

Mountain View VOICE

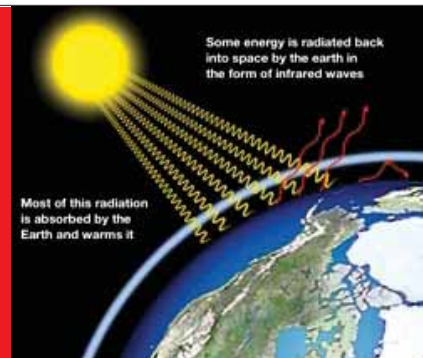
NOVEMBER 2, 2007 VOLUME 15, NO. 43

INSIDE: WEEKEND | PAGE 18

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Convenient truth
Local design firm helps Gore score Nobel Peace Prize
IN BUSINESS | P.25



NASA Ames ready for liftoff

GIANT RESEARCH PARK AT MOFFETT WILL INCLUDE OFFICE SPACE, 1,000 HOUSING UNITS

By Daniel DeBolt

A 5.6 earthquake was only the second thing to shake City Hall on Tuesday night, after a NASA Ames official announced the agency would be putting in bids next year on a massive research park at Moffett Field that will provide homes and office space for private companies, NASA and several colleges.

Michael Marlaire, NASA Ames director of partnerships, said the research park would become “a goldmine for the informal meeting” — in other words, the casual exchange of ideas — as college students worked and lived next to employees from NASA and companies like Google.

The first phase of the project could include at least 1,000 units of rental housing on one million square feet, and 200,000 square feet of office space east of the main gate at Moffett along the northern edge of Highway 101. NASA Ames has a list of 800 developers it is reaching out to later this year, and bids are due in March 2008.

A conceptual plan was created in 1998 after several discussions with Sunnyvale and Mountain View. Eventually the project will take up four to five million square feet, with two million square feet as housing. When all is said and done, NASA Ames will add up to 5,000 people at Moffett.

The University of California

has expressed serious interest in developing a major Silicon Valley campus at the site, and major announcements are due in the next few months regarding those plans, Marlaire said. The Foothill-De Anza Community College District could also have a presence in the new park.

Marlaire also gave an update on Google’s one million square foot campus, slated for the northwest corner of Moffett Field. Google and NASA could finalize an agreement any time, but

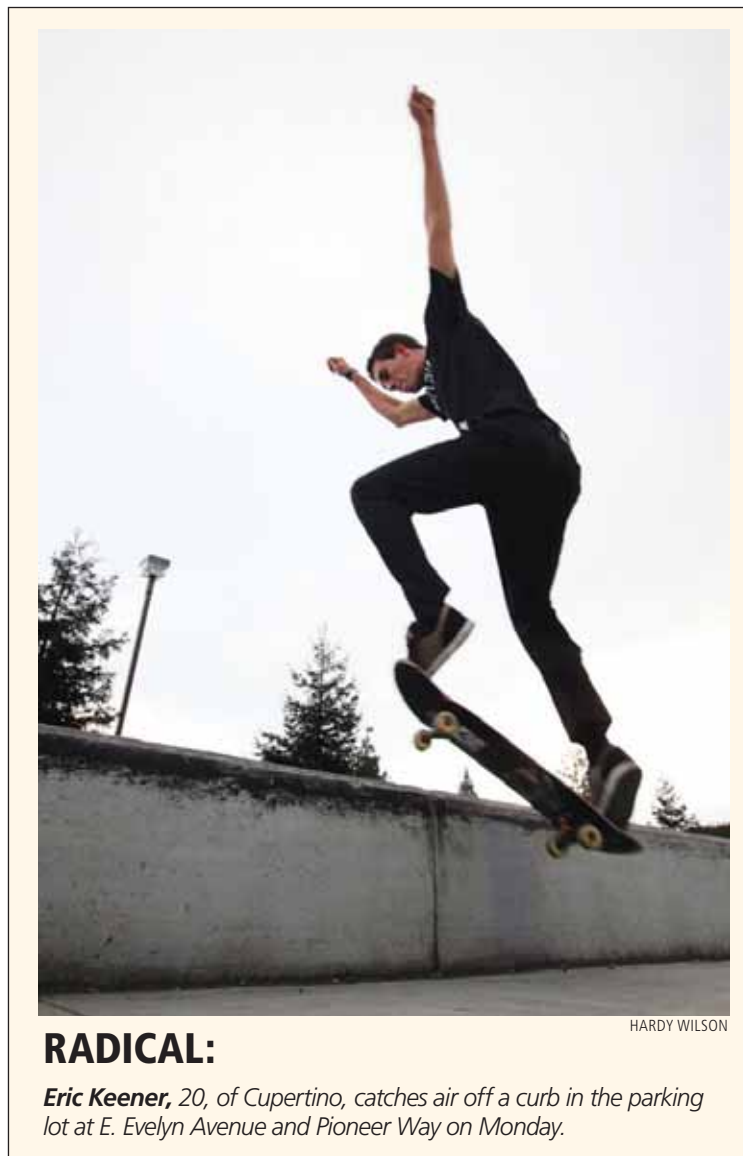
it’s been left up to Google to figure out when the time is right given its business strategy.

Google “has made it clear that it wants 100 units of housing,” Mar-

► See *NASA*, page 12

Google “has made it clear that it wants 100 units of housing.”

MICHAEL MARLAIRE



RADICAL:

Eric Keener, 20, of Cupertino, catches air off a curb in the parking lot at E. Evelyn Avenue and Pioneer Way on Monday.

Asbestos drives renters out for good

By Daniel DeBolt

Three weeks after a botched roofing job caused asbestos contamination and rainwater damage in their homes, several residents of the Americana apartment complex are moving out for good.

Tenants have moved out of all but one of the units on the third floor of Building Five due to high levels of asbestos dust, which is known to cause lung cancer and other problems when inhaled. Many renters in those units say they are leaving belongings behind due to fears of asbestos

contamination.

According to residents contacted by the *Voice*, the problem



started in early October, when workers began to remove the old roof on Building Five. Residents said the roofing crew used powerful equipment that violently

shook the building, causing asbestos dust to fall from the textured fire retardant “popcorn” applied to the ceilings.

“The pounding was so severe it felt like bombs were dropping on us,” one third floor resident said.

While the work may have caused exposure to unhealthy amounts of asbestos dust, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District said there would likely be no consequences for the Americana’s owners.

“We did not find there was any

► See *AMERICANA*, page 8

CSI: Los Altos High

NEW FORENSICS COURSE MIMICS POPULAR TV SHOW

By Susan Hong

Katherine Ezabor, a 16-year-old senior, held a laminated fuchsia strip representing DNA as she prepared to place it onto her classroom’s white board during a simulation in Los Altos High School’s new forensics class.

“We’re duplicating the DNA,” Ezabor said.

She is one of 84 juniors and seniors who signed up for the first forensics course ever offered at the high school. The district had planned to teach one class, but helped by the popularity of the CBS television show “CSI: Crime Scene Investigation,” the course expanded to three sections.

Recently the students, mostly seniors, analyzed their own fingerprints with a “black plate” and a “fume hood.” They’re learning how to process a crime scene, said teacher Lisa Bolton. The kids will gather DNA samples, duplicate them so they have enough to use in the lab, then analyze them to link the samples with a suspect, she said.

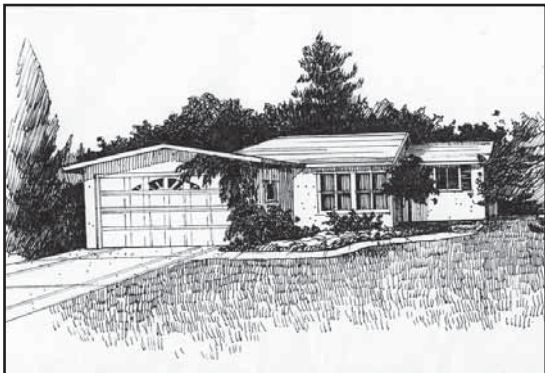
“It’s a mix between all my favorite sciences — genetics, physics, chemistry and biology. It just incorporates it all. It puts everything into a practical use instead of just a textbook use,” said Spencer Huang, a 17-year-old senior.

Besides “DNA typing,” students learn photography, note-taking and packing evi-

► See *FORENSICS*, page 7



Chuck & Tori Atwell



MOUNTAIN VIEW ■ Beautifully updated inside and out! 3bd/2ba home with remodeled kitchen, vaulted ceilings, family room, + fireplace. 2-car garage. Close to downtown. **\$828,000**

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Chuck & Tori Atwell



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Cheryl Okuno



CAMPBELL ■ Wonderful townhome! 3bd/2ba end-unit, 1500+/- sf. Hardwood floors, step-down living room, large master suite, + inside laundry. Close to dining + shops. **\$649,950**

Cheryl Okuno



MOUNTAIN VIEW ■ Cute 3bd/2ba townhome with remodeled kitchen, hardwood floors, lots of storage, + indoor laundry. This unit is very private + complex has a pool. **\$669,000**

Kathy Bridgman



MOUNTAIN VIEW ■ Turn-the-key and move-into this upgraded condominium. 1ba/1ba corner unit offers 855+/- sf. Complex features a fitness center, pool + spa. **\$365,000**

Dottie Monroe



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Courtney Bridgman-Eltherington



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Voices

AROUND TOWN

Asked in Downtown Mountain View. Pictures and interviews by Theresa Condon.

