

Mountain View VOICE

FEBRUARY 16, 2007 VOLUME 15, NO. 7

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Time warp
The Pear takes on
Tom Stoppard's
'Arcadia'
A+E | P.22



Stomach bug hits children, elderly

ABRUPT ILLNESS
SENDING MANY TO THE
EMERGENCY ROOM

By Sue Dremann

A stomach illness similar to the norovirus often found on cruise ships and in nursing homes is sending hundreds of Bay Area children to emergency rooms and urgent-care centers, according to public health officials.

The "stomach flu," which began earlier than expected this year, is causing children and adults to become very sick with vomiting, diarrhea and high fever. Dozens of children are being admitted to hospitals for rehydration after fluid loss from the illness, medical professionals said.

"It's a nasty bug," said Joy Alexiou, spokeswoman for the Santa Clara County Department of Public Health.

The highly contagious disease is causing acute gastric enteritis, an inflammation of the stomach and small intestine. Symptoms include vomiting, diarrhea, fever, some stomach cramping, headache, muscle aches and general fatigue. The illness often begins suddenly within 24 to 48 hours after exposure, but can appear after only 12 hours, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

Children and adults afflicted with the illness have diarrhea several times a day, in some cases leading to dehydration, which can especially affect children, according to Dr. Bernard Dannenberg, medical director of

► See **ILLNESS**, page 8



VERONICA WEBER

LAI TO REST: A soldier of the 82nd Airborne Division presents the flag during funeral Mass for Sgt. William Sigua at St. Simon Church last Thursday. Sigua, 21, of Los Altos Hills, was killed in combat in Bayji, Iraq on Jan. 31.

Car museum plans unveiled

JOHN MOZART GIVES US A LOOK AT HIS WORLD-FAMOUS COLLECTION

By Daniel DeBolt

John Mozart is a wealthy man who loves old cars.

When you walk into the lobby of his Palo Alto company, Mozart Development, a completely restored 1962 Ferrari coupe is parked in the lobby. Behind it is a set of double doors



Slower-growth council digs in

THOUGH HOUSING
MORATORIUM FAILS,
BIG DEVELOPMENT
PROJECT REJECTED BY
NEW MEMBERS

By Daniel DeBolt

Mayor Laura Macias' controversial idea for a moratorium on new development failed to gather enough support Tuesday, but the new City Council proved its slower-growth status anyway when it rejected a proposal for a high-density housing and retail project on El Camino Real.

"I felt it was a big change last night," said council member Jac Siegel about the rejection of the development. "To me it was a huge change." Siegel said the development would have taken away

lucrative hotel taxes from the city. The mixed-use project was the sort that likely would have passed a few months ago, when housing advocates Greg Perry and Mike Kasperzak were on the council. It would have allowed R4 zoning for up to 130 housing units and 5,700

square feet of retail space on 2.5 acres on El Camino Real, where the Pacific Inn now stands.

The development was rejected with only three of seven members supporting it: Nick Galiotto, Matt Pear and Tom Means.

"I do have some concerns about the R4 zoning," said council member Margaret Abe-Koga.

Staff had asked the council to delay the project until 2008, when more resources would be available to process it. The council also voted to allow the developer to come back in 2008 to make his request again.

Meanwhile, the council dealt with vociferous outcry over Macias' proposal to put a moratorium on new development, eventually letting the proposal drop without a vote.

"I felt it was a big change last night."

COUNCIL MEMBER
JAC SIEGEL

Macias told the *Voice* she had received an incredibly strong reaction to her proposal

— surpassed in intensity only by the city's infamous Cuesta squirrel debate — as she received e-mails and had conversations with developers.

Macias felt compelled to clarify that the proposal was to study "interim measures" while the general plan is updated. Still, many thought the proposal was for a moratorium only.

Several developers packed the public comment period Tuesday to ask the council not to put a stop to development while the general plan is updated — a process that potentially could take years.

"We understand the need to study the general plan," said Drew Hudacek of Regis Homes. "But we hope you will keep an open mind about keeping projects going along at the same time."

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► See **COUNCIL**, page 14

INSIDE

GOINGS ON 28 | MARKETPLACE 31 | MOVIES 21 | REAL ESTATE 38 | VIEWPOINT 15 | WEEKEND 18

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

Jim & Jimmy Nappo



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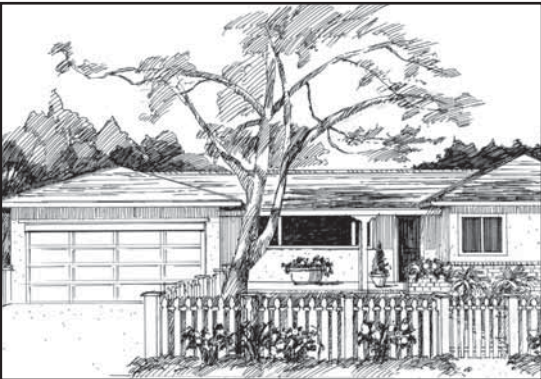
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Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

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

Which movie do you think deserves an Oscar?



"I like 'Pirates of the Caribbean.' Because of Keira Knightley."
Gundeep Kaur, Mountain View



"'The Queen.' What it portrayed is realistic."
Glennamae Mathews, San Jose



"'Flags of our Fathers' by Clint Eastwood."
Quentin Garnier, France



"'The Queen.' Helen Mary was so convincing in it."
Mike Jain, Gig Harbor, Wash.



"'The Queen.' I have a friend who is hard to please and he says it's the best picture he's seen his whole life."
David Kimball, Sunnyvale

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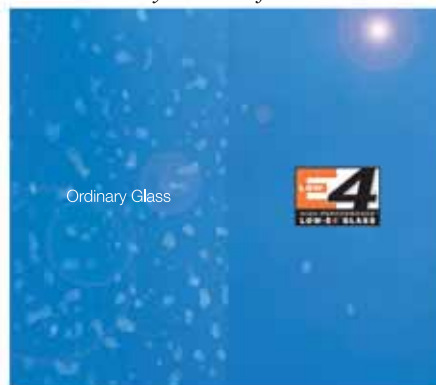
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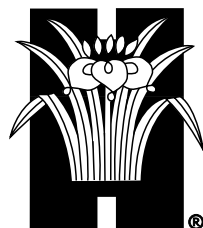
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OnRecord

■ CRIMEWATCH

ATTEMPTED ROBBERY, 100 BLOCK ESCUELA AVENUE, 2/9

On Friday at 4:02 p.m., a man was walking on Escuela Avenue when a 23-year-old male approached him and demanded money. When the victim refused, the suspect punched and kicked him. Police located and charged 20-year-old Mountain View resident Wilber Aguirre with attempted robbery.

AUTO BURGLARIES, NORTH BAYSHORE AREA, 2/9

On Friday between 3:34 a.m. and 6:55 a.m., 19 cars were ransacked in the North Bayshore area on La Avenida Street, Shorebird Way, Charleston Road, Stierlin Court and outside the Century 16 Cinema. Unidentified suspects smashed car windows using rocks in some cases. So far one laptop, one bottle of cologne and a small amount of cash have been reported stolen.

■ POLICE LOG

AUTO BURGLARY

400 block Showers Drive, 2/5
1300 block Montecito Avenue, 2/5
700 block N Shoreline Boulevard, 2/6
2500 block W Middlefield Road, 2/8
900 block Boranda Avenue, 2/9
2400 block Alvin St., 2/9
200 block Pamela Drive, 2/9
1200 block Shorebird Way, 2/10
200 block Stierlin Court, 2/10
1200 block Charleston Road, 2/10
Century 16 Cinema, 2/10
Microsoft Building, 2/10
1000 block La Avenida St., 2/10
2600 block Terminal Boulevard, 2/10
100 block La Avenida St., 2/10
400 block Ellis St., 2/12
200 block Stierlin Court, 2/12

BATTERY

100 block Beatrice St., 2/5
2200 block California St., 2/6

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

1600 block Plymouth St., 2/5
600 block Rainbow Drive, 2/8

DISTURBANCE

1900 block Latham St., 2/6
500 block Showers Drive, 2/8

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

El Camino Hospital, 2/6

EMBEZZLEMENT

300 block Escuela Avenue, 2/7

FORGERY

800 block Sevely Drive, 2/5
100 block San Antonio Circle, 2/8

GRAND THEFT

1600 block Springer Road, 2/6
2400 block W El Camino Real, 2/6
100 block Grant Road, 2/6
900 block Rich Avenue, 2/7

2200 block W El Camino Real, 2/7
2400 block Benjamin Drive, 2/9
Sears Dept. Store, 2/10
Castro St./Church St., 2/11
100 block E El Camino Real, 2/12
800 block Leong Drive, 2/12

IDENTITY THEFT

600 block Tami Way, 2/10
1100 block Farley St., 2/12

NARCOTICS POSSESSION

1300 block Space Park Way, 2/5

PETTY THEFT

700 block Sylvan Avenue, 2/5
600 block Rainbow Drive, 2/7
100 block Space Park Way, 2/7
Mervyn's Dept. Store, 2/7
King of Clubs, 2/8
300 block S Shoreline Boulevard, 2/9
Sears Dept. Store, 2/9
100 block N Rengstorff Avenue, 2/9
Mervyn's Dept. Store, 2/9
Sears Dept. Store, 2/10
Sears Dept. Store, 2/11
400 block Tyrella Avenue, 2/12

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

400 block Stierlin Road, 2/12

SPITTING IN PUBLIC

500 block Franklin St., 2/5

STOLEN VEHICLE

1600 block Plymouth St., 2/5
200 block Escuela Avenue, 2/5
600 block Towne Circle, 2/7
200 block Mountain View Avenue, 2/8
300 block Central Avenue, 2/11
24 Hour Fitness, 2/11
Safeway, California St., 2/11
1900 block Newman Boulevard, 2/12

ROBBERY

100 block Escuela Avenue, 2/9

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Sunny side up

By Don Frances

BRUCE KARNEY'S plan to bring bulk-rate solar to Mountain View — he's calling it the "Mountain View Solar Buyers Co-op" — is coming along nicely, it seems, after a huge turnout for last weekend's kickoff meeting at the Mountain View Senior Center.

