Sci-fi drama ponders online ethics in near future

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New Year, New Market?

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Contentious housing bill SB 50 dies in Senate

Falling 3 votes shy of approval, bill fails to advance
by Gennady Sheyner

A last-gasp attempt to keep alive Senate Bill 50, a divisive housing bill that would have relaxed zoning standards for residential developments in California, fizzled on the state Senate floor on Thursday morning.

An initial vote on Wednesday had resulted in 18-15 in favor of Scott Wiener’s bill, leaving it three votes shy of the 21 it needed to advance to the Assembly and, ultimately, to Gov. Gavin Newsom. With some senators absent on Wednesday, the Senate vote immediately approved a “motion to reconsideration,” making it eligible for another vote before the Jan. 31 deadline.

But any hopes that the bill’s advocates had that the new vote would change its fate faded on Thursday morning, when the tally was exactly the same as on Wednesday. The vote means that the legislation will not move ahead in the current legislative session.

The debate over SB 50 transcended the Senate’s partisan divide, with numerous Republicans offering their support to Wiener, D-San Francisco, while various Democrats voted against the bill. Those who supported it underscored the severity of California’s housing crisis and the role that zoning has played in preventing new housing.

“You can have the most streamlined process in the world. You can have enough funding for affordable housing, but if the zoning says you can’t build something, that’s the end of the process,” Wiener said during Wednesday’s hearing. “Restrictive zoning puts a hard cap — full stop — on our ability to get out of the crisis.”

If approved, SB 50 would have loosened height and density requirements for housing developments in transit-rich and jobs-rich areas, respectively. It would have allowed housing developments of up to four stories (45 feet tall)

(continued on page 13)

Principals to leave Paly, Gunn

District announces major leadership changes at the high schools
by Elena Kadvany

Both Palo Alto and Gunn high schools will lose their principals at the end of the school year, the district announced on Jan. 24.

Paly Principal Adam Paulson, who has led the school since 2018, plans to resign. Principal Kathie Laurence, a longtime district employee who took the helm at Gunn in 2017, is not going far, however. She’ll be the district’s new director of secondary education services, overseeing all major initiatives at the middle and high schools, including curriculum and instruction, assessment, professional development and equity. The district administrator currently overseeing secondary education services, Sharon Olek, is being promoted to associate superintendent of educational services.

In a message to Paly staff, Paulson said resigning “was a difficult personal decision for me, but one that I feel is best for myself and my family.” He declined to share further information.

“It has been an honor to spend the past six years as principal, assistant principal and dean of students at Paly,” he wrote to staff. “The best part of my day is always the rich interactions I have with the students and our exemplary staff.”

In a message to Gunn staff, Laurence said, “I have been fortunate to work with a wonderful team, and I have grown so much.”

The sometimes fatal disease causes fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. China’s National Health Commission has reported more than 4,500 cases and 106 deaths in the country. Severe cases can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and death, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Five cases have been confirmed in the U.S., including in southern California, among people who had traveled to Wuhan, according to the CDC.

(continued on page 9)

(continued on page 11)
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The Peninsula's leading media company, Embarcadero Media, is seeking a dynamic digital sales professional to join our growing sales team, lead digital sales growth, be a part of pioneering new digital sales products and make a big impact on company revenue. If you thrive in a community-focused environment where you can offer creative solutions and truly deliver value to your clients, consider joining the Embarcadero Media team.

She is responsible for digital revenue generation on Embarcadero websites, email newsletters, sponsored content, email marketing blasts, and other digital products under development. In addition, the Digital Sales Manager assists in developing sales and marketing campaigns, and other digital products under development. In addition, she is responsible for digital revenue generation on Embarcadero websites, email newsletters, sponsored content, email marketing blasts, and other digital products under development.

**The perfect candidate will have the following:**
- 3+ years of digital sales experience
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Compensation includes base salary plus commission, health benefits, vacation, 401K and profit sharing. We offer a culture where faculty and staff households on the Stanford campus and its demise released earlier last year. “The giant, circular brass sinks were still there, their flashy modern design contrasting awkwardly with the new rows of standard-issue cubicle desks nearby,” Purfil wrote. During another walk-through of the building in early January, renderings placed on an easel near the main entrance showed “an attractive but generic future interior,” she said. “I've always been known to focus on new work, new innovation, new potential next-big-things.”

**BUILDING A LEGACY ...** The voice of late architect Robert Royston, the original designer of Mitchell and Bowdon parks, lives on in a new video oral history released Jan. 10 by The Cultural Landscape Foundation. In the 43-minute recording, Royston gives the backstory to his involvement with Mitchell Park, which began with a phone call from the project’s chief engineer who asked if he could use lots of earth. “I’ll take all you’ve got,” he said. He went on to design a park for the flat site that used mounds as part of its structure. “At Palo Alto, being flat, all of a sudden, the kids had something to roll down. It was very interesting.” He also gave his original vision for Bowdon Park, the “soul of the site” in the Mitchell Park Avenue business district. “My thought was to make it available and visible from the train (station) and let it be so articulated that it would work with the neighborhood and the children’s play area, and just open space,” Royston said. “What you see today is pretty much what was designed, except in the end that I had focused much what was designed, except much what was designed.”

**NEW BLOOD ...** As fallen Theranos CEO Elizabeth Holmes continues to defend herself against charges of fraud related to the startup’s blood-testing devices, a well-known tenant is remodeling the Palo Alto headquarters her company once occupied. The Stanford School of Medicine is now leasing the property at 1701 Page Mill Road in Stanford Research Park, freelance journalist Corinne Purflit captured the changes underway in a Jan. 23 article for One Zero, online platform Medium’s tech and science publication. A visit last October to the headquarters showed the building interior resembling footage captured in “The Inventor: Out for Blood in Silicon Valley,” an HBO documentary on the company and its demise released earlier last year. “The giant, circular brass sinks were still there, their flashy modern design contrasting awkwardly with the new rows of standard-issue cubicle desks nearby,” Purfil wrote. During another walk-through of the building in early January, renderings placed on an easel near the main entrance showed “an attractive but generic future interior,” she said. “I've always been known to focus on new work, new innovation, new potential next-big-things.”
State Senate candidates to square off on Feb. 5

Seven vying to represent District 13 will discuss housing, transportation and more

by Palo Alto Weekly staff

Seven candidates for California Senate District 13 will go head-to-head in a debate on Wednesday, Feb. 5, at the Palo Alto Art Center Auditorium, from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Five Democrats, one Republican and one Libertarian are vying for the seat currently held by Sen. Jerry Hill (D-San Mateo), who is being termed out at the end of the year. Senate District 13 stretches from South San Francisco to Sunnyvale and is home to about a half million voters, 49% of whom are registered Democratic, 16% of whom are Republicans; and 31% of whom have claimed “No Party Preference.”

The field includes Democrat Josh Becker, Democrat Michael Brownrigg, Republican Alex Glew, Democrat Sally Lieber, Democrat Shelly Masur, Democrat Annie Oliva and Libertarian John Webster.

At the debate, voters will be able to hear the candidates’ stances on issues ranging from housing and homelessness to education, climate change and local versus state control.

The California open primary election is earlier this year, Tuesday, March 3, and voters will start receiving their ballots by mail in early February. Voters can cast a ballot for any candidate regardless of party affiliation. The top two in the primary will face off in November unless one candidate receives more than 50% of the vote in March.

Becker of Menlo Park is a philanthropist, former venture capitalist and CEO. Brownrigg is a former Burlingame city councilman, diplomat and venture capitalist. Glew is an engineer and Los Altos Design Review commissioner. Lieber is a former state assemblywoman and Mountain View city councilwoman. Masur is the Redwood City vice mayor, a nonprofit executive and a former school board member. Oliva is a Millbrae city councilwoman and realtor. And Webster of Mountain View is a software engineer.

The debate will be moderated by Palo Alto Weekly Editor Jocelyn Dong, Embarcadero Media Reporter Kate Bradshaw and CalMatters Political Reporter Ben Christopher.

Questions from the audience will be taken at the debate. Ahead of the event, members of the public can suggest questions to the moderators by emailing editor@paw.com or contacting them via Twitter.com/paloaltoweekly and Facebook.com/palaltoonline. The event is sponsored by the Palo Alto Weekly, Palo Alto Online, Mountain View Voice, the Almanac and CalMatters — a nonprofit, nonpartisan newsroom committed to explaining California policy and politics.

The Palo Alto Art Center Auditorium is located at 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto.

The debate will not be live-streamed but will be video-recorded. The video will be posted to Palo Alto Online’s YouTube channel at YouTube.com/pawweekly.

ELECTION 2020

For Iowa, every vote counts — even the ones at Stanford

Democratic Iowans in California can choose their candidate preference remotely thanks to satellite caucuses

by Lloyd Lee

Very few things can stop Pablo Haake, a native of Davenport, Iowa, from participating in a democracy.

At 16 years old, he wasn’t of age to vote, but he was persuasive enough to convince former President Barack Obama’s 2012 re-election campaign to hire him as a young canvasser in his hometown, which lies on the state’s eastern border with Illinois. He recalled knocking on more than a thousand doors in the neighboring city of Bettendorf and eventually helping the campaign win the contested district.

A few years later, he was at Stanford University as an undergraduate student, and sent absentee ballots in the 2016 general election and in the 2018 midterm election.

Now, Haake lives in Palo Alto as a Stanford graduate student on leave of absence and works full time for the city of San Jose. But because he’s still registered to vote in Iowa, he’ll be able to participate in one of the most scrutinized presidential contests in the country — the Iowa caucuses.

On Monday, Haake will take part in one of the first-ever “satellite caucuses” at Stanford’s Haas Center for Public Service. It’s one of 57 satellite locations across the country and abroad (in France, Scotland and Georgia), adding to the 1,678 precinct caucuses in the Hawkeye State this year.

The historic move by the state’s Democratic Party was an effort to make caucusing — an already confusing process Iowans like Ahmi Dhuna, a Burlington, Iowa, native, feel more at home.

“Being able to connect with Iowans outside the state ... makes me feel more connected to my home state,” said Dhuna, amaster’s student at Stanford University and the co-host of Monday night’s event.

