The jig is up

Red Thistle Dancers explore Scottish steps

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Jackie Seki has a smile that lights up a room. But things weren’t always so bright for the little girl. By three months of age, Jackie was suffering from end-stage intestinal failure and her liver soon began to fail. Her only option: a combined small intestine and liver transplant.

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Upfront
Local news, information and analysis

Four so far in Palo Alto school board race

Board president, PTA president, a prior candidate and a teacher are gearing up for the Nov. 6 election

By Susan Hong

The Palo Alto school board election is months away, but four people have already thrown their hats into the ring for the Nov. 6 ballot.

Incumbent board President Camille Townsend, PTA board President Melissa Baten Caswell, 2005 board candidate Claude Ezran and math-teaching specialist Barbara Klausner have told the Weekly they plan to run.

Board members Mandy Lowell and Gail Price will leave two seats open after having served a limit of two terms. Townsend’s term expires in November, but she is eligible to serve another term.

Any registered voter living within Palo Alto Unified School District boundaries may apply. Candidate declarations may be filed between July 16 and Aug. 10, according to the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters Office.

“I’ve been to about every single school board meeting for the last two years,” Baten Caswell said about her commitment to the district. “I’m very familiar with the issues. And I’ve been on PTA council for two years.”

“We have an excellent school district,” she added. “I want it to continue that we have an excellent school district.”

If elected, Baten Caswell said she would put a high priority on closing the achievement gap.

“I’m a big proponent about kids being enthusiastic and curious and loving learning,” she said. She said she wants to emphasize educating “well-rounded happy, smart kids.”

(continued on page 8)

City votes to protect Spago building

Although the restaurant is gone, the 1926 structure is safe from demolition, for now

By Molly Tanenbaum

Spago Palo Alto may have closed last month, but its building on Lytton Avenue is here to stay.

That is what the Palo Alto Historical Resources Board (HRB) decided on Wednesday when voting unanimously — with members Carol Murden and David Bower absent — against a request to remove 265 Lytton Ave. from the city’s historic inventory.

“It is a building that has a great deal of style to it,” board member Beth Bunnenberg said of the 1926 structure, originally built for Tinney Funeral Home.

“May it be a simple structure but I don’t think it’s unremarkable,” Bunnenberg added.

Designed by local architect Roy Heald, the building was meant to look residential so it would be unobtrusive in the midst of a neighborhood, according to a city staff report.

It has housed the Gatehouse, then Stars and finally Wolfgang Puck’s Spago.

Architect Ken Hayes, who is working with property owner Michael King, said Spago’s departure may indicate that another restaurant would not succeed in that location. A new, modern structure would provide more options for the owner and future tenant, he said.

Demolishing 265 Lytton in favor of a modern building would require either a decision to remove it from Palo Alto’s historic inventory or extensive environmental review and approval by the City Council, according to Dennis Backlund, the city’s historic preservation planner.

The building has been on the city’s historic inventory since 1989. Historic consultant Meta Bunse, of Davis-based JRP Historical Consulting and hired by the owner, ar

(continued on page 7)

ENVIRONMENT

Smoldering Foothills fire station impasse heats up

Staffing the station using overtime worked fine — but the need to trim the city budget has triggered a war of words

By Becky Trout

Palo Alto’s foothills will be without close-by fire and emergency medical personnel this summer except on high-risk fire days — a situation favored by no one — to shave the city budget.

All agree that the hills are over- loaded with tinder-dry grass and brush — denied of fire for decades. And there is a public-safety issue in the summer, when thousands of hikers, bikers and summer campers head for the open space, where they could get struck by a car, have a heart attack or get stung by a bee.

That’s not counting the multi- million-dollar mansions and other homes, many in areas that lack a fire-safe, two-exit evacuation route.

The no-win situation could be resolved by the firefighters’ union through a change in its contract, according to several City Council members — including Jack Morton, Bern Beecham, Peter Drekmeier and Vice Mayor Larry Klein — and City Manager Frank Benest.

“The thing is if everyone understood the situation there would be widespread agreement that there’s a better way to staff Station 8 than with senior firefighters who are paid overtime,” Drekmeier said.

