THE SCIENCE OF TRAFFIC

DON’T BLAME THE ENGINEERS: HUMAN BEHAVIOR IS AN EQUAL CAUSE OF GRIDLOCK, EXPERTS SAY

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Shooting suspect linked to gang

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Arts Beat-boxing cello player is a ramblin’ man Page 24
Sports Pinewood plays for state championship Page 34
Home & Real Estate Oozing with charming homes Page 41
JUST ANOTHER REMARKABLE DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

For many athletes, the greatest victory lies in surpassing your own limitations. For Katie, an avid golfer, tennis player and dancer, every day is that kind of victory.

Diagnosed at age 12 with a rare and rapidly growing tumor in her lower leg, Katie came to Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital for life-saving care. But it wouldn’t be easy. The only treatment that could beat Katie’s cancer was chemotherapy and amputation. The oncology team at Packard Children’s got to know Katie well and provided specialized care on par with her spirit. This focused, multidisciplinary support helped Katie achieve a clean bill of health and get back to the active lifestyle she loves.

During her stay at Packard Children’s, Katie made new friends and set her sights on a future profession as an oncology nurse. And from what we’ve seen, she’s got the drive to achieve anything she puts her mind to. Visit www.lpch.org for more information.
Shooting suspect linked to Norteños gang

Police say suspect and victim in Wednesday shooting in south Palo Alto knew each other
by Don Kazak and Jay Thorwaldson

The suspect in Wednesday’s shooting in south Palo Alto, which prompted the lock-down of four public schools, had told friends he was affiliated with the Hispanic Norteños gang, Palo Alto police said Thursday.

Police have identified the suspect as Daniel Gil-Fernandez, 19, a resident of Palo Alto, and were searching for him as of Thursday morning. The unidentified victim, 20, was reported in stable condition following emergency surgery at Stanford Hospital.

The shooting took place around 3 p.m. at an apartment complex at 574 Arastradero Road, police said. The victim ran to Maybell Avenue and El Camino Real, past the Walgreen’s drug store at the corner. One witness said he saw the victim sitting on the sidewalk before emergency personnel responded.

Fire Department paramedics were dispatched to the scene at 3:16 p.m. and transported the victim to the hospital. But police were dispatched to the 65-unit Arastradero Park Apartments, which extends from Arastradero to Maybell. By shortly after 4 p.m., after they had entered and searched an apartment in the building, police were letting people into the apartment-building complex, including several Gunn High School students who arrived during the blockade.

LAND USE

Rail could endanger Palo Alto namesake

City staff lists millennium-old El Palo Alto tree, historic properties as high-speed rail concerns
by Gennady Sheyner

A century-old bridge, a row of “storybook” houses on Mariposa Street and the famous El Palo Alto redwood tree could all be imperiled by a proposed high-speed train system, according to a new city report.

These are three of eight historic sites that staff and the city’s Historic Resources Board said could be adversely impacted by the proposed rail line, which California voters approved in November.

The board discussed the rail line’s potential impact on these sites during a Wednesday morning meeting.

El Palo Alto is 1,100-years-old and has a life expectancy of 300 more years.

The oldest living California Historic Landmark, it stands close to the Caltrain corridor, through which the agency plans to run high-speed trains at speeds of 125 mph.

“The tree is healthier today than it was 100 years ago,” city Arborist Dave Dockter said. “It does, however, hang in a delicate balance.”

The seven other historic sites listed by the city include the steel railroad bridge next to El Palo Alto that dates back to 1902; the University Avenue and Embarcadero underpasses (built in 1941 and 1936, respectively); the downtown Caltrain depot, the Mariposa Avenue section of the Southgate neighborhood; a home at 3905 Park Avenue (built around 1905); and the “Hostess House” (designed in 1918 as part of the U.S. Army’s Camp Fremont and currently housing MacArthur Park Restaurant) adjacent to the University Avenue Caltrain depot.

On Mariposa Avenue, the rail could threaten a row of storybook-style homes — quaint, Tudor-style houses that date back to the 1920s. The rail line passes by these houses and could cut into their yards if the right-of-way were expanded.

Board member Beth Bunnenberg said the entire Southgate neighborhood should be looked at as a historical site, not just Mariposa.

“Southgate, I think, is an extremely important area,” Bunnenberg said. “You don’t just talk about one street, or one side of the street, being affected.

“Whatever change happens to the pieces along the railroad will affect all of the district,” she said. “The district has context.”

The board unanimously agreed to ask the California High-Speed Rail Authority, the agency charged with building the new system, to study the proposed San Francisco-to-Los Angeles rail line’s potential impact on these historic sites.

The city’s list of concerns it wishes the rail authority to study has been swelling in recent weeks, as residents, City Council members and commissioners have come forth with a myriad of fears and anxieties over the controversial project’s impact.

A draft letter, presented to the Planning and Transportation Commission on Wednesday night, included 47 items the city wants the rail authority to explore in its environmental analysis, including the rail line’s impacts on traffic, vegetation, the San Francisquito Creek and air quality.

And that’s before the planning commission began contributing its own comments, which by meeting’s end included utilities, aqui-
**Our Town**

by Don Kazak

Two recent news stories reinforced the understanding that the warming climate of this old planet is going to create more problems than was thought even a few years ago. One study, from the Pacific Institute, concluded that seas along the California coast and the San Francisco Bay will rise by up to 5 feet by the next century, more than had been estimated.

The second story came out of Copenhagen where 2,000 environmental scientists concluded that tropical rain forests could dry out enough to become fire hazards. Rising seas and burning forests suggest that climate change is a frightening prospect.

The Copenhagen meeting was an attempt to update a 2007 report from a group called the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), created by the United Nations in 1988. Biologist Chris Field told a national meeting of scientists in Chicago last month that the IPCC has concluded that global warming is going to happen faster and cause more damage than previously thought.

Field spends about half his time as an IPCC scientist. He is also the director of the Department of Global Biology of the Carnegie Institute of Science, located on the Stanford campus. He’s also a Stanford biology professor. The IPCC “is the gold standard for information on climate change,” Field said. “Every government in the world has the approval of the conclusions of the IPCC.”

The work is meticulous. For instance, Field didn’t discount the Pacific Institute report about rising seas. He noted that the IPCC did not calculate the effect of the melting ice caps on Greenland and Antarctica, which might happen more quickly than anticipated.

“It could happen that way,” he said, “but we don’t have a good enough model to calculate the effect of the melting ice caps on Greenland and Antarctica, although the Pacific Institute did include that calculation.” It could happen that way, he said, “but we don’t have a good enough model for calculating land-ice melting.” It’s a worst-case scenario, which doesn’t mean it won’t happen.

There’s also no question that tropical rain forests are drying out because of global warming. “We don’t have to go much further before we see some changes, some fundamental changes, in the rain forests,” he said.

Change is coming. The question is how quickly and at what point the change becomes, as the Pacific Institute report suggests, irreversible.

Worried that at some point climate change will create some significant problems, but it’s not clear whether we are already committed to them (as irreversible),” he said. Some people remain skeptical about either climate change or whether the changes have been fueled by human activity.

“There is always room for discussion when there is scientific uncertainty, but the issue has been muddied by those who think there is more scientific uncertainty than there is,” Field said.

He notes that scientists try to disprove their hypotheses as part of the scientific method. They come to a conclusion through their data and then try to disprove what they’ve found before releasing their conclusions.

“The challenges of the skeptics have not been susceptible to experimental verification,” Field said. Or, they can’t prove what they are saying is correct.

“Science has an incredible ability to self-correct” if a conclusion is not supported by data, he said.

Field scoffs (as much as a careful scientist can scoff) at skeptics who think there is some vast political conspiracy among scientists to promote the idea that global warming is happening.

“Scientists are not that organized,” he said. “The basic idea that emission of greenhouse gases contributes to global warming was first proven more than 100 years ago, in the late 1890s, he said. “The physics were well understood then.”

“The game in climate change is how much we should invest now to avoid impacts that are unacceptable, politically and economically,” he added.

Field is hopeful that decisions can be made, if they are the right decisions, to help manage climate change, “without being prohibitively expensive.”

The election of President Barack Obama may help give climate scientists such as Field reason for optimism.

“We’re on the way to having a serious discussion about climate change in this country,” he said. Senior Staff Writer Don Kazak can be e-mailed at dkazak@pawweekly.com.
when Lincoln Avenue resident Victoria Curtis looks out along the sidewalks of her street, she sees wall-to-wall parked vehicles.

She’s not alone. Professorville residents say employees from downtown businesses, parking in the neighborhood, have so congested their blocks in the last year-and-a-half that residents hunt for parking spaces blocks from their homes.

Fed up, the neighbors are hoping to develop a residential parking-permit program for their area, which is bordered by Emerson and Ramona streets and south of downtown from Addison to Kingesley avenues.

“I pay over $20,000 a year for property taxes, and there is no street parking near my home, for my family or guests,” Curtis said.

To take out territory for themselves, some residents have put up signage to encourage cooperation from parkers in the neighborhood.

Bluffing had worked on street trees in front of one home: “Please preserve and respect Historic Professorville residential parking.”

Downtown parking is restricted to two- and three-hour increments, which leads some downtown employees to seek all-day parking in Professorville. Contributing to the situation, many of the neighborhood’s old homes have only small driveways or no driveways, and some have garages, residents said.

Most of the parking problems occur on weekdays during business hours, roughly from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., residents said. Neighbors have followed the parkers to downtown businesses and have discovered they are Whole Foods employees, architects, professionals and bartenders — and even some city employees who have a parking garage under City Hall, Curtis said.

“On Fridays when City Hall is closed, there is less parking in the neighborhood,” she said.

Phil Inman of Whole Foods Manager said, the store has 75 to 100 employees during a given shift, but he does not tell employees where to park.

“They seek out parking where they don’t have to move every two hours. We know parking is a problem,” he said.

By 3 p.m., parking near the market thins out and employees on later shifts are able to leave their cars closer to the store, he said.

Professorville resident Kathleen Hickey, whose husband, Edward, uses a wheelchair, said her husband has resorted to putting a moveable blue disabled-parking sign in the space in front of their home.

Parkers squeezing into spaces on both sides of the couple’s driveway overhang their cars so that the family van is blocked in, but technicalities keep Hickey from having any clout to get the cars towed, she said.

“The city said the whole tire has to be in front of the driveway” to make it illegal, she said.

Some encounters have been less than pleasant, she said.

“A woman got angry and used foul language in front of me and my children,” she said, after Hickey left a note on the woman’s windshield asking her not to overhang the car in the driveway.

Ken Allsman, a Ramona Street resident who owns Addison Antique on Addison Avenue, said the problem became “very bad” about a year and a half ago. He thought the increased problem was due to parking by construction workers at a nearby site, but the problem thins out and the problem remains, he said.

Ten parking spots front his corner-lot home, but he cannot use any of them. Some neighbors have considered eliminating part of their front yards to make room for parking spaces.

“It’s OK when it’s just a few cars, but when it’s 100 percent of a block, it’s a big deal,” he said.

Allsman posted the blue signs asking for “respect” on his tree, but they have had limited success, he said.

A few weeks ago, he toured all of the downtown parking spaces at 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. and found that much of the reserved parking was empty, he said. Reserved-parking spaces cost $420 a year, according to the city’s website. If the city charged a dollar a day for those spaces, more people could use them, instead of a limited number who pay to reserve all year long but in reality only use the spaces two or three times a week, Allsman said.

If the rules, there needs to be more responsibility on the part of business and building owners,” he said. At Addison Antique, “we’re required to provide parking,” he said.

Meanwhile, Curtis and a neighbor recently attended a College Terrace Residents’ Association meeting to get ideas about how to develop a parking-permit program, she said. College Terrace residents have fought for years for relief from traffic and parking overflow from Stanford University. They are now voting on a permit program that could be implemented by September, according to suburb/shahil yazdi, the city’s project manager.

Staff Writer Sue Dremann can be e-mailed at sdremann@paweekly.com.
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JOY! ... U.S. Congresswoman Anna Eshoo was delighted to learn this week that her district, which includes Palo Alto, Mountain View, Santa Clara and Sunnyvale, is the most content in the nation. That’s according to a new poll by Gallup and Healthways, Inc. The poll rated the “well-being” of each state and congressional district as measured by six indices, from physical health to work environment to basic access to health care. The poll indicated that eight of the highest-ranked congressional districts in the nation are in California. Eshoo’s district was followed in the rankings by Georgia’s 16th district, north of Atlanta. “There’s not a shred of good news around — but when I woke up and saw this on my BlackBerry, I let out an ‘all rights’ right in my bathroom,” Eshoo told the San Francisco Chronicle on Tuesday. But while the 14th district ranked first in the nation, California as a whole ranked only ninth in the well-being index. States preceding California are (in order starting from No. 1) Utah, Hawaii, Wyoming, Colorado, Minnesota, Maryland, Washington and Massachusetts. Meanwhile, West Virginia edged out Kentucky and Mississippi for the lowest ranking.

DEBATING ABSTINENCE ... Can an elected decision maker decline to make a decision? Certainly, if he or she has a conflict of interest. City Council member John Barton, who works at Stanford University, regularly recuses himself from Stanford-related business. And Vice Mayor Jack Morton’s telecommunication stocks have kept him from discussions centered on the city’s fiber-optics network. But things get fuzzy if a council member simply abstains from voting without any conflict present. At a Tuesday meeting of the council’s Policy and Services Committee, city officials debated this very topic with no clear consensus. City Attorney Gary Baum said, “Council members are compelled to vote unless they have a conflict,” a position he said was informed by case law. But Councilman Greg Schmid took issue with this interpretation of council prerogatives. “I think the oath you take when you run for office says nothing about ‘Thou shall not abstain,’” Schmid said. His three committee colleagues — Chairman Sid Esplinosa and council members Yoriko Kishimoto and Barton — agreed to accept Baum’s interpretation and integrate the position he presented into council procedures. But while Schmid felt strongly that council members should reserve the right to reserve their judgment, he didn’t vote against his colleagues. Instead, he abstained.

IT’S NOT EASY CHOOSING GREEN ... After eight years, 17,729 photos, three finalists and one public vote, The Color of Palo Alto (artist Samuel Yates’ ongoing public-art project) has yet to be revealed to the public. Last fall, when the potential composite color of the city was narrowed down to three different greens, Yates put the final color up to a public vote online (www.thecolorofpaloalto.com). The poll closed in December, but there has yet to be an announcement of which shade was deemed the winner. Linda Craighead, director of the city’s Department of Arts & Sciences, said she was in e-mail discussions with Yates about when and how to announce the ultimate green hue. “We’re not sure how that’s going to happen,” she said recently. Meanwhile, Yates’ “wrap” of the photographs he took of every parcel in town, currently installed on the face of City Hall, will most likely be removed this May, she added.

WHOSE FOXHOLE? ... Under fire from parents concerned about a new math textbook for Palo Alto elementary schools, a district committee struggled Monday to choose between two options for next fall. Superintendent Kevin Skelly broached the idea of heeding parent opinions, telling the teachers: “If you want me to support you, support doesn’t mean jumping into the foxhole with you. It’s helping you work through it to find a good solution.” But a teacher replied: “We’re saying we’re going to jump into the foxhole with you,” urging Skelly to support the teachers’ textbook recommendation, which he eventually did.

Around Town

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

It’s sort of like a mosquito on an elephant.
— John Barton, Palo Alto City Councilman, arguing the city’s new plastic-bag ban, which affects four supermarkets, is too limited. See story on page 8.
Utility workers challenge fraud allegations

Rank-and-file veterans defend beleaguered department while awaiting outcome of federal investigation

by Gennady Sheyner

Falsified tests. Conspiring managers. Unqualified workers.

The phrases have been repeated in media reports and conversations around Palo Alto since Feb. 6, when federal agents from the Department of Transportation (DOT) seized boxes of documents from the city’s utilities department.

The probe was triggered by a former utilities worker, Michael Estrada, who told federal officials he was ordered to fill out about 60 written tests with correct answers for his co-workers in November 2006.

Though the federal investigation has yet to be completed, it has already had a palpable effect on department morale. The three workers said things stayed quiet until the Feb. 6 raid, which caught workers and managers by surprise.

For Long, the investigation hit close to home, or to his office. The “certification tests” currently being reviewed by the DOT were stored in file boxes in his office. Federal officials confiscated seven boxes of records, and they refuse to comment on any aspect of the investigation or its possible duration.

