

MountainView VOICE

JANUARY 4, 2013 VOLUME 20, NO. 50

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and
worst films
of 2012

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MICHELLE LE

PICTURING 2012

This May 8 photograph of 4-year-old Sier Ahmad at the Pioneer Park playground is among Michelle Le's choice photos of 2012. For more images of the year gone by, see Page 11.

Court rebukes assistant DA for misconduct in predator trial

By Sue Dremann
Palo Alto Weekly

Chief Assistant District Attorney Jay Boyarsky, the second-highest-ranking official in the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office, was castigated by a state appeals court on Thursday for misconduct while handling a hospital commitment case against a sexual predator, according to court documents.

The finding of misconduct, which the California Sixth Appellate District Court termed "so infected the trial with unfairness as to make the resulting conviction a denial of due process," resulted in a reversal of a judgment that committed a man to a state hospital after the man

admitted performing sexual acts with teenage boys.

The court's decision comes one year and nine months after District Attorney Jeff Rosen announced a conviction-integrity unit in March 2011 to address a series of prosecutorial misconduct allegations against the office; the alleged misconduct preceded his tenure. The unit was to set protocol to prevent future errors.

The Dec. 27 appeals court ruling stems from two 1994 felony cases against Darrel Shazier, who pleaded guilty of sodomy with a minor under age 14, sodomy with a minor under age 18, and oral copulation where the victim was unable to resist due to

an intoxicating substance. He was sentenced to 17 years and 8 months in state prison.

But shortly before his release from prison, in April 2003, the DA's office filed a petition to commit Shazier to a state mental facility as a sexually violent predator under the Welfare and Institutions Code.

The first commitment trial resulted in a hung jury. The jury in a second commitment trial in 2005 sent Shazier to a state mental hospital for two years.

But the verdict was overturned the following year by the appellate court after the prosecutor in that case, Benjamin Field, was



Jay Boyarsky

The driver accused of hitting and killing William Ware appeared in court Dec. 27 for a preliminary hearing. Several witnesses took the stand before a judge, but no jury.

Before the court went into recess for the day, five witnesses answered questions from Duffy Magilligan, the prosecuting deputy district attorney, and Dennis Smith, lawyer for Matthew Pumar — the 22-year-old Mountain View driver who is alleged to have run into Ware after speeding recklessly through an intersection. All of the witnesses were called by the prosecution.

Judge Thang Nguyen Barrett listened as the witnesses — most of whom were at or near the intersection of Escuela Avenue and California Street on June 21, at about 9 a.m. — described the accident, often referencing a map hung on the wall.

All witnesses who were at the scene of the accident said the driver of the car that struck and killed Ware swerved to avoid a utility van, which was on the scene with a crew making repairs to the intersection's traffic signals.

The witnesses who were at the intersection at the time of the crash — two pedestrians, a driver for a local company that

transports the disabled, and the driver of the utility van — said that Pumar appeared to have run a red light before swerving and losing control of his vehicle.

The prosecution's final witness, Officer Daniel Garcia of the Mountain View Police Department, spent much of his time explaining the story Pumar gave him, which was recorded in Garcia's official report. During his testimony, Garcia said Pumar had told him that he had tried to get through the intersection before the light turned red, by pushing the gas pedal of his

2000s-era Audi A4 "as far as it could go." According to Garcia's report — basically Pumar's side of the story — he was driving 40 mph in the 35 mph zone and only began to accelerate "three car lengths" before entering the intersection.

During Garcia's testimony, Magilligan showed a video of the scene, periodically pausing the tape and asking the officer to explain what the court was seeing. There were two yellow tarps seen in the video — one apparently covering Ware's foot and another perhaps 10 yards away apparently covering the rest of Ware's body. It was a grisly scene, and caused Ware's niece, Dolores Marquez, to leave the court room

*'The emotions
ran high. It's just
a horrible way to
be remembered.'*

DOLORES MARQUEZ,
WARE'S NIECE

► See **MISCONDUCT**, page 6

► See **TRAFFIC DEATH**, page 8

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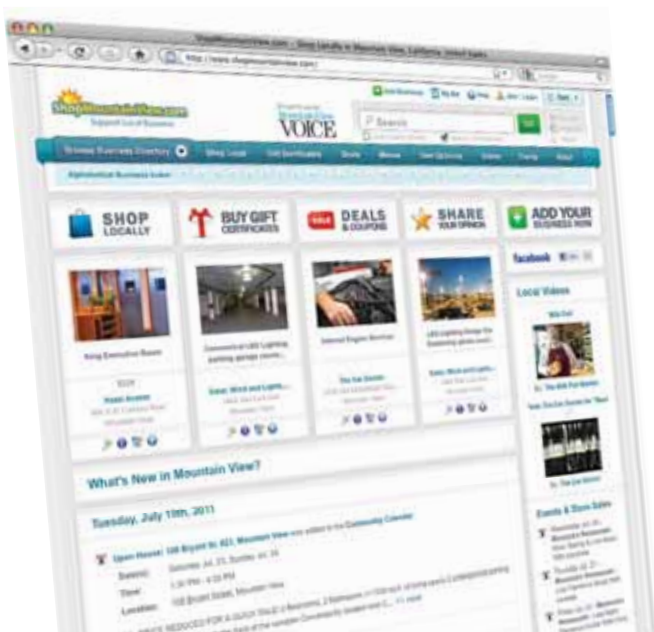
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Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked in downtown Mountain View. Pictures and interviews by Ashley Finden.

What law would you like to see passed by Congress in 2013?



"I think if I was to see Congress pass a law it would have to do with closing down Guantanamo Bay because I think they're treating people pretty inhumanely."

Bonnie Zavon, Mountain View



"Next year I'd like to see universal health care passed."

Bonnie Filipovic, Palo Alto



"Next year I would like to see more funding for education programs as opposed to administration."

Caroline Ouyang, Los Altos



"The law I would (like to) see Congress pass in 2013 would be to legalize marijuana. And I think at this point that it's making its way to other states and it should be on the same level as alcohol because it should be regulated."

Dimitri Celis, Sunnyvale



"Something done regarding the deficit. I would like to see an improvement towards their Ö just Congress doing something about their spending and being more amicable and working together rather than fighting with each other."

Katherine Kodiak, Naperville, Ill.

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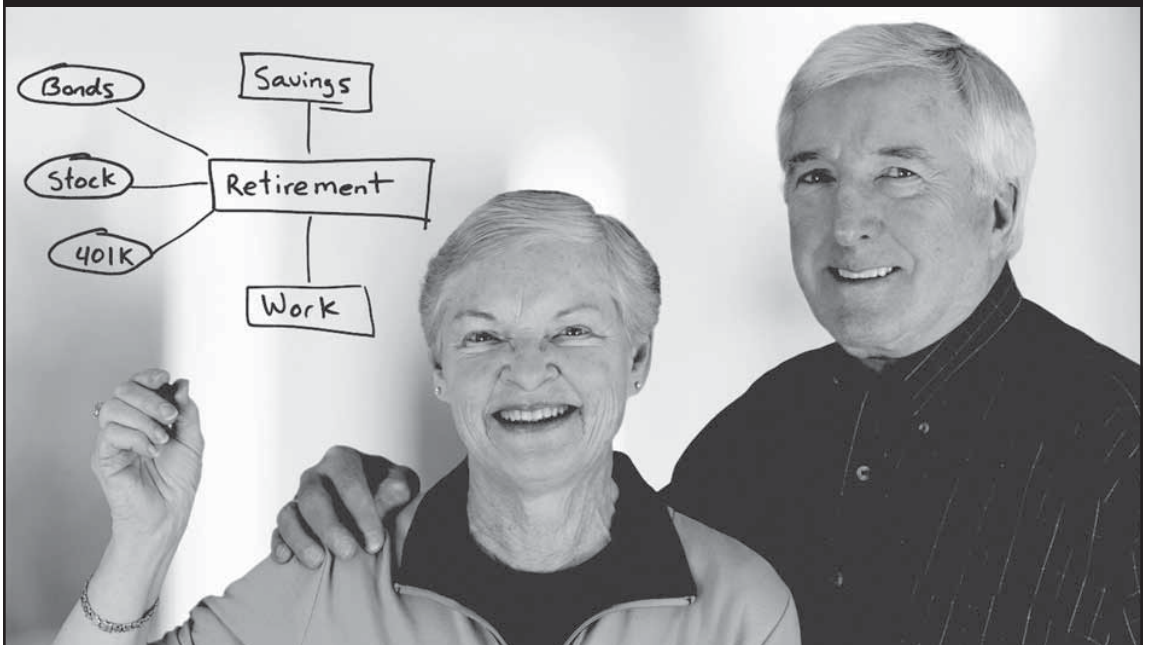
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LocalNews

■ POLICE LOG

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12/31

AUTO BURGLARY

1200 block Pear Av., 12/26
1500 block Shoreline Bl., 12/27
700 block Continental Cl., 12/28
1300 block Grant Rd., 1/1

BATTERY

1500 block Fordham Ct., 12/26
600 block Moorpark Wy., 12/26
Bryant St. and W. Dana St., 12/30

Hope St. and Villa St., 12/30
1000 block Grant Rd., 12/31

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

400 block W Evelyn Av., 12/28
1000 block Terra Bella Av., 12/29
600 block Showers Dr., 12/29

GRAND THEFT

Logue Av. and Maude Av., 12/31

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

400 block N. Shoreline Bl., 12/30

STOLEN VEHICLE

200 block Latham St., 12/31

Education foundation calls on community

By Nick Veronin

The Mountain View Educational Foundation, the nonprofit organization charged with raising money to support the Mountain View Whisman School District, has announced a campaign intended to more than double its endowment over the next five years.

MVEF officials hope that the "5 Years to \$500K" endowment campaign, launched in December, will bring the organization's endowment up from its current balance of about \$235,000 to half a million dollars by 2018.

"I am optimistic; I think that it is doable," said Alison Barnsley,

executive director for MVEF. "I think there are a lot of people in MV that care about our schools and I think that they will be able to come up with the money."

Established in 1983, the foundation ran for many years without an endowment, according to Barnsley. In 1999, an endowment was established, with the provision that its balance would have to reach \$500,000 before any of the returns could be disbursed. Since that time, the endowment has grown, but has yet to reach the necessary mark. As a result, MVEF has had to support Moun-

► See **MVEF**, page 7

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Stevenson PACT/Parent, Child, Teacher
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Tom Means retires from the City Council

TWO-TERM COUNCIL MEMBER
OPPOSED SMOKING, PLASTIC BAG BANS

By Daniel DeBolt

City Council member Tom Means is wrapping up a term in office in which he applied his unique brand of libertarian idealism to most of his decisions.

The San Jose State University Economics professor opposed a ban on smoking and a ban on plastic grocery bags, supported a failed proposal to allow medical marijuana dispensaries in the city, was a major force behind opening up the city's taxi cab market (two companies had a monopoly under a city ordinance) and supported the privatization of the city's golf course. Guided by the belief that increasing housing supply would help keep rents down, he also supported the development

of higher-density rental housing projects when others did not.

In December Means and fellow member Laura Macias had their last council meeting and will be replaced by John McAlister and Chris Clark in the new year.

