

Mountain View VOICE

MAY 16, 2008 VOLUME 16, NO. 19

INSIDE: WEEKEND | PAGE 22

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**Cheers
for ELL
success**
| P.5



DAVID CENZER

CLEAR CHOICE:

Mountain View residents perused a variety of wares during the city's Community Garage Sale, held last Saturday in Rengstorff Park.

Breathalyzers a prom night tradition

DEVICE INTENDED TO CURB BAD BEHAVIOR BY TIPSY TEENS

By Casey Weiss

Along with fancy dresses, tuxedos and manicures, breathalyzers have become a mainstay at high school proms and other big dances.

The handheld device, which tests blood alcohol content by scanning a person's breath, has been used at school events for years. This Saturday will be no different, when students from both Mountain View and Los Altos high schools attend their proms.

As always, administrators will have their breathalyzers handy, randomly testing the alcohol level of students as they wait in line for the dance. Boozy breath can result in a range of punishments, up to and including suspension.

"It is wonderful. It discourages kids from partying," Los Altos Assistant Principal Cristy Dawson said of the policy. "Kids engage in risky behavior, and we don't need that at a dance."

"I know people who go drunk and figure they can get away with it."

Administrators say the policy has been around as long as they can remember, and that it has helped set a good tone for the dances. Since the breathalyzers are a well-known part of many school events, few turn up intoxicated, Dawson said.

"All the kids know we do it," she said. "You have to be a lunatic" to think you can get away with drinking.

Even so, students said, some will try.

"I know people who go drunk and figure they can get away with it," said Los Altos High School junior Siena Witte.

Punishments at each school vary for students who are caught, depending on the circumstances, including blood alcohol level. Most students are suspended, and their parents are called, but Dawson says Los Altos High does not have an exact policy for dealing with intoxication.

Prom night is one of the big-

► See **BREATHALYZERS**, page 8

Sparring for Lieber's seat

ASSEMBLY CANDIDATES DEBATE THE ISSUES IN FORUM AT MOUNTAIN VIEW CITY HALL

By Daniel DeBolt

Former Mountain View Mayor Sally Lieber will likely hand over her District 22 State Assembly seat to one of four Democrats, three of whom showed up for a debate in Mountain View Monday night.

With Kris Wang absent due to a Cupertino City Council meeting, Anna Song, Paul Fong and Dominic Caserta were asked questions by the League of Women Voters as they sat in the City Council chambers at Mountain View City Hall.

Their similarities on certain issues were striking — all three support SB-840, the universal health care bill proposed by Assembly member Sheila Keuhl. All said they wanted to maintain or increase public school funding, which makes sense given their backgrounds — Song is a county school board member, Caserta is a high school history teacher and Fong is a community college professor and a 15-year trustee of the Foothill-De Anza district.

Where they differed was in their top priorities, their style and how they would take on certain problems, such as a huge state budget deficit.

Fong, who grew up in Sunnyvale in a family of Chinese flower growers, said his first priority was passing a universal health care bill, and his second priority was making gay marriage legal in California.

Caserta, a fifth generation valley resident and Santa Clara City Council member, said his top priority was to establish new



Dominic Caserta



Paul Fong



Anna Song



Kris Wang

Big war chests discouraged for council candidates

By Daniel DeBolt

Candidates in this year's City Council election be warned: Go above the voluntary spending limit of \$19,000 and many in Mountain View won't like you for it.

While candidates in cities like Fremont and Milpitas are spending nearly \$100,000 to run a city council campaign, Mountain View has averaged far less, and on Tuesday the City Council said it wants to keep it that way. During their meeting, members

► See **COUNCIL**, page 11

INSIDE

GOINGS ON 32 | MARKETPLACE 34 | MOVIES 25 | REAL ESTATE 39 | VIEWPOINT 19

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Denise Ewings



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Kathy Bridgman



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Cindi Kodweis



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Voices

AROUND TOWN

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

Do you think Hillary Clinton should drop out of the race?



"Yeah, probably. If she doesn't get the superdelegates, she should."

Vince Gomez, Mountain View



"Yes, I think so. She's hurting the Democrats."

Carla Saballos, Mountain View



"Yeah, I guess I do since she can't win."

Stewart Breslin, Pacifica



"I choose not to get too into politics."

Julia Scott, Mountain View



"Yeah, definitely."

Vladimir Garris, Half Moon Bay

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LocalNews

■ CRIMEWATCH

ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON, 360 BLOCK S. SHORELINE BLVD., 5/7

Two minors got into a fight at the Mountain View Academy. There were no injuries, but one person was arrested and taken to Juvenile Hall.

people were arrested for being drunk in public, and one had a controlled substance on him and was charged with possession.

ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON, 200 BLOCK CASTRO ST., 5/10

A woman at a bar suffered an injury after being hit on the head with a glass object, either a bottle or drinking glass. The person who hit her fled before police arrived. An investigation is in progress.

DISTURBANCE, LOS CHARROS ON W. EL CAMINO REAL, 5/10

An officer was called to the restaurant after a report of drunkenness there. Two

■ POLICELOG

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE

2200 Block California St., 5/10

GRAND THEFT

700 Block Continental Circle, 5/8
300 Block E. Evelyn Ave., 5/8
2600 Block California St., 5/11

AUTO BURGLARY

2600 Block Fayette Dr., 5/7
600 Block Alamo Ct., 5/7
150 Block Calderon Ave., 5/8
770 Block W. Middlefield Rd., 5/9
500 Block Central Ave., 5/10
600 Block Ehrhorn Ave., 5/11
Del Medio Avenue/Del Medio Court, 5/11
100 Block N. Whisman Rd., 5/11
100 Block Calderon Ave., 5/12

PETTY THEFT

500 Block Showers Dr., 5/6
1300 Block Snow St., 5/8
1900 Block Montecito Ave., 5/9
2600 Block California St., 5/9
300 Block Showers Dr., 5/10
Crittenden School, 5/12
Mi Pueblo, 5/12

BATTERY

200 Block Bush St., 5/7
150 Calderon Ave., 5/8
2600 Block Terminal Blvd., 5/9
Escuela Avenue/Latham Street, 5/9

POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA

Northbound 101/Old Middlefield Way, 5/7
170 Block Centre St., 5/9

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

800 Block Maude Ave., 5/11
500 Block W. El Camino Real, 5/12

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES/PERSON

Calderon Avenue/Church Street, 5/6
200 Block Central Ave., 5/6
300 Block S. Shoreline Blvd., 5/6
College Avenue/Leland Avenue, 5/6
500 Block Tyrella Ave., 5/10
500 Block Ortega Ave., 5/10
1200 Block Bonita Ave., 5/12

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

Castro Street/Villa Street, 5/6
Pear Avenue/N. Shoreline Boulevard, 5/6
400 Block View St., 5/7
500 Block Showers Dr., 5/7
200 Block Windrose Place, 5/8
W. Dana Street/Hope Street, 5/10
200 Block Castro St., 5/12

VANDALISM

700 Block E. El Camino Real, 5/8
1000 Block N. Rengstorff Ave., 5/8
360 Block Bryant St., 5/9
250 Block Castro St., 5/9
Latham Street/S. Rengstorff Avenue, 5/12
500 Block South Dr., 5/12

DISTURBANCE

Terra Bella Academy, 5/9
Los Charros Restaurant - W. El Camino Real, 5/10

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City to appeal Shoreline ruling

JURY FOUND AUDITOR DZH TO BE AT FAULT EARLIER THIS YEAR, BUT AWARDED NO DAMAGES

By Daniel DeBolt

After surviving a trial earlier this year, the auditing firm accused of helping the operators of Shoreline Amphitheatre steal millions from the city now faces an appeal.

The city says Daoro, Zydell and Holland, or DZH, is responsible for \$22 million in damages after allegedly betraying the city's trust by working as the city's auditor and, unbeknownst to the city, also working for operators Bill Graham Presents and LiveNation.

Earlier this year a jury found the auditor to be at fault, yet awarded the city no damages. City attorney Michael Martello requested a new trial to award damages, but that request was rejected last month.

The council voted unanimously in closed session for the appeal, based on the alleged jury misconduct and the fact that the defendant's expert witness on audits had never conducted an audit before, Martello said. ■

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



BACK NEXT WEEK



DON FERIA

Jesus Alcazar, 9, examines his new medal during a ceremony for students reclassified this week as being proficient in English.

A medal for English learners

DISTRICT HOLDS CEREMONY FOR STUDENTS PASSING BATTERY OF LANGUAGE TESTS

By Casey Weiss

Dozens of students, walking proudly across the stage, were cheered by parents, teachers and administrators Monday for one of the most important accomplishments in their educational careers: becoming proficient users of the English language.

These Mountain View Whisman School District students, 165 in all, were reclassified this week as being proficient in English after years of studying the language.

The students, representing all six elementary schools and both middle schools, received a certificate of reclassification and a medal from trustees and district administrators at Castro Elementary School on Monday evening. Being proficient for these non-native English speakers means they can now complete the appropriate grade level work.

"Kids, I am so proud of you," Superintendent Maurice Ghysels said during the ceremony. "My heart is gushing."

To be reclassified, the stu-

dents scored advanced or early advanced on the California English Language Development Test last fall, passed both the California Standard Test and a writing assessment, and were recommended by their teachers. The number of students reclassified jumped 50 percent this year, with only 115 passing in 2007-08.

"This is about our strong community," Ghysels said. "It is an honor and privilege to be your superintendent."

► See **ENGLISH**, page 16

Teachers: More kindergarten pays off

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS TEST BETTER AFTER SCHOOL HOURS ARE EXPANDED

By Casey Weiss

With the Mountain View Whisman School District working to raise math scores and address English language development, teachers say they know one program that gets results: extended kindergarten hours.

At Monta Loma Elementary

School, where kindergarten classes were extended for several hours each day, teachers say the extra time has been crucial in teaching vocabulary and language skills to English language learners. These programs also allow more free play, helping students to develop social skills, teachers say.

