

Mountain View VOICE

DECEMBER 25, 2009 VOLUME 17, NO. 51

MERRY CHRISTMAS

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Minton's petitions go toe to toe

DEVELOPER COLLECTS SIGNATURES IN SUPPORT OF
HIGH-DENSITY HOUSING ON EVELYN AVE. SITE

By Daniel DeBolt

Prometheus Real Estate Group has hired a firm to gather signatures in support of a controversial apartment development at Minton's Lumber and Supply — a development which many neighbors oppose.

Petitioning is a political tactic used frequently by a project's opposition, but it is unusual for a developer to gain support for a project this way, and unheard of

in Mountain View.

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

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

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

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

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



MICHELLE LE

From left to right, Jose and Galdino watch as Eddy teaches Noimi chess strategies while they wait for potential employers to stop by the Day Worker Center of Mountain View.

Possible agreement on autism cutbacks

By Kelsey Mesher

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

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

"We have proposed a tentative agreement," he said, adding that "It won't be reviewed and voted on until after the

► See **AUTISM**, page 9

► See **MINTON'S**, page 11

Worker Center rises to the occasion in hard times

HOLIDAY FUND RECIPIENT HELPS DAY WORKERS ON SUBJECTS
RANGING FROM ENGLISH TO GARDENING

By Daniel DeBolt

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

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



work in the fairest, least frenzied way possible.

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

That program, called "Victoria Verde" (green victory), will soon provide a stipend for workers who are trained by master gardeners in the ways

of organic gardening. Local seniors with an unkempt vegetable garden or unused piece of land provide the classroom, so to speak, and in return a share of the produce. The rest is split between the workers and local food banks.

These services and opportunities help explain why the Day Worker Center continues to draw workers in large numbers, despite a lack of jobs in the current recession. Last Thursday, 125 workers came to the center to find only 15 jobs, a typical number in recent months, said Marroquin. By contrast, an average day in a good economy brings 60 to 70 employers to the center, she said.

The center is the first point of acculturation for workers who

► See **DAY WORKER**, page 8

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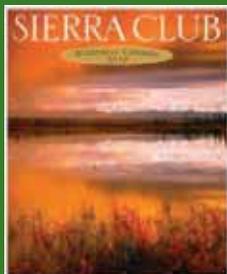
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Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked in Downtown Mountain View. Pictures and interviews by Dana Sherne.

With the current economy, have your holiday shopping plans changed?



"No, I'm not planning on doing it any differently."

Carl Russell, Mountain View



"Yeah, I'm far more conscious now. Even if I have money in my pocket, I'm less likely to spend it because there are people who don't. I think before I spend."

Jan Kuersten, Mountain View



"No, I spent the same as last year."

Vladimir Petkov, Mountain View



"They're pretty much the same as they've been. Maybe more online shopping, but it's easy to look for deals online."

Casey Lindberg, Menlo Park



"Maybe I'm willing to buy a little bit more than last year."

George Tsai, Berkeley

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LocalNews

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Crittenden School, 12/10
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500 Block N. Shoreline Blvd., 12/13
W. Dana St. & S. Shoreline Blvd., 12/13

MISSING PERSON

900 Block Mariner Dr., 12/8
1100 Block Castro St., 12/9

NARCOTICS

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500 Block Showers Dr., 12/8
400 Block San Antonio Rd., 12/8
500 Block N. Shoreline Blvd., 12/9
600 Block Showers Dr., 12/9
400 Block San Antonio Rd., 12/10
Continental Circle & Dale Dr., 12/11
200 Block Easy St., 12/11
400 Block San Antonio Rd., 12/11
300 Block Showers Dr., 12/12
900 Block High School Way, 12/13
Sears Department Store, 12/14

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100 Block Ada Ave., 12/12
1900 Block Golden Way, 12/13

ATTEMPTED MURDER

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BREAKING & ENTERING

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200 Block Orchard Ave., 12/8
400 Block N. Whisman Rd., 12/8

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300 Block N. Rengstorff Ave., 12/11
California St. & San Antonio Rd., 12/11
1100 Block Castro St., 12/12

DISTURBANCE

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400 Block Mariposa Ave., 12/14

DRUNK IN PUBLIC

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E. El Camino Real & Grant Rd., 12/12
900 Block N. Shoreline Blvd., 12/12
Central Expressway & E. of Bernardo Ave., 12/13
Crestview Dr. & E. El Camino Real, 12/13
Central Expressway & Moffett Blvd., 12/13

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Sears Department Store, 12/11
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Castro St. & Church St., 12/11
600 Block Castro St., 12/11
600 Block Victor Way, 12/11
700 Block Castro St., 12/11
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Tyrella Ave. & Walker Dr., 12/12
1300 Block Shorebird Way, 12/14
Teen Center, 12/14

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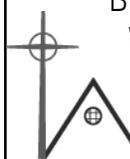
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Santa sightings

By Don Frances

MY GIRLS HAD a marvelous time at the “Winter Fairy Tale,” a kids’ ballet put on by Bayer Ballet Academy last Sunday at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts.

Stella, who is almost 6, gripped my arm and beamed when the Santa character showed up. Natalie, who just turned 4, sat transfixed the entire time, not moving a muscle.

The Winter Fairy Tale is a modern knockoff of the Nutcracker Suite, featuring bunnies, foxes, bats — all manner of woodland creatures — and narrated (via recording over the PA system) by a “wizard,” actually a dancing teen boy in tuxedo and cape.

The dancers were very young — no one looked older than 15, and some looked almost as young as my girls — but they sure could dance, proving the mettle of Bayer as a real-deal ballet school.

The audience was younger still (resulting in lots of kicked seats and shouted questions, such as *Is that a bunny mommy?* which was very cute). And there were plenty of Russians in attendance.

That’s fitting, as Bayer Academy, located on El Camino Real opposite San Antonio Center, describes itself as a “school of Russian ballet.” Founded in 2005 by Inna Bayer (“a seasoned professional ballet mistress”), Bayer Ballet is fast becoming a local institution.

If they put on this show again next year, watch for it, bring your kids, and find out how Santa and the wizard saved the kidnapped bunny from the Queen of Bats.

► See **EDITOR’S DESK**, page 6



JAMES TENSUAN

HOLIDAY BOUNTY Kelly Coelho helps Guzulema Pimentel find herself a gift at the Police Department last Saturday morning as part of this year’s Cops That Care program. Coelho was one of many volunteers helping kids sort through roughly 4,000 gifts donated by local companies and residents. Now in its seventh year, Cops That Care provides holiday gifts to Mountain View children whose families cannot afford them on their own.

Crunch time for college-bound students

ECONOMIC DOWNTURN MAKES APPLICATION PROCESS EVEN TOUGHER

By Kelsey Mesher

Like many of her fellow students, Los Altos High School senior Vienna Rye will spend the winter break carefully filling out applications for college.

It’s a process that every new batch of students must submit to: selecting schools to apply to, taking standardized tests (sometimes

more than once), soliciting letters of recommendation, writing essays — and then waiting to hear back.

In the Mountain View-Los Altos High School District, 98 percent of students say they will go on to pursue some type of higher degree after high school. Superintendent Barry Groves said that of those students, about two-thirds go to four-year colleges and universities.

“It’s a little bit nerve-racking for the kids,” said Perla Pasallo, a counselor at Los Altos High School. According to Pasallo, recent state budget cuts and tougher applicant pools are pushing students to apply to more schools than before.

“I think across time we really have seen an increase in students

► See **COLLEGE**, page 9

Operation Second Chance returns

Bay City News

Law enforcement agencies in Santa Clara County are allowing people with outstanding arrest warrants for non-violent misdemeanors and traffic incidents to avoid jail time during the holidays.

The fifth annual “Operation Second Chance” program will run through Dec. 31 and allow offenders to receive a citation with a 2010 court date instead of being booked into county jail.

Anyone who surrenders will be given a new court date and be released on the spot, even if the

arresting officers issued a no-bail citation, according to Santa Clara County sheriff’s spokesman Sgt. Rick Sung.

Crimes such as petty theft, misdemeanor DUI, vandalism and failure to appear for speeding tickets and reckless driving are among those covered by the program. Felony arrest warrants and violent misdemeanor warrants do not apply.