Like Macias, Means says council members are underpaid.

"I could sue the city because they are paying me below minimum wage," Means said with a laugh. "With the amount of time spent, you work enough to work below minimum wage."

"It's not a job for a community activist," Means said. "It's a job for people that are trained at a certain level to understand things. Otherwise what you do is you just depend on staff to tell you what to do."

► See **TOM MEANS**, page 7



JAMES TENSUAN

Tom Means, an economics professor, served as mayor in 2008.

'History Week' comes to LAHS

PRESENTATIONS, FILM SCREENING FOCUS
ON ISSUE OF 'RIGHTS FOR ALL'

By Nick Veronin

Los Altos High School is kicking off the new year by looking back — and forward — in its first ever "History Week."

Like the local high school's Science and Technology Week and Writers Week, History Week will run Jan. 14 to Jan. 18 and will bring a series of guest lecturers to the campus to speak about the recent past and to discuss what they envision for the future, according to officials close to the event.

"The theme for the week is 'rights for all,'" said Marion Robertson, one of the parent volunteers who helped organize the event. "We are hoping to provoke some thoughtful discussion about rights" — including civil rights, women's rights, LGBTQ rights, Internet privacy rights and more, she said.

Speakers include lawyers, judges, politicians and other thinkers on the subject of rights in the 21st century.

The public is invited to one of the events, which will be held Wednesday, Jan. 16, at 7 p.m. in the LAHS Eagle Theater and will investigate the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

After a screening of "Missis-

issippi Burning," the Hon. James Robertson, retired U.S. district judge for the District of Columbia and chief counsel for the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, and Lee Rubin, attorney and former prosecutor for the Department of Justice, will speak. iMississippi Burningi is a dramatization of the FBI's investigation into the murder of three young civil rights workers in Mississippi in 1964.

The rest of the events are open only to students and include presentations by Santa Clara University School of Law professor and Forbes blogger Eric Goldman, who will talk about social media, Internet and privacy; and Dr. Laraine Zappert, clinical professor at the Stanford University School of Medicine and founder of the university's Sexual Harassment Policy Office.

"We've got from the micro to the macro," Marion Robertson said. "We'll be discussing issues of rights from the person sitting next to you to people all around the world. Other topics include students, student athletes, undocumented workers and bullying.

► See **HISTORY WEEK**, page 7

John Inks in line for mayor

COUNCIL TO APPOINT COLLEAGUE TO TOP POSITION NEXT WEEK

By Daniel DeBolt

If all goes according to tradition, council member John Inks will be appointed mayor of Mountain View on Jan. 8, and Chris Clark will not only be sworn in as a council member, but also as vice mayor.

Mountain View's City Council members rotate into the mayor post for a year, usually serving as vice mayor the year before. After four years it's finally Inks' turn, based on the number of votes received in the last election. The council will take a vote on Tuesday to determine who as mayor will run meetings, set meeting agendas, give speeches at ceremonies and be on call to meet with the public and speak to the press.

Clark, a 29-year-old Loopt executive, is in line behind Inks, having finished just ahead of Baskin-Robbins owner John McAlister in the final vote tally.

If Inks is passed over, it wouldn't be the first time.

"It is a presumptive assumption," Inks said. "You can make no guarantees. There could be some drama. I don't know because we don't talk about it ahead of time."

Inks, a retired Lockheed engineer known for libertarian positions, said he would continue to make it a priority to meet with residents, business owners and developers and "assist people when they get stuck with city planning or public works." He mentioned in particular the mixed-use project proposed for the 600 block of Castro Street and owners of "underutilized" properties on El Camino Real.

The vice mayor will take the helm when the mayor is away or recusing himself due to a conflict of interest — as Inks will do when the council votes on the San Antonio shopping center development this year (he owns property nearby). Clark has some experience running meetings as former chair of the Environmental Planning Commission.

Inks is studying up on parliamentary procedures and the intricacies of motions and amendments. "There's not like a manual they give you on what to do," Inks said, though he

says he's found the League of Women Voters to have some helpful resources on the topic of running meetings.

"I actually admire the way (current mayor Mike) Kasperzak has managed the meetings," Inks said. "He is very experienced. He will probably be sitting next to me again. Not that I need help, but I'll certainly welcome help."

Inks said he probably won't copy Kasperzak's rules about speakers having to get in line behind the podium.

"I'm probably not going to be so rigid in that regard," Inks said. "The idea is not to limit people's speech but to have an orderly meeting."

Inks is contemplating whether to have regular office hours for the public and call it "Drinks with Inks" — a twist on Mike Kasperzak's "Mocha with the Mayor," and Yack with Jac" when Jac Siegel was mayor. But he says he'd rather not imply that alcohol would be involved. He said he plans to make himself available for "any public request 24-7," and will "generally meet morning, noon and night." ▀

Email Daniel DeBolt
at ddebolt@mv-voice.com

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12



MISCONDUCT

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found to have committed misconduct. (Field was disbarred in 2010 for four years for misconduct in multiple cases.)

The DA's office went forward with a third commitment trial against Shazier, this time with Boyarsky prosecuting. A jury found that Shazier met the criteria as a sexually violent predator after a 15-day trial, and he was committed for an indeterminate term. He again appealed.

In the court's Dec. 27 ruling, Presiding Judge Conrad Rushing wrote that Boyarsky asked improper questions of the witnesses, which elicited inflammatory answers, and he made improper arguments to the jury.

Commitment cases do not allow for arguments that suggest the consequences of a jury's verdict, the court noted. But Boyarsky implied those consequences when he implied to the jury that if it didn't commit Shazier, he would be free to commit other criminal acts out of state since he would not be on parole.

Boyarsky also told jurors that schools and parks would be in proximity to Shazier's mother's home, where he would be living if released.

During his closing argument, Boyarsky asked jurors to consider what their friends and family would think if it returned a verdict of "not true."

The court found there was no difference between the proposal that jurors "have a conversation about the verdict with an imaginary friend explaining that their verdict unloosed a dangerous predator on the public" than saying directly, that their friends and

neighbors will condemn them if they release him, Rushing said.

Boyarsky also implied that Shazier had committed additional sex crimes for which he was not caught, yet the prosecution did not supply any evidence in support of those statements, the court noted.

"This is not a case in which the prosecutor engaged in a few minor incidents of improper misconduct. Rather, the prosecutor engaged in a pervasive pattern of inappropriate questions, comments and argument, throughout the entire trial, each one building on the next, to such a degree as to undermine the fairness of the proceedings," Rushing wrote.

"We find it is reasonably probable that defendant would have obtained a more favorable result absent the repeated incidents of improper conduct."

During the third trial, Shazier was diagnosed by two prosecution psychiatrists as having hebephilia, an attraction to teenage boys who had reached puberty. But experts for both sides admitted that hebephilia is a controversial diagnosis and doesn't exist as a diagnosis of mental illness in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM IV), the standard for mental disorder diagnosis.

A prosecution psychiatrist also admitted that Shazier was not aroused by violence or force, and that the only reason his prior crimes were considered non-consensual was because the victims were minors who could not legally consent.

A defense psychiatrist testified that a diagnosis of a mental disorder is not dependent on what is considered socially acceptable or moral.

He stated that homosexuality was removed from the DSM because it is no longer considered a mental disorder and that it was only included in the manual because of social view of morality at the time.

Hospital-staff witnesses also testified that Shazier followed all of the rules while housed in the state hospital and participated willingly in all voluntary treatments. He did not display inappropriate sexual behavior toward teenage boys housed with him, they said.

Boyarsky said on Friday that he accepts the court's decision.

"I made my arguments in good faith. Based on the court's opinion, if I had it to do over again, I would make my arguments differently. I accept the ruling," he said.

Rosen also said his office respects the court's decision.

"Any prosecutor in my office may err, and when we do, we learn from it and improve," he said.

The DA's office might pursue another trial for commitment against Shazier, he added.

"Dariel Shazier has a serious history of sexually preying on young teenagers. Once his case is sent back to our court for a new trial, we will seek updated evaluations by state-appointed doctors to evaluate whether he continues to be a sexually violent predator. If so, we will try him again to ensure that he remains in a locked psychiatric facility," Rosen said.

Rushing said in the court ruling that prosecutors are held to a higher standard than other attorneys because of the function they perform of representing the state. The government has an obligation to be impartial, Rushing noted.

Under the law, a prosecutor commits misconduct by "engaging in deceptive or reprehensible methods of persuasion," he wrote.

Prosecutorial misconduct often occurs during argument and may take a variety of forms, including: mischaracterizing or misstating the evidence, referring to facts not in evidence, misstating the law, attacking the integrity of the defense counsel intimidating witnesses or referring to a prior conviction that was not before the jury, appealing to passions or prejudice such as asking the jury to view the crime through the victim's eyes or predicting that the defendant, if not found guilty, will commit future crimes, the court noted.

It remains unclear whether the California State Bar will take any action against Boyarsky. Sean Webby, a spokesman for the DA's office, said the state Attorney General's Office is acting as Boyarsky's counsel. A spokesman for that office could not be reached before press time. ▀

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TOM MEANS

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With only \$600 a month in pay, “how are you going to get highly qualified individuals to take a day off work all day Tuesday, like I do?” Means said. “In my job I’m allowed one day of consulting. For professional people, it’s a pretty high price.”

He says one of his “worse voting decisions” had to do with council member pay. In 2006 the City Council asked voters to raise their pay from \$500 a month to \$1,500 a month, but the measure was defeated. “I wish we’d have gone with doubling the salary rather than tripling the salary,” Means said, lamenting his support of the measure. “In retrospect I think that could have passed.”

As a result, Means says, the council is mostly made up of members who don’t have to work, and as a result, are “out of touch” with the needs of the city’s workers. He blames this situation as the reason a proposal for 1,100 North Bayshore apartments for Google employees was narrowly voted down by the council last year, with some members comparing the concept to college dorms or housing near factories in China.

“The council for the most part has been very pro-housing,” Means said as he listed the things he was most proud of as a council member. “You can’t just build single-family homes and expect everybody to spend \$1 million dollars. I know the people that are building these units are trying to meet housing demand. We have one of the most diverse towns and I think it’s reflective of the fact we have diverse housing.”

A believer in the free market

Means subscribes to a pragmatic brand of free market idealism. “Libertarians a lot of times are OK with monopoly stuff and I’m not,” he said. He also supports requiring citizens to serve in the military.

He says government is at its

best when it is small and allows competition in the economy. But he’s often the first to propose a compromise, such as his recent successful motion to minimize fee hikes on developers. The council had sought to raise fees to go toward subsidizing affordable housing, a practice he is opposed to. He claims it increases the cost of housing and has published research in an academic journal to back up the claim.

Means’ faith in businesses to do the right thing was illustrated when he opposed the city’s new ban on smoking near publicly accessible buildings. He criticized Martin Fenstersheib, health officer for Santa Clara County, for his support for the ordinance, which among other things closes designated smoking patios. Others said it would protect workers and customers from second-hand smoke.

During the council meeting, Means turned to a local bar owner who said closing the bar’s smoking patio would hurt business, and said facetiously, “You ran the business for 20 years but (Fenstersheib) knows more about it than you do. You’re just not smart enough, I think.”

