Looking forward to 2013 ...and beyond

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If home is where your heart is, I’ve had a life-long love affair with Palo Alto and the Peninsula. At Chancellor Homes, each day represents the honor of serving these stunning communities of great homes and greater people. We live to unite; home buyers with the perfect property, home sellers with a flawless sale. Chancellor Homes of Palo Alto and the Peninsula. Welcome to our neighborhood.

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Palo Alto looks decades ahead as it tackles problems of today
by Genny Shyener

A Palo Alto “year” rarely follows the standard calendar. When then-Mayor Sid Espinosa proclaimed 2011 to be the “Year of the Bicycle” and when outgoing Mayor Yiaway Yeh called 2012 the “Year of Infrastructure Investment and Renewal,” each was looking well beyond 12 months. So as the council continues its work this year, biking improvements and infrastructure repairs will again show up on the agenda.

These projects, however, will vie for attention with a variety of broader, more abstract discussions that could have dramatic implications for local parks, downtown residents, street trees and the city’s housing. With the post-recession triage now in the past and local sales-tax revenues climbing, 2013 promises to be a year of regrouping, soul-searching and looking far into the future in Palo Alto.

It will be the year during which the city is expected to approve a new Comprehensive Plan (its official land-use bible) and plow ahead with ambitious studies and master plans that seek to answer complex questions near and dear to the hearts of residents. These include: Does downtown have room for more buildings and workers? What should be done to improve recreational opportunities throughout the city? How can the city’s famously poor cell reception be balanced with residents’ desires for cell antennas? What should be done with the decrepit but heavily used Cubberley Community Center?

And how can the city enhance its stock of street trees?

2013: The Year of the Future

NEIGHBORHOODS

Quality of life tops neighborhood goals for 2013
Watchdogs plan to keep an eye on flooding, traffic and development in the coming year
by Sue Dremann

New Year’s resolutions are as varied as Palo Alto’s residents, but for leaders of the city’s neighborhood associations, addressing three issues—creek flooding, new development and traffic—is the top shortlist of goals for 2013.

These issues could have the most immediate impact on quality of life, some leaders noted, and in 2013, they plan to ask city leaders to make the concerns a priority.

In addition, the ongoing challenges of crime, disappearing mom-and-pop retailers, the potential impact of increased train service and the downsides of proposed dense development continue to need attention, the neighborhood heads told the Weekly.

On Dec. 23, San Francisquito Creek came close to overflowing in north Palo Alto after a series of holiday-weekend storms. The nearby disaster-reignited demands to quickly rebuild or demolish the narrow Chaucer Street and Newell Road bridges. That debate will continue in early 2013, as plans to expand the bridge at Newell move forward.

“The recent rains have reminded everyone in the Crescent Park neighborhood that the flooding problem of the Chaucer Bridge is something that the city should take a more proactive role in addressing,” said Norman Beamer, president of the Crescent Park Neighborhood Association, in an email. “The Joint Powers Authority is doing some useful things, but the city should make the Chaucer Bridge a top priority.”

A subset of the neighborhood is opposed to expanding the Newell Bridge, Beamer said. City officials will discuss the latest proposal at a community meeting on Jan. 8.

“The time commitment required for school-board work— as well as his additional involvement as a board member of the California School Boards Association— made it difficult to hold a full-time job, he said. Tom also has served as president of the Asian/Pacific Islander School Board Members Association. A staunch believer in public education, Tom nonetheless is rarely given to grand statements and takes an incremental approach to issues.

His statewide experience has taught him that “there are a lot of aspects to schools that are completely foreign to our region and our citizens. We cover the full spectrum of school districts—very rural, urban, pro-tax, anti-tax.

“It shows how hard it is to have one-size-fits-all regulations and practices.”

In rare split votes on the consensus-oriented Palo Alto board, Tom generally has gone with the majority.

He supported reform to the academic calendar being implemented this year, which moved the school start date to mid-August in order to squeeze in first semester before the December holidays. Reform advocates argued that a work-free December vacation could provide a healthy break from academic stress.

“I think this is the right move in the right direction for our students,” Tom said at the time of the calendar debate, adding that it would not fully “solve” the problem of academic stress.

“Every time I meet somebody from a place that has finals before winter break, I ask about it, and it’s just overwhelming the number of people who support it — parents, teachers, board members, even people who were initially skeptical.”

In the bruising 2007 battle over creation of a Mandarin Immersion program, Tom initially voted with the majority who said the district couldn’t afford to launch the pro-
A NEW DAY ... Palo Alto's mayoral election is typically a ceremonial affair, perfectly suited to the largely ceremonial position. Thanks to the city’s long-established tradition, the title of mayor usually goes to the vice mayor of the prior year. Furthermore, the mayor serves for only one year, making the mayor’s rotation to another council member. (The short duration results in a huge quantity of ex-mayors. This became a running joke at a November meeting of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, where two former Palo Alto mayors, Yoriko Shimimoto and Sid Espinosa, asked the board on the topic of a county grant, and a third former mayor, Supervisor Liz Kniss, took part in the decision on the grant.) Unlike in cities such as New York and San Francisco, the mayor doesn’t have any executive powers beyond those enjoyed by the rest of the council. Job requirements include a smooth ribbon-cutting stroke; the ability to pronounce the names of all council members who wish to speak; a firm grip for shaking hands in front of cameras while bestowing a certificate of appreciation on a worthy citizen; proficiency with a ceremonial shovel; and a social calendar capable of accommodating various grand openings and dedication ceremonies. Vice Mayor Greg Scharff should have little trouble taking over as mayor from the outgoing Yiyaw Yeh, having already subsided in for Yeh on all matters relating to Stanford University over the course of the year. The only wildcard at Monday’s meeting is who will take over for Scharff. In the past, the election for vice mayor has been competitive. Last year, Scharff tapped out for Greg Schmid for the spot, despite the latter’s seniority. Schmid might have a better shot this year, having just been re-elected by the voters with the second-highest number of votes of the six candidates (Kniss finished first)."
Emergency declared over damaged East Palo Alto levee

Officials worry more winter storms could cause creek to flood neighborhoods

by Sue Dremann

E ast Palo Alto officials are seeking an estimated $2.6 million in government aid after pre-Christmas storms extensively damaged the levee that prevents San Francisquito Creek from overflowing into the city’s homes and businesses.

City officials declared a local emergency on Wednesday, Jan. 2, stating that the flood damage to the creek’s banks and the levee on Dec. 23 and 24 caused “conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property” within the city.

The declaration, which the city sent to state officials through a proclamation, allows the city to ask for an estimated $2.6 million from the state for emergency measures to correct the damage. That total could run higher after additional engineering studies are conducted.

Stabilizing the levee just after the December rains has exhausted East Palo Alto’s available reserves and its local and regional financial resources, city staff said Wednesday. The proclamation was signed by Magda Gonzalez, city manager and director of emergency services, Mayor Ruben Abrica and City Attorney Kathleen Kane.

Seven homes along Daphne Way near the creek were flooded with about 2 feet of water, and about 46 people were evacuated to a nearby American Red Cross shelter, Gonzalez said.

City staff and volunteers added more than 2,000 sandbags along the levee to stabilize it immediately after the flooding.

Abrica told reporters Wednesday afternoon, referring to Palo Alto and Menlo Park residents who also reside along the creek and could be affected by creek overflow and erosion.

Menlo Park Fire Chief Harold Schapelhouman, who surveyed the length of the creek from Alpine Road to the O’Connor pump station, said a recently installed rain gauge at Huddart Park in Woodside helped determine that the creek would flood. First responders had three hours rather than a few minutes to call for the evacuation before the creek overflowed.

“A catastrophic failure of the levee would cause a Hurricane Katrina-style problem,” he said. The levee height is at the level of the tops of the homes, and a break would mean the neighborhood could be flooded to the roof lines.

Family Connections closes the education gap

Preschool education is available on page 26.

Y adira Mederos de Cardenas arrived at the nonprofit Family Connections with her son, Issac, in 2006 looking for someplace to help with his learning disability. At the age of 2, Issac had been diagnosed with autism.

Family Connections, a bilingual preschool and parent-education program operating in Menlo Park, Redwood City and East Palo Alto, taught Mederos about autism and how to interact with Issac. The staff also referred her son to Golden Gate Regional Center, a state-run program for individuals with disabilities.

“Everyone here at Family Connections taught me how to work with him. He learned how to socialize with kids,” Mederos said recently.

Mederos’ younger daughter, now 4, also enrolled in Family Connections, where she learned to speak English and became interested in books.

“I can write a book about how Family Connections helped me and continues to help me,” Mederos said.

Many studies have shown that a child’s preschool experience can be formative for brain development and a good predictor of future success. But for low-income families, access to preschool is often unattainable.

Family Connections was founded to address the problem. The only tuition-free-parent-participation preschool for low-income families in San Mateo County, Family Connections has served more than 1,000 children since its founding in 1993 and has 225 children enrolled this year, the most it has ever had, according to staff.

The Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund granted Family Connections $7,500 this year to support its math and science curriculum.

“We are a play-based preschool,” Family Connections Executive Director Renee Zimmerman said. “However, we have found that there are lots of ways that you can bring to a play environment early literacy skills, early math and science skills, which have been shown to be a huge predictor of what children are able to do later in school.”

Zimmerman said the money is funding theme-based science kits and also supporting at-home learning programs such as “virtual Pre-K,” which provides materials that parents can take home and use with their children.

Family Connections empowers parents to really engage with their children and really learn with their child after they leave the classroom,” she said.

Zimmerman said that these families continue to learn even after they graduate from the program. While there remains a large achievement gap between low-income children and particularly English-language learners — and their peers, Family Connections is working to close it.

“Surveys show the children (who go) through the program are entering learning issues that are English-language learners and low-income,” Zimmerman said.

The preschool is as much for parents as it is for children. Each of the three Family Connections locations employs a teacher trained in both early-childhood development and adult education. At the preschools, parents are in charge of different stations for the day so that each parent serves as a teacher. For a portion of each morning, half of the parents attend a parenting class in which they can share experiences and ask questions. They also attend night classes once a month.

In the afternoon at the preschools, Family Connections partners with a private occupational-therapy group to run a speech, language and occupational-therapy program for children who have additional health issues.

Research and surveys performed by the program show that almost all of the Family Connection parents stay involved in their children’s education after leaving the preschool.

Through the program, parents also learn the importance of play to help a child’s developing brain grow and learn, along with hands-on techniques such as positive parenting, positive discipline and how to best support their child as he/she nears kindergarten, according to the nonprofit. Parents also learn conflict-resolution skills, which they use with their children as well as in their own relationships.

Mederos now volunteers at the Family Connections preschool. With the nonprofit’s support, she became a trained facilitator and leads a support group for parents of children with special needs and parents with maternal depression or other mental health issues.

The program also helped her complete several English-language classes. The Family Connections staff and teachers have encouraged her to go back to school, too. She plans on attending college so she can become either a teacher or a social worker.

“The person that I am now is thanks to Family Connections. I have dreams and I have many things to do,” Mederos said.

The Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund is raising funds from the community to support local nonprofit organizations that serve children, families and adults. More information is available on page 26.
Palo Alto’s behind-the-scenes movers and shakers

Key city staff members champion major initiatives

by Gennyde Sheyner

"I think we are in the Palo Alto process right now, and that process always ... will have many, many, many public meetings around it."

