied in this sort of situation, officials said — KFC already owns the property, and the city is required by law to process applications that meet zoning requirements. No council meeting is necessary, only the approval of the zoning administrator.

But when it comes to fast food restaurants, this may prove to be one too many.

Mayor Laura Macias said she might "eat her words," but suggested the city take the lead of southern Los Angeles, where there is a moratorium on fast food restaurants in an effort to combat diabetes and other health problems.

"This isn't the wild wild west," Macias said. "Just because it's



NORBERT VON DER GROEBEN

WELCOME HOME:

Linda Martinez kisses her husband *Armando* as family members were reunited last Saturday at Moffett Field. Ten members of the California 15 Air National Guard arrived at Moffett after being deployed in Afghanistan, where they spent four months with the 129th Rescue Wing, which provided combat search-and-rescue support to Operation Enduring Freedom's 451 Air Expeditionary Group at Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan.

CITY COUNCIL

Youth given a taste for governing

NEWLY FORMED COMMITTEE OFFERS SERIOUS FORUM FOR TEENAGE CONSTITUENTS

By Daniel DeBolt

By a slim margin, the City Council decided Tuesday to put the city's youth advisory group on par with other advisory committees in the city.

Previously, the group's main task was to organize youth-oriented events and concerts, but political action was limited to attending an annual mayor's conference. Now the group of high

► See **COUNCIL**, page 13

► See **KFC**, page 7

Google founders can fly out of Moffett

PAGE AND BRIN'S BOEING 767 HELPS WITH NASA RESEARCH — EXECS CAN 'COME AND GO AS THEY PLEASE'

By Daniel DeBolt

NASA Ames released a statement Monday explaining why a Boeing 767, owned by Google founders Larry Page and Sergei Brin, was seen on Moffett Field's runway last week.

Public affairs director Delores Beasley explained that under an agreement with the executives, the plane has been fitted with scientific equipment that allows NASA Ames to "regularly collect earth

atmospheric and terrestrial observations" - thereby allowing the plane to land at Moffett Field under provisions of a two-year lease.

NASA spokesperson Michael Mewhinney confirmed that the agreement allows the Google execs to "come and go as they please," and NASA researchers do not have to be on board. The plane will "operate out of" Moffett, Mewhinney wrote. According to some reports, the agreement also covers other planes owned by Page and

Brin, including one or more Gulfstreams.

Mayor Laura Macias said Tuesday she didn't think it was a good idea for NASA to open the door to this type of agreement, and questioned how fair it was to others.

"There's so many people chomping at the bit to land at NASA," Macias said. "I think it's good when we all play by the same rules."

The airfield is restricted under

► See **GOOGLE**, page 12

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

Chuck & Tori Atwell



MOUNTAIN VIEW ■ Tudor-style home near Castro Street. 3bd/2ba with 2 family areas + formal dining room. Full-size basement/workshop. 2-car garage. Views of park. **\$1,049,000**

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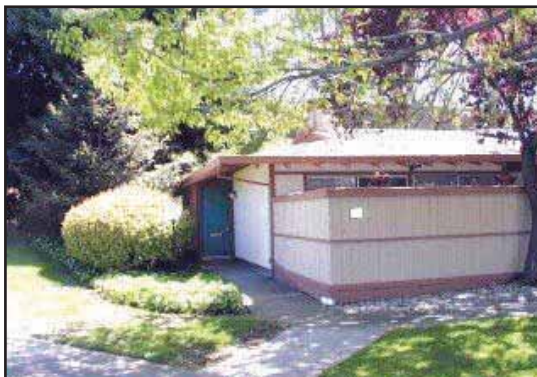
CUPERTINO ■ Fabulous duplex: 3bd/2ba & 2bd/2ba. Dual-pane windows, vaulted ceilings, FP in both units, separate garages + private back yards. End of cul-de-sac. **\$1,399,000**

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PALO ALTO ■ Beautifully remodeled 2bd + office, 2 baths + spa tub. Built-ins and storage galore! Wood floors, plantation shutters, indoor laundry, AC, alarm. **\$925,000**

Margaret Grant



MOUNTAIN VIEW ■ Light and bright 1bd/1ba with remodeled kitchen, skylights, Berber carpeting and plenty of storage. 2 patio doors. Great location. **\$369,000**

Maisy Young



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Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

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

Everybody's talking about the Iraq War. What do you think we should do?



"I believe we should pull out. I do think we should try to stabilize the region, but it should be more of a coordinated effort. We need to get everyone involved — Iran, Israel, Saudia Arabia."

Ian Skreen, Mountain View



"I think the war is immoral. The only reason they invaded is because of the oil, even a child can see that. I think the U.S. has a black page in its history for invading a country without proof that they had weapons of mass destruction. ... They should pull out."

Sonia Romero, Mountain View



"My opinion is that we shouldn't have gone in the first place. But now that they're in, we need to get them out as quickly and safely as possible ... which as probably not as short-term as we all would like it to be."

Cindy Mallay, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida



"It's a difficult question. I wonder if it's worth it to be involved in the Middle East. For the future, I think it's better to be there, to have a foot in the door."

Elie Azoulay, Mountain View



"I don't follow politics here, so I don't have an opinion either way. I'm not into the Iraq war though."

Sai Aung, Mountain View

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■ CRIMEWATCH

BURGLARY/RESIDENTIAL, 1000 BLOCK CRESTVIEW DR., 9/4

An elderly man was assaulted and robbed by two men, leaving him with injuries all over his body. The two men attacked the victim from behind, punching him in the back of the head and knocking him down. They then battered him, repeat-

edly punching and kicking him in the face, chest and legs, and then made off with his money.

Patrol officers located one of the suspects and arrested him. The other suspect remains at large. He is described as a short Hispanic male in his mid-30s, and was last seen wearing all dark clothing.

■ POLICELOG

BATTERY

1100 Block Carver Pl., 9/5
200 Block E. Middlefield Rd., 9/6
100 Block Paseo Ct., 9/8
300 Block Moffett Blvd., 9/8

California St./Franklin St., 9/9
E. El Camino Real/Grant Rd., 9/9

FAILURE TO OBEY OFFICER
Moffett Motel, 9/5

BURGLARY/AUTO

600 Block N. Whisman Rd., 9/5
400 Block Mountain Laurel Ct., 9/8
100 Block Asbury Way, 9/8
700 Block Mariposa Ave., 9/8

GRAND THEFT
1900 Block Higdon Ave., 9/6

IDENTITY THEFT
1900 Block Higdon Ave., 9/6

BURGLARY/COMMERCIAL

2200 Block W. El Camino Real, 9/6
300 Block Castro St., 9/9

MISSING PERSON - JUVENILE
1800 Block Higdon Ave., 9/9

BURGLARY/RESIDENTIAL

1800 Block Ednamary Way, 9/6

PETTY THEFT
Miller Ave./San Antonio Rd., 9/5
BMW of Mountain View, 9/6
700 Block Villa St., 9/6

CORPORAL INJURY TO SPOUSE

500 Block W. Middlefield Rd., 9/9

POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHENALIA
Central Expressway/Thompson Ave., 9/9

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

400 Block San Antonio Rd., 9/6
Wal-Mart, 9/6
Easy Foods Company, 9/9
Church, 9/9
900 Block Dana St., 9/9

POSSESSION OF STOLEN PROPERTY
Hwy. 101/N. Shoreline Blvd., 9/7

DISTURBANCE

500 Block McCarty Ave., 9/7
900 Block Rich Ave., 9/8
200 Block Colony St., 9/8

ROBBERY
500 Block Showers Dr., 9/5

DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE

2200 Block California St., 9/5
100 Block Villa St., 9/6
200 Block Montecito Ave., 9/8

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES/PERSON
Target, 9/4
200 Block San Antonio Circle, 9/5
600 Block Ellis St., 9/7
1900 Block Colony St., 9/8
100 Block Solana Dr., 9/9

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE


200 Block Escuela Ave., 9/5

VANDALISM
100 Block N. Rengstorff Ave., 9/5
W. Dana St./Hope St., 9/7
Monte Carlo Club, 9/9
Castro St./Villa St., 9/9

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Ellis St./SB 101, 9/5

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- Saturday, September 29
- * **IS MEDIA THE OTHER PARENT?**
Dr. Tom Robinson from the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Center for Healthy Weight and Rebecca Randall from Common Sense Media discuss the effects of media on the health of our children and practical ways parents can guide their children towards a better understanding of media messages and productive lifestyle.
- Tuesday, October 2
- * **CESAREAN BIRTH CLASS**
This two-hour class is taught by a labor and delivery nurse childbirth educator who helps prepare families for cesarean delivery. Information about vaginal birth after cesarean (VBAC) will also be provided to go over questions and expectations.
- Wednesday, October 3
- * **TALKING WITH YOUR KIDS ABOUT GROWING UP**
Renowned for creating the Heart to Heart lecture series, Julie Metzger, RN, and Rob Lehman, MD, will teach you how to develop conversations with your pre-teens on the experiences of adolescence. They will also present new ideas and current information on the topics of adolescent development and risk-taking behavior.
- Wednesday, October 17

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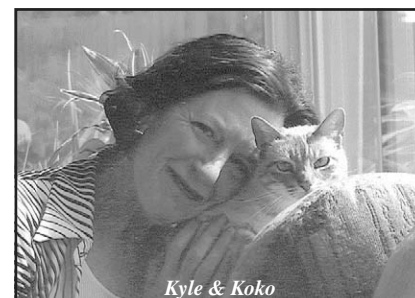


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Honoring Alan Liu

By Don Frances

ON APRIL 11, 2004, an Easter morning, Alan Liu and his girlfriend Jill Mason were riding their bikes along Highway 12 in Santa Rosa when they were hit from behind by a drunk driver. Liu was killed, and Mason severely injured in the crash.

Liu, a 31-year-old engineer and Mountain View resident, was also coach of the Mountain View Masters swim team, which meets every morning at the Eagle Park Pool. Upon hearing of the tragedy, the team assembled at a swimmer's house to try to make sense of it, said current coach Laura Schuster.

"We went to practice the following morning and broke the news to our swimmers one by one as they entered the deck area," she told me. "Someone had left a candle and a flower at the gate the night before ...

"That night we congregated at a swimmer's house and talked about how we were going to keep going, because we knew that's what Alan would want. From that point on it was full force ahead. All of the assistant coaches started covering his shifts without hesitation."

Out of the tragedy was born a new tradition, a swim meet in Liu's honor. The third annual Alan B. Liu Memorial Swim Meet will be held this Sunday, Sept. 16, beginning at 8 a.m. at Eagle Park Pool. All proceeds from the event will go to a fund supporting Mason, now a paraplegic living in Sacramento.

Schuster said many local swimmers attended court hearings for the drunk driver, Harvey Herford, a then-69-year-old lawyer from Santa Rosa whose blood alcohol level was measured at three times the legal limit. The

► See **EDITOR'S DESK**, page 6



NORBERT VON DER GROEBEN

REASON TO CHEER

Students and parents alike gathered at Castro Elementary School last Wednesday to celebrate the school's rise out of No Child Left Behind's "program improvement" status. As part of the celebration, parents presented a painting by Bay Area artist Carmen Lomas Garza. The painting, which depicts an everyday gathering of residents in a Mexican village, has particular significance to the school's principal, Carmen Mizell, whose aunt is one of the persons painted in the picture.

■ EDUCATION

Speeding up English learning

MV WHISMAN DOES MORE FOR STUDENTS WORKING WITH A NEW LANGUAGE

By Susan Hong

Getting English language learners to learn the new tongue more quickly has been a daunting task for the Mountain View Whisman School District, where English is a second language for 45 percent of students. At last week's board meeting, the district decided educators have to try something new to speed the process.

The ability to speak, read and write English is a major factor in whether a child will have the capacity to learn in all subjects and to test well, educators said.

The California English Language Development Test Progress (CELDT) scores for academic years 2005-06 and 2006-07 are scheduled to be released at the end of this month, but the district already has the results: While MV Whisman passed the state's minimum standards by four percentage points, educa-

tors say the district must do better.

The test measures an English language learner's ability to listen, speak, read and write English. The state requires that at least 55 percent of a district's English language learners move up one grade level each year. Last year, 59 percent of English language learners in the district moved up one or more grade levels, but 43 percent saw no change, according to a recent report.