Before the council banned plastic grocery bags last year, he questioned claims from environmentalists. “Not every city has plastic bags that end up in the ocean,” Means said. “They don’t make the causal connection.”

Means says the smoking and plastic bag bans were examples of decision-makers imposing their “personal preferences” on others without looking deeply at the costs of such decisions. He says the ban on plastic bags could end up being worse for the environment.

“I don’t think it is my role as a decision-maker to make choices and to ban things based on my personal preference,” Means said. Part of the problem is that officials “assume people are inefficient and wasteful, which is kind of arrogant.”

He says he hopes the city doesn’t restrict the number of food trucks allowed in town

when an ordinance comes up for a council vote this year. He wouldn’t necessarily oppose banning them from public property.

“If people want to eat from food trucks on private property, I’m OK with that,” Means said.

A surprising start

In 2004, Means won election after spending less than \$5,000 against several heavily funded candidates (some with more than three times the funds) and won 11,000 votes, an unusually high number. “I don’t think anyone has come close to that” since then, he said. “I had a lot more name recognition than a lot of people anticipated.”

“I was a big underdog because I was running against heavily funded candidates,” Means recalled.

Means credited his success to his family’s reach in the community. His wife was a teacher at South Bay Christian, one of his sons a successful musician and another successful enough in baseball that he played professionally for a year. Means himself coached Little League and spent many years on the city’s Parks and Recreation Commission. He skipped entirely the city’s Planning Commission, a common stepping stone to the City Council.

“When you are on the Planning Commission, what do you say you did?” Means said. “I worked on R3-R4 housing, I got the right setbacks, a lot of technical stuff no one cares about.”

When Means was named mayor by the council for 2008, his friend and fellow council member Matt Pear said it was his honor to nominate “the first Greek American mayor of Mountain View,” and that people would now have to call him “Mayor Professor Doctor Tom Means” — quite a contrast to his “humble, simple beginnings.”

Means grew up in Concord, the son of a chemist, and says he had a “great time” growing up as the product of married parents. Later

on, when he coached Little League, he said he was shocked that most of the kids came from divorced families. “A lot of these kids need direction and help,” he said. “I tried to be a stable influence.”

During his term as mayor, Means was called on by youth advocates to build a better teen center. Over 200 youth, parents and supporters filled the basement of St. Joseph’s Church and put Means on the spot, asking him to take action. The response from Means received some boos. He mentioned the success of his own kids and said, “There are teen centers, I see them all the time. I see no reason why there could not be a teen center at this church.”

But when the opportunity arose a few years later for the city to buy the Rock Church on Escuela Avenue and build a teen center inside, Means said, he was a supporter, despite the \$3.5 million price.

“It’s not often you find a piece of land right next to where our

recreational stuff is (at Rengstorff Park), so I said let’s jump on it,” Means said of closed-door discussion. “When seniors demand something you’ve seen how that politics works. Who speaks up for the kids?”

Means says he will retire from his job in the next five years, but doesn’t predict he’ll run for council again. He says he hopes council members in the future will study the city’s development restrictions, especially the ones that restrict housing development and the redevelopment of El Camino Real.

“People want all the amenities big cities have but they don’t want to incur the costs,” Means said. “They say, ‘I want a shopping center, I want everything in my neighborhood.’ That’s not going to happen without more customers, and one way is more residences.”

Email Daniel DeBolt at ddebolt@mv-voice.com

MVEF

► Continued from page 4

tain View Whisman schools with what is collected during the foundation’s “annual appeal.”

The campaign’s initial push has already brought in \$25,000 — \$5,000 of which came from an anonymous donor, Barnsley said.

The foundation is appealing to the local community to contribute to the campaign and help it reach its goal within the next five years.

Having a strong endowment is important for such a small organization, Barnsley said, and it is especially important when the economy is as tight as it is now. MVEF cannot weather eco-

nomie downturns as effectively as national foundations, or even larger local foundations, like the Mountain View-Los Altos High School Foundation.

Because a strong local school district makes for a strong community, Barnsley hopes the community gets behind the foundation’s fundraising effort.

“I believe that a strong public education is fundamentally a great thing about this country,” she said. “For me it’s one of the fundamental underpinnings for why our country is as strong as it is. If we have good, strong public schools, we’ll have a good, strong society.”

For more information on how to donate, go to www.mvef.org and click the “donate” link. ■

HISTORY WEEK

► Continued from page 5

“With History Week, it’s something that we want to bring out of the textbook,” said Mike Messner, an organizer of the event and teacher of college prep and advanced placement 11th grade history at LAHS. “It’s not like we’re going to examine something that has a beginning, middle and end. None of these are settled issues.”

He added: “I hope the students will understand that the idea of rights is something that is perennial. It’s not going away. It’s something they will have to confront and explore and decide what rights they believe they should have.” ■



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TRAFFIC DEATH

► Continued from page 1

in tears.

"The emotions ran high," Marquez said at the end of the day. "It's just a horrible way to be remembered."

A previous witness told a different story, one in which he was alarmed by Pumar's rate of speed close to 100 feet before the intersection. That witness told the judge that Pumar was going close to 60 mph before he accelerated, estimating he may have been going 80 mph at the time of the crash.

Smith, Pumar's lawyer, repeatedly asked each of the witnesses to recall the color of the traffic signals, as well as the pedestrian crossing signals, on both Escuela Avenue and California Street at the time Pumar entered the intersection.

He and Magilligan also asked each witness the position of the utility van in relation to the traffic signals. Three of the four witnesses who saw the accident unfold reported that the utility van had entered the intersection, heading westbound on California Street, and had begun turning left onto southbound Escuela Avenue before the traffic signals turned red on California Street; and that Pumar had entered the intersection heading east on California Street after his light had turned red — at which point he swerved to avoid the utility van, ran up on the curb and collided with Ware. The fourth on-scene

witness was unsure when the utility van entered the intersection, but did say that Pumar was traveling at an excessive rate of speed prior to the accident.

Barrett must now decide whether there is enough evidence to warrant a trial. Pumar pleaded not guilty to the felony charge of gross vehicular manslaughter on Sept. 26.

Ware was a well-known Mountain View resident who was waiting for a bus in the 1800 block of California Street when he was killed.

Pumar remained on the scene and cooperated with police and investigators. He was arrested on July 10 after the investigation was completed. He immediately posted \$100,000 bail and was released.

Family members for both parties were present in the court room. At recess, Ware's sister, Heather Bogle of Astoria, Ore., held back tears as she said she was confident that the case would go on to trial — "unless he (Pumar) pleads guilty, like he ought to do."

Neither Pumar nor any family members would speak to the press. Although Ware's sister said no one from the Pumar family had reached out to her after the accident, Pumar's lawyer told the *Voice* that his "whole family has expressed to me the greatest sympathy for Mr. Ware. It's been a tragedy for everybody."

The preliminary hearing was set to resume on Jan. 3, after the *Voice's* press time. ▀

Public notice

Board of Directors Vacancy for District 1



The Board of Directors of Santa Clara Valley Water District intends to fill the unexpired term of office for an elected District 1 Board member. This seat is vacant as of December 7, 2012. District 1 boundaries cover cities of Morgan Hill, San Martin, Gilroy and hills east of San Jose and Milpitas; much of Evergreen Elementary School District; much of Oak Grove Elementary School District; and much of San Jose City Council District 2; the Oak Grove Elementary School District areas east of Monterey Highway and generally south of Highway 85 and Santa Teresa Boulevard. The unexpired term ends December 5, 2014.

In order to be eligible for election or appointment, an interested party must be a qualified elector in Santa Clara County and must continue to reside therein during incumbency in office.

Interested parties should notify the Clerk of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara Valley Water District in writing no later than **4 p.m., on January 11, 2013**, at 5750 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California, 95118. Please submit a letter of interest which includes your name, residence address, occupation, summary of interest in the position, and relevant qualifications and experience.

The Board currently anticipates conducting interviews of candidates on January 28, 2013, and if necessary January 29, 2013.

Information packets can be obtained online at www.valleywater.org or in person at District Headquarters, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California.

For further information please contact **Michele L. King**, Clerk of the Board at (408) 630-2711, or by e-mail at: mking@valleywater.org.

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MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE

IN THEIR ANNUAL "BEST" AND "WORST" LISTS, WEEKLY FILM CRITICS HONOR THE HEROES AND ROAST THE TURKEYS

From a pint-sized girl surviving storms on the wrong side of the levee to a CIA agent planning to rescue a band of hostages, the stories that played out on the silver screen in 2012 were full of heroes small and large. In choosing their top films of the year, Weekly critics Peter Canavese, Tyler Hanley and Susan Tavernetti singled out avengers and activists, superheroes and everymen.

Highest honors went to a shipwrecked teenager navigating the Pacific and the waters of life with a Bengal tiger. Ang Lee's "Life of Pi" was the sole movie to score a place on all three top-ten lists.

Other high-ranking films were: the sharp political thriller "Argo," the heavy-on-the-symbolism indie "Beasts of the Southern Wild," and the poignant dramedy "Silver Linings Playbook." Each made it onto two out of three lists.

For every hero, there's a mess of guys who trip over their own feet. In their annual "worst five" lists, Canavese and Hanley contribute such underwhelming titles as "Rock of Ages," "That's My Boy" and an ill-advised update of "The Three Stooges."

Peter Canavese's top films

10. The Queen of Versailles More wildly, trashily entertaining than any reality TV show, Lauren Greenfield's film somehow winds up being the Citizen Kane of documentaries: a horrifying look into America's blood-in-the-gears capitalist engine and Walmart soul. The nouveau-riche Siegels have, to paraphrase the Bard, bought a mansion but not yet possessed it, their empty Xanadu a symbol of credit-culture consumerism biting the hand that fed it.

9. The Master Slippery but legitimately haunting, Paul Thomas Anderson's "The Master" is a true motion picture: a painting to step back from and ponder, portraiture that achieves an imitation of life. The power dynamic between two quintessentially American men — one an unstoppable force, the other an immovable object — plays out as a struggle for masculine supremacy, defined by power and control, or perhaps as a sublimat-



"Life of Pi" is on all three critics' "best" list.

ed erotic dance. Either way, we get a master class in acting: Joaquin Phoenix sublimely spontaneous as a damaged veteran, Philip Seymour Hoffman thundering as a spiritual flim-flam man.

8. The Deep Blue Sea Terence Davies does Terence Rattigan in this elegant, lushly emotional psychodrama, brilliantly performed by the triangle of Rachel Weisz, Tom Hiddleston and Simon Russell Beale. Torrid and beautiful, "The Deep Blue Sea" locates a wellspring of hope under layers of pain.

7. Ruby Sparks The comedy of the year was also a lovely calling card for screenwriter-star Zoe Kazan. Nimbly directed by Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris, "Ruby Sparks" cuts right to the heart of a near-universal ailment of the human condition, romantic fantasy, with a clever allegorical conceit that plays like vintage Woody Allen.

6. The Kid With a Bike An aching story of childhood need, Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne's latest breathes as steadily as life itself. With his directors, Thomas Doret forges a vision in red as 11-year-old Cyril, a reckless, heart-on-his-sleeve little man — shoved too soon into his coming of age — who chases a deadbeat dad and a desired makeshift mom.

