

Mountain View VOICE



**Old meets
new at
CSMA**
A&E | P.21

SEPTEMBER 12, 2008 VOLUME 16, NO. 36

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'Wolf dog' stalks Old Mountain View

NEIGHBORS SAY IT CORNERS PEOPLE IN THEIR YARD
— SMALL TERRIER ATTACKED LAST WEEK

By Daniel DeBolt

Residents of the Old Mountain View neighborhood are up in arms over a large, aggressive dog that roams the area unleashed and is known to attack other animals — including a small Boston terrier last week.

For at least six years, neighbors say, a large grey husky named Sylas — but which neighbors call the “wolf dog” — has frightened people living near the 700 block of Hope Street. When it's spotted, people are known to yell “wolf dog” or “bad dog alert” before grabbing

their children and running in the house.

Sierra Avenue residents are especially familiar with it: They say it's cornered people in their yards and approached growling and ready to attack. Even grown men have had to yell and scream to end threatening standoffs, neighbors say.

“This dog is scary, he stalks you,” said one View Street resident. “I've got a broomstick I walk with now.”

Neighbors say owner Linda Rowles of the 700 block of Hope Street has been ticketed many times for violating the city's leash law, but the problem persists. The dog was even seen roaming the streets a few days after last week's attack on Chloe, the small Boston terrier belonging to Kelly and Sam Rohlfs on Sierra Avenue. Kelly chased the big dog away after hearing what she described as a “scream.” Chloe required 14 stitches as a result of the attack.

“It was just the latest — and bloodiest — incident with this dog,” wrote neighbor Chris Petti in an e-mail.

Members of several households were gathered on the Rohlfs' front yard when police arrived.

“My 4-year-old was in tears and had a difficult time falling to sleep that night,” said neighbor Kim Ragnartz in an e-mail. (The *Voice* has been flooded with e-mails from neighbors concerned about the dog after last week's attack.)

As for the police, neighbor Mark Deem wrote in an e-mail that “the laws on the books by which they have to abide simply don't give them the power to do more than they have, which is to repeatedly fine an owner who has told the police point-blank to just keep writing



DAN SULLIVAN

SHIRTS TO DYE FOR:

Brian and Robert Gleser display their tie-dye shirts at the Mountain View Art & Wine Festival last weekend.

INSIDE

Mountain View Art & Wine Festival Photos. Page 8

Brittany Brown found

18-YEAR-OLD MOUNTAIN
VIEW RESIDENT MAKES
EMOTIONAL RETURN
AFTER VANISHING FRIDAY

By Daniel DeBolt

A few jarring days for the Brown family ended happily Tuesday afternoon with the sudden and dramatic return of 18-year-old Brittany.

Brittany, a recent graduate of Mountain View High School, vanished Friday night after going to the Monte Carlo night

► See **BROWN**, page 13

► See **DOG**, page 10

API numbers encouraging

ACADEMIC SCORES UP, THOUGH SOME GROUPS STILL LAG

By Casey Weiss

California released the latest Academic Performance Index scores last week, showing that most schools in both of Mountain View's districts improved their scores.

In fact, both districts raised their API scores overall, although local students with disabilities, low-income students, Latinos and English language learners are still falling behind. As a result of this, seven out of the 11 schools still are not meeting state goals.

The Academic Performance Index uses California Standards Test (CST) scores to rank schools on an annual basis and gauge the performance and growth of dis-

tricts, schools and student subgroups on a scale ranging from

API SCORES BY SCHOOL

Mountain View:	up 21 points to 854
Los Altos:	down 7 points to 795
Alta Vista:	up 192 points to 700
Graham:	up 33 points to 815
Crittenden:	up 23 points to 757
Monta Loma:	down 13 points to 780
Bubb:	down 1 point to 865
Theuerkauf:	up 47 points to 760
Huff:	up 30 points to 936
Castro:	down 8 points to 783
Landels:	up 21 to 794

200 to 1,000 points. The state target is currently set at 800, and only four local schools reached that number.

The scores serve as one component used to establish Academic Yearly Progress, or AYP, which ranks students as “basic,” “proficient” or “advanced” and helps educators determine whether students are meeting standards under federal No Child Left Behind legislation. This year, benchmarks under the legislation increased steeply — by around 11 percent for both math and English.

The Mountain View-Los Altos School District improved its overall API score by eight points to 820. Individually, Alta Vista and Mountain View high schools improved their scores, while the API at Los Altos High School

► See **API**, page 9



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Advance Health Care Directive Appointments

If you would like help in completing your Advance Health Care Directive, you may sign up for a free one hour counseling session at our Mountain View Center with one of our trained volunteers. We will have the form witnessed, make you copies and have it scanned into your medical record. *Visit caminomedical.org for more information or call 650-934-7380 for an appointment.*



HICAP Appointments for Seniors

The Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) is a state sponsored volunteer supported program that provides free assistance to seniors with Medicare and other health insurance issues. HICAP provides unbiased information to help you make the best choice for your individual health care needs. *Call today to book an appointment at the Mountain View Center, 650-934-7380.*



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Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked in Downtown Mountain View. Pictures and interviews by Kelsey Mesher.

What method do you use to rent movies these days?



"We usually do Blockbuster."
Alyona Eidinger, San Jose



"I do Netflix. I think I rent four per week. I'm single — it's a good thing to do when you're single!"
Joani Lamica, Mountain View



"I don't really rent movies, but if I were it'd be on my DirecTV."
Edison Marcos, San Jose



"My husband does Netflix. We rent two movies a week."
Linda White, Tracy



"I haven't rented a movie in probably a year and a half. The last time I did it was at Blockbuster, the old-fashioned way."
Al Papp, Mountain View

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LocalNews

■ POLICE LOG

AUTO BURGLARY

0 block Showers Dr., 9/03
500 block Chiquita Ave., 9/04
600 block Palo Alto Ave., 9/05
800 block E El Camino Real, 9/05
100 block N Rengstorff Ave., 9/07
800 block California St., 9/07

0 block Starlite Ct., 9/05
W Middlefield R/N Rengstorff, 9/07

PETTY THEFT

Tied House, 9/03
400 block San Antonio Rd., 9/04
200 Parker St., 9/04
Monte Carlo Club, 9/06
Starbucks-Castro, 9/6
500 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 9/06
0 block Vaquero Dr., 9/07
600 block Mountain View Ave., 9/07
0 block Moffett Blvd., 9/09

BATTERY

Center for Performing Arts, 9/06
200 block Martens Ave., 9/06
100 block Hackett Ave., 9/07

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

600 block National Ave., 9/05
0 block Castro St., 9/07
500 Showers Dr., 9/07

POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA

300 block Truman Ave., 9/04

ROBBERY

200 BLOCK Fairchild Dr., 9/07
0 block Freedom Ln., 9/07

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

0 Block, E Evelyn Ave., 9/03
W Middlefield Rd./N. Rengstorff, 9/04
200 block S Rengstorff Ave., 9/05

STOLEN VEHICLE

0 block Moorpark Wy., 9/03
Bryant St./California St., 9/04

DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE

100 block W El Camino Real, 9/05
100 block Calderon Ave., 9/06
200 Reinert Rd., 9/06

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE/ PERSON

E El Camino Real/Sylvan Ave, 9/03
100 block Begen Ave., 9/04
Wal-Mart, 9/04
100 block Hackett Ave., 9/05
TK Noodle, 9/06
200 block Leghorn St., 9/09

EMBEZZLEMENT

100 W El Camino Rd., 9/05

FORGERY

700 block E Evelyn Ave., 9/09

GRAND THEFT

0 N Whisman Rd., 9/04
0 block E Evelyn Ave, 9/04
100 block Snow St., 9/05
Castro St./Mercy St., 9/07
100 block Chetwood Dr., 9/07
700 block E El Camino Real, 9/7
100 block Charleston Rd., 9/09
100 block Villa St., 9/09

TERRORIST THREATS

100 block Bryant Ave., 9/04

VANDALISM

0 block Ednamary Wy., 9/04
900 block Clark Ave., 9/04
Bryant St./California St., 9/07
100 block Bryant St., 9/07
Bryant St./California St., 9/07
500 S. Rengstorff Ave., 9/09

MISSING PERSON-JUVENILE

100 block Hackett Ave, 9/04

■ CORRECTION

A story in last week's InBusiness section provided incorrect information on the fees charged by HAPPYneuron. The company

charges either \$10 per month or \$100 per year, depending on which payment plan is used.

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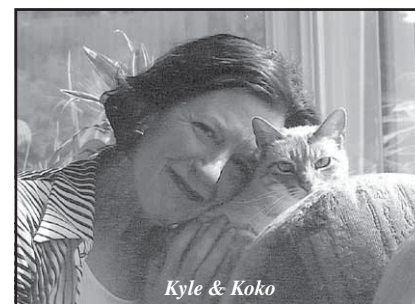
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Ceremony to name Hwy 85 after Norm Mineta

By Daniel DeBolt

Highway 85 will be known as the Norman Y. Mineta Highway beginning this Saturday, Sept. 13 with a ceremony in front of Mountain View City Hall.

The event, which begins at 10 a.m., will be hosted by Assemblywoman Sally Lieber and Caltrans direc-

Mineta, who was held in a Japanese internment camp during World War II, has been mayor of San Jose and held numerous other elected positions.

tor Will Kempton. Taiko drummers will perform, and Mineta himself, who retired last year from his post as U.S. transportation secretary, will also attend.

Lieber introduced a resolution to the state Assembly that led to the highway renaming. Mineta, who was held in a Japanese internment camp during World War II, has been mayor of San Jose and held numerous other elected positions. San Jose's international airport is named after him, as is the Mineta Transportation Institute at San Jose State University.

Ceremonial signs will be unveiled at City Hall at 11 a.m. at the same time new signs will be posted on Highway 85. ■



MELISSA JOHNS

Former "Wonder Years" star Danica McKellar, right, signs books at the Girls' Middle School after giving a talk on female empowerment.

