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Is mixed-use zoning the path of city’s future?

Council pressured to act due to ramifications of Prop. 90

by Molly Tanenbaum

The path of least resistance to maintaining a balance between retail and housing is apparently combining the two in one building.

That was the City Council’s only option Monday night in a race to rezone the city to protect ground-floor retail before Proposition 90 appears on the ballot on Nov. 7.

The “Anderson Initiative” — a state constitutional amendment that deals with the use of eminent domain and would affect the city’s ability to rezone its own land — “Would affect our ability to direct our land-use deals with the use of eminent domain and would affect the city’s ability to prevent housing being built on a willy-nilly basis,” said Councilman Larry Klein.

“We have to prevent housing being developed on commercial land, Council members John Barton and Peter Drekmeier were absent.

“Would affect our ability to direct our land-use deals with the use of eminent domain and would affect the city’s ability to prevent housing being built on a willy-nilly basis,” said Councilman Larry Klein.

Choosing the quickest, easiest way to limit housing developments on commercial land, Council members voted 7-0 to change zoning to allow mixed-use developments and forbid single-family homes in commercial sites. Council members John Barton and Peter Drekmeier were absent.

“We have to prevent housing being developed on commercial land, Council members John Barton and Peter Drekmeier were absent.

“The Anderson Initiative” — a state constitutional amendment that deals with the use of eminent domain and would affect the city’s ability to rezone its own land — “Would affect our ability to direct our land-use deals with the use of eminent domain and would affect the city’s ability to prevent housing being built on a willy-nilly basis,” said Councilman Larry Klein.

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“Would affect our ability to direct our land-use deals with the use of eminent domain and would affect the city’s ability to prevent housing being built on a willy-nilly basis,” said Councilman Larry Klein.

The council also approved a separate motion — which passed 5-2 with Councilwoman Dena Mossar and Mayor Judy Kleinberg opposed — that would rezone the locations of the Palo Alto Bowl, the Mayflower Motel and Summerwinds Nursery to commercial sites.

Currently, those lots are zoned residential.

Though in a similar situation as Palo Alto Bowl and other tenants whose functions do not fit zoning requirements, Fry’s Electronics was left out of the motion because the council already directed staff in July to examine rezoning that location for commercial use.

Council’s motivation to prevent housing from replacing retail comes from the number of new housing projects that will be built over the next few years and a wish

(continued on page 5)

Palo Alto teen builds homes in rural Mississippi

Habitat for Humanity stint shows student a different world

by Cyrus Hedayati

For 16-year-old Menlo School student Greg Gerla, volunteering in rural Tutwiler, Miss. recently showed him the destitute poverty — and sharp racial divide lingering in America.

“The city we were in was extremely poor. . . . I think it used to be the poorest city in the country. Before Habitat (for Humanity) got there, there was sewage flooding into the streets,” the Palo Alto resident said.

As a part of Habitat for Humanity’s Summer Youth Blitz program, Gerla spent three weeks in Tutwiler helping build three affordable homes and a playground with volunteers from across the country. The homes are to be sold at half their market value.

Gerla developed his interest in community service by volunteering with the Special Olympics at his school, helping train the disabled athletes. He has since volunteered at retirement homes and homeless shelters as well.

“The Special Olympics got me into helping out in a bigger way,” he said.

But Gerla had no prior construction experience when he arrived in Tutwiler and had to learn almost all of the skills while on the job.

“I learned how to put a framing on the roof — painting, priming, everything. They had a lot of people who knew what they were doing, so they helped us out,” he said.

When they weren’t building, the 16 volunteers (ages 16 and 17) often took part in group activities centered on tolerance — in reaction to the still-prevalent racism in the area.

(continued on page 5)
Fighting over libraries

Palo Alto voters will be asked to approve a plan to improve our libraries two years from now, which will include expanding the Mitchell Park Library. Details will be hammered out by the end of the year, setting in motion a year-long environmental review process.

But a recent split on the city’s Library Advisory Commission and an acrimonious spat between some members of the commission and members of the volunteer fundraising group Friends of the Palo Alto Library could put the ballot measure in jeopardy.

Much of the divisiveness stems from a controversial plan suggested by former Library Director Paula Simpson, who proposed curtailing services to two of the city’s five branch libraries. The plan was rejected by the City Council, but Simpson says it’s not going away.

“The city needs to create healthy boundaries between volunteer groups and the library staff,” Forte said. “They can’t just walk in and tell you what to do. Others would be appeased if they knew what was going on.”

Forte has co-authored a proposal that the commission adopt a policy that establishes distinct boundaries between private groups and the library staff.

But the in-fighting, if anything, has increased.

The two seven commission members, Genievee Gerard and Paula Skokowski, are perceived as being aligned with the Friends group, which was highly critical of Simpson. Some differences have even spilled over into postings on Town Square, Palo Alto Online’s community forum. Sanford Forte, vice chairman of the commission, and Bob Moss, treasurer of the Friends of the Palo Alto Library, have squared off at length.

Forte claims the Friends group has become intrusive, interfering with library staff. “Sometimes it has to be done about this at the policy level,” said Forte. “Otherwise, otherwise misplaced decisions will continue and live another day to create library mayhem.”

Moss countered by noting that six of seven members of the Friends board over the last two years have been professional librarians. “It wasn’t a tiny group, and some unformed ‘activists’ who were disenchanted with operations and direction of the library department were also some professional librarians,” Moss wrote.

But a former Friends board member, Chris Kenrick, wrote that “the Friends are not necessarily friends to our libraries.” (Kenrick is a former Weekly editor.)

The public spat seems to be gathering steam.

“Basically, Paula Simpson poisoned the water and some members of the commission are drinking from it,” Moss said.

Forte said he spoke out online because of what he termed “harsh personal attacks” against Simpson, who recently left the city to move to Washington.

Forte has co-authored a proposal that the commission adopt a policy that establishes distinct boundaries between private groups and the library staff.

“The city needs to create healthy boundaries between volunteer groups and staff,” Forte said. “They can’t just walk in and tell you what to do. Others would be appeased if they knew what was going on.”

The memo was briefly noted at the July 27 commission meeting.

Councilman John Barton, the council’s liaison to the commission, said there is some lingering disagreement on the commission over the expansion of the Mitchell Park Library. “The council has said Mitchell Park will get bigger,” he said. “It’s been decided.”

Barton noted that the City Council is considering revising its policy on the interaction between private groups and city programs.

“The city must acknowledge that private gifts are very important and will become more important, but the city sets the policy and that shouldn’t be eroded,” Barton said.

Forte said because the Friends group raises money for the libraries and would like to believe they have the right to question decisions.”

Barton agrees there should be boundaries between private groups that donate money and the city staff that runs the programs.

Forte wants the city to establish those boundaries by asserting more control over how the donated money is spent.

Moss said such a policy would be “inappropriate.”

If such a policy is adopted, the public may open the right to question decisions.”

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Counsel
(continued from page 3)

to increase sales-tax revenue.

Palo Alto’s housing sites inventory includes a minimum of 818 new units that will take the place of commercial and other uses, including 185 housing units replacing Hyatt Rickey’s and 352 units replacing Sun Microsystems at the
new Taube-Koret Campus for Jewish Life.

On Monday night, staff presented council two options to curb housing developments in commercial sites: prohibiting housing entirely on commercial sites or allow mixed-use developments but no single-family homes in those zones.

The council lacked wiggle room because the looming Nov. 7 election could potentially bring the passage of Proposition 90, and subsequently prevent future rezoning efforts.

Given the limited amount of time before the election, choices were limited.

City Attorney Gary Baum called the mixed-use option “less draconian” and more feasible because it would not require an amendment to the city’s comprehensive plan and could be accomplished by the Nov. 7 election.

“Sometimes half a loaf is better than nothing at all,” Klein said. He added that the number of housing projects approved from 1999 until the present should provide the city more than enough.

Only Mossar spoke strongly against restricting housing developments on current commercial sites.

“Just because you want something to be in commercial — you want to keep Mary Sue’s coffee shop — doesn’t mean that’s what you’re going to get,” she said. “Zoning isn’t going to guarantee the economic outcome.”

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———Councilwoman Dena Mossar

Kleinberg favored mixed-use, amending Klein’s motion to require that ground-floor commercial space be used for retail and not offices.

But she and Mossar did not support rezoning Palo Alto Bowl and other spots for commercial only.

“With the zoning you’re suggesting, Fry’s could become an office park and frankly, I don’t want Fry’s to become an office park. I’d rather have housing,” Mossar said.

The council’s action to rezone commercial spots to allow for mixed-use developments would include retail along El Camino but not areas like Alma Plaza and Edgewood Shopping Center, over which council members have discretion to approve housing and retail projects.

Molly Tunenbaum can be e-mailed at mtanenbaum@paweekly.com.

Teen
(continued from page 3)

Gerla said.

Tutwiler is 35 miles from where Emmett Till, a 14-year-old African-American boy from Chicago, was brutally murdered in 1955 for allegedly whistling at a white woman. Till’s killers were deemed not guilty by an all-white jury, and the incident became one of the early catalysts for the civil-rights movement.

Even now, Gerla said, the region still splits along racial lines: Tutwiler’s population is nearly all black, he said, but in the neighboring town whites live in large, expensive homes.

Of the estimated 1,364 people living in Tutwiler in 2000, 8 percent were unemployed, while the average household income was $18,958, according to the U.S. Census.

The volunteers tried to break through those racial barriers by spending time with the Tutwiler residents.

“I thought we would just go there and build some houses; I didn’t know we were going to get that close to the community,” Gerla said. “After we were done building every day, we would hang out with the locals, which I didn’t think would happen at all.”

Gerla said that while they came from different backgrounds, the volunteers and the Tutwiler residents became friends by the end of the three weeks.

“No one day we had a potluck, and everyone in the town made us food. They were really thankful for everything we did for their town,” he said.

Gerla said he is considering taking part in Habitat for Humanity’s alumni project in Georgia next year, and would highly recommend the program to his peers.

“I learned a greater understanding of how the rest of the world — or even just the rest of the country — how poor they are and how we need to help out. But at the same time, they have such a sense of community there,” Editorial Intern Cyrus Hedayati can be reached at chedayati@paweekly.com.

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Around Town

A FIT COUNCIL ... For three months starting Sept.1, City Council members will be challenged to out-walk members of the Parks and Recreation Commission in a competition as part of Creating a Culture of Fitness in Palo Alto campaign. Every participant is required to walk a minimum of 10,000 steps per day, which will be measured by pedometers that will be worn at all times. One hour of biking or swimming fulfills the 10,000 step requirement. The results will be tallied on Dec. 1, and the group that stepped the most stepped or biked/swam the most minutes will receive an as yet undecided prize.

