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La Comida nears deal for new location

Nutrition program for seniors expects to finalize lease for near-term home

by Gennady Sheyner

A fter 45 years of offering nutritious meals to Palo Alto seniors of all nationalities, personalities and income levels, the nonprofit La Comida found itself facing a scary prospect this summer. By the end of August, it will have to move after its lease with the nonprofit Avendas expires on Aug. 30. In September, Avendas plans to kick off its long-planned renovation and expansion project — an $18-million endeavor that includes a new wellness center, fitness center and flexible classrooms and meeting rooms at its historic building at 450 Bryant St.

The project will also, however, result in a smaller dining room on the ground floor — a factor that last year created a rift between Palo Alto’s primary senior-services provider and the popular nutrition program. In December, after months of back-and-forth negotiations and a formal appeal by La Comida against the Avenidas expansion, the two nonprofits reached an agreement to permanently part ways, with the understanding that Avenidas would help La Comida find a new location and offer transportation services.

Since then, La Comida has been on a desperate quest to secure new space. In the near- and long-term. In June, members of the board announced publicly that they had a very strong lead on a location that can accommodate the program immediately after this summer. On June 27, Donna Brown, vice president of the La Comida board of directors, told the council that her organization has had some “very, very good meetings” and that things look “a lot more promising” than they had before.

Now, things are looking slightly better. Bill Bledgett, chair of the

Housing costs and availability still major culprits, county census finds

by Sue Dremann

T he number of homeless persons in Palo Alto — 276 — has risen by 26 percent since 2015, the highest count in the past 10 years, according to the 2017 Santa Clara County Homeless Census & Survey, which was released on June 30.

The biennial report found that most homeless persons in the county are unemployed and that nearly half are experiencing their first episode of homelessness. The census, which was conducted Jan. 24 and 25 from 5:30 a.m. to noon, included persons in shelters and those who slept in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations, airports or campgrounds. It did not include people living in unstable situations such as “couch surfing” or motels or hotels or who live in vehicles parked in private driveways or yards.

Palo Alto’s count this year surpassed 2007’s, when the city had 237 homeless persons, the highest figure in the past decade. The number of homeless persons rose from 219 to 276 between 2015 and 2017, according to the report. Of those, 256 were unsheltered (up from 203) and 20 were sheltered (up from 16).

In 2009, 2011 and 2013, the city had 178, 151 and 157 homeless persons respectively, according to previous counts.

But the count rose in part because for the first time the Palo Alto Unified School District reported to the county the number of its students who are not housed. Similar homelessness population jumps were seen in

Residents frustrated by repeated traffic violations in north Palo Alto

Drivers continue to violate no-left-turn restrictions despite signs and barriers

by Shwana Chen

R esidents of the Downtown North and Crescent Park neighborhoods in Palo Alto are calling on the city to better enforce 24/7 no-left-turn restrictions that went into effect in June and prohibit drivers from turning north onto Middlefield Road from Hawthorne and Everett avenues.

The prohibitions are part of a one-year pilot program that the City Council approved in January. The trial is itself the latest step in an ongoing initiative to address safety concerns, the Middlefield Road North Traffic Safety Project, which began in July 2016 after residents relayed alarm over traffic conditions to the city. Chief among their concerns was the large number of collisions along their stretch of Middlefield as well as the number of commuters cutting through Downtown North and turning left onto Middlefield to bypass signal lights on Lytton Avenue.

The project analyzed traffic volume, speed and collision data and concluded, among other findings, that existing left-turn restrictions on Middlefield from Hawthorne and Everett — which applied during rush hour — were not effective. To address these inadequacies, city staff extended the no-left-turn restriction to all hours in the pilot program.

Roadside signs and barriers at Middlefield intersections were put in place last month, but residents are still ignoring the ban.

“The day the barriers went up: five, six, eight cars coming out and all turning left (onto Middlefield),” he said. “People basically don’t seem to care about traffic signs, and maybe it’s because they knew we don’t have a strong police enforcement in Palo Alto.”

The city first began prohibiting rush-hour left turns from Hawthorne and Everett onto Middlefield in 2015, but Guislin said in 12 months he only saw the police enforce the restrictions thrice, even as accidents occurred almost every week at the intersection.

“They got used to not having to obey traffic signs,” he said.

Resident Janine Bisharat along with other neighbors began sitting on the street corners, taking photos of lawbreaking drivers and asking no-left-turn violators why they were turning illegally. The most common reasons, she said, were “I didn’t see the sign” or “Google (Maps) told me I could turn left here.”

Guislin said he has seen drivers maneuver to the left of intersection barriers, pulling into a lane of oncoming traffic before cutting to the right hand lane. Drivers also legally turn right from Hawthorne onto Middlefield but pull into a resident’s driveway to do a three-point turn so they can drive north. A new left-turn lane on Middlefield has added concerns about traffic accidents caused by other drivers still illegally turning left from Hawthorne or Everett onto Middlefield.

Bisharat compared Hawthorne to a highway. She’ll often have to block traffic on the street in order to safely

(continued on page 8)
TITLING THE CHILIES...

Twelve teams took part in a Fourth of July tradition on Tuesday for Palo Alto's 36th Annual Chili Cook-off at Mitchell Park. Smoky Britton took home the title for Best Overall Chili. The second- and third-place spoons went to EPA Can Do and California Red, respectively. Prizes also were handed out to El Viaje Mysterioso (the over-size paper-mache chicken hung at its entrance was a huge attraction for Best Decorated Booth and Lounge Lizard Chill for Best Spirit. Lounge Lizard's Craig Barney, a Chili Cook-off Contestant for the past 20 years, flew in DJ Monzo Bizarro to play exclusively at the event. Monzo Bizarro, whose face was painted in white and outlined in black, made a name for himself in San Francisco during the 1970s when disco was all the craze.)

The judging panel included Mayor Greg Scharff, Councilman Greg SantaClara, Human Relations commissioner Steven D. Lee, and school board member Melissa Baten Caswell. The teachers weren't only vying for the judges' affections, but also the popular vote to gain the People's Choice Award that went to Palo Alto Firefighters Local 1319. A "chill run that could in a flash" divided among the six winners.

The summer holiday festival also featured a patriotic bounce house, children's activities, live music from the Radio City All-Stars Band and food trucks, which were brought in to balance out all the chill.

HACKING MENTAL HEALTH...

Close to 100 teenagers from more than 20 different high schools throughout Santa Clara and San Mateo counties spent hours together on June 24 and 25 at Stanford University for a hackathon-style event focused not on tech, but mental health. Before the two-day Stanford Mental Health Innovation Challenge, students were asked to respond to one of five different challenge prompts, from "increasing access to confidential, affordable mental health services" to "using peer influence positively to impact mental health." At the event, they were divided into groups with a mentor and worked together to develop ideas for how to address a particular challenge. The teams then pitched their ideas to a panel of expert judges. The grand prize — a $5,000 grant to implement their idea — went to "Team Hippocampus," which proposed organizing semi-annual mental health-themed book fairs for children and young adults. "We wanted to create a bridge between educational tools and mental health book authors — tapping into resources that already exist but that people don’t know much about," Gunn High School student Stephanie Zhang, a member of the winning team, said in a Stanford release.

Over the next year, the grand prize team and four other winning teams will work together, along with their mentors and the Stanford Center for Youth Mental Health & Wellbeing, to make their projects a reality. "The whole event gave me a great deal of hope," said the 15-year-old, director of Stanford's youth mental health center.

STEVE JOBS OPERA ... Late Apple founder Steve Jobs lived an influential life that's being used as inspiration in a new opera coming to Stanford this fall, "San Francisco: A Musical Fantasy." The opera in New Mexico is putting on a production titled "The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs" beginning July 22 for six performances that concludes Aug. 25. A majority of the nearly 20 scenes is set in Los Altos, San Francisco, Cupertino, Stanford University and Palo Alto, jumping through the decades from 1965 to Jobs' memorial service in 2011. "What fascinates me about the story of Steve Jobs is that the man who miniaturized and simplified our human communication onto these sleek little devices had so many issues with the complication of human life," composer Mason Bates said in a promotional video for the show. Bates uses a variety of sounds to depict the story, from "quicksilver, acoustic, guitar-picking electronics" to "oceanic, lyrical harmonies." Librettist Mark Campbell, who was in charge of writing the story used in the show, created a "non-linear narrative" where Jobs is "confronting his own mortality." There are no signs yet of whether the show will make a Bay Area stop. "Life is complicated but this is a man who has vision for simplifying that communication, and in that tension, I think we will make for thrilling opera," Bates said.
Williams-James City Public Schools, after the city was supposed to perform, according to a new audit of the cross-boring inspection by City Auditor Harriet Richardson. And when the auditors looked at Hydromax’s inspections records, they found that the company had inspected only 10,792 laterals — roughly 60 percent of the total.

Furthermore, the audit indicated that while the company invoiced the city for 15 inspection, it failed to complete nearly half of them (6,625 or 48 percent) because of “unanticipated field conditions,” according to the audit. The report also noted that the firm’s inspection reports contain “inaccurate, incomplete and potentially duplicitious information.”

“The City did not have a process in place to validate Hydromax inspection data and allowed the contract to lapse before Hydromax attempted to inspect at least 7,237 laterals,” the audit states.

The audit was prompted by Assistant City Manager Ed Shikada, who also serves as general manager of the Utilities Department, and has shed light on oversight lapses and areas of needed improvement in contract management. Even so, city officials believe the audit taught them a few important lessons about a complex undertaking — lessons that will help shape the next contract. Shikada noted that the contract with Hydromax required the city to pay for even an incomplete inspection, provided the contractor made a “reasonable attempt.”

“That set a relatively permissive bar for the contract,” Shikada said.

The City Manager’s Office concurred with the recommendations of the audit, which the committee approved last month. This includes a recommendation that the Utilities Department identify the sewer pipelines that Hydromax did not fully inspect or attempt to inspect and to prioritize those pipelines in future contracts.

“To the extent possible, based on past experience, predict potential inspection challenges, such as poor pipeline conditions, that may hinder future inspections,” the audit states. “Disclose these challenges in future contract solicitations.”

Robert Item, an engineer with the Utilities Department who was involved in the cross-boring project, said that Hydromax relied on closed-circuit television and three levels of inspection. First, there’s the field inspection. Then, someone else in an office reviews the results and inputs them using coding standards established by the National Association of Sewer Service Companies. Finally, another person reviews the tapes and produces a written report.

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La Comida
(continued from page 5)

La Comida board, told the Weekly on Wednesday that his group will be making an announcement within the next few days about a new short-term home.

Blodgett declined to say where the new location is, pending the completion of the agreement. And while he said the organization is pleased by the new development, he noted that the new home will be away from downtown. To make things easier for its users, the organization is looking for a second serving location that would be closer to downtown, he said, though that location probably won’t be available for some time after the first location opens.

“Our hope is that this agreement would carry us over until we’re able to establish a longer-term presence, hopefully back in the downtown area,” Blodgett said.

The potential agreement for a near-term home is a bit of bright news after months of anxiety for La Comida officials and longtime users, some of whom have been attending recent council meetings and calling for the city to get more involved in helping the nonprofit find a new home.

Gale Fullerton, 74, said he has been coming to La Comida for 15 years. He lauded the organization for providing food to everyone, “from wealthy people to those who are homeless.”

“This is where they get their only food of the day, and it’s their only social activity,” Fullerton told the council on June 19. “Social activity is extremely important.”

La Comida’s faltering prospects for finding a long-term home, coupled with residents’ anxiety over losing a popular nutrition program, have also created a new push for a reunion between Avenidas and La Comida. In early June, the council received a petition signed by 234 people (an additional 225 had signed the online version), calling for La Comida’s preservation as a “permanent partner” with Avenidas. The petition included data about La Comida’s customers, 91 percent of whom are over 65 years old and 31 percent of whom are over 80. The petition also points out that 42 percent identify themselves as low income; 50 percent live alone; 46 percent consider the La Comida experience as their “primary meal”; and more than 30 percent rely on bus transportation.