From TV star to math star

FORMER 'WONDER YEARS' ACTRESS DANICA MCKELLAR GIVES INSPIRING TALK AT GIRLS' MIDDLE SCHOOL

By Casey Weiss

It's been a while since Danica McKellar starred in the hit television show "The Wonder Years." But she's still in the limelight, only now it's

for her mathematics skills. Lately McKellar, 32, has been using her star power to tell her fans, especially girls, that math is accessible to any and all of them. Earlier this week, she came to the Girls' Middle

School in Mountain View to pass along that message.

"It is our responsibility to break the stereotypes," she told the Mountain View students.

► See **MCKELLAR**, page 12

Police capture new suspect in double murder

By Casey Weiss

Mountain View police made the surprise announcement last week that they have arrested another suspect in connection with the double homicide on Plymouth Street, bringing the total number of alleged conspirators to eight and the number of suspects in custody to six.

Eric Williams, 22, of Union City, was arrested Tuesday, Sept. 2 without incident in Union



Eric Williams

City. He is being charged with conspiracy and two counts of murder in the shooting deaths of Omar Aquino, 24, and his sister Teresa Sanchez-Aquino, 27, on June 28 in their Plymouth Street home.

Williams was not among the original seven suspects police named late last month during a news conference. Those seven are: Victoria Frances Thompson, 20, of Morgan Hill; Nicory Marquis Spann, 18, of San Jose; Michael David Adams, 20, of San Jose;

Kim Pham, 19, of San Jose or Morgan Hill; and three siblings from Campbell, Fame Thomas, 15; Kenneth Ivory Thomas, 20; and Faith Thomas, 17.

Five of those suspects have already been arrested and are being held without bail. The last two suspects — Kenneth and Faith Thomas — remain at large and are accused of conspiracy and murder. Police say they should be considered armed and dangerous.

At the time of last month's

► See **MURDER**, page 14

Council prods Navy on Hangar One

By Daniel DeBolt

The City Council reiterated its position Tuesday that the Navy should re-skin Hangar One rather than leave it a bare skeleton, and after several strongly worded remarks, members decided to send the Navy a letter on the issue.

"I can't believe the idea of leaving the skeletal structure out in the open is even an idea being discussed," said council member Matt Pear.

"Just having a skeleton sitting there for birds to destroy is not the way to go," said council member Ronit Bryant.

Though not yet written, the letter will include a request for specifics on how the Navy came up with the \$14.9 million estimate to re-skin the hangar. The city also will request that the Navy "assess in greater detail" the negative effects of leaving the bare frame behind.

Council member Laura Macias wondered why the Navy was not required to study the environmental impacts as required for city projects. City staff said the Navy is not required by law to follow those rules.

If the Navy will not restore the hangar, the city wants the Navy to work with NASA to make sure the restoration can happen concurrently with clean-up, which could save money on scaffolding. The city also wants the coating left on the bare frame inspected more than once every five years for any leeching of the lead paint left underneath. And the Navy should study the coating the Thomarios Corporation applied to Hangar One's sister in Akron Ohio as a possibly viable alternative to removing the siding, the city says.

The city also would like the hangar brought into code compliance during restoration.

Council member Jac Siegel pointed out that the Navy restored as many as 40 other buildings at the Moffett Field superfund site, and that the only reason it was

► See **COUNCIL**, page 11

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■ SEEN AROUND TOWN

Navy SEAL over Saint Francis



David Elkins sent in this picture he took of a Navy SEAL as he soared over the high school stadium at Saint Francis High School last week. Thanks to the family connections of one student, several SEALs parachuted into the school, adding to the celebration as students and teachers kicked off school and football season.

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.

High Holy Days 5769 at Keddem Congregation

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Rosh Hashanah

Mon, Sept 29: 7:30 pm

Tues, Sept 30: 9:30 am

Junior Congregation: 9:45 am
Young Children's Service: 10 am
Tashlich walk: 4 pm, Byxbee Park, Palo Alto Baylands

Wed, Oct 1: 9:30 am

(at Kehillah JHS, not Cubberley)

Yom Kippur

Wed, Oct 8: Kol Nidrey: 7 pm

Collection of nonperishable food for Ecumenical Hunger Project

Thurs, Oct 9: 9:30 am

Junior Congregation: 9:45 am
Young Children's Service: 10 am
Afternoon workshops and
Jonah play
Mincha, Yizkor, Ne'ilah: 5 pm

Council candidate forum scheduled for Thursday

Residents will get their first real look at the candidates for City Council on Thursday in a forum organized by the Mountain View Chamber of Commerce.

Starting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday,

Sept. 11 in the City Council chambers, the nine candidates will be asked questions by representatives of the chamber and local businesses. Open and closing remarks will be given by the candidates: John Inks, Alicia Crank, John McAl-

ister, Tom Means, Laura Macias, Diana Wang, Chris Clark, Tracy Gordon and Mike Kasperzak.

City Hall is located at 500 Castro Street. ■

— Daniel DeBolt

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The switch to mail delivery will go into effect only after 9,000 or more households have requested the paper. Readers requesting the paper must be in the Mountain View ZIP codes of 94040, 94041, 94042 or 94043.

Using the mail, the *Voice* will lower its carbon footprint by piggybacking delivery with the postal service and eliminating an extra carrier trip around the route.



Natalie Lillie with her book, "Natalie's Lice Aren't Nice."

CASEY WEISS

Lice are not nice — just ask Natalie

LOCAL SIXTH GRADER WRITES AND SELLS CHILDREN'S BOOK ON THE TOPIC

By Casey Weiss

In between homework and soccer practice, Los Altos sixth grader Natalie Lillie has a busy month of book signings, presentations and interviews.

The 11-year-old recently published 1,000 copies of her first book, "Natalie's Lice Aren't Nice," and has spent the last several weeks donating copies to the Mountain View and Los Altos elementary school districts and libraries. Lillie, who now has her own Library of Congress number and copyright, wrote the book after contracting a bad case of head lice.

Each year, 10 million people in the United States find the bugs in their hair, and Lillie wanted to educate readers about lice and how to avoid them.

"This is a true story about my experience with lice," Lillie told the Los Altos School District administrators and school board members earlier this week. "I felt I had to write this book."

Lillie got lice three years ago after sharing her hairbrush with a soccer friend. In her book, she writes about her three brothers getting buzz cuts to avoid the lice, missing school for several days and soaking her hair in mayonnaise.

Although she got to spend extra time with her mom baking and watching movies, Lillie said she worried her peers would think she was not clean, and that the several friends who caught the bugs would not forgive her.

"You are not dirty or different, you just have to tell people about it," Lillie said.

When she went back to school, she read her classmates a journal entry about having lice, hoping this would help them understand.

Her godmother encouraged her to publish the story, and along with some help from her parents, Lillie, a confident girl, was able to print a thousand copies through a self-publishing company. An adult friend in Boston illustrated the story.

"I just wanted to get the story out," Lillie said.

Lillie will be at the local farmers market this Thursday, Sept. 11 to sign books and will appear on KGO later in the month to discuss lice with her pediatrician from Camino Medical Group. Her story also will be appearing in magazines and newspapers around the country, including the *Boston Globe*.

Lillie said she will donate any profits from the book to Head Start, where her godmother works. ▀

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

EXCERPTS FROM 'NATALIE'S LICE AREN'T NICE'

My mom called the moms of everyone that I had played with in the last two weeks. It was hard for me to hear her tell them about my lice. I still wanted them to be my friends.

My brothers had to get buzz cuts. My dad didn't have to get one because he's already bald. My mom, who had long, beautiful red hair, got some nits too, but she got rid of them quickly (unlike me!).

Some days later, before I went back to school, mom and I had a talk about what I would tell all the other kids. I told her that I wanted to tell them the truth about having lice.

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Another great year for Art & Wine Festival

ESTIMATED 200,000 PEOPLE ATTENDED CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EVENT

By Daniel DeBolt

The Chamber of Commerce estimates that as many as 200,000 people attended the 37th Annual Art and Wine festival last weekend for two days of food, fun, art, wine and music on Castro Street.

"The weather was great, the wine was good and people had fun," said Jacqui Marchessini, director of programs and events for the chamber.

Musical acts included a group of child violinists who played in front of the chamber offices next to City Hall. Classic rock cover band The Cool Jerks managed to get the crowd dancing in Civic Center Plaza.

Several nonprofits worked the event and were given donations from the chamber in return, including the Community Health Awareness Council, which took parking fees; the Silicon Valley Bike Coalition, which organized a corral for bike security; and Leadership Mountain View, which sold water and soda and kept the proceeds.

A group of high school football players from James Lick High School in San Jose showed up in uniform to handle the garbage and recycling, receiving money from the chamber in return to pay for new uniforms. (Students from Mountain View and Los Altos high schools had passed on the offer.)

Mountain View's Art & Wine Festival, put on by the chamber every year, has grown steadily since it was first introduced in 1971. ▀

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



1. Kathleen Smith displays her hand painted pillows.
2. Couples dance to the music of the Cool Jerks band.
3. Cheryl from Foster City and Sergio from San Jose lounge in Hawaiian Sun Chairs.
4. Visitors stroll through the Art & Wine Festival.

5. Deneil LoGiudice and Sandi Hassett have artist John Pearson create their caricature portrait.
6. Romy Besas prepares Thai food.
7. Kathy Karimi from Campbell and her dog Lola.
8. Sharmaine Tu and Elizabeth Donato give

- therapeutic massages.
9. Paul Grandinetti from San Jose and Joanna Malvino from Los Altos.
10. Bird's eye view of the Mountain View Art & Wine Festival.

PHOTOS BY DAN SULLIVAN

API

► Continued from page 1

dipped slightly.

The high school district also saw improved results for under-represented students. The district celebrated a gain of 17 points for low-income students, 18 points for Latino students and 14 points for English language learners. While low-income and Latino students at Mountain View High met API growth targets, they did not at Los Altos High.