According to Monta Loma teacher Angela Lyon, by

expanding these programs, teachers can "allow greater flexibility during the kindergarten day, provide language instruction for our English language learners as well as enrichment for our English speakers, and promote a sense of community so that all students each lunch together and stay for the entire

► See **KINDERGARTEN**, page 16

Worker Center's new building turns pricey

ESCUELA AVENUE STRUCTURE REQUIRES MAJOR RENOVATIONS, INCLUDING NEW ROOF, INTERIOR

By Daniel DeBolt

Unexpected cost hikes are not stopping the Day Worker Center's purchase of a small building near Rengstorff Park.

The center is set to purchase the building at 117 Escuela Ave., which formerly housed a dry-cleaner, at the end of the month, but the estimated cost to renovate the property has gone up considerably.

The center has already raised the \$350,000 purchase price, but the cinderblock structure needs a new roof and a new interior, which will cost at least \$800,000, said John Rinaldi, a board member who has been working with the center since 1996. Earlier this year, the center had told City Council members that renovation costs would be \$350,000.

"It's costing so much more than I ever anticipated," Rinaldi said. "It's ending up being over \$1 million."

"I don't see it as a big obstacle," said center director Maria Marroquin. "It's a great opportunity for the community to come together and raise this money. It just takes time."

It may be a year before the center can move in as the project makes its way through the city planning pipeline. The center just paid the city \$15,000 for a traffic and parking study — a "heart-wrenching expense," Rinaldi said, when he thinks of all the other things the center has to pay for.

But the alternative to the Escuela site was spending millions of dollars for a site along El Camino Real.

"To buy this building at this price, it's so unique," Rinaldi said. "This is a community coming together in a way that

► See **DAY WORKER**, page 12

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**Monta Loma/Farley/Rock Street Area
 Neighborhood Meeting**

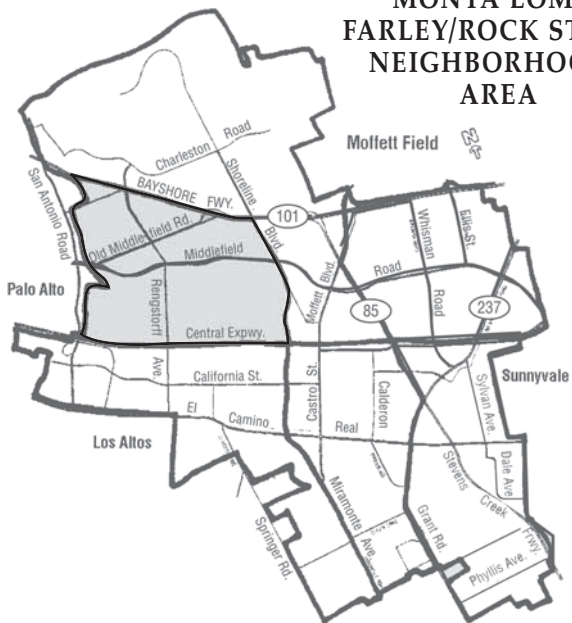
**May 15, 2008 from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
 Monta Loma Elementary School
 460 Thompson Avenue**

The City of Mountain View Council Neighborhoods Committee will be meeting with residents in the Monta Loma/Farley/Rock Street area on May 15, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. (area shown on the map below).

The Council Neighborhoods Committee invites residents in this area to participate in a forum to hear about new projects in the community and discuss issues vital to your neighborhood. This is an opportunity to make a difference in the future of your neighborhood, and express your thoughts about ways to improve city services.

For further information, please call the City's Neighborhood Preservation Division at (650) 903-6379.

**MONTA LOMA/
 FARLEY/ROCK STREET
 NEIGHBORHOODS
 AREA**



■ SEEN AROUND TOWN

Cuesta Heron



"I was delighted to see a great blue heron standing beside an asphalt path at Cuesta Park," wrote Ray Morneau. "He even let me snap some photos."

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.

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

**GANG AWARENESS
 SEMINAR NEXT WEEK**

The Mountain View Challenge Team and Mesa de la Comunidad will be hosting a Gang Awareness Seminar next week to help parents keep track of gang-related topics.

The informational event will touch on trends, culture and recruitment among gangs. The seminar will be in both English and Spanish, and Mountain View police officers from the department's Gang Suppression Team will be available to answer questions.

Child care for the duration of the event will be provided. There will also be door prizes and information

for other resources available. The event is Thursday, May 22 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Castro Elementary School, 505 Escuela Ave.

— Nicole Baldocchi

**LOCAL AGENCY PROVIDES
 INSURANCE FOR CHILDREN**

More than 20 local low-income children enrolled for free and reduced health insurance last weekend during a sign-up day sponsored by a local health agency.

The Children's Health Initiative, which provides health care access to uninsured children in Santa Clara County, held its first high school

event at Los Altos High School on Saturday, May 10.

Children's Health Initiative uses three federal, state and local programs to enroll children, ranging from very young to high school age. The organization does not check the immigration status of the children it enrolls.

Twenty-two students, mostly from Mountain View, signed up for insurance at the event, a normal number for sign-up days, according to volunteer Ellen Wheeler. The organization plans to hold another, larger event in Pioneer Park in September.

— Casey Weiss

Mountain View Online launches video ads

Staff Reports

Mountain View Online has begun launching online video advertising from local businesses, giving the newspaper's Web readers a unique and personal view of those businesses' owners and clientele.

The 30- to 60-second video ads will appear at the top right portion of all Mountain View Online Web pages. A link to

the Web site of the business appears below the video. The videos are produced by the staff of Embarcadero Publishing Company, which owns the *Voice*, *Palo Alto Weekly* and *Menlo Park Almanac*.

The videos typically feature the owner or manager of the business and in some cases an employee or customer. In addition, a second type of video ad will appear in a video business directory. Those ads

will feature service providers describing themselves and their business. The directory is aimed primarily at licensed professionals such as chiropractors, attorneys, accountants, therapists and financial advisers.

Recently, the site launched a major new Web service for real estate information, including maps of local homes for sale, open homes and prior sales data. ■



The Weilheimer store is pictured on the right at around 1903.

New owner to renovate Castro building

'WEILHEIMER STORE,' BUILT IN 1874, SOLD TO DEVELOPER

By Daniel DeBolt

After standing vacant for years, the historic downtown building at 124-126 Castro Street, known by city historians as the "Weilheimer store," is now set for a renovation under a new owner.

For the last two years former owner Terry Klein worked slowly to preserve the historic presence of what may be the oldest commercial building in the city. His family owned the building for over 50 years, and once sold clothing and shoes there when it was "the workingman's store." It's even the place where he met his wife.

It wasn't easy to let go, but due to Klein's recent health problems, he has sold it to Los Altos native Don Imwalle of Imwalle Stegner Development, who plans to restore it by year's end.

"There comes a point in your life when you can only do certain things," Klein said. "I gave it as much as I could to rejuvenate that building to what it was originally. I just had to bail out and hope for the best; that's all I could do."

Built in 1874, the building is said to be the oldest commercial structure in the city, surviving the 1906 earthquake. It has been added to and altered substantially over the years, and the wood posts that once held up the awning for the popular Weilheimer general store — featuring marks from the thousands of horses that have been hitched to them — were re-used inside, Klein said. Remnants of history, old bottles and signs, are displayed in the window.

Klein had hoped for a business "that would represent the building to the old-timers and Mountain View pioneers who loved coming in there," but dis-

agreements between him and a sibling over the inherited building stalled his dream.

Imwalle, who closed escrow on the building April 29, seems to enjoy the history of it. "We're going to do a historic retrofit of the facade — a mid-19th century look," he said. "We have a picture of the way it originally looked, which is quite attractive."

"It's great to see Main Street USA make a comeback," Imwalle said about business trends on Castro Street.

Imwalle credited Klein with saving the building's structure from leaky plumbing a few years ago by giving his restaurant tenants the boot and pulling the walls apart to help them "breathe." He has plans for a large restaurant to take up the interior, but says he is also open to a retail tenant. He said the restoration could take as little a three to four months if there are no delays.

The city zoning administrator extended permits for a restaurant and facade improvements on April 23, despite heavy interest from the city for more retail and fewer restaurants on Castro Street.

"I think Castro Street will see more retail but probably not on the 100 block," where restaurants like Xahn, next door, are a huge hit, Imwalle said. "If you tried to put retail in there by itself it would struggle."

City project planner Melinda Dennis said the city was happy to see the project moving forward. The "highly visible" location across the street from the train station is one of the final pieces of the downtown development "puzzle," she said. ▀

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

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Now Enrolling!

Facts About Child Care at the City of Mountain View Child Care Center

What enrollment schedules are offered?

The center will offer full day and part-time care for children Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Who has priority enrollment?

Low income Mountain View residents have first priority, followed by general City of Mountain View residents. Remaining available spaces will be offered to those employed in the City of Mountain View.

What age groups will the center serve?

The City of Mountain View Child Care Center offers care to children six weeks through five years of age.

When will the center open?

The City of Mountain View Child Care Center will open in September 2008. Enrollment from lottery will begin in May followed by a waiting list.

How did this center come about?

The center is made possible through a partnership with the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the City of Mountain View and CCLC.

What are the teacher-to-child ratios and group sizes?

The City of Mountain View Child Care Center offers the following teacher-to-child ratios:

Age Group	Age Range *	Ratios	Group Size
Infants	6 wks. - 12 mo.	1:4	8
Toddlers	12 mo. - 24 mo.	1:4	8
Jr. Preschool	24 mo. - 36 mo.	1:7	14
Preschool	3 yrs. - 4 yrs.	1:10	20
Pre-K	4 yrs. - 5 yrs.	1:10	20

*Approximate ranges



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EDUCATION BRIEFS

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS HOLD SPRING OPEN HOUSES

Local elementary and middle schools will open their doors to parents this month for the annual spring open houses. During the events, schools in the Mountain View Whisman School Districts will invite parents to visit the classrooms, meet with teachers and check out art projects.