The petition notes that while a possible short-term location has been identified, this location is smaller than ideal. In the downtown area, no location of adequate size had been identified for either the short- or long-term. “Ideally, La Comida would return to downtown Palo Alto, located with, or close to Avenidas, after its renovation and expansion, to keep the Senior Nutrition Program in close proximity to other senior services,” the petition states. “La Comida is more than getting a meal for many of these patrons. It offers a place for many seniors to meet friends, and it is a purpose for many seniors to keep moving around as they help and volunteer at La Comida.”

For City Council members Tom DuBois and Lydia Kou, the diners’ request makes perfect sense. Both have been working with La Comida to try and find a new home and both believe that the new Avenidas building at 450 Bryant that Avenidas leases for $1 per year will be still considered as a place to host La Comida.”

DuBois agreed and noted that even if a redesign seems highly unlikely the Avenidas project won the city’s approval last fall after more than a year of public hearings and a multitude of revisions. Kou said she believes there’s still room for discussion between the two nonprofits about what it would take to accommodate La Comida’s needs.

(continued on page 10)
Mountain View and Morgan Hill.

External factors similarly contributed to decreases in the homeless counts in cities such as Milpitas, San Jose and Sunnyvale. For example, in Santa Clara, a transitional housing facility whose tenants were previously counted was converted to another use, said Hilary Barroga, county Continuum of Care Quality Improvement manager.

Brian Greenberg, vice president of programs and services at the nonprofit LifeMoves, which provides homeless services in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, said the rising homelessness reflects the lack of affordable housing. Throughout the county, housing and rental prices have skyrocketed relative to income. People who make $13 to $14 an hour have been the most affected; they cannot afford housing in this area, he said.

Recent increases in people living in RVs and other vehicles are directly related to the housing crisis, including in Palo Alto, Greenberg said. In general, these populations are under-counted. Survey takers are instructed not to knock on the doors of RVs and cars, and persons living in driveways and yards are not approached or counted, he said.

The county report found that 8 percent of the county’s 7,394 homeless persons live in vehicles. But identifying persons living in vehicles is difficult during the morning hours when the census took place. Many vehicle dwellers have moved by the time the sun rises to more remote locations where they can blend in. To address that issue, in the north part of the county, which includes Palo Alto, a dedicated outreach worker sought out vehicles prior to sunrise, the report noted.

Overall, homeless persons are under-counted, the report acknowledged. Many people experiencing homelessness do not want to be located. Factors that contribute to under-counts include people living in vehicles or abandoned buildings; persons residing in isolated rural or inaccessible areas; or people who appear to be housed and who are therefore overlooked.

Families with children also often seek to stay on private property rather than sleeping on the streets, in vehicles or in makeshift shelters. Therefore, the study’s data is considered a minimum estimate, the report noted.

Greenberg thinks the number of people who are homeless will continue rising unless every city and town takes on building their share of permanent low-income and transitional housing, he said. The survey found that 89 percent of homeless persons in the county are interested in affordable, permanent housing.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development requires all jurisdictions receiving federal funding for services and housing for homeless persons to conduct the survey, which is the only source of nationwide data on sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons.

In Santa Clara County the report is conducted through the Office of Supportive Housing, Continuum of Care, in conjunction with social research firm Applied Survey Research.

In 2016 Santa Clara County voters passed a nearly $1 billion affordable housing bond that allows the county to purchase land and build housing for vulnerable populations such as veterans, seniors, disabled and low- and moderate-income individuals or families, victims of abuse, homeless and persons suffering from mental health or substance abuse. Greenberg said all cities must take on their share of responsibility to house people.

“Everyone wants a magic bullet to solve the housing crisis,” Greenberg said. “But magic bullet for us is for everyone to take part: communities, cities, residents and the homeless. They are not going to go to another community. When San Francisco does a sweep of an encampment, they go four blocks away. What we need is a collaboration of the cities.”

The survey found that 42 percent of Santa Clara County homeless respondents had lived in a home they or a partner owned or rented prior to becoming homeless; 83 percent were Santa Clara County residents at the time they lost their homes. The majority were also longtime residents: 61.1 percent had lived in the county for 10 or more years.

The council did not meet this week.

**Homeless**

*Overall, Santa Clara County saw a 13 percent rise in homelessness from 2015 to 2017, according to the survey.*

**Change in homeless population, 2015 to 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Increase/Decrease</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Campbell</td>
<td>77% increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cupertino</td>
<td>74% increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gilroy</td>
<td>64% increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milpitas</td>
<td>-46% decrease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morgan Hill</td>
<td>379% increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain View</td>
<td>51% increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palo Alto</td>
<td>26% increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Jose</td>
<td>7% increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Clara</td>
<td>28% increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunnyvale</td>
<td>-12% decrease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unincorporated areas</td>
<td>-24% decrease</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*(For Los Altos, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Saratoga, the percent change was not calculated because the cities had fewer than 50 homeless individuals.)*

**Employment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Unemployed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Monthly income 2017**

- $0-$99: 7% (employed); 37% (unemployed)
- $100-$449: 26% (employed); 39% (unemployed)
- $450-$749: 28% (employed); 9% (unemployed)
- $750-$1,099: 14% (employed); 10% (unemployed)
- $1,100-$1,499: 14% (employed); 4% (unemployed)
- $1,500-$3,000: 12% (employed); 2% (unemployed)
- More than $3,000: 0% (employed); 1% (unemployed)

**Health conditions**

- 48% substance abuse
- 39% psychiatric conditions
- 21% physical disability
- 27% chronic health problems
- 22% post-traumatic stress disorder
- 21% history of domestic abuse

**Homelessness report:**

In a nutshell

Overall, Santa Clara County saw a 13 percent rise in homelessness from 2015 to 2017, according to the survey.

- **21%** history of domestic abuse
- **22%** post-traumatic stress
- **27%** chronic health problems
- **38%** psychiatric conditions
- **48%** substance abuse
- **52%** unemployed
- **58%** never married
- **65%** less than 12 years of education
- **71%** no health insurance
- **74%** unemployed
- **75%** no health insurance
- **76%** single parents
- **81%** unemployed
- **83%** unemployed
- **89%** interested in affordable, permanent housing

**Change in homeless population, 2015 to 2017**

- Campbell: 77% increase
- Cupertino: 74% increase
- Gilroy: 64% increase
- Milpitas: -46% decrease
- Morgan Hill: 379% increase
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**CityView**

A round-up of Palo Alto government action this week

**City Council**

The council did not meet this week.
Middlefield

(continued from page S)

Janine Bisharat stands with her father, Fred Bisharat, at the corner of Middlefield Road and Hawthorne Avenue in north Palo Alto, where traffic barriers were recently installed to prevent drivers from turning left from Hawthorne. Bisharat, who grew up in Palo Alto, said traffic accidents occur regularly as commuters cut through the neighborhood and try to catch Middlefield going north. Ultimately Bisharat hopes for a traffic light to be installed at the intersection.

cross the street with her father, who is elderly and needs to walk slowly.

“I think the city needs to take responsibility,” Bisharat said.

The Palo Alto Police Department has not employed a traffic-enforcement team since June 2016. The team, which consisted of seven officers in 2000, decreased to two in 2012 due to budget cuts before the department decided not to continue staffing it. According to Capt. Zach Perron, a full-time team dedicated to traffic enforcement is not currently possible due to staffing shortages.

“Staffing at the Police department are constantly in flux,” he said. “I am optimistic that as our staffing improves, we’ll be able to dedicate more resources to traffic enforcement.”

Currently, field officers have to balance enforcement duties with regular calls for service, 911 calls and other quality-of-life complaints that require police response. Perron asks residents with reports of traffic violations to call the Police Department’s traffic complaint hotline at 650-329-2388 and include specific details: violation, time of day, day of week, type of violation. A report of “people speeding through Palo Alto” is often too general for officers to act on.

“But if people say hey, folks are speeding on Ross Road at the 400 block during the afternoon at 4 o’clock, that’s very specific and we’ll try to have an officer out there writing tickets,” Perron said. “For now, anywhere in town, there isn’t a single traffic complaint that we receive that we don’t do something about.”

As more officers graduate from the training program, one of the options that the police department is exploring is a utility team devoted to various purposes such as traffic enforcement. This team would primarily work to address “whatever problems we need to dedicate more cops to,” said Perron — for example, concentration on a given street to enforce traffic laws in the morning and responding to burglaries in the afternoon.

“We’re well aware of the residents’ concerns,” Perron said. “We’re well aware of the efforts the city has gone to prevent traffic violations. As staffing decreases, we’re still out there enforcing the law. We’ve been out there this week, we were out there this morning, we were out there yesterday writing tickets.”

Part of the program is that navigation apps such as Google Maps and Waze direct users to drive through suburban neighborhoods. Earlier this year when Los Altos Hills faced a similar influx of commuters on its residential streets, the city asked Waze to remove three roads from its map. When Waze refused, Los Altos Hills closed the streets to people who don’t live there, putting up “No Thru Traffic” signs on three roads. Waze then complied and no longer directs users to drive on the roads.

According to City of Palo Alto spokesperson Claudia Keith, the Planning and Transportation Division is not considering following Los Altos Hills’ example or signing “No Thru Traffic,” thus the roads would still be included on Waze.

“The objective of (Middlefield Road North Traffic Safety Project) is to manage traffic better and ensure safe speeds and turning movements,” she said in an email.

Both Bisharat and Guislin said that even though drivers are still turning illegally, the Downtown North and Crescent Park neighborhoods have grown more quiet with the addition of barriers on Middlefield, and the transition from four lanes across Middlefield to three under the pilot program has slowed down traffic and decreased the number of T-bone accidents, Bisharat said.

“I think the city needs to take responsibility,” Bisharat said.

Public Agenda

A preview of Palo Alto government meetings next week

CITY COUNCIL ... The council will not meet this week.

Former nanny faces molestation charges

A former Palo Alto elementary school volunteer and nanny who was initially accused of child molestation 23 years ago has now been charged with two counts of felony larceny and larceny acts on a child under 14 in that case, a Santa Clara County prosecutor said. (Posted July 6, 9:40 a.m.)

Judge responds to recall

Aaron Persky, the Santa Clara County judge who is facing a recall after his controversial sentencing of former Stanford University student Brock Turner last summer, spoke out for the first time on Friday in a statement filed with the county Registrar of Voters. (Posted July 2, 11:18 a.m.)

Palo Alto VA gets a new director

Thomas “Tony” Fitzgerald III was selected as the new director of the Veteran Affairs Palo Alto Health Care System, an appointment that went into effect June 25. He will be replacing Lisa Free, which La Comida officials said reaffirmed their belief that the new dining area would be suboptimal for the nonprofit’s needs.

Now, the two nonprofits are once again considering an option. Amy Andonian, CEO and president of La Comida, said her organization “has been meeting regularly with the City and with La Comida to develop a long term solution.”

“Both parties may return to mediation in the near future,” Andonian told the Weekly.

Blodgett noted that despite the recent disagreements, La Comida and Avenidas have had “an excellent partnership over the years.” While he declined to discuss the potential for mediation, he said his organization and Avenidas continue to “cooperate effectively” through this transition period.