Even with these improved scores, however, administrators say this is the first year the district did not meet all of the federal AYP standards for low-income students. A subgroup may not be numerically significant for a school, but can still be large enough to count as “significant” for the district.

“If next year we have the same pattern, we will be concerned,” said Associate Superintendent Brigitte Sarraff of some falling scores. “Many of the subgroups did go up, but not by leaps and bounds.”

Administrators say test scores depend each year on the student body and general morale, and can change from year to year, which helps to explain why

Los Altos High dropped seven points, falling to 795 — just five points below the goal of 800.

The growing population of special education students, who tend to struggle more with these types of tests, also brought the school’s overall score down a little, administrators say. Every other subgroup at Los Altos, with the exception of Asians who already score in the high 800s, improved their API scores.

Special education students dropped 21 points at Mountain View High, and 25 points at Los Altos High.

“I think we have a group of students who do not test well,” Principal Wynne Satterwhite said of disabled students. “That is their difficulty.”

Elementary schools

Overall, the Mountain View Whisman School District exceeded the API goal of 800 for the first time, improving its score by 21 points to 806. But Latino and low-income students and English language learners still are falling behind in language arts.

The district also met all AYP benchmarks in mathematics, and administrators credit this to a math overhaul. They say improvement is still needed in language arts, where certain

subgroups did not meet AYP targets.

Last year, Latino students in the local district fell behind other Latinos in both the county and the state in math, according to these AYP benchmarks. Administrators are now celebrating an increase in scores among this subgroup, putting them above other Latino students in the county.

Overall in the district, only one subgroup lost ground: African Americans, who dropped from 733 to 731 points. Low-income students made a leap of 28 points, and now have an API score of 703.

The eight schools in the district also had mixed results. Monta Loma, Bubb and Castro all lost ground in the API results, while Huff, Landels, Theuerkauf, Graham and Crittenden all gained more than 20 points.

Theuerkauf made the biggest jump, increasing its API score by 47 points. Administrators believe the gain is due to a new English language program there.

“Last year, they were really solid with the program,” said Mary Lairon, assistant superintendent. ■

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

FIREFIGHTERS' PANCAKE BREAKFAST RETURNS

Mountain View firefighters are holding their annual Pancake Breakfast this month to raise money for burn victims. Hundreds of families usually attend, paying \$5 a plate.

This year’s event will be held from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 27 at Fire Station 4, located at 229 Whisman Road. Activities will include demonstrations by local soap box derby racers.

— Daniel DeBolt

CELEBRITY CHEFS STAR IN MARCH OF DIMES EVENT

Silicon Valley’s finest chefs will once again gather at the South Bay March of Dimes Annual Celebrity Chefs and Master Vintners event, to be held next week in San Jose.

Among the culinary stars in attendance will be Robert Sapirman, a Mountain View resident and lead chef at Parcel 104 restaurant in Santa Clara. He joins “400 senior level executives and distinguished society members of Silicon Valley,” according to a March of Dimes press release. This is the seventh such event to be held

by the March of Dimes.

The event is 4 to 8:30 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 14, at The Fairmont hotel in San Jose. The price is \$2,000 for a table of 10, with \$5,000 to \$25,000 “sponsorship opportunities” available. All funds go to the March of Dimes, one of the largest nonprofits for pregnancy and infant health.

For more information, visit www.marchofdimes.com/ca or call (408) 260-7629 Ext. 24.

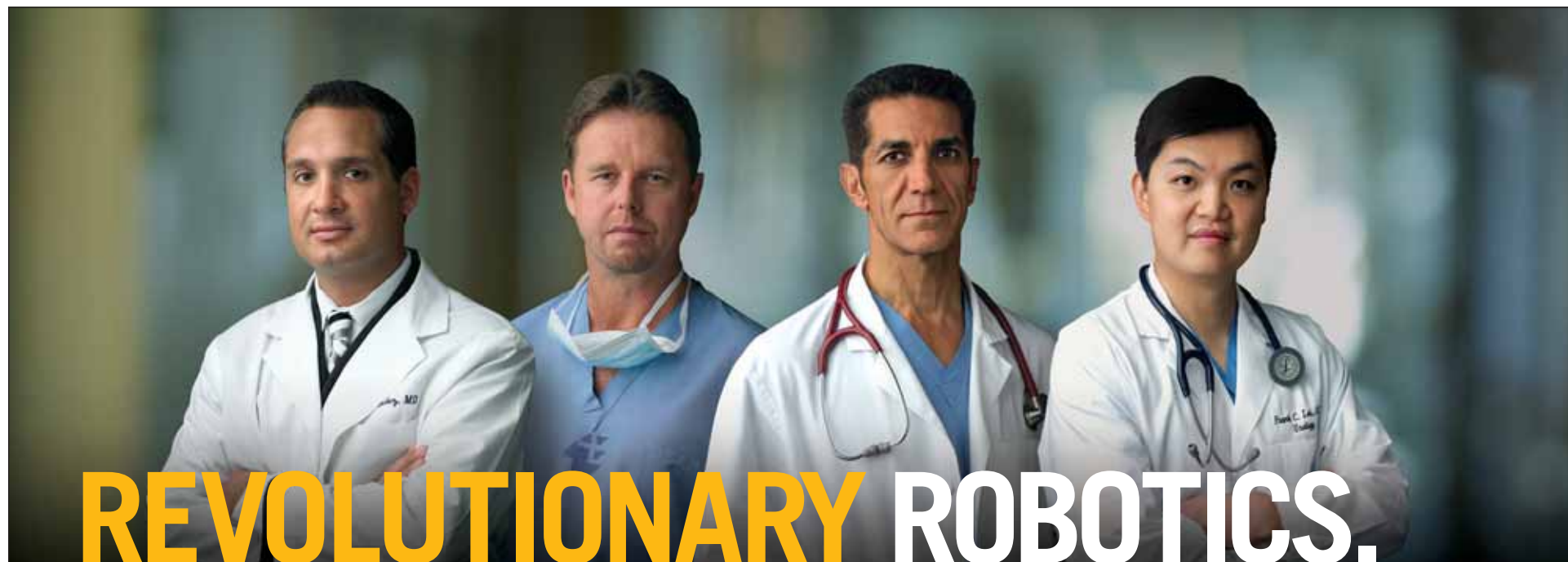
— Don Frances

COUNTY LETS RESIDENTS PAY TRAFFIC FINES ONLINE

The Santa Clara County Superior Court has announced that residents can now pay their traffic fines online.

By “e-payments,” the court will be able to assist the public in efficiently paying their traffic fines. Residents can go to www.paybill.com/scsuperiorcourt or call (866) 923-2732 to pay by phone. Online or phone payments will require a \$5 fee to pay with debit or credit card, and \$1.95 for an electronic funds transfer.

— Bay City News



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DOG

► Continued from page 1

the tickets, that she doesn't care. There is nothing criminally that they can do until one of us or our children are attacked. That is just outright ridiculous, infuriating and completely unacceptable."

Police said they shared his concerns, but that the law is vague as to what a dangerous dog is. In the end, it's up to city attorney Michael Martello to make the call.

"It looks like this dog is being the scourge of the neighborhood, but it's the first we've heard of it," Martello said. "We've been pretty on top of these things when we get a complaint."

Sam Rohlfs said police initially wouldn't take a report. But City Council member Margaret Abe-Koga, who lives a block away and had heard about the dog before, said she contacted the city manager about the incident, and shortly afterwards the police chief directed officers to take a report.

Front door open

The owner of the dog, Linda Rowles, lives with her grown son on Hope Street, at an address known to police dispatchers who get calls about various domestic disturbances there, neighbors say. Attempts to contact her were not successful.

Reached at home, Rowles' son told the *Voice* that "Maybe the dog should be put down," and noted that his mom would be around "when you find her."

Although some residents say Rowles has



DANIEL DEBOLT

Kelly Rohlfs sits with her Boston terrier Chloe.

been working at improving communications with her neighbors, others say they have given up trying to talk to the family. Some of the braver residents have started walking Syllas back to the house themselves after it escapes through a front door left open.

Neighbors said they suspect that when complaints about the dog get too hot,

Rowles will leave town with it for weeks or months. But it always comes back.

'A real threat'

Pam Walton of Yosemite Avenue said that over a year ago, as she was walking down Hope Street, Syllas "grabbed one of my dogs by the neck and shook her." She called the police but no report is on record, said Tony Lopez of the Mountain View Police Department.

"The dog is a real threat to small animals and even small children," Walton wrote in an e-mail. "It will be a blot on law enforcement in Mountain View if a child or animal is killed, perhaps even grounds for a lawsuit."

The *Voice* also received an e-mail from Yosemite Drive resident Cheryl Dewey, who found her cat dead on her front lawn Monday morning.

She said vets at Adobe Animal Hospital told her the cat "was attacked by another animal, and suffered crushed ribs and internal injuries."

Another man who spoke anonymously said his small puppy was attacked by the dog a year and a half ago, causing minor injuries. He never called the police and said he didn't want to give his name because he doesn't trust the dog's owners.

"I'm not sure who I'm afraid of more, the people who live there or their dog," said neighbor Lisa Reiche, who said the dog once growled threateningly at her daughters.

Sam Rohlfs had to look up Rowles' mailing address at the county assessor's office to have veterinary bills reimbursed for Chloe, and said he found that Rowles also lives at an "intentional community" on Page Mill Road called Struggle Mountain — a Los Altos Hills commune where folk singer Joan Baez once lived. A resident of Struggle Mountain told Rohlfs that the community has never had any problems with the dog.

But that's not the story from residents of Old Mountain View, where the dog lives in a house backed up to Castro Street storefronts.

"Having this dog in the neighborhood is especially frustrating and upsetting because the children and adults on the block like to gather in the summer evenings in our front yards to socialize and watch the kids play," Ragnartz said in an e-mail.

