Missing couple’s miraculous rescue

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City auditor’s office at a crossroads

Page 5

Stanford offers a production for ‘Everybody’

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‘Sound’ solutions for unwanted noise

Page 31
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Auditors face toughest review of their own

City Council’s decision to look to outside consultants for help sparks criticism

by Gennady Sheyner

Roughly two months ago, before the Palo Alto City Council’s Feb. 10 vote to explore the outsourcing of the city’s auditing operation to a consulting firm, council members met behind closed doors to consider another issue relating to the small office on City Hall’s seventh floor: a claim filed against the city by one of the office’s three remaining employees.

Even though Mayor Adrian Fine announced “no reportable action” after the session, three days later, the city signed off on a settlement with Yuki Matsaura, a performance auditor who was part of a group of auditors who had complained about how they had been treated by their former boss and the city’s last city auditor, Harriet Richardson.

As part of the settlement, the city paid Matsaura’s attorneys $56,687, granted her 400 hours of vacation time and, reversing her demotion, restored her title to “senior performance auditor,” according to the document, which was obtained by the Weekly.

In exchange, Matsaura agreed to withdraw a complaint she had filed against the city with the California Department of Industrial Relations, wherein she argued that Richardson had retaliated against her, according to the settlement.

The complaint was just the latest in a long series of squabbles that have roiled the Office of the City Auditor, which the voters created in 1983 as a way to provide oversight of City Hall. By the time Richardson left the city in February 2019, the dysfunction inside the office was an open secret at City Hall, with employees filing numerous whistleblower complaints against Richardson and council members complaining about the office’s low productivity.

(continued on page 11)

Coroner: Student died of fentanyl overdose

Drug deaths part of ‘upick’ in county over the past year with rise of counterfeit narcotics

by Elena Kadvany

A Stanford University sophomore found unresponsive in a campus fraternity house in January died from an accidental overdose of fentanyl, a powerful narcotic, the Santa Clara County Medical Examiner-Coroner’s Office confirmed on Tuesday.

The confirmation comes amid reports of students turning to fentanyl overdoses on college campuses across the country and an uptick in overdoses in Santa Clara County. Eitan Michael Weiner, the son of a university professor and Stanford associate vice president, was found by paramedics inside the Theta Delta Chi fraternity house on Jan. 17. The coroner’s office said his cause of death was fentanyl toxicity and the manner of death was accidental.

Later that day, the Stanford Department of Public Safety issued a warning to the campus community about counterfeit prescription pills containing fentanyl that have been smuggled into the U.S. from Mexico. The legally required warning provided information about fentanyl, including signs and symptoms of overdose.

In a “critical” message to students in late January, Vice Provost for Student Affairs Susie Brubaker-Colle shared information from three administrators about “counterfeit prescription pill killers that look like Percocet and OxyContin, but contain fentanyl.” Local law enforcement agencies have seized a large number of counterfeit 30-milligram Percocet pills containing fentanyl, wrote Ralph Castro, associate dean and director of the Office of Alcohol Policy and Education, Mona Hicks, senior associate vice provost and dean of students, and Jim Jacobs, associate vice provost and executive director of Vaden Health Center. (The university did not make the administrators available for an interview.)

“As many of you know, young people are dying in record numbers after consuming drugs containing fentanyl. We need your help determining how we can keep Stanford students safe,” they wrote.

Neither the Department of Public Safety nor the administrators’ statement made a connection to Weiner’s death.

Weiner’s parents, Amir Weiner, an associate professor of history, and Julia Erwin-Weiner, an associate vice president for medical center development and former senior associate dean for external relations of Stanford Law School, did not respond to interview requests for this story.

“We are deeply concerned by Eitan’s cause of death,” the university said in a statement. “We are increasing our drug and alcohol prevention and education programs, enhancing screening and assessment of students who have engaged in substance abuse, and working with national experts in college substance abuse to develop a comprehensive plan to promote and support student health and well-being.”

More powerful than morphine

Fentanyl is an opioid drug that is 80 to 100 times more powerful than morphine.

(continued on page 12)
If PAPD was in couples counseling, the therapist would bust it for deflecting.

— Winter Dellenbach, Barron Park resident, on police chief’s claim that use of force is very rare. See story on page 7.
**BUSINESS**

**Palo Alto’s last dive bar faces uncertain future**

Children of Antonio’s Nut House’s late owner take over but worry landlord wants to sell the property  
by Sue Dreman

Three years after its colorful owner passed away, Antonio’s Nut House, Palo Alto’s last authentic dive bar, is still open, but its new owners worry their landlord may have other plans for the California Avenue property.

Ownership of the bar has passed into the hands of late proprietor Tony Montooth’s children, according to a posting updating the establishment’s liquor license. But the Nut House’s landlord does not want to renew the lease and has said he plans to sell the land, one of Montooth’s sons said.

Now Montooth’s family is exploring strategies to either purchase the bar and find another nearby location, which, they acknowledged, isn’t an easy feat in the current Palo Alto commercial real estate climate.

Montooth’s estate emerged from probate in Santa Clara County Superior Court in late October, according to court records. The bar passed from his wife, Aloha Montooth, to his children, William “Jess” Montooth, Ginger Atherton and Joseph Montooth, a December 2019 filing with the California Secretary of State shows.

They have “cleaned up” the bar a bit since taking over, but they aren’t changing its funky ambiance, Jess Montooth said this week, which includes pool tables, a taqueria, a stuffed gorilla in a cage where patrons can scoop up peanuts and a giant mural on an outside wall with scenes from the bar and a dominating likeness of Tony Montooth.

“The Nut House is the same as always,” Jess Montooth said by phone last week.

He’s cautious about the bar’s future, however, having heard from the landlord, Stanley Gross, that he doesn’t want to renew the lease when it’s up in December. In response, the children of Tony Montooth are gearing up to save the beloved bar — and their father’s legacy.

“We’ve been here 49 years. We don’t have the money to try to make a deal with the owner, but they’ll do anything they can to try to preserve the bar,” Jess Montooth said. We’re starting a fundraising campaign to fund possibly buying the property. We’re looking to our kids to start a media campaign.

A longtime patron of the bar wants to help the family start a limited liability partnership to purchase the property, he added.

Nut House manager Kelley Gorman, who has been there for 20 years and was trained by Tony Montooth, will remain in charge of day-to-day operations. Jess Montooth said. On Wednesday, Gorman said she also was concerned about the potential sale of the property.

“There’s been so much change. It’s inevitable,” she said related to high costs of property and leases in Palo Alto.

Three years ago, Gross told the Weekly that he and the property’s other owners, through the entity DH & MA Edwards Co., were happy having Montooth’s son Jess and employees run the bar. Gross said at the time that he hoped the Montooth’s Nut House could remain.

“It’s a dive, but it’s the last of its kind,” he said in July 2017. He has not returned multiple calls this week requesting comment.

Gorman is hoping that a well-heeled patron who has frequent ed the bar will step up. Like the Montooth children, she would do anything to save the bar. “We’re a dying breed. I’ve heard so many people say ‘You can’t let it go.’”

**Staff Writer Sue Dreman can be emailed at sdremann@pawekly.com.**

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**POLICE**

**Police chief says use of force is ‘very rare.’ Critics are not convinced.**

Council mum on recent allegations of excessive force, racism against police officers  
by Gennady Sheyner

Facing numerous allegations of excessive force by local police officers, including two that resulted in legal hurdles, Palo Alto police Chief Robert Jonsen assured the City Council on Monday night that such incidents are extremely rare and that officers who cross the line will be held accountable.

But while his words appeared to have mollified council members, who generally refrained from asking questions about the two high-profile cases, several residents criticized Jonsen and the department for their failure to take responsibility for the recent episodes. This includes the February 2018 arrest at Buena Vista Mobile Home Park, which involved a police sergeant slamming a resident named Gustavo Alvarado into a car, and the July 2019 arrest in front of Happy Donuts, in which an officer pushed Julio Arevalo against a spiked railing and then re­portedly shattering his orbital bone in the process and causing a concussion.

In both cases, the men who were arrested accused the department of excessive force. The council approved a contract with a self-settlement with Alvarado, which also required a letter of apology from the sergeant, who had since retired (in addition, all sworn officers were required to take LBGTQ sensitivity training). Arevalo filed a claim against the department last fall, seeking $3.85 million in damages. With the city rejecting his claim, the attorney Cody Salten told the Weekly that he plans to file a lawsuit in federal court against the department in the coming months for what he called a “brutal assault.”

Jonsen also highlighted the two that were captured on video, noting that of the 2,183 arrests that the department released this month includes the February 2018 arrest in which a police sergeant criticized Jonsen and the department released this month notes that of the 2,183 arrests that Palo Alto officers made in 2019, force was used in 18 incidents — a rate of 0.008%.

“I’m not naive to the fact that we’ve been subject to some very serious allegations over the past year,” Jonsen said. “I want to assure you that I take these allegations very seriously and that misconduct will not be tolerated.”

Jonsen also said that most of the incidents that he had reviewed that included use of force involved individuals who were under the influence or resisting arrest. In 75% of these cases, he added, officers relied on physical strength and did not use any weapons.

“I think our personnel do a phenomenal job in communicating with the vast majority of individuals that they have to interact with to get them to the back seat without having to use force at all,” Jonsen said.

Jonsen also highlighted the downward trend in most violent crimes, with the number of assaults dropping to its lowest level since 2015 and the number of commercial and residential burglaries dropping from 234 in 2018 to 179 in 2019.

While council members thanked Jonsen for his presentation, Winter Dellenbach, a Barron Park resident who led the effort to preserve the Buena Vista Mobile Home Park, pushed back against Jonsen’s assertions that use-of-force incidents are highly unusual. She alluded to a surveillance video of Arevalo’s arrest in front of Happy Donuts, which involved him getting pressed against the railing and then pinned to the ground. The arrest in the video, Dellenbach said, “was simply unreasonable.”

“This minimizing of the seriousness of use-of-force is an understating of what signals that no improvement is needed,” Dellenbach said after Jonsen made his presentation.

“If PAPD was in couples counseling, the therapist would bust it for deflecting and for not taking ownership and responsibility... We cannot get better unless we get out of denial and can deal with this in really good faith. And I don’t think you’re there.”

Jonsen also touted the department’s efforts to improve transparency and accountability, including a “brutal assault.”

The Palo Alto Police Department’s annual report showed that officers used force in 18 arrests in 2019.

While neither Jonsen nor any of the council members have addressed the 2014 incident, Aram James, a former public attorney and frequent police critic, suggested Monday that the city implemented the change to the auditor’s contract expressly to keep that episode out of the public eye.

“They’re very sophisticated, very quick and they hit different neighborhoods, different areas very fast,” he said, noting he hit 30 to 40 cars in a matter of moments.”

He said.

**Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner can be emailed at gsheyner@pawekly.com.**
News Digest

Financial errors cost Ravenswood $25K
The Ravenswood City School District will pay just over $24,000 for financial errors that occurred over the last eight years.

Autopilot steered Tesla into median
The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) at the Feb. 25 meeting, lays significant blame on Tesla for failing to repair safety equipment along Highway 101 that contributed to the severity of the crash.

EdReports reviewed in its first round of review
The district's controller position was unfilled for most of last year.

The audit found that the district had counted “newcomer” students in the federal child nutrition breakfast program more than once, mistakenly claiming 3,196 duplicated student breakfasts and 72 duplicated student lunches for reimbursement during the year.

The district’s controller position was unfilled for most of last year.

The audit also cites personnel cuts and time-strapped staff as contributing factors. The district’s controller position was unfilled for most of last year.

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A 38-year-old Apple engineer died from a high-speed crash that occurred on Maybell Avenue, which aimed to slow down traffic and create a smoother passage for bikers. While some residents spoke in favor of the traffic circle, others argued that it makes the segment more dangerous and confusing.

On Monday, the council agreed to take two actions to address what Mayor Adrian Fine called “one of the most contentious pieces of street furniture we have in the entire city.” First, the city will install stop signs on East Meadow Drive. In addition, the city directed the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools, the state Department of Education and the state Controller’s Office to take a closer look at this intersection and consider further changes.

The decision was informed by recent analysis by the transportation staff, which showed mixed results. On the one hand, the number of vehicles on Ross Road had gone up since the changes were made, with bicyclists making up 11% of the total traffic volume on weekdays, compared to 6.7% before the project. At the same time, there have been four collisions at the roundabout on East Meadow, three of which involved bicyclists. In each case, the collision was caused by motorists who did not yield to a bicyclist at the roundabout, according to staff.

Staff also found that about one in every 30 bicyclists does not yield the right-of-way, rides on the wrong side of the street or goes in a clockwise direction on the roundabout, notwithstanding the street markings directing them to the counterclockwise direction.

The council largely supported the recommendations from transportation staff on Ross Road. Staff also plans to consider installing a speed hump on Ross Road, just south of Mayview Avenue, in close proximity to Ramos Park.

Community members also had a range of opinions about roundabouts, with some arguing that the stop signs are unnecessary and counterproductive. At the same time, the roughly two dozen bicyclists who spoke at the meeting had a unified message for the council: Get on with it!

City Council approves stop signs on to Ross Road-East Meadow intersection, prepares for more outreach on planned improvements
by Gennady Sheyner
A roundabout at Ross Road and East Meadow Drive is the most contentious element of Palo Alto’s new bike boulevard.

After a rocky start and a sudden stop, Palo Alto is preparing to resume its ambitious plan to build a network of bike boulevards, which includes modifications to the roundabout at Ross Road and the Avenue Avenue-Moreno Avenue corridor.

The biggest bone of contention was the new roundabout on Ross Road and East Meadow Circle, which aimed to slow down traffic and create a smoother passage for bicyclists. Some residents spoke in favor of the traffic circle, others argued that it makes the segment more dangerous and confusing.