“We still have common goals in mind: providing what’s best for seniors,” Blodgett said. ■

Staff Writer Gennady Sheynor can be emailed at gsheynor@pawweekly.com.
POLICE CALLS
Palo Alto
Violence related
Child abuse .................................. 1
Elder abuse .................................. 1
Strong arm robbery........................... 1

Theft related
Grand theft .................................. 2
Identity theft .................................. 2
Petty theft .................................... 2
Residential burglaries......................... 1

Vehicle related
Auto theft .................................... 1
Bicycle theft .................................. 1
Driving w/ suspended license ................. 1
Driving without license ....................... 1
Hit and run .................................... 1
Lost license plates ............................. 3
Misd. traffic ................................... 1
Parking/Driving violation ...................... 1
Recovered vehicle ............................ 1
Theft from auto ................................ 4
Vehicle accident/injury ....................... 4
Vehicle accident/no injury ................... 1

Alcohol or drug related
Driving under influence ...................... 1
Drinking in public ............................ 1
Open container ............................... 1
Possession of drugs .......................... 1
Possession of paraphernalia ................. 1
Sale of drugs .................................. 1

Miscellaneous
Animal cruelty ................................ 1
Concealed weapon ........................... 1
Fireworks complaint ........................ 1
Found property .............................. 5
Info. case .................................... 5
Juvenile problem ............................. 1
Mental evaluation ............................ 1
Outside assistance ........................... 1
Property for destruction ..................... 1
Registration ................................. 1
Returned missing person ..................... 1
Sex registrant violation ...................... 1
Stalking ....................................... 1
Warrant arrest ................................ 3
Warrant/other agency ......................... 4

Menlo Park
Violence related
Assault w/ a deadly weapon ................ 1
Battery ....................................... 3
Domestic violence ........................... 1
Spousal abuse ................................ 1

Theft related
Commercial burglary ........................ 1
Fraud ......................................... 2
Petty theft .................................... 4
Theft undefined .............................. 1

Vehicle related
Auto theft .................................... 3
Bicycle theft .................................. 3
Driving w/ suspended license ................. 5
Hit and run .................................... 5
Parking/Driving violation ...................... 1
Recovered stolen vehicle ..................... 2
Theft from auto ................................ 1
Vandalism to vehicle ......................... 1
Vehicle accident/injury ....................... 1
Vehicle accident/no injury ................... 1
Vehicle theft ................................. 1

Alcohol or drug related
Driving under influence ...................... 1
Drunk in public ................................ 2
Info. report .................................... 1
Possession of drugs .......................... 1

Miscellaneous
Animal cruelty ................................ 1
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Warrant arrest ................................ 3
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VIOLENT CRIMES
Palo Alto
855 El Camino Real 6/30, 2:58 p.m.; strong arm robbery
Webster Street, 6/30, 4:21 p.m.; elder abuse.
Encina Avenue, 7/1, 11:00 p.m.; child abuse.

Menlo Park
900 block Menlo Ave., 6/30, 11:30 a.m.; battery
Alma Street/Willow Road, 7/1, 3:19 p.m.; battery
700 block Santa Cruz Ave., 7/2, 11:12 a.m.; battery
1350 block Crane St., 7/3, 10:02 a.m.; spousal abuse
700 block Menlo Ave., 7/3, 2:54 p.m.; assault w/ a deadly weapon.
500 block Sandwood St., 7/3, 4:27 p.m.; domestic violence.

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POLICE CALLS
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500 block Sandwood St., 7/3, 4:27 p.m.; domestic violence.
George Thompson

George Thompson died in his Palo Alto home on May 12. He was 97.

Thompson was born in 1919, in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. He earned a bachelor’s degree in geology from Pennsylvania State University in 1941, a master’s degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1942, and a doctoral degree from Stanford University in 1949.

Thompson’s career at Stanford started when he was a graduate student earning his doctorate in 1946. He taught the university’s first geophysics class when he was still a student. In 1949, he joined the Stanford faculty, accepting emeritus status as the Otto N. Miller Professor of Earth Sciences and dean of the school 40 years later in 1989.

“He was a gentleman scholar if there ever was one; he never had an unkind word to tell about anyone,” his predecessor and colleague, Gary Ernst, former dean of the School of Earth, Energy and Environmental Sciences, said. “He always would see the good side of people he worked with.”

Thompson was a founding member of the Department of Geophysics, which became part of the School of Earth Sciences — recently renamed the School of Earth, Energy and Environmental Sciences. He chaired the Department of Geophysics from 1967 to 1986, which overlapped when he was chair of the Department of Geology from 1979 to 1982.

Thompson had a grove of redwood trees up at Skyline, which he tended to regularly. “He was an early environmentalist in a sense,” Ernst said. “He tried to be a good forester; he wanted them to be in the best possible shape.”

Even though Thompson decreased his research after retirement, he had articles in process when he was chair of the Thompson Postdoctoral Fellowship. The program gives funding to independent postdoctoral study in any field of geophysics. Cindy Gorgi can be reached at gorgi@stanford.edu, for more information.

Tom Ashton

Palo Alto resident Tom Ashton died at home on June 26 surrounded by his family after a long illness.

He was born in Brockton, Massachusetts, on May 21, 1939, and grew up and attended high school in Abington, Massachusetts, where he was senior class president and a football star during an undefeated season. He earned an undergraduate degree in geological engineering from Michigan College of Mining and Technology, where he was a Sigma Phi. He obtained a graduate degree from Penn State in petroleum and natural gas engineering, as well as an MBA from Michigan State.

He enjoyed many years as a geologist — first for Shell Oil and later in Santa Fe working in oil and gas for a subsidiary of the La Fonda Corporation. He moved to the Earth achad in 1975 and consulted for corporations, such as Kaiser Cement, Hills Brothers and Foremost-McKesson.

Statewide for the outdoors: He enjoyed natural geology (as his many rock specimens can attest); birding; hiking; and traveling. He and his wife, Annette Glankopf, were “seven continent” people. One of Tom’s favorite vacations was their trip to Antarctica. He was also involved in community matters in Palo Alto before his illness, working on city campaigns, election committees, speaking at city council meetings and writing letters to the editor.

He is survived by his wife, Annette Glankopf, and four siblings (and their families), Kathleen English (husband Peter), Jim Ashton, Lorraine Ashton and Joan Bosey (husband Wayne).

A private memorial will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, contribute to a favorite charity or in Ashton’s name to Pathways Hospice Foundation, 585 North Mary Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94085.

Sharon McPhee Cooper

Sharon McPhee Cooper, a long-time resident of Palo Alto, died June 2 at the age of 74. She was born in Redwood City on Oct. 1, 1942, to Hugh and Anita McPhee.

She graduated from Stanford and the University of the Sacred Heart in Menlo Park in 1960 and then received her bachelor’s degree from San Jose State College in 1964.

She worked at Wells Fargo Bank in Palo Alto, raised her children and returned to work at Henry M. Gunn School for 25 years until her retirement in 2012. She enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren and volunteering at the Humane Society of Silicon Valley. She loved to travel, especially to the United Kingdom, where she and her husband, Brian, would visit his family and friends.

She is survived by her husband, Brian, of Palo Alto; children, Matthew and Benjamin (Danielle); siblings, Susan Young and Hugh McPhee; four grandchildren, Ethan, Myles, Ella and Joy; and her beloved pit bull, Stella.

Memorial contributions may be made to: Humane Society of Silicon Valley, 891 Ames Ave, Milpitas, CA, 95035-6326 (www.hsv.org) or Our Pack, Inc., 1177 Branham Lane #235, San Jose, CA 95118 (info@ourpack.org).
In the decades they were raising their four children, Jean and Gary Blackburn always kept a recreational vehicle stored behind the gate in their Palo Alto driveway.

Now that the kids and grandchildren have spread around the country and the Blackburns have moved to a local retirement community, home storage of their 32-foot Fleetwood Bounder is no longer possible — but they wouldn’t think of giving up their “vacation home.”

In 55 years of marriage, roadtripping has been — and remains — a staple of their lives. Now, their R.V. is stored off-site at a campground in Morgan Hill when not in use — which doesn’t seem to be very often since the couple likes to hit the road as much as possible.

The couple spent nearly two months last spring driving approximately 7,400 miles east to meet up with other R.V. enthusiasts for a tour of Civil War battlefields. In June, they packed up again to head to the Seattle area for a grandson’s high school graduation. The next major trip? Perhaps to the East Coast again next spring for another grandchild’s high school graduation. In the meantime, they’ll take many shorter trips.

The Blackburns are part of an increasing number of road adventurers who have embraced the R.V. culture. Approximately 8.9 million American households own an R.V., according to the 2016 Annual report from the Recreation Vehicle Industry Association. About 3.6 million

(continued on page 15)
Ask residents (and their furry friends) what they love most about living at Webster house and the overwhelming response is “the people.” Judy and Dave also enjoy real peace of mind knowing that if they ever need assistance with their daily activities, they can continue to live in their beautiful independent living apartment—this ability to age in place without moving to an assisted living apartment is unique to our Webster House community. To learn more or for your personal visit, please call 650.838.4004.

People

PETS

And Our Place

Webster House

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of those R.V. owners are 55 and older.

A succession of motor homes has taken the Blackburans to 46 of the lower 48 states (all but Louisiana and Florida). They’ve also explored Alaska and much of Canada.

When the kids were small, Jean made an effort to put a family trip on the calendar every six weeks, and the family traveled with a tent trailer behind their 1972 Ford van. “We went all over the country and everything, and the kids were the mechanics along the way with Gary, helping to put up the tent trailer,” said Jean, a retired lawyer.

Now they sometimes take their grandchildren along.

The road trips have produced some of the Blackburans’ fondest memories — discovering sweet-potato fries at the Clinton Presidential Library in Arkansas, seeing fireflies for the first time ever at a rest stop in St. Louis, and the whole family having to get out and push the van up the hill at 10,000 feet in Utah.

“When we traveled with the kids, officially it was vacation but unofficially it was a learning experience because we would try to go to state capitals and museums. ... We were really looking to enrich ourselves — but we didn’t tell them that,” said Gary, a former

When preparing for a long trip, Gary Blackburn uses old Microsoft Streets & Trips software to roughly map out the days.

Road warriors
(continued from page 13)

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Avenidas to Move in August

Due to the upcoming renovation and expansion of its downtown facility at 450 Bryant St., Avenidas will temporarily move its programs to Cubberley Community Center at 4000 Middlefield Road. The last day of downtown classes and programs will be Friday, Aug. 11. On Tuesday, Sept. 5, Avenidas plans to begin its fall schedule at Cubberley. The nonprofit senior-services agency said it expects to be at Cubberley about 18 months before the Bryant Street expansion is completed and plans to offer nearly all of its current activities — on their usual day and at their usual time — at Cubberley.

Stroke Survivors Lunch ...

The Aphasia Lunch Circle, a casual group open to stroke survivors and their caregivers, will gather for lunch on Thursday, July 13, from noon to 1 p.m. at Little House Activity Center, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Participants may bring their own lunch or purchase food there. For more information, contact the Pacific Stroke Association at support@psastroke.org.

Walking Groups for Seniors ...

The Avenidas Walkers offers group walks for older adults every Tuesday and Thursday. Tuesday walks, starting at 10 a.m., typically cover about 3 miles over 1.5 hours in the Palo Alto Baylands. For Tuesday trailhead information, call Patty Bellardo at 650-327-1428. Thursday walks, starting at 9:30 a.m., are generally in the hills and more aggressive. For Thursday trailhead information, call Mark Alguard at 650-575-6291.

BE PART OF THE ART ... Kija Lucas, artist in residence at the Palo Alto Art Center, will take her project to Avenidas for three days in mid July. Lucas invites people to be part of the art by bringing in special photographs and letters on Tuesday, July 11, or one or more “objects of sentimental value” on Tuesday, July 18, or Thursday, July 20, which Lucas will photograph. Her ongoing project examines the objects people carry throughout their lives and the memories attached to them. The artist uses photography to explore ideas of home, heritage and inheritance. She is interested in how ideas are passed down, and seemingly inconsequential moments create changes that last generations. Drop-in, free. Tuesday, July 11, Tuesday, July 18 or Thursday, July 20, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call 650-289-5400.

Items for Senior Focus may be emailed to Palo Alto Weekly Contributing Writer Chris Kenrick at ckenrick@paweekly.com.

Making the decision to move, selling your home, and moving is a big job.

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Managing the escrow process  Packing  Cleaning
Estate Sales  Donations
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Items for Senior Focus may be emailed to Palo Alto Weekly Contributing Writer Chris Kenrick at ckenrick@paweekly.com.
Retinal Diagnostic Center is pleased to announce the opening of a new office in Atherton, CA to better serve patients in the bay area.

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- Optical coherence tomography
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- A & B scan ultrasound
- Intravitreal injection
- Diabetic retinopathy
- Retinal laser
- Retinal vein occlusion
- Epiretinal membranes
- Retinal detachment
- Macular holes
- Flashes and floaters
- Age related macular degeneration
- Optical coherence degeneration
- Flashes and floaters
- Age related macular degeneration

Conditions treated include:

- Diabetic retinopathy
- Retinal detachment
- Age related macular degeneration
- Diabetic retinopathy
- Retinal vein occlusion
- Epiretinal membranes
- Retinal detachment
- Macular holes
- Flashes and floaters
- Age related macular degeneration
- Optical coherence degeneration
- Flashes and floaters
- Age related macular degeneration

Road warriors (continued from page 15)

It’s perhaps no coincidence that with early exposure to national parks from coast to coast, the Blackburns’ oldest two children — identical twin boys — both grew up to become national park rangers.