But the International Association of Firefighters Local 1319, led by former firefighter Tony Spitaleri, isn’t eager to negotiate. Spitaleri said it’s not true that the union insists

(continued on page 7)

Eye contact

Riley Zander (left) exchanges a friendly glance with Hallie MacDonale while playing at Johnson Park on a recent weekday morning.
Palo Alto will wait on 13th elementary decision

School board members say adding a school could mean increasing class sizes district-wide or increasing taxes

by Susan Hong

The Palo Alto school district is close to needing a 13th elementary school but is not at the “trigger point” just yet, school board members were told Tuesday night. Larger classes versus added taxes may rest on the decision whether to re-open a 13th school.

But board members said at a study session they need additional information before deciding.

A majority of the members said the board needs to look at full enrollment growth, the high school task force recommendations and input from the community before making a decision on re-opening a 13th elementary school.

The board is scheduled to discuss the issue June 26 at its final board meeting before vacation, but it is expected that decisions will be held off until December or January.

Board members Barb Mitchell and Gail Price said they believed the district has already reached the trigger point. The two agreed with the Attendance Area Advisory Group (AAAG), which “strongly” recommended the board open a 13th school as soon as possible.

A new elementary school would serve 350 students and cost the district $1.5 million in ongoing operational costs and $9 million to bring the building up to Building for Excellence (B4E) standards, according to district officials.

If the district were to open a 13th school now money redirected to the new school would adversely affect programs at secondary schools, administrators warned.

To offset adverse effects, the community would have to agree to a $90 property tax increase per parcel, officials said.

There are more fiscally conservative approaches, such as increasing class sizes to 24 students per teacher at the elementary level. Larger classes would free about 41 classrooms, the district’s demographers.

The district currently is at 92 to 93 percent capacity at the elementary school level, according to officials. The AAAG suggested 96 percent as the trigger point.

“People generally are happy with the growth their children are making in their schools.”

—Camille Townsend, school board president

Board president Camille Townsend said she did not want to make a decision until absolutely necessary because it appears the district has a little more time to consider the issue. She said she had heard more concern about high school capacities than about elementary school crowding.

“People generally are happy with the growth their children are making in their schools,” she said.

“I think we have reached the trigger point for a 13th elementary school,” Price said. She said she could almost predict the district will continue to have enrollment growth. Families will continue to want to come to Palo Alto for the strong schools, she said.

“The reason students have an excellent experience is the quality of our professional staff,” not necessarily because of class sizes, she added.

“I do feel it is an opportunity to provide additional capacity.”

“It’s like a train that leaves the station,” Mandy Lowell said about giving Stratford notice. She preferred to wait until later this year when the district has more information from the high school task force and enrollment numbers.

“I want to explore the consequences of that train leaving.” Dana Tom, board vice-president, said. He said studies show that increasing class sizes to 24 students did not affect learning outcomes. He said he is not ready to spend the substantial amount of money it would take to open a 13th school, especially at the cost of harming secondary-school programs, he said.

Mitchell said she preferred to keep class sizes small. The district had recently received $3 million from the state funding for smaller classes, she said. She did not see a downside to opening a 13th elementary school, she said.

“I think the data is compelling in a number of areas that we should give notice.” Mitchell said of the district’s obligation to give Stratford notice to vacate. “It’s about timing and sequence. I would in an instant vote for making a decision to give Stratford a three-year notice.”

Staff Writer Susan Hong can be reached at shong@paweekly.com.

13th elementary school

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Palo Alto will wait on 13th elementary decision

School board members say adding a school could mean increasing class sizes district-wide or increasing taxes
News Digest

Classic Ford T-bird stolen in 1976 recovered

The owner of a 1956 Ford Thunderbird that was stolen from Palo Alto 31 years ago was surprised but also delighted to hear today that his car had been located in Southern California, apparently none the less for the wear. Ronald Leung is making plans to travel to Ventura County next week to retrieve his long-missing car.

Leung is a retired San Mateo County Sheriff’s Department Deputy who also had been a Palo Alto police officer. He lives in Palo Alto and owns an auto repair shop in Milpitas and had owned one in Palo Alto.

The California Highway Patrol officer who discovered the car’s hard-to-find vehicle identification number (VIN) said the car is in “perfect, original condition” with only 24,979 miles on the odometer.