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my dog is certified in locating human remains.’”

They were tasked to comb a drainage area starting from Shallow Beach, a nearly 3-mile drive from the couple’s rental cottage on Via De La Vista. There was no good rationale behind the assigned location. All the “high priority areas” had already been canvassed, according to Cassens. They were looking anywhere else that could possibly be searched.

The volunteers started at the beach and, right off the bat, had to slog through a mud bog, which Webster sunk up to his knees and which painted Groot with thick mud. After a fruitless search, the team continued to follow the drainage and stopped momentarily when confronted by a “wall of trees,” Webster said. They were on a no-trail — just a thick tangle of vegetation.

“If it was clear, it would have been an easy search,” Cassens said. “We’d be done, but there was no way that was gonna happen with this density of the brush,” Cassens said.

Instead, Cassens and Webster had to bushwhack their way through the thicket, using only their gloved hands and bodies. Then, shortly before dark, they had stopped about an hour and a half of meandering through foliage, they heard voices.

“We looked at each other and thought, ‘That’s kind of odd. We weren’t expecting somebody to be yelling for help,’” Cassens said.

“I thought maybe it was another search-and-rescue team,” Webster said. “Maybe it was someone else who got lost. They just sounded so alive and well.”

Immediately, Cassens signaled Groot to follow the voice, and without any consideration of a careful route, the volunteers hurriedly forced their way through the vegetation. “This is in a class of its own. I’ve never been in something quite as big as this,” said a tired but satisfied Webster, who had helped with communications, climbed about 60 feet up the hill to try to get a signal on his radio and contact the nearest search-and-rescue team.

“They asked what ‘plan’ it was,” Webster recalled, referring to the codes Plan A and Plan B, meaning “Dead or alive?” Stunned when Webster said “Plan B,” search-and-rescue members asked him multiple times to confirm that it was in fact the couple and they were in fact alive.

A helicopter from the Sonoma County Sheriff’s Office was called in to extract the couple. Irwin was loaded onto a litter first and flown about a half-mile to Pierce Point Road, where he was attended to by paramedics. Kiparsky followed, leaving an ecstatic group of search volunteers on the ground as she was airlifted out. Irwin and Kiparsky were rushed in an ambulance to Marin General Hospital, about 30 miles away.

“This is in a class of its own. I’ve never been in something quite as big as this,” said a tired but satisfied Webster, who had helped look for the couple the previous Sunday and Monday and also attended an all-day recertification program for the search-and-rescue team on Friday.

Cassens agreed: “Especially when nobody was expecting to find them alive, much less in such good condition. This one’s gonna stick with me for a long time — forever.”

Sons breathe a sigh of relief

At an impromptu press conference outside of Marin General Hospital on Saturday evening, stepbrothers Jonas Irwin and Jonathan Kiparsky were beyond relieved to find their parents were alive and well.

“This is the best possible ending,” said Jonas Irwin, who was raised in Palo Alto and now lives in Livermore. “Our parents are scratched up a little bit, they’re probably dehydrated, a little bit of hypothermia, and for the most part, they’re in reasonably good health and they’ll probably be out of the hospital in 24 hours.”

Jonas Irwin was at home when he received an unexpected text message from Schneider that said, “We found them.”

“I’m thinking, initially, ‘Alright we have bodies and this is better than nothing,’” Jonas Irwin said. But when he learned that his parents were alive, he screamed.

“I’m absolutely ecstatic to see my mother joking with me,” said Jonathan Kiparsky, who flew out to the Bay Area from Boston on Tuesday, Feb. 18, to watch over the search-and-rescue operations. “To see Ian, who’s as close as you can get to a father to me, making the same old wisecracks — he’s talking about the old blues songs they were singing, about drinking muddy water and (falling) asleep down in a hollow log.”

After their family reunion, the stepbrothers learned more about how their parents wound up lost.

“They went out on Valentine’s Day to look at the sunset and it got dark,” Jonathan Kiparsky said. “They took a wrong turn and they found themselves in trouble and they kept going.”

He said the two were just on the other side of a road but blocked by a thicket.

Upfront

Carol Kiparsky and Ian Irwin, who went missing from their rental cottage in Inverness on Feb. 14, were found alive eight days later in the wilderness of Tomales Bay State Park by a pair of volunteer rescuers.

The two stepbrothers were overwhelmed with gratitude for all the agencies and friends that offered their support.

“You bet you to everyone, everyone who was considering them, who was searching for them, who has reached out to me and my family about them — thank you,” Jonathan Kiparsky said. “There are gonna be parties in Palo Alto, I can tell you that. The town is gonna light up when they roll in.”

Neighbors rejoice

Neighbors of Carol Kiparsky and Ian Irwin said they were overjoyed when they learned the couple were found alive on Saturday.

“This is the best birthday present of my life! This is the greatest gift,” Connie Jo Cotton said of the news, which arrived the day before their birthday. (Cotton is an employee of Embarcadero Media, the parent company of Palo Alto Online.)

Cotton said she has friends who were part of the rescue effort and she received a phone call at 10 a.m. Saturday that the couple was safe.

“I just started crying. It’s a little overwhelming,” she said. “A few of us have lived on this block for 10, 20 and 30 years. It was hard grasping that one of us has fallen to such a fate.”

Catherine Cohen, another neighbor who frequents the neighborhood gatherings, said she’s known them for more than 10 years.

“They are a super sweet couple. I think the only reason they are alive is their love for each other,” Cohen added.

On Friday, Feb. 21, before the pair were found, Cohen spoke to Jonathan Kiparsky, who said the family could use the neighbors’ help in their garden and at a plot they kept in the community garden at Eleanor Pardee Park, she said.

At the time, the family was thinking about a memorial service, she said.

When Cohen learned Saturday morning that the couple were found alive, she cried.

“It’s been such a long week. It’s nice to be able to breathe and not walk past the house and have this overwhelming feeling of sadness,” she said.

Cotton said that as connected as residents on the block are, the neighbors will be even closer now after this experience. When Kiparsky and Irwin, who are recovering from their ordeal in private, come back home, neighbors plan to have a big party for them.
Richardson and Matsuura had been clashing over Matsuura’s performance for at least 2014, a conflict that prompted Matsuura to file multiple grievanc- es against her boss. At one point, Richardson demoted Matsuura from senior performance auditor to “performance auditor.” Matsuura responded by filing the retaliation complaint.

Matsuura wasn’t the only au- ditor who was clashing with her boss. Houman Boussina, another senior performance auditor, report- edly communicated to the council in 2015 in his own concerns about Richardson’s leadership. Accord- ing to a letter Boussina’s attorney sent to the council last month, these concerns pertained to Rich- ardson’s delays in reviewing and approving risk assessments and her al- leged elimination of the office’s risk-assessment process, which is used to prioritize certain audits over others. Richardson’s office, Boussina claimed, had created “risks to the reputation and cred- ibility” of the office.

Another such letter was submit- ted in August 2018. That letter, which Richardson directed the office to ignore in his January 2020 letter, focused on Richardson’s reported “pervasive misconduct and mismanagement” and alleged that Richardson’s actions were “inaccurate and mislead- ing.” Richardson told the Weekly that she responded to the letter by providing an instant replay of two ten-minute videos indicating that the complaints were unsubstantiated.

The council has steadfastly sup- ported Richardson. In May 2018, citing low productivity at the office, the council’s Finance Com- mittee voted to eliminate five of the department’s six positions, leaving only the city auditor. After criticism from the public, includ- ing from the city’s former city auditor Sharon Eckerson, the commit- tee reversed course and agreed to keep the five positions.

Even so, by late 2018, Richard- son was preparing for departure. “It was a very unpleasant place to come to work,” Richardson told the Weekly. “As a result, when people are filing complaints about Richardson’s actions, constantly, you just reach a point where you say ‘enough is enough’ and it’s time to leave. That’s why I decided to leave.” (Richardson is now the inspector general of BART.)

Today, the office is down to three positions and has no leader. The last person to supervise it was Don Rhoads, a consultant whose contract expired last November. The National Citizens Survey, which the city auditor has released every year since 2006 and which the council has traditionally used as a basis for setting annual pri- orities, did not come out this year. And the office has produced only two audits in the current fiscal year, which began on July 1.

**A person — or a firm?**

When Richardson left, Boussina went on to have pre- dicted that the city would still be rudderless a year later. Fewer still could have en- visaged that on Feb. 10, an audit, which could wipe out nearly four decades of precedent. Since the office came into being in 1983, there was always an under- standing that the city auditor would be a City Hall employee, said Larry Klein, a former three-term mayor who served on council in the early 1980s. At the time, Palo Alto had both a city manager, who ran the City Hall administration, and a controller, who handled the budget. As Klein recalls it, the two didn’t always see eye-to-eye, and the council recognized that the budget process was no longer enough.

Following the well-established Palo Alto process, the council cre- ated a citizens’ committee to look into the issue. The committee issued a series of recom- mendations, including the dele- gation of the budget function to the city manager and the creation of a city auditor to ensure public funds are wisely spent. The city auditor effectively replaced the city controller and maintained the latter’s independence from the city manager.

In November of that year, voters approved an ordinance to the City Charter to establish the city audi- tor position. The charter states that the council shall “appoint the city manager, the controller and the audi- tor, who shall serve at its pleasure.”

Klein, who returned to the coun- cil in 2005 to serve an additional term, has long been assumed that the city auditor would be a person, not an outside firm. No one has ever proposed outsourcing the function, he said, and the audi- tor was always hired through the city’s recruiting process.

Klein said the office serves a critical function ensuring that public funds are spent properly.

“The independent auditor’s very existence is a deterrent for peo- ple to act improperly,” Klein said. “It’s not just a question of how many audits you do.”

But on Feb. 10, the council fo- cused its discussion primarily on the number and quality of audits that the office has been produc- ing. Numerous council members and Klein, who is more familiar with the city’s operations and personnel. Consultants can take a long time to get up to speed. Fine said. The council could not find a person to take over the position, and the council directed the office to appoint an in-house auditor, taking into account the recent history of residents’ complaints about zoning violations.

While one, Councilwoman Alison Cormack and Vice Mayor Tom DuBois all initially said they prefer having an employee, rather- than an outside consultant, in charge of auditing, they ultimately joined their colleagues in a unani- mous vote that favored outside firms over an in-house expert. The vote authorized the mayor to ap- point an ad hoc committee to craft a request for proposals that would give the city the option of hiring the outside consultant to provide auditing services. The council also directed that the

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**Auditors**

*continued from page 5*

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**Public Agenda**

**A preview of Palo Alto government meetings next week**

**CITY COUNCIL** … The city council plans to hear a semiannual update on capital improvement program projects; extend the bicycle and electric scooter share pilot program by one year; and review a report on the Palo Alto History Museum’s fundraising. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. on Monday, March 2, at City Hall, 250 Hamilton Ave.

**COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE** … The committee plans to review the preliminary plan for the Junior Museum and Zoo and hear about preliminary rate changes proposed for the electric, gas, water and wastewater utilities in fiscal year 2021. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 3, in the Community Meeting Room at City Hall, 250 Hamilton Ave.

**STATE OF THE CITY** … Mayor Adrian Fine will deliver his “State of the City” speech at 7 p.m., on Wednesday, March 4, in the El Palo Alto Room at the Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road.

**ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD** … The board plans to discuss a proposed $1.5 million settlement agreement with a second story at 840 Kipling St. A request to make modifications to a previously approved project that consists of two auto dealerships; and 150 El Camino Real, a proposal for a 26,714-square-foot building at Stanford Shopping Center. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. on Thursday, March 5, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 250 Hamilton Ave.

**UTILITIES ADVISORY COMMISSION** … The commission plans to consider approval of the 2021 Water Utility Financial Plan, consider amending the Electric Supply Portfolio Carbon Neutral Plan. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 5, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 250 Hamilton Ave.

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**City Council (Feb. 24)**

**Bicycling** … The council directed staff to move forward with modifications to the Rose Road bicycle boulevard and to advance its outreach plan for future phases of bike boulevard construction. Yes: Unanimous

**Interviews** … The council directed its ad hoc committee on boards and commissions to continue its work and to consider several changes, including creation of term limits and disbanding the Library Advisory Board. Yes: Unanimous

**Board of Education (Feb. 25)**

**Settlement** … The board approved a $3.1 million settlement agreement with a student who was injured by a potato gun in a classroom experiment. Yes: Baten Caswell, Collins, Dhapar, Dilberenza

**Absent: Dauber**

**CSBA delegate election** … The board voted for four candidates for the California School Boards Association (CSBA) delegate assembly, including Trustee Melissa Baten Caswell. Yes: Unanimous

**Turf fields** … The board authorized staff to award contracts for the replacement of turf fields at Palo Alto and Gunn high schools. Yes: Unanimous

**Network refresh** … The board awarded a $2.8 million contract for wired network infrastructure refresh to Dasher Technologies, Yes: Baten Caswell, Collins, Dhapar, Dilberenza

**Absent: Dauber**

**Middle school science** … The board discussed and expressed support for new middle school science curriculum. Action: None

**Parks and Recreation Commission (Feb. 25)**

**Ramos Park** … The commission discussed proposed improvements to Ramos Park, including development of playground equipment and construction of a restroom. Action: None

**Community gardens** … The commission reviewed the city’s guidelines for community gardens. Action: None

**Planning and Transportation Commission (Feb. 26)**

**840 Kipling** … The commission recommended affirming the planning director’s determination to approve a variance that would allow construction of a second story at 840 Kipling St. Yes: Unanimous

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**LET’S DISCUSS** … Read the latest local news headlines and talk about the issues at Town Square at PaloAltoOnline.com/square

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www.PaloAltoOnline.com • Palo Alto Weekly • February 28, 2020 • Page 11

UPFRONT

**City View**

City Council (Feb. 24)

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**LET’S DISCUSS** … Read the latest local news headlines and talk about the issues at Town Square at PaloAltoOnline.com/square
Exposure to even amounts the size of crumbs can cause overdose or death, according to a health advisory issued by the Santa Clara County Public Health Department in September. The advisory was specifically directed to schools, after-school programs, parent and teacher organizations and other organizations that serve young adults because two teenagers died from fentanyl overdoses in the county in 2019.