When preparing for long trips, Gary uses old Microsoft Streets & Trips software to roughly map out the days. “It gives me a feel for how many miles and how much time, so I know about where we have to stop for the night. And then I check to see if there are any campgrounds in that area, plus or minus 50 miles.” But the couple tries to stay flexible and rarely makes reservations far in advance.

“The plan doesn’t rule us; we rule it,” Jean said. “We make on-the-fly changes constantly. … We stay at campgrounds, Indian casinos, Elks Club parking lots — or if we can park in a relative’s driveway, we park there.”

“We meet all sorts of interesting people from all different socioeconomic categories — snowbirds, or people who have families and decide to home-school them, or people who run a business out of their motor home or people who work seasonal jobs in the national parks,” she said.

Jean is the navigator, and Gary is the driver, typically setting his cruise control at 57 mph. He does not drive the R.V. at night.

The Fleetwood Bounder holds a 75-gallon water tank, refrigerator with freezer, three-burner stove, oven, microwave, bathtub, shower and toilet. They also carry a generator, allowing their home on wheels to function even without power and water hookups.

“It really makes for a comfortable apartment,” Gary said. “We actually have two televisions, but we haven’t used them for years — being in a motor home is a nice opportunity to read.”

Retirement has allowed the Blackburns to be more spontaneous about road trips, though Jean must balance the travel with her duties as president of the residents association at Moldaw Residences, the senior living community at the Oshman Family Jewish Community Center where the Blackburns have lived for the past five years.

While the Blackburns have taken cruise vacations and do not shun air travel, they say the increasing crowdedness and difficulty of flying has only reinforced their preference for road trips.

“The goal of a vacation is to see and enjoy,” Gary said. “Unexpected things to see and do are in abundance. … This is not possible if flying at 40,000 feet.”

In the R.V., he said, “We are high enough to see over bridge railings and view expansive scenery, all through a large windshield and side windows. With a positive frame of mind, all ground travel is interesting or beautiful or bizarre or exciting.”

Contributing Writer Chris Kenrick can be emailed at ckenrick@paweekly.com.

About the Cover: Jean and Gary Blackburn have hit the road in their R.V. and toured nearly every state in the country during their 55-year marriage. The couple says road-tripping has been — and remains — a staple in their lives. Photo by Veronica Weber.

Living Well

July 7

Wine Appreciation: “The Italian Peninsula: The Land of Wine from the Adriatic to the Mediterranean Sea”
3-4:30pm @ Avenidas. RSVP required. Call 650-289-5400. Bring your glass. $12/$15.

July 10

UNA Film Festival “All in This Tea”
2-3:30pm @ Avenidas. Free.

July 11

Be a Part of the Art
With Palo Alto Art Center artist-in-residence, Kija Lucas. “Photos and Letters,” 10am-4pm @ Avenidas. Bring a photo or have a new one taken. Drop-in, free. Call 650-289-5400 for details.

July 12

Parkinson’s Support Group
2-3:30pm @ Avenidas. Call Robin Riddle @ 650-724-6090 for more info. Free.

July 13

Avenidas Village Coffee Chat
10am @ Avenidas. RSVP required. Call 650-289-5405.

July 14

Non-scary Duplicate Bridge
Every Friday, 1-4pm @ Avenidas, $2/$3.

July 19

Lotus Dance Fitness
Every Wednesday, 2-3pm. Drop-in, free.

July 17

Caregiver Support Group
11:30am-1pm - every Monday @ Avenidas. Call 650-289-5438 for info. Drop-in, free.

July 18

Be a Part of the Art
With Palo Alto Art Center artist-in-residence, Kija Lucas. “Objects to Remember You By,” 10am-4pm @ Avenidas. Bring one or more objects of sentimental value. Drop-in, free. Call 650-289-5400 for details.

July 20

Be a Part of the Art
With Palo Alto Art Center artist-in-residence, Kija Lucas. “Objects to Remember You By,” 10am-4pm @ Avenidas. Bring one or more objects of sentimental value. Drop-in, free. Call 650-289-5400 for details.

July 21

Bridge Game
Every Friday, 2-4pm @ Avenidas. Drop-in, free.

July 27

Senior Legal Aid appointments available for Santa Clara County residents age 60+. Call 650-289-5400 for appt. Free.

July 28

Massage appointments available.
Call 650-289-5400 to schedule. $35/$45

July 31

Acupuncture appointments available.
Call 650-289-5400 to schedule. $30

Calendar of Events

July 7

Club Aveneeds Needlework Club
2:30-4:30pm -- every Friday @ Avenidas. Bring your own project. Light instruction only. Drop-in, free.

July 14

Book Club: The Door by Magda Szabo
2-3:30pm @ Avenidas. Drop-in, free.

July 24

Senior Legal Aid appointments available for Santa Clara County residents age 60+. Call 650-289-5400 for appt. Free.

July 25

Avenidas Walkers
10am -- every Tuesday. Call 650-387-5256 for trailhead info or to schedule. Free.

July 26

Blood Pressure Screening
9:30-10:30am @ Senior Friendship Day, 4000 Middlefield Road. Drop-in, free.

July 29

Book Club: The Door by Magda Szabo
2-3:30pm @ Avenidas. Drop-in, free.

July 30

Massage appointments available.
Call 650-289-5400 to schedule. $35/$45

July 31

Acupuncture appointments available.
Call 650-289-5400 to schedule. $30

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- Adult Day Care

For more information, visit us at www.avenidas.org or call (650) 289-5400.

The Blackburns have lived for the past five years in the R.V., and toured nearly every state in the country during their 55-year marriage. The couple says road-tripping has been — and remains — a staple in their lives. Photo by Veronica Weber.
A new leader for Pacific Art League

Jon Graves brings business experience, passion to art nonprofit

by Sheryl Nonnenberg
photos by Veronica Weber

The Pacific Art League is housed in a stately building on Ramona Street in downtown Palo Alto.

Jon Graves, the new director of the Pacific Art League, brings business experience and a passion for the arts to his new job.

“I wanted to get into something I believe in and enjoy. I have lived in Palo Alto for over 20 years and have a vast network of connections here.”

A dedication to the arts runs in his family. His wife teaches after-school art classes for children and his two daughters are both pursing careers in the performing arts.

Graves was selected for the position from a field of more than 30 applicants. PAL board director Theo Keet said they were seeking someone with “a combination of management and marketing experience, qualifications or training in visual art and who is well-connected in the local community.”

He added, “The board expects that Jon can expand the education and exhibition activities and fundraising to the extent that we can occupy all of our historic building from 1923 by the centenary of the Pacific Art League in 2021.”

Graves is unabashedly enthusiastic about the challenge. He acknowledges that the Palo Alto Art Center plays a similar role in the local art community, but he believes that the Pacific Art League has an important advantage in its downtown location. Currently, PAL regularly employs 35-40 instructors, many of whom have been with the organization for decades. More than 2,100 students are enrolled in quarterly classes that include media such as painting, drawing, printmaking and photography.

PAL also offers one-day workshops and summer camps. Classes are offered in open, airy studios that also serve as galleries. There is a year-round schedule of juried exhibitions that change monthly. PAL members receive a discount on class tuition and also a reduced fee when entering the juried competitions.

All of the aforementioned activities take place on the ground floor of the building, where the staff also shares a small office area. The upper two levels of the building are now rented out to a technology group, which provides needed income for the organization. It is Graves’s mission to eventually expand PAL’s programs into the upper floors. That can only happen, however, if the nonprofit can generate the income needed to pay the mortgage that was required when the building was upgraded and retrofitted a few years ago.

It’s an ambitious plan, he admitted, but pointed out that PAL enjoys a dedicated and loyal volunteer base and an active board, who steered the organization through the renovation of the building and finding tenants for the upper floors. In spite of currently having just one floor for programming, Graves says there is room for growth.

“We have a lot more scope to fill this building with classes,” he said.

Graves wants to pursue more outreach to local corporations, with the goal of offering art to underserved populations. He also envisions collaborative efforts with neighboring Pace Gallery and Bryant Street Gallery, as well as encouraging the local start-ups to use PAL for team-building off-sites.

He spoke excitedly about offering more evening programs for young families. And he would like to see the quality of the gallery exhibitions raised to a higher level, while admitting that the primary purpose of the League is to serve the practicing artist, not to compete with area museums.

“We can be the place where you can go to learn to make art and to enjoy art,” he said.

Given his background, Graves is in a unique position to have observed the evolution of the Silicon Valley high-tech industry, which has not always been known for philanthropy or interest in the arts. He feels that this is changing, however and that “art is beginning to get more of a reputation in the Valley.”

He plans to use his business acumen and his passion for the arts to lead the Pacific Art League forward. “If we can become a really impressive arts organization in this amazing, powerful little town,” he said, “that’s quite a cool ambition.”

Freelance writer Sheryl Nonnenberg can be emailed at nonnenberg@aol.com. For more information on PAL, go to pacificartleague.org.
A midsummer night’s mash-up

Pear Theatre’s pseudo-Shakespearean ‘What You Will’ is a must-see

by Kaila Prins

Or, perhaps the plot is this: A physician (Alyssa Lupo-Zulueta) comes to court to attend to the Duke, but, when he asks to be returned to the poor peasants in the north, the Duke, through Malvolio, refuses. The peasants, who have no doctor to cure their sick and injured, plan to kidnap the Duke — only their plot is foiled by a case of mistaken identity.

Or the plot is a tale of love gone awry. The Duchess (Amelia Adams) and the Duke do not love one another, but they’re both very jealous. The Duke, a “lecherous monster,” can’t seem to keep his hands off of the young women of the court, including Antonio’s wife, while the Duchess discovers that she’s got a thing for Antonio. Will they be able to keep their mates out of the garden long enough to rendezvous with their new beloveds?

Okay, maybe the plot isn’t so simple. But the playwright has woven this together so well that you won’t have too much trouble keeping the storylines straight.

The direction, by William J. Brown III, also has a hand in keeping you grounded in the plot: With just a simple wood floor, a couple of moving platforms, and your imagination, Brown paints entire landscapes. The staging, at times, tends to be less Shakespearean and more “Scooby-Doo,” with actors playing multiple characters entering and exiting in pursuit of one another, but with a few simple costume pieces and recognizable character affectations, they become easy to discern.

Even though this play is not Shakespeare, per se, it’s clear that all of the actors have facility with his language. This is no small feat. Their emotions, intentions and characters all shine through the antiquated-seeming text, so you need not be a Shakespeare buff to enjoy the show. It may take a few minutes to tune your ear to the Elizabethan turns of phrase, but after a scene or two, you’ll be firmly invested in the characters’ plights.

The actors all handle the difficult task of portraying multiple characters convincingly with ease, although the acting was a bit lopsided, with some characters portrayed earnestly, as was Vashro’s Antonio, and others in over-the-top caricatures, like Adam’s Duchess. For the realistically portrayed characters, Hayes is a standout as Malvolio, her acting subtle, yet convincing, and Hammond’s Duke is almost uncomfortably realistic, as he chases after the female-preconceiving characters throughout the play. But it was Jim Johnson, who plays the Duke’s Attendant and the bumbling peasant Claudio, who had the audience in stitches with his completely deadpan delivery and stoic expression.

The entire ensemble is a well-oiled machine, turning the small theatre-in-the-round into a world where comedy, intrigue, and confusion reign and their audience becomes co-conspirator. So, to see or not to see? This funny and complex play is a can’t-miss midsummer night’s dream.

Freelance writer Kaila Prins can be emailed at kailaprin@gmail.com.

Palo Alto Art Center
1313 Newell Road
Palo Alto
Free Admission
Valet Parking

What: “What You Will”
Where: The Pear Theatre, 1110 La Avenida St, Mountain View
When: Through July 16, Thursday-Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m.
Cost: $28-32
Info: Go to thepear.org

REVIEW THEATER
Falafel is served on mixed greens with toppings such as picked turnips, beets, cucumber tomato salad, and tahini sauce at Sajj Mediterranean.