— James Keene, Palo Alto city manager

They may not be elected officials or department heads, but five members of the City of Palo Alto staff are almost certain to play critical roles in some of the city’s most pressing problems and boldest initiatives in 2013. Here’s a look at some important people you may never even have heard of.

**Pamela Antil**
Pamela Antil didn’t have time for a learning curve when she joined the city in March 2010 as City Manager James Keene’s second-in-command. As the new assistant city manager, she dove right into some of the city’s thorniest and game-changing issues, including labor negotiations with public-safety unions, the overhaul of the city’s busy and famously frustrating Development Center and a proposal to close Palo Alto’s animal shelter and the restructuring of the city’s Fire Department, which has been gradually merging its administrative functions with the Police Department. Though the budget picture has brightened, Palo Alto is still facing its share of financial problems, most notably the rapidly rising cost of employee benefits. And the animal shelter, while still open, faces an uncertain future with major staffing cuts ahead. Whatever surprises 2013 brings, Antil is sure to remain busy over the next 12 months.

**Phil Bobel**
Phil Bobel probably knows better than anyone (with the possible exception of Kermit the Frog) that being green can be a royal pain. Over the past two years, the assistant director of the Public Works Department has been walking a fine line between two outspoken green camps — those who want to build a new waste-to-energy plant at Byxbee Park and those who want to conserve the park space. The complex debate, which will determine the future of local composting, will accelerate in 2013 and, if things go as planned, culminate in a decision in early 2014. While coordinating all the ongoing studies and facilitating the public debate, Bobel has established himself as a credible and genial voice of reason on the highly emotional topic. At the same time, he is serving as the point man in the city’s battle against plastic bags (which could soon result in a citywide bag tax for all food establishments) and is heavily involved in Palo Alto’s library-construction project, which will soon be broken ground on. As the city opens its new Mitchell Park Library and Community Center and begins renovating the Main Library, Palo Alto community and city officials are trying to figure out where Palo Alto’s parks, open space preserves and recreational facilities, including labor negotiations with public-safety unions, the overhaul of the city’s busy and famously frustrating Development Center and a proposal to close Palo Alto’s animal shelter and the restructuring of the city’s Fire Department, which has been gradually merging its administrative functions with the Police Department. Though the budget picture has brightened, Palo Alto is still facing its share of financial problems, most notably the rapidly rising cost of employee benefits. And the animal shelter, while still open, faces an uncertain future with major staffing cuts ahead. Whatever surprises 2013 brings, Antil is sure to remain busy over the next 12 months.

**Rob de Geus**
When a cluster of teenaged suicides in 2009 and 2010 plumped the Palo Alto community into a period of shock, mourning and soul-searching, city and school officials vowed to do more to support local youths. No one has done more than Rob de Geus to further this effort. As the manager in the Community Services Department, de Geus is juggling a massive workload even before the city helped launch Project Safety Net, a broad coalition of community groups focusing on teen mental health. He is also the city’s recreation manager and the overseer of the Palo Alto Municipal Golf Course, which is about to undergo a dramatic reconfiguration. With myriad projects under his purview, de Geus has been a multipurpose utility knife in a department that has seen an exodus of division managers. In the next year, as the city begins to reassess its vision for local parks and recreation opportunities and proceeds with the golf-course redesign, his presence will be more critical than ever.

**Jaime Rodriguez**
Since he started working in Palo Alto in 2010, Chief Transportation Officer Jaime Rodriguez has become the leading driver of some of the city’s most ambitious and controversial programs — from the lane-reduction projects on Arastadero Road to the more dramatic reconfiguration of California Avenue, which is scheduled to break ground in the fall. During that time, the fast-talking and energetic Rodriguez has also earned the highest praise from local planning commissions for his encyclopedic knowledge of seemingly every local intersection and grant program. He has also taken his share of heat from California Avenue merchants upset about the proposed lane reduction on their commercial strip. He was also instrumental in helping Palo Alto and Stanford University land $10 million in grants from Santa Clara County in November, money that will be used to design a new bike bridge over U.S. Highway 101 and new trails around Stanford University and along Matadero Creek.

**Shiva Swaminathan**
For Palo Alto’s Utilities Department, delivering gas or electricity to local residents is just the opening of the game. The small but ambitious department is always looking for ways to get greener and more efficient, whether it comes to buying solar energy or encouraging customers to be more efficient about plugging in. Swaminathan has been at the forefront of the latter effort, having spent years trying to make it easier for residents to be a “smart-grid” technology to Palo Alto without having to install expensive smart meters. Unlike PG&E, Palo Alto is proceeding in baby steps. Its latest proposal to save customers money by lowering their energy bills is CustomerConnect, a pilot program that tracks energy use and provides customers with next-day feedback about the impact of their behaviors on their electric bills. If it succeeds, the program would also lower customer bills and make the city’s electric utility smarter and more efficient.

Future

(continued from page 3)

— an ambitious concept that was pitched by billionaire developer and philanthropist John Arrillaga. After a heated Dec. 3 meeting, during which dozens of residents panned the idea of building four office towers and a theater at the prominent location between downtown and Stanford University, the council opted to take a step back and broaden its menu of options for the site.

As a result, the master plan for what the city has branded the “arts and innovation district” will now include at least three alternatives: Arrillaga’s plan and two alternatives featuring buildings less massive than those in the initial proposal. Councilman Pat Burt, who proposed development of a master plan beyond the single Arrillaga option, said he is “interested in this site for a visionary outcome but one that is driven by community values and consistent with our downtown urban fabric.”

A decision means people will have the opportunity to weigh in on the subject — good news for some of the leading critics of the Arrillaga proposal, who have charged that the council and staff have not been transparent.

"I think we are in the Palo Alto process right now, and that process always ... will have many, many, many public meetings around it."

— James Keene, Palo Alto city manager
Neighborhoods
(continued from page 3)

Creek corridor, according to Ken Allen, president of the Adobe Meadows Neighborhood Association.

When it comes to housing, Barron Park neighborhood residents will be monitoring two proposed residential developments this year, Barron Park Association President Lynne Melena told the Weekly in an email.

The possible razing of Buena Vista Mobile Home Park on El Camino Real to make way for 180 high-end apartments is expected to receive close scrutiny. Advocates for Buena Vista have vowed to try to retain the 127-unit, low-income park or make sure its residents have other comparable accommodations in Palo Alto.

A senior-housing project, proposed by the Palo Alto Housing Corporation for the intersection of Maybell and Clemo avenues, will also be watched this year to determine how it might impact the neighborhood, Melena said.

College Terrace neighborhood residents, meanwhile, are concerned about the planned Mayfield housing project along California Avenue in the Stanford Research Park. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2014 and expected to last four years, according to Brent Barker, College Terrace Residents Association president.

The neighborhood continues to lobby Stanford University for a “spine” road through the center of the nearby section of Research Park, which would relieve traffic along California Avenue, he said in an email.

Developments are the singular issue for south Palo Alto’s Greendell neighborhood, said Sriini Sankaran, president of the Greendell Neighborhood Association.

Three major projects are of most concern: the future use of 525 San Antonio Ave., a former preschool that was purchased by Palo Alto Unified School District last year; the future use of Cubberley Community Center on Middlefield Road; and the impacts of residential and commercial development abutting San Antonio Road, including the re-leasing of the old Hewlett-Packard Mayfield complex.

“Interestingly, most of the ongoing or proposed development is technically in Mountain View, but it is right on and off San Antonio, so it affects Palo Alto residents rather heavily,” Sankaran said via email.

Allen said Adobe Mayfield residents are wary of the impact that the new Mitchell Park library and community center will have on the area, given the new traffic it could generate.

Traffic and parking continue to be prime worries for the north Palo Alto neighborhoods of Professorville, Downtown North and University South. Residents there will keep pushing for parking and traffic reforms in the downtown area in 2013, according to Elaine Meyer of University South and Ken Alisman of Professorville.

The city has implemented a residential permit-parking program and traffic-calming devices in College Terrace, but residents are hoping to see relief this year from people who store cars on their streets for days and weeks on end. City staff announced on Nov. 20 plans to prohibit overnight parking in the neighborhood’s commercial zone between 1 and 4 a.m.

“We hope the parking restriction in the commercial zone near El Camino will discourage the guy with 12 to 15 vehicles parked in the vicinity,” Barker said.

On Araratrado Road, the main issue for Green Acres neighborhood residents will be the traffic along the corridor, particularly during school hours, Alice Sklar wrote in an email.

“We are sometimes unable to get in and/or out of the two streets, Pomona and Los Palos, that service our neighborhood,” she said.

In Midtown, the issue is always traffic, according to Annette Glankopf, vice chair of the Midtown Residents Association.

“The problem isn’t always cars.

“The biggest issue for us will be the pedestrian/bike path along Matadero,” association president Sheri Furman said. The planned Palo Alto Matadero Creek Trail will go through the center of Midtown and closely pass by some homes, she said.

Neilson Buchanan of Downtown North took a broad view of neighborhood issues, saying that the city needs to conduct comprehensive studies on quality of life that are not piecemeal.

“Define what makes neighborhoods safe, vibrant and liveable. Start with criteria for traffic, safety and parking metrics,” he said.

Staff Writer Sue Dremann can be reached at sdremann@paweb.com.
Family faces burglary charges after Dec. 27 arrest

A father, mother and daughter are facing burglary charges in Palo Alto after allegedly attempting to steal men’s clothing and an expensive purse from a department store, a spokesman for the Palo Alto Police Department said.

Kosta Barjaba, 52, his wife, Fatbardha Barjaba, 52, and their daughter Jonniada Barjaba, 23, were arrested Dec. 27 after police said they took items from Nordstrom at the Stanford Shopping Center, police spokesman Officer Sean Downey said.

The trio entered the store in the early afternoon, and loss-prevention observers told police the family left with a bag of men’s clothing and then returned to the store a second time with the bag. The officers watched as one of the Barjabas allegedly pocketed a Coach purse worth $238.

As the suspects exited the store, the security guards stopped them outside and tried to detain them, Downey said. Kosta Barjaba then allegedly threw the bag of items back into the store, and he and his wife ran away while guards detained the daughter.

At about 2 p.m., security personnel called Palo Alto police, who found and arrested the wife and recovered the Coach purse a short distance away from Nordstrom, Downey said. Police then received a call from a pay phone from the father, who reported his wife and daughter as missing persons. Officers arrested the father after answering his call.

— Sue Dremann

Palo Alto police said.

The robbery occurred at Century Liquors at 3163 Middlefield Road just before 7:55 p.m., when the men entered the store and demanded alcohol and cash from a clerk. One of the robbers pointed a gun at the clerk, who complied with their demands.

The men placed 12 bottles of alcohol — with a total value of about $230 — into backpacks they had brought, and fled out the front door with an undisclosed amount of cash. There were no injuries, and no customers were in the store at the time, police said.

The robbers are described as black men in their 20s. They were about 5 feet 10 inches tall with a thin build. The other man was about 5 feet 10 inches tall with a thin build. The other man was about 5 feet 10 inches tall, police said.

Police are asking that anyone with information about this crime contact the department’s 24-hour dispatch center at 650-329-2413. Anonymous tips can be e-mailed to paloalto@tipnow.org or sent by text message or voice mail to 650-383-8984.