The car came to the attention of the CHP when a Southern California woman bought it on eBay from a man in Ohio and had it shipped to her. When she went to the Department of Motor Vehicles to get a new license plate, DMV couldn’t find the VIN and sent her to a CHP officer, Christopher Throgmorton, who was able to find VINs on older cars.

That’s what it was discovered that the car had been stolen from Palo Alto in 1976.

The Palo Alto Police Department wasn’t able to find the original police report from 1976 but later found a reference to it in a database, identifying Leung as the owner.

—Don Kazak

Emergency planning starts with a bowl of chili?

A major “Emergency Preparedness Fair” disguised as a chili cook-off and community party will be held July 4 at Mitchell Park, noon to 4:30 p.m.

The underlying message is that a can of chili may be all the help a family could expect in the first days after a major emergency or disaster, so families should do some basic preparation to help themselves.

“In an Emergency You May Be On Your Own,” a flier announcing the event headlines. It will be distributed throughout the community by local Boy Scouts.

The faire could be life-saving, according to John Spiller, one of the organizers.

“The intent of the faire is to educate the public about preparing for a widespread emergency whereby ambulance, fire and police services may not be available for several hours or days to provide assistance,” he said.

The faire is sponsored by the Palo Alto Neighborhoods (PAN) organization, an umbrella group for all 37 neighborhood organizations in Palo Alto.

Co-sponsors include the City of Palo Alto, the American Red Cross, Hewlett Packard and the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce.

—Jay Thorwaldson

Infected beef, onions may be in Palo Alto homes

A nationwide recall of contaminated meat may affect ground beef in the freezers of Palo Alto residents.

The products, contaminated with E. coli, are part of an expanded recall effort begun June 3 by United Food Group, LLC of Vernon, Calif. More than 5.7 million pounds of fresh and frozen ground-beef products are affected by the recall, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service.

The locally sold products include fresh and frozen ground beef from manufacturers Morlan’s All Natural, a brand sold at local grocery-store chains such as Safeway, and Trader Joe’s Butcher Shop 80/20 ground beef patties.

Spokespersons for Safeway and Trader Joe’s were not available for comment.

The meat in question was produced between April 6 and April 20.

Although the products are no longer available in stores, officials are concerned the products may be in consumers’ freezers. For a list of affected products, visit www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Expanded_Recall_025_Release_060907/index.asp.

Diced yellow onions sold in packages under Trader Joe’s brands have been recalled by the store in California and five other states, putting a further cautionary crimp in summer barbecues.

Trader Joe’s officials could not be reached for comment. A spokeswoman for the California Department of Agriculture said her agency did not initiate the recall. But she said testing by the state of Washington found contamination in a bag of onions.

The recalled lot of onions was 2017-R with a sell date of by June 21. The onions were in cartons under the name Gills Onion and Sysco Natural brands.

A spokeswoman for Gills Onions said the Washington State Department of Agriculture detected listeria monocytogenes in one retail bag of onions. The contamination can lead to infection that can be fatal in young children, frail or elderly people. It can also cause miscarriages.

The infection is accompanied by high fever, severe headaches, stiffness, nausea, abdominal pain and diarrhea.

—Sue Dremann and Don Kazak
Fire
(continued from page 3)
only senior firefighters be used to staff Station 8.
The city opened Station 8 in Foothills Park following a devastat-
ing 1985 arson fire that burned 150 acres and destroyed more than 10 houses. It always has been staffed by firefighters working overtime, according to fire Chief Nick Marinaro. Everyone agrees using overtime is cheaper than creating three new full-time positions.

“We’re definitely not interested in lowering services in (any) part of the city to staff another part of the city.”
—Tony Spitaleri, Firefighters’ union
The department maintains a list of volunteers for overtime, Marinaro said. If there aren’t enough volunteers, other firefighters are assigned, he said.

Marinaro disputed claims that only the most senior staff are picked for Station 8. He said it is important that two of the three firefighters have prior wildfire firefighting experience due to the volatility of the brush-laden terrain.

“Wildland firefighting is a very unique type of firefighting,” Marinaro said. “It’s a whole different paradigm than a house structure.”

He told the council that the fuel-load of the hills is up to five times as dense as it has been for decades, and there are no current programs such as controlled burning or brush removal other than maintaining fire breaks and cutting back dry grass.