THE BEST PLACE TO MEET SINGLES? ... Would you believe REI? That was the word last week from one member of the co-op’s top brass, down from REI’s Seattle headquarters to officiate at the grand opening of the newest REI store Thursday evening — in Mountain View on Colorado Avenue several blocks south of San Antonio Road and Palo Alto. But the "best place to meet..." has a once-upon-a-time twist to it: REI Senior Vice President Brian Unnacht noted that years ago the Seattle store was rated “the number-one place for singles to meet people — and it worked! It’s now the number-one place for families.” Dozens of members of the “active set” of the most fit residents of the Mid-peninsula flocked to the Mountain View opening to browse the merchandise (while staffers were still quietly affixing price labels), munch on snacks and meet REI officials from local stores and Seattle. “There was nothing in this store 10 days ago,” the new store’s new manager, Wes Allen, said, praising the just-hired staff members — who he contended don’t fit the normal profile of retail salespeople. “This is a kind of clubhouse. This store is built by people who do things that most of you encourage” without doing. An REI tradition is to post photos of staff members doing their favorite outdoor activity, from mountain climbing to river rafting, backpacking, kayaking or bicycling. The store is the ninth in the Bay Area, located between REI stores in San Carlos and Saratoga. Unnacht said the San Carlos store “has become our best-performing market” of the company’s 65 stores nationwide. He said when the firm was founded in 1938 as a group of 23 mountain climbers, 70 percent of the customers were men but now 55 percent are women. Unnacht said he recalls the day in 1996 when someone put up the first page of a mocked-up Web site and declared to surprised and skeptical REI officials that “This is the future of retailing.” REI followed the virtual path and is celebrating its 10th year of being online.

BIG, FAST POLICE RESPONSE NABS ... A RESIDENT ... An alert resident midday Monday noticed someone inside a neighboring house, believed to be empty that time of day, and called police. Patrol cars closed in on the possible interrupted burglary in the 3300 block of Louis Road. Officers surrounded the residence. A crowd gathered, “Turns out the person in the house lived there. So no crime,” Police Chief Lynne Johnson reported. But it was a great police response, everyone agreed. Consider it a practice run. Johnson said there have been between 25 and 30 arrests for residential and auto burglaries or thefts this year, many of which were due to alert residents calling police about suspicious activities. Johnson and other police officials are scheduled to meet tonight with Duven- neck/St. Francis and Crescent Park neighborhood residents to discuss recent strong-arm robberies near Eleanor Pardee Park. She will note that many of those arrested and described suspects are Hispanic or African-American men, and said this will impact the department’s “racial profiling” statistics for the year.
Michelle Fong, a recent Gunn High School graduate who received a cochlear implant, plays piano at her home.

Hearing
(continued from page 3)
includes many challenges that may seem like typical teen woes, but are amplified by Michelle's hearing impairment. After all, she is a teenager without sound in an age of sound. Most of her peers carry iPods and cell phones, and she does, too — well, at least a cell phone. But, her parents still have to listen to her messages.

At Gunn High School, Michelle didn't know when couples got together or when they broke up. She didn't know what girl liked what and vice versa. She didn't know who was throwing a party after the homecoming game or who the star player was to watch. She relied on a close friend to collect information and give her updates.

“Otherwise, I would not know anything,” she said in a later interview while sitting in her parents’ Midtown home on a sunny afternoon.

Michelle would also have to visit Gunn’s office every day to read the morning intercom announcements.

But, she admits to missing out on a lot more than the spoken word. She once tried to cook an egg by putting an egg in a bowl and the bowl in the microwave.

“It popped out everywhere,” she said, laughing.

“There are certain universal things that people know that I don’t know. Common sense isn’t that common sometimes.

“Basically, I don’t even know what the class is talking about,” she added, gesturing wildly with her hands. “People always overestimate my hearing. They really do. They have no idea how much I can’t hear.”

Most people at Gunn High School — even counselors she met — didn’t know Michelle was hearing impaired, she said.

The list of Michelle’s activities — which she defensively guards because she wants to be a source of “inspiration, not comparison” — is impressive, considering the hurdles she has faced. But she does not share her SAT or Advanced Placement test scores. Michelle said she took certain AP classes to be around different types of people, not to beef up her resume. “The people in AP calculus are different than the people in AP history. I wanted to see what the environments were like,” she said.

Sharon Yost, a special education teacher at Gunn, told Michelle and her parents about cochlear implants last year. Yost, who said Michelle is “utterly remarkable” and has “surpassed every expectation,” told the Fongs their daughter could benefit from a cochlear implant.

If all goes well, the cochlear implant will especially help Michelle at U.C. Berkeley, where lectures can move at a fast pace and discussions can bounce quickly around a room.

But, Michelle will have all the accommodations she needs at the university. The all-girls dormitory even has a strobe light that goes off along with the fire alarm to ensure hearing-impaired students know what is happening.

She will, however, be required to sit in front of the lecture halls with a stenographer and the other hearing-impaired students.

Michelle isn’t sure about such strong visibility. She has been part of the speaking world her entire life.

“I just don’t want any special kind of treatment, unless I need that special kind of treatment,” she said. “I’m not going to be offended by it, but it doesn’t feel natural. I’m so used to being left by myself.”

No one else in Michelle’s family is deaf, and after she was diagnosed her parents wanted to give their daughter a chance to be part of the speaking world.

She never learned sign language, and aside from her hearing aids was enrolled very early in speech therapy.

Before she entered kindergarten, the Fongs moved from Hayward to Palo Alto to send Michelle to the Jackson Hearing Center for deaf and hard-of-hearing children at Fairmeadow Elementary School. It was there she began to learn English and read lips.

She also started playing piano at age 5.

“My mom was playing, and she wanted me to do the same,” said Michelle, who later learned the violin and viola.

Although she still had a few special education classes with other hearing-impaired students, Michelle was “mainstreamed” in the third-grade, meaning she began attending regular classes with hearing and speaking students.

“Then when I started facing real life challenges,” she said, “I realized how much of an outcast I really was at the time.”

At age 8, when most students are told to “keep it down,” Michelle was terrified when the teacher would call on her in class.

She knew she would have to ask the teacher to repeat the question most of the time. When she failed to do an assignment because she didn’t fully understand it and was too afraid to ask about it, her school life began to change.

“That’s when I realized: Wow, I need to put myself out there. I really need to speak up when I have to,” she said.

Michelle started preparing for her classes by reading the materials beforehand. Her parents also bought her workbooks in writing, math, and reading comprehension, which she said now she didn’t like doing, but did anyway.

But, Michelle admits she wasn’t connecting with other kids. At JLS Middle School, she met a girl who helped her out.

“Even if you don’t know a lot of people, if you have a friend who does, it makes it easier,” she said.

Today, Michelle, who is much more social than the shy 8-year-old she once was, still finds it easier to communicate with others one on one. She is waiting to hear who her roommate will be at U.C. Berkeley.

“I hope she’s nice,” she said. ■

Staff Writer Alexandria Roha can be e-mailed at aroucha@pawweekly.com.

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UPFRONT

Michelle Fong, a recent Gunn High School graduate who received a cochlear implant, plays piano at her home.
Benest gets a pay boost

Several city staff members went home Monday night with a few thousand dollars in bonuses, but City Manager Frank Benest’s pay boost came with note attached: “P.S. Do better.”

The City Council reluctantly approved a $4,000 bonus for the city manager by a 4-3 vote, with Council members Bern Beecham, LaDoris Cordell, Jack Morton and Mayor Judy Kleinberg voting in the affirmative and Council members Jack Barton and Peter Dreknmeier absent.

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Kleinberg agreed, calling the $4,000 a “small bonus.”

Benest was not present at the meeting.

—Molly Tanenbaum

Citizen helps nab three auto theft suspects

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Powers said the witness flagged down a patrol car to report the crime, but the men fled the scene — at Lytton Avenue and Florence Street — in their own car. Powers said the witness provided enough information for officers to identify and stop the car as it was driving east out of Palo Alto.

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A power outage darkened parts of downtown Palo Alto for about two hours late Saturday morning, causing some businesses to have to close or turn away customers. Police put flares at some signalized intersections to caution traffic.

City utility officials could not be reached relating to the cause of the outage. No serious problems were reported from the approximately 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. outage.

ON THE WEB: The latest local news headlines at www.PaloAltoOnline.com

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News Digest

Benest gets a pay boost

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Page 10 • Wednesday, August 9, 2006 • Palo Alto Weekly
**Policing**

**A weekly compendium of vital statistics**

**Police Calls**

**Palo Alto**

**July 31 - Aug. 4**

**Violence related**

- Battery ........................................... 1
- Domestic violence .............................. 1
- Family violence .................................. 1
- Strong-arm robbery ............................ 1

**Theft related**

- Commercial burglaries ....................... 2
- Grand theft ..................................... 1
- Petty theft ...................................... 1
- Residential burglaries ....................... 1

**Vehicle related**

- Attempted theft from auto .................. 1
- Auto recovery .................................... 3
- Auto theft ...................................... 1
- Bicycle theft .................................... 1
- Driving with suspended license ............ 3
- Hit and run ...................................... 3
- Misc. traffic .................................... 4
- Theft from auto ................................ 2
- Vehicle accident/motor vehicle damage .... 4
- Vehicle accident/property damage ........ 1
- Vehicle impound ................................ 5
- Vehicle tow ...................................... 2

**Alcohol or drug related**

- Drunk in public ................................ 1
- Drunken driving ................................ 1
- Possession of drugs ............................ 1
- Possession of paraphernalia ................ 3

**Miscellaneous**

- Animal call ...................................... 2
- Disturbing the peace ........................... 1
- Lost property .................................... 4
- Missing person .................................. 1
- Other/misc. ...................................... 5
- Outside assistance ............................. 1
- Psychiatric hold ................................ 3
- Suspicious circumstances ................. 5
- Warrant arrest .................................. 6
- Warrant/other agency ......................... 5

**Menlo Park**

**July 31 - Aug. 6**

**Violence related**

- Battery .......................................... 1

**Theft related**

- Fraud ............................................ 2
- Grand theft ..................................... 2
- Petty theft ...................................... 1
- Residential burglaries ....................... 1
- Theft undefined ................................. 1

**Vehicle related**

- Auto recovery ................................... 5
- Auto theft ...................................... 1
- Driving with suspended license ............ 1
- Driving without license ....................... 4
- Hit and run ...................................... 3
- Tow request ..................................... 4

**Menlo Park**

**July 31 - Aug. 6**

**Violence related**

- Battery .......................................... 1

**Theft related**

- Grand theft ..................................... 1

**Vehicle related**

- Abandoned auto ................................ 1
- Parking problem ................................. 4
- Suspicious vehicle .............................. 1
- Vehicle accident/property damage .......... 1

**Alcohol or drug related**

- Drunk in public ................................ 1
- Drunken driving ................................ 1

**Miscellaneous**

- Citizen assist ................................... 1
- Disturbance ..................................... 6
- Foot patrol ...................................... 1
- Hazard .......................................... 3
- Lost property .................................... 1
- Medical aid ..................................... 3
- Outside assistance .......................
- Pedestrian check ............................... 1
- Suspicious circumstances ................. 5
- Suspicious person .............................. 1
- Town ordinance violation .................... 6
- Tree blocking roadway ...................... 1
- Vandalism ....................................... 1

**Violent Crimes**

**Palo Alto**

- Unlisted location, 8/1, 2 a.m.: domestic violence.
- 700 block Center Drive, 8/1, 10:32 p.m.: strong-arm robbery.
- Unlisted location, 8/2, 8:09 p.m.: family violence.
- 200 block University Avenue, 8/2, 10:20 p.m.: battery.

**Menlo Park**

- 1200 block Sever Avenue, 8/1, 8:35 p.m.: battery.
City of Palo Alto Recreation Presents

**22ND ANNUAL PALO ALTO WEEKLY MOONLIGHT RUN & WALK**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2006**

**TIME & PLACE**

Please note times: 5K walk 7:30pm, 10K run 8:15pm, 5K run 8:45pm. Run night registration: 6:30 to 8:00pm at City of Palo Alto Baylands Athletic Center, Embarcadero & Geng Roads (just east of the Embarcadero Exit of Highway 101). Parking — go to PaloAltoOnline.com to check for specific parking locations.