Do you know anyone affected by the fires in Southern California?



"I got about four friends who live down there in Solana Beach. They're living in a shelter right now and they don't know anything yet about their homes."

Ken Grant, Sunnyvale



"I know people down in San Diego, but I don't know whether they were affected by it."

"D" Deleon, San Jose



"I have a couple of friends who had to evacuate from their houses in Rancho Santa Fe and Solana Beach."

Dave Nemetz, San Francisco



"I used to know a couple down there, but I haven't talked to them in awhile. I don't know if anything happened to them."

John Wallace, Fremont



"No I don't know anyone. It's awful though."

Carol Acosta, San Jose

Have a question for [Voices Around Town](#)? E-mail it to editor@mv-voice.com

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■ CRIMEWATCH

INDECENT EXPOSURE, 1900 BLOCK W. EL CAMINO REAL, 10/28

A woman was working at a drive-thru coffee stand when a man approached her on foot. She saw that he was masturbating and picked up the phone to call for help. The man ran away and could not be located.

The suspect is described as a Hispanic

man of medium build, 30 to 40 years old, wearing a white polo shirt with red stripes and brown pants.

EMBEZZLEMENT, TARGET, 10/24

A female employee was caught on security camera stealing money from a register. She was found to have embezzled more than \$1,500, according to police, and was arrested on felony embezzlement charges.

■ POLICE LOG

AUTO BURGLARY

6800 Block San Antonio Rd., 10/26

STOLEN VEHICLE

2500 Block Del Medio Ave., 10/27

BATTERY

Costco, 10/26
Monte Carlo, 10/27
Shoreline Amphitheatre, 10/27

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES/PERSON

300 Block Ivan Way, 10/23
400 Block Moffett Blvd., 10/24
Castro School, 10/24
2000 Rialto Ct., 10/24
400 Block Showers Dr., 10/27
1300 Block W. El Camino Real, 10/27
Shoreline Amphitheatre, 10/28

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

500 Block Empire Ct., 10/28

DISTURBANCE

200 Block E. Dana St. 10/23
300 Block Pettis Ave., 10/23
2100 Block Leland Ave., 10/27
6300 Block N. Whisman Rd., 10/27
700 Block Alice Ave., 10/28
1300 Block Todd St., 10/28

TRESPASSING

1900 Block Rock St., 10/27

FRAUD

100 Block E. El Camino Real, 10/24

VANDALISM

600 Block Showers Dr., 10/23
200 Block Sierra Vista Ave., 10/23
9300 Block Clark Ave., 10/26
2300 Block California St., 10/28
300 Block Central Ave., 10/28

GRAND THEFT

4200 Block N. Rengstorff Ave., 10/26

■ CORRECTIONS

■ In last week's report on the complicated issue of salary increases awarded to the top executives of El Camino Hospital, the *Voice* mixed base pay for fiscal years 2006-07 and 2007-08 with bonuses for the prior years. As a result, the percent salary increases in the accompanying chart were in error.

For example, base pay increases for top hospital executives averaged about 6 percent for fiscal year 2007-08. But the 23 percent (of base pay) incentives or bonuses paid were based on the hospital's above-average performance the prior year,

2006-07. Bonuses vary from year to year based on the goals achieved by the hospital and individual executives.

The story also underreported CEO Ken Graham's benefits package. Graham's benefits package equals 42 percent of his base salary, while all other executives' are 29 percent of their base salaries.

■ A story in last week's Arts & Events section, "Extreme quilting," misspelled the name of Joan Schulze, an artist whose work is currently on display at CSMA.

CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

CALL FOR ARTISTS

THE CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW'S VISUAL ARTS COMMITTEE IS SEEKING BAY AREA SOLO OR COLLECTIVE ARTISTS TO EXHIBIT PUBLIC ART IN THE LOBBY OF THE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS DURING THE YEAR 2008.

The rotating exhibits are approximately nine weeks in length and are viewed by up to 25,000 people. The Committee particularly wants to encourage exhibits by professional artists and can only accept two-dimensional media. The City will provide insurance, some advertising, installation and offers a small stipend to help defray costs.

Artists should submit a one page résumé and 10 digital photos in JPEG format (JPG) of their artwork by Friday, November 9, 2007 to: joanne.wolkovitz@mountainview.gov or mail to the Community Development Department, 500 Castro Street, Mountain View, California 94041. Do not put application materials in notebooks or binders. If your submittal does not meet the digital formatting requirements, it will not be honored as an official submittal and will not be reviewed.

For exhibition purposes, the Committee asks that a major portion of the work that is shown in the application be available for the exhibit and appropriate for the space, both in size and subject matter. For dimensions of the exhibit space please refer to the schematic listed on our website under "announcements" at www.mountainview.gov.

Do not send any materials not specifically requested as part of this application, e.g., drawings, videos, catalogs, binders, etc. They will not be considered as part of your application packet and will not be reviewed by the selection panel. The City of Mountain View is not responsible for loss or damage to materials.

All digital photos should be numbered and a separate list submitted with the following information that correlates with each numbered photo:

1. DIMENSIONS OF WORK
2. MEDIA
3. DATE OF WORK
4. TITLE OF WORK, IF ANY

INCOMPLETE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE REVIEWED.

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Halloween roundup

By Don Frances

ALL HALLOWS EVE is over by the time you read this, which means the displays are being taken down.

While the Bush Street extravaganza is easily this city's most famous Halloween display, an anonymous source wanted to call attention to a "little house at 611 Pettis St."

Although smaller than the one on Bush, the writer said, this one is "sophisticated and unique" — and so should it be, since its creator, "a kind electronic engineer who loves Halloween and children," took an entire week to build "a sunken pirate ship in front of the house, as well as an electronic sea monster."

(The writer had been assigned "to get blue crabs to put LED lights on them. But they are not in season.")

Meanwhile, another anonymous source called to tell us about a winning display at 239 Velarde St. near Calderon. The display there is so huge, we're told, that cars and neighbors converge on the scene. If anyone has descriptions of either of these displays, or of others that they'd like to share, please drop me a line. I welcome photos too.

THE CLIMATE change agreement signed Tuesday at City Hall is but a precursor to this Saturday's "Cool Cities" event, taking place at Civic Center Plaza.

According to organizers, "The Mountain View Cool Cities Team is organizing an event to be part of the national 'Step It Up 2007' campaign. We invite all Mountain Viewers to come, to be part of a day of climate action. ... Our goal is to empower the grassroots climate movement and to take action locally, while calling for national change."

Leaders, businesses, info, electric vehicles and more will be on hand. The event is Saturday, Nov. 3, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 500 Castro Street. ■

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



NORBERT VON DER GROEBEN

David Bonar of North Star Corvettes works on a Z06 with Nate Coronado on Friday.

Auto shops hemmed in

PLANNED HOUSING SURROUNDS OLDER USES ON EVELYN, VILLA

By Daniel DeBolt

North Star Corvettes is one of three Villa Street businesses being hemmed in by a 96-unit housing project right in their backyard, with only a row of trees to separate them.

Last week a city staffer recommended that the City Council approve a 96-unit housing project which would replace the businesses' current backyard neighbors — the industrial square at 209-251 Evelyn Ave., two adjacent homes on Calderon Avenue and 400-404 Villa St.

"These uses, over time, are supposed to go away," zoning administrator Peter Gilli said at the hearing.

The council will decide whether to approve the project on Nov. 27, Gilli said, at a hearing which

will not be a study session.

Neighbors raised concerns over traffic at last Wednesday's meeting, noting that a new public street could guide traffic from Evelyn Avenue through the project onto Villa Street. One resident also was concerned that lack of yard space for the proposed condos and townhouses would mean families won't stay in their new homes very long.

"There's no way you can put commercial on three sides of a project, and say you haven't isolated residents in some way," one resident said.

Gilli disagreed. "Being able to get 11 parcels to form a neighborhood that can stand on its own is an opportunity," he said.

The entire block between Calderon Avenue, Villa Street, Bush Street and Evelyn Avenue has

been zoned for housing since a precise plan for Evelyn Avenue passed in 1994. Developer Classic Communities has worked for several years to buy the block.

Next to North Star Corvettes is La Fiesta restaurant and California's Best detailing shop. The three businesses have refused to sell to Classic Communities and will now be surrounded by homes. The new public street connecting Villa to Evelyn will put La Fiesta on a street corner.

The project will include 50 three-story condos along Evelyn Avenue out to the corner of Calderon Avenue. Behind them will be 46 row homes. All will feature Spanish-style architecture. ■

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

Students protest to keep cafe

FOOD POLICY AT LOS ALTOS HIGH COULD MEAN END OF COOKING CLASSES

By Susan Hong

Culinary students at Los Altos High School, who purchase recipe items with money they earn by selling meals to students, may soon be cracking text-

books instead of eggs.