Long said supervisors wanted to make sure no one would tamper with the tests while they were investigating the allegations, and he and the supervisors immediately locked the documents up in case there might be “collaborators” that might tamper with them. Utilities Department officials then looked into Estrada’s allegations but found nothing irregular, Long said. At that time, the department also changed the format of the test to create room for signatures of the test taker and supervisor.

Now everyone is initialing everything, the three workers said.

Things stayed quiet until the Feb. 6 raid, which caught workers and managers by surprise. Long had transferred to a new position shortly before the federal investigation launched.

“They brought in a whole team,” Long said.

(continued on page 11)
Palo Alto bans plastic bags — despite lawsuit threat

New rule affecting supermarkets to take effect Sept. 18; city ponders broader plan

gennady sheyner

Plastic bags have six months to float out of Palo Alto supermarkets.

Despite a threatened lawsuit and opposition from area grocery stores, the City Council voted Monday night to ban plastic checkpoint bags from local grocery stores, effective Sept. 18. The council also indicated that broader bans on the floating pollutant would soon be implemented, along with a campaign to convert more people to cloth or other reusable bags.

The upcoming bans will likely target plastic checkout bags at all local stores and plastic bags that cover newspapers during the rainy season.

The council voted 7-1, with Councilman John Barton dissenting and Councilman Larry Klein absent, to institute the grocery-ban bag. But the vote came only after extensive wrangling over the new ordinance.

Three council members advocated delaying the discussion until after they’ve had a chance to discuss the potential legal risk in a closed session with City Attorney Gary Baum.

“The legal landscape has changed,” Barton said, referring to a recent court case that overturned a local plastic bag ban.

But Baum said Palo Alto may have a stronger case than Manhattan Beach because Palo Alto staff has already analyzed the potential environmental impacts of the new ordinance. Though Palo Alto’s report, known as a “mitigated negative declaration” is less comprehensive than a formal environmental-impact report, it contains more in-depth analysis than Manhattan Beach-supplied when it adopted its ordinance.

Vice Mayor Jack Morton urged his colleagues not to delay the plastic-bag ban any further, even if a lawsuit seems inevitable.

“It’s incumbent on us to move forward even if it may not be a favorable litigation arena, since I believe in all likelihood we will still be sued,” he added.

The ban on plastic checkout bags at grocery stores will not apply to plastic bags used in meat or produce departments. It will only impact four local supermarkets: Safeway, J&F, Andronico’s and Molly Stone’s. Three others — Whole Foods, Country Sun and Piazza’s — have already voluntarily scrapped plastic bags.

Barton said the new ordinance is too limited in scope and urged colleagues to develop a broader ban. If the council plans to go through the trouble of passing the ordinance and facing possible litigation, it may as well get to the forefront and “do it big,” he said.

“With four stores, it’s sort of like a mosquito on an elephant,” Barton said. “It won’t have a large effect.”

But city staff members said they need more time to develop the other components of a Comprehensive Reusable Bag Plan. The council directed city staff to prepare a proposal for charging fees for paper bags by Sept. 18. The council also asked staff to consider a ban on plastic bags at all local stores and to come up with a way to measure the effect on customer behavior.

Councilman Pat Burt said he expects an initial burst of anger from some community members, but predicted a smooth transition to reusable bags.

“We’re going to hear a lot of grief initially, but once we change our habits, I’m convinced it won’t be the end of the world,” Burt said.

Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner can be e-mailed at gsheyner@pawwkly.com.

Rod Diridon: High-speed rail on-track, needed

Transit advocate says project is too far along to reconsider basic route

Rod Diridon, a board member for the California High-Speed Rail Authority, told the Palo Alto Rotary Club this week that it’s $90 million and many months too late to reconsider routes.

Diridon said the project is too far along to change the decision to run the San Francisco-to-Los Angeles rail line through the eastern Alamont Pass rather than chosen over Pacheco Pass, despite a coalition of Peninsula cities that are threatening to sue to block the route up the Peninsula along the Caltrain right-of-way.

Diridon said the week before he had ruffled feathers at the Palo Alto City Council meeting when he refused to say the project would “negotiate” with local cities, but that their comments would be considered along with other input to a “scoping” process leading to a full environmental-impact review on the $40-billion-plus rail system.

Most of Diridon’s presentation focused on how the United States is lagging behind the rest of the world in utilizing high-speed trains. He said the trains have massive environmental benefits over other forms of transportation, using one-fifth the energy of cars and one-third the energy of airplanes, which he called the “most polluting” form of transportation per passenger mile.

Diridon said as a rail authority official he is precluded under federal regulations on environmental reviews from expressing personal opinions about preferred alternatives.


—Jay Thorwaldson
School district to end some retiree health benefits

But the City Council approved the “Treehouse” project at 488 W. Charleston Road with one caveat: The developer will have to supply an Eco Pass to every resident of the tiered, four-story building. The pass gives residents access to Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority buses.

The condition was imposed after council members and nearby residents expressed concern about congestion and parking woes in the south Palo Alto neighborhood where the development is slated to go up. While the council praised the project for its creative design and its goal of providing housing to low-income residents, members said the Palo Alto Housing Corporation needs to do more to head off the potential traffic and parking problems.

“I think the Eco Passes are essential elements for these types of projects in the future,” Councilman Pat Burt said. “They mitigate the parking impact. It’s the best thing we can do to both lessen impacts on neighbors and to make a better project.”

The idea is to make the neighborhood more vibrant and transit-friendly, council members said. — Gennady Sheyner

Stanford wins water award

Stanford University received a Silicon Valley Water Conservation Award for reducing its water usage by almost 15 percent since 2001.

The award, granted by the Silicon Valley Water Conservation Awards Coalition—a group of local environmental organizations including Palo Alto’s Acterra, the Santa Clara Valley Water District and the Tuolomne River Trust—recognizes businesses, organizations and individuals who promote water conservation and innovation in Silicon Valley.

Stanford won in the “large organization” category.

Stanford’s “Water Conservation, Reuse and Recycling Master Plan,” developed eight years ago, has led to the replacement of 95 percent of inefficient toilets on campus (saving nearly 93,000 gallons per day or 34 million gallons of water per year), creation of a “waterside” demonstration garden, “smart” irrigation controllers and water-efficiency guidelines for new buildings, and a re-design of water bills to encourage customer review of water usage, according to a release by the Coalition.

There will be an awards ceremony Monday, March 23 (World Water Day), at 11 a.m. at the Kirsch Center for Environmental Studies, DeAnza College, 21250 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino. The public is welcome to attend, said Peter Drekmeyer, Palo Alto mayor and Tuolomne River Trust’s Bay Area program director. — Karla Kane

Schools committee recommends new math text

After a sometimes emotional six-hour discussion, a Palo Alto textbook-selection committee Monday afternoon voted by secret ballot to recommend an elementary math-textbook series that has drawn the ire of some parents.

The 32-to-6 recommendation of “Everyday Mathematics” from Wright Group/McGraw Hill follows a multi-year selection process in which elementary teachers measured nine California-approved math texts against detailed criteria and tested two finalists in their classrooms.

The choice came despite concerns voiced by some parents that Everyday Mathematics does not adequately stress standard problem-solving tools and strong mastery of basic skills. Teachers on the selection committee disputed those arguments.

The Board of Education will discuss the recommendation April 14 and possibly make a decision April 28 on adopting the textbook for use in all elementary schools this fall. — Chris Kenrick

School district to end some retiree health benefits

As of June 1, teachers and others hired to work in Palo Alto schools will not receive district health coverage after they retire.

With that provision in a tentative pact with employee unions, the district aims eventually to save millions in retiree health-benefit liability. Current school employees will not be affected by the change. The district’s current liability in retiree health benefits was recently estimated at $34 million.

“It’s a huge issue that public agencies throughout the nation are dealing with,” Assistant Superintendent Scott Bowers told Palo Alto Unified School District trustees Tuesday.

The district hopes to finalize contracts with its two unions — the Palo Alto Educators Association and the California School Employees Association — by the end of this month.

Those contracts include raises of 2.5 percent, plus a one-time payment of 2.5 percent of the 2007-2008 salary.

“It’s a very fair settlement in a challenging situation,” Board President Barb Mitchell said. — Chris Kenrick

LETS’DISCUSS: Read the latest local news headlines and talk about the issues at Town Square at www.PaloAltoOnline.com
City Council Policy and Services Committee (March 16)

Council policies: The committee voted to recommend revisions to council procedures. These include adding City Manager’s comments to the agenda and clarifying the council’s policy on abstention from voting.

City Council (March 16)

Sister city: The council approved a sister-city alliance with Tsuchiura, Japan.
Yes: Barton, Burt, Drekmeier, Espinosa, Kishimoto, Morton, Schmid, Yeh. Absent: Klein
Plastic-bag ban: The council voted to ban plastic checkout bags at local grocery stores, effective May 1. City staff can recommend a plastic-bag ban at all local stores and to consider implementing fees for paper bags.
Yes: Burt, Drekmeier, Espinosa, Kishimoto, Morton, Schmid, Yeh. No: Barton. Absent: Klein
Tree House: The council voted to create a play area for children on the city’s waterfront.
Yes: Barton, Burt, Drekmeier, Kishimoto, Schmid, Yeh. Absent: Klein.

Palo Alto Board of Education (March 17)

Long-range planning: The board discussed master plans for Gunn and Palo Alto high schools, including a new performing arts center at Paly and a new gym at Gunn. Action: None.
Union contract: The board discussed proposals for teachers and staff, and plans to end health benefits for new hires. Action: None.

Historic Resources Board (March 18)

High-speed Rail: The board discussed the potential impacts of a proposed high-speed rail system on Palo Alto’s historic sites. The board agreed to integrate its concerns about the line’s impact on historic sites into the scoping comments the city plans to send to the California High-Speed Rail Authority. Action: None.

Planning and Transportation Commission (March 18)

High-speed Rail: The commission added utilities, aquifers, noise and urban sprawl to the city’s scoping comments to the California High-Speed Rail Authority. Action: None.

Architectural Review Board (March 19)

High-speed Rail: The board heard a report on the high-speed rail project and on the city’s scoping comments to the California High-Speed Rail Authority. Action: None.

Palo Alto City Council (March 16)

The council is not scheduled to meet next week.

PALO ALTO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

The commission plans to discuss a park-improvement ordinance for Lytton Plaza and discuss bike-path improvements with the Palo Alto Bicycle Advisory Committee. The commission will also discuss plans for the city’s Earth Day celebration. The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24, in the Council Conference Room at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

Public Agenda

PALO ALTO CITY COUNCIL ...

The council is not scheduled to meet next week.

PALO ALTO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ...

The commission plans to discuss a park-improvement ordinance for Lytton Plaza and discuss bike-path improvements with the Palo Alto Bicycle Advisory Committee. The commission will also discuss plans for the city’s Earth Day celebration. The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24, in the Council Conference Room at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

Sister City (continued from page 3)

Palo Alto. Nakajima helped facilitate the alliance and noted that both Palo Alto and Tsuchiura now have about a hundred host families.
Greg Betts, interim director of Palo Alto’s Community Services Department, said the sister-city program makes it easier for local students to travel abroad and strengthens their understanding of other cultures.
“It’s really nice to introduce a personal connection,” Betts said.
Rather than students in schools just learning a language, it’s nice for them to have an opportunity to actually be able to practice that language abroad.”
On Monday, the council lauded Nakajima for her efforts and welcomed Supervisor Masahiko Konoshita from Tsuchiura City Board of Education to Palo Alto. With dozens of Japanese and American students in attendance, Mayor Peter Drekmeier presented Konoshita with a book on Palo Alto history and praised the new sister-city alliance, calling it “a wonderful experience for us all.”
Bowing politely, Konoshita said he was grateful for the city’s warm reception.
“I wish to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been involved in this from the bottom of my heart,” Konoshita said in Japanese, with Palo Alto Councilwoman Yoriko Kishimoto translating. “I’m looking forward to many years of deep exchange between Palo Alto and Tsuchiura.”

Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner can be e-mailed at gsheyner@paweekly.com.
Utilities
(continued from page 7)

said Melissa Smart, a program assistant at the utilities department. «The whole gear, the federal-agent jackets; it was quite a production,» she said.

The three workers said they didn’t want to conjecture why Estrada came forward with his allegations, but they challenged his assertions — as detailed in the federal affidavit — that Ghafarri and former division Director Paul Dornell, who currently works in the city’s Public Works Department, were unqualified to manage the department. The three workers defended Dornell as a good and ethical manager.

They also cited a massive credibility gap in Estrada’s allegations: Only about 30 employees are required to take the certification tests for gas-pipe work of the approximately 60 total employees in the Water-Gas-Wastewater section. They questioned how Estrada could have been asked to fill out about 60 federal-certification tests, as alleged in Glazzy’s affidavit, when only half that number need to be certified.

The search-warrant affidavit references three department employees who were interviewed by Glazzy. One was Estrada, the other two were co-workers who said they heard from Estrada about the alleged fraud. Of the two, one is Dan Serna, who is married to Estrada’s cousin.

Since February, agents have reportedly called a few department employees, though city officials would not say whether DOT agents issued any subpoenas.

City Attorney Gary Baum said he’s not aware of any subpoenas but noted that the federal agency is not coordinating its investigation with his office. Utilities Director Valerie Fong declined to comment on the DOT investigation or on the comments of the rank-and-file utilities workers.

This week, DOT officials returned to Palo Alto, but their arrival was much less dramatic than it was in February. On Wednesday, the federal agency was completing its annual inspection of the department’s field practices.

Long told the Weekly that as of Wednesday the agency hadn’t mentioned finding any shortfalls in department operations, though findings of the visit won’t be known until the DOT releases its report in about a month.

The routine DOT audits generally take place under the radar, but City Manager James Keene mentioned the audit in his report to the City Council this week. He also told council members he would keep them posted on the outcome.

An affirmative evaluation of the department can’t come soon enough for utilities employees.

Thomas Hafner, an installer and repairer in the department, said fellow staff members take great pride in their work and many were disheartened to see the department publicly disparaged after the February raid. He said he took and passed the OQ test and was skeptical when he read Estrada’s claims of fraud.

“We want to be the (measurement) ruler that the other companies in the industry measure up to,” Hafner said. “This coming to the (news/papers) has taken some wind out of my sails.”

“I have a lot of pride in what I do. I’m not just an employee; I’m a customer,” he added, noting that he lives in Palo Alto. ■

Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner can be e-mailed at gsheyner@pawkewee.com.

— Staff Writer Chris Kenrick contributed to this report.

Upfront

Shooting
(continued from page 3)

used the city’s telephone dial-up alert system to notify residents of the situation.

The victim, 20, former a San Jose resident who recently moved to Palo Alto, was shot in the torso and groin area with a small-caliber handgun, police Agent Dan Ryan said. He said eight shots were fired, however.

The victim’s name is not being released, Ryan said, while police arrange protection for his family.

When police arrived, the victim “was conscious but not cooperative with police,” Ryan said.

Gil-Fernandez is described as a Hispanic male, 190 pounds, about 6 feet, possibly wearing a white shirt and blue jeans, possibly armed. Police believe he has left the area and the sequence and circumstances of the shooting aren’t known.

When police arrived, the victim was conscious but not cooperative with police, Ryan said.

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— Staff Writer Chris Kenrick contributed to this report.

HER SPIN ON RETIREMENT LIVING?

MOLDAW FAMILY RESIDENCES HAS ALL THE RIGHT MOVES!

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Jean Green spices up every Saturday night by hitting the dance floor at her favorite local spot. When she’s not cutting a rug, this dancing diva teaches yoga, goes to the theater or curls up with her cat, Sophie, and the latest copy of the New Yorker. She wants to be surrounded by friends and close to all her favorite activities. So she has decided Moldaw Family Residences has all the right moves.

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www.899charleston.org

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Online This Week

These and other news stories were posted on Palo Alto Online throughout the week. For longer versions, go to www.PaloAltoOnline.com/news or click on “News” in the left, green column.

Stanford-owned luxury hotel to open April 2
A 123-room luxury hotel owned by Stanford University will open April 2 on Sand Hill Road in Menlo Park. The Rosewood Sand Hill will have rooms, suites and two villas. (Posted March 19 at 9:34 a.m.)

Shooter eludes police in Arastradero incident
A reported shooting left one man wounded and one man being sought at an apartment complex in the 500 block of Arastradero Road, police reported. The shooting victim was found at Maybell Avenue and El Camino Real shortly after 3 p.m. Police were dispatched to the Arastradero Park Apartments, 2374 Arastradero Road, where they went into an apartment but found no one there. (Posted March 18 at 3:30 p.m.)

