

Mountain View VOICE



Young and strong
Mountain View girls
rally in league opener
SPORTS | P.15

JANUARY 12, 2007 VOLUME 15, NO. 2

INSIDE: HEALTH & FITNESS | PAGE 25

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Bubb families vie in their own amazing race

SCHOOL FUNDRAISER, PATTERNED
AFTER POPULAR TV SHOW,
A HIT IN ITS SECOND YEAR

By Alexa Tondreau

The annual silent auction at Bubb Elementary this year featured the typical offerings — a weekend away for two, gift certificates to expensive restaurants — and something not so typical as well.

PTA mother Page McDonald and a committee of parents auctioned off spots for Bubb's "Amazing Race" contest, and seven families won placement in the event, which was modeled after the fast-paced, globetrotting television show.

The seven families gathered last Saturday and competed in a race that took them to 15 destinations throughout the city of Mountain View, including Shoreline Park, Google, the public library, the farmer's market and the Community School of Music and Arts. Each station involved

► See **AMAZING RACE**, page 8



PHOTOS BY CRAIG SHEROD

Top: Kyle Sandell uncovers the next clue, stashed in a shoebox on the Central Expressway overpass near Caltrain, while his father Bruce catches up. The two were participating in Bubb Elementary School's "Amazing Race" event, based on the TV show. **Above:** Ricardo Gonzalez puzzles over a task at CSMA, along with his daughters Daniella and Valleria, left, and wife Angela in background.

City, SEIU broker deal

UNION GETS PENSION
INCREASE, CITY CUTS
RETIREE HEALTH BENEFITS
FOR LOW-SENIORITY
WORKERS

By Daniel DeBolt

After nine months of labor negotiations, the city and SEIU Local 715 have finally given birth to a contract for 160 city employees.

The contract is similar in its most controversial aspects to the recently approved Eagles contract. Employees received a significant pension increase, but will have to contribute to

the cost. At the same time, new employees will receive significant cuts in their health care benefit at retirement.

Last Thursday, SEIU members resoundingly endorsed the new contract in a 101-2 vote. In a special meeting Monday, the City Council approved the contract in a 5-1 vote, with retiring member Greg Perry voting against.

"We didn't get exactly what we wanted but it's close enough," said SEIU chapter chair Richard Ames. "It's like being pregnant for nine months. It is time to deliver the baby."

The pension increase, which

► See **UNION**, page 7

New council takes over

ABE-KOGA, BRYANT AND SIEGEL INSTALLED
AS MACIAS TAKES MAYOR'S SEAT

By Daniel DeBolt

The City Council dais looked quite different at the end of Tuesday's council meeting, after the city clerk swore in three newly elected members and Laura Macias moved into the mayor's seat.

It was all applause, laughter and praise as the ceremony proceeded in a council chambers packed with friends and family. Angee Salvador, city clerk, asked new council members Jac Siegel, Ronit Bryant and Margaret Abe-Koga to raise their hands for the oath of office, which in part requires members to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the State of California against all enemies."

The new council members would soon take their seats, but

not before what Mayor Nick Galitto called "The Liz Kniss hour," where outgoing members Michael Kasperzak and Greg Perry were commended by the county supervisor. Kniss listed their accomplishments and background, and commended Perry for his courage and his acumen in financial discussions and Kasperzak for his willingness to compromise.

"What I care most about are the other meetings during the year," Perry said. "There is not a lot I have to say other than thank you for allowing me to be here."

Perry noted the packed room, which had crowds standing along the walls.

"Come back in April to see how we spend your money — I can guarantee you will get a seat," he

► See **COUNCIL**, page 11

INSIDE

GOINGS ON **30** | MARKETPLACE **31** | MOVIES **21** | REAL ESTATE **35** | VIEWPOINT **16**

REDEFINING QUALITY SINCE 1990
Reading between the emotional line makes the difference between finding a house and a home.

Judy Staton & Ray Schuster



LOS ALTOS ■ Just remodeled inside and out, this stunning town home evokes the hills of Tuscany with its lovely warm colors and decorator touches. 2bd/1.5ba. **\$759,000**

Tim Anderson



LOS ALTOS ■ Beautiful 2-story 3bd/2.5ba town home close to downtown Los Altos. Freshly painted + new carpet. Private, gated entrance. **\$995,000**

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Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked in Downtown Mountain View. Pictures and interviews by Zunaira Durrani.

*The new Congress is in session.
Any requests for them?*



"Continue to do what they started to do ... check the honesty of the government, clean it up."

Carol Benoit, Mountain View



"I am disappointed with what is happening between the U.S. and Iraq. They should start taking care of poverty at home, provide basic health insurance and do something about the homeless people."

Victoria Belak, North Park



"Do not fail but follow the goals that they have already set."

Chuck Ludeen, Mountain View



"Universal health care. End corruption. Stop playing partisan games. Represent the people and not the corporate world. They should remember to serve the poor. They should tax the rich more and more and more ..."

Terez Fitzpatrick, Mountain View



"I would like them to stop the funding for the war in Iraq immediately."

Patricia Bricker, Mountain View

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■ QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“I’ve been quite humbled all day to think about how great of an opportunity this is.”

— MARGARET ABE-KOGA,

ON BECOMING A NEW MOUNTAIN VIEW CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

■ POLICE LOG

ASSAULT

200 block Farley St., 1/4

AUTO BURGLARY

1000 block N. Whisman Rd., 1/3
400 block San Antonio Rd., 1/4
1200 block Charleston Rd., 1/5

BATTERY

Hotel Lodge, 1/3
400 block Fairheaven Ct., 1/3
2400 block Villa Nueva Way, 1/4
2000 block San Antonio Cl., 1/6
2600 block W. El Camino Real, 1/6

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

Wal-Mart, 1/7

DISTURBANCE

500 block Easy St., 1/3
500 block Walker Dr., 1/5

EMBEZZLEMENT

Pinnacle Systems, 1/4
400 block San Antonio Rd., 1/4

GRAND THEFT

Beverages and More, 1/3
2500 block Fairbrook Dr, 1/4
300 block Showers Dr., 1/4
300 block Villa St., 1/5
Wal-Mart, 1/6
W. El Camino Real, 1/6

IDENTITY THEFT

800 block Alice Ave., 1/3
Grant Cuesta Conv., 1/6

PETTY THEFT

700 block El Camino Real, 1/2
W. El Camino Real/Mariposa Ave., 1/3
300 block Showers Dr, 1/4
900 block Sierra Vista Ave, 1/4
100 block Dalma Dr, 1/4
900 block Dale Ave., 1/5

Costco, 1/5
24 Hour Fitness, 1/5
Caltrain Station, 1/5

Target, 1/5
Trader Joe’s, 1/6
Mervyns Dept. Store, 1/7
Sears Dept. Store, 1/7

STOLEN VEHICLE

600 block Independence Ave., 1/5
900 block Wright Ave., 1/5

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES/PERSON

1000 block N. Whisman Rd., 1/3
Sears Dept. Store, 1/4

VANDALISM

1100 block Bonita Ave., 1/2
200 block S. Rengstorff Ave., 1/2
1800 block Ednamary Way, 1/2
2000 block Marich Way, 1/2
900 block El Monte Ave., 1/3
1000 block W. El Camino Real, 1/3
500 block Walker Dr, 1/4
100 block Fairchild Dr., 1/5
900 block Sierra Vista Ave., 1/7

DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE

2100 block Reinert Rd., 1/3

■ CORRECTION

In the *Voice’s* 2007 edition of Neighborhoods, the local high school for the Cuesta Park neighborhood was misstated. It should be Mountain View High School.

Major Additions and Whole House Remodels

“The presentation was very professional. Lots of great information!”
-Workshop Attendee

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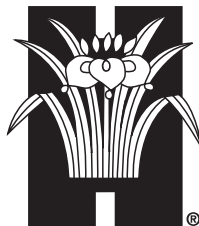
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Notes from a blue state

By Don Frances

JUST HOW STRONG is the Democratic Party in California? I hear a lot of talk about it every election cycle, and the conventional wisdom is that this is a solidly “blue” state — which means if you’re not a Dem, you’re mud.

This is the basis of criticism against party-switchers like Mike Kasperzak, who last year dumped the GOP because he didn’t like where his party was headed. Detractors say Kasperzak, who on Tuesday termed out as a city council member, only switched because he knows he’ll never obtain higher office as a Republican. How they claim to know that is beyond me.

Of course, being a Republican didn’t seem to hurt Arnold Schwarzenegger any, which proves either that movie stars are allowed to break all the rules, or that voters are actually more interested in the person than the party.

I tend to think both are true.

Anyway, all of us non-movie stars may as well join a party and get involved, etc., which is where Steve Chessin comes in. Chessin, a Mountain View resident, is an organizer for the state Democratic party, and he wrote in recently to invite local Dems to attend the upcoming “election meeting” this weekend, to help select delegates for the California Democratic Party’s state convention, to be held April 27-29 in San Diego. Here’s the low-

► See **EDITOR’S DESK**, page 14

Popular restaurant may leave town

OFFICES SLATED TO TAKE PLACE OF FIESTA DEL MAR ON SHORELINE IN A YEAR OR TWO

By Daniel DeBolt

On North Shoreline Boulevard, just south of the Cinema 16 movie theaters and the city’s busy industrial parks, is restaurant Fiesta Del Mar, which opened in 1991.

During a recent lunch hour, the parking lot is full and customers line up outside the door. On the wall are 200 different kinds of tequila, and on the menu is Mexican food of a variety hard to find anywhere else. The family-run restaurant is in full swing.

Voice readers have chosen Fiesta Del Mar as the best Mexican restaurant in the city for the last several years. But despite its success, the restaurant may only be around for another year or two, when a new owner plans to redevelop the site for office space.

Why one of the city’s most popular restaurants is being turned into office space, with so much already available in Mountain View, “certainly has been the question mark in our minds,” said co-owner Susie Garcia.

“We’ve sort of been on a roller coaster emotionally. We thought we were just going to rebuild, but business is business. The develop-



KARNA KURATA

Francisco Cervantes, right, takes Denise Pierre’s lunch order as Rajiv Bhagat looks on at Fiesta Del Mar restaurant in Mountain View.

ers aren’t bad guys. The site certainly needs [to be redeveloped],” she said.

Originally, the property owner planned to turn the site into a retail space with a Starbucks, a Panda Express and room for a new Fiesta Del Mar, Garcia said. An office building adjacent to the restaurant was to be razed to make way for the project. But suitable terms could not be reached, and the plan was scrapped due to lack of parking

and delivery truck access.