5. Once Upon a Time in Anatolia With poker-faced good humor and measured melancholy, Nuri Bilge Ceylan resuscitates the police procedural as provincial slice-of-life. Law & Order meets Samuel Beckett, with a dash of Armando Ian-

nucci. Violence lingers, humanity yearns — the flower that could in hardscrabble terrain.

4. Life of Pi Like IMAX, 3D has the studios reliving '50s efforts to get us away from our TVs, and few filmmakers have better employed it than does master craftsman Ang Lee in "Life of Pi." This clever adaptation of Yann Martel's bestseller — double-framed by pointed storytelling and spiritual reflection — ticks away a postmodern Robinson Crusoe-style adventure. It then detonates a mind-blower about perception in the face of trauma, nature and existence (if indeed there's any difference amongst the three). The tiger doesn't look back. Is Ang Lee getting away with this? Yes he is, at your local multiplex, in splashy, colorful 3D.

3. The Dark Knight Rises Christopher Nolan's "Batman" trilogy, like Peter Jackson's "Lord of the Rings" triple play, ambitiously lifted genre filmmaking to an epic plane. Like its two predecessors, "The Dark Knight Rises" gives us what we hope for in popular cinema: It's big, bold, savvy and thrilling, with an astonishingly accomplished acting ensemble etching memorable characters (especially, here, Tom Hardy's hulking villain Bane) and Wally Pfister's IMAX photography reminding us why we go to a movie theater. And in spite of a real-life madman's attempt to hijack the film, its hero — himself a survivor of gun violence — insists, "No guns."

2. The Turin Horse Art isn't always easy to take, and Bela Tarr's valedictory film is down-

right devastating: a long, hard look into the void. And yet the 146-minute picture — a plain-unspoken account of the apocalypse unfolding in and around a remote rural farmhouse — is enlivened by Tarr's thoughtful construction, minimalist takes and breathtaking black-and-white cinematography. This uncompromisingly bleak appraisal of man's inhumanity to everything and sad/fierce endurance to the bitter end is not for Friday-night viewing (perhaps Sunday morning?).

1. This Is Not a Film This is the rare film that is more: a rebellious yawp over the rooftops of the world, a vital social document, a moral but illegal political statement. World-class filmmaker Jafar Panahi ("Crimson Gold") has frequently tangled with the Iranian government, which sentenced him in 2010 to a six-year jail term and a 20-year ban on making films. And so, under house arrest and pursuing an appeal, Panahi called over friend and filmmaker Mojtaba Mirtahmasb, whose camcorder captures a self-reflective Panahi heroically straining against his bonds to achieve that most noble of artistic goals: speaking truth to power.

Peter Canavese's pans

General Education This lame-brain teen comedy achieves the opposite of its title, instead serving as an insult to anything with human DNA.

Parental Guidance The Motion Picture Association of America rates this last-gasp for Billy Crystal and Bette Midler "PG" for "Pretty Ghastly."

The Lucky One Love means never having to say or do anything that makes any sense in this latest loser adapted from the "work" of Nicholas Sparks.

Playing For Keeps This romantic comedy with soccer moms had one apparent GOOOOOOOOOOOOALLL: to suck.

That's My Boy Worst-list perennial Adam Sandler crowns his presumptive successor Andy Samberg in this witless father-son comedy.

Tyler Hanley's top films

10. Pitch Perfect This upbeat crowd-pleaser was one of the year's feel-good surprises thanks to its strong script and catchy soundtrack. The modern music woven throughout (such as David Guetta's "Titanium") infuses the film with a vibrant, contagious energy. Big props to director Jason Moore (a 2004 Tony Award nominee for the Broadway musical "Avenue Q") for maintaining a playful atmosphere and getting the most from his charming cast.

9. Bernie Richard Linklater ("Dazed and Confused," "Waking Life") is a gifted filmmaker, if not a particularly prolific one. In this compelling dark comedy, Linklater reunites with his "School of Rock" star Jack Black, creating a fascinating character study that benefits from the director's mockumentary approach. The three leads — Black, Shirley MacLaine and Matthew McConaughey — all deliver terrific performances, and the screenplay is crisp and clever.

8. Django Unchained Sharp dialogue and dynamic characters drive Quentin Tarantino's riotous and uber-violent revenge flick. "Django" comes across as the film Tarantino was always destined to make, with his well-documented appreciation for blaxploitation and spaghetti westerns ("Django" essentially combines the genres). Christoph Waltz is excellent as bounty hunter Dr. King Schultz while Jamie Foxx, Leonardo DiCaprio, Samuel L. Jackson and Kerry Washington also impress.

7. Lincoln Daniel Day-Lewis shines with a towering performance as Abraham Lincoln, while Tommy Lee Jones nearly

► Continued on next page

► Continued from previous page

steals the show as anti-slavery Republican Thaddeus Stevens. Steven Spielberg directs with a meticulous, deft touch, and the exquisite production values (especially costuming and set design) establish the time period beautifully. And while “Lincoln” plays a bit like a \$50 million history lesson, four score and seven years from now it may well be considered the most accurate and authentic film ever made about the 16th president.

6. The Avengers Adjectives used in some of Marvel Comics’ iconic titles from the early 1960s through today — amazing, fantastic, incredible — also describe director Joss Whedon’s superhero epic. Whedon (“Serenity”) helms with a master craftsman’s focus and a devoted fan’s enthusiasm in adapting the popular Marvel series that made its print debut in 1963. The screenplay is witty and rife with whip-smart dialogue; visual effects and costume design are exceptional; character dynamics are deeply developed; and the ambitious action scenes are astonishing.

5. Life of Pi The most visually stunning film since James Cameron’s “Avatar” is also a spiritually insightful powerhouse. The filmmaking team of director Ang Lee (“Brokeback Mountain”) and screenwriter David Magee (“Finding Neverland”) inspire with this vibrant adaptation of Yann Martel’s award-winning novel. Phenomenal 3D effects (was it raining in the theater?) highlight the breathtaking action sequences while the story poses interesting questions about faith, inner strength and survival.

4. Beasts of the Southern Wild There is an organic, elemental undertone to rookie director Benh Zeitlin’s Louisiana-based drama. “Beasts” is as harrowing as it is heart-wrenching. Youngster Quvenzhané Wallis captivates in a demanding role while the rest of the unrecognizable cast rallies around her. Symbolism flows throughout, and the musical score by Zeitlin and Dan Romer strikes an emotional chord. In a year flooded with star-driven, big-budget blockbusters, “Beasts” is the little indie that could.

3. Moonrise Kingdom The films of writer/director Wes Anderson (“The Royal Tenenbaums,” “Fantastic Mr. Fox”) are something of an acquired taste, and this sweet romantic comedy is a treat. “Moonrise” is akin to a cinematic dollhouse: a movie unusual in tone but universal in context. Many of us can relate to the thrill of independence and young love, which Anderson and

his adolescent leads Jared Gilman and Kara Hayward capture wonderfully. Honest, understated performances from an A-list cast that includes Bruce Willis, Tilda Swinton and Edward Norton further accent the storybook atmosphere.

2. Argo Ben Affleck’s sophomore directorial effort is a nail-biter from beginning to end. Affleck and his crew do a phenomenal job capturing the time period and casting actors who both resemble their real-life counterparts and have the thespian chops to hit all the right emotional notes. One of the film’s many strengths is its ability to draw in the audience — we often feel we are there with these people throughout the ordeal, for better or worse. A goofy sci-fi film dubbed “Argo” never got made in 1980. Fortunately for moviegoers, a brilliant, Oscar-worthy drama/thriller of the same name did get made in 2012.

1. Silver Linings Playbook This poignant dramedy from director David O. Russell (“The Fighter”) has nothing to do with science, but the chemistry is palpable. Sparks fly between leads Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence, and both serve up career-best performances. Russell’s adaptation of the Matthew Quick novel brims with raw energy and rich dialogue. An intimate candor permeates the picture as real-world issues (commitment, family dynamics, mental health, resilience) are addressed with sincerity and a sparkle of humor.

Tyler Hanley’s pans

Dark Shadows The typically reliable tandem of director Tim Burton and actor Johnny Depp disappoints with this underwhelming comedy/horror hybrid. In trying to walk the tightrope between two genres, “Shadows” tumbles somewhere into the murky middle, where ho-hum movies go to die.

The Raven The convergence of two personal favorites — writer Edgar Allan Poe and actor John Cusack — piqued my interest. But “The Raven” proved to be never more than a hackneyed thriller with uneven performances and a lousy climax.

Rock of Ages Musicals are something of an acquired taste, and “Rock of Ages” is more cheeseburger than lobster bisque. A soap opera-esque love story and stacy undertones lend a certain silliness to the whole affair despite Tom Cruise’s electric turn as rocker Stacey Jaxx.

The Three Stooges Ninety-two minutes of slapstick and sound effects coupled with a numbskull

plot that prominently features the cast of MTV’s “Jersey Shore.” Ouch.

The Watch Ben Stiller and Vince Vaughn, we hope, will appear in good movies again someday after a string of forgettable flops. Case in point: director Akiva Schaffer’s comedy/sci-fi hodgepodge with its wealth of awkward scenarios and dearth of humor.

Susan Tavernetti’s top films

10. Life of Pi Ang Lee transformed Yann Martel’s “unfilmable” 2001 bestseller into a fantasy filled with magical moments and visual wonder. A middle-aged Pi (Irrfan Khan) recounts his parable of survival and spirituality: Shipwrecked as a 16-year-old (Suraj Sharma), he drifts across the Pacific in a lifeboat, accompanied by a snarling Bengal tiger. The adventure film is as much about the tales we tell ourselves to stay afloat as about navigating the waters of life. Along the journey, 3-D artistry grows up too.

9. The Flat The spellbinding documentary about family secrets and deep denial starts with filmmaker Arnon Goldfinger cleaning out the Tel Aviv flat of his deceased grandmother. He discovers a newspaper article and photos documenting the friendship of his Jewish grandparents with a high-ranking Nazi before and after World War Two. How could that be? Doggedly pursuing leads, Goldfinger diplomatically tiptoes around sensitive topics with Edda Milz von Mildenstein, the daughter of the German official who worked with Goebbels, before confronting her with pit-bull tenacity. Provocative issues abound, including the question of whether looking back is more important than looking ahead.

8. Silver Linings Playbook

Director David O. Russell seems to be flirting with disaster once again in this offbeat indie characterized by wild mood swings. Wonderfully eccentric, the romantic comedy focuses on a pair of misfits, a former teacher with bipolar disorder (Bradley Cooper) and a bruised young widow (Jennifer Lawrence) with a penchant for ballroom dancing. Robert De Niro flexes his comic muscles as a caring father obsessed with the Philadelphia Eagles, blurring the line between the crazy and the sane, which is exactly the point. A feel-good film about second chances is worth betting on.