To comply with a state rule, the student-run Eagle's Nest Cafe was shut down to students at the start of this school year after more than a decade of operation, prompting dozens of juniors and seniors to cut

class and protest all day last Friday.

Risking disciplinary action and threats that the school would call police, students demanded that the school reopen Eagle's Nest and

► See **PROTEST**, page 11

Youth services climbs Rec list

COMMISSION GIVES INPUT ON CITY'S RECREATION PLAN

By Daniel DeBolt

The Parks and Recreation Commission made it clear last Wednesday that it wants youth services to be a top priority for the city's parks and recreation department over the next three years.

The volunteer commissioners were given a worksheet by recreation department staff that listed 23 service goals that could be worked on over the next 10 years as part of the city's first-ever recreation plan, a legal document that will accompany the city's general plan.

By a clear margin, the commission chose to make services for teenage youth a priority over other programs, including those for seniors, cultural education, job training, trails and preschoolers. Facilities like sports fields and community centers weren't on the list.

Among the top-ranked goals for the next three years were adding resources for at-risk youth, after-school programs, using school sites as neighborhood centers, health and wellness programs for all ages and establishing a place to "provide more attractive, safe, growth-promoting settings for adolescents and young adults — giving them a sense of place and belonging."

After the commission's input is finalized, parks and rec employees may have to revise its priority list in the

► See **PARKS**, page 9

Dr. Sima Stein, Caring for the young community-
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■ SEEN AROUND TOWN



*Tree
trimming*

Britt Bredstad of Mountain View Avenue sent this photo of a tree trimmer in action. The offending tree was at Montebello Apartments near McKelvey Park, Bredstad said, and was becoming a safety hazard.

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.

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 6:30pm

■ OBITUARIES

GABRIELA MARIO DARANG

Mountain View resident Gabriela Mario Darang passed away Oct. 16 at El Camino Hospital surrounded by her family. She was 82 years old.

Darang was the beloved wife of the late Andres Darang, who passed away in 1999. She is survived by her children, Evelyn, Tessie, Nancy, Victor, Mario and Orlando; and nine grandchildren, Andrea, Matthew, Nicole, Danielle, Teresa, Chase, Ashlyn, Kathleen and Joshua.

Darang was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary in San Jose. She served her community as a volunteer at the Mountain View Kaiser Clinic, Santa Maria Illocus Sur Association, Allied Arts in Menlo Park and as a pioneer of the

Women's Health Initiative Study at Stanford University. She worked 25 years for Raytheon Co. at the Semiconductor Division in Mountain View.

Darang was a member of St. Joseph in Mountain View, where the funeral Mass was held Oct. 22. Interment immediately followed at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Los Altos.

MANUEL H. HERRERO

Manuel "Manny" Herrero, a lifelong Mountain View resident, died in his home Oct. 27 surrounded by his family. He was 80 years old.

Herrero often told stories of his work picking apricots and prunes in the orchards that covered the Valley

in those days. He was a manager at the local Spanish movie theater before joining the city of Mountain View Water Department, where he worked for 35 years. He also served as captain of the Mountain View Volunteer Fire Department. A gardening enthusiast, he spent much of his time outdoors tending his vegetable and cactus gardens.

He is survived by his children, Andy, Mary Ann, Eric and Scott; his companion Josephine Kendall; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was preceded by his parents and his sister, Inez Moya.

A funeral Mass will be held Saturday, Nov. 3 at 10 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 582 Hope St., Mountain View.

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Chief works to revive PAL boxing league

By Daniel DeBolt

Police Chief Scott Vermeer is hoping to revive a city tradition from the 1970s — a youth boxing program sponsored by the Police Activities League—and he has friends in high places to help him do it.

Vermeer made the announcement at an October meeting between the City Council and the Mountain View Whisman School District. The Police Activities League, or PAL, organizes sports and activities for youth considered to be at risk of joining gangs.

“Anything we can do for PAL is good for the community,” Vermeer said. “We would love to have a boxing program — it brings out a lot of the kids we are trying to reach.”

To do that, PAL will have to acquire funding from the city, bring in coaches and provide a dedicated space for training. Last week Vermeer said he was optimistic about meeting those challenges because of the buzz he has noticed since his announcement.

Vermeer doesn't have to look far to find someone who has experience in these matters: council member Nick Galiotto, a former cop who started the city's first PAL chapter 37 years ago.

“When I founded PAL in 1970, I was a lieutenant,” Galiotto wrote in an e-mail. “I had just established the PD's first community relations unit. I was looking for ways to build

positive interactions with our officers, so resident ride-alongs, neighborhood watch, block parents, citizenship classes in middle schools and PAL were started.”

One of the first activities Galiotto pursued was the boxing league for kids 8 to 18 years old. The league used a portable boxing ring so that bouts could be hosted in larger school gyms where audiences could watch.

The team even went on the road, traveling to nearby cities including San Jose, Morgan Hill, Redwood City and Hay-

ward. Galiotto said that on a few occasions, Mountain View youth made it all the way to the “golden gloves” competition at the state level.

“Many of the participants didn't engage in

school sports and found personal achievement through discipline and individual effort,” Galiotto said.

From 1976 to 1987 there was a dedicated PAL building where the Shoreline fire station now sits. The program eventually was phased out, followed by the “Officer PAL” speaking robot that presented safety talks to elementary school students.

The most active PAL boxing program in the county is in Santa Clara, where teenagers and young adults have enjoyed a dedicated training space for many years, sometimes going on to national-level amateur boxing. ▀

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

“Anything we can do for PAL is good for the community.”

POLICE CHIEF SCOTT VERMEER

FORENSICS

► Continued from page 1

dence.

“People have used DNA typing to reunite a child to a parent,” Bolton told her class. DNA typing has been used in mass disasters including 9/11, where scientists looked at bone fragments to determine who was in the tower. She said the method was also used during the investigation of former President Bill Clinton's involvement with Monica Lewinsky and in the capture of Saddam Hussein to determine if the individual captured was the

authentic Hussein.

The course is UC-approved, according to Bolton, who was instrumental in launching it. Over the summer she worked with Applied Biosystems, where she got first-hand experience with DNA testing. She received a \$22,000 grant to help pay for the course.

For the final exam, Bolton said, she's going to bury some bones, scatter bullet casings and lay out a blood-stained fabric which students will pick apart and analyze.

It's interesting. It's different,” Ezabor said. ▀

E-mail Susan Hong at shong@mv-voice.com

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AMERICANA

▶ Continued from page 1

violation of our regulations,” said Karen Schkolnick, spokesperson for the air district.

In the past the district has settled lawsuits with apartment owners for up to \$300,000 in damages when asbestos was removed incorrectly by untrained workers. But in this case, Schkolnick said, workers weren't trying to remove the asbestos, but instead shook it loose, probably unknowingly. There wasn't enough loose asbestos to warrant tests by the district — a gram of material is necessary, Schkolnick said.

Although the roofers were apparently unaware of the presence of asbestos, residents say Prometheus, the company that manages the complex, was aware of it, having dealt with a similar situation in a Cupertino apartment complex in 2000. According to Americana residents, Prometheus even warned them in lease agreements not to disturb the building's asbestos.

After requests from residents, Prometheus had its own tests done. Of the 17 test results available earlier this month, six apartments had measurable amounts of asbestos. At least one was found to have a very high level of asbestos — 1.2 million structures per square centimeter.

By comparison, the company says, a common “background” level of asbestos is 10,000 structures per square centimeter, while “high” is 100,000. There is no regulated limit, according to the air district and the state Department of Health.

One test found asbestos on the mobile over a child's bed, a resident said. “We're all devastated that we let our kids be in there,” she said.

Residents said the roofing crew has been fired and the roofing project halted, but not before four other buildings in the complex — totaling 120 units — underwent re-roofing earlier this year. In Building Five, a 30-unit building, work was halted before the roof could be finished, resulting in holes which leaked rainwater into some of the apartments. Since then, temporary fixes to the roof have been made.

Tests at Building Three found high levels of asbestos even after a full decontamination was done, residents said. Building Five residents now say they don't know if their apartments can ever be fully decontaminated.

The Americana Apartments complex is located at 707 Continental Circle, behind the Camino Medical Group facility. The com-

plex's owners, the Tan Group in Palo Alto, refused to comment for this story. Prometheus did not return several phone calls before press time.

Hard to move

Last week, residents of Building Five, many with small children in tow, talked about the difficulty of

“The experience has been really eye opening,” said a resident.

“It's remarkable — they are going to get away with this.”

leaving their homes and putting their work-from-home jobs on hold. Many second floor residents of Building Five are staying at nearby Crestview Hotel with no firm answer from management about how long the work will take.

Third-floor residents, who are permanently moving out of the most uninhabitable apartments, said they had to settle on the first apartment they could find, and are now paying unexpected relocation expenses and higher rents than the \$1,800-a-month they paid at the Americana.

“We're being pushed into a high-rent rental market,” one resident said.

“I hope I get reimbursed for all this,” said another resident, pointing to garbage bags full of clothes that needed to be professionally cleaned after being exposed to asbestos.

Because residents are still fighting with Prometheus over relocation expenses, the four residents who talked to the *Voice* asked to remain anonymous.