If city attorney Martello decides to take action, the dog will be picked up pending hearings, at which Rowles will be given a chance to state her case. The dog could be put to sleep or given to a new owner, police said.

"You have no idea what a relief that would be — to be able to sit outside and not have to keep an eye open," said Sam Rohlfs, who added, "We don't want it euthanized; we just want it out of our neighborhood." ▀

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

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COUNCIL

► Continued from page 5

shirking its responsibility on Hangar One was the cost.

There were seven public speakers, all of them in favor of the restoration of Hangar One.

Paul Asmus, president of Humanitarian Air Logistics, which would like to use the hangar for humanitarian relief operations, said he was concerned about creating a bird colony on the airfield if Hangar One's skeleton was left out in the

open.

"Birds are a serious safety concern," he said. "Birds and aircraft don't mix."

Asmus mentioned an incident in Alaska where a flock of geese caused a plane crash that killed a crew of 24.

"Hangar One is a landmark and this is our chance to get it right," said local resident Jeff Segal.

Lenny Siegel, an expert on Moffett Field restoration, warned that the city needed to work quickly with NASA to formalize a public process for

deciding on a use for Hangar One, "or we'll have to pay twice for the mobilization costs" of the scaffolding.

Architect Linda Ellis answered questions about her proposed Teflon fiberglass siding for Hangar One, which would cost an estimated \$12 million and allow daylight to penetrate but not the elements. This would make the hangar a more environmentally friendly building by saving electricity, she said. ▀

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

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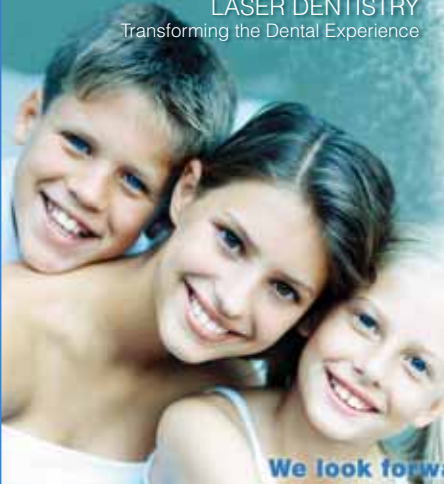
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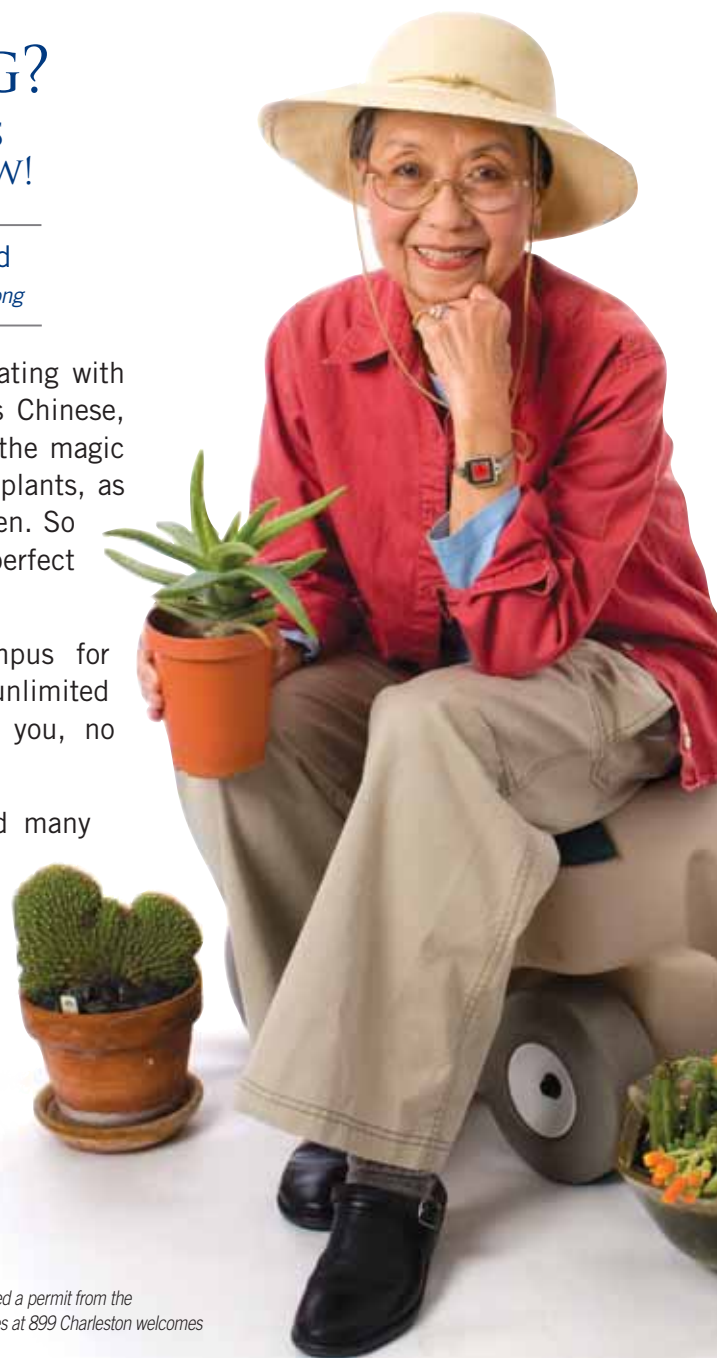
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899 Charleston has filed an application for a Certificate of Authority and has been issued a permit from the California Department of Social Services to accept deposits. Moldaw Family Residences at 899 Charleston welcomes and admission is open to older adults of all faiths, ethnicities and racial backgrounds.



"You might say there is an expectation to be the quiet one. But be the bright one."

McKellar has two books on the subject — "Kiss My Math" and "Math Doesn't Suck" — and she signed copies of them after Monday's talk, delivered to hundreds of students at the Rengstorff Avenue school.

She told them that although she did well enough in the subject at her all-girls' high school, she never considered herself to be particularly good at math — at least, not until she arrived at UCLA and excelled in high-level classes.

McKellar recalled a time in high school, after scoring well on a science exam, when the teacher told her she how surprised she was: She had expected McKellar to be a C student, she said, because she was bubbly and wore big earrings.

She said attitudes like this result in a lack of self esteem for girls, who are pushed into other subjects while boys pursue careers in the math and sciences. Her books are essentially textbooks — although they're written in an informal style and use familiar topics to girls, such as popularity and crushes, to teach math — and she hopes they will result in more women entering male-dominated fields.

"I love math and entertainment," she said. "I wanted to write entertaining books."

It so happens that McKellar's former history teacher, Deb Hoff, is now the principal of Girls' Middle School, and the former child star — she played Winnie Cooper in the 1980s TV show — volunteered to speak to the school as part of its regular speakers' series.

After the speech, every student received a signed copy of both of McKellar's books, and many of the 350 girls sat in line waiting for the author to write a personal message to them.

"It is neat to see a girl our age to grow up like her," said sixth grader Amy Macrae, of having the actress come to her school.

"She uses examples of crushes and things like this that we understand," Macrae's twin sister Francesca said as the girls waited for their books to be signed.

The Girls' Middle School, which emphasizes math, science and technology, is a good starting point for the students, McKellar said. With this foundation, it is their responsibility to break the barriers.

"When you get into college, you will be the example," she said. ▀

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

Now under construction at 899 East Charleston, this progressive senior living community has recently been dedicated as Moldaw Family Residences in honor of a generous gift from the Moldaw Family Supporting Foundation.

BROWN

► Continued from page 1

club on Castro Street. There had been reports of her leaving voluntarily with a couple she met there, and family members said her cell phone was dead and her credit card had not been used.

The next four days were harrowing ones for family members, who canvassed the downtown with fliers and sent out mass e-mails asking for help in finding her. For Brittany to leave without telling anyone was "very out of character," said her mother, Victoria Brown. Normally, the two constantly communicate via text message "whether we're mad or happy," she said.

On Tuesday, Brittany was expected to show up to her job with the city's "Beyond the Bell" program, where she has worked with preschool-aged kids for two years, her mother said. Victoria waited at the community center at Rengstorff Park, but Brittany never arrived.



Brittany Brown

Later that afternoon, Brittany came home. Her return happened to be caught on film by a KRON 4 television news crew. In the footage, Brittany's father, Brian Brown, was sitting in his Mountain View home talking to a reporter when loud honking suddenly came from outside.

"Hey! She's here! I got her!" a man yelled.

Brian Brown rushed outside to see a sobbing and disoriented Brittany in a neighbor's minivan. She could barely stand, and family members rushed to her aid and helped guide her into the house.

The neighbor, Phil McNern, said he saw Brittany walking down the street near her home and took her in his vehicle the rest of the way.

As for the cause of her disappearance: "We still don't know," said police spokesperson Liz Wylie.

Wylie said police are looking into the possibility that she was kidnapped or assaulted, but so far there is no evidence of that.

"She is physically unharmed," Wylie said. She added that "There's no allegation of any crime this point." As of Wednesday, the investigation was still classified as a missing persons case rather than a criminal case.

Last Friday, Brittany told her mother she was going to meet a friend at the Monte Carlo night club on Castro Street, where she has gone before on "under 21" nights. Although she is not an actual employee at the club, she has friends who are, and occasionally stamps hands at the door, police

said. According to her mother, that night she stamped hands at the door and made about \$40 for it.

In an e-mail sent earlier this

and was at the Monte Carlo club hanging out in front of the business talking with bouncers. She was not hanging out inside the

reportedly was seen with before she vanished. Witnesses told police that both are in their early to mid 20s. The woman is described as short and slightly heavy-set with blond hair, and the man is described as either white or light-skinned Hispanic and between 5-foot-11 and 6-foot-3.

Wylie said Brittany had been driven home by unidentified people who were not the previously sought couple. She was dropped off close to her home, Wylie said, because she wanted to walk the rest of the way.

"Somebody drove her home, but she didn't want to be dropped off in

front," Wylie said.

