Mintons's petitions go toe to toe
DEVELOPER COLLECTS SIGNATURES IN SUPPORT OF HIGH-DENSITY HOUSING ON EVELYN AVE. SITE

By Daniel DeBolt

Prometheus Real Estate Group has hired a firm to gather signatures in support of a controversial apartment development at Mintons's Lumber and Supply — a development which many neighbors oppose. Petitioning is a political tactic used frequently by a project's opposition, but it is unusual for a developer to gain support for a project this way, and unheard of in Mountain View.

The petition, for "Mountain View residents only," makes a short two-paragraph statement which clearly states the most controversial aspects of the 214-unit project: its density (61 units per acre) and its height (two to four stories).

The petition describes the project as "high density," "environmentally responsible" and "pedestrian friendly." It states that those who sign it "think creating high density housing at the Mintons's Lumber property, located at 455 W. Evelyn Ave., next to the Downtown Transit Station and just a short walk from the vibrant retail and commercial core on Castro Street, is an excellent example of environmentally responsible development."

The signature gatherers have been seen at local grocery stores and include unpaid supporters of the project, said Prometheus senior development manager Nathan Tuttle. The City Council is not bound by the petition.

Nor is the council bound by a dueling petition from the project's opponents. That petition has also been gathering steam, with a reported 288 signatures so far — 60 percent of which came from residents living within a few blocks of the proposed project.

These neighbors have strongly opposed the project due to traffic and parking concerns, and made the Minton's project the central issue in recent elections for the Old Mountain View Neighborhood Association Steering Committee, in which over 200 people voted. Following that election, seven of eight steering committee members opposed the project.

Possible agreement on autism cutbacks

By Kelsey Mesher

The Mountain View Whisman School District may have reached an agreement with the California School Employees Association over a proposal to cut the hours and benefits of 11 full-time autism aides, although details are not likely to be made public until after the winter break.

After meeting with district officials on Dec. 17, "We hammered out what we think might work," said Chris Pedersen, a labor relations representative for the CSEA who has been negotiating with the district.

"We have proposed a tentative agreement," he said, adding that "It won't be reviewed and voted on until after the seven of eight steering committee members opposed the project."

Worker Center rises to the occasion in hard times
HOLIDAY FUND RECIPIENT HELPS DAY WORKERS ON SUBJECTS RANGING FROM ENGLISH TO GARDENING

By Daniel DeBolt

After 13 years, many continue to find the Day Worker Center of Mountain View to be a useful place, filled with opportunity — even when there aren't many job opportunities to be had out there.

The center serves as an alternative to having large numbers of day workers standing at the corner of El Camino Real and San Antonio Road, waiting for local homeowners and contractors to come by with a paying job. Over 100 workers come to the center instead every weekday morning, arriving at the multipurpose room at Trinity United Methodist Church at Hope and Mercy streets, where director Maria Marroquin and her volunteer staff distribute work in the fairest, least frenzied way possible.

Workers are also able to attend free volunteer-taught English classes, and occasionally get free legal advice and medical help, among other things. Recently the center has decided to expand in a new direction with a grant-funded program to teach the workers how to do organic gardening.

That program, called "Victoria Verde" (green victory), will soon provide a stipend for workers who are trained by master gardeners in the ways of organic gardening. Local seniors with an unkept vegetable garden or unused piece of land provide the classroom, so to speak, and in return a share of the produce. The rest is split between the workers and local food banks.

These services and opportunities help explain why the Day Worker Center continues to draw workers in large numbers, despite a lack of jobs in the current recession. Last Thursday, 125 workers came to the center to find only 15 jobs, a typical number in recent months, said Marroquin.

By contrast, an average day in a good economy brings 60 to 70 employers to the center, she said.

The center is the first point of acculturation for workers who...
Why we should shop locally this holiday season

When you are shopping for the holidays, remember your community and support your locally owned independent businesses. When you do, more of the dollars you spend remain in the local community compared to big box and chain stores.

Local merchants know the community and are experts in selecting merchandise that is based on what you like and want. Shop with awareness. In a down economy with many businesses at risk, you are voting with your dollars. If you value a diverse local economy, choose to support these and other independent, locally owned businesses.

Here are some good reasons to shop at locally owned businesses this holiday season and all year:

- It keeps dollars in our economy. For every $100 a consumer spends, local businesses give back $68 to the local economy, chain stores only give back $43.
- It makes us unique. There’s no place like the Peninsula! Homegrown businesses are part of what makes us special.
- It creates local jobs. Local businesses are the best at creating higher-paying jobs for our neighbors.
- It helps the environment. Buying locally saves transportation fuel. Plus you get products that you know are safe and well made, because our neighbors stand behind them.
- It nurtures our community. Studies show that local businesses donate to community causes at more than twice the rate of chains.
- It conserves tax dollars. Spending locally ensures that your sales taxes are reinvested where they belong, right here in your community.

www.hometownpeninsula.org

This message is brought to you by Hometown Peninsula, an alliance of locally-owned independent businesses. We strive to maintain our unique community character, to educate local residents that purchasing locally creates a strong local economy and bring back the vibrant hometown to our communities that is being displaced by national chains and online stores.
With the current economy, have your holiday shopping plans changed?

“No, I’m not planning on doing it any differently.”
Carl Russell, Mountain View

“Yeah, I’m far more conscious now. Even if I have money in my pocket, I’m less likely to spend it because there are people who don’t. I think before I spend.”
Jan Kuersten, Mountain View

“No, I spent the same as last year.”
Vladimir Petkov, Mountain View

“They’re pretty much the same as they’ve been. Maybe more online shopping, but it’s easy to look for deals online.”
Casey Lindberg, Menlo Park

“Maybe I’m willing to buy a little bit more than last year.”
George Tsai, Berkeley

Have a question for Voices Around Town? E-mail it to editor@mv-voice.com
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Megachurch’s charismatic leader resigns

ABUNDANT LIFE PASTOR PAUL SHEPPARD STEPS DOWN FOR UNSPECIFIED ‘MORAL FAILURE’

By Daniel DeBolt

Paul Sheppard, the beloved pastor who led the monumental growth of Abundant Life Christian Fellowship for 20 years, resigned last week after confessing “moral failure” in a letter to church elders.