There were 27 fentanyl-related deaths in Santa Clara County in 2019, including the 15- and 16-year-olds, according to the public health department — and that number could continue to rise because some cases from last year remain open. Some of the deaths were due to overdoses on fentanyl alone or in combination with alcohol or other drugs. Several of the deaths had been linked to fake pills that are made to look like 30-milligram oxycodone prescription pills but contain fentanyl, the county said. There was a “strong uptick” in fatal overdoses in August 2019, according to the county District Attorney’s Narcotics Unit.

“People who took these pills thinking they were taking oxycontin were unaware that they were taking lethal doses of fentanyl,” the county said.

The pills are circular, light blue to light green in color and have an “M” inside a square stamped on one side and a “30” stamped on the other side, according to the District Attorney’s Office. They are also called “M30s” or “blues” because of the stamps and color.

Fake pills are not prescribed, stolen or resold by or from verified pharmaceutical companies, and there is no connection between their appearance and their ingredients, Public Health Director Dr. Sara Cody wrote in a September update. “No one should take a pill that was not obtained directly from a pharmacy,” she wrote. “Pills given by a friend or bought from others also should not be taken. Doing so could have deadly consequences.”

Nationally, overdose deaths involving synthetic opioids, which include fentanyl (though not methadone), increased almost 47% from 2016 to 2017, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Reports from law enforcement indicate this increase may be due to illegally or illicitly made fentanyl: Seizures of fentanyl increased by nearly sevenfold from 2012 to 2014, according to the CDC.

The Santa Clara County Opioid Overdose Prevention Project also offers free naloxone training and kits every Friday from 1 to 2 p.m. at three locations:
• Central Valley Clinic, 2425 Enborg Lane, San Jose.
• Alexian Health Clinic, 2010 Alexian Drive, Suite B., San Jose.
• South County Clinic, 90 Highland Ave., Building J, San Martin.

Stanford: Community is ‘at-risk’

Earlier this month, Stanford’s undergraduate student government considered but ultimately tabled a resolution asking the university to put Narcan kits in student residences, which some colleges across the country have started to do in response to the opioid epidemic. Stanford has directed students to drop counterfeit drugs off, with no questions asked, at public disposal locations for controlled substances that can be found on campus.

The county started the Santa Clara County Opioid Overdose Prevention Project in response to fentanyl in drugs. “These tests won’t tell you how much nor how strong the fentanyl is. Even worse: The testing process can result in enough fentanyl absorption to hurt or kill someone,” the administrators wrote in January.

“Our community continues to be at-risk for acute alcohol and drug related harms,” they said. “Alcohol, marijuana, hallucinogens and vaping products are examples of drugs that create student emergencies every week at Stanford. At this moment, we must confront this dangerous concern head on.”

They pointed to initiatives Stanford has launched in response, including adding an online educational module on prescription drugs, hosting forums with students about drug use and encouraging student drug screening and assessment practices on campus. They invited anyone interested in addressing this issue at Stanford to contact Senior Associate Vice Provost and Dean of Students Mona Hicks at deanofstudents@stanford.edu.

The Santa Clara County Sheriff’s Office is continuing to investigate Weiner’s death, according to Stanford.

Anyone with information about the case is asked to contact the Sheriff’s Office at 408-808-4500 or the sheriff’s anonymous tip line at 408-808-4431.

Staff Writer Elena Kadkavy can be emailed at ekadkavy@paloaltonews.com.

A student died from a fentanyl overdose at the Theta Delta Chi fraternity house on Stanford campus in January.
Auditors (continued from page 11)

work be completed within 90 days. “We have a responsibility to the community to consider some alternative approaches,” Filseth said. “Because I think there’s a good chance we can do better.”

The council hasn’t yet determined whether the entire operation, or just the person in charge of the office, will be outsourced. DuBois told the Weekly that he can envision a model in which the city has internal staff performing certain consulting tasks and managing projects, such as the National Citizen Survey, while a consultant handles the bulk of performance audits.

DuBois noted that outsourcing the auditing function will have some pros and cons. An internal auditor, he said, may have a better familiarity with what’s going on at City Hall. An external auditor, however, could bring more independence to the work, as well as a perspective that comes with performing work in other cities and being better acquainted with best practices.

“It could be potentially more independent,” DuBois said.

The intent of the law

Not everyone feels this change will improve City Hall operations. Klein believes the council would be making a mistake in moving away from an in-house city auditor to a consulting firm. Having a city auditor at City Hall allows employees of the office to have more informal interactions with their colleagues, he said, whether by the water fountains or in the coffee room. An external firm, by contrast, would not become a part of the organization to the same extent.

Basing the decision to outsource on a simple calculation — cost per audit — misses the larger point that an audit can deter improper actions just by being there. The benefit could disappear if the city strays from the existing model, Klein said. Having an auditor is as close as the city can get to giving citizens a guarantee that public funds would not be misspent, he said.

Erickson, who served as Palo Alto’s city auditor between 2001 and 2008 before becoming the city auditor in San Jose, also told the Weekly she was disappointed in the council’s February action. An outside consultant, she said, simply won’t give the city the kind of institutional knowledge and accountability that an in-house auditor would provide.

“People rarely supervise consultants appropriately. It’s really hard to do that,” said Erickson, who retired last year.

Even when the council proposed cutting and outsourcing positions in the auditor’s office two years ago, council members agreed that they need to retain the actual city auditor position, Erickson said. In her view, by straying from that position, the current council is creating a system in which there won’t be the proper oversight necessary for auditing work.

The decision also is facing push-back from the auditors themselves, who are considering litigation to challenge the move. City Attorney Molly Stump told the council on Feb. 10 that the City Charter has a “functional requirement” for a city auditor. So while the city has the ability to provide for the auditing function, it could do so through the type of process that the council is considering — namely, an outside firm.

Karl Olson, an attorney representing Boussina, Matsaura and former auditor Lisa Wehara, told the Weekly that he respectfully disagrees with Stump’s contention that the city auditor’s job can be performed by an outside consultant. He also said he and his clients believe that “it would be inconsistent with the City Charter (and unwise and expensive) to outsource the City Auditor’s Office.”

“We believe it would be a radical change to shift the City Auditor’s job from an in-house position to one handled by a consultant. And, in our view, such a change could only be seen as retaliation for well-founded concerns which my clients have raised,” wrote Olson, an attorney with the firm Cannata, O’Tool, Fickes & Olson.

Leaving aside the question of legality, it’s clear that the idea of having an outside firm serve as the city auditor was not the intent of those who created the position. The official argument in the 1983 ballot to amend the Charter stated that the auditor “would be appointed by the council, as is the current controller.” And the impartial analysis from then-City Attorney Diane Lee noted that the Charter amendment would create “a new city officer,” language that to an average voter connotes a human being at City Hall rather than an outside consultant.

For the council, the change in the city auditor model comes in the same year that council members are preparing to ask residents to pass a business tax to pay for transportation projects. In January, the council decided that the tax should be a “general tax,” which requires a simple majority to pass and gives council members great discretion in how the money is spent (a special tax, which requires a two-thirds majority of votes, deducts funding to specific projects).

This “trust us” approach may be a tougher sell for council members once they outsource the one City Hall position whose mission, according to the Municipal Code, is to promote “honest, efficient, effective, economical, and fully accountable and transparent city government.” It also doesn’t help that the numbers in the city’s last National Citizens Survey, which Richardson presented to the council on Feb. 2, 2019, in her final official duty, showed that public trust in government has already slipped. According to the survey, the percentage of people who reported that the city is “generally acting in the best interests of the community” went from 31% in 2017 to 45% in 2018.

Erickson and Klein have both told the Weekly that they believe the council should follow past practice and recruit a city auditor. Existing employees seem to agree. Olson’s letter on behalf of Boussina urges the city to hire a new city auditor who can “restore leadership and supervision and work with the City Council to restore operations at the office.”

Hiring a city auditor, Erickson said, should be “the council’s responsibility,” notwithstanding concerns about personnel issues inside the office.

She recalled when she was hired in San Jose, just after her predecessor was fired: “It was a very contentious environment. It was very difficult. But that’s why the City Council hires someone new — it’s to go in and, if there are issues, to take care of those. And if there are questions about what’s being audited — the City Council should be handling that.”

Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner can be e-mailed at gsheyner@paweekly.com.

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995 Fictitious Name Statement
KOKOMO FUN CITY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. FBN663362 The following is a summary of the information recorded in the public records in connection with the registration of the fictitious business name(s) listed below as of 02/07/2020.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on February 7, 2020.
(Paw Feb. 14, 21, 28, Mar. 6, 2020)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. FBN663477 The following is a summary of the information recorded in the public records in connection with the registration of the fictitious business name(s) listed below as of 02/11/2021. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on February 11, 2020.
(Paw Feb. 14, 21, 28, Mar. 6, 2020)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. FBN665761 The following is a summary of the information recorded in the public records in connection with the registration of the fictitious business name(s) listed below as of 02/12/2020. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on February 20, 2020.
(Paw Feb. 28, Mar. 5, 13, 20, 2020)

997 All Other Legals

The Palo Alto Weekly is adjudicated to publish in Santa Clara County. Public Hearing Notices Resolutions • Bid Notices Notices of Petition to Administer Estate Lien Sale • Trustee's Sale Deadline is Tuesday at noon.
Call Alicia Santillan at 650-223-6578 or email asantillan@pawweekly.com for assistance with your legal advertising needs.
Stanford Lecturer, and Kelly McGonigal, PhD
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and include a copy of Kelly’s newest book

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Mitchell Park Community Center
3700 Middlefield Rd. Palo Alto, CA 94303

Tickets start at $50, and include a copy of Kelly’s newest book
RSVP at https://2020ycsluncheon.eventbrite.com

Bruce Foster Johnston

Bruce Foster Johnston, a long-time Midpeninsula resident who had a wide-spanning career in agricultural development, died on Feb. 1 in Portola Valley. He was 100.

Born in Lincoln, Nebraska, on Sept. 24, 1919, he and his older brother, Hugh Johnston, were raised by their journalist parents Homer and Ethel Johnston. They moved to Long Beach in 1922, where he was a “quintessential beach boy,” according to his family. He studied at Pomona College before graduating from Cornell University as a Phi Beta Kappa and member of the Telluride Association.

In 1941, he began working for the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Surplus Marketing Administration and later joined the army in August 1942. He attended the Army Officer Candidate School at Camp Davis in Wilmington, North Carolina, and became a second lieutenant. During his posting at Camp Davis, he met Harriet Pollins, from Jackson, Michigan, on a blind date and married her in Wilmington on March 31, 1944. That year, he attended the School of Military Government in Virginia that was established during World War II.

He and his wife then moved to Stanford where he received civil affairs training and intensive Japanese instruction in preparation for the post-WWII occupation. In October 1945, he joined General Douglas MacArthur’s staff, in Japan, where he was responsible for price controls, rationing and distribution of food to the Japanese people after the war. He then returned to Stanford University as a graduate student at the Food Research Institute in 1948. Four years later, he received his masters of arts and doctorate in agricultural economics and then spent two and a half years as an agricultural economist with NATO. He was assigned to the Food and Agriculture Division of the Marshall Plan’s European office in Paris.

In September 1954, he returned to Stanford again but as a faculty member of the Food Research Institute, where he researched and taught in the field of agricultural development for decades. He authored numerous publications and received awards for his research including a Guggenheim Fellowship and was named the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association Fellow. He also collaborated on many research endeavors with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, World Bank, U.S. Agency for International Development and the Ford and Rockefeller Foundations. His career afforded him the opportunity to work in many parts of Asia, Europe and Africa and to live in Japan, Uganda, Kenya and Austria.

After living on the Stanford campus until 1993, he and his wife moved down to Pacific Grove where they became involved in the community through St. Mary’s by-the-Sea Episcopal Church and by volunteering. Later, they moved to the Sequoias-Portola Valley retirement community.

Predeceased by his wife of 67 years and his son, Bruce, he is survived by his daughter, Patricia (Nina) Johnston of Denver; granddaughter, Elizabeth J. (Quinn) Smith of Douglas, Alaska; and grandson, Zachary (Kaetlin) Waegell of Watertown, Massachusetts.

A memorial service will be held on March 7, 11:30 a.m., at St. Mary’s by-the-Sea Church, 146 12th St., Pacific Grove. Donations can be made to the Peninsula Open Space Trust (222 High St., Palo Alto, CA 94301), St. Mary’s by-the-Sea Episcopal Church and by Communities Organized for Relational Power in Action (95 Alta Vista Ave., Watsonville 95076).
Editorial

Return those ballots

Next Tuesday’s early California primary election puts voters in a position to have an unprecedented impact on the Democratic presidential race. More than a third of the total pledged convention delegates will be selected next week in 15 states and territories.

In the presidential race, voters may only choose from their own party’s candidates. Voters registered as No Party Preference (previously called Decline to State) may go to any vote center in the county (see below) through Super Tuesday and request a presidential ballot for either the Democratic, Libertarian or American Independent parties. (Only registered Republican, Peace and Freedom and Green party members may vote in their respective presidential primary.)

In state legislative races, however, California’s open primary system means that all voters, regardless of party affiliation, will be able to choose from the entire field of candidates, with the top two finishers running off in the November general election, even if they are from the same party and even if one candidate receives more than 50% of the vote.