**COURSE**

5K and 10K loop courses over Palo Alto Baylands levee, through the marsh lands by the light of the Harvest Moon! Course is flat, USATF certified (10K run only) on levee and paved roads. Arrowhead Water at all stops. (Course map available at www.PaloAltoOnline.com)

**REGISTRATIONS & ENTRY FEE**

Preregistration fee is $20 per entrant (postmarked by September 29, 2006) and includes a long-sleeve t-shirt. Late/Run night registration is $25 and includes a shirt only while supplies last. A scantron card must be filled out at race night registration.

**Family Package:** Children under 12 run free with a registered adult. A completed entry form for each child must be submitted with Adult registration. A limited number of adult small t-shirts may be available for $10 through preregistration process. Please indicate on form and include $10. No confirmation of mail-in registration available. Registration also available online at www.PaloAltoOnline.com. Refunds will not be issued for no-show registrations (and t-shirts will not be held).

**TEAMS:** Preregistration opportunity for Sports Teams of 10 or more runners; contact Amy at (650) 326-8210 ext. 285.

**MINORS:** 13-18 years of age.

If not pre-registered Minors MUST bring signed parental/waiver form (below) on race night to participate. In addition scantron card must be completely filled out at race night registration.

**DIVISIONS**

Age divisions: 12 and under; 13-19; 20-29; 30-39; 40-49; 50-59; 60-69, and 70 & over with separate divisions for male and female runners in each age group. Race timing provided for 5K and 10K runs only; not 5K walk.

**COMPUTERIZED RESULTS by A Change of Pace**

Race results will be posted on the Internet at www.PaloAltoOnline.com 10am on 10/9. Registration forms must be filled out completely and correctly for results to be accurate. Neither Change of Pace nor Palo Alto Weekly are responsible for incorrect results caused by incomplete or incorrect registration forms.

**AWARDS/PRIZES/ENTERTAINMENT**

Top three finishers in each division. Prize giveaways and refreshments. DJ, Efren Ayala. Pre-race warmup by Andre Bobo.

**BENEFICIARY**

Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund. A holiday-giving fund to benefit Palo Alto area non-profits and charitable organizations. In April 2006, 43 organizations received a total of $220,000.

**MORE INFORMATION**

Call (650) 463-4920, (650) 326-8210, email MoonlightRun@paweekly.com or go to www.PaloAltoOnline.com.

For safety reasons, no dogs allowed on course for the 5K and 10K runs. They are welcome on the 5K walk only. No retractable leashes! Please bring your own clean-up bag. Jogging strollers welcome in the 5K walk or at the back of either run. Flashlights/head lights recommended.

First aid service and chiropractic evaluations provided by K. Skinner, R.N., D.C., Sports and Spinal Injury Specialist.

Register online at www.PaloAltoOnline.com
Deaths

Archie Powell

Archie Powell, 70, of East Palo Alto, died July 24. Born in Carson, Miss., on March 12, 1936, as an adult he relocated to San Francisco and worked for the Hewett Brenner Company and Pan American Airlines. Later he moved to East Palo Alto and worked in construction, retiring after 30 years. He enjoyed motorcycling and became the business manager of the Jungle Rider Motorcycle Club and a master mason of the United Brotherhood. Fondly known as “Mr. Fixit” to his neighbors and friends, he also loved working on cars, fishing, hunting and entertaining family and friends, his loved ones recalled. He was preceded in death by his son, Clint Powell. He is survived by his wife, Marie Powell of East Palo Alto; his children, Foster Powell, Scottie Powell and his wife Carolyn, Archie Powell Jr., Marcell Powell, Reginald Powell, Zerrette Powell and Jeanne Powell, all of East Palo Alto; two sisters, Bessie Funches of Mississippi and Hattie Owens of San Francisco; 12 grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Services were held Aug. 2 at New Sweet Home Church in East Palo Alto.

Maurice Viand

Maurice Viand, 90, died July 7. He was born in Pasadena on April 17, 1916, to Frank and Jeanne Luc Viand, immigrants from France. When he was 11, the family moved to Palo Alto. He attended Palo Alto High School and worked at Yosemite National Park during the summers. After two years at San Mateo Junior College, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. He served in Guam, Iceland and Guadalcanal as a lieutenant and then as a major. During his lifetime, he always loved “his Marines,” particularly “the old corps.” After the war, he graduated from San Francisco State University.

He married Mary Cleveland. They had three children and later divorced. He entered the real-estate business in Palo Alto and won many professional awards. In 1970 he married Barbara Decker, a real-estate colleague. Seven years later, the couple moved to San Diego, where they lived for many years. He was an ardent Padres fan, and baseball season was his favorite time of year.

In 2003 the Viands moved to Santa Barbara, where they settled at the Maravilla Senior Living community. They were very happy there, enjoying walking, playing duplicate bridge, participating in current event discussion groups and making many new friends, loved ones recalled.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara Viand of Santa Barbara; a daughter, Patricia Salvione of Portland, Ore.; two sons, Maurice Viand, Jr., of Fields Landing and Kenneth Viand of Scotts Valley; three stepdaughters, Janice Fisher of Menlo Park, Stephanie Larsson of Santa Barbara and Tina Long of Santa Barbara; and several grandchildren.

Memorial services are pending.

Stacey Greenberg Zonka

Stacey Greenberg Zonka died July 13 in Palo Alto. She was 50 years old.

She was born in Palo Alto, where she attended Jordan Junior High and Palo Alto High School. She received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in education and dance from Stanford University.

She was a dancer and choreographer and performed internationally with the Margarit Dance Theatre Company. She also taught dance and for the last 17 years was the instructor of children’s dance at Stanford. In addition, she taught at Peninsula School in Menlo Park.

She is survived by her children, Azar Zonka, Eva Solnick and Noah Solnick, all of Menlo Park; her three brothers, Gary Greenberg of Illinois, Seth Greenberg of Connecticut and Joshua Greenberg of Oakland; and her parents, Max and Gloria Greenberg of Palo Alto.

Graveside services were held at Alta Mesa Memorial Park on July 14.

Births

Heriberto Baez and Sylvia Sierra of East Palo Alto, a son, July 24.

Raymond Turner and Freda McCullough of East Palo Alto, a daughter, July 25.

Armando Torres and Lizeth Connelo of Menlo Park, a son, July 28.

San Francisco Opera in her name.

Deceased

Announcement for
even since. The couple will live in Los Altos.

Quek-Dewees

Amy Quek and Matthew Clayton Dewees were married July 9 in Singapore. The bride is the daughter of Yang Ai Yeok and the late Quek Sin Siong. A graduate of Temasek Polytechnic, she is the manager of industry relations and artistic develop- ment for Lucasfilm Animation Singapore. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Dewees III of Austin, Texas. A graduate of Gunn High School and Southern Methodist University, he is a tech- nical director with Facade Digital. The couple will live in Singapore.

Marilyn Fern Sturrock

Passed away peacefully in her sleep on Friday, July 14, 2006, finally succumbing to a three-year siege by ALS. She was the beloved and treasured wife of Peter Sturrock. Marilyn was born Marilyn Fern Sterson in Minneapolis on September 14, 1930, and was educated at the University of Minnesota and Mills College, specializing in philosophy. Her avocation was music: she played both the cello and the piano, and sang in several choruses, notably with the Robert Shaw Chorale in New York City. Her profession was management in the department store business, and she was Manager of Miller and Rhodes in Charlottesville, Virginia, where Peter met her during the Christmas season in 1961. For Peter, it was a case of love at first sight. Marilyn and Peter lived for 40 years on the Stanford Campus and, more recently, at The Hamilton in Palo Alto.

Marilyn is survived by Peter; a son Colin who lives at the Lanterman Developmental Center in Pomona; daughters Deirdre Baer of Tualatin, Oregon and Myra Backman of Mountain View, and Cheryl Baer of Pittsfield, Massachusetts. Deirdre Baer of Tualatin, Oregon and Myra Backman of Mountain View, and Cheryl Baer of Pittsfield, Massachusetts. She is dearly missed by the Sturrock and Stenson families and by her many friends.

Tributes in honor of Marilyn may be sent to the San Francisco Opera in her name.

Byrigan & Company Cremation, Burlingame.
The Children’s Health Council

Do you know a child who:

- seems to be behind in development?
- has problems making friends?
- is struggling in school?
- is displaying unusual emotions or behavior?

The Children’s Health Council
Answers for families, help for kids.

The Children’s Health Council (CHC) has a rich history of serving our community’s children and their families. Founded in 1953 by Esther B. Clark, one of Palo Alto’s first pediatricians, CHC provides assessment and treatment services in multiple disciplines, including psychiatry, psychology, neuropsychology, social work, education, behavior management, family therapy, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy and art therapy. Our goal is to help children reach their maximum potential by building on their strengths and teaching them strategies to overcome their challenges. CHC’s multidisciplinary approach and areas of expertise—developmental and behavioral assessment of infants through school-aged children; children with Autism Spectrum Disorders; preschool, school-aged and adolescent group therapy and children with complex medical problems—make it unique among care providers in the Bay Area.

CHC provides services through four divisions. The initial entry into the Outpatient Clinic is the information and referral service. Expert staff responded to more than 4,500 calls this past year from parents and caregivers, offering them encouragement, referrals to other community resources or information about help available at CHC. The clinic provides assessment and treatment services to more than 1,400 children and their families each year.

The Esther B. Clark School is a therapeutic day school for elementary, middle and high school students who have significant learning, emotional, behavioral and/or developmental challenges. Located on-site at CHC, the school has a capacity for up to 90 full-time students who are referred by local school districts because they are not able to function in regular schools. Usually within one to two years, they learn the skills they need to transition successfully back.

CHC’s Educational Services division provides parent education through workshops and the Parent Resource Center as well as professional development training to hundreds of educators each year. CHC is a regional site for the Schools Attuned program, which trains teachers to identify learning differences in children and to develop teaching strategies to foster academic success for all students.

Outcomes Measurement and Research evaluates CHC programs regularly for quality and effectiveness and also provides consulting to other non-profits that want to develop their own capability for measuring program impact and success.

Thanks to the generosity of individuals, corporations and foundations in our community, CHC is able to provide financial assistance to families who would otherwise not be able to obtain services their children need. The issues facing children and families have changed over the years, but CHC’s commitment to providing quality, family-focused services continues.
Growing up in the Philippines, Bert Torres and often walked barefoot to a school that supplies could not provide its students with running water, electricity or radio. Yet looking back at his childhood at the impoverished Tapulao Elementary School in Orani — a municipality of the Bataan province — Torres said: “I was very happy because I didn’t know any better. Everybody was poor.”

Fifty years later, Torres — a resident of Palo Alto and the owner of his own accounting firm, Irvin, Abrahamson & Company CPAs, Inc. — knows better. He is on a personal mission to lift the school out of its dismal poverty by setting up the Tapulao Elementary School Fund with the Kiwanis Club of Palo Alto, of which he has been a member since 1986.

The fund is fairly new; since Torres conceived the idea only a few months ago.

“I was trying to find meaning in my life, so I thought this might be a good project to initiate — giving back to the community that I grew up in,” he said.

Torres began the first grade when he was only 5 years old because the destruction wrought by WWII significantly reduced the number of children in his village — where most people made their livings as either fishermen or farmers. The situation was so severe that teachers went door to door in search of children to fill their classrooms.

During his elementary school years, there were a little more than 200 students at Tapulao.