"Those aren't the people who drove her home. So I guess we're looking for multiple people," she said.

Since Brittany's return, the Brown family has not responded to calls or e-mails seeking comment on what happened. For now, the case remains a mystery to the police as well as the public.

"We may not ever know what really happened, but we're trying to find out," Wylie said. ■

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

**As for the cause of her disappearance:
"We still don't know," said police
spokesperson Liz Wylie.**

week, Wylie clarified that "On the night Brittany went missing, she was seen in many areas downtown

club."

Police have been trying to identify the man and woman Brittany



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ROBBER TAKES \$10K FROM BOFA

Police are looking for a man in his early 20s who took more than \$10,000 from the Bank of America on South San Antonio Road during an armed robbery last Friday.

The man entered the bank at 9:35 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 5, carrying a black handgun and "vaulted the counter," according to police spokesperson Liz Wylie. He then took money out of the teller drawers before fleeing the building. As far as police know, there were no accomplices.

Witnesses say the man is Latino, standing 5-foot-10 with a thin build. He was wearing a black and beige jacket and carrying a yellow plastic bag.

— Casey Weiss



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MURDER

► Continued from page 5

news conference, Williams was only a "person of interest," police said. Since then, they have found enough information to arrest him.

"Police were following up on leads," said Mountain View police Sergeant Tony Lopez. "They were aware of him, but were still trying to establish his connection."

The two victims were shot to death in their home on the 1900 block of Plymouth Street in the early hours of Saturday, June 28, while Sanchez-Aquino's 8-year-old son slept in the next room. According to a complaint filed in Superior Court, at least some of the eight young people accused of murdering them had been plotting for at least a month, and text messaged back and forth the night of the crime as they executed an elaborate plan to rob Omar Aquino.

According to the complaint, on June 1, Kenneth and Fame Thomas discussed a plan to rob Omar Aquino of his valuables and cash. They allegedly decided that Fame would go to the movies with Aquino, then lure him back to his home, where the other suspects would rob him. The document says the suspects text messaged back and forth on the night of the murders, and that once inside the house they ransacked it, stealing an iPhone and other valuables. ▣

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

Viewpoint

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■ EDITORIAL
THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

Think locally, vote nationally

Last weekend at the Art & Wine Festival, while most people were enjoying themselves, two men were seen to get into a screaming match over presidential politics. The argument nearly came to blows before the men were pulled apart.

The upcoming presidential election is one of the most contentious in modern history, in part because so much is at stake. The country is spending billions of dollars per week in Iraq, the economy is in trouble and health care costs are skyrocketing, to name only a few concerns.

Less obvious are the ways in which the new occupant of the White House directly affects the city and people of Mountain View. But make no mistake: Whether the new president is Barack Obama or John McCain could substantially influence Mountain View's economy, environment and schools. Here are some examples of how:

■ The next president likely will appoint a new head of the Environmental Protection Agency, which decides how aggressively cleanup occurs at sites such as the toxic TCE plume at Moffett Field.

"It's very likely that Obama's EPA would be much more protective for things like TCE cleanup," said Lenny Siegel of the Center for Public Environmental Oversight. "EPA staff have been told they can't do what they want for political reasons. As for McCain, what I hear from people in Arizona is that he hasn't paid much attention to these issues."

Siegel also said a Democratic president probably would be more accessible to the local congressional representatives trying to save Moffett's Hangar One. However, McCain's history with the Navy may make him partial to restoring the historic structure as well.

■ People at City Hall are keeping a close watch on the economy, which has major impacts on city revenue sources.

"Anybody who can improve the national economy is going to be good for Mountain View," said city manager Kevin Duggan.

Duggan said the new president's views on federal housing programs and community development block grants, or CDBGs, also will be important to the city, which channels these funds to numerous programs and services. Typically, a Democrat is more amenable to handing out federal funds for community services.

■ Local educators question how productive the federal No Child Left Behind legislation has been, and say the next president has a lot of work to do in fixing the country's educational system.

NCLB was signed into effect in 2001 in the hopes of improving public primary and secondary education by establishing accountability at the local levels through testing and benchmarks. Although it looks good on paper, the legislation sets unreasonable goals in a small timeframe. This can be counterproductive in a city like Mountain View, which has a large percentage of Latino and low-income students.

Educators say they agree with the concept of accountability, but want a system that will work. Although neither candidate addresses NCLB head-on, Obama's education plan calls for a multi-billion-dollar increase — with a focus on "high-needs schools" — while McCain's much flimsier plan calls for little increase in funding. We believe Obama will pay closer attention to this issue, which affects every Mountain View resident.

According to our calendars, this Thursday, Sept. 11, was "Patriot Day." It's a fitting day to consider the direction we're headed, since the attacks of seven years ago have permanently altered the course of our nation. When you go to the polls on Nov. 4, think closely on what you want out of your government. A lot is at stake, even locally.

■ LETTERS
VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

FIRST-HAND ACCOUNT OF BIRTHDAY CONFLICT

Editor:

I live on the other side of the fence next to where this birthday party took place ("Birthday party gone bad," Aug. 15). I can practically see into their backyard. I wanted to explain my side of the story.

I was home the whole time they were throwing their party. With my window open, their music was still not very loud. An officer came by around 3 p.m. or so and asked me if I complained about the noise next door. I explained to him that my grandparents and I, along with our residents in the back, have no problem with them because it was in the middle of

the day and they were still not very loud.

Once he left my house, he stayed parked outside for close to two hours, as if he was expecting something to happen. It seemed like he wanted something to happen.

I was still in my office next to the open window when all of a sudden I heard sirens and started to realize they were coming towards me. I heard "Get back get back!" and I looked out the window and saw policemen running through to the backyard and pinning people down.

I ran outside and witnessed two men with blood dripping down their faces and another man lying

► See **LETTERS**, page 16



LETTERS

► Continued from page 15

in the backyard, all of whom were arrested. I also saw two women arrested and put into separate cars and taken away immediately. There were close to 10 police cars, an ambulance and a fire truck present. Most of the people were just standing around.

Never once during the party did I see any public drunkenness, except for a man talking to the first officer seconds after the officer spoke with me. The man didn't seem very drunk at all. Nothing was going wrong that day, and this was obviously blown out of proportion.

Meghan FitzPatrick
E. Middlefield Road

KEEP SEGWAYS OFF
STEVENS CREEK TRAIL

Editor:

In your "From the Editor's Desk" article of Sept. 5, you question why Segways should not be welcome on our trails. It is not difficult to answer that question regarding the Stevens Creek Trail.

First, the Segway is a motorized

vehicle. Contrary to the definition given by the misguided people in Sacramento, it is not a pedestrian. Motorized vehicles are not allowed on Stevens Creek Trail, which runs through a wildlife corridor and is a protected area.

I believe that to change this law would mean any motorized vehicle could use the trail, including motorcycles, motor scooters, mopeds, etc. If Segways are allowed on the trail for even a trial period, I don't think the owners of other "Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Devices" (who would want to save money on their transportation costs) will stand for not being allowed to use their own EPAMDs on the trail. I wouldn't.

Stevens Creek Trail is not the place for this vehicle. There are parents pushing baby strollers, toddlers walking, seniors strolling, other people running, walking, jogging, rollerblading, etc. Not to mention dogs.

I am on the trail almost every day, and have enjoyed this Mountain View treasure for almost 10 years. I hope to continue to use it for several more years. I see the Segway as a threat to the other users and to the environment there.

Vada N. Williams
Space Park Way

BETTER 911 SYSTEM
WOULD HAVE
PREVENTED HOMICIDE

Editor:

I believe that an investigation of the viability of the 911 system in Mountain View is necessary.

Two people are dead and an 8-year-old boy has no mother because the 911 system failed to alert local police on June 28, when a call was made from Plymouth Street on that mother's cell phone. As Casey Weiss reports, a gap of one hour six minutes transpired between the call and gunshots being fired. Mountain View police were left entirely in the dark and unable to trace and respond to this emergency call during that important gap, because the call "was routed to the California Highway Patrol in Vallejo."

This is simply not a sufficient answer to the question raised by anyone living in proximity to a freeway in Mountain View, as anyone who looks at a map of the city readily sees we are surrounded by freeways and access roads to same.

The Vallejo call center is renowned for its putting of calls on hold due to heavy volume. There was recently announced a 511 call service available for

contacting the Highway Patrol when a vehicle is stuck on a highway. Perhaps that number should be used for all Highway Patrol calls, freeing the Mountain View Police Department to trace calls such as the one made by one of the victims in this case. Had it been traced in time, the police could have properly done their job.

As individual citizens, we are unable to test the ability of the present system to see where our 911 calls go, as this would be equivalent to pulling a fire alarm box. But an official investigation would allow for such tests.

John F. Rinaldi
West Dana Street

THANKS FOR HANGING IN
ON HANGER ONE

Editor:

Here! Here! for Lenny Siegel's important role in convincing the Navy, NASA and the community that Moffett Field's historic Hanger One should be saved, and for his suggestions on how the hanger can be put to the best use. ("Opportunity knocks at Hanger One," Sept. 5).

His vision to design an "air and space center that should educate the public and stimulate

debate on the policy issues that humankind has faced and will continue to face as we continue upward" will be critical in helping to meet the challenges of global climate change, population overgrowth and sustaining resources such as clean water, clean air, arable soil and clean energy.

The grave challenge to rid the world of nuclear warheads and all weapons of mass destruction should also be high on an Air and Space Center's list of educational topics to be contemplated by the visiting public. Just one nuclear episode would be capable of killing millions of people and of creating a chain of horrendous damage to much of the Earth's fauna and flora as well as to our precious water resources. A modern nuclear holocaust could set back environmental rehabilitation several decades, or more. In but a moment, a century of progress could be shattered. A full chapter addressing the nuclear menace that is hanging over our heads should be part of every textbook on sustaining the environment.

Thanks, Lenny, for hanging in on Hanger One.