On Monday, interim executive pastor Wayne Jackson said the church’s board of elders received a resignation letter from Sheppard nine days prior. The letter did not provide any details about what Sheppard meant by “moral failure,” Jackson said.

Sheppard has “confessed to his wife,” and believes she is the only one who needs to know any further details, Jackson said. Rumors that Sheppard had been having an affair are based on assumptions about what little was revealed in the letter, he added.

Jackson made the announcement to the congregation in all four of the church’s services over the weekend of Dec. 19 and 20, which he led in Sheppard’s absence. Each service is usually attended by more than 1,000 people.

The Voice came to the church on Monday night to attend a question-and-answer session for congregants, but just as it was beginning, church leaders said they’d skip the questions and lead the group in prayer and song instead.

Jackson was seen comforting several devastated, crying churchgoers in the lobby, while gospel songs were sung in the packed sanctuary.

Before the worshiping began, one church leader admitted that some members might be angry about the situation, and even leave the service. But churchgoers were told to look to God for answers, to submit their questions for the church on Abundant Life’s Web site (www.alcf.net), and were then led in prayer and song.
When asked if Sheppard should have continued on as pastor, one churchgoer said “absolutely” because of the good he was doing with the church. Another said it was unfortunate that pastors are put on pedestals when really they are just as “fallible” as anyone else.

The Voice profiled Abundant Life in June, when Sheppard announced it was outgrowing its space on Leghorn Avenue. At that time, the church reportedly had 6,000 members. Originally based in Menlo Park, Abundant Life had grown over 20 years, under Sheppard’s guidance, from only 34 members.

Sheppard also has a syndicated radio show called “Enduring Truth” which is broadcast on 500 radio stations. Jackson said he was unaware whether Sheppard would continue to do his radio show.

Sheppard’s personal Web site, www.thesheppardstouch.net, was blank this week.

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LESS KID-FRIENDLY was SantaCon, a goofy little event during which people bar-hop in Santa outfits. As such, a couple dozen tipsy Santas rolled into downtown Mountain View last Saturday night around 10 o’clock, via train apparently, and chose, as their first stop, Mervyn’s Lounge. Talk about Santa characters showing up.

My source tells me the people at Mervyn’s, unused to such wackiness, were not overly pleased to see so many merry old elves invading their space. But the source, herself garbed in Santa attire, smoothed things over with some kind words and a bag of lemons. Good work, Santas’ helper!

I’ll BE GONE on vacation till Jan. 4, so until then, have a Merry Christmas, a Happy Hanukkah, a Kwazy Kwanzaa, a Super Solstice and an entirely wonderful New Year.

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E-mail Daniel DeBolt at ddebolt@mv-voice.com.
Writing better with a buddy

KIDS GET LITERACY BOOST PAIRING WITH TUTORS IN 'WRITING BUDDIES' PROGRAM

By Kelsey Mesher

For more than a decade, young students in Mountain View have been working on their literacy skills with local seniors in a program known today as “Writing Buddies.”

The program, currently based at Castro Elementary, will continue as usual into 2010 — but only because a Menlo Park couple has taken on its operations after it was cut last spring, along with many other classes and programs, from the Adult School.

Large cuts in state educational funding forced the Adult School to slash programs and trim offerings last spring. Among the losses was the Adult School’s tutoring programming, which included both adult GED tutoring and a branch called “Generation Connections,” a free program that brought seniors and young students together to work on subjects like science, reading and writing.

The writing tutoring, then called Literacy in the Classroom, “was an arm of one of our volunteer programs here,” explained Laura Stefanaki, head of the Adult School. When all tutoring was canceled on June 5, she said, “that program ended as well.”

That’s when the Menlo Park couple, Tony and Robbie Fanning, stepped in.

“When the announcement came out, several of the other volunteers said they didn’t want to see the program die, and neither did we,” said Tony Fanning, who is now helping keep the program alive under the direction of his wife. “Robbie said she’d be willing to run the thing.”

Now on its own, the program operates under a new name, Writing Buddies, which Fanning said is a more accurate description anyway.

“I found out a couple years ago that that’s what the kids call it,” he said.

As for how Writing Buddies works, “What we do is really simple,” he said: An adult buddy writes and illustrates a short book on an accessible topic, and brings it in to read with the kid buddy, usually a first or second grade student, many of whom need practice with English. The program is especially important for children who do not speak English at home.

After reading it together, the kid buddy illustrates his or her own version of the story, while the adult buddy asks key questions about that week’s topic.

“Drawing the picture is really important,” Fanning said. “It’s been shown in a lot of research that it frees up their ability to describe things.”

When the kid buddy is finished, after 20 to 40 minutes, they share their work with a friend or teacher.

“It’s a big part of it for the kid to feel like they’ve done something neat,” Fanning said.

The one-hour Writing Buddies sessions occur once a week for six weeks. At the end, there is a party with all the buddies, called the “author” or “publication party.” The student buddies get to keep the original stories, bound in a book.

“Some of the drawings are quite impressive,” Fanning said. “There are three or four kids in each class that just stuff you can’t believe.”

In an e-mail, Castro Principal Judy Crates explained that “Writing Buddies provides the individual help that our students desperately need. In our neighborhood program, usually all of our students speak another language at home and are learning English. The teacher is the sole English role model, and students need individual practice in speaking and especially writing.”

Thanks to the program, Crates said, “The students not only increase their English skills, but also realize that they are competent students who can be successful.”

For information on volunteering in the Writing Buddies program, e-mail mail@writing-buddies.org or call (650) 323-1183.

E-mail Kelsey Mesher at kmesher@mv-voice.com
How to Give
Your gift helps children and others in need

Contributions to the Holiday Fund will be matched dollar for dollar, to the extent possible, and will go directly to the nonprofit agencies that serve Mountain View residents. Last year, Voice readers contributed more than $40,000, which with matching grants, provided more than $10,000 to each agency.

No administrative costs are deducted from the gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law. All donations will be shared equally with the seven recipient agencies listed here.

This year, the following agencies will be supported by the Holiday Fund:

- **PARTNERS FOR NEW GENERATIONS**
  Trains volunteer mentors who work with local youth in education and community programs.

- **THE COMMUNITY HEALTH AWARENESS COUNCIL**
  Serves Mountain View, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and seven school districts. Offers school-based programs to protect students from high-risk behaviors, such as drug and alcohol abuse.

