

SARATOGA NEWS

Saratoga residents help local economy through Cash for Clunkers ☛ page 7

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NUMBER OF STUDENTS SEEKING FINANCIAL AID AT WVC IS INCREASING

More than twice as many applicants as last year

By BRIAN BABCOCK

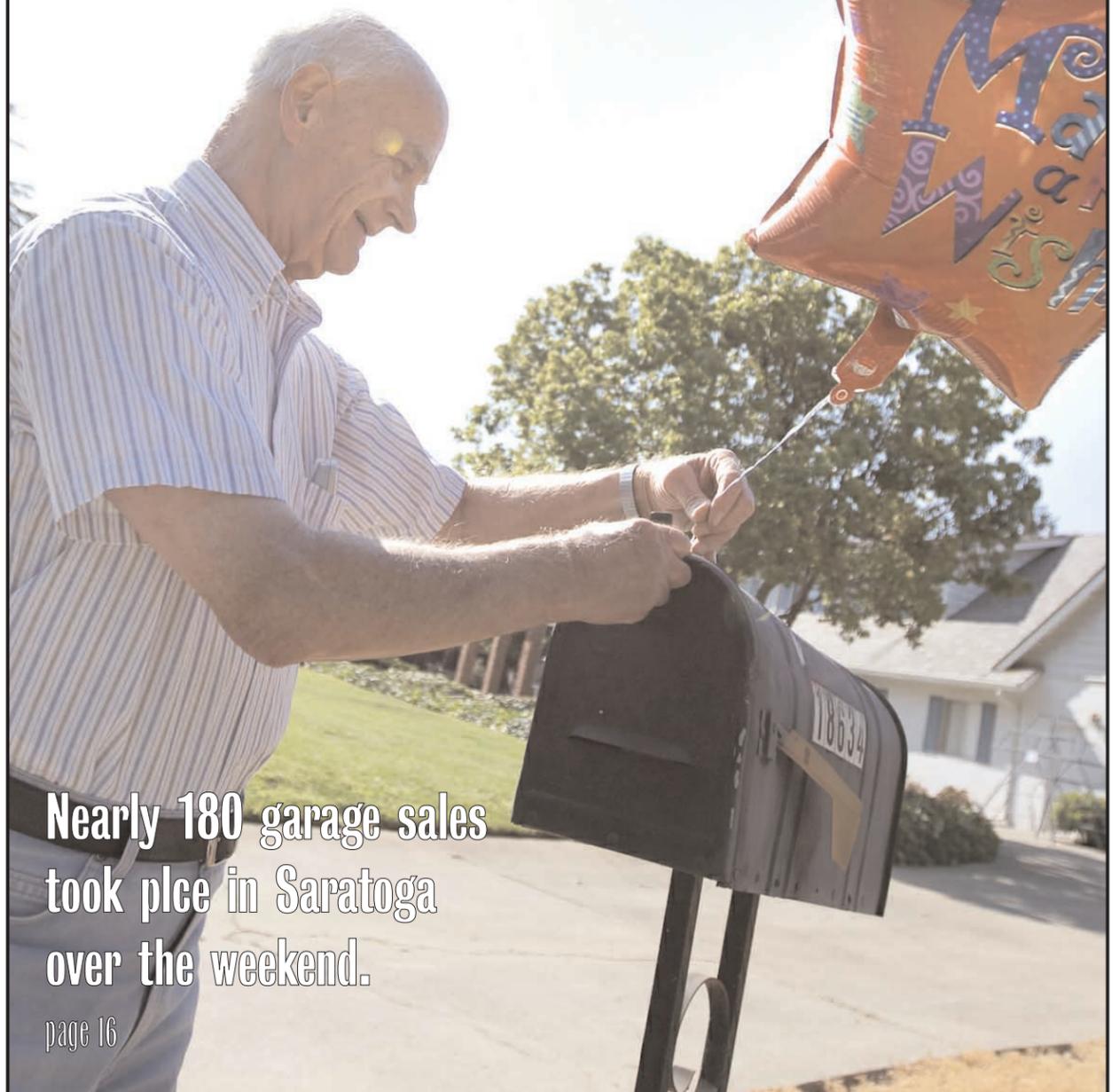
Students waited patiently in line at the West Valley College admissions and records office last Tuesday to discuss financial aid options with one of the staff members. The students, an eclectic mix of races and ages, were among the 3,489 financial aid applicants looking for some type of monetary help so they could attend courses at the school.

At this same point last year only 1,493 students had applied for financial aid. Financial aid staff said thousands more have filed in this year, indicating that they have been laid off from their jobs and are receiving unemployment. And there are many others who have run out of unemployment benefits and are hoping to take classes to move into a different career field once the economy picks up.