The Prometheus Real Estate Group, as well as its development arm and its management arm, have been involved in at least 62 lawsuits in Santa Clara County since 1980. In

2000, residents of a Prometheus-owned apartment complex called the Biltmore in Cupertino were outraged when a construction project released asbestos dust from sheetrock. Prometheus is the largest private owner of multifamily properties in the Bay Area, according to its Web site.

One resident said she had called dozens of agencies that might be able to hold the apartment owners responsible, from the governor's office to the EPA.

“Every single person told us to get a lawyer — we are in no one's

jurisdiction.”

Air district inspectors will continue to work on the project as repairs are made to ceilings. Schkolnick said inspectors from the Department of Toxic Substances Control have also been to the Americana.

The toxicity of asbestos is uncertain, but the state contends that it takes decades of exposure for “most people” to develop health problems. Schkolnick said the textured asbestos “popcorn” coating is common on the ceilings of 1970s-era buildings. She cautioned people to call a professional if they believe they have been exposed to its dust and warned that using a vacuum cleaner on asbestos will only re-circulate the dust into the air.

The situation reminded one resident of the movie “Erin Brockovich.” But in this story, there may be no underdog victory.

“The experience has been really eye opening,” said another resident.

“It's remarkable — they are going to get away with this.”

For air district links to information on asbestos regulations, visit the *Voice's* Web site at www.mountainviewonline.com. ▣

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PARKS

► Continued from page 5

recreation plan. City staff said the input was different from what they heard when research started last year.

An Oct. 17 hearing also showed that residents' wishes had changed, commissioners said.

As the commissioners looked at the priorities they had chosen, chair Todd Fernandez said, "I'm comfortable given the input we got from the [Oct. 17] workshop."

Parks and rec department manager Jim Teixeira said he didn't want people to get the impression that the teen center was a low priority. The center was listed arbitrarily as the last third-tier project in the recre-

"Just because it is on the bottom of the slide, doesn't mean it's on the bottom."

JIM TEIXEIRA

ation plan draft.

"Just because it is on the bottom of the slide, doesn't mean it's on the bottom," Teixeira said.

Nearly 200 local youth packed St. Joseph Church earlier this year to ask City Council members Ronit Bryant and Tom Means for a new teen center that would be a safe place for at-risk youth.

The city has ranked open space as its first priority in the recreation plan, followed by a community center in the second tier and ball fields and a teen center in the third tier. The priorities were the result of input from 67 residents taken from 50 interviews, two public workshops and surveys given to dozens of community service organizations.

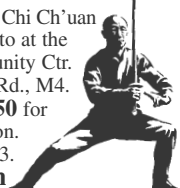
Commissioners seemed to indicate that open space should not even be mentioned in the document.

"We have a whole document for open space," said commissioner Paul Donahue, referring to the city's open space plan. ▀


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

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MOFFETT FIELD

Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) for former Naval Air Station (NAS) Moffett Field will be held:

On: Thursday, November 8, 2007
7 to 9:30 p.m.

At: Moffett Field, Building 943, Mountain View, CA
Building 943 (Public Affairs Building) is located just before the main gate on NASA Parkway.

The RAB reviews and comments on plans and activities about the ongoing environmental studies and restoration activities under way at Moffett Field. Regular RAB meetings are open to the public and the Navy encourages your involvement. **To review documents** on Moffett Field environmental restoration projects, please visit the information repository located at the Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin Street, Mountain View, CA 94041, 650-903-6337.

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PROTEST

► Continued from page 5

allow them to sell their lobsters and steaks to other students. The cafe currently is only open to teachers.

The culinary arts program at Los Altos High is the district's only regional occupational program for cooking which helps place graduates in high-end restaurants or in schools like the Culinary Institute of America. Betty Ewing, who runs the program, was at a conference the day of the protest, but at a later interview said the cutback on the cafe has jeopardized the entire program.

Because of the cutback, she said, top students will no longer have the opportunity to travel to Las Vegas for a one-week externship cooking with professional chefs at the Mandalay Bay and the Venetian. And instead of cooking lobsters, crab and scallops as was done in the past, the students watched a film about cooking seafood this year.

"You can't taste a film," Ewing said.

"We were starting to be recognized by the culinary academies. They were considering taking students from the school, they were also looking to strand with us and articulate with us, so our credits would continue to continue their education in hospitality," she said. But now, because the students are restricted from cooking, the quality of the program has deteriorated, she said.

The cafe used to bring in about \$15,000 to \$18,000 a year but that amount has been cut by a third, Ewing said. Although the cafe is open to faculty, teachers do not buy from it every day. As a result, the

students simply cook less because Ewing does not want the food to go to waste, she said.

"The cafeteria is trying to stop everyone from selling because they're not making a profit," said culinary student Adrian Garcia, who has his eyes on pursuing a career in the culinary arts. "If we can't sell, in a few weeks we're just going to be reading from books," he said.

Ewing said the school's cafeteria has a sour mood and morale is low there.

According to Joe White, associate superintendent of business services, Los Altos High is being forced to shut down all alternative avenues of food sales as a result of a state "non-compete" rule that bans all forms of competitive food sales on campus.

Last year the school was audited, said White, and "The auditors specifically discussed competitive sales with my staff. Since we're in the federal free and reduced [school lunch] program, we must abide by the rules."

He added, "They didn't pinpoint Eagle's Nest Cafe, but they said there can be no competitive sales."

Ewing thinks the district has gone too far, to the detriment of the students.

"There's a law, but it's being stretched. ... If we really want to help our students we would let them do what they need to do to make it as successful as before," she said.

"We want them to know that we're serious about it," Garcia said about the cafe and cooking. "We do want to keep that class. That class has been fun for us."

E-mail Susan Hong at shong@mv-voice.com



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NASA

► Continued from page 1

laire said, in addition to the 1,000 units planned on 23 acres north of Highway 101 just east of Westcoat military housing. But those 100 Google homes are just a "gleam in their eye" at this point, he added.

"The interest is large in building rental housing there," Marlaire said, and includes requests from many organizations.

Research park employees will be given first dibs on the housing, followed by non-NASA federal employees. Local school teachers will be given third priority, he said, and fourth in line is the general public. The units would be as small as 600 square feet, with larger town homes at about 1,200 square feet.

Several colleges already have their foot in the door for space at Moffett Field, Marlaire said. In order to qualify, both schools and businesses must in some way help NASA's larger mission of space exploration, and "we've sent a lot of people packing" who didn't, he said. Private businesses already at NASA Ames include Bloom Energy, an alternative energy company.

To enter the new world at Moffett, organizations are creating limited liability companies. Google, for example, has created Planetary Ventures LLC and universities have cre-

ated them as well, such as the Carnegie Melon LLC.

Locating in the research park may be relatively costly, Marlaire said, because NASA Ames

NASA's direction under President George W. Bush has been to create "new economies in space," Marlaire said.

doesn't enjoy the "economies of scale" that cities do with fire and police services. Being on federal land, NASA has to pay for its own infrastructure. The agency already has met with the city to make use of its recycled water program.

Pushing forward an agenda of privatization in space exploration, NASA's direction under President George W. Bush has been to create "new economies in space," Marlaire said. People like Sergey Brin of Google aren't putting up \$30 million of their own money to bring a rover to the moon to fulfill childhood dreams — "They believe they are going to make a lot of money," Marlaire said.

Quake shakes City Hall

The earthquake Tuesday night struck just after 8 p.m., right in the middle of the City Council meeting. City officials and others looked around surprised as the swaying and shaking on the second floor of City Hall made the quake seem fairly serious.

"That was really scary," said Nadine Levin, assistant city manager. She and several others in the plaza conference room went outside in case of an aftershock, though other city officials stayed inside. Some meeting attendees left, shocked.

"I'm thinking that was about a 6.5," said Mayor Laura Macias. It turned out to be a 5.6-magnitude earthquake, with an epicenter nine miles east of San Jose City Hall.

One younger City Hall worker said it was his first. "I've never experienced that before," he said.

People started talking about where they were during the 6.9-magnitude Loma Prieta earthquake of 1989. "I was on the top deck of Candlestick Park," said city manager Kevin Duggan. "I was on the 32nd floor of a building in San Francisco," Levin said. "That was scary, wasn't it?"

To restart the meeting, Duggan said, "Alright, you guys ready to rumble?"

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

COUNCIL BRIEFS

MAYOR SIGNS CLIMATE AGREEMENT

Council members and local environmentalists gathered outside council chambers Tuesday night to watch Mayor Laura Macias sign the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement.

"Alright, its official, Mountain View's done it," Macias said.

After the ceremony, the group filed into the plaza conference room to hear how the City Council will form an environmental sustainability task force, with the goal of recommending short- and long-term actions to reduce greenhouse gases from an established, calculated city baseline.

The council decided on "option two" for the large task force, which has a core group of council appointees but unlimited membership. To keep the effort as open as possible to residents, council members said they wanted to

allow sub-groups to form that did not have to follow Brown Act rules for public meetings.

"Option one" would have meant a smaller 18-member task force of high profile business and community leaders. "Option three" was for a completely open group.

