

# Groups join to refurbish SLVHS amphitheater

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Mail press releases, letters to the editor and other news items to the Press-Banner, 5215 Scotts Valley Drive, Ste. F, Scotts Valley 95067

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A group of volunteers from Mountain Community Theater Co. is determined to bring the old redwood amphitheater near San Lorenzo Valley High School back to life and seeks donations to purchase materials needed for the project.

Near the high school's all-weather track that's under construction is a natural amphitheater that was used more than 15 years ago by the community for live outdoor theater. While the natural hillside slope and trees surrounding the theater remain, what's left of the concrete stage is crumbling apart.

The theater company is teaming up with the school and its drama boosters to rebuild the stage.

"This is the kind of project that lets our students know that we think the performing arts are part of a well-rounded education," boosters President Chris Clayton said.

The boosters have donated \$500 toward the new stage and hope their gift prompts other donations.

The idea to rebuild the theater arose last year, when the theater group was looking for an outdoor venue to perform "Camelot." Nearly 20



Lucjan Szewczyk/Press-Banner

**PLANNING AHEAD:** Mountain Community Theater Co. President Richard Gaughan and project manager Steve Edmonds discuss plans to revamp the San Lorenzo Valley High School amphitheater. The natural amphitheater hasn't been used in years because of its crumbling concrete stage.

years ago, the theater group performed other plays there. While "Camelot" was not performed at the amphitheater because of the condition of the stage, the theater group asked the school district for permission to rebuild the stage.

"Community is our middle name," said project manager Steve Edmonds. "And this is a chance for us to show our commitment to the performing arts in the valley."

The plan is to rebuild the theater for use by all three San Lorenzo Valley schools. Volunteers expect to complete the project before the end of August.

"I am really glad this is being done," said Brian Mercer, dean of students at the high school. "With support from the community, this autumn, the redwood amphitheater will be the home of a stage under the stars for the rising stars of SLV."

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— Brian Mercer  
Dean of students, San Lorenzo Valley High School



Courtesy of Cazadores.com

**POPULAR:** Four men were caught with 10 bottles of tequila stolen from local grocers. The men apparently favored the Cazadores brand the most.

## Thirsty thieves caught with stolen tequila

By Jason Shuffler  
Press-Banner

If you are going to steal booze from two different Scotts Valley grocery stores, you might as well aim for the good stuff.

That may have been the thinking of the four Watsonville men who got caught trying to steal 10 bottles of what arresting officer Sgt. Mark Lopez called "high-end tequila" last week.

On Tuesday, July 18, employees at Scotts Valley Market called police because four men were apparently acting suspiciously inside the market. The employees said they believed the men were about to steal some bottles of liquor. Before police arrived, the suspects had already left the store and driven away in a Honda, Lopez said.

An employee from the market who requested anonymity followed the men in a car to the Nob Hill grocery store in King's Village. He alerted employees at Nob Hill about the quartet. Shortly thereafter, the suspects left the store police say.

"It's always nice to have an extra set of eyes," Lopez said. He also said that anybody thinking of

following alleged criminals by car should exercise what he called a "cautious approach."

Officers found the suspects' vehicle as it was leaving the Nob Hill parking lot and subsequently pulled it over at Scotts Valley Square on Mt. Hermon Road. Police say the driver of the Honda consented to a search of the car, during which the bottles of tequila were discovered.

After interviewing the suspects, police say it was determined that five bottles had been stolen from Scotts Valley Market and five from Nob Hill.

The four suspects — Pedro Contreras Martinez, 24; Jose Adrian Contreras, 21; Luis Manuel Ortiz, 22; and Juan Carlos Ortiz, 20 — were arrested on suspicion of burglary and taken to Santa Cruz County Jail.

The incident marks the second time in a month that Scotts Valley businesses were targeted by would-be thieves not from the city. Just two weeks ago, police nabbed three Oakland men for burglarizing Scotts Valley Diner and trying to break into the Nextel store in King's Village.