"More than 220 people attended Saturday's meeting, which was more than twice as many as my most optimistic estimate," Karney wrote.

"I was particularly pleased to see individuals of all ages, from late 20s to late 70s, in the audience. It's the largest civic meeting I've been to in many years where people didn't show up because they were trying to stop a project."

Karney was inspired by the recent success of Portola Valley, which managed to strum up enough buyers — nearly twice the needed amount, in fact — to get a 30 percent discount from SolarCity, a Foster City company which installs solar arrays.

A discount of that size, Karney estimates, "brings the price of a kilowatt-hour of solar electricity down to about 10 cents — less than PG&E's lowest rate."

Not too bad. The next informational meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. at the Mountain View High School Theater. For more info on the company, visit www.solarcity.com.

MEANWHILE, OTHER locals are putting their can-do attitude towards a different, perhaps less modest goal:

"You are invited to hear Peter Phillips, Ph.D., present the rationale for impeaching President Bush and Vice President Cheney on Friday, Feb. 16, at 7:30 p.m.," writes Fred Duperrault, committee member for something called

▶ See **EDITOR'S DESK**, page 6



MARJAN SADOUGHI

WINDMILL CHAIRMAN: Charles Grant shows off the dismantled windmill at Grant Road farm on Monday before it was loaded onto a truck to be taken to the Rengstorff House. Grant, who gives tours at the Rengstorff House, has led the charge to preserve the iconic windmill.

Kindergarteners lobby City Hall

LACK OF CROSSWALKS AROUND CASTRO LEADS TO REAL-LIFE CIVICS LESSON FOR YOUNG STUDENTS

By Alexa Tondreau

A class of 15 students showed up at City Hall last Friday, after a long trek from Castro Elementary with umbrellas poised for the threatening rain. The students, all kindergarteners, were on a mission: to meet with a city official in order to air a very specific complaint.

Of concern to them was the fact that on their daily class walk in the neighborhoods surrounding the school, there are no ways for them to safely cross from Escuela Avenue, where Castro sits, to Latham Street at the corner.

So with the help and encouragement of their teacher, Bonnie Malouf, the students decided to speak up about it.

Malouf explained, "I said to them that as citizens of Mountain View, we can ask the city for lots of things because they make decisions about what is best for the community as a whole."

The students showed up at City Hall armed with a petition, a 2-by-3-foot cardboard letter asking for the crosswalks, 15 individual letters and a number of prepared speeches.

They were met by public works director Cathy Lazarus and taken into a private conference room, where she listened as the students listed reasons a crosswalk connecting Escuela and Latham would be a good thing for the city, with the No. 1 reason being the

"We say these are our values, but where do we get our kids involved in this stuff?"

BONNIE MALOUF

preservation of their own safety and well-being.

Lazarus said the city wasn't aware of the need for a crosswalk in that particular location, and so the students acted as ideal citizens in speaking up about it.

"If you're 5 or 105 and you see something and bring it to our

attention, you can make a difference," Lazarus on Monday.

The students' work paid off, and at the end of the meeting Lazarus announced to them that the city would be putting in two crosswalks on the street.

"All of the children applauded when she said that," Malouf recounted. "They were wildly excited."

There was a slight hitch — the city had to wait until the rain stopped to lay down the paint — but all in all Lazarus thought the experience was "a good civics lesson for the kids."

She sent the children back to their classroom with their own copy of an aerial map of Castro School. And before they returned, Malouf had them stop in at City Hall's art gallery, where artwork from Castro students is on display.

Malouf, who has taught in the district for seven years, said it's rare to find an opportunity where children can learn at a young age that their opinion counts, and that it's essential to speak up for yourself and on behalf of other people in the community.

"We say these are our values, but where do we get our kids involved in this stuff?" she asked. ▀

Robbers burst in on family

EVANDALE HOME RANSACKED, LITTLE OF VALUE TAKEN AFTER HARROWING BREAK-IN

By Daniel DeBolt

A family of seven was gagged and blindfolded at gunpoint last week in their apartment at 291 Evandale Ave. while a gang of four men ransacked their home, ultimately taking nothing but their cell phones. Police believe the family could have been targeted by mistake.

The Latino family, ranging in age from 3 to 41, did not open the door after they heard a knock just before 10 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 8. But moments later the gang smashed down the door, then applied blindfolds and duct tape to all seven family members. Police say no one was injured.

"It was obviously a very scary situation for them," said police spokesman Jim Bennett. "The intruders were armed and they [the residents] weren't clearly understanding what the intruders were after."

Police arrived to see the suspects fleeing and pursued them on foot. One suspect, an 18-year-old man from East Palo Alto, was apprehended by a police dog and was treated for a bite before being taken to the county jail. The man gave a false name at first, but police later found that under his true name, Marco Sepulveda, he had a \$50,000 arrest warrant for possession of methamphetamines and assault on a police officer.

The family does not appear to know Sepulveda or any of the other suspects, Bennett said.

Police can only speculate on the motivation for the robbery and continue to investigate. As of press time, police had not issued descriptions of the other suspects. Anyone with more information is encouraged to contact the Mountain View Police Department at (650) 903-6344. ▀

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■ SEEN AROUND TOWN

Beautiful sunset



"I took this photo at sunset, just beside the Shoreline Aquatic Center and Cafe," writes Birgit Starmanns of Pacchetti Way. "The incredible scenery is one of the reasons that I chose to move to the Bay Area about 10 years ago.

"When I first showed this photo to a friend, he

thought that I had taken it on an island. Who needs an island when we can enjoy spectacular sunsets just around the corner?"

If you have a photo taken around town which you'd like published in the Voice, please send it (as a jpg attachment) to editor@mv-voice.com.

dreams What ~~assets~~ do you have?

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■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

PAINTERS RETURN TO CUESTA ANNEX

Community members are invited to join the Peninsula Outdoor Painters at the Cuesta Park Annex on the morning of Tuesday, Feb. 20 to join in landscape painting under the tutelage of artist and art teacher Bob Schick.

"We meet around 9:30 and paint until lunchtime," said Susan Watson of the Peninsula Outdoor Painters. "We gather together for lunch and share what we have been working on. A few painters stay and paint after lunch."

Cuesta Park Annex is located on Cuesta Drive between Miramonte Avenue and Grant Road.

FIRST GRAND PURIM BASH

Chabad of Los Altos and Mountain View is celebrating its first Grand Purim Bash on Sunday, March 4 at 12 p.m., and people of all ethnic backgrounds are invited to join the celebration.

Rabbi Shmuel Volovick says the Purim will begin with a multimedia Megillah reading followed by music and entertainment. Traditional refreshments

such as Hamentashen will be served. Volovick invites people from the community to be creative with their attire as prizes will be given for the most innovative and funny costumes.

The Grand Purim Bash will be held at the Adobe Building, 157 Moffett Blvd., Mountain View. Cost of attendance is \$10 for adults, \$7 for children and \$40 for families. Sponsorships are \$180. For more information, contact Chabad of Los Altos and Mountain View at (650) 961-2484, or visit www.jewishlosaltos.com.

— Zunaira Durrani

EDITOR'S DESK

► Continued from page 5

the Silicon Valley Impeachment Coalition.

Phillips, a sociology professor at Sonoma State University, will speak at the Willow Park Clubhouse, located at Moffett Boulevard and W. Middlefield Road. The event is free. Write fredd@freeshell.org for more info.

THE CAN-DO attitude permeated everything this week. Darin McGrew, for example, wrote in with the following:

"Regarding your comment

about the phrase 'analysis paralysis' used by Nick Galiotto, feel free to use it. It's been around for quite a while."

McGrew said he's most familiar with the phrase "in the context of board and card games. It refers to a situation where players spend 'too much' time determining the 'perfect' move, while everyone else sits around waiting for them to finish their turns. Consider the use of chess clocks in competitive chess games: They prevent analysis paralysis by giving each player only a fixed amount of time in which to make all their moves."

McGrew gives me an idea: chess

clocks for council members. Each member gets a fixed amount of time to make his or her points. Whenever they're done talking — bang — they punch the clock. This could also come in handy, perhaps especially so, at school board meetings.

"WE ARE LOOKING for a JV badminton coach, immediately," urges Kim Cave, athletic director at Los Altos High. "Stipend comes with it." Call (650) 960-8857 to apply. ▀

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

Local man dies in skiing accident

GUIDO MAURICE GHERARDI, 42, DIED TWO WEEKS AGO AFTER 1,000-FOOT FALL AT HEAVENLY RESORT

By Daniel DeBolt

Funeral services were held last week for a Mountain View man who died after falling 1,000 feet down an expert ski run at the Heavenly Valley ski resort in Lake Tahoe.

Guido Maurice Gherardi, 42, a French-Italian immigrant, was pronounced dead Feb. 3 from internal injuries after losing a ski and tumbling down the steep run. He wasn't wearing a helmet, but that may not have mattered as his brain injuries were not found to be fatal, said Larry Olsen, an El Dorado County coroner.