Julie Hawkins, associate planner, confirmed that two different plans have been submitted, one for retail and one completely for office, though no further details were immediately available.

Gilberto Figueroa, restaurant manager, said his family is already considering moving the restaurant to another location — possi-

► See **FIESTA**, page 12

Chance for a good profit at Evandale

EXPERTS SAY DEVELOPER COULD CLEAR \$14 MILLION IF ALL 144 CONDOS SELL QUICKLY

By Daniel DeBolt

Experts say converting a run-down 64-unit apartment complex to 144 condominium units is a huge undertaking — and potentially very profitable, grossing \$72 million if each unit sells for at least a half-million dollars, as expected.

The recently approved project at 291 Evandale Ave. off Whisman Boulevard would displace

250 mostly low-income tenants to make room for relatively pricy condos. According to one non-profit housing developer, it would be reasonable to expect the property owners to clear \$14 million if all the condos sold for at least \$500,000 each.

On the other hand, the same source, who asked not to be identified, told the *Voice* the project might never get off the ground if the cost of construction materials

continues to rise. In the year after Hurricane Katrina, construction material costs rose roughly 30 percent.

The Evandale project developer, Sal Teresi, could not be reached for comment, and architect Salvatore Caruso declined to comment for this story.

At a City Council hearing in December to re-zone the site,

► See **EVANDALE**, page 13

Foothill-De Anza students to pay less

STATE BILL LOWERS FEES AT COLLEGES ACROSS THE STATE

By Alexa Tondreau

Local students attending Foothill Community College will have a little more money in their pockets this year, as state legislation mandates a 23 percent decrease in community college fees starting Jan. 1.

In the Foothill-De Anza Community College District, units will now cost \$13, down from \$17. That means full-time students taking 12 units a quarter will see their fees drop from \$774 to \$630 annually. Fees include per-unit prices, enrollment and registration, parking and health services.

In the same legislation, signed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger this summer, \$680 million in state general funds was allocated for the community college system.

The previous year saw fees rise and enrollment drop at the state’s 109 community colleges. According to the state Department of Education, enrollment went from 1.16 million full-time students in the 2002-03 school year to 1.12 million in 2005-06.

Foothill and De Anza colleges are only two of three community colleges in the state that operate on the quarter system. Community colleges on the semester system will see a decrease from \$26 per unit to \$20.

The Community League of California, an advocacy group for the community college system, reported this week that the group has begun circulating a petition for a 2008 statewide ballot measure that would decrease the fees even more — from \$20 to \$15 for students on the semester system, and from \$13 to \$10 per unit for students on the quarter system. ■

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Open space district buys Stevens Canyon Ranch

Bay City News

A former fruit farm tucked into the hills below the Santa Cruz Mountains near Cupertino will continue as public open space, allowing new trails for hikers in the Saratoga Gap Open Space Preserve, the Menlo Park-based Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) has announced.

The 238-acre Stevens Canyon Ranch, purchased by POST from private owners in 2005 for \$6.6 million, was transferred to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District for the same amount on Dec. 29, according to POST.

"Stevens Canyon Ranch is a precious remnant of Silicon Valley's agricultural past," POST president Audrey Rust said. The transfer will allow the land to "remain open

and undeveloped" so that "future generations will be able to experience its rustic charms and exceptional natural beauty," Rust said.

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District General Manager Craig Britton added, "With its rich history, strategic location and diverse habitats, Stevens Canyon Ranch is a significant addition to the district's open space lands."

The ranch dates back to the 1880s, when an orchard, a vineyard and a small family winery were built there.

The property's apple and pear trees still bear fruit at harvest time, amidst terrain that includes redwood, oak and evergreen forest, grasslands, springs and creeks, and the wildlife they attract from nearby public lands, according to POST. ▣

Wine taken before its time

AUTHORITIES ESTIMATE VALUE OF ATHERTON HEIST AT MORE THAN A HALF-MILLION DOLLARS

Palo Alto Weekly

Atherton police are looking for 177 bottles of wine, valued at \$531,000, that were reported stolen from the basement of a home on Fair Oaks Lane in Atherton on Thursday, Jan. 4.

Each bottle has a street value of about \$3,000, according to Detective Kristin Nichols of the Atherton Police Department. The investigation into the half-million dollar heist is

"still in the beginning stages," she said.

Anyone who has an encounter with someone trying to sell or trade wine known to be of high value, even if it's for much lower than the expected price, should call Atherton police at (650) 688-6500, Nichols said.

Nichols said she did not know whether the wine was white or red, nor did she provide any details on how the wine might have been removed from the basement. ▣

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El Camino helps out county hospital

DEAL WILL HELP VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER SELL BONDS FOR QUAKE RETROFIT

By Alexa Tondreau

El Camino Hospital knows all too well the burden of financing state-mandated seismic upgrades, and in an act of solidarity this month the hospital joined with the county to help it obtain financing for its own massive upgrade of Valley Medical Center in San Jose.

In order to fund the \$1.2 billion required to make seismic upgrades at the center, the county has partnered with the hospital district in a Joint Powers Authority. The JPA entity will be able to issue bonds secured by a portion of tobacco settlement revenues to which the county is entitled.

El Camino Hospital District board members David Reeder and Mark O'Connor sit on the four-member JPA board, which is set to authorize sale of \$100 million in bonds this month.

"There's been good cooperation between the two. They've helped us in the past and we are returning the favor for them," said Ken Graham, CEO of El Camino Hos-

pital. Graham added that the hospital will not receive any financial incentive for the partnership.

The county approached the El Camino Hospital district to join them as a "neighboring governmental entity with a common mission of providing health care services to residents of the county," a report submitted to the district said. The JPA will be "a separate legal entity from the county and the district," the report said, thereby limiting any risks to the district.

John Guthrie, director of the county's finance agency, said that if Valley Medical Center was not able to proceed with upgrades, it could cause negative consequences for El Camino Hospital and other health care facilities in the area.

The county hospital would have to close 272 beds if upgrades aren't made, Guthrie said, reducing its capacity by nearly 50 percent and forcing the hospital to turn away 10,500 inpatients each year.

"That would impact all the hospitals in the county because there would be a displacement of patients to other hospitals.

Health is a regional issue, if you look at it from that standpoint," Guthrie said.

Costs for state-mandated seismic upgrades have rocked the health care community in California, and have sent hospitals scrambling for additional funds.

"The numbers are so huge," Graham said. "It's really a challenge. It's going to be a major expense for everybody." Although construction of El Camino's new facility on Grant Road is under way, Graham said "it's been quite a journey" for the hospital to secure the financing over the past few years.

Guthrie called the \$1.2 billion required to upgrade the Valley Medical Center "an incredible number." He said the figure was based in part on El Camino's experience with financing upgrades, in which actual costs were nearly 50 percent more than original estimates.

The district and the county have a history of assisting each other with hospital debt financing, dating back to 1979 with the formation of a different JPA between the district and hospital. ▀

UNION

► Continued from page 1

doesn't take effect until July 2007, will cost the city \$4.2 million over 20 years, but officials said \$1.4 million of that will come from a city pension reserve. Employees will also pay a chunk of the pension increase. By 2009, employees will have contributed \$819,000, while the city contributes only \$280,000 in the same time frame.

Council member Greg Perry voted against the contract in the last council meeting of his term, saying he could not support "a \$4.2 million gift" — in the form of pension benefits and cost-of-living adjustments — "to our most senior employees."

This "gift" is paid for by cutting benefits to new employees, Perry said, adding that "I do see the loss as permanent."

One health plan will be offered to new employees, which will cover 85 percent of the cost of any HMO plan during retirement. The city currently pays 100 percent of an HMO plan for SEIU members. It's been the policy that employees must retire with the city to receive the benefits.

In a staff report, Kathy Ferrar, employee services director, defended the cuts to retiree's health.

"In management's view, it would be irresponsible to continue to promise a benefit that,

in our judgment, is not sustainable," Ferrar wrote. "The major concern with the retiree's health insurance program is the uncontrolled growth in the cost of health insurance combined with a growing number of retirees."

The new SEIU plan will contribute \$3.3 million to the city's \$18.8 million unfunded liability for retiree's health care. A 2004 actuarial report estimated the city's unfunded liability to be \$43.8 million, but the city has put away money since then to bring it down to \$18.8 million.

Council member Mike Kasperzak, also in his last meeting, called the changes to retiree health coverage "cutting edge." According to city management officials, it has been a priority to deal with the unfunded liability problem for retiree's health care. Kasperzak, active in the National League of Cities, said most cities have just begun to look into the problem because of new federal accounting requirements.

Pensions, pensions, pensions ...

Perry said there will be a large number of people retiring — now that there is a large pension available to senior employees — who will not have to pay for it the way new employees will. City managers say the big increase is necessary to remain competitive with other cities.

Like the Eagles, SEIU members

will receive an increase in their pensions from 2 percent to 2.7 percent at age 55. The benefit allows employees with 30 years of service, for example, to receive 2.7 percent of their highest salary annually during retirement for each year worked, or 81 percent. By contrast, a 2 percent pension benefit would be worth 60 percent after 30 years.

Employees currently pay 7 percent of their salary toward their pension, but will start paying 10 percent this summer and 11.25 percent the year after.

Both the Eagles and SEIU pension agreements are contingent upon getting about 30 non-sworn Police Officer's Association members to agree to a similar pension plan this spring. Having to negotiate a similar pension plan with three unions can make things challenging, Ferrar said, but a common agreement is required by CalPERS.

Other details of the plan include capping the cost of the city's most expensive health plan at \$1,497 a month, the creation of a voluntary, tax-sheltered retirement health saving account and a cost-of-living salary increase of 3.5 percent for the first two years and 3.2 percent for the last year of the contract.

The contract would take effect retroactively to July 2006, and expires in June 2009. ▀

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

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AMAZING RACE

► Continued from page 1

a game or a task that ended with a clue directing the participants onward to the next event.

The stop at CSMA brought families to the donor courtyard, where individual tiles bear donors' names. Through a series of clues, the families had to piece together different names to create a grid that would lead them to their next destination.

Craig Sherod, a Bubb father, went along for the ride and took photos of the event, and recalled the fun of watching several generations compete together.

"There were grandpas and grandmas involved," he said. "It was really fun to see these whole extended families running around, trying to solve these problems."