AUDIT: CITY ROLLING IN DOUGH

According to audit reports presented Tuesday, Mountain View has hundreds of millions of dollars in assets and enough money in the bank to maintain the AAA credit rating it enjoys.

One key indicator of the city's financial well-being is that it owns \$761.4 million in net assets. Of that, the report read, "\$194.6 million are unrestricted net assets that may be used to meet the city's ongoing obligations."

Finance director Bob Locke, who was on vacation, wrote in a

staff report that "This is an overall financial position indicator and is not the amount of current resources available for budgetary purposes."

The external audit confirms the accuracy of the city's budget and is used as a reference for credit lenders. The heavy duty auditing done in cities like Palo Alto and San Jose by a full time auditor is not required by the city charter.

In May 2006, council member Greg Perry pushed forward "programmatic cost reviews" which will review departments for ways to save money. The first is on the Police Department and is due possibly by the end of the year, said Nadine Levin, assistant city manager. A council-requested audit on the city's purchasing card program is also due soon, said Patty Kong, assistant finance director.

— Daniel DeBolt

Homes proposed for Hetch Hetchy open space

NEIGHBORS PROTEST, SAY SIX ACRES SHOULD BE A PARK

By Daniel DeBolt

The City Council has scheduled a Nov. 2 study session to discuss a proposed residential development where neighbors are concerned about losing six acres of open space.

Up to 69 three-story town homes are being proposed for "Hawthorne Park," located on a 500-foot long, six-acre strip of land on Whisman Road and Tyrella Avenue. It is part of the right-of-way for the massive Hetch-Hetchy aqueduct, a large pipe carrying millions of gallons of water up the Peninsula. The neighborhood is 60 percent detached homes, and none are over two stories tall.

Neighbors find the height of the project unacceptable and are calling for a six-acre park instead. They have created an online petition at www.thepetitionsite.com.

Neighbor Ed Shafir said it would be a good location for the educational farm the Mountain View Farmlands Group has been trying to promote. Liz Snyder-Liles, a Mountain View resident and program director at Full Circle Farms in Sunnyvale, plans to speak in favor of the

farm idea at the next council meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 6. "Here is a golden opportunity for the city to buy land and improve the ratio of parks to housing in this area," Shafir said. He said the city decided against buying the property for a park a few years ago, unbeknownst to neighbors.

The property was last occupied by a tree grower, Pacific Nurseries, which was evicted by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission in 2005. The property has been zoned for seven to 12 units per acre for several years, so a long series of hearings would not be necessary for the City Council to approve the project.

The proposal has been made around the existing Hetch Hetchy Trail, which will run through the center of the project, creating a .73-acre park. The developer is Jazz Construction and Development.

Plans for the project created in June can be viewed at www.shafir.com/windsor/HawthornePark.pdf. ■

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

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Join other prenatal and postpartum mothers in a Yoga class designed to enhance strength, flexibility and tranquility. Practice Yoga stretches and poses while pregnant and return after your delivery for a gentle shape up and relaxation time.

- Saturdays, November 3-24
- ✱ **PREPARING FOR MULTIPLES**


Are you expecting twins, triplets or more? With the potential for early delivery, expectant parents of multiples are encouraged to learn everything there is to know about carrying and delivering multiple infants.

- Sunday, November 4
- ✱ **SHOWING KIDS WE CARE**


Let's help today's youth build positive experiences, relationships and opportunities. Join Mary Patterson, Executive Director of Project Cornerstone, for a discussion on what we can do to help our children thrive.

- Wednesday, November 14

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LocalNews

Vintage Softball turns 20

By Theresa Condon

These seniors aren't over the hill, they're on the mound — the pitcher's mound.

This becomes clear to anyone walking by the diamonds at Girard and Kaiser roads in Moffett Field most Saturday mornings, where the Vintage Softball Club of Santa Clara County holds its weekly games. Amid the crack of a bat and the umpire's call, spectators might notice that most players on the field are not spring chickens — but their play is still plenty intense.

The club, which celebrates its 20th anniversary next weekend, is open to all men and women ages 50 and up.

"A lot of people used to hang up their cleats once they reached 50 because they couldn't keep up with all the 20-somethings anymore," says Jim Callan, president of the club. "With us, they find they're the youngsters again with another 30 years or more of action still ahead. It's a great feeling."

To celebrate 20 years of good times, the softball club is holding a banquet at the Three Flames Restaurant in San Jose on Friday, Nov. 9. The event begins at 6:30 p.m. and costs \$35 per person. All members are invited to attend — especially newcomers, who will get a chance to meet their new teammates and friends.

At the event, charter members will be recognized for their role in starting the club, followed by an awards ceremony and raffle. ▣

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Show promises family fun

MOUNTAIN VIEW PARENT NURSERY SCHOOL HOSTS CHILDREN'S MUSICIAN JUSTIN ROBERTS

By Theresa Condon

A local nursery school is bringing popular children's musician Justin Roberts to the Smithwick Theatre at Foothill College this Sunday, and organizers hope to promote a good time for kids and adults while bringing in some much-needed funds for the school.

The concert is hosted by the Mountain View Parent Nursery School, which emphasizes the importance of parent participation in a child's development. The school's philosophy sees parental involvement in a child's education as key to ensuring future success.

"We're a family school," said parent and public relations chair Chris Andersen.

Money from ticket sales will fund nursery school programs such as field trips and other activities. Earlier tickets sales also donated money to Mountain View Even Start and E. Palo Alto Family Connections, programs for underprivileged preschools.

Roberts' "Meltdown!" album was voted "Best of 2006" by the Kids and Family Music Awards and he has won four Parent's Choice Gold Awards. According to organizers, his music is fun and engaging, and reflects the value of family through songs that everyone, young and old, can enjoy.

"The music resonates with parents as well as children. The lyrics are catchy and hilarious," said parent and community outreach chair Jennifer Walsh-Sauter. "He has some really positive messages for children and families."

"It's a family experience," agrees Anderson. ▣

INFORMATION

What: Two hour-long shows by acclaimed children's musician Justin Roberts, presented by Mountain View Parent Nursery School, Foothill College Child Development Department, and Mountain View-Los Altos Adult Education

When: Sunday, Nov. 4; the first show at 11 a.m., the second at 2 p.m.

Where: Foothill College's Smithwick Theatre, 2345 El Monte Rd., Los Altos Hills

Cost: Tickets are \$13 at the door

Info: Visit www.mvpngs.org or www.justinroberts.org



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■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

Watch out for Google precedent

When city officials first sat down with Sergey Brin and Larry Page, no one knew their search engine would one day become the mighty Google, Silicon Valley's most successful start-up ever.

Now Mountain View is the envy of every city in the Valley, due to its burgeoning relationship with a company whose stock is valued at over \$600 a share. Google has made its home base here, paying top rate for office space on city-owned land in the Shoreline district and, more recently, expressing interest in bankrolling and managing a 200-room hotel in the same neighborhood.

Building a top-quality hotel on a lot at Shoreline and Charleston, next to a 310,000-square-foot Google office building due to break ground soon, further cements the partnership the city enjoys with Google. There's also the Google WiFi project, which makes free Web connections available over most of the city's outdoor area; the Google Bookmobile for our library; and a Google child care facility at the recently shuttered Slater School.

So far, this partnership has been nothing but blue sky, and it could continue that way long into the future. But there are a few danger signs that the city should not overlook.

First, Mountain View needs to be prepared to say no when a Google deal does not benefit the city. For example, the long-sought-after hotel — located amid some two million square feet of office space in more than 20 buildings the company occupies in the Shoreline district — will obviously serve Google, but will other firms be able to schedule events at its conference center? Will city residents be able to book space? Hopefully the answers are yes, but with just 200 rooms, the hotel could easily become dominated by Google and be of little use to anyone else.

The city should also watch the effort by Google to increase the density allowed for its office space on Shorebird Way. This zoning change would permit more of the company's employees to fit into its buildings there, and Google hopes to nearly triple the density of its buildings in the 64-acre area. By doing so, Google could dramatically increase the city's jobs-to-housing imbalance. By some estimates, Google could employ as many as 30,000 workers in Mountain View within the next five to 10 years, about 40 percent of the city's current population.

That could set up a difficult choice for the city: Either approve larger and denser housing projects to accommodate the growth of Google, or see its housing prices climb even higher and its streets become even more congested.

So far, Google has been a model citizen in Mountain View, paying the city nearly \$4 million a year in rent for its Shoreline properties. Google is a Blue Chip partner that brings a tremendous benefit to the city, which is lucky to have "the hottest company in the world," according to city manager Kevin Duggan.

"It is better than not having the hottest company in the world," he said. "We were dealing with empty office buildings just a couple years ago."

That was the problem then. Now the city must guard against becoming a "company town" that can no longer control its own destiny. We have faith our representatives at City Hall will do so.

■ LETTERS VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

KUDOS FOR LIBRARY STORY

Editor:

Thank you for a thorough article on the lecture about children and multiple intelligences presented at the Mountain View Public Library ("The many faces of intelligence," Oct. 26).

