WHAT DREW US HERE AS DOCTORS, DRAWS US BACK AS PATIENTS.

Obstetricians Karen Shin and Mary Parman spend their days caring for pregnant patients and delivering babies. Now that each doctor is pregnant with her first child, the choice of where to deliver is clear: right here where they deliver their patients’ babies, at Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital.

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To learn more about the services we provide to expectant mothers and babies, visit lpch.org
Valley execs support Whitman’s ‘independent’ campaign

Despite area’s political leanings, Atherton Republican enjoys local fundraising edge over Democrat Jerry Brown
by Gennady Sheyner

Palo Alto may be a Democratic bastion, but it’s the Republican candidate for governor who is leading the race for local campaign cash, records show. Meg Whitman, the former eBay CEO who constantly portrays herself as an independent outsider, has raked in more contributions from Palo Alto donors than her Democratic opponent, Attorney General Jerry Brown, despite the city’s heavy Democratic leanings. By Sept. 30, Whitman has received $526,111 compared to the $328,553 raised by Brown.

In Menlo Park, another Silicon Valley city that normally favors Democrats, Whitman had raised $272,749 from local donors by the end of September, compared to $154,965 raised by Brown. Whitman’s hometown advantage has exaggerated the fundraising difference in Atherton, where she enjoyed a nearly eightfold lead over Brown — $738,131 versus $97,143.

The topic of campaign finance re-emerged at this week’s gubernatorial debate at the Dominican College in San Rafael. Whitman, a billionaire who has invested about $140 million into her campaign, said her personal contributions allow her to be independent from special interests and accused Brown of being beholden to public-employee unions, who contributed heavily to his campaign.

“The expenditure of my own money allows me to be independent, to go to Sacramento with no strings attached,” Whitman said. Brown countered that in addition to Whitman’s own contributions, she has raised millions from “the kind of corporate executives who would benefit directly from her key economic plank.” Whitman’s proposals include eliminating the capital-gains tax and imposing a one-year moratorium on Assembly Bill 32, a 2006 law that restricts greenhouse-gas emissions.

(continued on page 9)

Dalai Lama tells students to live ‘from their hearts’

For East Palo Alto students, ‘new century’ is on their shoulders, Tibetan leader says
by Chris Kenrick

The Dalai Lama told 400 East Palo Alto students that responsibility for the 21st century rests on their shoulders — and that they should manage it from their hearts.

In a meandering, hour-plus discussion Wednesday afternoon in a school gym, the exiled Tibetan Buddhist leader responded to questions on topics ranging from his childhood memories to methods he uses to cheer himself up after a “sad day.”

Eleven of the students, from East Palo Alto middle schools as well as Menlo-Atherton and Sequoia high schools, earned the chance to personally address the world-famous 75-year-old monk after submitting essays on what constitutes a “meaningful life.”

“You belong to the new century,” the Dalai Lama told Tatyana Spears, a 13-year-old McNair Middle School eighth-grader who asked how young people can find peace in their lives.

“You have nine decades to make it become peaceful, compassionate and friendly — or more destructive. It’s entirely up to you,” the Dalai Lama said.

“Education — development of the brain — is not sufficient. You must pay more attention to your own heart, to what we learn from our mothers at a very young age.”

Vanessa Tostado, an eighth-grader at Willow Oaks School, asked about racism.

“We have different races, different faiths, nationalities, positions, rich families, poor families — sometimes in the past and even today, we have too much emphasis on race, nationality, and we sacrifice fundamental human values,” the Dalai Lama responded.

“First we must realize nearly 7 billion human beings are the same. Everyone wants a happy life. Racism, discrimination based on faith or point of view is a total mistake — very backward thinking.”

The Dalai Lama sat in an overstuffed chair on the gym stage and spoke in what he described as “broken English,” frequently conferring with a translator sitting to his left.

“Students from the independent Living Wisdom School of Palo Alto — who last year mounted a pageant about the Dalai Lama who recited poems and sayings and helped in Tibetan cultural performances before the monk’s arrival, teaching the audience to sing the

Holding a gift from students, the Dalai Lama chats with Costano Elementary School student Rudy Rivera, left, while Belle Haven student Adagio Lopeti looks on, at Costano in East Palo Alto on Wednesday.

AT&T to open tech center in Palo Alto

Multi-million-dollar center to generate new products
by Sue Dremann

A T&T is setting up a multimillion-dollar technology-development center in Palo Alto in a race to snag the Bay Area’s brainiest mobile-technology developers’ ideas.

The collaborative work center could launch a wave of financial support for local businesses and inventors, as entrepreneurs, equipment providers, businesses, employees and venture capitalists join to work on new mobile-communications products.

AT&T is not alone in its efforts to capture innovative ideas locally. Sprint Nextel has planned a grand opening for its tech-development center in Burlingame on Oct. 29; Verizon expects to open a center in San Francisco in mid-2011, spokespersons for the companies said.

AT&T’s Palo Alto headquarters will focus on consumer products and mobile applications, such as for Apple’s iPhone and Google’s Android, according to Peter Hill, vice president of ecosystem and innovation.

Using a “speed dating” model, software developers can pitch ideas in 8 to 12 minutes to company executives. Selected ideas will receive backing and assistance to get the products developed and to market quickly, spokesman John Britton said. The company hopes to review as many as 400 proposals per year.

Local venture capitalists hailed AT&T’s move.

Silicon Valley venture-capital firms Kleiner Perkins Caufield and Byers and Sequoia Capital will partner with AT&T to help identify po-
City to revise policy so it spells out how much outage information about is too much — or too little by Gennady Shneyer

H ours after Palo Alto’s Utilities Department unveiled a new Web page to update residents about service disruptions Tuesday, a power outage hit downtown Palo Alto, leaving City Hall and about 180 customers in the dark.

The outage, which utilities officials attributed to an equipment failure, began at about 8:34 p.m. and lasted about an hour. But if any of the affected customers used their smartphones to get information from the city’s new outage Web page, they found themselves in the dark. The information wasn’t updated until Wednesday morning, much to the consternation of some utility customers, who quickly pointed out the system’s failings on Palo Alto Online’s community forum Town Square.

The minor episode is emblematic of the Goldilocks dilemma facing the Utilities Department. Palo Alto officials want to inform utility customers about outages in their areas without losing the city’s ability to disseminate announcements for every little incident.

They want the alert system to be just right.

To that effect, the city’s Utilities Department is now revising its notification policies to determine which types of incidents should trigger an automatic alert to customers and how many people should be notified, Joyce Kinnear, manager of the Utilities Marketing Service, told the Weekly Wednesday.

Several residents expressed frustration with the city’s notification system for power outages after a Sept. 24 outage in the Barron Park neighborhood. The outage affected about 1,700 customers and Gunn High School. Many of them tried in vain to find information online about the outage online, while some tried to call dispatch but ran into busy signals.

Kinnear said the department tries to update outage data as soon as it can, particularly for larger power failures. Palo Alto also uses a Community Alert and Notification System (CANS), which calls or texts residents during major emergencies. The system merged with Santa Clara County’s AlertSCC system last month.

But as East Palo Alto residents learned Tuesday, automatic-calling systems also have their disadvantages. At about 5 p.m., about 1,700 customers received an automated call warning them about a gas leak and urging them to evacuate.

The call, which came from the San Mateo County Office of Emergency Services, was a false alarm. The automatic message was supposed to inform residents about an Oct. 19 community meeting on the city’s pending update of its “water master plan.” Instead, it was an old — and misleading — message about the Sept. 9 gas explosion in San Bruno.

About three hours after the initial call, the office called back to revoke its evacuation order and apologize. In Palo Alto, CANS is only used for major emergencies, Kinnear said. Smaller incidents, such as Tuesday’s brief power outage, require a lighter touch.

Kinnear said utilities officials are trying to improve their notification procedures for outages by immediately informing customer-service representatives about any service disruptions, so that they can relay this information to customers.

The Utilities Department also sends mass e-mails to customers who want to be alerted about power outages.

The department’s new Web page, at www.cityofpaloalto.org/outageinfo, is part of this effort, she said. The department also created two other pages — www.cityofpalalto.ca.gov/safety/aides and www.cityofpaloalto.org/depts/util/service_disruptions (a front page for both planned and unplanned service disruptions). Though customers who lose their power might have a hard time turning on their personal computers, residents with smartphones can still view the outage page for a quick update.

Tuesday’s power failure showed one hiccup in the new system, however, in that it took place in the evening, after regular business hours.

“In the off hours, the page doesn’t always get updated immediately,” Kinnear said.

She said the department’s revised policy on notification will address the subject of timeliness: how long it should take utilities officials, once the outage begins, to post information about it on the new Web page.

WASHINGTON

Schwarzenegger vetoes rail-accountability measure

W ith a stroke of his line-veto pen, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger Monday killed a budget provision that would have forced the California High-Speed Rail Authority to improve its business plan and strengthen its outreach efforts by Feb. 1 or have about a quarter of its annual budget withheld.

Schwarzenegger’s veto deals a blow to efforts by Sen. Joe Simitian, D-Palo Alto, and other state legislators to hold the rail authority accountable after a sequence of audits revealed a myriad of flaws in the agency’s revenue and ridership plans.

“While the Administration supports these reporting requirements, making the (budget) appropriation contingent upon receipt and approval of this report by the Legislature could result in project delays, jeopardize the Authority’s ability to meet already tight federal deadlines and result in increased state costs,” Schwarzenegger wrote in his veto message.

The penalty for missing the Feb. 1 deadline would have been $55.32 million in state funding.

The provision, which was inserted into the budget by the Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 2 on Resources, Environmental Protection, Energy and Transportation, gave the authority until Feb. 1 to update its business plan and provide an analysis demonstrating that the rail project would not require a public subsidy for operations.

The subcommittee, chaired by Simitian, also called for the authority to respond to a long list of management deficiencies uncovered by the Office of State Auditor. The auditor’s office found that the authority’s program manager, the firm Parsons Brinckerhoff, filed monthly reports filled with errors. The office reviewed 22 invoices and identified problems in 20.

In May, after hearing a presentation on the report from State Auditor Elaine Howle, members of Simitian’s subcommittee said they were deeply concerned about the authority’s mismanagement.

Sen. Alan Lowenthal, D-Long Beach, said he found the litany of poor management practices identified by the auditor “astounding.” He said the authority “doesn’t have at this point a coherent program,” he said.

Anybody who has read this audit report cannot help but be disheartened by the authority’s mismanagement, or at least some folks’ mismanagement of scarce public resources,” Lowenthal said.

The auditor’s report is one of several recent studies exposing flaws in the rail project. The state Legislative Analyst’s Office found major flaws in the authority’s business plan. One analysis said the plan “superficially addresses many of the most significant risks of the project.”

The Institute for Transportation Studies at University of California, Berkeley, reviewed the authority’s ridership projections and found them “unreliable.”

This week, three financial experts from the Peninsula released an analysis of the authority’s financial data and concluded that the authority’s “financial promises can’t be kept.”

The report was reviewed and endorsed by 70 Silicon Valley economists and CEOs.

Simitian, whose Midpeninsula constituency includes some of the most vocal critics of the voter-approved project, called Schwarzenegger’s veto of the accountability measure “regrettable.”

On Oct. 2, Simitian hosted a Town Hall meeting in Palo Alto, where he lauded the budget provisions as an important step to holding the authority accountable. He alluded to the Feb. 1 deadline and said “the clock is ticking” on the authority to get its house in order.

Simitian has persistently said he supports the rail project — but only “if it’s done right.” The authority, he told the crowd at the Town Hall meeting, has yet to make a successful transition from a small advocacy group to the builder of a mega-project currently estimated at $42.6 billion.

(continued on page 6)
High schools around the country that have shifted their first-senior-semester exams to before the December break “will not go back,” according to Denise Clark Pope, a Stanford University senior lecturer widely known for her advocacy of stress-reduction efforts in schools.

As the Palo Alto school district debates whether to hold first-senior-semester finals before winter break starting in 2011, Pope said anecdotal evidence from other schools has convinced her otherwise: “It’s overwhelmingly positive.”

Yet little formal research exists on the subject, she said.

“There hasn’t been hard-core research where you have a control group, do follow-up and check stress levels. That hasn’t happened,” she said.

Pope, who has researched the subject of stress in high-achieving high schools through her 1999 Stanford doctoral dissertation and is now considered a national expert, was preparing this week for her seventh annual conference on youth well-being, which opens this Friday. It runs through the weekend.

Pope’s Stanford-based organization, Challenge Success, seeks to broaden what it calls the “conventional, high-pressure and narrow path to success and to offer practical advice to those who want to pursue a broader definition.”

Students and teachers from Gunn High School will join their counterparts more than 20 other schools from around the country in weekend workshops aimed at finding ways to reduce stress and increase engagement with learning, Pope said.

Moving finals to before winter break is one of many strategies advocated by Pope’s organization.

The Palo Alto Board of Education is slated to vote Nov. 9 on the district’s academic calendars for 2011-2012 and 2012-2013.

Superintendent Kevin Skelly has recommended shifting first-senior-semester finals to earlier break and beginning the school year in the third week of August rather than the fourth. Skelly also proposes to end summer school June 30 in 2011 and May 30 in 2013.

The theme of the Challenge Success conference this year is “Walking the Talk: Aligning Actions and Values for Youth Well-Being.”

Speaking at tonight’s kickoff in the Palo Alto Auditorium will be Los Angeles writer Wendy Mogel, author of “The Blessing of a Skinned Knee” and the soon-to-be-published “The Blessing of a B Minor.”

Also speaking will be Marlin clinical psychologist Madeline Levine, author of “The Price of Privilege.”

RSVPs are required and can be made at http://cpslenary2010.eventbrite.com.

The public face of disaster preparedness, police, fire and city officials, but Palo Alto officials have said many times they won’t be able to handle a disaster without residents’ help.

It will be a family-by-family, block-by-block “do it yourself” effort, officials warn.

Palo Alto’s response has balanced in the past year, involving scores of volunteers, neighborhood group and city officials collaboratively on how to add a sense of urgency to emergency preparation.

On Thursday, Oct. 21 — the 21st anniversary of the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake — city leaders and the recently resurrected Citizen Corps Council will present achievement awards to individuals whose efforts have helped the city prepare for a major emergency. The council is a group of city officials, businesses, hospitals and residents’ groups.

The award recipients, who will not be identified beforehand, will be honored at 7 p.m. in a ceremony at the Palo Alto City Hall. The free public event will feature a public unveiling of the city’s new mobile emergency-operations center at 5 p.m.

Annette Glancokof, Citizen Corps Council member and organizer of an event to honor individuals who have made a difference in emergency preparedness, stands outside Palo Alto Fire Station No. 6.

Emergency preparedness is a do-it-yourself challenge

Volunteers will be crucial to survival and recovery from disaster, city leaders say
High school academic achievement: None
Schools are among the top six schools statewide in average SAT scores.