"We need to do better than that," said Judy Crates, director of English language development, during last week's board meeting. The district "cannot afford" to have students at the same level for two years, she said.

"In order to score well on the California standards test, which is the test that the API is based on, students must have a background in language," Crates said

in a separate interview. Knowledge of English, she said, "affects the access to all subject areas. We're trying to get students to learn the academic language. Students pick up the playground language."

For its 1,900 English language learners, the district has two instructional methods: a new English language development and ongoing SDAIE, which means specially designed academic instruction in English, Crates said.

The new English language development requires teachers who have English language learners to teach 30 minutes of English as though they were teaching a foreign language, Crates said. Students go to classes grouped according to their English sufficiency level, and learn form and grammar, she said.

► See **LANGUAGE**, page 11

Graham ups ante in algebra

SCHOOL HOPES TO BOOST STATE TEST SCORES

By Susan Hong

It's a numbers game at Graham Middle School, where last year all eighth graders were placed in algebra I, and pre-algebra was eliminated in an attempt to improve school-wide math performance.

The new and more rigorous alignment caused a slight decline in overall academic scores, and has some Mountain View parents questioning whether the new program works.

But educators at Graham said putting all eighth graders into algebra I is good for both test scores and school culture. They

► See **MATH**, page 11

■ SEEN AROUND TOWN

Red dragonfly



"According to my wonderful friend, the Internet," wrote Masha Hass, this red dragonfly "is the flame skimmer or firecracker skimmer dragonfly, and is native to western North America." Hass took the photo in her backyard on Sevely Drive.

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.

EDITOR'S DESK

► Continued from page 5

swimmers attended in support of Liu and Mason's families, and many were outraged at what they considered to be lenient treatment for Hereford. Schuster herself told then-Voice reporter Jon Wiener, "They call it manslaughter, we call it murder."

Hereford eventually pleaded guilty and was sentenced to eight years and eight months in prison without parole.

Three years on, the swimmers are looking to the future again, and preparing to honor Liu's memory through this Sunday's meet, where "Masters swimmers from all over the Bay Area sign up and swim the various events including the 50 free, 100 free,

100 backstroke, 100 breaststroke, 100 butterfly, and 400 individual medley," Schuster wrote.

"There are minimal entry fees (you have to sign up at the pool the morning of) and we also have a snack bar. After we pay meet expenses, any money left over goes to Jill Mason. We also have a tip jar at the snack booth for folks to leave donations for Jill."

Schuster adds that anyone not registered with Pacific Masters Swimming who still wants to compete can sign up Sunday morning if they arrive by 7. Also, those wishing to volunteer without getting their feet wet can sign up online on the local Masters Web site, www.mvm.org, or contact Schuster directly at schulaura65@yahoo.com.

As for Mason, she is slowly

regaining some measure of independence, Schuster said. Despite the fact that her spinal cord was severed in half during the crash, Mason spent three years in rehab, "has finally gotten her driver's license and is driving in from Sac on Sunday to attend the meet," she wrote. She added that Mason "gives presentations to high school students and various audiences (police, DUI offenders) on the perils of drunk driving. She is also writing a book."

Those interested in learning more about Mason's ordeal, or to send donations, can do so through her Web site, www.jill-mason.com. ■

Don Frances is editor of the Mountain View Voice. He can be reached at dfrances@mv-voice.com.

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Worker Center aims to halt street soliciting

CITY'S \$10,000 GRANT WILL HELP POLICE GUIDE LOCAL OUTREACH PROGRAM

By Daniel DeBolt

As Mountain View's Day Worker Center navigates a hard-fought move to its new downtown site, efforts are underway to reach the other half of the day worker population that solicits work on El Camino Real.

Flush with money for community block grants, in May the city gave the center funding — \$10,000 for an outreach program — for the first time ever. Working with police liaison Tony Lopez, the money will be used to hire two day workers to create a bridge between the 100 or so workers on El Camino Real and the 100 workers that use the Day Worker Center.

The purpose, in part, is to reduce the number of calls to police from nearby businesses and residents on El Camino Real — about five calls a month, Lopez said. People have complained about loitering, blocking of sidewalks, and the occasional day worker who sits down with a beer when he hasn't been hired by 2 p.m.

"Not that there is anything illegal about it, [but] people don't like the way it looks," Lopez said about most of the calls.

Police had been doing "a pretty good job" interacting with the workers and letting them know what they were allowed to do by law, Lopez said. But getting the workers to police themselves is the goal, and to

that end the city is betting on the Day Worker Center's help.

As for the center's new location at Trinity United Methodist Church on Hope and Mercy streets, office assistant Matt Tompkins said last Friday that "We don't have many employers because we moved, that's the tough thing right now."

So the outreach is on hold until the center settles into its new location, Lopez said.

Making the center attractive to employers and workers is always the challenge, and new board president Steve Olsen said the center is planning to install street signs to guide employers downtown. There are currently signs directing employers to the old center on California and Escuela avenues. Employers arriving there are now advised that they will find workers at Hope and Mercy streets.

To start the outreach program, Lopez plans to take the workers to Redwood City, where a day worker center has successfully organized the workers on the street for years out of a storefront office. The workers there will educate those on the street about their rights and let them know of the services offered at the center, including English lessons and free legal and medical help.

In the end, Lopez said, he's hoping for a "win-win" for the police and the workers. ■

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

KFC

► Continued from page 1

zoned that way doesn't mean you can build whatever you darn well please. Neighborhood input is important."

Applicant Hugh Murphy of Vincent and Murphy Inc. did not respond to phone calls before press time.

There is also a KFC on El Camino Real and Castro Street only a half mile away from the proposed restaurant, which Bianchi believes would close. That location doesn't have a drive-through. Drive-through lanes reportedly produce 50 percent more revenue for KFC.

The drive-through, however, is not a certainty. The city will have to decide whether to issue a conditional use permit for the drive-through, and acting zoning administrator Peter Gilli said public input would be considered.

A zoning administrator hearing has not been scheduled, but could happen as early as October, Gilli said.

Another KFC, on Charleston and San Antonio Roads, is apparently being replaced by a drive-through version across from the new Charleston Plaza. ■

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



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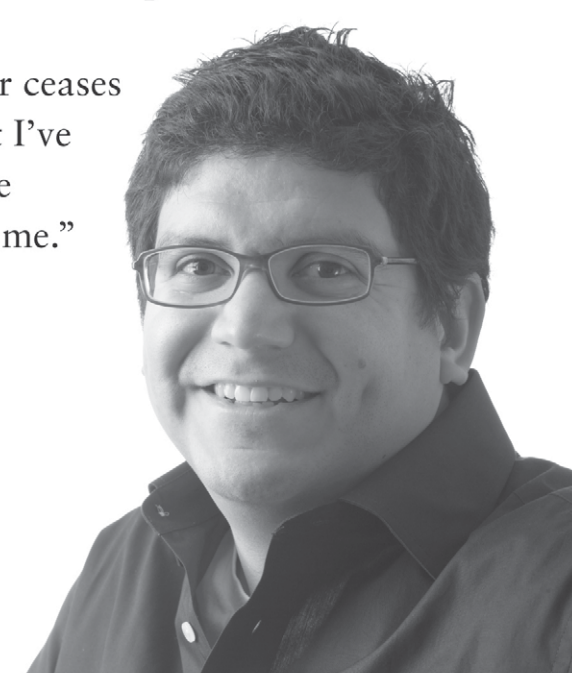





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■ EDUCATION BRIEFS

MVLA FOUNDATION REACHES FOR A \$675,000 HIGH

This year the Mountain View-Los Altos Foundation is hoping to raise \$675,000 from the community by year's end, an increase of \$25,000 from last year.

On Sept. 18 and 19, the foundation will add to that goal with its annual phone-a-thon, during which parents can expect to hear requests for donations of up to \$700, foundation members announced.

Foundation funds will continue to support class size reduction, tutorial centers and college-career centers in the district. They will also fund PSAT test fees for sophomores and juniors. Increased fund raising will also allow the district to support a new Naviance college database system.

STATE GRANTS HELP DISTRICT'S P.E. PROGRAMS

The elementary and middle schools in Mountain View enhanced their physical education programs thanks to a \$35,000 grant from the state awarded earlier this summer.

The district put the money towards hiring three new physical education teachers who will rotate between the schools. As a result, students will have more structured games and activities, educators said. The grant also enabled Crittenden Middle School to maintain smaller class sizes, officials said.

A one-time \$352,000 grant from the state also went to the Mountain View Whisman District this summer to improve its arts and music curriculum and to purchase new P.E. equipment. Individual schools have discretion to use money allotted to them based on their per-student enrollment.

LOS ALTOS HIGH GETS NEW ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Morenike O'Neal is been named the new assistant principal at Los Altos High. She replaces Kathleen Meagher, who left over the summer to become a principal in the Palo Alto Unified School District.

O'Neal obtained her bachelor's degree in history and ethnic studies at UC Berkeley. She earned a multiple-subject teaching credential from National Hispanic University in June of 2000, and taught fifth through eighth grades in the Hayward Unified and Ravenswood City school districts.

Wynne Satterwhite, principal at Los Altos High, said she is excited about the addition. O'Neal will assume responsibility for counseling services, pupil personnel, special education programs and programs for students at risk of not graduating.

—Susan Hong

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LEAGUE HOSTS FORUM ON LOCAL WATER SUPPLY

On Monday, Sept. 24, the League of Women Voters of Los Altos-Mountain View will host a public forum to discuss the importance of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and the expected impact of a recent district court ruling on water usage.

The Delta is the largest estuary on the West Coast, irrigates more than 400,000 acres of farmland and provides fully half of the water channeled to Santa Clara County. Despite these benefits, the building of levees and channels has destroyed much of its natural habitat, while endangering local residents who own homes within its flood plains.

The upcoming forum, titled "Water, Water Everywhere: Enough to Drink?" will be held at the Los Altos Public Library. It is free

and open to the public, and will feature speakers Patrick Kwok, director of the Santa Clara Valley Water District; and Greg Zlotnick, special counsel to the water district. The two will discuss how pumping cutbacks will affect farmers, county residents and local development, and what to expect later this year from the governor-appointed Delta Task Force.

For more information, contact League Vice President Jane Turnbull at (650) 941-4846, e-mail info@lwvlamv.org, or visit www.lwvlamv.org.

E-WASTE RECYCLING AT LOCAL WAL-MART

Later this month, Northern California's largest e-waste recycler, ASL, will partner with Wal-Mart to hold a free electronic waste drop-off at the Mountain View Wal-Mart store.

The local ASL drop-off, one of many throughout the Bay Area, is being held on Sunday, Sept. 23 at the Wal-Mart at 600 Showers Drive. There Mountain View residents can eliminate garage clutter and help the environment by disposing of electronic items in a responsible manner. Items allowed for drop-off include computers, monitors, keyboards, printers, televisions, cables/cords, VCRs, power supplies and stereo equipment.

ASL will be accepting items from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. that Sunday. For more information and directions, visit www.ewastedropoff.com.

BOOKS INC. TO HOLD RECEPTION FOR LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHER

An exhibition of Tony Coluzzi's fine art photography, recently profiled by

the *Voice*, will be showing daily at the Books Inc. Cafe Gallery on 301 Castro Street through Oct. 5. An artist's reception will be held at the gallery from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 20 at 6:30 p.m.

Coluzzi invites the public to join him for the reception, where he will give an informal talk on his exhibition of black-and-white infrared photographs, share some of his techniques and talk about his recent transition from film to digital photography. The gallery is open daily from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. and until midnight on Fridays and Saturdays. The exhibit is free and open to the public, and all prints are on sale. For more information, visit www.tonycoluzziphoto.com or call Coluzzi directly at (650) 941-0842. Books Inc. is available at (650) 428-1234.

—Melody Dye

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NORBERT VON DER GROEBEN

ANOTHER FINE YEAR:

The Art & Wine Festival wrapped up its 36th year this weekend, with an estimated 200,000 people attending over both days. The Chamber of Commerce, which sponsors the event, estimates the festival brought in \$396,000 in revenue for Chamber programs, up \$4,000 from last year.