7. How to Survive a Plague

On the documentary shortlist for the 2013 Oscars, David France’s searing look at the AIDS epidemic showcases the ACT UP activists whose agenda was

to arouse, anger and take action against the deadly disease. A testament to steely determination, the film seamlessly stitches together archival footage and interviews that chart the challenges against the NIH and FDA, drug companies, health professionals and politicians. Both history lesson and passionate call to arms, the documentary gives a human face to the statistics and reminds us that hope and more research go hand in hand.

6. The Perks of Being a Wallflower Sex, drugs and rock n’ roll? No, wrong decade. Stephen Chbosky adapts and directs his 1999 coming-of-age novel about teen growing pains — and sex, drugs and mixtapes of The Smiths. Shy and psychologically fragile, Charlie (Logan Lerman) just wants to survive the 1,095 days of freshman year. Enter a pair of half-sibling seniors (Emma Watson and Ezra Miller) who bring fun, spontaneity and friendship to the drab halls of high school. Although more sanitized than the book, the movie sensitively deals with adolescent angst and relationships in pre-Internet America.

5. Beasts of the Southern Wild

A debut feature of such original voice and vision is a rare beast indeed. Writer-director Benh Zeitlin’s dreamlike fable of a subculture living on the wrong side of a southern Louisiana levee — as conjured by 6-year-old Hushpuppy — offers an imaginative post-Katrina take on preserving a people and their culture. Newcomer Quvenzhané Wallis delivers a fierce performance as the feisty little girl who swims against the tide of storms large and small, stubbornly surviving in the face of Mother Nature and Uncle Sam.

4. A Separation The Iranian cinema seldom depicts middle-class families and dramas rooted in their social reality. This couple (Leila Hatami and Peyman Moadi) has a predicament: She wants to leave the country so their 11-year-old daughter doesn’t grow up “in these circumstances,” and he is unwilling to leave his father suffering from Alzheimer’s disease. Just when you assume writer-director Asghar Farhadi’s story will grapple with scenes from a marriage, the narrative surprisingly shifts into a legal drama teeming with emotional and moral complexity. All sides deserve empathy in this 2012 Oscar winner for Best Foreign Language Film.

3. Argo Sharply observed humor about the movie business cuts through the tension of director-star Ben Affleck’s white-knuckle political thriller. Based on the true events of CIA

agent Tony Mendez’s rescue of six American embassy workers trapped in Tehran, the drama uses gritty newsreel footage to plunge us into the 1979 Iran hostage crisis. A last-ditch plan requires the hunted diplomats to pose as a Canadian film crew scouting locations for a fake science fiction movie titled “Argo,” while a well-known film producer (Alan Arkin) and a make-up artist (John Goodman) hilariously keep up pretenses in Hollywood. Fact may be stranger than fiction, but the two are perfectly integrated in Affleck’s top-notch production.

2. Amour Michael Haneke makes films that no one really wants to see. The subject of an elderly Parisian couple (French treasures Jean-Louis Trintignant and Emmanuelle Riva) in declining health leads to heartbreaking drama. But this is a love story. Although hard to watch, with the camera lingering over details of daily caretaking like a vulture waiting for death, the film becomes a profound meditation about living. Challenging but cool-toned in typical Haneke style, the Palme d’Or winner of this year’s Cannes Film Festival encourages contemplation about aging and the act of watching cinema.

1. Zero Dark Thirty In the assured hands of director Kathryn Bigelow and journalist-screenwriter Mark Boal, the manhunt for the mastermind of the 9/11 attacks becomes an ambitious, complex and rewarding cinematic achievement. Never a boring procedural, the needle-in-a-haystack search for Osama bin Laden takes the workaday lives of agents — sometimes dull, sometimes dangerous — and shapes the sprawling narrative into a nail-biter. Displaying an incredible range of emotion, Jessica Chastain plays the CIA analyst who breaks the case. She can appear shaken and vulnerable during “enhanced” interrogation scenes of detained Al Qaeda suspects, and then exhibit reinforced-steel-and-concrete resolve as she relentlessly continues her investigative work. Despite knowing the outcome of the Navy SEALs’ dark-hour raid of the Pakistan hideout that harbored bin Laden, I found the climax unbearably tense. Reteaming after taking home Oscars for “The Hurt Locker,” Bigelow and Boal foster reflection about America’s role in the war on terror — and most likely consideration for a Best Picture nod.

Note: Susan Tavernetti chose not to write a pans list this year, as her assignment list didn’t include enough films sufficiently bad to qualify, she said.

Year in photos 2012

by MICHELLE LE



Clockwise, from left: Two workers take in the scene from atop Hangar One at Moffett Field; "Google Track Team" mime Jan Schwartz, left, tracks a person waiting in line for check-in at Google's annual meeting; fire engineer Clinton Smith, left, and firefighter/paramedic Casey Harbison raise the flag to half mast in front of the police station on Sept. 11, part of a ceremony honoring the 343 firefighters who died in the search and rescue effort in New York City 11 years before.



Clockwise, from top left: President Obama descends from Air Force One at Moffett Field in May; participants in the Hacker Dojo's underwear run raised over \$3,500 (photo by James Tensuan); space shuttle Endeavor passes over Hangar One in Moffett Field on Sept. 21; from right, Mountain View High School students Julie Park, Alyssa Hartje and Agnes Wang adjust their caps before proceeding to their graduation ceremony; from left, state senators Lou Correa, Joe Simitian, Alan Lowenthal and Mark DeSaulnier listen to California High-Speed Rail Authority officials during a public hearing in March; Bayer Ballet Academy dancers wait backstage during dress rehearsal for a Christmastime performance.

Year in Photos



Clockwise, from top: Julia Goebel leads with the ball as Jannik Moeller, Moritz Tamm, Max Goebel and Eric Roeck try to tag her out during a rugby scrimmage at the German International School of Silicon Valley; a May Day march participant holds up one end of the American flag during a rally in front of City Hall; Laura Macias, termed out after serving eight years on the City Council, poses for a photo in the council chambers; from left, KimiAnn Sano and Vanessa Higa watch Erin Tokutomi dress Michelle Tokutomi during taiko drum practice at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple.

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EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

Unmasking those behind anonymous political ads

Mountain View residents have not seen a flood of anonymous campaign ads other than those aimed at statewide issues, but nevertheless, we believe it is a positive step to require backers of such advertising to be identified for all to see.

That is the purpose of a bill already introduced in the Legislature by incoming state Sen. Jerry Hill, a Democrat whose district includes Mountain View, and his colleague, state Sen. Mark Leno of San Francisco, also a Democrat. Aptly titled the DISCLOSE Act, the bill would require all political advertising, whether on television, radio, in print or on the Web, to disclose the top funders of the ads.

Such a bill would shine light on campaigns like the one in the last election by anonymous out-of-state donors attacking Gov. Jerry Brown's sales tax proposal, Proposition 30. By simply requiring disclosure, the proposed bill would not run afoul of the Supreme Court's infamous Citizens United decision, which declared that corporations have the same First Amendment rights as ordinary citizens and cannot be restricted from spending unlimited amounts of money to influence elections.

Hill said in a statement that "this legislation is vital to protecting the integrity of our democratic process and ensuring fair elections in our state." He added, "After seeing billions of dollars flow into elections across our country after the Citizens United decision, we need the DISCLOSE Act. Now more than ever."

Trent Lange, president of the California Clean Money Campaign which backs the bill, said the legislation would replace the currently required fine-print disclosures with full-screen listings of the top three funders and links to committee websites for more information. And the bill would require that those listed as funders are actual individual, corporate or union contributors, not "sham nonprofits" or misleading committee names.

Leno said the bill is needed due to the large sums of money spent by unnamed organizations in the most recent election.

"The only way to stop this covert financing of campaigns is to require the simple and clear disclosure of the top three funders of political ads so voters can make well-informed decisions at the ballot box," he said.

This legislation would protect local voters and others around the state from the flood of money from undisclosed sources that has become so much a part of our state and national elections. It is time to put a stop to it and this legislation will help do the job.

LETTERS VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

NOT ALL GUN-OWNERS ARE RIGHT-WING NUTCASES

In response to Bill Michel's letter: I take offense to his "tea baggers" comment. Does he really think that gun owners and enthusiasts are all right-wing Tea Party nutcases? How uninformed and sad. If you look at the demographics of gun owners you will find it spread over the entire political spectrum. He really should do his homework.

The fact is that a simple gun safe could have prevented access to the weapons used in the Newtown tragedy. As for carnage, at 40,000 deaths a year is he ready for the government to take away his car? I didn't think so.

Keith Wilson, Emily Drive

IN SUPPORT OF CUESTA ANNEX FLOOD BASIN

In her letter last week, Cynthia Riordan claims opponents of the Cuesta Annex flood basin have not "misled or exaggerated" concerns and have not been "inventing ones such as the destruction of oak trees." Yet Ms. Riordan sent a letter to the editor on July 13, 2012, in which she wrote that the "Mountain View City Council is the largest killer of trees in the city" because they support the Cuesta Annex flood basin. She warned that the Annex will be "severely affected" by "the trees that will be lost here." Since the plan calls for only one heritage tree to be removed, I think it is fair to say her warnings were a misleading exaggeration.

In his letter, Michael Hayden says he is "not trying to deceive, but just present the facts" when he writes about the outside engineering firm's (Multech) report on the flood project. But at the Nov. 20 water district board meeting, the Multech repre-

sentative vehemently objected to Mr. Hayden's representation of the firm's findings.

At the same meeting, the water district hydrologists responded to Mr. Hayden's comments on the flow data and explained why downstream gauges do not reflect the true 100-year-flood potential. So I don't think Mr. Hayden is presenting all or only the facts.

For a true sense of the flooding potential in California and Mountain View, people should look at the current issue of Scientific American (articles also on the web) where experts describe the megafloods that occur here every 100 to 200 years. While the Annex basin would not be adequate to prevent the kind of flood we saw in 1861, it would mitigate the damage of this and lesser floods that the article suggests may become more frequent with climate change.

Kevin McBride, Begen Avenue

LETTER WRITER'S RHETORIC MOCKED TEA PARTY

Bill Michel's letter to the editor (How do local officials feel about gun violence?, Voice Dec. 21) closes with a question for the "Tea Baggers." He asks, "Do you really think that you can stockpile enough weapons to protect you from a drone strike?" The paragraph apparently was included solely to disparage and mock Tea Party members and conservatives.

Ignorant rhetoric such as this does nothing to promote a serious and civil discussion on important issues. Unfortunately name-calling and ad hominem attacks seem to be favored by the left as a way to close off debate. When you can't win an argument with facts or persuasion, try to win it by tearing down your opponent.

Mylan Mann, Laura Lane





ANDRÉ ZANDONA

The interior of Tommy Thai is pleasant under a dark wood ceiling. Below, spicy rock cod is covered in chili garlic sauce. Below left, rice mixed with vegetables and topped with shrimp is one of six types of fried rice dishes on the menu.

■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

Kitchen duo serves up tasty Thai and Cambodian dishes

TOMMY THAI LIVENS A DREARY STRETCH OF EL CAMINO WITH ITS EXTENSIVE MENU

by Sheila Himmel

On Mountain View's stretch of El Camino Real between Shoreline Boulevard and El Monte Avenue, things change yet the area remains the same, a hodgepodge. Good news: Now we have Tommy Thai.