If you are qualified to vote (you are 18, a U.S. citizen, live in California and are not in prison or on parole from a felony) but have not yet registered, you can register up until the polls close at 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 3, at any vote center and cast a ballot.

Voters who received ballots in the mail may return their ballots by mail (postmarked no later than primary day) or drop them off at official ballot drop boxes or any vote center. The following Palo Alto vote centers are open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, and from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Super Tuesday:

- Rinconada Library
- Cubberley Community Center Gym
- Mitchell Park Community Center
- Palo Alto Art Center Auditorium
- Ventura Community Center

The Palo Alto Weekly recommends the following candidates and ballot measure positions.

Please vote!

House of Representatives
Anna Eshoo (D) (Incumbent)

State Senate
Mike Brownrigg (D)
(See editorial published on Feb. 14 at paloaltonline.com/news/2020/02/14/editorial-brownrigg-for-state-senate)

State Assembly
Marc Berman (D) (Incumbent)

Santa Clara County Supervisor
Joe Simitian (Incumbent)

Measure G (Foothill-De Anza College District)
$898 million bond measure
YES
(See editorial published on Feb. 21 at paloaltonline.com/news/2020/02/21/editorial-yes-on-community-college-measures-g-h)

Measure H (Foothill-De Anza College District)
$48 per year parcel tax measure
YES

State Proposition 13
School Facility Bonds
YES
Real problems need real solutions

by Pat Burt and Karen Holman

Wilton Court project. This deficit has been compounded by the council’s decision in 2017 to roll back affordable-housing impact fees on commercial development. Since 2015, the city’s biggest transportation management association (TMA), which is a nonprofit partnership to reduce commuter single-occupancy car trips by 30%. It has worked on a pilot basis downtown by providing discounted bus or rail passes or carpool apps for modest income workers. If scaled throughout the downtown and citywide, this program can actually reduce traffic, parking demand and CO2 emissions. However, it lacks adequate funding. To date, funding has come primarily from the city budget rather than the business community. The business tax can fund this program along with expanding our city shuttle system.

Lastly, the city’s biggest traffic congestion happens at the train tracks. The city is approaching decisions on how to separeate cars, bicyclists and pedestrians from trains, especially since Caltrain will soon increase the number of trains. Without train separations, we will face near gridlock at our current crossings. These sorts of projects always require a combination of financial resources. In 2016, county voters passed Measure B, a sales tax increase for transportation that included a big down payment of around $300 million for train improvements in Palo Alto. But, even for the least costly alternatives, the city needs significant local dollars as leverage to obtain state funds.

We'd drive away business.

On average, Palo Alto businesses pay $8/square foot per month, twice the lease rates in nearby San Jose, yet Palo Alto has comparable occupancy rates. The tax rate the city is considering is only around 1/50th the rate paid in San Jose currently being charged in per employee. To the extent the tax even enters business location decisions,
the market will limit property owners to slightly smaller rent increases.

In addition, business taxes routinely provide exemptions or discounts to protect small retailers, the hospitality industry and small businesses. Critically, small businesses will benefit from big business paying for better transit, less congestion and more affordable housing for their workers.

Striking comparisons are found in East Palo Alto and San Francisco. In 2018, East Palo Alto passed a significant business tax on larger offices. Rather than stifling growth as opponents claimed, major new development followed the new tax. San Francisco has a series of business taxes that charge more than 20 times the average rates in Silicon Valley, yet it remains overwhelmed by growth. Despite its affluence, Silicon Valley is an exceptionally low business-tax region.

Chris Thornberg, founder of Beacon Economics, said, “Taxes don’t have a lot of impact on business decisions. It’s something that has been exaggerated for years.”

Business groups have thrown up a word salad of arguments against each and every form of business tax. And yet they have not come forward with cooperative solutions to the primary issues facing our community, for which they both share responsibility and will benefit from solutions.

The council must yet decide the tax scale, what exemptions or discounts to allow certain businesses, whether to charge per employee or per square foot, and how the dollars will be used. We hope that the community engages on these issues.

The bottom line is that if business wants to continue to thrive in our region, they need to accept their responsibilities to pay their fair share to mitigate the impacts they have created and which to their point have been borne disproportionately by residents. •

Karen Holman is a former Palo Alto Planning Commissioner, City Council member and mayor who currently represents Palo Alto as president of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.

Pat Burt is a former CEO, Palo Alto Planning Commissioner, City Council member and mayor.

Letters (continued from page 19)

the school will not demolish the houses at 1235 and 1263 Emerson St., the neighbors and those opposed to the expansion plans are encouraged to “be reasonable,” “negotiate,” “be good neighbors” and say, “OK, let’s build.” Sorry, I can’t.

Castilleja’s original plans were so unreasonable and harmful to the neighborhood; its impact report was so incomplete and shoddy; and its claim to be the only institution able to educate girls for future leadership roles was so offensive. I cannot jump on the Castilleja bandwagon.

Rather, the parking garage is best removed from Castilleja’s expansion plans. Student enrollment is best returned to the number allowed by the conditional-use permit (after 15 years of non-compliance) and shuttle buses are best hired to transport students from out of town locations. These will solve the need for a garage and eliminate resulting traffic concerns.

My daughter received an excellent education during her six years at Castilleja. However, Castilleja’s current expansion plans are unreasonable and are not compatible with its campus size. The school needs to return to the drawing board.

Letters (continued from page 20)

Solutions (continued from page 20)

Teen joins Palo Alto Online bloggers

Jessica Zang, a Palo Alto-born Gunn High School student who’s passionate about linking high school life to the bigger picture, has started a blog at PaloAltoOnline.com/blogs. Through “A teen’s Palo Alto,” Zang promises to write about “everything a high schooler, parent or incoming student needs to know about high school life.

Here’s a sampling from her first post, “Overachieving in High School: Is It Worth It?”

“At Palo Alto, where every high-achieving parent moves to get closer to Stanford and give their children the best education, emphasis on schoolwork is often overwhelming. With friends skipping two math levels and peers owning profitable startups, it’s easy to feel a push to be the best. Here, peer pressure takes a wholly different form. Instead of pressuring friends to hit vapes or smoke joints, students indirectly pressure their peers to overachieve by overachieving themselves.”
FOR OFFICIAL RULES AND ENTRY FORM, VISIT: www.paloaltoonline.com/short_story

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ENTRY DEADLINE: March 27, 2020 at 5pm

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A production for ‘Everybody’

Stanford’s winter play explores the mysteries of life, death and casting by lottery

by Karla Kane

The play’s unusual format also poses interesting opportunities for the rest of the creative team. "The challenge for me was to figure out a space that could transform many times. It’s clear that our understanding of the world that we’re sitting in should change, over and over again," scenic designer Sara Walsh said. "It changes sometimes because the characters realize something about the world and that is reflected back (in the set)."

The energy and anxiety inherent in watching a show come together that has never happened before and likely never will again also helps bring vitality to the production, according to Walsh. "What you’re seeing that night is unique," Rau said. "The show you are getting that night will be unlike any other show."

Costume designer Becky Bodore had the task of coming up with costume pieces that could work for each hypothetical combination of actors and roles while still allowing each performer’s personality to shine through. "How do you create a design that can accommodate every single actor in all of these roles and also make it really evident every single time that they put on a costume piece to create a character, that it is that character? And help them sort of sketch and form that character," she mused. "It’s kind of a great challenge." Rau also brought in choreographer Aleta Hayes to create a cathartic "Danse Macabre" sequence, performed by a group of dancers known as "anybodies" (Danse Macabre is a medieval allegorical depiction of the universality of death regardless of one’s station in life, often shown as a circle or parade of skeletons).

Like the acting cast, Hayes is working with some performers who may not typically identify as Stanford dancers, offering another opportunity to represent a more diverse community.

"All dance within a theater piece, it’s not about dancing by itself, it’s about how does the dance or the music serve the narrative," Hayes said.

With so many possible iterations, the character of Everybody, as well as the tone of the show overall, can also vary. "Last night (at rehearsal), it made me think Everybody is more like ‘Seinfeld,’ almost like the straight man that other people interact with," Hayes said. "I was surprised by how funny it was. I did not expect to laugh as much as I did."

Choreographer Aleta Hayes (center) directs the company in movement warm ups as they begin to create choreography for "Everybody." Courtesy of Stanford TAPS.

Audience members able to attend more than one performance can compare and contrast how Everybody’s journey is different depending on how the casting shakes out, and how much of the experience is universal.

"Everybody’s" willingness to explore death — a topic many, especially younger people, try to avoid — is also part of what makes it special to the creative team. "This is not a conversation that is had with young people, ever," Hayes said, despite the fact that "it happens to everybody."

Death, after all, is the great equalizer. "There’s nothing to do but laugh at (death) because one, it’s a complete mystery and two, it does feel quite random; you can’t control it," Hayes said.

Though it’s a sometimes-uncomfortable subject, "What the theater can do is create a space for us to sit and think about something that maybe we’re not ready to go through but offers us a way to explore those ideas in a safe environment," Rau said.

As scary as death is … how frightened or angry or sad it can make you, the only rational way to think about death, in my opinion, is to approach it with an attitude of gratitude. … To say, ‘Oh I know that I’m going to die … that means I need to now start thinking about how to live the life I have.’

Stanford’s adaptation of a 15th-century morality play called “Everyman” (Danse Macabre is a medieval allegorical depiction of the universality of death regardless of one’s station in life, often shown as a circle or parade of skeletons). (Danse Macabre is a medieval allegorical depiction of the universality of death regardless of one’s station in life, often shown as a circle or parade of skeletons). (Danse Macabre is a medieval allegorical depiction of the universality of death regardless of one’s station in life, often shown as a circle or parade of skeletons).

E very theatrical venture comes with its own challenges, but Branden Jacobs-Jenkins’ play “Everybody” has an especially intriguing premise: The cast members are chosen for their roles by lottery at the start of each show, making each performance a unique experience for audiences and performers alike.

“Everybody,” the winter offering from Stanford University’s department of Theater and Performance Studies (TAPS), is a Pulitzer Prize-nominated 2017 adaptation of a 15th-century morality play called “Everyman.”

“It’s a play about death and life and the choices you make,” director Michael Rau said. “Mostly, it’s a way of thinking about death, which sounds very serious, but I promise it’s also a comedy.”

With the title character standing in for all of humankind and the others (called “somebodies”) representing allegorical concepts such as “friendship” and “family,” it’s a play that’s not afraid to explore some pretty big ideas, especially the biggest question of all — What is the meaning of life?

By using a different actor to embody “Everybody” for each performance, the show not only becomes a more diverse representation of humanity, it also gives the five actors in the cast the chance to play five different roles over the course of the production’s two-weekend run. Of course, it also presents the challenge of having to memorize the entire script and know each and every character’s lines and blocking.

“After they get their lotto ball that is 100% completely random — they figure out, ‘OK, great, so I’m going to play this character tonight,’” Rau said. “It is literally impossible to rehearse every single variation, so what the audience will see on each night will probably be some version of the play that I’ve never rehearsed.”

And though he was careful in his conversation with the Weekly not to share too much detail, preferring to keep as many elements as possible fresh and mysterious for audiences, he did reveal that the cast does not consist solely of Stanford undergraduates.

“Because this play is called ‘Everybody’ it was important to me that we have different representations of the wider Palo Alto community,” he said.

The play’s unusual format also poses interesting opportunities for the rest of the creative team. “The challenge for me was to figure out a space that could transform many times. It’s clear that our understanding of the world that we’re sitting in should change, over and over again,” scenic designer Sara Walsh said. “It changes sometimes because the characters realize something about the world and that is reflected back (in the set).”

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

What: “Everybody.”
Where: Roble Studio Theater, 375 Santa Teresa St., Stanford.
When: February 27-29 and March 5-7 at 8 p.m.
Cost: $25-$35.
Info: taps.stanford.edu/everybody.

www.PaloAltoOnline.com • Palo Alto Weekly • February 28, 2020 • Page 23
Modern Technology, Supreme Luxury in Old Palo Alto

Gorgeous Italian design blends seamlessly with the very best in modern luxury and technology in this 6-bedroom, 5-bath home, boasting 3,250 sq. ft. of living space (per permits) over three levels on a lot of 5,000 sq. ft. (per county) in sought-after Old Palo Alto. Recently completed in September 2019, no expense was spared in crafting this exquisite residence. Hardwood floors, walnut doors, sculpted wall panels, and marble baths enrapture the senses and surround you in elegance. Spacious formal rooms ideal for entertaining, a flexible floorplan, soundproofing, and seamless indoor/outdoor living spaces ensure this home meets the demands of a modern lifestyle. Plus, CAT 7 wiring puts everything you need in the palm of your hand, as appliances, home security, thermostat, and entertainment are all controlled via smart phone/tablet. With a location close to everything Palo Alto has to offer, and with access to acclaimed Palo Alto schools, this home is the epitome of Silicon Valley living.

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

Michael Repka, DRE #01854886 | 650.900.7000 | michael@deleonrealty.com

中文聯絡專員Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822 | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
STYLISH LIVING AND A CONVENIENT LOCATION

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Offered at $1,688,000

Stylish living awaits in this bright and luxurious townhome, offering 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, and over 1,200 sq. ft. of living space (per county), plus a convenient location that puts you within easy reach of everything Silicon Valley has to offer. Vaulted ceilings, rich wood floors, and wide windows adorned with plantation shutters combine to create a captivating atmosphere that carries throughout the home. Enjoy a floorplan well-suited for a modern lifestyle, with a comfortable living area that flows seamlessly into the dining area, and on into the kitchen with a convenient breakfast bar. Delight in peaceful mornings and relaxing evenings on the private balcony accessed from the master suite. All of this, plus a location that puts you close to Google, moments to U.S. 101 for Bay Area commuting, and offers access to acclaimed schools including Fairmeadow Elementary, J.L.S. Middle, and Gunn High (buyer to verify eligibility).