— Sue Dremann

Court rebukes Assistant DA Boyarsky

Chief Assistant District Attorney Jay Boyarsky, the second-highest-ranking official in the Santa Clara County District Attorney’s Office, was castigated by a state appeals court on Dec. 27 for misconduct while handling a hospital-commitment case against a sexual predator, according to court documents.

The California Sixth Appellate District Court stated that the misconduct “so infected the trial with unfairness as to make the resulting conviction a denial of due process.” The finding resulted in a reversal of a judgment that had committed a man to a state hospital who admitted performing sexual acts with teenaged boys.

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

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

The Dec. 27 appeals-court ruling stems from two 1994 felony cases against Dariel Shazier, who pleaded guilty to sodomy with a minor under the age of 14 and sodomy with a minor under age 18 and oral copulation where the victim was unable to resist due to an intoxicating substance. He was sentenced to 17 years and 8 months in state prison.

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

The first commitment trial resulted in a hung jury. Boyarsky prosecuted the third commitment trial, in which the jury found Shazier met the criteria as a sexually violent predator. Shazier was committed for an indeterminate term, and he again appealed.

It remains unclear whether the California State Bar will take any action against Boyarsky, a Palo Alto resident. ■

— Sue Dremann

Midtown Palo Alto liquor store robbed at gunpoint

Two men armed with handguns robbed a liquor store in Midtown Palo Alto on Saturday night, Dec. 29, and absconded with alcohol and cash, Palo Alto police said.

The robbery occurred at Century Liquors at 3163 Middlefield Road just before 7:55 p.m., when the men entered the store and demanded alcohol and cash from a clerk. One of the robbers pointed a gun at the clerk, who complied with their demands.

The men placed 12 bottles of alcohol — with a total value of about $230 — into backpacks they had brought, and fled out the front door with an undisclosed amount of cash. There were no injuries, and no customers were in the store at the time, police said.

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— Sue Dremann
gram but switched after program advocates threatened to petition to open a Mandarin Immersion charter school in the district.

He also voted with the majority in a controversial 2009 adoption of the K-5 math textbook series Everyday Mathematics.

In the recent controversy over differing counseling programs at the high schools, Tom has resisted calls for Gunn High School to immediately adopt Palo Alto High School’s teacher-advisory system, maintaining that Gunn should be given time to come up with its own reforms.

“There’s no single solution or panacea for (academic stress),” he said.

Too often it’s easy to latch onto a single action as the critical piece, but there isn’t a single action.

“I believe we’ve made progress in taking into account the whole child, realizing that academic success is fostered by healthy social, emotional and physical health. Those are catalysts, and I believe our district, from teachers to administrators, takes that seriously.

“I’ve seen careful consideration, and multiple efforts at each site, to reach students, and that’s what it takes,”

Palo Alto students are luckier than many others in California, as Tom knows firsthand from his participation in the statewide school-boards group.

Financially pressed districts elsewhere have resorted to shortened academic years, decimated programs and class sizes of 30 or higher.

“We’re so fortunate that it’s our responsibility to help stand up for districts across the state,” he said.

“And even if we think about it only in terms of our self-interest, we’re not served by having the disparities increase.

“California has to decide where we want to invest. Are we going to be better off investing in education — or in prisons to make up for the failure of our education system?”

Staff Writer Chris Kenrick can be emailed at ckenrick@paweekly.com.
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Yaping Chen, L.Ac.

A preview of Palo Alto government meetings next week

CITY COUNCIL ... The council plans to swear in council members Marc Berman, Pat Burt, Liz Kniss and Greg Schmidt, elected as mayor and vice mayor for 2013; and adopt resolutions expressing appreciation to outgoing Mayor Yvaye Yeh and Councilman Sid Espinosa. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 7, in the Council Chambers at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

UTILITIES ADVISORY COMMISSION ... The commission plans to discuss the cost limitation of a carbon-neutral plan for the electric portfolio; consider a three-year extension of the demand-response pilot program for commercial electric customers; and see a presentation on results of the 2012 Statewide and Palo Alto Residential Customer Satisfaction Survey. The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 9, in the Council Conference Room at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION ... The commission plans to discuss the scope of the city’s “downtown development cap” study and review the draft of the proposed density-bonus ordinance. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 9, in the Council Chambers at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION ... The commission plans to hear an update from the Palo Alto Police Department on police staffing, community relations and the future of the Police Community Advisory Group; discuss the closure of the Buena Vista Mobile Home Park; and discuss the Human Relations and the future of the Police Community Advisory Group; discuss the Human Relations Needs Assessment. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m., on Thursday, Jan. 10, in the Council Conference Room at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

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

How did horses get on Interstate 280?
Why and how four horses from Webb Ranch got onto Interstate 280 on Saturday, Dec. 29, is unclear. Three of the horses were struck and killed by a car on I-280 north of Alpine Road at around 4:50 a.m., according to the California Highway Patrol. (Posted Dec. 2 at 8:37 p.m.)

New safe-driving laws take effect in California
Texting while driving, red-light cameras and party buses are among the targets of new driving-related laws that took effect in California Tuesday, Jan. 1. (Posted Jan. 2 at 11:54 a.m.)

Man grazed by bullet in East Palo Alto
A man apparently grazed in the head by a gunshot in East Palo Alto Tuesday morning, Jan. 1, refused to cooperate with police as he was treated at Stanford Hospital, according to the East Palo Alto Police Department. (Posted Jan. 2 at 8:50 a.m.)

CHP arrests 208 for DUI over New Year’s weekend
The California Highway Patrol is reporting that it made the same number of DUI arrests in the Bay Area over the holiday compared to the same period last year, while fatal collisions were down. (Posted Jan. 2 at 8:46 a.m.)

First Person: A conversation with the Stanford Tree
Stanford grad Jonathan Strange talks to Lisa Van Dusen about what it takes to be the Stanford Tree, mascot of the Leland Stanford Junior University Marching Band, in anticipation of his trip to the New Year’s Day Rose Bowl between Stanford and Wisconsin. (Posted Dec. 31 at 8:20 a.m.)

Menlo Park liquor store robbed at gunpoint
Customers shopping at the Tri-E-Z got more than they bargained for Friday night, Dec. 28, after two men, one armed with a handgun, robbed both store and shoppers. (Posted Dec. 29 at 5:01 p.m.)

Palo Alto lawyer sentenced for bribery attempt
A Palo Alto patent attorney who was convicted of attempting to bribe a police officer and drunken driving, after being pulled over outside a Colma casino, received an 8-month jail sentence with three years of supervised probation on Thursday, Dec. 27. (Posted Dec. 28 at 9:47 a.m.)

East Palo Alto construction worker dies after fall
A construction worker who died after a fall at a home under construction has been identified as Jose Plancarte, 51, of East Palo Alto, according to the San Francisco Medical Examiner’s Office. (Posted Dec. 28 at 9:17 a.m.)
Frank Raymond Wheeler

July 8, 1922-Dec. 21, 2012

Frank Raymond Wheeler, 90, passed away peacefully in his home at the Vi in Palo Alto with family around him on December 21, 2012.

He lived and worked for most of his life within a few miles of where he was born in Palo Alto to Oliver P. and Ethel R. Wheeler. He attended local schools, Peninsula School, Jordan Jr. High School, Palo Alto High School, Stanford University and Stanford Medical School. After 37 years in private practice in Internal Medicine, he retired in 1989. Since his retirement, he has often been approached by former patients or their family members who expressed their gratitude and admiration of the care he gave.

He loved the out of doors, being on the river fly fishing, taking up downhill skiing at 40, playing tennis with friends and golfing until his last year. He leaves the legacy of the Wheeler family cabin at Silver Lake – a place beloved by friends and family. As a private fellow as he was, he had a wide and deep circle of friends, neighbors, sporting companions, even classmatess from high school who still gather for lunch on occasion.

Frank was predeceased by his high school sweetheart and treasured wife of 58 years, Marty Dodds Wheeler. He is survived by his three daughters, Barbie Breeneer (John) of Ashland, Oregon, Anne Wheeler-Waddell (John) of Jacksonville, OR, and Joan Griffin (Bill) of Redding, CA, his grandchildren, Jeff Buckley, Tara Bedney (Brian), Courtney and Scott Griffin, and his great grandchildren, Alex and Casey Bedney, and his sisters, Jean Whitley of Indian Hills, CO, and Phyllis Dunlap of Denver, CO. The last years of his life were brightened and blessed by his friend and companion Rue Farvick.

Friends and family are invited to a Celebration of Life of Frank Wheeler which will be held on Tuesday, January 15, 2013 at 2 p.m. at the Vi, 620 Sand Hill Rd, Palo Alto, CA.
Macca Christine Winnbury

Macca Christine Winnbury, 99, died Dec. 17. She was the child of James Hunter Chandler and Julia Stone. Her sisters Louise Turner (Claude) and Marguerite Lewis (David) preceded her in death, as did her first husband, Eric Charles Twist, and second husband, Frank Edward Winnbury.

She was born in Nanton, Alberta, Canada, on the family farm and moved to Southern California when she was 10. However, she lived most of her life in Northern California, moving there after the death of her first husband. She met her second husband at Sequoia High School where they were both teachers.

She will be remembered fondly by many former students at Sequoia and Woodside high schools, where she taught for many years before retiring. She leaves her daughter, Margaret (Peggy) Twist Fry (Jer- yl); three grandchildren, Jay Fry (Grete), Oscar Fry (Jackie) and Bruce Fry (Lora); and seven great grandchildren, Margaret and Jerylin (Jay and Grete), Regan, Kyle and Luke (Oscar and Jackie), and Mohrrgan and Julia (Bruce and Lora).

She received her education at Chapman University, University of Redlands, and later earned her master’s degree from Stanford University. She was a loyal Stanford alumna and always enjoyed going to the football games, especially the Big Game, since her daughter was a Cal graduate.

She enjoyed volunteering and spent many years as a volunteer at Allied Arts Guild. She also took up painting and sculpting in her later years and her works remain as an ongoing memorial to her. Special thanks to her devoted and beloved caregivers, Margaret Chinnappa and Josephina Baratang, and the staff of Odyssey Healthcare. Donations in her memory can be sent to Lucille Packard Stanford Children’s Hospital, 400 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94301, or to another charity. Services will be private. Please sign the online guestbook at www.cusimanocolon.com.

Maria Elda

Maria Elda, 101, died Dec. 18 surrounded by her family. She was born in Tumbes, Peru, on Nov. 19, 1911, and immigrated to California in 1978 with her husband Luis Melchor Yanez to join her son Luis and his wife Gina of Los Altos Hills. She lived in Palo Alto for 33 years and is survived by six of her seven children, Guillermo, Rocio, Rosa America, Maria Luisa, Luis, Betsy and Maria Teresa; 20 grandchildren; 28 great grandchildren and seven great-great grandchildren.

She spent the first 16 years of her life in Ecuador with her grandmother Jesus. Upon her grandmother’s death, she joined her parents in Callao, Peru, where at the age of 14 she completed math and science in the vocational school and earned a vocational teaching degree. At the age of 20, she married Luis Melchor Yanez Ladrón de Guerra and had seven children. After 67 years of marriage, her husband’s death separated them.