Three-year, foundation-funded pilot Springboard to Kindergarten program.
The board heard a presentation on the first year of the Kindergarten readiness:
Program results from the pilot program.
Recommended some revisions to ensure staff reports back to the commission about lot program to encourage sustainable neighborhood development. The commission proposed by staff to amend the city's Green Building regulations and to create a new pilot program to encourage sustainable neighborhood development. The commission recommended some revisions to ensure staff reports back to the commission about the results from the pilot program.

Enrollment: The board heard a report on district-wide 2010-11 enrollment, which stands at 12,024, up 3 percent over last year, with most of the growth coming in the elementary grades. Action: None
Kindergarten readiness: The board heard a presentation on the first year of the three-year, foundation-funded pilot Springboard to Kindergarten program. Action: None
High school academic achievement: The board heard that Gunn and Palo Alto high schools are among the top six schools statewide in average SAT scores. Action: None

COUNCIL APPOINTED OFFICER COMMITTEE (OCT. 12)
Interim city attorney: The committee recommended appointing Assistant City Attorney Don Larkin to serve as the city’s interim city attorney after Gary Baurn’s retirement on Oct. 30. Yes: Klein, Schmid, Esperanza Absent: Scharff

PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION (OCT. 13)
Public art: The commission discussed and approved zoning revisions proposed by staff to amend the city’s Green Building regulations and to create a new pilot program to encourage sustainable neighborhood development. The commission recommended some revisions to ensure staff reports back to the commission about the results from the pilot program. Yes: Unanimous

BOARD OF EDUCATION (OCT. 12)
Enrollment: The board heard a report on Project Safety Net, the community effort to promote youth well-being, and recommended that the council approve the proposed Suicide Prevention Policy. Yes: Unanimous

CITY COUNCIL (OCT. 12)
The council plans to hold a joint meeting with the Utilities Advisory Commission; continue its discussion of the concept plans for East Meadow Circle/Pabian Way and California Avenue; hold a public hearing on the Community Development Block Grant Citizen Participation Plan; and consider a contract for Palo Alto Municipal Golf Course maintenance. The joint meeting with the UAC will begin at 6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 18, in the Council Conference Room at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.). Regular meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. or as soon as possible thereafter in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

FINANCE COMMITTEE (OCT. 13)
The committee plans to discuss plans for the city’s landfill operation and a new business plan by R. A. Wiedmann & Associates for the Palo Alto Airport. The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 19, in the Council Conference Room at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (OCT. 13)
Green building: The commission discussed and approved zoning revisions proposed by staff to amend the city’s Green Building regulations and to create a new pilot program to encourage sustainable neighborhood development. The commission recommended some revisions to ensure staff reports back to the commission about the results from the pilot program. Yes: Unanimous

PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION (OCT. 13)
Public art: The commission discussed and approved zoning revisions proposed by staff to amend the city’s Green Building regulations and to create a new pilot program to encourage sustainable neighborhood development. The commission recommended some revisions to ensure staff reports back to the commission about the results from the pilot program. Yes: Unanimous

HIGH-SPEED RAIL COMMITTEE (OCT. 13)
The committee plans to discuss recent correspondence between the California High-Speed Rail Authority and Caltrain about the possibility of building high-speed rail in phases; hear an update on rail-related legislation and discuss the city’s lobbying efforts. The meeting is scheduled for 8 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 21, in the Council Conference Room at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD (OCT. 13)
The board plans to discuss proposed upgrades to the Stanford University School of Medicine, which are part of Stanford Hospital’s expansion and renovation project. The meeting is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 21, in the Council Chambers at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION (OCT. 13)
The commission plans to elect its officers; hear a presentation on temporary public art near the Palo Alto Art Center; hear an update about the recent relocation of the Filaree statue to Greer Park; and discuss replacing a fountain near the California Avenue Caltrain station. The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 21, in the Council Conference Room at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).
News Digest

Cat burglars drive off with family car

In the third burglary of an occupied home in Palo Alto in recent months, one or more persons entered a home in the 1100 block of Hamilton Avenue between Friday night, Oct. 8, and Saturday morning in the Crescent Park neighborhood.

The burglar entered by a side window, stole a purse and wallet and drove off with a family vehicle while the two residents were asleep upstairs, police Agent Brian Philip reported this week.

The car was found a short time later by Menlo Park police, abandoned along Woodland Avenue — indicating the burglar or burglars either walked into Palo Alto or had been dropped off.

An earlier home burglary occurred in the 1500 block of Hamilton, where burglars stole a large flat-panel television and drove off with the family minivan while the family slept upstairs. The minivan was later recovered in East Palo Alto, Philip said.

Another occupied-home burglary occurred in the 100 block of Waverley Street in early September. One person was arrested in that case following an early morning manhunt.

— Palo Alto Weekly staff

Gunn, Paly among top six in SAT scores

Gunn and Palo Alto high schools rank in the top six in all California high schools in average SAT scores, according to data reviewed at the Palo Alto Board of Education meeting Oct. 12.

But the schools fall short of their goals in boosting college-prep rates for minority students.

Garrison measured statistical progress against two of the district’s “strategic plan goals” — making sure at least 85 percent of all graduates meet entrance requirements for California’s public universities by 2012; and boosting the percent of all graduates meet entrance requirements for UC/CSU entrance requirements — up from 43 percent and 34 percent in 2009.

However, the 2009 numbers were worse than those for the class of 2008.

Palo Alto lags behind several high-achieving California high schools on the college-readiness measure, including San Francisco’s Lowell High School and San Marino High School, where more than 90 percent of 2009 graduates met UC/CSU entrance requirements.

SAT scores for the class of 2010 averaged 1,947 — 1,942 at Gunn and 1,951 at Paly.

District-wide, the average score was 635 in critical reading; 672 in math; and 640 in writing.

Those compare with statewide averages of 501 in critical reading; 516 in math and 500 in writing, and slightly lower averages for the nation as a whole.

This means that a student who ranked in the bottom quarter in Palo Alto would still rank in the top 25 percent of students when compared with their statewide or nationwide peers.

— Chris Kenrick

Treasury’s Geithner to speak in Palo Alto

Nearly two years after being tasked with bringing the U.S. economy out of the Great Recession, Secretary of the U.S. Treasury Timothy Geithner will talk about the nation’s financial health at the Oshman Family Jewish Community Center in Palo Alto Monday (Oct. 18) at 1 p.m.

Geithner will address the Obama administration’s proposals to help get more American banks to work and help reinforce long-term growth at home as well as efforts to build a more stable financial system and to strengthen the global economy, according to the Commonwealth Club of Silicon Valley, the event organizer.

Geithner, 49, will be joined by moderator Michael Moritz, managing member of Sequoia Capital and former San Francisco bureau chief for Time magazine.

When Geithner became the treasury secretary in January 2009, he was charged with deciding which banks and other financial companies to rescue and under what conditions the funding would be given, according to the Washington Post.

Within his first month on the job, he played a key role in creating the administration’s $787 billion economic-stimulus package. More recently, he helped shape the Dodd-Frank financial regulation overhaul package, which took effect in July 2010, the Washington Post reported.

Before assuming the role of treasury secretary, Geithner helmed the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. He worked in three presidential administrations for five secretaries of the treasury. He served as under-secretary of the treasury for international affairs from 1999 to 2001 for secretaries Robert Rubin and Lawrence Summers and was director of the Policy Development and Review Department at the International Monetary Fund from 2001 until 2003.

Tickets for the event range from $10 for students to $50 for premium seating and are available by calling 800-847-7730 or visiting tickets.commonwealthclub.org.

The Oshman Family Jewish Community Center is located at 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto.

— Palo Alto Weekly staff

Working group formed on high-speed rail

A high-level federal “working group” that meets weekly to discuss California’s high-speed rail project has been created in response to growing concerns about the viability of the California project, Congresswoman Anna Eshoo announced Monday, Oct. 11, in an interview with the Weekly.

Eshoo said the working group was created by U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood following a Sept. 30 meeting of six Congress members from California and several high-level federal officials. The 90-minute meeting covered growing concerns about the rail project, currently estimated to cost $43 billion, which will link San Francisco to Los Angeles in its initial phase.

Eshoo said the congressmembers expressed concerns about the viability of the project and leadership of the California High-Speed Rail Authority, based on several authoritative studies that questioned basic cost, design, process and ridership studies of the authority.

Eshoo said her own position is that some federal funds need to be freed up and applied directly to upgrading and electrifying the Caltrain commute service, struggling to fill a $2.3 million budget gap. Federal funding is from the Federal Railroad Administration under the Department of Transportation.

She said the federal officials at the meeting include Roy Kienitz, undersecretary for policy at the Department of Transportation, who was raised in the Palo Alto/Mountain View/Sunnyvale area.

Members of Congress at the meeting included MikeHonda, Jackie Speier, George Miller, John Garamendi, Mike Thompson and Eshoo.

— Jay Thorwaldson
Dalai Lama (continued from page 3)

Tibetan leader urges compassion, brotherhood in Stanford talk
by Nick Veronin

The crowd at Maples Pavilion, buzzing with the sound of 6,300 voices, hushed in an instant and rose in unison to greet the guest of honor Thursday morning.

Tenzin Gyatso, better known as the 14th Dalai Lama and an internationally recognized religious scholar, took the stage at Stanford University, continuing a Bay Area visit that included a meeting with East Palo Alto students Wednesday.

The audience, composed of university students, faculty and staff, as well as young and old people from beyond the Bay Area, filled the bleachers and chairs on the gymnastics floor to listen to the Dalai Lama speak on topics that revolved around the event’s title — “The Centrality of Compassion in Human Life and Society.”

Sipping out of white tea cups, the religious leader sat with Stanford neuroscientist Dr. James Doty and discussed the connections between a healthy body and a healthy mind and explored the ways in which spirituality and religion might inform science and vice versa.

The effects of kindness, giving, nurturing, empathy and a host of other human traits that previously have been considered scientifically immeasurable are actually quantifiable and yield valuable data, according to research by Stanford’s Center for Compassion and Altruism Research and Education (CCARE). CCARE, which hosted the event, was created after a 2005 visit from the Dalai Lama. His talks with Doty inspired the spiritual leader to make a donation of $150,000 — revenues from his book sales — to Doty. Doty, in turn, founded and now directs CCARE, which includes neuroscientists, physicians and religious leaders.

“The Dalai Lama spoke for about an hour, occasionally turning to his translator for help finding the right word.

“We are the same human being; mentally, emotionally, physically we are the same,” he told the crowd, calling on everyone to give up any “us versus them” mentality they might have. He said that humans are social animals who seek companionship, compassion, altruism and nurturing from each other.

He told an anecdote from his childhood that showed that the seeds of compassion in him were planted by his mother. Though he was a spoiled child, when he was “naughty” his mother always showed him compassion. He encouraged parents in the audience to lead by example.

He also called upon the youth in the room to make their generation one that favors dialogue over violence to resolve conflict.

In the half-hour-long discussion between Doty and the Dalai Lama, the two touched upon the science that shows a healthy mindset can lead to a healthier physical brain and body.

“Iinner peace must develop through the mental process,” the Dalai Lama said.

“I thought it was incredible,” Laura Dias, a freshman at Stanford, said of the event. “I think I agreed with him on every level.”

Louis Marion, another university freshman, said he was especially enthralled with the Dalai Lama’s ability to merge concepts of science and religion so fluidly and believes that the spiritual leader was right in his opinion that the mental process and ability to impact physical health.

Gayle Downs, who drove in from Cuyucos, near Moro Bay, also said she also believed that the mind is intricately linked to the health of the body.

Scott Vanner, from Walnut Creek, said that he enjoyed the Dalai Lama’s ideas overall and his middle-of-the-road approach to science and religion. But he also found certain points that the monk made to be too simplistic.

“I kind of felt like the world isn’t a place where dialogue can solve every problem,” Vanner said.

Nick Veronin is a staff writer at the Mountain View Voice, the Weekly’s sister paper, and can be e-mailed at avenorning@mv-voice.com.
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DOCTOR CHANCELLOR IS BACK IN PALO ALTO!

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.

Chamber celebrates its past — and future
The Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce celebrated its 100-year history and took stock of its future at the headquarters of Tesla Motors Thursday, blending past innovations with a high-tech future. (Posted Oct. 14 at 9:30 a.m.)

Fifth indecent exposure reported in Palo Alto
Another case of indecent exposure — the fifth since Sept. 21 — has been reported in Palo Alto. A man walked up to four women Tuesday (Oct. 12) at 8:30 a.m. near Park Boulevard and Oxford Avenue and “exposed himself to them,” Palo Alto police Lt. Sandra Brown stated in a press release. (Posted Oct. 13 at 4:46 p.m.)

Humane Society honors Giants with orange cats
The Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA is honoring the San Francisco Giants’ National League Division Series victory with a special adoption promotion for cats with black or orange fur. (Posted Oct. 13 at 2:33 p.m.)

Thirty teens dropped from Palo Alto school rolls
Thirty students were dropped from Palo Alto public school rolls this fall when their parents were unable to verify their residency in the school district. In a crackdown on non-residents trying to sneak in, Palo Alto required all incoming ninth-graders to submit fresh documentation proving residency. (Posted Oct. 13 at 9:27 a.m.)

Finding the ‘friendliest’ family biking routes
Ellen Fletcher, a former Palo Alto City Council member who has spent decades advocating bicycling, safe bike routes and bike lockers, was introduced by Mayor Pat Burt and Councilman Yahweh Yeh at a “bike friendly” event Sunday (Oct. 10) sponsored by the Barron Park and College Terrace Green Teams. About 300 people, mostly families, attended. (Posted Oct. 13 at 12:16 a.m.)

Power outage darkens region of north Palo Alto
A power outage of unknown origin darkened a large area of north Palo Alto for about an hour Tuesday evening, the city Utilities Department reported. (Posted Oct. 12 at 10:35 p.m.)

Oops! East Palo Alto ‘evacuation’ alarm was false
East Palo Alto residents received an alarming phone call at 4:59 p.m. Tuesday after the city’s automated dial-up alert system told residents to evacuate. But it was a false alarm. (Posted Oct. 12 at 7:19 p.m.)

Critics slam high-speed rail business plan
Peninsula critics of California’s proposed high-speed rail system released a new report Monday night challenging the economics behind the controversial, voter-approved project and accusing the agency charged with building the rail system of deceiving the public. (Posted Oct. 12 at 9:58 a.m.)

Carjacking at Lytton Plaza lands suspect in jail
A woman waiting for her husband to chat with band members at Lytton Plaza in downtown Palo Alto around 4 a.m. Sunday had her silver Toyota Prius carjacked by a man wielding a gun, Agent Brian Philip reported. A suspect was later arrested in San Mateo, walking away from the car. (Posted Oct. 10 at 10:45 p.m.)

Middle College engages restless teens’ minds
Middle College is a publicly funded alternative secondary school program that allows local students to simultaneously earn a high school diploma and college credit in community college classes. The school has shrunk, due to funding cuts in recent years, but the teachers and students remain passionate. (Posted Oct. 10 at 10:59 p.m.)