Working his way through the country’s education system, Torres attended high school in the town proper and went on to graduate from college on Manila. In 1972, Torres immigrated to the United States, settling at first in St. Louis, Miss. Eleven years later he relocated to California where he worked in Palo Alto and lived in San Jose. He has been a resident of Palo Alto now since 1989.

Torres is a man who generally prefers to keep a low profile. “I really didn’t want to advertise this because to me this is not really a big deal. It’s a simple thing. I just want to do it as my own project, as part of the Palo Alto Kiwanis project and I’m willing to fund it myself,” he said.

Over the past 50 or so years, things have not improved for Torres’ childhood home. The village and its education system were dealt a

Continued on next page
Back to the source
(continued from page 15)

particularly devastating blow in June of 1991 with the eruption of Mount Pinatubo, considered by many to be the largest and most destructive volcanic eruption of the 20th century.

According to Torres, since the natural catastrophe buried several towns in ashes, many displaced peoples flocked to Orani for safety and subsequently put a strain on the village’s resources — including its schools.

“The village is more poor now than it was back then, and the reason is because there are more children nowadays,” he said. “There are children who go to school in the Philippines without having breakfast or lunch. It’s a Third-World country, that’s what it is.”

Judy Kramer, who serves on the Kiwanis Club’s International Committee, said the Tapulao Elementary School and the Kiwanis Club are now ready to carry out the first phase of the project, providing needed school supplies to 60 students at the school. This first group of children has been identified as those who would otherwise be unable to afford pencils, paper, rulers and scissors. Torres also sits on this International Committee.

“How can children learn arithmetic, spelling or writing when they don’t have a pencil?” Kramer asked.

In addition to school supplies and textbooks, Torres also

Continued on next page

The 1955-56 third-grade class of Tapulao Elementary School in Orani, a municipality of the Bataan province in the Philippines.

“The village is more poor now than it was back then, and the reason is because there are more children nowadays.”

—Bert Torres

Bert Torres is working with the Kiwanis Club of Palo Alto.
Continued from previous page

hopes to provide breakfast to students who find themselves going to school on empty stomachs.

Thus far, Torres has donated $2,500 to the Palo Alto Kiwanis Foundation and plans to donate more. He has also sent money to the principal of Tapulao Elementary and asked the principal to set up a bank account so he and other donors can wire money to the school. Although this particular process of setting up a bank account has not gone smoothly, Torres is confident this hurdle will be cleared and other kinks will eventually be ironed out as well.

According to Kramer, the work of Kiwanis' International Committee is to look for international opportunities for the organization to act on its mission to "serve the children of the world."

"When [Torres] talked about his interest in this school, it seemed like a great opportunity to serve children in another part of the world where we had a personal connection. The world is pretty small. What affects children in one place affects children where we are," she said.

Another example of the organization's international work is its partnership with UNICEF to curtail iodine deficiency (when put in salt, iodine can help prevent many serious childhood illnesses). Kiwanis also organizes funding and service projects on the local level.

Once the relationship between Kiwanis and the school is established, Kramer said the organization would then be able to launch more ambitious projects, such as building a library or providing classrooms with computers.

For Kramer, Torres' project and vision fit what she feels to be one of America's most prominent national and historical narratives.

"The thing that drew me to Bert's project is that we are a nation of mostly immigrants, and it's just the great immigrant story. He is someone from a very modest background, comes to the United States, gets an education and becomes a productive member of the community," she said.

"He wants to make things a little easier for children from the place he came from."

But for Torres, the matter is somewhat simpler.

"This is really a personal project for me. I'm just happy to adopt this school that I went to. That's all."

Editorial Intern Anabel Lee can be reached at alee@paweekly.com.

Top, the sixth-grade class of the Tapulao Elementary School, circa 1959.

Above, the second-grade class of 1955.

About the cover
Cover photograph courtesy of Bert Torres.
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LOOK FOR THESE SAVINGS AND MORE ON www.PaloAltoOnline.com
Friday
“The Dancing Spider,” a tale of a spider who dreams up ideas to avoid work, takes the stage in a children’s theater production by Peninsula Youth Theatre. The 6:30 show is free and takes place on the ParkStage adjacent to the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts. The lawn seating often invites picnics. Call 650-903-6000 or go to www.mcvpa.com.

Saturday
A summer party is planned at the ArtsIndya West gallery, complete with appetizers from Junoon restaurant, classical music from members of the Stanford flute ensemble and a tarot card reader. Oh, and the exhibited art of Shipta Bhattacharya. The party is from 4 to 7 p.m. at 535 Bryant St. in Palo Alto. Call 650-321-4900.

Sunday
“Vintage Vehicles and Family Festival” returns to Palo Alto, held at El Camino Park by the Museum of American Heritage. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., antique cars, classics, hot rods, motorcycles and other vehicles will be shown. Other activities include live music, jugglers, food booths and displays of LEGO models. The park is across from Stanford Shopping Center. Unlike in past years, the event is free due to underwriting by sponsors. Call 650-321-1004 or go to www.r-house.org.

Jonathan Amores plays Sid Sorokin and Jessie Ferguson is Babe Williams in “The Pajama Game,” put on by the Wingfoot Summer Stock Company in Palo Alto.

A review of “Brooklyn Boy,” a new play written and directed by Amy A. Ginsburg, takes the stage in a middle-aged novelist winning a tumultuous success, is being formed ArtsIndia West gallery, complete with appetizers from Junoon restaurant, classical music from members of the Stanford flute ensemble and a tarot card reader. Oh, and the exhibited art of Shipta Bhattacharya. The party is from 4 to 7 p.m. at 535 Bryant St. in Palo Alto. Call 650-321-4900.

Adam Roszkiewicz and Alisa Rose perform Swedish folk tunes on mandolin and violin as part of the Rengstorff House at 3070 N. Shoreline Blvd. in Mountain View. The free 2 p.m. concert with lawn seating is part of a series of weekly concerts this month; there are also various visual artists exhibiting in the house. Call 650-903-6073 or go to www.r-house.org.

Just click and read. It’s that easy. Check out Weekly arts editor Rebecca Wallace’s blog at www.Palo AltoOnline.com; scroll down to Ad Libs.

Weekend Preview
Classic cars take center stage at the Vintage Vehicles and Family Festival, held Sunday at El Camino Park in Palo Alto. Pictured is a 1910 Stanley Steamer from last year’s event.

Thursday
“The Pajama Game” fills the Roy A. Ginsburg Magic Stage with classic show tunes and plenty of jammies, courtesy of the Wingspread Summer Stock Company of the Palo Alto Children’s Theatre. The stage is in the Secret Garden of the theater at 1305 Middlefield Road in Palo Alto. Show times are 7 p.m. tonight and Friday. Tickets, alas, are not “7 1/2 Cents”; they’re $8 for adults and $4 for children. Call 650-463-4940.


Saturday’s concert is to be discontinued due to cuts in city funding. The party is from 4 to 7 p.m. at 535 Bryant St. in Palo Alto. Call 650-321-4900.

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Ad Libs

A review of “Annie Get Your Gun” at Foothill Music Theatre.

A review of “World Trade Center.”
Yes Reading

When Velvet started second grade at Selby Lane Elementary last August, she struggled with basic phonics skills and had a lot of trouble reading in the classroom. Her teacher referred her to YES Reading, an on-site tutoring program. Eight months later, she is reading fluently and with confidence. Her reading abilities have steadily improved and her teacher beams when talking about the progress Velvet has made.

When Eric entered YES Reading’s program at Belle Haven School, he only recognized half of the letters in the alphabet and could not read basic words. He trailed behind in his first grade class, where students were expected to be able to read short books. At YES Reading, Eric worked diligently with his tutors to master all of the letter sounds and put them together into words. Now, Eric can navigate through books at his grade level and is confident and proud of his reading skills.

Research shows that children who are not reading at grade level by third grade are significantly less likely to graduate from high school and continue on to college than those children who are on level by third grade. Without extra reading support and attention, Velvet and Eric could have fallen through the cracks academically and struggled for many years. Instead, both of these children are strong, confident readers, putting them on a path toward successful and productive futures.

Velvet and Eric are two of more than 250 children in San Mateo & Santa Clara counties whose reading skills are improving thanks in part to the efforts of YES Reading. YES Reading is a locally-based, non-profit organization that partners with public schools and operates on-campus reading centers at no cost to the school or school district. YES Reading recruits and trains community volunteers to provide one-on-one tutoring to elementary and middle school students both during and after the school day.

Volunteer tutors work with students in a well-structured, curriculum-based program that builds students’ literacy skills. Tutors are supported by an on-site program director who tracks students’ progress, helps tutors implement lesson materials, and serves as a liaison between students’ tutors, classroom teachers, and parents. YES Reading’s goal is to work with its partner school campuses to close students’ reading gaps and position these students for academic success and achievement in the future.

Last year, 87% of children in YES Reading’s target population narrowed their reading gap. On average, students gained one grade level after thirty hours of tutoring. “YES Reading not only helps students make tremendous gains in their reading abilities,” says Sarah Almy, YES Reading Executive Director, “but the individual attention from our tutors also gives the children in our program a huge boost in confidence and a more positive outlook on their future academic prospects.”

A current YES Reading student, Sonia Barrera, explains why YES Reading is so helpful to students. “Most [YES Reading students] didn’t like to read before they came to YES Reading, mostly because they weren’t that good at it. But YES Reading showed us that reading could be fun, and our tutors helped us to realize that reading would make a better future for us.”

Barrera added, “My tutor is so much more than just a tutor for me. She is like a friend.”

If you are interested in volunteering with YES Reading or would like to learn more about the program, please visit www.yesreading.org or call (650) 326-0996.
Movies

Movie reviews by Jeanne Aufmuth, Tyler Hanley, and Susan Tavernetti

Show times for the Century theaters were still unconfirmed at press time. For up-to-date movie times go to www.PaloAltoOnline.com.

Note: Screenings are for Wednesday through Thursday only.

A Scanner Darkly (R) ***+1/2

Century 20: 4:05, 4:30, 4:55, 6:45, 7:30, 8:10, 9:20, 10:10 p.m.

An Inconvenient Truth (PG) ***+1/2

Century 20: 11:35 a.m.; 2, 4:40, 7:10, 9:30 p.m. CineArts at Palo Alto Square: 12:15, 4:25, 7 & 9:30 p.m.

The Ant Bully (PG) (Not Reviewed)

Century 20: Noon, 12:45, 2, 3:30, 4:15, 5:15, 6:45, 7:30, 9 & 9:45 p.m.

Barnyard: The Original Party Animals (PG) (Not Reviewed)

Century 20: 11:25 a.m.; 1:20, 12, 12:55, 14: 2, 2:30, 3-10, 3:55, 4:40, 5:25, 6:15, 7, 7:40, 8, 8:35, 9:10 & 9:55 p.m.

Cars (G) ***+1/2

Century 16: 11 a.m. Century 20: 11:05 a.m.; 1:15 & 1:55, 3:30, 5, 5:40, 7, 7:45, 8, 9 & 9:50 p.m.

Cher (R) ***

Century 20: 11:45 a.m.; 2, 4:30, 5:30 & 7:30 p.m.

Click (PG-13) ***+

Century 20: 11:45 a.m.; 2, 4:30, 5:30 & 7:30 p.m.

The Da Vinci Code (PG-13) ***

Century 20: 11:30 a.m. & 1:45, 4:15, 6, 7:45, 8, 9:30 & 10:30 p.m. Century 12: 11:20 a.m.; 12:30, 1:45, 2:30, 3:40, 4:25, 5:10, 6:25, 7:45, 9 & 9:50 p.m.

