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Pressure over college admissions ‘out of control’

Expert: Parents mean well, but misguided ‘help’ can harm students
by Elena Kadvany

For local parents, high school students and college counselors, news this week of a multimillion-dollar college admissions bribery scandal that involved both Palo Alto area parents and hundreds of thousands of dollars was shocking — but not wholly unexpected, they said. Despite efforts by Palo Alto Unified and other school districts and organizations to encourage a healthier approach to the college-admissions process, many parents’ desires for the best for their children has devolved into unhealthy fear, according to parents, college counselors and experts. And that fear has led to what one parent described as the “bottom of the barrel” when it comes to the lengths to which parents will go to get their children into elite universities.

“There’s an arms-race quality to this,” said Palo Alto Unified School District Trustee Ken Dauber, himself a high school parent. “I think there’s a lot of anxiety around this that clearly affects not just what parents are investing in but students at school. It’s harder to focus on how do we do things at school that are valuable in the United States when we have this other system out there waiting for the outputs of this.”

Parents said they, like their children, feel a social pressure linked to college admissions. It’s not news that parents, particularly well-resourced ones, turn to private tutors, test-prep services, volunteerism and other opportunities to give their children a leg up in the ever-competitive college process. Dauber suggested that many parents are motivated by legitimate fears of downward mobility — that it is becoming increasingly hard for younger generations to move up economically in the way their parents did.

(continued on page 12)

ANATOMY OF A FRAUD
A look at the three types of schemes life coach Rick Singer used in his admissions scam

Parents hired Singer’s for-profit counseling service, The Key to “boost” their kids’ chances for college admission.

“DONATIONS” Parents paid thousands in cash or as “donations” to Singer’s fake foundation.

TAX FRAUD CONSPIRACY Certain clients were told to disguise bribe payments as charitable contributions to Singer’s nonprofit The Key Worldwide Foundation. This enabled clients to deduct the bribes from federal income taxes.

CRIME
Feds: Parents paid thousands to game the system
Cheating included using a proctor who gave students SAT and ACT answers, creating false documents to present students as star athletes by Jamey Padojino

The 204-page federal complaint filed by the United States Attorney’s Office on March 12 in the case of a nationwide college-admissions scam details the lengths to which wealthy parents of high school students were willing to go to get their children into elite universities, from arranging for their students to cheat on college-entrance tests to making payments in the tens of thousands of dollars for help presenting the students as star athletes when they were not.

Ninety-five people were arrested and 50 indicted on Tuesday in the scheme, which allegedly involved up to $25 million in bribes to university coaches and employees in the college-admissions field. The federal complaint, based on evidence gathered by the FBI, outlined the role each parent allegedly played in the scheme, including how much they paid to a purported charitable foundation helping underserved kids — known as Key Worldwide Foundation, which allegedly laundered the money — and the conversations they had with employees of the affiliated college-counseling business Edge College and Career Network, also known under the fictitious business name The Key.

William “Rick” Singer, who has been working with investigators since last September in the hope of receiving a more lenient sentence, founded The Key and the nonprofit The Key Worldwide Foundation in Sacramento before moving them to Newport Beach. He pleaded guilty on March 12 to racketeering conspiracy, money laundering conspiracy, conspiracy to defraud the United States and obstruction of justice.

Mark Riddell, a director of college-entrance-exam preparation at a private college preparatory school in Brandenton, Florida, is also cooperating with the investigators. Identified as facilitating test-taking fraud with many of the parents, Riddell agreed to plead guilty to charges of conspiracy to commit mail fraud and honest services mail fraud.

In numerous cases, Riddell was paid $10,000 to either take, give answers on or correct each student’s SAT and ACT test before submitting it for assessment, the federal complaint states. His involvement was verified through emails, consensual recordings and interviews with other witnesses, or other communications, according to the complaint.

(continued on page 8)
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CRIME

College-admissions scammer was well-known in Palo Alto
Defendant in national scandal pleaded guilty to federal charges

William “Rick” Singer, the Newport Beach, Calif., admissions consultant who is at the heart of an elaborate, $25 million fraud to get students of wealthy families into top-rated colleges by cheating on college admissions exams and bribing coaches, has a long history of dealing with Silicon Valley clients.

In one Facebook post for his college-counseling business, The Key, Singer claims to have shared his “secrets” with clients seeking help for their children with college admissions, including John Doerr, managing partner of venture capital firm Kleiner Perkins in Menlo Park; the late Apple CEO Steve Jobs; Bill Joy, co-founder of Sun Microsystems; and famed NFL quarterback Joe Montana and his wife, Jennifer.

(The Weekly’s requests for comment from some of the purported clients were not returned.)

Though his business was founded in Sacramento and then moved to Newport Beach, Singer was no stranger to Palo Alto area families. He would drive into the Bay Area to spend time with a “circum” of local clients, according to one Palo Alto father whose daughter met with Singer in 2011 and who asked to remain anonymous.

The Palo Alto father said he paid Singer $5,000 for about seven months of counseling, which involved emails and phone calls. He was connected to Singer by another parent, a prominent venture capitalist who “recommended him as a helpful admission advisor.” Other parents in that person’s firm had also used Singer in the past, the father said.

While calling Singer an “aggressive guy,” the father said the college counselor never mentioned bribery, large donations or falsifying tests to his family. “He did have a legitimate business. I feel bad for other people like my kid and families in my situation where they’re like, ‘Oh my god, we worked with this guy. Did we cheat? Did we do something wrong?’ I don’t think we did. What we did is what other people do. There’s a whole industry of these people that read college essays and help you. That was definitely a piece of his business and that’s the piece we used.”

But Singer offered other services, including personal branding, which rubbed them the wrong way. The father said Singer told them about students he had helped start nonprofits and host conferences or events to boost their applications.

The father said Singer’s own background in athletics and as a sports coach came through in his work. There was a sense of, “This is a game and we’re going to win, and I’m going to coach you on how to win,” the father said.

“On the one hand you kind of like that. I don’t want to be passive in this process; I want to be assertive; I want to be thinking about what I need to do here. On the other hand, it was a little much.”

The father said he didn’t hire Singer again when his second child was applying to colleges.

According to The Key website, Singer had a 26-year career as a life coach and college counselor and was “widely recognized as an elite-level college admissions, sports, career and life coach.”

The company is supposedly located in 51 cities throughout the U.S. and five overseas countries. “The Key’s clientele is all referral based; consequently, the quality of the service provided to many of the world’s most renown (sic) families and individuals has

ELECTIONS

 Election commission continues probe of Kniss’ campaign
After two years, case remains open and even its target doesn’t know why it’s taking so long

When the state Fair Political Practice Commission (FPPC) opened its probe into Palo Alto Councilwoman Liz Kniss alleged 2016 campaign violations in March 2017, there was little indication that two years later, the agency’s Enforcement Division would still be working on the case.

As the investigation passed the two-year mark this week, there are few signs that the end is approaching. The case is not on the agency’s March 21 agenda, which means it will be at least another month and a half before the FPPC can issue a resolution. And the agency has been tight-lipped about the case, citing its policy of not commenting on open cases.

Even so, the sheer length of time it’s taking the FPPC to investigate Kniss suggests that the agency believes that her case is more complex than the 77 percent of its cases that qualify for a “streamlining program” and that usually get resolved within two or three months. These, according to FPPC spokesperson Jay Wierenga, tend to be “minor, technical, lower level violations that can be cleared up rather quickly.”

In 2017, the agency resolved about two-thirds of its cases within 180 days, with some taking just a few months, Wierenga said. Between 75 and 85 percent of the cases were completed within a year. The February 2017 investigation against Councilman Greg Tanaka for violations of reporting campaign finances was resolved within seven months and resulted in a $735 fine. The complaint against Councilman (now Vice Mayor) Adrian Fine, who failed to include his campaign’s FPPC number on an October 2017 mailer, was closed within two weeks (the FPPC issued a warning but did not impose a fine in this case). The reasons why some cases take much longer vary greatly, Wierenga told the Weekly. Each case, he said, has its “specific facts, allegations, evidence (and) personal- 8

CityView

A round-up of Palo Alto government action this week

City Council (March 11)
Ventura: The council held a town hall meeting in Ventura and directed staff to include in the North Ventura Coordinated Area Plan an evaluation of workforce housing, a consideration of higher “inclusionary housing” requirements and policies to protect existing residents from displacement. Yes: Connack, Dubios, Filesth, Fine, Kniss, Kou Absent: Tanaka
Board of Education (March 12) Budget: The board approved the district’s second interim budget report. Yes: Unanimous
Planning and Transportation Commission (March 13)
190 Channing Ave.: The commission approved a request for a vesting tentative map to allow for four residential condominium units and two office units on a parcel at 190 Channing Ave. Yes: Alcheck, Lauing, Riggs, Summa, Templeton, Waldof Absent: Roofparvar
Historic Resources Board (March 12)
Retreat: The board held a retreat to discuss Comprehensive Plan policies related to historic preservation, the city’s historic preservation program and other topics. Action: None

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Parents (continued from page 5)

According to the complaint, many students taking the exams were aware that their parents had arranged for the cheating. Also indicted were two SAT and ACT proctors, including a former college administrator and nine coaches at universities including Yale University, The University of Southern California, and Wake Forest University and Georgetown Uni-

versity, among others. As part of the investigation, Singer met with three of the parents last October and No-

vember under the direction of law-enforcement agents, under the pretense that his foundation was being audited by the IRS. In those phone calls, Singer reviewed with the parent the fraud that they had perpetrated together so that the parent would acknowledge it, but he did so saying that they all needed to get “on the same page” with the IRS so that they would be contacted by the IRS.

The parents

Palo Alto parents Amy and Gregory Colburn used The Key’s services and allegedly participat-
ed in the test-taking scheme for their daughter. On Dec. 31, 2017, The Key staff sent the Colburns an SAT admission ticket that allowed their son to take the test on March 10, 2018. In early March, the father arranged with Riddell to serve as the test proctor for their son. In early November, Riddell made a $15,000 donation to Key World-

wide Foundation.

The boy received a score of 30 out of 36 points on the ACT. Klapper emailed Singer a copy of the score that November, not-

ting: “Omg. I guess he’s not testing again.” Singer replied, “Yep he is brilliant.”

“If they get into the meat and potatoes, is this gonna be the front page story with “Everyone from Kleiner Perkins do whatever getting these kids into school? ... Look what’s going on behind the schemes.”” — Bruce Isackson

Menlo Park resident Peter Jan “P.J.” Sartorio, president and co-founder of food companies P.J.’s Organics and Nate’s, is accused of paying $15,000 in cash to have Riddell sent as the proctor for his daughter and correct her an-

swers in June 2017. Sartorio had withdrawn the $15,000 through three transactions between June 13 and 16. In her recorded conversation with Sartorio about the payment, Singer said, “You won’t show up on my books because you paid cash, essentially, for her to take the test with (Mark Riddell).”

“Right,” Sartorio responded, later adding: “There is nothing on my company balance sheet that would show that your company ... received any cash payments. ... Anything that was done verbally, that was verbal and there’s no record of it. There’s nothing.”