Fred Duperrault
W. Middlefield Road

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■ GUEST OPINION

Let's save Hangar One

NASA AMES IS DEVOTED TO DOING WHAT'S NECESSARY TO PRESERVE HISTORIC STRUCTURE

By S. Pete Worden

Moffett Field's Hangar One is a one-of-a-kind historic treasure, and NASA is committed to its preservation.

Now 75 years old, this iconic landmark is showing its age. As a result of a 2003 inspection revealing PCBs and other contaminants are leaking from its metallic exterior, the facility has been closed for the past five years.

This year the U.S. Navy has announced plans to remove all the contaminated siding material from Hangar One, seal the structural frame and leave the hangar's framework and flooring standing. However their plans do not address the Hangar's re-skinning. At the Navy's recent public hearing on

Aug. 26, members of the community expressed overwhelming support for full restoration.

NASA Ames Research Center assumed control of Moffett Field in the early 1990s. We agree it is in NASA's and the community's interest to maintain the profile of Hangar One as a meaningful landmark in the South Bay.

First and foremost, our goal at NASA Ames is the clean-up and restoration of Hangar One so that it no longer poses an environmental and health risk and can be used again. The Navy has agreed to proceed with the clean-up activities. We are in the process of working with the Navy and seeking private partners to collaborate and assist us in the restoration effort.

The next step is to determine how best to use this national resource in a manner that is compatible and consistent with NASA's mission.

NASA Ames is exploring potential partnerships to support this worthwhile endeavor. The criteria for determining development and use already exist within the charter of the

NASA Research Park (NRP). The NRP assists NASA Ames in fulfilling its obligations under the National Historic Preservation Act with respect to Hangar One and all historic property that is part of the Shenandoah Plaza Historic District at Moffett Field. This includes maintenance and preservation of historic buildings and assisting in revitalization and local economic development efforts through reuse of historic buildings.

A close partnership with our local communities is key to a successful outcome for the reuse of Hangar One. NASA values our relationship with our neighbors and recognizes the public trust associated with sustaining not only Hangar One, but all of the Shenandoah Plaza Historic District.

A significant number of our 2,300 NASA Ames staff are your neighbors. Part of being a good neighbor is listening to what you think. To start, we want to hear your ideas for viable, potential future uses of Hangar One that ultimately enhance the community and NASA.

There's a special link on our Web site, www.nasa.gov/ames, to express your views. We will evaluate all our options and share with you our plans as they evolve.

Earlier this year the National Trust for Historic Preservation put Hangar One on its 2008 list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. Hangar One was a 20th century icon in our Valley. NASA Ames looks forward to working together with our neighbors and friends to restore Hangar One to its former glory, to make it a 21st century icon, and ultimately use this great facility in a manner we can all be proud of. ■

Pete Worden is director of the NASA Ames Research Center, located at Moffett Field.

A close partnership with our local communities is key to a successful outcome for the reuse of Hangar One.



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Weekend

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DARLENE BOUCHARD

Gail Sanders, owner of the Cravery places a Pesto Chicken pot pie in the display case.

■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

Old notion, modern application

THE CRAVERY OFFERS UPDATED VERSIONS OF SAVORY PIES

By Dale F. Bentson

Realtor Gail Sanders wasn't drawn to the restaurant business; she was thrust into it. A year or so ago, her husband, Ian, and a business associate decided to buy a franchise of The Cravery and open it in downtown Los Altos. Ian, a native of London, was intrigued by the meat and vegetable savory pies produced by the fledgling SoCal company.

The storefront opened last September with a full-time manager

reporting to the owners. Unfortunately, Ian's partner soon became ill and was forced to abandon the project. That event coincided disharmoniously with the crack in the economy, the despondent housing market and ramped-up competition for ever scarcer restaurant revenues. Ian returned to his high-tech job in media delivery.

With no prior restaurant experience, Gail assumed the role of general manager. She quickly dug into the business, and now

► Continued on next page

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DARLENE BOUCHARD

The Cravery's combo meal: Classic chicken pot pie served with tomato bisque soup and a European multi-grain baguette.

► Continued from previous page

splits her time between The Cravery and her work in residential real estate.

"I learned how to manage people and learned the business operations (at the restaurant) on the go, and I am still learning," she said. "Fortunately, the staff I have is wonderful. They are so helpful and dedicated."

The franchiser, headquartered in Beverly Hills, has had its own share of problems. Recently, two of its three cafes closed because of rapidly changing business conditions that surrounded the sites. The company is retrenching, and has added to its repertoire, opening some Cravery kiosks and wholesaling its products to other retailers.

The company maintains a large baking facility in Southern California where the pies are assembled, frozen and sent to the retail locations for final baking. Sanders' facility has a sizeable rotating oven where the pies are slow-baked exuding homey scents throughout the space.

Savory pies have likely been around since humanities' first bakers grew tired of their daily bread, and infused meats, vegetables and fruits into bread dough. Almost every Western cuisine has some version of a savory pie.

Our own version of pot pies — frozen, aluminum-plated doughy affairs — is but a poor cousin that have been popular in England since the time of Henry VIII.

As Brits upgraded their cuisine and taste buds over the past two decades, the savory pie slid to a less-than-desired gastronomic position in the English diet. Then, about three years ago, several new savory pie companies emerged around London. Their pies are filled with today's flavors

and textures. Savory pies are suddenly very trendy, according to a 2006 article in the International Herald Tribune.

The Los Altos Cravery offers pies filled with chicken, pesto, mushrooms, pepper steak, turkey, pulled pork, spicy chipotle, vegetable curry and Thai chicken curry. The pies have enough filling to satisfy without overloading the stomach. The pastry is flaky and buttery and can be eaten with knife and fork or just with fingers: One might choose a pie for late summer picnics or for starving teens as a snack.

The pies can be reheated in the home oven, microwaved or consumed at room temperature. In addition to the pies, The Cravery offers eight salads and a variety of soups by the cup, bowl or quart. Combination plates are presented for under \$9.

Then there is breakfast, available all day for just over \$5.

"I love breakfast any time of the day," Sanders said, "and it's apparent many of our customers do too."

The menu lists a half-dozen breakfast or brunch possibilities such as vegetarian eggs Florentine, eggs Benedict, huevos rancheros or a simple spinach quiche.

To allow diners to end with something sweet and creamy, Sanders added a gelato case with nearly a dozen flavors to keep patrons cool and smiling during these warm days.

The Cravery also travels off premises, catering for weddings, banquets, business luncheons and other special gatherings.

The cafe itself is cozy with ample room for eating, perusing the newspaper or plugging into the free Wi-Fi network. Besides dining tables, there are comfortable

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► See **CRAVERY**, page 20



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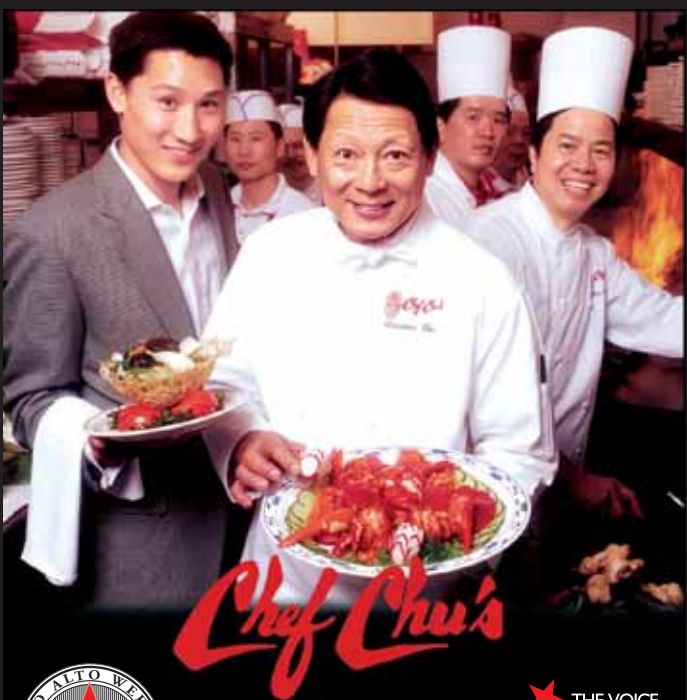
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CRAVERY

▶ Continued from page 19

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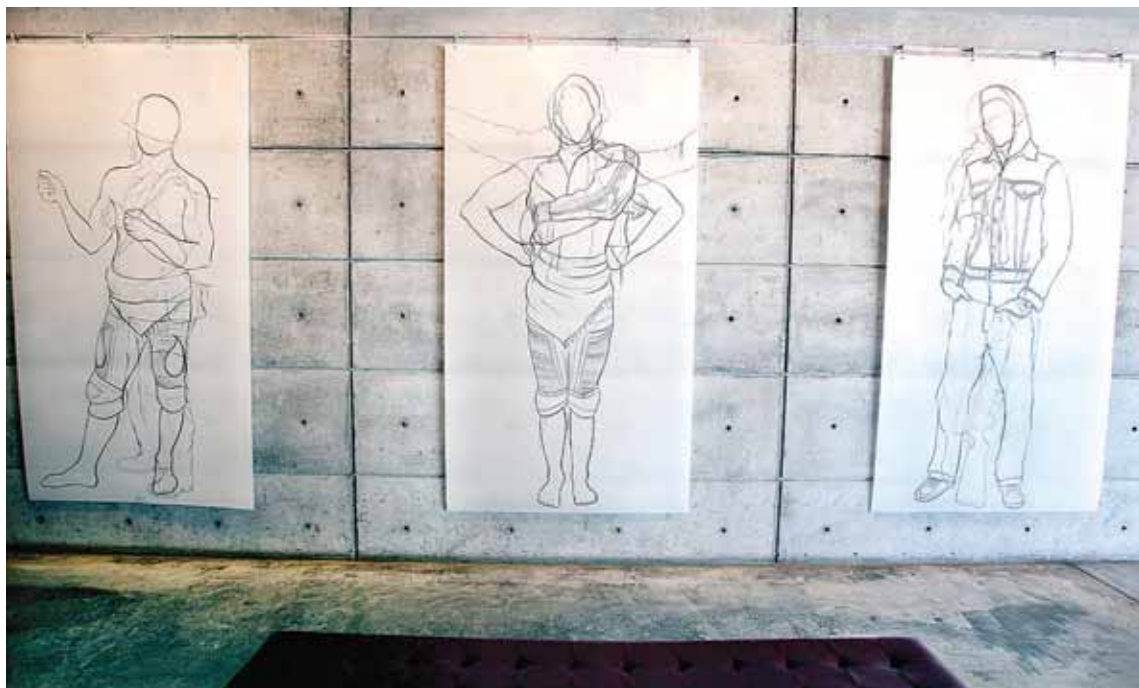
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MARJAN SADOUGH

Above and Below: The artwork of Ala Ebtekar is currently on display at the Community School of Music and Arts.