Israel to head senior community
Moldas Family Residences at 809 Charleston has named Marilyn Israel as its new executive director, the organization has announced. (Posted March 17 at 1:37 p.m.)

Investigators probe cause of Menlo Park fire
Fire investigators are probing for the cause of a stubborn fire that crept through the walls and ceilings of a downtown Menlo Park building Tuesday, prompting a four-alarm response from firefighters and resulting in about $1 million in damage. Fire Chief Harold Schapelhouman said. (Posted March 17 at 9:40 a.m.)

Gunshot kills 31-year-old East Palo Alto resident
A 31-year-old East Palo Alto resident was found shot to death in the garage of a home at 2540 Hazelwood Ave. Monday following a 12:37 p.m. report of a gunshot victim there. (Posted March 16 at 7:04 p.m.)

Gang evidence blocked in EPA cop murder trial
Any evidence that Alberto Alvarez was a member of the Sacramento Street gang in January 2006 when he allegedly shot and killed East Palo Alto Police Officer Richard May cannot be introduced by the prosecution, San Mateo County Superior Court Judge Craig Parsons ruled Monday afternoon. (Posted March 16 at 4:05 p.m.)

Judy Kleinberg honored in state Legislature
Former Palo Alto Mayor Judy Kleinberg was honored in the state legislature Monday as the 21st Assembly District “Woman of the Year” by Assemblyman Ira Ruskin, D-Los Altos. (Posted March 16 at 11:24 a.m.)

Mountain lion may have been seen in Portola Valley
A possible mountain lion sighting was reported near a residence in Portola Valley late Saturday afternoon, according to the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office. (Posted March 15 at 10:32 a.m.)

City wants more Stanford-expansions ‘benefits’
A new transit hub, an upstream water-detection basin for San Francisquito Creek and 594 housing units are all included in a list of 58 “community benefits” Stanford University could be asked to provide to get the green light for its proposed hospital and shopping center expansions, city officials said Saturday. (Posted March 14 at 9:05 p.m.)

Axia withdraws from Palo Alto ‘fiber’ project
The Canadian-based Axia Netmedia Corporation consortium has pulled out of Palo Alto’s troubled fiber-to-the-premises (FTTP) project, citing “deteriorated” financial markets and Palo Alto’s unwillingness to contribute funding to help win financing. (Posted March 14 at 11:26 a.m.)

Med students work to help gay patients
Four Stanford University medical students are attempting to make things easier for gay, lesbian, transgender and bisexual (LGBT) patients by finding out what young doctors are taught about the unique health concerns they may have. (Posted March 13 at 7:06 p.m.)

NASA asks Navy for help with Hangar One
Citing financial difficulties, NASA Ames has backed away from a plan that would have had the space agency pay more than $15 million to re-skin Hangar One at Moffett Field, and would like the Navy to take that on. In return, NASA is offering to take responsibility for long-term toxic cleanup on several portions of the Superfund site. (Posted March 13 at 7:43 p.m.)

Car rolls over in two-vehicle crash in Palo Alto
Two vehicles crashed at Embarcadero Road and Webster Street in Palo Alto Friday afternoon, causing one to roll over and trapping one person inside. (Posted March 13 at 4:05 p.m.)
### Pulse

**A weekly compendium of vital statistics**

#### POLICE CALLS

**Palo Alto**

**March 11-16**

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**Menlo Park**

**March 11-15**

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**Atherton**

**March 11-15**

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#### VIOLENT CRIMES

**Palo Alto**

**Middlefield Road**

- 3/12, 10:29 p.m.; domestic violence/battery.

**Cowper Street**

- 3/15, 1:14 a.m.; domestic violence/battery.

**El Camino Real**

- 3/12, 2:18 p.m.; child abuse/physical.

**Embarcadero Road**

- 3/12, 12:15 p.m.; child abuse/physical.

**Palo Alto**

**November Road**

- 3/12, 11:30 a.m.; child abuse/physical.

**Webster Street**

- 3/12, 10:10 a.m.; elder abuse.

**Menlo Park**

**200 block Van Buren Road**

- 3/12, 12:18 p.m.; vehicle related.

**400 block Hamilton Ave.**

- 3/15, 11:40 a.m.; attempted robbery.

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### Luxury and Comfort

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Transitions

Deaths, marriages and deaths

Deaths
Claude Stout Brinegar
Claude Stout Brinegar, 82, a former Menlo Park resident who served as the nation’s third secretary of transportation, died March 13 at Classic Hyatt Care Center in Palo Alto.
Born Claude Rawles Stout in Rapid City, South Dakota, he took the name of his stepfather, Butler Brinegar, in 1951.
He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps in Japan and Korea in 1945-47. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa with three degrees from Stanford University, a bachelor’s degree in economics, a master’s in statistics, and a doctorate in applied economics from Stanford’s Food Research Institute. After returning to Palo Alto, he returned to the institute to serve as a visiting scholar for four years.
He served as secretary of transportation in Richard Nixon’s cabinet in 1973-75.
He stayed on for six months after Nixon’s resignation. Although he advised Gerald Ford, he did not want to be part of an election campaign, family members said.
He spent nearly 40 years in the oil industry, joining Union Oil Co. of California in 1953 and rising to executive vice president and chief financial officer of the renamed Unocal Corp. by the time he retired. He returned to Union Oil in 1975 and in 1980-81, headed Ronald Reagan’s transportation transition team.
His marriage to the former Elva Jackson in 1950 ended in divorce.
In 1953 he married Mary Katharine Porter, who died in 1993.
He is survived by his wife, Karen Bartholomew, whom he married in 1995; his children, Claudia B. Brinegar of Huntington Beach, Merendith CoX, Washington, D.C., and Thomas Brinegar of Cody, Wyoming; and four grandchildren.
At his request there will be no services. The family prefers contributions to the Mark Twain Studies Association (43501 Poplar Union Rd., El Cajon, CA 92019-4901) or the Mark Twain House, 351 Farmington Ave., Hartford, CT 06105.

Barbara Joan Cuban
Barbara Joan Cuban, 71, a resident of Palo Alto, died March 8 of cancer.
Born in Cleveland, Ohio, she earned a master’s degree and became a clinical social worker while raising her two daughters.
She had a thriving private practice in Palo Alto for more than 20 years and met with clients up until two weeks before her death. She was extremely committed and passionate about her work and never planned to retire, loved ones said.
She is remembered as a devoted, loving and caring wife and mother. She is survived by her husband Larry of Palo Alto; daughter Sondra Cuban (and husband Oszias Goodwin) of Lancaster, England; daughter Janice Cuban of Sunnyvale; and sister Shirley Cheyfitz of Cleveland, Ohio.
In lieu of flowers, donations to the Lekueimia Association are preferred.

Lorenz Eitner
Lorenz Eitner, 89, former chairman of the Stanford University Art Department and director of the university’s museum, died at his home March 11 of a heart attack.
He joined the Stanford faculty in 1963 and retired in 1989.
“He was one of the pillars on which Stanford built its national and worldwide standing as a university,” Fred Hargadon, Stanford’s director of admissions from 1969 to 1984, said.
He was an expert in 18th- and 19th-century European art.
He was born in 1919, in Brno, Czechoslovakia, of Austrian parents. He was first educated in Frankfurt and Berlin. The family emigrated to South Carolina in 1935 and Lorenz received a bachelor’s degree from Duke University in 1940.
He served as an intelligence officer with the Office of Strategic Services during World War II and headed the research section for the prosecution for the Nuremberg trials after the war.
He received master’s and doctorate degrees in art from Princeton University and then taught for 25 years at the University of Minnesota for 14 years before coming to Stanford.
He was a Fulbright Fellow (1952-53) and received a guggenheim fellowship (1958-59) and won numerous awards during his career.
In addition to his wife, Trudy, he is survived by his daughters Christy Neidig, Kathy Kirby and Claudia Eitner, and granddaughter Stephanie Neidig.
Memorial services are pending.

Janette Mary Hybl
Janette Mary Hybl, 82, a former resident of Menlo Park, died Feb. 25.
She grew up in the Bay Area and graduated from Menlo-Atherton High School. She enjoyed interior decorating and scuba diving, and was active in her religion.
She is survived by her parents, Jack and Beverly Jean Hybl of Menlo Park; fiancé, Paul Labadie of Palo Alto; brothers, Scott Hybl of Menlo Park and Joe Hybl of San Francisco, and Jeff Hybl of Redwood City; and several nieces and nephews.
A “celebration of life” memorial
will be held March 21 at 2 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 1100 Middle Ave., Menlo Park.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the First Baptist Church of Menlo Park, the First Baptist Church of San Carlos or to the Battalion Women Support Group at www.snb.org.

Kosuke Ishii
Kosuke Ishii, 51, a Stanford University professor of mechanical engineering, died March 2 at Good Samaritan Hospital in Los Gatos. His death was the result of internal hemorrhaging from burst blood vessels in his esophagus.

He was the director of the Manufacturing Modeling Laboratory (MML) and was interested in improving the design and manufacturability of products ranging from airplanes to water pumps.

“Kos made strong connections with all the people who worked with him and learned from him,” MML lab member and doctoral student Whittleford Fowler said. “Personally, Kos helped to shape the opportunities that I will have for the rest of my life.”

He was born in Japan and attended high school in Sydney, Australia, where his father was employed. He earned his bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from Sophia University in Tokyo in 1980 and earned a master’s degree two years later at Stanford. He also earned a master’s degree in engineering from the Tokyo Institute of Technology, where he worked as a control and systems design engineer at Toshiba in Tokyo before returning to Stanford to complete a doctorate in mechanical engineering.

He taught at Ohio State University from 1988 to 1994 before joining the Stanford faculty.

He is best known at Stanford for a course he taught for 15 years where graduate students work directly with industry partners to take on a real-world design problem.

He is survived by his wife, Naomi, of Los Altos; sister, Akemi Iida, father, Tsuneharu, and mother, Masue, all of whom live in Japan.

The family requests that donations be made to the Asian Liver Center at Stanford or the Stanford Liver Cancer Center.

Yael Kaniel
Yael Kaniel, 31, a neonatologist at Lucille Packard Children’s Hospital, died March 3 of breast cancer.

She worked in the special-care nursery at Packard Hospital and was a clinical instructor in neonatal and developmental medicine at the Stanford University School of Medicine.

She arrived at Packard Hospital in 2007 after completing her pediatric training at Children’s Hospital in Los Angeles. She was a graduate of the Sackler School of Medicine in Tel Aviv, Israel and earned an master’s degree in engineering from Lucille Packard Children’s Hospital, c/o Haya Barazil, 1554 Arbor St., Los Gaito 94024.

“Shed loved to cheer babies into this strange world they found themselves in,” Aki Kaniel, her father, said. “She remembered her daughter as a warm, engaging person who always had her book in her hands and a close-knit group of friends nearby.

She enjoyed traveling to Turkey, Switzerland, Berlin and Paris. She and her husband became engaged at the Eiffel Tower.

She is survived by her husband, Josh Zaritsky; parents, Batya and Aki Kaniel; sister, Natalie Kaniel, stepmother, Sharon Safdie; and stepfather and stepmother Laura and Daniel Safdie.

Contributions in her memory may be sent to the Dr. Yael Kaniel Zaritsky Memorial Fund at Lucille Packard Children’s Hospital, c/o Haya Barazil, 1554 Arbor St., Los Gaito, CA 94024.

Clark W. Reynolds
Clark Reynolds, 74, a Stanford University economics professor, died March 9 from pulmonary fibrosis.

He become a Stanford faculty member in 1967 after teaching for six years at Occidental College and Yale.

He met with Latin American leaders in 1969 about social and economic development policies as part of a panel created by then-President Richard Nixon. The panel concluded that the United States should ease trade restrictions with Latin American countries.

“T was a very exciting time for my dad,” Rebecca Hemphill, one of his daughters, said. “He was very interested in equalization in terms of trade and alleviating poverty.”

He was born in 1934 in Chicago and attended the University of Illinois, where he was a student when he was a teenager. He graduated from Claremont McKenna College in 1956, attended graduate school at MIT, Harvard Divinity School, and the University of California at Berkeley, where he earned a PhD in Economics in 1961.

He taught economics at Occidental College, the Yale University, and for 30 years at Stanford University, where he was a Professor at the Food Research Institute. After retirement he taught at Johns Hopkins Nanjing Center in Nanjing and at the China Europe International Business School (CEIBS) in Shanghai. Upon his return to Stanford, he taught at Stanford Continuing Studies. Professor Reynolds’ main research interest was the economic development of Latin America, especially of Chile, Mexico, Colombia, Peru, Brazil, and Central America.

His life was dedicated to studying economics to understand how to bridge the gap between the rich and poor in hopes of creating a more balanced world.

Through his lectures, writings, and conversations he taught how to see the world in a more meaningful, layered, and interconnected way. As a teacher he inspired countless students with his warm and engaging style of teaching. He is remembered by his family and friends for his exuberant sense of humor, the twinkle in his eye, and his generosity, as well as for his talents in music, art, photography, and the written word. Clark believed in celebrating life’s every moment with contagious optimism.

Professor Reynolds is survived by Nydia Reynolds, his wife of 32 years; his wife Lynnette Eldridge of Milton, FL; sons C. Winton Reynolds III (Lauren) of Austin, TX, and Matthew L. Reynolds (Brita) of Santa Rosa; daughters Rebecca L. Hemphill (David) of Albuquerque, NM, Camila Reynolds of Los Angeles, and his dog, Rocco. He also leaves four grandchildren, one granddaughter and several nieces and nephews.

Barbara Hopkins Sibley
Barbara Hopkins Sibley, 91, a resident of Los Altos, died March 12.

A native of Denver, Colo., she came to California with her husband Charles in 1955. She and Charles were married for 62 years. They lived half time, frequently opening their home-by-the-sea in northern California coastal community of Sea Ranch, where they lived half time, frequently opening their home-by-the-sea to friends and family.

Clark W. Reynolds
Clark W. Reynolds, 1934-2009

Clark Winton Reynolds succumbed to pulmonary fibrosis on March 9 at his home in Menlo Park. Born in Chicago in March, 1934, he moved with his parents to San Diego when he was a teenager. He graduated from Claremont McKenna College in 1956, attended graduate school at MIT, Harvard Divinity School, and the University of California at Berkeley, where he earned a PhD in Economics in 1961. He taught economics at Occidental College, Yale University, and for 30 years at Stanford University, where he was a Professor at the Food Research Institute. After retirement he taught at Johns Hopkins Nanjing Center in Nanjing and at the China Europe International Business School (CEIBS) in Shanghai. Upon his return to Stanford, he taught at Stanford Continuing Studies. Professor Reynolds’ main research interest was the economic development of Latin America, especially of Chile, Mexico, Colombia, Peru, Brazil, and Central America.

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A native of Denver, Colo., she came to California with her husband Charles in 1955. She and Charles were married for 62 years. They lived half time, frequently opening their home-by-the-sea in northern California coastal community of Sea Ranch, where they lived half time, frequently opening their home-by-the-sea to friends and family.

Clark W. Reynolds
Clark Winton Reynolds succumbed to pulmonary fibrosis on March 9 at his home in Menlo Park. Born in Chicago in March, 1934, he moved with his parents to San Diego when he was a teenager. He graduated from Claremont McKenna College in 1956, attended graduate school at MIT, Harvard Divinity School, and the University of California at Berkeley, where he earned a PhD in Economics in 1961. He taught economics at Occidental College, Yale University, and for 30 years at Stanford University, where he was a Professor at the Food Research Institute. After retirement he taught at Johns Hopkins Nanjing Center in Nanjing and at the China Europe International Business School (CEIBS) in Shanghai. Upon his return to Stanford, he taught at Stanford Continuing Studies. Professor Reynolds’ main research interest was the economic development of Latin America, especially of Chile, Mexico, Colombia, Peru, Brazil, and Central America.

His life was dedicated to studying economics to understand how to bridge the gap between the rich and poor in hopes of creating a more balanced world. Through his lectures, writings, and conversations he taught how to see the world in a more meaningful, layered, and interconnected way. As a teacher he inspired countless students with his warm and engaging style of teaching. He is remembered by his family and friends for his exuberant sense of humor, the twinkle in his eye, and his generosity, as well as for his talents in music, art, photography, and the written word. Clark believed in celebrating life’s every moment with contagious optimism.