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday & Sunday
1:00 - 5:00 pm

Complimentary Refreshments

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

For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit: www.3711Heron.com

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中文諮詢請聯繫Audrey Sun 電話：650.785.5822 | DRE #01933274
Jazz singer/songwriter Kat Edmonson will perform in Palo Alto March 4.

Kat Edmonson believes in the power of dreams

Jazz singer/songwriter brings her mix of dreamy originals and retro childhood favorites to Palo Alto March 4

by Yoshi Kato

S o much of Kat Edmonson’s sound and career is like that of a proverbial dream that it’s only appropriate that her latest album fully captures that aesthetic. “Dreamers Do,” the fifth album from the 36-year-old singer/songwriter/jazz vocalist, whose evergreen style has been described as “vintage,” was released on Feb. 7 by MRI/Spinnerrette Records. It debuted at the No. 1 spot on the iTunes jazz chart and continues the evolution of her sonic trademark of arrangements and a vocal delivery that, like Chris Isaak, Julee Cruise and the late Roy Orbison, can sound both timeless and of a specific era — mid-20th century in this case.

The Austin, Texas, resident is currently touring in support of “Dreamers Do,” including a Palo Alto stop on Wednesday, March 4, at Oshman Family JCC’s Schultz Cultural Arts Hall.

The themed album is rooted in standards and is largely sourced from Disney and other classic children’s films. “When You Wish Upon a Star” was the first one and then ‘A Dream is a Wish Your Heart Makes’ from ‘Cinderella’ was the second,” Edmonson revealed, when asked about what dream-related songs came to mind as she was planning “Dreamers Do.”

“And then I just started scrounging my brain for the songs I used to listen to as a kid,” she continued, by phone from a tour stop in Taos, New Mexico. “What were the movies that really inspired me?” So I called my mom, and we talked about it.

“I listened to a lot of old Disney music in my childhood,” she said, and heard the message that if “you keep on believing and having faith in your dreams, your dreams will come true.”

Another song gave some decidedly more grown-up device, albeit in a humorous form.

“One song that isn’t a Disney song but ended up making it on the record is called ‘Be Careful What You Wish.’ It’s from the animated Warner Brothers picture ‘The Incredible Mr. Limpet,’ from the 1960s that stars Don Knotts. And he turns into a fish,” she noted, with a chuckle.

Though “Dreamers Do” largely features other covers such as “Go to Sleep” (from “Babes in Toyland”), “Chim Chim Cher-ee” (from “Mary Poppins”) and “What a Wonderful World,” it’s rooted in an Edmonson original, “Too Late To Dream.”

“I wrote it when I was asking some really heavy questions,” she said. “Is there ever a point in our lives where it’s too late for (a dream) to be practical?” After that I ended up on a journey, if you will, to find an answer. And that took me back to early childhood.

“When I was a kid living in Houston, I was listening to music from the ‘30s through the ‘60s. That was the bulk of my musical library,” she said. “So the sounds that come out of me reflect that strong influence of old movies and musicals and old TV.”

She couldn’t share that love with her peers. “I assumed it wasn’t very cool, so I kept it under my hat,” she admitted. But a year at Carolina proved to be her entryway to the world of jazz.

“Later on, when I was a fledgling jazz musician,” she said, “I went and just walked up to a jam session once she learned that she was a fledgling jazz musician. “I went and just walked up to the bandstand and said ‘I’d like to sit in.’ So they said, ‘Yeah, okay. Have a seat.’ And then I waited for four hours before they let me get up,” she recounted. “But once I sang, I was able to hang in with the band.”

She was invited back, and within six months of doing that, “I met enough people and booked enough gigs that I was able to quit my day job,” she marveled.

Edmonson released her debut album, “Take to the Sky,” in 2009. Her follow-up album, “Way Down Low” from 2012 featured jazz luminaries, such as organist Larry Goldings and guitarist Matt Munisteri, as well as a featured vocal duet with legendary Texan Lyle Lovett.

“‘There’s great power, a quiet power, from merely having a dream. That’s where creativity comes from,” she said. “And that’s where a lot of action is actually born.”

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

What: Kat Edmonson.
Where: Schultz Cultural Arts Hall, Oshman Family JCC, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto.
When: Wednesday, March 4, 7:30 p.m.
Cost: $25-$35.
Info: paloaltojcc.org/Events/kat-edmonson.
Concert

Raphaella Smits, Davisson Duo
Acclaimed Belgian classical guitarist Raphaella Smits, who plays an eight-string guitar and other historical instruments, will perform Saturday, Feb. 29, at 7 p.m. at First Lutheran Church, 600 Homer Ave. in Palo Alto. Tickets for the performance, which is sponsored by the Peninsula Guitar Series, are $15-$25 and are available at brownpapertickets.com/event/4499192. Opening the show will be local siblings Jack and Elle Davisson, a classical guitar duo.

Artist talk

An evening with Common
Multi-award-nominated musician, actor and activist Common is coming to Stanford University’s Memorial Auditorium (551 Jane Stanford Way) on Tuesday, March 3, at 7:30 p.m. Common will discuss his artistic career, including his new book, “Let Love Have the Last Word,” and his social-justice advocacy work in the areas of mass incarceration, mental health and voting. The conversation will be led by Stanford education professor Adam Banks and is presented by Stanford Live and Stanford Arts Institute. Tickets are $10-$52 and available at pacamera.com.

Dance

Smuin honors ‘The Man in Black’
As part of its “Dance Series 1” production, Smuin Contemporary Ballet will honor musician Johnny Cash with a ballet inspired by the latter part of his career, choreographed by James Kudelka. Trading their ballet slippers for cowboy boots, four dancers perform ballet with country-western dance influences, “telling an emotional journey that captures love, loss, grief, desperation, resilience, and determination — a gritty portrait of the American working-class,” according to a press release. Also featured in the program will be Rex Wheeler’s “Take Five,” choreographed to the music of Dave Brubeck, and the revival of founder Michael Smuin’s “Cammina Burana.” “Dance Series 1” performs at Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., through March 1. Showtimes are Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are $25-$79 and are available at tickets.mvcpa.com/eventperformances.asp?evt=335.

Exhibition

Palo Alto Camera Club
The Palo Alto Camera Club will open its spring print exhibition on March 2 at the Community School of Music and Arts, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. Featured will be 59 color and monochrome photos created by 27 club members with genres including landscape, portrait, flora, fauna, travel and more. The show runs through March 30 and admission is free. An artist’s reception will be held at CSMA on Saturday, March 7, 3-5 p.m. More information is available at pacamera.com.

Opera

50 years of opera scholarships
The Henry and Maria Holt Memorial Opera Scholarship Fund is celebrating its 50th year of supporting promising opera singers with its annual competition on Sunday, March 8, at 1 p.m. at the Lucie Stern Ballroom, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Admission to observe the competition is free and open to the public. More information is available at holtscholarship.org.
More than the taste of knafeh, Maya Fezzani remembers the movement of her grandmother’s hands making the traditional Middle Eastern dessert.

Growing up in Lebanon and Syria, she’d watch her grandmother fold kataifi, shredded phyllo dough, in butter.

“It definitely was not hands-on because she didn’t allow anyone in the kitchen, but it was all about seeing, tasting and smelling when she was baking,” Fezzani recalled. “I was all eyes on her.”

Decades later and thousands of miles away, Fezzani channels her grandmother in a commercial kitchen in Menlo Park, where she preps and bakes all of the desserts for her Middle Eastern sweets company, Levant Dessert. Her hands fold unsalted butter into a tangle of frozen kataifi in a pan. She lines muffin tins with the mixture and layers each with cream or cheese and butter, then bakes them until they’re golden and fill the kitchen with a toasty, sweet aroma.

Levant Dessert is Fezzani’s first-ever food venture. She was born in Lebanon and lived in Syria as a young girl before her family left for England. She eventually met her husband there, whose work moved them to Hong Kong, Chicago, back to England and then Silicon Valley in 2008. She worked for her husband’s solar startup and also in logistics at Nordstrom, but neither were fulfilling for her.

Fezzani, bubbly and earnest, said she would always bring her Middle Eastern desserts to dinner parties — homemade knafeh, baklava, pudding tinged with orange blossom, barazek — and friends often urged her to take her hobby to the next level. She started seriously considering it a few years ago, and was particularly inspired by the opening of Mademoiselle Colette in Menlo Park. Seeing the French bakery come to fruition helped her envision what it would be like to start her own venture.

Fezzani started with special orders and events, then pop-ups at Nordstrom and Facebook. In 2019, she opened a storefront inside Sultana restaurant in Menlo Park after meeting the owner at a bridal shower she catered. Sultana diners can order from her menu, but customers can also come in to purchase her desserts directly.

Knafeh is Fezzani’s calling card. She makes several versions, including one filled with cream and another with mozzarella and mascarpone cheeses. Knafeh is traditionally filled with akawi, a salty Middle Eastern cheese, but Fezzani said she hasn’t found a good-enough version in the Bay Area. After the knafeh are baked, she drizzles each one with homemade orange blossom syrup.

Her custom knafeh cakes — shaped into numbers and letters for birthday parties, pacifiers for baby showers and even female body parts for a bachelorette party (she declined a request for a male body part) — have become popular. At a recent birthday party, one satisfied customer declared, “knafeh is the new cake.”

Fezzani also makes a series of seasonal milk and rice puddings with toppings such as nuts, orange blossom syrup, apricot paste or raspberry coulis. For winter, she has a caraway cinnamon pudding that’s traditionally served when a woman gives birth, she said, either as a hot, creamy drink or put in the fridge to set for a chilled pudding. Fezzani also makes balooza, a Syrian rice pudding topped with orange curd. She thickens the puddings with salep, a flour made from orchid roots that’s common in the Middle East, along with a gluten-free version using cornstarch instead.

Because of frequent dietary restrictions and requests from customers, Fezzani has added gluten-free and vegan desserts to her lineup, including using vegan butter to make...
Eating Out

Maya Fezzani’s Lebanese sfoof cake, made with semolina and turmeric (top) and knafeh (bottom), which she fills with cream or cheese.

Maya Fezzani

pistachio baklava and coconut oil in sfoof, a Lebanese turmeric cake (which she serves with English custard, a vestige of her years in England). She’s also cognizant about how much sugar goes into her desserts, so they’re all subtly, rather than sickly, sweet. She makes her own sugar-free stevia syrup and wants to experiment with monk fruit as a sweetener — not only for health reasons but also for flavor, she said.

“I believe in tasting all the flavors in a dessert,” Fezzani said.

Soon, she plans to add savory items and a line of Middle Eastern-inspired chocolate desserts, such as ganache with dates and pistachio.

Fezzani isn’t sure whether she wants to graduate to her own brick-and-mortar bakery. Like her grandmother, she likes being hands-on and in full control of the business she built from scratch. The hours she spends tweaking recipes and baking into the evening are a gift, she said, a way of doing something for herself after years of raising her children and working unsatisfying jobs.

“It’s a story I’m writing myself,” she said of the bakery. “I don’t want anyone else to write it for me.”

For more information, visit levantdessert.com.

Staff writer Elena Kadvany can be emailed at ekadvany@paweekly.com.
Kitty Green's drama “The Assistant” features a put-upon female protagonist working in the outer office of a movie mogul Harvey Weinstein's recent guilty verdict for rape and sexual assault, “The Assistant” has the benefit of relevance in the current news cycle — but it's about something much larger than even Weinstein, who threw his weight around Hollywood for years.

To craft her first fiction film as writer-director, Green applied her skills as a documentarian, interviewing women at the bottom of the corporate ladder in a variety of industries. And while film's plot ultimately takes shape around sexual misconduct and the sexual gratification of an alpha-male boss, Green examines the broader parameters of sexism in the workplace.

“The Assistant” provides an unsettling, and realistic, look at a young woman navigating a fraught American workplace still largely in the grip of the patriarchy. The film rests on the shoulders of talented up-and-comer Julia Garner (who blazes with a different flavor of intensity on Netflix's “Ozark”). As junior assistant Jane, Garner subtly embodies the inner war within so many in positions of powerlessness. How much is she willing to put up with? And can she afford not to?

Cleverly, Green fuses these themes into one entrancing and yet all-too-typical day at the office, from Jane's wee-hours commute into Midtown Manhattan to her quiet dark-of-night departure. Slowly, deliberately, Green depicts the accumulation of indignities for a woman in a boy’s club environment. The two male assistants (Jon Orsini and Noah Robbins) who ostensibly share their responsibilities, her nominally senior colleagues pawn off career-risky arrangements, her nominally senior colleagues pawn off career-risky arrangements, her nominally senior colleagues pawn off career-risky arrangements, her nominally senior colleagues pawn off career-risky tasks to her in a manner that clearly makes them gendered: onboarding the new female hire and taking the call of her boss' whereabouts if she knows what's good for her. But it's that new hire that takes Jane beyond the pale and forces her into a moral dilemma. Faced with circumstantial evidence of, shall we say, human-resources violations, Jane takes a meeting with a corporate stooge (Matthew Macfadyen). It's a climax that avoids sky-high fireworks in favor of ground-shifting aftershocks.

“The Assistant” functions as a thoughtful post-mortem on the institutional enabling of a monster like Weinstein, but also an encapsulation of decades of once-countenanced belittling of women in male-dominated business environments (and political ones). As the #MeToo movement gains ground in the workplace, a film like Green's plays its part not by preaching, but by gathering intel, speaking truth to power and winning hearts and minds.

*Rated R for some language. One hour, 27 minutes.*

— Peter Canavese

The Department of Communication Presents:
The 2020 Rebele Symposium

Meet the Press:
COVERING BATTLEGROUND STATES

The day after Super Tuesday, reporters from Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Michigan and Florida will discuss how covering the 2020 election compares to past campaigns given the level of political polarization in the country and discuss the impact of misinformation and disinformation online on the vote and explore ways to restore respect and credible fact-based news in a digital era.