All the open houses begin at 6:30 p.m. Crittenden and Monta Loma have already held their open houses. The other open houses will occur this month: Graham on May 20, Theuerkauf on May 21, Huff and Castro on May 28 and Landels and Bubb on May 29.

located at 1701 Rock Street, Mountain View.

Students receive 25 cents from the recycling company for each pound of computer and CRT monitors they collect. For more information, call Arturo Noriega at (650) 903-6945 or e-mail him at anoriega@mvwsd.org

Also on Saturday, Alta Vista High School is holding its own recycling event. The school, located at 1325 Bryant Ave., will be taking e-waste from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. It will also hold a rummage sale Saturday, where it will sell all kinds of donations — books, toys, clothes and more — made to the school up until the evening of Friday, May 16.

GRAHAM HIRES NEW ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Graham Middle School will begin next school year with a new administration after district trustees hired a new assistant principal last week.

Alberto Verduzc, currently a principal in the Alum Rock district of San Jose, spent last week meeting students and parents at his new school.

Verduzc, who speaks fluent Spanish, has worked in elementary, middle and high schools for the last 14 years.

— Casey Weiss

CRITTENDEN, ALTA VISTA HOLD RECYCLING EVENTS

To raise extra funds for the student activities office, Crittenden Middle School students are holding an e-recycling event this weekend for local residents, allowing them to drop off old and used electronics.

Students will be collecting the computers, televisions and other electronics on Saturday, May 17 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., or before the weekend at Crittenden Middle School,

BREATHALYZERS

► Continued from page 1

gest, and last, dances of the year. This Saturday, Los Altos High students will hold their prom at the DeCathlon Club in San Jose, while Mountain View High's big event will be held aboard a San Francisco Bay cruise ship.

At Los Altos High, the principal and all three assistant principals attend prom night and help enforce the alcohol policies. For Mountain View High, normally two administrators and a law enforcement officer are present at the dances.

Students seemed to have mixed feelings about the policy.

"It's not a big deal," said Witte, as she ate lunch near the Los Altos High campus on Monday. "It hasn't affected us."

"Some of the people who drink are more worried about it," added junior Dmitry Maslenitsyn.

The schools recently received new wands that can read blood alcohol content when waved in

front of a student's mouth. Still, a few students said they felt the policy was intrusive and singled out certain students.

"They say it is random, but I will definitely be breathalyzed," sophomore Alex Bailey said. "You get pulled out and everyone is looking at you."

Los Altos Principal Keith Moody said most students are compliant with the rules. "There are some kids who are the politicians and see it as a violation," he said. However, "We don't normally get a lot of resistance about things that keep students safe."

Moody added that the community has other ways to discourage drinking. Parents enforce rules at home, and leadership students help educate their peers about the dangers of alcohol and drugs.

"The parents don't condone these things," he said. "It all depends on the connectedness between school and community." ■

E-mail Casey Weiss at cweiss@mv-voice.com



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Measure C would renew, and raise, property tax for schools

By Casey Weiss

If passed on June 3, Measure C would collect \$3 million a year from local property taxes to continue running school programs such as outdoor education, support for English language learners and music and art classes in the Mountain View Whisman School District.

With state budget cuts threatening recent gains by the district — including smaller class sizes and teacher retention — the schools' communities are hoping voters will approve the parcel tax to help make up the difference.

Advocates think of the measure as renewing the current parcel tax, Measure J, which passed in 2004 and expires in 2009. The new tax, which would not begin until 2009, would increase rates by 69 percent, providing additional revenue as the district faces nearly \$3

million in expected cuts under Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's January budget proposal.

"If Measure C does not pass, the Mountain View Whisman School District will lose the \$1.7 million in annual parcel tax funding as well as the \$2.7 million the district is likely to lose as a result of the state budget deficit," Superintendent Maurice Ghysels said in an e-mail.

"Due to the drastic budget cuts proposed by the governor, the parcel tax is essential in maintaining basic programs," said Craig Goldman, the district's chief financial officer. "Without the parcel tax, support for those programs would be severely cut."

Legally, the revenue from the eight-year parcel tax must go directly toward teacher attraction and retention, small class sizes, library supplies and staff, art and music programs and programs for enhancing student

achievement. Each year, a special parcel tax oversight committee discusses expenditures from the parcel with district trustees.

School administrators worry that the proposed budget cuts could continue in upcoming years. As a revenue limit district, Mountain View Whisman receives the majority of its funding from the state, and has already begun initial budget cuts in anticipation of state slashes. Teachers agreed to forfeit their cost of living adjustment, and the district board will vote this week on whether to increase the price of school lunches.

"We are anticipating the state budget crisis to extend over years," Goldman said.

While many teachers and administrators are campaigning in favor of Measure C, they do it off-hours, and the campaign is paid for by Friends of MVWSD, a group of volunteers who support the parcel tax.

Under Measure C, property owners with the smallest parcels — 8,000 square feet or less — would pay \$127 a year, compared to \$75 under Measure J. Owners of parcels larger than 44,000 square feet would pay \$1,016 a year, compared to \$600 under the original parcel tax.

Residents receiving supplemental security income and senior citizens would be exempt under Measure C, according to Charles Heath, vice president of Tramutola, a consulting firm that is helping prepare and pass the measure.

There is no official opposition to the Measure on the voter guide, and according to Heath, "We have seen no organized opposition to the measure whatsoever."

Meanwhile, the Friends of MVWSD group has been putting up signs and working the phones to gain support for the measure. The local high school

and community college districts, Chamber of Commerce and other local businesses, have all endorsed the Measure.

"We have a compelling case," said Heath. If the measure didn't pass, "it would be devastating."

Despite the lack of opposition, Laura Blakely, president of Friends of MVWSD, said Measure C still does not have the 67 percent it needs to win. When volunteers call, they ask voters if they will support the measure, and tally the responses.

"The responses are good," Blakely said. "But we are still not convinced of a victory."

Blakely said the volunteers are also low on funds, getting by with less money than expected to pay for consulting and mass mailings.

"We are keeping our fingers crossed," she said. ▀

E-mail Casey Weiss at cweiss@mv-voice.com

ASSEMBLY

► Continued from page 1

job training programs for high schools, because these days, he said, "We are telling kids that aren't going to be lawyers that their skills aren't valuable." His second priority is health care, a problem he says he can solve, which is why he is endorsed by the California Nurses Association.

Song, a Korean-born mother of two and an eight-year veteran of the county school board, said education is her first priority, followed by women's issues, listed on her Web site as domestic violence, pay equity and job training.

A statement from Wang, the Taiwan-born mayor of Cupertino, was read at the meeting. She expressed her support for sustainable energy and innovation in Silicon Valley, and she quoted a Cupertino citizens' group which called her a "true public servant with no ties to special interests."

Fong and Caserta touted their endorsements. Fong is endorsed by Lieber and the political establishment, such as U.S. Congress members Anna Eshoo, Zoe Lofgren and Mike Honda. Caserta, a former Republican, touted his support from high-tech companies like Microsoft and Hewlett Packard, and from police officers associations, including Mountain View's. He also has the support of several major unions.

The candidates were asked how they would close the state's budget gap. Caserta proposed a tax on oil companies that drill in California, which would raise \$15 billion, he said. Fong

proposed new vehicle license fees, which could raise \$6 billion. Song proposed more "Robin Hood" taxes which would raise rates for those making more than \$500,000 a year.

To clean up the state's environment, Fong said he would introduce legislation to require that 50 percent of all vehicles sold in the state by 2020 use alternative fuel. Caserta mentioned Santa Clara's award-winning "green power" program which he would like to see implemented statewide, along with a commitment to increase fuel efficiency in cars by 50 percent over the next 10 years. Song said she would like to see incentives for businesses to use solar power and better recycling programs, and on her Web site she also advocates more stringent business inspections and clean-ups of toxics.

In closing, Fong said he had been a public leader for 35 years while working to build an "equitable society," and mentioned his endorsement from the California Democratic Party and the California Federation of Teachers. Song said she would think of her two kids while working in Sacramento to better their future, and that the area needed a "stronger voice" in Sacramento. Caserta said that "we deserve so much better" when it comes to our state representatives, and vowed to create jobs locally, because "We are losing jobs in this area." ▀

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

COUNCIL

► Continued from page 1

unanimously rejected proposals to raise the voluntary spending cap as high as \$26,000.

Mayor Tom Means, who will run for re-election this fall, said he was elected in 2004 after spending only \$5,000, and added he could probably win this time for less than \$4,000.

"If I had to raise \$30,000 there is no way I would get involved in this," said council member Ronit Bryant, who plans to use her old lawn signs when she runs for re-election in 2010. "It's difficult enough to encourage people to run given the \$3 an hour we get paid."

Council member Matt Pear suggested that people not be allowed to be vice mayor or mayor if they go over the limit. Social pressures are currently the biggest deterrent, bolstered by the fact that violators "get written up in the *Voice*," Pear said. Violators also forfeit more than \$2,000 from the city to pay for ballot candidate statements.

"It's just like an arms race to some extent," Means said about uncontrolled spending limits. "When you see people spend more than the salary they will be getting, it makes you wonder what else they are getting."

For those in the past who didn't abide by the limit or who broke their promises, there was some "shunning that went on," said council member Nick Galiotto.

"A reasonably savvy person can do a lot of e-mail marketing," noted member Laura Macias. "That doesn't cause as

much paper waste as mailing. I just really like the idea of keeping it small."

Also rejected was a proposal for a 3 to 5 percent annual increase in the voluntary limit to compensate for growing costs of postage, materials and services. One mailing alone can now cost \$9,000, Galiotto said, and lawn signs have doubled in cost in recent years.

Means said he was able to buy ads every week in local papers and still stay within budget. And he noted that the Internet provides a free medium for reaching the public, which members aren't taking advantage of.

"I don't think any of us put videos on YouTube," he said.

Council weighs in on Props 98, 99

The council weighed in on two competing eminent domain propositions Tuesday night.