She left children, extended family, friends and the residents of Lytton Gardens, where she lived for 33 years. A mass was held Dec. 22.

Mary Wright Shaw

Mary Wright Shaw passed away peacefully on November 30, 2012, at the age of 93. Born in 1919 to Thomas and Anna Wright, Mary Alberta Wright grew up in Warren, Pennsylvania on the shores of the Allegheny River—a source of reflection and inspiration throughout her life—with brothers Thomas Jr. and John David, and her sister Virginia. Her father died when she was four-years-old, and her mother later remarried to Carl Hultberg (“Gully”). WWI veteran and loving stepfather who helped provide for the children amidst the economic deprivation of the Great Depression. An intelligent and exuberant youth, Mary excelled both as a student and athlete. She would recall with great fondness playing alongside her older sister as starting guards on their high school basketball team—Virginia was the scorer, Mary was the ball-handler and tenacious defender.

Following in the footsteps of her compassionate mother, Mary studied nursing at Massachusetts General Hospital and then Public Health at Simmons College, receiving her R.N. and Public Health Certificate in the early 1940s. She served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army Nurse Corp from 1944 to 1946.

She met her husband, Norman Shaw, at San Francisco’s Presidio Hospital where he was recovering from a war injury suffered in WWII’s Battle of the Bulge. They first met during an outing for patients and nurses at a 49ers game in old Kezar Stadium. Norman was a San Francisco native and they both loved The City. On occasion, Mary would affectionately chide Norman, a U.S. Army second lieutenant, that she outranked him. Mary recalled climbing the chilly concrete stairs together at San Francisco’s Legion of Honor in the Fall of 1946, sharing their deepest thoughts and secrets. They fell in love and were married three months later.

They both enrolled at Stanford on the GI Bill and soon started what Mary described as the couple’s “ten-year production period,” during which their daughter and four sons were born. Mary put her education on hold to become a full-time mom, while Norman graduated from Stanford in engineering and embarked on his professional career that took the family to Pittsburgh and then Los Angeles.

In 1960, Norman died suddenly of a heart attack on the day after Christmas. Mary moved the family back to Palo Alto where she took on the dual responsibilities of mother and breadwinner for her family of five children. In 1961, she took a job as the school nurse for Mountain View High School, which was the beginning of her long and distinguished career in public health and education. In 1968, she began to serve on the Mental Health Commission of Santa Clara, and later joined the Oxfords of Social Advocates and the Red Cross. In 1971, she was promoted to Director of Health Services for the Mountain View/Los Altos School District. In 1972, she returned to Stanford and earned her bachelors degree in psychology, 20 years after her original classmates had graduated.

Mary lived life with passion. She had an amazing sense of humor, an uncanny ability to find humor in the unending ironies of life, even in times of great personal challenge. Thus laughter permeated the Shaw household and family get-togethers throughout the years. ‘Persimmon’ was her watchword.

She never stopped caring for those in need and she never stopped learning. She was passionate about golf, became a regular fixture in the Stanford Golf Clubs Ladies Group and played into her eighties. In 1991, Mary spearheaded the launch of YES Reading at the Belle Haven Library as a project of Youth Empowerment Systems, Inc. Under her spirited leadership, the reading program achieved an exceptional success rate and continued to grow in reach, funding support and social impact. The organization, whose name was changed to Reading Partners in 2008, has continued to prosper and now serves more than 5,000 students across the country.

In addition to being a powerful advocate for public health and literacy, Mary was an extraordinary lifelong writer. In 1997, she published her autobiographical book, Go with the River, under Gander Publishing, which she founded with her sister years earlier. Mary’s book draws upon her personal journals to share life stories shaped by love, tragedy and—above all—by an amazing inner strength and personal resilience. As testimony to her many outstanding career achievements and community contributions, Mary was honored with the Avenidas Lifetime Achievement Award in 2001, which was published as a Palo Alto Weekly cover story.

She generously passed along her loving wisdom for the written word to all whose lives she touched, from family and friends to the countless participants in the health and education programs that she championed. She was a devoted mentor to her grandchildren, instilling in them a fondness for literature, the importance of caring for others and—most of all—a love of life.

Mary is loved and will be deeply missed by her family: daughter, Mary; four sons, Norman, Peter, George and John; grandchildren, Siena, Yvonna, Angela, Wyatt, Genevieve, Anna, Monica and Andrea; son-in-law, Rick; and daughters-in-law, Donna, Julie and Christine.

There will be a private family memorial service to celebrate Mary’s extraordinary life and she will be placed next to her husband Norman at Alta Mesa Memorial Park in Palo Alto. Mary was devoted to Reading Partners, the literacy outreach program for children that she co-founded, and she would gratefully continue to support their life-enhancing mission (www.readingpartners.org).
CONTEST RULES

1. The contest is open to anyone who lives, works or attends school full-time in Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Atherton, Stanford, Portola Valley, Woodside, Mountain View, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, and East Palo Alto.
2. Limit of one entry per person.
3. Stories must be typed, double-spaced. Maximum 2,500 words. Longer stories will be disqualified.
4. $15 entry fee, along with 2 hard copies, for all ADULT stories; $5 entry fee for YOUNG WRITERS under 18. Make checks payable to “Palo Alto Weekly.”
5. Entries may not have been previously published.
6. Signed entry form must accompany story. Author’s name should NOT appear anywhere on pages of story.
7. All winners are required to email their story to the Palo Alto Weekly in a Microsoft Word Document as an attachment.

Mail manuscripts to: Palo Alto Weekly Short Story Contest, P.O. Box 1610, Palo Alto, CA 94302 or deliver to 450 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto
Questions: shortstory@paweekly.com

ANNOUNCING
THE TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL PALO ALTO WEEKLY

JUDGES:

ADULT/YOUNG ADULT
Tom Parker, Award winning novelist and short story writer, UC Extension and Foothill College Instructor and former Stanford Instructor
Meg Waite Clayton, the nationally best selling author of The Four Ms. Bradwells, The Wednesday Sisters, and The Bellwether Prize finalist The Language of Light.
Ellen Sussman Author of New York Times best selling novel French Lessons and San Francisco Chronicle best seller On A Night Like This

CHILDREN/TEEN
Katy Obringer, Former supervisor of Palo Alto Children’s Library
Caryn Huberman Yacowitz, Playwright and Children’s book author
Nancy Etchemendy, Children’s book author

EXTENDED
ENTRY DEADLINE:
All Writers:
January 11, 2013
5:30 p.m.

All adult winners and first place young winners in each category will be announced in the Palo Alto Weekly in February 2013. All winning stories will be published online at www.PaloAltoOnline.com

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ENTRY FORM

Please print legibly

Category (as of January 11, 2013):

☐ Adult  ☐ 9-11  ☐ 12-14  ☐ 15-17

Name:

Email:

Address:

City:_________________ Zip Code:_________________

Day Phone:_________________ Evening Phone:_________________

School or Work location:_________________

Story Title:_________________

Exact Word Count_________

This story is my original work and I received no assistance with it. My story is 2,500 words or less. I understand that the Palo Alto Weekly reserves first publishing and online rights to winning entries. Judges decisions are final. Palo Alto Weekly employees and their relatives and freelancers are not eligible to enter. Stories cannot be returned.

__________________________________________

Authors Signature

________________________

Date
Palo Alto area flooding problems go back decades, but is relief in sight?

By Jay Thorwaldson

Palo Alto and its neighbors Menlo Park and East Palo Alto have experienced flooding for decades — despite occasional efforts at flood relief.

But a new effort to increase the capacity of San Francisquito Creek — frequently referred to in news stories as “the flood-prone” creek — may reduce the risk of future floods, notwithstanding long-term concerns about global climate change, a rising sea (and bay) level and more volatile weather.

Most of the flooding threat stems from the flood-prone creek, although other incidents of flooding have also added to people’s wet-weather woes.

One chronic flooding-site is the Oregon Expressway underpass at Alma Street/Central train tracks. In one instance, the late William Clark, M.D., recounted how in the late 1950s he was racing at night to the home of a patient who was suffering a heart attack. He sped into the then-new underpass — and splashed into the train tracks. In one instance, the late William Expressway underpass at Alma Street/Central street.

weather woes.

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or 650-326-8210.

By Jay Thorwaldson

As a resident of Barron Park for more than 30 years, I would like to express my full support for keeping Buena Vista Mobile Home Park in its current status. This is a long-term, healthy community filled with hard-working families with children in our local schools and many retired people on limited incomes. It is also very close to public transportation.

Several years ago I volunteered once a week at the co-op market on Middlefield to shop grocery lists, and occasionally delivered to retired people at Buena Vista. It is a quiet and safe place to live.

Palo Alto is always talking about planned low-cost housing. Here it exists, functioning well, and all we have to do is let it continue. Please help us to preserve it!

Alice Gross
Paradise Way, Palo Alto

Letters

Preserve Buena Vista

Editor

As a resident of Barron Park for more than 30 years, I would like to express my full support for keeping Buena Vista Mobile Home Park in its current status. This is a long-term, healthy community filled with hard-working families with children in our local schools and many retired people on limited incomes. It is also very close to public transportation.

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Alice Gross
Paradise Way, Palo Alto

Save the park

Editor

Regarding the possible closure of the Buena Vista Mobile Home Park and the displacement of the nearly 400 residents who live there (Dec. 14, p. 22), I find that the closure and redevelopment of the property into 180 apartments cannot be accomplished by any relocation of the low-income residents to anywhere in this area. This is truly the “nightmare” for these residents that you refer to in the editorial. The last thing Palo Alto needs is more apartments in this area and the disappearance of one of the last vestiges of Palo Alto being a home for people of all ranks of life. In a phrase, “Save the park!”

Zeke S. Herman
College Avenue, Palo Alto

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

The Palo Alto Weekly encourages comments on our coverage or on issues of local interest.

What should Palo Alto’s priorities be for 2013?

Submit letters to the editor of up to 250 words to letters@paweekly.com. Submit guest opinions of 1,000 words to editor@paweekly.com. Include your name, address and daytime phone number so we can reach you. We reserve the right to edit contributions for length, objectionable content, libel and factual errors known to us. Anonymous letters will generally not be accepted.

Submit a letter to the editor or guest opinion constitutes a granting of permission to the Palo Alto Weekly and Embarracadero Media to also publish it online, including in our online archives and as a post on Town Square.

For more information contact Editor Jocelyn Dong or Editorial Assistant Eric Van Susteren at editor@paweekly.com or 650-326-8210.
From a pint-sized girl surviving storms on the wrong side of the levee to a CIA agent planning to rescue a band of hostages, the stories that played out on the silver screen in 2012 were full of heroes small and large. In choosing their top films of the year, Weekly critics Peter Canavese, Tyler Hanley and Susan Tavernetti singled out avengers and activists, superheroes and everymen.

Highest honors went to a shipwrecked teenager navigating the Pacific and the waters of life with a Bengal tiger. Ang Lee’s “Life of Pi” was the sole movie to score a place on all three top-10 lists. Other high-ranking films were: the sharp political thriller “Argo,” the heavy-on-the-symbolism indie “Beasts of the Southern Wild,” and the poignant dramedy “Silver Linings Playbook.” Each made it onto two out of three lists.