“It goes both ways,” Sung said of the program’s benefits. “It saves the county time and money, and these individuals get to stay home for the holidays with their families. They get to prepare

themselves for the next month and a half to two months to clear up their criminal matters.”

Operation Second Chance only applies to people who turn themselves in, Sung said. If officers on the street make contact with a person who has an outstanding warrant, the person will be taken to jail.

Last year, 553 people took advantage of the program. More than 1,400 people have surrendered since Operation Second Chance began in 2005.

Questions can be directed to the Sheriff’s Office of Records at (408) 808-4717. ■

► See **PASTOR**, page 6

Megachurch’s charismatic leader resigns

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

By Daniel DeBolt

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

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

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

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

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

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

Before the worshipping began, one church leader admitted that some members might be angry about the situation, and even leave the service. But churchgoers were told to look to God for answers, to submit their question for the church on Abundant Life’s Web site (www.alcf.net), and were then led in prayer and

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■ SEEN AROUND TOWN

Matthew and Santa



This photo shows Mountain View resident Matthew Peng happily meeting Santa Claus, who came to visit Mountain View's Preschool Holiday Program on Dec. 11. The photo was taken by Matthew's mom, Bey-bey Li.

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.



MICHELLE LE

Pastor Paul Sheppard speaks during a service at Abundant Life Christian Fellowship church on May 30, 2009.

PASTOR

► Continued from page 5

song.

When asked if Sheppard should have continued on as pastor, one churchgoer said "absolutely" because of the good he was doing with the church. Another said it was unfortunate that pastors are put on pedestals when really they are just as "fallible" as anyone else.

The Voice profiled Abundant Life in June, when Sheppard announced it was outgrowing its space on Leghorn Avenue. At that

time, the church reportedly had 6,000 members. Originally based in Menlo Park, Abundant Life had grown over 20 years, under Sheppard's guidance, from only 34 members.

Sheppard also has a syndicated radio show called "Enduring Truth" which is broadcast on 500 radio stations. Jackson said he was unaware whether Sheppard would continue to do his radio show. Sheppard's personal Web site, www.thesheppardstouch.net, was blank this week. ▣

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

EDITOR'S DESK

► Continued from page 6

LESS KID-FRIENDLY was SantaCon, a goofy little event during which people bar-hop in Santa outfits.

As such, a couple dozen tipsy Santas rolled into downtown Mountain View last Saturday night around 10 o'clock, via train apparently, and chose, as their first stop, Mervyn's Lounge. Talk about Santa characters showing up.

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

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

Don Frances can be reached (in 2010) at dfrances@mv-voice.com.

Writing better with a buddy

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

By Kelsey Mesher

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"I found out a couple years ago that that's what the kids call it," he said.

As for how Writing Buddies works, "What we do is really simple," he said: An adult buddy writes and illustrates

a short book on an accessible topic, and brings it in to read with the kid buddy, usually a first or second grade student, many of whom need practice with English. The program is especially important for children who do not speak English at home.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

E-mail Kelsey Mesher at kmesher@mv-voice.com



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as permitted by law. All donations will be shared equally with the seven recipient agencies listed here.



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- MOUNTAIN VIEW ROTACARE CLINIC**
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- DAY WORKER CENTER OF MOUNTAIN VIEW**
 Provides a secure place for workers and employers to negotiate wages. Serves 50 or more workers per day with job-matching, English lessons and guidance.
- THE SUPPORT NETWORK FOR BATTERED WOMEN**
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- COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND ARTS**
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DAY WORKER

► Continued from page 1

have come from Latin America. There are people here who lost everything in hurricanes, guerrilla wars and famine. The center recently recorded some of their stories on its Web site, www.day-workercentermv.org.

Marroquin has a story herself, coming from Mexico with her son for "economic reasons." She got her start by cleaning houses, but upon coming to the center "My life changed," she said, and it was like "the waters parted for me." She began volunteering at the center's office, and showed leadership by supporting the center and its related causes. She was eventually given the job as director.

Strengthening the center's connection with the community is one of Marroquin's major goals. Among other projects, workers volunteer their time in the Senior Center's community garden, and donate about 17 pints of blood in total four times a year, Marroquin said.

Her dream, however, is to finally have a permanent place for the Day Worker Center, which purchased a building to use as a permanent location at 113 Escuela Ave. last

year. So far the center has raised \$600,000 of the \$980,000 needed to renovate the building.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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AUTISM

► Continued from page 1

New Year.”

Specifically, he said, “When it comes to a reduction of hours, both the decision and the effects of the reductions of hours are negotiable.”

Because of ongoing negotiations with the union, the proposal — which would cut the aides’ hours and benefits by 25 percent — was pulled from the agendas of two previous district board meetings. Pedersen said the timing of the proposal has contributed to the slowness of

negotiations.

“Doing this mid-year is not normal, and that’s been part of the bump in the road,” he said.

District officials were out on winter break and not immediately available.

the aides regarding how much work was necessary “beyond the district’s six hours.”

“The work existed and was needed,” he said, adding, “That is the tipping point right there, that we not relinquish hours of work that still exist and that employees have a right to.”

The union and district are scheduled to resume negotiations after winter break, and Pedersen says it is likely a proposal will reappear on

the district board’s agenda in their second meeting of the month on Jan. 21. ▀

E-mail Kelsey Mesher at kmesher@mv-voice.com

“When it comes to a reduction of hours, both the decision and the effects of the reductions of hours are negotiable.”

CHRIS PEDERSEN

Pedersen said the union and district are looking “assignment by assignment” to determine how much work there is for the aides. He noted “conflicting information” between the district and

the exact figure.

“I’m applying to a huge range of schools,” she said, adding that her list includes all of the UCs as well as private schools like Stanford and Northwestern. UCLA is her first choice — she hopes to study economics and international business.

“I think right now there’s so many people applying you never really know if you’re going to get into a school or not,” she said, adding that while she’s visited a few campuses nearby, she’s really waiting to see where she is accepted before spending money and time on seeing the schools first-hand.

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

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

Orozco will be the first in his family to attend college. He said communicating with his parents about his applications has been difficult.

“They haven’t been very understanding just because they don’t know the entire process,” he said, but as a participant in the district’s

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program, he has received helpful guidance.

“I’ve managed to make it through all of this, but it’s been with the help of my AVID teacher,” he said.

“When I first started thinking about going to college — because I wasn’t even sure I was going to go — the first thing that came to mind was, “These colleges are really expensive,” he said. His AVID teacher encouraged him to apply first, and worry about how to pay for it after getting in.

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

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

COLLEGE

► Continued from page 5

looking to apply to smaller private schools,” she said. But it doesn’t stop there: Pasallo has noticed that applications for state schools are up as well.

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

‘Fighting for spots’

Pasallo said that because the University of California schools are seeing more out-of-state and international applicants, as well as more competitive in-state applicants, more students are adding state schools to their application lists.

“Now they’re kind of intimidated,” she said, adding that the influx “hurts those kids that would normally apply to state” schools.

According to Pasallo, students getting into UC schools often have at least a 3.8 grade point average, and “pretty stellar” SAT or ACT scores. Many students take both tests, multiple times. They must make appeals to their character as well, because as Pasallo put it, “It’s what makes you different from every (other) student.”

Teachers, she said, spend their weekends writing recommendations. Some counselors in her office write as many as 50 letters in a given year.

Rye said she is applying to more than 10 schools, but was shy about

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

“I know a lot of the seniors are really stressed right now,” Rye said. Personally, she said, she’s taking her toughest class load yet, including five Advanced Placement courses.

“There’s definitely a lot of competition among students at school. We’re all basically fighting for spots at the same schools.”

Money matters

“Kids have to really dig for scholarships now,” Pasallo said, adding that many scholarship opportunities that were once available have dried up.

“It’s becoming such an elite thing, to be educated,” she lamented.

Paying for college weighs heavily on the minds of some seniors. “They don’t want to burden their parents,” Pasallo said. “Or they only apply to one or two schools” because of the application costs.

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Good times for downtown commercial real estate

By Daniel DeBolt

City officials have been pleasantly surprised to see that the market for office space in downtown Mountain View is on the upswing, despite growing vacancy rates elsewhere.

A third quarter report from CPS Corfac International says that downtown office space vacancies dropped from 13.9 percent to 11.4 percent over the third quarter of 2009, which is "pretty significant," said Ellis Berns, the city's economic development manager.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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- El Camino Hospital has applied to the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) for the prestigious designation of Magnet. The Magnet designation recognizes excellence in nursing services.

