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Call Judy Shen for more information.
Will Ravenswood push against charter expansion?

Parents, residents urge board against displacing district-run school
by Elena Kadvany

At a packed community meeting Tuesday night, Belle Haven Elementary School parents, staff and residents urged the Ravenswood City School District Board of Education against disbANDING any district-run school in order to provide space for an expanding public charter school — and in response, some board members indicated a desire to “fight” the charter’s request.

The meeting at Belle Haven, located in east Menlo Park, was the third of six meetings the board is holding to solicit community input on KIPP Valiant Community Prep’s request for a long-term site to accommodate its growing enrollment. Public school districts are required under state Proposition 39 to make facilities available to charter schools to ensure all students have equal access.

Speakers Tuesday defended Belle Haven and urged the board to keep KIPP at its current location at the contiguous Brentwood and Los Robles/McNair campuses, where the charter school has shared space since it opened in 2017. They also pressed for more concrete data about the various options and voiced frustration that no specific proposals have been offered yet, limiting the specific feedback they can provide.

“It really seems like we’re up-rooting a flowering plant and putting we-don’t-quite-know-what ... in its place,” said Andy Westhall, the father of two Belle Haven students.

Board President Tamara Sobomehin emphasized the importance of the community meetings as a source of information for the five board members. The trustees will decide whether Belle Haven, Brentwood, Costano or Willow Oaks will house KIPP starting this fall — unless they agree to pursue another path.

“I am gathering information so when we come together we can look at the facts ... and see what we can fight,” Sobomehin said.

(continued on page 13)

CITY HALL

New priorities: Climate, traffic, finances, rail
City Council eyes expanded shuttle, rail redesign decision
by Gennady Sheyner

Palo Alto’s elected leaders will devote extra energy in 2019 toward addressing the city’s transportation challenges, getting local finances in order, picking new designs for the rail crossings and take more aggressive action on addressing climate change, the City Council decided at its annual retreat on Feb. 2.

The council also agreed to put more effort this year into engaging the community and regaining public trust, which a new survey shows has been gradually eroding.

After a spirited discussion, the council voted unanimously to adopt four priorities for 2019: the climate action plan, grade separations, transportation and traffic, and fiscal sustainability. The four were chosen from a list of 11 that were submitted by council members — a list that also included the reconstruction of Cubberley Community Center, improving communications with the public and pursuing a business tax.

The most popular idea that did not make the list of official priorities was “regaining public trust,” an item that was championed by Councilwoman Lydia Kou and that all her colleagues generally agreed is an important goal. The idea grew out of a new National Citizens Survey, which showed that only 42 percent of the residents gave the city a rating of “excellent” or “good” when asked about the “overall direction that the city is taking.”

The survey also showed the percentage of people who reported that
WINTER WONDERLAND ... Snow in Palo Alto? It was strange, but true weather event that struck the city and Bay Area on Tuesday morning. The white dusting was enough for the Police Department to block Page Mill Road from about 5 a.m. to around noon.

"Wow! I am going to have to get out my snow boots, gloves, coat, etc.," wrote one Twitter user in response to the police tweet on the closure. A Bobcat loader was brought in to clear the roadway. Police officers and Open Space staff relished the opportunity to collect a snowball to remember the spectacle. Park-rangers kept a snowball in the staff room freezer that they intend to bring out during a heat wave this summer.

MOTION SICKNESS ... At City retreats in Palo Alto, it is an unwritten rule that at some point, elected leaders will talk about the need to talk less. Council members bring up horror stories of marathon meetings and critical decisions made past midnight. They propose new procedures and vow to be more concise (these vows typically last as long as the average New Year’s resolution).

As City Manager Ed Shikada diplomatically explained during this year’s annual retreat, which took place on Feb. 2, “Palo Alto has an extreme propensity to talk things out at the dais.” This year, the council is trying something new. Councilwoman Liz Kniss noted during the discussion that conversations about limiting council members’ speaking time took place on Feb. 2: “Palo Alto has the best streets in Santa Clara County. We only want late-night people to be on the council, we have got to come up with some way to make the hardest decisions before 11 or 11:30.”

Councilwoman Alison Corganic said to address that, the council agreed to stop discussions at 11 p.m., unless members pass a motion for an additional 15 minutes. The council (which was reduced from nine to seven seats last year in a bid to make meetings more efficient) agreed to try both new procedures for a month and then re-evaluate. Council members generally agreed that each of them should try to limit his or her comments to five minutes at a time, though without formality and annoyance. The city council is trying new procedures, one of which also had ice, presented a formal bill for street repairs, Palo Alto officials are stuck about the results. To demonstrate its joy about pavement condition, the City Council will pass on Monday a special proclamation celebrating the city’s “pavement condition index,” which went from 72 (well below neighboring cities) to 85, the goal that the council established in 2011. The proclamation credits employees from the Public Works Engineering Streets Group who "rolled up their sleeves, worked tirelessly and met the goal one year early.” Thanks to the group’s hard work (and about $45 million in spending since 2012), Palo Alto "now has the best streets in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties,” the proclamation states.

Rather than leading with wide-ranging question rounds, council members will try to start their discussions with an open question — a move that they hope will prompt more a focused discussion. Members also agreed that they aren’t at their sharpest after 11 p.m. “Unless we only want late-night people to be on the council, we have got to come up with some way to make the hardest decisions before 11 or 11:30.” Councilwoman Alison Corganic said to address that, the council agreed to stop discussions at 11 p.m., unless members pass a motion for an additional 15 minutes. The council (which was reduced from nine to seven seats last year in a bid to make meetings more efficient) agreed to try both new procedures for a month and then re-evaluate. Council members generally agreed that each of them should try to limit his or her comments to five minutes at a time, though without formality and annoyance. The city council is trying new procedures, one of which also had ice, presented a formal bill for street repairs, Palo Alto officials are stuck about the results. To demonstrate its joy about pavement condition, the City Council will pass on Monday a special proclamation celebrating the city’s “pavement condition index,” which went from 72 (well below neighboring cities) to 85, the goal that the council established in 2011. The proclamation credits employees from the Public Works Engineering Streets Group who "rolled up their sleeves, worked tirelessly and met the goal one year early.” Thanks to the group’s hard work (and about $45 million in spending since 2012), Palo Alto "now has the best streets in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties,” the proclamation states.

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Residents seek more services, fewer cars for Ventura

City gathers ideas during community meeting for master plan

by Gennady Sheyner

Palo Alto’s effort to redesign and ultimately redevelop a large portion of the Ventura neighborhood is stoking hopes among local residents about new parks, bikeways and housing developments, as well as anxieties about more cars cutting through the eclectic neighborhood just south of Oregon Expressway.

These sentiments were aired during a Tuesday community meeting on the North Ventura Coordinated Area Plan, an effort that the city launched last year. For the City Council and staff, the 60-acre area represents a rare opportunity: a place close to transit services that has large, underdeveloped parcels — most notably, the sprawling complex anchored by Fry’s Electronics. As such, the site is identified in the city’s Housing Element plan as one particularly ripe for new housing.

In addition to bringing more housing to the neighborhood, the main goals of the North Ventura Coordinated Area Plan are to create better transportation options and add public amenities, including retail and open spaces.

The area under study is bounded by El Camino Real on the west, the Caltrain corridor on the east, Page Mill Road on the north and Lambert Avenue on the south.

So far, most of the work has occurred behind the scenes, with a 14-member Working Group composed of residents, business owners and property owners discussing the possibilities over the course of three meetings. The Tuesday community meeting was an opportunity for the greater community to weigh in.

About three dozen people, many of them Ventura residents and members of the Working Group, came to Mitchell Park Community Center. Most voiced support for improving bike paths, supporting retail, revitalizing Matadero Creek and creating more affordable housing, even if it means relaxing the city’s 50-foot height limit.

But while residents broadly supported pedestrian and bike improvements, they were far less enthusiastic about cars. When polled, 69 percent of the attendees said they would support a plan that creates more pathways for pedestrian and bikes to take but not for cars; while only 12 percent said they would like to see more routes for all three modes.

Many in attendance said they prefer a layout in which cars primarily use roads on the periphery of the area, namely Park Boulevard, El Camino Real and Page Mill.

Residents also supported adding more park amenities, with the restoration of Matadero Creek, which is currently a concrete channel, proving particularly popular. Attendees also made a case for more rooftop gardens and community gardens, particularly if new multifamily housing is approved in the neighborhood.

Overall, the vast majority of those in attendance — 89 percent — either “agreed” or “strongly agreed” with the city’s goal to create in Ventura “walkable neighborhoods with multifamily housing, ground-floor retail, a public park, creek improvements and an interconnected street grid.” A somewhat smaller majority of 75 percent also approved of the idea of raising the height limit to accommodate the new apartment complexes, with varying levels of enthusiasm.

When polled, 33 percent said they support raising the height limit for the area, while 42 percent said they would be willing to increase the limit while expressing concern about buildings taller than three stories. Twenty-one percent said they oppose allowing buildings to exceed the height barrier.

The residents’ acceptance of taller buildings was by no means unconditional. Throughout the meeting, residents repeatedly expressed support for providing affordable housing for residents making 80 percent of area median income or less, while making clear they don’t want to see much more market-rate housing.

Attendees advised that tall buildings should be spaced out to avoid creating a “canyon” effect.

The sentiment was widely shared among participants, who first offered their opinions through real-time electronic votes and later discussed their positions with their tablemates.

Cedric de La Beaujardiere, representing one of the tables, spoke for many in attendance when he shared his group’s views on building heights.

“If heights are increased, it should be stepped up — not just big canyons,” de La Beaujardiere said. “If we have affordable housing, it should be nice designs, not cheap and ugly and dehumanizing.”

There was far less consensus on what types of new retail and services the city should attract to Ventura. When asked, 26 percent gave top preference to “neighborhood-serving retail” (hardware stores, pharmacies, grocery stores and the like) and 30 percent said they would like to see more restaurants and cafes. Rebecca Park- er Mankey, a Ventura resident who is on the Working Group, said she would like to see a place where local teenagers can have coffee and hang out with friends so that they “won’t have to leave town to have fun.”

Another 26 percent supported the idea of creating “artist and maker spaces,” or other places where people can gather, create, invent and learn.

There was one point of complete consensus: The idea of attracting a boutique hotel to Ventura didn’t get a single vote.

The Ventura neighborhood is only the second in Palo Alto to be selected for a “coordinated area plan” — a process that includes intensive collaboration by area stakeholders and that results in zone changes and, presumably, redevelopment. The other neighborhood to undergo such a plan was the South of Forest Avenue area in downtown. That multiyear process occurred in two phases and was completed in 2003.

In addition to the Ventura plan, Palo Alto leaders are preparing to undertake a coordinated area plan in the downtown area, an ambitious effort that will consider — among many other efforts — the reconstruction of the Trans- sit Center and the separation of Palo Alto Avenue from the rail corridor.

While the turnout at Tuesday’s meeting was somewhat modest, city leaders hope to get more residents involved as the process moves along. The city plans to hold a Town Hall meeting on March 11 dedicated completely to Ventura. The council and the Working Group will both participate in the meeting, and residents will have another chance to offer their views on the neighborhood’s future.

Planning Director Jonathan Lait said the goal of the meetings is to gauge residents’ interest in new housing, additional services and the realignment of roads. Some sections of Ventura are intended to be preserved or enhanced, he said. Others would be redeveloped for new purposes.

“We’re going into this with the expectation that there will be some changes in the neighborhood,” Lait said. ■

Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner can be emailed at gsheyner@pawweekly.com.

Here comes the paw patrol

Outfitted in their rain gear, from left, Eloise, Zoe, Diego, Maddie, Sugar, Bonnie and Max go for a stroll with their dog walker in downtown Palo Alto as rain showers continued throughout the day on Feb. 4.
News Digest

City seeks millions from Stanford expansion

With Santa Clara County and Stanford University now ramping up their negotiations over the university's ambitious growth plan, Palo Alto is seeking the county to provide financial support for improvements to local streets, bike paths, parks and planning efforts for the downtown area.

The laundry list of requests, which will be included in a letter to the county Board of Supervisors, includes a provision that Stanford pay the city $10 for every new housing fee based on its academic growth (in addition to the fees that the university already must pay to the county), that it help create a new pathway connecting Boe Park to Stanford Research Park and that it consider expanding its successful Mixed Use District to serve a greater part of the city.

The city is making its request at a pivotal time for Stanford's multiyear effort to secure the county's approval for a new General Use Permit (GUP). If approved, the GUP would empower Stanford to add 1,225 new dwelling units or student beds and 40,000 square feet of child care and support facilities by 2035. — Gennady Sheyner

President Hotel applies for conversion

The owner of President Hotel Apartments submitted plans this week to convert the historic apartment building in downtown Palo Alto back to its original use as a hotel — a controversial project that continues to face significant zoning hurdles.

Among the biggest obstacles standing in the way of Adventurous Journeys Capital Partners, the Chicago-based firm that bought the six-story building at 488 University Ave. last June, is a downtown cap on non-residential development that the city approved in 1986 to limit new commercial development to 350,000 square feet. The conversion of the 56,603-square-foot building would puncture the cap.

That, however, can change on Monday night, when the City Council considers the divisive proposition of eliminating the downtown cap altogether.