After concerns were cited that Proposition 98 would adversely affect the city's mobile home parks and below market rate housing program, the council voted 4-2 to oppose it in favor of Proposition 99, which was called the "status quo" proposition by Mayor Means, who abstained. Member Jac Siegel didn't think the city should take a position on the matter.

Although many Peninsula cities are rejecting Prop 98, council member Matt Pear said he supported it, saying it provided increased protection for small business, religious groups and farmers. But others say the proposition has a "hidden agenda" and would gut renters' protections in the state. ▀

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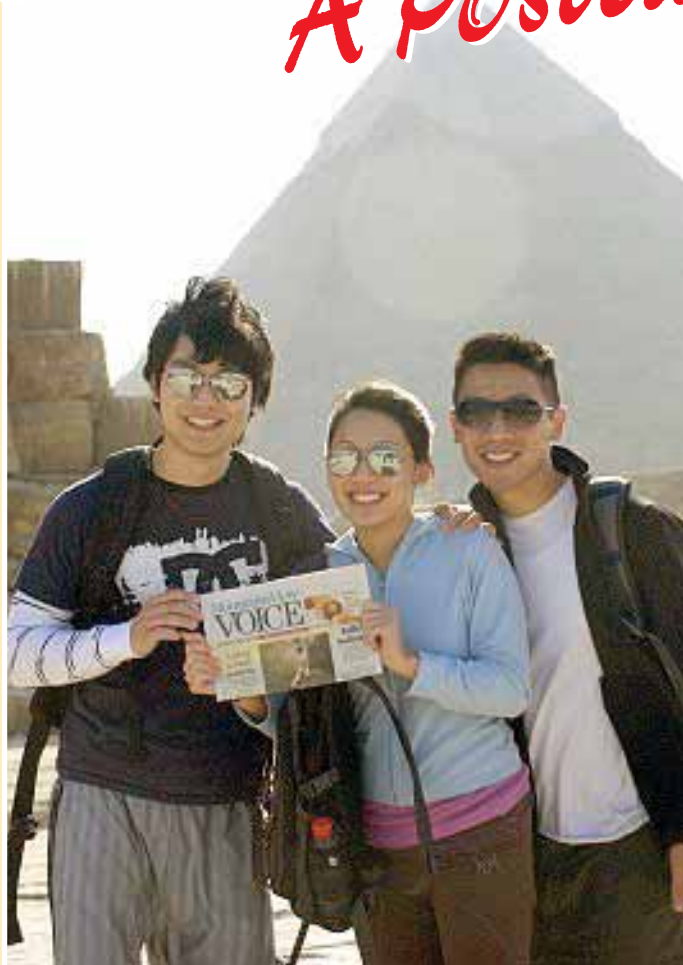


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Youth leader forced out of U.S.

LUCIO CACIANO-MIRANDA TELLS A JUDGE
HE'LL LEAVE THE COUNTRY BY JULY

By Daniel DeBolt

Lucio Caciano-Miranda, the local youth leader who worked out of St. Athanasius Catholic Church on Rengstorff Avenue, has agreed to leave the country due to deportation proceedings brought against him by the federal government.

Caciano-Miranda, 37, told a San Francisco judge last week that he will leave the country by July to pursue studies for seven years at a seminary in Mexico City. He will not be allowed to return to the U.S. for 10 years.

"Many guys are in gangs and they don't understand life very well, and I try to help them be good people," Caciano-Miranda was quoted as saying last week.

The arrest of Caciano-Miranda, a Sunnyvale resident, sparked a local outcry and gained national attention when it happened last October. He was arrested by undercover Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers on Oct. 10, 2007 while visiting his goddaughter and her mother in Sunnyvale.

According to reports, the officers knocked on the door

with an arrest warrant, and when they couldn't find the person they were looking for, they instead arrested Caciano-Miranda, an undocumented gardener who had been in the U.S. for 15 years.

Despite his work in the church, Caciano-Miranda could not obtain a visa to stay in the U.S. In her remarks from the bench, Judge Colly Weber said she regretted that immigration law provided no other options.

According to Phil Cosby, a community leader at St. Athanasius and a member of Peninsula Interfaith Action, Caciano-Miranda coordinated a retreat for 40 local at-risk youth, ranging in age from early teens to early 20s, just last month.

"We're going to lose him as a youth leader — that's a big impact," Cosby said. "He was the best one. They have been trying to train others to step in."

St. Athanasius is planning to hold a large event in Caciano-Miranda's honor before he leaves. A date has not yet been determined. ▀

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

DAY WORKER

► Continued from page 5

never happens. It meets every vision I could have put together in the late 1990s. It's absolutely remarkable."

For its part, the city is currently negotiating a 20-year lease for a patch of city land next to the new building that could be used for parking. The deal would be the city's match to \$50,000 and \$25,000 contributions pledged from the cities of Los Altos and Los Altos Hills, respectively.

Unless the lease is negotiated quickly, Rinaldi said, the center will have to buy the property without the money pledged from the other cities, forcing it to apply for a bridge loan.

While waiting for the new building, the center is seeing a downturn in employment at its temporary location at the Trin-

ity United Methodist Church on Hope and Mercy streets. Work has decreased by 20 percent since the center moved from Escuela and California streets last year, Marroquin said, though there has also been a downturn in the economy. Also, the city has yet to follow through on promises that the street signs would be replaced to redirect traffic to the new location.

It is hoped that the new location back on Escuela will help attract more workers and employers. For Rinaldi, it's almost a religious pursuit.

The community is "not complete until the poor and the marginalized are brought into the picture and have a seat at the table," he said. "The community then becomes a whole." ▀

E-mail Daniel DeBolt at
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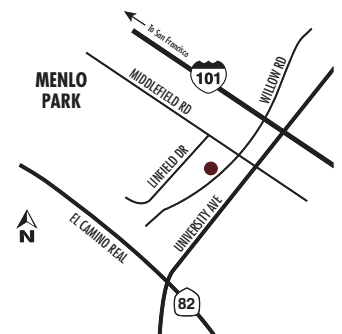
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ENGLISH

► Continued from page 5

There are still 1,963 students in the district who need to be reclassified as English proficient or fluent, according to Judy Crates, director of English language development. It normally takes six years for a student to be reclassified, and usually is more difficult for older students.

“Students who come to us in fourth to eighth grade may not be reclassified until high school,” Crates said.

With Latinos making up more than 40 percent of the district’s student population, administrators and teachers have made English language development one of their benchmarks. Although the majority of students reclassified were Spanish speakers, the students came from around the world, speaking 19 different languages, including Bengali, Farsi and Serbo-Croatian.

Crates said English language



DON FERIA

Friends and family make for a packed house at Castro Elementary School on Monday.

programs, parent participation and the students’ hard work all contributed to the increase in

reclassified students.

“This is a very special night because it is good news,” she told

the hundreds of audience members, switching between English and Spanish. “We celebrate the

success of our students.”

Now that these students are proficient in English, most of them will no longer receive specialized help, and will spend most of their time in the regular classroom setting. Crates said the district has high standards for its students.

“They are in regular classrooms and the expectations for them are the same as students who are native speakers,” she said. “Our English speakers do very well.”

E-mail Casey Weiss at cweiss@mv-voice.com

■ MANY LANGUAGES

Following is a list of the native languages spoken by those students who received a medal and certificate on Monday:

- | | |
|-----------|----------------|
| Bengali | Pashto |
| Cantonese | Portuguese |
| Farsi | Punjabi |
| Filipino | Russian |
| French | Serbo-Croatian |
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KINDERGARTEN

► Continued from page 5

length of our program.”

Reading assessment results seem to bear this out, showing improvement for all kindergarteners throughout the district enrolled in extended day programs, which keep the students until mid-afternoon. The majority of students participating in these programs increased their scores on reading assessments.

“You can see the programs have made a difference in students’ lives,” Assistant Superintendent Mary Lairon told district trustees during a board meeting earlier this month. “In general the scores did improve.”

During the extended day programs, which normally last until 2 p.m., students have several additional hours for free play, literacy, story time, special instruction and other programs, depending on the school.

The programs, which started two years ago at Castro and Bubb, vary among the six elementary schools in the district, with Monta Loma offering a special class that is just for English language learners. Theuerkauf’s extended day programs are open to all students. Although teachers have formed different programs according to the needs of the students, every student in the district — even those who do not participate in the programs — receives the minimum amount

► Continued on next page

► Continued from previous page

of kindergarten time required by the state.

District data shows that all students participating in these programs improved on reading assessments. At Theuerkauf, 85 percent of students were proficient or advanced in letter sounds during a reading assessment in 2008, compared to 65 percent in 2007. The district has no reading assessment data for students who did not participate in the program.

“Although this is not perfect data, it supports the findings,” Lairon said. “The programs are

District data shows that all students participating in these programs improved on reading assessments.

supported by research.”

At the meeting earlier this month, Lairon updated board members on the programs, and encouraged trustees to consider making the programs consistent from school to school.

Lyon, who was present at the meeting, told the board that since the programs are working so well for English language learners, Monta Loma teachers want to extend them for all students.

“The few students going home at 11:45 a.m. want to stay,” she said.

Trustees and Superintendent Maurice Ghysels applauded the programs, but agreed they should remain a grassroots effort, suggesting that schools would extend their programs only if they want to, especially since teachers have been so successful in creating their programs.

“Kindergarten is a huge success,” said board president Fiona Walter. “If it is not broken, do not fix it.”

Ghysels added that with the district concentrating on benchmarks for math and English language learners, teachers and trustees should continue looking at more data from the programs — but that teachers should lead any plan to redevelop the programs.

“Let staff come up with the programs,” he said. “I think this will move more naturally than if we push it.” ■

E-mail Casey Weiss at cweiss@mv-voice.com



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■ CITY BRIEFS

OFFICES APPROVED IN NORTH WHISMAN

The city is set to add space for several thousand more jobs in the North Whisman area with three high-density, transit-oriented office developments, one of which was approved for a re-zoning at 625-685 Clyde Ave. on Tuesday night.