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E-mail: magnet@ana.org

Phone: 866-588-3301 (toll free)

- El Camino Hospital has submitted information for the appraisers to review. That information is available, 24 hours a day, for you to review in the Health Library & Resource Center, located in the new main hospital.

The library is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. When the library is closed (on weekends, and from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. on weekdays), please call extension 7007 (650-940-7007) to have Security let you in to the library.



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NEWS BRIEFS

HURLED ASPHALT SHATTERS CHP CAR WINDOW

Authorities are looking for whoever threw a chunk of asphalt onto a California Highway Patrol car in Mountain View on Thursday, shattering a rear window and startling the officer inside.

The incident happened at about 11:30 a.m., when CHP Officer Marco Castillo was stopped on the right shoulder of northbound state Highway 85 just north of Dana Street, according to CHP spokesperson Officer Grace Castillo (no relation).

The large piece of asphalt fell through the left rear window and was believed to have come from the Dana Street overcrossing, she said. The officer was uninjured but went off-duty after the incident.

Police believe the act was intentional. A search of the area didn't turn up any other debris, Grace Castillo said.

Anyone who may have any information on the incident is asked to call the CHP Redwood City office at (650) 369-6261, ext. 337.

— Bay City News

BOY ARRESTED FOR ANGRY FOOTBALL THROW

Police were called to Crittenden Middle School on Friday to arrest a 14-year-old boy for angrily throwing a football at another boy's leg during a football game.

Police spokesperson Steve McCoy said school administrators called police at 2:14 p.m. last Friday to report the incident. The unnamed 13-year-old hit in the leg by the football was uninjured.

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

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

— Daniel DeBolt

MINTON'S

► Continued from page 1

members endorse the opposition petition, which states that the project's density, at twice what is currently zoned, is "unfair to the neighborhood."

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

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

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

two-bedroom apartments.)

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

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

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

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

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

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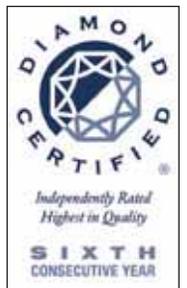
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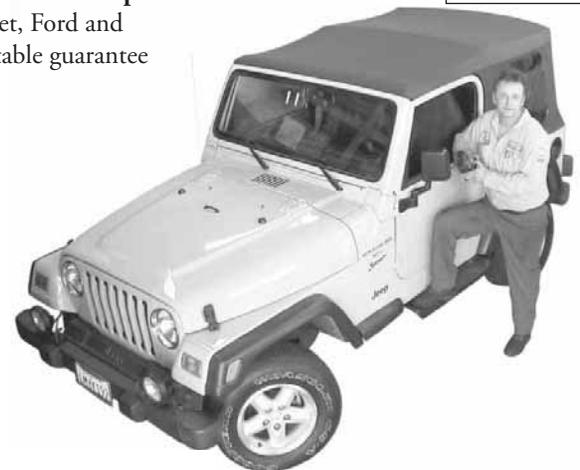
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■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

A deeper look at high speed rail

Unlike Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Atherton, this city does not seem to have a vocal group of critics who are opposed to the high speed rail project, which nevertheless will bring about major changes to the Caltrain rail corridor when and if it is up and running by 2020, as its promoters hope.

Here in Mountain View, during a recent meeting at the Senior Center attended by about 200 people, there were no protests, but plenty of attentive residents with good questions.

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

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

But by far the most talked about, and apparently preferred, design for most Peninsula cities is to put the tracks underground in a tunnel running from Mountain View to Atherton and beyond. No one knows yet if such a design is even remotely plausible due to its high cost, but Bob Doty, the rail transportation director for Caltrain, shared some cautionary thoughts at the meeting.

“Tunneling is not as good as you think it is,” he said, citing his own experience with a tunneling project in England. The primary problem, he said, is the need to run noisy ventilation fans when maintenance crews are inside the tunnel. Anyone living nearby is likely to become irate at the noise, he said.

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

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

As a city already proud of its transit credentials, Mountain View almost certainly will be an eager participant in high speed rail. But at this point, with so many serious questions remaining, there is a ways to go before the city can prudently jump on board.

■ LETTERS VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

DEAL CUT IN OMVNA ELECTION?

Editor:

When people talk about “preserving the character” of the Old Mountain View neighborhood, I hope they will consider honesty and integrity as important parts of that character.

There were some parts of the Old Mountain View Neighborhood Association election process that don’t seem to be getting much coverage. Apparently, MiRNA (the group opposed to a proposed development on the Minton’s property) approached the outgoing OMOVNA Steering Committee during the nomination process and negotiated to name half of the slate: Kim Copher (vice chair), David Lewis III (community liaison), Becky Reyna (at large No. 1), and Jack Perkins (at large No. 2).

That’s the reason MiRNA didn’t mount a write-in campaign against these candidates; they had already been nominated by MiRNA and put on the ballot through pressure exerted on outgoing OMOVNA Steering Committee members.

This is my understanding, but I would like to see a few people from both groups going on record about this process so that it can be more transparent.

Ronnie Falcao
Vincent Drive

NEIGHBORS HELPED WITH MVPD TOY DRIVE

Editor:

As in past years, Jim and Lenora Bonandar, managers of

the Sunset Estates mobile home park, organized a Christmas Tree Decorating Party on Dec. 13. Those park residents who came to the party brought toys to be given to Mountain View police for their annual toy drive, which gives toys to many children in our city. Three police officers picked up approximately 100 donated toys at Sunset Estates this year. The officers were Ron Cooper, who coordinates the toy drive, Steve McCoy and Jennifer Crist. They saw that the toys were given to children in Mountain View on Saturday, Dec. 19.

Charlie Larson
Sylvan Avenue

THANKS FOR NOTHING, WELLS FARGO

Editor:

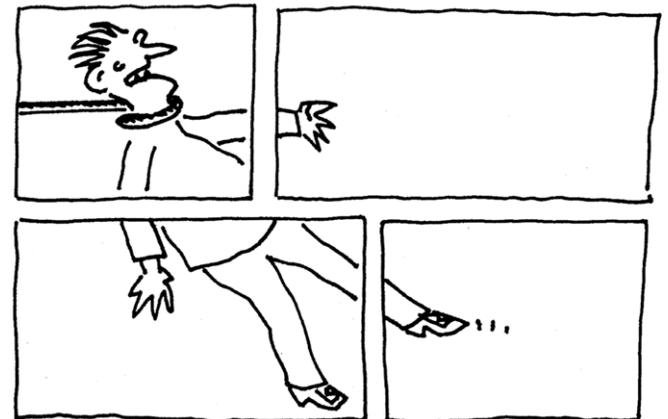
So now Wells Fargo, along with Citi and other big banks, is now quickly paying back its TARP loan extended by our government. Are they doing this because they are in such good financial shape and will be more willing to loan money?

Don’t count on it. The major motivation, which they’ll never admit in a million years, is to get rid of the limits on their paychecks. They want their obscene paychecks more than anything else.

And how did they manage to make this payment? By simply selling more stock and diluting the value for all existing shareholders. The CEO statement that

► See **LETTERS**, page 13

THE DISAPPEARING AMERICAN CARTOON



LETTERS

► Continued from page 12

it “was in the shareholder’s interest” is appalling. It was in their personal compensation interest more than anything else.

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

Allen Price
Fairmont Avenue

THE TWELVE DAYS OF EATING

Editor:

On the neighborhood e-mail list for the section near the downtown, I posted positive experiences from Sakoon. A neighbor from London said she had good experiences too, but it’s not like London where fine cheap Indian fare abounds. I responded asking if her London neighborhood had — here I quoted the striking variety of restaurants within a few blocks in downtown Mountain View.

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

In the Mountain View downtown, what rest’raunts did I see?

Twelve Eur-o-pe-an,
E-leven Chi-nese,
Ten south-east-Asian,
Ten o-ther A-sian,
Nine bev’-rage places,
Eight bake’-ry-delis,
Six tacquerias,
Four ice-cream parlors,
Three pizzerias,
Three pub-lic hou-ses,
[Slower] Ten Jap-a-nese,
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■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

■ MOVIE TIMES

■ BEST BETS FOR ENTERTAINMENT



The Hainanese Chicken with curry rice, served with house soy and Thai spicy sauce, is a featured dish at Hong Kong Bistro.