Firefighters stationed in Foothills Park keep busy, he said. They con-
duct house checks, maintain equipment, train and patrol fire roads, Marinaro said.

“They’re not just sitting in the fire station admiring the view all day,” he said.

Staffing Station 8 wasn’t even mentioned during negotiations that led to a four-year contract that began in 2006.

Spitaleri said he would have loved to talk about Station 8 during the negotiations. Benest would only confirm: “That is not one of the issues we discussed.”

Benest revied the debate in early 2007 when he proposed only staffing Station 8 on high-risk days instead of all summer (120 days). Only between 10 and 30 days are usually classified as high-risk. Benest said the change would save about $140,000.

In the weeks before the council’s June 11 budget hearings, foothills residents mobilized, collecting dor-
dens of signatures and trooping down to City Hall for the final decision.

After citing public safety, prop-
erty values, drought conditions, medical emergencies and the city’s emergency-preparedness priority, Palo Alto Hills Neighborhood As-
sociation President Jan Terry even tried to sway the vote by bringing up one of the council’s favorite causes: climate change.

The council voted 6-3 to scale back coverage. Council members Judy Kleinberg, LaDoris Cordell and Kishimoto wanted to keep the station open all summer.

Beecham again voted to keep the station open only on the most dan-
ergrous days, a compromise he said he considered “a reasonable policy.” He was joined by other council members who had hoped the issue would be resolved in 2006.

“We come back to this every sin-
gle year because it’s about the cost of how we fund Station 8,” a clearly frustrated Morton said.

In order to resolve the impasse, the council needed to “hold firm,” Klein said.

The council instructed Benest to again “meet and confer” with the union.

Spitaleri initially flatly rejected the council’s request to negotiate. But he later said he would meet with the union’s executive board, which represents the 107 non-management fire personnel.

“We’re definitely not interested in lowering services in (any) part of the city to staff another part of the city,”

—Frank Benest, City Manager

Spitaleri said. He later agreed to meet in late June and discuss “other funding options,” Marinaro said.

“We are very interested in working with them to find a solution that meets the budget requirements.”

The council instructed Benest to meet in late June and discuss “other funding options,” Marinaro said.

“We are very interested in working with them to find a solution that meets the budget requirements,” Benest said.

It costs about $1,500 a day to staff Station 8 using overtime. Marinaro said. But despite the rhetoric, does the reduced staffing really imperil public safety?

“All I can say is that’s what the council decided they want to do, and we have to support what the council decides,” Marinaro said.

For additional history of the Foothills fire station impasse, go to www.PaloAltoOnline.com.
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**Spago**

(continued from page 3)

Spago was able to successfully argue that the building had changed so much since 1926 that it had lost its historic integrity.

Butse maintained that, among other changes, the removal of a front porch — which Backlund estimated occurred in the 1940s when the city widened Lytton — “really adversely affected this property.”

The original front entryway was converted into three small windows, but the front brick steps are still in place.

“Its primary facade has been altered,” she said, adding that the building now has a “rambling footprint.”

HRB members unanimously disagreed.

They said the building met requirements for being a Category 4 historic resource, which, as opposed to Categories 1 or 2, “may have had extensive or permanent changes made to the original design,” according to a staff report.

“It hasn’t lost its original feel in the front,” board member Roger Kohler said, adding that the front door “could always become an entrance in the future.”

Board members noted that the Tinney family played a significant role in Palo Alto and in the state, starting when George Tinney founded his funeral home in 1910.

Though the family eventually sold the business to another Palo Alto funeral home in 1976, their name is still associated with it as Roller Hapgood & Tinney.

Jerry Tinney, George’s grandson, was pleased to hear that his grandfather’s building would remain on the city’s historic inventory.

“I’m glad they’re not going to tear it down,” said Tinney, 73, who lives in Palo Alto.

“I feel quite an attachment to it, from my own history. I used to go down there all the time,” he said.

He was surprised that no one had contacted him about the possibility of the building being demolished.

“I’ve been worrying about that since I heard that Spago was going to close up,” he said.

Backlund said rehabilitating the building could bump it up to a higher level of protection on the city’s historic inventory, meaning that the owner could earn development bonuses.