- **MOUNTAIN VIEW ROTACARE CLINIC**
  Provides uninsured community residents with medical care and medications, and is frequently the last resort for this under-served clientele.

- **DAY WORKER CENTER OF MOUNTAIN VIEW**
  Provides a secure place for workers and employers to negotiate wages. Serves 50 or more workers per day with job-matching, English lessons and guidance.

- **THE SUPPORT NETWORK FOR BATTERED WOMEN**
  Operates a 24-hour bilingual hotline, a safe shelter for women and their children, and offers counseling and other services for families facing this problem.

- **COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND ARTS**
  Provides hands-on arts and music projects in the elementary classrooms of the Mountain View-Whisman School District. Nearly 40 percent of the students are low-income and 28 percent have limited English proficiency.

- **COMMUNITY SERVICES AGENCY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW AND LOS ALTOS**
  Assists working poor families, homeless and seniors with short-term housing and medical care and other services.

### Holiday Fund Donations

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- Emily Goulart | 100 |
- Henry Hennings, Jr | 50 |
- Sarah Ish | 50 |
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- Evan Christopher Rauch | 50 |
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- Doyle & Betty Zidell | 100 |
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**In honor of**

- LaDene Clark & the hardworking staff and volunteers at CSA | 500 |
- Gordon grandchildren | 500 |

![Holiday Fund Donations](http://www.siliconvalleycf.org/giving-mv.html)

### Local News

**DAY WORKER**

*Continued from page 1*

Day Worker Center

Day Worker Center recently opened up a building to use as a permanent location at 113 Escuela Ave, last year. So far the center has raised $600,000 of the $980,000 needed to renovate the building.

As for the Holiday Fund donations, Marroquin said the center counts on that money for a portion of its general operating expenses every year.

Volunteer Natalie Ramirez, a student at Cornell University in New York, said she was drawn to the magnetism and the vibrancy of the center under Marroquin's leadership.

"She's amazing, she's the boss," she said. Ramirez, who is from Anaheim, recently took year off school, "visited friends in the Bay Area, and decided to stay because I love the Day Worker Center so much."

As part of her work with the center, Ramirez helped champion the idea of Victoria Verde, which she said local seniors centers have expressed excitement about.

"I really like the idea of bringing seniors and immigrants together because they shy away from both communities," she said.

Seniors interested in taking part in the Victoria Verde program can call the Day Worker Center at (650) 903-4102.

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

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The union and district are looking "assignment by assignment" to determine how many people applying you never really know if you’re going to get into a school or not," she said, adding that while she’s visited a few campuses nearby, she’s really waiting to see where she is accepted before spending money and time on seeing the schools first-hand.

According to The Associated Press, the 23-campus California State University system had received around 610,000 applications as of Nov. 30 — 133,000 more than the same time last year.

"I know a lot of the seniors are really stressed right now," Rye said. Personally, she said, she’s taking her toughest class load yet, including five Advanced Placement courses. "There’s definitely a lot of competition among students at school. We’re all basically fighting for spots at the same schools."

Money matters
"Kids have to really dig for scholarships now," Pasallo said, adding that many scholarship opportunities that were once available have dried up. "It’s becoming such an elite thing, to be educated," she lamented. Paying for college weighs heavily on the minds of some seniors. "They don’t want to burden their parents," Pasallo said. "Or they only apply to one or two schools" because of the application costs.

Seventeen-year-old Gilberto Orozco Jr. said he originally wanted to apply to 13 or 14 schools, but whittled his list down to nine. He said cost will be a major factor in where he decides to attend college.

"I’ve been on top of looking into scholarships and into the FAFSA program and learning ways I can save money," he said. His parents told him that “it honestly depends on how much money I get from scholarships and grants to determine where I’m going to go to college.”

Orozco will be the first in his family to attend college. He said communicating with his parents about his applications has been difficult. “They haven’t been very understanding just because they don’t know the entire process,” he said, but as a participant in the district’s Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program, he has received helpful guidance. "I’ve managed to make it through all of this, but it’s been with the help of my AVID teacher," he said. "When I first started thinking about going to college — because I wasn’t even sure I was going to go — the first thing that came to mind was, "These colleges are really expensive,"" he said. His AVID teacher encouraged him to apply first, and worry about how to pay for it after getting in.

Orozco has already been accepted to CSU East Bay, and he’ll wait to hear back from his top choices, Stanford and Santa Clara University, as well as a handful of other UC and state schools.

His plan is to double major in business, which he feels is practical, and English, which is his “passion.” He hopes one day to be a high school teacher.

E-mail Kelsey Mesher at kmeshes@mv-voice.com
PUBLIC NOTICE
Magnet Recognition Program®
site visit

- El Camino Hospital has applied to the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) for the prestigious designation of Magnet. The Magnet designation recognizes excellence in nursing services.
- Patients, family members, staff, and interested parties who would like to provide comments are encouraged to do so. Anyone may send comments via e-mail, fax, and direct mail. All phone comments to the Magnet Program Office must be followed up in writing.

YOUR COMMENTS ARE CONFIDENTIAL AND NEVER SHARED WITH THE FACILITY. IF YOU CHOOSE, YOUR COMMENTS MAY BE ANONYMOUS, BUT MUST BE IN WRITING.

- YOUR COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY January 14, 2009.

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Good times
for downtown
commercial
real estate

By Daniel DeBolt

City officials have been pleasantly surprised to see that the market for office space in downtown Mountain View is on the upswing, despite growing vacancy rates elsewhere. A third quarter report from CPS Corfach International says that downtown office space vacancies dropped from 13.9 percent to 11.4 percent over the third quarter of 2009, which is “pretty significant,” said Ellis Berns, the city’s economic development manager.

B erns said smaller tech companies are finding downtown to be an appealing location because it is close to the downtown train station and good restaurants. That helps those companies compete for workers against larger companies like Google, which are known for their corporate campuses filled with various amenities, such as well-stocked cafeterias.

“The employees are able to take advantage of the great restaurants downtown,” Berns said. “We think it’s a very interesting trend.”

Further evidence of the trend is the recent approval of a new four-story, 63,000-square-foot office building at Evelyn and Bryant streets. The developer of that project cited new demand for downtown office space in his pitch to the council.