MICHELLE LE

■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

Comfort food, Hong Kong style

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

By Monica Hayde Schreiber

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

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

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

► Continued on next page



DINNER BY THE MOVIES AT SHORELINE'S Pizzeria Venti

Holiday Menu

CHEF'S SPECIALTIES

OSSOBUCO a classic dish from Milan, features

Braised Veal shanks in a White Wine and Tomato sauce over Risotto.

GRILLED MAHI MAHI over Jalapeno Mashed Potato and sauté Spinach topped with tropical Salsa.

GRILLED SALMON over Garlic Mashed Potato and Sauté Mixed Greens.

GREEN AND APPLES Crisp Garden Lettuce topped with Bleu Cheese, Walnuts, Cranberries, Granny Smith Apples and a sweet Vidalia Onion Dressing.

PASTAS

FETTUCCINI CARBONARA Pancetta, mushrooms, green peas, and tomatoes in alfredo sauce.

LINGUINE LEONARDO Chicken Breast, Fresh Spinach in a Caper Sauce.

PENNE FRANCESCA Shrimp and Fresh Asparagus Tips in a Garlic Lemon Butter Sauce made with Fresh Sliced Mushrooms. Served over a Bed of Penne Pasta.

SCALLOPS AND FETTUCCINE Seared Jumbo Scallops with Lemon, Thyme, White Wine Butter Sauce over Fettuccine Pasta.

SEAFOOD RAVIOLI Served with Roma Tomatoes, Asparagus and Lobster Cream Sauce.

DESSERT

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MICHELLE LE

Hong Kong Bistro's spacious interior.

► Continued from previous page

And yes, they really do serve borscht.

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

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

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

comfort food zone.

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

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

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

On another visit we started with the Indian-style pancakes (\$5.50), a duo of roti-like breads with a curry dipping sauce.

► See **HONG KONG BISTRO**, page 16

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If you would like to be listed in **DINING ON THE TOWN** please call Anna or Dianna at the Voice at 964-6300.

DINING NOTES

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MICHELLE LE

Hong Kong Bistro's decor has a homey, diner-like feel.

HONG KONG BISTRO

► Continued from page 15

The curry was a bit pasty and lacked punch, but the overall effect of fried bread in sauce was still satisfying. The lackluster curry also dampened our enthusiasm for the salmon curry dish (\$9.50). The fried salmon itself was tender and fresh, but the overabundant curry and underdone sweet potatoes which accompanied left us wishing we

had ordered something else.

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

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

Service during each of our visits was lightening fast and friendly. At lunch, Hong Kong Bistro offers specials, or "sets," for \$7.50, which include a drink, soup and an entree.

There isn't much to say about dessert as seven of the eight

items had been scratched off the menu, leaving only mango pudding. Custard-like and slightly gelatinous, it was served in a bath of sweetened milk.

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

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MOVIE TIMES

A SINGLE MAN (R) ★★★

Aquarius Theatre: 2, 4:30, 7 & 9:30 p.m.

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL (G)

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

AN EDUCATION (PG-13) ★★★

Aquarius Theatre: Fri. at 2:30 & 7:30 p.m.

AVATAR (PG-13) ★★★

Century 16: Fri. at 10 & 11:15 a.m. 12:45, 1:30, 2:50, 4:20, 5:05, 6:30, 7:55, 8:50 & 10:05 p.m. In 3D at 10:30 a.m. noon, 2:05, 3:30, 5:55, 7, 9:30 & 10:30 p.m.

THE BLIND SIDE (PG-13) ★★

Century 16: 12:50, 4, 7:05 & 10:10 p.m.

BROKEN EMBRACES (R) (Not Reviewed)

Guild Theatre: 1, 4, 7 & 9:55 p.m.

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS? (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)

Century 16: 11 a.m.; 1:40, 4:15, 6:50 & 9:45 p.m.

GONE WITH THE WIND (1939) (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed)

Stanford Theatre: Fri 7:30 p.m. Sat 2 & 7:30 p.m.

INVICTUS (PG-13) ★★★1/2

Century 16: 1, 4:10, 7:10 & 10:15 p.m.

IT'S COMPLICATED (R) (Not Reviewed)

Century 16: Fri. at 10:05 & 11:30 a.m. 12:55, 2:15, 3:40, 5, 6:25, 7:50, 9:10 & 10:35 p.m. **Century 20:** Fri 2, 4:50, 7:40 & 10:30 p.m. Sat 11:10 a.m.; 2, 4:50, 7:40 & 10:30 p.m. Sun 11:10 a.m.; 2, 4:50, 7:40 & 10:30 p.m. Mon 11:10 a.m.; 2, 4:50, 7:40 & 10:30 p.m.

ME AND ORSON WELLES (PG-13) ★★★1/2

Century 16: 12:15 & 6:05 p.m.

NINE (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)

CinéArts at Palo Alto Square: 1:45, 4:30, 7:15 & 10 p.m.

PRECIOUS: BASED ON THE NOVEL 'PUSH' BY SAPPHIRE (R) ★★★1/2

Aquarius Theatre: Fri. at 5 & 9:55 p.m.

THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG (G) ★★★

Century 16: 10:05 a.m.; 12:30, 2:55, 5:20, 7:40 & 10 p.m.

SHERLOCK HOLMES (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)

Century 16: Fri. at 10:50 a.m. 1:45; 3:10; 4:40; 7:35; 9 & 10:30 p.m. **Century 20:** Fri 1:05, 4:15, 7:15 & 10:15 p.m. Sat 10:10 a.m.; 1:05, 4:15, 7:15 & 10:15 p.m. Sun 10:10 a.m.; 1:05, 4:15, 7:15 & 10:15 p.m. Mon 10:10 a.m.; 1:05, 4:15, 7:15 & 10:15 p.m.

UP IN THE AIR (R) ★★★1/2

Century 16: 10:45 a.m.; 12:30, 2:55, 5:20, 7:40 & 10 p.m.

THE YOUNG VICTORIA (PG) (Not Reviewed)

CinéArts at Palo Alto Square: 2:15, 4:45, 7:20 & 9:50 p.m.

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 (800-326-3264)

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For show times, plot synopses and more information about any films playing at the Aquarius, Guild and Park, visit www.LandmarkTheatres.com

★ 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

AN EDUCATION ★★★

(Aquarius) The heroine of "An Education" sizes up life as a female in 1961 London. To 16-year-old Jenny, her choice is strictly binary: the straight edges of square, bourgeois, mundane suburban life versus cultured high society. Rejecting the childcare-and-dishwashing paradigm of her mother and the lonely bachelorette life of her mousy English teacher, Jenny romanticizes the French, sneaks smokes and succumbs to the charms of a man nearly twice her age. When thirtysomething David Goldman (Peter Sarsgaard) offers Jenny (Carey Mulligan) and her cello a ride in his Bristol, the girl discovers a witty and urbane alternative to her unexciting but age-appropriate boyfriend Graham (Matthew Beard), not to mention evenings spent studying Latin to achieve an all-but-foregone conclusion of studying English at Oxford. Director Lone Scherfig feasts on the dramatic irony borne of the audience's knowledge of what's around the corner: swingin' '60s London and emboldened feminism. *Rated PG-13 for mature thematic material involving sexual content, and for smoking. One hour, 40 minutes. —P.C.*

ME AND ORSON WELLES ★★★1/2

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

THE MAID ★★★1/2

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

► See **MINI REVIEWS**, next page

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MINI REVIEWS

▶ Continued from previous page

free spirit, enters the household everything changes. *Not rated. 95 minutes. In Spanish with English subtitles.* — R.P.

UP IN THE AIR ★★★1/2

(Century 20) George Clooney is professional downsizer Ryan Bingham, a certified "transition specialist" with an arsenal of pretty platitudes at his disposal for doing a company's dirty work and salving the wounds of unemployment. Ryan meets his match in Alex Goran (Vera Farmiga), a sexy mileage junkie equally as turned on by elite status and sleekly wheeled luggage. Theirs is a match made in heaven — and hour-long intervals in Omaha, Modesto and Wichita. Ryan's carefully crafted cocoon threatens to rupture when savvy supervisor Craig Gregory (Jason Bateman) hires wet-behind-the-ears consultant Natalie Keener (Anna Kendrick) to eviscerate 85 percent of the travel budget and take the company "global" — global-turning-local to you and me. Ryan and Natalie set off for Detroit and a series of test firings to prove their points. His that the proper sack requires face-to-face commitment; hers that a disembodied computer presence combined with a good T1 line is just as effective. Let the games begin! — J.A.