Amy Hollyfield
Senior deputy editor of news for the Tampa Bay Times.

Emily Lawler
Political reporter and editor for McIve.

Mica Soelner
Political reporter for Appleton Post Crescent and the USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin.

Julia Terruso
Philadelphia Inquirer 2020 presidential election reporter.

7pm Wednesday, March 4
Bechtel Conference Center, Encina Hall

Answers to this week's puzzles, which can be found on page 47.
Home soundproofing solutions all depend on the quality — and cause — of the noise

by Richard Morrison

I’m sensitive to noise, there’s plenty you can do to reduce unwanted sounds.

Maybe you’re being acoustically assaulted from outside, upstairs or just the next room. I’ll give you a few strategies to reduce noise transmission, but keep in mind that sensitivity to noise is highly subjective, and the type of noise can make a big difference. For example, continuous “white” noise may be far more tolerable than a softer noise that is intermittent. Some people are more sensitive to low, rumbling noises than others.

You usually get what you pay for, though, and there is a gradient of improvements. Some strategies may be fairly cost-effective, but they won’t necessarily get you anywhere close to recording-studio sound isolation. Sadly, some people spend a lot of money trying to reduce noise and end up not being much better off because they didn’t understand the best strategy for their situation and unique source of noise and how it’s actually being transmitted through walls, floors and ceilings. This is one of the areas where I’ve learned through experience that this isn’t really a good area for DIYers to address — not because the construction is difficult, but because the solutions are complex and first-timers probably won’t be able to predict the end result with any level of certainty.

The most common objectionable situation is that you can hear people talking in the next room. Your options here are to install an acoustically absorptive material on the common walls, such as Homasote panels, either fabric-covered and exposed to the room, or underneath the Sheetrock. A more effective solution is to add a product called QuietRock (quietrock.com) — basically, Sheetrock with a special acoustical core — over the existing wall surface. This will help, but probably isn’t going to be perfect.

An additional strategy is to increase the mass of the wall, maybe with another layer or two of Sheetrock. Ideally, you can get inside the cavity of the wall and install acoustical batten insulation. A heavy masonry wall would be optimal, of course, but seldom practical.

Historically, a resilient suspension system for holding the Sheetrock has been used to reduce noise transmission, but it’s been my experience that unless this is installed very carefully by someone who knows what they are doing, this is often not very effective and can be a waste of money.

If the noise is coming from the street, you may be able to install dense landscaping which will cut down the noise level significantly. And while you might try installing acoustically designed windows, unless you also upgrade the walls to a similar noise isolation, this strategy is probably not going to significantly improve your situation. And while you might try installing dense landscaping which will cut down the noise level significantly, this strategy is probably not going to significantly improve your situation.

The key to the success of any wall or ceiling solution is using special acoustical sealant to caulk all joints, and to use special sound covers behind electrical outlets, switches and light fixtures so that noise doesn’t sneak through. Surprisingly, small gaps can defeat a lot of hard work and money. (As one acoustical engineer told me, an ant shouldn’t be able to get through.) And failing to trace the full path of noise through the structure can also mean wasted money. Noise might be traveling under a door, transmitted through the ductwork or through the ceiling joists.

If your source of noise is mechanical equipment, such as a furnace, you may need to look into ways of mounting the equipment so that its vibration is not being transmitted through the structure. Often, you can install special acoustical vibration dampers.

If it’s the person upstairs who is causing you grief, you may be dealing with impact noise rather than airborne noise, which requires a completely different strategy. Even heavy concrete floors are no match for impact noise. (I remember as a college student, one of my favorite pranks in the dorm was to drop metal ball bearings on our concrete floor to torture our poor neighbors on the floor below.) The best way to deal with impact noise is to have a floor that is either highly cushioned — such as carpet on a thick pad — or add a special cushioned layer below hardwood or tile floors, which will then need to “float” above the actual structure.

An acoustical engineer can be an excellent investment to make sure that you aren’t wasting your money, since different types of noise require different strategies, and different strategies have different levels of effectiveness. Especially in a condo situation, where you may need to prove a certain level of sound isolation to your homeowners association, an acoustical engineer can take before-and-after measurements of sound levels to prove your compliance with the condo’s rules.

The science of acoustics is complex and the building code is filled with terms like “sound transmission class” (for airborne noise) and “impact isolation class” (for impact noise) to be able to compare different construction systems. If noise is disrupting your life, I highly encourage a consultation with a professional. And certainly, if you are thinking about remodeling or adding to your house, it is far, far less expensive to incorporate noise-reduction features when it’s being built initially than afterwards. Talk about your noise concerns with your designer.

Richard Morrison, AIA is a residential architect and interior designer with a Bay Area practice specializing in home remodeling. His website is richardmorrison.com
Enter a beautiful custom home, featuring California Mission architecture, grand scale ceilings accented with dramatic dark beams and beautiful soft white walls. The hand-scraped dark hickory floors, Alder wood cabinetry, and doors provide a stunning contrast. The elegant entryway leads to the grand living room and dining room. Adjacent to this, you find an office retreat or family room. The Alder wood pocket doors give privacy or can be opened as one prefers. The master suite is spacious and perfection in detail with a large master bath and one “his and her” large walk-in closet. In addition, there are three bedrooms; one of which is an en suite.

The elegant entryway leads to the grand living room and dining room. Adjacent to this, you find an office retreat or family room. The Alder wood pocket doors give privacy or can be opened as one prefers. The master suite is spacious and perfection in detail with a large master bath and one “his and her” large walk-in closet. In addition, there are three bedrooms; one of which is an en suite.

The interior is filled with natural light through triple pane windows and doors. The extreme insulated walls allow year-round consistent temperature control. This is one of the many advanced energy saving features along with solar that helps make this home nearly energy self-sustainable.

The electronically gated entry leads down the convenient wide driveway to a lovely home and its rich, beautiful landscape. Two spacious courtyards are directly connected to the house by 8-foot glass doors making for enjoyable outdoor dining and entertaining with family and friends.

Schools are excellent serving North Lemon, supported by Oak Knoll Elementary, Hillview Middle School, and Menlo-Atherton High School. A great place for children to prosper, learn, and exceed.

Menlo Park
1206 North Lemon Avenue
Offered at $4,995,000  4 Bed  3.5 Bath  2,290SF

Enter a beautiful custom home, featuring California Mission architecture, grand scale ceilings accented with dramatic dark beams and beautiful soft white walls. The hand-scraped dark hickory floors, Alder wood cabinetry, and doors provide a stunning contrast. The elegant entryway leads to the grand living room and dining room. Adjacent to this, you find an office retreat or family room. The Alder wood pocket doors give privacy or can be opened as one prefers. The master suite is spacious and perfection in detail with a large master bath and one “his and her” large walk-in closet. In addition, there are three bedrooms; one of which is an en suite.

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Contact: Joe Parsons
Phone: 650.279.8892  joe.parsons@compass.com
DRE #: 01449421

Menlo Park
1206 North Lemon Avenue
Offered at $4,995,000  4 Bed  3.5 Bath  2,290SF

Enter a beautiful custom home, featuring California Mission architecture, grand scale ceilings accented with dramatic dark beams and beautiful soft white walls. The hand-scraped dark hickory floors, Alder wood cabinetry, and doors provide a stunning contrast. The elegant entryway leads to the grand living room and dining room. Adjacent to this, you find an office retreat or family room. The Alder wood pocket doors give privacy or can be opened as one prefers. The master suite is spacious and perfection in detail with a large master bath and one “his and her” large walk-in closet. In addition, there are three bedrooms; one of which is an en suite.

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DRE #: 01449421

Sotheby’s International Realty

Unique Building Opportunity
in Portola Valley

0 Alpine Road, Portola Valley

Amazing opportunity to build your Dream Home in Portola Valley. This unique 0.77 acre lot has a PV address, yet is located in Santa Clara County, on a quiet country lane - only 2.8 miles to 280. Walking distance to Alpine Hills Club. Peaceful and private. Award winning Palo Alto Schools. Building site approval with conditions.

Offered at $1,850,000

Contact: Cutty Smith
Phone: 650.851.7094  650.580.8286  Cutty.Smith@sothebyshomes.com
DRE #: 01444081

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DRE #: 01444081

Sotheby’s International Realty
Thinking about moving? Call Julie to start your planning process! 650.799.8888

Open Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30pm

814 Altaire Walk, Palo Alto
ULTIMATE SOUTH PALO ALTO LIVING!
Stylish townhome in secure community. Designed for entertaining—gourmet kitchen, open layout, French doors to patio. MANY smart features. 2 assigned parking spaces w/ EV charger! Close to EVERYTHING!
3 Bed 2.5 Bath +/- 1461 SF 814AltaireWalk.com

$1,695,000

FOR SALE

972 Amarillo Ave, Palo Alto
ELEGANTLY REMODELED & EXPANDED!
Popular setting close to EVERYTHING. Open floorplan w/ vaulted ceilings, lots of light. Extensively updated & thoughtfully redesigned. High-end kitchen, expanded master suite! Near top PA schools. A rare find!
4 Beds 3 Baths Living | +/- 1636 SF Lot | +/- 6160 SF

$2,888,000

JUST LISTED

18603 Avon Ln, Saratoga
EXCLUSIVE HOME—PERFECT FOR ENTERTAINING!
Rare parcel of large, flat property. Spacious layout, stylishly updated for easy living. Includes chef’s kitchen, pool, sports court, pavilion w/ bbq, & MORE! Near downtown areas, premier Saratoga schools.
5 Beds 5.5 Baths Living | +/- 4104 SF Lot | +/- 49510 SF

$4,198,000

FOR SALE

South Palo Alto
ELEGANT LIVING MOMENTS FROM EVERYTHING
Stately home w/ dramatic entry, gorgeous gathering areas, open kitchen, ground-level guest, luxury master, & MORE! Corner lot w/ 2 parking areas. Stroll to schools, parks, & transit. Near Google, Stanford!
5 Beds 3.5 Baths Living | +/- 2795 SF Lot | +/- 8360 SF

$4,295,000

Check out more listings at: www.JulieTsaiLaw.com
SPANISH STYLE BUNGALOW — OLD PALO ALTO
110 COLERIDGE AVENUE, PALO ALTO

110COLERIDGE.COM

NUMBERS
Offered at: $2,299,000
2 Bedrooms + Bonus Room
1.75 Bathrooms
House: 1,337 sf
Lot: 5,000 sf

OVERVIEW
Exceptional Opportunity
Old Palo Alto
Private Back Yard

AMENITIES
Walk to: Town & Country,
California Ave & Downtown
Close to: Community Center
and Peers Park
Walk or Bike to Stanford

SCHOOLS
Walter Hayes ES
Greene MS
Palo Alto HS

CHRIS MOGENSEN
650 924 1334
chris@zanemac.com
CalBRE#:01704380
ZANEMAC.COM
TAX SEMINAR FOR HOMEOWNERS

Tax changes have had a profound impact on the real estate market.
Learn what these changes mean for you and your future at DeLeon Realty’s spring tax seminar.
Featuring Michael Repka and special guest, Santa Clara County Assessor Larry Stone.

RSVP: 650.543.8500 | RSVP@DELEONREALTY.COM
Seating is limited, so RSVP today and secure your spot for this great event!

Haymarket Theater
Palo Alto High School
50 Embarcadero Rd, Palo Alto, CA 94301

Saturday, March 21, 2020
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Enjoy complimentary refreshments starting at 9:30 AM. Program begins at 10:00 AM.

Michael Repka, Esq.
CEO, Managing Broker, & General Counsel of DeLeon Realty
LL.M (Taxation)
NYU School of Law
DRE #01854880

Larry Stone
Santa Clara County Assessor
MBA, Washington Graduate School of Business
Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government

Seminars are for prospective clients only. No outside real estate professionals permitted.

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Ask us about our other new listings and off-market opportunities.

Our innovative Concierge program helps sells your home faster and for more money.

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Top 100 Real Estate Teams in U.S.
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homes@boyenga.com
DRE 01254724 | 01254725

644 Georgia Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94306 $5,498,000
5 Bed | 4.5 Bath | 3092 Sf | 8050 Sf Lot

Located on a gorgeous tree-lined street of Barron Park in Palo Alto, Cypress Capital Group brings you another beautiful custom constructed modern farmhouse. The 5 bedroom 4.5 bath home is thoughtfully crafted with luxury finishes, and a superb attention to detail.

BarronParkLuxuryHome.com

816 Bruce Drive, Palo Alto, CA 94303 $4,898,000
5 Bed + Office | 3 Bath | 3004 Sf | 9838 Sf Lot

Beautifully remodeled traditional home designed with a French flair. With clean and classy lines, this sophisticated home has striking curb appeal. Prime Midtown location, walk to schools, parks, restaurants and all Palo Alto has to offer!

PaloAlto-Homes.com

Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01523365. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.
Exemplifying modern day style through its rich architectural façade, horizontal sleek lines and a mix of complementary natural materials, this contemporary home was renovated and expanded in 2019. The elegantly designed interiors seamlessly flow room-to-room with gorgeous white European engineered hardwood floors, that stretch throughout the house, and are accentuated by large picture windows and glass doors capturing the professionally landscaped grounds. Perfectly crafted with entertainment in mind, the spacious and open floor plan offers a welcoming entry that leads to the sky lit great room with a gas fireplace and opens to covered terrace. Adjoining to the chef’s eat-in kitchen, an elegant dining area with designer lighting and the nanoslide glass doors provide access to the side terrace, allowing for festivities to easily transition from the indoors to the outdoors.