Four one-story buildings on nine acres, 184,000 square feet in total, will be demolished to make way for two five-story buildings with 340,000 square feet in total.

According to the developer, PMG Partners, the project includes a large open space area that is "almost another neighborhood park."

The city allowed the developer to double the square footage allowed because of the project's

proximity to two light rail stations, the closest of which is a 10 minute walk.

To ensure that the project is "transit oriented," tenants will be required to provide transit passes to employees, and conduct annual surveys of employee commuting habits, the developer said.

CITY LAUNCHES GENERAL PLAN WEB SITE

City staffers have set up a Web site to better reach the public regarding efforts to update the city's general plan.

The site, www.mountainview2030.com, allows residents to stay up to date on the proceedings through e-mail updates, online surveys and other information. To kick off the site, residents are encouraged to submit

photos of scenes around town that represent what Mountain View means to them.

A series of public hearings are scheduled this year to discuss everything from updating the city's zoning for housing and jobs to guidelines for public art and the city's trees and trails. The first hearing will be held in June.

SENIOR CENTER OPEN DURING HEAT WAVE

With temperatures predicted in the high 90s this week, those seeking shelter from the heat will be welcome at the Mountain View Senior Center at 266 Escuela Ave., said city manager Kevin Duggan.

— Daniel DeBolt

■ OBITUARY

SOPHIE M. MEYER LAVERONI

Longtime Mountain View resident Sophie M. Meyer Laveroni died on May 10. She was 94 years old.

Born in 1914 in St. Charles, Ill., Sophie Meyer was raised in Hollister, Calif. with her six brothers and one sister. She later married Vernon Laveroni of San Juan Bautista. Together they had two children, Barbara and Edward, whom they raised in Mountain View.

Laveroni retired from Hewlett Packard after 25 years at the company. She also lived in Morgan Hill for many years.

She is survived by her son Edward Laveroni of Los Gatos; daughter Barbara Provost of Henderson, Nev.; six grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held on May 17 at 2 p.m. at Darling Fischer Mortuary, 615 N. Santa Cruz Ave. in Los Gatos. She will be buried next to her husband, Vernon, in San Juan Bautista.



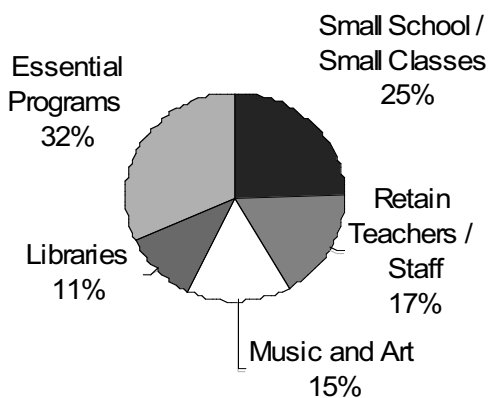
Parcel Tax Oversight Committee

Review of Proposed 2008 / 2009 Parcel Tax Spending

The Mountain View Whisman School District's Parcel Tax Oversight Committee has reviewed proposed spending of parcel tax revenues for the 2008 / 2009 school year.

Key Findings

- \$2,205,837 in parcel tax funds is available for 2008 / 2009. This includes estimated revenue of \$1,692,934 and carry-over from prior years.
- All proposed spending is for programs that are an appropriate use of parcel tax funds.



Proposed spending by parcel tax category

- 3% of spending has been set aside as reserves as required by State law.

Oversight Committee Report

The Committee's complete report is available at the following locations:

- Online at: www.mvwsd.org
- District offices at 750-A San Pierre Way
- Mountain View Public Library

Proposed 2008 / 2009 Parcel Tax Spending

Under the District's proposed budget, the following programs would receive funding from parcel tax revenues for the 2008 / 2009 school year:

Program	Estimate
Preserve K-3 Class Size Reductions	\$415,000
Library Technicians	\$237,877
Grades 4 / 5 Physical Education	\$200,000
Custodial Support	\$197,922
Academic At Risk Programs	\$191,582
Music Program Staff	\$178,513
Clerical Support	\$149,023
Community School of Music & Art *	\$121,225
Leadership & Activity Programs	\$86,166
Grades 4 / 5 / 6 Lower Class Size	\$80,000
English Learner Development	\$75,750
Community Health Awareness Council (CHAC)	\$58,488
5th Grade Science Camp	\$58,300
Elementary Newcomers Support	\$30,000
Science Kits*	\$25,000
Before School Electives *	\$20,000
After School Sports *	\$10,000
Administrative Costs	\$6,000
Total Expenditures	\$2,140,846

* These programs would also receive funding from the Mountain View Educational Foundation.

Public Comment

The District's Board of Trustees will review proposed spending during its meeting on June 5, 2008. Public comments are welcome.

Parcel Tax Spending 2004 – 2008

Since 2004, the Measure J Parcel Tax has provided \$6.3 million in additional funding to the students of the Mountain View Whisman School District. The Parcel Tax Oversight Committee has found that these funds consistently were spent to support the objectives of Measure J:

- Small schools / small classes
- Retaining teachers and staff
- Restoring the district's award winning music and art education
- Keeping school libraries open
- Preserving essential education programs

Independent Oversight. Over the last four years, the Parcel Tax Oversight Committee, a volunteer group of Mountain View residents, has met regularly to independently review how the District is spending parcel tax funds.

Appropriate Spending. The Committee has found that the District has consistently spent Parcel Tax funds on programs and activities authorized by the parcel tax measure.

Ongoing and Innovative Programs. Funding has been used to support a variety of new and ongoing programs, such as expanded library staffing, newcomer education, school sports, and class-size reduction.

Public / Private Partnership. The District has also used parcel tax funds to supplement funding from private sources for programs such as Science Camp and music education.

Public Review. Committee reports and meeting minutes are available for public review and provide a complete record of how the District has spent Measure J parcel tax funds

Copias de los reportes del comité serán disponible en español en la oficina del Distrito, 750-A San Pierre Way

Viewpoint

- EDITORIAL
- YOUR LETTERS
- GUEST OPINIONS

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Member, Mountain View Chamber of Commerce

■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

Driving ourselves to death

Given the fact that so many of Santa Clara County's 1.6 million residents cram the streets and freeways every day, it's no surprise that the county ranks among the worst in the nation when it comes to air pollution.

The details are made painfully clear in the American Lung Association's "2008 State of the Air" report, which gives the county a "D" for ozone levels and an "F" for short-term particle pollution. Only in the category of year-round pollution did the county get a passing grade.

The 63-page report, which covers 2004 to 2006, ranked 700 counties across the country using a database from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Of the 25 counties hardest hit by short-term particle pollution, Santa Clara ranked 19th due to the number of days its air was in the unhealthy range for a 24-hour period or longer.

The impact of this pollution, which in Santa Clara County comes mostly from traffic on local roads and highways, is tremendous. For example, the report said that college freshmen who were lifelong residents of Los Angeles or the Bay Area had decreased lung function due to their long exposure to high ozone levels.

Particle pollution also contributes to a wide range of respiratory illnesses, including stroke, cancer, asthma, bronchitis and emphysema. Residents most at risk are children under 18, adults 65 and over and people with chronic lung and cardiac conditions.

At the state level, diesel trucks are the largest source of particulate pollution, the report says. The American Lung Association is pushing the Air Resources Board to adopt tough on-road diesel and bus rules that would substantially decrease diesel soot. It is also pushing to provide funds to replace and retrofit aging school buses that expose student passengers to two to three times higher levels of soot than in ambient areas.

There are other ideas in play as well, such as a bill by state Sen. Alan Lowenthal (D-Long Beach) that would raise container fees at ports to provide funds to reduce diesel pollution emissions from trucks and ships.

The recently released report should serve as a wake-up call for anyone who thought that living in the Bay Area would protect them from the dangers of air pollution. It is shameful that any preventable pollution is sickening, and even killing, our own citizens.

We citizens, therefore, must press all of our elected officials, at all levels of government, to work at reducing air pollution, beginning with the most threatening — diesel soot from trucks, buses and other machinery powered by old-fashioned diesel engines.

The recently released report should serve as a wake-up call.

■ LETTERS VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

CITY'S TASK FORCES NEED MORE INPUT

Editor:

Mountain View is spending thousands of dollars (of taxpayer money) to get residents to comment on the upcoming general plan revision, which is mandated by the state. Yet the Planning Commission, the Senior Advisory and the Sustainability task forces — all for the most part made up of residents — are failing miserably in getting (or allowing) residents to comment.

Meanwhile special interest groups (including nonprofits) are gaining ground (literally) in grabbing control of city-owned land, especially park and open space areas that are zoned as "public function" instead of "park" or "open space."

City Council member Jac Siegel is concerned that a few highly opinionated residents might dominate (and skew) results of the current visioning survey of residents about to take place in Mountain View. I am opinionated on the loss of existing city park space to more city and nonprofit use buildings. I will butt out — but I strongly encourage those who have no opinion to attend the "visioning" meetings that indicate the path Mountain View should take in the future.

Donald Letcher
N. Rengstorff Avenue

TIME TO HOLD BUSH ACCOUNTABLE

Editor:

Now that we are a nation of torturers, prisoners without trial, spies who spy without warrant, invaders and robbers of other nations' resources, will all this just vanish like a bad dream when November comes?

That has to be a fantasy. If November comes and goes and Congress has not acted to address the crimes of this administration, then we pass into the future a nation diminished beyond recognition. As November approaches, Congressional hearings become ever more urgent, not less.

Since November 2006, many have labored to make Congress shoulder its constitutional duty. We have been betrayed. To whom do we turn in our hour of need?

Many local governing bodies around the country have already responded to the peoples' call. Now our community leaders must speak for us if they wish to truly represent us. They should petition Congress to begin immediate hearings into the conduct of this administration.

John Anderson
Horizon Avenue



■ WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

All views must include a home address and contact phone number. Published letters will also appear on the web site, www.MountainViewOnline.com, and occasionally on the Town Square forum.