Curious observers not registered as a Democrat in Iowa are also invited but prohibited from participating or talking. On Monday night, visitors can expect to see several stages of the caucus, but the main event will be when Iowans choose their favored Democratic candidates.

Like the electoral college, the caucus is an indirect voting process.

Instead of tallying up how many votes a presidential candidate receives and then reporting the numbers back to the Iowa Democratic Party headquarters, each caucus of Iowans designates a certain number of delegates to each candidate based on how many people show up to the event.
No more A’s and F’s? Teachers experiment with ‘standards based’ grading

New approach to grading emphasizes mastery of skills, knowledge

by Elena Kadvany

I n Laurie Pennington’s science classes at Gunn High School, standards-based grading has tested students’ and parents’ firm attachment to traditional grades. This is the fourth year she’s used the form of grading that emphasizes students’ mastery of prescribed standards over rote learning. The practice is growing in popularity in schools across the country, Pennington believes it’s a more equitable, accurate and progressive way of evaluating students who learn in vastly different ways.

While some of her students have welcomed and excelled within this new system, others have balked, Pennington said in an interview.

Pennington, who is also the science department’s instructional lead, is among many middle and high school teachers in Palo Alto Unified who have organically started using standards-based grading in their classrooms. She hasn’t ditched letter grades, though; students in her classes still receive them as well.

Like students and parents, reaction among teachers is mixed: Some have enthusiastically embraced the shift, including entire departments, while others remain resistant or have urged caution over adopting the new method too quickly. Primarily Gunn and Green Middle School, have been moving rapidly towards standards-based grading; Gunn High School’s entire world language department uses standards-based grading.

Meanwhile, the district appears to be walking a tightrope between supporting an evolution in grading practices while avoiding the appearance of a top-down mandate to teachers.

The practice is already in place at the elementary schools. While increasing the number of teachers using standards-based grading is included in Palo Alto Unified’s highest level planning document, the PAUSD Promise, the president of the teachers union said it supports “the district’s decision to not require standards-based grading and allow for flexibility in the classroom.”

“It’s organic. It’s supported. It’s something we’d like to learn more about, but it’s not an all-in mandate,” Superintendent Don Austin told the Weekly.

“Their lack of grading policies could potentially be a time when the question isn’t, ‘Should we all do it?’ but rather the question is, ‘Why aren’t we all in?’, he said. “But I don’t know how long that’s going to take or if it’s ever going to happen.”

Standards-based learning evolved in response to what proponents see as flaws in the traditional grading system: the conflation of behavior and academics, averaging of scores, high-stakes tests and embedded inequalities that tip the scales toward students with more resources, such as tutors or homework help from parents. In the standards-based model, students are given frequent opportunities to practice and improve, including by retaking tests to address the specific areas in which they’re struggling. A student who improves over the course of a class gets credit for that rather than being penalized for poor performance on an early test or even retesting. Homework becomes an optional means for practice rather than points toward a grade.

“I believe standards-based grading schools, kids are given lots of opportunities to reach the standards,” said Denise Pope, co-founder of Stanford University’s education reform Challenge Success, which helps schools implement the grading practice. “You see a much bigger range of kids being successful than just the kids who know how to play the game.”

Pennington, who’s been a teacher for 32 years, now assesses her students based on a scale of zero to four: Zero means a student has not demonstrated understanding of a skill, even with help; one indicates a student is showing partial understanding; two means a student has a grasp of simpler issues but still makes errors regarding more complex concepts; three denotes that the student meets the standard with no major errors; and four, a student is able to make in-depth inferences that go beyond what is taught in class. Students receive scores in more than 20 categories, from timeliness, independence and perseverance to writing a scientific question and calculating an answer.

Instead of testing students by making them define terms on an exam, Pennington lets them use notecards but asks them to use the terms in a way that supports an argument or applies to a concept. When students retake a test, she writes a new, individualized set of problems that focus on the specific areas they’re struggling with.

This takes significant time and effort — something other teachers have voiced concern about. Gunn Spanish teacher Liz Matchett, who has piloted standards-based grading in her classes, said at the June 14 Board of Education meeting that she’s felt “overwhelmed” by the amount of time it takes to support makeup work.

“I would urge you to go slowly with this, “ Marc Iglar, Gunn English teacher and teachers union vice president, told the board.

“There are some good things about standards-based grading, yet it has many drawbacks. It can confuse students, oftentimes hurting the ones it is most desired to help. It can anger parents, and it’s very hard to implement across all academic fields.”

(Austin, for his part, said that “for the people that were concerned about the time it takes to reteach, I’d say, ‘That’s our job.’”)

Successful implementation of standards-based grading requires a bottom-up approach and investment in support for teachers, said Joe Feldman, a Bay Area educational consultant and author of “Grading For Equity: What It Is, Why It Matters, and How It Can Transform Schools and Classrooms.”

“It requires teachers to work more closely with each other and to define course outcomes more specifically in a way that they haven’t been asked to do,” Feldman said.

“It’s an investment by the school that results in changes not just to how we enter information into our grading software but how we function as a learning institution. That can be intimidating — and exciting.”

To Pennington, the extra effort that standards-based grading requires is worth it — and is something she even calls a “moral imperative” for the district.

“There are students who have been so discouraged because the education system isn’t a system that works for them the way it is now. They feel like they’re stupid when they’ve just really never had the chance to figure out that they could do better,” she said. “I think it’s our duty, actually, to be able to show that they have success.”

“Pennington parent Eva Dobrov said that it’s stressful for students to be unclear on how the standards-based rubric translates to grades, and not all teachers interpret it in the same way.

“I don’t even know what the grades mean,” she said at the June 14 board meeting. “The big issue, especially in high school, is transferring that data over to the transcript, which will eventually be seen by colleges.”

Austin, however, said that he’s not concerned about the inconsistencies, nor does he plan any mandates for adoption of the system.

“There are some things in a district that need to be uniform and consistent all the way through, and some others can go at a different pace and have some space for some organic growth. I think this falls into that (second) category,” he said.

At the same time, in his “superintendent’s update” email earlier this year, he wrote that “we do not see prescription of a large-scale shift to a new model as viable, practical or universally beneficial at this time.”

Staff Writer Elena Kadvany can be emailed at ekadvany@pawweekly.com.
Coronavirus (continued from page 5)

Santa Clara County health of-
icials said the risk of becoming
infected locally is low at this
time, but the Palo Alto Unified
said they felt canceling the New
Year celebrations was the right
thing to do. Palo Alto’s Chinese
New Year Fair attracts thousands
of people who share food, demon-
strations and activities.

“Due to the uncertainty and the
risk of the Wuhan novel coronavi-
rus epidemic, the 2020 PA CNY (Palo
Alto Chinese New Year) Fair
continued as planned, but the
district said they felt canceling this year’s CNY fair,” com-
mittee members Lily Chiu, Steven Lee and Ann Xu wrote in a Jan 23 email.
“We believe being prudent at this critical time is a responsi-
bility to our community.

That decision was followed by the cancellation of the event by
Avenidas, a Palo Alto nonprofit that serves seniors and their families.

“In particular we’re serving the elderly, who are at higher risk,” said
Amy Andonian, Avenidas presi-
dent and CEO.

Already, some seniors have been showing up for classes wearing
protective masks, she said.

Avenidas hasn’t canceled its
quarter in 2017-18 was 24%, in 2018-19 it was 9%, then in 2019-
20 it was 31%. Gunn High School saw a 5% decline from 2018-
and a 44% drop in 2019-20.

The most significant change at
college this year was the dis-
appearance of any dialogue among staff members who are using student data to plan
interventions.” Reports from each
school describe the sharing of de-
tailed data among all staff, broken
down in some cases by grade level,
class period, demographic, special
education and English language
learners. During the first quarter at Greene Middle School, for
example, teachers broke into teams to do a “Data dive” and aggregated D/F
reports and were asked to come up with strategies to support
at-risk students.

Next year’s Middle and Family
Engagement success coaches are also
providing individual support to students at the schools — checking in with them weekly, monitoring
their progress and staying in com-
unication with counselors and teachers when concerns come up.

While the overall results are overall positive, there are some hangups.
Minority students are still receiv-
ing D and F grades at disproport-
nate rates. The improvement
over the prior year did not happen at Palo Alto High School, and the
number of Greene Middle School
sixth graders with D and F grades
increased (from 18 at first quarter
to 24 at second).

Disparities in planning and allocation of resources contributed to mixed results across the district,”
She said, “Our school district is
coming up with strategies to support
at-risk students.

The district’s "D/F report" re-
fects a changing approach to using
data, targeted support and regular
public reports to reverse the aca-
demic path of struggling students.
Superintendent Don Austin called the document one of the "most important" reports that the district produces.

It should not fall off the radar,”
said at Tuesday’s school board
meeting.

The report shows that across all
middle and high schools, both the
count of D and F grades and the
number of students earning them
grew from the end of the first
quarter to the end of the first
semester. More unexpected, however,
staff said, was the faster rate of
decline than the same time period last year, with the ex-
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## Coronavirus

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protective masks, she said.

Avenidas hasn’t canceled its
Going out of Business. Everything Must Go!

With the owner of The Oriental Carpet preparing to retire next year, everything in stock in the downtown Menlo Park store is on sale — with the steep discounts ranging from 50% to 80% off.

Owner Bruce Good amassed an incredible collection of high-quality hand-knotted rugs in his nearly four decades in the business, and he has more than 2,500 pieces left to sell in his Santa Cruz Avenue store. The store’s entire inventory is priced to sell.

“As I get closer to retirement, there will be more reductions — but less choice,” said Good. “The best pieces will go quickly.”

He’s seen some customers come in and buy a rug for every room in the house, he said.

All the rugs the store sells are hand-woven and knotted from traditional producers and cooperatives in Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Nepal. The store has pieces in every standard size and offers an array of designs including traditional, contemporary and “transitional” — rugs that can be formal or casual, depending on the furnishings they’re paired with. The store offers rugs made from wool, silk and viscose, a material that looks and feels like silk but is more affordable. Good says the majority of the rugs he sells are made of wool, which is the strongest and hardest material. Viscose offers the soft feeling of silk but is easier to clean.