The Descent (R) ***

Century 20: 11:20 a.m.; 12:30, 2, 2:15, 3:15, 4:30, 5:20 & 7:30 p.m. Century 12: 11:20 a.m.; 12:30, 1:45, 2:30, 3:40, 4:50, 6, 7:15, 8:15 & 9:20 p.m.

The Devil Wears Prada (PG-13) ***


John Tucker Must Die (PG-13) ***

Century 20: 11:20 a.m.; 12:30, 1:45, 2:30, 3:40, 4:50, 6, 7:15, 8:15 & 9:20 p.m.

Lady in the Water (PG-13) **

Century 20: 11:05 a.m. & 9:05 p.m. Century 20: 11:05 a.m.; 2:45, 5:10, 7:50 & 10:35 p.m.

Little Man (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)

Century 20: 12:40, 2:05, 3:50, 8 & 10:20 p.m.

Little Miss Sunshine (R) **

Century 20: 12:30, 2, 2:15, 3:45, 4:30, 7, 7:30, 9:30 & 9:50 p.m.

Miami Vice (R) *

Century 12: 10:55 a.m.; 11:50, 1:20, 2:15, 3:10, 4:15, 5:10, 6, 7:45, 8, 10 & 10:15 p.m.

Monster House (PG) ***

Century 20: 11:15 a.m.; 1:25, 2, 2:35, 4:50, 7:40 & 10 p.m. Century 12: 11:30 a.m. & 7:30, 8 & 9:50 p.m.

My Super Ex-Girlfriend (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)

Century 16: 11:45, 1:45 & 8:50 p.m. Century 20: 7:30 & 10:15 p.m.

The Night Listener (R) ***+1/2


Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man’s Chest (PG-13) **


Scoop (PG-13)**

Century 16: 11:55 a.m.; 12:15, 1, 2:05, 2:30, 4, 4:45, 5, 5:30, 6, 7:20, 7, 7:45, 8, 9:15, 10 & 10:40 p.m.

Superman Returns (PG-13) ***+1/2


Tailleaeva Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby (PG-13) ***


Who Killed the Electric Car? (PG) **

Gold: 2:50 & 7 p.m.

World Trade Center (PG-13)

Century 20: 11:10 a.m. & 2, 4:50, 7:40 & 10:30 p.m.

You, Me and Dupree (PG-13) **


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

Aquariums: 430 Emerson St., Palo Alto (666-9260)
Century Cinema 16: 1500 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View (960-0970)
Century Park 1:2: 557 E. Bayshore Blvd., Redwood City (985-9000)
Century 20 Downtown: 825 Middelfield Road, Redwood City (686-9456)
CineArts at Palo Alto Square: 3000 El Camino Real, Palo Alto (493-3456)
Guild: 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park (266-9260)
Stanford: 221 University Ave., Palo Alto (324-3700)

Internet address: For show times, plot synopses, trailers and more information about films playing, go to Palo Alto Online at http://www.PaloAltoOnline.com/

ON THE WEB: The most up-to-date movie listings at www.PaloAltoOnline.com

The Stanford Theatre is at 221 University Ave. in Palo Alto. Screenings are for Wednesday and Thursday. Call 650-324-3700 or go to www.stanfordtheatre.org.

Babes on Broadway (1942) Tommy Williams aspires to sing on Broadway, and with the help of his new girlfriend, Penny Morris, conceives of a charity show to help orphans. But Tommy cares less about impoverished youth than about himself.

Starring Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland. 5:20 & 9:40 p.m.

Broadway Melody of 1938 (1937) A young horse trainer is discovered by a talent agent. The pair begin a romance and train a horse to win a race, financing their Broadway musical. Starring Robert Taylor, Eleanor Powell and Judy Garland. 7:30 p.m.
General high marks for City Council

Palo Alto’s elected city leaders have set a new tone of civility, listening and lack of hidden agendas — even if one disagrees with their actions or directions.

What a difference a couple of years makes. In 2003, and for several years prior, the Palo Alto City Council had been fractionalized.

One side was spearheaded by former Councilwoman Nancy Nyström and the other consisted of members who for the most part — with some notable exceptions — were fearful about candidly discussing in public what was going on within the council.

That is now past, it seems. Watching the council members discuss, debate and puzzle over issues shows a model of democratic give and take, whether or not one agrees with the outcome on specific items. Members clearly have their individual opinions, and voice them openly — but courteously, with virtually no signs of one-upmanship moves or theatrics.

Monday night’s meeting, the last before the council’s annual August recess, saw the council wrestling with a complex proposal to slow down the building of new housing by rezoning commercial properties to prevent their conversion exclusively to housing.

The council split 5-2 on approving the rezoning, with two members absent. Most members were confused by some details and implications of the rezoning. But the majority listened politely to dissects by Mayor Judy Kleinberg and Councilwoman Dena Mossar, both longtime advocates of below-market-rate housing. Mossar also cautioned that blanket rezoning doesn’t always produce the outcome people desire, and urged extreme caution.

Later, the council split 4-3 on whether to include City Manager Frank Benest in a set of bonuses for the council appointed officers: the manager, city attorney, city clerk and city auditor. The council finally opted for a 2 percent bonus for Benest after some members made it clear they expected a more attentive and better performance from him in the coming year.

A council that debates issues openly and civilly may not make for the most dramatic headlines, but its work process has already begun to show positive results as it approaches the first third of its two-year tenure as a council.

The work product can be judged separately.

City should restore Brown Bag Concerts

For some unexplained reason, Palo Alto has opted not to seek donations this year to keep the summertime Brown Bag Concerts around next year. Thursday’s concert in Cogswell Plaza is billed as the last of the 25-year-old series.

Two years ago, longtime resident and YMCA volunteer fundraiser Elliot Bolter took it upon himself to solicit pledges to save both the Brown Bag series and the better-attended Tuesday evening Twilight Concerts, which are to return next year. Bolter’s efforts and enthusiasm — he’s the tall man who wore a bright, funny hat while handing out pledge cards at the concerts — produced more than $40,000 and saved both series, for a time.

But the city staff, with City Council acquiescence, opted last spring to jettison the Brown Bag series — and officials quietly let it be known that fundraising efforts would not be welcome. There is no comparison in popularity: Twilight Concerts typically draw 800 to 1,000 persons, peaking to nearly 2,000 at one recent concert, according to producer Suzanne Warren of the city Recreation Department.

But the Brown Bag Concerts at Cogswell Plaza in downtown Palo Alto are attended by 80 to 100 persons — a quite different audience. There are some young mothers with children or babies in strollers and some college-age attendees. But the audience is predominantly older — seniors from the adjacent Avenidas senior center or Lytton Gardens a few blocks away, some in wheelchairs. And there are some homeless.

The city expects to save about $10,000 in a tight budget year. But that doesn’t explain why staff discouraged fundraising efforts, which could have made it a break-even deal.

When the council returns from its August vacation, we hope someone will ask, “Why?” Thursday’s event should not be the last of this long-running, human-scale series, mostly attended by persons who usually can’t attend such performances.

The real problems

Editor

The streets near my house are so potholed and uneven that I need to have my car aligned twice a year.

This week Palo Alto citizens marched in the streets to protest the unprecedented crime wave that’s hit our city.

Recently, 18 utility department employees left after it was discovered that some had been using city equipment during working hours to do private jobs in Menlo Park.

We don’t have an obvious way to pay for either libraries or a new police station. Hotels, car dealerships and other tax-paying businesses are leaving the city in droves. Meanwhile, the city’s unions are looting the city treasury to pay for lavish health benefits and retirement plans while the city manager has the city pay his property taxes for him.

What are our elected council members doing to address these serious problems that call into question whether our city government can perform even its basic functions competently?

Well, according to Yoriko Kishimoto and Larry Klein (Guest Opinion, Aug. 2), they’re looking into wiring up the city with a “leading-edge” data network — on which, they say, Palo Alto’s quality of life depends.

Maybe — in some alternative universe — that’s true. A data network might be a nice frill for the city to have, but I bet in the real world, most Palo Alto residents would settle for moderately well-maintained streets and sidewalks that can use without being unfairly fearful of being accosted by criminals with guns.

Chris Saari
Bryant Street
Palo Alto

Peace and quiet

Editor

On July 1, 2005, when the ban on gas-powered leaf blowers took effect, the quality of life and our environment improved dramatically in Palo Alto.

When I ride my bicycle here I no longer have to put up with clouds of dust and gas-oil fumes. In our garden, we now enjoy peace and quiet instead of the whine and fumes from nearby leaf-blowers.

We not only urge the City of Palo Alto to maintain this long-sought ban, which has provided such welcome relief from these intrusive, environmentally insensitive operations, but, for the sake of those who live near commercial properties, we recommend that the city extend the ban so that it includes all of Palo Alto.

The residential areas of Palo Alto are doing just fine without gas-powered blowers, so there is no reason why people on or near commercial properties must tolerate a degraded, unhealthy environment, which is undoubtedly bad for public relations.

The experience of the past year demonstrates that gas-powered leaf blowers are simply not needed, so there is no point to reconsidering this ban, now or in the future, on the basis of promised new technologies that have been “just over the horizon” for the last 20 years or so.

Art McGarr
La Calle Court
Palo Alto

No need to recant

Editor

Palo Alto definitely should not reconsider its ban on gas-powered blowers. The wise decision was years in coming and we should not backtrack.

Finally, we are spared the noise and fumes from the gas machines.

While we do not have a gardener — relying on rakes and brooms to clean our yard — we are surrounds by people who do. In my opinion, even the electric blowers are still damaging to the environment and the air quality.

With every gardener, the air fills with dust, dirt and debris blown out of the employer’s yard and toward the street or surrounding yards. In the dry weather especially, clouds of dust drift through the air, aggravating allergies.

The council should not recant. Barbara Bogner
Greer Road
Palo Alto

Clean air priority

Editor

No, Palo Alto should not reconsider its ban on gas-powered leaf blowers.

(continued on page 26)
Guest Opinion

What do we want our libraries to do?

by Valerie Hunt Stinger

Much has been written in local papers about the recommendations for the libraries and about the constituent groups. Community groups and individuals have been vocal and have written to the City Council and the Library Advisory Commission (LAC).

But I, as a relatively new LAC member, find it frustrating that we haven’t focused on the important issues. It feels as if we’ve been setting the table before planning the menu.

We haven’t honestly considered what Palo Alto’s libraries can do or should do — we’re hung up on how many doors and windows without consideration for the soul of the program. Branches are important to this community. Accordingly, the City Council has protected branches and the LAC’s Library Service Model Analysis and Recommendations (LSMAR) commits to branches. We have decided on the heirloom crystal and china.

Now we need to consider what we are going to serve: Where’s the meat?

When I look at my neighbor’s plate, I admit to some sadness and envy. Daniel Alarcon, author of “War by Candlelight,” appeared at the East Palo Alto Library this year just prior to Cinco de Mayo. Mountain View has a program. Senior Mornings, when the library opens early for seniors.

Transportation is coordinated with senior centers and users have “personal shopping” attention. Los Altos hosts World Affairs Council programs as part of the library’s lecture series. Redwood City Library partners with Montalvo to sponsor a poetry competition at the Fox Theater. Santa Clara, Mountain View and Redwood City have bilingual story hours. Mountain View provides small group study/research spaces.

Many of these communities have invested in facility upgrades to achieve their vision.