**So much food, so little flavor**

*Hit or miss Mediterranean fast-casual food at Sajj in Mountain View*

by Alissa Merksamer

Sajj Mediterranean in Mountain View feels more like a fueling station than a restaurant. With two food trucks, five restaurant locations (and more to come), it has done to Mediterranean food what Chipotle has to come), it has done to fast food, customizable and, too often, forgettable.

The restaurant’s gleaming brushed-metal counters, metal trays and matching chairs are as functional as they are nondistinctive. The Arabic music that pipes at a comfortably low level through the sound system is the only clue as to the type of food served here.

Ordering is intimidating and confusing if it’s your first time, even though the restaurant, located at the San Antonio Center on El Camino Real, tries to help. A TV monitor flashes back and forth between a scene of Mediterranean food and instructions on how to order with one food truck, and five restaurant locations (and more to come), it has done to Mediterranean food what Chipotle has to come), it has done to fast food, customizable and, too often, forgettable.

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Just like at Chipotle, you choose your meal first and pay last. Rows of metal containers filled with shawarma, falafel, hummus and more than 20 vegetable sides demand a quick scan if people are waiting behind you. Point to what you want, and someone scoops the various items into your tortilla wrap, rice bowl or salad bowl (between $8.50 and $10.50, depending on the protein you choose). Both the allure and downside of Sajj is that the restaurant often gives priority to quantity over flavor.

If you choose every vegetable side — which you can do free of charge, except for the guacamole (yes, there’s guacamole here) — you’ll have plenty of food for two meals. Yet many of those sides are bland.

Close your eyes and the pickled onions dusted with sumac could be regular raw onions, their sharpness almost fully intact. An Israeli salad of chopped tomatoes and cucumbers offers merely the flavors of its respective ingredients rather than the complexity of a well-made salad. Tiny cubes of purple beets taste as if they were poured straight from the can. While the shredded cabbage provided great crunch, it tasted solely of shredded cabbage. During one visit, cauliflower stained purple from sumac was so overcooked that it went limp.

The proteins could also be better. The falafel was crunchy, but dry. Zaib Ayoub, the president of Falafel Inc., which owns Sajj, admits that it’s hard to get the timing right when cooking falafel. The falafel balls are fried frequently throughout the day, but they’ll dry out if they sit for too long. Sajj doesn’t want to make customers wait for a falafel to be freshly fried. (Note: I would gladly wait.)

Other proteins are hit-and-miss. During one visit, the steak shawarma had a bizarre, almost liver-like consistency, though Ayoub said it doesn’t contain any liver. The chicken shawarma tasted like plain grilled chicken — perfectly acceptable if not memorable. Pomegranate chicken carried a touch of sweetness, but it was chopped into such tiny pieces that it was sometimes difficult to identify as meat.

None of this is to say that the ingredients aren’t good quality. According to Ayoub, the vegetables come from local farms and the meat is antibiotic- and hormone-free as well as halal. Everything is prepped in a commercial kitchen in Menlo Park and then cooked on-site at the various restaurants.

Not everything is ordinary at Sajj. The hummus is fantastic. It’s thick and earthy, made in small batches.
by chef Louie Alhindi, who oversees all the cooking at the central kitchen.

“With most hummus, people add preservatives,” said Alhindi, but Sajj keeps it simple with dried garbanzo beans, olive oil and tahini. Sajj’s tahini, or yogurt dip, is cool, creamy and rife with crunchy cubes of cucumber. An off-white garlic dip teams with crushed garlic that feels pleasantly gravelly on the tongue. Another vegetable side, spicy peppers, may trigger a sweat response, so counter it with a bite of soft yellow rice.

Sajj’s sauces also excel. A bright green cilantro mint chutney reminiscent of Indian chutney of soft yellow rice. A visit during lunchtime proves the restaurant has quite a following. Ayoub and Sajj co-owner Mashar Sakhouri must have figured out that this is what the public wants. (Sakhouri was the former food and beverage director for the Hyatt hotels, and his family owns Bay Area chain Crop- evine Restaurant.) Yet one has to wonder if Sajj and fast-casual restaurants like it — are doing customers a disservice by dumpling down flavors in favor of convenience and low cost. Freelance writer Alissa Merksamer can be reached at amerksamer@gmail.com.

RAVENSWOOD GETS FLEXIBLE... Target is set to open its first store in East Palo Alto in the former Sports Authority space at Ravenswood Shopping Center this month. The new site, emblazoned with the retailer’s signature red-and-white target-shaped logo across the front façade, is scheduled to open its doors at 1775 East Bayshore Road on July 23, according to signage outside the store. The Minneapolis-based company began hiring staff members in April but as of this week was still looking to fill various positions for its grocery department, in-store Starbuckcs, the backroom and the retail floor. The approximately 50,000-square-foot store is part of the company’s “flexible-format” stores (formerly called TargetExpress) that were introduced in 2014 for stores in smaller locations to provide “quick-trip shopping” and a selection of merchandise tailored specifically to meet the needs of locals. The store will offer health and beauty items; fresh groceries and grab-and-go items, such as sandwiches, salads, beverages and snacks; baby and kids’ products, including apparel, sporting goods and toys; home decor and storage items; men’s and women’s apparel; portable tech products; stationery and gift items; and services like Target’s mobile and order pickups. This is Target’s second small-format store to open along the Peninsula. The company opened its first one in Cupertino in 2016. — E.A.

MAUM QUIETLY OPENS... Maum, a Korean restaurant that was supposed to open years ago in the former Apple Store on University Avenue in Palo Alto, has quietly opened just blocks away at 322 University Ave. Owner Patrick Tsui did not return several requests for comment, but social media posts indicate the restaurant — now a high-end, private dining concept — soft opened last month. An online job posting for a sous chef describes Maum as an upscale, private restaurant “serving an exclusive clientele searching for the highest quality of cuisine, drink, and service.” On June 8, Jason Ma, a talent manager and producer whose connection to the restaurant is unclear, posted on Instagram a photograph of the restaurant announcing the “soft launch” of the “east meets west private restaurant in the heart of Silicon Valley.” The photo shows a dining room with one long, immaculately set communal table and a small open kitchen in the back. On June 17, Ma posted more photos of the restaurant, with a group of diners — including none other than MC Hammer — and a series of dishes like caviar, oysters, sashimi, grilled meat and a bottle of Chablis Grand Cru wine. The restaurant has no signage outside yet and its front windows are tinted, preventing a view inside from the street. — E.K.

LAUNDRY ON DEMAND... The Minneapolis on-demand laundry startup, Mulberrys, opened its first Palo Alto store on July 7 at 2190 W. Bayshore Road in the former site of GreenStreets Cleaners & Tailors, which it acquired in January. Dan Miller, who launched the company in 2009, has been aggressively expanding throughout the Bay Area over the past year. Of the company’s 14 sites, nine are now located in the Bay Area; the other five are located in Minnesota. Miller said he considers the Silicon Valley area to be “among the most discerning markets in the U.S.” Mulberrys is one of few dry cleaners to offer on-demand service 24 hours a day. Customers can pick a day and time for laundry pickup, drop off garments on site 24-hours a day and request same-day service. The company also uses environmentally friendly laundry products and biodegradable and recycled packaging — something that has filled the company’s Yelp pages with rave reviews. Miller said Mulberrys is an artisan-style dry cleaners, meaning all garments are treated on site by the Mulberrys staff. — E.A.

Compiled by the Weekly staff: this week written by Elton Aspegren and Elena Kudravyy. Got leads on interesting and news-worthy retail developments? The Weekly will check them out. Email shoptalk@paweekly.com.
**Movies**

**OPENINGS**

**Web design upgrade**

‘Spider-Man: Homecoming’ goes back to school

We’re deep enough into the age of comic-book movies that “Spider-Man: Homecoming” in some ways feels like a throwback. Conspicuously kid friendly, the first Spider-Man movie to be produced by Marvel Studios — as a part of the Marvel Cinematic Universe — not only doesn’t shy from being goofy, but it cheerfully embraces the cartooniness. Director Jon Watts’ first shot at Spidey lands close enough to the summer-movie sweet spot that any quibbles feel a bit churlish.

Tom Holland’s Peter Parker, first seen in “Captain America: Civil War,” remains beholden to billionaire Tony Stark (Robert Downey Jr.), with whom the 15-year-old is serving an “internship.” But Peter finds himself held at arm’s length, not a good place to be for someone of his bouncing-of-the-walls, chomping-at-the-bit energy.

The rubber meets the road when the economically needy salvage crew of Adrian Toomes (Michael Keaton) gets screwed by the government, prompting (Michael Keaton) to begin stealing billionaire Tony Stark’s flying suit. Toomes keeps running afoul of Parker, a conflict that comes to a head on the night of the Homecoming Dance.

“Homecoming” gets plenty right. Keaton makes a great Vulture, and the character’s conception here as the working-class villain to Peter’s “working-class hero” proves dramatically effective, especially as goosed by a certain third-act reveal. The characterization of Spider-Man as a snarky teen in science-nerd T-shirts — as unmistakably a kid — also feels fresh. Twenty years after Tobey Maguire and Andrew Garfield (both assumed the role in their late 20s).

Director Jon Watts makes a credible leap into blockbuster filmmaking following his breakthrough indies “Clown” and “Cop Car.” Though there’s plenty of action excitement throughout, three well-staged major set pieces—each within or adjacent to a recognizable American landmark — effectively crank up tension.

Peter Parker (Tom Holland) tries to balance life as an ordinary high school student while fighting crime as his superhero alter ego in “Spider-Man: Homecoming.”

The film’s first act struggles a bit to nail down its tone and pacing, a probable result of at least six screenwriters leaving their prints on the script. Another arguable problem with “Spider-Man: Homecoming,” if a guaranteed box-office smash can be said to have one, is that everyone is Iron Man. The crazy amount of technology Stark affords to Parker, a kid from Queens, functions like a plot crutch for much of the film’s first two acts — although it sets up a third-act reversal. Then there’s the Vulture, with his high-tech flying suit and, of course, the tricked-out Iron Man.

The story doesn’t afford much emotional depth, but it does score points by noting Parker’s sacrifices and having Stark teach him the lesson, “If you’re nothing without the suit, then you shouldn’t have it.” A diverse ensemble adds value: Jacob Batalon as “man in the chair” Ned, Laura Harrier as love interest Liz, Zendaya as hilariously deadpan smart-girl Michelle, and Tony Revolori as bully Flash Thompson. Ultimately, “Spider-Man: Homecoming” can’t shake off the superhero formula or its corporate sheen, but it works nicely within those parameters as an action-packed, beat-the-heat distraction.

Rated PG-13 for sci-fi action violence, some language and brief suggestive comments. Two hours, 13 minutes.

— Peter Canavese

**FOOD SCRAPS LIFE HACKS with Zak Zero**

Zak Zero visited Palo Alto residents to find out how they make food scraps collection easy.

For more tips & videos, visit www.cityofpaloalto.org/foodscraps

“I keep food scraps in the fridge or freezer in a paper carton until collection day.” — Kate W.

“We use the green cart for things we can’t compost at home or feed to chickens, like meat, bones and soiled paper.” — Sven T.

“I place food scraps on top of leaves or plant trimmings, and it keeps the green cart clean.” — Liz P.

For more information, visit www.cityofpaloalto.org/foodscraps zerowaste@cityofpaloalto.org (650) 496-5910

www.PaloAltoOnline.com • Palo Alto Weekly • July 7, 2017 • Page 23
MOVIES NOW SHOWING

9 To 5 (PG)  Century 20: Sat.
All Eyes on Me (R)  Century 16: Fri. - Sun.
Baby Driver (R)  Century 16: Fri. - Sun.
Beatriz at Dinner (R)  Century 20: Fri. - Sun.
The Beguiled (R)  Century 16: Fri. - Sun.
The Big Sick (R)  Century 20: Fri. - Sun.
The Hero (R)  Aquarium Theatre: Fri. - Sun.