Professor Reynolds is survived by Nydia Reynolds, his wife of 32 years; his wife Lynnette Eldridge of Milton, FL; sons C. Winton Reynolds III (Lauren) of Austin, TX, and Matthew L. Reynolds (Brita) of Santa Rosa; daughters Rebecca L. Hemphill (David) of Albuquerque, NM, Camila Reynolds of Los Angeles, and his dog, Rocco. He also leaves four grandchildren, one granddaughter and several nieces and nephews.
Editorial

Plastic-bag ban carries legal baggage

After a full year of discussion, Palo Alto city staff is still working to produce a comprehensive bag-replacement program — as local grocers urged widespread after pioneering efforts in Palo Alto showed broad surprise of city staff.

The specter of Palo Alto getting sued by national plastic-bag interests almost stalled action last week by the Palo Alto City Council, which wrestled with one of the early steps in a broader waste-reduction program.

The initial step would be to ban plastic carry-out bags at grocery stores, which sounds simple enough, and to enact a modest fee for paper bags — which cost about 10 times what plastic bags cost and cause their own kind of environmental impacts.

Except this is Palo Alto, where it seems nothing is simple, including the ability of the City Council and the community to get clear legal advice. In this case, Councilman John Barton surprised everyone Monday night by pre-empting discussion with a motion to table the issue and take the matter up later in a closed session.

He cited a changing “legal landscape,” referring to a Feb. 20 court ruling that overturned a similar bag ban in Manhattan Beach in Southern California.

The council rejected the idea of a closed-session by a 4-3 vote, and proceeded instead to approve by a 7-1 vote (Barton dissenting) a ban on plastic bags. The approval was with the understanding that by next September city staff will present a broader program to incorporate outreach and educational programs with a broader ban on use of plastic bags by other, non-grocery stores.

This current ban will have limited application, affecting only four (Safeway, JJ&F, Mollie Stone’s and Andronico’s) of the seven mid- to large-size grocery stores in Palo Alto. Three (Whole Foods, Country Sun and Piazza’s) have already voluntarily stopped using plastic carryout bags, encouraging customers to switch to cloth (or other reusable) bags or paper bags.

On the closed “litigation session” proposal, City Attorney Gary Baum was no help at all to the council, stating only that it was up to the council to decide if it wanted to have a closed session. He had earlier sent council members a written confidential memorandum about the Manhattan Beach case, which we believe should be a public document.

When directly asked by Councilman Pat Burt for advice, Baum didn’t even attempt to explain the possible legal issues, the strict provisions of the Brown Act that limit closed sessions, or what staff had done in drafting the proposed ban to reduce the legal risk. Nor did Barton offer any details of his concerns.

Whenever possible, legal advice and analysis should be part of the public dialogue, so citizens can weigh in on whether the policy objectives warrant certain legal exposure.

In this case, the active threat is from Stephen L. Joseph, a Bay Area lawyer who represents several plastic-bag makers and who has created a website, saveplasticbag.com. His legal arguments are well known.

Baum could have taken this opportunity to provide information to the public about the differences between the Palo Alto action and the Manhattan Beach ban. One such distinction is that Palo Alto did a detailed “environmental impact assessment” (a step below a full “environmental impact review”) and adopted a “mitigated negative declaration” about the impact of the proposed ban, whereas Manhattan Beach officials only adopted a simple “negative declaration.”

Lack of clarity on these points contributed to a confusing, lengthy council discussion that pushed the meeting until past midnight.

A year ago, at the urging of local grocers who pledged cooperation, the council significantly broadened its approach to waste-reduction to include a comprehensive program that would apply to many businesses. It would include education, outreach and phased-in transition.

As with most things in Palo Alto, this process has become overly complex, requiring many meetings with different types of businesses, under the guidance of staff member Phil Bobel, the city’s environmental-compliance manager.

On April 9, 2008, the Weekly strongly supported the more comprehensive approach in an editorial entitled “A chance to think outside the bag.”

We noted it was rare for merchants faced with a proposed new regulation to come back with a more sweeping alternative (to the surprise of city staff).

Our conclusion still stands: If successful, such a program could become a model for the nation just as recycling became widespread after pioneering efforts in Palo Alto showed broad public support 35 years ago.
On Deadline

If high-speed trains are tunneled, what would we do with all that dirt?

by Jay Thorwaldson

The realities of high-speed rail arrived in Palo Alto and the Midpeninsula this year — even though the first train is years away.

Neighbors along the designated route, the Caltrain corridor, suddenly realized that they could be confronted with elevated tracks that could be a vertical or steeply sloped wall that might swallow up some private residences for a wider right-of-way.

Some civic leaders are pushing to get the high-speed tracks buried deep underground, using modern tunneling technology.

As the Weekly scrambled to cover all the emerging concerns and political positions, a friend asked me an interesting question last week: “What would you do with all that dirt?”

Now that’s a fair question. I immediately quipped that perhaps we could create a second Coyote Hill in the foothills.

Then I recalled a second big story this week: How a predicted rise in sea level this century of about 3 to 4 1/2 feet could expose vast areas of the South Bay to tidal flooding when a high tide teams up with a major 100-year flood. Such an event is misnamed. It actually means a flood or storm that has a 1 percent chance of occurring in any given year. Given climate-change predictions, such an event could occur, say, every decade or so.

In Palo Alto, a flood could extend as far inland as Middlefield Road mostly south of Colorado Avenue, along with other parts of Palo Alto along Bayshore Freeway.

But if that storm and high tide teamed up with an overflow surge down volatile, fast-rising San Francisco Creek, then homes in northern Palo Alto become at-risk. Upstream, a series of steep, short canyons with historic names quickly feed storm runoff into tributary creeks, meaning San Francisco Creek can rise from a trickle to overflow within hours.

As for the threat from the bay, I came across and old news clipping I wrote in 1975 about a report that cited subsidence and erosion of levees all around the South Bay, creating an increased flood risk — even without a rise in sea level.

The report estimated it would cost about $95 million to bring the levees up to where they once were and shore them up. That was 1975 dollars, of course — the levees aren’t the only thing that has eroded.

That work, as urgent as it seemed, was never done, to my knowledge, although levees have been patched up here and there. Instead of following the in-and-out outer levees of the old salt ponds, the engineers decided they should take a much shorter route and build a concrete wall (6 feet high, if I recall correctly) in the landward side of the marshes.

Palo Alto’s section of wall would mostly run right along East Bayshore Road. Residents who loved their baylands views and their easy access to the marshlands toward the bay were appalled, and the plan died a slow, sodden death.

“Something there is that doesn’t love a wall,” famed American poet Robert Frost penned nearly a century ago. But his 1914 poem, “Mending Wall,” is about two neighbors who ritualistically meet to repair and rebuild a New England stone wall that rabbit hunters or others have pulled down in places. It includes the famous line, “Good fences make good neighbors,” an old saw even then that his neighbor liked repeating.

It was the wall around the bay that killed the levee project more than 30 years ago. And the absence of that project now may threaten thousands of homes in the South Bay area with serious flooding if the sea-level predictions actually occur, as seems increasingly likely according to scientists studying global warming.

So now we face the prospect of a new wall, one to elevate the rails through Palo Alto and neighboring communities.

A full range of possibilities will be studied as part of a comprehensive environmental impact review of the high-speed railroad project, as approved by voters statewide last November.

But residents along the tracks in Palo Alto and some other Midpeninsula communities are convinced that a vertical-sided “Berlin Wall” will turn out to be the least costly and most politically attractive alternative.

Some Palo Alto civic leaders are arguing in favor of deep-tunneling the trains, even though that might be vastly more expensive.

They say building 600 to 700 housing units along the right of way could offset most of the added cost.

But that’s presuming all four tracks (two for the high-speed trains and two for existing Caltrain and freight operations) are buried — which might not be the case at all.

Rod Diridon, a member of the High Speed Rail Authority board, said it might be too costly to tunnel all four tracks, so the Caltrain tracks might remain on the surface much as they are today. Yet folks should remember that this is a 100-year project, and costs should be amortized over that timeframe — including perhaps some extra millions of dollars for a deep tunnel (if environmentally feasible).

Diridon, speaking to the Palo Alto Rotary Club Monday, said while he isn’t allowed to express a personal opinion about any specific alternative (due to federal regulations relating to environmental studies on the project) he is able to make the case for the high-speed trains. He cited their huge environmental advantages, their spotless safety record worldwide, their comfort and the fact that they could whiz a traveler back and forth between Los Angeles and San Francisco in just over 2.5 hours, one way.

Diridon also cited potential environmental risks to deep tunneling, such as possible interference with underground aquifer flows.

Getting from one place to another in the Bay Area — and in California generally — has been a source of contention since the great growth spurt of the 1950s. Growing up in pre-freeway Los Gatos, I recall Sundays when traffic would back up six miles on two-lane roads filtering through town as folks headed for a day at the beach in Santa Cruz. And that’s not even counting the terrible air pollution that would completely obscure the mountains flanking Los Gatos many days a year.

But nowhere has the getting-around issue been more intense and contentious than Palo Alto and the Midpeninsula, fueled by America’s love affair with the car and a jobs-to-housing imbalance as high as 2.5-to-1 in Palo Alto that has pushed people further and further away from jobs to find homes.

But back to the gritty issue of where to put all that dirt from a deep tunnel.

OK, let’s take the biggest view possible: Let’s use that dirt to fix the bayside levees to protect homes and businesses around the bay, at long last.

As for the elevated-tracks “Berlin Wall” idea, let’s see what Robert Frost might say:

“Before I built a wall I’d ask to know What I was walling in or walling out, And to whom I was like to give offence.”

Weekly Editor Jay Thorwaldson can be e-mailed at jthorwalson@paweekly.com.

Streetwise

What causes you to get road rage and what are your coping mechanisms?


Brian Bolitho

Artist

Birch Street, Palo Alto

“Road rage is fed, largely, by people who spend two hours a day struggling with their computers. There is a whole layer of anger and rage and insecurity in our society that’s fed by people who are hooked to their computers. I bailed out on that. I ride my bike.”

Shane Parsons

Student

Marshall Drive, Palo Alto

“Excessive brake tapping. I hate that. But getting tickets reduced my need to be in a rush.”

Amy Wolfrom

Family Worker

Moffett Circle, Palo Alto

“When people are on the freeway and they’re merging and either don’t use their blinker or just cut you off, people who go 10 miles under the speed limit.”

Robin Wenham

Dog Trainer

Morton Way, Palo Alto

“Probably the best way is to imagine that the other person has had a really bad day. It’s not fair to judge people based on other people’s heads. Road rage tends to come along because we feel unjustly served by the other person’s behavior. Compassion is the answer.”

Nina Loh

Physician

Oak Hills, Palo Alto

“I usually try to stay calm. I can usually pull back and try not to get too excited.”

Check out Town Square!

Hundreds of local topics are being discussed by local residents on Town Square, a reader forum sponsored by the Weekly on our community website at www.PaloAltoOnline.com. Post your own comments, ask questions, read the Editor’s blog or just stay up on what people are talking about around town!
Peninsula commuters are no strangers to congestion, especially those living or working in Palo Alto. Whether heading to the North Bay from the suburban sprawl of San Jose, or south from San Francisco to a technology park in Mountain View, many drivers can recall — if not fondly — getting a very good look at the hulking, yellow-and-blue edifice of IKEA, as traffic on U.S. Highway 101 crawls past the University Avenue interchange.

Traffic jams, simply put, are a part of daily life in Silicon Valley, as are the questions they invariably raise. The most vexing of which — just what in the world caused that gridlock anyway? — even gets traffic experts excited.

Take Mike Lepech, assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering at Stanford. “You can get backups when absolutely nothing seems to have caused it,” he said, acknowledging how frustrating, and common, the phenomenon is. Understanding why such jams accumulate, he said, is the key to preventing them, keeping drivers sane and getting people “home to their kids quicker.”

“Driving is not rocket science,” Lepech said, “but we do it so often that we tend to lose respect for what we are doing — hurting ourselves at 75 miles per hour down the road.” At that speed, and with the volume of vehicles found on a freeway such as U.S. 101, Lepech said a small number of vehicles can have a large impact on traffic flow.

“Most drivers ... don't think about the underlying science (of traffic) any more than they think about the science of electricity when they turn on the TV.”

—Wolfgang Homburger, emeritus lecturer at U.C. Berkeley’s Institute of Transportation Studies
as 101, failing to understand one’s role as a driver can contribute to dangerous road conditions and the very congestion people have so often cursed while staring up at the bold, serif font of that familiar Swedish furniture maker.

Lepech said it is just as important for individuals to understand how one car can adversely impact traffic flow as it is for transportation engineers to understand how to build more efficient road systems.

The most ostensible cause of traffic on 101 is population. The American Community Survey, an arm of the U.S. Census, estimated that roughly 2.6 million cars, trucks and vans hit Bay Area roads in 2007, ferrying commuters to and from their homes and offices.

According to Casey Emoto, deputy director of project development for Valley Transportation Authority, stands beside the VTA’s newest approved project — adding auxiliary lanes to Highway 101. "You can get backups when absolutely nothing seems to have caused it.” — Mike Lepech, Stanford engineering professor

(continued on page 22)
Back pain had been a constant in Jennifer Ford’s life for years. “I al- ways did sports,” she said. The list was long – softball, softball, tennis, track and field, and anything she could sign up for. She had enough to be recruited by UCLA as a soccer player. Or she could have added lacrosse to her list of sports. She met her husband, Dustin, while leading cycling tours in France.

A decade later—after working in public relations, teaching second grade and having two children—Ford, 33, began to feel more than her usual pain. It was especially bad when she could push, pulling her kids in a double-jogger. “I was taking ibu- profen three times a day,” she said. That wasn’t working. She was in so much agony she went to see an ortho- podist, an old family friend. He did x-rays and then an MRI.

He called and the Fords went to his office. “I knew it was bad when I looked at his face,” she said. He told her she had a tumor in her back, and, she said, she showed him her scar, not even her purse. “That was very scary,” Ford said.

“The physical therapist said, ‘Okay, let’s go.’ I was shocked. I was also excited, just to be able to walk.’”

**How to Keep Your Spine Healthy**

- Practice good posture - Standing up straight and sitting properly prevents stress on the spine.
- Sleeping position matters - Sleeping on your side or back is best.
- Use your knees - Bending over with legs straight and hunching up weight is responsible for many, many back injuries.
- Maintain appropriate weight - Extra weight is another strain on the spine.
- Exercise regularly - Include aerobic and weight-bearing activities. As you age, think about changing your choices to low-impact activities.
- Strengthen your core muscles - A strong core helps support the spine.
- Stretch your body - Flexibility is important. If you have already injured your back, or have suffered from long-term back pain, consult your doctor about which stretching exercises will work best for you.
- A healthy diet - Eating fruits, vegetables and whole grains is recommended.
- If your back hurts, see your doctor.

Sometimes the surgical challenge can’t be pre- dicted. Ford’s vertebrectomy was performed by Dr. Norbert von der Groeben, chief of the Hospital’s Orthopedic Spine Center, to remove a tumor that Ford had not known existed. “That was very scary,” Ford said. But it is the kind of demanding sur- gery that pain is temporary, many people think. “I al- ready admit this to her the Hospital. On Monday. But her condition continued to worsen over the next two days until she couldn’t feel her leg. Very con- cerned husband trucked down Carragee at the Hospital on Tuesday. ‘I’m here,’ Carragee said. ‘Come see me. I think it’s lost you come in sooner.’

Carragee ordered CT and MRI im- ages of her back. When he looked at those, he immediately admitted her to the Hospital. On Ford’s spine was a bony cist and a tangerine rod to Ford’s spine was completely. He added a tita- nium rod to Ford’s spine and inserted bone graft- ing on either side. Two days later, however, Ford needed a second surgery to close a microscopic hole in the disc in the dura where the tumor had thinned it to extreme fragility.

**Cooperation for optimal results**

Carragee called Laurence Shuer, MD, a Stanford neurosurgeon, to join him in the operating room. “Our high degree of cooperation is a real benefit to the patient,” Carragee said. “We can call on the great depth of resources we have right here in oncology, neu- rosurgery and other fields. That’s the way it should work especially in cases like this.”

Shuer patched the hole with a tony stitch and covered it with glue made with a substance that is part of the body’s own coagulation process. That’s pretty much the last advance from techniques once considered stan- dard. “In the old days we would have used muscle taken off her back or a connective tissue from her thigh,” Carragee said.

Ford had to lie flat on her bed for 24 hours. By the second day, she was up on her feet. “The physical therapist said, ‘Okay, let’s go.’ I was shocked. I was also excited, just to be able to walk.”