While our librarians do an excellent job, Palo Alto City Libraries can do so much more for language learners and to be more forward-thinking in our planning for seniors and others. We can help young persons better navigate this bewildering world of choices and encourage critical thinking.

Public libraries are more than caretakers of printed material and media. Community libraries can be well designed to house rich collections and, at the same time, be flexible spaces providing community enrichment through innovative access to literature and reference resources, literacy programs, lifelong learning and cultural awareness programs.

The picture is not all bleak. Palo Alto library staff is creative and truly cares about outreach. Maya Spector, coordinator of library programs, has organized a special program for October: “Palo Alto Reads... Funny in Farsi.” It has every promise of being a dynamic literary event and a cultural exchange that engages diverse segments of our community. Maya says the program came together because the temporary closing of the Children’s Library provided a bit of wiggle room in her schedule. But it may be not be a sustainable model given the normal staff workload.

The need to increase our collection is also recognized in the Library Service Model and by the council. In July, the council directed staff to come back with a plan to use technology to enhance resource sharing, including inter-library loan services such as Link Plus. There are issues such as software compatibility, implementation and maintenance costs, and loans to other library systems. But these are expected to be outweighed by the advantages of an inter-library loan service, which could clearly provide an important boost to city library collections.

Nonetheless, it doesn’t address all the issues of our core collection. Projections, based on Mountain View’s experience, are that a Link Plus type system would account for less than one percent of check-outs.

Send us letters — check out Town Square!
The Weekly accepts letters of approximately 250–300 words. We reserve the right to edit for length, libel, poor taste or personal attacks. E-mail to letters@weekly.com, or mail to 703 High St., Palo Alto, CA 94302. Submitting a letter constitutes a granting of permission to include the letter in the Weekly’s online archives and to include it as a posting in Town Square, the new feature of the Weekly’s community Web site, www.PaloAltoOnline.com.

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Public libraries are more than caretakers of printed material and media. Community libraries can be well designed to house rich collections and, at the same time, to be flexible spaces providing community enrichment through innovative access to literature and reference resources, literacy programs, lifelong learning and cultural awareness programs.

Do you think Palo Alto should prevent commercial areas from turning into housing?

Asked outside Whole Foods on Homer Avenue and Midtown Shopping Center on Middlefield Road in Palo Alto. Question and interviews by Anabel Lee. Photographs by Norbert von der Groeben.

David Bergen
Web site manager
South Hampton Drive

“I feel like there’s been a lot of housing buildup now. I prefer we go a little slower on the housing and try to prevent too much business and revenue from leaving the city.”

Gayle Koralek
Instructional aide at Jordan Middle School
Bryant Street

“It seems they should build more cheaper, or inexpensive, housing. We definitely need more housing as the population grows.”

Susan Moore
Unemployed
Layne Court

“It’s really good to have a diversity of housing, retail and areas for artists. [It shows] that Palo Alto can think outside the box. There should be low-income housing for teachers, firefighters and people who work on the newspaper.”

Linda Hoffman
Artist
Madrono Avenue

“Let’s keep Palo Alto a small town for as long as possible. There should be as much low-income housing to accommodate as many low-income people as possible.”

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St. Elizabeth Seton School

Eager to Learn  Ready to Serve

Kindergartners at the outset of their rewarding experience at Seton School.

St. Elizabeth Seton School is located on Channing Avenue in Palo Alto, and is entirely dedicated to the education of children from East Palo Alto and the surrounding low-income communities. Our goal is to provide a strong academic and religious foundation that will prepare students to be successful in high school, college and beyond. Currently, 262 students are enrolled in grades K-8. With a high percentage of bilingual students, Seton School concentrates on language arts: reading, writing and speaking. This is complemented by a strong math and science program.

A majority of Seton students and families take advantage of the Extended Day Program which makes before and after school care available free of charge. Children who remain on campus after 3 pm have the opportunity to participate in a number of extracurricular activities. Students can get academic support at Homework Club, join a school sports team, or have fun in one of the various club activities.

Through the generosity and financial support of local donors, Seton School is able to enhance academic instruction with hands-on science experiments, music, drama, field trips and outdoor education experiences. Community members generously volunteer their time to tutor students before, during and after classes. A group of Stanford graduate students spend one afternoon a month with the 4th graders teaching a Young Astronauts curriculum. Castilleja students moderate the Robotics Club, and Sacred Heart Prep students recently conducted a 6 week Running Club.

The collective efforts of the Seton faculty and the local community, combined with the peaceful Palo Alto location, create a unique and very successful learning environment. Virtually all Seton graduates complete high school and about half go on to college.
Dilemma of how best to help the homeless

by Diana Diamond

Overheard on Union Street in San Francisco: As two homeless men walked by, one turned to the other and said, “You know, the problem with living in Palo Alto is that we just don’t get the same ocean breezes there as we do here in San Francisco.”

That’s the lighter side of a troubling problem that has been facing downtown Palo Alto for years — the homeless. Some believe new homeless are arriving, some from San Francisco, but no one is really keeping track.

The regulars sit on benches along University Avenue around Starbucks and Walgreens as Passers-by, almost demanding money. Las Vegas recently took a draconian approach by forbidding anyone, under severe penalty of law, to give food to the homeless in a park. Not even a biscuit. Violating the ordinance can be punished by a fine of up to $1,000 or a jail term of up to six months, or both. Las Vegas’ homeless population has shrunk in the past decade to about 12,000 people. The city said they are running efforts to beautify the downtown and neighborhoods.

So it passed its don’t-feed-the-homeless-in-the-parks ordinance. The city hopes the homeless will instead seek meals at soup kitchens.

Palo Alto has had a see-saw, tough-gentle approach toward dealing with its homeless problem.

However, Las Vegas park-goers can give food to their friends in a park (as long as their friends are not homeless). Opponents of the new measure ask sarcastically if they first should get financial statements from everyone before serving any food.

Palo Alto has had a see-saw, tough-gentle approach toward dealing with its homeless problem. Several years ago the City Council adopted a “sit-lie” ordinance directed at the homeless. It prohibited anyone from sitting or lying on the sidewalks. The council also declared that the homeless cannot seek handouts at certain locations, most notably median strips on busy streets. And just a couple of weeks ago, the council passed another law that prohibited people from urinating or defecating in public places, also affecting the homeless.

But the city is also trying to help them. The Palo Alto Downtown Business and Professional Association hires several homeless to clean the streets of the city daily, in exchange for room and meal vouchers. The report card still is mixed. Some worry the Opportunity Center may become a magnet for more homeless to come to Palo Alto, and Johnson admits this could occur, particularly when the center first opens.

We’ll just have to wait and see. Maybe the Opportunity Center itself will be a magnet and successfully get the homeless away from downtown. Maybe it will provide enough training and psychological help to enable the homeless to re-orient their lives.

The center is a big step in the right direction, for it allows this city to actually do something that could permanently help some homeless who truly desire an opportunity.

Diana Diamond is a longtime Palo Alto resident. She also has a blog online at www.paloaltoonline.com. Her e-mail is Diana@DianaDiamond.com.
since banning them. The area around my house is much quieter and the air is cleaner.

Try water sweeps
Editor,
It is time to take another look at water sweeps. They were used for years to clean large lawn areas. They came out of favor because they supposedly wasted water, but since most of the water stayed on the lawn this was a specious argument. Not only is a water sweep quiet, it wets down the leaves and dust. Walter E. Wallis Waverley Street Palo Alto

Cycling safety, patience
Editor,
A News Digest item (Weekly, July 28) about Tom Maddox getting killed by a car while cycling brings out the importance of automobile safety and responsibility. Most drivers don’t know that a bicyclist has a legal right to “take a lane” when there is no safe way for a motorist to pass him or her. Maddox was cycling at 30 mph on the right side of a double yellow line (no passing zone) with a helmet on. The driver couldn’t wait 30 seconds to reach a stretch of road where passing would be both legal and safe.

When you are motoring behind a cyclist, just take your time and enjoy the view. You may be saving a life.

Elaine Haight Cowper Street Palo Alto

Good reading
Editor,

It says on page 187: “The definition of insanity is doing the same thing and expecting a different result.” This aptly characterizes the insane Bush policy of “staying the course” in Iraq.

We are fortunate to have Anna G. Eshoo representing California’s 14th Congressional District. She voted initially against authorizing attack on Iraq in 2003 and now advocates withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq as soon as possible.

Hershey Julien James Road Palo Alto

One-sided panel
Editor,
I would like to shine a light on an event I attended on Aug. 1. This was the Peninsula Peace and Justice Center hosting of a one-sided, fact-lacking, panel discussion of the Israel/Lebanon war starring Stanford Professor Khalil Barhoum and frequent letter writer Rachelle Marshall.

Marshall’s praise of Hamas and Hezbollah (Islamic militias dedicated to the complete destruction of Israel) was mind-boggling, as was an audience member’s suggestion that they should take back the label “terrorist.”

Since the microphone never reached my raised hand, I would like to ask Prof. Barhoum if, as he says, the occupation of Gaza (unoccupied now for a year) and the West Bank is the core of the problem in this troubled region, why was the Palestinian Liberation Organization formed in 1964, three years before there was an occupation?

What were they trying to liberate?

Sherree Roth Jordan Place Palo Alto

A deeper Duryea
Editor,
There was so much more to John Duryea and his ministry than was included in the Weekly article of July 25. What the piece fails to tell is that John was an exceptional minister for many years, with an extraordinary following in the Stanford and Palo Alto communities and even the Bay Area at.
Guest Opinion

There was last week, and this week I came to work
by Lois Giovacchini

Last week I came to work each day with the simple intention of doing my job. Then on Friday afternoon, as the Jewish Sabbath approached, a horrific and shocking hate crime was committed against my colleagues at the Seattle Jewish Federation: One woman was killed and five others were wounded by a gunman, apparently motivated by events in the Middle East and pure hatred of the Jewish people.

I felt shock and pain as I sat at my desk listening to a Seattle radio station on my computer. I am a Jewish communal service professional, someone who is paid to do the work of the community, and this crime was meant to intimidate and scare me.

I feel doubly targeted because I am both Jewish and a professional just like Pamela Waechter, the Federation assistant director who died in the attack. I never imagined that as a Jew in America in 2006 my own security would require vigilance and caution.

I have read the news reports that this terrorizing crime was committed by a mentally ill individual who acted on his own. While that may be true of this particular hate crime, it does not enhance my sense of personal or communal security. It seems that we live in a climate that says, both outright and indirectly, that attacking Jews is acceptable political criticism.

We saw it several years ago when attacks on Jews in France were commonplace, until the French government declared that these sorts of hate crimes would be fully prosecuted. We saw it when a synagogue in Tunisia was blown up, as well as one in Istanbul.

I do not want to allow myself to be a “victim” of this hate crime, or any other. Jewish communal service professionals devote each and every day to the health and well-being of our global community, the work of doing good. My organization fights all forms of hatred, bigotry and prejudice, no matter who is targeted.

I believe we will continue to live and work according to our passion. We have a passion for the renaissance of our community, a passion for the rebirth of our Jewish homeland, Israel, and a passion for our lives as American Jews. Here in the United States we have an unprecedented freedom, acceptance and the ability to act according to our individual and collective conscience.

Violence and hatred are not legitimate political discourse. Debate and dialogue are. I choose compassion, tolerance and life. So this week I came to work.

Palo Alto Lois R. Giovacchini is development director for the Central Pacific Anti-Defamation League and has worked on behalf of the Jewish community, including Federation, for more than 15 years. She can be e-mailed at LGiovacchini@adl.org.