Olsen said the incident happened at 11:25 a.m. that Saturday, when Gherardi and a friend decided to go down Motts Canyon, an expert run at Heavenly "where even the super-experts hesitate to tread," according to one travel guide.

With a relatively small amount of snow pack this season, snow conditions have been more challenging than usual. Gherardi was not reported to have hit any rocks or trees.

"As he went over, his friend said he lost a ski," Olsen said. "From that point, he went out of his friend's view. His friend found him 1,000 feet down the run unconscious."

Gherardi was flown by

helicopter to Barton Memorial Hospital where efforts to revive him with CPR were unsuccessful.

Services for Gherardi were held Feb. 9 at St. Joseph's Church in Mountain View. The church was crowded with many friends, acquaintances and family there to pay their last respects.

"Today is a rainy day in California, and it's a sad day," said Gherardi's wife, Sophia.

His brother Riccardo traveled from Gherardi's former home, the Italian village of Stazzema near Tuscany, and during the service gave a moving account of his brother's life.

Though the two brothers were born in Nice, France, "Our hearts remained in the mountains of Tuscany," Riccardo said. "At least once a year, we needed to go recharge our batteries in these mountains."

Riccardo said Gherardi kept in touch with his family in Italy, and that his nephews and nieces saw him as "a model, their ideal, always happy, never annoyed and always arriving with lots of gifts."

He said Guido loved his many American friends, loved to cook his Italian and French dishes, and had an unforgettable wedding to Sophie in Stazzema. He added that his brother was an artist, had achieved a fine career, had a beautiful marriage and felt good about the life he had chosen.

"Everybody who knew him, knew him as a man in all the best ways," one friend said. ■

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

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ILLNESS

► Continued from page 1

pediatric and emergency medicine at Stanford/Lucile Packard Children's Hospital.

The emergency room's normal case load is 30 to 40 children daily, but the stomach bug has raised that number by as much as one-third, he said. Sometimes, whole families are coming in sick.

"We had a new record last Sunday [Feb. 4]. Sixty-six children came into the emergency room. Nearly half had the stomach flu," he said.

"It's one of the most common infectious diseases. In the last four weeks, 20 to 30 percent of all kids coming in to urgent care have the [stomach flu]," said Dr. Janet Volpe, medical director of Palo Alto Medical Foundation's Pediatric Urgent Care Clinic.

That translates to five to 12 patients per urgent-care physician per day, she said.

One to two children at urgent care are being hospitalized each day due to dehydration. They range from older infants to young teens, whose immune systems may already be weakened by a previous cold or ear infection, she added.

Without testing, it is hard to tell if the illness is caused by a virus or bacteria, but Dannenberg said the evidence points to a virus. Volpe added that an estimated 50 percent of gastroenteritis is caused by rotavirus, a common virus well known to produce symptoms of stomach flu, but which isn't related to flu or influenza at all.

There is some speculation that the illnesses may be due to norovirus, a group of highly contagious viruses notorious because of their prevalence on cruise ships and senior-care facilities, where large numbers of people

can become very ill quickly.

Outbreaks of norovirus were seen in the senior-care community a few months ago, Dannenberg said. Each year, many local senior-care facilities experience the disease. In 2006 in Santa Clara County, 43 senior facilities reported outbreaks, according to Alexiou. More than 1,000 people were affected.

But Dannenberg stressed he has no knowledge of any Department

of Infectious Disease studies that would verify that the current illness is caused by norovirus.

Although symptoms can be dramatic and patients feel very ill, the stomach virus is not life threatening, he said. If a patient has diarrhea with blood or mucus, is listless or refuses to take fluids over an extended period, they should be taken to urgent care or the emergency room, Dannenberg said.

To help prevent dehydration, ill persons should be given frequent, small amounts of water or ice chips. In most cases, the symptoms will last one to two days, but general weakness and malaise can last up to 10 days, according to the CDC.

The best way to control the disease is through scrupulous cleanliness. The disease is spread through eating contaminated foods, touching contaminated surfaces and putting a hand or finger into one's mouth or having direct contact with someone who has the illness. Patients are generally contagious for three days and, in some cases, for up to two weeks after recovery. ▣

Sue Dremann is a staff writer for the Palo Alto Weekly, the Voice's sister paper.

■ INFORMATION

For prevention, the Centers for Disease Control and area medical professionals recommend:

- Wash hands frequently
- Carefully wash fruits and vegetables and steam clams and oysters before eating them
- Disinfect contaminated surfaces immediately after an episode of illness using a bleach-based household cleaner

- Carefully dispose of stool and vomit in a toilet and be cautious when removing diapers from children who may have diarrhea
- Air out enclosed spaces
- Immediately launder clothes and bedding after an episode of illness
- Dispose of food eaten by a sick person. Do not let them prepare food for three days after they recover from the illness

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■ OBITUARY

AGNES FRANCES LACHAPPELLE

Agnes Frances Lachapelle, a longtime Mountain View resident, passed away surrounded by her family on Wednesday, Feb. 7. She was 83.

Lachapelle was born June 2, 1923, in Worcester, Mass., where she met and married her husband of 66 years, William Lachapelle. She lived in Mountain View for 60 years as a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and friend, family members said.

Lachapelle is survived by her children Bill Jr., Richard, Phyllis, Julie and Mary; 10 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her son Fred.

A vigil service was held Sunday, Feb. 11, and a funeral Mass was held the next day at St. Joseph Church. Lachapelle was laid to rest at the Interment Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Los Altos. Contributions may be made to Hospice of the Valley, 4850 Union Ave., San Jose, 95124.

Churches grapple with new homeless program

END OF ALPHA-OMEGA HAS LEFT MEMBERS WONDERING HOW TO GET INVOLVED AGAIN

By Daniel DeBolt

Members of local churches attended a forum last week at Los Altos United Methodist Church to discuss ways they can remain involved in a new homeless program, which has served 86 people since July, up from the 65 reported by the *Voice* in December.

For nearly two decades, churches were a central part of the Community Service Agency's Alpha Omega homeless shelter, with each church taking in the city's homeless for a month. Church members were able to build relationships with the homeless, and many found it to be a powerful experience for everyone involved.

But in 2005, the decision was made to discontinue the program in favor of a nationally popular "housing first" model. In this system, those who qualify are given housing and help in securing an income.

The move has left churches trying to figure out how to reconnect with the homeless population. Options discussed at the forum include contributing financially to the CSA and allowing church volunteers to share expertise, in areas such as debt management, with those in the program.

While the old program was very proactive in encouraging interaction between congregates and the homeless, "The volunteer opportunities are still there to build a relationship and get to know some of these folks in a real positive way," said Marl Bullwinkle, pastor of Los Altos United Methodist, one of the first churches to join the original Alpha Omega program.

He added that "We will certainly be supporting the financial need of CSA for the new residential program and case management services."

The Community Service Agency has called the new program a success. It has served 86 homeless persons since July, which is more than the 53 served in the last two years of the old program. ▀

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

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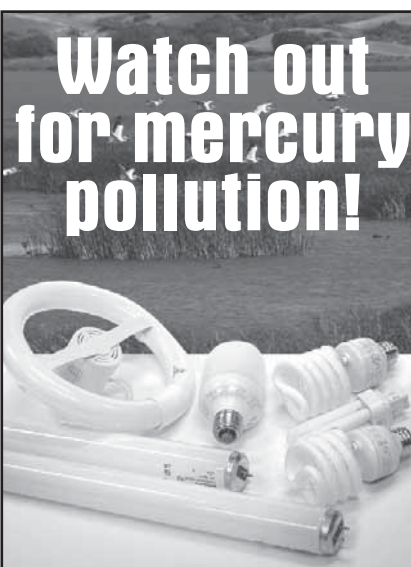
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			Oaxacan Antojitos 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$34			
	Healthy, Hearty Delicious Soups 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$18	A Gluten-Free Taste of Tuscany 6:30-8:00 p.m. \$10				

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Friday, February 2, 6:30-8:30pm \$34
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Stress Reduction for the New Year

Monday, February 5, 7:00-8:00pm FREE
Learn a simple practice that you can do to relax, quiet your mind and body and feel better fast. Instructor Dana Ben-Yehuda, M.AmSAT, teaches you to undo everyday stresses using the Alexander Technique. Come learn ways to move that can help ease back pain. Be balanced and poised and reduce strain on your back. This is a hands-on educational method that has been in practice for over 100 years. It is recognized by health services in England, Switzerland, Australia, Germany and Israel. Here in the U.S., it is offered at chronic pain clinics, cancer centers, and physical therapy offices, as well as Universities and music and drama conservatories.

Simple Healthy Lunches in Minutes

Thursday, February 8, 6:30-8:30pm \$18
Wonder how to find time to make a healthy lunch in the morning and still be on time for work? Samia McCully, ND, will show you how to assemble quick, nutritious lunches. Includes simple ingredients like hummus, olives, tomatoes, crackers, and cheeses. Great for busy moms, working professionals and those of you who just want more ideas for healthy lunches. Also included is a store tour and sampling of lunches.

Oaxacan Antojitos

Wednesday, February 21, 6:30-8:30pm \$34
Diverse regional wonders. Ron Kent, expert on Oaxacan cuisine, helps you master authentic antojitos all made with fresh stone ground masa: Corn Tortillas a Mano, Memelas, Empanadas and other Oaxacan specialties. Some other items on the menu will be Molotes con Chorizo and Potatoes, Empanadas with Amarillo and Chicken, Mole Amarillo, Atole Blanco and Champurrado, the pre-Colombian drinks made of corn and chocolate. Black Beans and Spanish rice will be offered to round out the meal.

rontkent@yahoo.com www.oaxacanfoods.com

Healthy, Hearty, Delicious Soups!