Ford went down on a couple of days later. But she’s still seeing Carragee and goes for check-ups at the Ortho- pedic Clinic’s new location in the Stanford Medical Outpatient Cen- ter in Redwood City.

She must be very careful with her spine and won’t be able to pick up her kids for months. “I’m lucky. I’m a walking miracle. It just shows how fragile life is. We forgot, but this has made me reflect. After you go through something like this, you want to cherish every moment.”

Stanford Hospital & Clinics is known worldwide for advanced treatment of complex disorders in areas such as cardiac care, cancer treatment, neurosurgery, and organ transplantation. Consistently ranked among “America’s Best Hospitals” by U.S. News & World Report, Stanford Hospital & Clinics is internationally recognized for translating medical breakthroughs into the care of patients. The Hospital is part of the Stanford University Medical Center, along with the Stanford University School of Medicine and Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital at Stanford.

**For More Information**

- The Stanford Health Library: Stanford Shopping Center, (650) 725-8400; Stanford Hospital, (650) 725-8100; Stanford Comprehensive Cancer Center, 875 Blake Wilbur Dr., (650) 736-757. Website: healthlibrary.stanford.edu
- The Stanford Hospital & Clinics Orthopaedic Spine Center, (650) 725-9500. Its webpage has a patient education section.
- Stanfordchildrens.org, select Clinical Services.
- The North American Spine Society: www.spine.org

**Reading to her kids is an activity Jennifer Ford can do while she recuperates, this afternoon in Taylor’s room.**

**Norbert von der Groeben**

**Jennifer Ford, Orthopaedics Spine Center patient**
A licensed call-center with over 24/7 CALL-CENTER/BROKER

Effective July 1, 2003, the Santa Clara Valley Transit Authority (VTA), every day 150,000 to 200,000 of those vehicles use the stretch of 101 dividing Palo Alto from East Palo Alto.

Those numbers, Emoto said, have played no small part in prompting two projects, which aim to improve safety conditions and reduce overall congestion on 101 by adding additional infrastructure to a stretch of the freeway passing through Palo Alto.

The first is VTA’s U.S. 101 Auxiliary Lanes Project, which aims to improve safety conditions and reduce overall traffic on the freeway between Highway 85 and Embarcadero Road. The $102 million project is funded in large part — $89.4 million — by Proposition 1B, the San Mateo County Transportation Authority’s $102 million U.S. 101 Auxiliary Lanes Project aims to reduce traffic and improve safety conditions between Embarcadero Road in Palo Alto and State Highway 85.

(continued from page 19) Shannon Corey

Traffic

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The project will widen the freeway to 10 lanes and will also widen ramps at each interchange of the 3.2-mile segment of 101. Once the project is completed, the rightmost lanes of both northbound and southbound 101 will be designated “auxiliary lanes,” which will allow vehicles more time for merging onto or off of the freeway. It will also allow cars traveling from one interchange to the next to do so without ever entering the highway’s main flow.

Planning began on the second project — metering lights — more than 20 years ago but has been held up by the red tape of regional governments ever since. According to Benjamin Edokpayi, the Caltrans public information officer for Santa Clara County, the project was first conceived in the ‘80s. During the mid ‘90s, metering lights were installed on all 101 southbound on-ramps, from the San Mateo County line all the way to De La Cruz Boulevard in San Jose, with the exception of the Charleston Road onramp in Mountain View.

However, city governments in Santa Clara County would not agree to the metering plan when Caltrans proposed to turn the signals on four years ago, Edokpayi said. Since then, Caltrans, VTA, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and cities in the county have been working together and the metering lights from Embarcadero Road to De La Cruz Boulevard are expected to be turned on the first week of April.

“Palo Alto commuters can expect their on-ramps to be metered before getting on the southbound 101 corridor in the evening commute,” Edokpayi said. This, he hopes, will result in a less congested evening commute for drivers heading south.

According to Lepech, both measures should improve freeway safety and loosens gridlock.

“You’re basically making the pipe wider from one exit to the next,” Lepech said of the auxiliary lanes, comparing traffic to water flowing through a pipe.

“If you don’t have a big enough artery to carry all the water needed, you have two options: increase the diameter of the pipe or increase the velocity of the flow. But this can’t be done with freeway traffic. The last thing we want to do is put people closer together and have them go faster.”

Fortunately, he added, the former option works like a charm.

On city streets, Lepech said, traffic moves in what are called “platoons,” groups of cars that are stopped at each red light and then ushered through with every green. In this way, large blocks of traffic — or platoons — are moved around a city efficiently. But on the freeway, he said, a “platoon takes up the entire road” and is not broken up by traffic lights. If too many drivers attempt to enter a busy freeway, a platoon, which may stretch for miles, begins to slow and can ultimately come to a standstill.

The addition of metering lights will augment the lane expansion by forcing drivers to file onto the freeway in an orderly manner during peak traffic hours. Lepech said, ultimately increasing the fluidity of merging traffic through the Palo Alto stretch of 101.

The concept is simple enough. It isn’t hard to understand why giving drivers more time to merge and allowing them to move from entrance to exit without disturbing the main body of freeway traffic will improve traffic flow. But Lepech and Emoto — along with Wolfgang Homburger, emeritus lecturer at U.C. Berkeley’s Institute of Transportation Studies — say there is much more to traffic than what is revealed to the casual observer.

“Most drivers ... don’t think about the underlying science (of traffic) any more than they think about the science of electricity when they turn on the TV,” said Homburger, who served the institution from 1955 until his retirement in 1990.

The Institute of Transportation Studies, or ITS, opened its doors in 1948. Back then, it was called the Institute of Transportation and Traffic Engineering and was preceded only by Harvard’s Bureau of Highway Traffic.

Initial ITS studies, Homburger said, focused on traffic behavior and safety on streets and rural highways, characteristics of different paving materials, lighting of roadways and vehicle lights. As faster, more sophisticated automobiles were built and freeways were constructed, ITS’s research kept pace to address evolving traffic concerns, such as those now being confronted.
It’s food for thought for any frustrated driver impatiently waiting to get onto 101.

“By delaying you a minute or so at the ramp meter,” Homburger said, “the total delay for all freeway users is substantially reduced.”

Lepech said that sophisticated infrastructure, paired with technology and a better understanding of how traffic behaves, will not only lead to a safer commute, a healthier state of mind and a better family life. He also sees an opportunity to cut down on carbon emissions and conserve resources.

He and his colleagues look to a future where traffic control systems are smarter.

“The cascade” of brake lights, Lepech said, is often the root cause of those perplexing clots of traffic that seem to manifest from nowhere and evaporate without explanation.

Homburger said that metering lights, by imposing controls on human behavior, can greatly improve a freeway’s fluidity. Traffic flow on freeways increases with demand up to a point, or “capacity,” he explained. Stop-and-go traffic is the result of a given freeway exceeding its capacity. By controlling the volume of traffic added to a freeway each hour, fluidity can be maintained.

“What you’re trying to do is minimize the friction, the disturbances,” Emoto added.

Drivers may not realize the amount of work — beyond simply erecting traffic signals — that goes into projects like these. Edokpayi said one of the biggest challenges of the metering-lights project was getting Caltrans, VTA and the Palo Alto city government on the same page. The auxiliary lanes project also had to be approved by the city and is currently open to public comment through March 27.

But in addition to the governmental logistics, there is also fine-tuned science working behind the scenes of all transportation projects. Homburger explained that there is a formula used to determine the appropriate time between red and green lights in freeway metering systems. Signal times are set by calculating the number of vehicles, per 5 minutes, that can be accommodated by a given freeway at a given on-ramp at a given time.

The southbound 101 lights have the ability to make such calculations in real time.

“The meters adjust rates to conditions on the freeway upstream of the on-ramp,” Edokpayi said. “The rates at each of the on-ramps is part of a metering plan that looks at the whole freeway corridor.”

Drivers often do not move over when signs direct them to, but speed up to put themselves one or two cars ahead.

Erratic lane changes, short merges and selfish driving practices often cause what Emoto calls a “shockwave,” a traffic phenomenon that isn’t obvious at ground level but is clearly visible when watching traffic from above.

“Even if it’s just tapping the brakes, it causes a cascading effect in the traffic behind you,” Lepech said, describing how such a “shockwave” can form. “When the freeway is at, or near, capacity, if there is any perturbation in the flow — all of a sudden there is a reaction of a single driver — you end up with the first driver accounting for that perturbation and then, boom! It starts to go to the next person and the next person.”

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he said. “Keeping aware of the traffic conditions around you and practicing the same procedures you learned in drivers’ ed — that’s what keeps traffic flowing smoothly.”
During a recent interview, he was seen as an original Joe who sings and beat-boxes while playing the cello. As he pulled out a few zucchinis and a bag of shredded lettuce from his backpack, the song “Veggie Maniac” that he had performed minutes before suddenly became a reality.

Chang’s lyrics claim his passionate love for such vegetables as broccoli and kale. (He has also worked at organic farms.) As he snacked in between words, he admitted to sometimes hanging out and people-watching at farmers’ markets.

“I’m really into rare vegetables,” he said assertively. “I don’t care if people think I’m crazy. I like gibberish and being silly.”

Chang, a Los Altos native who calls traveling to gigs his home and music his full-time job, uses humor and satirical lyrics in some of his songs. Although he grew up playing classical music, he now describes his style as funky folk with a little hip-hop, punk and dance.

It was in the fifth grade that Chang encountered the cello. The school had a room full of instruments and the kids tried each one out; the cello caught his attention. From that moment on it was years of private lessons, music camps and youth orchestras.

“I liked the cello the most. There are hardly any cellists in an orchestra,” he said smiling about how he stood out from the crowd.

Eventually, his hard work paid off. He toured with Palo Alto’s El Camino Youth Symphony with two trips to Europe. He also was awarded a scholarship to attend Berklee College of Music in Boston from 2002 to 2006.

When he was 18 years old, Chang discovered performing for the public. He found himself regularly on street corners of University Avenue in Palo Alto. With his case open for change and cello in hand, he would put on a show playing traditional classical tunes for the local shoppers, residents, anyone who would listen. But it wasn’t the desired outcome.

“I wanted to perform in front of an audience, but that got old. People weren’t really listening to me,” he said.

Ultimately, Chang’s love for hip-hop came in to play a huge role with his music style. He met a man named Steve Foxx the Beat Box at Berklee, who gave him pointers on how to master the not-so-common form of beat-boxing. Chang describes beat-boxing as vocal percussion, and imitating a drum set with your mouth.

He practiced everywhere, from walking down the street to standing in line at the supermarket. He added that the good thing about singing is that there aren’t any limitations on when and where you can do it.

Chang began to improv — or freestyle, as he calls it — while he played. Mixing beats and melodies both vocally and through instruments, he improvised lyrics using his interests and location to motivate him. He says he started singing songs to wake people up and turn them on to life, which is still the technique he uses today. His topics include social and earth justice, consumerism and simply being happy.

“I sing about how we can progress (toward) a sustainable future,” he said firmly. “There’s so many ways you can help out in the world. I use music as a way to convey that message.”

Some of his songs that describe this are titled “Earth is a Garden,” “Fancy Cars,” “End the War on Nature” and “Let’s Be
Cello Joe
(continued from page 24)

Happy,” Chang said of people starting to listen that liked his upbeat original songs compared to the classical pieces he started out with.

In particular was Carl, a home-les man living in Palo Alto who quickly became a fan of Chang’s music. He was always on the street and would stop to listen. Chang says every time Carl would come around he always yelled, “Cello Joe!” The nickname has forever stuck with him.

Chang’s band, called Cello Joe and the Midnight Ramblers, often plays at local gigs, venues and festivals. Chang is the sole regular member; the band typically consists of a rotating cast of musicians. He says the easiest thing about playing folk-type music is that any good musician can sit in on the simple songs.

“I’m a rhythm kind of guy. I like to be creative. I never do a song the same way twice,” he said.

The band consists of many musical instruments. Included are banjos, fiddles, violins and drums, to name a few. Chang also performs using a jaw harp, slide whistle, rhythm bones and of course his main companion, a cello.

Drummer and band mate Evan Bautista has played approximately 100 shows with Chang, he said.

“Just a lot of people,” the drummer said of Chang. “He’s very unique and a wild one at times.” Bautista said, describing Chang’s performances. “He’s very classically trained with his own twists.”

Chang recently rode in a 5,000-mile bike tour called The Pleasant Revolution with the band Ginger Ninjas. They set off for their adventure from Northern California and traveled with a bike trailer for his cello all the way to Mexico. They would pull up into a town and talk to people at different bars trying to find a gig. As far as he knows, he’s the world’s only long-distance bike-touring cellist.

Nothing seems to slow Chang down. He has a dream of one day producing a musical theater puppet show that he says is slowly coming true. He plans to include live music and improvisation with the audience.

“I want to make it funny and interactive, like having a puppet hit on someone in the audience,” he said, laughing. “If I dream this and want it, my subconscious will activate it and make it happen!”

While he loves beat-boxing and freestyling, Joseph “Cello Joe” Chang is also classically trained and attended the Berklee College of Music.

Correction
An article in the March 13 issue about the Rodin exhibit at the Cantor Arts Center contained two errors. The sculpture “Bellona” represents the Roman goddess of war. Also, a large photo in the exhibit was described as having been taken in the Musee d’Orsay, when it was actually taken in a building created for a late-19th century World’s Fair in Paris.

What: Cello Joe and the Midnight Ramblers performing original songs
Where: Dana Street Roasting Company at 744 W. Dana St. in Mountain View
When: Friday, March 27, at 8 p.m.
Cost: Free
Info: Go to www.cellojoe.com or www.cdbaby.com/cd/cellojoe for more information, or call the cafe at 650-390-9638.

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Oxford Street Brass & The Hallelujah Chorus
Easter Egg Hunt following 9:30 Worship

See what’s happening at the HOTEL CABANA PALO ALTO

TheaterWorks’ ‘It Ain’t Nothin’ but the Blues’ brings the house down
by Jeanie Forte

What: ‘It Ain’t Nothin’ but the Blues,’ a musical revue by Ron Taylor, Randal Myler, Lita Gaithers, Charles Bevel and Dan Wheatman, presented by TheatreWorks
Where: Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto
When: Through April 11, with shows at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday & Wednesday, 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, 2 p.m. on Saturday & Sunday, and 7 p.m. on Sunday
Cost: Tickets are $27-$65.
Info: Go to www.theatreworks.org or call 650-905-6600.

Arts & Entertainment

Theater Review:

The blues can be slow and sultry, or driving with a funky beat, or sad and lonesome, or one of many other forms — this uniquely American music has taken over the last couple of centuries.

The current offering from TheatreWorks now playing at the Lucie Stern, “It Ain’t Nothin’ but the Blues,” covers the entire gamut of blues styles and types with great energy and verve, rousing the audience to its feet by the end. Three women and four men and a fabulous band bring it all home with tunes both familiar and not so in a show that definitely does not give you the blues.

This rich collection of more than 40 musical numbers — ranging from African slave chants to Delta blues to Chicago funk to Nashville ballads and more — is really a cleverly disguised history lesson, framing each number in its historical context with minimal narrative and evocative photo projections on large on-stage screens. The images capture blues pioneers, such as the great Robert Johnson, Bessie Smith or Ma Rainey, but also depict the ordinary people of American experience: an immigrant family, sharecroppers, men on a chain gang, children of all colors, nightclubs, clapboard churches. All on a walk through decades of the incredible out of culture, the essence of which lives on in the heartfelt music.

Ron Taylor came up with the idea, and co-wrote the show with Randal Myler, Lita Gaithers, “Mississippi” Charles Bevel and Dan Wheatman. Taylor died in 2001, but had lived to see the show blossom from a children’s show into a full-length Tony-winning Broadway hit. Many of the original authors have performed in the show, or continued to be involved with it; this production, Myler directs as he has from the first, Wheatman helmed music direction, and Bevel performs with the ensemble. Another longtime participant, Chic Street Man, has traveled to be in this run. Chic and “Sip” are national treasures, terrific performers with charisma and character and an enormous knowledge of their field, often bringing a humorous note into the show.

Rounding out the male ensemble are expert banjo and guitar player Tony Marcus, who delivers bluegrass and other “white” music, revealing its close lineage with the blues; and local favorite James Monroe Iglehart, whose velvet voice gets to play a little wild here with some great standards such as “The Thrill is Gone” and “Hoochie Coochie Man.”