At Shoreline, an obstacle course had children leading their blindfolded parents around various objects in a maze. And at the downtown farmer's market, families had to ask random people planted in the crowd the phrase, "Are you my honey?" in order to locate the person holding a honey stick that contained an important clue.

The event lasted all day and included the participation of a committee of friends and family to help man the various

obstacles. A barbeque in the evening celebrated the event, which raised several thousand dollars for Bubb. The three winning families received prizes, which included an iPod and printers.

The popularity of the event secures its spot in next year's auction, where surely the bidding will be fierce. But McDonald, who helped organize the race, said she probably won't be an organizer again next year.

"I really want to be in it next year. So I think it's time for my family to pass the torch. It's just so much fun." ■

E-mail Alexa Tondreau at atondreau@mv-voice.com

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PLANS DEVELOPED FOR MONTESSORI SCHOOL IN MOUNTAIN VIEW

Mountain View's Development Review Committee met last Friday to discuss an informal proposal to put a Montessori preschool at Boranda Avenue, between El Camino Real and Hans Avenue.

The preschool is slated to house 48 children in a 2,600-square-foot building with adjacent parking and playground facilities.

The project is located in a residential zoning district, and the school would need to apply for a special permit there, said Peter Gilli of the review committee.

A residence currently stands in the spot and would need to be demolished.

Should school officials apply

EDUCATION BRIEFS

for the permit, the plan will go to a public hearing before the development review committee, and neighbors in the surrounding blocks will be notified, Gilli said. The project will not have to go before the Mountain View City Council.

The Montessori approach to education was developed by Dr. Maria Montessori in the early 1900s as a way to focus on the needs and talents of an individual child, instead of the needs of a class. Preschool-aged children receive training in "practical life" skills, such as domestic skills, manners and hand-eye coordination.

GIRLS MIDDLE SCHOOL PLANS BUSY JANUARY

The Girls Middle School has

scheduled a busy January, beginning with its open house last week and continuing on with a fundraiser near the end of the month.

The School's Annual Scholarship Fundraising Breakfast is on Jan. 25 between 7:45 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. Then on Jan. 28, the GMS Annual Entrepreneurial Night will take place at Google from 3 to 9 p.m.

For more details regarding these events, contact Cheryl Hogan at (650) 968-8338. The Girls Middle School is located at 180 N. Rengstorff Ave. and additional information about GMS is available at www.girlsms.org.

GMS is an independent day school for girls, and offers courses in math and science, engineering, and humanities.

— Zunaira Durrani

DONALD MIDDLETON



Donald George Pierre Middleton, resident of Mountain View and former longtime resident of Palo Alto died January 3, 2007 after a brief illness.

A loving father and friend, Donald is survived by three children (Andrew, Christopher and Claire), two daughter-in-laws (Manaun and Antea) and four grandsons (Brian, Josh, Ford and West). Born in Antwerp, Belgium in 1922, Donald vacationed on the French and Italian coasts during his youth. He later studied at Dover College in England and at the age of 17 signed-up as a paratrooper in the English special forces during WWII. A broken ankle in training saved his life as his entire unit of 39 was killed on arrival in France when they floated in their parachutes to the ground. He served in North Africa, Italy and present day Croatia ending his service in 1946 as a Captain in charge of port security in Trieste.

After the war, he emigrated to Canada where he worked for the Hudson Bay Company grading mink pelts. Much later, in Montreal, he met his future wife Terry, mar-

ried and started a family. After many wonderfully snowy winters and humid summers, he and the family emigrated to the USA in 1966. In San Francisco his work as Vice President for Chatham Created Gems took him from New York to Amsterdam and Hong Kong in search of stone cutters and gemstone distributors.

Upon his retirement in 1987, he used his linguistic skills (he spoke five languages) to teach students at the Berlitz School of Languages in Palo Alto. While at Berlitz, he loved to throw parties (one could always find Russians, Ethiopians, Vietnamese, French, Germans and on occasion, Americans!), entertain his students and friends. Throughout his life he also enjoyed playing tennis and golf, traveling, reading, and collecting unique masks from around the world. He will be missed by family and friends worldwide.

A party to celebrate Donald's life will be held at his home on January 20th at 1:00pm; please call (510) 608-4711 for details.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Donald's name to "The First Tee" of San Jose, 55 Almaden Blvd., Suite 210 San Jose, CA 95113. www.thefirstteesanjose.org

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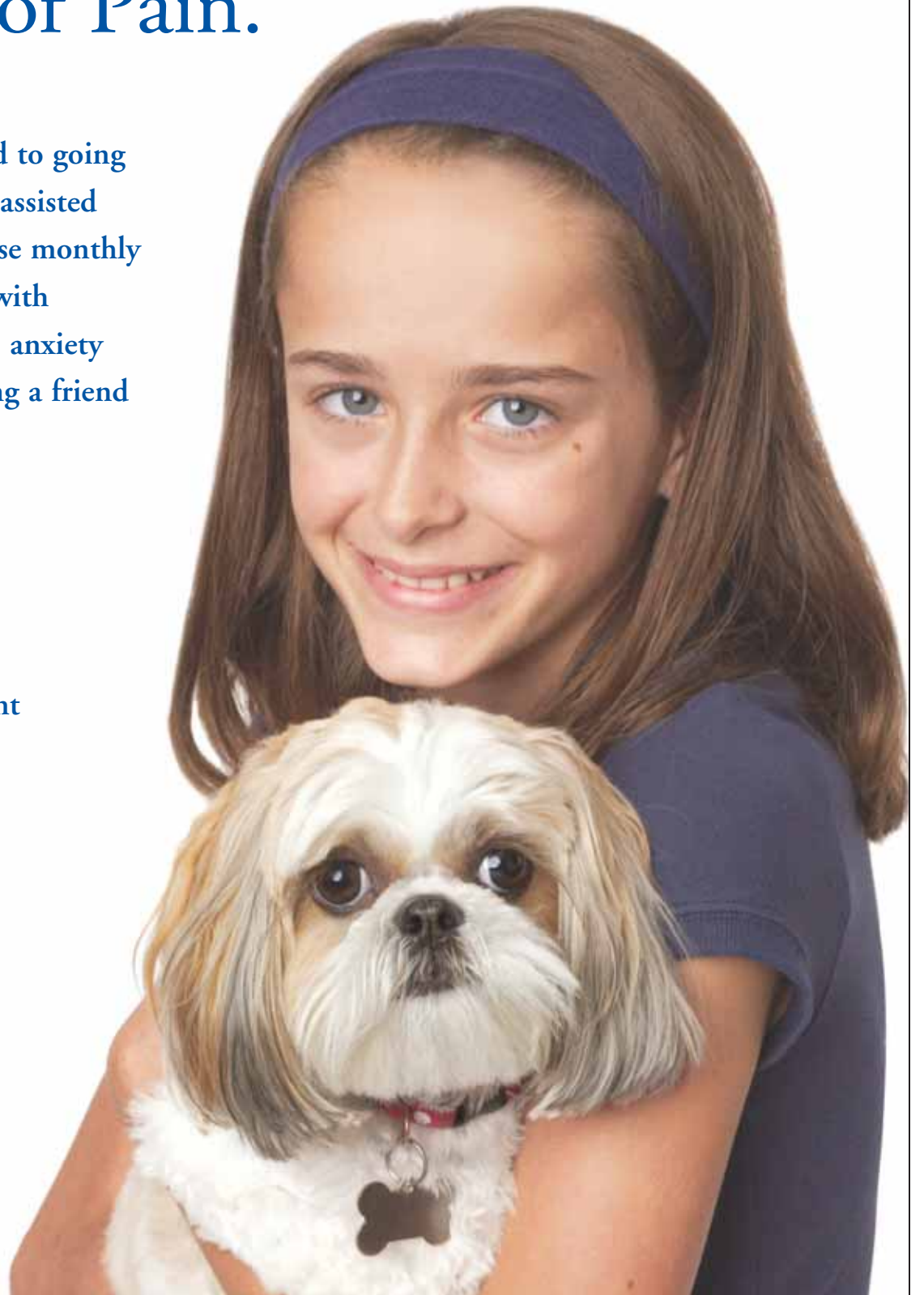


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■ OBITUARIES

RAYMOND P. MEYER SR.

Raymond P. Meyer Sr., founder of Meyer Appliance in downtown Mountain View, passed away on Christmas Day surrounded by his family and friends. He was 90 years old.

Born June 2, 1916 in Illinois, Raymond was the eighth child of Joseph and Josephine Meyer. The family moved to Hollister in 1920.

Meyer and his wife Dorothy owned and operated Meyer Appliance — originally called Meyer Electric Company — from 1946 until they quasi-retired in 1976, passing the company on to their children. Besides a showroom on Castro Street, the company has another location in San Jose.

Meyer loved the outdoors, and he and his wife motor homed regularly. They were also avid golfers, and Raymond was a Sunnyvale Golf Club member for many years and was also a Mountain View Lyon's Club member.

He is survived by his four children and their spouses, Raymond and Theresa Meyer, Joan Meyer, Nancy Thomas, Richard and Chris Meyer, Marilyn Meyer and Sam Bruno; his 17 grandchildren; and his 14 great grandchildren. His is also survived by his sister,

Sophie Laveroni, and his sister-in-law Val Dewers. He was predeceased by his wife Dorothy and his six brothers and one sister.

A memorial service was held Jan. 3 at Spanglers Mortuary. Donations in lieu of flowers may be made to Pathways Home Health Hospice or the American Cancer Society.

MARGERY MADELINE NEWMAN

Margery Madeline Newman, a Mountain View resident, volunteer and Braille transcriber, passed away on Dec. 26. She was 83.

Born Margery Roach on April 17, 1923 in Benkelman, Neb., Newman was raised in her hometown but moved to California after high school, where she met and married William J. Newman in 1945. She later moved with her husband to Amarillo, Texas, and bore three children before settling down in Cupertino in 1957. After her children started school, she managed a medical office for than 15 years.

Newman received numerous awards for her extensive volunteer service with the American Legion Auxiliary, Los Altos Unit 558. For

many years, she also served as a monthly volunteer at Agnew State Hospital. She was an active member of several local churches.

Following the death of her oldest daughter Janet in 1976 from multiple sclerosis, Margery learned how to transcribe books into Braille for blind and sight-impaired individuals. She was certified by the Library of Congress as a Braille transcriber in 1980, and volunteered for the Santa Clara Center for the Blind Braille Transcription Project.