Repeat customers

Atherton couple Elizabeth and Manuel Henriquez allegedly par-
ticipated in the exam cheating schemes four separate times for their two daughters in 2015, 2016 and 2017. Their parents hired Head University tennis coach Gordon Ernst to list their older daugh-

ter as a tennis recruit, though records from the United States Ten-

nis Association showed she played at least in one USTA tournament as a high school student. Ernst allegedly received $950,000 from the Henriquez Foundation between Sept. 11, 2015 and Nov. 30, 2016, according to the federal complaint.

The test-taking fraud entailed the Henriquezes allegedly paying $25,000 to have Riddell serve as the proctor at a private school in Los Angeles for their younger daughter’s SAT exam and provid-
ing her with correct answers. She received a score of 1900 out of 2400 points (320 points from her previous score on the same test. She was ultimately offered admission to Georgetown in spring 2016, according to the complaint.

In May 2016, the Henriquez Family Trust paid $400,000 to Key Worldwide Foundation, the complaint said.

The Atherton couple’s younger daughter took her ACT in Hous-
ton, Texas, the second test cen-
ter that Singer arranged for in October 2016. In 2017, a third party took three SAT sub-

tests and the ACT test on the daughter’s behalf in West Holly-

wood, the complaint states.

In lieu of payment in 2016, Manuel Hen-

riquez promised Singer an influence at his alma mater, Northeastern University in Boston, to help Singer with Palatella’s admis-
sion to the school. The Henriquezes allegedly paid between $25,000 and $30,000 for the third-party test taking in 2017.

Manuel Henriquez stepped down Wednesday as CEO of ven-
ture capital and private equity firm Hercules Capital in Palo Alto, the company announced in a press release.

A transcript of the Henriquezes’ 2018 call with Singer showed the couple trying to make sure the ar-

rangements were not traceable.

“Why did (my daughter) do the test there (in Houston)?” Palatella said. “So we gonna get into that story,” Manuel Hen-

riquez said.

“Lemme go into that,” Singer said, “before you go into the riquezes that no one would find out. “In my books, it doesn’t show that there was any money paid for anything.”

So we gotta get into that story,” Manuel Hen-

riquez said.

“So there’s no paper trail of money? Elizabeth Henriquez asked.

“When there’s no paper trail of money. Okay? Cause remember we did that? And you helped?”” — Right.” Manuel Hernandez said.

Supposed star athletes

Hillsborough resident Marci Palatella, CEO of liquor distribu-
tor International Beverage, alleg-

ey also paid to help her former USC’s head women’s soccer coach Ali Khosroshahin sent the allegedly false profile to Jorge Sal-
cedo, head coach of the University of California, Los Angeles’s head coach of men’s soccer. In June 2016, the Isacksons daughter was given provisional admission for that fall. The following month, the couple transferred 2,150 shares of Facebook stock valued at $251,249 to the foundation.

The Isacksons allegedly contin-

ued to engage in both the cheating and athlete-attraction scheme with their youngest daughter begin-

ning in January 2017. The girl secured admission to USC as a rowing recruit after Janke creat-

ed a profile for her that included false honors as a member of the Redwood Scullers, a sport she had no experience, the com-

plaint said.

On April 20, 2018, Isackson transferred shares of stock valued at $249,420 to the founda-

tion. $20,000 of that was set aside for Heinel, the USC athletic director.

In August 2018, the couple al-

glegedly called Singer to help their third child get into college through false college entrance exam scores, a call that was intercepted by a court-authorized wiretap.

Bruce Isackson and Singer met in person in December after a phone call between the two about the supposed IRS audit. Bruce Isackson admitted to being nervous that their fraud would be uncovered.

“I am so paranoid about this — thing you were talking about,” Bruce Isackson said. “I mean, I can’t imagine they’d go to the trouble of tapping my phone — but would they tap someone like your phones?”

Later in the conversation, Isack-

son imagined what would happen should the couple discover the fraud.

“If they get into the meat and potatoes, is that going to be this — be the front page story with ‘Everyone from Kleiner Perkins do whatever getting these kids into school? ... Look what’s going on behind the schemes,”’ Isackson said.

Bruce Isackson said. “My god, it’s — be the front page story with ‘Everyone from Kleiner Perkins do whatever getting these kids into school? ... Look what’s going on behind the schemes,” Isackson said.

Bruce Isackson said. “My god, it’s — be the front page story with ‘Everyone from Kleiner Perkins do whatever getting these kids into school? ... Look what’s going on behind the schemes,” Isackson said.

The real-estate investor then

(continued on page 10)
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Stanford coach indicted in scandal

Nationwide FBI investigation uncovers alleged bribe in exchange for false athletic profiles, SAT and ACT scores

by Jamey Padojino thousands to game the system," page 5.)

Lelling called those involved "a catalog of wealth and privilege." They include CEOs of private and public companies; securities and real estate investors; and the chair of a global law firm.

Singer, who has worked in the college-counseling business for more than two decades through his business The Key, allegedly used his connections with Division I coaches and parents to create the fake athletic credentials for students and gain them admission as athletic recruits. He has been charged with racketeering conspiracy, money laundering conspiracy, conspiracy to defraud the United States and obstruction of justice.

Singer faces up to 65 years in prison, three years of supervised release, a $500,000 fine and $400,000 in mandatory special assessment fees when he is sentenced on June 12.

No students have been charged in the case nor have the universities admitted to using the funds "for the funds’ “future student’s” benefit. “Before his work termination, Vandemoer was in the middle of his 11th year as Stanford’s head sailing coach and according to his profile on Stanford Athletics website. Under his tenure, the team won 29 of 30 Pacific Coast Collegiate Sailing Conference championships. He previously served on the U.S. Naval Academy from 2006 to 2008, when he led the Midshipmen to five national championship finishes.

The other coaches indicted in the scheme were from Yale University, the University of Southern California, the University of California, Berkeley, Forest University and Georgetown University, among other universities, federal prosecutors said. Stanford stated it does not have evidence that other members of the university were involved in the alleged conspiracy, based on the investigation thus far and will conduct an internal review to ensure no other members of the university were involved.

Hundreds of investigators have been looking into the allegations since last May as a result of an unrelated cover-up investigation. All the individuals charged played a role in “corruption and greed,” FBI Special Agent in Charge Joseph Bonavolonta said.

Stanford stated it does not have evidence that other members of the university were involved in the alleged conspiracy, based on the investigation thus far and will conduct an internal review to ensure no other members of the university were involved.

If convicted, all nine defendants face a sentence of up to 20 years in prison, three years of supervised release a fine of $250,000 or double the amount of the gross gain or loss, according to federal prosecutors. The Weekly’s requests for comment from the families were not returned.

Digital Editor Jamey Padojino can be emailed at jpadojino@pawweb.com.

Stanford coach indicted in scandal

Parents (continued from page 8)
told Singer that, should the couple arrange exam cheating for their third child, “I think we’ll defi- nitely pay cash this time, and not run it through the other way.”

Facing the court

The Henriquez appeared before a judge in the U.S. Southern District of New York with their at- torney Jeffrey Brown on Tuesday when they were each released on $500,000 bond and restricted to travel within the continental U.S., with a 48-hour notice to be filed for any travel outside the Northern District of California. They also agreed to surrender travel docu- ments and to contact with other defendants in the case, except each other.

No federal court records for

time-consuming endeavor. Again, some of this can be seen in terms of whether people are cooperative or less than cooperative.

“Some cases also involve a great deal of complexity to figure out if certain votes or decisions led to certain outcomes, and that may include looking at numerous votes or decisions previous that lead up to one in particular,”

The Kniss investigation, which was prompted by a citizen’s com- plaint, centers on her failure to report in a timely manner the contributions she received from developers during her 2016 re- election campaign. At issue are the contributions of Alto Improvement Company and Joe Martignetti Jr. of these were sent in before Election Day and, as such, should have been reported in a special Form 497 filing within 24 hours, but they were not.

In seeking legal advice, Kniss’ attorney told the FPPC that an email that the $2,500 contribution was on the table. "I don’t think I’ve talked to my attorney for more than a year,“ Kniss said, declining to name her attorney for more than a year, “I don’t know what you’d do about something when you have absolutely no control over it whatsoever. I’m going to pre- sume my attorney is doing his job.”

Kniss said the only time she contacted the FPPC was before the investigation when she called the agency’s Legal Division for advice. At the time, she said, her campaign was advised that because the envelopes containing the checks were not opened until the week before, the contributions did not have to be reported until the January campaign statement (even if the developers had made the donations prior to the election, as stated several times in the course of the investigation).

The late donations included sev- eral checks greater than $1,000, including ones from Thois Brothers, Hato Associates LLC, Palo Alto Improvement Company and Joseph Martignetti Jr. All of these were sent in before the 2016 election, as such, should have been reported in a special Form 497 because it was not opened, posted or deposited until No- vember 18th well after the elec- tion had concluded. In a statement dated March 5 indicates Vandemoer was in the middle of his 11th year as Stanford’s head sailing coach and according to his profile on Stanford Athletics website. Under his tenure, the team won 29 of 30 Pacific Coast Collegiate Sailing Conference championships. He previously served on the U.S. Naval Academy from 2006 to 2008, when he led the Midshipmen to five national champion- ship finishes.

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Pressure (continued from page 5)

That pressure drove Julie Lythcott-Haims — a Palo Alto parent, author and former Stanford University dean of freshmen — to sell both her home in San Francisco University dean of freshmen wrote. “Your subtle style made us happy about school! You were poem in front of the class is now on The Key website, local par-
gaining admission to the school of
time.

In one testimonial posted on The Key website, local par-
university, she said she wanted
to call on Tuesday.

Lythcott-Haims started to “wid-
minds of a student or parent set

and $18,550 in 2016. Notably, Fri-
Friends of Cambodia as receiv-
ing her work for her son with her

Almanac Staff Writer Sue Dremann contributed to this report.

UPFRONT

The Van Tuyls did not even have any bank account for their contribu-
tions, and in the end the entire scheme existed as a nonprofit. No one could write a check to Friends that would
said. “We can try — and I think
people just don’t believe it,” he said.

For some, like Lythcott-

A Palo Alto father

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Upfront

I feel bad for other people like my kid and families in my situation where they’re like, “Oh my god, we worked this did we cheat? Did we do

The bribery scam has revived

people just don’t believe it,” he said.
The federal bribery case is an egre-

I think the parents that be, the leaders in college admissions, need to sit down and figure out how to construct a system that isn’t gameable and simultane-

Michelle Higgins, the parent of a Palo Alto High School ju-

The board plans to consider a

new wayfinding sign program proposed by Stanford University Medical Center for its property at 700 Welch Road and consider creating standards for wireless communications in the public way. The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 21, in the Community Meeting Room at City Hall, 250 Hamilton Ave. The agenda wasn’t available by press time.