Clockwise from top left: Jack Spellman tries on a hat from Head 'N Home Hats. Rich Langston of Mountain View plays with marionette puppets as his son Zachary, 6, cools off with a cherry shaved ice. Emerson, lead singer with the Grow Wiser band, belts out a chorus

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LANGUAGE

► Continued from page 5

“It means teaching language like we did when we went to school and learned French 2 or French 3. We studied language forms and grammar, how you used the language, how you ask a question, how you read a story,” Crates said.

The district will be purchasing additional materials and giving staff additional training, she said, adding that all district teachers have been trained in SDAIE.

“SDAIE is what all good teachers do. They anticipate vocabulary difficulties students will have and they incorporate that into the lesson. So if a teacher has a lot of English language learners in the class, they may preview all the higher-level vocabulary that

the English language learner may not know,” Crates said.

The teacher may also include more visuals in the classroom to connect vocabulary with content, she said.

“It’s a long and complex process, especially when we’re asking students to learn language and content at the same time. It makes it extra challenging for the teacher and the student,” she said.

But students are motivated to learn English, she added. “They know that English is the language of the culture. They don’t know the word ‘culture,’ but they know English is the dominant language of their surrounding community,” Crates said. “It really helps the situation.” ▣

E-mail Susan Hong at shong@mv-voice.com

MATH

► Continued from page 5

say the realignment will pay off in a few years.

“One of the benefits of putting everybody in algebra is saying, ‘We think you can do this, we think you can succeed,’” said Scott McGhee, Graham’s math department chair. McGhee has taught math for nine years and helped implement the realignment last year.

Previously, students who took pre-algebra in eighth grade considered themselves the “dumb” class, McGhee said. “We got rid of that culture forever.” Now all eighth graders see themselves as part of the “smart” class when they take algebra I, he said.

Both Graham and Crittenden middle schools failed to meet the state’s target minimum score of 800 last year, with Graham at 782 and Crittenden at 734.

Under the new system, all students take a general algebra course and then separate into “academy classes” which are divided into three different proficiency levels: support, fortify and challenge, McGhee said. Students who struggle with algebra get the support they need, and students who find algebra easy get a more challenging course, he said.

The new system has produced better results, he said. According to McGhee, more students are taking the California algebra state tests, which in the long run will push overall scores higher.

“With any kind of new program you’re going to see a drop before it goes up.” In a few years, McGhee said, he is confident the school will see increased scores.

“People are going to say, ‘How did

you do it, how did you pull it off?’”

On the California Standards Test, or CST, 91 percent of the Graham students took the algebra test in 2006-07 compared to 51 percent the previous year.

“If you look at the percentage of students that were below basic and far below basic the year before, we had 54 percent that were in the bottom two levels of those 108 kids,” said Principal David Pribyl.

“In 2007, when everybody took algebra, the aggregate group below or far below basic is smaller — 46 percent,” Pribyl said. “The flunk rate decreased even though the students were exposed to a more challenging curriculum.”

But Don Gardner, a parent of an eighth grader at Graham, has reservations.

“What I think happened is that they lowered the bar for algebra I with kids who were not ready for it. Not only did kids not learn algebra, but kids whose parents have college and post-college education — their scores all died too. Somehow they lowered the bar and everybody suffered,” Gardner said.

He believes his daughter’s math skills have been decreasing. “I’m concerned and my neighbors are concerned,” he said.

McGhee agrees that some eighth grade students may be better served in pre-algebra. In a general math course where accelerated and struggling students are placed in the same classroom, teachers will tend to teach to the middle, he said. ▣

E-mail Susan Hong at shong@mv-voice.com



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NORBERT VON DER GROEBEN

BRONZE STAR CEREMONY:

Army Staff Sergeant Jay Wilkerson was presented the Bronze Star Medal for heroic actions in Iraq last Thursday morning at the Palo Alto VA Hospital. Wilkerson, who now lives in Mountain View, almost died after two rocket-propelled grenades exploded in his Humvee outside Fullujah on March 28, 2006.

GOOGLE

► Continued from page 1

NASA's Space Act, allowing only government planes and those helping NASA Ames with research or education.

Though Google now has an agreement to organize NASA's data, the 767 is not owned by Google, but by a separate company owned by Page and Brin called H211 LLC.

Steve Williams, an aviator who writes a blog about Moffett Field, wasn't as concerned as Macias.

"It's good to know there is some connection," he said. "It does not look so much like favoritism."

On Aug. 31, researchers from NASA and SETI – Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence,

a group of scientists based in Mountain View – used one of Page and Brin's planes to study a meteor shower. From a high altitude, Beasley said, "Scientists on board recorded observation times, brightness distribution, elemental composition and penetration depth into the Earth's atmosphere."

Five days later, on Sept. 5, the Google founders' unmarked red, white and blue jumbo jet left Moffett for Sevilla, Spain, where Google was having a sales conference the next day, according to Europa Press.

Macias said NASA was sailing in "murky waters" because it was unclear how much the plane was being used for research versus business and personal use.

There was speculation in February that Page and Brin would help save Moffett Field's historic Hangar One if they were able to park their plane inside. At last weekend's Art & Wine festival, Hangar One advocates gossiped about how Page and Brin were able to land the plane at

Moffett.

"Don't get me wrong, I think it's a good thing," Williams said before he'd heard the explanation from NASA. "I just want to know how they did it, so that frankly I can apply for my own authorization. My aircraft makes a lot less noise."

The Boeing 767 is the only jumbo jet at Moffett Field. The 34-year old executives bought it from Quantas Airlines in 2005 for less than \$15 million, which is arguably a better value than a traditional private jet.

It was then revamped into a 50-passenger "party plane," as Google CEO Eric Schmidt reportedly put it. After a lawsuit over payment for that work, VIP interior designer Leslie Griffin revealed some of the odd requests for the

plane reportedly made by Page and Brin, including hammocks hanging from the ceiling. After the Navy left Moffett Field in the 1990s, disagreement over how the airstrip would be used has continued to this day, even among those who are trying to save Hangar One. Williams contends that commercial and personal planes flying in from the Bay will have little noise impacts, while fellow Hangar One advocate Lenny Siegel has called for housing to replace the airstrip. Macias believes Moffett would be a bad location for a public airfield.

The airfield is currently used regularly by Air National Guard helicopters for training and operations, Lockheed, NASA Ames, military shipments, and occasionally President Bush's Air Force One. Beasley said the Google execs' jet would not tip the airfield over its limit of 25,000 flights a year. ▀

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

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■ COUNCIL BRIEFS

FIRE CHIEF WILL DECIDE WHEN TO LOWER FLAGS TO HALF-STAFF

On Tuesday, the anniversary of 9/11, the issue of when to lower flags to half staff was discussed by the City Council procedures committee.

The discussion was prompted after Mountain View's fire chief was not able to honor a group of fallen firefighters in North Carolina, said firefighter Mike Quan. The city's ordinance did not allow the out-of-state firefighters to be honored.

There followed a discussion about how much the practice should be reserved for city public safety employees. Palo Alto, for example, honors other city employees as well.

"You don't want to over-utilize this," said council member Nick Galiotto, a former police

officer. "It does lose its purpose."

Council member Matt Pear said he wanted to see language that included military officers who were from Mountain View. The committee agreed, and ended up recommending that council adopt guidelines used by Palo Alto which give the fire chief more power to lower flags to half staff.

SIERRA VISTA PARK OFFICIALLY NAMED ... SIERRA VISTA PARK

The City Council on Tuesday decided to give the new mini-park on Sierra Vista Avenue its official name: Sierra Vista Park. The other option was to call it Plymouth Park, after the nearest cross street.

After calling the park Sierra Vista throughout the planning process, the choice was made

with little argument. Analyst Mike Fuller said there wasn't enough significant history on the site to choose a historical name. Its last use was as a dog kennel, though it was once a part of the Rengstorff and Castro family properties.

Mayor Laura Macias had some other ideas, like "Sit-n-Stay Park," which got some laughs.

AT&T UTILITY BOXES CAUSE A STIR

In order to bring extremely fast, six-megabit-per-second Internet access to Mountain View, AT&T wants to install 85 large utility boxes around the city, 10 of which city officials believe may be a problem for neighbors.

Council member Ronit Bryant strongly opposed the plan, saying the streetscape should

not be cluttered to help AT&T's business and that the company should put the boxes underground. Council member Nick Galiotto agreed that it was a step backward for the city, since even housing developers are required to put utilities underground.

AT&T representatives said that doing so would be expensive, and that in many other Bay Area cities the company has yet to receive a complaint, even though the boxes are taller than many adults and as loud as 65 decibels during the day. Council member Jac Siegel suggested they camouflage the boxes with bushes.

Though council input was sought, no decision was made after AT&T's presentation.

— Daniel DeBolt

COUNCIL

► Continued from page 1

school and middle school students will function like other committees, complete with public meetings, minutes taken, a quorum and a formal agenda posted according to the Brown Act.

The youth advisory group will now be called the youth advisory committee.

Council member Ronit Bryant led the move as chair of the youth services committee, which also includes council members Margaret Abe Koga and Tom Means, who supported the initiative along with Mayor Laura Macias.

Council members Nick Galiotto, Tom Means and Jac Siegel opposed the change. The members said they were uncertain the change was necessary to gain youth input, and Pear seemed to question why a youth group was needed at all.

As a parent of two former youth advisory group members, Bryant said that "for kids wanting to make a difference, the changes might

make them more interested in wanting to participate."

No youth spoke at the meeting.

The cost of the changes, up to \$1,200 a year, was approved as part of this year's budget. The 15 members of the council-appointed committee would serve one-year terms for a maximum of six years. The members would meet with the council after being appointed every year.

Bryant mentioned that San Francisco "has a very strong youth group," but that one includes residents up to age 24. Mountain View's group is for high school and middle school students only.

Siegel said he was "trying to be convinced," but said the current group structure provided everything the council wanted.

Galiotto said he was in the same boat as Siegel. He said it felt like the council wanted "to do it just to do it," and he said he wasn't comfortable with the council selecting the members of the committee.

"The change is basically a change in what we expect," Bryant said. "It's been used as a teen activities planning group. Let's ask for their

advice. The changes would emphasize the fact that we value your opinion."

The old group "was not a way to push for change," Bryant said. "They should organize parties and events, but I see members of this group being energized to go to parks and recreation committee meetings."

Bryant said she imagined the council could ask for input on downtown development and playing fields. The city should recognize that youth "are way more high-tech than us," she said.

Means said he saw the group as a sort of internship program for those interested in politics.

When Pear asked why schools weren't taking on the task, Abe-Koga said her experience on the San Mateo youth commission made her believe that bringing kids to city hall was important to provide an elevated sense of purpose.

"I just don't see what youth are going to get from this," Siegel said before the vote. "I'd like to see less bureaucracy, not more." ■

Campaign to refurbish H1 gains speed

By Daniel DeBolt

The campaign to re-skin Hangar One gathered almost 1,500 petition signatures at the Art & Wine Festival last weekend, signifying how much support there is for replacing Hangar One's toxic siding with a Teflon fiberglass fabric similar to that used on the Shoreline Amphitheatre.

"I think we've proven that people are comfortable with the fabric cov-

ering," said Lenny Siegel, founding member of the Save Hangar One Committee.

Siegel said the group had several assertive people helping to gather the signatures, but also mentioned that it became obvious to him how well known the cause is and — how the only opposition to saving the historic structure has come from the Navy.

The Navy will announce in November its decision to either

demolish or preserve the enormous hangar, which once housed the airship U.S.S. Macon. That's when most people are distracted with the holidays, Siegel said, implying that the timing would reduce scrutiny of the Navy's decision.

The group was scheduled to present its signatures at the Moffett Field Restoration Advisory Board Meeting on Thursday, Sept. 13 at 7 p.m. in NASA Ames Building 943.

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■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

Army must address impact of Orion Park projects

The Army's plan to build a huge training center at Moffett Field on a site it knows is contaminated with a carcinogenic gas should be halted, at least until warnings from local environmentalists are acknowledged and the dangers are mitigated.

Trichloroethylene, or TCE, is being released as a vapor from the ground at Orion Park, apparently due to industrial solvents leaked long ago into the groundwater. The exact origin of the contamination remains unknown.