Meanwhile, the office market citywide is suffering. New office development in the Whisman and Shoreline areas is at a near standstill, despite a handful of major developments in the works last year. The City Council recently discussed ways to entice new development in those areas by increasing allowed densities in the city’s General Plan update.

Council member Tom Means said he was concerned that other cities, such as Santa Clara, could attract large tenants like Google away from Mountain View by showing a willingness to allow significantly taller and denser development in their office-zoned areas.

B erns said the office vacancy rate citywide is about 14 percent; in good times it usually hovers around 8 to 10 percent. In the middle of the dot-com bust, vacancy rates were as high as 30 percent, Berns said.
BOY ARRESTED FOR ANGRY FOOTBALL THROW

Police were called to Critten den Middle School on Friday to arrest a 14-year-old boy for angrily throwing a football at another boy’s leg during a football game. Police spokesperson Steve McCoy said school administrators called police at 2:14 p.m. last Friday to report the incident. The unnamed 13-year-old hit in the leg by the football was uninjured.

There was no real explanation as to why the incident was considered serious enough to involve police. The police report states that the unnamed juvenile suspect appeared “angry.” He was arrested for assault and released to his parents.

Critten den Middle School Principal Karen Robinson did not respond to phone calls by press time.

— Daniel DeBolt

MINTON’S

Members endorse the opposition petition, which states that the project’s density, at twice what is currently zoned, is “unfair to the neighborhood.”

The opponents’ 750-word petition says the 1.5 parking spaces per unit specified in the design — a reduction granted by the city due to the project’s proximity to a train station — is inadequate, and should be upped to the 2.3 spaces normally required. Neighbors say parking is already bad in their neighborhood, and that overflow parking from the development would make it worse.

The opponents’ petition also states support for an alternative site plan: “We believe that some mix of town homes, single family homes along with apartments would make sense for this site.”

Opponents are criticizing what they call misleading sales pitches used by hired signature gatherers. Project opponent Robert Cox, who was recently elected secretary of the OMVNA, claims that he and others have observed questionable claims made by signature gatherers pitching the petition — saying, for example, that the project is affordable housing for seniors and the disabled. (It is actually market rate, with monthly rents ranging from $1,800 to $2,500 for one- and two-bedroom apartments.)

“I think you have to trust that people are actually reading the petition,” Tuttle said in response. “No one is going to sign something like that blindly.”

He added that “It’s hard to predict how people will go about gathering their signatures. We’d be disappointed if we thought the petition wasn’t clear enough.”

Prometheus has used signature gathering before, in San Mateo, with positive results for a controversial housing project there of even higher density, Tuttle said. But city planning director Randy Tsuda said he couldn’t recall another instance of its use by a developer in Mountain View.

When it comes time for the City Council to decide on the project, “I’d say it’s a delicate balance when they are weighing out the sides,” Tuttle said. “There are strong opinions and passions on both sides — and we have our own opinions.”

“We wouldn’t have proposed this development if we didn’t think it was the right way to grow the city,” Tuttle said. The project is in the spirit of recent state bills SB 375 and AB 32, Tuttle said, “which point to smarter-growth, higher-density housing near transit. It helps people get out of their cars if possible. That by definition is a more affordable way to live, and we think it’s a wonderful, smart way to grow the city.”

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Photo of Gabriella Safran floating in the Dead Sea, Israel.

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DECEMBER 25, 2009

11
A deeper look at high speed rail

Unlike Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Atherton, this city does not seem to have a vocal group of critics who are opposed to the high speed rail project, which nevertheless will bring about major changes to the Caltrain rail corridor when and if it is up and running by 2020, as its promoters hope. Here in Mountain View, during a recent meeting at the Senior Center attended by about 200 people, there were no protests, but plenty of attentive residents with good questions.

So far, the city has raised only a few major concerns with the project. One is whether the new tracks will be built above, below or at grade level. Some city officials and residents fear that above-ground tracks would erect a barrier — a “Berlin Wall” as they like to call it — down the length of the city. The only upside with this configuration is that it would allow traffic to be routed under the tracks without major expenditures for grade separations.

By contrast, putting the new tracks at grade would require major streets like Rengstorff and Castro/Moffett to be routed underneath the tracks in a tunnel or trench, a costly process that could adversely affect the city’s historic downtown.

But by far the most talked about, and apparently preferred, design for most Peninsula cities is to put the tracks underground in a tunnel running from Mountain View to Atherton and beyond. No one knows yet if such a design is even remotely plausible due to its high cost, but Bob Doty, the rail transportation director for Caltrain, shared some cautionary thoughts at the meeting. “Tunneling is not as good as you think it is,” he said, citing his own experience with a tunneling project in England. “The primary problem, he said, is the need to run noisy ventilation fans when maintenance crews are inside the tunnel. Anyone living nearby is likely to become irate at the noise, he said.

Doty also shot down any idea that the rail project’s service between Los Angeles and San Francisco could somehow be terminated in San Jose, forcing passengers to transfer to Caltrain for the final leg of their journey up the Peninsula. That scenario would cause a massive logjam of northbound passengers in San Jose, requiring more rail cars to reach San Francisco than Caltrain has available.

Soon after the Mountain View meeting, the California High-Speed Rail Authority released its latest business plan, which bumped the total cost of the project up to $42.6 billion and reduced the number of expected riders from 55 million to 41 million a year. Expected fares, originally set to be $55 each way between S.F. and Los Angeles, were nearly doubled to $105 each way. The plan anticipates receiving billions of dollars from the federal government and private industry, although no funding beyond the $9.9 billion bond issue is locked in.

As a city already proud of its transit credentials, Mountain View almost certainly will be an eager participant in high speed rail. But at this point, with so many serious questions remaining, there is a ways to go before the city can prudently jump on board.
it “was in the shareholder’s interest” is appalling. It was in their personal compensation interest more than anything else.

What they did is equivalent to individuals paying their credit card bills by getting other banks to loan them money using their existing homes as collateral — when the home is already fully mortgaged! It’s actually hard to conceive of someone trying to pull such a stunt, but that’s just what they did. You can tell them “thank you” the next time you walk into their Castro branch office.