Public Agenda

A preview of Palo Alto government meetings next week

CITY COUNCIL ... The council plans to meet in a closed session to discuss the status of the city’s labor negotiations with the Utilities Management and Professional Association of Palo Alto (UMPAPA), the service Employees International Union, Local 521, Police Officers’ Association, Palo Alto Police Managers’ Association (PAPA), the International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 1319, and the Palo Alto Fire Chief’s Association (FOA). The council will then consider accepting a proposed policy to plan for sea level rise and, after reconvening, as Committee of the Whole, consider the city’s nearly $40,000 in foundation grants said they never had received any mon-
year tuition. The company was

There’s a lively discussion going on about SMC and the college admissions scandal. Go to Town Square at PaloAltocom/ square to read what people are saying and to participate.

There’s a lively discussion going on about SMC and the college admissions scandal. Go to Town Square at PaloAltocom/ square to read what people are saying and to participate.

The commission plans meet at 7 p.m.

There’s a lively discussion going on about SMC and the college admissions scandal. Go to Town Square at PaloAltocom/ square to read what people are saying and to participate.

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The 33rd Annual Palo Alto Weekly Short Story Contest

Prizes for First, Second and Third place winners in each category:
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Administrative Assistant Needed
We are currently searching for an administrative assistant who can handle various projects including HR, finance, and oral problems. Submit resume by mail to: Attn: People Operations, Box, Inc., 900 Jefferson Ave., Redwood City, CA 94063. Must reference job title and job ref.#.

Technology
Box, Inc. has the following job opportunity available in Redwood City, CA: Senior Quality Engineer (Job Ref #: TATG): Responsible for Box’s next generation Web applications. Partner with development teams to cultivate a quality culture, think out of the box in terms of testing and propose solutions to challenges as they arise. Telecommuting permitted. Submit resume by mail to: Attn: People Operations, Box, Inc., 900 Jefferson Ave., Redwood City, CA 94063. Must reference job title and job ref.#.

Technology
Workday, Inc. has a Senior Support Software Engineer position available in Palo Alto, CA: Responsible for interfacing with front line Product Support and Software Development teams, and customers to provide deep level analysis to product related issues through testing, investigating, providing workaround and resolving customer reported problems. Submit resume by mail to: Workday, Inc., Attn: Human Resources/Immigration, 5928 Stoneridge Mall Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Must reference job title and job code (VT-CA).

Technology
Workday, Inc. has a Senior Associate Data Scientist position available in Palo Alto, CA: Work with existing and develop new machine learning algorithms. Submit resume by mail to: Workday, Inc., Attn: Human Resources/Immigration, 5928 Stoneridge Mall Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Must reference job title and job code (MC-PA).

Technology
Box, Inc. has the following job opportunity available in Redwood City, CA: Security Engineer (Job Ref: #AHSR). Provide security evaluation against applications which are not yet public. Collaborate with other teams at Box to address identified security concerns. Submit resume by mail to: Attn: People Operations, Box, Inc., 900 Jefferson Ave., Redwood City, CA 94063. Must reference job title and job ref #, full name, email address & mailing address. No phone calls. Must be legally authorized to work in U.S. without sponsorship. EOE.

Technology
Box, Inc. has the following job opportunity available in Redwood City, CA: Manager, Database Engineering (Job Ref: #NAPM). Makes data-informed decisions to drive quality within assigned product area and get results by setting goals and expectations for team and tracking against that plan. Provides technical direction and guidance to direct including cascading and translating mission and strategy into actions for a team. Submit resume by mail to: Attn: People Operations, Box, Inc., 900 Jefferson Ave., Redwood City, CA 94063. Resume must include job title, job ref #, full name, email address & mailing address. No phone calls. Must be legally authorized to work in U.S. without sponsorship. EOE.

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Police Calls
Palo Alto
March 7-March 13
Violence related
Battery ............................ 1
Domestic violence .............. 2
Sexual assault .................... 1
Stalking/Revenge robbery ...... 1
Theft related
Commercial burglaries ........ 3
Identity theft .................... 5
Petty theft ....................... 3
Shoplifting ..................... 2
Vehicle related
Auto theft ........................ 3
Bicycle theft .................... 1
Burglary attempt from auto ... 2
Driving w/ suspended license 6
Hit and run ...................... 3
Misc. traffic .................... 2
Theft from auto ................ 9
Vehicle accident/minor injury 7
Vehicle accident/prop damage 5
Vehicle impound ................ 2
Vehicle tow .................... 2
Alcohol or drug related
Driving under influence ........ 1
Drunk in public .................. 3
Possession of drugs .......... 1
Possession of paraphernalia 2
Sale of drugs ................... 1
Miscellaneous
Fraud ................................ 5
Misc. portal code violation 9
Other/misc. ...................... 4
Outside assistance ............. 4
Psychiatric subject .......... 8
Suspended circumstances 3
Trespassing .................... 1
Warrant/other agency ......... 13
Menlo Park
March 6-March 12
Violence related
Battery ......................... 1
Theft related
Attempted burglary .......... 1
Fraud ............................ 4
Petty theft ....................... 3
Possession of burglary weapons 1
Theft undefined ............... 3
Vehicle related
Auto theft ....................... 1
Bicycle theft .................... 3
Driving w/ suspended license 1
Hit and run ..................... 3
Thief from auto ................. 3
Vehicle tampering ............ 1
Vehicle accident/minor injury 4
Vehicle accident/no injury .... 6
Vehicle tow .................... 2
Alcohol or drug related
Driving under influence .... 1
Drunk in public .................. 1
Possession of drugs .......... 2
Possession of paraphernalia 3
Miscellaneous
Coroner case ................... 1
Found property ................ 1
Juvenile problem ............. 3
Located missing person .... 1
Lost property .................. 1
Other/misc. ..................... 4
Outside assistance .......... 2
Prostitution for destruction 3
Suspicious circumstances 3
Trespassing .................... 1
Vehicle tow .................... 1
Warrant arrest ................ 4

Violent Crimes
Palo Alto
San Antonio Road 3/9, 5 p.m.; domestic assault/sex act.
Edgewood Drive 3/5, 5:46 p.m.; domestic violence/battery.
180 El Camino Real 3/6, 7:37 p.m.; strong-arm robbery.
350 Sherman Ave. 3/11, 1:09 p.m.; simple battery.
Bryant Street 3/10, 6:28 p.m.; domestic violence/battery.
Menlo Park
300 Block Sherman Ave. 3/8, 10:10 p.m.; battery.
Janet Wright
Janet Elaine Wright, 82, died on March 10 in Palo Alto, following a 10-year battle with Alzheimer’s disease. She was born in San Francisco to Albert and Helen Schweifler. She began a lifelong love affair with the cello at the age of 6, playing in the Peninsula Symphony and chamber music quartets throughout her life.

After graduating from Lowell High School, she attended University of California Berkeley, where she earned a degree in French language at the age of 20. She married Fred Bisharat after college and the couple moved to Palo Alto, where they raised their three daughters. She later received her teaching credential from Notre Dame de Namur University in Belmont. Following her divorce from Bisharat, she became a court reporter in San Jose, working for Judge Conrad Rushing and later freelancing.

After about 25 years living in Palo Alto, she followed her pioneer spirit to Grass Valley in the Sierra Foothills. There, she met and married Carroll Wright. For two decades, the pair lived in the twin cities of Grass Valley and Nevada City, where they also headed the Twin Cities Concert Association. They moved to the Okanagan Valley in Washington in 2000 and built their own house in the mountains near Canada; their last adventure before moving back to California to Walnut Creek’s Rossmoor senior-living community for their final days together. Wright had a passion for music, intelligence, cooking, gardening and hiking.

She is survived by her daughters, Janine Bisharat of Palo Alto, Carol Bisharat of Oakland and Laurie Bisharat of Mountain View; her first husband, Fred Bisharat; and brother, Edwin Schweifler. A memorial service to celebrate her life will be held for her at VitaS Healthcare hospice services or My Brain in June. Memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer’s Association. They moved to the Twin Cities of Grass Valley and Nevada City, where they also headed the Twin Cities Concert Association. They moved to the Okanagan Valley in Washington in 2000 and built their own house in the mountains near Canada; their last adventure before moving back to California to Walnut Creek’s Rossmoor senior-living community for their final days together. Wright had a passion for music, intelligence, cooking, gardening and hiking.

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The Almanac, an award-winning community newspaper and online news source that covers the towns of Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside, is looking for an enterprising full-time news reporter with a passion for local journalism.

The ideal candidate will have experience covering local government and community news, and the skills to dig up and write engaging news and feature stories for print and online. Our reporters produce monthly cover stories that highlight issues and people in our community.

We’re seeking someone who is motivated, eager to learn, able to quickly turn out finished copy, and who lives in or near the Almanac coverage area. Social media skills are a plus. This is a fully benefitted position with paid vacations, health and dental benefits, profit sharing and a 401(k) plan.

To apply, send a cover letter, resume, and three samples of your journalism work to Editor Renee Batti at editor@AlmanacNews.com.

SACRAMENTO has its eye on your neighborhood.

Senate Bill 50 would override local planning near major transit stops – or in any housing area deemed "job-rich" based on "proximity to jobs, high area median income and high-quality public schools."

Learn more about the state’s threat to local control.

Sunday, March 17th 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Lucie Stern Community Center Ballroom
1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, CA 94301

Featuring Susan Kirsch, Founder, Livable California

Get the facts. Stop the attack on our neighborhoods and our democracy!

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sensiblezoning.org
GUIDE TO 2019 SUMMER CAMPS FOR KIDS

ACADEMICS

Harker Summer Programs San Jose The Harker School’s summer programs for children K - grade 12 offer the perfect balance of learning and fun! Programs are led by dedicated faculty and staff who are experts at combining summer fun and learning. Strong academics and inspiring enrichment programs are offered in full day, partial and morning only sessions.

www.harker.org/summer (408) 553-5737

i2 Camp at Castilleja School Palo Alto i2 Camp offers week-long immersion programs that engage middle school girls in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). The fun and intimate hands-on activities of the courses strive to excite and inspire participants about STEM, creating enthusiasm that will hopefully spill over to their schoolwork and school choices in future years.

www.castilleja.org/i2camp (650) 470-7833

iTech Camps Campbell Stanford/Bay Area The world’s #1 STEM summer program held at Stanford, Palo Alto High School, and 150+ locations nationwide. With innovative courses in coding, game development, robotics, and design, our programs instill in-demand skills that embolden students to shape the future. iD Tech Camps (weeklong, 7-17), Alexa Cafe (weeklong, all-girls, 10-15), iTech Academies (2-week, 13-18),

iTechCamps.com (844) 788-1858

STANFORD EXPLORE: A Lecture Series on Biomedical Research Stanford EXPLORER biomedical science at Stanford. Stanford EXPLORER offers high school students the unique opportunity to learn from Stanford professors and graduate students about diverse topics in biomedical science, including bioengineering, neurobiology, immunology and many others.

explore.stanford.edu explore-series@stanford.edu

Summer at Sanhill School Palo Alto June 26 to July 23. If you’re looking for a great summer learning plus fun option for your child and you want them to be ready for fall, please join us at Sanhill. The morning Literacy Program (8:30 to noon) provides structured, systematic instruction for students with learning challenges entering grades 1-8 in the fall. The afternoon Enrichment Camp (noon to 4) focuses on performing arts, social skills and fun. Choose morning, afternoon or full day.