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Bridget Finn was named to the Stanford synchronized swimming team coaching staff on Friday. Finn, who graduated in 1997, became one of the program's first national champions athletes after joining as a freshman in 1993, shortly after synchronized swimming was recognized as a varsity sport at Stanford. Her senior season she competed on the team together with current head coach Heather Olson. Olson and Finn were teammates on the 2000 U.S. synchronized swimming Olympic team which finished fifth at the Sydney games. Finn replaces Shannon Gordon, who recently left Stanford to pursue a career in teaching after five years as Olson's assistant. Stanford repeated as national champions in synchronized swimming in 2006 and will return all nine athletes in 2007.

OF LOCAL NOTE . . . The Alpine Hills Tennis and Swim Club won its 26th straight Midpeninsula Junior Interclub Tennis Championships this past week. The club took five teams to the NorCal state tournament in Fresno last weekend . . . East Palo Alto's Caprice Powell placed third in 100-meter dash in the 13-14 year-old girls division at the 2006 Hershey's Track and Field Games in Hershey, Pennsylvania with a time of 13.10 seconds. Palo Alto's Jacqueline Evans finished fourth in the 800-meter race in the same division with a time of 2:17.99 . . . The Palo Alto Oaks ended their season in the double-elimination NorCal playoffs in Sacramento with a 4-2 loss to the Oakland Expos Sunday. Palo Alto lost its first game to host Sacramento 7-3 and then rallied for a win behind Matt Campbell over the East Bay Giants. The Oaks finished the year with a 23-6 record . . . The MIT Community Running Club is hosting its fourth annual Chamber and Jazz ChiRun on the morning of Sunday, August 13 at Rancho San Antonio County Park. Events include a 5k, 10k, half-marathon and marathon. For more information visit www.mitorc.org.

ADULT LEAGUES . . . The Palo Alto fall adult softball leagues will begin at the end of August with coed and men's divisions . . . Registration for the fall season began this week. The season will consist of one practice game and six regular-season games for each team, plus playoffs for the top four teams . . . you have a team, please contact Beeny Sander at 463-4926 or sabeen.sander@cityofpaloalto.org to receive registration information for the upcoming leagues. If you do not have a team but would like to play, please contact Beeny to be placed on a free agent list.

## Stanford takes bronze

18-year-olds finish fourth after going unbeaten in pool play

by Nathan Kurz

A grueling weekend ended on a high note for Coach Ted Minnis and his 16-and-under Stanford “A” water polo girls’ team at the 2006 Junior Olympics in Ventura. The 16s capped a stretch of nine games in four days with a 3-1 win over ChA WP to capture third place at the tournament. Menlo’s Brittany Westerman had two goals and Sacred Heart Prep standout Vee Dunlieve added another as Stanford buckled down to hold on in a tight defensive game.

Stanford was forced to play three games in a five-and-a-half-hour span after losing to eventual champion Commerce 9-6 in the double-elimination tournament to battle its way through the losers’ bracket.

“We had such a great finish,” Minnis said. “The thing I’m most proud of is that we went through the backdoor.”

In fact, Commerce was the only team to beat Stanford. It defeated the locals 9-3 for Stanford’s only pool-play loss.

Minnis was most impressed with...
Swimming

(continued from page 28)

any doubt about her making one of the key international teams after she tied for second with Jessica Hardy in the 100 breast (1:07.65) behind Jendrick’s 1:07.54.

“My goal wasn't really a time,” Jendrick said. “It was to take first or second and make the Pan Pacific team. I saw Tara's and Jessica's splashes right next to me, so the whole time, I was just like, 'Keep going.'"

It took the fastest time in the world this season to beat Wildman-Tobriner in the 50 free on Thursday. The second-place finish (in a swift 22.36) still secured his spot on the Pan Pacific team and will also likely put him on the world championship team.

North Carolina State’s Cullen Jones won the event in 21.94. The race was even until Jones broke away with 20 meters to go.

“My coach told me that at NCAAs, I was swimming against the big boys and now I’m swimming against the men,” Jones said. “A lot of big names in that heat. Gary Hall (who finished fourth) is definitely one of the guys I’ve looked up to since ’96. I was completely impressed. It was amazing competition, and for me to pull that out is a blessing in itself.”

Wildman-Tobriner finished fourth in the 100 free with a 49.39. Jason Lezak won that event in 48.63.

Sun turned in a 2:00.59 to place fourth in then 200 back. He finished behind three of the greatest backstrokers in American history in Aaron Peirsol, Michael Phelps and Ryan Lochte. Peirsol won in a 1:56.36 and remains unbeaten in the event he took silver behind former rival Lenny Krayzelburg at the Sydney Olympics in 2000.

“It’s been a while since I’ve been pushed in that race, to that level, anyway,” Piersol said. “We were all out for one thing only, which was to win.”

Stanford’s David Ash was seventh in the 200 breast in 2:16.74. Stanford junior Brooke Bishop was eighth in the 50 free, and incoming Stanford freshman Julia Smith was sixth in the 200 back, Elaine Breeden, another incoming freshman, was seventh in the 200 fly.

Olympian Caroline Bruce, the NCAA champion in the 200 breast and 100 breast as a Stanford freshman in 2005, finished an encouraging 17th in the 100 breast.

Bruce missed last season after shoulder surgery put her swimming career in doubt.

Phelps won five races in four days after shoulder surgery put her swimming career in doubt.

Phelps won five races in four days after losing to Piersol in the 200 back, an event Phelps rarely swims.

He has 32 national career titles, most among active swimmers.

“I’ve been getting a little bit more excited about my races and maybe that’s the difference,” Phelps said. “It wasn’t a horrible week, it wasn’t a great week by any means. The biggest thing is getting ready for next summer.”

Katie Hoff won the 400 IM in 4:35.82, the fastest time in the world this year.

Brendan Hansen swept the breaststroke events, winning the 200 meters with his second world record of the week. He finished in 2:08.74 after winning the 100 breast earlier in the week.

“The 200 is my baby. It’s been my event since I was a little kid. It’s my favorite event,” Hansen said.

**LOCAL ROUNDPUP**

**Yelsey wins her first title on the pro circuit**

Former Menlo tennis star leads the U.S. Open Series challenge after two weeks

by Nathan Kurz

S tanford senior Anne Yelsey took a big step forward in her burgeoning tennis career over the weekend.

Yelsey captured her first-ever singles tournament title on the professional circuit with a 6-3, 6-3 victory in Sunday’s final over Stacey Tan at the Countrywide Classic in Binghamton, New York.

Yelsey paired with Alice Barnes to capture the doubles final, 6-3, 6-0, in the semifinals.

Her previous best finish in a doubles tournament was with USC’s Lindsey Nelson a month ago at College Park, where the two advanced to the round of 16.

Yelsey paired with Alice Barnes to form the No. 1-ranked doubles team in the country at Stanford in 2006. She also earned a No. 15 national ranking and All-American honors in singles.

Meanwhile, Menlo school product Dmitry Tursunov continued his strong play of late by advancing to the semifinals of the Legg Mason Tennis Classic before losing Saturday to Andy Murray, 6-2, 7-5.

The seventh-seeded Tursunov, who leads the U.S. Open Series standings with 57 points, beat Tim Henman, 6-3, 6-2, in the quarterfinals for his fourth victory in five tries over the once-bright British star.

The Bryan Brothers (Bob and Mike) won the doubles portion of the Legg Mason Classic with a thrilling, 6-3, 5-7, 10-3, victory over Paul Hanley and Kevin Ullyott. The victory marked the brothers’ third straight title, the first being Wimb

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(continued on page 30)
Water polo (continued from page 28)

his team’s 3-2 win over SET (Saddleback-El Toro) on Saturday.

“We played such a great defensive game,” he said. “It seemed like our help just came together that day.”

All in all, the 16s went 7-2 in an exhausting weekend.

“This team is from nine different schools, and their high school seasons are going to be great,” Minnis said. “They are the cream of the crop in the sophomore and junior classes.”

Meanwhile, the 18 “A” team finished fourth after losing to SET 8-5 in the third-place game — a disappointing finish after winning each of its first five games.

“We can play with any of those teams, but the ball just didn’t bounce our way,” 18-under coach Kyle Utusmi said. “They just put away a couple games from outside. A couple inches here and a couple inches there, and it’s a different game.”

Menlo-Atherton grad and incoming Stanford freshman Kelly Eaton scored her team-leading 16th and 17th goals in the loss to cap an incredible tournament.

She scored the game-winning goal Friday to beat Corona Del Mar with 20 seconds left, and then helped her team fend-off a 6-0 disadvantage in the waning moments of a 6-4 win over Santa Barbara. Phoebe Champion added an insurance goal with 50 seconds remaining.

Saturday, Eaton got Stanford to overtime after scoring a late goal to tie American River 5-5. In the ensuing penalty shootout, Stanford won 7-6, with Pallavi Menon netting the game-winner, to assure itself of a top-four finish. But it lost 6-3 to SoCal in the semis to drop to the consolation game.

Four girls — Eaton, Champion (Princeton), Menon (UC-Santa Barbara) and Val Ka’ahanui (Cal-State Northridge) — played in their last club game before starting competition at the next level.

“We’re excited that they were with us for four years,” Utusmi said. “It’s become a great tradition to come back and play in the 20-and-under and train with us in the summer, so hopefully they’ll choose to do that.”

Other local teams didn’t fare quite as well. The 14-and-under “B” team finished 5th after losing some extremely talented teams from Southern California.

“Although we had some tough games, we improved our individual and team skills throughout the weekend,” 14-under coach Angie Krueger said. “We also just had a lot of fun being part of good water polo at a national tournament.”

The 14 “A” team came in 20th place, while the 16 “B” team finished 37th and the 18 “B” team finished 35th after facing some outside competition.

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The 14 “A” team came in 20th place, while the 16 “B” team finished 37th and the 18 “B” team ended up in 29th place.

NorCal also sent 18s and 16s to the tournament, and each finished in 13th place.

The 18s won their bracket, upsetting Lamorinda of East Bay in the process, but lost two games by two goals each before finishing with wins over Riverside and Los Angeles Water Polo. The 16s also won their opening bracket and after two losses also closed with a victory, 3-1 over Breakers of Orange County.

Junior Pan Am Games

In Montreal, Menlo’s Kim Krueger scored four goals to lead Team USA’s 20-under women’s squad to a 16-0 victory over Mexico in round-robin play. Palo Alto High senior Tanya Wilcox is also on the squad.

The United States played Brazil Monday and squares off against Puerto Rico today to conclude pool play.

The 20-under men’s team, featuring Stanford redshirt sophomore Ryan McCarthy and Gunn High grad Arjan Ligtgenberg, opened the tournament against Puerto Rico on Sunday. They are scheduled to meet Canada on Wednesday.

Yelsey (continued from page 29)

third-seeded doubles team at the dBJ Challenger and opened Monday with a 2-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory over Go Soeda of Japan before falling to fourth seed Rik De Voys of South Africa 6-2, 6-2.

National Water Polo Teams

At the men’s FINA World League Super Final, the United States finished fifth after defeating France 11-4. Jeff Powers and Jeff Mann scored three goals each to salvage a mostly disappointing performance for the Americans.

In its previous game with a berth in the third place game on the line, the U.S. flopped in a shootout with Australia after ending regulation tied at 10 apiece.

The Americans missed their first and final five-meter shots while Australia made each of its first four to qualify for the third place match, which it then lost to Greece.