Allen Price
Fairmont Avenue

THE TWELVE DAYS OF EATING

Editor:

On the neighborhood e-mail list for the section near the downtown, I posted positive experiences from Sakoon. A neighbor from London said she had good experiences too, but it’s not like London where fine cheap Indian fare abounds. I responded asking if her London neighborhood had — here I quoted the striking differences and unique values.

Another neighbor quipped that it was almost like The Twelve Days of Christmas. So here you are. (Song to the tune of “The Twelve Days of Christmas,” Lyrics by Max Hauser, after a suggestion by Joy Chase.)

In the Mountain View downtown, what rest-‘raunts did I see? Twelve Eur-o-pe-an, E-lev-en Chi-nese, Ten south-east-Asian, Ten o-th-er A-sian, Nine bev-‘rage places, Eight bake‘-ry-delis, Six tacquerias, Three pizzerias, Two A-mer-i-can, and sea-food with three big.

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Mountain View VOICE

LETTERS
Continued from page 12
Comfort food, Hong Kong style

HONG KONG BISTRO BRINGS THE ECLECTIC CHA CHAAN TENG EXPERIENCE TO MOUNTAIN VIEW

By Monica Hayde Schreiber

You’re on Castro Street and it’s inching past 11 p.m. Most of the restaurants are closed, but you’re craving a big plate of shrimp chow fun or a baked pork chop on rice. Or maybe it’s a steaming bowl of borscht that’s calling your name.

Down at the end of the street, you’ll find the fluorescent lights and TVs are still on at the neighborly Hong Kong Bistro, the kitchen busily serving up steaming plates of Hong Kong-style comfort food.

With its photo-illustrated menu, more pictures of the food adorning the walls and its diner vibe, this two-year-old eatery might just be the culinary love child of dim sum and Denny’s. Won ton soups, curries and fish porridge share the menu with peanut butter toast, tuna salad and baked seafood served over spaghetti. The specials board might tout such wildly dissimilar offerings as coffee spare ribs, macaroni soup, French-style ox tail or spicy Singaporean noodles.

Continued on next page
Hong Kong Bistro’s spacious interior.

Continued from previous page

And yes, they really do serve borscht.

For transplants from Hong Kong, this is a seriously satisfying taste of home. For everyone else, Hong Kong Bistro is a funky cultural-culinary experience, the kind of place where half the fun is checking out what people around you are eating. To your left a creamy seafood soup in a puff pastry; to your right, a huge slab of baked beef tongue.

In addition to being budget-friendly and amusingly eclectic, the fare is overall fresh, tasty and satisfying.

This is one of the few local restaurants that firmly in the tradition of cha chaan teng, a type of “tea restaurant” or “café” common in Hong Kong and Macau that serves an incongruous mix of affordable Asian and Western-influenced dishes. A hallmark of these establishments is Hong Kong-style milk tea ($2.50), a blend of black tea and sweet evaporated milk. Take it hot or iced, its sweet, milky goodness will have you sinking immediately into the Asian comfort food zone.

Any of the chow fun dishes ($7-$8.50) will take you deeper into that happy place. We chose the shrimp version and in about one and a half minutes a huge plate of fat, steaming noodles, generously populated with shrimp and some crunchy bean sprouts, was upon our table. Delicious.

The BBQ pork and won ton noodle soup ($6.75) was enough for two people. The pork-and-shrimp won tons floating amid the broth and noodles were little pillows of meaty decadence. No doubt they were freshly made, as one of the servers was camped out in a nearby booth, in front of a huge pile of raw pork, making them by hand.

Another highlight of our first dinner was the large plate of ten-tender greens in oyster sauce ($7). The Chinese bok choy was lighty stir fried and gently dressed in a savory oyster sauce.

On another visit we started with the Indian-style pancakes ($5.50), a duo of roti-like breads with a curry dipping sauce.
The curry was a bit pasty and lacked punch, but the overall effect of fried bread in sauce was still satisfying. The lackluster curry also dampened our enthusiasm for the salmon curry dish ($9.50). The fried salmon itself was tender and fresh, but the overabundant curry and underdone sweet potatoes which accompanied left us wishing we had ordered something else.

Curry fared better in the spicy, Singapore-style vermicelli ($7.50). A standard riff on the popular dish, it was stir-fried with onions, egg and bean sprouts. It was another generous plate that was easily shared between three people.

The baked pork chop ($7.50), served in a metal dish over rice or spaghetti, is one of the go-to items at a cha chaan teng, but Hong Kong Bistro’s left me scratching my head. Doused in a ketchupy red sauce that tasted vaguely canned, I couldn’t understand the appeal.

Service during each of our visits was lightening fast and friendly. At lunch, Hong Kong Bistro offers specials, or “sets,” for $7.50, which include a drink, soup and an entree. There isn’t much to say about dessert as seven of the eight items had been scratched off the menu, leaving only mango pudding. Custard-like and slightly gelatinous, it was served in a bath of sweetened milk.

Hong Kong Bistro is owned by Ben and Annie Quan, who also own the massive Cantonese seafood establishment, Fu Lam Mum, next door. More power to them — and to any locals looking for a fast, filling and wallet-friendly meal on Castro Street.
MOVIE TIMES

A SINGLE MAN (R)★★★★
Aquarius Theatre: 2: 4:30, 7:9 & 9:30 p.m.

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL (G)
(Not Reviewed) Century 16: 10:10 a.m., 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:15 & 9:35 p.m. Century 20: Fri. 1:20, 3:40, 6, 8:20 & 10:40 p.m. Sat 11 a.m.; 1:20, 3:40, 6, 8:20 & 10:40 p.m. Mon 11 a.m.; 1:20, 3:40, 6, 8:20 & 10:40 p.m.

AN EDUCATION (PG-13)★★★
Aquarius Theatre: Fri. at 2:30 & 7:30 p.m.

AVATAR (PG-13)★★★★
Century 16: 11:15 a.m., 2:30, 4:45, 7:00 & 9:15 p.m. Century 20: 1:05, 4:15, 7:00 & 10:15 p.m.