Monday, February 26, 6:30-8:30pm \$18
With Samia McCully, ND. Make way for soups from scratch! Learn to make 3 scrumptious soups - included are Black Bean, Moroccan Spiced Vegetable Lentil and Italian Tomato. These can be used as a side or a meal. Included is a store tour and of course - soup sampling!

A Gluten-Free Taste of Tuscany!

Tuesday, February 27, 6:30-8:30pm \$34
Join Personal Chef, Daniela Magozzi, and Gluten-Free Baker, Kathryn Guy, as they prepare a delicious and gluten-free Taste of Tuscany! Enjoy traditional dishes with a gluten-free twist. Items on the menu include:

- Torta de Ceci: Authentic Tuscan Garbanzo Bean Pizza
- Salsa delle Melanzane con Verdure Crude: Eggplant Spread with Raw Veggies
- Risotto con Funghi Salvatiche: Wild Mushroom Risotto
- Filetto di Maiale Arrostito: Roast Pork Tenderloin
- Pane/Bread: Focaccia
- Patate al Forno con Rosmarino e Salvia: Rosemary and Sage Roasted Potatoes
- Piselli con Pancetta e Salsa di Pomodoro: Peas with Pancetta and Tomato Sauce
- Biscotti, Café, e Vinsanto



MUSEUM

► Continued from page 1

room. He not only employs a team of real estate developers in the front office, but a full-time mechanic in the adjoining auto shop. Having his hobby next to his office seems to work for him.

Pulling out large sheets of rolled paper, Mozart went over his plans for a museum in Mountain View to house 60 of his 100 cars. Some of the world's finest automobiles could be displayed here — including exotic examples sporting the famous Duesenberg and Ferrari nameplates. Another candidate for the proposed museum is his 1937 Alfa Romeo 8C2900 Spyder, an unusually sleek piece of automotive history that has won recognition in some of the world's finest car shows, including the Pebble Beach Concours d' Elegance.

The museum plans show a simple one-story, two-room, 25,000-square-foot building on a site next to the Computer History Museum on Pear Avenue. After reviewing the details, Siegel concluded the building would likely be a visitor draw in itself.

The building — designed by Korth Sunseri Hagey of San Francisco — features walls of an unusual composition. Made in Germany, the tall, thin, U-shaped channels of glass will lock together and be filled with gel for insulation. The walls will be translucent, but not transparent, Mozart explained. Grids of small lights will be attached to the metal-framed ceiling to bounce off black granite floors, providing just the right amount of light to make the cars “pop,” he said.

“I really wanted to make a statement architecturally,” Mozart said.

Old racing days

Soon the discussion turned to the old days when sports cars were

king. Siegel told a story about a 1950s Ferrari Monza he owned in his younger days that was originally raced by famed driver Phil Hill and was featured in the movie “State Fair,” with Pat Boone driving.

Because fixing its blown engine would have cost an “exorbitant amount of money,” Siegel put in a then-state-of-the-art Chevy 409 V8 and went racing on the circuits in the Southeast U.S. where he lived. He eventually sold the car for \$8,000, but today it would be worth hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Many of Mozart's 100 cars are in that price range, including a 1958 Lister Chevy, a car he regularly enters in vintage racing events. It is one of the few vintage race cars of its type that originally came with a Chevy V8.

As long as Mozart uses a few period-correct pieces to comply with race rules, options for modifications abound because of the engine's popularity with hot rod builders. In the 1950s the car was rated at 300 horsepower but now it has about 500, Mozart said, making it a great selection for vintage races, where the menacing black car regularly runs at the front of the pack.

What's it like to drive such beast? “It's scary,” he said. The tires used in vintage racing are a bit too narrow to keep the unruly car planted to the asphalt.

Mozart said he never had any money until he sold his auto parts distribution business, Eurasian Auto Parts, in the 1970s. But once he did, he jumped into real estate development — like someone jumping into a pool who didn't know how to swim, he said. He bought his first collector car, a Duesenberg, in 1981.

He seems to have inherited the collector's bug from his father, who came from humble beginnings to own one of the country's first Porsche dealers, Mozart

Porsche/VW, in Palo Alto, which included a museum with antique cars. One day his father grew tired of the cars and sold the whole collection, Mozart said.

Today, Mozart's collection is world-renown. A search on the Internet turns up numerous references and photos of him driving his cars on racetracks such as the

famous Laguna Seca in Salinas.

In his office's auto shop, hundreds of pieces of memorabilia hang from the ceiling and the walls. Models of old war planes, old signs, pieces of automotive artwork and Elvis' face is prominently displayed on one wall; bronze statues of motorcycle racers and old toys sit on shelves; and there are even two very old go-carts built to look like 1930s race cars.

But while many of Mozart's cars will find their way into the museum, the memorabilia filling his shop will not.

All in the family

Mozart's wife, Heather Mozart, talked about the car she has raced in Vintage events since 1997. In 2005 she was the first woman to win the Wine Country Classic at Sonoma's Infineon Raceway. Her 1965 Alfa Romeo GTA is like “the perfect gentlemen,” she said, because of the way it predictably handles in the corners. It was totaled once in a crash, but the Mozarts decided it was worth saving. Since then the car's value has gone up.

The Alfa Romeo GTA was parked next to a row of Ferraris, Porsches, Mercedes and Jaguars, many of which have been restored by Mozart and his crew. They have the ability to fix anything on a car — and sometimes have pieces manufactured when they are no longer available.



John and Heather's 6-year-old daughter hap-

pened to be in the shop, looking to show off her go-kart — a small replica of a 1960s-era formula car, powered by a lawn mower engine.

Mozart plans to use the new museum for charitable events, and says he'll continue his tradition of opening up the collection to car clubs. He has made significant donations to charities, and sits on the advisory board for the Children's Place in Redwood City.

While the museum could be considered a gift to the city of Mountain View, it won't be open on a daily basis. Mozart said it wouldn't be worth it to hire someone to stand at the front counter when only a small number of visitors are likely to visit each day. ■

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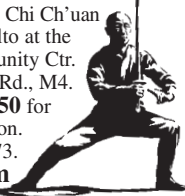
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County implements fee increase for parkgoers

Bay City News

Santa Clara County supervisors last week voted to hike park fees between 10 and 20 percent to put the county's fees in line with other park rates in the region.

The fee increase comes after a 2006 survey discovered that park fees in Santa Clara County were below the average level in the region.

Park users are looking at a 10 percent to 20 percent increase for various fees. A vehicle daily pass will go from \$5 to \$6, and camping fees would go from \$18 to \$20. The increased fees will give the County Parks and Recreation Department an additional \$278,000 a year.

Fees charged to park users only cover about 10 percent of the actual cost of operating and maintaining the parks department,

the county reported.

"We haven't increased park user fees since 2005," said Tamara Clark-Shear of the County Parks and Recreation Department. "It's time for us to make the adjustments in order to keep up with the increasing cost of operation and maintenance in this Valley."

"The increases of park fees are moderate and reasonable," Supervisor Don Gage, chair of

the Board of Supervisors, said. "We want to make sure that all residents are able to come and enjoy the county parks."

In October 2006, the County Parks and Recreation Department completed telephone and Web site surveys of the park user fees of 30 state, regional, county and city parks. The surveys showed that Santa Clara County parks fees were below the regional standard. ▀

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■ NEWS BRIEFS

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT ESCAPES MOLESTER

A 12-year-old girl escaped a suspected molester Monday after he approached her on Latham Street as she walked home from the library, police said.

According to police spokesman Jim Bennett, a man came up behind the middle school student in the 200 block of Latham Street at about 6:55 p.m. Bennett said the man "made some brief comments in Spanish and then attempted to inappropriately and unlawfully touch the victim."

"The victim slapped the suspect's hand and ran from the area. There is no clear indication that the suspect attempted to follow her after the incident or intended to commit abduction," he said.

Police describe the suspect as a Hispanic male, about 5-foot-6 and approximately 28 years old, with dark complexion and short spiky hair. He was seen wearing a dirty white T-shirt and blue jeans with paint stains on them, and is described as having a high-pitched voice. Anyone with information should call Mountain View police at (650) 903-6344.

MAN KILLED BY CALTRAIN NEAR DOWNTOWN STATION

A pedestrian was hit and killed by a commuter train Tuesday morning about half a mile from the Mountain View station, Caltrain authorities said.

Caltrain described the pedestrian as a "trespasser" on the tracks who was hit by the No. 312 southbound train on Feb. 13 at around 7:50 a.m. His identity had not been released as of press time pending notification of next of kin.

The accident occurred on tracks under Highway 85 that run parallel to Evelyn Avenue. The track was closed until noon, causing delays of up to an hour and 15 minutes.

"Caltrain is 'single-tracking' through the area, which means trains in both north- and southbound directions are taking turns using one track to bypass the area," said Jonah Weinberg, spokesman for the San Mateo County Transit District, on the day of the incident. An investigation is still underway.