“I see that as a huge hurdle to get over financially,” Hayes said, responding to the suggestion of restoring the building.

King said after the meeting that there are “a lot of unanswered questions” about what he will now do with the building.

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More than a fling

McPherson, Anderson, MacIntyre, McGregor.” As Scottish dancers pass by, kilt maker Coletta Hill reads their pleated blue, green, white and red clan tartans as though translating characters in a wool-based Scottish language.

The Red Thistle Dancers, a Palo Alto Scottish dance performance group, is having its weekly rehearsal in preparation for a summer of Scottish Highland games. The group performs Scottish country dancing, which is like a ballroom dance typically done in groups of eight or 16; and Highland dancing, a more rigorous dance originally performed by Scottish warriors.

The Red Thistle Dancers’ rehearsal in a dance studio at the Cubberley Community Center feels like a party, with the laughter matching the loudness of the music and the figures of “Glayva,” a two-couple jig with a series of skips, turns and crosses, named after an alcoholic drink.

And this is not just a party for Scottish people. Though nearly every Red Thistle dancer owns at least one kilt and sports a family tartan, the Red Thistle is composed of people of many different backgrounds who have been learning to dance Scottish dances for various lengths of time. 

Palo Alto’s Red Thistle Dancers have been exploring Scottish dance for 30 years (continued on next page)
Scottish dance (continued from previous page)

During performances, 25-year Red Thistle dancer Alan Tawggs says that on the but half of the group claims any Scottish heritage.

Zaza Wu, who has danced with the group for nine years, noted, “As you can tell from my last name, Scottish heritage is certainly not a prerequisite to learning Scottish Highland or country dancing.”

Kelly began Scottish country dancing when she moved to the United States. Wu was born and raised in Hong Kong. “I still remember hearing the pipe bands practicing in the barracks in Hong Kong when it was a British colony,” Wu said.

“All of the women who participate in Scottish dancing either love the music or learning the patterns of the dances or both,” she said.

Armin Busse, an eight-year Red Thistle dancer and German native, agreed. “We only smile if we have fun,” said Busse, who is also a Scottish country dance instructor.

Fun and smiles have been the basis of the Red Thistle Dancers’ philosophy for 30 years, more or less. “We celebrated our 30-year anniversary in October of last year because no one can remember when we officially evolved,” said Jennifer Kelly, artistic director of the group.

Kelly first joined a Palo Alto Scottish dance group in 1966 after she emigrated from England with her husband. When that group’s artistic director, C. Stuart Smith, left Palo Alto, “someone twisted my arm to start teaching an advanced (Scottish) class,” Kelly said.

The Red Thistle Dancers gradually evolved from that class.

Like many of her dancers, Kelly has a ballet background. She became interested in Scottish dancing because of its challenging footwork.

While Scottish country dancing is similar to other international folk dances, Tawggs says: “Scottish country dancing has the most precision. There is a lot taken from ballet that you won’t see in English or Irish country dancing.”

In her choreography for the Red Thistle Dancers, Kelly says she aims to keep the dances as close to the traditional form as possible.

In traditional country dances, for example, figures are “like the dances you read about in Jane Austen novels,” Kelly said. In a party setting, these dances could play eight to 16 times so everyone could dance in each spot. But this style doesn’t work so well as a performance piece.

“A long line of men are facing a long line of women, which means they are not facing the audience,” Kelly said. “This is dreadfully boring for the audience! Who wants to watch the same thing for a half an hour?”

So Kelly makes a dance more interesting by repeatedly changing the dancers’ orientation to the audience, and adding original transitions between each set.

Most recently, she choreographed “performance suites” for the Red Thistle Dancers that include an 18th-century medley as well as a modern medley that adds twists to traditional Scottish dancing.

“Once you’ve learned the basic figures, you can do any number of dances by putting them in different orders and adding transitions,” Kelly said.

Kelly’s work drew praise from 16-year Red Thistle dancer Fred DeMarse, who called her “wonderful, a creative genius and a strong leader.”

The dancers have performed in many venues, including festivals, parties, weddings and retirement centers. They get paid for about 20 percent of their shows, they use the money to help them promote Scottish culture in the Bay Area through free school performances, instructional videos and other programs, Wu said.