Past, meet present

IRANIAN-AMERICAN ARTIST ALA EBTEKAR CONNECTS FAMILY PAST WITH BAY AREA UPBRINGING

By Jill Kimball

Ala Ebtekar mentions Adidas and the year 1492 in passing, and he's intimately familiar with the Bay Area hip-hop scene.

To speak to Ebtekar about American things, though, sheds light on only one identity. Inside, he has many more: He's a traveler, a historian and the son of Iranian-born parents. He's also a local artist, and his new exhibition, on display at the Community School of Music and Arts in Mountain View, says much more about him than a long interview ever could.

The exhibition, titled "Epic Verse," demonstrates that Americans, particularly direct descendants of immigrants, can easily keep a harmonious balance among the multiple cultures that define them, Ebtekar said.

His work, he says, represents a new generation of multicultural art that sharply contrasted with that of the previous generation, one that began when Ebtekar was very young. "I grew up with that first generation of multicultural art where you see this strong clash of cultures and sentiments of alienation," he said.

Ebtekar, born and raised in Berkeley, didn't identify with those views. While others thought his social life and his home life with his parents to be two separate entities, he thought of them as one. He believed a person's multiple identities could meld together and intertwine peacefully.

"Looking at it more in a positive light, all our identities create a synthesis, not a hybrid," he said.

With synthesis in mind, Ebtekar, who holds a master's degree in fine arts from Stanford University, used a brush to sketch ink outlines of figures, one on top of the other, on huge mylar sheets. The outlines closely overlap, but the differences between them are visible. A hint of a wrestler in a pair of billowy, traditional Persian pants seemingly tussles with a shadow of a sneaker-clad hip-hopper; two hip-hoppers in T-shirts and backwards baseball caps peek out behind the broad, square shoulders of a soldier decked out in a helmet and combat boots. Some outlines are detailed, revealing a specific stripe pattern or a tiny row of tassels, yet they all remain vague and faceless.

Anyone who lives in the United States, a country of immigrants, can identify with Ebtekar's metaphor: It's possible to have 10 hobbies and not feel like 10 different people. A person who has ances-

tors in seven countries doesn't necessarily have seven separate identities. Each hobby, and each family history, can exist in harmony inside one person.

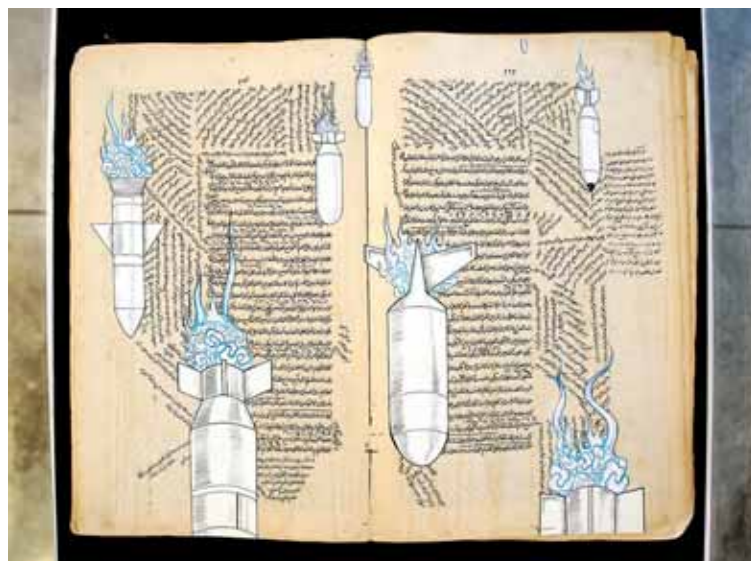
Kyle Williams, a curator at CSMA and a former Stanford schoolmate of the artist, said he likes the exhibition because his overarching idea is universal but still includes details of Ebtekar's own unique world.

"This exhibition is a great example of Ala's work," said Williams. "There's something here for everybody to get into, but at the same time, it's very personal."

These three figures Ebtekar uses to illustrate synthesis — the rapper, the Persian wrestler and the soldier at war — define heroism for the artist.

The rapper alludes to Ebtekar's teen years, when he spun old-school rap records at friends' parties and

► See *PAST*, page 23



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MOVIE TIMES

BABYLON A.D. (PG-13) Century 20: 1:15, 3:35, 5:55, 8:15 & 10:35 p.m.
BANGKOK DANGEROUS (R) Century 16: 12:35, 2:55, 5:25, 7:50 & 10:15 p.m. Century 20: 12:25, 1:40, 2:50, 4:05, 5:20, 6:35, 7:50, 9:10 & 10:15 p.m.
BOTTLE SHOCK (PG-13) ★★★ Century 20: Noon, 2:25, 4:55, 7:25 & 9:55 p.m.
BRIDESHEAD REVISITED (PG-13) Century 12: 12:25 & 6:30 p.m.
BURN AFTER READING (R) ★★★1/2
Century 16: 12:30, 1:55, 2:55, 4:20, 5:20, 6:50, 7:45, 9:15 & 10:10 p.m.
Century 20: 12:05, 1:10, 2:25, 3:30, 4:45, 5:50, 7:10, 8:15, 9:35 & 10:35 p.m.
COLLEGE (R) Century 16: 7:05 & 9:45 p.m. Century 12: 7:45 & 10:15 p.m.
THE DARK KNIGHT (PG-13) ★★★ Century 16: 12:55, 4:25 & 7:55 p.m. Century 20: 12:30, 3:45, 7 & 10:15 p.m.
DEATH RACE (R) Century 16: 9:40 p.m. Century 12: 4:30 & 10:30 p.m.
DISASTER MOVIE (PG-13) (Not Reviewed) Century 12: 3:05 & 7:55 p.m.
ELEGY (R) (Not Reviewed) Century 12: Noon, 2:35, 5:15, 7:55 & 10:30 p.m.
FLY ME TO THE MOON 3-D (G) (Not Reviewed)
Century 16: 12:40, 2:50, 5:05, 7:15 & 9:25 p.m.
HAMLET 2 (R) ★★★1/2 Century 12: 1:40 & 7:40 p.m.
Aquarius: 1:30 & 9:30 p.m.
THE HOUSE BUNNY (PG-13) ★★★
Century 20: 12:45, 3:10, 5:35, 8:05 & 10:25 p.m.
I SERVED THE KING OF ENGLAND (R) ★★★ Aquarius: 2, 5 & 8 p.m.
KNOCKED UP (R) ★★★1/2 Century 16: Fri. at 10 p.m.
KUNG FU PANDA (PG) ★★★1/2 Century 12: 12:15, 2:50 & 5:20 p.m.
THE LONGSHOTS (PG) Century 12: 12:40, 5:30 & 10:20 p.m.
MAMMA MIA! (PG-13) ★★★ Century 16: Sing-a-long 1, 4 & 7 p.m.
Century 20: 2, 4:35, 7:15 & 9:50 p.m.
MAN ON WIRE (PG-13) ★★★ Aquarius: 1:30 & 9:45 p.m.
MIRRORS (R) Century 12: 4:15 & 10:05 p.m.
THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR (PG-13)
Century 12: 1:30 & 7:20 p.m.
PINEAPPLE EXPRESS (R) ★★★1/2 Century 16: 7:10 p.m. Sun.-Tue. also at 9:50 p.m. Century 20: 1:20, 4:20, 7:15 & 10:10 p.m.
PROUD AMERICAN (PG) Century 16: 12:05, 1:10, 2:25, 3:30, 4:45, 5:50, 7:10, 8:15, 9:35 & 10:35 p.m. Century 12: 12:05, 2:40, 5:15, 8 & 10:35 p.m.
RIGHTEOUS KILL (R) Century 16: 12:30, 1:40, 3, 4:15, 5:30, 6:55, 8, 9:30 & 10:30 p.m. Century 20: 12:15, 1:25, 2:45, 3:55, 5:15, 6:25, 7:50, 9 & 10:25 p.m.
THE ROCKER (R) Century 12: 3:45 & 9:40 p.m.
THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS 2 (PG-13)
Century 16: 1:15 & 3:55 p.m.
SPACE CHIMPS (G) Century 12: 12:50, 3:10 & 5:25 p.m.
STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS (PG) ★1/2
Century 20: 12:15, 2:40, 5:05, 7:30 & 10 p.m.
STEP BROTHERS (R) Century 12: 7:50 & 10:25 p.m.
SUPERBAD (R) Century 16: Sat. at 10 p.m.
TELL NO ONE (NOT RATED) ★★★1/2 Aquarius: 2, 5 & 8 p.m.
TRAITOR (PG-13) ★★★ Century 16: 1:45, 4:30, 7:25 & 10:05 p.m.
Century 12: 1:10, 4:10, 7:10 & 9:55 p.m.
TRANSIBERIAN (R) Century 20: 12:20, 2:55, 5:25, 8 & 10:30 p.m.
TROPIC THUNDER (R) ★★★1/2 Century 16: 1:05, 4:05, 7:35 & 10:25 p.m. Century 20: 12:05, 1:05, 2:35, 3:40, 5:10, 6:15, 7:45, 8:50 & 10:20 p.m.
TYLER PERRY'S THE FAMILY THAT PREYS (PG-13)
Century 16: 12:50, 3:45, 7:05 & 9:45 p.m.
Century 12: Noon, 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9 & 10 p.m.
VICKY CRISTINA BARCELONA (PG-13) Century 20: 12:10, 2:30, 4:55, 7:20 & 9:45 p.m. Guild: 1:30, 4, 7 & 9:30 p.m.
WALL-E (G) ★★★1/2 Century 16: 1:30, 4:10, 6:45 & 9:25 p.m.
Century 20: 1:50, 4:25, 6:55 & 9:25 p.m.
THE WOMEN (PG-13) ★★ Century 16: 12:45, 2, 3:30, 4:45, 6:15, 7:30, 9 & 10:20 p.m. Century 20: 12:30, 1:45, 3:10, 4:30, 5:50, 7:15, 8:35 & 10:05 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)
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★ Skip it
★★ Some redeeming qualities
★★★ A good bet
★★★★ Outstanding