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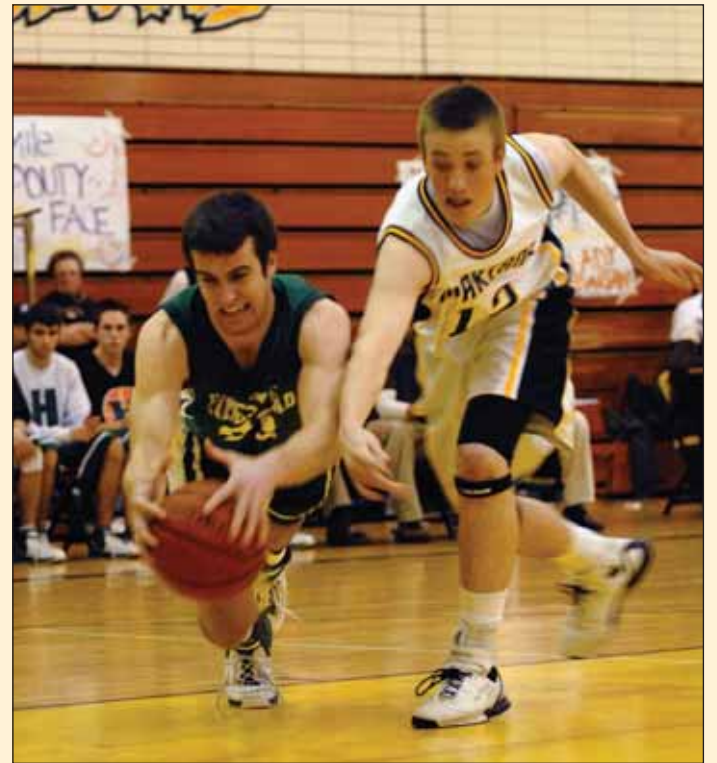
D-Wave Systems, Inc., a high-tech company, shocked techies everywhere on Tuesday during a

demonstration at the Computer History Museum by announcing it had developed the world's first commercially viable 16-qubit quantum computer.

The Vancouver-based company is aiming for breakthroughs in medicine and business as demonstrated by its "Orion" quantum computer system, which reportedly demonstrated a search for molecular structure matches and solved a Sudoku puzzle.

D-Wave stated that its device is intended as a complement to conventional computers, not as a replacement for them. The company's announcement was met with some skepticism on technology blogs such as Engadget.com.

— Zunaira Durrani



ON THE LOOSE:

Tim Vanderet of Homestead High School and Jesse Griffin of Mountain View High School scramble for a loose ball during a game last Friday, Feb. 9. The Spartans won the game, 47-40.

KARNA KURATA



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COUNCIL

▶ Continued from page 1

But there were also several speakers in favor of halting new development. One speaker noted that last year, council candidates were asked what the city's maximum population should be. The consensus was 10 percent growth, or 80,000 people. Tuesday's speaker said that growth was already on the horizon if the 3,598 units in the pipeline were to be built.

Shilo Ballard of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group told the

council that SVLG regularly surveys its 200 member businesses to ask what traits are valued in a city. The two traits that vie for first place every year are housing and transportation, she said.

Council members themselves commented on the possibility of losing large employers like Google, with Pear saying the company could leave for any number of other cities.

After Galiotto and council member Ronit Bryant showed little support for the moratorium, it was obvious the idea would

not pass. Galiotto also expressed resentment that the old council was being criticized for not making sure the city was growing the way citizens want it to.

The current housing element of the general plan was revised in 2002, and prior to that he worked on it for two years, helping the city seek input from residents. Many of them, he said, wanted more housing in Mountain View.

"I don't know what the hell we were doing in those days in getting public input," he said in frustration. ▀

City planners request lighter workload

By Daniel DeBolt

While the City Council killed further discussion on a building moratorium, the city's Planning Department is missing two of its top city planners and is requesting that projects requiring zoning changes be delayed until next year.

With 3,598 homes and plenty of commercial development in the pipeline, planning staff requested at Tuesday's council meeting that several projects — particularly any requiring a zoning change, which includes most higher-density housing developments — be delayed until next year, after large projects like Home Depot and Mayfield have been processed.

Any development not requiring a zoning change or other legislative action would continue to be processed right away, said planning manager Aarti Shrivastava.

In response to the workload concerns, the council voted to postpone processing a 66-unit senior care facility proposed for El Camino Hospital.

"Their plate is always full," Macias said about the planning staff's workload. "I think the question to ask is, 'How much can one planner do?' There are 3,500

units in the pipeline. It goes up a few hundred every time I check."

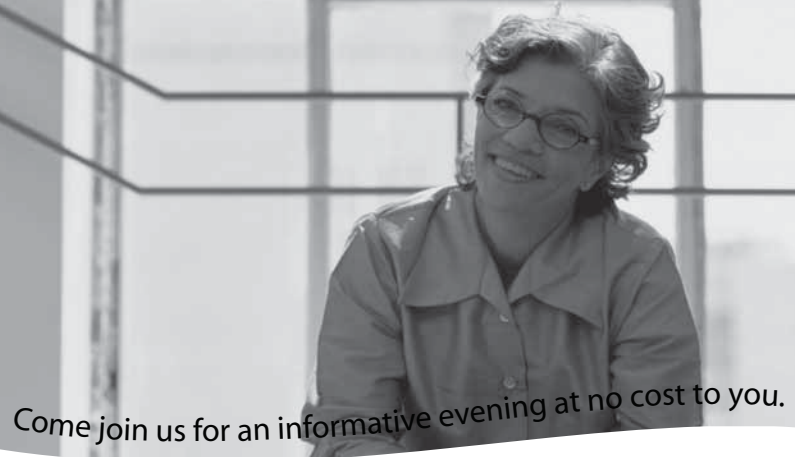
The department's ability to take on work is also hampered by two vacancies: Al Savay left his post as zoning administrator in December, and the principal planner post has been vacant since last summer, when Shrivastava was promoted to planning manager. The two positions are key to current and long-term planning.

Currently, Shrivastava directs three senior planners, three associate planners and a deputy zoning administrator.

Last year several developments, including the Grant Road farm and Satake Nursery proposals, were also postponed. This year there are a slightly higher number of projects being processed, Shrivastava said. Exact numbers could not be provided by press time.

Staff resources are expected to be freed up in early 2008 after several large developments are through the pipeline. They include the proposed Home Depot at San Antonio Center, the 530 homes approved for 100 Mayfield Ave., a precise plan for 900 units in the South Whisman area, 55 homes at the Grant Road farm, and a new Google building on Charleston Road. ▀

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Council revives 1979 ordinance on condos

LAW DOESN'T ADDRESS
DEMOLISHING
APARTMENTS, ONLY
CONVERTING THEM
FOR OWNERSHIP

By Daniel DeBolt

In a move likely to have significant impacts on the trend of converting low-rent apartments to condominiums, the City Council on Tuesday took up as a study session topic an all-but-forgotten 1979 ordinance designed to protect apartments.

Residents approved the 1979 ordinance to protect the city's apartment stock, which was quickly being sold as condos. The practice has become popular and problematic in recent years as well, said Elaine Costello, community development director, and because certain conditions have been met the ordinance has kicked in once again.

The ordinance says that if the number of apartments in the city dips below the 1979 number of 15,373, conversions of apart-

ments to condos will not be allowed — thereby protecting the city's affordable apartments. A conservative estimate by city staff found that the city is now actually below the 1979 number, at 15,120.

The 1979 ordinance doesn't address the current trend of demolishing old apartments to make way for new condo buildings, but it does prevent an existing building from being owned by its dwellers as a condo.

Several speakers during the public comment period commended the city council for finally counting the city's apartments and informing the public — something the 1979 ordinance required the city to do.

The old ordinance was discussed because the council is slowly drafting a new condo conversion ordinance in case the number of apartments rises to allow conversions once again.

The new ordinance includes a requirement for apartment owners to provide relocation expenses equaling three months' rent for those displaced by condo conversions. ▀

Viewpoint

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- YOUR LETTERS
- GUEST OPINIONS

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■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

End of the line for redistricting quest

LA HILLS' NEXT MOVE SHOULD BE COOPERATION, NOT SEPARATION

From the beginning, the idea that the wealthy enclave of Los Altos Hills would be able to establish its own school district, when its children already attended the top-ranked Los Altos School District, seemed preposterous.

The Hills parents behind the effort were upset that the last elementary school in their community was closed by the Los Altos district due to shrinking enrollment and high costs. Then their effort to form a neighborhood charter school at the closed school site, Bullis-Purissima, was shot down, forcing students to use a school site a few miles away.

But although these are certainly serious concerns for some Hills parents, the county's committee on school district reorganization was not sympathetic, and voted 11-0 to deny the Hills bid to establish a K-8 district of its own. If allowed to proceed, such a district would have taken a significant portion of property tax revenue from the Los Altos School District, and potentially from the Los Altos-Mountain View High School District.

Also, as part of the complicated reshuffling, many Hills students would have moved to Palo Alto's school district, joining other Hills kids already there.

The county's decision was enough for the Los Altos Hills Town Council, which had backed the proposal, to vote unanimously last week to drop the effort. Maybe they feel that the promise by the Los Altos district to spend \$10 million to rebuild the Bullis-Purissima school in the Hills neighborhood is more than enough reason to back off.

Despite these developments — and what seems like overwhelming odds against a separate Hills district ever clearing the county and state hurdles — a few parents still hold out hope that a petition drive can make a difference in the county and state approval process.

As Steve Glickman of the county board said, "If the attendance numbers aren't there, we can't do this, even if we wanted to," referring to the requirement that any new district have at least 900 students. That is a number that the Hills "barely makes," he said, and that's assuming that all Hills students, including those in private schools, would attend the new district.

We expect the majority of Hills parents will accept the county's ruling and work with LASD to make sure the district's promises — especially those to improve and reopen the Bullis-Purissima school site — are kept. And there are other ways to cooperate that would pay off to assure that all children in the Los Altos district continue to achieve some of the highest test scores in the state.