“I personally really like it,” he said. “You can put it into a family room without worrying about it.”

The store’s selection also includes a large number of antique rugs. Collectors appreciate how a rug’s colors soften over the years, giving the piece a fine and distinctive patina.

The traditional handcrafted method makes the rugs both beautiful and durable, said Good.

The Oriental Carpet has been serving Peninsula residents for 46 years, helping homeowners and designers achieve the look and feel that a beautiful, high-quality carpet can bring to a room. Good said the handcrafted rugs last forever — but his sale won’t. If you’re looking for an attractive rug at an even more attractive price, now is the time to go shopping.

Come check out their selection at their showroom at 707 Santa Cruz Ave. or call (650) 327-6608 for more information.

Over 4,000 traditional and contemporary rugs from Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Nepal.

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707 Santa Cruz Avenue, Menlo Park    (650) 327-6608    www.theorientalcarpet.com
Principal

(continued from page 5)

Paly administrator, was appointed principal on an acting and then permanent basis in 2018. He re- placed Kim Diorio, who took a sudden medical leave and then re- signed following upheaval over the school’s handling of two cases of student sexual assault in recent years.

“Over the past two years, our leadership team has re- stored an environment that fosters con- nection, trust and learning,” Paulson wrote in an email to the Weekly.

Laurence, who has more than 22 years of experience in the district, said she decided to take the job for the same reason she left Paly for Gunn in 2017: to effect change in a new way.

“When I came to Gunn, I felt like maybe I could be the right person for Gunn. I think this is really the opportunity for me to work with all the second- ary schools to continue the work on the Promise (the district’s plan) and keep us aligned,” she said.

As a director, Laurence will be part of the superintendent’s cabi- net and report to Ofek. Associate superintendents, by comparison, are part of the smaller executive cabinet and report directly to the su- printendent and assign tasks to directors and coordinators.

Superintendent Don Austin said Laurence will provide an opening for more standardization across the two campuses, Austin said.

“It will take a little time to deter- mine what should be common and where it makes sense to be differ- ent,” he said.

Laurence taught social studies at Paly from 1995 to 2010 before she was promoted to assistant princi- pal. At Gunn, she was largely seen as bringing a stability to school in rocky transition. She replaced De- nise Herrman, whose years at Gunn were marked by both progress and tumult, in- cluding a new bell schedule,

“I really appreciate seeing the prog- ress on helping failing students that we identify are needed — obvi- ously we have some work to do, but I really appreciate seeing the prog- ress,” she said.

Board member Ken Dauber asked Austin whether he needs more resources to support this ef- fort. Austin said he doesn’t and that instead of focusing on concrete planning and communication have been the issues.

“Sometimes it’s about resources, but it’s always about leadership,” President Todd Collins echoed. “One of the challenges we have is finding a way to make sure we’re in the same line of sight over the years... but the biggest lever in any or- ganization at all levels is focused attention.”

Board member Melissa Baten Caswell suggested the district also look at “objective” student data, such as from standardized exam, to analyze the academic tra- jectory of struggling students.

“I always worry with D/Fs — we could have sent numbers up by en- surening everyone knows what they’re doing. New school leaders are exploring new approaches to teaching and learning... but the biggest lever in any or- ganization at all levels is focused attention.”

Sharon Ofek

(continued from page 9)

years ago as a middle school mathematics teacher and has held various administrative roles since then, including assist- ant principal at Gunn.

The district will immediately be- gin its search for new high school principals and plans to meet with students, parents and staff at both high schools and include repre- sentatives from those groups, as well as union representatives and district staff, in the interviewing process.

Austin hopes to announce new hires by March.

Student progress

(continued from page 9)

to meet with students with attend- ance issues.

On Tuesday, board members largely applauded the report as evi- dence of the district’s renewed focus on struggling students. In past years, when the board asked staff how they planned to address concerns in the D/F report, there was “no cohesive response” from staff, board member Jennifer DiBrenza said.

“To look through each of these sites and see that every teacher, every specialist, every administra- tor, every success coach is part of this conversation and is providing wraparound supports in the way we identify are needed — obvi- ously there’s more work to do, but I really appreciate seeing the prog- ress,” she said.

Board member Ken Dauber asked Austin whether he needs measures,” she said.

Austin said the next version of the districtwide plan, the PAUSD Promise, in the spring will in- clude the D and F data linked to concrete action steps and goals for improvement.

“This, to me, is the fundamental work,” Collins said. “This is how we improve as a district.”

In other business Tuesday, the board unanimously voted to place an increased parcel tax on a special mail-in ballot in May. If approved by voters, the parcel tax would in- crease by $48 to $868 per year, per parcel, for six years, with senior exemptions and a 2% annual infla- tion adjustments in future years. It supports smaller class sizes, professional development, school libraries, up- dated instructional materials, high school electives and counseling services, among other programs.

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

DISTRICT’S PROGRESS ON HELPING FAILING STUDENTS

Number of students receiving D or F grades at the end of the first and second quarters in the last three school years.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fletcher Middle School</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>-24%</td>
<td>-9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greene Middle School</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>+2%</td>
<td>-10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JLS Middle School</td>
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<td>49</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>-27%</td>
<td>-19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palo Alto High School</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>376</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>-48%</td>
<td>-45%</td>
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<td>Gunn High School</td>
<td>343</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>309</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>-42%</td>
<td>-31%</td>
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Source: Palo Alto Unified School District
Announcing
THE 34TH ANNUAL PALO ALTO WEEKLY

Short Story Contest

FOR OFFICIAL RULES AND ENTRY FORM, VISIT:
www.paloaltoonline.com/short_story

Prizes for First, Second and Third place winners in each category:
Adult,
Young Adult (15-17) and Teen (12-14)

ENTRY DEADLINE: March 27, 2020 at 5pm

ALL stories must be 2,500 words or less

Sponsored by:
Housing bill (continued from page 5)

within a half mile of transit hubs and buildings, while eliminating limits on density for housing developments in “jobs rich” areas, including single-family neighborhoods.

And under amendments that Weiner made earlier this year, the bill would have given cities the option of allowing zone changes that would produce as much — or more — housing as they would under SB 50. Those rules would do so within two years would have been required to comply with the bill’s provisions.

In introducing the legislation Wednesday, Weiner emphasized that the intent of SB 50 was to address “real people and the pain that many Californians are suffering right now throughout the state.” This, he said, includes children who go away to college and cannot go back to the community where they grew up, residents who are forced to live in cars and families who have to leave the state because of housing costs.

Some senators, including those from Los Angeles, lauded Weiner’s efforts to address the housing crisis but said they cannot support the bill because it does not do enough to address housing affordability or protect their communities from gentrification.

Bob Hertzberg, D-Los Angeles, criticized the bill for the provision that created a two-year implementation delay and argued that getting something “is just as urgent as passing it.”

“If I’m a developer contemplating a project, this bill gives me a huge incentive not to build now but to sit on my hands for three years,” Hertzberg said.

“Why build two stories when you can build five stories later? And in LA, you cannot pick a worse time to inadvertently put sand in the gears.”

Sen. D-San Mateo, voted against the bill. He did not speak during the Wednesday debate but said in a statement after the vote that he does not believe SB 50 addresses California’s crucial need for affordable housing.

He also said he hopes the bill will “undermine the legislative process this year and be positioned to obtain broader support from our colleagues and our community.”

“We need clearer parameters on the housing creation required for local governments and our communities, and on the flexibility allowed to local governments to locate housing where it works best for our communities,” Hill said in a statement.

“We also need a realistic view of the parking needs created by new housing. To require none ignores reality and worsens existing parking shortfalls in the very transit corridors where the legislation seeks to foster new housing.”

“I could not in good conscience vote for this bill as presented today,” he added.

In Palo Alto, SB 50 has spurred a polarizing debate about how to solve the housing crisis and whether the state should be allowed to mandate what cities do.

The Palo Alto City Council last April took a stance against any legislation that proposed a “one-size-fits-all” approach to land use decision-making, endorsing a new reporting requirement that was adopted by the Cities Association of Santa Clara County.

Immediately after the Thurs.-day vote, Senate President Pro Temore Toni Atkins, a supporter of SB 50, assured her colleagues and state residents that the debate over increasing California’s housing supply isn’t over and that the Senate will pass a bill to alleviate the state’s housing shortage this year.

“To those of you who have concerns about SB 50, you have effectively shared how it will impact local communities and I thank you for that, but now it is time for all sides to step up,” Atkins said.

“SB 50 might not be coming forward right now, but the status quo cannot stand.”

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

Iowa caucus (continued from page 7)

and whom they choose.

Based on the Iowa Democratic Party’s rubric, the 34 Iowans currently signed up for Monday night’s Stanford caucus translates to five delegates. How those five delegates are distributed amongst the Democratic presidential candidates will depend on a few grouping processes.

At the Haas Center, the room will be sectioned into several areas, each representing a Democratic candidate and one “uncommitted” area. Voters then break into “preference groups” that are formed as they go to the community where they grew up, residents who are forced to live in cars and families who have to leave the state because of housing costs.

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State Senate Candidates Debate

Wednesday, February 5
7:30 – 9 p.m. at Palo Alto Art Center Auditorium
1313 Newell Rd., Palo Alto

Featuring

Josh Becker (D)  Michael Brownrigg (D)  Alex Glew (R)  Sally Lieber (D)  Shelly Masur (D)  Annie Oliva (D)  John Webster (L)

PANEL: Jocelyn Dong, Editor, Palo Alto Weekly
Kate Bradshaw, Reporter, Embarcadero Media
Ben Christopher, Political Reporter, CalMatters

Who will fill the 13th District State Senate seat when Sen. Jerry Hill is termed out this year?

California's open primary election is Tuesday, March 3. Voters can vote for any candidate regardless of party affiliation. The top two in the primary will face off in November unless one candidate receives more than 50%.

The 13th District runs from South San Francisco to Sunnyvale.