The women are equally strong, including C. Kelly Wright, another popular local performer whose voice can go from a tender caress to the power of raw emotion. She also demonstrates her knack for comedy in numbers such as “Someone Else Is Steppin’ in.” Michelle Jordan blew us all away in “Crows,” and here again wows us with her ability to interpret absolutely anything. Her solo turn on “Strange Fruit” is a tour de force not to be missed. Alison Ewing has also graced local stages, using her beautiful Broadway sound to excellent effect on numbers such as “Walking After Midnight” and “Fever.”

For all the solos, this is definitely an ensemble show, and one without a weak link in the group. They all seem to be having genuine fun as well, with the music and with each other, which generates waves of good will to the audience.

Joe Ragsay’s set incorporates the requisite projections in a rustic frame for the first half, but manages to suggest a Chicago nightclub for the second act. Costumes follow that pattern as well, moving from 30s colloquial dress to natty zoot suits and cocktail dresses for part two, and are mostly effective, although the women’s fancy dresses were oddly unflattering.

Wheatman, along with co-music director Billy Liberatore, deserves special recognition for the non-stop music behind all the numbers, with a top-notch ensemble of musicians who all get their own solos, including Liberatoro, Marc Baum, Jeff Massanari, Jeff Chambers and David Rokeach.

If I had one quibble it would be with the selection of numbers in the show itself: I found myself wondering occasionally about some of the choices and their designation as “blues” songs. But ultimately I didn’t care — it was all good, all fascinating and fantastic, an edifying gallop through history via great music.

In short, this show is more than the light entertainment the title would suggest. Yes, it’s that, but it also speaks to the heart and the mind, delivering a memorable evening of great performance.
The beat on the street
Palo Altans seek performers for World Music Day
by Ashley Ramirez

World Music Day is scheduled to take over the street corners of University Avenue in Palo Alto on the longest day of the year, June 21.

Musicians will perform free concerts in a wide range of musical genres: jazz, Latin, opera, pop, rock and others. The vision for World Music Day has 30 to 40 musicians and bands performing in about 20 locations from 5 to 8 p.m. Palo Alto residents Claude Ezran and Olama Hirsch Khan, members of the city’s Human Relations Commission, are leading the organization.

World Music Day started in France 27 years ago and quickly spread to other countries. It’s held on the same date every year; nearby cities celebrating this day include Woodside, San Francisco and Oakland.

After Ezran attended a World Music Day festival in London last year, he thought this would be a perfect idea for Palo Alto. He quickly grew fond of all the types of music, the enthusiasm from the crowds and the mix of cultures.

“We are encouraging diversity, variety of music, music from different countries,” Ezran said. “We’re looking for musicians both amateur and professional, volunteers and donations.”

On March 16, the Palo Alto City Council unanimously supported the establishment of World Music Day and decided to waive all permit fees for the event.

“I’d just like to not only commend it for its intrinsic value in music, but also for the underlying value it has to building a multicultural community,” Councilman Pat Burt said.

Councilman Sid Espinosa added his approval, saying, “I want to see this be a huge success, one we do year after year.”

Ezran is hoping to attract a dozen volunteers to help with the organization and managing of the bands prior to and on the day of the event. Musicians will not be paid to play, but will be given the opportunity for exposure, he said.

Donations are also welcome, to go toward more marketing and advertising for the occasion, Ezran said. He noted that he wasn’t yet sure what the event’s entire budget would be.

So far, some of the event sponsors are the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce, Palo Alto Downtown Business and Professional Association, News for Chinese, Palo Alto Weekly and Palo Alto Online.

Musicians already scheduled to perform include Aodh Og O Tuama and Christy Martin of the Celtic folk and world music band Four Shillings Short. They are also both part of the organizing committee.

Ezran and Khan say World Music Day presents a great opportunity for the Palo Alto community. The event is free and has a good chance to bring in extra revenue to downtown businesses, Ezran said. Under the plan, University Avenue will not be closed off — musicians will perform on the corners and sidewalks.

“Everyone can use a little fun right now,” he said enthusiastically.

For more information, or to apply to perform or volunteer, go to www.pamusicday.org or e-mail Ezran and Khan at pamusicday@gmail.com.

Claude Ezran is one of the lead organizers planning to bring World Music Day, a free festival of concerts, to downtown Palo Alto in June.
**Sunshine Cleaning**

(CineArts) Amy Adams packs her winning charm in this ultra-quirky dramedy about fielding life’s curveballs.

Rose Norkowski (Adams) is between a rock and hard spot: shacking up with ex-high school squeeze and married cop Mac (Steve Zahn), raising a kid on her own and wasting her shiny potential by cleaning houses for a living.

A chance suggestion by Mac (after a particularly unsavory day on the job) turns to gold when Rose partners with sister Norah (Emily Blunt) to start her own crime-scene clean-up company aptly named Sunshine Cleaning.

If gory biohazard removal isn’t a stretch for a happy ending, cashing in on the same production company’s “Sunshine” (are we sensing a Sunny Cleaning)) who’s perpetually known as BBP), and coping with a feisty, backster dad (Alan Arkin reprising his “Little Miss Sunshine” routine) who’s perpetually one scheme away from making it.

The expected conventions are all in place: a mysterious childhood tragedy, a surprising love interest (the always intriguing Clifton Collins Jr.) and the challenges of single parenting. Adams has the chops bringing a fresh spin to deep hurts and a spark to her determination to keep growing.

The climax is an unnecessary -- Jeanne Aufmuth

**Duplicity**

Rated: R for language, gore and some sexual content. 2 hours, 5 minutes.

— Jeanne Aufmuth

— Susan Tavernetti

Clive Owen. The competing agents trade wisecracks and kisses with an on-screen chemistry that adds plenty of sizzle to Tony Gilroy’s caper movie.

Just don’t expect any steak. Writer-director Gilroy’s second foray into the “Michael Clayton” world of corporate corruption is a light-hearted romp of very little substance. Attractive stars and visuals; witty banter and a fragmented narrative obscure the simple premise: Can anyone be trusted these days, including the one you love?

The convoluted narrative can be confusing as it swoops, swerves, ziggs and zags through time and place. CIA operative Claire Stenwick (Roberts) first meets and sleeps with rival Ray Koval (Owen) in Dubai. Five years later, the pretty woman runs into him again in New York City. They have left their government gigs to conduct intelligence work for corporate competitors Howard Tully (Tom Wilkinson) and Dick Garstk (Paul Giamatti). The stakes are high to steal industry secrets and secure the patents for the next big product — and for the two career spies to keep their growing personal relationship clandestine. They relish being “very good at being very bad” (sexual innuendo intended).

In the Bourne franchise, also scripted by Gilroy, the action goes back and forth in time and circles the globe. Rome, Miami, Zurich. Oscar-winning cinematographer Robert Elswit’s (“There Will Be Blood”) interior and exterior shots are fit for a travel brochure. Part of the pleasure of watching this film is the voyeuristic experience of taking in the view from an industry titan’s high-rise office or gazing at the decor of a 5-star luxury hotel suite.

“Duplicity” rides on spectacle, the moment-to-moment appeal of eye-catching images and appealing stars. At the end, the smoke and mirrors give way to reveal who is gaming whom. And what does it matter? Instead of feeling satisfied and enjoying the payoff, watchers get an empty experience. The viewer is the one who gets duped.

Rated: PG-13 for language and some sexual content. 2 hours, 5 minutes.

— Susan Tavernetti
The Class (PG-13) ****
Confessions of a Shopaholic (PG) ***
Coraline (PG) ***
Doubt (PG-13) ****
Duplicit (PG-13) **

The Class (PG-13) ****
Confessions of a Shopaholic (PG) ***
Coraline (PG) ***
Doubt (PG-13) ****
Duplicit (PG-13) **

He's Just Not That Into You (PG-13) **
I Love You, Man (R) (Not Reviewed)

The International (R) (Not Reviewed)

Knowing (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)

The Last House on the Left (R) (Not Reviewed)

The Metropolitan Opera: La Sonnambula (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed)

Miss March (R) (Not Reviewed)

Pink Panther 2 (PG) (Not Reviewed)

Race to Witch Mountain (PG) **

The Reader (R) ***

Slumdog Millionaire (R) ****

Sunshine Cleaning (R) ***

Two Lovers (R) ****

Watchmen (R) ***

The Stanford Theatre is at 221 University Ave. in Palo Alto. Go to www.stanfordtheatre.org or call 650-324-3700.

Death Takes a Holiday (1934) Everyone needs some time off, including Death (Frederic March), who drops in on an Italian nobleman and poses as a mysterious guest. Fri. at 7:30 p.m.

The Black Cat (1934) Bela Lugosi and Boris Karloff pair off for the first time in this horror flick about a den of devil worshippers. Fri. at 6:10 & 9 p.m.

The Bride of Frankenstein (1935) Elsa Lanchester plays Frankenstein’s match in this odd monster flick. Sat.-Mon. at 7:30 p.m. Sat. and Sun. also at 4:50 p.m.

The Sin of Nora Moran (1933) This low-budget film preserved by the UCLA Film Archive, an innocent woman sentenced to death hopes for a pardon from the governor — who is also her lover. Sat.-Mon. at 6:15 and 8:55 p.m.

Confessions of a Shopaholic

Confessions of a Shopaholic

Confessions of a Shopaholic

Confessions of a Shopaholic
(continued from previous page)

to thrive, appearing to grow younger as he ages. Benjamin’s meeting with 7-year-old Daisy (Cate Blanchett) inexplicably meet halfway on the age spectrum — her way to the golden years and his way to ultimate youth. Rated: PG-13 for brief violence, sexual content, and language. 2 hours, 47 minutes. — J.A. (Reviewed Dec. 26, 2008)

**Doubt ***

(Century 16, Century 20) There is no doubt that Philip Seymour Hoffman, Amy Adams and Viola Davis are the three best reasons to see John Patrick Shanley’s adaptation of his Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning drama. Their nuanced, naturalistic performances help counter Meryl Streep’s more mannered turn that rings so false at the end. Shanley’s examination of moral issues is another reason to catch the battle between Sister Aloysius (Steep) and con-

**Two Lovers ***

(Aquarius) Joaquin Phoenix plays Leonard Kraditor, a thirtysomething New Yorker who lives and works with his partners (Mori Mishonov and Isabella Rossellini). Recent suicide attempts hover over Leonard, but he perks up when he meets Sandra Coh
er (Gwyneth Paltrow), an attractive young woman who takes an obvious interest in him. Sheikh and the blindness of those mak-

**Sunshine Cleaning ***

(Sunshine Cleaning) Ginnifer Goodwin stands out among the Jennifers (Aniston and Con-

**Watchmen ***

(Released Feb. 1, 2009)

**Race to Witch Mountain ***

(Released Feb. 16, 2009)

**Movies***

(Century 16, Century 20) The year is 1985. Superheroes have been forced by the gov-

**Comedy***

(Hi-Lo) The last of the hero groups has disbanded. Only the enigmatic and violent Rorschach (Jackie Earle Haley) refuses to abandon his crime-fighting lifestyle. Rorschach is determined to solve the mysterious ho-

**Bath Comfort of the Future, Today!***

(Released March 6, 2009)

**Steam Trains***

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**Movies***

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**Bath Comfort of the Future, Today!***

(Released March 6, 2009)

**Steam Trains***

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(Released March 6, 2009)
Eating Out

FOOD FEATURE

Battle of the burgers

Armadillo Willy’s, Pezzella’s unveil competing versions of a Peninsula classic: Linda’s Parisian Burger
by Daniel DeBolt

There were other Mountain View drive-in burgers that people remember, such as the Cadillac burger at Spivey’s, and the pre-McDonald’s Big Mac at Johnny Mac’s.

But the Parisian burger of Linda’s Drive-In stood out. Put it this way: If a local high schooler were to cut school in the 1960s and 1970s, there were two popular options — hit the beach or grab a Parisian burger at Linda’s Drive-In.

Linda’s Drive-In is long gone, demolished in about 1985 to make way for the Wolf Camera that exists now at Escuela Avenue and El Camino Real. But its beloved burger is being replicated at two local restaurants: Armadillo Willy’s in Los Altos and Pezzella’s Villa Napoli in Sunnyvale.

Recently, a writer sat down with his uncle Geoff, who ate Parisian burgers regularly as a teenager in 1960s Mountain View, to see which version is truest to the original.

People who remember the Parisian burger agree that it was two beef patties, American cheese, a French roll bun (from a bakery called “Parisian,” hence the name) and a glob of “special sauce” made from ketchup, mustard, dried onions, celery seed and pepper. Tater tots were served on the side. Still, those same people say, “Except for the roll, it’s good.” They said, later explaining that the roll was more like an Italian ciabatta roll than the crispy-shelled French roll he remembered. “A lot of it is the roll and the sauce,” he said. “This is a light, fluffy bun — that’s not what the Parisian Burger was at all.”

“Parisian burger was purchased from both restaurants and placed side by side on the table. Armadillo Willy’s charged $7.25, while Pezzella’s charged $10.80. Geoff started with the Pezzella’s version.

“What is it?” Pat recalls asking him. “It was yellow.”

“What is it?” he says. “The burger is great, but there’s something wrong with the sauce.”

“Another guy said, ‘I remember the bun, it was oval,’ Pat continued. “Where do you guys come up with this stuff?”

The Pezzellas moved from Brooklyn in 1956 and attended Mountain View High School (then located downtown) in the late 1950s. Since the summer of 2008, they have been serving the Parisian at their 52-year-old restaurant, a fairly upscale place that looks like an Italian villa.

Meanwhile, in late 2008 John Berwald unveiled his own version of the Parisian at his Armadillo Willy’s chain of restaurants. Already, he said, it’s outselling any other new dish. At the Los Altos location, 104 Parisian burgers sold in the first day, while 2,300 sold in the first week across all nine locations.

Berwald says he used to eat the burger “practically every day for lunch, and sometimes go back for dinner” while attending Cabrillo High School (class of 1966) in Palo Alto. “I always remembered that taste,” he says. He had his friend Rusty, the pickiest eater he knows, give the final seal of approval on the sauce.

“The bun and the sauce are probably the trickiest parts to replicate. After many years of mystery, the sauce recipe is readily available now on the Internet, although the restaurant owners spent months perfecting theirs. Berwald had a sourdough bun custom-made by Le Boulangre, while Pezzella’s uses the bakery it has used for years to make the restaurant’s bread.

The verdict?

A Parisian burger was purchased from both restaurants and placed side by side on the table. Armadillo Willy’s charged $7.25, while Pezzella’s charged $10.80. Geoff started with the Pezzella’s version.

“Except for the roll, it’s good,” he said, later explaining that the roll was more like an Italian ciabatta roll than the crispy-shelled French roll he remembered. “A lot of it is the roll and the sauce,” he said. “This is a light, fluffy bun — that’s not what the Parisian Burger was at all.”

“But it’s good as far as burgers go,” Geoff concluded, ranking Pezzella’s over any other local burger, even Clarke’s.

Then he tried the Armadillo Willy’s version, which has a roll crispy enough to shine.

“That’s more like it,” he said. “Armadillo Willy’s pretty much nailed it.”

For Geoff, it was Armadillo Willy’s by a nose. Though it had less meat (one patty instead of Pezzella’s historically correct double patty), the bun was more like sourdough, and it had more sauce with a “heavier” and “spicier” flavor to it. It also came with crispier tater tots.

Armadillo Willy’s was closer by price, too. After all, Linda’s was far from fancy. One former restaurant supervisor remembers using his whole arm to mix large batches of the sauce in a vat the size of a garbage can.

(continued on page 33)
Eating Out

(continued from page 31)

But Armadillo Willy’s is serving the burger for a “limited time only” and Pezzella’s may keep it around for the long run. And there’s no doubt Pezzella’s makes it with a certain degree of appreciation for Mountain View. Chefs Ralph and Maria Pezzella are in their 40s now, but both remember the Parisian burger “distinctively.” “They do it with a little bit of love because they remember it,” Pat Pezzella said. ■

Daniel DeBolt writes for the Mountain View Voice, one of the Weekly’s sister papers.

Armadillo Willy’s, 1031 N. San Antonio Road Los Altos, 650-941-2922 www.armadillowillys.com

Pezzella’s Villa Napoli 1025 W. El Camino Real Sunnyvale 408-738-2400 www.pezzellas.com

Recession? Not in EPA (housing aside) … Or at least not in the Ravenswood 101 Retail Center, where things are bustling. San Jose-based company that operates 11 grocery stores in Northern California, including one in Mountain View at Rengstorff Avenue and Central Expressway, could move into the former site of Circuit City. If And Home Depot, which is in its eighth year at Ravenswood 101, continues to bring in the masses, according to one industry observer. Additionally, there’s a strong chance that Mi Pueblo, a San Jose-based company that operates 11 grocery stores in Northern California, including one in Mountain View at Rengstorff Avenue and Central Expressway, could move into the former site of Circuit City. If the well-filled parking lot at Ravenswood 101 is any indication, this shopping center, located across the street from IKEA, is flourishing.