With its convenient Green Gables location, **2388 Louis Road** is a short stroll to top Palo Alto Schools* - Walter Hays Elementary, Greene Middle and Ohlone Elementary School (lottery enrollment), less than one mile to Midtown Shopping Center and Seale & Greer Parks, Rinconada Park, Pool & Library, a few miles to California Avenue’s restaurants, shops and Caltrain, Stanford University, Town & Country Village and commute routes to the Silicon Valley.

**OFFERED AT $3,995,000**

2388LouisRd.com

* School assignment not verified by Compass or Realtor. Buyer to verify enrollment and availability.

** Square footage not verified by Compass or Realtor. Buyer to verify and conduct their own investigation.

Umang Homes

650.960.5363

usanchor@compass.com

License# 01471341
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

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 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
中文聯絡請聯繫Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822 | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
1023 Forest Avenue, Palo Alto

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 BrokerMetrics® using MLS Data: January 1, 2009 - December 31, 2019, Palo Alto, All Residential Properties.

Michael Repka, DRE #0184880 | 650.900.7000 | michael@deleonrealty.com

中文請請聯繫Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822 | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #0193224
SOLD

4050 Verdosa Drive, Palo Alto

www.4050Verdosa.com
Asking Price: $4,098,000

Julie Lau
(650) 208-2287 (CELL)
www.JulieLau.com
DRE#01052924

Modern Craftsman custom built in 2017
5 bedrooms, 5 baths (4 suites—one on main level, 3 suites including master upstairs), plus, detached ADU cottage with bath
Lot: about 6950 sf
House: per architectural plan about 2739 sf living space; garage: about extra 217 sf; porch: about 398 sf
Chef’s kitchen with sleek design, state-of-the-art amenities, top-of-the-line appliances

Mostly Porcelanosa tiled bathrooms with TOTO toilets, Grohe plumbing fixtures
Hardwood floor throughout, Cedar wood exterior sidings, Andersen double-pane windows and doors
Nest thermostat, 2 furnaces, 2 A/C, tankless water heater and security system with surveillance cameras with off-site viewing capability
Inside laundry room with sink and cabinet
Renowned Palo Alto schools
Located in the premier Seacliff neighborhood in Santa Cruz County at the end of a private road, this oceanfront mid-century modern classic home is nestled on a private 3.42 acre estate. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, over 2100 square feet of living space, Plus a large pool and 756 sq. ft. studio pool house complete with a kitchenette and full bathroom on the acreage below.

$4,995,000

755 OAKHILL ROAD
APTOS, CA 95003

WWW.755OAKHILL.COM
WEST MENLO PARK

- Built in 2009 and just-completed refresh
- 5 bedrooms and 4 baths on two levels
- Approx. 3,110 sf (buyer to confirm)
- Freshly painted interiors and refinished hardwood floors
- Lot size of approx. 10,005 sf
- Detached 2-car garage with electric-gated driveway
- Premier West Menlo Park location
- Excellent Menlo Park schools

Price upon request
1745Stanford.com

OPEN SUNDAY March 1 | 2:00 – 4:00pm

GREAT OPPORTUNITY

Move-in, Remodel, or Build New
24 HAWTHORNE DRIVE, ATHERTON

- Prime Lindenwood location on 0.92 acre (approx. 40,158 sf)
- Mid-century home with 3 bedrooms, office, and 2.5 baths
- Approx. 2,130 sf (buyer to confirm)
- Freshly painted, hardwood and tile floors, and new carpeting
- Attached 3-car garage
- Excellent schools

$6,150,000 | www.24Hawthorne.com

GLORIA DARKE
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License# 00570470

CAITLIN DARKE
650.388.8449
caitlin@caitlindarke.com
License# 01332161

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FEATURED

1939 EUCALYPTUS AVE. SAN CARLOS
OPEN SAT/SUN 1-4
Beautiful custom remodeled 3 BR, 2 BA home near Burton Park, excellent schools and vibrant downtown Offered for $1,939,000
Gwen Luce
650-566-5343

PALO ALTO WEEKLY OPEN HOMES
EXPLORE REAL ESTATE HEADLINES, NEIGHBORHOOD GUIDES, MAPS AND PRIOR SALE INFO ON www.PaloAltoOnline.com/real_estate

ATHERTON
24 Hawthorne Dr $6,150,000
Sun 2-4 3 BD/2.5 BA
Compass 438-8449
200 Selby Ln $4,699,000
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 3 BD/2 BA
Compass 888-8338
46 Selby Ln $5,000,000
Sat/Sun 1:30-3:30 5 BD/4.5 BA
Coldwell Banker 855-9700

HILLSBOROUGH
1310 Brandt Rd $3,575,000
Sat/Sun 2-4 5 BD/4 BA
Compass 367-2603

LOS ALTOS
5887 Arboretum Dr $3,968,000
Sun 1:30-4:30 4 BD/3 BA
DeLeon Realty 900-7000
165 Griffin Rd $3,535,000
Sun 1-4 4 BD/3 BA
Compass 888-6379
544 Glen Alto Dr $4,198,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 5 BD/4 BA
Coldwell Banker 900-7000

LOS ALTOS HILLS
27464 Altamont Rd $5,399,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 3 BD/2.5 BA
Compass 448-8984
11544 Arroyo Oaks Dr $4,649,000
Sat/Sun 2-4 4 BD/3 BA
Compass 887-8989
10600 Chardonnay Ln $3,695,000
Sun 2-4 4 BD/3 BA
Compass 917-0033
10776 Mora Dr $3,788,000
Sat 1:30-4:30 4 BD/2 BA
DeLeon Realty 900-7000
11801 Francemont Dr $6,488,000
Sun 130-430 5 BD/2+Half Ba
DeLeon Realty 900-7000
28724 Palo Hills Dr $4,499,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 5 BD/3.5 BA
Coldwell Banker 725-1065
11768 Maria Ln $8,995,000
Sat 2-4 8 BD/5.5 BA
Coldwell Banker 917-2433

LOS GATOS
218 Mattson Av $1,648,000
Sat/Sun 2-4 3 BD/2 BA
Coldwell Banker 408-997-0227
16400 Soda Springs Rd $1,725,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 3 BD/2 BA
Coldwell Banker 408-937-4343
16375 Aztec Ridge Dr $3,498,000
Sun 2-4 5 BD/4.5 BA
Coldwell Banker 408-937-4343

MENLO PARK
150 Alma Rd #210 (C) $1,098,000
Sat 2-4/Sun 1-4 2 BD/1 BA
Coldwell Banker 660-1379
1280 Sharon Park Rd #27 (C) $1,468,000
Sun 2-4 2 BD/2 BA
Coldwell Banker 408-336-4007
1990 Byers Dr $2,498,000
Sat 130-430 3 BD/2 BA
Coldwell Banker 465-6308
180 Forest Ln $2,350,000
Sun 1-4 3 BD/2.5 BA
Compass 743-0734
2146 Sand Hill Rd (T) $1,588,000
Sun 130-430 3 BD/2 BA
DeLeon Realty 900-7000

PALO ALTO
1130 Deanna Dr $3,595,000
Sun 2-4 4 BD/2 BA
Compass 814-6662
1206 North Lemon Av $3,995,000
Sun 130-430 4 BD/4.5 BA
Compass 279-8892
765 Cotton St $6,788,000
Sun 130-430 6 BD/4 BA
DeLeon Realty 900-7000

PORTOLA VALLEY
174 Vista Verde Way $3,285,000
Sun 130-430 3 BD/3.5 BA
Coldwell Banker 415-377-2024
29 Foothill Ct $2,995,000
Sat/Sun 130-430/2-430 4 BD/3 BA
Coldwell Banker 415-377-2024
219 Grove Dr $3,995,000
Sun 2-4 4 BD/4 BA
Coldwell Banker 415-377-2024
23 Los Charros Ln $4,250,000
Sun 2-4 4 BD/4 BA
Coldwell Banker 400-2032
80 Golden Oak Dr $5,688,000
Sat 2-4 5 BD/5.5 BA
Coldwell Banker 377-2024

REDWOOD CITY
1124 5th Av $1,086,000
Sat/Sun 130-430 3 BD/1.5 BA
DeLeon Realty 900-7000
2665 Carolina Av $1,900,000
Sun 130-430 6 BD/4 BA
Coldwell Banker 325-6161

SAN CARLOS
1939 Eucalyptus Av $1,939,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 3 BD/2 BA
Coldwell Banker 224-3670
2648 Howard Av $1,795,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 6 BD/4.5 BA
Coldwell Banker 325-6161

SAN JOSE
325 Sylvan Av $206,800
Sat/Sun 1-4 2 BD/1.5 BA
Coldwell Banker 325-6161

MOUNTAIN VIEW
325 Sylvan Av $206,800
Sat/Sun 1-4 2 BD/1.5 BA
Coldwell Banker 325-6161

WOODSIDE
1942 Kings Mountain Rd $2,195,000
Sun 1-4 6 BD/3 BA
Compass 740-2470
1124 5th Av $1,098,000
Sun 1-4 3 BD/2 BA
Compass 740-2470

SAN CARLOS
1939 Eucalyptus Av $1,939,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 3 BD/2 BA
Coldwell Banker 224-3670

SAN JOSE
7150 Rainbow Dr #21 $799,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 3 BD/1.5 BA
JLee Realty 857-1000

HOME OF THE WEEK
1939 EUCALYPTUS AVE. SAN CARLOS
OPEN SAT/SUN 1-4
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Gwen Luce
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Sun 130-430 4 BD/4.5 BA
Compass 279-8892
765 Cotton St $6,788,000
Sun 130-430 6 BD/4 BA
DeLeon Realty 900-7000

MOUNTAIN VIEW
325 Sylvan Av $206,800
Sat/Sun 1-4 2 BD/1.5 BA
Coldwell Banker 325-6161

PALO ALTO
109 Webster St $1,300,000
Sat/Sun 130-430 1 BD/1 BA
Compass 465-1851
271 Addison Av $1,700,000
Sat/Sun 2-4 2 BD/2 BA
Coldwell Banker 895-0399

SAN CARLOS
1939 Eucalyptus Av $1,939,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 3 BD/2 BA
Coldwell Banker 224-3670

SAN JOSE
7150 Rainbow Dr #21 $799,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 3 BD/1.5 BA
JLee Realty 857-1000

"OUR TEAM IS IN MOTION FOR YOU"

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Pinewood junior Una Jovanovic and her teammates are shooting for the Central Coast Section Open Division title Friday night at Stanford’s Maples Pavilion. Photo by Jenna Hickey.

CCS BASKETBALL

Menlo-Atherton falls short against the Monarchs

by Glenn Reeves

Pinewood and Menlo School went into Thursday’s Central Coast Section Open Division girls basketball semifinal having split two regular-season games, both in close, hard-fought fashion. But Pinewood left no doubt about the outcome of the rubber match, jumping out to an early lead and steadily increasing it on what ended up as a 58-33 victory at Gunn.

So for the fifth straight year it will be Pinewood playing for the CCS Open Division championship. The game is scheduled for a 6 p.m. tipoff Friday at Maples Pavilion.

“It will be a great challenge and opportunity for us,” Pinewood coach Doc Scheppler said. “This is why you work hard the whole year.”

This is the eighth year the CCS Open Division has been in existence. Pinewood will be making its sixth consecutive appearance in the finals. The Panthers have lost each of their five previous championship games, but have gone on to some notable success in the NorCal and state playoffs.

They will go into Friday’s game as a prohibitive underdog. Menlo (23-3), which beat St. Ignatius 62-31 in the earlier semifinal at Gunn, has a 39-point average margin of victory in 13 games against CCS opposition. The Monarchs have won all 13 of those games by 22 points or more. What will the Panthers need to do to have success?

“We need to rebound and minimize easy baskets,” Scheppler said. “They kill you on the offensive boards and turn you over. They play so hard and are so competitive. Our girls will have to match that. If they do we can win.”

Against Menlo, Pinewood led 13-5 after one quarter and 29-13 at halftime. Menlo (20-6) made only 4 of 23 first-half field-goal attempts. “We didn’t give them any clean looks,” Scheppler said. “All their shots were rushed.”

Menlo bombed in 11 3-pointers in its quarterfinal win over Sacred Heart Cathedral. Coco Layton hit six and Maia Makoni four. They managed only one apiece against Pinewood.

“We came ready to play, confident we could win,” said junior wing Courtni Thompson, a three-year starter who led Pinewood with 16 points. “We knew what Menlo was going to run.”

Una Jovanovic scored 12 points and Maia Garcia had 10 points and 15 rebounds.

Junior point guard Avery Lee led Menlo with 14 points. Sophomore post Sharon Nejad, despite giving away four inches to Garcia, scored 10 points and pulled down 15 rebounds.

“Our shots weren’t falling and their shots were,” Nejad said. “We woke up near the end, but it was too late to come back.”

Now the Knights will look ahead to the state playoffs. Last year, after going 0-2 in the CCS Open Division playoffs, they came back to win the state Division II championship.

“Hopefully we can take it all the way again,” Nejad said.

Boys Open Division

Menlo-Atherton forced top-seeded Mitty into an early timeout in the first quarter of Wednesday’s Central Coast Section Open Division boys basketball semifinal after scoring the first eight points of the contest and Mitty knew this was not going to be another cakewalk.

The teams met early in the season at Mitty, with the Monarchs winning a 36-point non-league defeat on M-A’s home floor.

Justin Anderson, who scored seven of M-A’s first 10 points, all before Mitty made its first field goal, hit a jumper from near the free throw line to give M-A a 47-46 advantage early in the fourth quarter.

Mitty responded with eight unanswered points and the Monarchs went on to beat M-A 63-55 to advance into Friday night’s final against Bellarmine.

“A big improvement, but unfortunately at the end of the day it was still a loss,” M-A coach Mike Mo-lieri said. “I’m proud of my team, but (Mitty) made plays at the end and we didn’t.”