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Viewpoint

■ GUEST OPINION

Day Worker Center benefits everyone

MANY MYTHS PERSIST ABOUT DAY LABORERS' EFFECT ON NEIGHBORHOOD, ECONOMY

By Maria Marroquin

During my nine years of working with day laborers, I have encountered many common concerns about the Day Worker Center of Mountain View. Although we have many more supporters than detractors, each time we change the center's location we are still met with some familiar suspicions and reservations.

I would like to address some of these concerns by starting with the legal basis of the Day Worker Center (DWC). We are a nonprofit organization by permission of the U.S. government. We keep our records according to local, state and federal requirements. Our governing structure consists of a board of directors, worker's commission, and hard-working staff, assisted by many wonderful volunteers. Locally and nationally, we are connected to the major day laborer organizations and other groups.

In addition, we have rules within our center. No one is allowed to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Offensive behavior is not tolerated. Honesty, integrity and respect are cultivated. Day laborers must participate in English classes and other training, such as CPR and first aid. Discipline is strict because we depend on well-behaved, diligent workers to insure that our services are readily available and reliable for employers. We know that if we don't provide good follow-through, employers will not return.

All of us at the DWC want to fulfill our mission. For our continued well-being, we need to be respectful, happy, supportive of one another, and involved with the surrounding community in positive ways. The DWC is our home. We count on having a crime-free,

garbage-free, attractive, fully functioning environment.

Parking at the DWC is virtually never a problem. Very few day workers have cars, and employers arrive intermittently throughout the day, with little or no build-up in traffic.

Another aspect to consider is that the overwhelming majority of day laborers are economic refugees, migrating to the U.S. because their jobs have been devoured by profound economic changes in their home countries. They are only here because their families' survival depends upon their working far from all they hold dear.

The Center for American Progress looked at the belief that immigrants burden the U.S. health care system and reported that immigrants actually "contribute more in

revenues than they consume in services." The idea that immigrants are taking a lot of money out of the U.S. Social Security system is also a myth. The National Research Council has studied this issue and con-

cluded that immigrants "pay an average of \$80,000 more per person into the system than they will use in government services over their lifetimes." Both pieces of information are from "Public Citizen's Health Research Group Health Letter," dated September 2007.

Many people tell us that the DWC gives them hope and offers a beautiful example of human beings reaching across differences and working together to attain common goals. I invite you to visit our center at 748 Mercy Street. Come sit with us for a while and see for yourself, or view our Web site at www.dayworkercentermv.org. You are always welcome.

Maria Marroquin is director of the Day Worker Center in Mountain View.

Very few day workers have cars, and employers arrive intermittently throughout the day, with little or no build-up in traffic.

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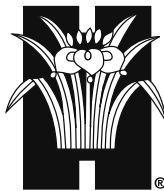


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This photo of a damaged tree on Carmelita Drive was submitted by the author.

Developers are illegally cutting down our heritage trees

By Christine Crimaldi

Last summer, residents of Carmelita Drive in Mountain View sent a strong message to developers when they successfully appealed the city's decision to allow a developer to remove a healthy heritage tree. The same residents were surprised and shocked when, only a few months later, a different developer tore off half of another heritage tree during demolition of two houses on an adjacent street. Neighbors were able to measure and photograph the damaged tree that evening, and the next day, the tree was completely gone.

One angered resident sent the photos to Bruce Hurlburt, parks manager of the Mountain View Community Services Department. Hurlburt immediately took action. Throughout the months that followed, the truth was uncovered: The developer had requested permission to remove the tree during the permitting process. City officials did not give him permission, but instead asked for more information, i.e., a valid reason for removal. When demolition time came, the developer took a chance that no one would notice, and illegally removed the tree. Fortunately, his actions did not go unnoticed.

The city of Mountain View has fined the developer \$7,100. He will be required to replace the tree with one of similar value, and also plant an additional tree on the construction site.

Prior to these events, two other developers on Carmelita Drive built large new homes on the street without including the city-man-

dated planting of trees in the front yard. If you walk down our street now, you'll see huge new homes without a single tree on the lot.

Although the builders are required to plant trees, nobody from the city is making sure it happens. Carmelita Drive residents feel they have to be on the defensive with developers such as these, who are coming in and reshaping our neighborhood while ignoring city laws.

It is well documented that trees add value and beauty to a community, and much has been written lately about the value — and potential loss — of our urban forest. Redevelopment of properties without the protection or replacement of trees changes the character of a neighborhood, and is a net loss for neighboring property owners.

Christine Crimaldi lives on Carmelita Drive.



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■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

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■ BEST BETS FOR ENTERTAINMENT



James Ehrlich and Bruce Berman, authors of "The Hippy Gourmet's Quick and Simple Cookbook for Healthy Eating."

■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

Speak softly and carry a solar oven

'HIPPIY GOURMET' HOSTS BRING PEACE, LOVE AND ORGANICS TO DINNER

By Sheila Himmel

James Ehrlich speaks of saving the planet, wears hemp clothes and carries a solar oven just about wherever he goes. He is the heat source behind "The Hippy Gourmet."

On a sunny morning at my house, he places regular roasting pans in the south-facing solar oven, which looks more like a tanning device than a cooker. The pans are steaming hot, 375 to 415 degrees, after 40 minutes.

Ehrlich, who lives in Palo

Alto, along with tie-dyed TV host Bruce Berman, love to talk about the solar oven. They did so recently at Kepler's Books, where they discussed techniques, philosophy and recipes from their book, "The Hippy Gourmet's Quick and Simple Cookbook for Healthy Eating" (Hachette, \$14.99).

Solar ovens most conveniently work as slow cookers, but Ehrlich and Berman use them to bake pizza and cookies as

► Continued on next page

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RECIPE

Jerusalem artichoke dip

Ingredients:

- About 15 Jerusalem artichokes
- 1 teaspoon plus 2 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- Pinch of salt
- Freshly ground black pepper to taste
- 2 shallots, sliced
- 2 cloves garlic, sliced
- Juice of 1/2 lemon
- Hot sauce to taste
- 1 tablespoon minced chives

Rinse the artichokes and cut off each root at the tip. Cut into about 1/2-inch slices.

Heat 1 teaspoon of the oil in a pan over medium-high flame. Add the Jerusalem artichoke slices and a pinch of salt. Cook until the artichokes begin to caramelize slightly, about 5 minutes. Add pepper.

Continue to cook until the artichoke slices are browned, about 5 minutes more. Add the shallots and cook until slightly wilted. Add the garlic and a splash of water. The artichokes should look fully caramelized now, with a nice brown color.

Put the artichoke mixture in a food processor along with the lemon juice and the remaining 2 tablespoons olive oil. Puree. Scrape down the sides of the processor and continue to puree until you reach the consistency you like. Add the hot sauce.

Put the dip into a bowl and let it cool for a few minutes. Garnish with the chives and a slice of lemon before serving with veggie tortilla chips, fresh cut vegetables, sweet potato chips, or whatever you prefer as a dipper.

Serves a small gathering of friends.

► Continued from previous page

well. A crisp crust is possible. In a pinch, they bring along a solar hybrid with an AC adapter, the Prius of ovens. A rainy day would be one pinch. Living in Seattle would be another.

"The Hippy Gourmet" book and TV show feature a colorful, balloon alphabet style that screams "Sixties!" The spelling of hippy, rather than the usual "hippie," is "an exercise in brand-building," says Ehrlich, a former software designer.

The gourmet part of the title was inspired by "The Galloping Gourmet," a late-'60s TV cooking show featuring the charming British bon vivant Graham Kerr. As a child, Ehrlich always preferred Julia Child and the light-hearted Kerr to the cartoon shows that other kids watched.

"I loved it at the end when he'd invite a couple of people to dine with him at the table," Ehrlich says. "I was always so envious of those people."

Berman, the co-creator of "The Hippy Gourmet," drew his inspiration from Euell Gibbons, whose 1962 book "Stalking the Wild Asparagus" included

recipes for "living off the land." Berman developed an interest in sustainable agriculture and wild food sources, and cooked for travelers to Woodstock and Altamont and, much later, Burning Man. Then Berman worked in restaurants and on film sets. According to their book, "He catered for everyone from Stevie Nicks to Francis Ford Coppola. Even Ronald Reagan sampled the wares."

And what is a hippy gourmet, anyway? The book offers this definition: "It doesn't mean going out and joining a commune. It just means living, and eating, in a sensible, life-affirming way."

The recipes go from breakfast to dessert, with vegan, vegetarian and pescetarian entrees and side dishes in between. Slow food, quinoa, and planet-saving plants are all here. But so is tiramisu, and it isn't made with tofu. The dessert chapter begins: "Share the love. Dessert isn't about getting rid of your hunger or about feeding your body. It's about feeding yourself with joy."

Dinner could start with sunchokes, commonly called Jeru-

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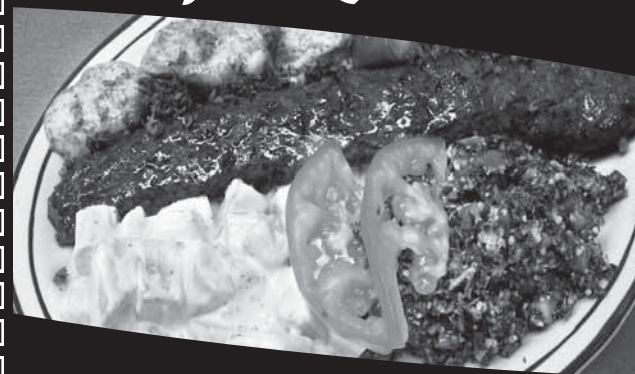
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► See **HIPPY GOURMET**, page 24

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Weekend

HIPPY GOURMET

► Continued from page 23

salem artichokes although they aren't artichokes and have nothing to do with Jerusalem. These edible tubers are a good source of iron. Berman uses them a lot on the show.

"The Hippy Gourmet" does not stand still. Episodes range from wine tasting in Italy to baking and delivering organic oatmeal cookies to San Francisco firefighters.