THE BLIND SIDE (PG-13)
Aquarius Theatre: Fri. at 10:05 & 11:30 a.m. 12:55, 2:15, 3:40, 5, 6:25, 7:50, 8:50 & 10:05 p.m. Sat 11 a.m.; 1:20, 3:40, 6, 8:20 & 10:40 p.m. Sun 11 a.m.; 1:20, 3:40, 6, 8:20 & 10:40 p.m. Mon 11 a.m.; 1:20, 3:40, 6, 8:20 & 10:40 p.m.

THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG (G)★★★★
Century 16: 10:05 a.m., 12:30, 2:55, 5:20, 7:40 & 10 p.m.

SHERLOCK HOLMES (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)
Century 16: Fri. at 10:50 a.m. 1:45, 3:10, 4:40, 7:25, 9: & 10:30 p.m. Century 20: Fri. 1:05, 4:15, 7:15 & 10:15 p.m. Sat 10:10 a.m.; 1:05, 4:15, 7:15 & 10:15 p.m. Sun 10:10 a.m.; 1:05, 4:15, 7:15 & 10:15 p.m. Mon 10:10 a.m.; 1:05, 4:15, 7:15 & 10:15 p.m.

UP IN THE AIR (R)★★★★
Century 16: 10:45 a.m., 12:30, 2:55, 5:20, 7:40 & 10 p.m.

THE YOUNG VICTORIA (PG) (Not Reviewed)
CinéArts at Palo Alto Square: 2:15, 4:45, 7:20 & 9:50 p.m.

MOVIE REVIEWS

AN EDUCATION★★★★
(Aquarius) The heroine of “An Education” faces life as a female in 1961 London. To 16-year-old Jenny, her choice is strictly binary: the straight edges of square, bourgeois, mundane suburban life versus cultural high society. Rejecting the child-care-and-dishwashing paradigm of her mother and the lonely bachelor-ette life of her moody English teacher, Jenny romanticizes the French, smokes and succumbs to the charms of a man nearly twice her age. When thirteenth-century David Goldmark (Peter Sarsgaard) offers Jenny (Carey Mulligan) and her cello a ride in his Bristol, the girl discovers a witty and urbane alternative to her unexciting but age-appropriate boyfriend Graham (Matthew Beard), not to mention evenings spent studying Latin to achieve an all-but-forgone conclusion of studying English at Oxford. Director Lone Scherfig boasts on the dramatic irony borne of the audience’s knowledge of what’s around the corner: swingin’ 60s London and emboldened feminism. Rated PG-13 for mature thematic material involving sexual content, and for smoking. One hour, 40 minutes. — P.C.

ME AND ORSON WELLES★★★★
(Based on Robert Kaplow’s novel, “Me and Orson Welles” transports the audience to 1937 New York, where the larger-than-life director is staging his adaptation of Shakespeare’s “Julius Caesar.” Ostensibly the story belongs to the boy (James Wilkie-Booth) and his 17-year-old aspiring Bohemian named Richard Samuel (Zac Efron). In a moment of whimsy, Welles hires Richard off the street to play the small part of Lucius, and thus begins a whirlwind week in which the teen will live and learn from a legend while experiencing the first blush of love. Though he’s sarcastically warned, “You’re not going to get everything but the opportunity to be sprayed by Orson’s spit,” Richard has a ringside seat to history and a chance to discover himself in the process. Lone Scherfig’s delightful celebration of the arts turns out to be one of the season’s most surprising gifts. Rated PG-13 for sexual references and smoking. One hour, 54 minutes. — P.C.

THE MAD GIRL (G)
In just the first few scenes of 30-year-old Chilean director Sebastian Silva’s “The Maid,” we find out several key facts about the title character, the live-in maid Raquel (Catalina Saavedra). She’s 41 and has served the same upper-crust Chilean family for more than 20 years. Her employers, Pilar (Claudia Cohen) and Mundo (Alejandro Goic), treat her with a mixture of affection and condescension. Their four kids, who she thinks adores her, actually behave with a mixture of indifference and dislike. Raquel is cranky and humorless, and suffers from headaches and dizzy spells. The maid wakes the kids in the morning, serves breakfast in bed to the parents, cleans the two-story house and cooks the meals. Realizing that the work is too much for her, Pilar hires a helper. When Lucy (Mariana Loyola), a warmhearted 20% OFF YOUR ENTIRE BILL

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DECEMBER 25, 2009 • MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE • 17
New world, old story, amazing special effects

DESPITE ITS CLICHES, ‘AVATAR’ NEVER LOSES SIGHT OF WHAT COUNTS

By Susan Tavernetti

James Cameron can crown himself king of the 3-D world. He has crafted a science-fiction fantasy filled with visual wonder that never forgets that story — not digital technology — keeps movies from sinking under the iceberg of spectacle and special effects.

In “Avatar,” an imaginative premise, combined with the fanciful flora and fauna of a faraway moon, plunges the viewer into an otherworldly experience. Put on those silly 3-D spectacles and have some fun.

Cameron’s plot focuses on Jake Sully (Sam Worthington of “Terminator Salvation”), a disabled ex-Marine lying in a VA hospital. He’s tapped to replace his late twin brother in a multinational corporation’s avatar program, which mixes human DNA with that of the native Na’vi population living on Pandora, the company’s mining colony.

The “dumb grunt,” who has no avatar training, must quickly learn how to manage his remote-controlled, 10-foot-tall body in the most hostile environment known to man. The payoff? The jarhead gets his legs back.

Things get more complicated when the avatar team, headed by Dr. Grace Augustine (Sigourney Weaver), realizes that science and peaceful diplomacy are only part of its mission.

Recalling both westerns and war films, “Avatar” pits the corporation’s military muscle against the bow-and-arrow wielding Na’vi. A gung-ho colonel (Stephen Lang of “The Men Who Stare at Goats”) commands the invading forces to destroy the “savages” and their sacred places in order to gain access to Pandora’s natural resources.

Cameron gives the conflict a heart by developing a romance between Jake and Neytiri (Zoe Saldana of “Star Trek”), who teaches him the language and ways of her tribe. Similar to “Dances with Wolves” and “The Last Samurai” in so many ways, this generic hybrid also assumes the patronizing attitude of positioning a white man as savior.

Stereotypes hurt the film, particularly in so many ways, this generic hybrid also assumes the patronizing attitude of positioning a white man as savior.

Fortunately, Mauro Fiore’s cinematography never fits the negative 3-D mold. Don’t expect coming-at-you visuals. Instead he constructs deep space, immersing the viewer in the midst of the action.