www.sanhill school.org/summer (650) 688-3605

Write Now! Palo Alto Summer Writing Camps Pleasanton Improve your student’s writing skills this summer at Emerson School of Palo Alto and Hacienda School of Pleasanton. Courses this year are Expository Writing, Creative Writing and Presentation Skills. Visit our website for more information.

www.headsup.org Emerson: (650) 424-1267 Hacienda: (925) 485-5750

ARTS, CULTURE, OTHER CAMPS

Art and Soul Camp Palo Alto Art, cooking, tinkering, yoga and mindfulness. We celebrate multiple perspectives and recognize the many ways for our children to interpret their world. Summer Unplugged is appropriate for ages 6–11 years. Located at Walter Hays School.

www.artandsoulpa.com (650) 269-0423

Castilleja Summer Camp for Girls Palo Alto Castilleja offers girls entering gr. 2-6 a range of age-appropriate activities including athletics, art, science, computers, writing, crafts, cooking, drama and music classes each day along with weekly field trips. Leadership program available for girls entering gr. 7-9.

www.castilleja.org/summercamp (650) 470-7833

City of Mountain View Recreation Mountain View Come have a blast with us this summer! We have something for everyone – Recreation Camps, Specialty Camps, Sports Camps, Swim Lessons, and more! Programs begin June 4 – register early!

www.mountainview.gov/register (650) 903-6331

City of Palo Alto Summer Camps Palo Alto A wide array of camps, from theater and tennis to ceramics and coding. Kids in kindergarten through high school can participate in camps during week-long sessions from June 3 to Aug 9.

www.cityofpaloalto.org/summercamps (650) 463-4949

Community School of Music Mountain View Community School of Mountain View Music and Arts (CSMA) Mountain View 50+ creative camps for Gr. K-II (Drawing, Painting, Ceramics, Sculpture, Musical Theater, Summer Music Workshops, more) One and two-week sessions; full and half-day enrollment. Extended care from 8:30am-5:30pm. Financial aid offered.

www.csma org (650) 917-6800 ext. 0

Oshman Family JCC Camps Palo Alto Camps at the OJCC introduce your child to new experiences while creating friendships in a fun and safe environment. We work to build confidence, stretch imaginations and teach new skills.

www.paloalotjc.org/Camps (650) 223-8622

Palo Alto Community Child Care (PACCC) Palo Alto PACCC summer camps offer campers, grades 1st to 6th, a wide variety of engaging opportunities. We are excited to announce all of your returning favorites: Leaders in Training (L.I.T.), PACC Special Interest Units (S.I.U.), F.A.M.E. (Fine Arts, Music and Entertainment), J.V. Sports and Operation: Chef. Periodic field trips, special visitors and many engaging camp activities, songs and skits round out the variety of offers at PACCC Summer Camps. Open to campers from all communities. Register online.

www.paccc.org

Stanford Jazz Workshop Stanford World-renowned jazz camps at Stanford. Week-long jazz immersion programs for middle school musicians (July 8-12), high school (July 14-19 and July 21-26), and adults (July 28- Aug. 2). All instruments and vocals. No jazz experience necessary!

www.stanfordjazz.org (650) 736-0324

TheatreWorks Palo Alto Silicon Valley TheatreWorks offers all campers courses during spring break (offered in Palo and Menlo Park, April 1 - 5) and summer camps (six sessions offered in Palo Alto, Menlo Park, and Los Altos between June 3 - August 2) for children and youth in grades K-6. Professional teaching artists lead students in activities including acting, dance, play writing, and stagecraft skills. Sibling discounts and extended care available.

www.theatrerworks.org/education (650) 463-7146

ATHLETICS

Dance Connection Palo Alto Palo Alto Share the joy of dance with us! Our studio is an extended family and a “home away from home” for our community of children and teens. At Dance Connection, we value the positive energy and atmosphere that we continuously strive to provide. Summer Dance Camps include all styles of dance for ages 4 and up as well as features our new “This is Me” Empowerment Camp along with Teen Jazz and Hip Hop Camps. A Summer Session for ages 3 to adults will be offered from June 3-August 2.

www.danceconnectionpaloalto.com/dance-connection-event-calendar/summer-dance-camps (650) 853-0418 or (650) 222-7032

Kim Grant Tennis Summer Camps Palo Alto Monterey Bay Fun and specialized Junior Camps for Mini (3-5), Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, High Performance and Elite tennis levels. Weekly programs designed by Kim Grant to improve players’ technique, fitness, agility, mental toughness and all around game. Weekly camps in Palo Alto and Sleep-Away Camps in Monterey Bay. SO MUCH FUN!


Nike Tennis Camps Bay Area Junior overnight and day tennis camps for boys and girls, ages 9-18 offered throughout June, July and August. Adult weekend programs available. June and August camps directed by head men’s coach, Paul Goldstein, head woman’s coach, Lele Forood, and associate men’s and women’s coaches, Brandon Coupe and Frankie Brennan. Join the fun and get better at tennis this summer.

www.nussports camps.com (800) NIKE-CAMP (800) 645-3226

Run for Fun Camps Bay Area Run for Fun is mission to provide creative and engaging play for all youth by getting kids active in an inclusive community centered around outdoor fun! We pride ourselves on hiring an enthusiastic, highly trained staff who love what they do. Summer 2019 features four weeks of Adventure Day Camp and two weeks of Overnight Camp High Five. Adventure Day Camp is a new discovery every day filled with sports, crafts and nature, including explorations to Camp Jones Gulch, Capitola Beach, Foothills Park, Shoreline Lake and Great America. Camp High Five is six days and five nights of traditional overnight camp mixed with challenge-by-choice activities, campfires, friendships and lots of laughter.

www.runforfun camps.com/summer-camps-and-school-holiday-camps/summer-camp-overview (650) 823-5167

Stanford Athletics & Youth Stanford Stanford Youth Programs brings you Camp Cardinal Week-long camp programs on campus for kids (grades K – 10) from June 3 – August 9. Space is limited so register online now.

campcardinal.org (650) 736-5436

Stanford Baseball Camps Stanford At Sunken Diamond on the campus of Stanford University. A variety of camps are offered to benefit a wide range of age groups and skill sets. Campers will gain instruction in several baseball skills, fundamentals, team concepts, and game play.

www.stanfordbaseball camp.com (650) 725-2054

Stanford Water Polo Camps Stanford New to water polo or have experience, we have a camp for you. Four full or half-day options for boys and girls ages 7 and up. All camps provide fundamental skills, scrimmages and games.

www.stanfordwaterp olocamps.com (650) 725-9016

Wheel Kids Addison Elementary, Bike Camps Palo Alto Adventure Riding Camp for rising 1st - 8th gr; Two Wheelers Club for rising K - 3rd gr. Week-long programs from 8:30 - 4, starting June 3rd. Join us as we embark on bicycling adventures for the more experienced rider or those just learning to ride.

www.whelikids.com/palo-alto (650) 646-5435

YMCA of Silicon Valley Summer Camps Silicon Valley At the YMCA of Silicon Valley, we know that the most effective and fun way to teach kids to swim is by playing and helping them learn to love the water. Our fun, 100% child-centered approach to learning to swim makes it easier for kids to progress at their own pace.

www.ymcav.org/summercamps (408) 351-6473

For more information about these camps visit paloaltonline.com/camp_connection. To advertise in this weekly directory, call (650) 326-8210.
SB 50 undermines single-family neighborhoods and diversity

by Greer Stone and Pat Burt

You can’t make this stuff up. Would you believe there is a plan in Sacramento to usurp local democracy and eliminate single-family neighborhoods in Palo Alto and throughout much of the state? Most would say, “Nah, that’s nuts. It’ll never happen.”

Well, think again. State Sen. Scott Wiener’s SB 50 is moving through legislation to do just that, and it has strong support from the most powerful forces in Sacramento.

Implications for Palo Alto

Under SB 50, any neighborhood within one-half mile of a Caltrain station (University Avenue, California Avenue, San Antonio) or one-quarter mile from a regular bus route (including El Camino Real and University Avenue) would be required by state law to allow four- or five-story apartment buildings, potentially built curb to curb, and with no on-site parking. The building square footage could be 2.5 or 3.25 times the lot size (FAR) — six to eight times the density currently allowed in single-family (R1) neighborhoods.

Cities would also be prevented from requiring parking for those developments. A 10,000-square-foot lot could have 20 plus units of average-size apartments with zero parking. Worse, it encourages the re-development of what little more-affordable housing we have with new, high-end units, displacing current residents and diminishing diversity.

For Palo Alto, there is another provision with greater implications. Communities that are “jobs rich” with higher-than-median income and “high quality schools” must eliminate single-family zoning in all neighborhoods.

Fear of displacement

Our greatest concern is the implications SB 50 will have for low- and modest-income residents. There is a myth that upzoning (changing zoning to allow increased building density) will lower the price of housing.

Supporters argue that increased density will just supply more housing for existing demand. However, according to two recent Chicago and New York City studies, upzoning has the inverse effect and actually leads to increased housing costs. They concluded that when land is rezoned for increased density, it becomes more valuable, and the price of housing and rents rise.

New market-rate housing does not create affordable housing for low- or moderate-income people, and building dense, luxury apartments in single-family neighborhoods will not have trickle-down benefits for those most in need. Rather than being a panacea for our housing crisis, it is a Trojan horse for big developers’ profits.

This can be seen across the Peninsula. Mountain View and Redwood City have built housing at prolific rates over the last couple years. However, the vast majority of that housing is not accessible for low- or moderate-income people. New one-bed units at the San Antonio Center cost $3,750 to $6,675 a month. If SB 50 logic was sound, we should be seeing prices dropping in these communities, but the opposite is true. Over the past couple of years, Mountain View has built thousands of housing units, but the median home price there increased by 15 percent in 2018, according to TRIpaleo.com.

SB 50 will gentrify the Peninsula faster. According to a recent U.C. Berkeley study, rising housing costs have reinitiated racial segregation to Silicon Valley. With housing prices disproportionately impacting communities of color, SB 50 threatens to further isolate these communities and re-segregate groups of people who historically have been targeted by inequitable housing laws.

SB 50 allows the state to take over local zoning rather than allow recent actions by cities to take effect. SB 50 refuses to recognize how the negative disruption of concentrated, unrestrained and unsustainable growth in big-tech jobs is the primary cause of our housing problems, especially the harmful gentrification impacts on low- and moderate-income workers who are the backbone of any society — the teachers, nurses, public safety workers, retailers and others who have seen their real incomes decline in recent years.

What we can do

Palo Alto has recently taken ambitious steps to increase housing and improve affordability. Rather than reap the benefits of those locally driven solutions, SB 50 pulls the rug from under them with radical, one-size-fits-all state mandates. The city significantly reduced the rate of office growth through our annual and cumulative caps to bring housing demand in line with growth in supply. We created incentives for accessory dwelling units (ADUs) that exceeded state mandates, then created an affordable-housing and workforce-housing zoning overlay. More recently, the city adopted significant upzoning to encourage denser housing in the areas identified in our state-approved Housing Plan.