For every hero, there’s a mess of guys who trip over their own feet. In their annual “worst five” lists, Canavese and Hanley contribute such underwhelming titles as “Rock of Ages,” “That’s My Boy” and an ill-advised update of “The Three Stooges.” In addition, Hanley gives readers a look ahead at the films of 2013. We’ll be watching closely to see which lists those movies make it on next year.

In their annual “best” and “worst” lists, Weekly film critics honor the heroes and roast the turkeys.
and a desired makeshift mom.

of age — who chases a deadbeat dad — shoved too soon into his coming in red as 11-year-old Cyril, a reck-

Woody Allen.

gorical conceit that plays like vintage 2012 films
textbook.

In the studio.

lence lingers, humanity yearns —

& Order meets Samuel Beckett, with

Ceylan resuscitates the police proce-

dural as provincial slice-of-life. Law &

Ord meets Samuel Beckett, with a
dash of Armando Iannucci. Vio-

ence lingering, humanity yearns —

the flower that could in hardscrabble
terrain.

4. Life of Pi Like IMAX, 3D has

the studios reliving ’50s efforts to get

us away from our TVs, and few film-
makers have better employed it than
does master craftsman Ang Lee in

“Life of Pi.” This clever adaptation of

Yann Martel’s bestseller — dou-

ble-framed by pointed storytelling

and spiritual reflection — ticks away

a post modern Robinson Crusoe-style
adventure. It then detonates a mind-

blower about perception in the face

of trauma, nature and existence

(if indeed there’s any difference
amongst the three). The tiger doesn’t
look back. Is Ang Lee getting away
with this? Yes he is, at your local
multiplex, in splashy, colorful 3D.

3. The Dark Knight Rises

Christopher Nolan’s “Batman” trilogy, like

Peter Jackson’s “Lord of the Rings”

triple play, ambitiously lifted genre
filmmaking to an epic plane. Like its
two predecessors, “The Dark Knight
Rises” gives us what we hope for in

popular cinema: It’s big, bold, savory

and thrilling, with an astonishingly
accomplished acting ensemble etch-
ing memorable characters (especially,
here, Tom Hardy’s hulking villain

Bane) and Wally Pfister’s IMAX pho-
tography remade us why we go to a
movie theater. And in spite of a real-

life madman’s attempt to hijack the
film, its hero — himself a survivor of
gun violence — insists, “No guns.”

Parental Guidance The Motion

Picture Association of America rates

this last-gasp for Billy Crystal and

Bette Midler “PG” for “Pretty

Ghastly.”

The Lucky One Love means nev-
er having to say or do anything that

makes any sense in this latest loser

adapted from the “work” of Nicholas

Sparks.

Playing For Keeps This romantic

comedy with soccer moms had one ap-

parent GOOOOOOOOOOOOOALL: to

suck.

That’s My Boy Worst-list peren-

nial Adam Sandler crowds his pre-
sumptive successor Andy Samberg

in this witless father-son comedy.

Tyler Hanley’s
top films

10. Pitch Perfect This upbeat

crowd-pleaser was one of the year’s

feel-good surprises thanks to its

strong script and catchy soundtrack.

The modern music woven throughout

(such as David Guetta’s “Titanium”)

infuses the film with a vibrant, con-
tagious energy. Big props to director

Jason Moore (a 2004 Tony Award

nominee for the Broadway musical

“Avenue Q”) for maintaining a play-

ful atmosphere and getting the most

from his charming cast.


Life”) is a gifted filmmaker, if not a particularly prolific one. In this

compelling dark comedy, Linklater reunites with his “School of Rock”

star Jack Black, creating a fascinat-
ing character study that benefits

from the director’s moccumetary

approach. The three leads — Black,

Shirley MacLaine and Matthew Mc-

Conaughey — all deliver terrific

performances, and the screenplay is

crisp and clever.

8. Django Unchained Sharp dia-

logue and dynamic characters drive

Quentin Tarantino’s riotous and

uber-violent revenge flick. “Django”

comes across as the film Tarantino

was always destined to make, with

his well-documented appreciation for

anti-slavery Republican Thaddeus

Lee Jones nearly steals the show as

bo un ty  h un te r  Dr .  Kin g  S c h ul tz

while the story poses interesting

questions about faith, inner strength

and survival.

7. Lincoln Daniel Day-Lewis

shines with a towering performance as

Abraham Lincoln, while Tommy

Lee Jones nearly steals the show as

anti-slavery Republican Thaddeus

Stevens. Steven Spielberg directs

with a meticulous, deft touch, and

the exquisite production values (es-

pecially costuming and set design)

establish the time period beautifully.

And while “Lincoln” plays a bit like

a $50 million history lesson, four

score and seven years from now it

may well be considered the most ac-

curate and authentic film ever made

about the 16th president.

6. The Avengers Adjectives used

in some of Marvel Comics’ iconic

titles from the early 1960s through
today — amazing, fantastic, incred-
ible — also describe director Joss

Whedon’s superhero epic. Whedon

(“Serenity”) helms with a master

craftsman’s focus and a devoted fan’s
enthusiasm in adapting the popular

Marvel series that made its print de-
but in 1963. The screenplay is witty
and rife with whip-smart dialogue;

visual effects and costume design are
exceptional; character dynamics are
deeply developed; and the ambitious

action scenes are astonishing.

5. Life of Pi The most visually

stunning film since James Cameron’s

“Avatar” is also a spiritually insight-
ful powerhouse. The filmmaking

team of director Ang Lee (“Broke-

back Mountain”) and screenwriter

David Magee (“Finding Neverland”)

inspire with this vibrant adaptation

of Yann Martel’s award-winning

novel. Phenomenal 3D effects (was

it raining in the theater?) highlight

the breathtaking action sequences

while the story poses interesting

questions about faith, inner strength

and survival.

4. Beasts of the Southern Wild

There is an organic, elemental under-
tone to rookie director Benh Zeitlin’s

Louisiana-based drama. “Beasts” is

as harrowing as it is heart-wrench-
ing. Youngster Quvenzhane Wallis

captivates in a demanding role while

the rest of the unrecognizable cast

rallies around her. Symbolism flows
throughout, and the musical score

by Zeitlin and Dan Romer strikes an

emotional chord. In a year flooded

with star-driven, big-budget block-
busters, “Beasts” is the little indie

that could.

3. Moonrise Kingdom The films

of writer/director Wes Anderson (“The Royal Tenenbaums,” “Fantas-
tic Mr. Fox’) are something of an ac-

quired taste, and this sweet romantic

comedy is a treat. “Moonrise” is akin
to a cinematic dollhouse: a movie un-
usual in tone but universal in context.

Glorious coney that plays like vintage

Woody Allen.

6. The Kid With a Bike An ach-
ing story of childhood need, Jean-Pierre

and Luc Dardenne’s latest breathes as

steadily as life itself. With his direc-

tors, Thomas Doret forges a vision in

red as 11-year-old Cyril, a reck-

less, heart-on-his-sleeve little man —

shoved too soon into his coming of

age — who chases a deadbeat dad

and a desired makeshift mom.

Page 16 • January 4, 2013 • Palo Alto Weekly • www.PaloAltoOnline.com
Many of us can relate to the thrill of independence and young love, which Anderson and his adolescent leads capture wonderfully. Honest, under-the-storybook atmosphere. Anderson and his adolescent leads in independence and young love, which Many of us can relate to the thrill of independence and young love, which Anderson and his adolescent leads capture wonderfully. Honest, under-the-storybook atmosphere.

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

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

Tylor Hanley’s pans
Dark Shadows The typically reliable tandem of director Tim Burton and actor Johnny Depp disappoints with this underwhelming comedy/horror hybrid. In trying to walk the tautrope between two genres, “Dark Shadows” tumbles somewhere into the murky middle, where ho-hum effects coupled with a numbskull plot leave us with a zombie apocalypse in “World War Z” (June 21).

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

The Three Stooges Ninety-two minutes of slapstick and sound effects coupled with a nonsensical plot that prominently features the cast of MTV’s “Jersey Shore.” “Ouch.”

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

Next year’s big screen slate runs the gamut from the origin of humanity to a zombie apocalypse
by Tyler Hanley
Each year movie studios roll out a plethora of fresh flicks to impress — or depress — eager viewers. We never know which ones will be worth our box-office bucks until reviews and word-of-mouth offer insight.

The new year starts off with what could be a bang or a thud. Ruben Fleischer’s “Gangster Squad.” Fortunately, 2013 is brimming with tantalizing prospects after that. Here’s a sampling of what the year has in store for cinema-goers:


In February, Al Pacino, Alan Arkin and Christopher Walken take on playing con men in the crime/faction/comedy “Stand Up Guys” (Feb. 1). “Bridesmaids” standout Melissa McCarthy sips jason Bateman’s identity in the aptly titled “Identity Thief” (Feb. 8) from “Horrible Bosses” director Rob McElhenney. New York City police cop John McClane (Bruce Willis) heads to Russia and teams up with his equally bad-ass son (Jai Courtney) in “A Good Day to Die Hard” (Feb. 15). The best-selling novel by authors Kami Garcia and Margaret Stohl comes to life in “Beastly Creatures” (Feb. 15) starring Emmy Rossum and Jeremy Irons.

In March, a young farmer aims to rescue a captive princess in director Bryan Singer’s “The Giant Slayer” (March 1). Palo Alto’s homegrown hero James Franco strolls the yellow-brick road along- side Mila Kunis, Rachel Weisz and actor Johnny Depp disappoints with this underwhelming comedy/sci-fi hodgepodge with its wealth of awkward scenarios and dearth of humor.

Top: Johnny Depp and Armie Hammer in “The Lone Ranger,” Above: Idris Elba in “Pacific Rim.”


In June, director M. Night Shayamalan of “Sixth Sense” fame (and “The Last Airbender” infamy) tries to regain his mojo with the sci-fi adventure “After Earth” (June 7) starring Will Smith and his son, Jaden. Superman soars across the silver screen yet again in “Man of Steel” (June 14), with “Watchmen” director Zack Snyder at the helm and Henry Cavill (”Immortals”) in the title role. Pixar Animation’s lovable monsters Mike (voice of Billy Crystal) and Sulley (voice of John Goodman) go to college in “Monsters University” (June 21). Brad Pitt tries to put the kibosh on a zombie apocalypse in “World War Z” (June 21).

As the summer continues, Armie Hammer (“The Social Network”) and Johnny Depp ride for justice in Gore Verbinski’s adaptation of the popular TV western “The Lone Ranger” (July 5). Massive, human-powered robots are mankind’s only defense against Godzilla-esque creatures in Guillermo del Toro’s “Pacific Rim” (July 12). High Jackman pops his claws and heads off to Japan in “The Wolverine” (July 26), an offering from director James Mangold (“Identity”). Matt Damon fights for equality in “District 9” director Neill Blomkamp’s sci-fi drama “Elysium” (Aug. 9).


Also, here are two likely gems: Simon Pegg, Nick Frost and director Edgar Wright (all of “Shaun of the Dead” and “Hot Fuzz”) reunite for the apocalyptic comedy “The World’s End” (October). Meanwhile, mastermind filmmaker Martin Scorsese gathers an A-list cast (including Leonardo DiCaprio, Jonah Hill and Matt McGraw) for likely Oscar contender “The Wolf of Wall Street” (release date TBA).