MOVIE CRITICS

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

New world, old story, amazing special effects

DESPITE ITS CLICHES, 'AVATAR' NEVER LOSES SIGHT OF WHAT COUNTS

MOVIE REVIEW

By Susan Tavernetti

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

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

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

The "dumb grunt," who has

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

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

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

Cameron gives the conflict a heart by developing a romance between Jake and Neytiri (Zoe Saldana of "Star Trek"), who teaches him the language and ways of her tribe. Similar to "Dances with Wolves" and "The



Last Samurai" in so many ways, this generic hybrid also assumes the patronizing attitude of positioning a white man as savior.

Stereotypes hurt the film, particularly during the battle for Pandora. The Na'vi don war paint and whoop it up like wild Indians on horseback. Hiss-worthy villains are laughably one-dimensional. Females snarl all the time, particularly the feline-like Neytiri and the gum-snapping helicopter pilot played by Michelle Rodriguez ("Fast & Furious").

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

The overall result is well worth the price of admission.

MOVIE NOTES

Stars: ★★★

Rating: PG-13

Run Time: 2 hour, 42 minutes

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MountainView VOICE
DAILY VIA E-MAIL

2 PM Tuesday, March 17, 2009

TopStories
from the Mountain View Voice staff

State budget cuts could slow Moffett cleanup
The Navy has yet to clean up miles of underground piping at Moffett Field, as well as dozens of unde... (Tuesday, 12:14 PM)

Community rallies behind Carbajal family
Dozens of friends and family members filed a Palo Alto courtroom last week for Pedro Carbajal's sch... (Tuesday, 12:47 PM)

Palo Alto bans plastic bags at grocery stores
Despite a threatened lawsuit and opposition from area grocers, the Palo Alto City Council voted Mond... (Tuesday, 1:15 PM)

• Mountain View Voice Home Page

BestBets
This week's events

Today's events (March 17)
Music: *Rosin the Bow*
Irish band Rosin the Bow will perform live at St. Stephens Green on St. Patrick's Day from 5 to 9 p.m. Free.

RSVP: Quota Spring Fashion Show Benefit
Tomorrow is the last day to RSVP for Quota International's Fashion Show and Luncheon, being held March 21 at Michael's at Shoreline. Call Rob Jorgensen at (650) 964-4360.

Meeting: "Teens, Drugs and Alcohol: Everybody is Not Doing It!"
Social Norms Marketing is a strategy aimed at changing youths' perceptions about healthy behavior for themselves and their peers. The free ev 7-9 p.m. at the Mountain View High School Theater.

Exhibit: Spring Tea Etiquette at Rengstorff House
The Rengstorff House, 3070 N. Shoreline Boulevard, is hosting a Spring Tea Etiquette cultural arts display. Public tour hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Tomorrow's events (March 18)
Ceremony: Year of Astronomy exhibit at NASA Ames
An opening ceremony for the new International Year of Astronomy exhibit at NASA Ames, "From Earth to the Universe," is 4 p.m. Wednesdays Ames Research Center. The exhibit is open March 17-19.

• Master Community Calendar

TownSquare
Mountain View's Online Gathering Place

Officials unveil plans for billion-dollar research hub
In what was billed as a "defining moment" for Silicon Valley, leaders from NASA Ames, local colleges...

School layoffs begin as budget hits home
Budget reductions have begun to take their toll on local students, programs and staff, nearly a mont...

Mountain View robotics heads to nationals
The Mountain View High School robotics team is heading to a national tournament in Atlanta after win...

• Town Square Home Page

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Spring Registration
Classes Begin M...

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MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE

■ HIGHLIGHT

CERAMIC SCULPTURES BY PANCHO JIMENEZ

Works on exhibit will include a combination of free-standing, small tabletop and wall-mounted sculptures. Jimenez teaches art at Santa Clara University and West Valley College. Through Jan. 24, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Free. Mohr Gallery, Community School of Music and Arts, Finn Center, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. Call 650-917-6800. www.arts4all.org/view

ART GALLERIES

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

Annual Portfolio Sale & Silent Auction Pacific Art League's "Annual Portfolio Sale" Dec. 4-Jan. 4. The auction will close Dec. 18. Pacific Art League, 668 Ramona St., Palo Alto. Call 650-321-3891. www.pacificartleague.org

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

Kyser Art Exhibit Watercolors, acrylics, Chinese brush paintings, collages. Exhibit of paintings by local artist, Edmond Kyser, is currently being shown at Massage Therapy Center. Through Feb. 28, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. free of charge Massage Therapy Center, 368 S. California Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-299-8426. www.massagetherapy.paloalto.com

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

Anger management with adolescents Through real life examples, learn how to teach volatile adolescents to manage anger at home, at school and in the community. A Children's Health Council Parent Ed. Class. Wed., Jan. 6, 7-8:30 p.m. No fee (pre-registration required). Children's Health Council, 650 Clark Way, Palo Alto. Call 650-688-3669. www.chconline.org

Christmas Culinary Class Chef Steve leads a holiday-meal cooking class. Dec. 26, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. \$55. Our Commercial Kitchen, El Camino, Palo Alto. Call 650-454-6163.

Pacific Art League Winter classes Register now for Winter term classes and workshops at the Pacific Art League. From painting to printmaking, sculpture to jewelry making, we have over 75 offerings for adults and kids. Classes run Jan. 4 - March 28. Pacific Art League of Palo Alto, 668 Ramona St., Palo Alto. www.PacificArtLeague.org

Yoga Thursday Mornings Anusara-inspired yoga, taught by Patricia Becker. Thursday mornings. 9:15-10:30 a.m. \$18. Drop in or discount card. Avalon Art and yoga Studio, 370 S California Ave., Palo Alto. <http://www.avalonyoga.com/events.html#Gardeners>

CLUBS/MEETINGS

Leads Club meeting The Leads Club, a networking organization that aims to help professionals build formal relationships with each other, meets Wednesdays, 7:30-8:45 a.m. \$5. St Timothy's Guild Hall, 2094 Grant Road, Mountain View. Call 650-428-0950.

Palo Alto Scrabble Club Every Monday approximately 25 people get together to play Scrabble at Boston Market in Palo Alto. All equipment provided. 6-10 p.m. Free. Boston Market, 3375 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. groups.yahoo.com/group/pa-scrabble

SPAUG General Meeting SPAUG General Meeting Stanford-Palo Alto User Group meets monthly to discuss problems, solutions, software and hardware. Learn more about computing, meet fellow computer users. Get help and advice from experienced users. Second Wednesday of the month, ongoing, 7-9:30 p.m. first meeting free, \$35/year. American Legion Post, 347 First St., Los Altos. Call 650-493-9307. www.svuga.org/

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Mah-Jong Games "Studies show that play-

ing Mah-Jong is beneficial for individuals who may be suffering from memory difficulties. Join us on Monday afternoons to learn this fascinating game, or if you already know how, just to have a good time," Avenidas says. 1-4 p.m. Free. Avenidas, 450 Bryant St., Palo Alto. Call 650-289-2428. avenidas.org

CONCERTS

New Year's Eve Concert with J. S. Bach Celebrate New Year's Eve with the music of J. S. Bach. James Welch performs "Fantaisie in G," "Sonata in E-flat," "Prelude & Fugue in e minor," "the Schuebler Chorales," and a pedal exercise piece by Bach. Thu., Dec. 31, 8-9 p.m. \$10 donation at the door. St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-856-9700. welchorganist.com

DANCE

Ballroom Dancing West Coast Swing will be taught Fri., Jan. 1, 8 p.m. Lessons for beginning and intermediate levels, no experience and no partner necessary. General dance party 9 p.m.-midnight. Singles and couples welcome. Free refreshments. Dressy casual attire. 8 p.m.-midnight. \$8. Cubberley Community Center Pavilion, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-856-9930. www.readybyte.com/fridaynightdance

Dec 26 Boxing Day Live Music Contra Dance Caller: Eric Black. Band: Avant Gardeners (Laura Light, George Paul [both from VA]) with Dave Bartley [Seattle]. Free beginners class 7-8 p.m., dance 8-11 p.m. Please bring potluck food to share. Sat., Dec. 26, 7-10 p.m. admission \$10, members \$8; students \$5 or pay what you can. 1st Church Palo Alto 2Fl, 625 Hamilton & Byron., Palo Alto. Call 650-965-9169. www.bacds.org/series/contra/palo_alto

English Country Dancing Peninsula English Country Dance welcomes all, from beginners to experienced dancers. Live music, no partner needed, all dances taught. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes. Dance meets first, third, fifth Wednesdays through June 2010. 8-10 p.m. \$15 supporters, \$9 non-members, \$7 members, \$5 students or pay what you can. Flex-It Studio, 425 Evelyn Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-493-6012.