Sponsored by Palo Alto Weekly, Palo Alto Online, Mountain View Voice, The Almanac and CalMatters

Pulse
A weekly compendium of vital statistics

Palo Alto
Jan. 22-Jan. 30

Violence related
Assault w/ deadly weapon . 1
Battery . 3
Child abuse . 2
Elder abuse . 2
Strong arm robbery . 2

Threat related
Attempted residential burglary . 1
Attempted petty theft . 1
Commercial burglary . 2
Grand theft . 7
Identity theft . 4
Petty theft . 2
Residential burglaries . 2
Shoplifting . 4

Vehicle related
Attempted theft from auto . 11
Auto recovery . 1
Bicycle theft . 2
Driving w/ suspended license . 4
Hit and run . 2
Thief from auto . 26
Vehicle accident/minor injury . 6
Vehicle accident/prop damage . 7
Vehicle theft . 5

Alcohol or drug related
Drinking in public . 1
Driving under influence . 8
Drunk in public . 3
Possession of paraphernalia . 2
Under influence of drugs . 2

Miscellaneous
Found property . 1
Located missing person . 1
Misc. parole code violation . 1
Missing person . 1
Other/misc. . 5

 Possession of stolen property . 1
Psychiatric subject . 10
Suspicious circumstances . 2
Trespassing . 1
Vandalism . 2
Warrant arrest . 19

Menlo Park
Jan. 22-Jan. 29

Threat related
Fraud . 5
Grand theft . 1
Petty theft . 11
Residential burglaries . 1
Thief undetermined . 1

Vehicle related
Attempted theft from auto . 1
Auto theft . 1
Bicycle theft . 1
Driving w/ suspended license . 7
Hit and run . 1
Misdemeanor traffic . 2
Theft from auto . 5
Vehicle accident/minor injury . 2
Vehicle accident/no injury . 4

Alcohol or drug related
Driving under influence . 2
Drunk in public . 3
Possession of paraphernalia . 3
Under influence of drugs . 1

Miscellaneous
Animal call . 1
Disturbance . 2
Found property . 7
Info. case . 1
Lost property . 6
Medical aid . 1
Missing person . 1
Other/misc. . 3
Outside assistance . 1
Psychiatric subject . 1

Possession of stolen property . 1
Psychiatric subject . 10
Suspicious circumstances . 2
Trespassing . 1
Vandalism . 2
Warrant arrest . 19

VIOLENT CRIMES
Palo Alto
4290 El Camino Real, 12/10, 7:27 p.m.; battery/simple.
95 University Ave., 1/16, 11:24 a.m.; assault w/deadly weapon.
240 University Ave., 1/18, 3:53 p.m.; strong arm robbery.
Unknown, 1/20, 4 p.m.; child abuse/sexual.
University Avenue, 1/21, 4:40 p.m.; simple battery.
Sandhill Road, 1/27, 6:24 a.m.; elder abuse/physical.
University Avenue, 1/27, 6:45 p.m.; simple battery.
Tasso Street/Lynton Avenue, 1/28, 12:34 p.m.; strong arm robbery.
E. Charleston Road, 1/28, 3:26 p.m.; child abuse/sexual.
Encina Avenue, 1/28, 10:05 a.m.; elder abuse/physical.

FELONY CRIMES
Palo Alto
Encina Avenue
1/16, 11:24 a.m.; child abuse/sex.

MISDEMEANORS
Palo Alto
240 University Ave.
1/17, 6:55 p.m.; hit and run.

MISCELLANEOUS
Palo Alto
4290 El Camino Real
12/10, 7:27 p.m.; battery/simple.
Marilynn W. Phillips

Marilynn W. Phillips, Palo Alto resident and community volunteer, died Jan. 16. She was 98.

Born in Ann Arbor, Michigan, on June 10, 1921, she earned her bachelor’s degree from Michigan State University and her master’s degree from Ohio State University. She then worked as a dietitian for Saginaw General Hospital. In 1946, she married Russell Cole Phillips and later moved to Menlo Park when her husband was hired by Stanford Research Institute.

A devoted mother, they moved to Palo Alto and lived in the same house on Garland Drive until 1993, when they moved into the Channing House retirement center.

She was especially involved with her children, Jeffrey and Deborah Phillips, through her volunteer service, whether it was as a field trip chaperone or as a Cub Scout den mother for Boy Scouts of America. She later volunteered with Stanford University’s Bechtel International Center, sponsoring international students and remaining in contact with them long after they left Stanford.

She also enjoyed camping with her family in the national parks, traveling with her husband, sewing and knitting and tending to her husband’s gardens.

She is survived by her son, Jeffrey Phillips of Evergreen, Colorado; daughter, Deborah Phillips of Washington D.C.; and three grandchildren.

SUBMITTING TRANSITIONS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Palo Alto Weekly’s Transitions page is devoted to births, weddings, anniversaries and deaths of local residents.

Obituary notices for local residents are a free editorial service. The best way to submit an obituary is through our Lasting Memories website, at PaloAltoOnline.com/obituaries.

Paid obituaries are also available and can be arranged through our advertising department by emailing ads@pawweekly.com. Announcements of a local resident’s recent wedding, anniversary or birth are also a free editorial service. These notices are published as space is available. Send announcements to editor@pawweekly.com or P.O. Box 1610, Palo Alto 94302, or fax to 650-223-7526.

Transitions
Births, marriages and deaths

March 4, 1927 – January 25, 2020

Sonia Lois, RN and nurse/midwife, was born in New York City to Thanna Leav Lori and Emilie Lori. Predeceased by parents and siblings Maurice Lori and Germaine Lori Cattani and many beloved cousins. Survived by cousins Rence Bloom, Bertram (and his wife Anne) Raphael, David Leav, and Maurice’s children Emile, Rachelle, Paula and Claudia Lori.

Burial at Hills of Eternity in Colma by Sinai Memorial January 28. Contributions in lieu of flowers welcome at San Francisco Senior Center at Aquatic Park.

Full-Time News Reporter

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 benefited 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.

We’re Hiring

Buck/Cardinal Club, one could usually find Phil on game days wearing Cardinal Red while cheering on Stanford’s football and basketball teams. Known for his gregarious nature and his heart of gold, Phil’s ability to see the best in others ensured that he made friends and connections everywhere he went. He enjoyed spending time with friends on the golf course, at Stanford and Buck/Cardinal games, at the American Conservatory Theater, and at his beloved home in Whitefish, Montana.

More than anything, though, Phil loved and cherished his family. Over their twenty-seven years together, Phil and his wife, Mandy, were best friends and loved each other completely. Phil was extremely proud of his three sons, Philip, John and Andrew. Phil was their “Mr. Fix-it”—they relied on him not just for home repairs and improvement projects, but also for encouragement, guidance, laughter, and support. Phil was the best husband and father both in times of celebration and in times of need, and it was impossible to be in his presence and not return his constant smile, positive attitude, and constant happiness. Phil was very close to his parents and siblings and took every opportunity to have a “Chef” family reunion.

Phil strove to live a life with no regrets—he planned for the future but lived in the moment. Despite his untimely passing, he lived and loved fully and was fully loved in return.

A celebration of Phil’s life will be held on February 24, 2020 at 4:00 pm at the Stanford Memorial Church, with a reception to follow at the Stanford Faculty Club. Memorial donations may be made to the YMCA of Silicon Valley — an organization near and dear to Phil’s heart. Link: https://www.ymcasv.org/give
The Grand Dame of Crescent Park

The grace and elegance of the Victorian era blend seamlessly with the very best of modern amenities in this stunning Queen Anne Victorian home, an architectural masterpiece in prestigious Crescent Park. Boasting 4 bedrooms and 3.5 baths on 4,516 sq. ft. of living space (per independent third party measurement) on a 9,984 sq. ft. lot (per county), this home affords a rare opportunity to own a piece of Bay Area history while still enjoying a contemporary lifestyle. Alluring appointments such as coved and coffered ceilings, antique windows, and embossed wall coverings whisk you away to a bygone era, while the brilliant kitchen, updated baths, and superb master suite are firmly rooted in the present. Third-level bonus space includes a kitchen and bath, offering flexible use for a variety of household needs. Adding the finishing touch, this home enjoys a location close to the excitement of downtown Palo Alto, and provides access to top-rated Palo Alto schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

For video tour & more photos, please visit:
www.1023Forest.com
Offered at $5,488,000

Open House Saturday 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Palo Alto.*

*Search Criteria as compiled by BrokerMertics* using MLS Data: January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019, Palo Alto, All Residential Properties.

Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | 650-900-7000 | michael@deleonrealty.com
中文聯絡請聯繫Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話 650.785.5822 | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
English Manor Style in Old Palo Alto

The allure and elegance of a traditional English manor spring to life in this fabulous home, boasting timeless appointments, a spacious floorplan, and a coveted address in Old Palo Alto. This 3-bedroom, 3.5 bath home offers 2,330 sq. ft. of living space (per floorplan) on a large corner lot of 7,920 sq. ft. (per county). Dormers, arched entryways, coved ceilings, and fine crown moldings pay homage to the home’s heritage, while spacious formal rooms, a superb chef’s kitchen, office space, and comfortable bedrooms stand ready to accommodate a modern lifestyle. Revel in alfresco enjoyment in the private backyard, perfectly suited for entertaining. Enjoy one of the Bay Area’s most sought-after neighborhoods that puts you close to everything Palo Alto and the surrounding area have to offer. And topping it all off, this home offers access to acclaimed Palo Alto schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

For video tour & more photos, please visit:
www.650SantaRita.com
Offered at $4,988,000

Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Palo Alto.*
*Search Criteria as compiled by BrokerMetrics® using MLS Data: January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019, Palo Alto, All Residential Properties.

Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 650.900.7000 michael@deleonrealty.com

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www.PaloAltoOnline.com • Palo Alto Weekly • January 31, 2020 • Page 17
When Angela Dellaporta learned about the city’s effort to come up with a new vision for her neighborhood, Ventura, she happily signed up to help.