The overall result is well worth the price of admission.
Art Galleries

10 Years Modernbook Gallery celebrates their 10 year anniversary with a rotating selection of gallery artists, showcasing a broad range of contemporary fine-art photography. Through Dec. 31, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Free. Modernbook Gallery, 494 University Ave., Palo Alto. www.modernbook.com

Art Exhibit Sale & Silent Auction

Gifts of the Season Viewpoints Gallery presents watercolorist Terri Hill, who exhibits her “Gifts of The Season.” Also showing: gift- wrapped canvases by the 14 Viewpoints’ artists. Through Jan. 2. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Viewpoints Gallery, 315 State St., Los Altos. www.viewpointsgallery.com

Art Exhibit Watercolors, acrylics, Chinese brush paintings, collages. Exhibit of paintings by local artist, Edmond Kyser, is currently being shown at the Lucie Stern Community Center through Feb. 27. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Free (pre-registration required). Children’s Health Council, 650 Clark Way, Palo Alto. Call 650-588-3669. www.charismonline.org

Christmas Culinary Class Chef Steve leads a holiday-meal cooking class. Dec. 26, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. $155. Our Commercial Kitchen, el Camino, Palo Alto. Call 650-454-6163.

Pacific Art League Winter classes Register now for Winter term classes and workshops at the Pacific Art League. Includes painting to printmaking, sculpture to jewelry making, we have over 75 offerings for adults and children. Classes run Jan. 4- March 28. Pacific Art League of Palo Alto, 688 Ramona St., Palo Alto. www.pacificartleague.org


clubs/meetings

Leads Club meeting The Leads Club, a networking organization that aims to help professionals build formal relationships with each other, meets Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., the 5th at St. Timothy’s Guild, 2094 Grant Road, Mountain View. Call 650-428-0950.

Palo Alto Scrabble Club Every Monday approximately 25 people get together to play Scrabble at Boschertin in Palo Alto. All equipment is provided. 6:10 p.m. First floor, 335 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. Groups.yahoo.com/group/pa-scrabble

SPAGG General Meeting SPAGG General Meeting Palo Alto Library Group meets monthly to discuss problems, solutions, software and hardware. Learn more about computing, meet fellow computer users and get help and advice from experienced users. Second Wednesday of the month, 7-9 p.m. Free. First floor, 3040 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. Groups.yahoo.com/group/PA-scrabble

Community Events

Mah-Jong Games “Studies show that playing Mah-Jong is beneficial for individuals who may be suffering from memory difficulties. Join us on Monday nights to learn this fascination game, or if you already know how, just to have a good time,” Avedisian says. 1-4 p.m. Free. Avedisian, 450 Bryant St., Palo Alto. Call 650-289-2428. avedisian.org

Concerts

New Year’s Eve Concert with J. Bach Celebrate New Year’s Eve with the music of J. S. Bach. James Welch performs “Fantaisie in G,” “Sonata in F-Flat,” Prelude & Fugue in e minor,” “The Schubert Charades,” and a pedal exercise piece by Bach. Thu., Dec. 31, 8-9 p.m. $10 donation at the door. St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-856-9700. wolkhartorganist.com

Dance

Ballroom Dancing West Coast Swing will be taught Fri., Jan. 1, 7-11 a.m. Lessons for beginning and intermediate levels, no experience and no partner necessary. General dance party 9 p.m.-midnight. Singles and couples welcome. Free. Refreshes. Dressy casual attire. 8 p.m.-midnight. $8. Cubberley Community Center Pavilion, 401 Almond Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-965-9910. www.heartbeat.org/concert/palo_alto


Teen activities

Teen Open Gym Teen Open Gyms are open every Wednesday and Thursday for girls, Middle School and High School students only; bring your student id. 6:30-9:30 p.m. Free. Whisman Sports Center, 3850 Middlefield Rd., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6410. http://www.modernbook.com

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Teen Open Gym Teen Open Gyms are open every Wednesday and Thursday for girls, Middle School and High School students only; bring your student id. 6:30-9:30 p.m. Free. Whisman Sports Center, 3850 Middlefield Rd., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6410. http://www.modernbook.com

The House The House is open to middle-school students to come hang out with their friends in a safe, fun environment. This free drop-in program is supervised by trained rec recreation leaders and offers a social atmosphere that includes homework help, billiards, arts and crafts, foosball, video games and more. 5-8 p.m. Thurs., 9:30-11:30 p.m., The House, 298 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6410. www.ci.mountainview. ca.us/teens/community/teens/services.asp

Volunteers

Junior Museum & Zoo Volunteer opportunities are needed to help with fundraising, community relations and special events. Data entry, mailings, internet research, etc. 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Free. Junior Museum & Zoo, 1421 Midnighl Rd., Los Altos. Call 650-326-6383. www.news4mz.org

Stanford Cats Need Foster Homes Stanford Cat Need fosters for homeless newcomers cats to campus. For more info and to volunteer, visit the SCN website and complete the volunteer profile form. http://www.stanford.edu/sup/ support_foster.html. Adoption fair also needed. Opportunities ongoing. Stanford students to come hang out with the cats. Stanford. Call 650-566-8287. catunit.stanford.edu

Sports

Holiday Ultimate Camp Sports camp. Half the time is spent on Ultimate PE Games including Dodgeball, Capture the Flag, Money Ball, and more. Second half of camp time is spent building basketball skills. Session I 9-noon, Session 2 1-4 p.m. Free T-shirt/camp. Dec. 28-30, $150. Los Altos High School and Mountain View. Call 888-505-2253. www.baldeaglecamps.com

PCAR Tuesday Night Interval Training A group of 20-40 PCAR runners meet under the Stanford track for interval training. Runners of all abilities are welcome. Participants are encouraged to show up earlier for warm up. Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Angel Field track, Galvez St at Campus Dr, Stanford. www.parunclub.com/tuesday.htm

PARC Wednesday Night Run Every Wednesday, PARC holds a casual run of about 5-6 miles leaves from the Stanford Track parking lot, near the corner of Campus Drive East and Galvez, on the Stanford University campus. Free. Stanford University Campus. www.parunclub.com/wednesday.htm