Palo Alto murder-arson trial set for November
The trial for Bulos Zumot, the hookah-shop owner charged with killing his girlfriend and setting their rental cottage on fire, will begin Nov. 8, a Santa Clara County judge said Friday (Oct. 8). (Posted Oct. 8 at 4:42 p.m.)

Bicyclist hit by car on University Avenue
A bicyclist was taken to the hospital Thursday afternoon (Oct. 7) after being hit by a car on University Avenue in Palo Alto, Palo Alto police Lt. Sandra Brown said. (Posted Oct. 8 at 12:06 p.m.)

Want to get news briefs e-mailed to you every weekday? Sign up for Express, our new daily e-edition. Go to www.PaloAltoOnline.com to sign up.
Governor

(continued from page 3)

Campaign finance reports show that while Whitman’s gubernatorial run is largely self-funded, she has also won the confidence and financial support of dozens of the area’s leading venture capitalists and CEOs. Many of Whitman’s Midpeninsula donors gave $25,900, the maximum allowed per contribution, to her campaign in the last reporting period.

In Palo Alto, that list includes Donald Dixon, partner in Trident Capital; John Gunn, chairman of Dodge & Cox; James Breyer, a venture capitalist with Accel Partners; Marc Andreesen, chairman of Ning; Laura Arrillaga, founder of Silicon Valley Social Venture Fund; Thomas Siebel, chairman of First Virtual Group; and Stratton Sclavos, a partner at Radar Partners.

In Menlo Park, Whitman’s top donors include venture capitalist Geoff Yang of Redpoint Ventures; William Bowes, Jr., of U.S. Venture Capital; Ravi Mahatre of Lightspeed Venture Partners; David Marquardt of August Capital; and Brion Applegate of Spectrum Equity Investors.

In Atherton, her donors include Doug Leone of Sequoia Capital; Nersi Nazari of Pacific General Ventures; and Jesse Rogers of Altamont Capital Partners.

Whitman also received the endorsement earlier this month from the San Jose/Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce, which lauded her local roots and managerial know-how.

“Of course, Meg comes from Silicon Valley and in her years at eBay displayed the kind of leadership we need in Sacramento,” chamber President Pat Dando said in a statement.

Between Jan. 1 and Sept. 30, Whitman spent $120.6 million to $107.7 million, campaign finance data shows.

Preparedness

(continued from page 6)

Preparedness coordinators to check in the city’s Emergency Operations Center beneath City Hall to get block-level data, Whitman said.

In the past couple of years, the PANDA has built up a strong command structure to assemble resources and dispatch people to the field, PANDA district coordinators Doug Kalish said.

PANDA volunteer Annette Ross said the volunteer group provides “a predetermined and methodical way of avoiding chaos.”

Jerry Brown’s top Palo Alto contributors (As of Sept. 30, 2010):

George Marcus, chairman, Marcus & Millichap…………………………..$62,700
Hewlett Packard Company…………………………………………………….$51,800
Mary Jane Marcus, homemaker………………………………………………..$30,500
Susan Orr, business executive, Telosa Software……………………………..$25,900
Nancy Kukkola, real estate, Marcus & Millichap……………………………..$15,000
William A. Millichap, real estate, Marcus & Millichap……………………..$14,500
John W. Danner, co-founder and CEO, Rocketship Education…………….$10,000
John McNelis, developer, McNelis Partners…………………………………..$10,000
Ed Bugnion, vice president, Cisco Systems…………………………………….$10,000
Ann Doerr, homemaker………………………………………………………….$10,000

Source: CalAccess, California Secretary of State

UPCOMING EVENTS

Trio Jubilee Chamber Group
10/17, 3:00 PM
Sit back and relax as this local trio brings the sounds of Haydn, Bloch and Dvorak to life with their unusual and exotic sound.

Tito Gonzalez y su Trio
Part of the Singles Arts Café
11/4, 7:30 PM
Enjoy a cornucopia of Cuban music with this authentic, high energy band. Rumba, guaracha, son montuno and more!

To purchase tickets, visit www.paloaltojcc.org/arts or call (650) 223-8699.
Transitions

Deaths

Victor Calvo
Former Assemblyman Victor Calvo, 68, a resident of Mountain View, died Sept. 26. He was born in Mountain View and graduated from Mountain View High School as valedictorian in 1942, the same year that he volunteered for the Army Air Corps. During World War II, he served as a combat pilot in the Army Air Force. He attended Stanford University and graduated with a degree in political science.

His 32 years of public service to the state of California began in 1957 when he was first appointed to the Mountain View Planning Commission. He was twice elected to the Mountain View City Council and served three terms as mayor. He was a Santa Clara County Supervisor from 1968 to 1974. In 1974 he was elected to the State Assembly, representing the 21st District. He was appointed to the California Public Utilities Commission and the California Coastal Commission.

He was a crusader for the preservation of California's forests, greenbelts, and wetlands and had the reputation of not giving in to lobbyists, loved ones said. He was instrumental in the funding and creation of Shoreline Park in Mountain View and while chairperson of the Assembly Committee on Resources, Land Use, and Energy he led the defense of environmental quality laws in California. He authored legislation on coastal conservation, nuclear safety, farmland preservation, solar energy, and clean water and air.

He married Nellie Catherine Quintero in 1948 and they had five children: Suzanna, Victor, Peter, Theodore and Mary. He was a businessman and owned and ran the Anza Lumber Company from 1959 to 1985. He was an avid golfer and played weekly at his beloved Shoreline golf course. He was also an avid bird watcher and nature enthusiast.

He is survived by his wife Nellie; their five children and spouses; and 12 grandchildren. He will be dearly missed, loved ones said. A memorial service will be held Mon., Oct. 18, at 1 p.m. at Rengstorff House, Shoreline Park, 3070 North Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting that donations be sent to a charity of choice.

Laurel Hiatt
Laurel Ann Hiatt, 65, a longtime resident of Menlo Park and Atherton, died Sept. 18.

Born in southern California and raised in Los Altos, she received her bachelor's degree from Principia College in Illinois. She went on to graduate from Stanford Business School in 1967 as one of only two women in the graduating class.

That same year, she married James A. Hiatt, who became known as a local real estate developer. She worked for IBM, then dedicated her time to raising four daughters and being active in the local community. Twenty years later, she re-established herself in the workforce as a financial planner.

As a lifelong Christian Scientist, she served the First Church of Christ, Scientist, Menlo Park, in many capacities. She is survived by her four daughters, Emily Vesely of Menlo Park, Chelsea Hiatt Farley of Pacifica, Mindy Castle of Martinez, Janne Hiatt of Donner Summit; three grandchildren; her father Edgar Fuller; and half-sister Tracy Fuller, of Palo Verdes.

Donations in her honor may be contributed to The Christian Science Sentinel Visiting Nurse Service (CSPVNS), P. O. Box 741, Menlo Park 94026; First Church of Christ, Scientist, 201 Ravenswood Ave., Menlo Park, 94025; or Bear Valley Search & Rescue (or BVSAR), 477 Summit Blvd., PO Box 2083, Big Bear Lake, CA 92315.

Judge Stanley Ross Evans

Judge Stanley Ross Evans, who served more than 22 years on the Santa Clara County Superior Court, passed away September 29, 2010 at the age of 90 in Menlo Park from complications of Alzheimer's.

Evans was born in Pittsfield, MA, the second son of Clarence and Louise Murchison Evans. He was raised in Evanston, IL, and studied violin and viola with the intention of joining the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, where his father was principal violist for many years.

During WWII, he joined the Marines, serving as First Lieutenant aboard the USS Kenton, an attack transport ship in the South Pacific that was attacked by Japanese Banzai planes in the battle at Okinawa. When the war ended, he decided to go to law school, and studied at Harvard Law School on the GI bill, earning his J.D. in 1948.

Evans met his college sweetheart Betty Stober at Northwestern University, where they both attended. They were married in Quanticco, VA, before his assignment overseas. After graduating from Harvard Law School the couple moved to Palo Alto, CA, and resided in Palo Alto ever since. He engaged in private law practice with the law firm Moerdykde, Anderson, Evans & Rhodes from 1950 through 1961. He served on the Palo Alto Planning Commission and City Council. Evans served as Superior Court Judge for 22 years, retiring in 1984.

Following retirement, he was active as an arbitrator and mediator, and was appointed to serve as justice pro tem on the Sixth District Court of Appeal in San Jose.

Throughout his life, Evans played violin and viola in local symphony orchestras, the Manzanita Quartet, and other chamber music groups. He served on the boards of The Fortnightly Club and the Music Guild at Stanford. Colleagues, friends, and family enjoyed his generous spirit and warm sense of humor that sparkled with wit.

After retiring, Evans enjoyed playing golf and tennis, and he and Betty traveled to Europe and Elderhostels, among other destinations. Evans was a charter member and officer of the University Club of Palo Alto, where his two daughters swam and played tennis.

He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Betty; by his daughters Elizabeth Evans Levy (Robert) of Soquel, and Nancy Evans Devine (Bill) of Palo Alto; and by his grandchildren David Ross Levy and Amanda Evans Devine. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

At his request, no services are planned. Donations may be made in his memory to the San Francisco Symphony and the Redwoods League.

Theodore A. Jenkel
June 30, 1929 - October 7, 2010

Ted was raised in Burlingame and resided in Saratoga and Lake Tahoe for more than fifty years. He had lived in Palo Alto at Classic Residence by Hyatt since 2008. Brother of John Jenkel of Sebastopol and father of Theodore III, John and Anne Jenkel; grandfather of Colin, Daniel, Amalie, Rosalie and Lillian. He was preceded in death by his wife of more than 50 years, Eileen. Ted was a member and supporter of the San Jose and Saratoga Rotary Clubs, past president of the California Jeweler's Association, and member of the Saratoga Men's Club. He enjoyed a wide circle of family and friends who will miss him deeply. Private family services to be held. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society www.rollerhappgoodtinney.com

JANE BAVALAS

Jane Bavelas, a resident of Palo Alto for over half a century, died of heart failure at Stanford Hospital on October 8, 2010.

Jane was born Catherine Jane Lawson in Michigan in 1917, attended Vassar College. She worked for a time at the Highlander Folk School in Tennessee, then moved to New York and worked in the publishing business on the east coast where she did manuscript reading for Book of the Month Club, wrote copy for Publisher's Weekly, and did script reading for Universal Pictures and Twentieth Century Studios, eventually becoming a fiction editor for Knopf.

Jane began her career at Knopf as a telephone operator, rising to the role of fiction editor at a time when women did not generally hold those positions. One book Jane rejected was George Orwell's "Animal Farm." She was in good company; TS Eliot also rejected the novel. She redeemed herself in 1951, after she moved to Little, Brown and Co. where she edited "The Catcher in the Rye." While Jane championed this book, she never met its perennially reclusive author, J.D. Salinger. She did however, keep up a long-term friendship and correspondence with author Jessica Mitford.

In 1955, she married Alex Bavelas, and they moved to Palo Alto where he took a position in the Stanford psychology department and she worked as an assistant for Dr. Paul Ehrlich in the population biology department.

Jane remained at Stanford when she and Alex divorced in 1969 and continued to work in the biology department until her retirement in 1982. She assisted in the creation of the community health manual "Where There is No Doctor" for the Hesperian Foundation. After retirement, she was active in Avenidas, the non-profit senior assistance community, and she was an enthusiastic and talented supporter of Gallery House, the Palo Alto arts co-op. She managed the gallery and worked on their behalf for over thirty years, with a wonderful knack for engaging the public over the artwork with a gracious but direct manner.

Jane is survived by a daughter of Sunnyvale, Cate Nelson and an older sister, Carol Booth of Birmingham, Michigan. A memorial service is planned for October 16 at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto. Donations may be made in Jane's memory to Avenidas, 450 Bryant St., Palo Alto 94301.
**Editorial**

Measure R deserves overwhelming defeat

When the Palo Alto firefighters union began circulating petitions to place a protectionist measure on the Nov. 2 election ballot last spring, we called it a terrible idea. It still is.

The union leadership claims Measure R is a simple matter of assuring that a basic level of public safety is maintained in the face of tight city finances, and says it “gives the public a voice.” A closer examination of the measure’s language and implications, however, reveals a more sinister purpose.

The union is attempting to force the city to make knee-jerk budget cuts in the face of tight city budgets, and says it “gives residents a voice” in ensuring that a basic level of public safety is maintained in the face of tight city finances. It is a measure that would reduce the number of firefighters to levels that would not ensure a basic level of public safety.

The union leadership claims Measure R is a simple matter of assuring that a basic level of public safety is maintained in the face of tight city finances, and says it “gives the public a voice.” A closer examination of the measure’s language and implications, however, reveals a more sinister purpose.

**Spectrum**

**Train vs. education**

Editor.

Economist Robert Gordon of Northwestern University points out in the Oct. 10 issue of Business Week that between 2005 and 2027 the U.S. gross domestic product will grow at the slowest pace of any 20-year period in U.S. history, going back to George W. Bush’s presidency.

He attributes it to a stalling of productivity driven by stunted increase in education levels. It is clear that California, already near the bottom in education nation-wide, is destined to accelerate that trend as it further reduces our educational expenditures — while claiming to lead the nation by spending one tenth of one trillion dollars on education.

High-speed train toy.

**Waiting for Superman**

Editor.

We had an opportunity to see “Waiting for Superman” recently. This powerful documentary presents many of the problems in our education system, suggestions to fix it and some success stories.

Unfortunately, the information presented about Woodside High School in Redwood City, left an impression that Woodside does not do a good job educating its students — when in fact it is an outstanding high school where students receive a top notch education.

The filmmakers were offered an opportunity to learn more about Woodside, but regretfully, they declined. Had they visited Woodside and talked with staff, students, administrators or parents, they likely would have avoided some of the mis-characterizations and misrepresentations in the film.

The information presented in the film about graduation rates and college acceptances is very misleading. Those statistics came from a UCLA study that uses data that tracks students from 9th to 12th grades. The study does not take into account the number of students who are enrolled at Woodside and decide to attend a private or charter school, or move out of the area, without notifying the school before the school year begins. Nor does the study include the number of students who move out of the area during their high-school years.

The filmmaker is a graduate of Woodside, but the filmmakers actually visited the school and decided that Woodside was doing a great job. The filmmakers failed to check their facts and did not verify their sources.

**Yes on S for election savings**

Measure S would amend the Palo Alto City Charter to move City Council elections from the traditional odd-year time to even years, lining up with state and national elections.

Former Councilwoman and Mayor Liz Kniss, now on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, raised the issue last summer as a cost-saving efficiency move, and the council majority subsequently endorsed the change and placed it on the Nov. 2 ballot. Kniss estimated the city could save up to $200,000 per election by consolidating the local vote with state or national elections. That figure may be high, depending on other local ballot measures that can’t wait for the next general election. But even at that half a million would be a big contribution to a cash-stretched community: $1 million over 10 years fills a lot of potholes or saves many city services.

Supporters also cite statistics indicating that up to twice as many people vote in general elections.