Last week, when the Planning and Transportation Commission recommended scrapping an ordinance that requires “grandfathered” buildings (those not complying with current zoning rules) like President Hotel, to retain their same use when undergoing renovation. In doing so, however, it expressly prohibited the conversions of such buildings from residential to non-residential uses — a restriction that AJ Capital is expected to challenge in court.

AJ Capital's formal application for the hotel conversion calls for preserving existing ground-floor retail and creating a hotel lobby and a lounge in the existing apartment lobby and vacant retail spaces. The 75 apartments in the building would be converted to 100 hotel guest rooms and existing roof gardens would remain.

The submitted plans don’t include parking.

Interim Planning Director Jonathan Lait said the city is still analyzing the application, though it has already identified several areas that city staff aims to modify as based.

“The way it’s set up now, the application does not meet our current regulations,” Lait said. — Gennady Sheyner

Unsatisfying compromise on wireless equipment

Seeking to balance the legal rights of telecommunications companies and residents’ aversion to clunky cell equipment occupying city property, Palo Alto officials narrowly approved on Monday a compromise on a wireless proposal that left both sides feeling unsatisfied.

The City Council voted 4-3, with council members Tom DuBois, Lydia Kou and Greg Tanaka dissenting, to reject two appeals pertaining to Crown Castle’s application for seven wireless communication facilities in the downtown area.

The condition calls for five of the nodes — near 275 Forest Ave., 248 Homer Ave., 385 Homer Ave., 845 Ramona St. and 190 Channing Ave. — to be mounted on streetlights and concealed by the current VTA Line 88 has 12 arrival and departure times in each direction, roughly between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m., on weekdays, according to the schedule. Additional changes to the bus system could significantly affect commuters who use the VTA Express routes — which would either be eliminated or see reduced service — and late-night riders who use Line 22, which runs along El Camino Real.

VTA operates 13 bus lines in Palo Alto, including to and from the Palo Alto Veterans Affairs hospital, Gunn and the Stanford Research Park. The proposals in the New Transit Plan modify a previous route redesign, the Next Network Plan, which was refined after public input in 2016-17 but not rolled out. A changing financial outlook made it clear that Next Network, which was to be implemented when BART service enters Santa Clara County, is not financially sustainable, the agency stated on its web site. The New Transit Plan would cost about 4 percent less to operate than Next Network and places greater emphasis on increasing ridership, according to VTA.

The transit agency is basing its proposed changes on a number of factors, including the number of boardings per hour and the costs to run the route, including labor for drivers, dispatch staff, and sheriff’s deputies and security personnel at the Palo Alto Transit Center and at end-point transit centers.

Some lines, while meeting or exceeding the minimum thresholds for ridership, still don’t make the cut due to the labor costs, according to VTA.

Weekday lines 88L and 88M, which serve Gunn students, would continue the schedule with one stop at Gunn before school starts and four pickups after school on school days. These lines would be renamed as 288M and 288L.

But Line 88 (Palo Alto Veteran’s Hospital to Middlefield Road and Colorado Avenue) would cease to operate as a regular route due to low ridership, VTA spokeswoman Holly Perez confirmed. The line would be renamed 288W and operate only at the start and end of the school day.

Local employees who work late night and graveyard shifts could also be affected by the proposed changes.

Line 22 (Palo Alto Transit Center to Eastridge Transit Center via El Camino Real) would lose four hourly runs from 1-4 a.m., despite the fact that ridership currently exceeds the agency’s minimum thresholds for those hours. About 120 passengers, spread across three westbound and eastbound trips, ride the route, according to the VTA.

In addition to workers, roughly 40 to 45 homeless people are on the 22 during these hours, using it as shelter, VTA noted. The agency is looking at ways to work with community organizations who serve homeless populations to minimize the impact of the service cut, it said.

Under the new plan, commuters who rely on Express buses to get to Palo Alto from the south bay (or to get to work in the south bay from Palo Alto) would need to adjust their schedules or find new ways to commute. Proposed changes include:

• Eliminating Line 101 (Stanford Research Park to Camden in San Jose).
• Reducing service on Line 102 (Palo Alto Transit Center to South San Jose) from seven trips to five in each direction.
• Reducing service on Line 103 (Stanford Research Park to Eastridge Shopping Center) from four trips to three in each direction.
• Eliminating Line 182 (Palo

(continued on next page)
**VTA**

(continued from previous page)

Alto to IBM/Bailey Avenue. VTA said multiple factors are prompting the cuts. Express buses only operate during commute hours but carry the same costs as an all-day bus to buy, maintain and store. Also, about 40 percent of an Express bus’s operating hours each week are spent going from the depot to the start of the route (and back) without any passengers, while all-day buses spend about 8 percent of their total hours without paying riders, according to VTA.

Express-route drivers are also only driving part time but are paid for hours they aren’t operating the buses, VTA said.

Furthermore, riders on all-day buses generally only travel 2 to 4 miles, which means the buses are able to pick up multiple passengers per bus seat. But Express passengers ride for more miles, and the buses pick up fewer riders.

“The decision that VTA faces is not whether Express buses are good or desired, but whether they maximize the public benefit per dollar spent. The inefficiencies of commute-peak-period service means that VTA pays about four or five times more for an Express bus boarding than an all-day route boarding,” the agency stated in a Jan. 31 press release.

One rider of the Line 103 who waited at Hansen Way near El Camino Real on Tuesday said reduced service on that route would likely not affect him. At 4:30 p.m., his usual time of departure, the bus is nearly full, and thus the service is unlikely to be cut. On later 103 buses, there are few passengers.

“They have to do what they have to do,” he said of VTA’s choices. Among other changes to Palo Alto’s service:

- **Line 35 (Stanford Shopping Center, through Palo Alto to Downtown Mountain View),** which serves Midtown Palo Alto, would merge with Line 32 (San Antonio Shopping Center to Santa Clara Transit Center) to form a new single route, Line 21. Service hours and frequency would largely remain the same as the existing lines, with some exceptions.
- **Line 522 (Palo Alto Transit Center to Eastedge Transit Center),** an express version of Line 22, would see improved service, making stops every 15 minutes or less on weekdays and every 15 minutes on weekends.

The transit agency will hold a public online meeting on Feb. 12 from 1-2 p.m. to unveil its proposed 2019 New Transit Plan. The plan and a schedule of additional community meetings are posted at newtransitplan.vta.org.

The public can also submit comments on the plan, which are due by Feb. 28, at that web site.

**Staff Writer Sue Drenmann can be emailed at sudremmann@paweeekly.com.**

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**Priorities**

(continued from page 5)

they believe the city is “generally acting in the best interests of the community,” slipped from 51 percent in 2017 to 45 percent in 2018.

The council did, however, add “climate change” to its official list of priorities, a move that was urged in araft of public letters and comments. One letter, co-signed by more than a dozen residents including former Mayors Pat Burt and Peter Drekmeyer and representatives of various nonprofits (including Acterra, Palo Alto Forward, Sierra Club, and Cool Block Palo Alto), urged the council to keep climate-change goals “front and center” in the coming year. The city should incorporate greenhouse-gas impacts into all discussion of new policies and developments under consideration, the letter stated.

“The climate crisis is ever more present, and we’re feeling its effects here in Palo Alto already (drought, smoke from fires and even a drastic reduction in Monarchs and beneficial insects),” the letter states.

The city, according to the letter, has already committed to reducing greenhouse gases (GHGs) 80 percent from 1990 levels by 2030 — and approved a Sustainability Implementation Plan in 2016 to spur the effort forward.

“We need to redouble our efforts in delivering a robust transit system and deal with our affordable-housing inventory, get serious about electrification of our homes and businesses and promote EV (electric vehicle) uptake among other pro-sustainability measures,” the letter stated.

Councilwoman Liz Kniss formally proposed that the city prioritize climate change.

“I very much am in favor of attacking the climate issue,” Kniss said. “This is a dramatic problem. Whether you live in a seacoast community or a mountain town, you are going to be affected.”

While climate change is a new priority, transportation and grade separation are both carry-overs from the prior year. In the National Citizens Survey, traffic solicited more comments than any other topic (housing was a close second) when residents were asked to name an area in which the city could do a better job. Some ideas that council members proposed on this topic included expanding the city’s small shuttle system and promoting alternatives to solo driving.

In choosing grade separation as a priority, the council underscored the urgency of separating the rail corridor from local streets to account for an expected increase in Caltrain service.

The council set a goal a year ago of reaching a decision on preferred grade-separation designs at the four crossings by the end of 2018. Since then, it has winnowed down its list of alternatives for Palo Alto Avenue, Churchill Avenue, Meadow Drive and Charleston Road from 34 to six.

“This is the year we’re going to make all the hard decisions on grade separation and figure out how to pay for it,” Mayor Eric Fils- elth said.

While the council ultimately reached a consensus on its annual priorities, members had slightly different ideas about what these priorities should focus on specifically. Councilman Greg Tanaka, the council’s leading fiscal hawk, said the city should prioritize its infrastructure projects. Filselth focused on attaining long-term financial sustainability, wherein revenues and costs are aligned.

Vice Mayor Adrian Fine said the city should work on “economic diversity,” which includes ensuring that local retailers aren’t unduly burdened by regulations.

Filselth also emphasized that many of the issues that were brought up by the public and by his colleagues — including airplane noise and improving communication with the public — will remain important areas of attention, even if they’re not official council priorities.

The priority list, he said, “doesn’t mean everything else is not important.”

“Most of the things that are important will not make our list,” Filselth said.

**Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner can be emailed at gsheyner@paweeekly.com.**

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**Upfront**

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 Blind community member a digitally enhanced cane that lights up at night. (Next, she plans to test the user know when the lights are in use. The students presented their prototype at a Design for Social Good Showcase at the Stanford d.school, where they competed against students from well-resourced private schools like Nueva. They were selected as a finalist and won $1,000 to continue working on the project.

For this year’s project, the East Palo Alto Academy students met Takears and her home to see how she gets out of bed, what it takes to get into the shower, how she picks up heavy objects, how she interacts with her service dog, how she gets in and out of her van — essentially, “what it feels like to be in her shoes,” student Gilberto Zuniga said.

Then, brainstorming ensued (including a sticky note-covered workshop at renowned design firm IDEO in Palo Alto), and the students eventually settled on the van as the problem they wanted to solve for her.

On a recent afternoon in East Palo Alto Academy’s “Dream Lab,” students, mostly sophomores, worked on different aspects of the project. While one group of students designed a caution sign that could be posted on Tamara’s van to alert nearby cars to her ramp, three others bent their heads over a circuit board as they coded the sensor.

Through an introductory project, they had already learned about 3D printing, laser cutting and Arduino, an open-source platform that allows users to create interactive electronic objects. They made laser-engraved signs with LED lights to illuminate the engravings (their names or favorite logos).

More recently, Wang talked with the students about prototyping, encouraging them to start designing with low-stakes materials like cardboard and pipe cleaners and then iterate as necessary.

“Mess around and have fun,” he told them.

Wang, a junior, said he is driven by an intense dissatisfaction with his own high school education. He chafed against what he described as his own high school education. He told them.

Aaron Ragsdale, the high school’s STEM director, said the program has exposed the students to an industry in which minorities and women are woefully under-represented. And for students who struggle academically, it’s an opportunity to restore their confidence and their connection to their high school student in Chicago who had wanted to become an engineer but lacked an avenue to pursue that goal.

The technology program gives all of the students “a sense of empowerment and confidence, (a) sense of agency,” Ragsdale said. As they’ve progressed, he’s seen a shift occur in their thinking: “I’m not just a consumer; I can actually produce things that can change the world.”

Staff Writer Elena Kadvany can be emailed at ekadvany@pawweeky.com.

STEM (continued from page 5)

Public Agenda

A preview of Palo Alto government meetings next week

CITY COUNCIL ... The council plans to recognize students who made posters for Fire Safety Month and pass a resolution celebrating the city progress on improving street conditions. The council will then hold a study session on the Cubberley Community Center master plan, consider approving the environmental analysis for the new downtown garage, and consider repealing an existing ordinance limiting non-residential development in the downtown area. The meeting will begin at 5 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 11, in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, 250 Hamilton Ave.

BOARD OF EDUCATION ... The board will hear a progress report on the Cubberley Community Center master plan, discuss submitting a Hoover Elementary School modernization project to the state architect and vote on a staff proposal to rebid a Palo Alto High School science addition project, among other items. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 12, at the district office, 25 Churchill Ave.

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION ... The commission plans to hold a study session on the Cubberley Community Center master plan and hear an annual report on Comprehensive Plan implementation. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 12, at the district office, 25 Churchill Ave.

HISTORIC RESOURCES BOARD ... The board plans to hold a study session on the Leatherstocking and Craftsman bungalow in the South of Forest Avenue area. The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 14, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 250 Hamilton Ave.

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION ... The commission plans to meet at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 14, in the Community Meeting Room at City Hall, 250 Hamilton Ave. The agenda was not available by press time.