New Year's Eve Ball Vintage music by Paul Price's Society Orchestra. This is a non-alcohol for all ages. Thu., Dec. 31, 8:30 p.m.-12:15 a.m. \$25. Palo Alto Masonic Lodge, 461 Florence St., Palo Alto. www.PaulPriceOrchestra.com

ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Docent-Led Walks of Shoreline Learn about Shoreline at Mountain View's: maritime history; landfill legacy; environmental processes; ecosystems; birds, wildlife; and more. Walks depart from Rengstorff House and last about one hour on the 4th Sunday of every month. Bring/Wear: layered clothing, walking shoes, binoculars. No advanced reservations required. 11 a.m.-noon. Free. Rengstorff House, Shoreline at Mountain View, 3070 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6073. <http://www.ci.mtnview.ca.us>

Green Mountain View monthly meeting Community group dedicated to improving sustainability in Mountain View. First Monday of each month. Jan. 4, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Mountain View Library Community Room, 585 Franklin St., 585 Franklin St. Mountain View. Call 650-969-3720. www.greenmountainview.org

FAMILY AND KIDS

Kids Story Hour First and third Wednesday of every month on the first floor. One hour of picture-book reading and songs. 10-11 a.m. Free. RedrockCoffee, 201 Castro St., Mountain View.

LIVE MUSIC

Irish Music Session Irish songs for a pub



"A Civil War Christmas"

TheatreWorks presents the West Coast premiere of "A Civil War Christmas," a musical. Fact and fiction, old-time carols, and traditional tunes entwine in a saga of a divided nation longing for hope. Dec. 2-27, \$26-\$62. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-463-1960. www.theatreworks.org

restaurant and bar. Tuesdays, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Free. St. Stephen's Green, 223 Castro St., Mountain View. www.ststephensgreen.com/index.html

Peruvian Night DJ MGD spins Latin American songs every first and third Saturday of the month. Free. St. Stephen's Green, 223 Castro St., Mountain View. www.ststephensgreen.com/index.html

RELIGION/ SPIRITUALITY

Humanist Community in Silicon Valley Join the Humanist Community in Silicon Valley for Sunday morning forum ñ weekly 11 a.m. to noon. Forums cover a variety of social, philosophical and ethical topics. Forum is free: donations appreciated. For more information or to request an event schedule email humanists.org or humanists.org. Free. Mitchell Park Community Center, 3800 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. www.humanists.org

Insight Meditation South Bay Shaila Catherine and guest teachers lead a weekly Insight Meditation sitting followed by a talk on Buddhist teachings. Tuesdays, 7:30-9 p.m. Free. St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 2094 Grant Road, Mountain View. imsb.org

SPORTS

Holiday Ultimate Camp Sports camp. Half the time is spent on Ultimate PE Games including Dodgeball, Capture the Flag, Money

Ball, and more. Second half of camp time is spent building basketball skills. Session 1 9-noon. Session 2 1-4 .pm. Free T-shirt/camper. Dec. 28-30. \$150. Los Altos High School Gym, 201 Almond Ave., Los Altos. Call 888-505-2253. www.baldeaglecamps.com

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

PARC Wednesday Night Run Every Wednesday, PARC holds a casual run of about 5 miles (sometimes a bit longer) starting at the Lucie Stern Community Center. The route is rotated among several favorites. 6-7:15 p.m. Free. Lucie Stern Community Center, Middlefield & Melville Roads, Palo Alto. www.paranclub.com/wednesday.htm

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

Team In Training: Information Meeting As a member of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Team In Training, receive professional coaching and train with like-minded people to walk or run a full or half marathon, cycle a 100-mile century bike ride, complete a triathlon or perform an endurance hike while supporting the fight against blood cancers. Thu., Jan. 7, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Garden

Court Hotel, 520 Cowper St., Palo Alto. Call 1-800-482-8326. www.teamintraining.org/sj

TALKS/AUTHORS

Author Jonah Lehrer, 'How We Decide' Science writer Jonah Lehrer talks about the latest brain research on how the brain makes decisions. Tue., Jan. 5, 7-9 p.m. \$10 OFJCC members & students, \$15 non-members. Albert and Janet Schultz Cultural Arts Hall, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. <http://www.paloaltojcc.org>

Gene Baur (President & Co-founder of Farm Sanctuary) (Part of Ethics of Food & the Environment series) Gene Baur provides first-hand accounts of conditions on today's farms, outlines efforts to combat the current inhumane system, and puts forward a vision for a healthier and more sustainable food system. Thu., Jan. 7, 4:45-6:15 p.m. Free. Stanford Campus, Bldg 260, Rm 113, Stanford (corner of Lasuen Mall and Escondido Mall), Stanford. Call 650-723-0997. <http://ethicsinsociety.stanford.edu/ethics-events/events/view/831/?date=2010-01-07>

The History of the Stanford Museum Betsy Fryberger, Emerita Curator of the Stanford Arts Center at the Stanford University, will talk about the history of the museum. Thu., Jan. 7, 5:15-6:15 p.m. Free. Cantor Arts Center Auditorium, Stanford University, Stanford. Call 650-725-3332. <http://histsoc.stanford.edu/programs.shtml>

Waverley Writers Poetry Open Mic Poetry to be spoken and heard aloud. Every First Friday except for July and August. 7:30-10 p.m. Free. Waverley Writers, 957 Colorado (near Greer), Palo Alto.

TEEN ACTIVITIES

Teen Open Gym Teen Open Gyms are open every Saturday night for various sports. Middle School and High School students only; bring your student ID. 6:30-9:30 p.m. Free. Whisman Sports Center, 1500 Middlefield Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6410. http://www.mountainview.gov/city_hall/comm_services/recreation_programs_and_services/teen_services.asp

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

VOLUNTEERS

Junior Museum & Zoo Office volunteers are needed to help with fundraising, community relations and special events. Data input, mailings, internet research, etc. 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Free. Junior Museum & Zoo, 1451 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-326-6338. www.friendsjnz.org

Stanford Cats Need Foster Homes Stanford Cat Network needs foster homes for newcomer cats to campus. For more info and to volunteer, visit the SCN website and complete the Foster Home Profile: http://catnet.stanford.edu/support_foster.html. Adoption fair help also needed. Opportunities ongoing. Stanford Cat Network, P.O. Box 18287, Stanford. Call 650-566-8287. catnet.stanford.edu

■ MORE LISTINGS

For a complete listing of local events, see our website at www.PaloAltoOnline.com.



Does Tutoring Make a Difference? Yes! Tutoring makes a HUGE difference.

Our schools are currently facing even greater challenges than ever before. With continuing budget cuts, they are having to eliminate additional teachers and programs. There will soon be more students in every class and it is likely class time will be reduced. The children need our help!

Fortunately, in our community, volunteers have been fast to respond. PNG has more than 450 tutors working in the Mountain View and Los Altos elementary schools. Last school year, those tutors recorded 1,460 hours of donated time.



MICHELLE LE

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

The tutors performed myriad tasks. They read stories to small groups of children, especially those

in kindergarten and first grade. They listened to older children reading to help with word recognition

and pronunciation. They worked with students at various levels to help increase vocabulary. They also worked with students of all ages on language arts, writing, and mathematics. They helped in the after-school homework clubs.