■ LETTERS VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

PROSTITUTION BUSTS ARE RARELY JUST

Editor:

I applaud the *Voice* for its editorial last week, "Owners the missing link in prostitution busts." You are absolutely correct when you say, "rarely do we see charges filed against the person or persons who actually own the business." Unfortunately, in most cases it is always the front-line workers who get the worst deal from the law enforcement people as well as from those who employ them.

As you point out, it's well known that in this "massage" business most are Asian women, and many are brought to the U.S. by the owners of those businesses, who pay for their airfare and force these women to work for them in this illegal activity so they can pay them back and keep their dirty business going.

Then, after already being victims of their bosses or managers, they get arrested; and these bosses or managers, who are the real culprits, are not touched by the police. That is simply not fair. The police have the obligation to cut the roots of the evil tree and not just its little branches. The police must do a thorough job for a healthy community and justice for all who deserve it, not just a superficial one for good P.R.

Job Lopez
McCarty Avenue

HOUSING SHORTAGE CAN LEAD TO DISASTER

Editor:

I was very disappointed to

read of the City Council's proposal to block the construction of new housing ("City may limit housing growth," Feb. 9). A stagnant supply of housing coupled with a growing local population will drive the price of homes even higher. This will force more families to leave for cheaper digs in the Central Valley, increasing sprawl and hastening environmental degradation.

For those of us for whom commuting from Stockton is not an option, the housing ban will drive the prospect of home ownership even farther from reach. The moratorium may not hurt those who already own property in Mountain View, but for the rest of us, and for the environment, it will be a disaster.

Peter Nilson
Latham Street

QUANTITY OF HOUSING MUST NOT ECLIPSE QUALITY

Editor:

In last week's story on housing development, Mayor Laura Macias says, "Since we do have such high density, the question needs to be asked, 'What's the capacity of a small city?'" A better question would be: "What's the quality of our current developments?"

Since the capacity of a small city is whatever its people want it to be, we benefit more by focusing on value, not just quantity. Vibrant cities around the country have both density and high quality.

► See **LETTERS**, page 16



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LETTERS

► Continued from page 15

Density brings the high-value stores, services, and transportation that low density does not. But in focusing on just density we risk losing sight of quality.

We have long since passed our orchard days in the Valley. We are future-looking, cutting edge, high-tech urban dwellers. Our city should reflect those values. We should be asking, "What bold development concepts would anchor our future and secure the best quality of life in Mountain View?"

A city council that can lead us to a more exciting future, rather than the unending series of public input we've endured, would benefit us all. I worry that the new council might want to just circle the wagons. Think of the vision that bought us the new City Hall, Performing Arts Center, and people-friendly Castro Street. In truth, Mayor Macias, the capacity of a small city is limited only by its thinking.

Allen Price
Velarde Street

COUNCIL SHOULD STRIKE BALANCE ON HOUSING

Editor:

When my wife and I moved to Mountain View in 1968, it was a city of orchards and parks, apartments and homes. In short, a great place to live with a high quality of life. Over the last few years the City Council has been more interested in maximizing builders' profits than protecting the residents' quality of life. Our new City Council should balance growth with development.

Konrad M. Sosnow
Trophy Drive

ALL NOT LOST FOR GRANT ROAD FARM

Editor:

Thank you for your supportive editorial, "Political will needed to save farm," (Feb. 2). I must confess that I initially believed it was inevitable that the bulldozers would come and another piece of our legacy would be obliterated. After learning more about the efforts of local citizens and seeing what has been done

► Continued on next page

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The Almanac

Viewpoint

► Continued from previous page

in other communities, I have come to believe that Mountain View can be the forward thinking, creative city I have been proud to call my home for over 20 years.

It is crucial that the city set aside part of this property as a working farm. The Mountain View Farmlands Group, using donations from private citizens, has presented several options for the council to consider. I am eager to see this issue on the council agenda and hope that others in and around our community will take a proactive approach on this issue.

As stated in the editorial:
"When it's gone, it's gone."

Ruth Anderson
Chesley Avenue

THANKS TO PARTICIPANTS IN CANCER FUNDRAISER

Editor:

The Cancer Center Program at El Camino Hospital would like to thank the community for its support recently at the Whole Foods 5% day.

This was the first time the new Los Altos store hosted this community fundraiser, and we were pleased to be the recipient through the El Camino Hospital Foundation. One of the best parts of being in the store all day was the opportunity for the Cancer Center staff to greet so many people from the community and hear their concerns, suggestions and commendations.

But what was also very special was the interaction with the Whole Foods staff. They were terrific. They were so enthusiastic and supportive. Many of them stopped by to tell us how pleased they were to be part of this joint effort, how they had been spreading the word to customers for several weeks, and even how many of them had planned their own shopping for that day in order to benefit the hospital.

It was a nice occasion to celebrate a very rewarding partnership with the store, the hospital and the community. Thanks to all who participated.

Pam Lehner
Cancer Center concierge,
El Camino Hospital

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■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

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NORBERT VON DER GROEBEN

Fettucini Mareterra from Trattoria Buon Gusto in Menlo Park.

■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

Elemental Italian

MENLO PARK'S TRATTORIA BUON GUSTO SERVES SOME OF THE BEST ITALIAN FOOD IN THE AREA

By Dale F. Bentson

I never had an Italian grandmother, but if I did, I wish she had cooked like Palma Costa.

Costa started cooking in 1954 for her four brothers and her father after her mother passed away. She learned early on about creating hearty dishes with robust flavors. A native of Sicily, she came to the United States in 1973 and brought her culinary instincts with her.

Costa became the master chef at Trattoria Buon Gusto (Good Taste), which has been tucked away behind the Menlo Park post office since 1995. The restaurant is not a chic, glitzy affair; it's warm and inviting, like grandma's house.

Costa has recently had some health issues and passed the torch

to chef Ignazio Maelis. Fortunately, Maelis — a native of Sardinia — creates her dishes flawlessly.

The gnocchi (\$13), for example, was as good as any I have had anywhere, including Italy. The dumplings were so light that had they not been weighted under a crimson blanket of delicious tomato sauce, they might have floated out the door. The scrumptious creamy tomato gravy was studded with bits of diced tomato, garlic and basil.

For starters, the arancini (\$10) were two deep-fried rice balls, light and crisp. The creamy interior was loaded with tomatoey meat sauce, peas and a dollop of melted mozzarella cheese. The ample portion was plenty for two but it was just too good to share.

I marveled at the bruschetta (\$6.75). Tomatoes are out of season,

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Tiramisu from Trattoria Buon Gusto.

yet the freshness of the flavor was terrific. How did they do that? The chopped tomatoes, along with basil and garlic, topped grilled homemade bread drizzled with olive oil.

ripe pears (\$10) is always a refreshing way to start dinner. Shaved parmesan intensified the flavors and added some nuance to the texture.

Lean prosciutto layered over

► See **TRATTORIA**, page 20

DINING NOTES

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		ice cream Gelato Classico 241 B Castro Street Mtn. View. 650/969-2900

If you would like to be listed in DINING ON THE TOWN please call Judie Block at the Voice at 964-6300

TRATTORIA

► Continued from page 19

Thin sliced eggplant (\$8.50) was fried, layered with mozzarella and oven-baked. The large serving was fleshy and rich, the hot cheese oozing from the crisped melanzanna (Italian for eggplant).

Lentil soup (\$4.25 cup/\$6.25 bowl) was thick with chard. Diced potato, onion and the lentils were evident but did not overwhelm the soup. The broth was rustic and soothing, the kind

of fare you want after a chilly morning of truffle hunting.

Besides the outstanding gnocchi, all the pasta dishes I tried were excellent (the restaurant offers a dozen). Ravioli (\$14.50) were filled with chicken and vegetables. I think I detected chard, which added a touch of color to the pasta pillows. The same creamy tomato sauce that was used for the gnocchi enveloped the ravioli. It was a near-sensual experience.

Pappardelle (\$14.50) was resplendent with porcini mushrooms, garlic and white wine. The earthy

flavors were primal, intense and aromatic, with the porcini meaty and nutty.

Main courses were equally tantalizing. The calamari steak (\$16) had been pounded flat then breaded in Italian herbs and sauteed in white wine. The steak was fork-tender and its richness was reminiscent of abalone.

Chicken piccata (\$15.75) was thinly sliced breast that had been floured and sauteed in butter with bits of prosciutto, parsley and lemon juice. It nearly sparkled on the plate. The gratifying

helping was served with steamed chard and roasted potatoes.

The leg of lamb (\$21) was delectable and tender. Three large pieces adorned the plate, more than I could handle at that point. The meat was served as ordered — just pink. There were hints of garlic, rosemary and chili flakes, which enhanced rather than overwhelmed the lamb.

As with the bread, all the desserts (\$6.50) are house-made. The most unusual of them was the chocolate salami: Cookies and chocolate were squished together

into a round cylinder, rolled in cocoa powder, and sliced and served atop a mudflat of chocolate. The “salami” was an intricate maze of vanilla cookie and chocolate that did not bleed together. It was as impressive as it was tasty.

The wine list is not extraordinary but matches well with the food. Prices (\$22 to \$40) are fair, and, with a few exceptions, all wines are Italian.