Space for Facebook …

Downtown Palo Alto will feel even more of a vacuum this summer when Facebook and its 800 employees vacate an estimated 10 buildings in and around the downtown area for a two-story building in the 1600 block of S. California Avenue, the former site of Agilent in San Jose’s Santana Row. It’s good for Facebook but adds to downtown’s surplus of vacant storefronts and offices. “The goal is to consolidate all of our functions into one building,” Facebook spokesman Larry Yu said. Currently, Facebook, which moved to Palo Alto in 2004 from founder Mark Zuckerberg’s Harvard University dorm room, occupies several buildings on University and Hamilton avenues and Emerson Street, according to Yu. Plans for the major move to the College Terrace neighborhood are in the final stages and “should happen in the next 60 to 90 days,” Yu said. “Everyone’s pretty happy to finally be in one space.”

Z Gallerie X’d Out …

Chalk up Z Gallerie, 340 University Ave., as one of Z’s 25 “underperforming retail locations nationwide.” There are 52 surviving Z Galleries doing business as usual. The closest location to Palo Alto to avoid the shopping block is the Z Gallerie in San Jose’s Santana Row. “We’re open. We have no plans to close. Business is just fine here,” said a salesperson there.

Kirk’s Still Sizzling …

While the burgers at Kirk’s in Palo Alto’s Town & Country Village continue to sizzle with the lunchtime crowd, which sometimes lines up outside the door, the Kirk’s in Cupertino has fizzled and announced it will be closing this weekend. Kirk’s, which is known for its made-to-order “steakburgers,” got its start in Palo Alto 61 years ago. The restaurant has two other locations, in Santa Clara and Campbell, also still sizzling.

Heard a rumor about your favorite store or business moving out, or in, down the block or across town? Daryl Savage will check it out. She can be e-mailed at shoptalk@paweeekly.com.

Palo Alto Unified School District

25 Churchill Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94306

Notice is hereby given that proposals from previously Prequalified General Contractors will be received by the Palo Alto Unified School District for bid packaging:

Palo Alto High School El Camino Field Improvements Contract No. ECF-1

Description of the Work: The work includes, but is not limited to: Site Improvements include demolition of existing trees, turf, irrigation and paving. Contractor to complete earthwork and grading operations, including the installation of new concrete paving, asphalt paving, field drainage, edgebands, fencing, equipment, synthetic turf and trees. Bid Alternates: Electrical Sport Field and Security Lighting and Installation, Drinking Fountain and Supply, Sports Equipment. Bidding documents contain the full description of the work.

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference and site visit at 10:00 a.m. on March 26, 2009 for all Prequalified General Contractors at the District Facilities Office Building D at 25 Churchill Road, Palo Alto, California

Bid Submission: Proposals must be received at the District Facilities Office Building D, no later than 1:00 p.m. on April 17, 2009.

Prevailing Wage Laws: The successful Bidder must comply with all prevailing wage laws applicable to the Project, and related requirements contained in the Contract Documents.

Palo Alto Unified School District will maintain a Labor Compliance Program (LCP) for the duration of this project. In bidding this project, the contractor warrants he/she is aware and will follow the Public Works Chapter of the California Labor Code comprised of labor code sections 1720 – 1861. A copy of the Districts LCP is available for review at 25 Churchill Avenue, Building D, Palo Alto, CA 94306.

1. A pre-job conference shall be conducted with the contractor or subcontractors to discuss federal and state labor law requirements applicable to the contract.
2. Project contractors and subcontractors shall maintain and furnish to the District, at a designated time, a certified copy of each payroll with a statement of compliance signed under penalty of perjury.
3. The District shall review and, if appropriate, audit payroll records to verify compliance with the Public Works Chapter of the Labor Code.
4. The District shall withhold contract payments if payroll records are delinquent or inadequate.
5. The District shall withhold contract payments as described in the LCP, including applicable penalties when the District and Labor Commissioner establish that underpayment of other violations has occurred.

Bidding Documents will be available on March 20, 2009. Bidders may examine Bidding Documents at Facilities Office, Building “D”. Bidders may purchase copies of Plans and Specifications at Peninsula Digital Imaging, 399 Fairchild Drive, Mountain View, CA 94043, Phone Number (650) 967-1966

The list of Prequalified General Contractors is available upon request.

All questions can be addressed to: Palo Alto Unified School District 25 Churchill Avenue, Building D Palo Alto, CA 94306-1099 Attr: Connie Conroy Phone: (650) 833-4205 Fax: (650) 327-3588
**Cardinal Corner**

...The nationally No. 1-ranked Stanford women's water polo team (15-1, 3-0 MPSF) gets back into the pool after a two-week break for final exams, hosting the Harvard Crimson Saturday, March 21 at 6 p.m. The contest is Stanford's penultimate home game of the season, and kicks off a stretch of five games over the next eight days over spring break. Harvard (4-6) begins a seven-day, six-game trip through California with Saturday's contest at Stanford. Starting goalie Nikkii Perlman is a graduate of Castilleja. She had nine saves in Harvard's most recent outing. Stanford's final regular-season home game will be April 3 against UCLA at 6 p.m. The No. 6-ranked Stanford men's volleyball team (14-7) will return to action Saturday against visiting Cal Baptist (6-15) at 6 p.m. The No. 14 Cardinal junior Ford will put its six-game winning streak on the line. Cardinal junior Evan Romero is within 13 kills of the school record for career kills in the rally-scoring era (since 2001) and should break it Saturday.

**Fitness Weekend**

...Barring possible wet weather, it will be a good time to be active this weekend when the LifeLong Fitness Alliance Dare To Be Fit 5K races and community Walk for All Ages is held Sunday at Stanford. Event staging area will be at the Pac-10 Plaza (adjacent to Stanford Stadium). A warmup with fitness guru Joanie Greggains (KGO Radio) gets under way at 8 a.m., along with the Health Fair. At 8:30 a.m. will be the start of the 26th annual Paul Spangler Memorial 5K Run (for runners age 50 and over). At 8:45 a.m. will be the LifeLong Fitness 1K to 5K Community Walk (all ages), benefiting All Stars Helping Kids. Walk with Don Bowden (America's first sub-4 minute miler) and Greggains. The LifeLong Fitness 5K Run (for all runners under age 50) will get under way at 9 a.m., followed by sports clinics (for children ages 5 to 13) at 10 a.m. The event is presented by All Stars Helping Kids with Olympians Bill Chastain (soccer), Kate O'Neil (track and field/distance running), and Erica McLain (track and field/triple jump). Online event registration will be taken until noon on Friday, March 20 at: www.lifelongfitnessalliance.org/race.

**ON THE AIR**

Saturday
College baseball: Stanford at Cal, 1 p.m., KZSU (90.1 FM)

Women's basketball: Stanford vs. USC, Stanford vs. USC in NCAA Tournament, 7:30 p.m., ESPNU, KZSU (90.1 FM)

Sunday
College baseball: Stanford at Cal, 2:30 p.m., KZSU (90.1 FM)

Monday
College baseball: Stanford at Cal, 2:30 p.m., KZSU (90.1 FM)

Men's basketball: Stanford at Wichita St., in second round of CBI Tournament, 9:30 p.m., KTRB (660 AM)

**As always, Stanford ready for challenge**

Cardinal women open NCAA basketball tournament Saturday with their eye on reaching Final Four again

by Rick Eymen

J Hones walked into Maples Pavilion Tuesday in shorts and flip-flops, not a trace of a bandage on the twice torn ACL in her left knee. She didn't limp, didn't appear to favor the knee or even bother to break stride. For a moment, it was as though she made a miraculous recovery and would be rejoining the second-ranked Cardinal as it begins its quest for a national title.

The moment she went down in an early nonconference women's basketball game against Rutgers, one of the local observers remarked that Stanford's season was also over. While there will be no miracle recovery for Hones, the Cardinal pulled off its own miracle by rallying around the point guard by committee between Jeanette Pohlen, Roz Gold-Onwude, Melanie Murphy and Lindy La Rocque.

Pohlen, a sophomore sharpshooter from long range, eventually emerged as the team's court leader. She was able to make the swift transition to point guard and the floor, gathered up the ball and flipped it to a darting Harmon, who completed the play that began on the other end of the court. It was not of your garden-variety assists.

"That one play defined how we want to play," Stanford coach Tara VanDerveer said. "We want to take charges, and hit the floor for loose balls."

VanDerveer has been through the process many times, she's able to simply shush and smile about Stanford's No. 2 seed in the NCAA tournament despite it's No. 2 national ranking.

"There are a lot of good teams and I'm not worried about the seeding at all," VanDerveer said Tuesday. "We did lose to Duke (the No. 1 seed in Berkeley) earlier in the season. We want to play for the championship of the Berkeley Regional, but that's getting ahead of ourselves. We need

(state basketball)

Pinewood girls have another shot at title

Panthers hope to celebrate 10th anniversary of their first state championship with another

by Keith Peters

Break out the balloons and bubbly, cake and candies. Doc Scheppler and his Pinewood girls' basketball team are celebrating an anniversary. It has been 10 years since the Panthers earned their first-ever state title and the next one will be quite special, as well.

No girls' basketball team in Division V has ever won four state championships. Pinewood has captured three and can make it four with a victory over Bellarmine-Jefferson (Burbank) on Friday in the CIF State Championship finale at ARCO Arena in Sacramento at 3:30 p.m.

Pinewood brings a 31-4 record into the title game while Bell-Jeff is 33-1 and ranked No. 15 in the state. The Panthers are riding a 21-game winning streak while the Guards have won 19 straight.

"This team is really good," Scheppler said of Bell-Jeff. "They have a great feel for the game. They play pressure defense and up tempo on offense. They play a lot like us."

Perhaps the one big difference between the teams is T-shirts. Pinewood has them, Bell-Jeff does not.

"We made T-shirts that said 'The Road to ARCO'. That was our goal," Scheppler explained. "It's Mapquest directions to ARCO Arena. We call it Panther Quest. It was a lofty goal, but we were worthy of it. I wanted to give the kids a goal, a dream, something to focus on.

The T-shirts were made up last October, long before the Panthers stepped on the court for an official game. Scheppler looked at his team, which had been strengthened by transfers Miranda Seto (from Sacred Heart Prep) and Caitlin Cardella and Jenna McLoughlin (from Notre Dame-Belmont), and liked what he saw.

"I saw us having the ability to play in the state championship game," Scheppler said.

Scheppler had a similar vision in 1999. That Pinewood team wasn't as deep as the current one, but entered the state finals with a 30-1 record and a No. 1 state ranking. The only loss was to eventual Division

(state basketball)

Results of State Basketball Finals can be found at www.PASportsOnline.com
MEN’S BASKETBALL

Stanford keeps it going

Cardinal advances in CBI and has shot at 20-win season after 96-76 win

by Rick Eymer

When Johnny Dawkins began his career as a college head coach by taking over at Stanford, few observers gave the former Duke All-American and NBA star a chance of success.

While Dawkins did not get the Cardinal men to the NCAA tournament in his first season or even the National Invitation Tournament, Stanford is still playing and has a shot at another 20-win season.

Perhaps that’s why Dawkins took the microphone after the game and thanked the 1,243 fans who watched his team beat visiting Boise State, 96-76, in the first round of the College Basketball Invitational on Wednesday night in Maples Pavilion.

“I don’t know if we’re going to get another home game this year so I want to thank all of you for supporting us,” Dawkins said. “This is just the beginning for this program.”

Later he told the gathered media “I wanted to show my appreciation to the Sixth Man Club and the fans who did come out. It meant a lot to me and to our team.”

Stanford will be on the road for its next game, a Monday night quarterfinal at Wichita State in Kansas. The goal, of course, is to finish the season with a victory, something only four men’s college teams will do this season in the four postseason tournaments.

Should that happen for Stanford, Dawkins’ first season has to be considered quite a success. As he said, this is just the beginning.

Against Boise State, Stanford’s future was on display as freshman Jeremy Green scored 19 points, three off his career high, on 7-of-11 shooting. The Cardinal also received solid support from senior Lawrence Hill, who added 18 points on 8-of-12 shooting.

“It was fun out there,” Green said. “We get a chance to go up and down the court. It felt like playing in an open gym. It’s still five-on-five. The only difference is the refs, the crowd and a few cameras.”

Junior Landry Fields added 16 points for the Cardinal (19-13), which shot 54.3 percent from the floor and set a school record for points in a postseason contest.

Hill was a freshman when Stanford played in the NIT, and he called it “a little weird because we lost our last home game that year,” he said. “We talked about it a little bit before the game and felt this would be fun because of the way we played in our last home game.”

“It was a well-played game by our guys from start to finish,” he said. “It made for a good experience for them. At the end of this month there are only going to be four champions from these various tournaments and our goal is to be one of them.”

Stanford senior Anthony Goods came up with a monster dunk to give the Cardinal an 88-61 lead in the second half.

NOTE OF VACANCIES ON THE LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION FOR ONE, UNEXPIRED TERM ENDING JANUARY 31, 2011 (Term of Redfern-West)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council is seeking applications for the Library Advisory Commission from persons interested in an unexpired term ending January 31, 2011.

Eligibility Requirements: Composed of seven members who shall be appointed by and shall serve at the pleasure of the City Council, but who shall not be Council Members, officers or employees of the City of Palo Alto. Each member of the commission shall have a demonstrated interest in public library matters. All members of the commission shall at all times be residents of the City of Palo Alto. Regular meetings will be held at 7 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month.

Purpose and Duties: The purpose of the Library Advisory Commission shall be to advise the City Council on matters relating to the Palo Alto City Library, excluding daily administrative operations. The commission shall have the following duties:

1. Advise the City Council on planning and policy matters pertaining to: a) the goals of and the services provided by the Palo Alto City Library; b) the future delivery of the services by the Palo Alto City Library; c) the City Manager’s recommendations pertaining to the disposition of major gifts of money, personal property and real property to the City to be used for library purposes; d) the construction and renovation of capital facilities of the Palo Alto City Library; and e) joint action projects with other public or private information entities, including libraries.

2. Review state legislative proposals that may affect the operation of the Palo Alto City Library.

3. Review the City Manager’s proposed budget for capital improvements and operations relating to the Palo Alto City Library, and thereafter forward any comments to one or more of the applicable committees of the Council.

4. Provide advice upon such other matters as the City Council may from time to time assign.

5. Receive community input concerning the Palo Alto City Library.

6. Review and comment on fund-raising efforts on behalf of the Palo Alto City Library.

The Library Advisory Commission shall not have the power or authority to cause the expenditure of City funds or to bind the City to any written or implied contract.

Appointment information and application forms are available in the City Clerk’s Office, 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto (650) 364-6233 or may be obtained on the website at http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/knowzone/agendas/library_advisory.asp

Deadline for receipt of applications in the City Clerk’s Office is 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 01, 2009.

Palo Alto Weekly • March 20, 2009 • Page 35
Seniors lead Stanford women gymnasts in Pac-10 title defense

by Rick Eymer

Stanford senior women’s gymnast Kelly Fee’s nickname is ‘GooFee,’ a moniker given to her by an athletic trainer in her home town of St. Charles, Ill. No one calls her that much any more but she acknowledges a certain goofiness to her personality. “You’d be surprised,” she said Wednesday. “When I’m in the middle of competing I am focused for that minute, minute and a half. But once I’m done, I relieve tension by joking around.”

Fee will be joined by fellow seniors Nicole Ourada and Heather Purcell as they attempt to defend Stanford’s Pac-10 title Saturday at the conference finals in Maples Pavilion at 4 p.m. The third-ranked Cardinal has never won back-to- back conference championships, although the team has taken home three of the past five.

It won’t be easy. UCLA and Oregon State are also ranked among the nation’s top 10 and each has experienced success at the Pac-10 level. The Bruins own 13 conference crowns, while the Beavers have four.

“Hopefully we will have a lot of support,” Fee said. “We take the approach of trying to win over the crowd no matter what arena we are in. We think of every arena as home.”

Stanford coach Kevin Smyth, who, as a senior, helped lead California to its first, and still only, trip to the national championships in 1992, didn’t know what to expect when the team gathered for the first time this season.