But there’s a cost, opponents such as Councilman Greg Schmid contend. Keeping local votes in odd years, Schmid argues, is not only a century-old Palo Alto tradition but allows candidates, supporters, the media and voters to focus on local issues and candidates without the distractions of state or national campaigns. He believes the higher-turnout estimates are exaggerated.

While we agree that the current odd-year schedule focuses more attention on the local races, we believe the higher turnout and cost-savings of switching more than offsets this benefit. Other communities, such as Menlo Park and Mountain View, are on an even-year schedule, and Palo Alto should join them.

We recommend a YES vote on Measure S.
Editorial

A mixed bag of state propositions

Array of proposals confront voters with good choices and special-interest scams, some undoing important programs for California’s future.

Following is the Weekly’s analysis of major state propositions, with recommendations.

Proposition 19: Yes
Legalizes marijuana under California but not federal law.

Proposition 19 would legalize the possession and transport of an ounce of marijuana, as well as the cultivation of cannabis on up to 25 square feet per private residence. Local governments would have the option to regulate any related commercial sales and, as with any business, those activities would be subject to applicable sales and other taxes and fees. According to the FBI, 60 percent of drug cartel revenue comes from illegal marijuana sales in the United States. And in 2008, more than 61,000 Californians were arrested for possession of less than an ounce of pot. Combine the law-enforcement time-and-money savings with the Board of Equalization’s estimated $1.4 billion in tax revenue for the state, and it’s clear from a crime-and-money standpoint that Proposition 19 makes sense, economically and morally. Criticism that the measure is not well-crafted is valid, but it allows for amendment by the Legislature to address any issues that arise. And while recent passage of a law making marijuana possession a mere infraction (like a traffic ticket) in California accomplishes the decriminalization part of Proposition 19, it doesn’t achieve the full effects of legalization, including tax-revenue generation.

Proposition 20: Yes
Removes elected representatives from establishment of congressional districts and gives that authority to a bipartisan 14-member redistricting commission.

Proposition 27: No
Eliminates 14-member state redistricting commission and returns redistricting authority to elected representatives.

Propositions 20 and 27 are about how state and federal legislative districts in California should be drawn up — by a bipartisan independent panel or by incumbent politicians? Voting districts are redrawn after every 10-year census. In 2008, California voters passed Proposition 11, which took the redistricting of the state Assembly, Senate and Board of Equalization out of the hands of the Legislature and gave it to a 14-member Citizens Redistricting Commission to be established once every 10 years with five Democrats, five Republicans and four others to redraw the districts based on the latest census — while keeping the integrity of geographic boundaries and respecting city, county and neighborhood limits. But Proposition 11 didn’t affect the lines of congressional districts — and Proposition 20 seeks to bring those under the purview of the Citizens Redistricting Commission, as well.

Proposition 27, meanwhile, is a proposal to throw out the Citizens Redistricting Commission altogether and stick with the old ways for both the state Legislature and U.S. congressional districts. It’s no brilliant political insight to suggest that it’s probably not the best idea to have legislators influencing their own district’s boundaries — or those of their fellow party members.

Proposition 21: Yes
Establishes $18 annual vehicle-license fee to help fund state parks and wildlife programs.

California’s state parks are the frequent target of funding cuts — and last year park-goers felt it in a big way: as 150 of our 246 state-operated parks suffered deep reductions in services and hours of operation. This $18 vehicle-registration “surcharge” would create about $500 million in revenue for the parks. Of that amount, 85 percent would go to park operations and most of the rest toward wildlife protection programs. In return, all registered vehicles would receive free daytime parking at all state parks.

Proposition 22: Yes
Prohibits the state from diverting funds intended for transportation, redevelopment or local government projects.

In its farcical triage of annual budget balancing decisions, California often shifts funds away from their intended local targets to help pay for things the state deems more pressing. For instance, cities’ transportation and redevelopment-project funds have been unilaterally raided during fiscal crises to help meet other state budget needs. Proposition 22, among other things, would eliminate the state’s ability to use fuel-tax revenue for non-transportation purposes, and prohibit the state from borrowing local property-tax funds to pay for schools. While we don’t like the trend toward protecting an ever-growing list of services from cuts through ballot initiatives, we also object to the Legislature seizing local funds instead of legitimately balancing the state budget through tax increases or reduced expenses.

Proposition 23: No, No, No!
Suspends air-pollution-control law AB 32 until unemployment drops to 5.5 percent for a full year.

What do the companies Valero Energy, Occidental Petroleum, Tesoro Corp., Tower Energy Group and World Oil Corporation all have in common? They’re all big oil companies based in Texas.

(continued on page 16)

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!

Streetwise

What is the best decision you ever made?

As asked on California Ave in Palo Alto. Interviews by Sally Schilling. Photographs by Vivian Wong.

Hollis Radin
Massage Therapist
College Terrace, Palo Alto
“My decision to move to Palo Alto over 30 years ago.”

Tom Kehl
Director of Analytics
Midtown, Palo Alto
“Going to business school at Carnegie Mellon.”

Gary Funck
Software Industry Employee
Midtown, Palo Alto
“To marry my wife.”

Vicki Rather
Accountant
Crescent Park, Palo Alto
“To have kids, I guess.”

Billy Collins
Retiree
California Avenue, Palo Alto
“To not get married.”

Palo Alto Weekly • October 15, 2010 • Page 15
We believe education can be engaging and joyous.

- Celebrating arts and academics
- Working together to cultivate curiosity and imagination
- Strong community building
- Focusing on the process of learning
- Low student teacher ratio, small class size

Open House — Nursery, Kindergarten, First Grade Saturday, November 6, 10-11:30 a.m. Children welcome.

School Tours
Oct. 14, Nov. 4, Jan. 6 & 13 beginning at 10:00 a.m.
Dec. 2 & 9 beginning at 9:00 a.m. Parents only please.

For an appointment, please call (650) 325-1584, ext. 5.

Peninsula School
Nursery through 6th Grade • Progressive Education Since 1905
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Abilities United
aquathon
$136,000 raised in 2010
thank you for your participation!

2010 corporate teams
Alta Alumni
E Design
Gennetech
Intel
Intuit
Northrop Grumman
NVIDIA
Oracle
San Mateo Masters
Sue Knowlton’s Teams
3R International
UCSC Tachons
Webcor

2010 community teams
Abilities United
Alpha
Amber’s Hope
Aqua Sunshine
Big Mike
CastleBea
Jack’s Doors
Laman YMCA
Nine Stars
Oca
Purses with Purpose
Purdy’s Rhymers
Purdy’s Popcorns
Rahi’s Crew
St. Francis High School
Team Deva’s Coir’s Crew
Team Clare
Team Galvez
The Graduates
Tracey’s Tigers & Penguins
Turbow Turtles

Editorial (continued from page 15)

And they’ve all donated more than $100,000 to put California’s Proposition 23 on the ballot.

The oil companies are calling it the “California jobs initiative,” but Proposition 23 should more accurately be called “KILL AB 32 initiative” — suspension of that 2006 legislation until state unemployment drops to a very low 5.5 percent would likely keep the global-warming bill in limbo for years, if not decades, or forever. AB 32, “the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006,” was enacted four years ago and established the target of reducing the state’s greenhouse-gas emissions by 2020, by 2020, through stiffer rules and regulations for the energy industry. California is one of the largest emitters of greenhouse gases in the world, and AB 32 is estimated to reduce our GHG in the next decade by 30 percent.

That Valero Energy, the initiative’s biggest funder, has one of the worst environmental records in the state should come as no surprise. Cleaning up its act by 2020 will not be easy on the bottom line. Proponents of Proposition 23 argue that such regulations as those called for by AB 32 would drive industry out of the state — resulting in lost jobs. Opponents counter that the evidence suggests the opposite: that not only is the job loss exaggerated but the gain in green jobs would more than make up the difference.

To us, such a negligible short-term move could have disastrous long-term consequences to California’s environment and the health of its citizens — as well as its economic future in green technology, a particular interest of Silicon Valley.

Proposition 24: Yes
Repeals recent legislation that would allow businesses to lower their tax liability.

The Tax Fairness Act, as it’s called by its supporters, is a response to a deal cut during the 2008-09 budget impasse in order to win enough Republican votes to pass a state budget. The deal did three things: It increased the flexibility with which companies can use net-operating losses to reduce taxes; it allowed for multi-state businesses to determine their California taxes based solely on sales in the state (previously, sales, payroll and property value were all factors); and it allowed unitary groups to transfer tax credits amongst the separate businesses within the group.

Essentially, all three provisions result in lower taxes for large companies operating in the state — all to the tune, according to the Legislative Analyst, of $1.3 billion a year when the new rules are fully implemented in 2012. Proposition 24 proponents argue that the deal should never have taken place to begin with and that by repealing the legislation $1.3 billion would go back into the state’s general fund (and under Proposition 98 guidelines, a significant part of that would go toward education).

Opponents of a repeal of the tax breaks say there would be significant job losses if multi-state businesses went back to being taxed according to payroll (meaning there would be an incentive not to have a lot of employees in California).

Proposition 24 will meaningfully affect, according to supporters, less than 2 percent of the wealthiest multi-state corporations operating in California. It doesn’t call for new or higher taxes on these companies; it calls for a repeal of so-called “loopholes” that haven’t even fully gone into effect.

Proposition 25: Yes
Changes legislative vote requirement to pass budget and budget-related legislation from two-thirds to a simple majority.

Only Arkansas, Rhode Island and California ask for a two-thirds vote by state legislatures to pass budgets. All other 47 states require simple majorities. Currently a two-thirds vote is needed to pass the state budget, and to raise taxes. Proposition 25 would change the budget-approval requirement to a simple majority plus one; it would not change the two-thirds needed to raise taxes. A two-thirds vote is an arbitrary number to weigh so heavily on the workings of any state. Why not 57 percent? Why not 61 percent? It tends to be high enough to make sure small minorities can keep practically anything from getting done. There’s an argument that a simple majority gives too much power to the political party in the majority — perhaps 55 percent is a better number that would require an inking of bipartisan support. Maybe. What we do know is that any lower than two-thirds would be an improvement at this point.

Proposition 26: No
Requires certain state and local regulatory fees be approved by two-thirds vote.

Proposition 26 looks to further the two-thirds-approval concept by requiring 66.6 percent of the Legislature or local voters give a thumbs up before the certain regulatory fees can be exacted to make up for the social costs of their businesses. Currently, these two types of fees are not considered revenue-generating taxes (and therefore are not subject to two-thirds voter approval) because they’re seen as an offset to the societal cost of a company — think of hazardous-materials fees being levied on a power company, with that money being used by the state to clean up toxic-waste sites and promote pollution prevention.

Chevron, Exxon Mobil and Phillip Morris are all big donors to Proposition 26. They and other heavy polluters would save a lot of money if it passes. The Legislative Analyst estimates that over years it would result in the loss of millions of dollars to California taxpayers who would then be footing the bill to clean up the polluters’ messes.

Proposition 27: No
(See write-up above under Proposition 20.)

Letters (continued from page 14)

No on 23

Editor

A recent study at the University of California, Berkeley, on the economic impacts of California’s current climate laws, indicates Californians gross domestic product will go up slightly with our current laws in place, but will drop significantly if Proposition 23 passes due to rising expenses from fossil fuels, environmental costs and budget-related legislation.

Proposition 23 would take us in the wrong direction.

We can choose how we navigate this already overdue economic transition to maintain our leadership in a healthy, clean-energy, clean-tech future.

Vote No on Proposition 23. And rally your friends and neighbors to do so, too. Go to Town Square at www.PaloAltoOnline.com/square for more details and related conversation.

Lisa Van Dusen
Greenwood Avenue
Palo Alto

Don’t vote Emerson

Since the outcomes of elections for state Senate, state Legislature and U.S. Congress have already been decided by the primary elections due to gerrymandering of districts, there is no point in voting for these offices.

I will not be casting a vote for these and I urge you to do likewise.

Raymond R. White
Whitney Drive
Mountain View
Friends and foes of Measure R have the same message for the voters of Palo Alto: If you vote for the other side, you are placing your family's life in danger.

The city’s firefighters union, which gathered more than 6,000 signatures to get the initiative on the Nov. 2 ballot, claims the measure would protect citizens from impulsive decisions by uninformed politicians to close fire stations and reduce staffing levels in the Fire Department. Opponents, led by a coalition called “Safe Palo Alto,” counter that the measure will unfairly protect firefighters while forcing police officers, utility workers and other Palo Alto employees to face steeper cuts to their departments.

The two sides have a few other things common. Each says it wants to protect democracy from special interests — either the union or “politicians,” depending on who is talking. Each also says it wishes Measure R had never made it onto the ballot, though the firefighters claim their hand was forced by a City Council intent on shrinking an already understaffed department.

If voters approve Measure R, the City Charter would be revised to severely restrict the council’s ability to close fire stations and eliminate Fire Department jobs. The measure would embed the current department staffing levels in the charter and require the council to hold two public hearings and a citywide election before it could cut even a single firefighter.

Tony Spitaleri, president of the Palo Alto Professional Firefighters, 1319, says the measure is designed to protect residents from hasty and dangerous council decisions, which he claims are just around the corner.

“The city manager and members of the City Council are looking for ways to reduce resources and possibly close fire stations on a rotational basis,” Spitaleri told an audience at an Oct. 6 debate at the Palo Alto Art Center. “We believe the citizens should have a voice in any action that would place them and their loved ones in danger.”

The union’s attorney, Alan Davis, stoked the rhetorical flames further when he asked the audience to imagine a fire station in their neighborhood facing a “browout” — as temporary station closures are often called. Would you be willing, Davis asked the audience, to wait longer for a fire engine or a paramedic to get to your house during an emergency?

Opponents of Measure R say the proposal is a brazen “power grab” by the firefighters union. Members of Safe Palo Alto claim the initiative would give the union powers over other labor groups, most notably the police, and wrest control of city budget from the council. It’s no coincidence that the campaign adopted “Too Risky for Palo Alto” as its official slogan.

“They talk about public safety,” former Mayor Dena Mossar told the Weekly. “They don’t even acknowledge that anyone else in the city is a member of the public-safety team. They don’t even acknowledge that the police are present.”

Mossar’s group includes former mayors Bern Beecham, Vic Ojakian, Lanie Wheeler, Judy Kleinberg and Liz Kniss and a wide assortment of civic activists, local commissioners and former council members. Vice Mayor Sid Esparza and Councilman Larry Klein are both on the group’s campaign committee — a group that includes such unlikely bedfellows as developer Chop Keenan and land-use watchdog Bob Moss. Every member of the current council endorses the Safe Palo Alto campaign, which has raised $58,000 as of Sept. 30.

The council has been sounding alarms since spring about the negative ramifications of Measure R. In April, the council approved a colleagues’ memo calling the measure “bad government” and a “waste of money” at a time when the council (continued on next page)
For all the talk of looming brownouts and democracy under assault, it is easy to see the battle over Measure R as something else — the latest skirmish in the chronic power struggle between a cash-strapped city and its most obstinate union.