On a show filmed in Vancouver, British Columbia, Berman visits executive chef Robert Clarke at the "C" Restaurant, which specializes in sustainable seafood. Clarke and Berman meet the fishing boat bringing in gorgeous spot prawns for that night's dinner. Then Clarke starts cooking, and Berman goes to the Vancouver Aquarium to visit rehabilitated and rescued sea creatures, including an otter saved from the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

He returns to help Clarke finish dinner, and they sit down and eat, just like the old Galloping Gourmet. As the credits roll, words flash in the background: "Peace, Love, Organics." ▣

■ INFORMATION

For a TV schedule for "The Hippy Gourmet," or to buy the book, go to www.hippygourmet.com.



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MOVIE TIMES

21 (PG-13) ★★★ Century 20: 1:10 & 7:20 p.m.
88 MINUTES (R) (Not Reviewed) Century 12: 1:20 & 7:35 p.m.
BABY MAMA (PG-13) ★★★
 Century 16: 1:55 & 7:05 p.m. Century 12: 4 & 10:15 p.m.
BEFORE THE RAINS (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)
 Guild: 1:45, 4:30, 7 & 9:40 p.m.
THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN (PG)
 (Not Reviewed) Century 16: 11 & 11:30 a.m.; 12:30, 1, 1:40, 2:15, 2:45, 3:45, 4:10, 6, 6:30, 7, 7:20, 8:10, 9:15, 9:45, 10:15 & 10:30 p.m. Fri.-Mon. also at 4:55 p.m. Century 20: 11:10 & 11:30 a.m.; 12:35, 1:05, 1:40, 2:20, 2:45, 3:50, 4:20, 4:55, 5:35, 6, 7:05, 7:35, 8:10, 8:50, 9:15 & 10:20 p.m.
THE COUNTERFEITERS (R) ★★★1/2
 Century 20: Noon & 4:45 p.m. Fri.-Mon. also at 9:30 p.m.
DEATH NOTE (NOT RATED) (Not Reviewed)
 Century 16: Tue. at 7:30 p.m. Century 20: Tue. at 7:30 p.m.
DR. SEUSS' HORTON HEARS A WHO! (G) ★★★
 Century 12: 12:25, 2:45 & 5:10 p.m.
FIGHT CLUB (R) ★★★ Century 16: Sat. at 10 p.m.
THE FORBIDDEN KINGDOM (PG-13) ★★★1/2
 Century 12: 4:10 & 10:10 p.m.
FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL (R) (Not Reviewed)
 Century 16: 1:10, 4:10, 7:15 & 10:05 p.m.
 Century 20: 11:35 a.m.; 2:20, 5:05, 7:55 & 10:30 p.m.
HAROLD AND KUMAR ESCAPE FROM GUANTANAMO BAY (R) (Not Reviewed) Century 16: 11:25 a.m.; 4:30 & 9:40 p.m.
 Century 12: 12:20, 3:10, 7:50 & 10:25 p.m.
HOW THE GARCIA GIRLS SPENT THEIR SUMMER (R) ★★★
 Century 12: 12:30, 3:30, 7 & 10 p.m. Aquarius: 12:45, 3:45, 6:45 & 9:45 p.m.
IRON MAN (PG-13) ★★★1/2 Century 16: 11:15 a.m.; 12:15, 1:15, 2:20, 3:20, 4:20, 5:20, 6:20, 7:20, 8:15, 9:20 & 10:20 p.m.
 Century 20: 11:15 & 11:40 a.m.; 12:10, 12:45, 1:25, 2:15, 2:35, 3:10, 3:45, 4:25, 5:15, 5:40, 6:15, 6:45, 7:25, 8:15, 8:40, 9:10, 9:45 & 10:25 p.m.
LEATHERHEADS (PG-13) ★★ Century 20: Tue. at 11:20 a.m. & 7:15 p.m.
MADE OF HONOR (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)
 Century 16: 11:35 a.m.; 2:15, 4:45, 7:25 & 9:50 p.m.
 Century 12: 12:10, 2:50, 5:30, 7:40, 8:40 & 10:20 p.m.
MISS PETTIGREW LIVES FOR A DAY (PG-13) ★★★
 Century 20: 2:50 & 8 p.m.
MY BLUEBERRY NIGHTS (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)
 Century 20: 12:30, 3, 5:25, 7:45 & 10 p.m.
NIM'S ISLAND (PG) (Not Reviewed) Century 20: 12:20, 2:40, 5, 7:20 & 9:40 p.m.
PULP FICTION (R) ★★ Century 16: Fri. at 10 p.m.
REDBELT (R) (Not Reviewed) Century 16: 11:50 a.m.; 2:25, 4:50 & 7:25 p.m. Sun.-Tue. also at 10 p.m. Century 12: 12:05, 1*, 3:20, 6:15, 7:10* & 9:20 p.m. *Spanish subtitles
SMART PEOPLE (R) ★★ Century 20: 2:30 p.m. Fri.-Mon. also at 7:10 p.m.
SON OF RAMBOW (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)
 Palo Alto Square: 2, 4:30, 7:10 & 9:35 p.m.
SPEED RACER (PG) ★★★ Century 16: 11:40 a.m.; 1, 2:40, 4:25, 6:15, 7:30, 9:25 & 10:30 p.m. Century 12: Noon, 12:45, 1:30, 2:15, 3, 3:45, 4:30, 5:15, 6, 6:45, 7:30, 8:15, 9, 9:45 & 10:30 p.m.
STREET KINGS (R) ★★ Century 12: 3:50 & 9:50 p.m.
THEN SHE FOUND ME (R) ★1/2 Aquarius: 2, 4:30, 7:30 & 10 p.m.
UNDER THE SAME MOON (LA MISMA LUNA) (Not Rated) ★★★1/2 Century 20: 12:15, 5:20 & 10:15 p.m.
THE VISITOR (PG-13) (Not Reviewed) Century 20: 11:45 a.m.; 2:25, 4:55, 7:35 & 10:05 p.m. Palo Alto Square: 1:40, 4:20, 7 & 9:30 p.m.
WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS (PG-13) ★★★1/2 Century 16: 11:20 a.m.; 12:25, 1:45, 3, 4:15, 5:25, 7:10, 8, 9:35 & 10:25 p.m. Century 20: 11:25 a.m.; 12:15, 1, 2, 2:45, 3:35, 4:30, 5:10, 6, 6:55, 7:40, 8:30, 9:25 & 10:25 p.m.
YOUNG AT HEART (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)
 Century 20: 1:55, 4:35 & 9:50 p.m. Fri.-Mon. also at 11:20 a.m. & 7:15 p.m.

Note: Screenings are for Friday through Tuesday only.

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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



BABY MAMA ★★★
 (Century 16, Century 12) SNL alums Tina Fey and Steve Martin, and current mainstay Amy Poehler, all shine in this infectious chuckler about a career-driven woman with baby fever and the free-spirited gal she hires as her surrogate. After working tirelessly to become vice president for Round Earth Market, 37-year-old Kate Holbrook (Fey) suddenly finds herself aching for a baby. But the deck is stacked against her: A fertility doctor says that her chances of conceiving are one in a million, any prospective boyfriends rush for the exit when she reveals too much about her mothering aspirations, and the adoption waitlist appears endless. With plenty of money in her pocket, Kate turns to a high-end surrogacy business run by uber-fertile Chaffee Bicknell (Sigourney Weaver). Soon Kate is introduced to the vibrant and immature Angie Ostrowski (Poehler), who agrees to carry her baby. The odd-couple pairing of Kate and Angie leads to a cavalcade of laughs thanks to a baby-proofed apartment, Kate's incessant oversight and the timely comments of a wry doorman (Romany Malco). *Rated: PG-13 for crude and sexual humor, language and a drug reference. 1 hour, 36 minutes.* — T.H.

THE FORBIDDEN KINGDOM ★★★1/2
 (Century 12, Century 16) Jason Tripitakas (Michael Angarano) is an action-obsessed youth from Boston. Jason often treks to a pawnshop in hopes of expanding his collection of kung-fu flicks. When a gang of thugs try to rob the elderly shopkeeper (Jackie Chan), Jason takes off with the shop's prized possession: a fighting staff that once belonged to China's legendary Monkey King (Let Li). Magically, the staff transports Jason to ancient China, where he is tasked with returning it to the kingdom atop Five Element Mountain, thereby freeing the land from the tyranny of the sadistic Jade Warlord. Jason is joined along the perilous road by Lu Yan (Chan), a skilled fighter and playful drunk; Silent Monk (Li), a warrior led by faith and quiet resolve; and Golden Sparrow (newcomer Yifei Liu), a young woman with a personal vendetta against the Jade Warlord. Together, the unusual quartet sets out to rescue the Monkey King and send Jason back to his rightful time and place. Li and Chan shine — but "Forbidden Kingdom" is dull. *Rated: PG-13 for sequences of martial arts action and some violence. 1 hour, 53 minutes.* — T.H.

► Continued on next page

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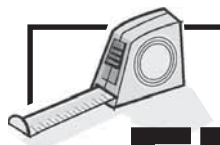


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► Continued from previous page



DR. SEUSS' HORTON HEARS A WHO! ★★★

(Century 16, Century 20) Blue Sky Studios' ("Ice Age," "Robots") production of "Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears A Who!" is a wonderfully faithful adaptation and expansion of the Seuss universe. Horton, a good-natured elephant (voiced by Jim Carrey), takes a sudden interest in the well-being of a speck of dust, or rather the world of Who-ville that exists on the speck. But Horton's newly discovered world is in jeopardy when the most bitter kangaroo in recent film history (voiced by Carol Burnett) becomes bent on destroying what she deems a non-existent menace that "has those kids using their imagination." Meanwhile, on the speck, the mayor of Who-ville (voiced by Steve Carell) is struggling to convince his town that a giant invisible elephant may be the savior of their world. Blue Sky has expanded Seuss' drawings into a rich, three-dimensional Seussiverse. "Horton" redeems the Seuss film franchise with a moving tale that has something for every-sized Who. *Rated G. 86 minutes.* — D.D.