The parenting lectures at the library are sponsored by the Friends of the Library. The people working the book sales and selling puppets in the Lobby Shop are responsible for many wonderful programs at the library.

My heartfelt thanks to them, and to everyone who supports the Friends of the Library through book donations and patronage.

Sharon McClintock
Mountain View Public Library

'WITCH' REMARK WRONG FOR VOICES

Editor:

I want to express my dismay at including in last week's Voices Around Town the Halloween costume choice of Adrien Oliff — who would dress-up as a witch and run for president.

I always read this part of the Voice first and usually enjoy a smile or two. However, I find the inclusion of this political remark to be offensive and inappropriate in this section of the newspaper.

We read and hear enough political nasties elsewhere. Please leave them there.

Susanne Stewart
Poppy Place

IMPEACH CHENEY/BUSH

Editor:

I couldn't agree more with the recent call to impeach President Bush by the Silicon Valley Impeachment Coalition. It's disheartening that while all elected officials take oaths to defend the Constitution, so few of them are willing to take action while Cheney and Bush trample it.

In addition to constitutional considerations, it's clear that the lie-based occupation of Iraq is impairing the function of the National Guard (Katrina, San Diego). Despite this, we hear local elected officials tell us that calling for impeachment is not a local issue.

Bill Michel
Ortega Avenue

REPUBLICAN VALUES VS. CHILDREN'S HEALTH

Editor:

Recently, hardcore ideologues blocked a children's health plan supported by an overwhelming majority of Americans. In doing so, they've made it easy to see the essence of their philosophy.

If your family makes \$50,000, you should be able to afford total insurance coverage for your family, regardless. If your family makes \$1 million, you can't afford to pay taxes.

Citizens who habitually vote Republican need to ask themselves before the November '08 election if their principles are truly represented by people who are willing to deny healthcare to millions of American children.

Bob Hosek
Los Altos



Educators devalued

By Robin Iwai

The “two Americas” that John Edwards describes were ironically illustrated in the Oct. 26 *Voice*. Two separate articles addressed the same Silicon Valley concern — paying competitive salaries to “attract and retain talented people and reward them for good work” in public service.

The first article describes compensation for executives at the publicly owned El Camino Hospital (“El Camino execs see big salary increases”). There, salary increases were deemed necessary to “match compensation at similar hospitals around the country.” Executives’ salaries (not counting sizeable benefit packages) range from \$217,000 to \$735,000.

Hospital trustee Wes Alles said, “We don’t want any of our executives to be outside of that range of compensation. ... This is an expensive place to live.”

In another article, Mountain View-Whisman School District Superintendent Maurice Ghysels states his concern about teacher salaries that, again excluding benefits, begin at \$44,000 and top out at \$82,000 (“Ghysels: Cost of living driving teachers away”).

“The cost of living in the Valley is astronomical, and when you look at the salaries for teachers — not just starting, but teachers with master’s degrees at the top of the [salary] schedule — it’s

just heartbreaking because we can’t compete. They cannot afford to buy a home in Mountain View or the near vicinity, so we just lose a lot of teachers.”

Ghysels went on to say that “It’s tough, but we just work with what [money] we can ... in any organization, whether it’s a school or a high-tech company, talent is key, and I worry about it.” He added that “Teachers go into teaching for much more than just money, they go into it with a sense of purpose and meaning.”

Every discussion about teacher pay mentions that teachers are not in it for the money. No disagreement there. However, does one ever see personal values such as purpose, meaning, and “making a difference in the life of a child” mentioned in relation to management pay?

John Edwards is right. There are two Americas. There are people in public service who are making far more than they need, and others who are equally well educated and work just as hard but cannot afford to live in the communities they serve. Are the lives of hospital administrators and teachers so different that one group should earn five to ten times the wages of the other?

I propose that we start to think of teachers as highly skilled and well-paid managers, and be willing to tax ourselves accordingly to pay for their services.

Robin Iwai lives on Carmelita Drive.

Are the lives of hospital administrators and teachers so different that one group should earn five to ten times the wages of the other?

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■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

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MARJAN SADOUGH

Anni Golding, owner of Gateau et Ganache in Palo Alto, pipes the melted chocolate into the molds to make cinnamon bonbons.

■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

A feast of sweets

PALO ALTO'S HANDMADE CHOCOLATES ARE LIKE PRECIOUS OBJECTS

By Dale F. Bentson

Anni Golding does not make jewelry; she makes gems. Her precious objects are molded from chocolate, cream, butter, fruits, infusions and liqueurs. Her milieu is not wires, clips and closures but kettles, marble cooling slabs, wooden spoons and candy thermometers.

Golding operates in a diminutive shared space off El Camino Real in Palo Alto. Her chocolate candies are tantalizingly beautiful, eye-rollingly luscious and made from fresh, organic ingredients, mostly from local dairies and orchards.

She's been making candy for the past couple of years, but her Gateau

et Ganache ("cake and icing") company is still a one-woman show. It takes two days to complete a single-batch process. Batches are minute, about 100 pieces of candy, painstakingly made in the finest European tradition.

Anni Golding was born in Sydney, Australia. Her father, a medical doctor, accepted a position in Cleveland and replanted his family when she was 4 years old. Golding earned a degree in technical writing from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh and headed to Silicon Valley. She spent 13 years in the trenches of start-ups, close-downs, highfli-

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MARIAN SADOUGHI

An assortment box of 15 chocolates made by Anni Golding for sale for \$28.

► Continued from previous page

ers and washouts.

The year 2001 proved seminal. A college friend died, and then a family member, and then came the Sept. 11 attacks. Burned out on 60- and 70-hour weeks, Golding reconsidered her direction and decided on an alternate course. She enrolled at the Culinary Institute of America in the Napa Valley with an eye towards being an artistic cake baker.

"I wanted to be a baker and open a shop on the Peninsula, but rents were beyond belief, and I realized competition was stiff. There are a lot of artistic bakers in the Bay Area," Golding said.

She did a stint at Palo Alto's Evvia as pastry chef before enrolling in candy-making classes in France in 2004 and 2005 to perfect her design.

"I loved the French visuals, the presentation and the locally driven flavors."

She also liked the science of test and retest. Years of detailed technical writing had taught her to be meticulous and orderly. She has reams of notes on confectionary trials and errors.

"I started making marshmallows and raspberry bonbons for friends," Golding said. "I love fruit and chocolate together, that com-

ination of textures with layers of flavors, crunchy on the outside and buttery creamy inside." It was the encouragement of those friends that propelled her to the next step.

European chocolate, Straus Family Creamery's organic cream, and butter form the candy's base. Local berries, organic cinnamon and peppermint, lemon verbena and vanilla-bean creams are hand-piped into bite-size chocolate shells.

"Nothing trendy here, just classic Old World flavors. I never use any preservatives," Golding said. That somewhat limits shelf life but preserves taste. While she includes a small brochure inside each box, there is not a flavor roadmap per se.

"I hate the idea of a roadmap," she

► Continued on next page

■ DINING NOTES

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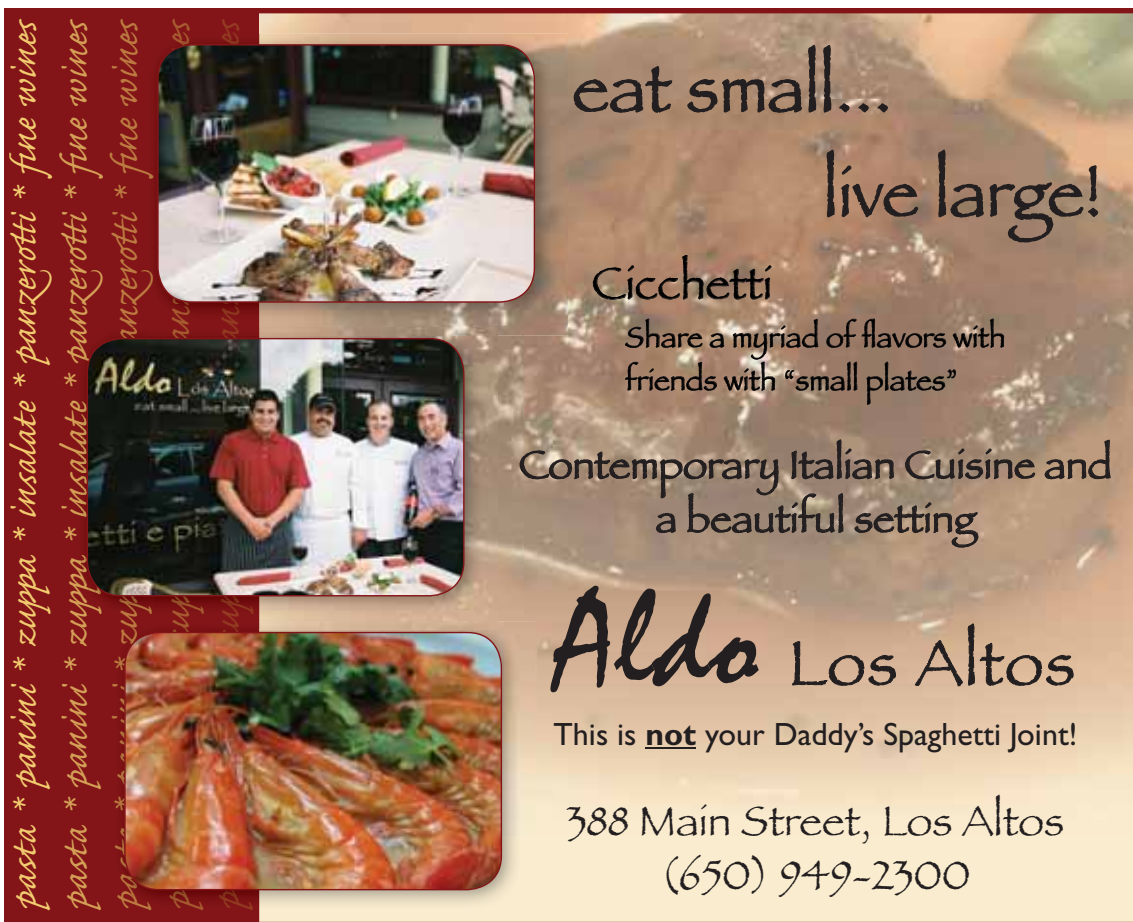
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MARJAN SADOUGHI

An assortment box of 36 chocolates called the "Luxury gift," for sale for \$75.