“I wanted to see something beautiful in our community,” Dellaporta, a retired Gunn High School teacher, told the Weekly. “I wanted to see us come together rather than become isolated. I wanted to see a place where people can be attracted to a beautiful area and get a strong sense of community that people in general crave.”

In April 2018, Dellaporta was one of 14 residents chosen to serve on a working group charged with crafting a new vision for her centrally located but generally under-served neighborhood just south of California Avenue in Palo Alto. At a March 2019 meeting with the City Council, which took place at the Ventura Community Center, she was one of about 100 residents who attended to learn about the process and offer feedback. Dellaporta pointed to a recent survey of the neighborhood showing that most people support adding housing, particularly for teachers, nurses and middle-income families.

“They also want to see some of this housing go to low-income families. They want to see a reduction in car traffic, and they want to see a lot of green space — accessible and welcoming to the public,” Dellaporta told the council.

Council members were similarly full of hope as they entertained ideas from residents. They also encouraged the consultants and the working group to really explore the possibilities, even if it meant considering options that would not be politically popular.

“I want one of those alternatives to be a real challenge to all of our thinking,” Councilwoman Alison Cormack said at the meeting.

If the council was trying to inspire staff to stretch the possibilities, it seems to have succeeded beyond its wildest dreams. On Jan. 21, the North Ventura Concept Area Plan working group received a new proposal from staff and its consulting firm, Perkins & Will: three alternatives that made their collective jaws drop.

The plans, which will be refined in the coming months and which are scheduled to go to the council in May, show alternatives for the 60-acre site that would turbocharge development. The plans, as expected, call for more housing.

But what caught most members of the group off-guard was the type of residential development being proposed.

The numbers in the new alternatives exceed by orders of magnitude what the council has been considering for the site any time soon — a serious obstacle. That, Summa noted, amounts to squeezing about 10% of the city’s population into an area that makes up just 0.5% of the city.

“It’s not quite clear to me why we would go so far above the 30 units per acre and make it so much more dense,” Dellaporta said at the Jan. 21 meeting, after hearing the Perkins & Will presentation.

Becky Sanders, moderator of the Ventura Neighborhood Association, said she was in “shock and awe” when she saw the new alternatives, with one scenario recommending more than 2,600 housing units — an intensity beyond what any of the city’s zoning designations allow.

The city’s Housing Element identifies the former location of Fry’s Electronics at 340 Portage Ave., as a site capable of accommodating up to 249 new units. For the broader North Ventura area, the number of new units is 354. (This is in addition to the 128 homes that currently exist.)

By contrast, the least intense alternative of the ones presented by Perkins & Will calls for 952 new apartments and townhomes, while the most ambitious one would add 2,646 housing units to the area, which is bounded by Page Mill Road, Lambert Avenue, El Camino Real and Park Boulevard.

Like most of her colleagues, Dellaporta said she was surprised by the numbers.

“Most people are worried about higher density and more people, and I have reassured them, ‘Don’t worry. We probably won’t go much above 30 units per acre because that’s what the zoning is (RM-30),’” Dellaporta said at the Jan. 21 meeting, after hearing the Perkins & Will presentation.

Unlike the other two alternatives, which seek to preserve (either partially or fully) the old c cannery that until recently housed Fry’s Electronics, “Designed Diversity” envisions tearing down the Fry’s building, add 567 new housing units at 340 Portage Ave., and creating new multi-family developments throughout the planning area, including 628 units at the site of the Cloudera office building, at the intersection of Park Boulevard and Page Mill Road.

While planning for the site, Price said, it’s important to consider what Palo Alto’s needs would be for the next 10, 15 and 20 years.

“Our children and grandchildren are moving away. Seniors are moving if they can’t afford a place here. That’s a real driver for me. This particular area in my view presents opportunities that are significant, and I think that can be done very beautifully and with some sensitivity,” she said.

The Fry’s building, the center-piece of the planning area, was last year deemed a “historical site” owing to its roots as a cannery. The designation makes it eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources and guarantees that any potential redevelopment would require extensive analysis — and ensure political pushback.

And the City Council’s commitment to the area plan’s success has wavered, with three council members voting in December against expanding the consultant’s contract (even though four of the seven council members supported the contract, passing the budget amendment required five votes, so the money was not authorized).

“If the property owner isn’t on board, what are we doing here?” Councilman Greg Tanaka said at the Dec. 2 meeting. “That’s a big problem.”

Yet even if the council does nothing, change is on its way for 340 Portage, a campus of connected commercial buildings that has long stood out as one of the city’s most glaring zoning wildcards. Even though the site is zoned RM-30, which means it allows up
Plans proposed in December by city consultants Perkins & Will for the North Ventura area of Palo Alto recommend hundreds if not thousands of new townhomes and apartments.

Currently, the neighborhood bounded by Page Mill Road, Lambert Avenue, Park Boulevard and El Camino Real includes 128 housing units. Three basic types of housing developments have been outlined in the plans: townhomes (three stories), low-rise (four or five stories) and mid-rise (eight or more stories). Heights of mid-rise buildings typically reach 85 feet or more.

Here’s a breakdown of the housing proposed in each plan as well as examples of Palo Alto buildings that are considered low-rise and mid-rise.

**Cover Story**

### Leading with Legacy (Version A)
- New housing: 952 units

### Leading with Legacy (Version B)
- New housing: 1,581 units

### Adaptive Core
- New housing: 1,674 units

### Designed Diversity
- New housing: 2,646 units

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Mid-rise example: Tan Plaza Continental

Low-rise example: 800 High Street

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(continued on page 20)
“That retail could very well wind up being ... supermarket or for that matter it could be a Wal-mart ... Can you live with that? So that’s what it boils down to: What are the rights here of the property owner and what are the rights for the citizens of Palo Alto — not the fact that there is fiscalization of land use here.

I n the past, when planning was done, the concept was to convert the site to housing. Stores are unlikely to welcome a prospective tenant who has been turned down by Sobrato. The store, he said, would be priced out of the market. The store would be lost to the area.

Steele said Sobrato had turned the project back to the working group and the council. The project approved, costing the Sobrato Organization $128,000 in construction costs; $128,000 in “soft costs” (including city fees and financing); and $90,000 in land costs. The figure also includes $11,749 in estimated profits for the developer, which represents a rate of return of about 15%, said Sujata Srivastava, principal at Strategic Economics.

The plan that’s being encouraged by the city is, “In a very dramatic fashion, that will cause this neighborhood to change in some significant way,” Steele said. “The plan that’s being encouraged by the council, and the council looks at goals that they established and looks at this and says, ‘What happened?’ ... I just don’t see how this will be a productive process if this continues along the path of super, super density.”

Karen Holman, a former Palo Alto mayor, said the council is putting the plan out of bounds with the council’s goals for the neighborhood.

Karen Holman, a former Palo Alto mayor, said the council is putting the plan out of bounds with the council’s goals for the neighborhood.

Last year, the company notified the city that the development is not penciling out and requested an extension on the project. Sobrato has also shifted its sights away from the rental sector, Steele said.

“Will would worsen traffic and not accommodate moderate and low-income people. We want to have different ages of people being a part of our community and serving the community.”

Planning Director Jonathan Lait said he’s heard a variety of opinions from residents and businesses about the scenarios, which he said aim to reflect the council’s desire to “go big.” In proposing scenarios with many new housing units — well beyond the number in the Housing Element — city planners are trying to prepare for the next cycle of the Regional Housing Allocation Needs (RHNA) process, which sets housing targets for every city. Lait said he expects the proposed plan to generate significant new allocations for Palo Alto.

“As we look ahead, we wanted to imagine one scenario — what might be an outlier scenario — if the RHNA numbers doubled,” Lait said. “What would that look like here, in this area?”

Sobrato’s senior vice president for land development, informally speaking to the group, said, “This includes $429,000 in construction costs; $128,000 in “soft costs” (including city fees and financing); and $91,075 in land costs. The figure also includes $11,749 in estimated profits for the developer, which represents a rate of return of about 15%, said Sujata Srivastava, principal at Strategic Economics.

The figure also assumes that the residential developments are rent- and market rate rather than at the below-market rate that Ventura residents said they would like to see for their neighborhood, even though the city’s “inclusionary housing” law will require 15% of the new units to be offered at below market rates.

Mixed reactions

The new alternatives from Perkins & Will try to reflect Office of Economic Reality: Housing has become so expensive to build that in order to encourage it, the city will have to either completely blow up the zoning code, provide massive financial subsidies or allow some office development as an incentive for the builder to construct homes.

Long-held zoning standards such as parking requirements and the 50-foot height limits would have to be amended or scrapped for the ambitious proposals to come to fruition. The most pressing housing scenario calls for “mid-rise blocks” with 85-foot-tall apartment buildings and under-ground garages with one parking space per unit.

Not surprisingly, the dramatic proposals have attracted dramatic — and divergent — reactions. Former Mayor Karen Holman, who chaired the working group that put together the South of Forest Avenue 2 (SOFA 2) area plan in downtown, said she has grave concerns about the renovation of the area. She argued she had strayed far from the council’s goals for the project. These goals include developing “human-scale urban design strategy, and design guidelines that strengthen and support the neighborhood fabric.”

Rather than considering how growth can accommodate existing residents and businesses, including the historic cannery building, the new plans view this eclectic area as effectively a blank slate, she argued.

“They’re treating it like it’s a brownfield or something of that nature — which it’s not,” Holman told the Weekly. “There’s no regard for existing developments and how people would live in this area — no weaving of how that works together to create a livable area. There’s not a cohesive asp ect to it that creates livability.”

These flaws, Holman told the working group on Jan. 21, will likely doom the planning process once it gets to the council.

“What’s going to happen when the plan that’s being encouraged by staff and consultants gets to the council — and the council looks at goals that they established and looks at this and says, ‘What happened?’ ... I just don’t see how this will be a productive process if this continues along the path of super, super density.”

Others, however, see the proposed mixed-use development as exactly what the city needs at a time of sky-high rents and barely existing housing construction. A new report from the Department of Planning and Development Services notes that the median sales price for all homes in Palo Alto increased from $2.24 million in November 2017 to $2.72 million in November 2019. Rental listings over the same time rose from $3,500 per month for a two-bedroom apartment to $4,280 a month.