Newman had recently laid to rest her husband of 61 years, William J. Newman. She is survived by her son, Kenneth W. Newman and his wife; daughter Katherine G. Kinnamon and her husband; two granddaughters; a brother and sister-in-law; and many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Jan. 11 at Spangler Mortuary, 399 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in her name to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Santa Clara County Chapter, 2589 Scott Blvd., Santa Clara, 95050.

GLENN 'HANK' EASTWOOD WILSON

Glenn "Hank" Eastwood

Wilson, a celebrated Mountain View native and business leader, passed away peacefully at his Los Altos home on Dec. 22 after a battle with cancer. He was 77.

Born here in 1929, Wilson graduated from high school a star basketball player known for scoring 42 points in a single game and holding a state scoring record for 15 years. He later graduated from San Jose State and joined the family business, Valley Electric Company, eventually succeeding his father as president of the company. Under Wilson's guidance, the company became one of the largest electrical construction firms in the Bay Area.

Wilson served in many groups, including as president of the Mountain View Chamber of Commerce and in the Rotary Club and the Elks Lodge. He was also a member of the California Air National Guard. He pursued sports all his life, including tennis, water skiing and snow skiing.

He was preceded in death by his parents Mary and Glenn Wilson, his brother William and his first wife Ina Wilson. He is survived by his wife Connie Mariottini; his sister Marilyn Britton; his sister Darley Jeppson, Deborah and Kelly Wilson; and many nieces, nephews and grandchildren.

IRENE B. MILLS

Irene B. Mills, a resident of Mountain View for 45 years, passed away peacefully in Mountain View on Dec. 8. She was 91.

Mills lived here with her husband, Irving John Mills, with whom she was married for 56 years. She was a native of Fall River, Mass.

She is preceded in death by her son Peter Mills. A memorial Mass was held Dec. 20 at the Chapel of St. Simon's Catholic Church in Los Altos. Arrangements were provided by the Cusimano Family Colonial Mortuary in Mountain View.

ANN WILSON

Ann Wilson, a Mountain View resident and native of England, passed away peacefully at home with her family and friends by her side. She was 44.

Wilson was born June 19, 1963 in England. She was educated in her home country, where she also practiced as an optometrist. She is survived by her parents Keith and Nanette Harvey, brother Neil Harvey, sister Kay Hartnoll, husband Jon, and beloved children Joseph and Heather.

Her funeral service was held on Jan. 4 at Menlo Park Presbyterian Church.

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COUNCIL

► Continued from page 1

said to a laughing crowd.

It was then Kasperzak's turn. He joked that he was waiting for Mayor Galiotto to put out his torch and tell him "the tribe has spoken."

He thanked all the people who he said are helping with his transition to "something else," which could be a term in the state Assembly if he is elected this fall.

"You can never please all of the people all of the time," but hopefully you can please a majority, he said. "That's just the nature of decision-making."

Galiotto then took over the ceremony.

"At this point, gentlemen, I'm going to have to ask you to leave," Galiotto said as everyone laughed.

Kasperzak and Perry walked off the council dais and three new faces took the empty seats. Abe-Koga was the first to speak.

"I've been quite humbled all day to think about how great of an opportunity this is," she said. "I'm proud to make a little bit of history in being the first Asian-American woman on the council."

Bryant said she had come a long way since she first arrived in California with only a suitcase and a few hundred dollars. She thanked her family and her husband for being her campaign manager, and encouraged citi-

zens to seek her out for help on issues before there is a "crisis."

"This has been the cleanest and best election in years," Siegel said. The experience was so important to him that before it was over, he said, he realized "I was already a winner."

He talked about prioritizing open space and athletic fields, economic development, a history museum and a nature center at Shoreline Park.

Once the new council members were seated, it was time to select a new mayor and vice mayor.

"I'm trying to hold this off as long as possible," Galiotto said to more laughs.

Bryant made the motion: "It gives me a lot of pleasure to nominate council member Laura Macias," she said, and her motion was supported unanimously. Later, another unanimous vote put council member Tom Means in the vice mayor's seat.

Macias, the second Mexican-American woman to be mayor of Mountain View, said this city "is truly my home" and an "amazing place."

She talked briefly about revising the city's General Plan, and then quoted American revolutionary Thomas Paine.

"We have it in our power to begin the world again," she said. ▀

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

COMMUNITY BRIEF

CHC HELPS SENIOR REPLACE BROKEN HEATER

Community Helping Community, the volunteer group created by newly elected Council member Jac Siegel, is raising money to help a senior on a fixed income replace her heater. She lives in a mobile home park and the heater cannot be repaired due to its age.

CHC has partnered with the Mountain View Professional

Firefighter's Association to raise \$1,400 for a new heater. Several local organizations will provide a few hundred dollars each, Siegel said, but CHC is hoping to raise the rest from individual donations of \$5 to \$10.

Checks, payable to MVPFA Fund with the notation "create a smile," can be sent to Jac Siegel at 167 Sleeper Ave., Mountain View, 94040.

— Daniel DeBolt

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KARNA KURATA

Another busy day at Fiesta Del Mar restaurant on Shoreline Boulevard.

FIESTA

► Continued from page 5

bly to Sunnyvale, where they have been welcomed by the economic development department, Garcia said. The family already runs another version of the restaurant in downtown Mountain View — Fiesta Del Mar Too on Villa Street just east of Castro Street.

But Garcia said she would like to remain in Mountain View if possible, because that's where the restaurant got its start and where its loyal customer base is. Ideally, she said, it would be relocated

north of Highway 101, a little bit closer to the theater complex and companies such as Google, whose employees frequent the restaurant at lunch time.

The *Voice* received e-mails from many customers saddened by the possibility of losing the restaurant, including one from Belgium and another from Benicia.

"The service and food quality is unparalleled at any other Mountain View establishment in this price range," wrote local resident Valerie Ann Bubb in an e-mail. I just don't see how the smaller Fiesta downtown could attract the same people here.

The Shoreline location is just so convenient for people coming from all over the Bay Area — I even saw [former 49ers quarterback] Steve Young dine there once. I'd hate to see this replaced with another Chipotle and Starbucks complex."

In other e-mails, sad customers talked about the restaurant's ambiance, the family-style service, the quality of the food and traveling from afar to enjoy it.

"I have never had a better Mexican meal, anywhere," wrote Amy Hastings, a resident of Dublin, Calif.

"I quickly became hooked on the mole poblano burrito and now can't go long without my 'mole fix,' wrote Melissa Scheel.

"I am due to be visiting the Bay Area in February, and if FDM is gone then I shall be both peeved and disappointed," wrote U.K. resident Alec Muffet.

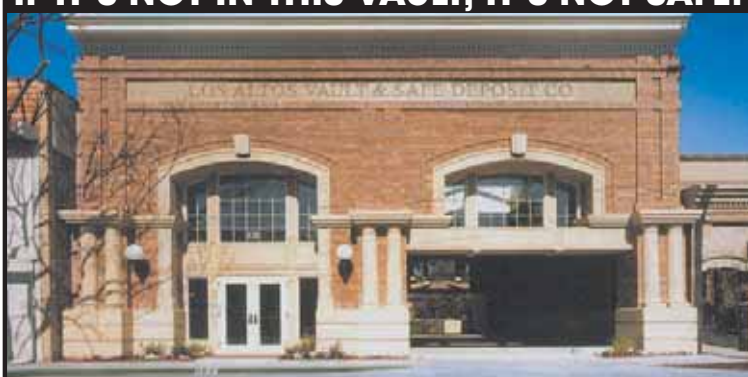
Scott Morrison works in Menlo Park, lives in Castro Valley and finds the location near Highway 101 ideal for meeting friends. "I can't tell you how many birthdays have been celebrated there along with our Christmas get-togethers," Morrison wrote in an e-mail.

Another customer, Freedom Moore, said he frequently asks the restaurant staff, "Where will we eat when you close?"

"They always respond, 'At Fiesta Del Mar,'" Moore said. "I believe this to mean that they will find a new home for our friends and family."


The chosen developer for 1005 N. Shoreline Boulevard is Haury Properties, a large San Jose firm with several retail and office developments planned for Mountain View. The firm was not available by press time. ▣

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EVANDALE

► Continued from page 5

Caruso said the project's 1,100-square-foot units are expected to sell between \$500,000 and \$600,000, but that a final price has yet to be determined.

It is estimated that the total cost of all expenses in the project, including construction and in-lieu fees — paid to the city in return for not including below-market-rate units in the project — will be no more than \$400,000 a unit. Part of that is the estimated cost of the land for the complex, which is \$75,000 per unit, or \$10.8 million.

But in the risky development business, profits are hard to estimate, said Mark Hirth, project manager for Toll Brothers, the developer working on Mountain View's massive Mayfield Mall project at Central Expressway and San Antonio Road.

"If a developer works real hard he will make money when times are good," Hirth said. "He might lose money when times are bad, though that's not always the case."

He added that the condo market is noticeably slower today than previously.

"I wouldn't describe it as hot. Everything has cooled down quite a bit over the last couple of years," he said. The market has its ups and downs, he said, and "every down cycle has developers losing money" because they "guessed wrong."

Hirth said that besides eventual profit, developers must consider a project's "rate of return," or how fast units will sell. In a "fast market" developers will not need as high of a profit margin, while in a slow market — which may be on the horizon — a developer will seek a higher profit.

According to the anonymous-Voice source, most developers shoot for a 15 to 20 percent profit. The \$14 million for Evandale equals a 20 percent profit if the units are sold for \$500,000.

The estimates on construction and land costs are based on trends

in the condo market. The source also noted the slowing condo market.

"The market is very weak," the source said. "The first thing that drops is condos. It would be interesting to see if they will actually be able to go forward. The cost of construction is going up dramatically because of world competition for materials."

Mayor Nick Galiotto has noted that the project is the largest example of low-income tenants being displaced in recent memory. In December, the council decided to look into using some of the \$2.16 million in BMR housing fees generated by the project to help pay to relocate tenants in the existing 64-unit SummerHill complex. Developer Teresi is offering a \$500 relocation allowance to tenants, along with free last month's rent, full deposit refund, subscription to a rental guide and bilingual advice on renting. Current rents there are in the \$900- to \$1,200-a-month range for two- and three-bedroom apartments.

Advocates of affordable housing say they would like to see the developer provide a better tenant-relocation package than is currently being offered. They also say using city BMR housing dollars for relocation is giving the developer a "free ride."