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2 Fried Oysters, over arugola and fennel salad	Puff pastry filled with mushroom medley & goat cheese
<u>Patatine Fritte</u> 4	<u>Portobello Caprino</u> 5
Potato chips w/ rosemary & sea salt w/ saffron mayo	Grilled Portobello mushroom topped with goat cheese and a splash of balsamic reduction
<u>Arancini</u> 5	<u>Crema Carciofini e Granchio</u> 5
Breaded Arborio rice balls stuffed with mozzarella & peas, then lightly fried and served with marinara	Our warm crab & artichoke dip with our pasta chips
<u>Olive Ascolane</u> 5	<u>Straccetti di Maiale</u> 5
Queen green olives stuffed with chicken and beef, then breaded and fried. Served with lemon & arugola salad	Roasted shredded pork w/ spicy bruschetta topping
<u>Asparagi al salto</u> 5	<u>Zucchine e Carciofi</u> 5
Asparagus with parmesan cheese and brown butter	Zucchini & artichokes lightly fried w/ lemon aioli
<u>Gamberoni</u> 6	<u>Calamari Fritti</u> 6
2 grilled large shrimp skewered with cipolline onions served with truffle oiled garlic crostini	Fried calamari served with marinara and lemon aioli
<u>Baccala' Fritto</u> 6	<u>Cozze al Forno</u> 6
Beer battered fried Cod, home made chips, saffron mayo	Three big green lip NZ mussels with a topping of crisp bacon, tomato, basil, & balsamic reduction
<u>Prosciutto, Pere e Gorgonzola</u> 6	<u>Tartare di Tonno</u> 6
Bosc Pears, gorgonzola cheese and Parma prosciutto	Sushi grade Ahi tuna, diced, and mixed with ginger red onion, poppy seeds, red bell pepper, & E.V.O.O.

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MOVIE TIMES

ARTHUR AND THE INVISIBLES (PG) Century 20: 11:45 a.m.; 2 & 4:30 p.m.
BECAUSE I SAID SO (PG-13) ★★1/2 Century 16: 11:35 a.m.; 2:15, 4:40, 7:20 & 9:45 p.m. Century 12: 11:55 a.m.; 2:25, 5, 7:45 & 10:20 p.m.
BREACH (PG-13) ★★★ Century 16: 11:15 a.m.; 1:55, 4:35, 7:30 & 10:05 p.m. Century 20: 11:40 a.m.; 2:25, 5, 7:40 & 10:15 p.m.
BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA (PG) Century 16: 11:45 a.m.; 2:20, 4:35, 6:55 & 9:15 p.m. Century 20: 11:30 a.m.; 12:55, 1:55, 3:15, 4:35, 5:45, 7:10, 8:10, 9:35 & 10:30 p.m.
CASINO ROYALE (PG-13) ★★★1/2 Century 12: 12:30, 3:50, 7:05 & 10:25 p.m.
CATCH AND RELEASE (PG-13) Century 20: 2:15 & 7:50 p.m.
CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G) ★★1/2 Century 12: 12:05, 2:30, 4:50 & 7:25 p.m.
CHILDREN OF MEN (R) ★★★1/2 Century 16: 4:10 & 10:20 p.m. Century 20: 12:35, 5:30 & 10:20 p.m.
DADDY'S LITTLE GIRLS (PG-13) Century 16: 12:15, 2:35, 5, 7:25 & 9:55 p.m. Century 12: 11:50 a.m.; 1, 2:15, 3:30, 4:55, 6, 7:20, 8:30 & 9:50 p.m.
DREAMGIRLS (PG-13) ★★★ Century 16: 12:35 & 7:15 p.m. Century 20: 1:10, 4:15, 7:15 & 10:05 p.m.
EPIC MOVIE (PG-13) Century 12: Noon, 2:20, 4:35, 7 & 9:40 p.m.
FACTORY GIRL (R) Century 16: 1, 3:25, 5:45, 8 & 10:15 p.m. Century 12: 11:45 a.m.; 2, 4:30, 7:10 & 9:30 p.m.
FREEDOM WRITERS (PG-13) Century 12: 9:55 p.m.
GHOST RIDER (PG-13) (SEE REVIEW ON WWW.PALOALTO ONLINE.COM) Century 16: 11:10 a.m.; 12:25, 1:45, 3, 4:20, 5:35, 7:05, 8:10, 9:40 & 10:40 p.m. Century 20: 11:45 a.m.; 12:40, 1:35, 2:30, 3:25, 4:20, 5:15, 6:15, 7, 7:55, 8:55, 9:40 & 10:35 p.m.
HANNIBAL RISING (R) Century 16: 12:30, 3:30, 7 & 10 p.m. Century 12: 12:20, 1:50, 3:10, 4:40, 6:20, 7:40, 9:20 & 10:30 p.m.
HAPPILY N'EVER AFTER (PG) Century 12: 12:10, 2:40, 5:10 & 7:35 p.m.
HAPPY FEET (PG) Century 20: 11:35 a.m.; 2:15 & 4:45 p.m.
THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND (R) ★★★1/2 Century 20: 1:15, 4:25, 7:35 & 10:30 p.m.
LETTERS FROM IWO JIMA (R) ★★★1/2 Century 16: 11:25 a.m.; 2:40, 6:30 & 9:40 p.m. Century 20: 12:30, 3:35, 6:45 & 9:45 p.m.
THE LIVES OF OTHERS (R) ★★★ Guild: 2:30, 5:30 & 8:30 p.m.; Sat.-Mon. also at 11:30 a.m.
THE MESSENGERS (PG-13) Century 20: 1:05, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50 & 10 p.m.
MUSIC AND LYRICS (PG-13) ★★★ Century 16: 11:20 a.m.; 12:40, 2, 3:20, 4:30, 5:50, 7:10, 9 & 9:50 p.m. Century 12: 12:25, 1:45, 3:25, 4:45, 6:15, 7:30, 9 & 10:10 p.m.
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) Century 16: 11:30 a.m.; 4:45 & 10:10 p.m. Century 20: Noon, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45 & 10:20 p.m.
NORBIT (PG-13) ★★ Century 16: 11:05 a.m.; 12:10, 1:40, 2:45, 4:15, 5:20, 6:50, 7:55, 9:25 & 10:25 p.m. Century 20: 11:55 a.m.; 12:45, 1:25, 2:20, 3:10, 4, 4:50, 5:35, 6:30, 7:20, 8:05, 9:05, 9:55 & 10:35 p.m.
NOTES ON A SCANDAL (R) ★★★1/2 Century 20: 7:20 & 9:50 p.m. Aquarius: 9:15 p.m.
THE PAINTED VEIL (PG-13) ★★★ Century 20: 7:30 & 10:25 p.m. Aquarius: 1, 3:45 & 6:30 p.m.
PAN'S LABYRINTH (R) ★★★1/2 Century 20: 11:35 a.m.; 2:20, 4:55, 7:35 & 10:10 p.m. Palo Alto Square: 1:30, 4:20, 7:20 & 10:10 p.m.
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG-13) ★★★ Century 16: 11 a.m.; 1:50, 4:55, 7:50 & 10:35 p.m. Century 20: 11:30 a.m.; 5 & 10:25 p.m.
THE QUEEN (NOT RATED) ★★★ Century 20: 12:10, 2:40, 5:05, 7:25 & 9:45 p.m. Palo Alto Square: 2, 4:30, 7 & 9:30 p.m.; Sat. & Sun. also at 11:30 a.m.
THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW (1975) (R) Guild: Sat. at midnight.
SERAPHIM FALLS (R) ★★ Century 12: 10 p.m.
SMOKIN' ACES (R) ★★ Century 20: 3:05 & 8 p.m.
VENUS (R) ★★1/2 Century 16: 2:25 & 7:45 p.m.
VOLVER (R) ★★1/2 Guild: 4:15, 7 & 9:45 p.m.; Sat.-Tue. also at 1:30 p.m.

Note: Screenings are for Friday through Tuesday only.

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

For show times, plot synopses, trailers and more movie info, visit www.mv-voice.com and click on movies.



MOVIE REVIEWS

BECAUSE I SAID SO ★★1/2 (Century 16, Century 20) Daphne (Diane Keaton) is the single mother of three grown daughters, two of whom Daphne has watched walk down the aisle. But her youngest, Milly (Mandy Moore), can't seem to snag the right beau. So Daphne signs Milly up for an Internet dating service without her knowledge. Daphne meets the would-be suitors and soon realizes how shallow the dating pool is. The introductions produce only two potential fellows for Milly: soulful guitarist Johnny (Gabriel Macht) and wealthy architect Jason (Tom Everett Scott). Soon Milly is dating both men unaware of her mother's involvement, and when Milly must choose between what she wants and what's expected of her she finds that the options are in direct conflict. "Because" borrows dialogue and scenarios from films such as "Kindergarten Cop" and "Jerry Maguire." Ultimately, even a vivacious Keaton can't make the film feel fresh. *Rated: PG-13 for sexual content including dialogue, some mature thematic material and partial nudity. 1 hour, 42 minutes.* — T.H.

NORBIT ★★ (Century 16, Century 20) Norbit Rice (Eddie Murphy) is a tender-hearted man whose Poindexter appearance and orphan upbringing have turned him into a socially awkward pariah. But Norbit's biggest problem is his wife, the aptly named Rasputia (Murphy again, sporting a fat suit created by legendary make-up man Rick Baker). Abusive, adulterous and obese, Rasputia bullies and berates Norbit at every turn. Meanwhile, her three enormous brothers intimidate and extort the local merchants with mob-like attacks. Things begin to look up for Norbit and the townsfolk with the appearance of Kate (Thandie Newton), Norbit's old flame from his orphanage days. Kate returns to town with her shallow fiance (Cuba Gooding Jr.) to buy the orphanage from the fatherly but foul-mouthed Mr. Wong (Murphy). But Rasputia's brothers and their lawless construction company have other plans for the property. Murphy's finest example of multi-role playing is still his first, 1988's "Coming to America." Compared to that comedic gem, "Norbit" is little more than excess weight. *Rated: PG-13 for crude and sexual humor, some nudity and language. 1 hour, 42 minutes.* — T.H.