IRON MAN ★★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) Marvel Comics' golden avenger blasts onto the screen with all of the action and effects one would expect from a superhero film. Unexpected are the A-list cast and acting, tons of well-timed humor and a relatively novice director (Jon Favreau) who demonstrates an appreciation for the character's roots. Billionaire inventor Tony Stark (Robert Downey Jr.) enjoys a lavish lifestyle, with his only real ties to his best friend (Terrence Howard), personal assistant (Gwyneth Paltrow), and business partner (Jeff Bridges). Tony's Stark Industries is the premier weapons manufacturer in the world. Then Tony is kidnapped by the sinister Ten Rings group and told to construct a missile or face execution. Instead, he builds a massive suit of armor and escapes. After this sobering experience, Tony decides to halt all weapons distribution and develop a new armor with rockets, "repulsor rays" and the power of flight. He's soon taking to the skies and making daring rescues. The visual effects are stunning and the casting extraordinary, with Downey bringing humor and a nuanced interpretation of his character. *Rated: PG-13 for some intense sequences of sci-fi action and violence, and brief suggestive content.* 2 hours, 6 minutes. — T.H.

SMART PEOPLE★★

(CineArts) With his face puckered into a permanent scowl, Dennis Quaid lumbers through the part of Lawrence Wetherhold, an angry, self-absorbed literature professor at Carnegie Mellon whose most recent

academic tome can't find a publisher. Ellen Page wisecracks her way through "Juno"-like dialogue as his college-bound daughter Vanessa. Her older sibling (Ashton Holmes) lives in the university dorms and snarls at his emotionally distant father every chance he gets. And Thomas Haden Church seems to have wandered "Sideways" into the role of Chuck, the down-on-his-luck-but-likable loser who moves in with his widowed brother. Novelist Mark Poirier's first script features underwritten parts that display a typical male film fantasy: the younger woman who inexplicably falls for the older man. Twice. "Smart People" offers some amusing moments and dialogue exchanges. It's not the worst film currently in theaters — nor is it one to recommend. *Rated: R for language, brief teen drug and alcohol use, and for some sexuality.* 1 hour, 35 minutes. — S.T.



SPEED RACER★★★

(Century 16, Century 12) Speed Racer (Emile Hirsch of "Into the Wild") has become the wunderkind of the auto-racing world, but the devastating loss of his brother Rex in a tragic crash still permeates the Racer family. Although Speed's parents, Mom (Susan Sarandon) and Pops (John Goodman), continue to support his full-throttle fervor, Speed himself always seems to be chasing the ghost of his buried brother. When revelations surface that most races are fixed and a greedy megalomaniac named Royalton (Roger Allam) essentially controls the sport, Speed teams with the mysterious Racer X (Matthew Fox) to bring a sense of honor back to racing. With the help of his devoted girlfriend, Trixie (Christina Ricci); his younger brother, Spritle (Paulie Litt); and Chim Chim, the family's pet chimpanzee; Speed strives to win a dangerous cross-country rally called The Crucible and prove not all drivers can be bought. Fans of the show and families in need of an enjoyable excursion should race to the theater without haste. All others can drop into first gear and wait for "Speed" to pull into Netflix. *Rated: PG for sequences of action, some violence and language.* 2 hours, 15 minutes. — T.H.

THEN SHE FOUND ME ★1/2

(Aquarius) Accomplished actress Helen Hunt plunges into feature-film directing, entering an emotional and spiritual landscape including issues ranging from the loss of loved ones and questions of faith to a ticking biological clock. But daring, earnest intentions don't necessarily make for good films. There's an air of desperation about April Epner (Hunt), a 39-year-old teacher whose adoptive mother (Lynn Cohen of "Munich") is dying and whose man-child husband (Matthew Broderick) runs out on her. Nine hours later, she's blurting everything out to Frank (Colin Firth), the tempestuous single parent of one of her students. And now a brash television

personality (Bette Midler) claims to be her birth mother. Although April has reason to whine, her constant complaining makes for an unsympathetic character. Firth's full-throttle performance enlivens the film, but Hunt-the-director had problems staging some of the most critical moments and coaxing comedy from scenes intended to be funny. *Rated: R for language and some sexual content.* 1 hour, 40 minutes. S.T.

UNDER THE SAME MOON

★★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) "Under the Same Moon" puts human faces on immigration woes. Adrian Alonso plays 9-year-old Carlitos with the perfect balance of charm and wisdom. Every Sunday Carlitos excitedly waits for the pay phone to ring. It's the lifeline that connects him, living in Mexico, with his mother Rosario (Kate del Castillo) who works in East L.A. and sends the family \$300 each month. Carlitos lives in a vibrant Mexican village with a loving grandmother (Angelina Pelaez) and the saucy "La Coyota" (Carmen Salinas) who refuses to put the young boy into harm's way, despite his pleas to let a novice (America Ferrera) smuggle him across the border. The death of his grandmother changes everything. With a handful of savings and a return address ripped off a letter from his mother, Carlitos sets off to find her. Even when Carlitos seems most lost, you'll know where this movie is headed. And nothing is more satisfying than the moment when the boy and his mother are under the same moon, in the same place. *Rated: PG-13 for some mature thematic elements. In English and Spanish with English subtitles.* 1 hour, 49 minutes. — S.T.

WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS

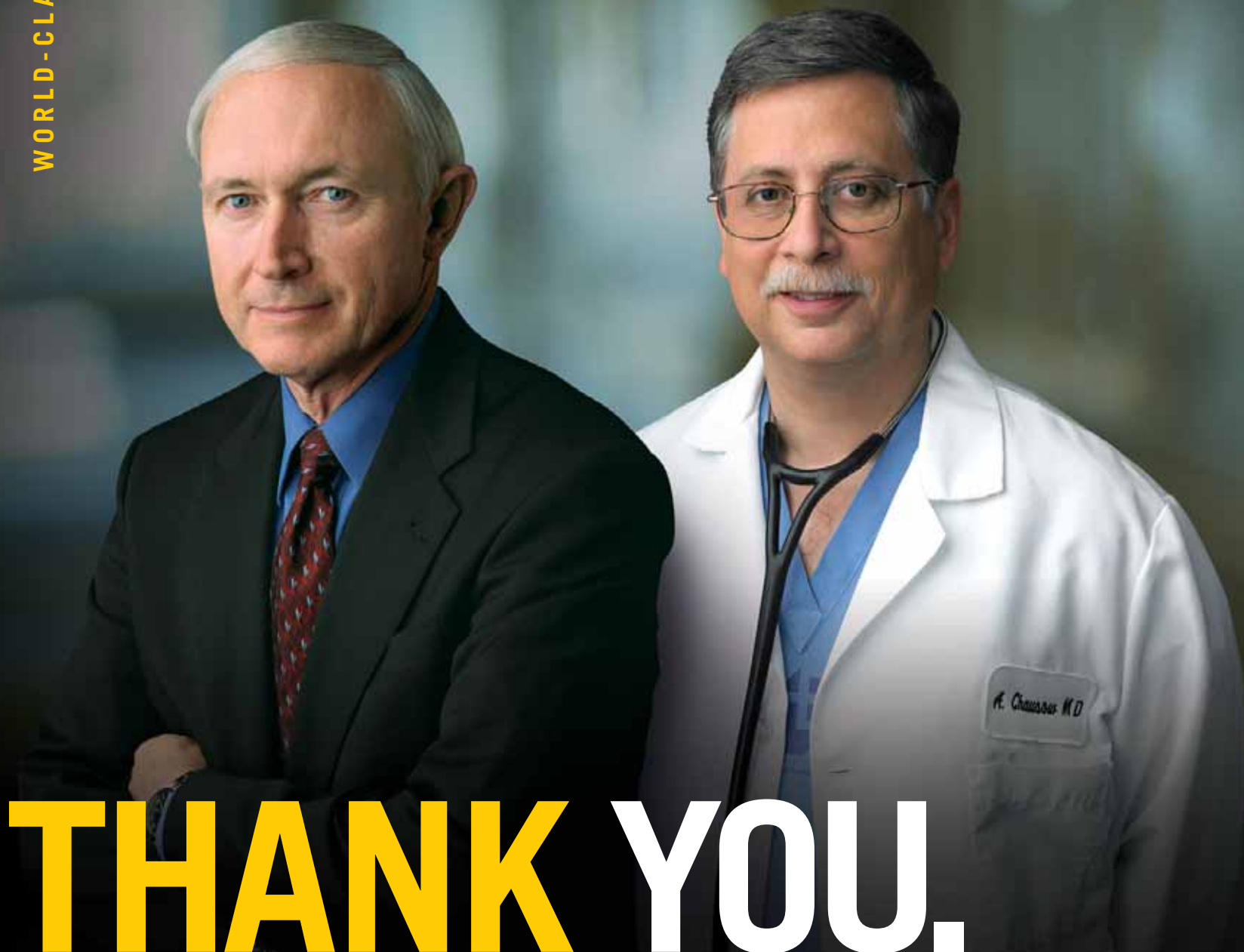
★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas, or so the story goes. Joy McNally (Cameron Diaz) and Jack Fuller (Ashton Kutcher) are on the fast track to destiny: Joy a Type A commodities trader whose fiancé has said sayonara to her anal ways, and Jack fired by his own dad for being too busy being the life of the party. The two New Yorkers head to Vegas to blow off some steam and, after a fateful meeting and a crazy hazy night of feeling no pain, find themselves legally hitched Vegas-style. A simple annulment should take care of things but there's a little glitch in the form of a tidy \$3 million Jack — and Joy — win at the slots shortly before they part ways. Can you say "community property"? Naturally the pair can't agree on the money so the court makes the decision for them: prove they can make their impromptu marriage work the old-school way or sacrifice the multi-million-dollar bonanza to the legal system. Okay, it's a throwaway but a pretty painless one. *Rated: PG-13 for language and sexual situations.* 1 hour, 38 minutes. — J.A.

MOVIE CRITICS

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

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