"Such a profit margin suggests that the developer could easily afford reasonable relocation expenses to displaced residents," said Roy Hayter, an affordable-housing advocate based in Mountain View. "If council were to require this appropriate and logical approach, they would give a clear demonstration of sympathy for the low-income residents of Evandale, while not giving a subsidy to this and potentially to other similar conversions of apartments into condos."

High density zoning for the project has been approved by council members, but another public hearing will be held this year, during which a more precise plan will come before the council. ▣

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EDITOR'S DESK

► Continued from page 5

down, per Mr. Chessin:
“The meeting for Democrats who live in the 22nd Assembly District, represented by Sally Lieber, will take place Sunday, January 14th, in the Mountain View City Hall Council Chambers, 500 Castro Street in downtown Mountain View. Registration begins at 2 p.m. and closes at 3 p.m., when the meeting itself will begin. Participants will be asked to pay a \$5 registration fee, but may request a waiver if this constitutes an economic hardship. The meeting is open to the public, although only Democrats registered in time for the November election may vote.”

Chessin went on to explain what will happen at this meeting:

“The Assembly District Election Meetings will elect 12 people (six women and six men) to be members of the Democratic State Central Committee. These 12 people will represent their Assembly District for both the 2007 and 2008 State Conventions. As well, they will elect one person to represent the AD on the State Party's Executive Board.”

People often talk about “democracy in action,” and mean all kinds of things, but this is the real deal. Even Republicans (regardless of your level of disgruntlement) ought to go. Maybe Kasperzak — who is planning a run for Lieber's Assembly seat — will be there, and if so you can try and lure him back.

NEVER MIND DONKEYS, let's talk ponies. I mean the Los Altos-Mountain View PONY Baseball League, which begins tryouts this Saturday.

“The purpose of tryouts is to evaluate players' skills to ensure they are placed in the appropriate division as well as to form balanced teams,” wrote Rich Siegel, who is responsible for league promotions.

The league has different divisions based on age, and Mustang (ages 9-10) tryouts begin this Saturday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Oak Field. Then on Sunday the Pony (ages 13-14) tryouts are 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Rosita Field. And Bronco (ages 11-12) tryouts are next Saturday, Jan. 20, 9 a.m. to noon at Oak Field. Visit www.lamvpb.org to reserve a tryout time slot. ■

Don Frances can be reached at dfrances@mv-voice.com.

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A fiery opener

MOUNTAIN VIEW'S HOOPSTER GIRLS DON'T LET INEXPERIENCE STOP THEM, COME OUT STRONG AGAINST WILDCATS

By Greg Hancock

The Mountain View girls basketball team entered the 2006-07 season with something to prove. A number of starters were lost to graduation last year, and high expectations left along with them — until now, that is.

Coming off an impressive 12-2 preseason record, the Spartans hoped to bring their momentum right into last Wednesday's De Anza League opener against the Los Gatos Wildcats. And after fighting off a sluggish start and a pesky Los Gatos team, they did just that, cruising to a 66-54 win on their home court.

"Everyone expects us to be the worst in the league because we lost all of our seniors and we have injuries now," said Aly Greenberg, who led a well-

balanced Spartans offensive attack with a game-high 20 points. "It's really tough, but also inspiring that a team of mostly juniors can come together like this."

Angelica Williams also had a huge night Jan. 3, with 14 points and 11 rebounds. Natalie Warmbrodt chipped in with 12 points, while point guard Laura Bringham, the team's lone healthy senior, kept the team on course with 5 points and 7 assists.

Despite its strong preseason record, Mountain View appeared at first to be a bit slow out of the gates. After earning a three-point first-quarter lead, the Spartans were given a taste of their own medicine when the Wildcats outscored them 17-12 in the second quarter to take a 26-25 halftime lead.

As Mountain View came



Mountain View forward Laura Bringham, left, looks for a teammate to pass to around Los Gatos center Jaimee Erickson during the girls varsity basketball game in Mountain View last Wednesday, Jan. 3. Mountain View won the game 66-54.

VERONICA WEBER

out of the locker room for the second half, it became quickly apparent that the team was getting its confidence back. The Spartans proceeded to outscore the Wildcats 41-28 in the final

two quarters.

"We have a desire to win, so knowing that we were losing got us mad," says Greenberg. "We tried extra hard."

The pattern of Greenberg's

play matched that of the team: Of her 20 points, 14 were in the second half.

"In the second half, I got into a zone," she said. "I was getting good shots and really focusing."

Los Gatos' ability to get to the free throw line was a key to its early success. The Wildcats hit on 11 of 12 free throws in the first half. Los Gatos, however, only hit on 4 of 12 foul shots in the second half. Mountain View, meanwhile, shot 8 of 18 free throws for the game.

The Wildcats were led by Jenna Anderson's 19 points and 9 rebounds. Chelsea Ryan added 16 points, while Madeline Rose contributed 12 points and 5 rebounds.

With a heaping dose of confidence and a will to prove something to all the pessimists out there, this Spartans team may turn out to be something special.

"We've been playing together since we were freshmen," says Greenberg. "So we work well as a team. All of the girls on this team have a deep desire to prove everybody wrong." ▀



WORKING IT OUT:

During halftime at Monday's game against Gunn High School, Zack Campbell, forward for the Mountain View High School boys varsity soccer team, reflects on the first half of the game.

"We need to put it away every chance we get," he said. "Right now we're not capitalizing. We need to capitalize in the second half."

The Spartans did capitalize in the second half, beating the Titans 2-0.

KARNA KURATA

Viewpoint

- EDITORIAL
- YOUR LETTERS
- GUEST OPINIONS

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■ EDITORIAL
THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

There goes the neighborhood

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN NEW DEVELOPMENTS CROWD OUT POPULAR BUSINESSES?

The Fiesta Del Mar restaurant has been a fixture on Shoreline Boulevard for 15 years, building a successful clientele made up of high-tech workers from Google and many other customers from office buildings in the neighborhood — not to mention locals and a few die-hards from all corners of the globe.

But making a go of things in one of the toughest markets in Mountain View may not be enough to save Fiesta Del Mar from eventually being forced from its location. The restaurant's landlord has decided to build new office buildings on the site, rather than make space for the Mexican eatery.

In itself, such a move is hardly noteworthy. In a vibrant and growing community like Mountain View, with more than its share of ethnic restaurants, the loss of Fiesta Del Mar, which has a sister restaurant downtown, is merely a footnote in the local economy. And no one is stopping the restaurant owners from building or leasing space in a nearby location.

But while we sympathize and understand that this development is not cataclysmic in the market for Mexican food (especially in a town where there are so many choices in that

category), it does rip into the fabric of the city when such a popular institution is knocked out by a sterile office building.

The more we as a city allow popular, locally owned retail businesses to be forced out by things like office buildings or huge chain stores, the sooner Mountain View will begin to look like Anywhere USA.

This is not to say that owners should not be allowed to improve their properties by redeveloping them. But it is up to the City Council, the Planning Commission and city staff to do everything possible to foster successful, locally owned businesses and keep them around.

Everyone has their reasons for living in Mountain View, and we would bet that for many, the rich mixture of small, local businesses and a good selection of chain stores and restaurants — such as Costco, REI, In-N-Out Burger and Cost Plus — is what makes them happy. Let's hope we can hang onto the little guys before we wake up one day and realize that we've become a community of nothing but mega-stores and strip malls, with no connection to our neighborhoods.

■ GUEST OPINION

Right to be heard is not the right to control

ZONING AT SATAKE NURSERY SITE IS IN LINE WITH THE NEIGHBORHOOD

By *Steven Haley*

The Dec. 22 guest opinion by Bill Krepick, "Local government gone wrong," relating to the proposed development of the Satake Nursery site, asserts that the City Council is arrogant and disrespectful of citizen input and that it disregards neighborhood preservation concerns. These assertions are not accurate; and the implications of these comments are inappropriate and regrettable.

In Mountain View, most property development proposals involve a three-pronged approach to the approval process. Input from the surrounding neighborhood is an important part of the process. However, the opportunity for community input should not be confused with the right to control the development. Nor does the right to be heard include the right to dictate the vote of the council members.

The property owner and developer also are entitled to be heard; after all, it is their property and their investment that is involved.

Similarly, the city itself has a voice in such proposals. As Mayor Nick Galiotto pointed out

in his letter last week ("Council has community's best interests at heart"), the council does attempt to balance the views of local residents with the broader community interest when voting on a housing development proposal.

The Satake proposal involves an infill housing project by SummerHill Homes, affecting the neighborhood surrounding Marilyn Drive. The initial SummerHill plan called for a through street in the new neighborhood. Prior to submitting its proposal to the city Planning Department, SummerHill conducted meetings with the neighborhood community.

The goal of the local community has been to preserve the nature of the existing neighborhood as much as possible. Our efforts in this regard have been highly successful.

First and foremost was the concession by SummerHill Homes and by the city planning staff to not build a through street in the new neighborhood. Second, the proposed dual cul-de-sac design benefits our neighborhood preservation concerns by distributing the increased traffic burden from the development equitably

throughout the neighborhood.

Third, the bike and pedestrian easement between the two cul-de-sacs will benefit the entire Mountain View community. Finally, SummerHill's commitment to work with the bordering neighbors to attempt to line up the rear yard property lines as much as possible is a positive comment on their promise to continue to work with the neighbors in addressing this concern.

The one residual issue has been that of the number of homes in the proposed development. The SummerHill proposal provides for 30 homes, based on an R1 zoning designation. Some neighbors preferred 26 homes, based on an R1-7 zoning designation.

At hearings before the Environmental Planning Commission and the City Council, neighbors spoke both in favor of and against the 30-home proposal. Both the planning commission and the council approved the R1 zoning designation, which would result in 30 homes.

The neighbors in favor of the R1-7 zoning designation have been unable to adequately explain how the presence of four additional

homes would negatively impact neighborhood preservation. In fact, the city's staff report notes that, if the R1-7 zoning designation were adopted, the average lot size in the development would be 8,000 square feet. This would result in placing new houses of up to 3,300 square feet in the middle of existing neighborhoods which consist of housing with an average size of 2,000 square feet. Such new housing would be completely out of character with the "look and feel" of the existing neighborhood, and would be inconsistent with the goal of neighborhood preservation.

In connection with this proposal, our neighborhood has been provided ample opportunity to provide comment on the proposed development. We have been successful in obtaining several significant accommodations for our neighborhood preservation concerns from both the developer and from the city. Our experience illustrates that our local government (staff, planning commission and council) in fact does consider and respond to the concerns of its residents.