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

Thoughts from a Mentored Student

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

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

“When I left Alta Vista last year, I never thought I would EVER go back to school. I thought that I would just

be another dropout. When I returned to Alta Vista, all the teachers were relieved to find out that I had changed my mind. I had decided to continue my education. I was glad that they didn’t forget me and thankful that they never gave up on me.”

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

possible.”

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

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

“Last, but not least, I would

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

For more information:

Contact Partners for New Generations at: (650) 949-0828 ext. 4#

Partners for New Generations, c/o Los Altos Rotary Club, PO Box 794, Los Altos CA. 94023-0794

e-mail to: PNG@partnersfornewgenerations.org

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- **FOR SALE** 200-299
- **KIDS STUFF** 330-399
- **MIND & BODY** 400-499
- **JOBS** 500-599
- **BUSINESS SERVICES** 600-699
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Bulletin Board

115 Announcements

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Co-Dependents Anonymous (CoDA)

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Etz Chayim Chanukah Celebration

Free Reiki Open House

French/English tutor

Harps for rent

Jazz/Hip-Hop/Bollywood Dance

Painters sending THANKS

Peninsula Women's Chorus Auditions

Santa Helpers Needed

Witness to Accident with Dog Hi,

I had a collision with a large dalmatian on the 3300 block of Middlefield Road (cross street of Ames Avenue) on Thursday (12/4) around 3:10 pm. A very helpful person stopped to check on the dog while I waited for the Palo Alto Animal Control to arrive. He was driving a black Subaru station wagon. I was in a dark blue station wagon with my 4 year old daughter. If you are a witness or are the person who stopped to help us, please call me at 650-906-7042.

Thanks in advance,
Satya

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CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINER

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Men! Sing 4 Part a capella

NATURE/OUTDOORS Events Calendar

Singles Wine Tasting Dance Party

Winter Delight Singles Dan

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140 Lost & Found

Found cell phone ear device

Found Gray & White Cat

Found SH black Cat

Keys found on Bryant Str.

Runaway Cat!

Warm glove lost

145 Non-Profits Needs

Knitters Wanted

Please donate gently used shoes

150 Volunteers

ART Dialogues Docents volunteers

Couples Make Great Mentors!

Event Marketing Volunteer

Friendly Visitors Needed

help feed homeless cats

Library Volunteers Needed

NASA cats need fosterers

Project LOOK! volunteers needed!

Stanford Cats Need Foster Homes

155 Pets

Dog Training Classes

For Sale

201 Autos/Trucks/ Parts

BMW Sales/Consignment Any Any - 100

jeep 1986 grand waggoneer - \$4600.00

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MERCEDES BENZ 1980 450 SL - \$6100

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202 Vehicles Wanted

Donate Vehicle

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215 Collectibles & Antiques

Antiques Sale 10% to 50% OFF!

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Canned Heat 1968 Bill Graham Con - \$100

Christmas Music (lps, tapes, cds - \$2 collectable and rare 45 records - \$2

david winter cottage - \$150

Impressionist Art.

lithographs by Larry Elmore num - \$25

Muddy Waters "The Chess Box" - \$20

Quality Fine Art

Vintage Barbie

60's Barbie/clothes collection

Zippo special edition lighter - \$25

220 Computers/ Electronics

HDMI CABLE PREMIUM GOLD - \$18.00

230 Freebies

FREE Firewood & Mulch - FREE

235 Wanted to Buy

Antique dolls

CASH FOR DIABETIC STRIPS!

240 Furnishings/ Household items

2 Italian Marble Lvg Rm Tables - \$299

Box Cupboard - \$10

Conquistador Wall Plaque - \$120

gas cooktop - \$75.00

Ikea metal bunk bed - 100

iron christmas tree - \$150.00

Kimball Organ - \$75.00

micro trim kit - \$25.00

Miscellaneous Items - \$5

nice comfortable reading chair - 50

Sofa - \$ 120

stainless sink - \$450.00

The Modern Living

Tiffany Ceiling Light Fixture - \$80

viking hood - \$850.00

Wine Cork Wreaths & Corks - \$25

WONDERFUL ENGLISH CHEST - \$8,250.

245 Miscellaneous

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Canon 35 MM Camera - \$50.00

Christmas Trees

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Home Staging Contracts - \$8.00

Lopi fireplace insert - \$1200.00

Mixed Firewood 650-215-0617 - \$150

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The Winged and Garlanded Nike - \$22

Western Boots - \$55-\$100

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Epiphone SG Guitar, Rogue Bass - \$225

Kawai RX-6 grand piano - \$18,000.00

260 Sports & Exercise Equipment

Dive Mask - \$27.00

Dive Weight Belt - \$8.00

German Hiking Boots (Men) - \$45.00 OBO

Locker Bag - Ogio - \$45.00 OBO

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Korean language tutor for Pre-

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Nanny Wanted

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California law requires that contractors taking jobs that total \$500 or more (labor and/or materials) be licensed by the Contractors State License Board. State law also requires that contractors include their license numbers on all advertising. Check your contractor's status at www.cslb.ca.gov or 800-321-CSLB (2752). Unlicensed persons taking jobs that total less than \$500 must state in their advertisements that they are not licensed by the Contractors State License Board.

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LIMITED TIME! CALL NOW! (650)320-8500

PA: 1BR/1BA
PA: 1BR/1BA Bike to Stanford. Year lease. N/P. Avail. now. \$1265 mo. 650/493-9576

Pa: 2bd , 2 BR/2.5 BA - \$2400

PA: 2BR/1BA
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Palo Alto, 2 BR/2 BA
Walking to downtown; gated; 2-car parking. W/D; call 650-269-5813

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803 Duplex

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MP: Allied Arts

Partly furn. 3+BR/1.5BA. 2 decks/patios, hot tub. All appliances and utils incl. EXCEPT PGE. \$3500 mo. Avail. now. 650/283-3371

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Palo Alto, 3 BR/1 BA - \$3000/mont

Palo Alto, 3 BR/2 BA - \$2400

Palo Alto, 4 BR/2 BA - \$3300, mon

Palo Alto, 4 BR/2 BA - \$3750

Palo Alto, 4 BR/2 BA - \$3,800/mo

Palo Alto, 5+ BR/2 BA - \$3,850/mon

Redwood City, 3 BR/2 BA - \$2600/mo

Sunnyvale, 3 BR/2 BA - \$2400

Sunnyvale, 3 BR/2 BA - \$2350

809 Shared Housing/Rooms

ALL AREAS - ROOMMATES.COM
Browse hundreds of online listings with photos and maps. Find your roommate with a click of the mouse! Visit: <http://www.Roommates.com>. (AAN CAN)

Mountain View, 1 BR/1 BA - \$800/month

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Sunnyvale, 3 BR/2.5 BA - \$640/month

810 Cottages for Rent

Los Altos Hills, Studio - \$1850.00

Palo Alto, Studio
Recently renovated studio cottage. Charming, very private, suitable for single person, quiet life style. 2 small yards, storage shed in side yard. Basic gardener services included as well as utilities. Cable ready, and phone hookup available. Lease, references, and security deposit required.

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Woodside, 2 BR/2 BA
+ Den/Office. \$3750/mo. (Incl
PGE, Water, Garbage & Gardener)
No smoking/pets. 851-2381

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Get Loan Support From Sonex

Large Unfurnished Room wanted

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Seeking cottage or in/law unit

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for Sale**

Palo Alto, 3 BR/1 BA - \$798,500

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**830 Commercial/
Income Property**

PA: California Avenue

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Public Notices

**995 Fictitious Name
Statement**

MELANIEINK
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT

File No. 531367
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Melanieink at 344 Loreto Street, Mountain View, CA 94041, Santa Clara County:

MELANIE KAYE
344 Loreto Street
Mountain View, CA 94041
This business is owned by an individual.

Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on July 2009.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on November 23, 2009. (Voice Dec. 18, 25, 2009, Jan. 1, 8, 2010)

BALSAM MOON
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT

File No. 531865
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Balsam Moon at 1120 Bonita Ave., #4, Mountain View, CA 94040, Santa Clara County:
STEPHEN HOYLE
1120 Bonita Ave., # 4
Mountain View, CA 94040
LYNN HOYLE

1120 Bonia Ave., # 4
Mountain View, CA 94040
This business is owned by husband and wife.
Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on 10/01/2009. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on December 9, 2009. (Voice Dec. 18, 25, 2009, Jan. 1, 8, 2010)

KUMA MANAGEMENT
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT

File No. 531876
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Kuma Management at 1068 Paintbrush Drive, Sunnyvale, CA 94086, Santa Clara County:

RALPH HABURA
1068 Paintbrush Drive
Sunnyvale, CA 94086
RANDOLF HABURA
1388 Montecito Avenue
Mountain view, CA 94043
This business is owned by a General Partnership.

Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on 10/13/09. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on December 9, 2009. (Voice Dec. 25, 2009, Jan. 1, 8, 15, 2010)

997 All Other Legals

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
Date of Filing Application:
December 7, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:
The Name(s) of Applicant(s) is/are: WALGREEN CO
The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at:
112 N RENGSTORFF AVE
MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA 94043-4222
Type of license(s) Applied for:
20 - OFF-SALE BEER AND WINE
(Voice Dec. 25, 2009, Jan. 1, 8, 2010)

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
Date of Filing Application:
December 7, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:
The Name(s) of Applicant(s) is/are: WALGREEN CO
The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at:
121 E EL CAMINO REAL
MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA 94040-2701
Type of license(s) Applied for:
20 - OFF-SALE BEER AND WINE
(Voice Dec. 25, 2009, Jan. 1, 8, 2010)

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- The Mountain View Voice publishes every Friday.

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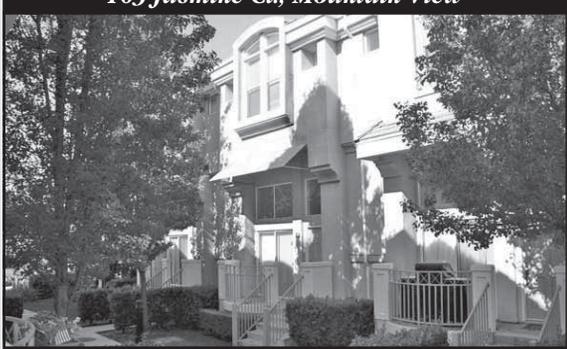
  



- Yvonne J. Heyl •
Direct (650) 947-4694
Cell (650) 302-4055
DRE# 01255661
- Jeff Gonzalez •
Direct (650) 947-4698
Cell (408) 888-7748
DRE# 00978793

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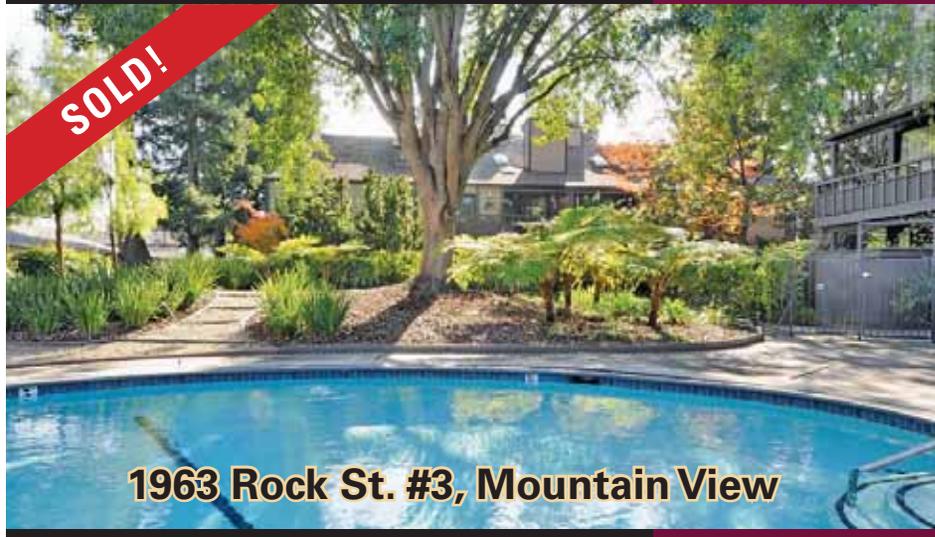
163 Jasmine Ct., Mountain View



- 3 Bedrooms/ 2.5 Baths and Ceiling Fan in Master Bedroom
- Approximately 1,288 Sq.Ft. Bedroom
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- Serene Location by Fountain
- Laminated Floors in Living Rm, Family Room and Dining Rm
- 2 Car Attached Garage which includes a Large Storage Area
- Tile Floors in Master Bath • Refrigerator, Washer & Dryer Included
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David Troyer
Mountain View Specialist
DRE#01234450
650.722.0012



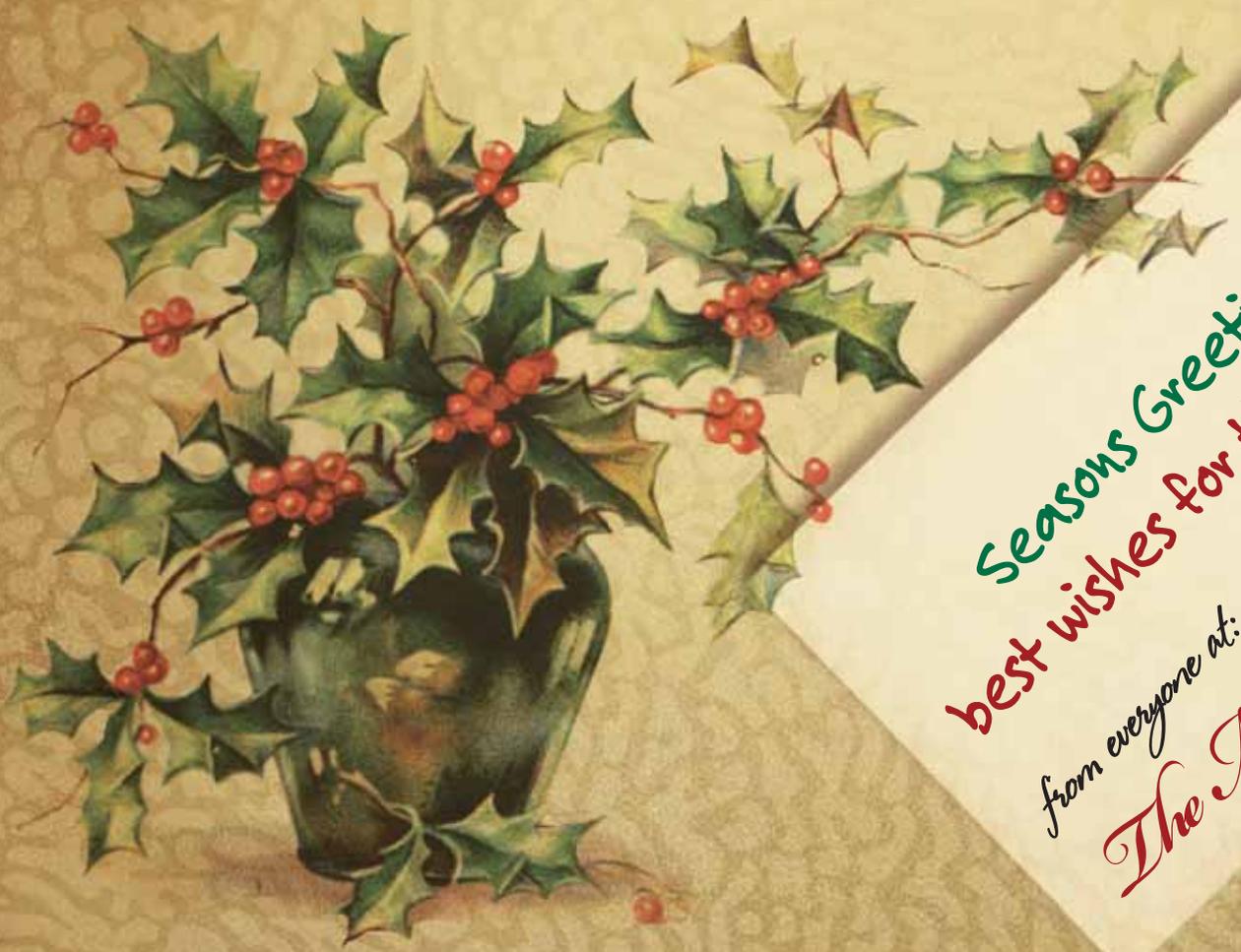
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Happy Holidays



Seasons Greetings &
best wishes for the New Year
from everyone at:
The Mountain View Voice