A round-up of Palo Alto government action this week


City Council (Feb. 4) Stanford GUP: The council directed staff to submit a letter to Santa Clara County listing the items the city would like to see considered as part of a development agreement for Stanford University’s proposed expansion. Yes: Unanimous. Wireless: The council rejected two appeals and affirmed the director’s approval of five nodes and rejection of two nodes as part of the Crown Castle application for wireless communication facilities in the downtown area. Yes: Cormack, Filzoth, Fine, Kniss No: Dubblos, Kou, Tanaka

Utilities Advisory Committee (Feb. 6) Staffing: The commission heard a presentation about succession planning, recruitment and vacancies in the Utilities Department. Action: None. Rates: The commission heard preliminary proposals about rates changes to electric, gas, water and wastewater-collection services. Action: None.

Architectural Review Board (Feb. 7) 350 Channing Ave: The board approved a proposal to demolish on existing 1,905-square-foot office building and construct a threestory, 8,769-square-foot building with offices and three residential units. Yes: Balat, Furth, Hirsch, Low Absent: Thompson Stanford Shopping Center: The board discussed a proposal to demolish the existing 94,337-square-foot Macy’s Men’s building at Stanford Shopping Center and replace it with stand-alone retail buildings. Action: None.

LET’S DISCUSS: Read the latest local news headlines and talk about the issues at Town Square at PaloAltoOnline.com
OPEN HOUSE
Saturday 2/9 & Sunday 2/10, 1:30 – 4:30 pm

665 E Fox Court, Redwood City

- Beautifully updated multi-level townhome in Redwood Oaks
- 3 bedrooms and 2.5 baths
- Approximately 1,900 square feet
- Open floor plan with step-down living room featuring spectacular wall of windows, elevated dining room, and updated kitchen
- Private rear patio with direct access to community pool
- Excellent location just one-half mile to Starbucks and just over one mile to downtown Redwood City shopping and dining

Offered at $1,375,000 | 665FoxCourt.com
Sales Volume of the Top Listing Agent or Team at Palo Alto Top Real Estate Brokerages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brokerage</th>
<th>Golden Gate Sotheby's</th>
<th>Compass</th>
<th>Keller Williams Palo Alto</th>
<th>Intero Real Estate Services</th>
<th>Zane MacGregor</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Top Listing Agent or Team at the Brokerage</td>
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<td>Top Team</td>
<td>Top Agent</td>
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<td>List Volume</td>
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<td>113.3%</td>
<td>101.99%</td>
<td>104.62%</td>
<td>96.72%</td>
<td>105.2%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Search Criteria as compiled by BrokerMetrics® using MLS Data: January 1st, 2018 - December 31st, 2018, Palo Alto, Residential Property: (Single Family Home, Condominium, Townhouse)

Note: Alain Pinel is not included in this chart because this chart is based on an agent to agent comparison. No Alain Pinel agent or team had more than $18 million in listings. However, it should be noted that Alain Pinel’s sales are still impressive if you add up all of the sales of all of the independent contractor agents affiliated with their brokerage. It is only when you compare the actual agents and teams that they fall out of the top six.
across our entire district. “so we can give them a proposal (continued from page 5) charters “see this district as a great

over the past three years. Transfer Program have drawn

private schools and the Voluntary

fight but also know there’s a risk.

If you give them seven class-

President Hotel tenants get reprieve

Do not hallucinate.

KIPP can respond to the pre-

ligor Gloria Hernandez-Goff.

KIPP, which along with other charters, private schools and the Voluntary Transfer Program have drawn students — and funding — away from Ravenswood-run schools.

Two current Ravenswood trust-

finess, that they be expunged. Wilson

reluctantly supported the charter at the time given that the school’s petition met all the necessary legal requirements, warning that “the only way that we’re going to pre-

s, many of them siblings, can attend school together. Hernandez-Goff said district staff are still gathering more de-

KIPP Bay Area Public Schools, said in a previous interview that the charter’s “No. 1 preference” is for a long-term, sin-

talk about it

Q

www.PaloAltoOnline.com • Palo Alto Weekly • February 8, 2019 • Page 13

Superior Court of California

The Palo Alto school board has directed staff to pursue media-

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Superior Court of California

Notice is hereby given to the creditors and contingent creditors of the above-named decedent to file their claims against the estate of the decedent, either personally, or through their attorneys, at the office of the Probate Court of the County of Santa Clara, located at 411 W.antha Street, Redwood City, CA 94061 to the court or in writing, to the address of the estate as stated below. The court may provide you with a blank form for your use. All claims must be filed within the time limits prescribed by law. You are also encouraged to file your claim by certified mail, return receipt requested.

BY: WILLIAM DUNN ESCROW, INC.

so far as known to Buyer: None

names and addresses within the last three years

Seller has used the following other business names and addresses:

6/1/2020.

or gender:

The following definitions and designations shall

NOTICE OF BULK SALE

BUSINESS: HIDDEN GARDEN SUSHI

BUYER: Kitaru LLC

2363 Birch Street, Ste. B, Palo Alto, CA 94306

$180,000

Commercial Code Sec. 6106.2.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-

WEST

organization currently does in that community.

TALK ABOUT IT

How should Ravenswood handle the request from KIPP for more facilities? Leave your opinion and read others on Town Square, the community discussion forum at PaloAltoOnline.com/townsquare.

KIPP can respond to the pre-

petition met all the necessary legal requirements, warning that “the only way that we’re going to pre-

s, many of them siblings, can attend school together. Hernandez-Goff said district staff are still gathering more de-

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Fred Dietrich
April 14, 1937 - January 1, 2019

Fred Dietrich (80) of Palo Alto, California passed away peacefully on January 1, 2019. Born on April 14, 1937, in Hannibal Missouri, to Fred and Esther Dietrich. Fred is survived by his loving wife of fifty-seven years, Patricia. He is also survived by four daughters; Debra, Michelle, Karen and Kristine, their husbands and eleven grandchildren. Fred, aka “Oury”, had a brilliant, creative mind. He got a Ham Radio license at 12 years old and designed handmade games for young children at an annual neighborhood carnival in Hannibal. He graduated from high school at 16 and then went on to earn his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Electrical Engineering. He earned a PHD in electrical engineering from Ohio State University in 1969, and then moved to Palo Alto to begin his career in the Aerospace industry. He worked for Ford Aerospace, and Space Systems Loral before retiring. Fred kept busy with his consulting business and obtained several patents related to his work. He loved to travel. He and his wife traveled to several continents and countries. Month-long family cross country road trips facilitated exploration in nearly every National Park. In retirement Fred spent time volunteering for organizations mostly related to feeding and caring for people less fortunate.
A funeral mass to celebrate his life will be held Saturday February 16 at 2:00 PM, at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 751 Waverly St. Palo Alto, 94301. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Catholic Charities USA https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/ or Ecumenical Hunger http://www.ehpcares.org/

Lois Lee Ciapponi

Lois Lee Ciapponi was born in Denver, Colorado on August 1st, 1932 to Clyde and Mary Jane Sunnergren. After the family moved to Menlo Park, Lois followed in the footsteps of her mother and got her nursing credentials studying and working at San Jose State, UC San Francisco, and Stanford. She worked her entire career and retired as the head nurse of her wing at Stanford Children's Hospital. Lois had two boys, David and Steven, and two grandchildren, Keaton and Braeden. Lois was the most kind and loving person and also had many talents and passions. Lois devoted most of her life to the care of children at Stanford, and to the raising of her two boys. She also reveled in being a grandmother to Keaton and Braeden. Lois was a talented chef and she and her loving husband, Dick, were avid dancers in both Square Dance and Ballroom Dance clubs. Lois was a formidable seamstress who loved to design and fabricate both her and Dick's beautiful and ornate dance attire.

We celebrate Lois' love, devotion and contribution to the care of others and to our world. Lois only ever worked to help those in need and to care for people who needed it. Lois is with us in our hearts, her love surrounds us and watches over us and gently guides us. We love you Lois– Wife, Mom, Grandma– Always and Forever. Lois will be laid to rest at Alta Mesa Memorial Park in Palo Alto, California.

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PAID OBITUARY

PAID OBITUARY

PAID OBITUARY

Pulse
A weekly compendium of vital statistics

Palo Alto
Jan. 31-Feb. 6

Violence related
Assault with deadly weapon .................................................. 1
Battering .............................................................................. 1
Domestic violence ................................................................. 1
Robbery .............................................................................. 1
Sexual assault ..................................................................... 1

Thief related
Carjacking ........................................................................... 1
Commercial burglaries ......................................................... 1
Grand theft .......................................................................... 1
Identity theft ....................................................................... 2
Petty theft .......................................................................... 1
Residential burglaries ............................................................ 3
Shoplifting ........................................................................... 1

Vehicle related
Auto burglary ....................................................................... 2
Auto recovery ....................................................................... 3
Auto theft ............................................................................ 1
Driving with suspended license ............................................. 2
Theft from auto .................................................................... 15
Vandalism to vehicle ............................................................. 2
Vehicle tow .......................................................................... 1

Alcohol or drug related
Drinking in public .................................................................. 1
Drunk in public ...................................................................... 3
Sale of drugs ....................................................................... 1

Miscellaneous
Found property ..................................................................... 3
Misd. penal code violation .................................................... 2
Other/misc. ........................................................................... 6
Possession of stolen property ................................................. 2
Property for destruction ......................................................... 5
Psychiatric hold .................................................................... 4
Psychiatric subject ................................................................ 4
Suspicious circumstances ..................................................... 2
Vandalism ........................................................................... 3
Violation of court order .......................................................... 3
Warrant/absconding agency .................................................... 6

Menlo Park
Jan. 31-Feb. 6

Violence related
Assault with deadly weapon .................................................. 1
Domestic violence ................................................................. 1

Thief related
Commercial burglaries ......................................................... 1
Identity theft ....................................................................... 1

Vehicle related
Auto burglary ....................................................................... 1
Auto recovery ....................................................................... 1
Driving with suspended license ............................................. 2
Hit and run .......................................................................... 3
Vehicle accident/major injury ................................................. 2
Vehicle accident/minor injury ................................................. 2
Vehicle accident/no injury ....................................................... 1
Vandalism ........................................................................... 1

Alcohol or drug related
Drinking under influence ....................................................... 1
Drunk in public ...................................................................... 1
Possession of drugs ................................................................ 2
Possession of paraphernalia ................................................... 1

Miscellaneous
Coroner case ....................................................................... 1
Found property ..................................................................... 2
Info. case ........................................................................... 1
Psychiatric subject ................................................................. 1
Violation of court order .......................................................... 1

PAID OBITUARY

VIOLENT CRIMES
Palo Alto
El Camino Real, 1/31, 12:45 p.m.; 12:51 a.m.; 12:53 a.m.;
el derly, sexual
El Camino Real, 2/1, 11:20 a.m.; domestic violence/ vi olate court order
El Camino Real, 2/5, 3:53 a.m.;
domestic violence/battery
California Avenue, 2/4, 5:26 p.m.; robbery/misconduct
Welch Road, 2/4, 6:30 a.m.; domestic violence/battery
Industrial Avenue, 2/4, 9:26 p.m.; asserted domestic violence/ deadly weapon
Starr King Circle, 2/5, 7:22 p.m.; battery/simple

Menlo Park
Ivy Drive/Willow Road, 2/1, 11:47 a.m.; violation/domestic violence
100 blk. E. Oberlin St., 2/5, 10:38 a.m.; assault with deadly weapon

POLICE CALLS
3125 Greer Road, Palo Alto

- Excellent location in Palo Alto
- 3 bedrooms and 1 bath
- Approximately 1,045 square feet with potential to expand
- Open floor plan with living, dining and remodeled kitchen
- Expansive back yard with patios, lawn and mature trees
- Outstanding Palo Alto schools*: Palo Verde Elementary, Stanford Middle, Palo Alto High

Offered at $2,278,888 | www.3125Greer.com

*buyer to confirm enrollment

OPEN HOUSE
Saturday & Sunday, 1:30 – 4:30 pm

Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed
by Teri Baldwin, Nancy Krop and Meb Steiner

S

anford University and Santa Clara County are now negotiating the next 17-year Stanford general use perm-
it ("GUP"). Stanford’s proposal is the largest land development application in County history. Unless Stanford fully mitigates the impacts on Palo Alto schools of such massive development, PAUSD faces annual budget shortfalls in the millions of dollars, forcing increased classroom sizes, program reductions and staff layoffs.

In the new GUP, Stanford could add up to 1,445 new students to Palo Alto schools. To the extent Stanford builds tax-exempt rental properties for these students’ families, PAUSD receives no property-tax revenues to cover the cost of educating those students. Because Stanford is exempt from paying property taxes on its rental properties, these students generate no property tax revenues to cover the cost of their education.

Stanford also proposes to develop 2,275,000 square feet of academic facilities. Estimates range up to 1,445 new students (generated by this new workforce), adding no property tax revenues if Stanford builds them tax-exempt rental homes.

PAUSD costs

PAUSD spends about $20,000 per student. The district currently absorbs $8 million annually to educate students living in tax-exempt Stanford-owned rental properties. When the GUP is approved, for the next 17 years, PAUSD will face annual additional budget shortfalls ranging from $5.5 million (275 new students) to $28 million plus (1,445 new students). A PAUSD brief on the GUP states: “Adding hundreds of students with little or no additional property tax revenue would result in significant and permanent PAUSD budget shortfalls, class size increases, and program reductions which would irrevocably damage the quality of education for all PAUSD students, including those coming from Stanford.”