Steven Haley lives on Marilyn Drive.

■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

■ MOVIE TIMES

■ BEST BETS FOR ENTERTAINMENT

■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

El Paso Café is never passé

REINS OF EL CAMINO ESTABLISHMENT CHANGE HANDS AFTER 25 YEARS

By Sheila Himmel

I'd driven by El Paso Café for 25 years and never stopped. Its presence on El Camino Real is so slight, by the time you realize it may be a restaurant and not just a bar, El Paso might as well be in Redwood City. To get back there you'd have to make two U-turns on El Camino, a royal pain.

But when a restaurant stays in business this long, it's doing something right. Seven months

ago, Ricardo Beas bought the place from the original owners, and kept the warm hospitality. Now it's either Ricardo's El Camino Real or El Paso Café, depending on which side of the laminated menu you're studying. A few items are gone, but basically it's the same menu of burritos, burgers, chicken and fajitas as ever.

However, fans will notice two revolutionary changes in the rules of El Paso. Previously it was cash-only; Beas takes credit cards. And, while chips always have been free, salsa was not. Now customers will be given a

► See **EL PASO CAFÉ**, page 18



VERONICA WEBER

El Paso Café owner Ricardo Beas, who bought the place seven months ago, holds up the Mountain View restaurant's signature dish, the super burrito.



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EL PASO CAFÉ

► Continued from page 17

complimentary dish of green (tomatillo) salsa.

Neighbors filter in, and Beas greets them. "Adios, thank you!" he says to everyone.

El Paso seats a total of 59 people in two dining rooms and on the back patio. It feels even cozier with all the Tex-Mex doodads, Indian paintings and horseshoes. Under a set of mighty longhorns is a neon sign with the word "Food," and under that, the deck of menus. Go get one, order at the bar, and sit down.

Each of the three TV sets is likely to be tuned to sports, but without sound, thank you very much. Sangria and margaritas are on offer, but my advice is to have a beer. Dos Equis, Sierra Nevada, Spaaten, Anchor Steam and Bud are on tap.

■ DINING NOTES

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They aren't the area's best bur-

ritos. The meats lack personality. But they run large and various.

The regular burrito (\$5.95) satisfies a teenage boy, but the super-size hangs off the plate and has the sour cream, guacamole and cheese on top instead of inside. Also, it is broiled so the cheese melts. Mini Super (\$5.75) is a smaller version, as the name implies. The mojado (\$6.95) is doused in rancho sauce. In the vegetarian burrito (\$5.25), rice takes the place of meat.

It isn't an all-meat menu, but close. Vegetarians who aren't watching their dairy fats will enjoy the quesadilla (\$5.95), a crisply browned flour tortilla oozing Jack cheese, sharpened with a bit of cheddar and green chilies. Dip in guacamole and sour cream. The rancho salad (\$6.95) offers fresh greens, tomatoes and avocado with grilled bell peppers and onions, topped with ranch dressing and cheese. Other options are cheese enchiladas and chiles rellenos.

The best dish we tried, huevos rancheros (\$8.25), is built on a foundation: corn tortilla, mashed pinto beans, another corn tortilla. Atop the second tortilla are two fluffy fried eggs and salsa fresca. Have your hue-

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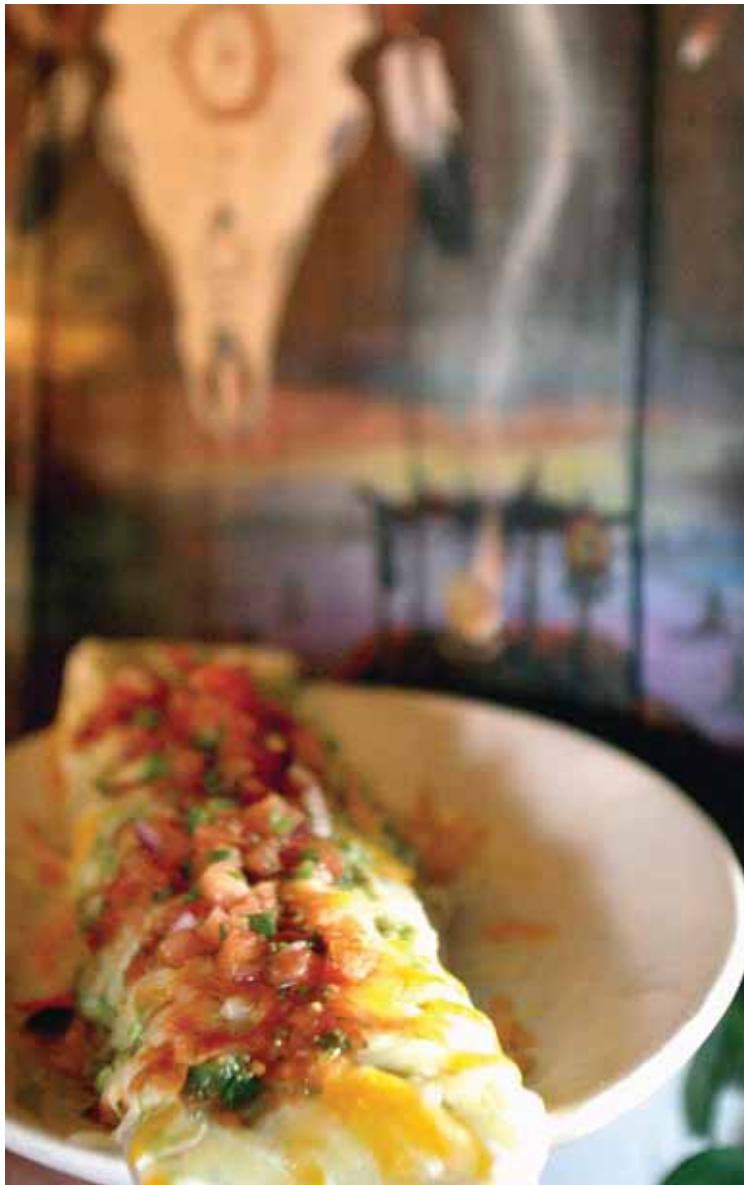
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VERONICA WEBER.

The super burrito at El Paso Café is so big it hangs off the plate.

vos with more beans, or with cubes of fried potatoes.

We liked the guacamole (\$4.95), a softball of fresh avocado and tomato tingling with red chilies and cilantro.

Tostadas Santa Fe (\$7.95) are a duet of chicken and pork. Each crisp corn tortilla is topped with meat, chopped lettuce, Monterey Jack and cheddar cheese, guacamole and sour cream and salsa fresca. You have to use a fork.

Less successful dishes aren't

bad, they're just dull, such as chile verde chicken enchiladas (\$8.95) and fajita tacos (\$7.95).

A small band of ingredients show up in everything. See Tostadas Santa Fe, above.

Like Texas, El Paso Café caters to North American tastes, serving burgers, hot dogs, waffle-cut fries and a teriyaki chicken sandwich. Unlike Texas, El Paso Café is small and cute. The menu says: "All Extras Will Be Additional."

How cute is that? ▣



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MOUNTAIN VIEW'S PEAR AVENUE THEATRE UPDATES IBSEN CLASSIC 'A DOLL'S HOUSE'

By Alexa Tondreau

TTrue to form, Pear Avenue Theatre is putting its own spin on "A Doll's House."

Audiences expecting to see Henrik Ibsen's realist masterpiece set in 1879 Copenhagen will be surprised to find something onstage that feels much closer to home. Under the direction of Jeanie Forte, the remade "A Doll's House" will be set in America, in the last days of 1959, with lead character Nora Helmer cast in the homemaker role of that era.

The play, which premieres Jan. 19 and runs through Feb. 4, follows the decline of the marriage between Nora and her husband Torvald, which in turn gives way to an inner awakening in Nora. The play was shocking in its time because Nora's empowerment and the decision she makes in its wake — referred to as "the door slam heard round the world" — was the most profoundly feminist statement yet seen on European stages.

Forte said that while gender equality has made leaps and bounds since Ibsen penned his masterpiece, the play has important themes that still resonate today.

"I think the same kinds of societal censures are still in place," she said. "I know a woman who left her family, and people were horrified; she was ostracized. People might think the play is dated, but it really isn't."

Forte, who has directed numerous plays at the Pear, said she decided to change the time and setting in order to enhance the power of the play for a modern audience.

"I wanted to update it and bring it forward in time. When it's set in the 1950s, the audience can relate to it better and see it as something that is still relevant."

"A Doll's House" was particularly unique in its time for focusing on a female protagonist. The part of Nora has become a rite of passage for actresses, and Shannon Stowe, in her fourth Pear Theatre production, felt some of the weight of that responsibility on her shoulders.

"It's a role that I've always wanted to do. It's one of those roles for female actresses — like a Hamlet or something. It feels daunting."

Stowe said the 1950s setting didn't make her feel too tied down to theatrical tradition surround-



Mark D. Messersmith and Shannon Stowe play Torvald and Nora Helmer in Henrik Ibsen's "A Doll's House," premiering at the Pear Avenue Theatre on Jan. 19.

THEATER PREVIEW

ing "A Doll's House," because "we're not going by anyone else's expectations. I feel like we can take a whole new look at it."

For her part, Forte said the chance to direct Stowe as Nora

was one of the original reasons she was drawn to the production.

"She's a wonderful actress from the outset, but she also has these great qualities that are perfect for Nora. She has sexiness

and a little-girl quality."

The Pear cultivates longstanding relationships with performers, and Forte said working with a close-knit group is "part of the joy" of working there.

Since 2001, the Mountain View theater company has sought to distinguish itself with innovative productions. With just 40 seats, the diminutive size of the Pear Theatre necessitates smaller productions and a limited cast size. It also provides a more intimate experience for cast and audience alike.

"There is very little separation between stage and house," Forte said. "You make use of the intimacy and you heighten it."

She likens the Pear to an off-Broadway venue, where edgy, contemporary pieces are shown and where there's the chance to re-envision classics like "A Doll's House."

"It's seeing theater like you've never seen it before," Forte said. "Very few people on the Peninsula have the chance to see theater this way." ▀

E-mail Alexa Tondreau at atondreau@mv-voice.com

INFORMATION

What: The Pear Avenue Theatre presents "A Doll's House" by Henrik Ibsen

When: Jan. 19-Feb. 4, Thursdays through Saturdays 8 p.m., Sundays 2 p.m.