Spitaleri, a retired fire captain who currently serves on the Sunnyvale City Council, is a seasoned fighter in this political struggle. He last squared off with Mossar and Barton in 2007, when both were on the City Council. In June of that year, the council passed a city budget that restricted staffing of the foothills Park fire station to high-risk fire days. In late June, a fire near Junipero Serra Boulevard scorched about 170 acres, stoking a wave of protests from residents about the reduced hours at Station 8. A week later, another fire burned 20 acres of grasslands.

On July 8, 2007, Spitaleri joined foothills residents in calling for the council to keep Station 8 open throughout the summer, as before. The station, staffed by firefighters working overtime, poses an annual conundrum for the council. At the time, former City Manager Frank Benest and the council were trying to find a cheaper way to staff the station but couldn’t persuade the union to renegotiate the relevant staffing provisions in its contract. Spitaleri declined to discuss staffing and asked the council to “not blame the union on everything that’s going on.”

“The issue here is public safety,” Spitaleri told the council in July 2007. “All we do every year is bring to you our concerns of potential danger.”

The following week, after hearing from the foothills constituency, a reluctant council reversed course and voted to keep Station 8 open all summer. The station has been reopened every summer since. It continues to be funded through overtime.

The touchy topic of Fire Department staffing simmered in the background until this spring, when the city kicked off its negotiations with the 109-member union over a new contract (the previous contract expired on June 30).

Keene and the council have indicated publicly they hope to use the current negotiation period as an opportunity to decrease firefighters’ compensation as has been done in other departments.

Earlier this year, when Palo Alto was facing a projected $6.3 million deficit in its general fund, city officials asked the city’s labor groups to share the budget pain. Palo Alto’s largest police union, the 83-member Palo Alto Police Officers Association, agreed to defer its negotiated raises for the second straight year. The Service Employees International Union, Local 521, which represents more than half of all city workers, grudgingly accepted reduced benefits, including a two-tiered pension system with less generous pension benefits for new employees. Management workers followed suit.

The fire union, for the second consecutive year, refused to cave in (in 2009, its reluctance to take cuts prompted former Vice Mayor Jack Morton to accuse the department of “giving the city the finger”). This year’s budget, which the council approved in late June, raises the Fire Department budget by $1 million, largely because of previously negotiated increases in salaries and benefits.

According to city data, an average firefighters union member receives a salary of $104,878, along with $16,001 in overtime. When benefits are factored in, the average annual compensation is $178,387.

Firefighters counter that, unlike other workers, they bring in major revenues. In the current fiscal year, which ends June 30, 2011, the department is projected to contribute about $11 million in revenues (compared to $26.2 in expenditures).

The subject of staffing levels is the most explosive topic in the current negotiations. Spitaleri told the Weekly the union has repeatedly offered concessions that would save the city more than $1 million while maintaining current staffing levels. The city refused to accept these terms, he said.

“They talk about public safety. ... They don’t even acknowledge that the police are present.”

— Dena Mossar, former Palo Alto mayor

The union contract includes a “minimum staffing” provision that requires the city to have at least 29 firefighters on duty at every shift. Keene has told the Weekly the requirement precludes the city from even discussing alternative ways to staff the department. The city wants to revisit the provision, while the union hopes to preserve status quo. Spitaleri said the “minimum staffing” provision is needed to protect citizens.

The city refused to accept these terms, he said.

“Low staffing — unlike policing at least — they don’t even acknowledge that the police are present.”

— Tony Spitaleri, president of the Palo Alto Professional Firefighters, 1319

The union has another reason to feel anxious about department staffing. Palo Alto is now completing a study aimed at evaluating the Fire Department’s resources and recommending ways it can operate more efficiently. The study has been on the city’s agenda since 2003, when the City Auditor’s Office first recommended it, and is due to be completed later this fall.

Spitaleri claims the council should use this study as a pretext for slashing staffing. He pointed to a similar study the city was conducting earlier this year to measure the effectiveness of current staffing levels. In April, the city’s Finance Committee was receiving a status report on that study, conducted by the firm Emergency Services Consulting International (ESCI), when council members were startled to learn that the consultant managing the study had never recommended a staffing reduction.

“The city is not yet to tell us what we were,” said Councilman Greg Scharff, capturing the council sentiment.

The committee quickly ditched the study and commissioned a new one, which is now being jointly conducted by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and the Virginia-based firm TriData. Assistant City Manager Pamela Antil said the study examines data from the fire-dispatch unit and considers ways to reduce the Fire Department’s overtime hours. The report is scheduled to be completed in late November.

Council members say the study is an important and overdue analysis of department operations and marveled at the firefighter union’s opposition to the pending report.

“It seems to me, if things are as they describe, they should welcome the report that would verify what they’re saying,” Klein said.

Spitaleri, for his part, points to the aborted Emergency Services Consulting International report and to a recent study completed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, which recommends four-person firefighter crews as the most effective response forces for low-hazard fire operations in Palo Alto, three-person crews are the

(continued on page 20)
Palo Alto officials received a welcome reminder last month that democracy is alive and well within city borders. The City Council was holding a special meeting Sept. 21 to select a recruiting firm that would help the city find a replacement for outgoing City Attorney Gary Baum. Council members were interviewing Bob Murray, whose firm Bob Murray & Associates recruited Baum and City Manager James Keene. Councilwoman Nancy Shepherd asked, “What did you find the most challenging aspect of hiring in Palo Alto, and how do you think this will play out with finding an attorney for us?”

Without skipping a beat, Murray told the council over the speakerphone that Palo Alto’s “unique dynamic” is that people in the city tend to participate in local government far more than elsewhere.

“The whole issue of how people are engaged and involved in the community is the thing that distinguishes Palo Alto from almost all of our clients,” said Murray, whose firm has worked with cities and counties throughout the state. Murray’s pronouncement sounded like music to the ears of the council, which listed “civic engagement” as one of the city’s top priorities in 2008 and 2009, routinely watching the Council Chamber fill up during its Monday night meetings, and relies on citizen task forces for assistance with the city’s most contentious decisions.

In August, the council took an even bolder step to bolster civic participation — one that would kill a century-old tradition. At its Aug. 2 meeting, the council voted 5-4 (with Mayor Pat Burt, Vice Mayor Sid Espinosa and Councilmen Greg Schmid and Larry Klein dissenting) to place an initiative on the November ballot that would shift local elections from odd to even years. If voters approve Measure S, each member of the current council would get a one-year term extension and local elections would take their place alongside county, state and national elections.

Proponents of Measure S, led by former Palo Alto mayor and current Santa Clara County Supervisor Liz Kniss, argue that the measure would bring two major benefits to the city. First, it would significantly bring down the costs of local elections by consolidating them with other elections. Kniss estimated the change would save Palo Alto about $1 million over 10 years.

More importantly, the switch to even years would promote local democracy by significantly boosting voter turnout. Measure S backers claim. At a recent interview with the Weekly, Kniss and Councilman Greg Scharff both pointed to voter-turnout statistics that showed participation soaring in even years and floundering in odd years. In 2008, for example, 89 percent of Palo Alto residents hit the polls, compared to only 40 percent in 2007. The average turnout in the past four even-year elections has been 71.25 percent, compared to 43.2 percent during odd years.

As an example of the disparity, 31,366 Palo Altoans voted on Measure N (Palo Alto library bond) in 2008, while only 14,308 voted on Measure A (the city’s business-license tax) in 2009, proponents state in their official ballot argument. “We have always pushed voter participation,” Scharff said. “If you look at 30,000 people voting versus 15,000 people voting — that’s really dramatic.”

Councilman Larry Klein, the most vocal opponent of Measure S, isn’t buying this argument. Just because more people hit the polls during even years doesn’t mean they pay much attention to local issues or even bother filling out the local ballot, he said. And even if they do vote for local issues, it doesn’t mean they have carefully considered them before casting their votes.

“It’s also quite possible, opponents say, that the 2008 turnout had less to do with the election’s even year and more to do with the fact that Barack Obama was on the ballot. By having elections in odd years, the city allows residents to focus exclusively on local issues and City Council candidates, Schmid told the Weekly. A switch to even years would greatly favor incumbents by making it difficult for new candidates for local offices to catch the citizenry’s attention, he said. As a result, there would be fewer candidates running for local offices, he said.

“Here we are in the midst of Silicon Valley, in the midst on an engaged social-network world, and we’re telling people we don’t want them to vote every year,” Schmid said. “It’s the wrong direction to go, especially for a community that’s so engaged and for a council that should be sensitive to those engagements.”

Councilman Larry Klein raised a similar issue during the Aug. 2 council meeting. Having local elections in an odd year enables citizens to “have a community discussion about where they want the city to go and to choose their council candidates accordingly,” Klein said.

“The attendance certainly would not be paid if the council (election) is one of 10 or 15 elections conducted in an even-number year,” Klein said.

Palo Alto isn’t the only city grappling with the change, Kniss said. Half Moon Bay, which is in San Mateo County, is also now considering a change to even years, she said. Its proposal, like Palo Alto’s, will be on the ballot as Measure S. Besides Palo Alto, Cupertino and Sunnyvale are the only cities in Santa Clara County that hold their elections in odd years. Gilroy and Los Altos had recently switched their elections to even years.

“Most of the county is already there,” Kniss told the Weekly. “Out of 2 million people in the county, only 200,000 are left voting in odd-year elections.”

(continued on page 21)
Measure R
(continued from page 18)

standard). These reports, Spitaleri said, are being tossed aside by the council because they don’t say what the council wants to hear.

“Our command staff is at a very low level, and it’s a dangerous situation,” Spitaleri said at the Oct. 6 debate, referring to the department’s nine management positions. “Every report that says we have to boost it up is being ignored.”

He also took issue with the pending report, noting that Antil has a long history with ICMA, where she has served on various policy committees. Antil called the joint report from ICMA and TriData an “independent analysis” and said the group conducting the report includes former fire chiefs and other public-safety officials.

Antil said the ICMA team will focus on dispatch data, while TriData will wrestle with the question for overtime. She said her membership in ICMA has “no bearing whatsoever” on the group’s work.

The new report, however, is just one reason why firefighters are bracing for cuts, Spitaleri said. Pleas from firefighters and residents to maintain adequate fire staffing have been falling on deaf ears for years, he said. Palo Alto residents need to have a say in these decisions, he says. That’s why Measure R is necessary.

Members of Safe Palo Alto laugh off the union’s premise that Palo Alto residents currently don’t have a voice in the council’s decisions. Ironically, both they and the fire union point to the 2007 dispute over Station 8 as exemplifying their points — either that the council makes reckless decisions about staffing or that the council listens to its constituency and reverses course accordingly.

More recent examples suggest that Palo Altans may not be as timid or voiceless — nor the council as unwilling to listen — as the union alleges. Earlier this year, residents packed public hearings to urge the council to maintain funding for school-crossing guards; to dispute a 33 percent increase in garbage collection for residents who use 20-gallon minicans; and to refrain from imposing housing-size limits in the foothills. The council sided with residents in all three cases.

Safe Palo Alto’s Barton, Mossar and Beecham point to a wide array of ways residents have to reach their public officials. In addition to the “public comment” period at council meetings, during which time any speaker can talk for three minutes, residents can write letters, send e-mails, make phone calls, post comments on online forums and use the city’s Open City Hall website, which allows residents to weigh in on the hot agenda topics of the day.

Given these forums, “the idea that the public is excluded or has no voice just doesn’t make sense,” Barton said at the Oct. 6 debate.

Beecham agreed and said Measure R would needlessly take away from the council one of its most essential duties.

“The public does elect the council to make decisions and to do labor negotiations,” Beecham told the Weekly. “To do anything but that for one special group is simply wrong.”

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

Videos of candidate forums online

Videos of candidate forums, sponsored by the League of Women Voters, and other election discussions have been posted online by the Midpeninsula Community Media Center.

Candidate forums for local races, local ballot measure debates and state proposition arguments are all featured in video clips available on the Midpeninsula Community Media Center website, www.communitymedianet.net. The “Elections Page” has links to all the video clips as well as upcoming broadcast times on Channel 27.

The candidate forums cover Midpeninsula races for Menlo Park and Atherton City Councils, San Mateo County supervisor (District 3), Sequoia Healthcare District, Las Lomitas and Menlo Park Elementary School Boards, and Santa Clara Valley Water District.

Ballot measure video arguments cover races in Menlo Park and Palo Alto where a large-scale development proposal, city employee pension limits, firefighter staffing decisions, and election-year scheduling will be decided by voters. There are also two Santa Clara County measures and one in San Mateo County that have been recorded.

“The videos enable voters to judge how the candidates conduct themselves in addition to the answers they give,” Elliot Margolies, the Media Center’s election-programming coordinator, said of the presentations.
Measure S
(continued from page 19)

But Schmid argued that Palo Alto voters already turn out in greater numbers than their counterparts in other communities and claimed that a switch to even years would significantly reduce not just informed voting but active participation in local issues.

To stress his point, Schmid cites 1987, the year he became involved in local politics. That’s the year Palo Alto’s school board, which included Kniss, voted to merge Gunn and Palo Alto high schools and to convert Gunn into a middle school. The proposal outraged local school activists, who launched a grassroots crusade against the merger and who helped elect two anti-merger newcomers, Diane Reklis and Henry Levin, to the five-member school board (incumbent board member Joe Simitian, who voted for the merger, barely survived re-election after finishing third in the polls).

Shortly after the election, the new school board voted to rescind its earlier vote, effectively killing the merger idea. After months of excruciating tension, the Gunn community breathed a sigh of relief.

Schmid said he was impressed by the voters’ ability to unite behind a complex issue involving housing, economics and demographics, and to effect change. At a recent interview with the Weekly, he wondered aloud if the citywide debate of 1987 could have been possible during an even year, when gubernatorial, presidential and Congressional candidates (not to mention judges, sheriffs and other lower-profile candidates) also vie for the voters’ attention.

“Would this have happened if this was a general election?” Schmid asked. “Could you have that kind of attention to local issues like economics and demographics?”

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

Cover design by Shannon Corey
Fingers and Function
Hand Surgery Saves Out of Options:
now is to respond to its symptoms.
The best that can be done right
sight. The best that can be done right
who had been the same
ent reality is obvious.
"This procedure is becoming a
sensitivity to touch.
eroded the tissue. At center, the palm of her right hand is clearly a healthy pink color, in contrast to her left palm, ... still constrict blood fl ow. At right, the renewed blood fl ow has also improved her hand's function, including its
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lie. Modern microsurgery enables the reconstruction of wounds and defects
reconstruction of wounds and defects
the paralyzed arm in a near-normal state. I am in awe of the techniques for microvascular surgery."
"I started to get these ulcers on my
fingers that wouldn't heal and I
years, Melissa Warde endured disabling pain in her
fingers, caused by an autoimmune system disease. She found some relief in
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Arts & Entertainment

A weekly guide to music, theater, art, movies and more, edited by Rebecca Wallace

In its 13th year, the United Nations Association Film Festival shows 60 documentaries from 60 countries
Elderly Latinos are shown trying to make a new life in the United States in “The Old Immigrants Dance,” which will be screened Oct. 22.

by Rebecca Wallace

The phrases “reduce your carbon footprint” and “live green” can seem so vague that it’s hard to find them personally meaningful. Sometimes it takes a filmmaker to illustrate an issue’s human impact.