There’s still more we can do. We can re-establish our downtown office cap (and crime reduction for our residents) and significantly accelerate increased market-rate housing will be competitive with office development. Next, we can adopt higher affordable-housing impact fees on commercial development, which were rejected by the council majority in 2017. We can strengthen renter protections and create a managed location for RV dwellers. Lastly, we can adopt a business tax focused on big business that, at just one-third the rate of San Francisco’s tax, can pay for a citywide Transportation Management Association to significantly reduce commuter car trips and parking impacts, pay for affordable housing and help cover our Caltrain grade-separations funding gap.

SB 50 and the related “CASA” state measure will be the most contentious public policy debate of 2019. It’s already polarizing our elected leaders. Mayor Eric Filsfeth described the bill as “horrible” and “a state takeover of local zoning.” Vice Mayor Adrian Fine, an adviser to Sen. Wiener on SB 50, supports the bill saying, “We need the state to step in and help solve the housing crisis. Local councils and the idiocy around local control are not going to solve our housing crisis.”

This is not an occasion when simply deferring to our elected officials will overcome the momentum in Sacramento. Our elected leaders need our active support.

Attend upcoming public meetings — such as the SB 50 community discussion this Sunday, March 17, from 4 to 6 p.m., at the Lucie Stern Community Center — write your elected leaders, speak up and get involved!

Greer Stone is vice-chair of the Santa Clara County Human Rights Commission, chair of the Palo Alto Midtown Residents Association, and secretary of the board of the Embarcadero Institute. Pat Burt is a former mayor of Palo Alto and president at TheraTech, Inc. You can reach them at gstone22@gmail.com and patburt11@gmail.com, respectively.

Letters

Is populism on the rise in Palo Alto?

Editor,

When I moved to Palo Alto 40 years ago, friends said: “Cool, great town, great university, the future happens there.” Nowadays, when I mention where I live, the responses are often: “What happened to PA? Why so exclusive? Are you OK in a community that wants to go nowhere?” This bothers me, and I’ve tried to figure out what’s going on. Many of today’s spectacular political stories are coached in “populism.” They shock me, yet their tone feels closer to home than I like. I worry populism is on the rise in Palo Alto.

Palo Alto people are so good and well-intentioned but our stories say “No, we can’t” much louder than “Yes, we can.” My good neighbors support a women’s shelter for a few weeks a year but won’t tolerate it permanently. We bemoan Stanford’s demolition of a “good old house” but obstruct new housing, thus limiting future “good old houses.”

We don’t want to be part of their dilemma, but we are part of this. There is an “us and them” that exists. We have to change or we will be left behind. To do this, we must fight to keep Palo Alto alive and not let it become “one globe” that is not only “inexorable” and “a state of the people” but also maybe “just Palo Alto.”

Eichler surrounded by huge buildings — “populism.” When we vilify tech workers and suggest we don’t want code monkeys here — “populism.” When we decide who is eligible for democracy and reject professional domain expertise, preferring referendums, locally funded “think tanks” and amateurish polls — “populism.”

When we publish mock-ups of an Eichler surrounded by huge buildings — “populism.” When we push housing and people elsewhere to live and commute — “populism.” When we vilify tech workers and suggest we don’t want code monkeys here — “populism.” When we decide who is eligible for democracy and reject professional domain expertise, preferring referendums, locally funded “think tanks” and amateurish polls — “populism.”

Gary Fine

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www.60Winchester.com

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Sunday
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IN SAN MATEO PARK

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www.175WBelleVue.com

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Saturday & Sunday
1:30pm-4:30pm

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*Applies only to listings signed after March 1st, 2019.
Say ‘hallelujah’ with ‘Marie and Rosetta’

TheatreWorks brings the music of rock ‘n’ roll trailblazer Sister Rosetta Tharpe to the stage

by Sue Dremann

M usical icons abound in the pantheon of rock ‘n’ roll, but like so many brilliant African-American trailblazers in the roots of American music, Sister Rosetta Tharpe has been forgotten by many except for a few musicians. Until now.

TheatreWorks Silicon Valley’s West Coast premiere of “Marie and Rosetta,” a rollicking one-act musical play, is an ‘amen’ to one of the 20th century’s greats: a woman who influenced the likes of Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Little Richard and Ray Charles. It will leave audiences dancing in their seats.

Developed at TheatreWorks’ 2015 New Works Festival by award-winning playwright George Brant (‘Elephant’s Graveyard’, ‘Grounded’), the show focuses mainly on a short segment of Tharpe’s life and her relationship with her partner in music (and reportedly for a while, in life), Marie Knight. That decision, rather than taking a broad view, gives the play much of its strength.

Tharpe was a gospel superstar in the 1930s and 1940s, the first to take church music mainstream. Born Rosetta Nubin in 1915 in Cotton Plant, Arkansas, she traveled throughout the southern states with her mother, a musician and preacher with the Church of God in Christ, a mainly African-American Pentecostal denomination. Widely recognized as a prodigy, Tharpe started performing when she was 6 years old.

She went from the pulpit to the Cotton Club in Harlem, scorning the stage with her electric guitar and powerful vocals. She never left gospel or the church entirely, but she raised eyebrows among more conservative churchgoers for her guitar playing prowess outside of sacred spaces and for singing sexually suggestive cross-over songs such as “Four or Five Times” and the boogie-woogie-inspired “I Want a Tall Skinny Papa.”

“Marie and Rosetta” begins at that juncture. In 1946, Tharpe is beginning to be eclipsed by other gospel luminaries such as Mala- lia Jackson. She is trying to make a comeback to the church but is still being branded by her secular forays. That year, she spotted Marie Knight performing on a bill with Jackson and immediately invited the younger performer to join her tour.

At their first rehearsal, inside Walter’s Funeral Home and Insurance Company in Missisippi, the two women cautiously circle around each other amid the showroom caskets. Tharpe, played by Michelle E. Jordan, a TheatreWorks veteran (“It Ain’t Nothin’ But the Blues,” “ Ain’t Misbehavin’,” “Dreamgirls”), is big and brassy, a veteran of the road. Knight, performed by Marissa Rudd, (TheatreWorks’ “Tuck Everlasting,” last summer’s New Works Festival), is tall, svelte and a proper church lady and relative newcomer.

Jim Crow restrictions forced back touring performers to stay where they could, seeking the kindness of strangers and friends rather than whites-only motels. Knight fears the mortality of her ghosts. Tharpe hilariously praises the comforts of a plush, white-velvet-lined casket. Get used to it. They won’t be inside the church but instead playing at a tobacco warehouse on the outskirts of town, she notes.

Knight has other concerns: if working with Tharpe might end her career before it starts because she “is making gospel sound dirty.”

But Tharpe has all the pithy rejoinders: “God don’t want the devil to have all the good music,” she says. Jordan owns this show. When she belts out Tharpe’s signature rendition of “This Train,” she makes the audience want to jump out of their seats and shout, “hallelujah!”

She’s a lovably gruff, stacked high with charisma. She also gets to deliver most of the funniest lines in Brant’s well-written script. Rudd initially plays Knight as prim, righteous and tentative. But the two women share a bond that goes beyond their musical relationship between two women. It’s also about choices.

Tharpe tells Knight she can go on a life-long journey sharing her prodigious gifts with the world. Or “you can sing on Sundays for a grateful congregation, kiss your babies and tuck them in at night and be a maid during the week.” As the two formulate their parting ways, Tharpe’s story concludes.

“The two mark on the world,” says the show’s title. “Marie and Rosetta” is a story about “sisterhood,” the building of a relationship between two women. It’s also about choices.

What: “Marie and Rosetta.”
Where: Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto.
When: Through March 31, Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m., Wednesdays at 2 and 7:30 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 and 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 and 7 p.m.
Cost: $40-$100.
Info: theatreworks.org or call 650-463-1960.
Meow Meow meets Martini
Chamber-pop bandleader Thomas Lauderdale teams up with chanteuse Meow Meow for Stanford cabaret by Yoshi Kato

As founder of the 25-year-old chamber-pop ensemble Pink Martini, pianist and arranger Thomas Lauderdale has performed with some charismatic personalities, including the band’s own lead singers, China Forbes and Storm Large, as well as Michael Feinstein, Chavela Vargas and the late Phyllis Diller. But he’s currently gaga for Meow Meow, a.k.a. Melissa Madden Gray, the multi-lingual Australian vocalist, actress and performer whom he’ll accompany for a pair of cabaret-like shows on Wednesday, March 20, at the intimate Bing Studio on the Stanford University campus.

I think about all the shows I’ve ever done, the ones with Meow Meow are the most memorable,” Lauderdale told the Weekly. “I mean, I love Pink Martini. I love the band and I love what we do. But these shows with Meow Meow are so special. I believe in them so much.”

Meow Meow’s brand of audience immersion and interaction earns Lauderdale’s praise. He’s no stranger to crowd participation, he notes, as Pink Martini will bring patrons on stage to sing non-English lyrics with Forbes or dance among the instrumentalists during its concerts.

“But with Meow Meow, I’ve seen crowd surfing in Palm Desert, for example, where everybody in the audience was over 70,” the Portland, Oregon, resident reported. “They were literally lifting this woman up into the sky and passing her back through the auditorium! She also does this at symphony shows when she plays with orchestras.

“One can’t imagine that in the first place and that it would work so well,” he continued. “Her shows are so delightful and side-splitting and transforming.”

The pair first met when he was asked to accompany her in 2005 for Portland Institute for Contemporary Art’s annual TBA Festival. Their personalities and aesthetics clicked immediately: “We discovered we have compatible interests where we each show the other fantastic things that we both appreciate,” he said.

She, in turn, has also giggled and recorded with Pink Martini. “We just did our annual New Year’s shows at Disney Hall, and she closed out that show. Again, I’ve never seen people laugh so uproariously,” he said.

“Los Angeles can be cynical at times, you know. And she just undoes it,” he continued. “The most straightest sort of people or the most conservative can’t help themselves in the end.”

Wednesday’s show will offer a preview of the duo’s long-in-the-works debut album, “Hotel Amour,” which will be released two days later and boasts both originals and repertoire from various eras.

“Writing songs with her is just miraculous, because I love her lyrics,” he added. “I love the way she uses the English language, which I think is a really tough language to write songs in. And her French lyrics are exquisite.”

As is the case on Pink Martini albums, “Hotel Amour” features some very special guests. Barry Humphries, better known to most as Dame Edna, doubles the Australian vocal content on “Mausi, stüß wars Du heute Nacht” (for which Meow Meow gets great use out of her German degree from Trinity College in Melbourne). There’s also a recording of her with the composer Michel Legrand, who died in late January.

“There was a revival of his ‘Umbrellas of Cherbourg’ in London back in 2011. And Michel Legrand loved Meow Meow so much that he wrote a new part for her,” Lauderdale explained. “That recording he did with her has him on piano, and I added in like five trombones.”

Singer/songwriter/pianist Rufus Wainwright and the Von Trapps of “The Sound of Music” fame also contribute to the pair’s debut.