Happy New Year, movie lovers.

(continued on page 18)
2012 films (continued from page 17)

Susan Tavernetti’s top films

10. Life of Pi

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

9. The Middle

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

8. Silver Linings Playbook

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

7. How to Survive a Plague

The documentary shortlist for the 2013 Oscars, David France’s searing look at the AIDS epidemic showcases the ACT UP activists whose agenda was to arouse, anger and take action against the deadly disease. A testament to steely determination, the film seamlessly stitches together archival footage and interviews that chart the challenges against the NIH and FDA, drug companies, health professionals and politicians. Both history lesson and passionate call to arms, the documentary gives a human face to the statistics and reminds us that hope and more research go hand in hand.

6. The Perks of Being a Wallflower

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

5. Beasts of the Southern Wild

A debut feature of such original voice and vision is a rare beast indeed. Writer-director Benh Zeitlin’s dreamlike fable of a subculture living on the wrong side of a southern Louisiana levee — as conjured by 6-year-old Hushpuppy — offers an imaginative portrait of the future waiting for death. The film beautifully stitches together archival footage to plunge us into the 1979 Iran hostage crisis. A last-ditch plan requires the hunted diplomats to pose as a Canadian film crew scouting locations for a fake science-fiction movie titled “Argo,” while a well-known film producer (Alan Arkin) hilarious-ly keep up pretenses in Hollywood. Fact may be stranger than fiction, but the two are perfectly integrated in Affleck’s top-notch production.

4. A Separation

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

3. Argo

Sharply observed humor about the movie business cuts through the tension of director-star Ben Affleck’s white-knuckle political thriller. Based on the true events of CIA agent Tony Mendez’s rescue of six American embassy workers trapped in Tehran, the film uses gritty newsreel footage to plunge us into the war on terror — and most likely consideration for a Best Picture nomination.

2. Amour

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

1. Zero Dark Thirty

In the assured hands of director Kathryn Bigelow, the film is a journalist-screenwriter Mark Boal, the manhunt for the mastermind of the 9/11 attacks becomes an ambitious, complex and rewarding cinematic achievement. Never a boring procedural, the needle-in-a-haystack search for Osama bin Laden takes the workday lives of agents — sometimes dull, sometimes dangerous — and shapes the sprawling narrative into a nail-biter. Displaying an incredible range of emotion, Jessica Chastain plays the CIA analyst who breaks the case. She can appear shamed and vulnerable during “enhanced” interrogation scenes of detained Al Qaeda suspects, and then exhibit reinforced-steel-and-concrete resolve as she relentlessly continues her investigative work.

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

Arts & Entertainment

The New Yorker

Larissa MacFarquhar

Writer, The New Yorker

The philosopher Peter Singer compares the way most of us live to seeing a child drowning in a shallow pond and declining to save him so as not to muddy our clothes. Even if we don’t see a particular child in danger, we’re still responsible for a death if we spend $200 on shoes rather than on life-saving medicine. But how can you live measuring every action by its effect on dying children? Larissa MacFarquhar will tell the story of a couple of young utilitarians who do believe it and live their lives accordingly.

Tuesday, January 15, 2013 - 7:00 pm
Knight Management Center, CEMEX Auditorium, Stanford University
ethicsinsociety.stanford.edu/
On Mountain View’s stretch of El Camino Real between Shoreline Boulevard and El Monte Avenue, things change yet the area remains the same, a hodgepodge. Good news: Now we have Tommy Thai.

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

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

One of the chefs is Thai, one Cambodian. The manager is Cambodian and the owners Chinese. Vegetarians find lots of choices beyond the usual deep-fried tofu appetizer ($5.95). Tommy Thai’s extensive vegetarian menu offers six appetizers, three salads, three noodle dishes, eight curries, three soups, four fried-rice dishes and 10 specialties including steamed spinach tofu ($7.95) and spicy eggplant.

Eating Out (continued on page 20)

**DINNER BY THE MOVIES AT SHORELINE’S**

**Cucina Venti**

1390 Pear Ave., Mountain View
(650) 254-1120
www.cucinaventi.com

**“Sorrento Watermelon” Salad**

Cocomero con fichi e rucola

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

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

(continued on page 20)
(continued from previous page)

bass tofu ($7.95).

Prices are probably going up this month, but in December, the $6.99 lunch's popularity was marred only by the charge for rice ($1). Lunch comes with soup and salad, not rice. However, instead of receiving a tin pot of gluey grains, you get a steaming bowl of moist and chewy rice, brown or white, for your $1.

Return trips for lunch offer fresh adventure. The 20 dishes are sauteed, pan-fried or stewed, and you pick your protein in each case. Two rules to keep in mind at Tommy Thai: Portions are large, and spicy means spicy.

We hardly dented the menu, starting with a lovely silver noodle salad ($8.95) stocked with tender beef. Po tak soup was a refreshing brew of hot and sour seafood. The small bowl ($8.95) was more than enough for two people. Of course they also have tom yum and tom kha soups, as well as tom jurd woon and four noodle soups. Also satisfying was the yellow curry chicken ($8.95).

The server wisely suggested hor mok ($11.95 with rock cod, $13.95 with seafood). Chunks of meltingly delicious fish spring hot from the foil wrapping, in a stew of Napa cabbage, basil, egg, coconut milk and red curry. From the Cambodian specialties, we did not love trob char kroeung ($9.95 with shrimp). It wasn’t the shrimp’s fault. They were fresh and plentiful. It was the oversupply of red and green peppers. Had I known, I would have asked for more eggplant instead.

For as beverages, bypass the two-wine wine list and drink beer or tea.

About the name, Tommy Thai: For a brief period after Mr. Chau’s, the restaurant was called Tommy T’s Grill. One of Tommy Thai’s chefs is named Tom, so to keep it simple they stuck with Tommy. (Or else, the usual Thai restaurant names were taken.)

**Spicy rocky cod is covered in chili-garlic sauce.**
“Just the facts,” except where content to sidestep as they claim, pose does “Zero Dark Thirty” filmmaking that makes “The Hurt Locker” — “Zero Dark Thirty” resound the AS hunt for Osama bin Laden, the man who claimed responsibility for the 9/11 terrorist attack. At the outset, the film announces it is “based on first-hand accounts of actual events.” It’s no spoiler to say that the film begins with actual audio from Sept. 11, 2001, and ends with bin Laden being shot in the head by U.S. Navy SEALs in May 2011.

By following a fiercely determined CIA officer (Jessica Chastain’s Maya), “Zero Dark Thirty” creates an identification with her agony of defeat and thrill of victory along the way, building a rooting interest while otherwise eschewing character development in favor of detail-oriented procedural.

But the devil is in the details. While I have no doubt that Boal’s docudramatic screenplay hews closely to his journalistic research, one might well say, “Consider the sources.” And the calendar. Even more so than with Paul Greengrass’ “United 93,” it’s fair to suggest that Hollywood treatment of such politically delicate — and, in this case, covert — recent history comes “too soon,” and is less about the crucial historical perspective that comes with time.

Certainly, Chastain turns in a potent performance (Bigelow saves the most emotionally complex moment for the film’s resolution, as Chastain wordlessly processes the closure of 10 driven years), and the sprawling ensemble cast supports her well, especially Jason Clarke as an “enhanced interrogation technique” expert and Kyle Chandler as the CIA Islamabad station chief Joseph Bradley. The film’s tech specs are second to none, with crack work from cinematographer Sergio G. Sanchez’s effi- cient script presses hard on the thematic button of fate, and it would have been easy for “The Impossible” to come off as simply shameless in its tear-jerking. Perhaps it is, but Bayona shows a Spielbergian skill for putting the audience through an emotional wringer, in part by guiding its cast to resonant performances. Watts ably embodies maternal focus under extreme duress, and McGregor has a heartbreaking scene of emotional breakdown

(continued on next page)
that suggests unplumbed depths to his talent.

In a notable breakout turn, Hol-land (who starred for a spell in the West End production of “Billy Eli- liot”) frequently and powerfully shoulders the film, as Lucas finds himself thrust into unimagined angst and responsibility, while Joslin and Pendergast prove guile- lessly convincing in their (literally) smaller roles.

A real-life disaster shouldn’t be the basis for a cinematic thrill ride, but the film’s tsunami puts a lump in one’s throat to accom- plish white knuckles, as prelude to a story of keeping clear heads and clear hearts in the face of the unthinkable.

Rated PG-13 for intense realistic disaster sequences, including in- jury images and brief nudity. One hour, 54 minutes.

— Peter Canavese
The Stanford basketball team hit an all-time low and its historic 90-game win streak two years ago. On Saturday, the Huskies returned the basketball favor as they snapped the Cardinal’s 82-game home win streak with a 61-35 victory in Maples Pavilion.

Stanford’s first loss of the season came on March 18, 2007, to Connecticut in the second round of the NCAA tournament. In a matchup between the nation’s top two teams, UConn looked more like a No. 1 instead of a No. 2 with its dominating performance. The Huskies moved to 11-0 and will take over the nation’s top spot while handing top-ranked Stanford (11-1) its first loss. Stanford (11-0) will take over the nation’s No. 2 ranking.

Tara VanDerveer, Stanford coach, was frustrated but more at herself. “We need to get to that standard. I’m motivated, definitely,” she said. “Connecticut, the team we just played for 40 minutes, is the standard I’m motivated, definitely. We need to get to that standard. I was frustrated but more at myself.”

Stanford suffered through its worst shooting performance in the history of its program, making a mere 19-of-57 (33%) of its shots. The Cardinal made just 5-of-33 shots for 15 percent in the first half, leading to a 31-13 deficit. The 11 made baskets were also a historic low. The previous low was 17, the last time nearly six years ago. The 26-point margin is also the largest ever for a Stanford team at Maples Pavilion. The last time the Cardinal was beaten by 20 points or more at home was in 1986. The Cardinal doesn’t get much of a breather in its schedule either. Stanford plays at No. 23 Colorado on Friday and at Utah on Sunday, then goes to No. 8 California before hosting the Bears and No. 17 UCLA.

ON THE AIR

Friday
Women’s basketball: Stanford at Colorado, 7 p.m.; Pac-12 Networks; KZSU (90.1 FM)

Saturday
Men’s basketball: Stanford at UCLA, noon; Pac-12 Networks; KZSU (90.1 FM)

Tuesday
College football: Stanford at Cal, 7 p.m.; Pac-12 Networks; KZSU (90.1 FM)

Wednesday
Men’s basketball: Washington at Stanford, 7 p.m.; Pac-12 Networks; KZSU (90.1 FM)

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Nothing really has changed. Three different quarterbacks have started in the school’s past four bowl appearances, the running backs have been different, the offensive line has changed and defensive schemes have been reinvented. There also have been numerous coaching changes, including at the top. The 2012 results have been the same, though. The Cardinal continued to win, continued to progress in ways expected four or five years ago.

Thus, Tuesday’s 20-14 victory over Wisconsin in the Rose Bowl did not feel like some culmination of things well done but instead had the feel of success yet to come.

David Shaw took over a program already lined with high expectations and did the only thing he could: raise those expectations to improbable heights.

This Rose Bowl victory began the day after last year’s Fiesta Bowl loss. What happens next year is just starting now. “We’ll enjoy this. We’ll have a great time and we’ll get back to winter conditioning,” Shaw said. “I’ve reminded the young men in the locker room how hard it was to get to this point. It’s not going to be any easier.”