Where: The Pear Avenue Theatre, 1220 Pear Avenue, Unit K, Mountain View

Cost: \$10-\$25

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MOVIE TIMES

- ALPHA DOG (R)** ★ Century 16: 11:15 a.m.; 2, 4:50, 7:35 & 10:15 p.m.
Century 12: 1:50, 5, 7:40 & 10:30 p.m.
- APOCALYPTO (R)** ★★★★★ Century 20: 11:35 a.m.; 2:35, 5:30 & 8:25 p.m.
- ARTHUR AND THE INVISIBLES (PG)** Century 16: Noon, 2:30, 4:45, 7:20 & 9:35 p.m. Century 20: 11:45 a.m.; 2, 4:35, 7:20 & 9:45 p.m.
- BABEL (R)** ★★★★★1/2 Century 20: 3:55 & 9:55 p.m.
- BLACK CHRISTMAS (R) (NOT REVIEWED)** Century 12: 9:55 p.m.
- BLOOD DIAMOND (R)** ★★★★★ Century 16: 6:50 & 9:55 p.m.
Century 20: 12:25, 3:30, 6:40 & 9:45 p.m.
- BORAT (R)** ★★★★★1/2 Century 20: 12:05, 2:20, 4:20, 6:20, 8:20 & 10:20 p.m.
- CASINO ROYALE (PG-13)** ★★★★★1/2 Century 16: 12:30, 3:45, 6:55 & 10 p.m. Century 12: 12:20, 3:50, 7:10 & 10:15 p.m.
- CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G)** ★★1/2 Century 16: 11:05 a.m.; 1:30 & 4:10 p.m. Century 12: 12:30, 3, 7 & 9:30 p.m.
- CHILDREN OF MEN (R)** ★★★★★1/2 Century 16: 11:30 a.m.; 2:20, 5:05, 7:55 & 10:35 p.m. Century 20: 11:30 a.m.; 12:35, 2, 3:05, 4:35, 5:35, 7:10, 8:05, 9:40 & 10:35 p.m.
- CODE NAME: THE CLEANER (PG-13) (NOT REVIEWED)**
Century 20: 11:45 a.m.; 2:15, 4:40, 7, 9:20 & 10:15 p.m.
- CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER (R)** Century 16: 11:25 a.m.; 2:15, 5, 7:45 & 10:15 p.m. Century 20: 11:40 a.m.; 2:30, 5:10, 7:50 & 10:25 p.m.
- DREAMGIRLS (PG-13)** ★★★★★ Century 16: 1, 4:15, 7:25 & 10:20 p.m.
Century 20: 11:40 a.m.; 1:10, 2:45, 4:15, 5:45, 7:15, 8:35 & 10:10 p.m.
- ERAGON (PG)** ★★★★★ Century 12: 12:15, 2:45, 5:20 & 7:55 p.m.
- FREEDOM WRITERS (PG-13) (NOT REVIEWED)** Century 16: 12:45, 3:50, 6:50 & 9:40 p.m. Century 12: 12:40, 4:30, 7:30 & 10:25 p.m.
- THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R)** ★★ Century 16: 11:35 a.m.; 3:05, 6:45 & 10:05 p.m. Century 20: 11:55 a.m.; 3:20, 6:45 & 10:05 p.m.
- HAPPILY N'EVER AFTER (PG)** Century 16: 11:20 a.m.; 1:25, 3:30, 5:35, 7:40 & 9:45 p.m. Century 12: Noon, 2:20, 4:50, 7:25 & 9:40 p.m.
- HAPPY FEET (PG) (NOT REVIEWED)** Century 16: 11:40 a.m.; 2:15 & 4:55 p.m. Century 20: 11:25 a.m.; 1:55, 4:30 & 7:05 p.m.
- THE HOLIDAY (PG-13)** ★★★★★ Century 16: 7:30 & 10:25 p.m.
Century 12: 12:50, 4, 7:35 & 10:35 p.m.
- LETTERS FROM IWO JIMA (R)** Century 16: 12:10, 3:25, 7 & 10:10 p.m.
- LITTLE CHILDREN (R)** ★★★★★ Century 20: 12:55 & 7 p.m.
- NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) (NOT REVIEWED)**
Century 16: 1:45, 4:35, 7:15 & 9:50 p.m.; Sat.-Tue. also at 11 a.m. Century 20: 11:25 a.m.; 12:30, 1:55, 3:10, 4:25, 5:40, 6:55, 8:10, 9:30 & 10:35 p.m.
- NOTES ON A SCANDAL (R)** ★★★★★1/2 Century 20: Noon, 2:25, 4:50, 7:20 & 9:50 p.m. Aquarius: 2:30, 5, 7:30 & 9:45 p.m.; Sat.-Mon. also at 12:15 p.m.
- THE PAINTED VEIL (PG-13)** ★★★★★ Aquarius: 1, 3:45, 6:45 & 9:30 p.m.
- PAN'S LABYRINTH (R)** ★★★★★1/2 Century 20: 11:35 a.m.; 2:20, 4:55, 7:30 & 10:05 p.m. Palo Alto Square: 1:30, 4:20, 7:20 & 10:10 p.m.
- PERFUME: THE STORY OF A MURDERER (R)** ★★
Century 20: 12:20, 3:45, 6:50 & 10 p.m.
- PRIMEVAL (R) (NOT REVIEWED)** Century 16: 11:50 a.m.; 2:25, 5:10, 8 & 10:30 p.m. Century 12: 1, 3:20, 5:35, 8 & 10:25 p.m.
- THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG-13)** ★★★★★
Century 16: 11:10 a.m.; 1:55, 4:55, 7:50 & 10:30 p.m. Century 20: 11:30 a.m.; 12:50, 2:15, 3:40, 5, 6:25, 7:45, 9:05 & 10:30 p.m.
- THE QUEEN (NOT RATED)** ★★★★★
Palo Alto Square: 2, 4:30, 7 & 9:30 p.m.; Sat. & Sun. also at 11:30 a.m.
- ROCKY BALBOA (PG)** ★★★★★1/2 Century 12: 12:10, 2:35, 5:15, 7:45 & 10:10 p.m.
- STOMP THE YARD (PG-13)** Century 16: 11:10 a.m.; 1:50, 4:30, 7:10 & 9:45 p.m. Century 12: 11:55 a.m.; 1:30, 2:55, 4:15, 6, 7:20, 9 & 10 p.m.
- THR3E (PG-13) (NOT REVIEWED)** Century 12: 10:20 p.m.
- VOLVER (R)** ★★1/2 Guild: 1:15, 4, 6:45 & 9:25 p.m.
- WE ARE MARSHALL (PG)** ★★1/2 Century 12: 12:05, 3:15 & 7:05 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)

CENTURY PARK 12: 557 E. Bayshore Blvd., Redwood City (365-9000)

CENTURY 20 DOWNTOWN: 825 Middlefield Road, Redwood City (369-3456)

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- ★ Skip it
- ★★ Some redeeming qualities
- ★★★ A good bet
- ★★★★ Outstanding

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MOVIE REVIEWS



CHILDREN OF MEN ★★★★★ 1/2 (Century 16, Century 20) In the futuristic world of "Men," human beings have seemingly lost the ability to reproduce, many of the planet's finest cities have been decimated and government soldiers rule with an iron fist. The film opens with downtrodden citizens suffering the news that the world's youngest person, an 18-year-old young man dubbed Baby Diego, has died. Theo Faron (Clive Owen) seems relatively unfazed — it's obvious Theo had given up hope for the future of mankind a long time ago. Now Theo spends his hours sleepwalking through a dreary job and occasionally visiting his pot-smoking friend Jasper (Michael Caine). Theo's humdrum existence takes a sharp turn when his former lover Julian (Julianne Moore) returns to his life asking for help. Julian leads a rag-tag group of rebels with a secret — one of their number is a young pregnant woman (Claire-Hope Ashitey as Kee). It will be the first child born in 18 years, and Julian's crew needs Theo to escort Kee to the coast and into the hands of the clandestine "Human Project." The graphic violence and permeating air of hopelessness in "Men" make for a less-than-uplifting experience. But this fascinating portrait of the future is one of the best-directed films of the year. *Rated: R for strong violence, language, some drug use and brief nudity. 1 hour, 49 minutes.* — T.H.

DREAMGIRLS ★★★★★ (Century 16, Century 20) "Dreamgirls" is the ideal holiday tonic: light, fizzy and bubbling with musical pizzazz. The story relies on the classic arc of stardom, featuring a fetching trio of Motor City ingenues, The Dreamettes, who warble like songbirds in an effort to break into the biz. The girls — Deena, Effie and Lorrell (Beyonce Knowles, Jennifer Hudson and Anika Noni Rose) — are discovered by ruthless small-time promoter Curtis Taylor Jr. (Jamie Foxx) and pressed into service as back-up singers for soul legend James "Thunder" Early (Eddie Murphy). Ultimately the group is spun off on its own, achieving cross-over pop success and all its trappings: jealousy, love triangles, betrayal and the painful pitfalls of superstardom. Nothing newsworthy here, but the ride is a blast due to some crack performances and the fantastic musical stylings of Beyonce, Murphy and breakout newcomer Hudson as the proud but self-destructive middle child. *Rated: PG-13 for language and adult situations. 2 hours, 11 minutes.* — J.A.)

► Continued on next page

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► Continued from previous page

NOTES ON A SCANDAL

★★★★1/2

(Aquarius, Century 20) At the crux of this twisted melodrama is Judi Dench, a tightly wound spinster schoolteacher named Barbara Covett with a penchant for obsessing on the weak. In this case new St. George's School hire Sheba Hart (Cate Blanchett), an anxious bohemian art teacher dubbed "the wispy novice." Barb keeps her stalker sensibilities under wraps while biding her time in becoming indispensable to Sheba, who needs all the help she can get in maintaining discipline with her unruly charges. Soon the pair is doing regular lunches and Barb is worming her way into Chez Hart with gleeful but cautious abandon. The world comes crashing down when Barb discovers Sheba is having an affair with 15-year-old St. George student Steven Connolly (Andrew Simpson). Barb feels betrayed, her magnificent complicity with Sheba violated by a pubescent paramour. Dench gives an Oscar-worthy performance as an emotionally devious SWF who dreads ending her days alone and unspools her warped conspiracies with vigilant vengeance. An overwrought score matches the flamboyantly scandalous mood, rendering the whole a wanton cinematic treat. *Rated: R for language, sexuality and adult themes. 1 hour, 32 minutes.* — J.A.