The amount of TCE vapor varies, but measurements by the Environmental Protection Agency have detected the gas in four homes in the 450-unit Orion Park military housing complex. The 360,000-square-foot complex has since been closed down, and its homes are currently empty.

Now the Army is using a questionable environmental report to push its plan to tear down the complex and replace it with a 270,000-square-foot training center. The center would house 413 full-time employees and up to 735 reservists on weekends.

Members of the Moffett Field Restoration Advisory Board, or RAB, have roundly criticized the Army's environmental report, particularly its claim that little more than ventilation systems in the buildings will be enough to mitigate the intrusion of toxic vapors. The members want to guarantee that, should the Army build more housing on the old Orion site, it uses "vapor barriers" recommended by the EPA to block emissions of TCE.

RAB members also say the Army's plans should not get in the way of efforts to clean up the TCE contamination, which could endanger the Army's own members who will be living and working in the new training center. It is asserted that the Navy, former owner of the site, is the government agency on the hook for clean-up.

The presence of TCE gas has been known to exist for years at Moffett Field and in the Whisman Station areas of Mountain View, but health concerns increased when new EPA tests found that lower levels of the gas could be toxic. Since then, the city has required installation of vapor barriers in new homes at Whisman Station, and the city is said to be concerned about the safety of construction workers who work on TCE-contaminated sites.

The Army's environmental report should be reviewed and revamped before any work begins on the training center. Adding vapor barriers and accommodating cleanup would hardly be a hardship for such a powerful institution.

The government institutions that occupy federal property are not required to file environmental impact reports with local government agencies, but when huge projects like the training center are proposed, it only makes sense to adapt to local regulations. In this case, the cost would be minimal, but the payback in goodwill would be worth a great deal.

■ LETTERS VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

SHUTTLES NEEDED FOR ART & WINE EVENT

Editor:

I just read the article in the *Voice* about 36 years of festivals ("Art & Wine's lasting success," Sept. 7).

I have lived, worked and raised a family in Mountain View all of those years. I enjoyed the early years, when one could see and buy from a smaller group of talented artists. Is bigger better?

The traffic and parking problems tend to keep many potential shoppers away. Many years ago, I suggested that the Chamber of Commerce start a shuttle service to bring people in from outlying shopping centers, Moffett Field and so on, but the Chamber never addressed this.

After walking the whole festival, carrying purchases, one has to traipse up to a mile or two to get to one's car. Wouldn't it be grand to board shuttles, pedicars or buses at off-site locations and be driven to drop-off sites at the El Camino, Villa Street or Evelyn Avenue entrances? I'm sure many downtown homeowners would appreciate less hassle on their streets and access to their driveways.

Our neighbor to the north, Palo Alto, has a great shuttle service to bring shoppers to their festival on University Avenue. The Mountain View festival has rewarded the Chamber monetarily for years. Why not make it more user-friendly?

**Kay Boynton
Moorpark Way**

LUCKY IS NOT SO LUCKY FOR TRANSIT RIDERS

Editor:

I was a resident of Mountain View for 10 years, until our apartment building was torn down to be replaced with high-end condos that none of us former renters could afford. But that's a different story.

We relocated to north San Jose and I now take light rail to my office in Mountain View. I had been buying my VTA pass at the Albertsons on El Camino. On Aug. 30, I went to buy my September pass and found that they were already sold out of adult passes, two full days ahead of the new month. This has never happened before in the year that I've been buying passes at Albertsons.

I noticed they have a new sign for the ownership change back to Lucky and new self-serve check stands, even though the "old" ones were not that old and worked fine. I guess Lucky finds that image matters more than customer service.

Fortunately I have a car — I take public transit for my convenience and to be environmentally responsible — so I was able to drive way across town, miles out of my way on a Spare the Air day, to the Los Altos store to buy my pass. However, those students, elderly and disabled who rely solely on public transit were not so lucky.

I would like to call on the new

► See **LETTERS**, page 16



GUEST OPINION

Katrina spurred local disaster effort

SANTA CLARA COUNTY IS READY IF THE BIG ONE HITS —
BUT RESIDENTS ARE URGED TO STOCK UP

By Liz Kniss

It's been six years since 9/11 and over two years since Hurricane Katrina. It's time to take stock. Have we learned from these tragic events? Are we better off? And, of critical importance, is Santa Clara County, with its 1.8 million residents, and 15 cities, prepared for a disaster?

After I visited New Orleans in August 2006, a full year after Katrina, I was struck by the devastation that remained and the subsequent lack of social services for its residents. Nearly all of the mental health services had been cut back or eliminated. At a time when depression and suicide rates were dramatically increasing, almost every mental health provider had left the area.

Urgent medical treatment was available at only one hospital; the rest were closed. And if a lack of health care wasn't challenging enough, the jails were still non-functional. (Most of the 6,000 inmates had been sent out of state, many to Texas.)

In this once stately and historic city, a sense of despair and devastation could be felt and seen. The tragedy of the flood, the days without food and water, the lack of communication with loved ones, and the number of homes that were only bricks and sticks

was in the thousands. To replace those, hundreds of white FEMA trailer homes stretched for miles in the hot October sun.

When I returned to the Bay Area, I was motivated to action.

My first step was to re-activate the Santa Clara County Disaster Council. Our first public meeting was last month, and we now have a county disaster plan in place and a command center ready to go.

The disaster plan has numerous components, with communications the most significant. The command center is located in a secure building within the county. Its communications system is considered one of the most sophisticated in California. The Department of Homeland Security, which recently has come under fire by the GAO, has been looking at our plan for possible replication.

In any kind of disaster, communication must always be a major component. This takes on even greater meaning here, since Santa Clara County has been designated as a first responder if a disaster occurs. Key county officials need to be able to communicate, first with each other, then with their cities and the state to assess damage and implement rescue plans.

If the public phone system is overwhelmed or incapacitated, a built-in satellite system, called Oasis, can immediately be put

into service. This system grew out of California's experiences in several disasters, and will operate even if all telephone and Internet service is down. This was not the case in New Orleans, and the lack of communication stymied many rescue efforts.

All five Santa Clara County supervisors, as well as other top administrators in the county, will be given satellite phones; these phones will enable us to communicate both up and down the command chain to handle the needs of the county, communicate with other cities and with the state and federal government.

This goes hand-in-hand with the county's Office of Emergency Services (OES). Its goals are three-fold:

- Meet the immediate needs of people (rescue, medical care, food, shelter, clothing)
- Work toward temporary restoration of facilities (sanitation, water, electricity, road repairs)
- Meet the rehabilitation needs of people (temporary housing, food stamps, employment)

Although major progress has been made, I'd be remiss if I didn't urge caution. Self-sufficiency cannot be overlooked. Following a natural disaster, individuals should be ready to take care of


themselves and their families for the first 72 to 96 hours.

All citizens should have their own emergency plan, as well as emergency supplies on hand. These should include a minimum of three days of food and one gallon of water per person per day. A battery-operated radio, flashlight, batteries, blanket, extra clothes, sturdy shoes, ibuprofen, thermometer and alcohol-based hand wash should also be in any

emergency kit. (Our Red Cross has supply packs available).

At the county, we know that you don't get a second chance at this. Our residents rely on our providing this kind of protection and reassurance. That's why we're prepared to cope with disaster when it hits.


Liz Kniss represents northern Santa Clara County, including Mountain View, on the Board of Supervisors.



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LETTERS

▶ Continued from page 14

management of Lucky to be more aware of this problem and in the future to stock sufficient VTA passes to serve transit customers at least through the first of the month. As for me, I will sign up for my transit pass by mail and avoid Lucky altogether.

Lisa Bail
San Jose

SAFE RIDE FOR TEENS IS BACK IN OPERATION

Editor:

With the beginning of a new school year, the Safe Ride program, sponsored by the Palo Alto Area chapter of the American Red Cross, is back in operation again.

Safe Ride, a service for teens by teens, has been potentially saving lives for more than 20 years. Its purpose is to provide free, safe and confidential rides home on weekend nights for high school students — who do not have to be drunk or high to call for a ride. Also, Safe Ride volunteers provide peer education about the dangers of drinking and driving.

Safe Ride operates on Friday and Saturday nights during the school year (except on holiday weekends) from 10 p.m. until 2 a.m., with the last call taken at 1:30 a.m. Teams from the seven participating high schools take turns staffing the service at the Red Cross offices, where two cars are maintained for this program. The program's service area includes Redwood City, Woodside, Portola Valley, Atherton,

Menlo Park, Palo Alto, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Mountain View, Moffett Field and Stanford.

So to teens we say: Arrive alive! Call Safe Ride at (877) 753-RIDE.

Betsy Burch
Menlo-Atherton High School

ILLEGAL SIGN POSTING MUST STOP

Editor:

On Sunday, Sept. 9, I discovered another dozen or so Bedford Square directional signs posted all over town. Many were affixed to parking signs and fire hydrants or posted on public easements. All are in clear violation of city code. In fact, one sign was posted directly beneath an official city ordinance warning.

I realize that this is not in itself a big deal. People post garage sale, lost pet and other signs to street-corner posts and telephone poles all the time. They too are technically in violation of city code, yet we tolerate them.

My concern is that this tolerance has now extended to allowing businesses and other big capital enterprises to post their own advertisements for free, wherever they please, and without regard to local regulations. I feel that we have enough advertising in our lives, and should strive to keep the proliferation of sidewalk commercials out of our public space and neighborhoods.

This not the first time Bedford Squares has done this, and I don't know why the violation has been allowed for so long. Maybe citations were never issued, or their dollar amount was so low the real estate company finds it easy

to ignore them. I'd like to believe the problem is due mostly to lack of city resources (i.e. enforcing ordinances outside of normal weekday business hours).

I write in the hopes that this letter will encourage both our city officials and our residents to be more assertive in keeping our city free of unwanted "street spam" such as this.

Richard LaReau
Easy Street

TO OUR REPS: TIME TO IMPEACH BUSH

Editor:

This letter is addressed to Reps. Anna Eshoo, Mike Honda and Zoe Lofgren:

As members of the U.S. House of Representatives, you have taken the oath to defend our Constitution, the foundation upon which our laws, our federalist system and the protection of our civil rights, is built.

The Constitution's drafters foresaw the need to include a mechanism that would make you responsible to impeach elected officials who have subverted our constitutional government. In other words, they purposely included impeachment to protect our country from "treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors" committed by any official entrusted with power.

You representatives have not yet signed on to support U.S. House Resolution 333, the measure to impeach Vice President Dick Cheney. The Silicon Valley Impeachment Coalition (SVIC) and many other South Bay constituents are outraged by your evasion of responsibility. Appropriately, the SVIC is asking you to answer the following questions:

1) Why are you continuing to support an illegal war of invasion and occupation based on lies?

2) Despite their seizure of unchecked executive power, forbidden by the Constitution, why are you jeopardizing the future of our republic by continuing your de facto pardon of Vice President Cheney and President Bush?

3) What more must they do for you to impeach?

Our deep concerns are about your responsibility to legally make Bush and Cheney accountable for their corrupt, unlawful conduct — by impeachment, not with political games.

Fred Duperrault
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■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

As pizza should be

AFTER 25 YEARS, MALDONADO'S ON RENGSTORFF HAS PERFECTED ITS HAND-TOSSED PIZZA PIES

By Elaine M. Rowland

Pizza is everywhere. Good pizza is not. But since finding the good stuff sometimes requires precious time out of our busy lives, we may settle for greasy, flat slabs of flavorless goo. As the cheese hits our stomachs, we're mollified, for a time.

But, oh, when we find one of those places where the pizza-makers are craftsmen, not assembly-line workers, we remember we once had standards, too. On this score, Maldonado's will slap your taste buds out of their funk. The family enterprise has been

hand-tossing crusts and lovingly baking them with fresh-tasting veggies and toppings for a quarter century.

They don't skimp on the portions, either. Maldonado's New York-style pizza is tossed into four sizes, from the "personal" size at 10 inches to a large at 16 inches. The personal pizza dwarfs the typical 6-to-7-inch personal pizza of many chains. In size and price it's comparable to other places' "smalls," but I like the fact it's called "personal," because that means I don't have to share.

On my first visit, a regular

► See **MALDONADO'S**, next page



VICTORUGO GONZALEZ

The Meat Lover's pizza (pepperoni, salami, ham, pastrami, linguica and sausage) from Maldonado's Pizzeria.