In our conference, we beat each other up throughout the year, so next year is not going to be easy. Every team is going to be back, big, better, and stronger, and it’s our job to be the same way.”

Over the past four years Stanford has won 43 of its 53 games. In the previous four years the Cardinal went 15-32. Between 2002 and 2008, the longest stretch of losing seasons (7) in Stanford history, the Cardinal went a combined 25-55. Appearances in four straight bowl games, three a BCS affiliate contest, has given Stanford some cache. The Rose Bowl victory gives it some juice.

Redshirt freshman Kevin Hogan
Usua Amanam (left) was named the game’s Defensive MVP after preserving Stanford’s victory with an interception while running back Stepfan Taylor was the Offensive MVP with 88 rushing yards and a TD.
Palo Alto boys’ basketball adjusting well despite losing last year’s leading scorer

by Keith Peters

When junior standout E.J. Floreal left Palo Alto High last spring due to his family moving to Kentucky, there probably was concern how Floreal’s departure would affect the Vikings’ basketball team.

After all, the 6-foot-4 Floreal had led a Paly team that went 21-5 with 14.3 points and 7.3 rebounds a game. Certainly, his departure left some big shoes to fill.

Well, those shoes are no longer empty as the Vikings have opened the season 10-1 following a 55-42 victory over visiting Milpitas on Wednesday in a SCVAL De Anza Division opener.

“We’re adjusting pretty well,” said 6-4 Paly swingman Aubrey Dawkins. “Filling the rebounding role (left by Floreal) was pretty important, but Keller Chryst — the football guy — has been doing a good job. As for points, we haven’t lost that much.”

With Floreal last season, Paly averaged 57.7 points a game. This season, the Vikings are averaging 63.8. Dawkins averaged 12.7 points and 5.1 rebounds last year, but is up to 18.5 points and 6.9 rebounds this season. “I think we’re doing fine,” said Dawkins, who poured in 26 points against Milpitas as the Vikings won their eighth straight.

Perhaps the biggest change for Paly is a new offense, which doesn’t focus as much on post play but utilizes the perimeter a bit more. Thus, senior guard Aldis Petriceks had raised his scoring average from 5.6 ppg to 15.5 ppg while senior guard Mathias Schmutz has gone from 6.4 ppg to 8.5. For just those three players, that’s a combined improvement of 17.8 points a game.

The 6-4 Chryst has been a welcomed addition, as well. Despite a long and successful football season, Chryst has made plenty of early contributions while playing in 10 of the 11 games. He’s averaging 6.6 points and 6.1 rebounds a game. He had seven boards against Milpitas.

Despite losing five players off last season’s team, the Vikings are off and running.

The Vikings continue to emphasize defense and have allowed an average of 47.9 ppg this season.

Prior to opening the division season, Palo Alto tuned up by winning the Windsor Holiday Shootout that wrapped up Saturday. The Vikings went 3-0, with Petriceks scoring 60 points and Dawkins 54. Petriceks was named the Most Valuable Player while Dawkins joined him on the all-tournament team.

In a SCVAL El Camino Division opener on Wednesday, Gunn sophomore Chris Russell knocked down four 3-pointers and finished with 16 points but the Titans (0-1, 3-8) fell behind by 14 after the third quarter and dropped a 65-48 decision to host Fremont. Patrick Skelly added 14 points for the Titans, who host Monta Vista on Friday at 7 p.m.

Girls’ basketball

Palo Alto snapped a three-game losing streak by holding visiting Milpitas to single-digit scoring in each quarter and forcing 36 turnovers on the way to a 39-19 victory to open the SCVAL De Anza Division season on Wednesday. Freshman Maddie Atwater led the Vikings (1-0, 5-7) with 11 points.

Paly shot less than 25 percent from the floor through the first three quarters while pulling ahead to a 20-15 lead. The Vikings warmed up and made 61 percent of their shots in the fourth quarter while tallying 19 points.

Girls’ soccer

Palo Alto grabbed an early lead on a goal by Jess Branson in the ninth minute, but the Vikings couldn’t make that stand up and wound up with a 1-1 deadlock with visiting Santa Clara in a SCVAL El Camino Division soccer opener on Wednesday.

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

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

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

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

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

For further information please contact Michele L. King, Clerk of the Board at (408) 630-2711, or by e-mail at: mking@valleywater.org.
is 5-0 as a starting quarterback, all against teams that qualified for a postseason bowl game. He was not alone, though. He had the support of an offensive line that dug in and refused its opponents to step over the line drawn in the sand.

Senior Stephan Taylor utilized his strengths and the strengths of the Cardinal offense to rush for 88 yards against Wisconsin, 39 of them coming in a punishing fourth quarter that may have shown, finally, that when it comes to finishing Stanford may have no equal.

“It’s not about playing perfect,” said Shaw. “It’s about finishing strong. I knew the unity, the way we play together would give us a chance to win.”

Usua Amanam was named the Bowl Defensive MVP, mostly for his clutch interception with just 2:03 left to play. He too had help in the form of All-American Trent Murphy and guys like Ben Gardner, Henry Anderson, Chase Thomas and Shayne Skov.

Stanford’s defense showed up, checked in and did its job. Despite allowing 218 rushing yards, the Cardinal put a stranglehold on Wisconsin’s Montee Ball (the most prolific running back in NCAA history in terms of scoring touchdowns) in the second half and shutting out the Badgers the final 30 minutes of play.

Stanford improved to 11-12-1 all-time in bowl games in front of 93,359 fans. Amanam’s interception with 2:03 to play was the only turnover of the game.

“Fortunately, the ball just fell in my hands,” Amanam said. “I happened to see him go to middle of the field. I just happened to be at the right place at the right time.”

Taylor scored once, a three-yard run in the first quarter. It was his 45th career touchdown, a school record. He had been tied with Toby Gerhart entering the game. Taylor finished his career with 4,300 rushing yards, also a school record.

Taylor’s performance was not lost on former Stanford running back Toby Gerhart, who was on hand to see the game.

“Nobody was talking about our offensive line,” Shaw said.

“We’re good. I think we’re playing as well as anybody in the country. Unfortunately, the season’s over, but it’s a hell of a way to go out.”

— Kevin Hogan

Our guys knew if we played smart and played together and played hard, we’d give ourselves a chance to be right here.”

Clinging to a 17-14 lead in the fourth quarter on Tuesday, Stanford caught a break in field position when Drew Terrell was hit while catching a punt. The Cardinal took over at its 44 and finally moved into Wisconsin territory for the first time since the first quarter.

That led to a 22-yard field goal by Jordan Williamson, who kicked

(continued on page 28)
Support our Kids

with a gift to the Holiday Fund.

Each year the Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund raises money to support programs serving families and children in the Palo Alto area. Since the Weekly and the Silicon Valley Community Foundation cover all the administrative costs, every dollar raised goes directly to support community programs through grants to non-profit organizations ranging from $1,000 to $25,000.

And with the generous support of matching grants from local foundations, including the Packard and Hewlett foundations, your tax-deductible gift will be doubled in size. A donation of $100 turns into $200 with the foundation matching gifts.

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John and Lynn Wiese 100
Don and Elaine Andrews 500
Susie and Matt Glickman 250
Caroline Hjcks and Bert Fingerthul 100
Eric and Elaine Hahn 1,000
Jean-Yves Bouguet 100
Scott and Kathy Schroder 250
Lucy Berman 1,500
Karen and Steve Ross 200
John and Mary Schaeffer 100
Caroline & Richard Brennan 50
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bonini 30
Freddy and Jan Gabus 50
Ted Wassam 250
Barbara Klave & Stan Scher 250
Edward Kanazawa 250
Eugene and Mabel Dong 250
Penny and Greg Gallo 50
Eve and John Melton 250
Nancy and Joe Huber 250
Larry Baer & Stephanie Klein 100
Bill Johnson &Terri Lobdell 100
Peter S. Stiem 100
Leif and Sharon Erickson 250
Luca and Maria Caliero 100
Denise Savoie & Darrell Dufle 250
Faith Braff 500
Tom and Neva Cotter 250
Patricia Levin 250
Richard Kliner 100
Bob and Corrine Aulgar 50
Linda and Steve Boxer 250
Ted and Ginny Chou 250
David and Virginia Pollard 300
Debbie Ford-Scriba & Jim Scriba 100
Diane Moore 100
Harriet and Gerry Berne 100
John and Susan Thomas 200
Marc and Ragna Pasturel 100
Margot Goodman 200
Beth and Peter Rosenthal 300
Don and Jacqueline Rush 200
Mark and Virginia Kreutzer 75
Mary Houlihan 100
Sally Dudley 100
Arienne Dong 100
Ann M. Pine 100
Nel and Sally Nordlund 500
Drew McCalley & Marilyn Green 100
Joseph and Diane Rolfe 100
Richard A. Zwainich 200
Arthur and Helena Kramer 100
Bobbie and Jerry Wagger 100
Leonard Levy 100
Robyn H. Crumly 100
Sue Kemp 100
Andrea B. Smith 100
Katherine Bass 100
Tatjana Berezin 100
Gwen Luca 100
Roger Warrne 100
Alice Smith 100
Boyce and Peggy Nue 100
Richard Morris 100
Scott Wong 200
Tom and Ellen Ehrlich 100
Barbara Barry 100
The Haven Family 9,000
Solon Pinkston 250
Kevin Kay and Hay Hays 100
Hal and Iris Korel 250
Ferrell and Page Sanders 100
Lynn H. Drake 100
Owen Vannatta 2,500
Arden King 20
Bruce F. Campbell 1,000
George and Betty Young 100
Doug and Barbara Spreng 100
Andy and Liz Cole 100
Dena Goldberg 100
Jim and Alama Phillips 250
John and Lee Pierce 100
Andy and Joyce Nelson 100
Karen Latchford 100
Mary Lorey 100
Michael and Nancy Hall 1,000
Barbara and John Fishman 100
and Mark Krasonow 200
Phil Hanawalt 500
Graciela Spikav 500
Amy and John Wengrow 250
Marc and Margaret Cohen 100
Michael and Jean Couch 200
Krommy Family Fund 250
Mandy Lowell 200
Julie and Jon Jerome 200
Jody Maxim 200
Josephine B. Spitzer 150
Rick and Eileen Brooks 150
Maria Gauld 100
Debbie Mytels 100
Marcia Katz 200
Bob and Edith Kirkwood 250
Jery and Linda Elkind 250
Adele and Don Langendorf 200
Susan and Doug Woddman 200
Larry Breed 200
Dr. Teresa L. Roberts 1,000

In honor of
Our Grandchildren 100
Rema I. Cotton 200
The Barnea-Smith Family 100
Sandy Sloan 100
Marilyn Satorius 150
Jack Satorius 150
Dr. Kenneth Weigel 100
Stanford Animal Hospital 100
Lady Vikes Waterpolo 200
Businesses & Organizations
Zane MacGregor 200
deLemos Properties 200
Alta Mesa Improvement Company 1,000
Crescent Capital Mortgage 1,000
“No Limit” Drag Racing Team 25
Harrell Remodeling, Inc. 10
Thaitsi Bros. Insurance 10,000
Carl King, Mortgage Broker 250
Attorney Susan Dondershel 200

In memory Of
Sally Probst 100
Dr. Thomas McDonald 100
Gary Fazzino 200
Jim Burch, from Bill and Kathy Burch 200
Derek E. Smith 200
John D. Black 200
Pam Grady 200
Wanda Root and Jacques Naar 200
Robert Spirnared 200
Sally and Bob 50
Sports

PALO ALTO CITY COUNCIL
CIVIC CENTER, 250 HAMILTON AVENUE
BROADCAST LIVE ON KZSU, FM 90.1
CABLECAST LIVE ON GOVERNMENT ACCESS CHANNEL 26

THIS IS A SUMMARY OF COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS.
THE AGENDA WITH COMPLETE TITLES INCLUDING LEGAL DOCUMENTATION CAN BE VIEWED AT THE BELOW WEBPAGE:
http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/knowzone/agendas/council.asp

(TENTATIVE) AGENDA – REGULAR MEETING – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
JANUARY 07, 2013 - 7:00 PM

1. Swearing in of New Council Members
2. Election of Mayor and Vice Mayor for 2013
3. Approval of a Resolution Honoring Mayor Yeh
4. Approval of a Resolution Honoring Council Member Espinosa

A J. Tarpley (left) congratulates quarterback Kevin Hogan following Stanford’s 20-14 victory over Wisconsin in the Rose Bowl game.