Stanford grad Tony Azevedo scored three goals and fellow Azevedo added two. The U.S. won its only other game in the semifinals against Greece, 13-10 to Spain Thursday.

“I was tough to start out with only five hours rest,” Ricardo Azevedo said.

That harrowing result was a far cry from the performance of the Americans at the event a week earlier.

The U.S. women at the event a week earlier.

The U.S. women captured their second-ever gold medal at the FINA World League with a 9-6 victory over Italy. Stanford grad Brenda Warburg reached the quarterfinals of the Odlum Brown Vancouver Open with a 2-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory over Go Soeda of Japan before falling to fourth seed Rik De Voys of South Africa 6-2, 6-2.

Goalie Elise Ponce was consistently good all weekend and she was at her best in the dramatic victory over American River.

“Hopefully they’ll choose to do that. It was a smooth finish to a rocky first game, as the lights went out during halftime Tuesday and the game had to be postponed until a day later.

Also Wednesday, the U.S. lost 15-4 to Serbia and Montenegro and lost 13-10 to Spain Thursday.

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**SCOREBOARD**

**MEN'S SWIMMING**

U.S. Summer Nationals at Irvine

100 free — 1, Jason Lezak (Irvine Novaquatics) 48.63; 2, Neil Walker (Longhorn Aquatics) 49.29; 3, Cullen Jones (NC State Aquatics) 49.35; 4, Ben Wildman-Tobriner (Stanford Swimming) 49.39.

200 IM — 1, Michael Phelps (Club Wolverine) 1:56.78; 2, Ryan Lochte (Daytona Beach Swimming) 1:56.78; 3, Eric Shanteau (Swim-Atlanta) 1:58.05.

800 free relay — 1, Club Wolverine (Davis Tarwater, Klete Keller, Alex Vanderkaay, Matthew Patton) 7:26.35; 2, Club Wolverine 7:32.63; 3, Triangle YMCA 7:33.93.

50 free — 1, Cullen Jones (NC State Aquatics) 21.94; 2, Ben Wildman-Tobriner (Stanford Swimming) 22.16; 3, Jason Lezak (Irvine Novaquatics) 22.22.

100 breast — 1, Brendan Hansen (Longhorn Aquatics) 56.28; 2, Ian Crocker (Longhorn Aquatics) 56.37; 3, Ryan Lochte (Daytona Beach Swimming) 57.53.

200 breast — 1, Brandon Hansen (Longhorn Aquatics) 2:12.11; 2, Cullen Jones (NC State Aquatics) 2:12.46; 3, Scott Usher (Wyoming Aquatics) 2:13.54.

500 free — 1, Erik Vendt (Club Wolverine) 4:43.06; 2, Ariana Kukors (King) 4:40.10; 3, Lakeside 4:43.29.

100 back — 1, Margaret Hoelter (Auburn Aquatics) 56.48; 2, Mary Deschenes (Irvine Novaquatics) 56.51; 3, Ryan Lochte (Daytona Beach Swimming) 57.53.

200 back — 1, Kim Vandenberg (UCLA) 1:48.51; 2, Mary Deschenes (Irvine Novaquatics) 1:49.02; 3, Kathleen Hersey (Swim Atlanta) 1:52.37; 4, Elaine Breeden (Wildcat Aquatics/Stanford) 1:52.46.

50 free — 1, Kara Lynn Joyce (Athens Bulldogs) 24.97; 2, Natalie Coughlin (California Aquatics) 25.17; 3, Courtney Cashin (Tucson Ford) 25.20; 4, Brooke Bishop (Stanford Swimming/Stanford) 25.71.

100 breast — 1, Megan Jendrick (King) 1:07.74; 2, Tara Kirk (Stanford Swimming) 1:07.78; 3, Natalie Coughlin (California Aquatics) 1:07.85; 4, Erin Reilly (California Aquatics) 1:08.08.

200 breast — 1, Tara Kirk (Stanford) 2:19.62; 2, Natalie Coughlin (California Aquatics) 2:20.73; 3, Tara Wolf (Irvine Novaquatics) 2:22.22.

800 free relay — 1, California Aquatics (Eric Reily, Natalie Coughlin, Lauren Andrewes, Emily Silver) 7:58.16; 2, Club Wolverine 8:09.75; 3, Longhorn Aquatics 8:12.05.

100 free — 1, Amanda Weir (Swim Atlanta) 53.68; 2, Natalie Coughlin (California Aquatics) 54.26; 3, Lacey Nymeyer (Tucson Ford) 54.47; 4, Lauren Thies (Multnomah/Stanford) 54.48; 5, Brooke Bishop (Stanford) 54.57; 6, Kate Dwyer (Terralaps/Stanford) 54.68.

200 breast — 1, Tara Kirk (Stanford) 2:26.46; 2, Megan Jendrick (King Aquatic) 2:26.72; 3, Kristen Caverly (AquaZoom/Stanford) 2:29.39.

800 free relay — 1, Hayley Peril (Club Wolverine) 8:28.45; 2, Katie Ziegler (The Fish) 8:28.65; 3, Kaitly Allen (Longhorn Aquatics/Stanford) 8:33.46.

400 medley relay — 1, California Aquatics (Natalie Coughlin, Jessica Hardy, Erin Reilly, Emily Silver) 4:03.32; 2, King Aquatic 4:11.93; 3, Lakeside 4:13.20.

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**WOMEN'S SWIMMING**

U.S. Summer Nationals at Irvine

200 back — 1, Margaret Hoelter (Auburn Aquatics) 2:10.71; 2, Elizabeth Besel (Bluefish) 2:12.11; 3, Teresa Dilip (Bernardtown Academy) 2:13.09; 4, Julia Stitt (Three Villages/Stanford) 2:15.12.

100 fly — 1, Katie Hoff (North Baltimore) 56.48; 2, Andrea Axtell (Wyoming Aquatics) 56.63; 3, Elisa Crippen (Germantown Aquatics) 57.36.

200 fly — 1, Amanda Weir (Swim Atlanta) 1:07.54; 2, Tara Kirk (Stanford Swimming) 1:07.65; 3, Caroline Bruce (Wildcat Swim Club/Stanford) 1:11.65.

400 IM — 1, Katie Hoff (North Baltimore) 4:11.90; 2, Ariana Kukors (King) 4:13.29; 3, Lakeside 4:13.29.

200 breast — 1, Tara Kirk (Stanford) 2:20.22; 2, Natalie Coughlin (California Aquatics) 2:20.73; 3, Tara Wolf (Irvine Novaquatics) 2:21.94.

800 free relay — 1, California Aquatics (Eric Reily, Natalie Coughlin, Lauren Andrewes, Emily Silver) 7:58.16; 2, Club Wolverine 8:09.75; 3, Longhorn Aquatics 8:12.05.

100 free — 1, Amanda Weir (Swim Atlanta) 53.68; 2, Natalie Coughlin (California Aquatics) 54.26; 3, Lacey Nymeyer (Tucson Ford) 54.47; 4, Lauren Thies (Multnomah/Stanford) 54.48; 5, Brooke Bishop (Stanford) 54.57; 6, Kate Dwyer (Terralaps/Stanford) 54.68.

200 breast — 1, Tara Kirk (Stanford) 2:26.46; 2, Megan Jendrick (King Aquatic) 2:26.72; 3, Kristen Caverly (AquaZoom/Stanford) 2:29.39.

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400 medley relay — 1, California Aquatics (Natalie Coughlin, Jessica Hardy, Erin Reilly, Emily Silver) 4:03.32; 2, King Aquatic 4:11.93; 3, Lakeside 4:13.20.

**Schedule**

**Wednesday**

Swimming — FINA World Master's Championships at Stanford, 8 a.m.

**Swimming** — Masters of the pool

The swimming portion of the FINA Masters World Championships continues through Thursday at Stanford's Avery Aquatic Center. There are 175 Olympians among the over 5,000 swimmers. Nearly 30 world records were set in the first three days. Among the winners were Stanford grads Rick Gould (in the 35-39 200 back) and Sean Murphy (in the 40-44 200 back). Stanford Swimming's Susan Preston won the 40-44 800 free. Dara Torres, who worked with Stanford leading up to the 2000 Olympics, won Monday's 35-39 50 free in 26.67, a mere .14 off the world record. Karen Papacos Neilon won the 40-44 200 back while 85-year-old Walter Lynch competed in the 200 back and 100 breast.

**Photos by John Todd**
ATHERTON... Traditional ranch home located in the desirable Lindwood location. This 4BR/2BA home boasts a formal entry, formal dining room, and dual sided fireplace. Set on a generous & private landscaped lot with fruit trees. Sunny, tree-lined backyard offers a deck for gatherings and entertaining.

John Doyle
$3,199,000


PAUL SKRABO
$2,975,000

PORTOLA VALLEY... Remarkable level lot, private & secluded expansive lawns, park-like grounds. Excellent usable acreage for homes, Pool, Tennis court and/or pool. Charming cottage home, www.chuting.info

NINO GAETANO
$2,995,000

REDWOOD CITY... Simplicity in design of this rebuilt ranch style home w/the finest finishes. 3 bed/3bath great room style living features an open kitchen with informal eating areas, a living area with brick fireplace and a grand sized formal dining area opening to a backyard. Brazilian cherry floors, crown molding and solid wood doors throughout. Lanai master suite w/walk-in closet, double sinks, jacuzzi tub and separate shower.

JAMI ARAMI
$1,149,000

HOLLISTER... Truly sophisticated. 5BR 4½BA county home on level and lush acreage w/3 stall barn. Spacious and exceptionally well built w/trad privacy. Generous 2 BR guest house complete w/ kitchen. Exclusive gard community. Midway between the peninsula and Carmel.

ALEXANDRA VON DER GROEBEN
$2,650,000

ATHERTON... Classic modern residence with grand scale in charming, Lomand Park. Full of natural light, this 4 bedroom, 3 bathroom home features a magnificent formal living room, a deck family room and kitchen. Flexible living w/2 staircases leading to separate bedroom wings. Backyard is accented by a gracious rose garden.

JAMI ARAMI
$2,350,000

MOUNTAIN VIEW... Lovely new hm in a unique loc near downtown, library, park, Bubb Elementary & more. Offers upscale finishes, including high ceiling, granite counters, hrdw fls, fplc in living room, front & rear landscaping, CAT 5 cabling.

Dory Marhamat
$1,099,000

PALO ALTO... Charming 3BR/2BA in Old Palo Alto, great potential to build new or remodel. Two separate units can be accommodated. Home has sep. FR & DR. Deep lot w/bqgd bkyd. Detached 2-car garage.

Sally Kwock
$1,999,900

SAN CARLOS... Charming 3BR/2BA Quality Craftmanship Design Home. High Ceilings, hardwood floors & gourmet kitchen. 3 large decks & canyon views, 2 car garage.

IBA KOGAN
$1,495,000

SAN JOSE... Investment property located in rapidly transforming neighborhood with new development. Ten units that are being updated while property is on the market. New units available for previewing.

Susan Furstman
$1,495,000

WOODSIDE... Desirable sunny Woodside Heights location. Newly constructed Craftsman-Style home. 4bedrooms, 2 en Suite, + office/library. Established vineyard, professional landscaping, horse property with pool and deck on the Woodside Trail system.

GARY MCKAE
$5,800,000

Central Woodside’s most sought after location! Gorgeous views of the western hills from this prime, sunny, level site. 3 minutes from school and town. Ready to go. On sewer.

ELIZABETH DASCHBACH
$2,550,000