“We did this show with the composer Michel Legrand,” he continued. “Regrettably, he’s become accustomed with his career that he’s become accustomed with his usual group. It feels more acoustic than anything else,” he remarked, when asked about the pared down instrumentation. “I don’t really have a monitor when I play with (Pink Martini). I always wonder, ‘Why do we have all of these monitors on stage? Are we playing that loud that we can’t just sort of play directly to each other?’ So I’m relieved that there isn’t going to a bunch of sound equipment everywhere.”

Regardless of how many instrumentalists are on the bandstand, everyone fades out once the spotlight hits Meow Meow. “I really take a super back seat to her! My job is to provide musical support to something that is way beyond my control.”

“If there is anything at this point that is a miraculous escape from reality, it’s a Meow Meow show,” he concluded, with a chuckle.

Freelance writer Yoshi Kato can be emailed at yoshiyoungblood@earthlink.net.

What: Meow Meow & Thomas Lauderdale.
Where: Bing Studio, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford.
When: Wednesday, March 20, at 7 & 9 p.m.
Cost: $50-$75.

Info: Go to live.stanford.edu
What’s New in Midpeninsula Dining

Local Openings, Closings and Anticipated Arrivals

By Elena Kadvany

Customers line up at the new Boba Guys at Town & Country Village in Palo Alto. Photo by Veronica Weber.

It’s already been a busy year on the local food-and-drink beat, with high turnover and the departure of some longtime businesses — but also the return of one and the promise of exciting new projects on the horizon. We’ve got the details on the eateries that have closed, opened and are headed to the Midpeninsula this year.

What’s Opened

Rose International Market, Mountain View

February marked the much-anticipated return of Rose International Market. The longtime Persian market reopened after closing temporarily in 2015 while an apartment complex was built at the corner of Castro Street and El Camino Real. The renovated market is larger and updated but carries the same specialty grocery items, fresh produce and prepared foods that have made it a local favorite for decades. The kitchen, led by Rose Market’s longtime Iranian chef, is again churning out kebabs, koubideh, khoresh (stews), tahdig rice, and other dishes.

Boba Guys, Palo Alto

There’s been a line out the door at Boba Guys since the moment it quietly soft opened at Town & Country Village in January. It’s the 15th location for the San Francisco-born Boba Guys, whose popular milk tea is made in small batches using real tea leaves instead of powders, with Straus Family Creamery organic milk and a housemade, all-natural sweetener. The typical Boba Guys menu is available in Palo Alto, such as the best-selling strawberry matcha latte with matcha, milk and a housemade strawberry purée. Customers can build their own drinks to their preferences, from type of tea and milk (including oat milk) to sweetness level. Boba Guys also serves pastries and some food, including Hong Kong milk toast.

855 El Camino Real #120, Palo Alto; bobauguys.com

Taro San Noodle Bar, Palo Alto

Taro San Japanese Noodle Bar opened at Stanford Shopping Center in January, channeling the art of udon-making in the heart of Silicon Valley. The restaurant serves three types of fresh udon noodles custom made on a specialty machine from Japan. Beyond a traditional beef udon, the noodles are served in nontraditional ways: one with a ramen-like chicken pastrami broth and another with a vegan broth made from shiitake stock, vegetable stock and miso. Tsukemen, traditionally served with ramen noodles and a dipping broth, comes instead with udon, duck breast and a rich fish dipping broth. Owner Jerome Ito, a former sushi chef who also runs Go Fish Poke Bar, plans to open more Taro San locations in the future.

717 Stanford Shopping Center, Palo Alto; tarosanudon.com

What’s Closed

Belcampo Meat Co., Palo Alto

Hyper-sustainable meat company Belcampo has closed its Palo Alto and San Francisco locations to make way for its first commissary kitchen and a major new project in San Mateo. The outpost at Town & Country Village closed on March 2. The company plans to open the commissary kitchen in San Francisco this spring, then a 7,000-square-foot restaurant at Hillsdale Shopping Center in San Mateo this summer. The shift will allow Belcampo to focus on growing other parts of its business: e-commerce, food delivery and “large-format premier dining experiences,” the company said in a release.

Simply Sandwiches, Palo Alto

Simply Sandwiches, the affordable, pocket-sized sandwich shop off California Avenue, has closed. Sand Hill Property Company owns the building Simply Sandwiches was located in at the corner of California and Ash Street, where the Hotel California is. Matt Larson, director of public affairs for Sand Hill, said the Simply Sandwiches owner informed the company “earlier in February that they intended to leave. The shop closed its doors at the end of last month.” The owner had been on a month-to-month lease, Larson said.

Cho’s Mandarin Dim Sum, Los Altos

After nearly four decades in business, Cho’s Mandarin Dim Sum closed for good in late January. The owners of the longtime, unassuming dim sum spot moved to Los Altos in 2015 after receiving a 60-day notice from their landlord in Palo Alto, which sparked outrage in the community and even a petition to save the hole-in-the-wall restaurant. “After 39 long years of serving the community his beloved food, Cho is finally moving on with his retirement,” a Facebook post announcing the final closure reads. “There are no immediate plans for reopening in the near future.”

Coming Soon

Ludwig’s German Table, Mountain View

The owners of Ludwig’s German Table in San Jose are bringing their traditional German restaurant and biergarten concept to downtown Mountain View this summer, taking over the former Bierhaus space on Castro Street. The Mountain View location will be more casual than the San Jose restaurant, “focused on authentic German beer garden,” co-owner and Hamburg native Nicole Jacobs said.

383 Castro St., Mountain View; ludwigsj.com

Telefèric Barcelona, Palo Alto

The owners of Telefèric Barcelona, who run three well-known restaurants in Barcelona, Spain, and a fourth in Walnut Creek, are opening a new location at Town & Country Village this year. Telefèric is currently renovating the former Calafia Cafe space, which includes a next-door market that will be stocked with Spanish wines, cheese, cured meats and other imported products. The restaurant serves Spanish tapas, pintxos and paella.

855 El Camino Real, Palo Alto; telefericbarcelona.com

Oren’s Hummus Express, Palo Alto

More news for Town & Country Village patrons: Popular Israeli restaurant Oren’s Hummus is opening a new “express” outpost there in April. This will be the first of several Oren’s Hummus Express locations in the Bay Area that will focus on quick, grab-and-go service. Look for Oren’s creamy hummus, rice bowls, pita sandwiches and more.

855 El Camino Real Suite #162, Palo Alto; orenshummus.com

Mendocino Farms, Palo Alto

Southern California-based sandwich chain Mendocino Farms is set to open on April 25 at 11 a.m. in downtown Palo Alto, according to the company’s website. The fast-casual restaurant, which took over the former LYFE Kitchen space, serves sandwiches and salads using locally sourced ingredients as well as vegan sandwiches, gluten-free options and seasonal dishes that rotate throughout the year. Mendocino Farms operates more than 17 locations in Southern California and four in Northern California, with more on the way in both regions.

167 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto; mendocinofarms.com/palo-alto

Staff writer Elena Kadvany can be emailed at ekadvany@paweekly.com.

Superhot Hot Pot & Korean BBQ, Mountain View

The menu at Superhot Hot Pot & Korean BBQ, as the name suggests, is extensive. 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. For $29.95 per person, you can get all-you-can-eat hot pot, Korean BBQ and dim sum. The restaurant limits meals to 90 minutes and charges $10 per person for every additional half hour. No leftovers allowed.

210 Hope St., Mountain View; 650-963-9819

Mendocino Farms will bring traditional Spanish food to Palo Alto this spring.
Movies

OPENINGS

Bride’s side

‘The Wedding Guest’ plods through a genre exercise ★1/2 (Guild)

Since making his feature film-making debut with 1995’s “Butterfly Kiss,” Michael Winterbottom (“The Trip,” “A Mighty Heart”) has averaged a film a year. One might think of him as the English Steven Soderbergh: a prolific filmmaker whose work on the big and small screens is characterized by a frugal fast pace. Unfortunately, Winterbottom’s hit-and-miss output arrives with a roll of duct tape, for some presumably horrific crime. The man, we soon learn, is a mercenary named Asaif (Dev Patel of “Shudog Millionaire”), and his mission requires him to kidnap Samira (Radhika Apte), a young bride-to-be, on the eve of her arranged marriage.

In most thrillers, this setup would mean we’re off to the races, but “The Wedding Guest” plods along with a minimum of character development and chemistry between its leads. The pair abscond to India to see through Asaif’s job, which turns out not to be entirely objectionable to his hostage. After all, her marriage was to be an arranged one, which lends the film a patina of pointedness. But Winterbottom isn’t interested here in exploring the themes he superficially teases, or arranged marriages, our expectations of terrorism or the self-serving dynamics within dubious relationships.

If “The Wedding Guest” is interested in anything, it’s tinker with some humble neo-noir plot dynamics, but I’ll be damned if I can detect a pulse as Asaif and Samira walk past or drive through the evocative scenery of India, although we’re meant to feel “will they or won’t they?” suspense as the pair kills time in restaurants and hotel rooms. Eventually the duo meets with the mutual acquaintance (Jim Sarbh), who sets the plot in motion.

The plot and characters, however, quickly fizzle, leaving us to appreciate the film’s humble trappings — that scenery and a couple of wacky comic roles. If Winterbottom’s going to make a near-pointless film, he might as well have fun with it or make some effort to entertain his audience, but “The Wedding Guest” proves deliberately withholding, as if to punish us, along with its unlikeable characters, for expecting more.

Rated R for language, some violence and brief nudity. One hour, 37 minutes.

Answers to this week’s puzzles, which can be found on page 39.

DENIM DECA CASS
EMILY AMOS ORAL
JILLSWITCH PINA
ATE TORSO DIZZY
WIRY ARE
GOBACK OK CORRAL
IVES ECONOMIA
JEEP OFF THE GRASS
ORR HOTEL EROS
ESSAYIST FRESNO
GEL DUAL
GORES LEARN PDS
OPEN JELLY GREEN
LAND OGLE EAGLE
FLEA TOES REGIS

Next Week in Mountain View!
Center for the Performing Arts
March 21, 7:30pm
Tickets: 650-903-6000

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**Title Pages**

*Author traces the ancient roots of science fiction in ‘Gods and Robots’*

by Karla Kane

**Imagining a fascinating figure, whom the Greeks both feared and admired: the anthropologist of the idealized domestic Greek woman.**

Palo Alto author Adrienne Mayor explores how many high-tech ideas can be traced back thousands of years, with a particular focus on Ancient Greek mythology, literature, and art, in her new book “Gods and Robots: Myths, Machines, and Ancient Dreams of Technology.”

Palo Alto author Adrienne Mayor explores how many high-tech ideas can be traced back to the earliest recorded science fiction. In “Gods and Robots,” Mayor explores the story of the god Prometheus, who gives humans the gift of fire (and is punished for it), perhaps representing humanity’s leap into advanced civilization. In some legends, Prometheus is actually the creator of humans, sculpting and fabricating them with tools; not willing to be confounded in the ancient world, ‘Everybody else is looking forward but I’m looking back,’ Mayor told the Weekly in a recent interview.