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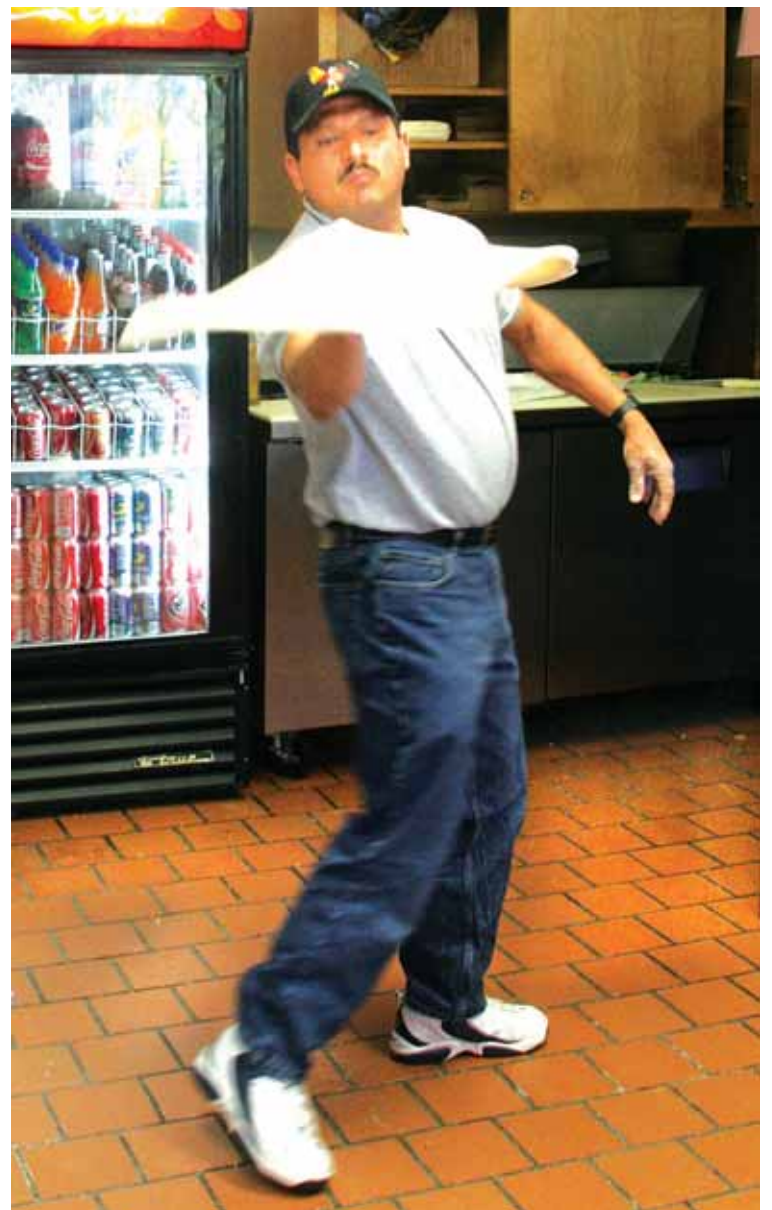
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MALDONADO'S

► Continued from previous page

customer helped me overcome my indecision, recommending the Stromboli (\$9.10 personal; \$19.30 large), a flat pie with Italian sausage, mushrooms, salami and pepperoni over a well-seasoned tomato sauce. There's something old fashioned but sublime about this combination, and everyone I tried it out on agreed (after all, I did share — when cornered).

We tried the Super Hawaiian pizza, too, with bell peppers, ham, pineapple, and mushrooms (\$9.10 personal; \$19.30 large). The mushrooms mellow

the acidity of the pineapple, producing a creamy flavor most "Hawaiian" pizzas don't seem to have. It was very good, in large part because of the crust: thin enough to be crispy around the edges and slightly chewy.

Like any good pizza joint, Maldonado's lets you design your own oeuvre. The nearly 30 toppings include the slightly unusual — clams, jalapenos, pastrami, cilantro, linguica and broccoli, to name a few — as well as ingredients that make up the standard of American pizza: anchovies, sweet bell peppers, pepperoni, Italian sausage, mushrooms, black olives, toma-

► Continued on next page

■ DINING NOTES

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A turkey and ham sub right out of the oven at Maldonado's Pizzeria.

VICTORUGO GONZALEZ

► Continued from previous page
toes and garlic.

To help you ease into your carbo load, you could prime yourself with an appetizer like garlic bread, bread sticks, cheesy bread or jalapeno sticks. The bread sticks come with sides of pizza sauce, bursting with oregano, and ranch dressing. The sauce is better, turning each bread stick into a marinara pizza, though they were a tad undercooked.

The huge green salad (\$4.85) adds filling ingredients like kidney and garbanzo beans, croutons and cheese to the usual lettuce, bell peppers, mushrooms and tomatoes, creating a real stick-to-your-ribs meal, if you can say that about a salad.

On another visit, I tried Maldonado's Special pizza (\$9.61 small; \$20.55 large). While I thought the coalition of pepperoni, sausage, salami, linguica, peppers, 'shrooms and onions would turn out a great pizza, for some reason the flavors didn't balance as well as the Stromboli.

(If you're beginning to think it must be hard for vegetarians to eat here, I should mention there's also vegetarian pizzas, calzones, sandwiches and, of course, the big salads.)

I also ordered a hot sub sandwich (\$6.24) with pepperoni and salami, dressed with lettuce, tomatoes, onions, mayo, mustard, oil and vinegar. What a sandwich: Juicy, spicy and wonderful, and stuffed to overflowing into a fresh French roll. If I'd eaten the whole thing, I, too, would have been stuffed to overflowing. It's a steal for the price, and more exciting than the pizza sub with meatballs (\$6.24),

which tasted flat in comparison. Next time I may create my own combo sandwich.

For a more traditional pizza sandwich, try Maldonado's calzones. They tuck cheeses, mushrooms, sausage, basil and pizza sauce inside a hearty crust that doesn't turn out soggy from the sauce. This calzone sits on a much higher plane than the cheese footballs many restaurants serve. Being a very flexible pizzeria, Maldonado's lets you request your own selection of ingredients, too. At \$6.98, it's more than many people (OK — girls) will eat in one sitting. Throw in a giant salad and you could feed two people for lunch. Lesser appetites go for the house special: a slice with one or two toppings, small salad, and soda (\$5.55).

Unassuming on the outside, this mostly take-out pizzeria has been quietly accruing devotees from many walks of life: families, sorority girls, an ice-cream man

replete with cart — and at lunch, a shirt-and-tie, pointy-shoed salesman dining at the eat-in counter that seats maybe a half dozen. Everyone was welcomed with courtesy and efficiency. ▣

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The board prohibits intimidation or harassment of any student by any employee, student or other person in the district. Students who harass other students shall be subject to appropriate counseling and discipline, up to and including expulsion. (BP 5145.3)

The Board ensures equal opportunities for all students in admission and access to the educational program, guidance and counseling programs, athletic programs, testing procedures, and other activities. Eligibility for choral and cheerleading groups is determined solely on the basis of objective competencies. School staff and volunteers carefully guard against segregation, bias and stereotyping in instruction, guidance and supervision. However, separate provisions may be made for students according to sex with respect to such matters as protection of modesty, family life and sex education, grading standards in physical education, and choral groups.

The district follows uniform complaint procedures when addressing complaints alleging unlawful discrimination based on ethnic group identification, religion, age, gender, color, or physical or mental disability. All complaints will be handled in a professional manner, and complainants are assured of non-retaliation and non-retribution.

Any person who wishes to discuss or file a complaint based on discrimination or harassment should first seek remedy through the office of the school's principal. Depending on the nature of the complaint and/or if the complainant feels that the issue has not been satisfactorily resolved, a written statement may be filed with the principal and a copy sent to the Associate Superintendent for Educational Services. If the issue cannot be resolved at the level of the principal, a formal complaint should be filed with the District's Title IX compliance officer, the Associate Superintendent for Educational Services Brigitte Sarraf. After a complaint has been duly investigated and if the complainant is dissatisfied with the District's decision, the complainant may file a written appeal with the Board of Trustees or the California Department of Education within 15 days of receiving the District's decision.

If the complainant is unable to put a complaint in writing due to conditions such as illiteracy, language barriers, or other handicap, district staff shall help him/her to file the complaint.

Complainants may pursue other remedies, including actions before civil courts or other public agencies. Complainants may seek assistance from agencies such as legal assistance, local mediation centers or from private attorneys.

Any individual, public agency or organization may file a written complaint of alleged noncompliance with state and federal law. The complaint must be initiated no later than six months from the date when the discrimination is alleged to have occurred or when the complainant first obtained knowledge of the facts of the alleged discrimination.

Complaints regarding school procedures, practices and personnel. Complainants are encouraged to resolve complaints against school personnel through informal means by talking directly with the school person involved. If this is not successful, a written complaint may be directed to the employee's administrative supervisor or principal. Appeals from administrative determinations or decisions may be taken up with the Associate Superintendent of Personnel, who will make decisions on these matters. After consultation with the superintendent, any patron may address the Board of Trustees at a regular meeting.

The challenge of Chekhov

PEAR AVENUE THEATRE TAKES ADMIRABLE SWIPE AT "THREE SISTERS," BUT ULTIMATELY MISSES

By Melody Dye

Anton Chekhov is one of Russia's most human and accessible writers. Nonetheless, "Three Sisters," which debuted Saturday at the Pear Avenue Theatre, is an ambitious piece of theater which perhaps required a bit more subtlety than The Pear was ready for.

Chekhov, writing at the turn of the century, captured the pessimism and longing of his era. His play is a sketch of varying moods, often wrapped in mundane situations. His characters are prone to gossipy small talk about a girlfriend's bad sense of style, for instance, before pedantically questioning the meaning of life.

There is little in the way of action. Instead, each act is comprised of a series of moments in the lives of its characters: a dinner party, an exchange over brandy, an interrupted conversation between lovers.

Here lies the difficulty of the play: Its moments are ordinary, trite, even boring. So the brilliance of "Three Sisters" has to be teased out in production, which can't afford a hint a melodrama or any wrong note. All actors must be pitch-perfect, balanced internally and against each other.

In other words, this isn't Annie Oakley singing and dancing and shooting up the stage. It's a family of frustrated Russian aristocrats asking whether life, in itself, is sufficient; whether there is reason or logic to human suffering; whether one should put faith in progress. Most theaters are intimidated by such a tall order, and it's to The

Pear's credit that they dared take it on.

The demands are heightened by the physical space of The Pear itself, which can barely fit more audience members than actors. This intimacy creates a voyeuristic impression of having dropped in on another's life. Realism — and not theatrics — becomes a necessity.

Meanwhile, the translation by Craig Lucas creates another difficulty. Lucas puts Chekhov's words into colloquial English that strays uncomfortably into modern slang. The mix of contemporary vernacular with formal speech is jarring, and The Pear's actors don't seem to know what to do with it. They might have been better served with the classic translation by Constance Garnett.

Due to these obstacles, a few of the cast members seem uncomfortable in their skins. It's as if they're reciting in a foreign language they don't understand — even when the accent is dead-on, the stresses are all wrong, as though the meaning has escaped them. In a piece that relies on all of its parts, this is problematic.

Similarly, the larger play lacks a steady vision. Some of the cast members act with fervor and



SHANNON STOWE

Masha (Liz Coy), **Olga** (Meredith Hagedorn) and **Irina** (Sarah Cook) long for a more fulfilling life in Moscow.

intensity, others with theatrical flare, still others with casual ease. The mismatch is disconcerting, particularly in scenes where the whole cast takes the stage.

That said, a few actors stand out: Shannon Stowe as Natasha, the tempestuous redhead; John Hutchinson as Chebutykin, the nihilistic doctor; Andrew Harkins as Vershinin, the love-struck major.

In a different production, perhaps, these performances might have garnered standing ovations, but here they glow and fade. If the play disappoints, it's because it's uneven, and because some of its richest insights are lost in translation. ■

■ THEATER REVIEW

■ INFORMATION

What: Pear Avenue Theatre presents "Three Sisters," a play written by Anton Chekhov and translated by Craig Lucas

Where: The Pear Avenue Theater, 1220 Pear Ave., Mountain View

When: Through Sept. 30, with performances Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m.