Mark Mollineaux, a renter and local housing advocate, said the proposal from Perkins & Will is an indication of a larger problem: “absurdly low density” throughout most of Palo Alto, which has resulted in exorbitantly expensive rents. He said he strongly supports increasing density in Ventura, in line with the consultants’ recommendations.

Kelsey Banes, also a renter in Palo Alto, said she moved every year because of rising rents. Most recently, her rent went up by 18%, she said.

“We have to deal with a lot of issues about people getting priced out of their homes and pushed into more and more desperate situations, the urgency of this crisis we’re in becomes very, very salient,” Banes said. “If you say to someone, ‘I want you to move to this high-density area,’ it’s in dramatic fashion, that will cause anxiety. ... You can empathize with that anxiety and then bring that back to our values as a community and why this is important. We want to have an inclusive community. We want to have different ages of people being a part of our community and serving the community.”

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THEATER REVIEW

Dragon’s ‘The Nether’ is disturbing, smart drama

Sci-fi story ponders online ethics in the not-too-distant future

by Karla Kane

The year is 2025 (gosh, that’s soon!), and apparently environmentally conscious conditions on Earth are rapidly deteriorating. Trees have mostly vanished and other plants don’t seem to be doing too well either, with cotton clothing and wine “made from grapes” accessible only to the rich. Meanwhile, advances in “The Nether,” as the internet has become known, have developed rapidly as well, with simulated worlds growing ever more realistic and people able to “cross over” into living online full time, their physical bodies merely “shades” on life support. And in one virtual enclave, known as “the Hideaway,” visitors are guaranteed the privacy and freedom to act out some very dark impulses indeed. This is the disneyfied world of Jennifer Haley’s “The Nether,” the latest brainy drama from Dragon Productions Theatre Company.

Director Jenny Hollingworth leads a capable cast through this very entertaining sci-fi/crime procedural/ethics puzzle of a play, which could easily translate into an episode of television’s “Black Mirror.”

Maria Marquis, whose performances always simmer with sharp intelligence, plays Morris, a detective engaged in a sting operation of sorts against Simms (Paul Stout), the architect and CEO of the Hideaway and a major player there. He’s designed the Hideaway to resemble a Victorian-era land of innocence, complete with tranquil gardens, a lovely house and a coterie of adorable children, including winsome 9-year-old Iris (Ellie Schwartz). Rounding out the cast are Drew Jones and Kevin Copps, whose roles audiences discover gradually and about whom I’ll refrain from saying much (it is a detective story, after all!).

In the Hideaway, old-fashioned goeties and manners are the rule, harkening back to pleasures no longer available in the “real world.” It’s also a place where pedophilia is tolerated — nay, encouraged — as is child abuse and even murder. Simms, or “Papa,” as his Hideaway alter-ego is known, builds this online lair to be free of moral consequence, where people can be their “real” selves without facing judgement in the outer world. The Victorian era is a perfect setting, offering, as it does, echoes of Lewis Carroll’s (as far we know, innocent) infatuation with children and a touch of Wonderland madness. So skillful is Simms at coding and other tech operations that the Hideaway offers remarkably life-like sensations as well as guaranteed anonymity.

Morris is disgusted by these virtual goings on and aiming to shut the Hideaway down. Simms argues that such repression is on par with Orwellian thought police, that all must be free to use their imaginations as they wish, and that by allowing pedophilic and violent tendencies to play out in the Nether, the physical world is actually made safer, by giving would-be deviants, himself included, an outlet. Of course, the reality is much less simple, as actions taken online turn out to have consequences beyond the Hideaway, sometimes in surprising ways.

Hollingworth and crew cleverly divide, decorate and light the stage so that it’s easy to distinguish which scenes are taking place in the Hideaway (all aglow in soft lighting, pastoral sound effects, lovely, colorful costumes and “Waltz of the Flowers” phonograph records) and which take place in the harsh, drab, dark and dirty real world. Poplar trees much admired in the Nether turn into sinister, glowing columns of tech effectively, thanks to Nathanael Card’s scenic design. One slight misstep is the large screen used during Morris’ interrogations, which seems to exist only to display floating text, screen-saver style, from time to time. It’s distracting and the show could easily do without — or more with — the device.

Though Haley’s work is fiction and takes place slightly in the future, the issues contemplated are very real, and very compelling despite (or perhaps because of) their ick factor. In “The Nether,” the avatars portraying Iris and the other children are controlled, behind the scenes, by real-life adults, but I wonder if the ethics would be different, and in what ways, if they were completely AI. At the heart of it, “The Nether” is less about shocking compulsions than about the desperate need humans have for making connections, as well as the struggle to understand and reckon with what makes a “real” self. And it can be considered as much a critique of capitalism (it’s all business, Simms argues) as of its other, more taboo themes.

The short-but-powerful show raises more uncomfortable questions than it answers and will likely keep audiences thinking well after the curtain call. Thinking, and hoping that the world of “The Nether” does not come to pass. As a tense and creepy bit of drama, the production is a memorable trip to the dark side of the web.

Amplifying diverse voices

East Palo Alto record label aims to preserve, support local music scene

by Jonathan Guilian

When Justin Phipps looks at the Bay Area, and East Palo Alto in particular, he sees a diverse artistic community with strong cultural roots in danger of being displaced.

In response to rampant gentrification catalyzed by the booming tech industry, and out of love for the area’s rich musical heritage, Phipps founded Redtone Records to help preserve and celebrate the unique, build community, explore social-justice issues and promote healing through music production. In collaboration with local artists and musicians, the label aims to amplify the voices of people of color.

East Palo Alto musician Kiazia Malonga has been playing contemporaneous and traditional Congolese music on the ngoma drums for more than 30 years.

“There’s a space for you to express yourself, to make music that represents you and your culture,” Malonga said of Redtone. “Making it available allows people to keep the identity of East Palo Alto before everything changed, when it was predominantly African American, Latinos and Pacific Islanders.”

Redtone’s East Palo Alto music studio serves as the base of operations. The label’s digital output is available for download, as well as streamed across major platforms. Listeners can also show their support by subscribing to the label’s Patreon. The range of musical styles represented includes blues, reggae, Afrobeat and more.

“We’re trying to create a brand that embodies a particular spirit and promotes a particular sound within this genre of roots music,” Phipps said. “Underneath all of that there is a deeper layer of cultural preservation and not letting this area be overrun by tech and short-lived trends.”

Phipps, co-founder of Live in Peace, a youth development program, noticed increasing changes in East Palo Alto and beyond, citing the tech industry as the driving factor of a downward cultural shift to automation, artificiality and apathy.

With that comes a decline in live music venues and other cultural
**KEEP RODENTS OUT OF THE HOME AND KIDS, PETS AND WILDLIFE SAFE.**

Poison baits are often flavored or scented like food. This poses life-threatening risks to children if they are accidentally consumed. Pets and wildlife, such as owls, hawks and bobcats, are also sickened and often die when they feed directly on the bait, or when they receive secondary poisoning by eating a poisoned rodent.

**Use these tips recommended by professionals:**

1. **REMOVE RODENT SHELTER, FOOD AND WATER.**
   Keep food in the refrigerator or in puncture-proof containers with tight-fitting lids. Do not leave pet food out overnight. Remove rodent habitat like ivy and debris and store lumber away from structures at least 18 inches above the ground. Keep vegetation at least three feet away from buildings. Clean up over-ripened fruit off the ground.

2. **BLOCK POINTS OF ENTRY.**
   Sprinkle baby powder or flour along suspected areas to detect rodent tracks. Mice can squeeze through openings as small as a pencil diameter. Stuff scaring pads and copper mesh into large gaps and seal holes with cement, spackle or caulk. Use door sweeps and weather stripping for doors and windows.

3. **IF ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY,** use snap traps properly set for the rodent problem you have. Bait with peanut butter and place traps in active rodent areas with the trigger facing the wall and out of reach from kids, pets and wildlife. Never use glueboards. They are inhumane, can easily harm other animals, and may result in having to address a still-living but trapped animal.

4. **SECURE RODENTS,** nests and droppings in a sealed plastic bag and dispose in the outdoor trash. Wear rubber gloves and wipe all surfaces with hydrogen peroxide or other disinfectant.

5. **NEED TO HIRE A PROFESSIONAL?** Visit ourwaterourworld.org and click on “ Pest Control Operators” to find companies that use lead-based rodent control, or use our free Ask Our Expert service to speak with a professional.

For more information about less toxic pest control, visit ourwaterourworld.org

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**Vladimir Feltsman**

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**Wed, Feb 5**

7:30 PM

**Bing Concert Hall**

**Hanzhi Wang**

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Praised for her captivating stage presence and performances the groundbreaking young musician Hanzhi Wang is the only accordionist to ever win a place on the roster of Young Concert Artists.

**Sun, Feb 16**

7:00 PM

**Bing Studio**

**Yang Liping’s Rite of Spring**

Chinese renowned choreographer Yang Liping brings her stunning reimagining of Stravinsky’s Rite of Spring to Stanford. Liping’s Rite of Spring spins a legend of the path of salvation embodied by the sacrificial peacock.

**Fri & Sat, Feb 21 & 22**

7:30 PM

**Memorial Auditorium**

**StanfordLive**

**Dr. Kara Cooney “When Women Ruled the World”**

Dr. Kara Cooney, professor of Egyptology, explores the reigns of powerful ancient queens to illuminate a time when women ruled the world.

**Wed, Feb 26**

7:30 PM

**Bing Concert Hall**

**Bing Studio**

**Yang Liping’s Rite of Spring**

**Memorial Auditorium**

**For more information about less toxic pest control, visit**

ourwaterourworld.org

For more information about Palo Alto’s Watershed Protection Programs visit cleanbay.org or call (650) 329-2122.

**Jonathan Guillen was a recent editorial intern for the Weekly.**
When Lawrence Chu opened his first restaurant in what used to be a coin-operated laundromat in Los Altos in 1970, he had a grand vision. He dreamed of replicating his 12-item Chinese takeout menu in cities across America — a Panda Express before there was a Panda Express.