In “Gods and Robots: Myths, Machines, and Ancient Dreams of Technology,” Mayor, a folklorist and historian of science who currently works as a research scholar in Stanford University’s classics department, explores how many high-tech ideas can be traced back thousands of years, with a particular focus on Ancient Greek mythology, literature, and art. Though Greek mythology may be more commonly thought of in terms of supernatural magic and fantastical beasts, Mayor argues that stories such as “The Argonautica,” an epic poem based on the myth of Jason, Medea and their quest for the golden fleece. Concepts such as artificial intelligence and robotics tend to feel cutting-edge or even futuristic. But Palo Alto author Adrienne Mayor finds that many of these ideas are rooted in the ancient world.

That story comes from “The Argonautica,” an epic poem based on the myth of Jason, Medea and their quest for the golden fleece. Concepts such as artificial intelligence and robotics tend to feel cutting-edge or even futuristic. But Palo Alto author Adrienne Mayor finds that many of these ideas are rooted in the ancient world.

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In “Gods and Robots: Myths, Machines, and Ancient Dreams of Technology,” Mayor, a folklorist and historian of science who currently works as a research scholar in Stanford University’s classics department, explores how many high-tech ideas can be traced back thousands of years, with a particular focus on Ancient Greek mythology, literature, and art. Though Greek mythology may be more commonly thought of in terms of supernatural magic and fantastical beasts, Mayor argues that stories such as “The Argonautica” actually represent some of the earliest recorded science fiction, with an emphasis on characters and inventions “made, not born,” meaning created through technology.

“These ancient ‘science fictions’ show how the power of imagination allowed people, from the time of Homer to Aristotle’s day, to ponder how replicas of nature might be crafted,” she states in the book’s introduction. “Ideas about creating artificial life were thinkable long before technology made such enterprises possible.”

The term “biotechnical” is not new to the modern term biotechnology, she explained, can be translated as “life through craft.” Brought to life, in other words, by artificial means. Regular use of tools and technology has long been something that distinguishes humanity from much of the rest of the animal kingdom, with fire often considered one of the most essential and earliest bits of technology that helped humans dominate the earth. In “Gods and Robots,” Mayor explores the story of the god Prometheus, who gives humans fire (and is punished for it), perhaps representing humanity’s leap into advanced civilization. In some legends, Prometheus is actually the creator of humans, sculpting and fabricating them with tools; not willing to be confounded in the ancient world, rather building them, piece by piece.

Other notable characters covered include the aforementioned Medea, the Asian-born sorceress who uses scientific skills to become incredibly powerful. Without her, hero Jason would have been lost (and in fact meets a rather pathetic end after betraying her). “Medea is like a hacker,” Mayor said of the woman who also uses her skills with plants and chemicals to her advantage. “Her knowledge is biotechnical, not magic.”

Medea is a fascinating figure, whom the Greeks both feared and admired: the anthropologist of the idealized domestic Greek woman. She’s a powerful female from exotic eastern lands; she’s also an ally you want on your side,” she said, adding with a smile that in the legends, Medea eventually escapes and disappears. “She could pop up at any time.”

There’s Talos, the bronze automaton charged with guarding Crete, whom the “techno-witch” Medea and Jason hack and disable by opening a valve on his ankle. The metal giant represents the “earliest robot to walk the Earth,” Mayor said. “Talos is the oldest technological product taken down by tech. It’s an interesting lesson: No matter what you build, someone else is going to be able to surpass it or destroy it.”

On the human side, there’s Daedalus, the master craftsman best known as the architect of his son Icarus’ ill-fated wings but who also invented a myriad of other things, including the Minoi- taur’s lair.

The character of Daedalus, Mayor said, may stand in as a conglomerate of pioneering inventors and craftpeople so admired by the Greeks. Interestingly, the oldest known image of Daede- lus in the archaeological record appears on an Etruscan pot, meaning that quite early on his legend spread from Greece to Italy (and pictured on that pot alongside him! Ever-resourceful Medea, popping up yet again). Another story envisions ships that can steer themselves to any location on earth: proto-GPS.

Then there’s the infamous Pandora, who, the ancient sources are clear, was not a flesh-and-blood human but rather an automaton, built and sent by the gods to open her jar and let misery into the mortal world. Ancient visual depictions of Pandora included in the book show her with a vaguely creepy smile and a static, doll-like position, intensifying the “uncanny” feelings generated when encountering an eerily lifelike replica. Mayor ties Pandora to later depictions of nefarious “fembots” in literature and film.

“Gods and Robots” also delves into references to later (but still ancient) devices and inventions that could, potentially, have actually existed, including statues that seemed to sing, primitive batteries, artificial flying devices and, in one memorable chronicle, a giant mechanized, slime-oozing snail.

And it seems since time immemorial, humans have desired mastery over the natural world and their own mortality. Mayor delves into some ancient examples of humans attempting to secure... (continued on next page)
eternal life and the consequences of those attempts.

As a historian of science, Mayor said her research looks for the “first inklings” of science in premodern societies.

“I’m always trying to push it back, looking at ancient accounts for the first germs of historic and scientific reality,” she said. “I especially like to look for evidence in nature and the natural world. People were very keen observers and tried to rationally account for things, to speculate.”

When asked who her target audience for “Gods and Robots” was, Mayor, who’s also the author of “Greek Fire, Poison Arrows & Scorpion Bombs: Biological and Chemical Warfare in the Ancient World,” among other publications, laughed.

“Me! I try to work on books about things that I want to know more about,” she said. Published by Princeton University Press, the book is academic in content but easily accessible to general readers, whether or not they have much background knowledge in mythology, ancient history or technology. Mayor said she is especially gratified by the positive response she’s received from readers with expertise in current AI technology.

Greek mythology remains resonate and popular because it seems to contain profound truths about the world and human nature. Its insights into the benefits and dangers of scientific advancements, technological developments and “playing God,” she said, are no different.

The stories have “surprising relevance” today, she said. Crafty god Hephaestus’ automated labor-saving devices are charming and fun in the divine realm, she noted, but quickly go awry once humans get their hands on them.

“Maybe the myths are suggesting that AI is interesting but that we really need to think about the consequences,” she said.

Arts & Entertainment Editor Karla Kane can be emailed at kkane@paweekly.com.
Home Front

SPRING EGGS ... On Saturday, April 20, from 1:30-3:30 p.m., guests at Hidden Villa can gather and dye eggs at the Los Altos Hills farm. Each participant is invited to wander through the garden to gather colorful plants and vegetables that will be used as natural dyes to color their eggs. Participants also will learn how to weave a simple basket out of recycled materials to take home. The event is for families with children ages 5 and up. All persons attending, including adults, must register. For more information, go to hiddenvilla.org.

SAVE THE DATE ... The Gamble Garden Spring Tour will be held Friday and Saturday, April 26 and 27, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Each garden on the tour reflects this year’s theme, “Enter the Garden.” The showcased gardens range from places of tranquility and retreat to the worldly, exotic and sophisticated, to the whimsical and playful. As part of the event, the Carriage House at Gamble Garden will offer gently used garden furniture, antiques, home decor, china and linens for sale. Vendors also will be selling home- and garden merchandise. There will be a plant sale with hard-to-find species and edibles, as well as container gardens designed by garden staff and volunteers. Guests also will have the opportunity to bid on items at a silent auction. (Bidding will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.) Master Gardeners, representatives from Canopy and other horticultural resources will be on hand to answer garden questions. A catered box lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Tea House Patio. Pre-order your lunch by April 19. To register, go to gamblegarden.org.

A weekly guide to home, garden and real estate news, edited by Elizabeth Lorenz

The only time Paul Machado did not live in Mayfield was his four years in college. “This is home. This is where I grew up,” Machado said.

Why does he stay? The neighbors. “Neighbors make a neighborhood,” he said.

Terry Holzemer and his wife Patricia Hernandez also have stayed in Mayfield, choosing to live there nearly 25 years ago.

“We chose this area on purpose because it was very close to many of the local retail services that we wanted and still use now — grocery stores (Mollie Stone’s and Country Sun), the post office, restaurants and walkable Stanford events and facilities. We also wanted to be close to the Cal Avenue CalTrain station so we could go to San Francisco, San Jose on occasion for special events and visits.”

Both teachers, the couple values being able to walk to essential services.

But Holzemer said the variety of retail services has greatly diminished over the years, with “far too many” restaurants, not enough real service places like a hardware store or a movie theater, things that used to exist when they first moved to Mayfield.

“I think too often, the overall city view of the Mayfield area is that we are a ‘business/commercial office zone that has few residents,’” he said.

“That’s simply not true. We are a residential neighborhood too, just like other parts of the city, where hundreds of folks, young and old, live. We need to be treated with the same level of respect that other residential neighborhoods get and be better understood by City Hall,” Holzemer said.

Mayfield is located between College Avenue and Oregon Expressway on the north and south and Park Boulevard and El Camino Real on the east and west.

He and his neighbors’ concerns center on office growth in the Mayfield area and not enough parking. Parking outside their Palo Alto Central condominium complex has always been an issue and a challenge.

Holzemer, an association board member at his condo complex (Palo Alto Central), said the complex holds an annual holiday party for residents. He said he and his wife consider the Sunday morning farmers market on California Avenue to be one of their “special places” for community gatherings.

There is an annual picnic usually held in June on College Avenue because one end is already blocked to cars so it makes it easy to have a block party, Machado said. The only issue he sees is that there is an exodus of the “native Californians,” as he calls them, those older residents who may live in apartments who leave because the rent becomes unaffordable.

In the future, Holzemer said he hopes to start a Mayfield Neighborhood Association. “Because I believe our neighborhood has a very unique and special place in Palo Alto history. In fact, it was the only town close by when Stanford University began. Too much of Mayfield’s history is now largely ignored or forgotten.”

Elizabeth Lorenz is the former Home and Real Estate Editor at the Weekly. Send comments, tips or story ideas to Associate Editor Linda Tuaaffe at luaaffe@paweekly.com.

Facts

CHILD CARE AND PRESCHOOL: Casa del Bambini Montessori School, 265 Cambridge Ave.; Casa dei Bambini, 690 Escondido Road.

PRIVATE SCHOOL: The Living Wisdom School, 456 College Ave.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS: Escondido Elementary School, 690 Escondido Road, Stanford; Greame Middle School, 750 N. California Ave.; Palo Alto High School.

LIBRARY: College Terrace, Between Oregon Expressway and College Avenue, 2300 Wellesley St.

POST OFFICE: 265 Embarcadero Road.

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PRIVATE SCHOOL: The Living Wisdom School, 456 College Ave.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS: Escondido Elementary School, 690 Escondido Road, Stanford; Greame Middle School, 750 N. California Ave.; Palo Alto Central, 202 Ash St.

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2121 Byron St $4,250,000
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717 & 723 Ellsworth Pl $2,488,000
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2281 Byron St $7,998,000
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Sports Shorts

ALL-AMERICAN — Menlo College’s Destinee Bowie was named an honorable mention NCAA All-American by the Women’s Basketball Coaches Association. Bowie is in the midst of a historic season for the Oaks. She is currently averaging 18.6 points and 10.1 rebounds per game. Her field goal percentage is 60.1 percent, second best in the Pac-12 Conference. Bowie is also on track to record the best single-season shooting percentage in program history. She has 13 double-doubles to date, including eight games of 20 or more points and six games of 15 or more rebounds. She has earned four GSAC Player of the Week awards this season, most in the conference, and she earned the NAAA National Player of the Week award on Jan. 15. She was named to the GSAC’s All-Conference team. Bowie is among four players from the GSAC who were selected by the WBCA.