In addition to the GUP students, more students are coming to PAUSD. After 25 years of continuous growth, PAUSD enrollment declined about 4 percent over the past five years. Going forward, PAUSD anticipates increased enrollment as the city, county and state address our acute housing-to-jobs imbalance. The Palo Alto Comprehensive Plan sets a goal of at least 300 new housing units a year for the next 12 years. Other private universities financially contribute to their local school districts. As Stanford did in the prior GUP, Stanford could contribute revenue for PAUSD to educate students living in Stanford tax-exempt rental homes.

New elementary school precedent

Stanford’s proposed Quarry Road homes are miles from any PAUSD school site. Plus, almost 300 elementary school students currently live along the Sand Hill corridor, primarily at the Stanford West rental community. These nearly 500 Sand Hill/Quarry Road students live 2 to 5 miles from the nearest school.

Historically, when Stanford created a new neighborhood, PAUSD purchased Stanford land at full market value and built a school for the additional children. In 1958, when Stanford built Escondido Village, PAUSD built Escondido School across the street. When Stanford developed Frenchman’s Hill in 1968, PAUSD built Nixon in the middle of the new neighborhood. PAUSD identified 42 potential sites for a new elementary school on Stanford land. Stanford could sell land to PAUSD for a school for the 500 Sand Hill/Quarry Road students.

Be part of the solution

Your voice is needed. Speak up now and be part of the solution. Message the County and Stanford for full mitigation, necessary to protect PAUSD schools, teachers, staff and programs.

• iPhone users: speak up with a tap on your phone. Download the Tree Click My Cause Two-Tap App, select Palo Alto PTA Council, and tap on any “Act Now” button.

• Android users, sign a petition at clickmycause.com/2019/01/13/ protect-pausd-schools

• Learn more at the PTA Council website; ptac.paloaltotap ta.org. Read the School Board Resolution, PAUSD Briefing Book, PTAC Fact Sheet, and Safe Routes to School Letter.

Nancy Krop is a PAUSD parent and advocacy consultant for the Palo Alto PTA Council and can be contacted at nancypta@kroplaw.com, Teri Baldwin is a teacher and the president of the Palo Alto Educators Association and can be contacted at baldwin@pausd.org, Meb Steiner is a special education instructional aide and president of California State Employees Association Palo Alto Chapter 301 and can be contacted at mstein@pausd.org.

Letters

City should look into vaulting

Editor

Monday’s City Council meeting regarding wireless communication-device placement and design was quite a disappointment. While the city’s Architectural Review Board, the resident-driven United Neighbors group and a lawyer for residents whose property will be impacted all favored underground vaulting, city staff opted instead to approve the (less expensive) above-ground placement desired by the applicant, Crown Castle.

Kris immediately made a motion to approve the item, stating residents like cell phone coverage (which was not the issue at hand); Mayor Filseth quickly seconded the motion. Other council members, notably DuBois and Kou, asked multiple relevant and important questions — and received nebulous answers from the city staff.

One example was Kou’s question, “How loud will these be?” The city staff responded with multiple answers: “Perhaps 40-45 dBA,” “Depends on the device,” “They are silent,” followed by “Some might require a fan” and ultimately “They must abide by the city’s noise ordinance.” Without naming that ordinance, 9.10.050 (Public Property Noise Limits), which I found online, states the noise level “shall be no more than 15 dBA above the local ambient at a distance of 25 feet or more.”

Another example was when city staff could not identify the equipment in existing underground vaults but didn’t hesitate to state there would not be any room to add these devices.

The city staff’s non-specific answers were hardly gratifying to the attending residents who wanted to see the city staff re-examine the咒语 options other than cluttering our streets with ugly, potentially nosy devices. The city stated it will likely receive many more such requests from Crown Castle and other applicants.

I wish our city staff had done more to determine if underground vaulting might be feasible, especially in a case-by-case situation. One device would be placed in front of a residence (where noise requirements are lower).

Ann Procter, N. California Avenue

Palo Alto
THE CITY IS PALO ALTO
THE LEADER IS ALAIN PINEL

Source: TrendGraphix January 1 through December, 2018. Displaying the top 5 brokerages in Palo Alto based on All Property Types, Total Property Sales in Units.
Samia Cullen
650.384.5392
scullen@apr.com
License # 01180821

Sold Rare custom built 7,743 SF Estate with an open floor plan on approximately 19,000 SF lot and incredible resort like backyard.

Palo Alto  $10,680,000

Carol Li
650.281.8368
cli@apr.com
License # 01227755

Sold Sold off the market. Rare 15,000 sq ft, flat lot in Old PA! Great for building a custom home or restoring the current Craftsman Tudor.

Palo Alto  $10,000,000

Dana van Hulsan
650.248.3950
dvanhulsan@apr.com
License # 01749772

Coming Soon New 5,648 sq ft. Napa farm house in Old Los Altos. Just blocks from Downtown. 6 bedrooms, 5 baths plus 2 half baths. 12,781 sq ft. lot.

Los Altos  $7,390,000

Shelly Roberson
650.464.3797
sroberson@apr.com
License # 01143296

Stunning 5 yr new home on sunny, level acre with 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, complete with guest house, pool/spa and koi pond.

Portola Valley  Call For Price

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Our strategic marketing plan and the prep work done sold this home in one week with multiple offers. Thinking of moving? “Let me tell you how I work. Let me work for you.”

Umang Sanchorawala
650.960.5363
usanchor@apr.com
License # 0147541
Sold Beautifully renovated Mediterranean style home in desirable Community Center. Excellent Palo Alto Schools.

Pal Alto  $4,650,000

Coming Soon Old world charm in prime Old Palo Alto. 3 bedroom, 2 bath home on 8000 sf corner lot. Endless possibilities!

Alan Dunckel
650.400.0327
adunckel@apr.com
License # 00366010

Pal Alto  CALL FOR PRICE

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Xin Jiang
650.283.8379
xjiang@apr.com
License # 01961451

Pal Alto  $4,280,000

Desirable cul-de-sac location, this mid-century 3 bedroom, 2 bath home boasts updates for contemporary living on a generous lot.

Lori Buecheler
650.387.2716
lbuecheler@apr.com
License # 01859485

Pal Alto  $4,180,000

This stunning 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath + studio, designer remodeled home in Old Palo Alto is a rare opportunity.

Stacey Woods
650.283.8379
swoods@apr.com
License # 02002137

Pal Alto  CALL FOR PRICE

Modern tech enabled home in the desirable Vintage Oaks. 4 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms & approx 2776 sq ft. Designer finishes.

Ray Hogue
650.964.3722
rhogue@apr.com
License # 01893342

Menlo Park  $4,598,000

Newly built Mediterranean style home located in Crescent Park! 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths. Kitchen-family great room. Studio and more!

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sbucolo@apr.com
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Coming Soon Classic SBR, 3.5BA. Remodeled kitchen & baths, hardwood floors and finished 2-car garage located on a tree-lined street in prime Midtown.

**PALO ALTO CALL FOR PRICE**

Coming Soon Spacious, light-filled home in South Palo Alto. High ceilings, courtyard, fabulous backyard. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. ADU possibilities.

**PALO ALTO CALL FOR PRICE**

Easy sophistication in vibrant Downtown Palo Alto. Immensely appealing 3 bedroom, 2.5 bathrooms, 1782± sqft home, 2748± sqft lot. Professionally Landscaped.

**PALO ALTO **$3,198,000

Sold Charming 1923 Bungalow in Old Palo Alto on a large 10K lot. ADU potential and amazing opportunity for development.

**PALO ALTO **$3,150,000


**PALO ALTO **$3,133,100

Sold Long time family home: 4BD and 2BA, expanded over the years. Located on a quiet street in Midtown. Excellent for updating or rebuilding. Sold off market.

**PALO ALTO **CALL FOR PRICE

One of Mountain View’s most desirable neighborhoods. Wonderful quiet location on tree-lined street close to shopping, commuter routes, parks and schools.

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Shelly Roberson
650.464.3797
sroberson@apr.com
License # 01143296

Claire Zhou
650.245.5698
clairezhou@apr.com
License # 01440807

Shari Ornstein
650.814.6682
sornstein@apr.com
License # 01028693

Stacey Woods
650.503.4740
swoods@apr.com
License # 02002137

Ray Hogue
650.964.3722
rhogue@apr.com
License # 01980343

Kathleen Wilson
650.207.2017
kwilson@apr.com
License # 00902501

Claire Zhou
650.245.5698
clairezhou@apr.com
License # 01440807

John Forsyth
650.218.4337
John.James@apr.com
License # 01138400

Emely Weissman
650.814.0374
eweissman@apr.com
License # 01119038

Sophie Tsang
650.687.7388
sophie@apr.com
License # 01399145

PORTOLA VALLEY CALL FOR PRICE

Coming Soon Tranquil 3 bedroom, 2 bath retreat in sought after PV Ranch, featuring vaulted ceilings, chef’s kitchen and remodeled baths.

Palo Alto CALL FOR PRICE

Prime Midtown. Two bedrooms, one bath, 6700 lot. El Carmelo & Paly High.

PORTO/LA VALLEY CALL FOR PRICE

Remodeled single level modern ranch style home with 3 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms. 17,100 sq. ft. lot.

PALO ALTO $2,700,000

Sold Contemporary stylish 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath detached single family house. 2,368± sq ft on 2,488± sq ft lot with the most sought after floor-plan in the community.

PALO ALTO $2,495,000

Available Stanford Eligible Faculty Only! Contemporary 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath + office home on about ½ acre features panoramic views of the Bay & Hills.

STANFORD $2,495,000

Coming Soon Spacious and stately 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home on beautiful Eaton Avenue. Air conditioned, cabana in garden.

SAN CARLOS $2,400,000

Coming Soon Gorgeous stand alone, end unit townhome in Monroe Park. Built in 2014. 4 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms & approx 2112 sq ft.

PALO ALTO $2,400,000

Sold Gorgeous stand alone, end unit townhome in Monroe Park. Built in 2014. 4 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms & approx 2112 sq ft.

MOUNTAIN VIEW $2,388,000

Stunning 20 year new home near Downtown and Cuesta park. 20 ft ceilings at entry. Completely updated with open family room kitchen. Walking distance to Bubb Park.

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APR WINTER CAMPAIGN

Anna Park
650.387.6159
apark@apr.com
License # 01473188

SOLD
4BD/2BA mid-century modern home in the idyllic circles neighborhood of Palo Alto. Large windows, open kitchen and vaulted beam ceilings.
Palo Alto $2,350,000

Ted Paulin
650.766.6325
tpaulin@apr.com
License # 01435455

SOLD
2009 3BD/2.5BA, 1,740 sqft. home in the Lane Woods community. Near Burgess Park & the downtowns of PA & MP.
Menlo Park $2,210,000

Suneeta Chilukuri
650.787.4498
schilukuri@apr.com
License # 01963120

COMING SOON
Charming, light filled, and conveniently located. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths w/hardwood floors, a large kitchen, dining room and family room. Menlo Park schools.
Menlo Park CALL FOR PRICE

Lynne Mercer
650.906.0162
lmercer@apr.com
License # 00796211

COMING SOON
4BD/2BA Craftsman home in Mount Carmel neighborhood, thoughtfully updated to form a perfect marriage of classic charm and modern convenience.
Redwood City $1,998,000

Sophie Tsang
650.687.7388
sophie@apr.com
License # 01399145

SANTA CLARA CALL FOR PRICE

Beautiful English Tudor historical home. Owned by the same family and lovingly maintained, ready for new owners to enjoy. Over 3338 sf home on a 12,177+ sf lot.

Michael Johnston
650.533.5102
mjohnston@apr.com
License # 01313201

MOUNTAIN VIEW CALL FOR PRICE

Coming Soon Stroll to Castro St. from this 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with large outdoor living area with fireplace. Huge detached garage & workshop.

Arti Miglani
650.804.6942
amiglani@apr.com
License # 01150085

Saratoga CALL FOR PRICE

Coming Soon This charming 4 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage home all on one level is situated on a 10,230 sq ft lot. Award winning schools. A MUST SEE!

Greg Celotti
650.740.1580
greg@apr.com
License # 01360103

San Carlos $1,995,000

Coming Soon Beautifully remodeled 3 bedroom, 2 bath single level home with a stunning chef’s kitchen at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac!
Sold Sold with multiple offers! Stunning 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath near downtown Mountain View.

Sold Upscale urban living in the heart of downtown Palo Alto. Elegant and exquisite corner single level condominium. Two balconettes & spacious patio. Elevator secure access.

Sold A custom high quality build, 3BD/2BA + office. A stunning master suite, high ceilings throughout, a lavish front and rear yard, Bocce Ball court.

Sold Move right into this lovely 3 bedroom, 1 bath home in W. Sunnyvale close to Washington Park and downtown Sunnyvale. Sold with multiple offers.

