



Los Altos Town Crier

www.latc.com

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Community news for Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and Mountain View since 1947

Vol. 62 No. 25 • 50 cents

Sounding the alarm

By Shannon Barry
Town Crier Staff Writer

When strong north winds and low relative humidity combined last week resulting in a high fire risk in Los Altos Hills, Public Safety Officer Steve Garcia issued an emergency alert.

For the first time since the Rapid Notify database was put into effect July 2007, 9,300 telephones in the town - including unincorporated areas - were notified about fire safety precautions. The message recommended a halt in activities like welding or the use of chainsaws that can produce a spark or flame.

Los Altos Hills County
Fire District takes proactive steps
to ensure safety for residents



City, school leaders debate how and why to televise

By Eliza Ridgeway
Town Crier Staff Writer

Moving forward from a joint meeting last week, the Los Altos City Council and Mountain View-Los Altos Union School District Board of Trustees have differences of opinion to vie with, but few compromise solutions in sight.

They hashed over a range

Local flute quartet wins prestigious award

By Shannon Barry

Town Crier Staff Writer

Areon Flutes – the first expandable chamber music ensemble – began performing together only three years ago, but they returned from the internationally recognized Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition last month with a bronze medal in the wind division.

The three-day chamber music competition, which concluded May 11 at the University of Notre Dame, is the largest in the world. It is comparable to the Masters Golf Tournament or The Championships at Wimbledon tennis tournament in the sports world, said flutist Kasey LeBow.

Areon Flutes consists of flutists LeBow, Amelia Vitarelli, Jill Heinke and Tamara Maddaford. LeBow, Vitarelli and Heinke teach at West Valley Music in Mountain View.

Areon's music, a collaboration of living composers and modern musical language, features innovative programming for duos, trios and quartets.

Set and costume changes are integrated into their onstage performance, which adds a sense of theater and whimsy to the music.

LeBow said the Fischhoff judges told group members their music was a major topic of discussion because Areon's performance style is so innovative. However, some of the traditional judges felt there were too many theatrics during the performance.

"We are trying to move chamber music in a completely new direction," LeBow said.



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Areon Flutes, from left, Tamara Maddaford, Kasey LeBow, Amelia Vitarelli and Jill Heinke, is an expandable chamber music ensemble formed in 2005.

Although disappointed they didn't receive the gold medal, LeBow said the recognition is still a dream come true. This was not only Areon's first win, but also the group's first competition. The quartet plans to take this learning experience to foster future growth.

To qualify for the competition, Areon submitted a studio-quality DVD of their music and prepared an hour program.

"Trying to push the envelope in any field, you know you're going to face some sort of opposition," LeBow said. "It wasn't like we lost by any means. We are just very new and all the music was written in the last 10 years. We feel it's a huge step for the future of chamber music."

Contact Shannon Barry at shannonb@latc.com.