The following is a sampling of movies recently reviewed in the Weekly:

The Big Sick ***
"The Big Sick" is a romantic comedy Kumail Nanjiani ("Silicon Valley") co-wrote with his wife, Emily V. Gordon. The film is essentially the true story of Nanjiani and Gordon's relationship, starting Nanjiani as himself. We see Nanjiani working the room at Chicago's comedy clubs, hanging with fellow comedians, struggling to please his Pakistani-American family, and wooing Emily (Zoe Kazan). All of this business works as engaging high-spirited slice-of-life material, with Kazan and Nanjiani charming with their comic banter. But the rub is in that title: "The Big Sick" refers to the unbearable spoiler that Emily unexpectedly finds herself incapacitated by a health crisis. That crisis not only winds up ultimately bringing the lovers together (for good (see the screening credits) but sets the stage for Kumail to meet Emily's lovably loving parents, Beth and Terry, played by Holly Hunter and Ray Romano. Nanjiani and Gordon also do a nice job of laying out an arc of acceptance within Nanjiani's immediate family, despite his choices of a comedy career and a non-Pakistani woman (since more-or-less arranged marriage is the norm). This boisterous romantic comedy is consistently amusing and possessed with charming leads, and also serves as a heartwarming drama. Rated R for language including some sexual references. One hour, 59 minutes. — P.C.

The Big Short — P.C.
"The Big Short" is a financial thriller that dramatizes the spiritual exhaustion of our time's Happenstance sets the table for middle-class stand-up comic Brett Early who is a white-haired, 20-something yoga instructor. He invites her to stay for dinner within the walls of a gated community. The dinner celebrates an impending business deal, and the guest of "honor" is a hotel-owned mogul named Doug Strutt (John Lithgow). Strutt quickly proves racist, callous and smug. It's no great leap to call Strutt as Trumpian, but "Beatriz at Dinner" is a compelling drama — P.C.

Lady Bird — P.C.
The story of Christine Forster (Saoirse Ronan), a high school senior in suburban California, "Lady Bird" is the hilarious and touching coming-of-age story of a young woman's struggle with identity, family, and the future. Emma (Laurie Metcalf) is the tone-deaf mother of the title, called "Lady Bird" by her daughter. Their relationship is often strained, but they also share a deep bond. The film is a warm, moving portrayal of growing up and getting through rough times with the help of family and friends. Rated PG-13 for some strong language, sexual references. One hour, 54 minutes. — P.C.

Wonder Woman (PG-13)
"Wonder Woman" is a superhero movie that tells the story of Diana Prince (Gal Gadot), a Kourian princess who possesses the attributes of a god. She becomes a warrior after being trained by the Greek god Zeus, whom she has been searching for. The film is a highly entertaining and inspiring story that celebrates female empowerment and justice. Rated PG-13 for sequences of action violence, some suggestive material and brief strong language. One hour, 59 minutes. — P.C.
CLAY AND GLASS FESTIVAL
... The annual Clay & Glass Festival will be held at the Palo Alto Art Center from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. this Saturday, July 8. This year is the 25th anniversary of the event, which is co-sponsored by the Association of Clay and Glass Artists. The free, two-day event is the largest show of its kind, with 150 juried artists displaying their work. The event will include a variety of activities, including hands-on pottery making and wheel-throwing demonstrations. The Palo Alto Art Center is located at 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto.

THINKING OF ADDING ON? ... Before you put the demolition hammer in your hand, maybe you would like to attend a workshop put on by Harrell Remodeling on Saturday, July 15. Participants will learn how to plan an addition or a whole-house remodel. The class will be held 9-11 a.m. at the company’s main office, 944 Industrial Ave., Palo Alto. A light meal will be served, including coffee, juice, fruit, yogurt, muffins and pastries. For more information, go to harrell-remodeling.com.

FABRIC FLOWERS ... The Filoli Estate is offering a two-day workshop on fabric flowers on Friday, July 28 and 29, at Red’s Barn on the estate’s grounds. Instructor Candace Kling will teach participants how to make fabric flowers and leaves and discuss using online backing and stems to create compositions. The course will involve basic sewing skills. Cost is $150 for members; $180 for nonmembers. The class will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on each day. For more information email candace@candacekling.com. To register go to filoli.org/event/fabric-flower-bouquets/instance_id=1146.

S hirin Cooper knew she wanted to grow a lot more food in her garden, but she didn’t really know how. She turned to Common Ground Garden, a Palo Alto nonprofit that educates people about growing food in their gardens in a sustainable way.

“It’s one thing to have one small plot of tomatoes, and another thing to do a bigger-scale garden,” said the Los Altos resident.

Common Ground taught her how. Now, she is excited to share what she’s done and “provide concrete information to how I got started.”

Cooper’s home garden is just one of the 13 gardens featured in Common Ground’s 11th Annual Edible Garden Tour on July 8. This year’s theme, “community resilience,” focuses on how gardening enthusiasts can create more adaptable gardens with food that will last and plants that will thrive in spite of environmental impacts like climate change.

“By having more biodiversity in our community, it creates resilience in our food system,” said Emily Danko, education and program manager for Common Ground.

The self-guided tour will take place in several cities, including Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, Los Altos, Mountain View and Menlo Park.

The Edible Garden Tour is Common Ground’s main fundraiser. All proceeds support its programs, including a sustainable demonstration garden; youth education, adult volunteering and education, and donating produce each week to local food closets.

The tour will include three public community gardens in Palo Alto, including Johnson Park, where Elizabeth Duncan works as a community liaison. She has gardened at Johnson for 14 years, since moving here from Alabama. At Johnson Park, Duncan watches over more than 60 plots of green beans, tomatoes, kale, onions, rhubarb, zucchini and a multitude of herbs.

Gardening at Johnson Park has enabled Duncan to work alongside other gardeners, who swap food and water and share gardening tips. “It’s pleasant to come out here in this beautiful climate and talk to others and share the problems and allow them to come up with a solution,” she said.

Rinconada Community Garden also will be on the tour. Community liaison Annie Carl said many of the 180 plots there have been worked by the same gardeners for more than two decades. One of the most noteworthy parts of Rinconada’s garden is the monarch butterfly way-station plot, which includes plants necessary for monarchs to produce successive generations and sustain their migration.

“I’ve learned a lot about milkweeds and cultivating them. Our way station is certified by the Monarch Watch Project. We have lots of milkweeds and nektar plants for the butterflies in it,” Carl said.

Gardening is a very rewarding experience, said Carl. “You will make mistakes in the beginning. Your garden will be like an experiment. Over time, you will create a relationship with plants that will change the way you see the world around you,” she said.

Shirin Cooper has only been growing food for a few years, but she already has a sizable plot of tomatoes, carrots and kiwi squash in her backyard.

“It’s something I wanted to do for a long time, and I didn’t have any time to do it because I was working full time,” she said.

She enjoys cultivating fruits and vegetables because she “cares about what her family eats.” She also enjoys gardening with her children.

Elinor Aspegren is an intern at the Palo Alto Weekly. She can be emailed at easpegren@pawekly.com.

What: Eleventh Annual Edible Garden Tour
Where: Saturday, July 8, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Where: The tour starts at Common Ground Garden, 687 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto
Cost: $10 - $35
Information: commongroundgarden.org

Gardens of edible delights
Common Ground annual tour focuses on crop resilience
by Elinor Aspegren | photos by Veronica Weber

Red roses provide some color and cutting-flowers while the vegetable plants provide food for community members who sign up for plots at Johnson Park.

Elizabeth Duncan watches over more than 60 plots of veggies at Johnson Park, where she has gardened and picked huge onions for 14 years. Besides onions, she oversees green beans, tomatoes, kale, rhubarb, zucchini and a multitude of herbs.

The Edible Garden Tour will include three public community gardens in Palo Alto, including Johnson Park.

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The self-guided tour will take place in several cities, including Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, Los Altos, Mountain View and Menlo Park.

The Edible Garden Tour is Common Ground’s main fundraiser. All proceeds support its programs, including a sustainable demonstration garden; youth education, adult volunteering and education, and donating produce each week to local food closets.

The tour will include three public community gardens in Palo Alto, including Johnson Park, where Elizabeth Duncan works as a community liaison. She has gardened at Johnson for 14 years, since moving here from Alabama. At Johnson Park, Duncan watches over more than 60 plots of green beans, tomatoes, kale, onions, rhubarb, zucchini and a multitude of herbs.

Gardening at Johnson Park has enabled Duncan to work alongside other gardeners, who swap food and water and share gardening tips. “It’s pleasant to come out here in this beautiful climate and talk to others and share the problems and allow them to come up with a solution,” she said.

Rinconada Community Garden also will be on the tour. Community liaison Annie Carl said many of the 180 plots there have been worked by the same gardeners for more than two decades. One of the most noteworthy parts of Rinconada’s garden is the monarch butterfly way-station plot, which includes plants necessary for monarchs to produce successive generations and sustain their migration.

“I’ve learned a lot about milkweeds and cultivating them. Our way station is certified by the Monarch Watch Project. We have lots of milkweeds and nektar plants for the butterflies in it,” Carl said.

Gardening is a very rewarding experience, said Carl. “You will make mistakes in the beginning. Your garden will be like an experiment. Over time, you will create a relationship with plants that will change the way you see the world around you,” she said.

Shirin Cooper has only been growing food for a few years, but she already has a sizable plot of tomatoes, carrots and kiwi squash in her backyard.

“It’s something I wanted to do for a long time, and I didn’t have any time to do it because I was working full time,” she said.

She enjoys cultivating fruits and vegetables because she “cares about what her family eats.” She also enjoys gardening with her children.

Elinor Aspegren is an intern at the Palo Alto Weekly. She can be emailed at easpegren@pawekly.com.

What: Eleventh Annual Edible Garden Tour
Where: Saturday, July 8, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Where: The tour starts at Common Ground Garden, 687 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto
Cost: $10 - $35
Information: commongroundgarden.org

Gardens of edible delights
Common Ground annual tour focuses on crop resilience
by Elinor Aspegren | photos by Veronica Weber

Red roses provide some color and cutting-flowers while the vegetable plants provide food for community members who sign up for plots at Johnson Park.
SALES AT A GLANCE

Los Altos

Total sales reported: 10
Lowest sales price: $559,000
Highest sales price: $2,121,429
Average sales price: $927,690
Average sales price: $2,316,429
Average sales price: $3,725,000

Mountain View

Total sales reported: 12
Lowest sales price: $505,000
Highest sales price: $3,600,000
Average sales price: $1,630,625
Average sales price: $2,850,000
Average sales price: $1,212,429
Source: California Association of Realtors.
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5 Betty Lane, Atherton
$26,800,000
Listing Provided by: Greg Goumas, Lic. #01878208

10440 Albertsworth Lane, Los Altos Hills
$11,488,000
Listing Provided by: Greg Goumas & John Reece, Lic. #01878208 & 00838479

2215 Liberata Drive, Morgan Hill
$10,889,888
Listing Provided by: Joe Velasco, Lic. #01309200

18612 Decatur Road, Monte Sereno
$9,800,000
Listing Provided by: Joanna Hsu, Lic. #01394844

0 Spanish Ranch Road, Los Gatos
$9,187,000
Listing Provided by: Matthew Pikel & Craig Gorman, Lic. #01957213 & Lic. #01087171

27466 Sunrise Farm Rd, Los Altos Hills
$8,750,000
Listing Provided by: Greg Goumas, Lic. #01878208

114 New Brighton Road, Aptos
$5,000,000
Listing Provided by: Max Ostol, Lic. #01156251

106 Sacramento Avenue, Capitola
$4,498,000
Listing Provided by: Jennifer Consiglio, Lic. #01335273

8715 Leavesley Road, Gilroy
$2,999,888
Listing Provided by: Joe Velasco, Lic. #01309200

2965 Paseo Robles, San Martin
$2,895,000
Listing Provided by: Dan Barnes, Lic. #01791580

1290 Via Huerta, Los Altos
SALE PENDING

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WOODSIDE $14,995,000
1250 Canada Road Approx. 5 acs in Central Woodside, working equestrian center. Co-listed w/Michael Dreyfus. 4 BR/4 BA + 1 half BA
Sean Foley CalBRE #00870112 650.851.2666