The owners spent January and February last year remodeling the building, long an outpost of the forgettable (at best) Mr. Chau's chain of Chinese fast-food restaurants. From the outside, it still looks like whatever it was to begin with, from ancient days before there were strip malls. But inside is pleasant under a dark wood ceiling, like a boat on Thailand's River of Kings.

Tommy Thai is different from other Thai restaurants



ANDRÉ ZANDONA

in several ways. One is that there are Cambodian dishes on the menu. Another is the flexibility of the menu and ease of substitution. Don't want bamboo shoots in your red curry pork? Ask for bell peppers instead. Or dump the peppers and get eggplant.

One of the chefs is Thai, one Cambodian. The manager is Cambodian and the owners Chinese.

Vegetarians find lots of choices beyond the usual deep-fried tofu appetizer (\$5.95). Tommy Thai's extensive vegetarian menu



ANDRÉ ZANDONA

Weekend



ANDRÉ ZANDONÁ

Tom Yum soup is a spicy, sweet and sour mixture served in a hot pot.

offers six appetizers, three salads, three noodle dishes, eight curries, three soups, four fried-rice dishes and 10 specialties, including steamed spinach tofu (\$7.95) and spicy eggplant basil tofu (\$7.95).

Prices are probably going up at the first of the year, but in December, the \$6.99 lunch's popularity was marred only by

the charge for rice (\$1). Lunch comes with soup and salad, not rice. However, instead of receiving a tin pot of gluey grains, you get a steaming bowl of moist and chewy rice, brown or white, for your \$1.

Return trips for lunch offer fresh adventure. The 20 dishes are sauteed, pan-fried or stewed, and you pick your

protein in each case. Two rules to keep in mind at Tommy Thai: Portions are large, and spicy means spicy.

We hardly dented the menu, starting with a lovely silver noodle salad (\$8.95) stocked with tender beef. Po tak soup was a refreshing brew of hot and sour seafood. The small

► Continued on next page

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*It is in this spirit that we will continue sharing
our classic recipes with you each week.*

"Sorrento Watermelon" Salad Cocomero con fichi e rucola

Ingredients:

- Ripe watermelon
- Feta cheese (full block in brine)
- Fresh Arugula
- Fresh figs
- Sicilian olives

Slice watermelon into a 5" L x 3" W x 1" H rectangle. Cut a 4" x 2" piece of feta cheese into 1" square pieces and place evenly over watermelon slice. Top with a large pinch of arugula and 1/2 sliced whole fig. Pour ribbons of Vidalia onion dressing over salad. Place 4 Sicilian olives around the plate and lightly drizzle olives with extra virgin olive oil to finish dish.

► Continued from previous page

bowl (\$8.95) was more than enough for two people. Of course they also have tom yum and tom kha soups, as well as tom jurd woon and four noodle soups. Also satisfying was the yellow curry chicken (\$8.95).

The server wisely suggested hor mok (\$11.95 with rock cod, \$13.95 with seafood). Chunks of meltingly delicious fish spring hot from the foil wrapping, in a stew of Napa cabbage, basil, egg, coconut milk and red curry.

From the Cambodian specialties, we did not love trob char kreung (\$9.95 with shrimp). It wasn't the shrimp's fault. They were fresh and plentiful. It was the oversupply of red and green peppers. Had I known, I would have asked for more eggplant instead.

As for beverages, bypass the

two-wine wine list and drink beer or tea.

About the name, Tommy Thai: For a brief period after Mr. Chau's, the restaurant was called Tommy T's Grill. One

of Tommy Thai's chefs is named Tom, so to keep it simple they stuck with Tommy. (Or else, the usual Thai restaurant names were taken.) ▀

DINING NOTES

Tommy Thai

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tommy-thai.com
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MOVIE TIMES

Editor's note: Showtimes for the Century 16, Century 20 and Palo Alto Square theaters were not available at press time. For current showtimes, visit www.PaloAltoOnline.com/movies.

Anna Karenina (R) ★★ Aquarius Theatre: 2:45 & 7:30 p.m.

Chasing Ice (PG-13) ★★1/2 Aquarius Theatre: 1, 5:45 & 10:15 p.m.

For the Love of Mary (1948) Stanford Theatre: Fri.-Mon. at 7:30 p.m.; Sat. & Sun. also at 4:15 p.m.

Hitchcock (PG-13) ★★ Guild Theatre: 1, 3:30, 6 & 8:30 p.m.

The Impossible (PG-13) Aquarius Theatre: 1:30, 4:15, 7 & 9:45 p.m.

The Rocky Horror Picture Show (R) Guild Theatre: Sat. at midnight.

Three Smart Girls (1936) - Stanford Theatre: Fri.-Mon. at 5:55 & 9:10 p.m.

AQUARIUS: 430 Emerson St., Palo Alto (266-9260)

CENTURY CINEMA 16: 1500 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View (800-326-3264)

CENTURY 20 DOWNTOWN: 825 Middlefield Road, Redwood City (800-326-3264)

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STANFORD THEATRE: 221 University Ave., Palo Alto (324-3700)

For show times, plot synopses and more information about any films playing at the Aquarius, 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

ANNA KARENINA ★★

(Aquarius) There's a peril that, in chasing a fresh concept, a director will come up with something foolhardy, which brings us to Joe Wright's "Anna Karenina." No one has a bigger concept this year than Wright, who has transformed Tolstoy's novel into something conspicuously theatrical. Set amongst the aristocracy of Imperial Russia circa 1874, the novel concerns parallel romantic strivings and the pitfalls that threaten the maintenance of the respectable lifestyle of the upper class. One storyline follows the titular socialite (Keira Knightley), whose dull marriage to Karenin (Jude Law) pales in comparison to an affair with Count Vronsky (Aaron Taylor-Johnson). The film begins with an orchestra tuning up, then plays out in a derelict theater. Wright employs colorful costumes, twirling cameras, tableaux vivants, and whoosh-y, thump-y sound effects as if to say, "Take that, Baz Luhrmann!" In particular, the ballroom sequence technically marvels. But I'd trade in an instant this tiresome artificiality for some potent empathy. We're able to intellectualize why we should care, but we're too distracted to be moved. *Rated R for sexuality and violence. Two hours, 10 minutes.* — P.C.

what it characterizes as definitive evidence of global warming. Orłowski follows James Balog, a photographer with a master's degree in geomorphology. Orłowski observes Balog at work with his Extreme Ice Survey, a project recording receding ice-lines and crumbling glaciers in Greenland, Iceland, Alaska and Montana. The presentation of Balog's often hauntingly beautiful imagery go a long way toward the photographer's career mission of reconnecting city dwellers to our presence in and interaction with nature. As artwork, each photo is unique. But as far as being an argument for global warming, if you've seen one melting glacier, you've seen them all. Orłowski makes up the balance partly with a smattering of talking-head commentary paying too-brief lip service to the science of global warming and the effects of global climate change. "Chasing Ice" stakes its claim on that seductive approach, and while more detailed scientific analysis and greater discussion of impacts would have been welcome, the film's visual rhetoric is solid. *Rated PG-13 for brief strong language. One hour, 16 minutes.* — P.C.

DJANGO UNCHAINED

★★★★

(Century 16, Century 20) Brace yourselves for Quentin Tarantino's latest provocation, the spaghetti western-cum-slavery epic "Django Unchained." Tarantino repeats the feat of Nazi-revenge wish-fulfillment fantasia "Inglourious Basterds," with subject matter yet more highly charged for American audiences. His latest film is audacious, frequently funny and, at times, juvenile and repellent. That's the deal you enter into with Tarantino. As the film opens in 1858, Django (Jamie Foxx) gets sprung from a chain gang by bounty hunter Dr.

CHASING ICE ★★1/2

(Aquarius) "It's the economy, stupid." This bit of conventional wisdom holds true for those trying to win public office, but when it comes to the longevity of the human race, it's the environment, stupid. A growing number of concerned citizens have taken up this message, some employing motion pictures like "Chasing Ice" to be worth thousands of words. Jeff Orłowski's documentary feature uses emotional appeal and a measure of science to provide

King Schultz (Christoph Waltz, reminding us why he won an Oscar for “Basterds”). Plainly noting, “I kill people and sell their corpses for cash,” Schultz enlists Django to help him track three nasties and put them down. This mission is but prelude to Django’s one true purpose: to reunite with his wife, Broomhilda von Shaft (Kerry Washington), and free her from slavery. Taken with the mythic echoes of Siegfried and Brunnhilde, Schultz agrees to help Django, and they set off for the Deep South plantation ruled with an iron fist by Calvin Candie (a Mephistophelean Leonardo DiCaprio). There, Candie subjects his male slaves to “Mandingo fighting” and his female slaves to prostitution. Tarantino’s greater concern, as usual, is to entertain at all costs, so “Django Unchained” is content to turn into “Blazing Saddles” for five minutes (as it takes a Coen Brothers-esque swipe at the idiocy of the pre-KKK) and to indulge Tarantino’s favorite genre: the revenge picture. Like “Basterds,” the film offers vengeance in a bloodsport staged with glee and the triumph of an end-zone dance. *Rated R for strong graphic violence, a vicious fight, language and nudity. Two hours, 45 minutes.* — P.C.

THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY

★★★

(Century 16, Century 20) Director Peter Jackson (the “Lord of the Rings” trilogy) rekindles his Middle Earth magic in adapting the first part of J.R.R. Tolkien’s seminal novel “The Hobbit” for the big screen. Those fond of the award-winning “Lord of the Rings” pictures will feel a sense of déjà vu in watching “An Unexpected Journey,” as cinematography, costuming, score and set design are all virtually identical, not to mention several cast members. And while “Journey” gets off to a ploddingly slow start, the colorful characters, action sequences and unparalleled visual effects quickly help pick up the pace. There is a paint-by-numbers feel to “Journey,” since the groundwork was already well laid with “Lord of the Rings.” Some scenes — such as a flashback battle scene involving Thorin and the dwarves — are incredibly similar to moments in “Rings.” “Journey” introduces a host of interesting new characters. Martin Freeman makes a wonderful Bilbo, striking a perfect balance between humor and heart, and Ian McKellen serves up another terrific performance. Some have wondered if three films (at nearly three hours each) are really necessary in adapting one 300-page novel. The easy answer is no, but for those who relish the fantasy genre — and Tolkien’s works specifically — three movies might not be enough. *Rated PG-13 for extended sequences of intense fantasy action violence, and frightening images. 2 hours, 49 minutes.* — T.H.

THE GUILT TRIP

★★

(Century 16, Century 20) Oh mama! Barbra Streisand plays mother to son Seth Rogen in the comedic road movie “The Guilt Trip.” Sadly, that title’s the wittiest part of the proceedings. The film sticks Streisand’s smothering muddah Joyce Brewster in a compact car with Rogen’s Andrew for a cross-country drive. The results are silly and nice, basically unfunny but basically innocuous — so as satisfying as your average leftovers. Organic chemist Andrew Brewster has invented one heckuva cleaning product, but he doesn’t know the first thing about selling it. Naturally, Joyce has an idea or two about what Andrew’s doing wrong, and naturally, he doesn’t want to hear it. As Andrew gripes his way to a final destination where he can finally listen



Christoph Waltz and Jamie Foxx in “Django Unchained.”

to his mother rather than just hear her. The headline news here is that Babs gets a role that won’t have her fans looking away in embarrassment. But a game Streisand gets to mix it up with Rogen in some ad-libbed bits, which gives the picture occasional juice. Still, the fact that “The Guilt Trip” isn’t an embarrassment doesn’t nearly close the gap between a real comedy like “What’s Up, Doc.” By my count, “The Guilt Trip” has two funny jokes, so proceed at your own risk, but of course, your mileage may vary. *Rated PG-13 for language and risqué material. One hour, 35 minutes.* — P.C.