Tickets: \$25 general admission and \$20 for seniors and students on Friday and Saturday; \$20 general admission and \$15 for seniors and students on Thursday and Sunday

Info: Call the theater at (650) 254-1148, e-mail info@thepear.org or visit www.thepear.org

■ EXCERPT

TUZENBAKH: *In a million years life will be just the same; it doesn't change, it remains stationary, following its own laws which we have nothing to do with or which, anyway, we'll never find out. Migratory birds, cranes for instance, fly backwards and forwards, and whatever ideas, great or small, stray through their minds, they'll still go on flying just the same without knowing where or why ...*

MASHA: *But still, isn't there a meaning?*

TUZENBAKH: *Meaning. ... Here it's snowing. What meaning is there in that? [A pause.]*

MASHA: *I think man ought to have faith or ought to seek a faith, or else his life is empty, empty. ... To live and not to understand why cranes fly; why children are born; why there are stars in the sky. ... You've got to know what you're living for or else it's all nonsense.*

FROM "THREE SISTERS," TRANSLATED BY CONSTANCE GARNETT

MOVIE TIMES

2 DAYS IN PARIS (R) (Not Reviewed) **Aquarius:** 2:40, 5, 7:30 & 9:40 p.m. **Sat. & Sun.** also at 12:15 p.m.

3:10 TO YUMA (R) ★★★★★ **Century 16:** 12:30, 1:20, 3:25, 4:10, 6:55, 7:45, 9:45 & 10:30 p.m. **Century 12:** 12:30, 2, 3:30, 5, 6:20, 7:50 & 9:20 p.m.

BALLS OF FURY (PG-13) (Not Reviewed) **Century 16:** 12:35, 2:50, 5:05, 7:35 & 9:50 p.m. **Century 12:** 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 8 & 10:30 p.m.

BECOMING JANE (PG) ★★1/2 **Century 16:** 1:10, 4, 6:50 & 9:40 p.m. **Century 20:** 1:45, 4:40, 7:25 & 10:05 p.m. **Palo Alto Square:** 1:45, 4:25 & 7:15 p.m.

THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM (PG-13) ★★★★★1/2 **Century 16:** 1, 3:40, 6:45 & 9:25 p.m. **Century 20:** 12:20, 1:55, 3:10, 4:55, 5:55, 8:45 & 10:30 p.m. **Fri. & Sun.-Tue.** also at 7:45 p.m.

THE BRAVE ONE (R) (Not Reviewed) **Century 16:** 12:30, 1:30, 3:30, 4:20, 7, 7:40, 9:55 & 10:30 p.m. **Century 20:** 12:15, 1:15, 2:15, 3:05, 4:05, 5:05, 6, 7, 8, 9:05 & 10:10 p.m..

THE BROTHERS SOLOMON (R) (Not Reviewed) **Century 16:** 7:15 & 9:40 p.m. **Century 12:** 1, 4, 7:20 & 9:50 p.m.

DEATH AT A FUNERAL (R) ★★★★★ **Century 20:** 12:05, 2:20, 4:45, 7:10 & 9:35 p.m. **Guild:** 2:30, 4:45, 7:15 & 9:30 p.m.

DEATH SENTENCE (R) **Century 20:** 12:20, 2:55, 5:30, 8:05 & 10:35 p.m.

DEEP WATER (Not Rated) ★★★★★ **Aquarius:** 2:15, 4:30, 7 & 9:15 p.m. **Sat. & Sun.** also at noon.

DRAGON WARS: D-WAR (PG-13) **Century 16:** 12:40, 3, 5:20, 7:55 & 10:15 p.m. **Century 12:** 12:35, 2:50, 5:15, 7:35 & 10 p.m.

HAIRSPRAY (PG) ★★★★★ **Century 20:** 12:55, 3:50, 6:55 & 9:40 p.m.

HALLOWEEN (R) (Not Reviewed) **Century 12:** 12:40, 3:20, 6 & 8:40 p.m.

HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX (PG-13) ★★★★★1/2 **Century 12:** 1:20, 4:30 & 7:40 p.m.

I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY (PG-13) ★★ **Century 20:** **Tue.** at 1:45 & 6:45 p.m.

THE INVASION (PG-13) ★★1/2 **Century 20:** Noon, 2:30, 5, 7:30 & 10 p.m.

THE KINGDOM (R) **Century 16:** **Sat.** at 7:30 p.m. **Century 20:** **Sat.** at 7:45 p.m.

LADRON QUE ROBA A LADRON (PG-13) ★★ **Century 20:** 12:35, 3, 4:20, 5:35, 8, 9:20 & 10:25 p.m. **Fri.-Mon.** also at 1:50 & 6:50 p.m.

LIVE FREE OR DIE HARD (PG-13) ★★★★★ **Century 20:** 7:05 & 10:15 p.m.

MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY (G) ★★ **Century 16:** 12:55, 3:10, 5:25, 7:50 & 10:10 p.m. **Sat.** at 12:55, 2:50, 5 & 10:10 p.m. **Century 12:** 1:10, 3:40, 7:05 & 9:25 p.m.

MR. WOODCOCK (PG-13) (Not Reviewed) **Century 16:** 12:45, 3, 5:15, 7:40 & 10 p.m. **Century 12:** 1:05, 3:35, 7 & 9:45 p.m.

THE NANNY DIARIES (PG-13) ★1/2 **Century 16:** 1:15, 4:30, 7:30 & 10:05 p.m. **Century 20:** 1:40, 4:25, 7:15 & 9:45 p.m.

NO RESERVATIONS (PG) ★★1/2 **Century 20:** 12:10, 2:50, 5:15, 7:55 & 10:25 p.m.

ONCE (R) ★★★★★1/2 **Century 20:** Noon, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45 & 9 p.m.

RATATOUILLE (G) ★★★★★ **Century 16:** 1:25 & 4:15 p.m. **Century 20:** 2, 4:50, 7:40 & 10:20 p.m.

ROCKET SCIENCE (R) (Not Reviewed) **Palo Alto Square:** 2, 4:30 & 7 p.m. **Fri. & Sat.** also at 9:30 p.m.

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

RUSH HOUR 3 (PG-13) (Not Reviewed) **Century 16:** 12:40, 2:55, 5:10, 7:20 & 9:30 p.m. **Century 12:** 1:20, 4:10, 7:15 & 9:40 p.m.

SHOOT 'EM UP (R) ★★ **Century 16:** 12:50, 3:15, 5:30, 8 & 10:20 p.m. **Century 20:** 12:50, 3:05, 5:25, 7:50 & 10:10 p.m.

SILK (R) ★★ **Palo Alto Square:** 1:45, 4:20 & 7:10 p.m. **Fri. & Sat.** also at 9:50 p.m.

THE SIMPSONS MOVIE (PG-13) (Not Reviewed) **Century 12:** 12:45, 3:15, 5:35, 7:55 & 10:25 p.m.

STARDUST (PG-13) ★★1/2 **Century 16:** 1:05, 4:05, 7:10 & 10:05 p.m. **Century 20:** 1, 4, 7 & 9:55 p.m.

SUPERBAD (R) (Not Reviewed) **Century 16:** 12:45, 3:55, 7:25 & 10:15 p.m. **Century 12:** 12:55, 3:50, 7:30 & 10:15 p.m.

UNDERDOG (PG) (Not Reviewed) **Century 20:** 12:25, 2:35 & 4:45 p.m.

WAR (R) (Not Reviewed) **Century 20:** 12:45, 3:20, 5:40, 8:10 & 10:35 p.m.

Note: Screenings are for Friday through Tuesday only.

AQUARIUS: 430 Emerson St., Palo Alto (266-9260)
CENTURY CINEMA 16: 1500 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View (960-0970)
CENTURY PARK 12: 557 E. Bayshore Blvd., Redwood City (365-9000)
CENTURY 20 DOWNTOWN: 825 Middlefield Road, Redwood City (369-3456)
CINEARTS AT PALO ALTO SQUARE: 3000 El Camino Real, Palo Alto (493-3456)
GUILD: 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park (266-9260)

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

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



MOVIE REVIEWS



3:10 TO YUMA ★★★★★
 (Century 16, Century 12) Christian Bale is the drawn and emotionally quartered Dan Evans, a down-on-his-luck rancher/Union Army vet who's frantically trying to hang on to his ranch after a local bigwig threatens to repossess his drought-ravaged land for a railroad project. Russell Crowe makes nasty as Ben Wade, a ruthless outlaw who heads up a vicious gang of thieving no-goods bent on plundering and pilfering fortunes. Fate deals Evans a lucky hand when Wade lets his libido get the better of him in a post-raid attack and Evans is party to Wade's capture. Southern Pacific Railroad boss Grayson Butterfield (Dallas Roberts) wrangles volunteers to help escort his high-profile prisoner to the town of Contention, where he will board the 3:10 train bound for federal lockdown in Yuma. Evans is the man for the job, for a much-needed \$200 delivery fee, that is. The core strength of "Yuma" lies in the psychological cat-and-mouse game between outlaws on the brink of destruction. Yes, it's a remake, based on the 1957 classic, but "Yuma" has a consciousness all its own. *Rated: R for extreme violence and bloodshed. 1 hour, 57 minutes.* — J.A.

THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM ★★★★★1/2
 (Century 16, Century 20) As amnesiac super-agent Jason Bourne, Matt Damon successfully fronts a full-throttle action thriller that's the culmination of a smashing trilogy. As always Bourne is on the run, intent on avenging the loss of his victims and trying in his own immutable way to apologize for his past. Seems Bourne's brainwashing is backfiring: In snatches of memory he's re-living his past, those murky days when his average Joe was on the cusp of enduring high-profile CIA assassination training. Those recollections kick-start a mission as Bourne seeks to reclaim himself from himself. Paranoia runs rampant; scene after scene is fraught with kinetic hyper-tension. As Bourne closes in on his reality he butts up against the powers that be and continually and satisfyingly beats them at their own game. *Rated: PG-13 for intense action and violence. 1 hour, 53 minutes.* — J.A.

DEATH AT A FUNERAL ★★★★★
 (Guild) One expects decorum at a funeral, but the outrageous events that unspool in director Frank Oz's wickedly funny comedy provoke more laughter than if the upper-crust British family depicted were at a birthday celebration. The ensemble cast members play their parts with a seriousness befitting the solemn occasion. The inappropriate and uncontrollable laughter

► Continued on next page

CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW
 CITY COMMISSION AND
 COMMITTEE APPLICATIONS

September 28, 2007 is the application deadline for Mountain View citizens wishing to serve on one of the following City commissions or committees:

- ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING COMMISSION (3 positions)
 (Meets on the first and third Wednesday evenings of the month)
- PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION (1 position)
 (Meets on the second Wednesday evening of the month)
- DOWNTOWN COMMITTEE
 — Business-at-Large Category (1 position)
 — Community-at-Large Category (1 position)
 (Meets on the first Tuesday morning of every other month)
- PERFORMING ARTS COMMITTEE (1 position)
 (Meets on the third Wednesday evening of the month)
- VISUAL ARTS COMMITTEE (2 positions)
 (Meets on the second Wednesday evening of the month)

There may be incumbents who wish to be reappointed.

The commissions and committees are volunteer positions and serve in an advisory capacity to the City Council.

Appointments are available on an equal opportunity basis.

Call the City Clerk's Office at (650) 903-6304 for further information and applications. An application can be downloaded at www.mountainview.gov/citygov/pdf/community_services_application.pdf.

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► *Continued from previous page*

you hear will be your own. The structural idea is simple: Gather a group for the funeral of a beloved man. Toss in a mysterious stranger and a bottle of hallucinogenic pills mislabeled as Valium. So when Martha (Daisy Donovan of "Millions"), the niece of the deceased, unknowingly gives her nervous boyfriend Simon (Alan Tudyk of "Knocked Up") a tablet of acid, he starts to behave in the most peculiar ways. But before his trip can become a one-note affair, the stranger (Peter Dinklage of "The Station Agent") complicates matters by revealing a big secret. The actors have perfect comic timing, and their deadpan

reactions to shocking developments are exercises in understatement. This is comic subtlety rarely seen any more. *Rated: R for language and drug content. 1 hour, 30 minutes.* — S.T.