Sold Darling 3bd, 2ba home with lots of charm and a lush backyard.
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AMP WINTER CAMPAIGN

Anna Park
650.387.6159
apark@apr.com
License # 01473388

Supriya Gavande
650.556.3890
sgavande@apr.com
License # 01856590

Pamela Culp
415.640.3293
pculp@apr.com
License # 00896337

John Forsyth James
650.218.4337
John.James@apr.com
License # 01138400

Ling Lau
650.269.6809
llau@apr.com
License # 01778899

Lori Buecheler
650.387.2716
lbuecheler@apr.com
License # 01859485

Shelly Roberson
650.464.3797
sroberson@apr.com
License # 0143296

Pat Kalish
650.823.4624
pkalish@apr.com
License # 00702818

Liz Rhodes
650.722.3000
lrhodes@apr.com
License # 01179852

Michele Harkov
650.773.1332
mharkov@apr.com
License # 01838875

Sold Soaring ceiling in living room with travertine floor. Wonderful, open floor plan. Second level with hardwood floor features the dining room, kitchen & family room.

Sold Crescent Park/Downtown remodeled 2BD & 2BA home of 1313 sf on ground floor. End unit w/2 large outdoor patios. 1-car garage. Hardwood floors throughout.

Sold Fabulous home built in 2003 on a quiet cul de sac. 4BR/2.5BA

Coming Soon Townhouse on cul-de-sac with modern elements, large windows and generous patio with 3 bedrooms and 2.5 baths.

Coming Soon 2BD/2BA Craftsman close to Downtown Willow Glen. Recent remodel includes kitchen, basement, new laundry room plus fabulous studio in private yard.

Sold Luxurious Downtown Palo Alto 55+ community - 2BD, 2BA condo with 10ft ceilings, fireplace, balcony and lots of amenities.

Sold Beautifully updated 2BD/1BA charmer on large 7200 sq foot corner lot. Walkability to local coffee shops and shopping.

Redwood Shores $1,559,000

Palo Alto Call for Price

Redwood City $1,375,000

Redwood City $1,299,000

EAST PALO ALTO $1,398,000

Mountain View $1,299,000

Willow Glen Call for Price

Palo Alto Call for Price

MOUNTAIN VIEW

REDWOOD CITY

PALO ALTO

REDWOOD CITY

WILLLOW GLEN
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As top agents continue to leave conventional brokerages in the hopes of finding a more lucrative arrangement, the DeLeon Team remains steadfast in our approach: Provide the best service and marketing in the industry, along with the most client-centric business model, and we will continue to attract the clients that fuel our remarkable growth. It has worked.

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The new Cubberley

Redevelopment planning speeds up for south Palo Alto campus

by Gennady Sheyner

We are here for upholstery!” Susan Moskowitz’s declaration rose above the murmur of a hundred competing voices at the pavilion of Cubberley Community Center on Jan. 24, where more than 150 residents convened to give their ideas about the future of the sprawling 35-acre campus in south Palo Alto, which is set for redevelopment.

Moskowitz and her small crew of upholstery enthusiasts — determined that space be carved out at the redeveloped Cubberley for their passion — took up one of about 20 tables that were equipped with maps, graphics, sticky notes, markers, specially appointed “facilitators” and six to eight residents, most of them brimming with opinions.

Taking a pause from a group exercise, Moskowitz told the Weekly that her twice-a-week upholstery class, offered by Palo Alto Adult Education, currently occupies a pre-World War II building next to the auto shop at Palo Alto High School. The class, she said, takes discarded furniture, tears it down to the studs and then restores it.

“These days, she and her classmates are concerned that their hobby could find itself homeless, as a proposal’s been floated for the building to be torn down to make way for a proposed Career Technical Education building, focused on robotics.

Moskowitz and others believe Cubberley could be the ideal place at which to consolidate all of the district’s adult-education classes, which are currently scattered throughout the city.

“The reason we are here and are so well-represented is because we love our class. ... They want to tear (the Paly building) down, and we don’t want it to be torn down until we have another place to go,” Moskowitz said.

Over the course of 90 minutes, she and her tablemates debated issues having to do with the broader redevelopment of 4000 Middlefield Road: the best way to lay out space for the different activities, the best methods for improving traffic circulation and the most suitable architectural styles for the 64-year-old campus. Similar debates took place at every other table, where a facilitator tallied votes and tried to corral residents with mixed success — into some form of consensus.

Across the room from Moskowitz’s table, facilitator Megan Cole asked her table group to look at proposed locations for all of the new gyms, pools and other facilities and to consider other alternatives. Participants largely agreed with the proposed layout, with one notable exception: One resident said he would oppose against any proposal that did not include an expansive tennis center as part of Cubberley’s new proposed Health and Wellness Center. Cole noted his dissent and tallied the votes on the giant, marked up sheet.

“We are doing a good job with the property we have or should we be doing something different?” Cole asked her group.

Palo Alto’s city and school district have been asking that question for nearly a decade, with few answers forthcoming. In 2013, with the lease between the school district and the city approaching its expiration date, a specially appointed citizen committee released an 800-page report arguing that the site should become a true shared-use facility between the two entities. The following year, then-City Manager James Keene and then-school Superintendent Max McGee signed a new five-year lease in 2014 to plan for Cubberley’s future, a process that after years of inertia is now kicking into high gear.

Last month, the consulting firm leading the current master planning effort, which has included the Jan. 24 meeting and two other community meetings, released the newest plan for Cubberley. Concordia’s document largely contains portraits of the vision of the citizen advisory group and captures the ideas of roughly 400 residents who attended the first three meetings (a fourth and final meeting is scheduled for May 7). Under the current proposal, the community center will become a “shared village,” with a school occupying the portion of Cubberley closest to Greenfield School, a Health and Wellness Center situated at the school district’s bond program expenses.

The pace of progress has astounded some officials in a city where it took nearly a decade to update the city’s guiding land-use document, the Comprehensive Plan, and two decades (and counting) to come up with a plan for expanding the municipal fiber-optic network. Kristen O’Kane, assistant director of the Community Services Department, called the Cubberley process a “whirlwind” at a recent Parks and Recreation Commission Palo Alto City Manager Ed Shikada told the Weekly he is “really impressed with the number of residents actively engaged in co-designing this valuable community asset.”

“If you look at hundreds of community members have come out to develop a collective vision for the site,” Shikada said in an email. “The community meetings have been designed to encourage community conversations and exchange thinking with the goal of planning a site that will be a destination for generations to come." Cormack, who has participated in all three meetings and who

Participants at the Jan. 24 community meeting on redesigning Cubberley Community Center discuss architectural styles as well as the activities they hope to see in the redeveloped south Palo Alto campus, such as tennis courts and space for arts and crafts.

Harlon Lee gets to work deconstructing a chair that he will then reupholster during Palo Alto Adult School’s upholstery class, which has been offered for more than 60 years. Students are concerned that planned changes to the Palo Alto High School campus, which currently hosts the course, will force the class to find a new home. Some are lobbying for that home to be Cubberley Community Center.

Cover Story
spearheaded Palo Alto's successful drive in 2008 to rebuild the library system, said she has been pleased with both the high number of participants and Concordia's product, which she likened to "rapid-fire prototyping." She said she has never seen this many people participate in a Palo Alto meeting.

"It certainly seems like we're making really rapid progress," Cormack told the Weekly. She also lauded Concordia for offering participants a roughly "80 percent draft," enough to understand what's being contemplated but no so much that it feels like anything is set in stone.

Participants largely agree. Annie Tsui, a Palo Alto High senior who volunteered to be a table facilitator, lauded both the process and the results. Prior to every meeting, Concordia consultants train facilitators on the upcoming activities and simulate the exercises. The meetings themselves give Tsui a chance to learn more about her community and to meet residents of all ages — a wonderful break from PalY life, where she's mostly surrounded by peers, Tsui said. She is also learning about her school. Prior to the Jan. 24 meeting and Moskowitz's strong position, Tsui didn't know that Palo had housed an upholstery program. And the results, she said, have been impressive.

"It's really not fast and Concordia seems to be moving," Tsui said. "They definitely seem to be getting things done."

Raj Shetty, who was facilitator at another table, said the tenor of the conversation has improved since the first meeting, when he found himself in the middle of a heated debate between those arguing for less density at Cubberley and those arguing for more. In subsequent meetings, as more details were presented, the level of dissent has noticeably dropped, Shetty said. "It feels like we're accommodat- ing at least most people's needs," said Shetty, a Gunn High junior. "That's the goal. And that's why the project is moving in the right direction."

Not everyone is as thrilled about the speed of progress. Several attendees on Jan. 24 said they were somewhat concerned about Concordia effectively taking the input from a few hundred people in a city of 67,000 and framing it as community consensus.

At the onset of the meeting, one man interrupted the Concordia presentation to ask, repeatedly, how many people had participated in the early meetings. Was the list of preferred uses ranked based on feedback from Palo Alto at large, he asked, or just from the people who attended? When Hill noted that it was ranked the among those who attended, the audience member pointed out there there are only "about 200 people here, maybe." And when Hill countered that residents who didn't attend the meetings have a chance to respond online, another audience member interrupted to say the project website isn't easy to use.

Those who haven't had a chance to weigh in thus far will have plenty of opportunities to do so in the coming week, when Concordia presents its plan to the City Council (Feb. 13), the school board (Feb. 12) and the Planning and Transportation Commission (Feb. 13). After these bodies offer their feedback, Concordia plans to hold its final meeting on May 7 on the revised document, which will include a "phasing" plan to accommodate an eventual construction of a school.

The expedited timeline pleased and stunned the Parks and Recreation Commission, which on Jan. 22 lauded the recent progress. "We've been talking for I think a very long while, certainly longer than I've lived in Palo Alto, about what to do with Cubberley, and it's been a big conundrum," Commissioner Ryan McCauley said. "And this is a huge step forward."

O'Kane, while noting the suddenly fast progress, expressed confidence in Concordia, which spearheaded the construction of a multi-use center in Emeryville and which helped craft the plan for rebuilding New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina — a plan that took nine months to put together. "The efficiency is having everybody in the room doing this, instead of having a lot of subcommittees," Hill told the commission. "We've learned that over the years."

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The new Cubberley Community Center, which opened in 1935, used to be a high school and is jointly owned by the Palo Alto Unified School District and the city of Palo Alto.
For others at the meeting, in- cluding resident Michael Bein, the main objective was to make sure the new Cubberley wouldn’t over- whelm the surrounding neighbor- hoods, many of which are dom- inated by one-story Eichler-style homes. Bein lauded Concordia’s presentation but said he found the consultant’s process “not quite kosher,” given that it was based in large part on the views of early- meeting attendees.

Bein also suggested that the consultant use 3D models so that he and his Greendell neighbors would have a feel for what the area would look like in the context of the new Cubberley.

“We’re trying to keep this neigh- borhood the way it is,” Bein said.

For Palo Alto Alto, the comple- tion of the Cubberley mas- ter plan will be a major milestone, both in terms of de- cision making and obligations.

Some of the facilities at Cubberley Community Center, which is 64 years old, are in need of repair. Residents who have been taking part in redevelopment planning overwhelmingly favor demolishing the current buildings to make way for new ones.

Cover Story

Cubberley (continued from page 29)

For Palo Alto Alto, the comple- tion of the Cubberley mas- ter plan will be a major milestone, both in terms of de- cision making and obligations.

The public hearing took place in the final Cubberley master plan. The city and the school district will embark on a recently completed parks master plan for addressing the goals of its milestone, both in terms of de-

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Players in the Palo Alto Soccer Club do drills at the fields in the rear of Cubberley Community Center in 2017. The center has tennis courts, softball fields, soccer fields, a football field and a running track.

About the cover: Clockwise from top left: The Palo Alto Soccer Club does drills at Cubberley Community Center; the Anjali Natya dance school of Saratoga rehearses at Cubberley; members of the Palo Alto Senior Table Tennis practice; fourth- graders in Mrs. Meinke’s class at Duveneck Elementary School work on a classroom exercise (a new school is planned for Cubberley); and Kai Gallagher works at the Make X studio at Cubberley in 2015. Photographs by Veronica Weber.

and shared facilities) and pursue the educational facilities (which in addition to the new school could include a new district headquar- ters and teacher housing). Hill said she believes if the city and the district collaborate, “that’s something outside funders would find very attractive.”

“You wanna be as creative as you possibly can and have the big- gest vision you possibly can in or- der to get people excited and really want to do it — and at the same time with not a blank check book,” Hill told the Parks and Recreation Commission. “It’s really a balance of trying to put those two things together. And I think you can cre- ate these spaces in a way that can be super-exciting.”

More information about the Cubberley master plan, includ- ing the online survey, is available at pausd.org/business-services/ cubberley-co-design.

Cover Story

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About the cover: Clockwise from top left: The Palo Alto Soccer Club does drills at Cubberley Community Center; the Anjali Natya dance school of Saratoga rehearses at Cubberley; members of the Palo Alto Senior Table Tennis practice; fourth- graders in Mrs. Meinke’s class at Duveneck Elementary School work on a classroom exercise (a new school is planned for Cubberley); and Kai Gallagher works at the Make X studio at Cubberley in 2015. Photographs by Veronica Weber.

and shared facilities) and pursue the educational facilities (which in addition to the new school could include a new district headquar- ters and teacher housing). Hill said she believes if the city and the district collaborate, “that’s something outside funders would find very attractive.”

“You wanna be as creative as you possibly can and have the big- gest vision you possibly can in or- der to get people excited and really want to do it — and at the same time with not a blank check book,” Hill told the Parks and Recreation Commission. “It’s really a balance of trying to put those two things together. And I think you can cre- ate these spaces in a way that can be super-exciting.”

More information about the Cubberley master plan, includ- ing the online survey, is available at pausd.org/business-services/ cubberley-co-design.