In this year’s United Nations Association Film Festival, which opens Oct. 22 in Palo Alto, several movies do just that. One is “There Once Was An Island,” in which the residents of Takuu are the faces of climate change. On this tiny Pacific atoll in Papua, New Guinea, there have been many reports of the sea level rising.

Directors Briar March and Lyn Collie show taro crops being harmed by salination from high tides — and, in dramatic footage, a “king tide” causing huge waves and flooding. A classroom is ruined, with a strong image showing rows of textbooks lying out to dry. And the whole island society must decide whether to stay on Takuu or move.

A reviewer for the online New Zealand arts journal The Lumiere Reader recently wrote of the film: “An Island” derives its significant emotional impact primarily from the vulnerability and artlessness of the Takuu islanders. The director wisely ensures they are kept to the fore.

The 80-minute film, set for a 4 p.m. showing at Stanford University on Oct. 25, is one of 60 documentary features and shorts from 60 countries at this year’s film festival. The theme of the 13th annual socially conscious film festival is “Population, Migration and Globalization.”

Afternoon and evening screenings are in Palo Alto, East Palo Alto and San Francisco and at Stanford University, through Oct. 31.

Another of the films dealing with the human cost of environmental crises is “Climate Refugees,” directed and written by Michael Nash. The 95-minute movie looks at “climatically induced environmental disasters” such as droughts, sea-level rise, fires and extreme weather. “All this is causing mass global migration and border conflicts,” Nash writes on the film’s website.

Other themes in the festival, founded by Stanford lecturer Jasmina Boje, include women’s issues, children and the environment, immigration and homelessness.

Here are several festival highlights:

Opening night, Oct. 22, takes place at the Aquarius Theatre at 430 Emerson St. in Palo Alto. “Climate Refugees” will be screened at 7:25 p.m. with the filmmakers on hand, as a tribute to Stephen Schneider, a Stanford professor of environmental biology and global change who died recently. Schneider earned a collective Nobel Peace Prize with Al Gore in 2007.

Films shown opening night also include “The Old Immigrants Dance,” an American movie about four elderly Latinos trying to make a new life in the United States. That screening is set for 9:45 p.m.

Screenings continue at the Aquarius on Oct. 23 and 24, with titles including the American-Pakistani film “Bhutto,” directed by Duane Baughman and Johnny O’Hara. The 115-minute film, a profile of the late Pakistani prime minister Benazir Bhutto, will be shown at 5:30 p.m. Saturday with the filmmakers present.

“Sing China” is one of the films set for an Oct. 24 screening, at 6:45 p.m. Directed and produced by Freida Lee Mock, the 72-minute Chinese-American film follows the Los Angeles Children’s Choir on a tour of China.

The festival moves to Stanford University’s Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies (in Encina Hall) on Oct. 25 and 26. “There Once Was An Island” will be screened at 4 p.m., followed by a panel discussion on “Climate-Change Impact on Population” at 5:20 p.m., and a reception with the filmmakers at 6:30 p.m.

Screenings will also be held in East Palo Alto on Oct. 26, at the Eastside College Prep theater at 2101 Pulgas Ave. Films include “Home is Where You Find It,” a 27-minute piece about a 16-year-old AIDS orphan in Mozambique. Directed by Alcides Soares, it will be shown at 5 p.m.

Screenings will continue in various locations at Stanford University through closing day on Oct. 31. (Some films will also be shown in San Francisco on Oct. 27.) They include an Oct. 30 showing of “Gasland,” an American film about domestic gas drilling and its possible hazards. Directed by Josh Fox, the 104-minute film will be shown in the Cantor Arts Center at 12:45 p.m., followed by a panel discussion called “Deregulation: Solution or Problem?”

Also on Oct. 30 is a showing of “Queen of the Sun,” which looks at the disappearance of bees in many countries, incorporating interviews with scientists, beekeepers and philosophers. The 83-minute film was directed by Taggart Siegel.

What: The United Nations Association Film Festival screens 60 films from 60 countries.

Where: Screenings are in Palo Alto, East Palo Alto and San Francisco, and at Stanford University.

When: Oct. 22-31, with afternoon and evening screenings.

Cost and info: Ticket prices vary. Some events, including the opening-night screenings and all panel discussions, are free. Other screenings can be paid for with a single ticket or a daily or festival pass. For ticket details and a full schedule, go to unaff.org or call 650-724-5544.

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A sweet treat

‘Superior Donuts’ proves a welcome confection

By Chad Jones

Tracy Letts’ “Superior Donuts” were actually a superior donut, it would be a chocolate-dipped old-fashioned — sweet, hearty and satisfying.

Best known as the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of “August: Osage County,” an esoteric looking at the American family at its dysfunctional worst, Letts has a reputation for dragging his characters through darkness and horror in the name of drama. Look no further than the trailer-trash violence of “Killer Joe” or the psycho-terrors of “Bug” for evidence of that.

With “Superior Donuts,” Letts lets in a little light.

The TheatreWorks production, now at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, gives ample proof that when Letts wants to be funny or even conventional, he can do it with gritty, grim-inspiring dialogue that cuts through most of the sloppily written.

Director Leslie Martinson is also TheatreWorks’ casting director, so her advantage is the ability to hire some superior Bay Area actors and let them do their respective things under her guiding hand.

Howard Swain (a Letts veteran from Marin Theatre Company’s hit production of “Killer Joe”) plays Arthur Przybyzwecki, son of Polish immigrants and proprietor of the family’s crumbling donut shop in Chicago’s Uptown neighborhood (the realistic set is by Tom Langguth and beautifully lit by Steven B. Mannshardt).

Alone in the world for various reasons, Arthur is a draft-dodging hippie now pushing 60. He’s as derelict as his shop, but behind the gray scruff and greasy ponytail is an incredibly bright, compassionate man who isn’t quite done with the world, even as he tries to convince himself the world is done with him.

Arthur is so disconnected it takes him a while to even notice that vandals have trashed his donut shop and that two of his donut-loving police buddies are there to investigate. If Arthur can’t bother to see the vulgar spray-painted on his wall, there’s absolutely no way he’ll notice that the lady cop, Randy (Julaia Brothers), harbors a giant crush on him.

Letts is playing with a sitcom format here, one that has fueled many a sappy “opposites clash and then change each other for the better” script, be it on film, TV or the stage. The opposite in this case is Franco Wicks (Lance Gardner), a 21-year-old “self-starter,” as he describes himself when he bursts into the donut shop to apply for a job.

Before Arthur knows what’s really going on, the kid has basically hired himself, and within a very short order, Franco is planning to spruce up the shop (and Arthur himself) for poetry readings. He might even make the donut shop a temporary plan — well written, perfectly performed production. This kind of show used to be the stock in trade of American drama, but in recent years, we tend to get extremes along the lines of ultra-silly comedies and hyper-sad dramas. The middle ground is infrequently trod. Warren Leight’s “Side Man” and David Auburn’s “Proof” are two middle-grounders that come to mind.

Letts’ “Superior Donuts” is a welcome addition to this territory. The play, in its entertaining way, makes a modest but convincing case for the existence of hope in a cynical world. And there’s certainly nothing wrong with that.

Theater Review

Superior Donuts, a Tracy Letts play presented by TheatreWorks
Where: Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St.
When: Previews Oct. 8 at 8 p.m., with opening night Oct. 9 at 8 p.m. Runs through Oct. 31, Tuesday through Sunday.
Cost: Tickets are $19-567.
Info: Go to theatreworks.org or call 650-463-1960.
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Red ★★★★

(Century 16, Century 20) If you’re looking at your local multiplex today for the “Red” that won Best Play at this year’s Tony Awards, you’re going to wind up very confused. The movie “Red” isn’t an intense, complex meditation on the relationship between an artist and his art; rather, it’s a lighthearted shoot-’em-up based on a comic book.

But before you dismiss it, consider this: “Red” stars four Oscar-winning actors. It’s not every day that you’re able to use “Helen Mirren” and “heavy artillery” in the same sentence, but “Red” gives you the opportunity. Very loosely adapted from the graphic novel by Warren Ellis and Cully Hamner, “Red” stars Bruce Willis as Frank Moses, a retired CIA black ops agent with a fearsome reputation. Of course, news of Frank’s skills haven’t reached his suburban neighbors or Sarah Ross (Tony winner Mary-Louise Parker), the Social Security office cubicle worker he’s taken to chatting up over the phone.

Frank’s quiet life doesn’t last long: His plan to travel to Kansas City to meet up with Sarah hits a snag when armed commandos attempt to kill him. For Sarah’s safety, he’ll have to abduct her and keep her in line while looking up old friends also classified as “RED”: “Retired — Extremely Dangerous.” What we have here is a two-joke premise: “Danger man” hero takes innocent female on the ride of her life, and old folks do the darndest things.

But when the comically romantic couple is Willis and Parker, and the retirees include Mirren, Morgan Freeman and John Malkovich, well, you’ve got yourself a movie, my friend.

Robert Schwentke (“The Time Traveler’s Wife”) gives the picture stylish direction, with swirling camera moves and an ear for comic rhythms. The script has decent comic snap and, of course, stuff blows up real good. But the show here is in the casting, which calls up a deep bench of acting talent. As an active CIA agent on the hunt, Karl Urban (“Star Trek”) makes a strong foil for Frank, but the real baddie turns out to be Richard Dreyfuss. Ernest Borgnine also turns up, as do Brian Cox, James Remar and Rebecca Pidgeon.

It all equates to a couple of hours of crowd-pleasing nonsense. There’s some “last chance” romance, a familiar critique of CIA corruption, sympathy for the spy (the first question when a guest arrives is “Are you here to kill me?”) and a
consideration of the ol’ “we’re not dead yet” retirement theme. Frank states the obvious: “With age comes a certain perspective.” But let’s be honest, “Red” is about as much myth-making as a character who was given “daily doses of LSD for 11 years” (the other side of the joke being that he’s always right: You’re not paranoid if they’re actually out to get you). I won’t say you haven’t lived until you see John Malkovich as a retired CIA agent, sadly danging a stupefied pig from his hand, but I will say it brightened up my day.

— Peter Canavese

**Nowhere Boy ****

**(Century 16)** “Is the job of the biopic to psychoanalyze its famous subject and sketch connective lines between the past and the future, the personal and the public? In tackling the subject of John Lennon’s formative years, “Nowhere Boy” is no exception.

In turning life into drama, screenwriter Matt Greenhalgh (“Control”) and first-time feature director Sam Taylor-Wood (“The Last Station”). Something of a war of wills ensues between Mimi and Julia, with the attentions and loyalty of John at stake. When all is said and done, John will have faced the ugly truth about the splintering of his family a decade earlier, and experienced the fresh hell of another family tragedy.

It isn’t all uncomfortable psychodrama for Lennon, who we see enthusiastically raising hell and even more enthusiastically embracing the cultural arrival of Elvis by adopting a new style and procuring a guitar. In addition to playing and singing, Johnson ably radiates Lennon’s brash bravado at school and his scarcely concealed, raw need for love and approval from his mother figures. Taylor-Wood and her actors also show a sensitivity to the excited but wary friendship that develops, late in the picture, between Lennon and Paul McCartney (Thomas Brodie-Sangster). Lennon’s life-long rival for attention.

For the sake of drama, Greenhalgh fudges facts when it comes to Lennon’s relationships with Julia (who was a relatively constant presence in John’s young life) and the protective Mimi (who, despite skeptical of John’s musical vocation, seems not to have been as severe and combative as her screen equivalent). And Beatlemaniacs will quibble over details like which song Lennon’s first band the Quartermen played in their debut. But the music adds an underlying excitement and possibility unique to a rock star’s coming-of-age story. Here’s John learning from his mother how to play the banjo, and laying down his first song, “Hello Little Girl.” And here are the Quartermen — including future Beatles Lennon, McCartney and George Harrison (Sam Bell) — recording “In Spite of All The Danger,” with Lennon taking lead vocal.

Though Lennon didn’t write the song, the filmmakers encourage John to give it an extra-soulful vocal informed by John’s personal tragedy. After 90 minutes of family-style angst, the Beatle-esque tune, and an authentic Lennon demo cut under the end credits, provides a

(continued on next page)
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**Movies**

(continued from previous page)

welcome one-two punch of musical catharsis, as well as the somewhat cold comfort that Lennon will get what he wished for — rock stardom — and, along with it, adult travails.

Rated R for language and a scene of sexuality. One hour, 58 minutes.

— Peter Canavese

**Stone Ⅱ**

(Edward Norton), who prefers to be called “Stone,” has done eight years of a long sentence for arson and being an accessory to murder (of his grandparents). Now Stone is attempting to convince his probation officer, Jack Mabry (Robert De Niro), that he’s reformed, so that he can get early release and get back to his hottie wife, Lucetta (Milla Jovovich of “Resident Evil”).

“Stone,” directed by John Curran (“We Don’t Live Here Anymore,” “The Painted Veil”), centers on the conflict between the two men, both of whom see themselves as ultra-tough. Stone, heavily tattooed, wears his hair in cornrows and affects a prison swagger. Cynical Jack, days away from retirement, has seen it all.

When Stone professes to have had a spiritual conversion, Jack isn’t having any of it. Filled with rage, Stone demands to know why Jack gets to walk around free while he, Stone, is locked up. Good question: Jack, as we learn in the film’s opening scene, has reasons for guilt equal to Stone’s.

So far, the film, tautly written by Angus MacLachlan (“Junebug”), grabs your attention. Norton gives a knockout performance, and the scenes, many shot in the huge Southern Michigan Correctional Facility, have the smell of authenticity.

Jack’s home life with his wife, Madelyn (Frances Conroy of “Six Feet Under”), provides a suitable counterpoint to the prison scenes: Though peaceful, their farmhouse is as isolated as the prison. Madelyn, lonely and neglected, finds solace in Christianity and booze, while the much less devout Jack inexplicably listens to a fundamentalist radio station.

Enter Lucetta, and the movie begins to unravel. Insistently phoning Jack at home and devising personal encounters, Lucetta aims to persuade him to write a favorable review for Stone. But — and, don’t worry, there are no spoilers here — the logic of the whole enterprise unravels. Neither Jack nor Lucetta behaves in a way consistent with his or her character and situation, and, sadly, the film falls apart.

The writing? Not so much.

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Rated R for strong sexuality and pervasive language. One hour, 45 minutes.

— Renata Poli
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Eating Out

Jamshed Syed has been a company controller and an accounting professor. He is a champion bowler in the Northern California Cricket Association. Since June he’s been running a restaurant, and it may be the hardest thing he’s done yet. But as the chef/owner of Shezan, a home-style Pakistani-North Indian restaurant in Mountain View, Syed says, “This was the only thing left in my dream.”

Syed came to the United States to study, and found himself hungry for the foods of home. He kept calling his mother in Pakistan for help. While earning his master’s degree in business administration, he says, “I learned quite a bit of cooking.”