LADRON QUE ROBA A LADRON

★★

(Century 20) Writer JoJo Henrickson and director Joe Menendez borrow liberally from the "Ocean's Eleven" blueprint: a pair of barely reformed thieves (Miguel Varoni and Fernando Colunga as hapless Emilio and Alejandro) banding together for one last gonzo heist. The target reeks of the familiar, too: the impenetrable

vault of gazillionaire TV pitchman Moctesuma "Mocte" Valdez (Saul Lisazo) who has amassed a fortune pushing useless health and beauty products on gullible and unsuspecting Latino immigrants. This is payback. The duo assembles a motley crew of authentic day laborers when their own crack team pooh-poohs their plan of going undercover as chauffeurs, gardeners and TV repairmen. As with "Ocean" the assemblage of amateurs is expert in electronics, transportation and whatever else is required to take down the Big Man. Unfortunately the similarities end there, as "Ladron" leans far too heavily on a lifeless script and sluggish pacing

to get its well-worn point across. *Rated: PG-13 for language and sexual content. In Spanish with English subtitles. 1 hour, 38 minutes.* — J.A.

THE NANNY DIARIES ★1/2

(Century 16, Century 12) Annie Brad-dock (Scarlett Johansson) is a fresh-faced college grad with no idea of where she's going or wants to go. A chance collision with a small boy in Central Park offers her a temporary opportunity to duck out of real life and play nanny. Not just any nanny but an Upper East Side child-minder to a precocious tot named Grayer (Nicholas Reese

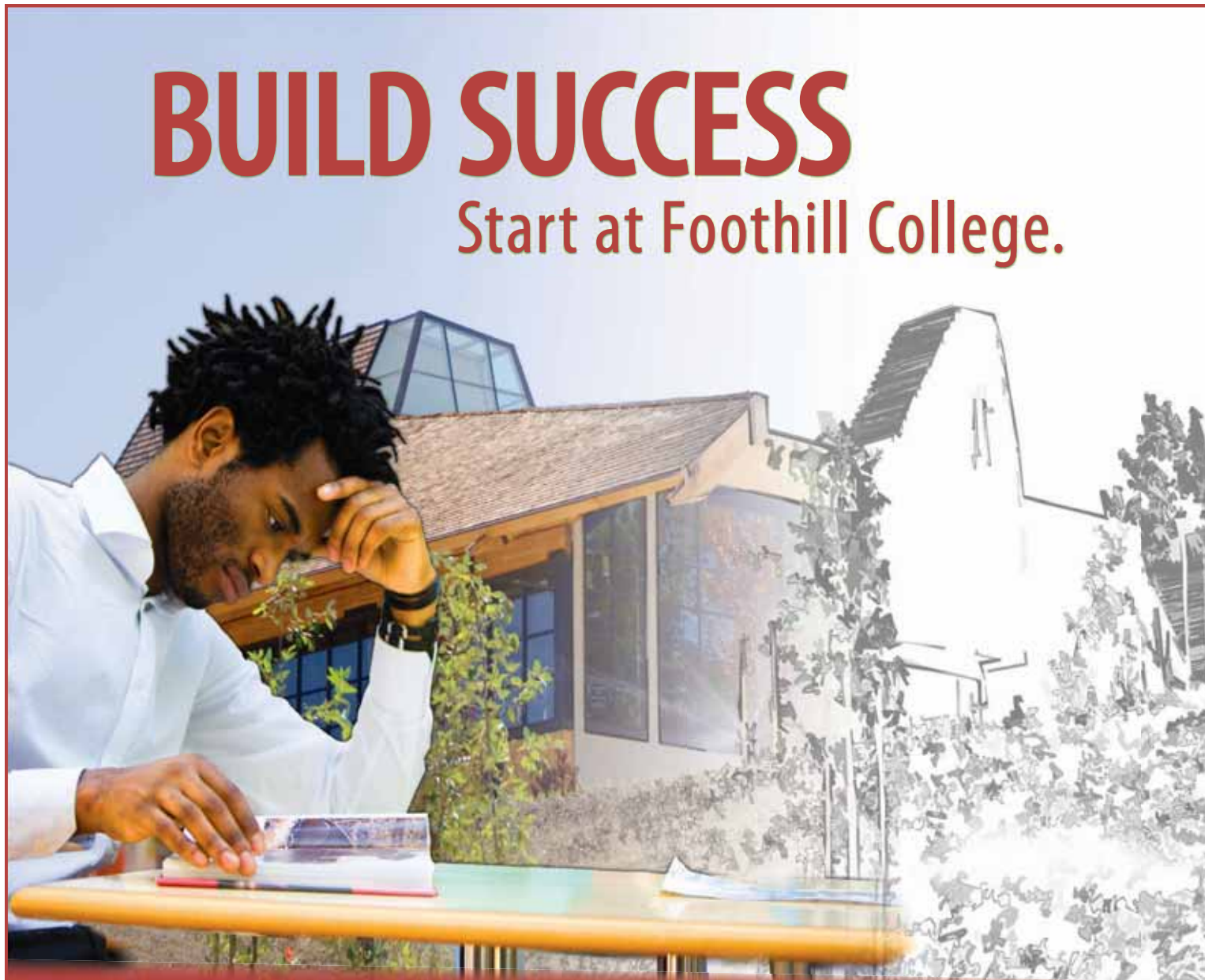
Art) whose neglectful parents are too preoccupied to realize their hectic lives are a virtual train-wreck. No surprises here. As Annie and Grayer develop a tight bond, she is disheartened with the pain and suffering Grayer suffers at the hands of his self-absorbed folks. How to take pleasingly penned satire and butcher it for the big screen? Soak it in clichés, base the narrative on a series of stupid stereotypes, and film the lot with maximum telegraphing and clunky transitions. Add a chirpy voice-over declaring the entire operation an anthropological field study, and you've got yourself a summer dust-eater. *Rated: PG-13 for language and mature themes. 1 hour, 45 minutes.* — J.A.

SHOOT 'EM UP ★★

(Century 16, Century 20) Mr. Smith (Clive Owen) sits at a bus stop as a pregnant woman hastens by while being stalked by a gun-toting brute. Smith's conscience apparently gets the best of him as he rescues the threatened woman and helps deliver her baby, all while engaged in a gunfight with an array of creeps led by villain Hertz (Paul Giamatti). But a stray bullet leaves the woman dead and the newborn in Smith's care. Smith soon finds that his inadvertent adoptee is at the center of a conflict between a presidential hopeful who plans to implement strict gun laws and the firearms aficionados who stand to lose from his inauguration. The sharp-shooting Smith finds help from Donna (Monica Bellucci), a lactating prostitute whose unexpected motherly instincts prove invaluable. Owen brings a palpable charisma to the role of Smith, and his magnetic performance almost makes "Shoot 'Em Up" worth the headache. Although the screenplay is at times clever and tongue-in-cheek, the absurd scenarios and forced one-liners reveal writing that is built on gimmicks. "Shoot 'Em Up" is ridiculous and riddled with blood and bullets. *Rated: R for pervasive strong bloody violence, sexuality and some language. 1 hour, 33 minutes.* — T.H.

■ **MOVIE CRITICS**

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



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GoingsOn

MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE

■ HIGHLIGHT

THEATREWORKS PRESENTS "EMMA"

TheatreWorks presents its 50th World Premiere, "Emma". Weds., Aug. 22 through Sun., Sept. 16, Tue.-Wed. at 7:30 p.m.; Thu.-Sat. at 8 p.m.; Sun. at 2 and 7 p.m. TheatreWorks at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-463-1960. www.theatreworks.org

ART GALLERIES

EUGENE CARRIERE AND HIS CIRCLE

Features the work of the painter and printmaker Eugene Carriere (1847-1906) and fellow artists and critics. Works by Odilon Redon, Auguste Rodin, Felix Bracquemond and others. Through Dec. 12, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Thu. until 8 p.m. Free. Cantor Arts Center, Just off Palm Drive, at Museum Way and Lomita Drive, Palo Alto. http://museum.stanford.edu/visit/public_tours.html

GUSTAVO RIVERA & "MONOTYPES 7-07-07"

Exhibition of the most recent print project with Gustavo Ramos Rivera. Reception with the artist Saturday, Sept. 15, 3-5 p.m. Exhibition runs through Oct. 3, Free. Smith Andersen Editions, 440 Pepper Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-327-7762. www.smithandersen.com

AUDITIONS

EL CAMINO YOUTH SYMPHONY FALL AUDITIONS

ECYS is currently taking audition applications for beginning to intermediate levels. Young wind and string players, as well as all brass players, are encouraged to audition. To be considered for program membership, submit an audition application online. Palo Alto. www.ecys.org/auditions

STANFORD SYMPHONIC CHORUS AUDITIONS

The Stanford Symphonic Chorus, a 180-member masterworks ensemble, announces auditions for tenors and basses. Weekly rehearsals, quarterly concerts, and a concert tour to China. Contact for additional info or to schedule an audition. Thu., Sept. 20, 7-10 p.m. Braun Music Center 120, Braun Music Center, Stanford University, Stanford. Call 650-723-1570. <http://www.stanford.edu/group/SymCh/>

BENEFITS

LOS ALTOS FOLLIES "Mistakes, Mishaps and Misbehaving," a musical salute to life and politics, to benefit Bus Barn Stage Company. Opening night includes reception at 6:30 p.m. Box office: 650-941-0551. Oct. 11-15, 7:30 p.m. \$45 (Thursday preview); \$80 (Friday opening); \$95 (Saturday gala - black-tie optional). Bus Barn Theater, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. www.busbarn.org

CHEFS WHO CARE DINNER Oktoberfest meal. Mon., Sept. 17 and Tue., Sept. 18, 5:30-8:30 p.m. \$24 prepaid, \$26 at door. Tied House, 954 Villa St., Mountain View. Call 659-961-3584. <http://www.CSAcares.org>

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

CELEBRATE YOUR FAMILY EVERY DAY.

Create "Meaningful Family Traditions" with Denise Roy. Practical workshop on how to honor children's rites of passage, deepen and celebrate family life. Thu., Sept. 20, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6897. http://www.mountainview.gov/city_hall/library/

DANCE WORKOUT "The Best Dance Workout" combines modern ballet/jazz, yoga & core Pilates. Tuesdays Sept. 25-Nov. 20, 7:30-8:30 p.m. \$50 for 4 classes. Mountain View Masonic Lodge, 890 Church St., Mountain View. Call 650-969-4110. www.livelyfoundation.org

DIGESTIVE HEALTH Heartburn, reflux, irritable bowel syndrome, food sensitivities. Find out about the relationship between nutrition and digestive health. Wed., Sept. 19, 7-8 p.m. Free. Integrative Nutrition and Wellness Center, 277 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-962-1036. www.integrative-nutrition.com

EXPLORING THE SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS

Tom Taber, author of "The Santa Cruz Mountains Trail Book," will introduce a variety of parks and trails in this mountain range, which rises south of San Francisco, through San Mateo, Santa Cruz and western Santa Clara counties. Wed., Sept. 26, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. REI Mountain View, 2450

Charleston Road, Mountain View. Call 650-969-1938. www.rei.com/mountainview

GREAT FALL DAY HIKES IN YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Julie Miller, Outreach Educator for The Yosemite Fund, will share slides and information on Yosemite trails. Wed., Sept. 19, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. REI Mountain View, 2450 Charleston Road, Mountain View. Call 650-969-1938. www.rei.com/mountainview

IN WORKING WITH THE CHAKRAS

Asha Praver, a practitioner and teacher of the principles of self-realization, will offer a basic "tour" of the chakras, including how to balance and uplift the potent forces they contain. Wed., Sept. 19, 7:30-9 p.m. Free, but call to reserve a place. East West Bookstore, 324 Castro St., Mountain View. www.eastwest.com

SOUL MASTERY EVENT: Susann Taylor Shier is a counselor and psychotherapist, author of "Soul Mastery." Fri., Sept. 14, 7:30-9 p.m. \$10, call to reserve a place. East West Bookstore, 324 Castro St., Mountain View. www.eastwest.com

STRESS & FATIGUE Find out about the relationship between good nutrition and stress and fatigue. Sat., Sept. 15, 10-11 a.m. Free. 277 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-962-1036. www.integrative-nutrition.com

CLUBS/MEETINGS

READING THE WORLD BOOK CLUB Reading the World Book Club will discuss "Leaving Mother Lake: A Girlhood at the Edge of the World," by Yang Erche Namu. Wed., Sept. 26, 7:30 p.m. Free. Books Inc. Mountain View, 301 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-428-1234. www.booksinc.net

TANGENTIAL CONJECTURES: THE SCIENCE FICTION BOOK CLUB

Discussion of "Bridge of Birds" by Barry Hughart. Wed., Sept. 19, 7:30 p.m. Free. Books Inc. Mountain View, 301 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-428-1234. www.booksinc.net

COMMUNITY EVENTS

23RD ANNUAL PALO ALTO WEEKLY MOONLIGHT RUN & WALK

For runners, athletic groups and families. Prize giveaways and refreshments. 5K walk begins at 7:15 p.m.; 10K run begins at 8:15 p.m.; 5K run begins at 8:45 p.m. See website for details. Fri., Sept. 28, 6-10 p.m. Pre-registration \$20 by Sept. 21/\$25 day of event. Palo Alto Baylands Athletic Center, 1900 Geng Road, Palo Alto. Call 326-8210. www.paloaltoonline.com

AN OPEN HOUSE

Student and adult recitals. The musical director will be available to assist in answering questions. Sat., Sept. 15, 3-7:30 p.m. Free. The Gorin School of Music, 2290 W. El Camino Real, Mountain View. Call 650-961-4910.