PERFUME: THE STORY OF A MURDERER ★★★

(Century 20) Jean-Baptiste Grenouille (Ben Whishaw) is born to an unloving mother in the filthy confines of an 18th-century French market. Unwanted and tossed aside, Grenouille is shipped off to an orphanage, where the other mainstays find the child's abnormal sense of smell off-putting. Once Grenouille is grown, his obsession with capturing the essence of scent — and specifically the unique odor exuded by attractive young women — leads him to work for acclaimed perfumer Giuseppe Baldini (Dustin Hoffman). But Grenouille's hunger to contain the scent of a woman, as it were, leads him away from Baldini's charge and on a killing spree. Soon Grenouille is clobbering young ladies, slathering their bodies with animal fat (to preserve their varied aromas), cropping their hair and dumping their naked corpses in random locations around the city. He becomes part Jack the Ripper, part Calvin Klein. Director Tom Tykwer's creative style of storytelling makes "Perfume" a compelling view, but a depraved protagonist and distasteful plot give the film an overall foul odor. *Rated: R for aberrant behavior involving nudity, violence, sexuality and disturbing images. 2 hours, 27 minutes.* — T.H.

ROCKY BALBOA ★★★★1/2

(Century 12) Writer/director Sylvester Stallone plays his cards shrewdly, acknowledging the passage of time by carving out a lonely widower who lives with the baggage of pain and regret and a dark swath of grief from the death of his beloved Adrian (Talia Shire). Rocky (Stallone) operates a thriving neighborhood Italian eatery, trading off

► See **MINI REVIEWS**, next page

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Edward Norton and Naomi Watts in a scene from W. Somerset Maugham's "The Painted Veil."

Tainted love in 'The Painted Veil'

JADED ENGLISH
NEWLYWEDS TRAVERSE
FAR EAST IN ADAPTATION
OF MAUGHAM NOVEL

By Jeanne Aufmuth

The classic W. Somerset Maugham novel gets the pretty treatment in this escalating drama of an embittered English couple navigating the perils of China circa 1925.

Dr. Walter Fane (Edward Norton) is a staid bacteriologist managing a government lab in Shanghai when he falls for a beautiful but restless socialite named Kitty (Naomi Watts). Petulant, spoiled and hard to please, Kitty nonetheless accepts Walter's proposal of marriage out of desperation to escape her stifling family. "I improve greatly upon acquaintance," declares Walter, and they're off to the races.

Soon enough the jaded newlywed is shacking up with another man (Liev Schreiber), at which point a bitter, cuckolded Walter bullies his wife into accompanying him to a small village on a tributary of the Yangtze where he has volunteered to aid the cholera epidemic. Out of sight, out of mind.

MINI REVIEWS

► Continued from previous page

his famous name and incessant boxing stories of yore. He has a strained relationship with grown-up Rocky Jr. (Milo Ventimiglia), who resents the inescapable limelight and dad's faded but recognizable celebrity. Opportunity knocks when ESPN stages a computer-simulated fight between the Italian Stallion in his prime and current heavyweight champ Mason "the Line" Dixon (Antonio Tarver), and Rocky wins the bout. That's all it takes to unleash the "stuff in the basement," as Rocky calls the need

MOVIE REVIEW

Naturally, Kitty is revolted by life in rural China, oppressed by the wretched living conditions and Walter's unforgiving attitude. Forced by extreme circumstances to deal with the matters at hand, the estranged couple launches on a journey of self-discovery that ultimately ends in tragedy.

"Veil" isn't thrilling filmmaking but rather sturdy adult fare that works lush period locations and the subtle gifts of its talented actors to its advantage. Both Norton and Watts convey gradations of emotion with little in the way of words: pain, regret, yearning and tolerance borne of the open wounds of betrayal.

Only a tetchy political subplot and a blatant Britain vs. Far East undercurrent stray from the textured grace of this fine romance. **B**

MOVIE NOTES

Stars: ***

Rating: PG-13 for language and mature subject matter

Run Time: 2 hours, 16 minutes

that gnaws away inside. An exhibition fight is arranged and the scrappy Philly southpaw fights the good fight, setting aside fear and making amends with his past and his future. "RB" could have been a feint but instead it's a contender, subtly shaded with dignity and respect and good old-fashioned moxie. *Rated: PG for intense fight sequences. 1 hour, 42 minutes.* — J.A.

MOVIE CRITICS

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

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Photo of Fay Boicourt Wiggins, Evelyn Boicourt Ford, and Bill Boicourt at the top of Pikes Peak, Colorado - after the cog train ride.

Take a photo with the Mountain View Voice on your next trip and email to jblock@mv-voice.com or mail to Postcards, P.O. Box 405, Mountain View, CA 94042.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	HAPPY NEW YEAR! 1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	Winter Poultry (hands-on) 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$34 9	Stress Management 6:30-7:30 p.m. FREE 10	10 Steps to Healthier Eating (hands-on) 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$25 11	Chefs Challenge (hands-on) 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$34 12	13
14	Baking with Kids 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$29 15	Homemade Pasta & Gnocchi 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$34 16	17	18	Soups & Chowders 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$34 19	20
21	Easy Raw (hands-on) 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$29 22	5 Secrets to Permanent Weight Loss 6:30-8:00 p.m. \$10 23	Basic Japanese (hands-on) 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$34 24	Winter Casseroles to Soothe the Soul 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$34 25	The Flavors of Spain/Easy Entertaining 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$34 26	27
28	Healthy 30 Minute Meals 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$29 29	How to Balance Hormones Naturally 6:30-8:00 p.m. \$10 30	Creative Kids' Favorites 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$29 31			

Winter Poultry

Tuesday, January 9, 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$34
Join Mat Schuster of the Salud Team for some basics on chicken using seasonal recipes. On the Menu:

- Poultry Basics Including Organic vs. All Natural
- The Best Ever Chicken Tortilla Soup with Fresh Avocado, Queso Fresco and Lime
- Chicken and Dumplings
- Stewed Chicken with Dried Plums and Citrus
- Roasted Duck with Pomegranate Glaze

Stress Management

Wednesday, January 9th, 6:30-7:30 p.m. FREE
Do you suffer from headaches, fatigue, mood swings, digestive trouble or allergy & sinus problems? Do you have tension or pain in the neck, shoulders or lower back? Join Dr. Patrick McCauley, D.C. and Dr. Michael Dominguez, D.C. as they discuss the 7 major symptoms of stress, and how you can resolve these symptoms.

10 Steps to Eating Healthier

Thursday, January 11, 6:30-8:30 p.m. (hands-on) \$25
Join Grace Avila as she discusses 10 easy ways to improve your health through eating healthy. Menu:

- Sunrise smoothie
- Easy poached salmon
- Raw slaw
- Roasted seasonal veggies

Chef's Challenge

Friday, January 12, 6:30-8:30 p.m. (hands-on) \$34
Join Grace Avila and the Salud team in Whole Foods' own version of "Iron Chef." Race with your teammates to create the most innovative menu using "the secret ingredient."

Baking with Kids

Monday, January 15, 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$29
A wonderful opportunity to introduce kids to the joys of baking, these treats are sure to inspire curious minds and lively spirits. Our pastry chef will teach the basics of different doughs,

and kids will enjoy making their own mini-pizzas, decorated cookies, and more! Your kids will love interacting and sharing with each other in this unique and memorable way.

Homemade Pasta & Gnocchi

Tuesday, January 16, 6:30-8:30 p.m. (hands-on) p.m. \$34
Our professional chef will teach you how to make, shape, roll, and cook these simple yet elegant delicacies. You'll make stuffed pasta, herbed pasta, gnocchi, and more. The pasta fundamentals will allow you to create limitless personal variations at home.

Soups & Chowders

Friday, January 19, 6:30-8:30 p.m. (hands-on) \$34
The perfect remedy for chilly winter evenings! Our professional chef will explore the fundamentals of fine soups and chowders, allowing you to experiment with your own recipes at home. In class, you'll make both vegetarian and non-vegetarian soups and chowders, ranging from homestyle to elegant, with an emphasis on seasonal, fresh product.

Easy Raw

Monday, January 22, 6:30-8:30 p.m. (hands-on) \$29
Learn the benefits of eating raw foods and prepare four easy recipes taught by Grace Avila.

Five Secrets to Permanent Weight Loss

Tuesday, January 23, 6:30-8:00 p.m. \$10
Do you suffer from fluctuating weight, being overweight or thyroid problems? Join Jenny C. Lee, L. Ac. who will talk about how to lose weight and increase your energy level.

Basic Japanese

Wednesday, January 24, 6:30-8:30 p.m. (hands-on) \$34
Join Mat Schuster of the Salud! Team to learn the basics of Japanese cuisine. Items on the Menu:

- Japanese Noodle Soup Bar: We'll create our own soup bar full of noodles & fresh Japanese ingredients!
- Agedashi Tofu - Fried Tofu in Light Citrus Sauce
- Roll Your Own Sushi Rolls

Soul Soothing Winter Casseroles

Thursday, January 25, 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$34
Natural foods chef, Laura Stec, will cook easy dishes to warm up the cold January nights. Included: tasting of meat and vegan sausages, Piment d'Espelette, the smoked Spanish paprika, and new baking dishes.

- Deep Dish Winter Greens and Organic Feta Back
- Individual Wild Salmon and Creamy Leek Pot Pies
- Black Pepper Polenta Casserole w/Organic Chicken or Veggie Sausage, Tomatoes and Grilled Broccolini

The Flavors of Spain

Friday, January 26, 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$34
Join Grace as she teaches you how to prepare an easy and tasty menu for your next party. Menu:

- Rice & chicken with olives
- Roasted red pepper & caper salad
- Garlic shrimp
- Spanish cheese plate

Healthy 30 Minute Meals

Monday, January 29, 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$29
Ready to settle back into a healthful post-holiday routine? Our professional chef will show you how to prepare quick, nutritious, and delicious meals, both vegetarian & non-vegetarian. Recipes are simple enough for beginners, unique enough to inspire seasoned pros. Also: healthy shopping tips.

How to Balance Hormones Naturally

Tuesday, January 30, 6:30-8:00 p.m. \$10
Jenny C. Lee, L. Ac. discusses a holistic approach to women's hormone-related health concerns.

Creative Kids Favorites

Wednesday, January 31st, 6:30-8:30 p.m. (hands-on) \$29
What happens when kids get to make their favorite meals with a twist? Fun, laughter, and lots of learning. A great class for kids to meet, make friends, and share the camaraderie of cooking!