Anderson led M-A (22-4) with 23 points and 16 rebounds, while junior Toby Layton added 13 points and 10 rebounds.

Pinewood’s team was led by junior Una Jovanovic, who scored 12 points, and senior Avery Lee, who had 10 points and 15 rebounds.

The Cardinals will look ahead to the CCS Open Division championship game on Saturday, where they will face either St. Ignatius or Sacred Heart Cathedral.

ON THE AIR

Friday
College softball: Pacific at Stanford, 4 p.m. Stanford Live Stream, KZSU 90.1 FM

College women’s basketball: Stanford at Arizona State, 6 p.m., Pac-12 Networks

College baseball: Stanford at Grand Canyon, 5 p.m., Pac-12 Networks

College women’s swimming: Pac-12 Championships, 6:30 p.m., Pac-12 Networks

Saturday
College baseball: Grand Canyon at Stanford, 2 p.m. Stanford Live Stream, KZSU 90.1 FM

College women’s swimming: Pac-12 Championships, 630 p.m. Pac-12 Networks

Sunday
College women’s basketball: Stanford at Arizona State, 11 a.m. Pac-12 Networks

College baseball: Grand Canyon at Stanford, 1 p.m. Stanford Live Stream, KZSU 90.1 FM

College men’s basketball: Colorado at Stanford, 6 p.m. Pac-12 Plus Live Stream

Monday
College women’s gymnastics: Arizona State at Stanford, 7 p.m. Pac-12 Networks

College baseball: Michigan at Stanford, 6 p.m., Stanford Live Stream, KZSU 90.1 FM

Tuesday
College baseball: Stanford at Oregon State, 6 p.m., Pac-12 Networks

Thursday
College women’s basketball: Stanford at Arizona State, 5 p.m., Pac-12 Networks
Sacred Heart Prep ready to take its final

by Rick Eymer

T he moment Sacred Heart Prep has been preparing for since last season ended in frustration and disappointment. Frustrated at not being invited into the Open Division despite an undefeated season and disappointed in losing in the semifinals of Division I. Those feelings galvanized SHP into a team that marched through a season with a determined mindset to set things right.

Every day, every game, every practice was motivated by the need to be better than it was the previous day.

On Friday night, West Bay Athletic League champion Sacred Heart Prep (18-0-2) meets West Catholic Athletic champion Bellarmine (16-2-4) at Santa Clara’s iconic Buck Shaw Stadium for the championship of the Central Coast Section Open Division.

By definition, SHP and Bellarmine are the top two teams in the section. The Bells have won 18 CCS titles and are the defending Open champs.

Sacred Heart Prep has won seven CCS fall titles and shared the 2013 Division III winter title with Menlo. The Gators are appearing in their first championship match at any level above D-3.

“Last year we thought we should have made Open,” Sacred Heart Prep goalie Hank Twichel said. “This year we wanted to capitalize on every opportunity and set up a schedule with all ‘A’ league teams and we maximized on points.”

After losing its final match of last season, Gators coach Guillermo Talancon gathered his juniors together and told them they would get another chance to be in the same situation this year.

That was the moment SHP dedicated itself to doing everything possible to put itself in position for a CCS championship.

“I’m confident in all the players around me that when they get the ball they can do something with it,” said senior Liam Johnson, who scored a goal and recorded an assist in SHP’s 4-0 victory over Peninsula Athletic League champion Menlo-Atherton in the semifinals earlier this week.

Kyle Nilsson, Alex Moretti and Alexi Stavropoulos also scored for the fourth-seeded Gators.

“We’ve never been this far as a program,” Johnson said. “We just want to make it as far as we can go.”

SHP made it this far because of an air-tight defense in front of the hard-working Twichel.

“Our back three are the best in our league and probably in the section,” Twichel said. “Billy (Barnd) on the right is the strongest player I know. Alex Moretti and Lance (Chou) are super solid. Kevin (Barnett) has been our leader. He consistently makes plays every day and is a rock in the back.”

“If I try to play simple and rely on my team in front of me to do their jobs.”

Sacred Heart Prep owns a goal differential of 107-10 on the season.

No. 8 Menlo-Atherton (10-6-5) played a solid first half on the heels of its upset victory over Sacred Heart Cathedral last week and kept pressure on the Gators.

Johnson gave SHP the early lead and then helped break the game open, assisting the goal by Nilsson ahead of Moretti’s key goal. Ethan Vegte recorded his second assist of the day on the play.

“M-A came out hard in the first half and then we worked out how to attack them,” Johnson said.

Division I

The Gunn boys’ soccer team became the latest to upset a top seed and this time the Titans are rewarded with a spot in the championship match on Saturday against Mitty.

The Titans and host Salinas played to a 2-2 draw and then Gunn converted its penalty kicks 4-2 to advance out of the semifinals.

Gunn and Salinas engaged in a fast-paced game and in front of a lively crowd. The Titans scored first when James Hahn tapped a goal from a free kick by Hahn.

Both teams missed scoring opportunities throughout second half until Salinas scored the tying goal with a rocket shot into the net from the top of the box. The score remained tied 2-2 after regulation and overtime.

Gunn goalkeeper Pierre Napaa recorded two diving saves in the penalty kick shootout when he stopped the Cowboys’ second and fourth shots.

Romero, the Titans’ fourth player, placed his penalty kick far right into the goal to clinch it. Napa and Romero were both swapped by a happy group of teammates.

Divisions III and IV

The Sacred Heart Prep girls also went on the road and successfully confronted a top seed, beating Carmel 4-0 to reach the title match of Division IV. The Gators are the defending D-4 champion, beating Priory in overtime.

The Menlo School girls also used an upset of the top seed to spring into the title match of Division III. The Knights beat host Palo Alto 1-0 on Wednesday on a goal by Carly Retterer in the 78th minute.

The Vikings finished 7-7-7 overall.

Junior Fiona Perkocha scored an unsassisted goal for SHP in the 30th minute to end a scoreless battle.

Junior Megan Tinsley gave SHP a 2-0 lead early in the second half, scoring with an assist from freshman Iris O’Connor.

The Gators put the match away with goals from juniors Juliana Rosen and Lilly Lynch. Sophomore Hadley Twichel added an assist.

In other CCS matches, the Gunn girls (15-4-2) fell to host Sobrato 2-0 and the Menlo boys (15-3-4) dropped a 2-1 decision to visiting St. Francis.

The Sacred Heart girls (9-6-6) face Salinas (12-5-4) and the Menlo girls (11-4-7) meet Burlingame (11-4-6) on Saturday.

Sacred Heart Prep’s Alex Moretti sends the ball just over the reach of the Menlo-Atherton goalie to give the Gators a 2-0 lead early in the second half.

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Sydney Adas
Sacred Heart Prep soccer

Alexandra Lee
Palo Alto wrestling

Anna Smith*
Menlo-Atherton wrestling

Athens Adas
Sacred Heart Prep soccer

Cade Creighton*
Palo Alto wrestling

Hiromi Nakamura
Menlo-Atherton soccer

Cade Creighton*
Palo Alto wrestling

Hiromi Nakamura
Menlo-Atherton soccer

Sacred Heart Prep’s Alex Moretti sends the ball just over the reach of the Menlo-Atherton goalie to give the Gators a 2-0 lead early in the second half.

Kiele Tabaldo, Alexa Bensoussan

MENLO-ATHERTON WRESTLING

Tabaldo, a freshman, pinned her opponent to win the CCS title at 101 pounds. Bensoussan, a sophomore, pinned her opponent to win the CCS title at 121 pounds.

Adar Schwarzbach
PALO ALTO WRESTLING

The junior wrestled his way to the Central Coast Section title at 182 pounds, pinning his opponent in the championship match and earning his first trip to state.

Honorable mention

Cade Creighton*
Palo Alto wrestling

Will Demirkol
Menlo-Atherton soccer

Dara Heydarpour
Palo Alto wrestling

*Previous winner

Adam Kasser
Menlo soccer

Akash Ravani
Gunn wrestling

Hank Twichel
Sacred Heart Prep soccer

*Previous winner

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Menlo-Atherton’s Anna Smith advanced to her fourth state girls wrestling tournament, which takes place in Bakersfield this weekend.

STATE WRESTLING

M-A sending four girls to the state meet

Three Palo Alto boys are also heading to Bakersfield

Freshman Kiely Tabaldo and sophomore Alexia Bensoussan, both of Menlo-Atherton, delivered individual Central Coast Section girls wrestling titles and earned their first trips to the state girls wrestling meet in Bakersfield this weekend. M-A senior Anna Smith, who fell 6-3 in the championship match at 131 to Santa Cruz’s Maya Letoyna, reached her fourth state meet. Gunn’s Mikayla Silverman reached the championship match at 150, to qualify for the state meet. M-A’s Ale’Jha Brussard and Palo Alto’s Alexandra Lee also earned spots at state.

Palo Alto junior Adar Schwarzbach has been working on reaching the state ever since getting into wrestling a few years ago. Winning a Central Coast Section title is special and now he’s thinking about higher achievements. “I’m trying to place at state,” Schwarzbach said. “I’m ranked 12th and the top eight place. It’s great to win here but all I care about is being on the state podium.”

Schwarzbach was one of three Vikings to reach the championship finals. Dara Heydarpour was pinned by Gilroy’s Chase Saldate at 152 pounds and Cade Creighton lost to Evergreen Valley’s Marcos Jimenez, 11-7, at 160 pounds.

The three wrestlers all qualified for the state meet.

If someone told Bensoussan at the beginning of the season that she would win a CCS title, she would “think they were crazy. No way!”

With Smith the lone returning CCS placer from M-A, the team appeared ready to relinquish its crown to Gilroy, which placed second with 160 1/2 points to M-A’s 162. Half Moon Bay, M-A’s top rival in the Peninsula Athletic League, was third.

Palo Alto placed 15th with 70 points, Gunn was 19th with 53 and Woodside was 47th out of 76.

“It’s so amazing after losing all our seniors from last year to come back and pull it off, I’m so proud of this team,” Smith said.

She’s particularly proud of Bensoussan, whom she took under her wing this season and who pinned her opponent in the third period at 121.

“All of you who can please help keep me updated on the state wrestling tournament,” Bensoussan said. “She stayed after practice and worked with me to improve. I wanted to do better conditioning and work after practice. As the season progressed, I stayed in the zone.”

While the seniors set the tone last year, it took everyone on the team to keep it going this year, resulting in success.

“The team dynamic was so important to the seniors last year,” Bensoussan said. “We really wanted to keep that this year. It’s so amazing, even with new wrestlers.”

Tabaldo, who won in a pin at 101, is no ordinary freshman. She began wrestling in the third or fourth grade, emulating older brother Royal Tabaldo, now a freshman wrestling at Menlo College, which won the Cascade Collegiate Conference title last Sunday.

Tabaldo has worked out with Menlo team members over the summer and works with the U.S. national team coach as she develops into an international wrestler.

“I expected to make it to the nationals and see how far I got from there,” Tabaldo said. “I stayed calm. I knew I was down on points and I waited until the right moment.”

Gilroy ran away with the boys team title, recording 328 points. Evergreen Valley finished second with 195 1/2 points, followed by Palma (137 1/2), Los Gatos (137) and Riordan (134 1/2). Gunn finished 20th with 39 1/2 points and

(continued on page 47)
Wrestling (continued from page 46)

Menlo-Atherton was 35th with 23 points. Woodside was 64th in a field that included 80 schools.

Gunn had two placers in Calvin Cai, fourth at 145 pounds, and Philip Doan, fifth at 152 pounds. M-A’s Misuteni Eke placed sixth at 220 pounds. Only the top three qualify for state.

Schwarzbach trailed for the first time in 17 matches and it merely motivated him a little more.

“He got the first takedown and I let my guard down,” he said. “I thought ‘that’s it, no more.’ I’m glad I was able to wrestle from behind. I proved to myself I could come back to win.”

Schwarzbach didn’t realize how much work he needed to put in to improve as much as he did over the years. He went from placing sixth in the SCVAL as a freshman to becoming a CCS champion as a junior.

“I am blown away to be here and see this level of success,” Schwarzbach said. “I had no idea how deep down the rabbit hole I’d have to go. But wrestling has been the best thing that’s ever happened to me and I’m happy to be here.”

With three Paly wrestlers in the finals and a few more who just missed, Schwarzbach sees the Vikings program on the rise.

“Give us a few years, the future is very bright,” he said.

Basketball (continued from page 44)

14 points. Thomas scored 12, had seven rebounds and four steals.

J.D. Carson, another talented football player, added 12 points, all on 3-pointers as M-A tested Mitty like no other public school had.

“We slowed them a little with our physical play,” Molieri said. “But they’re super athletic and shoot the ball well.”

M-A will be placed, probably in Division I, into the NorCal playoffs.

“If we’re in Division I again I hope we can host a game instead of being sent to Fresno (like the Bears were last year),” Molieri said.

A lot happened in the first 2 1/2 minutes or so. After Spencer Lin made a free throw, M-A held an 11-2 edge. Mitty rallied to grab the lead at 16-14 with just over three minutes remaining in the opening quarter.

Anderson, on his way to Washington State University, hit another 3-pointer to help the Bears inch ahead once again. Mitty responded by scoring the final six points, opening a 22-16 edge after one quarter.

“It’s easy to notice how Anderson affected the game from his role as point guard. He put the Bears ahead on three separate occasions during the game, including in the final period. He also got the ball into the hands of other hot shooters.”

Nick Tripaldi nailed a 3-pointer at 27.4 seconds remaining in the final period. He also got the ball during the game, including in the final period.

Mitty whatever the situation.

Trevor Wargo hit a 3-pointer late in the third quarter, bringing the Bears within 42-39. M-A was making sure they stayed within striking distance.

But there was no answer for Mitty’s late run in the final quarter.
Menlo Park Portola Valley Palo Alto Los Altos

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