CENTRAL WOODSIDE $11,995,000
307 Olive Hill Ln Exceptional 6 BR/5 BA Woodside Prop on over 3 sun-swept acres. Vineyard, garden, pool &More 6 BR/5 BA
Erika Demma CalBRE #01230766 650.851.2666

WOODSIDE SUN 1:30 - 4:30
618 Manzanita Way. Beautifully remodeled home, equestrian facilities + Pvt pool & spa, on 2.6+ landscaped ac. 4 BR/3 BA + 1 half BA
Erika Demma CalBRE #01230766 650.851.2666

PORTOLA VALLEY SAT/SUN 1:30-4:30
7 Coalmine Vw. Exquisitely remodeled Portola Valley Ranch home with spectacular views - 7Coalmine.com 4 BR/3 BA
Ginny Kavanaugh CalBRE #00884747 650.851.1961

PORTOLA VALLEY $2,975,000
20 Vista Verde Way Expansive custom-built home with spectacular views of the Bay and beyond - 20VistaVerde.com 3 BR/3 BA + 1 half BA
Ginny Kavanaugh CalBRE #00884747 650.851.1961

PORTOLA VALLEY SAT/SUN 1:30-4:30
11 Coalmine Vw. Contemporary single-level home with quality amenities and stunning views - 11Coalmine.com 4 BR/2 BA + 1 half BA
Ginny Kavanaugh CalBRE #00884747 650.851.1961

MENLO PARK $2,745,000
1025-1027 Marcussen Dr Centrally located MP duplex. 3/1.5 + bonus room, & 2/1. Completely remodeled owner’s unit. BR/ BA
Billy McNair CalBRE #01343603 650.324.4456

MENLO PARK $2,590,000
337 Central Ave. Willows home w/new kitchen, new bath, new hall bath, flooring, huge lot in great location. 3 BR/2 BA
Elaine White CalBRE #01182467 650.324.4456

WOODSIDE SAT 1-5
17507 Skyline Blvd Gorgeous, & updated w/ stunning Bay views. Guest cottage. Portola Valley schools. 5 BR/4 BA
Veronica Kogler CalBRE #01788047 650.324.4456

MENLO PARK $2,295,000
248 Hedge Rd Turnkey 4 bd, 4 ba w/kit-fam great rm. MP schools. Easy commute access & close to Facebook 4 BR/4 BA
Billy McNair CalBRE #01343603 650.324.4456

SAN MATEO SAT 1:30 - 4:30
472 E 28th Ave. Spectacular luxury 2-year new townhome, walking distance to Town Square. Lots of upgrades. 4 BR/3 BA + 1 half BA
Judy Shen CalBRE #01272874 650.325.6161

BELMONT $968,000
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Charlotte Van Orden CalBRE #00525483 650.324.4456

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This 4bed/3bath home offers 1,906 sq.ft. across a light-filled, open floor plan with amazing features including elegant laminate floors, recessed lights and fresh paint with designer colors. Gourmet kitchen offers beautiful skylight, hardwood floors, breakfast nook with custom pendant lights and freshly painted cabinets with new contemporary fixtures. The bedrooms are flexibly designed to fit a variety of uses. Living room is accented with a high ceilings and full wall of windows overlooking beautiful backyard. Outside, the resort-inspired grounds immersed in natural privacy feature mature trees that enhance the secluded setting and offer the ultimate for recreation and entertaining with a sparkling pool. Excellent amenities include brand new roof (30 year warranty) and 2-car garage with ample storage.

This private, yet close-in, location provides convenient access to Midtown Shopping Center, Palo Alto Downtown, parks, libraries, major commuters’ routes and Silicon Valley employers and other everyday conveniences. Exceptional Palo Alto schools are also within close proximity including Palo Verde Elementary, Ohlone Elementary, JLS Middle, Palo Alto High schools (buyer to verify/confirm eligibility and availability).

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1171 Orange Avenue, Menlo Park  
$2,398,000 | 1171ORANGE.COM

14700 Manuella Road, Los Altos Hills  
$3,800,000 | 14700MANUELLA.COM

Silicon Valley Estate  
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<th>Address</th>
<th>Bedrooms</th>
<th>Bathrooms</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<td>Atherton</td>
<td>$268,000</td>
<td>5 Betty Lane</td>
<td>7bd/9.5ba</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ali Faghri 650.346.4727</td>
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<td>WOODSIDE</td>
<td>$2,395,000</td>
<td>835 La Honda Road</td>
<td>4bd/3.5ba</td>
<td></td>
<td>Judy Citron 650.543.1206</td>
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<td>Atherton</td>
<td>$9,750,000</td>
<td>180 Magnolia Drive</td>
<td>7bd/6.5ba</td>
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<td>Mary &amp; Brent Gullixson 650.888.0860</td>
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<td>Palo Alto</td>
<td>$7,878,000</td>
<td>471 Nevada Avenue</td>
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<td>John Forsyth James 650.218.4337</td>
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<td>$5,495,000</td>
<td>1760 Oakdell Drive</td>
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<td>Siobhan O’Sullivan 650.776.5445</td>
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<td>Menlo Park</td>
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<td>2 Lassen Court</td>
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<td>Keri Nicholas 650.304.3100</td>
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<td>Stanford</td>
<td>$3,495,000</td>
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<td>4bd/3ba</td>
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<td>S. Diodati-Jamison/J. Bentley 650.867.7976</td>
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<td>$3,398,000</td>
<td>1001 Fulton Street</td>
<td>3bd/3ba</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sherry Bucolo 650.207.9909</td>
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<td>Palo Alto</td>
<td>$2,488,000</td>
<td>2599 Louis Road</td>
<td>2bd/1.5ba</td>
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<td>Zach Trailer 650.304.3100</td>
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<td>Los Altos</td>
<td>$2,388,000</td>
<td>22151 Berkeley Court</td>
<td>4bd/2.5ba</td>
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<td>$2,199,000</td>
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<td>3bd/2.5ba</td>
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<td>Wayne Rivas 650.529.1111</td>
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<td>$1,498,000</td>
<td>1315 Hoover Street</td>
<td>2bd/1.5ba</td>
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<td>Lynn Wilson Roberts 650.255.6987</td>
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<tr>
<td>Palo Alto</td>
<td>$1,598,000</td>
<td>500 Fulton Street #201</td>
<td>2bd/1.5ba</td>
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<td>Janis Ahmadjian-Baer 650.941.1111</td>
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<td>Menlo Park</td>
<td>$1,280,000</td>
<td>445 Oak Grove Avenue, Unit 14</td>
<td>3bd/2ba</td>
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<td>Portola Valley</td>
<td>$945,000</td>
<td>251 Vista Verde</td>
<td>Land</td>
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Such information has not been verified by Alain Pinel Realtors®. It is important to buyers, buyers should conduct their own investigation.
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**REALTOR® Scholarship Program**

The Silicon Valley REALTORS® Charitable Foundation presented scholarship awards to 18 graduating seniors from public high schools in Silicon Valley at the end of the 2016-2017 school year. Each student received a $1,000 scholarship.

The Silicon Valley REALTORS® Charitable Foundation is the charitable arm of the Silicon Valley Association of REALTORS®, the local trade organization representing over 4,500 REALTORS® and affiliate members engaged in the real estate business on the Peninsula and in the South Bay. The Charitable Foundation’s REALTOR® scholarship program recognizes students who have exemplified outstanding achievements in academics, extracurricular/employment activities and community involvement. The selection committee includes representatives from the local business community, area high schools, area colleges and the local trade association.

The students who received scholarships, the schools from which they graduated, and the colleges/universities they will be attending this fall are:

- Marnie Gerbino, Capertino High School (UC Davis);
- Yung Chua, Homestead High School (UCLA);
- Madeline Gibbons-Shapiro, Leigh High School (Georgetown University);
- Ginger Wang Brown, Los Gatos High School (University of Chicago); Shayla Tonge, Mountain View High School (Chapman University);
- Joe Dellaert, Palo Alto High School (University of Chicago); Aryan D’Rozario, Prospect High School (UC Santa Cruz);
- Meghan Baccouche, Santa Clara High School (UC Davis);
- Julie Cai, Saratoga High School (New York University);
- Aruna Sadar Ghalary, Westmont High School (UC San Diego);
- Poojita Dasika, Wilcox High School (UCLA); and
- Begoña U. Sanchez, Woodside High School (UC Riverside).

Members of SILVAR who presented the scholarships to the recipients during their school’s senior awards night were Chris Alston (Keller Williams Realty), Mark Burns (Referral Realty), Nina Daruwalla (Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage), Mary Kay Groth (Serenity Group), Penelope Huang (Golden Gate Sotheby’s International Realty), Young Jacob (Intero Real Estate Services), Theresa Loy (Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage), Bill Moody (Referral Realty), Russell Morris (Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage), Moise Nahouraii (Referral Realty), Jose Padilla (Alain Pinel Realtors), Mary Tan (Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage), David Tooma (Alain Pinel Realtors) and Denise Welsh (Alain Pinel Realtors).

The scholarship awards presented by the REALTORS® foundation are made possible by donations from members of the local trade association. Since it started 18 years ago, the program has provided $324,000 in scholarships to high school seniors in Silicon Valley.

Information provided in this column is provided by the Silicon Valley Association of REALTORS®. Send questions to Rose Merly at rmely@silvar.org.

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Silicon Valley REALTORS® Present Scholarships to 18 Graduating High School Seniors

- Madeleine Gibbons-Shapiro, Leigh High School (Georgetown University);
- Ginger Wang Brown, Los Gatos High School (University of Chicago); Shayla Tonge, Mountain View High School (Chapman University);
- Joe Dellaert, Palo Alto High School (University of Chicago); Aryan D’Rozario, Prospect High School (UC Santa Cruz);
- Meghan Baccouche, Santa Clara High School (UC Davis);
- Julie Cai, Saratoga High School (New York University);
- Aruna Sadar Ghalary, Westmont High School (UC San Diego);
- Poojita Dasika, Wilcox High School (UCLA); and
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“Bo Knows” — so do you know five Bos? Matt Jones

Across
1. Std. tee size
2. 4 mild cheddar cheese
3. “Cheesy” and “The Good Place” network
12. “Near everbody” (Who was the actor who played Lorelai Gilmore?)
13. When some night owls go to bed
15. Dove noise
16. Overly
18. First Family of the 1980s
19. Music subgenre for Jenny Lind and Merle Haggard
22. German magazine, with “Der”
23. Restaurant reviewer’s delight
25. “...la vie”
27. 2000 World Series MVP
32. Pianoist Rubenstein
34. Gillette razor brand
36. “That can’t be right”
38. Exhibitions sometimes shown in a small hole
40. “Washboard” muscles

43. Conspire
44. Daytime programming, once
48. Gene Chandler doo-wop hit whose meaning “hint”
53. Cookbook instruction
54. “The House at Pooh Corner” author
55. Running on Empty” singer
59. “Hamlet” genre, for short
60. Defunct sci-fi magazine
61. “Bridge over Troubled Water” singer
62. “Running on Empty” singer
64. An opportunity for your ad to appear in today’s highly competitive market? Gain an edge with California News Publishers Association newinnovates, website capublishers.com and check out the Smart Search Feature. For more information call Cecelia @ (916) 288-4611 or www.capublishers.com (Call-SCAN)

Please note: Answers on page 40.

This week’s SUDOKU

Answers on page 40.