SERAPHIM FALLS ★★ (Century 12) Post-Civil War revenge is the emotional linchpin for a Western psychodrama that runs plumb out of ideas in the last act. Pierce Brosnan is Gideon, a craggy mountain man and ex-Union captain relentlessly pursued by an ex-Confederate colonel: Morsmon Carver (Liam Neeson), who has a personal score to settle. Gideon barely survives a gunshot wound to the shoulder in the opening moments and it's game on. His grisly self-induced surgery via hefty hunting knife is the first of many such testosterone moments as Gideon seeks to endure the vicious

► See **MINI REVIEWS**, page 23

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Weekend

Funny whodunnit

PEAR AVENUE TAKES ON STOPPARD'S 'ARCADIA,' COMBINING MYSTERY, HUMOR AND LOVE

By Alexa Tondreau

Depending on how you look at it, the production of "Arcadia," set to debut next week at Mountain View's Pear Avenue Theatre, has been in the works for over a decade.

That's because Arcadia's director, Rebecca Ennals, saw the show, written by celebrated playwright Tom Stoppard, on its world premiere night in London more than 10 years ago, when she was a student studying abroad.

Recalling the experience, Ennals said, "I sat in the theater afterwards for almost 20 minutes, with my mouth just hanging wide open. It is such a rich play. I got my hands on a copy as soon as I could and I read it over and over again. And I decided that I definitely would love to do all of the plays in Stoppard's canon."

This month will bring Ennals one step closer to that wish, when "Arcadia" opens Feb. 22 with a run through March 18. Ennals and the Pear's artistic director, Diane Tasca, knew they wanted to do something special this year to celebrate the Pear's fifth anniversary, and a Tom Stoppard play seemed to fit the bill.

Stoppard, a British playwright of Czech descent, is the author of numerous plays, among them "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead" and the screenplays for "Brazil" and "Shakespeare in Love." His work is known to portray complex philosophical issues by way of wit, innuendo and wordplay.

In literary circles, Ennals said, he is considered to have "a similar level of genius to Shakespeare." She continued, "He uses language in the most amazing way, and he is able to make everything in the play connect so effortlessly. It doesn't seem forced at all. Shakespeare did the same thing."

"Arcadia" is set in the room of a country mansion and alternates between present-day researchers investigating a literary mystery that took place in the house and the real incident as it actually occurred in 1809.

The cast features a dozen actors, most of them veterans of the Pear stage, including Michael Austin, Kris Jacobs and Josh Sigal. And the Pear being the Pear — a place where many hats are worn at once — artistic director Diane Tasca,



Elvy Yost as Thomasina Coverley, Diane Tasca as Lady Croom, and Michael Barrett Austin as Septimus Hodge in Tom Stoppard's "Arcadia," presented by the Pear Avenue Theatre.

THEATER PREVIEW

who helped found the theater, is among the cast members as well.

Though the play has all of the celebrated Stoppardian elements in place, including a fiercely intelligent wit and tragicomic take on life, Ennals thinks that "Arcadia" will appeal to those who may not be familiar with his work and might want to ease into the complexity of his style.

"This is a good introduction to Stoppard. It's a play about love, and everyone can get the love part and understand the connections," Ennals said. She added, "There's a lot to laugh at."

Because the play is set in different centuries, Ennals directed it to have two distinct styles revolving around the separate casts and storylines. The mystery links the scenes together, but the audience can expect a play that feels very different depending on the time period portrayed, she said.

The diminutive size of the Pear, which seats just 40, should also

INFORMATION

What: The Pear Avenue Theatre presents "Arcadia," a play by Tom Stoppard

When: Feb. 22 to March 18; Thursdays through Saturdays 8 p.m., Sundays 2 p.m.

Where: 1220 Pear Avenue, Unit K, Mountain View

Cost: \$10-\$25

Contact: Call the box office at (650) 254-1148 or visit www.thepear.org

be a draw for audiences wanting to connect with a Stoppard piece. When Ennals first saw the production, it was in a 700-seat theater where some of the subtlety was lost on the audience, she said.

But at the Pear, "you actually live in the room with the characters," she said. "There are moments we can afford to be really subtle here." ■

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

ARTS BRIEFS

'PIPPIN' OPENS AT FOOTHILL

A new production of Stephen Schwartz and Roger O. Hirson's Tony Award-winning musical "Pippin" opens this Friday at the Foothill Music Theater.

The plot revolves around young Pippin, heir to the 19th century Holy Roman Empire, who believes he is destined to do spectacular things but has difficulty finding his true calling. Director Jay Manley helms this story of a quest for identity, love and the meaning of life, featuring Schwartz' timeless score, includ-

ing "Magic to Do," "Corner of the Sky," "With You," and "No Time at All."

"Pippin" runs Feb. 16 to March 11, Thursday to Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m., at the Foothill College Playhouse, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. Tickets range from \$24 to \$10 for children under 12.

For more information, call the box office at (650) 949 7360 or the 24-hour hotline (650) 949 7414, or visit www.foothillmusicals.com.

— Zunaira Durrani

MINI REVIEWS

► Continued from page 21

manhunt that inexplicably consumes Carver. From the forbidding snow-covered peaks of Nevada's Ruby Mountains to the lone expanse of parched desert, Carver tracks his prey with single-minded fury. Gideon utilizes brain, not brawn, to stay a scant step ahead. Ultimately the handsome backdrop and hunky talent are for naught. When it's all said and done "Falls" is more dumbed-down than giddy-up. *Rated: R for violence and bloodshed. 1 hour, 57 minutes.* — J.A.

SMOKIN' ACES ★★

(Century 20) Director Joe Carnahan borrows liberally from a wrung-out genre to craft a tale of corruption and greed in Nevada's high-rolling desert sun. At its core is Vegas showboat Buddy "Aces" Israel (Jeremy Piven) who has taken his illusionist act on the road and wormed his way into some shady mob connections that have any number of federal agencies investigating him. The inquiries sputter when a hit is put out on Buddy with a \$1 million price tag on his head. Ex-cops, bounty hunters, hit women and European assassins are all gunning for Buddy, who is holed up in the penthouse suite of a Tahoe hotel in a post-coital cloud of cocaine and regret. The cast is a who's-who of Hollywood, ranging from veterans Ray Liotta and Andy Garcia to newbie screen celeb Alicia Keyes. But the energy gives way to silly plot devices that drag the action over the finish line with a resounding thud. *Rated: R for excessive violence, nudity and language. 1 hour, 48 minutes.* — J.A.



VENUS ★★1/2

(Century 16) Peter O'Toole crafts a May-December "romance" with geriatric fervor and self-effacing humor. O'Toole is fading British soap star Maurice, weary of his staid existence and open to last-chapter adventure. He pals around with persnickety crony Ian (Leslie Phillips) — and then meets Ian's 19-year-old grandniece Jessie (Jodie Whittaker), a cheeky commoner whose presence is a breath of fresh air. A late-life crisis rears its ugly head as Maurice confronts the fact that he doesn't really know himself — and hopes to discover more through the companionship of Jessie, who sullenly accepts his meals and shopping sprees but spurns his more lecherous advances. O'Toole's charisma has waned little since he heated up the silver screen as Lawrence of Arabia, though he appears far older than his 74 years. As a last hurrah, "Venus" is a distinguished farewell. *Rated: R for nudity and language. 1 hour, 34 minutes.* — J.A.

MOVIE CRITICS

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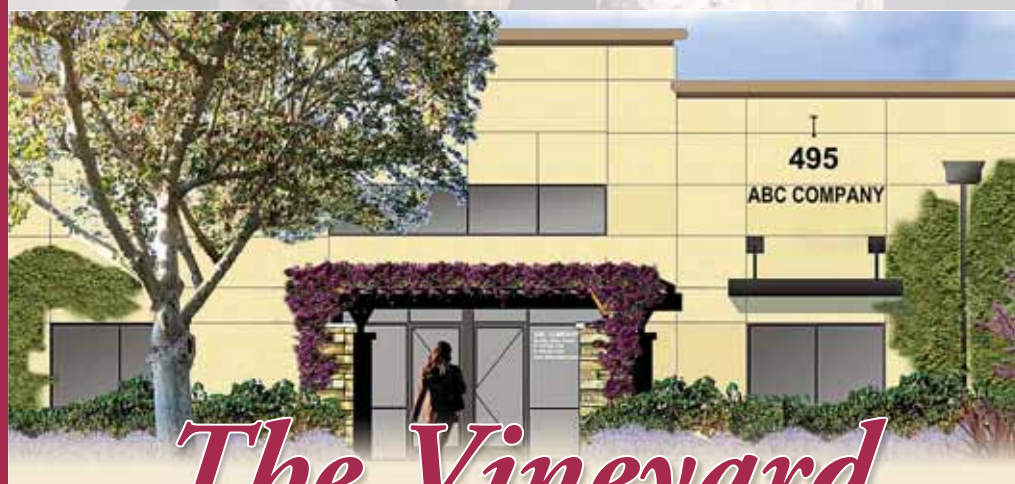
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411 Nicholas Drive ◊



499 Boynton Avenue ◊



728 Calderon Avenue ◊



433 Burgoyne Street ◊



1611 Nilda Avenue ◊



4078 Ben Lomond Drive ◊



1450 Oak Avenue ◊



125 Connemara Way ◊



1550 Plateau Avenue ◊



1091 Nilda Avenue ◊



535 Burgoyne Street ◊



366 Sierra Vista Avenue ◊

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