► Continued from previous page

said. "It's not a good sign. If flavors are true, directions aren't needed to know what you are eating."

Currently, there are three components to Golding's line: filled bonbons, truffles and marshmallows. Her handmade blackberry marshmallow is feathery light and pale pink, with a delicious subtle berry flavor that puckers the inside of the cheek after a few seconds.

The chocolate marshmallow, though, is the showstopper. About one quarter of the 1 1/2-inch-square confection is dipped in chocolate; the remainder retains its puffy creaminess. It's as if a billowy cloud of candy wafted too close to the Wonka Candy Factory and was singed with scrumptious chocolate spray.

The sensuous textured chocolate truffles, hand-rolled in deep, dark unsweetened cocoa powder, are melt-on-the-tongue creamy. "Chocolate for the sake of chocolate, with a dash of cognac," Golding said.

The bonbon collection is like opening a package from Van Cleef & Arpels. The multi-faceted candy collection shimmers and reflects light as precious stones; dreamy candies glisten in the palm of the hand, begging to be eaten.

The La Cannelle bonbon looks

like a rough-cut chocolate diamond. Chocolate ganache is wrapped in a dark- and milk-chocolate shell and infused with organic cinnamon. It hints of holidays, ribbon candy and opulent feasts.

La Vanille resembles a miniature snow-capped mountain. Tahitian vanilla-infused white chocolate ganache with a hint of dark rum is enrobed in a dark chocolate shell. And La Verveine Citronelle is a bonbon made of white chocolate ganache perfumed with organic lemon verbena and finished in a white chocolate shell with green and yellow accents.

There are other flavors as well; about 25 of the assorted chocolate flavored gems are seasonally rotated. Approximately 10 flavors are available at any one time with special flavors for major holidays.

Truffles are 16 to a carton for \$26. Marshmallows vary in price by flavor, \$11 to \$16 per dozen. Boxed chocolate bonbons are available in five sizes, ranging from a four-piece assortment to a four-tray 36-piece array, with prices from \$9 up to \$75.

Golding's candies aren't available in retail stores; for now, all sales are generated online at www.gateauetganache.com. Orders are shipped, or arrangements can be made for pickup at her kitchen. ▀

MOVIE TIMES

- 30 DAYS OF NIGHT (R)** Century 12: 12:40, 3:50, 7 & 10:10 p.m.
3:10 TO YUMA (R) ★★★★★ Century 12: 3:40 & 9:15 p.m.
ACROSS THE UNIVERSE (PG-13) ★★★
 Century 20: 12:45, 3:50, 6:55 & 9:50 p.m.
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) ★★1/2 Century 16: 11:40 a.m.; 12:30, 3:15, 4:20, 6:50, 7:55 & 10:20 p.m. Century 12: 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:05, 5, 6, 6:55, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30 & 10:30 p.m.
BEE MOVIE (PG) ★★1/2 Century 16: 11:30 a.m.; noon, 12:35, 1:50, 2:20, 2:50, 4:15, 4:40, 5:15, 7, 7:50, 9:20 & 10:10 p.m. Century 20: 11:30 a.m.; 12:05, 12:30, 1:15, 2, 2:35, 3, 3:45, 4:30, 5:05, 5:30, 6:15, 7, 7:35, 8, 8:45, 9:30 & 10:30 p.m.
BEFORE THE DEVIL KNOWS YOU'RE DEAD (R)
 Century 16: 1:15, 4:10, 7:10 & 9:55 p.m.
BELLA (PG-13) Century 12: 1, 4, 7:20 & 9:50 p.m.
THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM (PG-13) ★★★★★1/2
 Century 20: 2:15 & 7:40 p.m.
DAN IN REAL LIFE (PG-13) ★★★ Century 16: 11:35 a.m.; 12:25, 2:15, 3, 4:45, 5:30, 7:15, 8, 9:45 & 10:30 p.m. Century 20: 11:40 a.m.; 1, 2, 3:25, 4:40, 5:50, 7:15, 8:15, 9:40 & 10:35 p.m.
THE DARJEELING LIMITED (R) ★★★
 Century 20: 11:55 a.m.; 2:30, 5:10, 7:40 & 10:15 p.m. Palo Alto Square: 1:40, 4:20 & 7 p.m. Fri. & Sat. also at 9:40 p.m.
DEATH AT A FUNERAL (R) ★★★★★ Century 20: 7:45 & 10:15 p.m.
ELIZABETH: THE GOLDEN AGE (PG-13) ★
 Century 20: Noon, 2:40, 5:20, 8 & 10:35 p.m.
THE GAME PLAN (PG) Century 12: 12:45 & 6:30 p.m.
GONE BABY GONE (R) ★★★ Century 16: 12:55, 4, 7:25 & 10:05 p.m. Century 20: 1:05, 4, 7:20 & 10:10 p.m.
THE HEARTBREAK KID (R) ★★1/2
 Century 20: 11:35 a.m.; 5 & 10:25 p.m.
INTO THE WILD (R) ★★★★★ Century 16: 11:50 a.m.; 3:10, 6:55 & 10:15 p.m. Century 20: 12:25, 2:40, 3:35, 6:50, 8:40 & 10:05 p.m.
IT CAME FROM OS-3-D (G)
 Aquarius: Fri. & Sat. at midnight. Sat. & Sun. also at noon.
JIMMY CARTER: MAN FROM PLAINS (PG)
 Century 16: 12:15, 3:20, 7:05 & 10 p.m.
THE KINGDOM (R) ★★1/2
 Century 20: 11:45 a.m.; 2:20, 4:50, 7:25 & 10 p.m.
LARS AND THE REAL GIRL (PG-13) ★★★★★1/2
 Century 20: 12:10, 2:45, 5:10, 7:45 & 10:20 p.m. Palo Alto Square: 1:45, 4:30 & 7:15 p.m. Fri. & Sat. also at 10 p.m.
LUST, CAUTION (NC-17) ★★★ Guild: 12:30, 4:15 & 8 p.m.
MARTIAN CHILD (PG) Century 16: 11:45 a.m.; 2:25, 5, 7:40 & 10:15 p.m. Century 20: 11:50, 2:25, 5:15, 7:55 & 10:25 p.m.
MICHAEL CLAYTON (R) ★★1/2 Century 16: 1, 3:55, 7:30 & 10:25 p.m. Century 12: 1:15, 4:15, 7:10 & 10:05 p.m.
MUSIC WITHIN (R) Century 20: 12:15 & 6:20 p.m.
RATATOUILLE (G) ★★★ Century 20: 11:35 a.m.; 2:20 & 4:55 p.m.
RENDITION (R) Century 20: 12:40, 3:55, 7:10 & 9:55 p.m.
SAW IV (R) Century 16: 12:10, 2:55, 5:20, 7:45 & 10:10 p.m. Century 12: 12:35, 1:35, 2:35, 3:15, 4:45, 5:35, 6:15, 7:35, 8:35, 9:20 & 10:35 p.m.
SHARKWATER (PG-13) ★★★ Aquarius: 1, 3, 5, 7 & 9:10 p.m.
STARDUST (PG-13) ★★1/2 Century 20: 12:55 & 7:05 p.m.
SYDNEY WHITE (PG-13) Century 20: 4:20 & 10 p.m.
THINGS WE LOST IN THE FIRE (R) ★★ Century 20: 10:05 p.m.
TIM BURTON'S THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS 3-D (PG) Century 16: 12:20, 2:30, 4:50, 7:20 & 9:30 p.m.
WE OWN THE NIGHT (R) ★★
 Century 20: 11:30 a.m.; 2:15, 5:05, 7:50 & 10:30 p.m.
WHY DID I GET MARRIED? (PG-13)
 Century 12: 12:50, 3:55, 7:15 & 10:15 p.m.
WRISTCUTTERS (R) Aquarius: 2, 4:15, 7:30 & 9:40 p.m.

Note: Screenings are for Friday through Tuesday only.