Cover Story

Cubberley (continued from page 29)

For Palo Alto Alto, the comple- tion of the Cubberley mas- ter plan will be a major milestone, both in terms of de- cision making and obligations.

The public hearing took place in the final Cubberley master plan. The city and the school district will embark on a recently completed parks master plan for addressing the goals of its milestone, both in terms of de-

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Cubberley (continued from page 29)

For others at the meeting, in- cluding resident Michael Bein, the main objective was to make sure the new Cubberley wouldn’t over- whelm the surrounding neighbor- hoods, many of which are dom- inated by one-story Eichler-style homes. Bein lauded Concordia’s presentation but said he found the consultant’s process “not quite kosher,” given that it was based in large part on the views of early- meeting attendees.

Bein also suggested that the consultant use 3D models so that he and his Greendell neighbors would have a feel for what the area would look like in the context of the new Cubberley.

“We’re trying to keep this neigh- borhood the way it is,” Bein said.

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Some of the facilities at Cubberley Community Center, which is 64 years old, are in need of repair. Residents who have been taking part in redevelopment planning overwhelmingly favor demolishing the current buildings to make way for new ones.

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Some of the facilities at Cubberley Community Center, which is 64 years old, are in need of repair. Residents who have been taking part in redevelopment planning overwhelmingly favor demolishing the current buildings to make way for new ones.
For playwright/director Tina Satter, a successful collaboration involves a generosity of spirit, an appreciation for the absurd and surreal, a shared sense of dark humor and a certain amount of intangible chemistry. The theatrical song cycle “Ghost Rings,” created by Satter’s New York-based group Half Straddle, is not only itself a collaboration but also celebrates creative partnerships, both real and fictional, in the form of an imaginary rock band.

The feminist, funny and fantastical show, which comes to Stanford Feb. 14-16, is a musical tale of the passionate connection between best friends and bandmates Samantha and Shawna, who share a cosmically close bond. So close, in fact, that Shawna “wills the universe to make her pregnant with Samantha’s baby.”

Their glitter-and-spandex bedazzled story is contrasted with memories of Satter’s relationship with her own estranged, real-life sister, with whom Satter once shared childhood dreams of playing in a rock band and their lives being forever intertwined.

These dual narratives are interwoven within the framework of a live pop-rock concert, with Satter playing drums on stage, Chris Giarmo playing keyboards and Erin Marky and Kristen Sieh singing lead as Samantha and Shawna. They’re joined in Satter’s “special alt-world” by whimsical seal and deer puppets representing Samantha and Shawna’s alter egos/inner selves/spirit animals.

“When we were younger we had imagined being in this rock band together,” Satter said. “The show is a fractured container for this remembered band.”

Calling the interludes she delivers about her sister “biographical pinpricks to fill out the tapestry of this play,” Satter said she did not set out to write an autobiographical piece.

“For the nature of this show I wanted some elusiveness and mystery and poetics. I never intended to stand up and tell this one-woman show,” she said. But as she continued exploring Samantha and Shawna’s relationship, Satter’s memories and feelings surrounding her once-close, now-severed ties to her sister couldn’t help but surface.

“The main story of these two young women, this loaded friendship, wondering, ‘Could we have our whole lives together?’ — dealing with this personal stuff was huge to be grappling with for me,” Satter said. “I would just start writing stuff about my sister. I couldn’t write about it then,” she said, especially after discussing it with co-creators Giarmo, who also serves as the project’s musical director, and comedian/writer/musician Markey.

“I said, ‘This is where I’m heading with this; let’s start playing with it and let’s see,’” she said. “They, being friends of mine, also knew there were darker roots to some of that stuff.”

Collaborators for many years, Giarmo and Marky composed the music (accompanying Satter’s lyrics) as well as performing in the “Ghost Rings” cast.

“I really tried to physically and vocally own her lyrics as my own point of view,” Marky told the Weekly in an email interview. “The goal for me was full sonic embodiment of the show’s aesthetic values. That’s what we all wanted so there was a lot of permission there for that.”

The harmony and power-ballad-rich music of “Ghost Rings” comes with a variety of influences, from Simon and Garfunkel to Bikini Kill to Enya.

“I’m always influenced by ‘90s country, ‘90s R&B and the Indigo Girls. I am complicatedly very influenced by R. Kelly’s music, but who isn’t?” Marky said.

Originally, Satter was not planning on performing in “Ghost Rings,” thinking that Sieh and Marky would recite the interludes for the audience. “It felt very vulnerable because I’m not normally a performer in my work and I never write that explicitly about personal stuff in my shows. Usually the drummer is the beat of the show but I was the least talented musician,” she said, laughing. “I had to rely back on these other incredibly talented musicians.”

A mix of childhood fantasy and melancholy nostalgia of adulthood, “Ghost Rings” seems likely to resonate with anyone who has experienced the close bond between best friends, sisters or artistic collaborators (or perhaps all three), and the deeply felt loss if and when that bond is weakened.

“Almost all my plays are about young women having shared codes ... sisters have that, theater makers have that,” Satter mused. “A band totally has that — making music together, singing together, finding each other in that live space, it’s such an amazing connection.”

The show also gave Satter the challenging opportunity to become something new, at the suggestion of Giarmo: a rock drummer.

“Chris had this idea that I should be in the band. I am not a drummer at all. I learned very specifically to do this. I can basically drum the songs we had in the show,” she said. “It felt very vulnerable because I’m not normally a performer in my work and I never write that explicitly about personal stuff in my shows. Usually the drummer is the beat of the show but I was the least talented musician,” she said, laughing. “I had to rely back on these other incredibly talented musicians.”

“Ghost Rings,” a pop-rock song cycle about sisterhood, friendship and a fictional band, comes to Stanford Feb. 14-16.

The show was guest-edited by Karla Kane.

Maria Baranova can be emailed at kkane@paweekly.com.

What: “Ghost Rings.”
Where: Bing Studio, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford.
When: Thursday, Feb. 14, Wednesday, Feb. 15 and Sat., Feb. 16 at 8 p.m.
Cost: $35-$45.
Info: Go to live.stanford.edu/calendar/february-2019/ghost-rings.
An American dream

‘American Night: The Ballad of Juan Jose’ is an immigrant’s surreal journey through U.S. history
by Karla Kane

In fifth grade, my class was tasked with writing and producing our own play. What we came up with was a time-traveling sketch-comedy tale of aliens visiting Earth and bearing witness to important moments in history (shout-out to my fellow “Spaced Out” cast and crew!). As a skit-filled, laugh-packed, madcap trip through U.S. History, Los Altos Stage Company’s “American Night: The Ballad of Juan Jose” reminds me — fondly — of that experience, albeit with a healthy helping of sharp, adult humor and insights about a few of the darker aspects of America’s past. Think Mel Brooks and Monty Python-style humor mixed with Howard Zinn’s “A People’s History of the United States.”

The show, written by Richard Montoya, centers on the titular Juan Jose (Carlos Diego Mendoza), a Mexican immigrant frantically preparing to take his U.S. citizenship examination.

Juan Jose was a police officer back in Mexico and fled Sinaloa after he refused to partake in drug-war corruption and became a green-card holder, his goal is to achieve full citizenship, then reunite with his beloved wife, Lydia (Alycia Adame, who also delivers a few lovely musical interludes), and his infant son, whom he has yet to meet.

With the test first thing in the morning, Juan Jose falls asleep and enters a feverish, rapid-fire dream that takes him through a variety of surreal encounters. He meets a cavalcade of figures (real and imagined) from throughout American history, played by the eight other cast members, billed only as Ensemble: Adame, Dan Cardenas, Nique Eagen, Ron Johnson, John Stephen King, Paul Lee, Duna Cordelia Morgan and Adrian Torres. Each takes on a variety of roles, from Sacajawea to Jackie Robinson.

Much of the content involves America’s often-shabby treatment of its immigrant and non-white populations. On his adventure through time and space, the good-natured, optimistic Juan Jose learns about the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which transferred a large portion of land from Mexico to the U.S.; Australian-American labor leader Harry Bridges; the Kent State killings and much more.

He meets people acting bravely, heroes he has not learned about in his mainstream history books, such as Viola Pettus, an African-American nurse who treats children from all backgrounds — including kids whose parents are Mexican, Native-American or even Ku Klux Klan members — during the 1918 influenza pandemic, and Latino and Japanese-Americans creating community and representing true patriotism in WWII internment camps.

Voices and faces from different eras mix and mingle and Juan Jose is confronted by rampant racism and anti-immigrant rhetoric still present in society today. There are also some “Back to the Future” moments in which Juan Jose meets his own ancestors and movingly recognizes the threads tying their worlds to his own.

Though the themes are serious, the vast majority of the play is delivered in the broadest possible comic strokes, including groan-worthy puns, stereotypical accents and over-the-top caricatures, offered with knowing nods and parodic self-awareness.

The actors attack their lines full throttle, which is often successful but, in some cases, feels like they’re desperately hammering it up and unnecessarily screaming at each other and the audience (the painful Teddy Roosevelt and Sheriff Joe Arpaio scenes come to mind). After a while, the frantic pace of the 90-minute one-act does get a bit exhausting, but kudos to director Rodrigo Garcia for keeping it all flowing smoothly and quickly.

The jokes are sometimes quite clever, sometimes gleefully stupid, and with so much packed in, if you don’t like a particular joke or scene, there’s always another one ready in the wings. At some points, the Los Altos audience at the performance I attended seemed fairly baffled.

Do you find delight in the moment when you old explorers dub Juan Jose “Trader Joe?” How about a finale that includes a Neil Diamond sing-and-dance-along and a pair of baby dolls dressed, respectively, in KKK and Pancho Villa garb? If so, you’re in the right place.

The Los Altos audience at the performance I attended seemed fairly baffled.

Info:
Cost: $20-$38.

Saturday, February 9 • 7:30 pm
Dinkelspiel Auditorium • Stanford University
Free and open to the public

For more information: continuingstudies.stanford.edu/events

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Stanford Continuing Studies

Where: Bus Barn Theater, 97 Whitney Ave., Los Altos.
Wednesday-Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 3 p.m.
Cost: $20-$38.
Info: Go to losaltostage.org/.
Babka was so ubiquitous during Ayélet Nuchi’s childhood in Tel Aviv — in her mother’s kitchen, on the shabbat table, at any Jewish celebration or event — that she almost took the pastry for granted. Then, in 2000, she moved to the United States. Good babka was nowhere to be found, she said. She craved homemade, quality babka; procuring some from her favorite Tel Aviv bakery was always her first stop after landing at the airport for visits home.

In December, she opened Babka by Ayélet, a dedicated babka bakery at Town & Country Village in Palo Alto that pays homage to the tastes and traditions of her homeland, with her own twists.

Nuchi wasn’t always a baker. She started baking out of boredom in a kitchen in New York City. Alone for her first Christmas in the United States, she started flipping through her roommate’s copy of Rose Levy Beranbaum’s “The Pie and Pastry Bible” and decided to tackle tarts. She said she was “obsessed” with tarts, particularly one from a now-closed SoHo bakery made from chocolate ganache with pears and almonds on top. She recreated that tart, then brownies (another obsession of hers to this day) and was overtaken by a baking bug.

In 2002, Nuchi attended the California Culinary Academy in San Francisco. She was constantly baking, sharing her goods with anyone who would take them — at baby showers, weddings, birthdays — which eventually grew into a catering company. Her most popular item was always babka.

Nuchi’s babka incorporates different sources of inspiration. She adds vanilla bean and orange zest to the dough, like her mother did, and has a heavier hand with butter than is traditional, like her favorite Tel Aviv bakery does. Her raspberry-cheese babka is inspired by a French clafoutis. Daily specials have recently included blackberry-almond and pistachio-strawberry.

For the raspberry-cheese babka, Nuchi spread a mixture of crème fraîche, yogurt and cream cheese over the dough, sprinkled raspberries on top and then rolled it and cut it in half. She crossed the long stretches of dough over each other in an “X” shape and then twisted the dough onto itself several times to create more layers. To keep up with demand — the bakery sells out daily by 2 p.m. — Nuchi has switched to making fewer flavors of small, single-serving babka ($6 each) and taking special orders for full-sized loaves ($25 each). Babka by Ayélet sells chocolate, cinnamon, Nutella, raspberry-cheese and halva babka (using halva from Tel Aviv). Daily specials have recently included blackberry-almond and pistachio-strawberry.

Chocolate is the most popular flavor, followed closely by halva, which Nuchi said surprised her. While Nuchi is going to sell her babka at Four Barrel cafes and The Mill in San Francisco (she serves Four Barrel coffee at the bakery), expansion is not a priority. She turns her nose up at the thought of selling her babka to grocery stores because of its short shelf-life.

A large commercial mixer sits unused in a corner of the bakery’s small, open kitchen. After some early batches of dough came out tasting differently, she abandoned it in favor of two stand mixers, like the ones she’s used at home for years.

Nuchi takes pride in a babka that is indulgently moist and cake-like, unlike the dry and crumbling more traditional version. She lets her butter-laden dough — rest overnight in a refrigerator for at least eight hours. She also brushes the top of the finished babka with a sugar-water glaze to add even more moisture.