Down
1. Sardon drama on which a Puccini opera is based
2. Another word for sea bass
3. Self-absorbed person
4. Sank your teeth into
5. Divine counselor
6. Company that’s built brick by brick
7. “...Our Bridge”
8. Life of f” author Martel
9. “Treasure Island” author
10. Flamboyant carch
11. Gear tooth
13. “Hamlet” genre, for short
14. Clock setting in most of AZ
20. Abate
21. Swirly bread variety
24. Spider-Man co-creator Stan
25. Get leverage, in a way
28. Reggae Sunsplash attendee
29. Numerical suffix
30. Marvel shapeshifting
31. Superman’s uncle
32. “...Our Bridge”
33. Defaulter’s risk
34. Middle Earth being
35. Rue Morgue chronicle
36. Economic start
40. Halftime fodder
41. Everything “...the kitchen sink”
42. Winter Olympics structure
45. Frequently over an extended time, maybe
46. Robert Galbraith, e.g.
47. Lotte of “Full House”
50. The end of an ___
52. “...Our Bridge”
53. California’s ___ Tar Pits
54. “The House at Pooh Corner” author
56. Running on Empty” singer
57. Missionary to do with buildings, maybe
58. Intoxicating Polynesian beverage that rhymes with “Snape”
59. Winter Olympics structure
60. Defunct sci-fi magazine
61. ‘Nope’ opponent
62. “...Our Bridge”

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COACHING CHANGES ... Menlo School baseball coach Sean Riley will not return next season, though Knights athletic director Kris Weems left the door open for him. Riley led Menlo to the Central Coast Section Division II title in the spring despite the team being a No. 11 seed entering the tournament. The Knights (18-10) became the first No. 11 seed to win the title since Pacific Grove won in 1999. Weems said that “circumstances surrounding the tragic loss of their son have made the past year incredibly tough for Sean Riley,” Riley is taking the year to spend time with his family. His son, highly-regarded baseball prospect Calvin Riley, was tragically killed while playing.

Five for Budapest; four for Taiwan

Stanford swimmers earn spots on world championship teams by Rick Eymer

Friday
Women's golf: Thomberoy Creek Classic, 3 p.m., GOLF Channel
Saturday
FIVB volleyball: Team USA vs. China, 9:30 p.m., NBCSN
Women's golf: Thomberoy Creek Classic, 2:30 p.m., GOLF Channel
Sunday
Women's golf: Thomberoy Creek Classic, 2:30 p.m., GOLF Channel
AVP beach volleyball: San Francisco Open, 9:30 p.m., NBCSN

For expanded daily coverage of college and prep sports, visit www.PASportsOnline.com
Brooke Forde qualified in the 400 IM after moving into third when Eastin was disqualified at the Phillips 66 National Championships.

Unfortunately, Stanford’s Katie Dressel was bumped from the 20-member team. That could be temporary as rosters are firmed up over the next few days in the week. Dressel was a key part of the 200 fly and 200 free relay.

On the men’s side, Stanford will be presented by Grant Shoults in the 200 free, the 400 free and the 4x200 free relay.

Eastin and DeVine were two of nine IM swimmers disqualified Thursday over a rule put in place to eliminate an innovative turn by Ryan Lochte. It only applies to the IM events and forces swimmers to learn a different way to make turns, harming the integrity of the event.

DeVine, who qualified for his first major international competition, went 1:56.79 in the finals, lowering his prelim time by two seconds, which included a 27.81 freestyle leg, the fastest in the field.

DeVine is the third-fastest swimmer this year and his time was the provisional record by nearly two seconds.

Eastin qualified with the second-fastest time in the morning session but was more than a second behind the top two swimmers in the final. She finished in 2:10.89.

A total of eight swimmers with Stanford connections competed in the women’s 200 IM. Forde qualified in 2:14.18 while Drabot won the ‘B’ final in a personal best 2:12.82, just ahead of teammates Kim Wil- lions (2:13.64), Allie Szekely (2:15.95), Sacred Heart Prep grad Ally Howe (2:16.06), and incoming freshman Hannah Kukura (2:16.05) in a personal best and Palo Alto grad Grace Zhao (2:21.19).

Manuel went 24.22 to win the 50 free, the third fastest time in the world this year and her fourth national title. Neal was third in 24.77. In the 1,500 free, Forde won the 1:34.05. Manuel said, “I think that I was able to take a little bit of pressure off myself... I obviously have very high expectations for myself but I showed up with that swim, and pretty surprised with a 2.42 based on how I’ve been feeling in the water. I think with a little more rest I’ll definitely be able to go faster.”

Sweetser went 7:55.29 to finish third in the 800 and Shoults was fifth in 7:58.00.

Ledecky set her world record four years ago, winning the 1,500 meter free in 15:36.53 at the world championships in Barcelona. She was 16.

In 2014, Ledecky swam 3:58.86 to establish the standard in the 400 free. She was second in two seconds faster winning gold last year in Rio.

The Stanford sophomore raced a U.S. Open and National Championship record 3:58.44 in Friday’s 400 meter freestyle, winning her 13th national title in her fourth day at the Phillips 66 National Championships in Indianapolis.

“I’ve always tried to have that consistency,” Ledecky said. “3:58 at this point, that’s my third best ever behind Rio and the Pan Pacs. It’s good to see a 58 up like that at this point.”

Ledecky, born in Washington D.C. and raised in Maryland, is now thinking about much except to remain consistent in her preparation for the next few years.

She’s established a rapport with Stanford co-captain Alexander, who will also coach the world championship team.

“Talking to Greg, we’re figuring out how we want to make forward,” Ledecky said. “I’m still making the transition to the West Coast and there’s a lot going on. I’m working through the process instead of setting some concrete time goals.”

Having been through the process of preparing for the Olympic Games, Ledecky understands what she needs as she begins the new quad.

“I’m kind of putting together some good swims and having fun with it,” she said. “Coming into the first year after the Olympics, just looking into the quad and also not setting any limits or expectations on myself. I’m finding a balance. I’m happy to see all the big events. I’ll grow from all the events, I’ll see what I can do.”

As she did in winning both the 200 meter and 800 meter free titles earlier in the week, Ledecky’s 400 time is the fastest in the world by almost four seconds.
Little League

(continued from page 41)

win over Hillsborough.
Duncan had three homers and six RBI on Saturday in a 14-4 victory over San Carlos. He hit 12 during the regular season.

His secret?
“I like to swing,” said Elias, flashing one of the few smiles he’s shown in the tourney. “During the regular season sometimes it was hard to get good pitches to hit. Here I see more strikes, and the pitching is faster. Now the pitcher supplies the power.”

And Duncan does it best. His two-run shot to right-center gave Palo Alto a 5-1 lead in the second inning, and another two-run homer, this one almost hitting the scoreboard in center, made it 7-2.

“He’s playing OK,” said Todd Duncan of his son, trying to suppress a smile of his own. “The game has slowed down a bit for him (in All-Stars), and he’s having a lot of fun. He has a good attitude toward it all, and that’s where we’re trying to keep him.”

It was a combination of timely hitting and good defense that led to the team’s four wins. Leading the defense has been right fielder Jackson Martin, whose outstanding running, catching in the fifth kept a possible Hillsborough rally from germinating.

“During the regular season I played infield, so this is a change,” said Martin, who also had two great catches in right on Saturday.

“You have to be ready in a whole different way.”

One thing that helps is the encouragement he gets from his teammates.

“I get a lot of encouragement all the time,” he said. “I hear about it when I make a good play. My teammates make it fun.”

For his part, Elias says he’s also enjoying his teammates, and is relishing representing Palo Alto. Even though he lives across the street from Stanford Middle School, he goes to school in San Francisco and Palo Alto. “I have good friends in both San Francisco and Palo Alto,” Elias said. “But I like living in Palo Alto better. It’s more of a free environment. You can ride your bike and there’s more room.”

Palo Alto won on Sunday with the four-headed pitching of Duncan, Teng, Alex Rojas and Zack Silver. They also used four pitchers on Saturday.

“Playing every day keeps you sharp, but it’s a double-edged sword,” Todd Duncan said. “You burn a lot of pitchers.”

10-11-year-old tournament

Menlo-Atherton’s all-star season came to a halt on Tuesday with a 4-3 loss to Hillsborough in the championship game of the District 52 Little League 10-11-Year-Old Tournament, but making it as far as they did was an accomplishment in itself.

Ryan Kelly, for example, did just about everything he could to extend the team’s summer — even giving a baseball a ride down the creek beyond the center field fence at Marina Field in Belmont on Monday.

That walkoff homer provided Menlo-Atherton’s sixth straight win in nine days in the elimination bracket. Unfortunately, they couldn’t make it to seven.

“We never gave up,” said Kelly, who had two singles and drove in M-A’s only run on Tuesday.

“We won six games in a row, made some comebacks, had three walkoff hits and had a lot of fun.”

M-A collected five hits and four walks but couldn’t put together a big inning. Mikey McGrath (shortstop), Ryan Kelly and Rowan Kelly played well in the infield.

Thomas Scott retired six of the eight batters he faced, including the first three.

For Ryan Kelly, the walkoff homer on Monday in a 7-6 win over Pacifica American was the highlight.

“It was great, because I knew I did something for my team to get us here,” Ryan said. “Everyone was happy; one of my teammates was crying. I’m just happy we got as far as we did.”

Kelly got the chance to play here because of several key efforts from his teammates.

McGrath gave up a game-tying three-run homer in the top of the ninth inning then retired the final six hitters he faced, striking out the side in the seventh, to keep the game squared.

“All of a sudden he was popping it all over it,” M-A manager Jason Gray said.

M-A’s unlikely run to the title game — the team won three straight by two runs or less — can be attributed, said Gray, to “the kids’ resiliency. They’re learned how to play positive in tough situations.”

Oliver Kwan showed a lot of poise as Pacifica was threatening to break the game open in the third. Already ahead 3-0 and with the bases loaded, Pacifica’s Steven Dalton drilled a ball toward right field that had extra bases written all over it.

Kwan erased the threat with a terrific grab of the liner and then, having the awareness, threw a bullet to first baseman Harrison Long to double up a runner.

“When he snagged that ball, that was a game-changer,” Gray said.

Pacifica scored twice before M-A even had a chance to bat. They also had seven hits and three runs before Menlo-Atherton got its first hit.

McGrath’s one-out single in the third led to M-A’s first run, driven in by Calen Filipko.

After Long was hit by a pitch with two outs in the fourth, catcher Andre Winslow tied the game with a two-run shot.

Menlo-Atherton scored three times in the fifth to grab a 6-3 lead. Rowan Kelly walked, Filipko singled and with two outs, Ryan Kelly walked. Shaw Pagee fell behind in the count before poking a single into center field that put M-A ahead. Long and Winslow also drove in runs.

9-10 year-old

Alpine West Menlo was knocked out of the tournament by San Mateo National, 13-3, last Saturday at La Entrada School.

Alpine finished 3-2 in the tournament and the equivalent of fifth place out of 16 teams.

Babe Ruth

(continued from page 41)

Several members of the Palo Alto team went through the experience of falling just short as 13s and 14s the last two years.

“I told them they shouldn’t be focused beyond the first game,” Farr said. “But I’m pretty sure if you’re in the lineup you would hear them talk about wanting to get the team that beat them twice.”

In the other opening-day matchups, Woodland will play Sonoma at 1 p.m. and Mountain View will take on Vallejo at 4 p.m.

Farr, as of Wednesday, hadn’t settled on the order of his pitching rotation. Trevor Leon and Sam Sloan will get starts. Aidan Everett and Elliot Zeien will also see time on the mound.

Colin Collins, Roman Donnelly, Cvijan and Kylen Liu provide some pop in the middle of the lineup.

Farr sees the team’s depth as a strength. Tyler Foung, Ryan So, Dante Cacchione, Moldow, Paul Thue, Owen Crevelt and Kyle Moextensions all have the potential to play key roles.

“The nice thing about our group is that they all have the natural ability, one through nine, even the guys on the bench,” Farr said.

“What will be a key for us will be getting some guys on base early in the order.”

The Palo Alto 13-year-old all-stars also advanced into the NorCal tournament as the No. 2 team in District 6 behind NorCal host Bel-Mateo.

The 13-year-olds reached the championship against Bel-Mateo, only to lose, 5-3, in extra innings at McKevety Park in Mountain View last Saturday.

Dante Black drove in the tying run in the bottom of the seventh inning for Palo Alto, which also got two hits and an RBI from Danny Peters. Nathan Yu also had two hits.

Starting pitcher Diego Clarke went five solid innings, allowing one earned run on six hits. He struck out two and did not walk a batter.

Palo Alto gets a first-round bye and will play Sunday at noon at the Belmont Sports Complex against the winner of Saturday’s Washington Manor-Tri Valley contest.

Palo Alto earned the reprieve because Bel-Mateo had an automatic berth as host.
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