TAKING A DIVE — Menlo-Atherton grad Mia Paulsen was among the six Stanford seniors who qualified for the NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships that begin next Wednesday in Austin, Texas. Paulsen, Carolina Schulte, Haley Farnsworth and Daria Lenz combined to qualify for eight women’s events. Conor Casey and Noah Vigen each qualified for a pair of diving events at the NCAA Zone E Diving Championships that concluded Wednesday in Flagstaff, Ariz. Palo Alto grad Mimi Lin and Reed Merritt also qualified for the NCAA championships. Lin, representing Princeton, finished sixth in the Zone A 1-meter springboard and Merritt, with Texas, placed sixth on platform in Zone D.

CARDINAL CORNER ... Stanford sophomore Kiana Williams is one of five finalists for the Ann Meyers Drysdale Award, which recognizes the nation’s top shooting guard in women’s college basketball. The winner will be determined by a combination of fan votes and input from the Basketball Hall of Fame. From Feb. 12 through March 5, fans can visit www.HoopHallAwards.com to cast their votes until March 26. Second on the team in scoring (14.2) and assists (4.8), Williams has scored 20-plus six times and is attempting to become the first Stanford player to average 4.5 assists in a season (1991-92’s Jennifer Foose). Former MSLS Rookies of the Year and Stanford products Corey Baird and Jordan Morris have been named national wranglers for the newest Pac-12 CoSIDA Academic All-Conference Team head coach Greg Bahrleter to the 24-player roster for upcoming matches against Ecuador and Chile on March 26 and 28 at Stanford. Baird and Morris were named by the Stanford Student-Athlete Advisory Council to recognize their academic performance and contributions to the community.

PREP FOOTBALL

What’s next for Menlo-Atherton football? By Glenn Reeves

Bivers of prep athletics are well aware of the competitive disparities that exist between public and private schools. Private schools have an obvious edge in terms of the pool of available potential athletes. Public schools are limited by attendance boundaries. Private schools have none.

And then there’s the situation with head coaches.

When a private school recruits a quality head coach it has the resources to retain the coach. That’s not always the case in the public sphere.

Witness the situation at Menlo-Atherton High School. Adihr Ravipati announced last week that he was stepping down as head football coach due to the commitments required by his day job, building products for a tech startup company, and his responsibilities as the head football coach at M-A.

Coaches at the high school level come and go. There is extremely high turnover due in part to the low pay and high time demands. Coaches get paid a stipend — $5,200 for the head football coach at M-A. For an on-campus faculty member, that’s an increase to regular salary. For an off-campus coach, like Ravipati, that’s it — payment for a supposed part-time job with full-time responsibilities and commitments. Obviously in Silicon Valley, or anywhere else for that matter, that’s not enough to live on.

What makes the Ravipati situation noteworthy is the fantastic job he did at M-A. He won a state championship last December. If he did that at a private school a position could be created for him, paying a livable wage, just to coach football. After all, a successful state-champion football program provides great publicity, is a great marketing tool for a school. But that’s something that can be done as easily at a public school.

“At a private school they could raise tuition or go on their endowment or ask for donations to create a position,” Menlo-Atherton athletic director Steven Kryger said. “It’s something the principal and I discussed, ‘what could we do to keep Adihr as football coach and as a positive influence on our kids?’ But our hands are tied. At a public school all staff has to be credentialed. Private schools don’t have to do that. And at public schools all positions have to be negotiated with unions.”

The challenge now for M-A is to find someone to replace Ravipati who will keep the program performing at a high level and try to avoid the downturns that followed previous coaching changes. M-A won a CCS title in 2002, but coach Martin Billings, priced out of the local housing market, left after that season. The program gradually declined and three years later the Bears were 1-9. M-A won another CCS title in 2008 with Ben Parks and Phillip Brown as co-coaches after Bob Sykes resigned mid-season. A new coach from out of the area was brought in for the 2009 season and M-A went 1-9 with its one win by one point.

Stione T’aufou’ou took over in 2010 and stayed five years, compiling a 30-28 record. Ravipati was on that staff and was promoted to head coach in 2015. In four years his teams went 38-15 with two CCS championships and one state title.

“We’ve received three resumes, all from people very knowledgeable about football,” Kryger said on Monday, three days after Ravipati’s resignation. “The question is, who is the right person for M-A, to provide on and off the field support?”

The infrastructure Ravipati helped create was a big part of the team’s success.

“We built a real solid academic foundation,” Ravipati said. “A year-round study hall, our Huddle program to help support 50-50 kids, college counseling, SAT preparation, our personal development program, Built for Life, which was based on what the University of Washington does.”

The result was far fewer athletes being unavailable due to academically ineligible. In the past four seasons M-A had 70 players suited up, an almost unheard of number in these days of 30 to 40-man high school football rosters.

Another factor in the program’s success was the terrific staff Ravipati assembled. A dozen or so assistants, most all with deep ties to M-A and the M-A community, particularly in the East Palo Alto and Menlo Park areas where a large number of the players reside.

“The new coach should be able to bring in his own people, but will hopefully keep most of this current staff,” Ravipati said. “They are a bunch of good guys in it for the right reasons.”

Local sports news and schedules, edited by Rick Eymer

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Smith looks to keep the dance going

All-American leads Stanford into NCAA tournament

by Rick Eymer

Stanford senior Alanna Smith was named to the espnW All-American top-30 team on Thursday. She’s on just about everybody’s women’s basketball watch list and is on the ballot for the John Wooden Award for Player of the Year.

Smith was named one of five finalists for the Katrina McClain Award, which recognizes the top power forward, earlier in the week. She’s also part of the conversation for the Naismith Trophy, Wade Trophy and Senior CLASS Award.

Smith was named the Pac-12 Scholar-Athlete of the Year and this past Monday she became the program’s 10th academic All-American when she was voted to the CoSIDA Academic All-American Division I second team.

On Sunday, Smith led Stanford to its 13th Pac-12 Tournament title with a 64-57 win over Oregon in Las Vegas. She was named the tournament Most Outstanding Player after posting double-doubles in each of the Cardinal’s three wins and averaging 18.7 points and 12.3 rebounds.

“I think that was something that we had in our minds ever since we lost that game,” said Smith, who earned Most Outstanding Player honors for the tournament. “When you take a loss like that, you have no choice but to learn from it. We were not going to play Oregon today. We wanted another chance at them.”

Monday, Smith and the rest of her teammates will be watching the NCAA Selection Show, which airs on ESPN at 4 p.m. It will be another chance to reach the championship game in Tampa Bay on April 7. Stanford will likely host first the weekend.

Sophomore Kiana Williams has her own watch list. She’s one of five finalists for the Ann Meyers Drysdale Award for the nation’s top shooting guard in women’s basketball.

Junior DiJonai Carrington has grown into all-star status after arriving at Stanford looking a bit too skinny. She’s a fellow McDonald’s All-Americans Anna Wilson and Nadia Fingall, with expectations of helping Stanford win its first national championship since 1992.

The Cardinal took care of its unfinished business with Oregon. Stanford took to the air with a few low strings with the rest of the nation. It’s Smith’s last go around.

Smith has helped Stanford win two Pac-12 regular-season titles, She’s been to a Final Four, in 2017 where the Cardinal lost to eventual national champion South Carolina after knocking off No. 2 seed.
Menlo School celebrates its first girls state basketball title since 1991.

by Glenn Reeves
The Menlo School girls basketball team put on a show on the big stage, leading nearly the entire way in a 70-63 win over Rolling Hills Prep for the state Division II girls basketball championship. And without getting too far ahead of the team’s achievement Saturday at the Golden 1 Center in Sacramento, just think what it portends for the future. There was not a single senior in Menlo’s rotation and only one junior. “The neat thing is they all like each other,” Menlo coach John Payne said. “They have a great bond and team chemistry. And it all starts with our point guard. She plays with such a great amount of energy and joy. Everyone loves her.”

The point guard Payne refers to is sophomore Avery Lee, who flirted with a triple double, finishing with 15 rebounds, eight rebounds and nine assists. “It feels great,” Lee said of winning the state championship. “I’m so proud of every single player on the team, so proud of what we’ve done this season. I love every single person on this team. We’re all sisters.”

Coco Layton had one of her best games of the season. After knocking down five 3-pointers in the NorCal Division II semifinal win over San Joaquin Memorial, she made five more from beyond the arc against Rolling Hills, and Menlo basically put the game out of reach, pulling down 11 rebounds. Freshman post player Shar- on Nejad had a tough matchup against Rolling Hills star Clarice Akunwafo, a 6-4 sophomore already being recruited by USC. But she finished with yet another highly productive game with 12 points and 10 rebounds. Menlo made 10 3-pointers in all. Danielle McNair came off the bench to nail two of them and finished with eight points. Georgia Paye, the head coach’s daughter, a player who is often considered as a defensive specialist, scored six points and went 4-of-4 from the foul line in the final minute.

Open Division
Several things had to go right for Pinewood to achieve its ultimate objective and be crowned as the best girls basketball team in the state. None of those things came to pass Saturday as Sierra Canyon got the lead early and steadily pulled away in the second half for a 69-51 victory in the CIF Open Division championship game at the Golden 1 Center.

“The difference was easy baskets on offensive put-backs and some transition points,” Pinewood coach Doc Scheppler said.

Sierra Canyon (33-1) devoted plenty of defensive attention to Farmington-bound Hannah Jump, Pinewood’s leading scorer on the year, and also plenty on the best girls basketball team in the state.

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Notre Dame, 76-75, when Smith hit a jumper with 23 seconds left and then blocked a shot with four seconds remaining and grabbed the final rebound of the upset.

Smith would like to repeat the performance at the highest level. So would Stanford coach Tara VanDerveer.

“The depth of the conference, the competitiveness has prepared us,” VanDerveer said. “We’ll carry it forward into the NCAA Tournament. But whether it’s been the battle we had with Washington, whether it was being down against Colorado, having to basically hit a game-winning shot to beat Arizona, we have a great conference with great teams and we know that every night we have to play well.”

Stanford knows the postseason. The Cardinal is 25-8 in the NCAA tournament since 2011. It’s 12-3 the last three years.

A little later, Williams hit a 3-pointer to give the Cardinal a 53-51 edge and then recorded a steal at the top of the court and went the distance for another layup.

Avery Lee
MENLO BASKETBALL

The sophomore point guard had 32 points, 15 rebounds and 13 assists last week in leading the Knights to the state Division II championship. She had 15 points, 8 rebounds and 9 assists in the title game.

Ashley Guo
Paloo Alto swimming

Charlotte Swisher
Menlo lacrosse

Maansay Rishi
Gunn track and field

Amy Wu
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Alanna Smith was named a second team All-American on Thursday.
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