- AQUARIUS:** 430 Emerson St., Palo Alto (266-9260)
CENTURY CINEMA 16: 1500 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View (960-0970)
CENTURY PARK 12: 557 E. Bayshore Blvd., Redwood City (365-9000)
CENTURY 20 DOWNTOWN: 825 Middlefield Road, Redwood City (369-3456)
CINEARTS AT PALO ALTO SQUARE: 3000 El Camino Real, Palo Alto (493-3456)
GUILD: 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park (266-9260)
SPANGENBERG THEATRE: 780 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto (354-8263)

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

DAN IN REAL LIFE ★★★
 (Century 16, Century 20) Dan (Steve Carell) is a New Jersey advice columnist who writes his popular column at home, in between folding laundry and squirting smiley faces of honey on the peanut butter sandwiches he makes for his daughters. The three girls pose the typical challenges, whether Jane (Alison Pill) begs to drive the family station wagon or Cara (Brittany Robertson) expresses her undying, crazy love for a boyfriend (Felipe Dieppa). As 4th-grader Lilly (Marlene Lawston), wise beyond her years, says to her loving but overly protective parent, "You're a good father but sometimes a bad dad." The simple boy-meets-girl story unfolds when Dan and daughters head to the beach house of his parents (Dianne Wiest and John Mahoney). The big question — Will Dan ever love again? — gets answered when he meets Marie (Juliette Binoche) in a local bookstore. The complication? She's in a new relationship and, you guessed it, shows up at the gathering as the guest of Dan's brother, Mitch (Dane Cook). comic riffs. "Dan in Real Life" has a lot of heart and will surely warm yours. *Rated: PG-13 for some innuendo. 1 hour. 35 minutes. — S.T.*

THE DARJEELING LIMITED ★★★
 (CineArts) Director Wes Anderson concocts this quirky character-driven film about three brothers' uncommon journey. Infused with rich writing, strong performances and symbolic undertones, "Darjeeling" explores how people behave when living in the moment but out of the comfort zone. It has been one year since the Whitman brothers — Francis (Owen Wilson), Peter (Adrien Brody) and Jack (Jason Schwartzman) — last spoke, just after the accidental death of their father. But eldest Francis is eager to reunite the erstwhile trio and meticulously plans a trek through India, beginning with a train ride on the Darjeeling Limited. The brothers are all dealing with their own inner turmoil as their adventure begins. A sojourn to India may be just what these troubled brothers need. Quirky humor weaves its way throughout "Darjeeling" like the winding locomotive it's named for. But viewers who prefer more conventional fare should steer clear — "Darjeeling" is flavored with Anderson's unique ingredients, and it's definitely an acquired taste. *Rated: R for language. 1 hour, 32 minutes. — T.H.*

EGONE BABY GONE ★★★
 (Century 16, Century 20) Ben Affleck steps behind the camera to adapt one of Dennis Lehane's provocative PI novels. Affleck's baby brother Casey stars as crack private investigator Patrick Kenzie, who assumes a professional and personal relationship with partner Angie Gennaro (Michelle Monaghan). The pair is drawn into a missing-child case when the girl's aunt (the excellent Amy Madigan) approaches them for help in locating her niece. In true Lehane fashion there's ugliness under the neighborhood's sturdy veneer. The missing girl is the prod-

► See **MINI REVIEWS**, page 22

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MINI REVIEWS

Continued from page 21

uct of an unstable mother (Amy Ryan as Helene McReady) who's far more interested in the source of her next fix than nurturing her 4-year-old. Gennaro balks as the duo uncovers evidence of emotional abuse and police corruption at the hands of case detective Remy Bressant (Ed Harris). Fissures open to chasms with unsettling alacrity. "Gone" is grim, scratching the grime from the cracks while managing homage to the people and places on the underbelly of the Freedom Trail. *Rated: R for excessive violence, drug use and language. 1 hour, 54 minutes.* — J.A.

THE HEARTBREAK KID ★★1/2
(Century 16, Century 20) Ben Stiller reunites with raunch-comedy aficionados Bobby and Peter Farrelly for this riotous chuckler about misguided romance. Although the edgy humor provides side-splitting moments, "Heartbreak" cracks beneath a lackluster storyline. Stiller is Eddie Cantrow, the owner of a sporting goods store in San Francisco. Although Eddie's father Doc (Jerry Stiller) and pal Mac (Rob Corddry) urge him to settle down, Eddie can't find the right girl. Enter Lila (Malin Akerman), a gorgeous environmentalist with a seemingly sweet nature. Eddie and Lila fall for each other fast and after just six weeks the two are walking down the aisle and preparing for a honeymoon in Mexico. On the long car ride down south, Eddie begins to realize he's made a horrible mistake. Lila has some annoying habits, is downright abusive sexually and isn't that bright. To make matters worse, Eddie finds himself enamored with the free-spirited Miranda (Michelle Monaghan). Farrelly fans will leave the theater with sore stomach muscles and plenty of one-liners, but others may want to avoid "Heartbreak." *Rated: R for strong sexual content, crude humor, language and a scene of drug use involving a minor. 1 hour, 55 minutes.* — T.H.

LARS AND THE REAL GIRL ★★1/2
(CineArts, Century 20) Lars Lindstrom (Ryan Gosling) is a socially awkward stiff living in a detached garage apartment across from older brother Gus (Paul Schneider) and Gus' wife Karin (Emily Mortimer). Karin is anxious to welcome her bachelor brother-in-law into the fold, perpetually throwing out breakfast



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invites and the like. It's a banner day for all when Lars announces he's dating and bringing his new gal pal to dinner. No one sees this one coming: Lars' squeeze is an anatomically correct silicone sex doll named Bianca. Gus and Karin go with the flow and at first opportunity nip Lars off to the local MD. Dr. Dagmar (Patricia Clarkson) informs them that Lars is working something out and asks them to play along with his delusion. As Lars, the community and we learn to love and respect Bianca, humor turns to sorrow. Lars continues to meet the good doctor, who subtly peels back layers of psychological wounds to get to the root of Lars' neuroses and tinker with his issues. Lars' measured reconciliation with his own emotional baggage is perfectly and profoundly poignant. *Rated: PG-13 for sexual content. 1 hour, 46 minutes.* — J.A.

LUST, CAUTION ★★☆☆

(Guild) Ang Lee carefully crafts a hushed political mystery set in WWII Shanghai, where an amateur acting troupe stages an idealistic coup against Secret Service Japanese collaborator Mr. Yee (Chinese superstar Tony Leung). Reluctantly leading the charge is youthful ingenue-cum-resistance fighter Wang Chia Chi (Tang Wei) who is summarily trained in the art of seduction in order to gain Yee's confidence and guide him down the path to a fatal finish. The best-laid plans go seriously awry when Yee abruptly slips from their grasp and the troupe's radical scheme is exposed, resulting in a grisly murder. Several years later the fickle fingers of fate reach out to Chia Chi when she encounters an ex-troupe-member who informs her that Yee has returned to Shanghai. Chia Chi finagles her way back into his orbit and rekindles their liaison, falling desperately in love — or at least lust — as the couple beds with sadistic abandon. Lee has gone back to his roots and the results are undeniably intriguing. *Rated: NC-17 for graphic sexuality and violence. 2 hours, 38 minutes. In Mandarin, Cantonese and Japanese with English subtitles.* — J.A.

MICHAEL CLAYTON ★★☆☆1/2


(Century 16, Century 12) Michael Clayton (George Clooney) is a "fixer" for slick law house Kenner, Bach & Ledeen, a loyal company cleaner who works behind the scenes greasing the wheels for attorneys and clients alike. He spin-doctors his way through the legal muck: hit-and-runs, shoplifting wives, and the far more urgent matter of the firm's own brilliant senior litigator (Tom Wilkinson as Arthur Edens) who's gone off his meds. And off the deep end. Smooth-as-silk Clayton is dispatched to do damage control, but it appears that Arthur was on to something big before his drugless psychosis: turning the tables on a giant toxic cover-up and \$3 billion class-action lawsuit against K, B & L agrochemical super-client U/North. Soon enough Clayton is going toe to toe with U/North's steely in-house chief counsel (Tilda Swinton) and racing against the clock to pull together the unraveling threads of a massive conglomerate's tapestry of lies. Good old-fashioned drama the good old-fashioned way. *Rated: R for profanity and violence. 2 hours.* — J.A.

■ **MOVIE CRITICS**

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

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The Foothill-De Anza Community College District Board of Trustees seeks applicants for appointment to the independent, volunteer **Measure C Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee**, which will review and report to the public on the District's Measure C bond expenditures. Applicants must reside in the District's service area, which includes the cities of Cupertino, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Sunnyvale and portions of San Jose, Santa Clara and Saratoga. Applicants may not be an employee, contractor, consultant or vendor of the District. The Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee bylaws are available at www.measurec.fhda.edu or by calling (650) 949-6100.

Currently four committee members are needed in the following categories:

- Representative, Foothill-De Anza Auxiliary Organization
- Representative, At Large
- Representative, Taxpayer Association
- Representative, Business Organization

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Foothill-De Anza Community College District
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