Shezan is pronounced SHEE-zan (not sheh-ZAN, and definitely not sheh-ZAM, a common error). It means “beautiful,” and reminds Syed of a restaurant from his childhood in Pakistan. He and his wife, Samina, have reformatted the Castro Street spot that housed Sue’s Indian Cuisine and then Godavari. They removed the booths and put in cheery white chandeliers and warm wooden floors. Acoustics have been troublesome in the past, but the owners have worked to address the issue.

Jamshed offers some of his mother’s recipes, and lots of his own. He refined his recipes when helping a friend open a restaurant and train the chef, and in catering he has done from home. Samina is in charge of the desserts, also all made in-house.

“Our spices come in through the side,” is how Jamshed Syed describes his Pakistani tradition. You should be able to close your eyes and know that you’re eating cauliflower, okra or eggplant, rather than being overwhelmed by spices. He variously chops, crushes or juliennes fresh ginger to achieve the correct effect.

The meats are halal, in keeping with Muslim practice. Beef shanks are stewed to tender stringiness in nehari ($9.50), a citrus-inflected broth dotted with cardamom pods and ginger. Also excellent, mutton do-piazza ($9) features caramelized goat meat, onions and tamarind.

On the richer side, chicken tikka masala ($9) is bathed in a cream and tomato curry.

Unlike most everything else on the menu, the appetizers lean heavily on frying. Crispy and hot, vegetable samosas ($5) are stuffed with potatoes, cilantro and peas and dappled in cumin seeds.

Pakistan’s staple grain is wheat, and it is a predominantly bread-eating country. Shezan’s clay oven produces a lovely plain naan ($1.50) as well as naan stuffed with ground beef ($3.50) and garnished with garlic ($2). Two other breads are fried. The pan-fried

**Satisfying Shezan**

Shezan offers refined home-style Pakistani-North Indian fare

by Sheila Himmel

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also paratha ($3) adds potato and cilantro to the mix.

In the plain basmati rice ($2), also good for sopping up sauces, each grain maintains its integrity.

The signature rice dish is Jamshed’s mother’s bone-in chicken biryani ($9), mildly but plentifully flavored with 11 herbs and spices, wafting in saffron.

Shezan’s weekday lunch buffet ($9.99) is a very good deal, including chai tea, luscious rice pudding and gulab jamun, the addictive deep-fried dough balls drizzled in syrup. Even the mango ice cream is house-made. The yogurt drinks called lassi also get high marks. A customer reportedly liked Shezan’s mango lassi so much that he downed six glasses at a sitting.

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Dr. Daniel Huie is a board certified in Family Medicine and has additional clinical interests in preventive, emergency and wilderness medicine. He is a reserve police officer and tactical officer for the Hillsborough Police Department and the Medical Director for the North Central San Mateo Regional SWAT medics. Dr. Huie completed his medical education at Loyola University’s Stritch School of Medicine in Chicago and medical training at O’Connor Hospital in San Jose, CA. Prior to joining Menlo Medical Clinic, he was in private practice for over ten years.

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Revenge is sweet as M-A girls move closer to PAL title

by Keith Peters

This could have been the season that someone other than Menlo-Atherton won the PAL Bay Division girls’ water polo title. The Bears, after all, had lost seven standout seniors from last season’s team that went 27-2 and finished second in the Central Coast Section Division I finals. Included in that group of graduates was two-time CCS Division I Player of the Year Becca Dorst.

While Menlo-Atherton opened this season with a handful of talented holdovers from the past two seasons, including reigning CCS Division I Goalie of the Year Emily Dorst, the talent level just wasn’t the same.

That appeared evident on Sept. 11 when Castilleja handed Menlo-Atherton a 4-2 defeat in the third round of the St. Francis Autumn Invitational.

“The last time we played them, they absolutely shut us down,” M-A coach Chris Rubin said of that surprising loss to the Gators. In the past four weeks, the Bears relented.

PREP WATER POLO

Bono has a chance to really contribute to Paly’s season

by Keith Peters

Palo Alto senior quarterback Christoph Bono will enjoy taking the field Friday night to face Los Gatos in a showdown for the SCVAL De Anza Division championship at 7:30 p.m. It sure beats what he was doing last season at this time.

After guiding the Vikings to a 4-1 record in 2009, Bono suffered a broken clavicle in his (right) throwing shoulder. He missed the remainder of the season as Paly finished 3-1-2 without him, suffering a 34-7 blowout loss to Bellarmine in the first round of the Central Coast Section Open Division playoffs.

This season, Bono made it through the first five games with a 5-0 mark and, more importantly, without a season-ending injury.

He’ll lead the Vikings against the Wildcats (2-0, 3-1-1) in a showdown game that most likely will decide the division champion. Palo Alto captured last season’s title with a 4-0-2 mark as Bono missed all but one league outing.

“I guess it was hard to watch, instead of

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You not only saved my life, you saved my twin boys’ mother.

—Christie Leidholm

A Team Approach

PAMF is already recognized as a leader in breast care services. The existing Breast Care Center at PAMF’s Palo Alto Center received American College of Radiology certification for its stereotactic biopsy unit and was designated as a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence. Over the past four years, PAMF has reduced the wait time between detecting a breast lump to a definitive diagnosis to about a week compared to three or four weeks at most other health care providers. A primary goal of the new Center will be to reduce that wait time to just 48 hours.

The healing journey will begin at the moment of diagnosis, with each patient having the full support of a multidisciplinary team, which may include surgeons, oncologists, nurse practitioners, psychological counselors and a nurse navigator to smooth the process of care.

For Donors Who Care

PAMF is seeking additional funds to reach its $16 million campaign goal to complete construction of the new Breast Imaging Center. Rita Sohlich, M.D., head of mammography at

Breast cancer survivor Christie Leidholm with PAMF breast radiologist Rita Sohlich, M.D. at the new PAMF Breast Imaging Center, opening soon.

PAMF, will serve as lead radiologist for the new Center, which will offer digital mammography, high-resolution ultrasound and breast MRI technology. “I feel so fortunate to be working at a state-of-the-art breast imaging center in today’s health care environment,” she said.

“Philanthropic donors have an opportunity to make a real difference by funding tangible gifts like new breast care equipment that translate directly to improved patient care,” Dr. Sohlich noted. “If people want to give to a worthy cause that is highly likely to touch the lives of their friends and family, this is it.”

Breast cancer survivor Christie Leidholm expressed her gratitude for the care she received from Dr. Sohlich.”You not only saved my life, you saved my twin boys’ mother.”

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Injured a year ago at this time of the season, Palo Alto senior quarterback Christoph Bono is healthy and off to a 5-0 start.

Paly football

[continued from page 34]

playing,” said Bono, who actually didn’t mind watching his team plaster Los Gatos, 34-12, on the Vikings’ field.

“We played really well and that wasn’t as hard to watch,” Bono said.

“The Homestead game (a 20-20 tie) was the most frustrating and we should have won the Wilcox game (another tie, 14-14),”

While Bono rehabbed his shoulder, he wasn’t idle.

“I watched and tried to keep myself involved in the games,” he said.

“I tried to look at things, helping the defense and offense; just tried to help the team.

Bono is doing that once again, only this time on the field. He has completed 61 of 92 passes (.663 percent) for 841 yards and nine touchdowns. He has thrown only two interceptions while averaging 168.2 yards per game.

Bono has plenty of talented targets this season in junior Davante Adams (23 catches for 330 yards), senior Maurice Williams (8 for 151), Michael Cullen (12 for 157) and T.J. Braff (7 for 85).

Los Gatos QB Hayden Hibbard, however, is no Trent Edwards. He threw for a combined 75 yards in those two victories.

Palo Alto has gone 3-4 against Los Gatos in the past five years and 0-5 the five preceding seasons for an unspectacular 3-9 in the past decade.

“That’s still better than the previous 10 years,” Hansen said.

These past five years, however, have showed Palo Alto’s consistency as an elite program. The Vikings have gone 47-12-2 and reached the postseason all five times, playing for a CCS title four times while winning twice (in 2006 and ’07).

Coming off a 49-14 victory over Gunn last week, Palo Alto is headed to a CCS title four times while winning twice (in 2006 and ’07).
Stanford football (continued from page 34)

Perhaps Luck’s strength is how quick he can adapt and turn classroom knowledge into production on the gridiron.

Young possesses a photographic memory and had a knack for processing information with the speed and accuracy of a computer chip. Luck, it has been suggested, is known for memorizing information and accuracy of a computer chip.

In reality, he’s already churning the new information around in his head and seems to grasp Harbaugh’s concepts before the coach has finished explaining them.

Luck also has a tendency to accept too much blame for when things go wrong. That’s probably because he thinks he gets too much credit for when things go right. The young man is a fierce competitor and a loyal teammate.

He stood up for the running backs who had to endure comparisons to Toby Gerhart early in the season.

Luck also has a tendency to accept all of last year’s Sun Bowl, which Luck missed due to injury) in each of the previous three seasons.

Lucky threw 13 touchdown passes all of last year. He has 16 already this season.

His completion percentage is better and his passing yards (1,538) is up. Luck ranks 10th nationally in passing efficiency (166.9), 16th nationally in total offense (296.7) and is 13-5 in 18 career starts.

Under Harbaugh, the Cardinal has gone 2-4, 3-3, 4-2, and now 5-1 over its first six games. Stanford went 2-4, 2-4 and 4-2 over its last six games (not including last year’s Sun Bowl, which Luck missed due to injury) in each of the previous three seasons.

Luck threw 13 touchdown passes all of last year. He has 16 already this season. His completion percentage is better and his passing yards (1,538) is up. Luck ranks 10th nationally in passing efficiency (166.9), 16th nationally in total offense (296.7) and is 13-5 in 18 career starts.

Stanford’s rushing attack, with Stepfan Taylor and Luck at the forefront, has been solid too. The Cardinal averaged 218.2 yards on the ground last year. That figure has ‘fallen’ all the way to 210.5 yards a game this season.

As a team last season the Cardinal averaged 209.4 passing yards a game. This year: 260.5. Stanford also ranks No. 5 nationally with 43.3 points per game.

What does it all mean for the rest of the season? There’s no easy path but Stanford could be looking at a major bowl game come the postseason.

After this weekend every team will have played at least three conference games and it’s just as likely there will be a five-way tie for second place behind undefeated and second-ranked Oregon, which is in contention for a spot in the national championship game.

Should the Ducks play in the national title game, a berth in the Rose Bowl becomes wide open, and Stanford hasn’t qualified for over 10 years.

But, the Cardinal does have Luck on its side.
late former Stanford coach George Haines, who coached the Cardinal from 1981 to 1988, producing two Pac-10 titles and the 1983 NCAA title. In his seven years at The Farm, Haines’ teams never finished lower than third at the NCAA meet.

Stanford comes in after a run-up national finish at last year’s NCAA Championships. Under sixth year head coach Lea Maurer, a former Olympic medalist for the Cardinal, Stanford won its first conference title since 2005 and 17th overall.

To go along with the No. 1 rated recruiting class in the nation, the Cardinal feature veterans: Kate Dwelly (freestyle), Betsy Webb (sprints), Sam Woodward (sprints) and Liz Smith (breast) among its top competitors.

Haines, of course, has an extended influence on Bay Area swimming. The Hall of Famer founded the highly-successful Santa Clara Swim Club in 1950, eventually coaching 26 future Olympians. He also coached on seven U.S. Olympic teams.

Stanford is the host site for the men’s Intercollegiate Tennis Association Northwest Regional Championships, which runs through Sunday at the Taube Family Tennis Stadium.

In addition to host Stanford, the event will showcase top players from California, Eastern Washington, Fresno State, Gonzaga, Oregon, Pacific, Portland, Portland State, Sacramento State, Saint Mary’s, San Francisco, San Jose State, Santa Clara, UC Davis, Washington and Washington State.

The singles finalists and doubles champion from each of the 24 regionals earn their berth to the ITA National Intercollegiate Championships, which begins in November.

After gaining its first win in Pac-10 play, Stanford (1-2) will try to improve its standing in the conference with a pair of home matches this weekend and it’s not going to be easy.

First up is unbeaten UCLA (3-0, 8-2) as the back end of a men’s and women’s soccer doubleheader. The Cardinal and 13th-ranked Bruins square off at approximately 7:30 p.m.

Stanford took on the 12th-ranked Bruins during the first half of the doubleheader, falling 4-0.

The Cardinal punished Cal in the second half, silencing the noisy Cal student section and taking advantage of the Cardinal’s backline strength to score a 2-0 win.

The Cardinal and Bruins meet Thursday night for a 7 p.m. kickoff at Memorial Stadium.

Men’s soccer

Stanford senior Christen Press (right) became the school’s all-time scorer with 54 career goals. Press, who has 12 goals in her last six matches, leads the nation with 22 goals and 33 assists.

Women’s volleyball

No. 2 Stanford’s loss at UCLA on Saturday ended a 14-match season-opening win streak and dropped the Cardinal to No. 2 in the AVCA rankings. Stanford (14-1, 5-1) is in a three-way tie for first in the loss column with Cal (15-1, 5-1) and Washington (15-1, 4-1). The Cardinal hosts No. 7 Washington on Friday at 7 p.m., Washington State at 7 p.m. Saturday and California next Friday at 7 p.m.

The Cardinal leads the nation in kills per set (3.14), is second in hitting percentage (.382, 30th). Klineman also ranks amongst the top-10 in dig per set in conference matches (5.63, 2nd), points (6.16, 3rd) and hitting percentage (.382, 30th).

Stanford has out hit its opponents in all 15 matches this season. In fact, the Cardinal has hit .250 or better in all 14 of its 15 wins.

Senior libero Gabi Ailes leads the Cardinal in conference play with 509 digs per set in conference matches only, while Klineman is the Pac-10 leader in conference matches in kills (66), blocks (26) and assists (396). Klineman also ranks amongst the top-10 in dig per set in conference matches (3.14, 10th).

Men’s water polo

Stanford (1-0) moved into 14th in the CWPA Top 20 rankings Wednesday but there’s more work ahead.

The Cardinal, which beat top-ranked USC at home last Saturday, has a chance to make another move this weekend when it travels to No. 3 UCLA (1-1, 9-3) for a 7 p.m. contest Friday night in an important Mountain Pacific Sports Federation match.

Stanford also plays at No. 6 UC Santa Barbara (9-4) on Sunday. The Gauchos handed Stanford one of its losses at the SoCal Invitational.

UCLA has lost two of its last three, splitting a pair of MPSF contests last weekend. The Bruins fell 11-8, to California and beat Pacific, 10-9.

UCLA beat the Cardinal in the semifinals of the NorCal Invitational earlier in the season.

The Bruins are led by Menlo School grad Ian Hehl, who has a team-high 22 goals.

Cross country

Stanford returns action to this weekend as both the men and women’s teams compete at the NCAA Pre-National meet in Terre Haute, Ind., on Saturday.