A commercial mixer sits unused in a corner of the bakery’s small, open kitchen. After some early batches of dough came out tasting differently, she abandoned it in favor of two stand mixers, like the ones she’s used at home for years.

Dozens of times throughout the day, customers of all ages, from 8 to 107 years old, tell her that her babka “reminds me of my grandma.” That, Nuchi says, is the ultimate compliment.
Eating Out / Movies

MUSIC BY ETTA JAMES

BANKRUPTCY... GYMBOREE FILES FOR

Children’s clothing retailer Gymboree is closing its Stanford Shopping Center store as part of a companywide shutdown of all its Gymboree stores over the next few months. The San Francisco-based company filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection on Jan. 17, according to an announcement from the company website. All Gymboree stores will include all 534 of its Gymboree stores, as well as its Gymboree Outlet and Crazy 8 stores. Its Janie and Jack branded stores are expected to be sold through bankruptcy court auction, according to the company’s website. “We intend to use these proceedings to facilitate an orderly wind-down of all of our Gymboree, Gymboree Outlet and Crazy 8 store locations and operations,” CEO Kathy Kahng said in a prepared statement on the company website. Gymboree sites launched going-out-of-business sales at the end of January and stopped issuing merchandise credit on Feb. 1. Gift cards will be eligible to be redeemed until March 16, according to the company website. — L.T.

UNTUCKIT OPENS ITS DOORS... UNTUCKIT, the men’s clothing brand known for its button-down dress shirts designed to be worn untucked, opened its long-anticipated storefront at Stanford Shopping Center (next to Macy’s) on Wednesday, Feb. 6, eight months after announcing its plan to expand into Palo Alto. The Stanford store is among 25 new locations the company has planned to open over the past year. According to UNTUCKIT, it got some local assistance from Menlo Park VC firm Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers, who invested $30 million in the company’s first major round of fundraising in 2017 to help it expand its physical presence with new stores nationwide. Since launching the company in a spare bedroom in his apartment in 2011, founder Chris Riccobono has pushed UNTUCKIT to expand into new markets with the least investment. Udon, ramen and biang biang Korean BBQ ‘SUPERHOT’ IS ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT... 'Superhot' is extensive, to say the least. Udon, ramen and biang biang noodles. Beef tripe, popcorn chicken and spicy lamb. Quail egg, raw egg, Chinese donuts. Bean curd knots. Tom yum soup. Beef bulgogi. The all-you-can-eat restaurant at 210 Hope St. in downtown Mountain View, which soft opened in late January, serves not just hot pot but also Korean BBQ and dim sum. For $29.95 per person, diners can choose up to 10 items, but the entire party must order the same menu. Don’t linger over a long lunch; the restaurant limits meals to 90 minutes and charges $10 per person for every additional half hour. No leftovers allowed. Children who are shorter than 30 inches, however, only cost $5, the menu states. Children under 45 inches can eat for $14.95. For hot pot, diners can choose their soup base and then add meats, seafood, vegetables and other toppings. Photos on Yelp also show a long self-serve bar with various kinds of sauces. — E.K.

Compiled by the Weekly staff; this week written by Elena Kadvany and Linda Taaffe. Got leads on interesting and news-worthy retail developments? The Weekly will check them out. Email shoptalk@paweeekly.com.

Corrections
In the Jan. 11 article “A balancing act,” Robin Martin’s email address was misspelled. It is robin@ontventure.org. The Weekly regrets the error.

MOVIES NOW SHOWING

MOVIES NOW SHOWING

A Dog’s Way Home (PG)
Century 16: Fri.-Sun.
ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.

A Star is Born (R) ***/2
ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.


Cananahlan (1942)  (Not Rated)
ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.

Cold Pursuit (R) ***/2
Century 16: Fri.-Sun.
ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.

Aquarius Theatre: Fri., Sat.
ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.

The Favourite (R)  January 20:  Fri.-Sun. Palo Alto Squa
ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.


Green Book (PG-13) ***/2
Century 16: Fri.-Sun.

If Beale Street Could Talk (R)
Aquarius Theatre: Fri.-Sun.

Aquarius Theatre: Fri.-Sun.

In a Lonely Place (1950)  (Not Rated)

The Kid Who Would Be King (PG)
Century 16: Fri.-Sun.

The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part (PG)
Century 16: Fri.-Sun.
ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.

Mary Poppins Returns (PG)
Century 16: Fri.-Sun.

Miss Bala (PG-13)
Century 16: Fri.-Sun.

On the Basis of Sex (PG-13)

Oscar Nominated Shorts - Live Action (Not Rated)
Guild Theatre: Fri.-Sun.

Oscar-nominated Shorts - Animation (Not Rated)
Guild Theatre: Fri.-Sun.


Ralph Breaks the Internet (PG)

Spider-man into the Spider-Verse (PG)
Century 16: Fri.-Sun.

Stan & Ollie (PG) ***
Century 16: Fri.-Sun.

They Shall Not Grow Old (R)
Century 16: Fri.-Sun.


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Tiny gardens

Growing microgreens is as easy as seeds, dirt and a takeout tray

by Elizabeth Lorenz

If you’ve ever seen or ordered a salad with microgreens from an upscale restaurant with a famed chef and figured these tender vegetables come from a farmer somewhere, they might have. But gardening expert and master gardener Beth McGuire said it’s easy enough for anyone to grow microgreens — small versions of mature plants that are picked before they’re fully grown — on their own windowills.

“They’re sort of half way between the (alfalfa) sprouts we grew in the ’70s and baby greens,” McGuire said. To sum up the difference: Microgreens have a longer growth cycle than sprouts and a shorter growth cycle than baby greens.

Microgreens are usually harvested just before “the true leaf stage,” McGuire said, at about 1 inch tall, and look more generic than when the plant becomes distinguishable as baby lettuce, radish or sunflowers. Part of your harvest, McGuire said, is the stem. She encourages gardeners to pinch off the stem and taste it.

“If you like it, go ahead and harvest. If not, let them grow a bit more to develop flavor (bitter notes, refreshing sweetness) and pick again,” she said. “Grow it. Test it along the way. You’ll know when it’s right for you.”

McGuire, who teaches beginners how to grow microgreens, often uses organic mustard or fenugreek (also known as methi) in her classes. The seeds, which can be found at Indian or East Asian grocery stores, reliably germinate, she said. Mustard, she said, gives a wasabi-like “nose kick.” The fenugreek is slightly bitter.

Black oil sunflower seeds (found at pet stores in the bird feed section) work great as microgreens, she said. Some people build elaborate shelving, or buy LED lights — not needed, McGuire said, especially if you place the tray near a breakfast table or an area where you’re walking by or plugging in your cell phone.

The process enables gardeners to watch the germination process up close, McGuire said, especially if you don’t get the striped ones.

The seeds can be planted in whatever kind of tray you already planted in containers. Learn how to find the best tray, as well as how to plant and prune it, during a free talk from 7 to 8:15 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 21, by Master Gardener Kelpana Jain. The event will be at Rinconada Library, 1233 Newell Road, Palo Alto.

Send notices of news and events related to real estate, interior design, home improvement and gardening to Home Front, Palo Alto Weekly, P.O. Box 1610, Palo Alto, CA 94302, or email elorenz@embarcaderopublishing.com. Deadline is one week before publication.

Uncover the tray after that and most of the seeds should have germinated. Mist every day so the soil stays moist (not wet) until the seeds are ready to harvest — typically between six and 12 days.

When harvesting, use kitchen scissors to cut at the soil line.

“The stems are as much a part of your crop as the leaves,” McGuire said.

McGuire washes her microgreens in a salad spinner, draining and soaking them twice. The idea is to remove any seed coats or soil still clinging to the stems. She keeps the microgreens in a lidded plastic container with a paper towel on the bottom to absorb moisture.

“They are delicious. When they’re that small the flavor is concentrated,” McGuire said.

Some of her favorite plants to grow as microgreens include cilantro (chop it into salsa), daikon radish (for tacos), basil (which is usually a summer plant), and red cabbage or lettuce. Generally anything that has edible leaves will work as microgreens, she said.

She does not recommend peppers or tomatoes.

The process enables gardeners to watch the germination process up close, McGuire said, especially if you place the tray near a breakfast table or an area where you’re walking by or plugging in your cell phone.

Elizabeth Lorenz is the Home and Real Estate Editor at the Palo Alto Weekly. She can be emailed at elorenz@embarcaderopublishing.com.

Cover with a lid, or dampen a layer of newspaper, and put over the top of the tray.

“What you want is something to create a greenhouse effect for the first three days,” she said.

The Depot is located at 1781 East Bayshore Road, Palo Alto. For members it’s $35 and for nonmembers it’s $45. To register, go to gamblegarden.org.
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- Wide-plank white oak hardwood floors throughout
- Master suite with walk-in closet, private balcony, vaulted ceiling and en suite bath with shower, soaking tub and dual vanities
- Great room with fireplace wrapped in stone and large sliding doors that open to shaded patio
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3880 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park

Offered at $3,488,000

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Located in prestigious Palo Alto, this thoughtfully updated 4 bedroom, 2 bath home of 1,711 square feet (per county) rests on a 7,150 square foot lot (per city) with grounds fit for entertaining. Slate tile floors carry from the charming front porch into the foyer, with a separate entrance to the elegant master suite with two closets and marble-topped double vanities. Granite countertops and large skylights complete the chef’s kitchen, which flows into the open-concept dining room, family room, and oversized formal living room that connects out to the peaceful backyard. In this convenient location, you’ll be moments away from Ramos Park, Mitchell Park Community Center, Midtown Shopping Center, and world-class schools.

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How Feng-Shui Concepts Impact Home Value

 phạt

Palo Alto Hills Golf & Country Club
3000 Alexis Drive, Palo Alto, CA
Saturday, February 9, 2019
11am - 1pm

11am – 12pm
Yang Earth Pig Year 2019 & Residential Feng-Shui
Aelita Leto
Feng-Shui Master

12pm – 1pm
How to Maximize Sales Price in a Slowing Market & Real Estate Tax Changes in 2018
Michael Repka
CEO of DeLeon Realty

2018 Real Estate Tax Changes & Maximizing Sales Price in a Slowing Market

Palo Alto Hills Golf & Country Club
3000 Alexis Drive, Palo Alto, CA
Sunday, February 10, 2019
11am -1pm

Michael Repka, Esq.
CEO of DeLeon Realty
LL.M (Taxation)
NYU School of Law

Annie Watson
VP of Finance
DeLeon Realty
MST (Taxation)
MSA (Accountancy)

How To Reach Buyers in a Slow Market

Palo Alto Hills Golf & Country Club
3000 Alexis Drive, Palo Alto, CA
Saturday, February 16, 2019
11am -1pm

Michael Repka
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Appetizers & refreshments will be provided.
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OPEN HOUSE

Saturday & Sunday
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90 Macbain Av $6,495,000
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BURLINGAME
3 Bedrooms
1041 Paloma Av $6,495,000
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LOS ALTOS
2 Bedrooms
1 W. Edith Av $1,395,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Sereno Group 323-1111

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3010 Trousdale Dr $1,995,000
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3 Bedrooms
308 Mount Hamilton Av $2,950,000
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311 Tyrella Av $1,658,000
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PALO ALTO
1 Bedroom
320 Palo Alto Av #B3 $1,188,000
Sat/Sun DeLeon Realty 900-7000

2 Bedrooms
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Sat/Sun Compass 900-7000

3 Bedrooms
455 Grant Av #14 $1,549,000
Sat/Sun Alain Pinel Realtors 400-2718

505 Cypress Point Dr #101 $675,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Interio 543-7740

4 Bedrooms
1251 Bryant Av $3,698,000
Sun 1-4 COMPASS 900-7000

PESCADERO
3 Bedrooms
501 Bean Hollow Rd $3,600,000
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 207-8444

PORTOLA VALLEY
3 Bedrooms
11 Sandstone St $3,298,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 851-1961

REDWOOD CITY
2 Bedrooms - Condominium
500 Farm Hill Blvd #206 $699,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Interio 543-7740

3 Bedrooms
665 E Fox Ct $1,375,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 492-0200

3 Bedrooms
501 Bean Hollow Rd $3,600,000
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 207-8444

SUNNYVALE
3 Bedrooms
1284 Laurel Hill Dr $1,998,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 COMPASS 214-5017

3 Bedrooms
1811 Kehoe Av $1,349,950
Sat/Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 492-0200

SUNNYVALE
3 Bedrooms
1811 Kehoe Av $1,349,950
Sat/Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 492-0200

3 Bedrooms
677 Madrone Av $1,650,000
Sat/Sun Alain Pinel Realtors 323-1111

3 Bedrooms
1282 Socorro Av $1,298,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 DeLeon Realty 900-7000

WOODSIDE
3 Bedrooms
235 Hillside Dr $1,895,000
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 851-2666

4 Bedrooms
518 Patrol Rd $3,995,000
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 851-2666

5 Bedrooms
2083 Portola Rd $3,695,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 851-2666

New Years Resolutions
A MOVE? A NEW JOB? A NEW SPOUSE? = A NEW HOUSE!!

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REACHING A MILESTONE ... 