Announcing the Embarcadero Media

Gap-Year Media Internship

Thinking about taking a gap-year before starting college? The Palo Alto Weekly and Palo Alto Online invite graduating high school seniors to apply for a unique one-year paid internship between mid-June, 2013 and July, 2014.

Working as an assistant to the publisher, you will learn about all aspects of print and digital publishing and be assigned a wide variety of tasks and projects, ranging from routine administrative support to helping with events and promotions, creating web content, assisting with research on reporting projects and learning about sales & marketing.

For more information and an application, go to PaloAltoOnline.com/gapyear

Deadline: February 1, 2013

(We also offer limited unpaid summer internships for high school seniors.)

More than a reported 40,000 Stanford fans turned out to cheer the Cardinal to victory in the Rose Bowl on Tuesday in Pasadena.

Page 28 • January 4, 2013 • Palo Alto Weekly • www.PaloAltoOnline.com
fogster.com is a unique website offering FREE postings from communities throughout the Bay Area and an opportunity for your ad to appear in the Palo Alto Weekly, The Almanac and the Mountain View Voice.

415 Classes
Take a Class in Los Altos

420 Healing/Bodywork
Scheff Greenwich Hospital Services

425 Health Services
Medical Alert for Seniors

Sheep Sufferers with Fibromyalgia, Get Free CPR
Replacement Supplies at No Cost, plus
red blood cells, and lymphocytes.
Call 888-699-7660.

475 Psychotherapy & Counseling

Counseling Services
Counselors at no cost counseling services by appointment.

For Sale
201 Autos/Trucks/Parts

202 Vehicles Wanted
CASH FOR CARS

Donate Your Car, Truck, Rv, boat, or vehicle for kids.

210 Garage/Estate Sales

Palo Alto

500 Help Wanted

Sales Consultant
Heathland & Associates is accepting resumes for the position of Sales Consultant. Call (650) 985-8829.

330 Child Care Offered

As part from Mexico - 325/week

340 Child Care Wanted

part-time nanny/driver needed

345 Tutoring/Lessons

College Admissions Counseling

560 Employment Information

Extra Income! Assembling CD cases

575 Cleaning Services
Family House Service
free to Hewlett-Packard Company, 5400

615 Computers
Ned Hollis, 650/856-9475

Wall Units * Window Seats.
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624 Financial Counseling

Realtors, it's time to get

Reverse Mortgage

645 Office/Home Business Services

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Advertisements

The business that considers itself
to Hewlett-Packard Company, 5400

Advertisements

The business that considers itself
Garden Tips

Time to plan, prune and clean up garden beds

by Jack McKinnon

I’m still cold, wet and bare in the garden. Well, not completely bare; I wear my swim trunks. I love being inside my Gore-Tex jacket and swim trunks along with my Gore-Tex jacket and swim trunks. It’s a little chilly from the waist down but sure is easy to dry out when I go in. Notice that the big holidays are gone we sit and wonder what will come in the spring. Will it be wildflowers, bulbs, roses or will it be weeds, pumice grasses, gophers and more mud? Who knows? What is important is that for now we can plan and dream and go on with chores.

I am still pruning and doing clean-up jobs and soon will be getting into the personal garden coaching. I look forward to seeing the homeowners to see the light and the colors of spring to come. Here are this month’s tips:

1. If you haven’t done your pruning this is the perfect time. Remove the worst first including dead, dying and diseased branches. This practice for me takes a lot of the pressure of shaping and thinning off. After clean up, stand back and become an artist.

2. Thin out tangling and crossing branches along with excess vines and branches that are not needed. Don’t be afraid to be bold (unless of course it is going to threaten your marriage).

3. Visit several nurseries when you are out and about. Ask when the spring flowers in six-packs will arrive and if they have already, then buy some.

4. If you grow vegetables, now is the time to clean out and prepare your beds. Add new compost and dig it in throwing in some fertil- izer as well. For organic fertilizers I like to go to Common Ground in Palo Alto for bulk selections. I make two trips to Common Ground for fertilizers. The first is to write down what they have (like alfalfa meal, bat guano, etc.) and the second trip after looking up all the different ones online to see if I want them and how much to use and buy.

5. Pull weeds early. It seems a simple concept but is so valu- able to the garden on the whole. If you get them small it is easier and decreases the likelihood they will re-produce. I did clean-up for one landscape architect in Palo Alto who had me leave everything where I pulled it. Just shake off the soil and drop them on the ground to become mulch for the shady areas. Don’t.

6. Invite friends to talk with about what you are doing in your gardens. This is a good opportu- nity to catch up on life in general and have some coffee and pastries without guilt.

7. Keep an eye on the neighbor- hood see what others are doing. It is OK to borrow ideas or if you are really brazen steal them. Just don’t be too obvious — it is bad form.

8. Visit gardens like Filoli in Woodside, Gamble Garden in Palo Alto and San Francisco Botanical Gardens in Golden Gate Park for ideas. Of course Sunset Magazine in Menlo Park has been an icon of gardening inspiration for decades.

9. Plant wildflower seeds by sowing in open areas and cover- ing with a thin layer of fine soil or mulch. They will naturalize but it won’t hurt to water them if no rain comes for three weeks.

10. Go out into your garden. Make it a habit to take a walk in the morning or when you get home from work. We live in one of the best gardening zones on the planet and may as well appreciate it.

Good gardening.

Jackie gardencoach.com can be reached at 650-455-6687 (cell), by email at jack@gardencouch.com. Visit his web- site at www.jackiegardencouch.com.
320 JANE DRIVE, WOODSIDE
Offered at $6,999,000
Contemporary home on 6+ acres. 5 bedrooms, 4.5 bath. Open living floor plan with stunning kitchen. 4 different living areas, Formal LR, Family/kitch, recreation room and library all ideal for entertaining. 2 car attached garage and separate workshop. Call for appointment.

2425 TASSO, PALO ALTO
Offered at $999,000
Spacious lr/dr with fireplace and opens to paco & yard. 2nd bath is split with toilet/shower with sink in bedroom. Bonus/office has washer/dryer. Garage at rear of property. 7400 sq ft lot on dead end street.

128 HUCKLEBERRY TRAIL, WOODSIDE
Offered at $699,000
Wonderful county style 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths approx. 2000 sq ft built in 2005. Separate office/bonus room on property including 2nd half bath. Large 10,000 sq. ft level lot.

164 ROXBURY, SANTA CLARA
Offered at $949,000
4 plex: All 2 bed 1 ba units. 850-1000 sq ft each. W/D shared in complex. 1 carport per unit. 1000 sq ft front unit with hardwood floor perfect for owners unit. Lovely area and steady rents.

For more information or Virtual Tour visit www.margotlockwood.com
Wishing you & your Family a happy and healthy 2013
Expressing my gratitude for my 2012 Transactions

95 Yale Road
3260 Waverley Street
19735 Solana Drive
356 Marmona Drive
671 Valparaiso Avenue
320 Lennox Ave
1809 Silva Place
1041 Almanor Avenue
1895 Anne Marie Court
1855 Barton Street
1185 Marsh Road
1905 Cedar Street
4009 Fernwood Street
315 Laning Drive
701 Berkeley Avenue
2416 Sharon Oaks Dr
2116 Coronet Boulevard
351 Oakwood Bl
563 Magdalena
12125 Oak Park Court

2111 Latham Street
575 Oak Knoll Lane
3280 Ross Road
1325 Garden Lane
511 King Drive
48 Gresham Lane
655 Hale St
851 Nevada Ave
1271 Westwood St
1244 Connecticut Dr
250 Edgewood Rd
14253 Worden Way
3 Versailles St
324 Channing Ave
1623 Escobita Ave
4134 Sutherland Dr
3077 Mariposa Av
Stanford Ave
1246 Sharon Oaks Dr
889 Woodland Ave

Judy Citron
Direct 650.543.1206
jcitron@apr.com
DRE #01825569

THANK YOU to my clients, colleagues, family and friends for a busy 2012. It is my privilege to work for and with each of you. I look forward to a strong real estate market in 2013.

SOLD IN 2012
COWPER STREET
PALO ALTO
Represented the Seller
2 Offers

SOLD IN 2012
RAMOSO ROAD
PORTOLA VALLEY
Represented the Buyer

SOLD IN 2012
CREEK ROAD
MENLO PARK
Represented the Seller
31 Offers

SOLD IN 2012
POSSUM LANE
PORTOLA VALLEY
Represented the Buyer

SOLD IN 2012
ARBOR ROAD
MENLO PARK
Represented the Buyer

SOLD IN 2012
HAWTHORNE AVENUE
MENLO PARK
Represented the Seller
5 Offers

SOLD IN 2012
GOLDEN OAK
PORTOLA VALLEY
Represented the Buyer

SOLD IN 2012
BYRON STREET
PALO ALTO
Represented the Seller

SOLD IN 2012
SANTA CRUZ AVENUE
MENLO PARK
Represented the Buyer

SOLD IN 2012
SANTA CRUZ AVENUE
MENLO PARK
Represented the Seller
6 Offers

SOLD IN 2012
WINDSOR WAY
MENLO PARK
Represented the Buyer

SOLD IN 2012
OAK KNOLL LANE
MENLO PARK
Represented the Buyer

SOLD IN 2012
MONTEREY DUNES
CASTROVILLE
Represented the Buyer

SOLD IN 2012
WISTERIA LANE
PALO ALTO
Represented the Seller
3 Offers

SOLD IN 2012
HERMOSA WAY
MENLO PARK
Represented the Buyer

monicacorman
DRE #01111473
mcorman@apr.com
650.543.1164  monicacorman.com

SOLD IN 2012
SANTA CRUZ AVENUE
MENLO PARK
Represented the Seller
6 OFFERS

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CREEK ROAD
MENLO PARK
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SERVING YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD
Menlo Park
Atherton
Palo Alto
Stanford
Woodside
Portola Valley
Los Altos
Los Altos Hills