“We had graduated six seniors and brought in five freshmen. There were a lot of new faces and a lot of new routines,” Smyth said. “This group has exceeded my expectations in every way…because they came in ready to work hard. They’re also resilient and bounce back from mistakes.”

Smyth has created a culture of success coming since coming over from Arizona State. Now in her eighth season, she has led Stanford to four NCAA Super Six appearances and a pair of third-place national finishes.

The athletes have worked hard to get the program to where it is — they are continuing with each new class,” Smyth said. “Every group leaves its own legacy, builds on the successes of the program.”

The Cardinal suffered through its only losing season under Smyth in 2005, and has enjoyed tremendous success. Fee, Ourada and Purcell have enjoyed a 75-14 record over their tenure on The Farm, by far the best four-year class yet.

Junior Carly Janiga, Alyssy Ishino (who missed her freshman year after being diagnosed with a pulmonary embolism), Stephanie Carter (out with an injury), Blair Rylund and former walk-on Tenaya West have a chance to build on that success.

There’s still more to come this season, beginning with the Pac-10 Championship in Maples Pavilion. “Nicole and Carly, who will compete in all-around, are absolute studs,” Fee said. “They are so strong, so mentally strong, and are two people to watch who can challenge for the title. They are set to deliver study performances. And we have a lot of good freshmen too.”

Sophomore Shelley Alexander is also a very talented young gymnast, adding depth to the squad. Sophomores Danielle Ikoma and Gretchen O’Henley also lend their talents.

Freshman Alana Brown has competed on vault and bars all year, while fellow rookie Nicole Pechane has been consistently performing at a high level on bars and floor. Freshmen Jenny Peter and Catherine Nguyen each made their collegiate debuts this season. Alexandra Skoly fills out the talented freshmen group.

The clear leaders are the seniors. “When they came in as freshmen they weren’t freshmen at all,” Smyth said. “They were mature and got college gymnastics right away, buying into the team culture. They were leaders the moment they arrived on campus with their work ethic, their dedication, discipline and strong character.”

They formed a bond right away too, as they all came on the same recruiting trip. For Fee, having Liz Tricasate at Stanford also helped. The current graduate assistant competed for the Illinois Gymnastics Institute, as did Fee.

“It’s weird not having her around now,” Fee said. “It’s weird not having her around college.”

The whole going pro deal was never an option for me,” she said. “I’ve always been team-oriented. It’s like being part of a family. The college experience includes all of life, it’s not separated. There’s the athletics, the social life and the academics all together. When you’re 24 you have to think about what happens to your body. The reality of a college athlete sinks in after four years. It’s over. I think about how fun and enjoyable gymnastics is in college, versus how grueling it can be on the club level.”

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Paltry’s Burk nearly perfect in baseball victory

by Keith Peters

After nine straight losses to open its season, the Palo Alto baseball team needed something special to end its streak. The Vikings got just that from senior pitcher Steven Burk, and his timing couldn’t have been any better.

Facing perennial SCVAL De Anza Division champion Wilcox on the Chargers’ field, Burk threw a complete-game four-hitter. Wilcoxs produced a 0-4 victory. Burk needed only 82 pitches against 22 batters he faced. The only Wilcox batter to reach base came on a first-inning walk. Burk struck out six.

“This was one of the best pitching performances I have seen in a while,” said Donny Kodakawa, Paltry’s first-year coach. “I called every pitch and he hit every spot except one the entire game. That was the most impressive part of the game, on how he had command. It was a lights-out pitching performance against a great ball club in Wilcox.”

Burk helped himself with an RBI and run scored. Fellow senior Will Holder had two of Palo Alto’s five hits and the Vikings’ defense played errorless ball.

Palo Alto (1-2, 1-9) will attempt to sweep Wilcox on Friday when the teams meet on the Vikings’ field at 3:30 p.m.

In nonleague action Wednesday, Dante Frasoldi doubled in Zach Jones with the winning run in the fifth to carry Pinewood to a 2-1 nonleague victory over Anchorpoint Christian. Andrew Dreman had an RBI single in the second inning for Pinewood’s first run. Darius McClelland picked up the pitching win with a complete-game one-hitter with nine strikeouts. He needed only 89 pitches, walking just two batters. McClelland had not given up a hit this season until Anchorpoint got a single in the seventh.

Boys tennis

Meno School will be the No. 3 seed when the annual National Invitational opens on Friday at Newport Beach. The Knights (6-0) will open against Cathedral Catholic, with a victory sending them against Santa Barbara, which finished second last season and won the title in 2007.

Meno coach Bill Shine expected such a high seed, based on his players’ rankings. Senior Daniel Hoffman is ranked No. 1 in Northern California in the 18s and freshman Justin Chan is No. 2 in the NorCal 14s. Both Hoffman and Jamin Ball are ranked among the nation’s top 100 players in boys’ 18s.

(continued on page 38)
Women’s swimming

It could be argued, with few protestations, that 1992 was the greatest season in the history of Stanford women’s swimming and diving. The Cardinal won the NCAA title and Breeden was named NCAA Diving Coach of the Year. To make the season even more special, seven Stanford athletes plus Quick (the women’s assistant coach) went to the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona, Spain, and a returned with 11 medals — six of them gold. That, indeed, was a golden time for Stanford women’s swimming. The Cardinal went on to win NCAA titles in 1993, ’94, ’95, ’96 and ’98 but never quite achieved the overall combined excellence of that ’92 team. In fact, two school records that were set in 1992 remain today — a 47.61 in the 100-yard free and a 1:43.61 in the 200 free, both by Thompson. Both those times, however, were threatened by two current Stanford swimmers who are among the latest wave of outstanding talent that has surfaced on The Farm. How the Cardinal’s success compares with 1992 will be determine this week when Stanford completes in the 2009 NCAA Championships on the campus of Texas A&M in College Station. Action continues Friday and continues Saturday with morning prelims and finals at night. Stanford earned the nation’s No. 1 ranking this season, based on its superlative 20-0 dual-meet record, the most wins ever done in a dual season.

The Cardinal, however, did not win the Pac-10 Conference meet title and is not the favorite for the national crown. Cal won its first conference crown this season and will challenge defending champion Arizona and 2007 champ Auburn. Other possible contenders include Florida and Georgia. Stanford, however, does have the big points to make a strong championship bid and it all falls by the wayside. The Cardinal was third last season and fourth in ’07, with many of its current swimmers.

NCAA basketball

(continued from page 34)

to take care of business against UC Santa Barbara.”

Stanford opens against the Gauchos at the Cox Arena in San Diego Saturday at approximately 7:30 p.m. UCSB won the Big West title under rookie coach Lindsay Gottlieb, who spent three years as an assistant at California.

All four of Stanford’s losses have been to teams ranked in the top 25, with Baylor ranked 19th at the time. The Bears are a second seed in the West Regional.

The Blue Devils beat Stanford 56-52 at home on Dec. 16, limiting the Cardinal to their lowest point total ever, 735 1/2. The team won 11 events at the meet, including four of the five relays. During the season, in which the team was 8-1 in dual meets and won the Pac-10 championship meet title, 11 school records went into the books. Summer Sanders was named NCAA Swimmer of the Year that season and Eileen Richetelli was the NCAA Diver of the Year. Not too surprisingly, head coach Richard Quick was named NCAA Coach of the Year and diving coach Dr. Rich Scalone was honored as the NCAA Diving Coach of the Year. To make the season even more special, seven Stanford athletes plus Quick (the women’s assistant coach) went to the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona, Spain, and returned with 11 medals — six of them gold. That, indeed, was a golden time for Stanford women’s swimming. The Cardinal went on to win NCAA titles in 1993, ’94, ’95, ’96 and ’98 but never quite achieved the overall combined excellence of that ’92 team. In fact, two school records that were set in 1992 remain today — a 47.61 in the 100-yard free and a 1:43.61 in the 200 free, both by Thompson. Both those times, however, were threatened by two current Stanford swimmers who are among the latest wave of outstanding talent that has surfaced on The Farm. How the Cardinal’s success compares with 1992 will be determine this week when Stanford completes in the 2009 NCAA Championships on the campus of Texas A&M in College Station. Action continues Friday and continues Saturday with morning prelims and finals at night. Stanford earned the nation’s No. 1 ranking this season, based on its superlative 20-0 dual-meet record, the most wins ever done in a dual season.

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The same road trip to Duke, shoot- ing a season low 36.2 percent. The Cardinal is 5-4 against the Top 25 this season, losing at California in conference play.

“Tennessee is a ‘s’ seed and that tells you all you need to know about the ‘Regional,’” VanDerveer said.

“It’s stacked. Duke is a capable No. 1 with three fabulous seniors. Ohio State has the Big 10 Player of the Year. We’re playing Iowa State and Texas is looming as a six seed.”

Stanford was a No. 2 seed last year and reached the championship final before losing to Tennessee. The Cardinal beat Connecticut in the semifinals, the last loss suffered by the unbeaten and top-ranked Lady Huskies.

It was Stanford’s first trip to the Final Four since 1997.

“Will we ever get there again?” VanDerveer said. “You never know. It’s a challenge without a great guard the caliber of Candice Wiggins but the team has rediscovered on the great leadership. Appel is our anchor. She keeps things steady for us.”

Appel, the 6-foot-4 junior center, already owns the school’s career block-shot record with 206, five more than two-time first team All-American and former WNBA star Val Whiting, and is fourth with 886 rebounds, 257 shy of Nicole Powell’s school mark.

With the Pac-10 tournament played a week later than its predecessors, VanDerveer thinks it will help keep the rhythm of the season steady.

“We’re playing our best basketball right now,” she said. “I feel good about the way we are playing. We want to keep it going as long as we can.”

——— compiled by Rick Eymer

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BWHITSON@APR.COM

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Spring Fling
Saturday, March 28 10:00 am - 3:30 pm

• Spring garden in colorful bloom
• Guide dog puppies in training and dog agility demonstrations
• Face painting, puppet shows, story-telling and decorate-a-pot activities for children
• And more!

Spring Fling Admission: $20 members, $25 non-members, $5 children 5-17, FREE for children 4 years and under.
Boxed Lunch 11:30 am to 2:00 pm: $16 adults, $10 children (please reserve in advance).

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Prep roundup (continued from page 36)

The tournament features eight-game pro sets. Menlo lost the consolation title to Sacred Heart Prep last season and finished 2-2 in the two-day event.

“Last year I said ‘next year is our year,’” Shire said.

Menlo might have had an outside shot at the tournament championship, but senior Max Glenn suffered a knee injury during basketball season and may be lost for the entire tennis season. He teamed with Patrick Chase last season to win the CCS doubles championship.

Even with Glenn sidelined, Shire said he has more depth this season than last. Menlo will battle Sacred Heart Prep (3-0, 5-3) for the West Bay Athletic League title this season.

Golf
For the second consecutive day, Sacred Heart Prep junior Dalan Reinho shot 2-under-par 33 at Palo Alto Hills Country Club to lead the Gators to victory in a West Bay Athletic League golf match on Wednesday.

Sacred Heart (3-0, 7-0) held off a good Menlo team, 192 to 202, as Jeff Knox shot an even-par 35 while Kevin Knox checked in with a 37. Sophomore Patrick Grimes and Bobby Pender recorded the low rounds for the Knights, both with 38s.

Elsewhere Wednesday in the WBAL, junior Max Lippe fired a 44 to pace Pinewood to a 237-247 victory over Priory at Sharon Heights Country Club. Rocky Chan of Priory earned medalist honors with a 3-over-par 39.

In the PAL, Bay Division, Menlo-Atherton senior Nick Sako was busy this week helping the Bears remain atop the league standings.

On Tuesday, Sako shot a sizzling 3-under-par 33 to earn medalist honors and lead the Bears (3-0, 5-1) to a 197-250 victory over Sequoia at Sharon Heights.

On Monday, Sako shot a 2-over-par 38 in a 202-209 victory over Carlmont at Crystal Springs.

In the SCVAL De Anza Division, Palo Alto (5-1, 7-1) won a big match against Los Altos while avenging an earlier loss to the Eagles. The Vikings prevailed this time, 186-203, at Palo Alto Municipal. Eliot Snow and Michael Yuan both shot 36, Pierce Marchant and Alexandra Groetsch shot 37.

Hailie Eackles
Pinewood School
The sophomore forward had 60 points and 23 rebounds in three NorCal Division V basketball playoff games, including 25 points in the semis plus nine points and 13 rebounds in the finals to earn a berth in the state finals.

Cory McCroskey
Palo Alto High
The senior was solid while winning three singles matches, all in straight sets, to help the Vikings’ tennis team sweep three opponents — including St. Francis and remain undefeated in the SCVAL De Anza Division race.

Honorable mention

Sammy Albanese
Castilleja softball
Casye Burnett
Menlo-Atherton lacrosse
Lindsay Nickell*
Pinewood basketball
Miranda Soto
Pinewood basketball
Jasmine Tosky
Palo Alto swimming
Natasha von Kaeppler
Castilleja basketball

Jakc Batchelder
Menlo baseball
Mark Higgins
Palo Alto swimming
Nicky Hu
Palo Alto tennis
Ivan Prema*
Eastside Prep basketball
Nick Sako
Menlo-Atherton golf
DJ Williams
Eastside Prep basketball

* previous winner

To see video interviews of the Athletes of the Week, go to www.PASportsOnline.com

#3 Monthly Workshop Series by Harrell Remodeling

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Sports

I state champion Mitty.

“We had no depth at all,” Schepp-ler recalled of his eight-player ros-ter. “We played five players. But, there was something special to where it all meshed together.”

Pinewood’s star in ’99 was senior point guard Lauren Smith-Hams. She was the team’s leader and head-ed to USC on a scholarship. Everything started with her. Senior Antoinette McLean was a solid running mate and added senior leadership. Sophomore Sebnem Kimyacioglu, who later played four years at Stanford, was the team’s second-leading scorer to Smith-Hams and gave the team a solid one-two scoring punch. Freshman guard Sarah Feely was the heir apparent to Smith-Ham’s posi-tion while sophomore center Katie Collins was a consistent performer and the team’s only six-footer.

Those five players produced every Pinewood point in a 61-45 victory over Chadwick (Palo Verde) in the Division V state championship game in ’99. Smith-Hams scored 24 of her record-setting 31 points in the second half to rally the Panthers from a four-point deficit entering the fourth quarter. She made seven three-pointers, an all-time CIF state record for all divisions (boys or girls), and even added six assists. Kimyacioglu had 10 points and 14 rebounds. Feely scored 12 while Collins and McLean combined for eight.

That made for a happy time for the eight busloads of Pinewood fans who made the trip to ARCO to see the historic victory.

Scheppler said what set the ’99 team apart from Pinewood’s 2005 and ’06 state championship teams and the current squad was “they always played to their maximum. I just knew they were going to win.”

There was no room for error that season. Injuries or foul problems would have ruined that ’99 squad. Pinewood is much deeper this sea-son with 13 healthy players (senior Katie Cosner has been injured all season).

While Scheppler sees no com-parisons between the ’99 and 2009 teams, there are a few common threads. Both teams have been on a mission since Day 1 and, Schepp-ler said, “They pretty much play the same way.”

That would be the Pinewood Style, as it were. It’s a combination of three-point shooting, pressure de-fense, getting out on the fastbreak and a gritty never-give-up attitude that was on display last weekend when the Panthers bounced two-time defending state champion Branson from the NorCal champi-onship game, 41-30. Coincidently, Pinewood beat Branson in the ’99 NorCal title contest to reach the state finals.

Pinewood started two seniors, two sophomores and one freshman in ’99. This season it has been one senior (Lindsay Nickel), one junior (Rachel Marty) and three sopho-mores (Hailie Eackles, Kelsey Morehead and Seto).

Both teams were successful from the perimeter. Both teams were un-selfish. Both teams had a common goal. Moreover, players on both teams are part of the Pinewood family forever. It’s not surprising to have former players return to watch the current squads, and that will be the case again on Friday. Schep-pler knows players like Sami Field-Polissio and Tika Koshiyama-Diaz (teammates at Sacramento State) and others will be watching, to see how this current teams stacks up with their own.

For Scheppler, seeing his for-mer players return is what it’s all about.

“They had such a wonderful ex-perience,” he said. “This is why so many players come back.”

On Friday, they’ll be back to per-haps celebrate another state title.

“This is the icing on the cake,” Scheppler said. “This is what I tell my players, to try to keep them fo-cused. This is what you work so hard for, now it’s time to just enjoy it.”

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