About one-third of the expected

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Treasure Hunters



Photograph by Chi Kwong Chow

Nearly 180 garage sales took place in Saratoga over the weekend.

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With just about 180 garage sales being held throughout Saratoga on Aug. 8, many sellers were doing their best to attract treasure hunters, just like Chuck Odineal who tied a large balloon to his mailbox.



Judy Coad (left) and Carl Lamb check out several wooden chairs available for purchase at one garage sale.

Hidden Gems

One man's junk is another man's treasure at area garage sales

By BRIAN BABCOCK
Photographs by CHI KWONG CHOW

Prices were slashed and everything was marked to sell during the first Saratoga Community Garage Sale held last weekend throughout the city.

There were approximately 180 registered garage sales going on throughout Aug. 8. Some treasure hunters decided to get an early start to their day by beginning their search before 8 a.m. to snag some of the more desired items.

Neighborhoods held block sales while some families decided to pool their items and host one large garage sale.

The Saratoga Historical Foundation held its own sale on Oak Street and brought in about \$1,200, which will go toward restorations of the Saratoga History Museum. Vintage glassware, a brand-new designer sink, plants and electronics were some of the hot items of

the day.

Making money was just one positive that came out of the community garage sale, some of the sellers said. Recycling and reusing unwanted items to ensure a cleaner environment made some of the folks selling items feel good also.

"It's better than just dumping your stuff in a landfill. Plus, there are people out there who truly need these things," said Annette

Stransky of the Saratoga Historical Foundation.

One man stopped by the Oak Street sale and bought six women's shoes, which he said he would be taking to Africa to give to those who needed them. Another woman searched through the groups "free pile" to find bedding for migrant workers she knew.

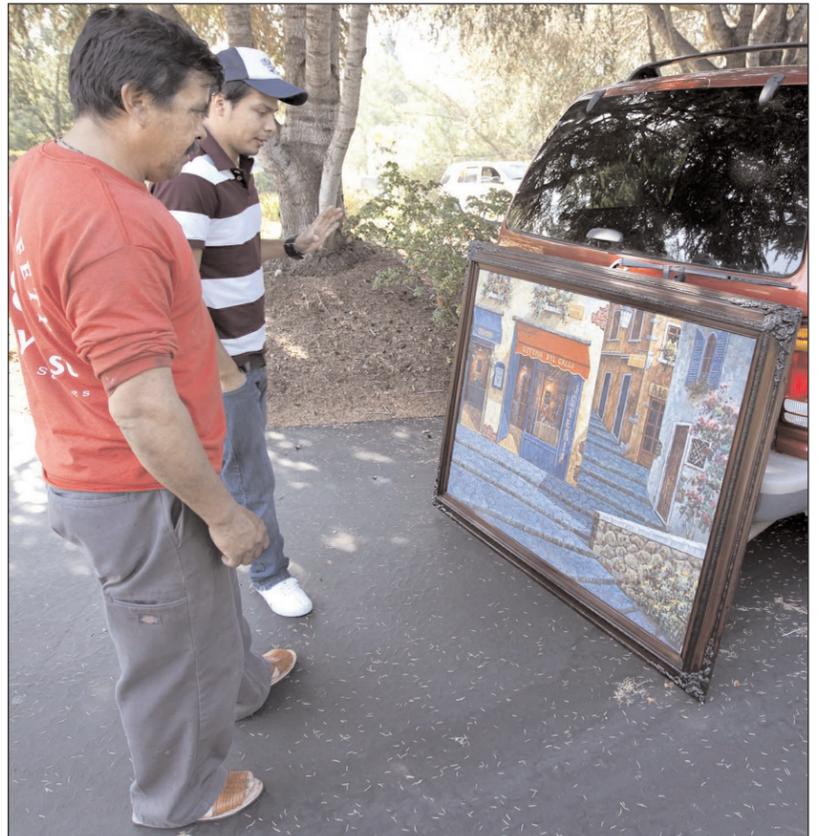
"That was a heartbreaking story," Stransky said.

The Saratoga Area Senior Coordinating Council made \$2,000 from its parking lot sale. The money will help fund some of the Saratoga Senior Center and Adult Care Center services.

"We had people come together who really helped out," said SASCC Executive Director Susan Huff. "It was a great community event."



Presentation is key to attracting buyers and that's why Tasha Wasserman wipes down some of her items for sale during the community garage sale.



Arturo Castelloin (left) and his son, Juan Castelloin, discuss purchasing a painting that was available at one of the city's community-wide garage sales.



Children's toys, like these 1980s toy cars and puzzles, were just a few of the many items for sale. Dinnerware and electronics were some of the more popular items with bargain hunters.

At left, Boris Odineal (right) wraps up a tea set with newspaper to protect the delicate items for buyer Nancy Williams.