HITCHCOCK

★★★

(Guild) Many can relate to the childhood experience of getting wise to fakery. “Daddy, that’s not Snow White!” “Mommy, Santa doesn’t wear sneakers.” Well, film fans may feel a pang of déjà vu when they sit down to “Hitchcock,” which purports to revive the weighty filmmaker forever to be known as “The Master of Suspense.” Stephen Rebello’s nonfiction book “Alfred Hitchcock and the Making of Psycho” — hangs its hat on marital strain and the artistic and financial gamble that was Hitchcock’s masterpiece “Psycho.” For this latest feat of reenactment cinema, we get Anthony Hopkins as the corpulent filmmaker; Helen Mirren as his wife and trusted screenwriting consultant Alma Reville; Scarlett Johansson and James D’Arcy as “Psycho” stars Janet Leigh and Anthony Perkins; and so on. At its best, “Hitchcock” reminds audiences not only of the risk represented by “Psycho,” but its reinvigorating quality. But the film is generally pleased to be entertainingly glib. Hopkins is, of course, a likeable actor, but his power is muted by pounds of latex, and he doesn’t quite capture the depths of Hitch’s drollery. Mirren, miscast as Reville, comes off too glamorous and modern to play this intellectual used to being overlooked. On balance, “Hitchcock” is about as entertaining and as trustworthy as a tabloid. *Rated PG-13 for some violent images, sexual content and thematic material. One hour, 38 minutes.* — P.C.

JACK REACHER

★★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) Resurgent star Tom Cruise plays stoical tough-guy hero Jack Reacher in the airport-novel adaptation of “Jack Reacher.” Oscar-winning writer Christopher McQuarrie does double duty as screenwriter and director, lending an unearned veneer of intelligence to otherwise dopey material, layering in some

snappy dialogue, sleek suspense sequences and punchy action to distract from a plot one character aptly describes as “grassy-knoll ludicrous.” The picture begins with a gripping sniper set piece running into a wordless montage that ends with a fishy suspect in Pittsburgh P.D. custody. The suspect’s only communication: “Get Jack Reacher.” Before you can say, well, Jack Reacher, the preternaturally confident former “Army cop” makes the scene and, on reflection, reluctantly agrees to serve as the investigator for public defender Helen Rodin. As played by Cruise in a not-unskilled but largely generic action-hero performance, Reacher is a hard-bitten man with no patience for fools. “Jack Reacher” is by no means a good film. It’s not even a particularly good movie. But the thing does have two fistfights, a car chase and a shootout. So if you’re on the run from three-hour awards-season dramas, “Jack Reacher” may fill the bill. *Rated PG-13 for violence, language and drug material. Two hours, 10 minutes.* — P.C.

LES MISERABLES

★★★

(Century 16, Century 20) A condensation of Victor Hugo’s 1862 epic novel, the hugely popular stage musical by composer Claude-Michel Schönberg and lyricists Alain Boublil and Jean-Marc Natel now gets a reboot on the big screen. While “Les Misérables” has never been known for its subtlety, with its storytelling in all-caps and its music thunderously repetitive, this is about a compelling a screen version of “Les Mis” as we have any right to expect. Hugh Jackman stars as Jean Valjean, a parole violator in 19th-century France, who lifts himself out of poverty and decrepitude but lives in fear of discovery by his former jailer, Inspector Javert (Russell Crowe). From his new position of power as a factory owner, Valjean becomes entangled in the fortunes of one of his workers, despairing single mother Fantine (Anne Hathaway), and he begins to feel responsible for the woman and her child, Cosette (Isabelle Allen). The story sprawls its way into the student-fueled Paris Uprising of 1832 and a love triangle among Cosette (now Amanda Seyfried), revolutionary Marius (Eddie Redmayne), and his beggarly confidant Eponine (Samantha Barks, reprising her stage role). Throw in comic relief in the devious Thenardiers (Helena Bonham Carter and Sacha Baron Cohen), and you have yourself a show. Hooper’s best choice is also his riskiest gambit: By recording

all the vocals live instead of having the actors lip-sync, he gets more vital acting, with intentionally raggedy vocals lending a palpable verisimilitude. For my money, best acting honors go to Crowe, Redmayne and Barks. Crowe suffers from some wobbly diction, but his performance is always emotionally resonant, while Barks knocks “On My Own” out of the park. Redmayne (“My Week with Marilyn”) busts out with a surprisingly rich tenor voice — who knew? — that never once feels affected. *Rated PG-13 for suggestive and sexual material, violence and thematic elements. Two hours, 37 minutes.* — P.C.

LIFE OF PI

★★★★1/2

(Palo Alto Square, Century 20) In Ang Lee’s exhilarating “Life of Pi” — based upon the bestselling novel by Yann Martel — a boy adrift reads a “Survival at Sea” manual. “Telling stories is highly recommended,” it says. “Above all, do not lose hope.” In the hands of Ang Lee, “Life of Pi” elegantly walks Martel’s philosophical line while also brilliantly using every modern cinematic tool to tell an epic yarn. Most prominent among these tools is 3D. Lee joins the ranks of auteurs using new 3D cameras, gainfully employing the technology for its full ViewMaster “pop” effect, but also in more magical ways. Suraj Sharma plays the teenage Piscine Molitor (aka “Pi”), who, having been raised in South India, winds up in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, warily sharing a lifeboat with a zebra, an orangutan and a Bengal tiger. As a boy, Pi (Ayush Tandon) becomes something of a “Catholic Hindu,” who sees the gods of various religions as his “superheroes.” Pi’s spiritual picaresque shifts into a high gear once he’s fighting for survival on the “life” boat. Pi’s attempts to reach detente with the tiger create a fearful intimacy analogous to some people’s experience of God. “I have to believe there was more in his eyes than my own reflection staring back at me,” Pi says, but the film’s visual motifs of mirrored surfaces might just as well suggest that people under sufficient emotional duress see what they want to see. *Rated PG for emotional thematic content throughout, and some scary action sequences and peril. Two hours, seven minutes.* — P.C.

LINCOLN

★★★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) Spielberg’s “Lincoln” — which focuses on Lincoln’s tragically shortened second term in office, the conclusion of the Civil War and the president’s fight to pass the 13th Amendment (abolishing slavery) — plays a bit like a \$50 million history lesson. And while that’s a boon for history buffs, the pacing suffers sporadically. Still, Spielberg and his team (including an A-list cast that features a spotlight-stealing performance by Tommy Lee Jones) deserve a wealth of credit for embracing a monumental task and succeeding. The film follows Lincoln (Day-Lewis) as he seeks to outlaw slavery and, thus, end the bloody Civil War. Lincoln juggles nation-changing decisions with personal-life issues: his wife Mary’s (Sally Field) migraines, his older son Robert’s (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) military ambitions and his young son Tad’s (Gulliver McGrath) upbringing. Day-Lewis captures Lincoln as well as any actor could. From his vocal inflections to his mannerisms, it’s clear he truly immersed himself in the difficult role. But it’s Jones’ performance that lends the film the spark it needed and would not have otherwise had. *Rated PG-13 for war violence, strong language and carnage. 2 hours, 29 minutes.* — T.H.

SKYFALL

★★★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) In this 23rd

official Bond film, the most conspicuously repeated word is “game,” the most dangerous of which Bond typically is, pursues or plays. Directed by Oscar winner Sam Mendes “Skyfall” finds Daniel Craig’s Bond musing aloud to Judi Dench’s M, “We’re both played out,” and, soon thereafter, once more striding tux-clad into a house of games. The film’s most satisfying scenes are the multiple rounds of verbal jousting: between Bond and “M”; Bond and “Q” (Ben Whishaw); Bond and fellow agent Eve (Naomie Harris); Bond and exotic beauty Severine (Berenice Lim Marlohe); and, of course, Bond and super-baddie Raoul Silva (Javier Bardem). Under Mendes’ sensitive direction, Craig and company play each of these duets as a kind of seduction, Bond’s specialty. “Skyfall” isn’t a deep film. But this Bond proves elegantly designed and constructed, making it as classy as they’ve come over the last half-century. It’s fair to say that “Skyfall” both ruthlessly rips off the tales of other iconic characters (Sherlock Holmes, the Dark Knight) and puts into play most of the classic Bond tropes as the picture deconstructs and reconstructs his universe. Bond makes a crack about “the circle of life,” and indeed the series remains destined to retrace its steps, making the tracks just a bit deeper each time around. Mendes manages Bond’s most haunted outing yet, captured in the image of his lone Aston Martin wending its way through a vast highland landscape, back to the world of hurt that long ago sent him running into the spy game. *Rated PG-13 for intense violent sequences, some sexuality, language and smoking. 2 hours, 23 minutes.* — P.C.

THIS IS 40

★★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) Billed as a “sort-of sequel to “Knocked Up,” “This is 40” checks back in with married couple Pete (Paul Rudd) and Debbie (Leslie Mann), their 13-year-old Sadie (Maude Apatow) and their 8-year-old Charlotte (Iris Apatow). The promotion of these supporting characters allows Hollywood’s reigning king of comedy to focus on middle-age disappointment and its strain on the nuclear family. The loose plot involves a personal financial crisis that Pete’s trying to keep from Debbie. A small-label record executive, he is making a last-ditch effort to rescue his business and his family’s house by promoting and releasing a new album by rocker Graham Parker (playing himself). Like Apatow’s last directorial effort, “Funny People,” “This is 40” is more sour than sweet, awkwardly alternating between sitcom and depressive situations. Occasionally, Apatow achieves both at the same time; a marital fight conducted with Pete on the toilet is a case in point. Nepotistic casting aside, the underappreciated Mann’s funny-shrill mood-swinging shtick is entirely in keeping with the picture: If the movie works for you, so does she. Rudd’s likeable dry-comic spin somewhat mitigates his character’s interminable mopeyness, while Lithgow, as Debbie’s father, expertly elevates what could have been a stock character. Comedic and musical distractions pad the 134-minute running time and stray from the implicit promise of the title. The film has little to say about middle age other than that it can be dire; family members will make it both worse and better; and sticking it (and them) out is better than the alternative. *Rated R for sexual content, crude humor, language and drug material. Two hours, 14 minutes.* — P.C.