That dream fizzled over the years as Chu, a Chinese immigrant who arrived in San Francisco in 1963, put down deep roots in Los Altos. He slowly took over the entire San Antonio Road building, the restaurant steadily supplanting a dry cleaners, a vacuum repair shop, an insurance office. He married Ruth Ho and they had five children. He joined the Los Altos Rotary Club, the Chamber of Commerce and was later named “Los Altan of the Year.” Chef Chu’s became a beloved dining destination for generations of local families as well as celebrities, politicians and dignitaries.

Chef Chu’s passed a major milestone in the restaurant industry this month: a half-century in business. If you ask Chu how his two-story, 250-seat restaurant has persisted for 50 years, you’ll hear a series of personal proverbs repeated over and over. There’s his signature, “treat every day like it’s grand opening day,” as well as some variation of “focus on one thing and you’ll be successful” and “love your family.”

But perhaps the answer is that the 76-year-old lives and breathes his restaurant — so much so that the two are inseparable, that his name and the restaurant’s name are interchangeable, that he describes the restaurant as a member of his family. (Embroidered on the pocket of his chef whites is “Chef Chu’s” and in much smaller text, “Lawrence.”)

“When you’re with Chef Chu, you can’t get away from Chef Chu. He wakes up in the morning, talks about Chef Chu, works all day, and then he can go to bed and talk about Chef Chu,” said Larry Jr., Chu’s oldest son, who now manages the restaurant. “Although sometimes it feels like it’s a curse that you can’t get away from, also it’s a huge blessing because now we’re here 50 years later.”

To say that Chu is energetic is an understatement. He’s still at the restaurant every day, working the dining room, talking to the more than 500 customers who dine there daily and reminding his 70 employees that even if he turns his back for a moment, “God is watching you.” He has no intention of retiring any time soon. He’s a prolific storyteller: A straightforward question about the restaurant’s history quickly turns into a lengthy, passionate tangent about Chinese cooking.

Chu, who was born in Chongqing and raised in Taiwan, is not a professionally trained cook. He “learned how to eat before I learned how to cook,” he said. He loved going to the market in China with his stepmother and watching her scrupulously select chickens for family dinners. He went on to study photography and design in Hong Kong, where he ate out often.

“I never thought I would become a chef but I’m ... a guy (who) loves good food,” he said. “Who doesn’t like food? Tell me.”

His family eventually left China for the United States, and Chu followed several years later. His father was an architect — he designed the iconic San Francisco restaurant Empress of China, among others, Chu said — and a restaurant owner, running Mandarin House in Menlo Park. By day, Chu studied architecture and design; by night, he worked as a busboy at Trader Vic’s in San Francisco, where he fell in love with the restaurant world. On his days off, he’d learn in the Mandarin House kitchen.

When Chef Chu’s first opened in Los Altos, the small takeout restaurant served dishes like pork buns, mushu pork, kung pao chicken, chop suey and sweet and sour pork. (Today, the most popular dishes include Beijing duck cooked in a cast-iron oven, chow mein, broccoli beef and potstickers, of which the kitchen churns (continued on page 24)
Chef Chu’s
(continued from page 23)
out up to 1,000 each day). Chu put
an emphasis on customer engage-
ment, designing an open kitchen
that would allow him to interact
with diners.
He grew a loyal, local customer
base. A Feb. 9 anniversary banquet
the restaurant is hosting, which in-
cludes a champagne reception with
Chu and special menu, has sold out.
The $300-$500 tickets benefit the
Los Altos History Museum.
There were two turning points in
the restaurant’s early history, Chu
said. First, when they were able to
expand the restaurant’s footprint, and
second, when San Francisco
critic Jack Shelton featured Chef
Chu’s in his direct-mail restaurant
reviews. Chu remembers Benny
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Another turning point came in
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He describes Chef Chu’s as an
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Larry Jr. bristled at a recent
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the owners’ American-born and
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rueful, higher-paid jobs. The
other Chu siblings found careers
in film (John Chu famously di-
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estate and parenting.
He felt “insulted” by the article,
he said.
“I sets the table that running a
Chinese restaurant, what my dad
has done for 50 years, is some-
how less important than being a
lawyer or being a police officer
or being a VC at a hedge fund,”
he said. “It’s hard work but it’s
honest work. It plays a big role
in people’s lives. There are so many
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bringing my kids,’ or, ‘I had my
rehearsal dinner here and now my
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“Those are the things we work
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“I’d say, ‘Let’s set you up for
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Dream every day like grand opening
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Staff writer Elena Kadvany
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Chef-owner Lawrence Chu speaks with his oldest son, Larry Chu
Jr., who runs the restaurant’s front-of-house operations.

Diners wait for a table along a wall lined with framed photos of Lawrence Chu with celebrities and
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Nominations are due
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Outstanding Nonprofit
Outstanding Citizen Volunteer
Outstanding Professional or Business Person
The Nomination Form is available at
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Tall Tree Awards
May 14, 2020
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Questions? Call 650-324-3121 or info@paloaltochamber.com
Buckle up for "Hair Love," a story about love and regret, and the impossible — and the unthinkable — in terms of visual effects. Lastly, "Sister," from Chinese-American stop-motion animator Siqi Song, explores the complicated family dynamics and personal yearnings of 1990s China, where siblings were a rarity. Best in show goes to "Daughter," but the very worthy "Hair Love" seems poised to take the gold.

Oscar prognosticators are mostly picking "Brotherhood" as the likely "Best Live-Action Short." A co-production of Canada, Tunisia, Qatar, and Sweden, it’s the story of a Tunisian shepherd rattled by the return of his prodigal son. The shepherd’s wife and two other sons happily embrace the young man’s return but his tormented father struggles mightily to accept the situation. The Belgian film “A Sister” keeps it simple. It’s a potboiler with a familiar premise: Emergency dispatcher attempts to save the life of a caller in distress. French-Tunisian comedy “NEFTA Football Club” — about two young boys who stumble upon a stash of cocaine — is pure O. Henry, a pithy tale with amusing characters and a kick of a twist.

The Oscar-nominated short film "Hair Love," a sweet and sunny animation, is a co-production of Canada, Tunisia, Qatar, and Sweden. It’s the story of a Tunisian shepherd rattled by the return of his prodigal son. The shepherd’s wife and two other sons happily embrace the young man’s return but his tormented father struggles mightily to accept the situation. The Belgian film "A Sister" keeps it simple. It’s a potboiler with a familiar premise: Emergency dispatcher attempts to save the life of a caller in distress. French-Tunisian comedy "NEFTA Football Club" — about two young boys who stumble upon a stash of cocaine — is pure O. Henry, a pithy tale with amusing characters and a kick of a twist.

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Learn this word before heading to the permit counter

Understanding ‘valuation’ can save you money
by Richard Morrison

When you remodel, one significant cost you’ll have on your project is the building permit fee. Sadly, many people waste hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars on their permit because they don’t know the rules.

When you apply for a permit, you’ll be asked to fill out a permit application form. Some of the questions are fairly simple, and others are more complex, with lots of boxes to fill out. But the one section that you need to pay very close attention to is the "valuation" or "construction cost." Your permit fees are largely based on this single number.

Obviously, you’ll want to keep this number as low as possible. If you ask the person at the building permit counter what this number represents, they may simply tell you that it is the cost of your project. They may even suggest that you should put in the number that the contractor told you the project would cost — but you need to be aware of what that number might include.

Section R108.3 of the California Residential Code says: “Building permit valuations shall include total value of the work for which a permit is being issued, such as electrical, gas, mechanical, plumbing equipment and other permanent systems, including materials and labor.” Note that this definition does not include the contractor’s overhead and profit, a port-a-potty and a host of other typical costs. It is not your “contract cost.”

This same building code suggests that the building official is responsible for setting the valuation so that it is applied equally to everyone. While there is almost always a standard valuation available in each city for new building construction, there often isn’t for remodeling.

So where might a reasonable valuation come from? Some building departments already have dollars-to-square-footage numbers for different types of remodeling work. For example, they might have one number for kitchen remodeling or bathrooms, and a different number for added square footage. (Valuation numbers can usually be found on a city’s master fee schedule.) The city of Palo Alto uses a system that bases permit fees on a percentage of the construction value. For instance, according to the 2020 Municipal Fee Schedule, a project with a construction value under $4 million would be charged a permit fee of 1.50% of its construction value.

It’s your job to suggest a reasonable (but low) valuation number that is credible, but high enough that the building department will accept it. I would start by asking what the valuation is for new residential square footage. Almost every building department has this. You will find that these numbers are ridiculously low and don’t represent average building costs in your area. But if they give you a price of, say, $150 per square foot, it might be reasonable to suggest that remodeling costs for an existing space might be, oh, one-half to two-thirds of that. After all, you aren’t doing a new foundation, floor framing, roofing, etc. At least, that’s where I’d start.

You can also check the online Building Valuation Data Archives for the International Codes Council. These are the numbers that the people who wrote the building code suggest using on a national basis, with local geographical adjustments. As of February 2019, standard residential construction in an R-3 (single family) group with a V-8 fire rating (which is standard wood-frame residential construction) has a valuation of $122.46 per square foot. This is maybe one to two-thirds of actual average construction costs in the Bay Area. Keep in mind that you aren’t including the contractor’s overhead and profit or other miscellaneous costs of the job. This is only the cost of labor and materials.

Square footage for garages and carports have a much lower cost per square foot. And you also don’t necessarily have to include work in areas that don’t require a permit. If driveways or patios are not included in the permit then you shouldn’t be including them as part of the valuation. If you are only refinishing the floor or adding carpet, say, then that work shouldn’t be included in the valuation. You need to be diligent that work is not incorrectly included in that valuation number.

If the person at the counter asks you what price your contractor gave you, I would just say, “Well, I don’t have a final price yet.” Then ask them what their standard valuation numbers are. Those numbers will always be lower than your contractor’s.