FAMILY PICNIC AND FLOWER PLANTING PARTY

The Home Instead Senior Care office in Mountain View will host a picnic and flower planting party for area families and caregivers. Barbeque lunch, flower pots and plants are provided by Home Instead Senior Care and Summer Winds Nursery. Plants will be delivered to local seniors. Sat., Sept. 22, 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Cuesta Park, Cuesta Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-691-9671.

GOING DIGITAL-THE ABCS OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Presentation about the latest innovations, techniques and tips to publish and get great digital photos. Tue., Sept. 25, 6:15-8:15 p.m. \$5 Commonwealth Club and Computer History Museum members; \$10 non-members. Computer History Museum, 1401 N Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. Call 650-810-1010. computerhistory.org or commonwealthclub.org/sv

CONCERTS

IVES QUARTET PRESENTS "VIVA ITALIA"

An evening of music from the Emilia Romagna region of Italy. Gian Francesco Malipiero, Quartet No.1, Rispetti e Strambotti; Frank Bridge, Quartet



GUSTAVO RIVERA Monotypes 7-07-07 Exhibition of the most recent print project with Gustavo Ramos Rivera. Reception with the artist Saturday, Sept. 15, 3-5 p.m. Exhibition runs through Oct. 3, Free. Smith Andersen Editions, 440 Pepper Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-327-7762. www.smithandersen.com

No.1. in E Minor, "Bologna"; Giuseppe Verdi, Quartet In E Minor. Fri., Sept. 28, 8 p.m. \$25 general; \$20 seniors; \$15 students; children 12 and under free. St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto. www.ivesquartet.org

WEST BAY OPERA 52ND SEASON PREVIEW

West Bay Opera's 52nd season preview at the Palo Alto Woman's Club. Selections from Cavalleria Rusticana, Pagliacci, Così fan tutte and Der Fliegende Holländer. Meet the artists after the performance over coffee & dessert. Sun., Sept. 23, 7-9 p.m. \$30. Palo Alto Woman's Club, 475 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-321-5821.

DANCE

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLASSES

Beginning and experienced classes in Scotland's traditional ballroom dance style. Good exercise, no partner necessary, casual attire. Parties with live music. Wednesday evenings in Mountain View. Intro party Sept. 5, classes start Sept. 12. 7:45-10 p.m. \$5 per night. Mt. View Sports Pavilion, 1185 Castro Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-962-1939. www.mtview-rscds.org

ENVIRONMENT

SIERRA CLUB PRESENTS

Professional photographer Bob Rewick will share his photos of insects and spiders taken around the world and will answer questions about specialized macro techniques he has developed. Tue., Sept. 18, 7:30-9 p.m. Free. Sierra Club, Loma Prieta Chapter, Adobe Bldg., 157 Moffitt Blvd., Mountain View. Call 650-329-8363.

EXHIBITS

"PAINTED WOMEN" A one-woman exhibit featuring oil paintings and pastels by Los Altos artist Judy Keyani. This recent figurative work focuses on women as artists' models and as traditional subjects for paintings. Through Sept. 22, Gallery 9 hours: Tue.-Sat., 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Gallery 9, 143 Main St., Los Altos. www.gallery9losaltos.com

FAMILY AND KIDS

PETITE BALLET For boys & girls ages 6-9. Please register at least one week before first class, Sept.

24. Teacher is professional dancer. 4-4:45 p.m. \$50 for 4 classes. Mountain View Masonic Lodge, 890 Church St., Mountain View. Call 650-969-4110. www.livelyfoundation.org

LIVE MUSIC

CHANTICLEER, STANFORD LIVELY ARTS INFORMANCE

Called "the world's reigning male chorus" by New Yorker magazine. Sponsored by Applied Materials; presenting partner Borel Private Bank and Trust. Wed., Sept. 26, 6-7 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

ON STAGE

"THREE SISTERS" BY ANTON CHEKHOV

The Pear Avenue Theatre opens its 6th season with the classic story of the Prozorov sisters lost in nostalgia and inertia. Brand new adaptation by award-winning playwright Craig Lucas. Sept. 7-30. Thu.-Sat. at 8 p.m.; Sun. at 2 p.m. Order tickets by phone or online. \$15-\$25 The Pear Avenue Theatre, 1220 Pear Ave., Unit K, Mountain View. www.thepear.org

THEATREWORKS PRESENTS "EMMA"

TheatreWorks presents its 50th World Premiere, "Emma", from Tony-nominated composer Paul Gordon. This musical is based on the classic novel by Jane Austen. Weds., Aug. 22 through Sun., Sept. 16, Tue.-Wed. at 7:30 p.m.; Thu.-Sat. at 8 p.m.; Sun. at 2 and 7 p.m. \$25-61. TheatreWorks at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-463-1960. www.theatreworks.org

SENIORS

AARP DRIVER SAFETY The next 55-Alive Mature Driving class at the Mountain View Senior Center will be held in October. To register, come in or mail a check dated the first day of class, payable to AARP. Oct. 2 and 9, 6-10 p.m. \$10. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6330.

HOLIDAY BAZAAR VENDOR SIGN-UP

Sign ups for the Mtn. View Senior Center Holiday Bazaar begin on Sept. 20 at 2 p.m. Tables are first come, first serve; limit one table per person.

Tables are \$10. The Holiday Bazaar will take place on November 17, 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. 2 p.m. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6330.

NEWCOMER'S GROUP An orientation and tour of the Senior Center is scheduled for Tue., Sept. 18. An overview of classes, upcoming events, social services and general information will be presented. 11 a.m.-noon. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6330.

TREES: TRANSFORMING OUR CITY AND LIVES

Representatives from the Mtn. View Tree Community will be at the Senior Center to address any of tree concerns. Sept. 27, 11 a.m.-noon. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6330.

WORKSHOP: MAXIMIZE YOUR MEMORY

The Mountain View Senior Center is hosting the Maximize Your Memory Program, sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association, on Thu., Sept. 20. Learn how to exercise full memory potential. Reservations required. 1-2 p.m. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6330.

SPECIAL EVENTS

SALLY RIDE SCIENCE FESTIVAL

Science and socializing for girls in grades 5-8, parents and teachers welcome. Opportunity to meet and listen to astronaut Sally Ride, discovery workshops and street fair with music and food. Sat., Sept. 29, 11 a.m.-4:15 p.m. \$18 (advance registration required). NASA Ames Research historic district, Moffett Field, Mountain View. Call 800-561-5161. www.SallyRideFestivals.com

SPORTS

SWIM TEAM ASSESSMENT

Ages 5-18 who are comfortable in deep water and able to swim freestyle. Swimmers will be assigned a practice group after being evaluated by our coaching staff. Sept. 25-27, 4-5 p.m. Eagle Park Pool, 625 Franklin St., Mountain View. Call 650-599-2213. www.lamvac.org

TALKS/AUTHORS

GINA NAHAI AT BOOKS INC., MOUNTAIN VIEW

Meet Gina Nahai, introducing her new book "Caspian Rain," a tale of the inner workings of Iranian society a decade before the Islamic revolution, when wealthy Iranian Jews were integrated into the country's upper-class. Mon., Sept. 17, 7:30 p.m. Free. Books Inc., 301 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-428-1234. <http://www.booksinc.net/NASApp/store/Index.jsp?s=storeevents&eventId=355352>

IAN KLAUS AT BOOKS INC. IN MOUNTAIN VIEW

Meet Ian Klaus, author of "Elvis is Titanic: Classroom Tales from the Other Iraq," his memoir of his semester spent teaching U.S. history and English at Salahaddin University in Arbil, the largest city in Iraqi Kurdistan. Thu., Sept. 20, 7:30 p.m. Free. Books Inc., 301 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-428-1234. <http://www.booksinc.net/NASApp/store/Index.jsp?s=storeevents&eventId=355365>

IMMIGRATION FROM MEXICO "Immigrants in America: Do We Want Them? Does Mexico Want them?" Perspectives by Stanford's Jayashri Srikantiah, Director, Immigrants' Rights Clinic, and Asst. Prof. of Political Science Alberto Diaz-Cayeros. Presented by League of Women Voters Palo Alto. Thu., Sept. 20, 7-9 p.m. Free Palo Alto Art Center Auditorium, 1313 Newell Rd., Palo Alto.

■ MORE LISTINGS

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



Wonderfully updated 2 bed, 1.5 bath town home in North San Jose. Granite slab counter and oak cabinets in kitchen. New carpet and paint throughout. Marble entry. Inside laundry. Inviting backyard with plantings and bricked patio, perfect for entertaining. Close to schools, parks and transportation. This is the best unit in the complex. Low HOA dues.

View more pictures at:
www.LandessAve.com



Industrial warehouse on corner lot located in Alma Industrial Park. Near Castro Street and El Camino Real. Zoned ML, 28,749 SF lot, possible development opportunity, 10,000 SF building and the building is 75% leased.

280 Polaris Avenue, Mountain View

\$2,500,000



Charming 3-bedroom 2-bath home located in Fremont. Light-filled and remodeled this home has skylights, wood floors, fireplace in living room granite countertops in kitchen and pantry. Nice French doors and double pane windows. Bathrooms have been updated. Spacious covered patio and deck in backyard, central forced air heating system, and 2-car garage.

VIEW MORE PICTURES AT: www.33059LakeWawasee.com



Condo for business on corner lot of El Camino and Mariposa. Commercial location close to downtown Mountain View. 1,150 SF 2-story office space with windows in four of the rooms! New carpet and paint. Gardener, garbage, and water paid. 500 SF Mezzazine/Common area – shared. Plenty of parking. Near freeways and shopping!

1580 W. El Camino Real # 10, Mountain View

\$425,000



Beautiful La Bella Rosa! Town home-style condo includes 2 Bedrooms, 2.5 Bathrooms, kitchen has granite counters, stainless steel appliances, and maple cabinets. Marble flooring, skylights, central air, and near the major freeways as well as shopping!

VIEW MORE PICTURES AT:
www.808LenzenAvenue.com



Traditional style 2-story condo has 1-bedroom and 1-bathroom. Formal entry with tile flooring, fenced backyard with patio, utility room, 1-car garage with indoor entry to condo, new carpeting, fresh paint, new flooring in kitchen, and new shower tile with sliding glass doors.

VIEW MORE PICTURES AT:
www.1208PermataCourt.com



Luxurious new, 3 bedrooms and 2.5 bathroom townhouse style, condos located downtown in the heart of San Jose! Master suite is on top level. Skylights. Living room has fireplace. Kitchen has granite countertops and maple cabinets. This luxury downtown living has direct access to shopping and all major freeways.

VIEW MORE PICTURES AT:
www.BalbachStreet.com

LOCATED IN THE ♥ HEART ♥ OF THE SILICON VALLEY
830 E El Camino Real, Mountain View, Ca 94040
650.625.0111 | 408.255.4116