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



MOVIE REVIEWS

BOTTLE SHOCK ★★★
(Century 20) Strip off the chestnuts and an insipid love triangle and you've got yourself a feel-good drama about people who love what they do — in this case dabbling in the art of great wine. Novice vintner Jim Barrett (Bill Pullman) is running Chateau Montelena on a wing and a prayer, having shed his previous life as a lawyer to follow his true passion. Son Bo (Chris Pine) doesn't take to Dad's establishment ways and has no direction of his own. On the other side of the Atlantic, transplanted Englishman Steven Spurrier (Alan Rickman) is also struggling, running a little wine shop going steadily south. For no apparent reason Spurrier hits on the idea of an international wine competition and travels to Napa to see what the upstart Californians are blending. Which sets wine snob tongues a-wagging and pits France against the Golden State in an anxious blind tasting with historical implications. *Rated: PG-13 for language and drug use. 1 hour, 46 minutes.* — J.A.

HAMLET 2★★★1/2
(Aquarius) British comedy star Steve Coogan totally commits to his zany character, high school drama teacher Dana Marschz. An impassioned actor with more pretensions than achievements, the man with the unpronounceable surname lives in Tucson, Ariz., "where dreams go to die." Twice a year he stages unpopular stage productions adapted from Hollywood hits such as "Erin Brockovich." When budget cuts threaten to eliminate the drama program, Marschz follows the advice of the school's newspaper critic (Shea Pepe) to do something original. He takes the tragedy out of the tragedy, creating an upbeat musical sequel to the Bard's "bummer" classic "Hamlet." Much screen time is devoted to the actor's failing marriage to his kooky wife (Catherine Keener). When the buzz on the politically incorrect play puts it into "to be or not to be" status, the fun picks up. ACLU legal eagle (Amy Poehler) storms into Tucson to protect freedom-of-speech issues, and Elisabeth Shue (as herself) skewers the notion of celebrity while supporting the fledgling thespians. *Rated: R for language including sexual references, brief nudity and some drug content. 1 hour 32 minutes.* — S.T.)

THE HOUSE BUNNY ★★★
(Century 20) "Revenge of the Nerds" gets a feminine twist in this entertaining and uplifting chuckler. Spearheaded by funny girl Anna Faris, "House Bunny" blends a feel-good story about friendship with tongue-in-cheek humor and a talented cast. Sweet-natured Playboy bunny Shelley Darlington (Faris) gets a rude awakening the morning after her 27th birthday. Seems Hugh Hefner wants her to move out of the Playboy mansion, effective immediately. Shelley's contagious good mood suddenly goes glum as she desperately hunts for a place to live — and a sheltered life of pool parties and cosmopolitans makes the real world feel foreign. Shelley finds acceptance

► Continued on next page

► Continued from previous page

at the sorority house of Zeta Alpha Zeta. The seven members are outcasts, ignored or ridiculed by frat boys and teased by the superficial girls at chichi sorority Phi Iota Mu. The girls of Zeta need to sign a new pledge class or risk losing their charter. As Shelley guides them from socially awkward to uber-popular, she learns her own lessons about individuality and inner beauty. *Rated: PG-13 for sex-related humor, partial nudity and brief strong language.* 1 hour, 38 minutes. — T.H.

TELL NO ONE ★★☆☆1/2

(Aquarius) Guillaume Canet adapts Harlan Coben's bestselling crime novel of the same name with whip-smart technique and a tetchy undercurrent of anxiety. Pediatric surgeon Alex Beck (Francois Cluzet) is going through the motions since his wife Margot (Marie-Josée Croze) was savagely murdered at their lake home near Paris over eight years before. Out of the blue Alex receives a cryptic e-mail with a provocative link: a grainy real-time video showing Margot's face and a message telling him that she's still alive. "Tell no one," it says. Quick as a wink the police re-open the investigation — or is it Pandora's Box? — as Alex is fingered for the murder at the same time as he's trying to solve it. Thriller, love story, whodunit: It's an unwieldy trio made whole by an up-and-coming mastermind. *Not rated but should be R for violence and adult situations.* 2 hours, 5 minutes. In French with

English subtitles. — J.A.

TROPIC THUNDER ★★☆☆1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) Narcissism is the operative theme, Hollywood's most bloated egos fronting a Vietnam epic while struggling to keep cast and crew in check. Temperamental director Damian Cockburn (Steve Coogan) is having trouble motivating his stars, each more self-important than the next. Tugg Speedman (Ben Stiller) is a washed-up action star clinging to his celebrity. Corpulent comedian Jeff Portnoy (Jack Black) is attempting a "serious" film to clean up his image while method actor Kirk Lazarus (Robert Downey Jr.), a thinly veiled Russell Crowe, is searching for artistic motive and suffering a case of identity crisis. Their movie is "Tropic Thunder," based on the real-life memoirs of Vietnam vet Sgt. John "Four Leaf" Tayback (Nick Nolte), or so he says. As production consultant Tayback is scrambling to rouse the actors to new dramatic heights. His suggestion is to shoot the film guerilla-style, gritty and dirty with no assistants in sight. A slight run-in with a land mine leaves the troupe without direction — the ultimate in impromptu theater. *Rated: R for plenty of language, violence, sexual references and drug use.* 1 hour, 47 minutes. — J.A.

■ **MOVIE CRITICS**

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

PAST

► Continued from page 21

school dances. Later, when he visited Iran, he saw framed pictures of local wrestlers in traditional Persian coffeehouses and drew a correlation between past and present, traditional and urban.

"The wrestlers were obviously the local neighborhood heroes," Ebtekar said. "The spirit of heroism and warriors I felt with the wrestlers immediately spoke to me, because the 1980s rap I grew up with was about that too. Every rapper was a hero — they all thought they were the baddest emcee."

Ebtekar then added a national hero figure into the mix: the camouflage-clad American soldier.

It seems the combination of these three figures, representing American pride, urban background and an appreciation for old-world Persia, could define Ebtekar himself — but the artist insists the main

■ **INFORMATION**

What: "Epic Verse," an exhibit of drawings by Ala Ebtekar
Where: Mohr Gallery at the Community School of Music and Arts' Finn Center, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View
When: Through Sept. 23; The gallery is open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays
Cost: Free
Info: Go to www.arts4all.org or call (650) 917-6800, Ext. 306; or visit Ebtekar's Web site at www.torandj.com

purpose of the tall brushstroke silhouettes is to forge a connection between the traditional and the modern, something he believes hasn't been accomplished yet in Persian culture. Some Iranians, he said, focus so much on the distant

past that they're unable to move forward — but perhaps there's a way to retain important customs of the past and accommodate a new era at the same time.

"I grew up listening to people talking about things that happened 2,000 years ago and how they'd be better off now if they hadn't happened," Ebtekar said. "How can we step into the future if we're still talking so much about the past?"

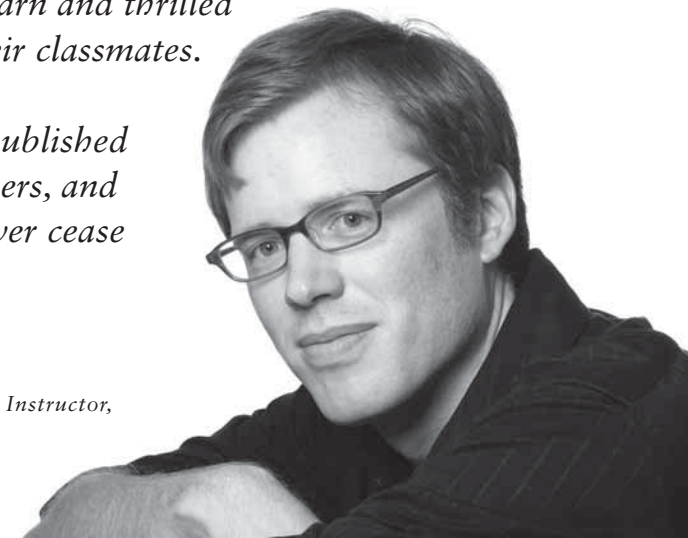
For Ebtekar, connecting the now to the then is as much a personal crusade as it is a cultural one. He wants to see his family's country of origin progress as his home country has in recent decades.

"A lot of the Iranian-American population talks up the culture and how it's so connected with the arts, but they do a poor job of supporting the next generation of all those things — the writers, artists, musicians," he said. "If the arts are stuck in the past, our culture is lacking." ■

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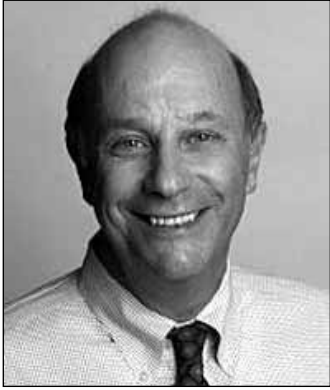
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