PARC’s Monday Night Run Every Monday, a run of about 5-6 miles leaves from the Stanford Track parking lot, near the corner of Campus Drive East and Galvez, on the Stanford University campus. Free. Stanford University Campus. www.parunclub.com/wednesday.htm

Team in Training: Information Meeting As a member of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society’s Team in Training, receive professional coaching and train with like-minded people to walk or run in a full or half marathon, a 10K or 5K, or even a triathlon or perform an endurance hike while supporting the fight against blood cancers. Thu., Jan. 7, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Garden Court Hotel, 520 Copperset St., Palo Alto. Call 1-800-482-8362. www.teamintraining.org
Our schools are currently facing even greater challenges than ever before. With continuing budget cuts, they are having to eliminate additional teachers and programs. There will soon be more students in every class and it is likely class time will be reduced. The children need our help! Fortunately, in our community, volunteers have been fast to respond. PNG has more than 450 tutors working in the Mountain View and Los Altos elementary schools. Last school year, those tutors recorded 1,460 hours of donated time.

The tutors performed myriad tasks. They read stories to small groups of children, especially those in kindergarten and first grade. They listened to older children reading to help with word recognition and pronunciation. They worked with students at various levels to help increase vocabulary. They also worked with students of all ages on language arts, writing, and mathematics. They helped in the after-school homework clubs.

What children learn and experience during their early years shapes their view of themselves and the world, and impacts their ability to succeed in the future both in school and in their personal lives. With a tutor, a student who is behind can reach grade level performance and be proud of his or her accomplishments.

Michelle Le Wilson Cai listens to his mentor Bob Adams during a lunch in downtown Mountain View. Adams is fundraising chair for Partners for New Generations.

Thoughts from a Mentored Student

The following are excerpts from a graduation speech presented at the 2009 Alta Vista High School graduation by a student who was mentored:

“Before I came to Alta Vista, I attended Palo Alto High. I never went to class, and if I did, I never did anything”

“When I left Alta Vista last year, I never thought I would EVER go back to school. I thought that I would just be another dropout. When I returned to Alta Vista, all the teachers were relieved to find out that I had changed my mind. I had decided to continue my education. I was glad that they didn’t forget me and thankful that they never gave up on me.”

“For most of the class of 2009, accomplishing our goals and completing school was EXACTLY what most people thought we would never do. Nor did they ever think it was possible.”

“Now look at us all here on graduation day accomplishing the unthinkable.”

“I would like to thank Mrs. Waud. Mrs. Waud has always been there for me whenever I needed someone. I am very thankful to have her in my life. If it wasn’t for her, other students and I would not have had the opportunity to meet such great mentors.”

“Last, but not least, I would like to give my biggest thanks to my mentor, Mrs. Liz Nyberg. There are not enough words to say thank you for all that you have done for me by being my mentor. I thank you for the time you have spent with me and for all of the advice you have given me. I hope to remain close to you ever though we are not in school. I have enjoyed the time spent with you and hope to continue that for years to come.”

For more information:
Contact Partners for New Generations at: (650) 949-0828 ext. 4#
Partners for New Generations, c/o Los Altos Rotary Club, PO Box 794, Los Altos CA. 94023-0794
e-mail to: PNG@partnersfornewgenerations.org
115 Announcements
Market View Most Instruments, Voice All Ages, All Levels (650) 266-3192
Jazz & Pianoforte Lessons Learn how to build chords and improve. Bill Susman, MA, Stanford Prof. (650) 966-3192
Hope Street Studios In Downtown Mountain View Most Instruments, Voice All Ages, All Levels (650) 966-3192

For Sale
201 Autos/Trucks/Parts
Bmw sales/Consignment Any - 100 1996 grand waggoner $4,800.00 Lease 2005 ES 330 - $17,495 Mercedes BENZ 1800 400 SL - $5,600 Mercedes Benz 1992 500sel Roadster Conversion - $11,500 Toyota 2005 HI AMD - $3,900

202 Vehicles Wanted

210 Garage/Estate Sales
Merlo Park, 2650 Sand Hill Rd., Jan. 9, 12:33
215 Collectibles & Antiques
Antiques Sale 10% to 50% OFF The Complete Recordings of T. B. 5200 Cornet Heat 1918 88 Graham Con $100 Christmas MuscO, laps, cads - 5200 Children's and rare 50 records - 5200 dead water cottage - 1500 Impression Art. Lithograph by Larry Emerson - 250 Mother Waters "The Chess Box" - 250 Quality Fine Art

220 Computers/Electronics
Hdmi Cable Premium Gold - $18.00
230 Freebies
Fire, Freeview & More - FREE

Wanted
235 Wanted to Buy
Items for Sale

250 Musical Instruments
Euphonium Sg Guitar, Rogia Bass - $225 Piano Bk grand piano $18,000.00

260 Sports & Exercise Equipment
Wii Console - $79.00
Dye Weight Belt - $8.00
German Hiking Boots (Men) - $15.00

265 Nanny Wanted
Cpr cert., top refs. 650/233-9778

330 Child Care Offered
Little Age Home Childcare An Ideal Daycare Enrolling Now Babysitting jobs in home/sitter Child Care opening in San Carlos Child living Babysitter Evening and Weekend Nanny EXCELLENT AMBIVERT AVAILABLE! Great, Fun, Loving Nanny Holiday Babysitter In Home/Sitter Babysitter

405 Beauty Services
Makeup Application/Instruction

Jobs
500 Help Wanted

Free Installation - $19.99/mo. HBO & Showtime FREE Over 50 HD Channels FREE! Lowest Prices - No Equipment to Buy Call for Details @ 487-887-6145. (Call Scan)

Get Done - FREE Installation-19.99/Mo. HBO & Showtime FREE Over 50 HD Channels FREE! Lowest Prices - No Equipment to Buy Call for Details @ 487-887-6145. (Call Scan)

The Peninsula's Free Classifieds Web Site
Combining the reach of the Web with print ads reaching over 150,000 readers!
FOGSTER.com THE PENINSULA’S FREE CLASSIFIEDS WEBSITE TO RESPOND TO ADS WITHOUT PHONE NUMBERS GO TO www.FOGSTER.com
Happy Holidays

Seasons Greetings & best wishes for the New Year

from everyone at:

The Mountain View Voice