Most of the top teams in the nation will be in attendance as the course is also used for the NCAA championships in November. The men are ranked No. 1 and are the defending team champions of the event. The women are ranked No. 17 and are looking to raise its ranking.
M-A (1-0, 2-3) at Aragon (0-2, 2-3), Friday, 3 p.m.

The Bears are coming off a big 35-14 victory over King’s Academy to open the PAL Bay Division and are averaging 34.5 points in their past two wins after an 0-5 start. The Bears’ latest effort came in their Homecoming game, which had to be played at Sequoia High when a court injunction blocked the use of temporary lights at M-A. No matter, the Bears made the most of it with a huge win, batting back from a 14-0 deficit in the second quarter and scoring 35 unanswered points. M-A now has outscored the opposition by 69-20 in its past two games. The Norte-Ohteron offensive line had a lot to do with the comeback as the Bears rushed for a remarkable 320 yards on 39 carries.

Menlo (2-0, 4-1), Friday, 3:30 p.m.

The Knights have won more than just Homecoming to celebrate in their home opener. Menlo comes in averaging 36.2 points a game while giving up just 14. Senior linebacker Robert Wickens, who threw for a career-high 325 yards and two touchdowns to pace the Knights to a 42-22 thumping of host Half Moon Bay in a PAL Ocean Division opener last Friday night, has completed 82 of 125 for the season and a 621.51 yards and 14 TDs. He is averaging 25.2% of the game average. Senior running back/backlinebacker Beau Nichols also had a big game against HMHB, rushing for 106 rushing yards and scoring four TDs in addition to catching seven passes for 85 yards and another score. He also intercepted a pass while playing both ways.

Saratoga (0-1, 2-2) at Gunn (0-0, 3-2), Friday, 7:30 p.m.

The Titans hope to bounce back after dropping a 49-14 decision to host Palo Alto to open the SCVAL De Anza Division season last week.

Priori (2-2, 3-2) at Anchorpoint Christian (2-0, 5-0), Saturday, 7 p.m.

The Panthers will battle one of the Peninsula’s premier teams in a match-up of the PAL Bay Division. “We have to bounce back,” said SHP’s Colin Terndrup, who gained 80 yards rushing but was kept out of the end zone against Burlingame. “We just have to get better and come back stronger.” The Gators seemed well on their way to the go-ahead score after taking over at midfield following a punt. Their final drive began with 5:28 showing on the game clock. Quarterback John Geary and Tom O’Donnell hooked up on a 15-yard pass play to jumpstart the drive and Pedro Robinson picked another 20 yards on three carries. Tyler McCool, who caught a 14-yard touchdown pass from Geary with 18 seconds left in the first half, and Terndrup also made clutch runs. Terndrup took the Gators a first-and-goal at the six. Robinson went wide right and seemed to be headed into the end zone just as Burlingame’s Deke Marquardt knocked him out of bounds inches short. Geary didn’t go anywhere on a quarterback sneak, leaving the final inch or so to Terndrup, who was met at the line of scrimmage and driven back.

Menlo girls improve to 174-0 in league tennis duals; Palo Alto volleyball 24-0

The Menlo School girls’ tennis team has not lost a league match since the 1993 season. If victories over Harker and Castilleja this week were any indication of the Knights’ strength, they remain intact for another season.

Menlo improved to 6-0 this season in West Bay Athletic League (FBAL) play with a 7-0 triumph over Castilleja on Wednesday. On Tuesday, Menlo produced a 6-1 triumph over host Harker. The Knights’ 11-2 (overall) now have won 174 straight league matches and have captured 16 consecutive league crowns since 1993.

Menlo will be in Dana Point in Southern California this weekend for the CIF National Invitational tournament.

Castilleja dropped a 7-0 decision to host Sacred Heart Cathedral. The Scots are winless in the PAL Bay Division this season after dropping a 6-1 decision to an other-

Sports

PREP FOOTBALL THIS WEEKEND

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Notice is hereby Given that proposals will be received by the Palo Alto Unified School District for bid package:

Contract Name: Interactive White Board & Classroom Audio System

Contract No. WBS-2 & WBS-3

DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK: The work includes, but is not limited to: the supply and installation of Interactive White Boards and Classroom Audio Systems at four elementary schools and one middle school. Work includes the removal and disposal of older existing Interactive White Board, the removal and replacement of standard white boards, Installation/Modification of tack able wall surface. Patch and paint wall surfaces as necessary. Bidding documents contain the full description of the work. There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference and site visit at 1:00 p.m. on October 27, 2010, at the site at the District Facilities Office located at 25 Churchill Building D, Palo Alto, California

Bid Submission: Proposals must be received at the District Facilities Office building D, by 10:00 a.m. for WBS-2 and 10:30 a.m. for WBS-3 on November 15, 2010.

Bonding required for this project is as follows: Bid Bond 10% of the total bid. Performance Bond to be 10%.

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 – 1761. 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.

Bidders may examine Bidding Documents at Facilities Office. Building “D”. Bidders may view the Plans and Specifications at the District Facilities office.

All addresses can be addressed to:
Palo Alto Unified School District 25 Churchill Avenue, Building D Palo Alto, CA 94306-1099 Attn: Alex Morrison Phone: (650) 329-3927 Fax: (650) 327-3588

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Despite tight defense by Castilleja senior Natasha von Kaeppler (2), Menlo-Atherton senior MJ O’Neill was able to score a pair of goals during the Bears’ 6-3 win over the Gators in a PAL Bay Division showdown.

**Water polo**

(continued from page 34)

their efforts on who the key opposing players are and how best to defend them. In addition, M-A continued to improve upon putting the ball in the net and playing better as a team.

“Cohesiveness has been a great topic of discussion,” Rubin said. “In my first year as varsity coach I learned something very important, that it’s never the top players who wins games but your fifth, sixth and seventh players. Those players will make a difference. I think that happened today.

Getting important contributions from throughout the starting lineup, the Bears averted their previous loss to Castilleja by handing the visiting Gators a 6-3 loss in a showdown for first place in the PAL Bay Division on Wednesday.

“We played great today,” Rubin said. Barring a major misstep, the Bears (3-0, 9-4) will defend their league title. Menlo-Atherton still has two PAL matches remaining — at Sequoia and Aragon — but those should be routine affairs. Also, there are no league playoffs this season, just a single round of matches. Thus, Castilleja (2-1, 7-5) will have to wait until next season in an attempt to wrest the title away from M-A.

While the Bears did return the section’s top goalie in Dorst plus dependable goalie M-J O’Neill, this M-A team had only four seniors. Castilleja, on the other hand, came in with eight seniors and a coaching staff that featured 2008 U.S. Olympian Brenda Villa and Jessica Stafens.

While it appeared the Bears might be ripe for an upset, it didn’t happen because Menlo-Atherton’s defense was superb this time — sparked by Dorst’s 16 saves.

“Having Emily in the cage means we don’t have to be one-dimensional on defense,” Rubin said. “It’s just a gift to have her there.”

Dorst’s performance in the first half was crucial, because she faced the setting sun and could have been blinded on any number of shots. Yet, she came up with save after save while the Bears grabbed a 4-1 lead on two goals by O’Neill and junior Emily Gran, whose second goal made it 4-1 and came after Castilleja hole defender Grace Arnold picked up her third ejection — putting her on the bench the remainder of the match.

M-A senior Shelby Fero added a crucial goal with just 21 seconds left in the third quarter, thus taking any pressure off the Bears and putting it on the Gators. Castilleja did add fourth-quarter goals by senior Barbara Peterson (off a missed shot) and sophomore Sydney Molano from outside, sandwiched around a goal by M-A junior Brittany Krappe.

“The league championship was riding on this game and the kids really responded,” Rubin said. Junior Marie Popp added three assists and junior Danielle Flanagan was solid on defense for M-A while Gran and O’Neill helped blank Castilleja high scorer Natasha von Kaeppler. The Gators’ top three scorers were limited to just two goals, by Peterson and senior Sayeh Bozorghadad.

In another PAL Bay Division contest, Menlo School goalie Lindsay Bozorghadad. In another PAL Bay Division contest, Menlo School goalie Lindsay Montgomery came up with 12 saves and the Knights pulled away in the second half to register a 10-7 victory over visiting Sequoia. Menlo (1-2, 4-10) got three goals from Morgan Cundiff and two each from Hailey Smith and Ilana Crankshaw while outscoring the Cherokees, 7-4, in the second half.

In the SCVal De Anza Division, host Gunn maintained its hold on second place with a solid 15-6 swamping of Monta Vista. Junior Elizabeth Anderson tallied five goals for the Titans (6-2, 1-2) while senior Shelby Newman added four. Freshman Caroline Anderson and junior Casey Lincoln each had two.

Gunn will host first-place Los Altos on Tuesday at 4:45 p.m., with the league’s regular-season title at stake.

On Tuesday, Sacred Heart Prep effectively wrapped up the West Catholic Athletic League regular-season title with a 10-4 triumph over visiting Presentation.

Sarah Westcott scored four goals and goalie Catherine Donahoe made 10 saves, while Emily Parsons and Pippa Temple added two goals each for the Gators (5-0, 14-1), who have only one league match remaining — against Mitty on Oct. 28.

SHP next week will compete in the Davis Fall Classic on Friday, where the Gators may have an opportunity to avenge their only loss of the season — to Davis in the season-opening St. Francis Autumn Invitational on Sept. 11. Since that loss, the Gators have won 12 straight.

**Boys’ water polo**

Sacred Heart Prep maintained its hold on second place in the West Catholic Athletic League with a big 10-7 triumph over host Bellarmine on Wednesday evening. Senior Philip Bamberg led the Gators (4-1, 9-5) with four goals while sophomore goalie Will Runkel had 12 saves. Senior Robert Dunleavy and freshman Harrison Enright each added three goals.

In PAL Bay Division action, first-place Menlo swamped host Sequoia, 23-6, in a lopsided contest as 12 Knights scored. Jack Lucas (four goals) and John Gilluly (three) led Menlo, which had three goalies combine for 12 saves.

In another match, host Menlo-Atherton (2-1, 10-7) dunked visiting Carlmont, 24-3, as every Bear scored at least once.

Jake Bercow’s four goals led the way in the match that saw Carlmont at a disadvantage all day with only 10 players suited up. The Scots got in foul trouble early and played most of the second half with no substitutes.

M-A coach Marco Palazzo played his second team much of the time, but the Bears still won much fresher than Carlmont and it showed. Senior Nick Henze had three steals and two assists to go with a solo goal. Emery Welton also posted two assists and Alex Gow made six saves in the cage.

In the SCVal De Anza Division, sophomore Bret Pinski scored three goals during a 17-6 loss to first-place Los Altos on Wednesday in the Vikings’ pool. Paly fell to 5-3 in league (6-7 overall).

At Gunn, Ben Hendricks scored four goals but the Titans (3-4 in league) dropped a 7-6 division match to Monta Vista.
**Prep roundup (continued from page 40)**

a 7-5, 7-6 (13-11) victory at No. 1 singles in the featured match.

In the SCVAL De Anza Division, Palo Alto (3-5, 8-5) followed up its victory in its own tournament with a 4-3 triumph over host Lynbrook.

The Vikings won the Palo Alto Invitational on Saturday, winning three matches in a reduced field after three teams pulled out due to SATs on Saturday morning. Paly junior Amy Ke was 9-for-9 during the tourney while playing at No. 1 doubles.

At Gunn, the Titans (2-5, 7-9) dropped a tough 4-3 decision to Los Altos in another SCVAL De Anza Division match. The Eagles wound up clinching the victory by sweeping the singles after Gunn’s Allana Booth and Alice Li had won their opening games at No. 1 and 3 singles, respectively.

**Girls’ volleyball**

Palo Alto and Gunn continued to streak through their respective SCVAL divisions with quick victories. The Vikings (6-0, 24-0) held on to their one-game lead in the De Anza Division with a 25-19, 25-13, 25-20 triumph over visiting Saratoga while the Titans (6-0, 20-4) extended their lead in the El Camino Division with a 25-19, 25-12, 25-12 win over visiting Lynbrook.

Junior Melanie Wade led Palo Alto with 10 kills on a hot night in a hot gym. Paly coach Dave Winn said his team came out flat and played uninspired against the 1-5 Falcons as the Vikings closed the first half of league play.

Palo Alto will open the second half of division action on Thursday at Monta Vista as a tuneup for next week when the Vikings host Mountain View (Tuesday) and second-place Los Gatos (Thursday) in matches that should decide the division championship.

At Gunn, the Titans (6-0, 20-4) also wrapped up first-half play as sophomore Lisa Yan provided seven kills for the host team. Gunn won its sixth straight and has captured 12 of its past 13 matches, the only loss during that time coming to Palo Alto.

In the WBAL Foothill Division, the first of numerous showdowns took place as defending Central Coast Section Division IV champion Sacred Heart Prep overhauled 2009 CCS Division V runnerup Castilleja, 23-25, 26-28, 29-27, 25-18, 15-13 in a battle of the Gaels.

Sonia Abuel-Saud and Sarah Daschbach each had 23 kills for SHP with Abuel-Saud adding 24 digs and Daschbach 16. Amelia Alvarezz (25 assists) and Hanna Elmore (23 assists) set up the kills while Olivia Bertolacci contributed 22 digs.

Menlo (2-0, 15-6) remained in a tie for the division lead with an 18-25, 25-21, 24-26, 25-15, 15-9 marathon win over visiting Harker. It was the Knights’ seventh straight victory.

Menlo freshman Maddie Huber tied the career high she set in her last match, recording 17 kills, and added 21 digs.

In the PAL Bay Division, Menlo-Atherton remained within reach of the division leaders with a 25-15, 25-11, 25-16 win over host Woodside.

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**ATHLETES OF THE WEEK**

**Elizabeth Anderson**

Gunn High

The junior began a 4-0 week in water polo with two goals in a 9-6 win over Paly. Then, despite dealing with the flu, she added eight goals in three wins to help the Titans finish as the only unbeaten team at the Presentation Invitational.

**Beau Nichols**

Menlo School

The senior rushed 26 times for 106 yards and scored four touchdowns in addition to catching seven passes for 85 yards and another TD and had an interception on defense in a 40-22 PAL Ocean Division victory over Half Moon Bay.

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

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Page 42 • October 15, 2010 • Palo Alto Weekly
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The Roundtable at Stanford University

Generation Ageless: Longevity and the Boomers
Consequences for Our World and Ourselves

Saturday, October 23, 2010 9:30 – 11 a.m.
Maples Pavilion, Stanford University | www.stanford.edu/roundtable

Tom Brokaw Special Correspondent, NBC NEWS
John L. Hennessy President, Stanford
Ludwig L. Cavender Director, Stanford Center on Longevity Professor of psychology
Sandra Day O’Connor Associate Justice, U.S. Supreme Court (retired)
Kerry Reed CEO, AKIP
Sherry Sundberg COO, Facebook
Robert Sapolsky Professor of neurology, neuroendocrinology and neurosurgery

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ALAIN PINEL
If we had a buyer for your home, would you sell it?

Information herein is deemed reliable but not guaranteed.