MOVIE CRITICS

S.T.- Susan Tavernetti, P.C. Peter Canavese, T.H.-Tyler Hanley

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ART GALLERIES

'Cuban at Heart: A Photographic Exhibition' Foothill College presents "Cuban at Heart: A Photographic Exhibition," which captures the magnetic pull of the Cuban people — their warmth, openness, and resourcefulness — as photographed by 16 Foothill College photography students and their instructor. Admission is free; parking is \$3. Nov. 28- Jan. 16, 7:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Krause Center for Innovation Gallery at Foothill College, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. Call 650-949-7082. cubanatheart.wordpress.com/

com/

'Ironicon' Valentin Popov's show "Ironicon" relates to Facebook, BP and other corporations. Open Jan. 5-19, with a reception on Jan. 5, 3-5 p.m. Free. Smith Andersen Editions, 440 Pepper Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-327-7762.

'The Jameel Prize: Art Inspired by Islamic Tradition' This international exhibition presents the work of 10 finalists for the 2011 Jameel Prize, which explores long-established practices of Islamic art, craft, and design within a contemporary framework. It is organized by the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. Through



SHOWCASING WORK OF FORD AND HILL

"Pacific Glow," a pastel by plein-air artist Terri Ford, is part of an exhibit opening Jan. 8 at the Viewpoints Gallery, 315 State St. in Los Altos. The exhibit, which runs through Jan 26, showcases the works of Ford and Terri Hill, whose watercolors "celebrate life, living on the West Coast," according to the gallery. An artists' reception is set for Saturday, Jan. 12, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the gallery. Go to viewpointsgallery.com or call 650-941-5789 for more information.

March 10. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford. Call 650-736-8169. museum.stanford.edu/news_room/jameel.html

Are We There Yet? Paintings by Bay Area artist Suej McCal, runs through Jan. 27 at Gallery 9 Los Altos. Exhibit features watercolors inspired by images the artist encounters while traveling. Reception for the artist, Fri., Jan. 4, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Gallery hours: Tues.-Sat., 11-5 p.m.; Sun., 12-4 p.m. Gallery 9, 143 Main St., Los Altos. www.gallery9losaltos.com

AUDITIONS

The Little Mermaid, jr Los Altos Youth Theatre is holding auditions for ages 8-18; auditions Jan. 7 and 8, callbacks Jan. 9; rehearsals Jan. 14-March 7. The performance will be March 8-24. More information on website. Download and bring completed audition form with you. Prepare a song from a musical and be prepared to dance. 4-7 p.m. Hillview Community Center, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. Call 650-947-2796. www.losaltosrecreation.org/layt-youth-theatre.html

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

Bare Root Roses Class Attendees learn how to choose different types of bare root roses, how to plant them, prune them, and take care of them. This is a free one-day class offered by Roberta Barnes, Master Gardener. Pre-register at Avenidas front desk or call. Jan. 11, 1-2 p.m. Avenidas, 450 Bryant St., Palo Alto. Call 650-289-5428. avenidas.org

Creative Writing Life Stories In this workshop attendees create a written record of their family's oral stories for future generations and review personal history to gain new understanding of life experiences. Call instructor Sheila Dunec at 650-565-8087 before registering. Tuesdays, Jan. 8-March 12, 10 a.m.-noon. \$150. Avenidas, 450 Bryant St., Palo Alto. Call 650-289-5436. avenida.org

Double Digging Double-digging is the first step in a Grow Biointensive garden. Jan. 5, 2-4 p.m. Common Ground Garden Supply and Education Center, 559 College Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-493-6072. www.commongroundinpalto.org

Foothill College Winter Registration Foothill College Winter Quarter registration is Nov. 26-Jan. 6. Classes run Jan. 7-March 27. Continuing students register Nov. 26-Jan. 6. New and former students register Nov. 30-Jan. 6. California residents pay \$31 per unit plus basic fees. Review instructions and class schedule at www.foothill.edu 5 a.m. California residents pay \$31 per unit

plus basic fees. Foothill College, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. Call 650-949-7325. www.foothill.fhda.edu/reg/winter13.php

Musical Jam Sessions Attendees can bring their harmonica, ukelele, or any acoustical instrument, including a singing voice, and join in a jam session. Classes held bi-monthly, starting Jan. 10. Fee payable at front desk before each session. 2-3:30 p.m. \$2. Avenidas, 450 Bryant St., Palo Alto. Call 650-289-5436. avenidas.org

Needlework Club Those interested in needlework can dust off those knitting needles, crochet hooks, and join Club Aveneedles. Needles and yarn if needed provided. Refreshments included. Beginners as well as experts welcome. Prorated rates available. Jan 4-March 29, 2:30-4:30 p.m. \$17 members/\$25 non-members. Avenidas, 450 Bryant St., Palo Alto. Call 650-289-5428. avenidas.org

Seed Propagation Learning Grow Biointensive seed propagation techniques will allow for a more productive and efficient garden. Jan. 5, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$31. Common Ground Garden Supply and Education Center, 559 College Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-493-6072. www.commongroundinpalto.org

Zumba Gold Zumba Gold is a fusion of Latin rhythms and easy-to-follow moves. Led by veteran instructors Carla Kenworthy and Maria Yonamine. Wednesdays, Jan. 9-March 27, 3:30-4:30 p.m. \$65 members/\$75 non-members. Avenidas, 450 Bryant St., Palo Alto. Call 650-289-5436. avenidas.org

CONCERTS

Gail Archer Organ Recital Gail Archer, concert organist and college organist at Vassar College in New York, plays a recital of works by Bach, Liszt, Buxtehude and contemporary women composers. She will perform on the church's large Casavant pipe organ, which has more than 4,000 pipes. Jan. 18, 8-9 p.m. \$10. St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-856-9700. welchorganist.com

DANCE

Social Ballroom Dancing Lessons are beginning rumba and bolero, followed by general dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight. No experience or partner necessary; dressy casual attire is preferred. A \$9 cover includes refreshments. Jan. 4, 8 p.m.-12 a.m. Cubberley Community Center Pavilion, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-395-8847. www.FridayatthePav.com

EXHIBITS

Stanford Art Spaces Stanford University Cuba 2012: American Photographers in Havana exhibit through Jan. 17, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Stanford Art Spaces, 420 Via Palou, Stanford. Call 650-725-3622. cis.stanford.edu/~marigros

ON STAGE

"Somewhere" TheatreWorks presents the Matthew Lopez play "Somewhere," about a family dreaming of show biz. Jan. 16-Feb. 10. \$23-\$73. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-463-1960. www.theatreworks.org

RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

Insight Meditation South Bay Shaila Catherine and guest teachers lead a weekly Insight Meditation sitting followed by a talk on Buddhist teachings. Tuesdays, Dec. 11-Feb. 12, 7:30-9 p.m. St. Timothy's/Edwards Hall, 2094 Grant Road, Mountain View. Call 650-857-0904. imsb.org

SPECIAL EVENTS

Annual LEGO Holiday Extravaganza The Museum of American Heritage (MOAH), The Bay Area LEGO User Group (BayLUG) and Bay Area LEGO Train Club (BayLTC) are co-hosting the 2012/13 LEGO Holiday display at MOAH. Enjoy a variety of LEGO creations made by members of the club, featuring train layouts and Bay Area landmarks. Dec. 7-Jan. 13, 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. \$2 per person, free for Museum and BayLUG Members. Museum of American Heritage, 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-321-1004. www.moah.org

SUPPORT GROUPS

Food Addicts in Recovery Weekly meeting on Sunday evenings. Open to all who want to stop eating addictively. 7-8:30 p.m. St. Marks Church, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto. www.foodaddicts.org

TALKS/AUTHORS

Technology and Society Committee Luncheon Forum Patrick Egan, director of special programs and member of the governing board of the Remote Control Aerial Photography Association and consultant to the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command Battle Lab, gives an overview of the current state of civilian drone deployment and discusses issues. Jan. 8, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. Lunch is \$12. Hangen Szechuan Restaurant, 134 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-969-7215. tian.greens.org/TASC.shtml

Timothy Zahn at Books Inc Hugo award-winning author Timothy Zahn takes us back to a galaxy far, far away for an adventure with Han Solo, Chewy, and Lando Calrissian in his latest book, "Star Wars: Scoundrels." Jan. 10, 7 p.m. Books Inc Mountain View, 301 Castro St., Mountain View. booksinc.net

Author Talk — Quest for Flight Author talk by Bay Area writer Craig S. Harwood. He will discuss his best-selling biography, "Quest for Flight John J. Montgomery and the Dawn of Aviation in the West." Mr. Montgomery was a little-known turn-of-the-century aerodynamicist and flyer. Jan. 5, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Menlo Park Council Chambers, 701 Laurel St., Menlo Park. Call 650-330-2512. www.menloparklibrary.org

VOLUNTEERS

Museum of American Heritage Volunteers are welcome at the Museum of American Heritage in downtown Palo Alto. There are a wide range of opportunities. 11-4 p.m. free Museum of American Heritage, 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-321-1004. www.moah.org

Now Recruiting Outdoor Education Leaders There are volunteer opportunities with the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. It involves working as part of a team and leading third through fifth grade students on field trips at the David C. Daniels Nature Center. Those interested can submit an interest form now to be included in the upcoming training. Through Feb. 12. Free www.openspace.org/volunteer/volunteer.asp

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Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

ALL TUNE AND LUBE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT
File No.: 572406
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
All Tune and Lube, located at 2235 Old Middlefield Way, Suite E, Mountain View, CA 94043, Santa Clara County.
This business is owned by: A Limited Liability Company.
The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is(are):
VIHANA
160 Carlisle Way
Sunnyvale, CA 94087
Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on 09/17/2011.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on December 6, 2012.
(MVV Dec. 14, 21, 28, 2012, Jan. 4, 2013)

SPENCER PHILOSOPHICAL
CONSULTING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT
File No.: 571718
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Spencer Philosophical Consulting, located at 132 Alley Way, Mountain View, CA 94040, Santa Clara County.
This business is owned by:
An Individual.
The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is(are):
QUAYSHAWN SPENCER
132 Alley Way
MountainView, CA 94040
Registrant/Owner has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on November 14, 2012.
(MVV Dec. 14, 21, 28, 2012, Jan. 4, 2013)

SpotOn Parking
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT
File No.: 572554
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
SpotOn Parking, located at 1490 California Street, Mountain View, CA 94041, Santa Clara County.

This business is owned by: A Corporation.
The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is(are):
PARK HERE PARK NOW, INC.
1490 California Street
Mountain View, CA 94041
Registrant/Owner has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on December 11, 2012.
(MVV Dec. 21, 28, 2012, Jan. 4, 11, 2013)

GenesisReal
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT
File No.: 572220
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
GenesisReal, located at 100 W. El Camino Real #34, Mountain View, CA 94040, Santa Clara County.
This business is owned by: A Corporation.
The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is(are):
CHENG PROPERTIES, INC.
100 W. El Camino Real #34
Mountain View, CA 94040
Registrant/Owner has not yet begun to

transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on November 30, 2012.
(MVV Dec. 21, 28, 2012, Jan. 4, 11, 2013)

CLASSICAL CONVERSATIONS OF LOS ALTOS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT
File No.: 572604
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Classical Conversations of Los Altos, located at 154 Paseo Court, Mountain View, CA 94043, Santa Clara County.
This business is owned by: An Individual.
The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is(are):
NICOLE GRIBSTAD
154 Paseo Court
Mountain View, CA 94043
Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on 09/25/2010.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on December 11, 2012.
(MVV Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2013)



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