What happens if the person at the counter doesn’t like your valuation number? Well, that’s just a negotiation. I would ask them what they think is reasonable, and what they are basing it on. I regularly have had projects that may have had a contract cost of over $300,000, yet the valuation number was less than $150,000. If permit costs are roughly 1% to 2% of the valuation, you can see that for projects of this scale, my client may have saved $1,500 or more, just by being assertive.

If your $80,000 kitchen has a valuation of $40,000, then you have saved on the order of $40 or more in permit fees. The bottom line is that you need to be assertive in coming up with that valuation number for your building permit. Armed with these tips, now you can be.

Richard Morrison is a residential architect and interior designer with a Bay Area practice specializing in home remodeling. His website is richardmorrison.com

For more information
To find generic national building code remodeling valuation numbers, visit iccsafe.org and search for “Building Valuation Data Archives.”
This beautiful retreat is nestled in one of the sweetest neighborhoods in all of Palo Alto. Offering serenity and comfort combined with convenience.

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ON THE FAIRWAY … Sophomore Ethan Ng and Freddie Lee each recorded their first career Top 10 finishes and the Stanford men’s golf team opened its spring schedule with a fifth-place finish at the Southwestern Invitational on the par 72 North Ranch County Club golf course in Westlake Village. Ng fired a second-straight, three-under 69, tying his career low round, to finish in a sixth-place tie. He had four birdies and one eagle on the final round. Ng took advantage of the par 5s, playing them at 7-under over the two-day event. Lee shot a two-under 70 with four birdies for his first top-10 finish showing. He was two-under on the front nine and shot even-par on the back side. Lee tied for third in the field, playing the par 3s in one-over. He also played the par 4s two-over, tied for eighth. As a team, Stanford finished second in the field with 153 pars, with 22 birdies and had two eagles. Stanford competes at the Amer Ari Intercollegiate in Kore, Hawaii beginning Thursday. Henry Shimp, Barclay Brown and Daulet Tuleubayev each finished with their best rounds of the tournament to complete Stanford’s scoring.

WEEKLY HONORS … Stanford junior Sarah Klass earned Mountain Pacific Sports Federation/KAP7 Women’s Water Polo Player of the Week honors after helping the Cardinal win the Cal Cup in Berkeley over the weekend. Klass scored 13 goals in No. 2 Stanford’s three victories, including four in the championship match, a 10-9 win over No. 3 UC Irvine in which she scored three times in the second half to lead a come-from-behind rally. … Stanford freshman Brandon Briones posted the second-highest all-around in the nation this year (84.450) to win the title and guide the Cardinal to a victory over Oklahoma and No. 12 California and earn the MPSF Player of the Week award.

MORE FOOTBALL … Stanford and BYU announced a four-game extension to their future football agreement on Wednesday, bringing the series to eight games over the next 16 seasons.

ON THE AIR

Friday
College wrestling: Stanford at Arizona State, 5 p.m., Pac-12 Networks
College women’s basketball: Stanford at Washington State, 7 p.m., Pac-12 Networks
Saturday
College basketball: Oregon at Stanford, 3 p.m., Pac-12 Networks
Sunday
College women’s basketball: Stanford at Washington State, noon, Pac-12 Networks
College soccer: Stanford vs. Arizona, 1 p.m., Pac-12 Networks
NFL: Super Bowl: 49ers vs. Chiefs, 3:30 p.m., KTVU
Thursday
College men’s basketball: Stanford at Utah, 7 p.m., Pac-12 Networks

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

A share of first place in the WBAL is at stake

by Rick Eymer

Something has to give Friday night when Pinewood hosts Menlo School in a West Bay Athletic League girls basketball contest at 6:30 p.m.

The rematch between Pinewood and Menlo is significant in that the Knights, who won the state Division II championship last season, ended Pinewood’s 66-game WBAL winning streak in their first meeting.

Pinewood (15-1, 4-1), the two-time defending NorCal Open Division champion, has won five straight since dropping a 46-45 decision to Menlo.

Menlo (16-2, 4-1), winners of four straight since losing at Sacred Heart Prep 59-55 in overtime, is the top offensive team in the WBAL, averaging 55.8 points a game in league play, just under the 56.2 scoring average a year ago.

Pinewood is averaging 52.3 points a game but that’s a little misleading as Pinewood picked up a forfeit win from Eastside Prep last week and hasn’t played since beating Sacred Heart Prep 57-41, 10 days ago.

Menlo beat Eastside 69-18 on Wednesday in a game that was re-scheduled from last week.

Pinewood averaged 71.2 points a game last season when it reached the Open Division state championship game.

Defense has been key to both teams’ success this season. Both teams allow an average of 35.8 points in league play.

Both teams can also boast of a balanced offensive attack. Pinewood has five players averaging between 7.1 and 11.1 points a game.

Menlo has four players scoring between 10.5 and 16.3 points.

Junior Avery Lee leads Menlo with a 16.3 average. She also averages 5.1 rebounds, 3.7 assists and 2.9 steals.

Sophomore Alayna Nejad averages a double-double (14.5 points, 10.9 rebounds) and leads the team with 3.2 steals a 1.5 blocks a game.

Miauczi scores at a 10.9 clip and rebounds at a 7.9 pace. She’s recorded four double-doubles.

And both teams can shoot the 3-pointer.

Pinewood averages 8.9 per game and the Knights average 7.5. Pinewood has six players with at least 12 3-pointers and Menlo has three with at least 20.

Menlo junior Chance Bucher may be the ‘X’ factor. The Sacred Heart Prep transfer has only appeared in seven games but has been improving every time out.

Sacred Heart Prep (12-5, 4-1) hosts Notre Dame Belmont at 6 p.m. and Eastside Prep (7-12, 0-5) travels to Priory (11-7, 2-3) for a 3 p.m. game, both on Friday.

Junior Valentina Ross scored 18 points in the past host Eastside Prep on Wednesday. Tejal Gupta and Layton each added 10 points.

In the West Bay Athletic League Skyline Division, Castilleja beat host Notre Dame San Jose 40-27. Sammy Wong scored 15 points to tie with (5-11, 2-3), who travels to College of San Mateo on Monday for a 7 p.m. game against Mercy Burlingame. Natalie Chen added 11 points.

Alessa Faberowski and Malia Latu each scored 12 points to help Menlo-Atherton take care of host San Mateo 61-20 in a Peninsula Athletic League South Division contest Wednesday.

Nicolette Yeh added 10 points for the Gators and one point for Menlo-Atherton in a 61-20 victory.

Woodside lost at Capuchino 65-49 in another PAL contest. The Wildcats (12-6, 2-5) play at Sequoia on Friday at 6:15 p.m.

As much as Palo Alto struggled defensively in its most recent contest, was as well as the Vikings played at evenly, resulting in a 43-29 victory over visiting Los Gatos in a Santa Clara Valley Athletic League De Anza Division contest.

Palo Alto (12-5, 6-1) rebounded from its loss at Los Altos to remain in a virtual first-place tie with Lynbrook with five league games remaining.

Carl Martin scored nine points, had eight rebounds, four assists and six steals while Kevin Vroegop, who travel to play Saratoga at 7 p.m. Tuesday. Paly has a bye on Friday.

Chloe Jedwood had seven points and 10 rebounds and Caroline Kramer scored nine points but host Kehillah lost to Pacific Bay Christian 39-17 in a PSAL contest.

Coco Layton (with the ball) and her Menlo School teammates meet Pinewood for the second time in league play this season on Friday.
**Sports**

(continued from page 30)

Aaron Morgan added a pair of assists and Jason Bloom, Appel, and senior Jackson Aldrich each had an assist.
Menlo got a boost from goalies, senior Adam Kasser and junior Peter Gray, as well as senior Xander Stable, and juniors George Rogers, Bloom, Konas, George Rogers and sophomore Daniel Louie.

Gunn maintained its lead in the Santa Clara Valley Athletic League El Camino Division with a 3-1 victory over Saratoga in a boys soccer match Wednesday.
Senior James Hahn scored twice for the Titans (11-1-3, 6-0-1), who travel to play Wilcox at 6 p.m. Friday. Senior Colin MacPherson also scored.
Joey Cianfichi, Rayan Taghizadeh and Preston Dankwah each recorded an assist for Gunn.
In the Peninsula Athletic League, Menlo-Atherton played Carlmont to a 2-2 tie and Woodside beat Jeferson 5-1.
Sophomore Alec Cardenas scored twice for the Wildcats (7-7-1, 6-4-1), who host Mills at 4:30 p.m. Friday. Juniors Robert Sellman, Dexter Alvarez and Cole Preston each added a goal. David Ruiz had two assists while Daniel Delgado, Cardenas and Preston each had one. Griffin Mills and Ethan Hamel combined to make 11 saves for Woodside.

**Girls soccer**

Gunn beat host Cupertino 4-0 to remain atop the SCVAL El Camino Division standings. Sophomore Emersoon Sweeney scored twice and sophomore Elina Saab-Sunden and freshman Emma Listgarten each scored once.

Saab-Sunden added an assist as did sophomore Ana Schremp and junior Morgan Cianfichi.
Goalie Maya Glazer recorded the shutout in her varsity debut for Gunn (8-3-2, 6-0-0), which hosts Wilcox at 5:30 p.m. Friday.

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**Across**

1. Archipelago components
2. NBA or NHL stats
10. [We meant it this way]
13. Prepare to serve, as a pizza or pie
21. Her self-titled album was named the best of
22. Criminal tough guy
24. Acid class
26. Resting cat’s spot
28. Acrobat software company
31. Like the universe, cosmologically
33. Slippery ___ (herbal remedy source)
35. Game pieces
37. Baby’s slipper
38. Hosp. areas
41. Yoga studio greeting
42. Indigo dye source
43. At a minimum
45. Lou of the Velvet Underground
47. Food on a belt
50. Robin’s “Mork & Mindy” costar
53. Hit indie RPG of 2015 with notable music,
55. Miller who played the younger daughter in
58. Award-winning 2015 movie whose title is
59. “___ be my honor”
60. Night flyer
61. “Chicken Run” extra
62. Soccer forward
63. Amsterdam-based financial co.

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**This week’s SUDOKU**

www.sudoku.name

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**Answers on page 25.**

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