Pinewood girls basketball teammates Klara Astrom and Savannah Jump, both of whom will play at NCAA Division I colleges next year, will likely reach a milestone during Friday night's 6:30 p.m. West Bay Athletic League contest at Menlo School. The four-year varsity players have scored a combined 2,982 points over their prep careers, 18 shy of 3,000. In the same game, Jump needs 14 points to reach 1,700 and Astrom needs four to reach 1,500. Both players went a long time to reaching the 3,000-point plateau with big offensive efforts in a 74-40 victory over Priory earlier in the week. Astrom scored a career-high 38 points on 12 of 18 shooting, including 8 of 12 from 3-point range, and Jump, who is headed to Stanford, added 24 points, all on 3-pointers, for the Panthers (20-2, 10-0) who have won 63 consecutive WBAL regular-season games. The Yale-bound Astrom, who was also 6 of 7 from the foul line, scored over 30 points in a game for the second time in her career. She set a Menlo last year.

COURTING A TITLE ... 

The Eastside boys basketball team scored the final nine points of its WBAL showdown win with host The King's Academy to win 49-45 and take over first place in the competitive league. Isaiah Saams-Hoy scored 26 points to lead the Panthers (14-6, 11-1), who have one a one-game lead and the tiebreaker over TKA with two games to play. Raymond Reece and Will Mustafa, along with Saams-Hoy, scored during the winning rally.

GETTING THEIR KICKS ... 

The Menlo School girls' soccer team has a chance to earn its first outright West Bay Athletic League title in five years when it hosts rival Sacred Heart Prep on Tuesday at 6 p.m. Friday, Senior Sophie Jones, a member of the United States U-17 FIFA Women's National Cup team in the fall, scored the game's only goal just before halftime and the Knights clinched at least a tie for the title with a 1-0 victory over Priory on Tuesday. Junior goalkeeper Talia Grossman, a member of the United States U-17 FIFA Women's World Cup team, turned in another outstanding effort in the net for Menlo (16-1-1, 7-0-1).

STAYING ON COURSE ... 

Competing just down the coast from her family home in Hermosa Beach, Stanford senior Andrea Lee wanted desperately to claim her seventh collegiate golf victory in front of family and friends on Tuesday at the Northrop Grumman Regional Conference at Palos Verdes Golf Club. Playing in cold, wet and windy conditions, she emerged with a pressure-packed one-stroke triumph and led No. 5 Cardinal to a two-shot win over a stellar field in the first round of the tournament. Paced by Lee (nine) and junior Albane Valenzuela (eight), Stanford led the 18-team field in birdies with 40.

STANFORD WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Planting the seeds for NCAA tournament

A Cardinal opportunity to raise the ratings

by Rick Eymer

Photos by Karen Hickey Ambrose

Every weekend of the Pac-12 Conference women’s basketball race is another opportunity to up the ante and this week in the Bay Area is about being all in or folding your hand for the winter.

No. 11 Stanford (18-3, 8-2) sits down at the table with No. 7 Oregon State (19-3, 9-1) on Saturday night at 6 p.m. and with No. 3 Oregon (21-1, 10-0) at 1 p.m. Sunday. At stake are a myriad of situations that range from a possible No. 1 seed this weekend to falling its way.

Stanford thumped visiting California, 75-50, last weekend in response to losing consecutive conference road games. The victory relieved the angst of slipping out of the top 10 and no longer being able to control its own destiny but that is of little solace entering this weekend.

“It’s exciting,” Stanford junior DiJonai Carrington said. “We owe Oregon one. We had them in the Pac-12 tournament and let that one slip away. And we always want to defend our home court. We know we have the capability of beating both teams but we can’t do it by ourselves.”

Carrington meant that one player, not even if her name is Alanna Smith, will be able to carry the team single-handedly. Stanford needs every ace in the deck and the wild cards to fall its way.

Smith is, however, a great place to start. The senior forward from Australia continues to enjoy a wildly successful season.

She’s shooting 53.6 percent from the field (163-of-304), 45.0 percent from behind the arc (54-of-120) and averaging a team-high 20.9 points per game to go with 8.1 rebounds.

Smith, who has double-doubles in six of her last 12 games, is the only player in the country averaging 20.0 points, 8.0 rebounds, 2.0 assists and 2.0 blocks per game this season and one of five shooting 45 percent both overall and from deep.

Smith is on track to join Elena Delle Donne as the only players 6-foot-4 and taller over the past 20 years to shoot better than 40 percent from 3-point range for an entire season. Delle Donne made 41.3 percent as a freshman at Delaware in 2009-10 (NCAA minimum of two made 3-pointers per game).

Smith ranks 20th on the all-time scoring list (1,443) and is 10 points shy of Jeanette Pohlen, who ranks 17th. She’s also third blocked shots short of 200 and five from matching Chiney Ogwumike for second on the all-time list.

Stanford has already played a pair of top 10 teams back-to-back and delivered victories over then No. 3 Baylor at home and at No. 9 Tennessee on the road.

Carrington scored 33 points and had 13 rebounds in the victory over the Lady Vols. She’s averaging 16.3 points and 9.2 rebounds over the past 13 games, which includes five double-doubles.

Sophomore point guard Kiana Williams is another key to the week. The sophomore is second on the team in scoring (14.6 points per game) and four of her five 20-point games this season have come in conference.

“It’s a new month. We’re heading into tournament in February and March,” Stanford coach Tara VanDerveer said. “We want to keep improving.”

Oregon, Oregon State and Stanford, in that order, are the top three scoring teams in the conference. The Ducks average 89.6 points, the Beavers score at an 80.1 pace and the Cardinal net 79.8 points.

Oregon State is second in the Pac-12 in scoring defense, averaging 58 points allowed per contest.

“It’s going to be a tough weekend,” Stanford’s Maya Dodson said. “If we play Stanford basketball, we can win.”

Dodson returned to the lineup after missing a month to injury. Lexie Hull, who started the first three games, has also playing herself back into shape as Lacie Hill continues to get better.

Stanford is 9-1 in its past 10 games against top five opponents.

Top: Anna Wilson played 14 minutes in Stanford’s Pac-12 Conference victory over California over the weekend. Above: DiJonai Carrington is averaging 16.3 points and 9.2 rebounds over her last 13 games.
Sharon Nejad
MENLO BASKETBALL
The freshman averaged 18.7 points and 11.0 rebounds over three games last week that clinched second place in the WBAL for the Knights. She scored 23 points and had 12 rebounds against Eastside Prep.

Andrew Wang
PALO ALTO WRESTLING
The senior won the 128-pound weight class at the Colt Invitational in South San Francisco over the weekend, helping the Vikings finish third as a team. He recorded three pins and a decision en route to the title.

Honorable mention
Zion Gabriel
Eastside Prep basketball
Yara Gomez Zavala
Menlo Atherton soccer
Chloe Jedwood
Kehillah Jewish basketball
Avery Lee*
Menlo basketball
Annika Shah*
Palo Alto basketball
Mina Tamellau*
Eastside Prep basketball

*Previous winner

Watch video interviews of the Athletes of the Week, go to PASportsOnline.com

Championship season begins this weekend

M-A, Palo Alto, Gunn prepare for league championships

by Rick Eymer
Photos by Keith Ferrell
The wrestling postseason officially gets underway Friday with the Peninsula Athletic League and Santa Clara Clara Valley Athletic League each hosting tournaments.

Palo Alto and Gunn wrestlers compete at Lynbrook in San Jose while Menlo-Atherton wrestles at Ocean High in Pacifica.

The M-A girls are overwhelming favorites to repeat as PAL champions. After all, the Bears are also the defending Central Coast Section champions. Half Moon Bay and Terra Nova are other top programs in the league.

The M-A boys went undefeated in the regular season and will be up against Half Moon Bay at the league tournament.

The Palo Alto and Gunn boys will be competing for the SCVAL title with Los Gatos and Cupertino.

The Paly and Gunn girls teams are up against Fremont, among others, in their quest for a league title.

All three schools should have a quarterfinalist at least and a league champion at best.

Menlo-Atherton has five girls ranked No. 1 in the CCS by the California Wrestler, the best resource for comparing athletes at their projected weight classes.

Fola Akinola is at the top of the list. She’s a three-time CCS champion and finished second at last year’s state meet. Akinola is also nationally ranked in her division.

Anna Smith is the defending CCS champion at 116 pounds and qualified for state her first two years.

Lauren Fullner will also contend for a spot in the CCS tournament.

The Bears’ program began with a single wrestler five years ago and has blossomed into a regional powerhouse with nearly 25 team members.

The Palo Alto boys are at the top of their game and will battle Los Gatos and Cupertino for the league team title.

Andrew Wang is the heart and soul of the team, though he’ll disagree and add most of his teammates to the definition. He ranks second in the CCS at 126, is a three-time CCS qualifier, a state qualifier and the defending league champion.

What Wang likes is the way the Vikings have formed a bond and he credits the M-A coaching staff for creating an atmosphere where they can.

Wang certainly won’t be the lone Paly wrestler to compete for a league title. The Vikings have a pair if freshman in Max Felter and Cade Creighton who are capable of reaching the tournament in her first three years.

Fourth-ranked Paola Ramirez is a three-time CCS qualifier and reached the quarterfinals last year.

Abby Ericson has never finished lower than third in the CCS and is a defending CCS champion at 160. She’s qualified for the state meet the previous three years and placed sixth last year.

Evelyn Calhoon, who signed a letter-of-intent to play soccer at Brown on Wednesday, finished second in the CCS at 121 and won three of her five bouts at the state meet.

Angie Bautista, ranked second at 126, was a CCS runnerup last year and has qualified for the CCS tournament.

Palo Alto’s Andrew Wang ranks second in the Central Coast Section at 126 pounds.

Pal Alto’s Adar Schwarzbach will be competing for a league title this weekend.
championship round at Lynbrook. Adar Schwarzbach, Dana Heydarpour, who missed the Colt Invitational, Aidan Gans and Charlie Williams are also candidates to finish among the top three or four in the SCVAL.

Maguire Ferrell, Halo Lynch, Tyler Weaver-Escobar and Peter Graham have the potential to qualify for the CCS tournament.

Gunn won’t be left empty-handed when it comes to the CCS as Timothy Waymouth, Dash Lee, Phillip Doan and Koh Suzuki are all championship material.

Phillip Doan and Koh Suzuki are also candidates to finish for the CCS tournament. Waymouth was the league runnerup at 145 pounds and Mikaela Fedder could also produce results.

Lola Robinson, Natalie Cai and Kalya Lin are Gunn’s top candidates for a league title. Cai went 3-2 at last year CCS tournament dates for a league title. Cai went 3-2 at last year CCS tournament.

The CCS boys and girls tournaments are scheduled for Independence High on Feb. 15-16 and the state meets are slated for Bakersfield on Feb. 22-23.

Lola Robinson, Natalie Cai and Kalya Lin are Gunn’s top candidates for a league title. Cai went 3-2 at last year CCS tournament dates for a league title. Cai went 3-2 at last year CCS tournament.

The CCS boys and girls tournaments are scheduled for Independence High on Feb. 15-16 and the state meets are slated for Bakersfield on Feb. 22-23.

For Menlo-Atherton, Joshua Meyers, Anthony Waller and Misethen Eke will compete for a league title while Julian Garza, Liam Dunn and Nicholas Wang are also in the conversation.

Palo Alto’s Ashley Wang would have been a favorite to win a girls league title but she’s out with an injury. The second-ranked Wang expects to return for the CCS tournament next weekend.

The Vikings do have other potential winners in Zoe Wong-VanHaren and Alexandria Lee; Salma Montana, freshman Ella Jauregui and Mikaela Fedder could also produce results.

Menlo-Atherton senior Fola Akinola (right) is a three-time CCS champion.

has improved his league status every year and was third at 138 last year. Doan was fifth at 138.

For Menlo-Atherton, Joshua Meyers, Anthony Waller and Misethen Eke will compete for a league title while Julian Garza, Liam Dunn and Nicholas Wang are also in the conversation.

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Menlo-Atherton senior Fola Akinola (right) is a three-time CCS champion.
Palo Alto | $4,500,000
Originally built in 2005, this Midtown modern Craftsman-style home was expanded & remodeled in 2014. Two-story, optimized floor plan with 5br/4ba, over 2,800 sq ft on an approx. 7,800 sq ft lot w/ open kitchen and great room concept. Fabulous chef's kitchen with modern amenities and top-of-the-line appliances. Sparkling pool and sun-soaked patio. www.853Fielding.com

Julie Lau
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CalRE #01052954

Menlo Park | $2,240,000
Lovingly designed by a local Menlo Park mom, this 2bd/2ba home has been extensively updated. The efficient floor plan includes sight lines from the kitchen to the FR & the front & back yards. Open concept with newly installed quartz countertops & high-end stainless steel appliances. Enjoy entertaining in the landscaped backyard under the beautiful oak tree. Located within the award-winning Las Lomitas SD.

Jasmine Lee
650.737.2002 | jlee@jasminelae.com
CalRE #01961084

Palo Alto | $2,880,000
This Cottle Terrace four bedroom, two bath hidden gem has been remodeled and is ready for new owners. It features a studio above the detached garage.

Lollie Gilbert
650.274.6787 | lollie.gilbert@cbnorcal.com
CalRE #00467984

Palo Alto | $2,495,000
Stunning mid-century modern three bedroom, three bath plus office. Original Eichler home with a pool on large lot.

Faridah Zamani
650.814.6433 | faridah.zamani@cbnorcal.com
CalRE #1364566

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