Anyone interested in being a Red Thistle dancer can practice with the group for a six- to eight-week audition period to “judge your technical skills, whether you socially fit in and whether you like it and are willing to make the time commitment,” Tawggs said.

Many members have committed between two and three hours per week to the Red Thistle Dancers. And that’s only the time spent dancing. They also teach dancing and sew traditional costumes — and spend time commuting to rehearsal.

The current group includes dancers from as far away as Berkeley, San Francisco and Lafayette.

Seven of the Red Thistle Dancers are accredited Scottish country dance instructors, and four are accredited Highland dance instructors. Another, Fred DeMarse, spends his spare time teaching and judging Highland dance, as one of the eight accredited Highland competition judges in California.

Achieving the traditional Scottish look involves an equally serious time commitment. Just ask Coletta Hill, who says it requires 100 to 200 hours to sew each wool kilt by hand.

Most of the dancers, though, buy their kilts from Scotland at $600 to $700 each. Luckily, Hill said, “kilts don’t wear out.”

This also seems true of the dancers who own them. Tawggs says people often keep Scottish dancing “swung into their 80s and 90s.”

Group members range in age from 20s to 70s. As the years go by, Keppeler jokes that the group keeps threatening to “choreograph a dance with walkers.”

While the rehearsal is picking up speed and height, Keppeler is using a strained ankle and watching her fellow dancers complete their formations. She smiles and says, “As your body begins to tell you other things to enjoy about it (Scottish dance),”

Some of the Red Thistle Dancers are concerned about what they see as younger generations’ lack of interest in Scottish dance.

Though Kelly estimates that there are about 400 people engaged in the Bay Area’s Scottish country dance community, she thinks that the number of younger people is low. “They can’t afford to live here. After a horrendous commute, the last thing they want to do is drive back out here to do Scottish dance,” she said.

Eight-year Red Thistle dancer Karim MacKnight also sees a shortage of qualified Highland dance instructors in the area.

As for the Red Thistle group, Kelly said it has been having difficulties recruiting new dancers. To help, she would like to develop a training class that would help experienced dancers in their teens and early 20s transition into the performance group.

Other Scottish dance enthusiasts, though, think the art’s future in the Bay Area is bright. That includes 23-year-old Nancy McKeown, a three-year Red Thistle dancer and graduate student at the University of California at Santa Cruz.

This Stanford alumna studied abroad in Edinburgh for a year and competed with a Scottish country dance team while she was there. She likes the dance style because “at the most basic level, you can get people who have never tried it before and everyone has a good time.”

McKeown said that the age difference with her fellow Red Thistle Dancers doesn’t matter. In fact, she added, “I like spending lots of time with them.”

And they do spend lots of time together, from practices and performances to ski trips and Hogmanay, a three-day Scottish New Year’s Day celebration that the Thistle Dancers keep the celebration to a one-night sleepover.

The dancers are so close that they are “like people you would meet at a barn raising,” Keppeler said. “They’re a network of people outside of your family, but there is no push to sell or convert someone. They’re a network of people who have never tried it before and everyone has a good time.”

McKeown describes Scottish dancing as “a unifying experience.”

“We have to work together. We’re not fighting for a moment to shine,” she said. “We all get to shine.”

Info: For more about the Red Thistle Dancers, call 650-327-0762 or go to www.redthistleancers.org. Other information about Scottish dancing can be found at the Web site of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society’s local branch, at rscds-st.org/ classes.html.

About the cover: Dave Grote’sKill flies as he dances at the Cubberley cen-

ter. Photo by Norbert von der Groeben.
The year was 2000, and you could find everything on the Internet. Except, apparently, the Waverley Writers. Poet Robert Perry was looking for a venue to read his work in public for the first time. But he couldn’t find what he wanted online, so he sought help at the Palo Alto library.

The librarian who happened to be at the reference desk was Sharon Olson, a longtime poet with Palo Alto’s venerable Waverley Writers, who held monthly readings — but didn’t have a Web site. So before he knew it, Perry found himself standing at the Waverley podium some days later, nervously preparing to read.

“They asked, ‘Is this your first time?’ I said yes,” Perry recalls during an interview. “There was no applause. That made it easy.”

Chatting with a Weekly reporter, Perry is sitting with Olson and fellow Waverley stalwart Palmer Pinney in that very building where he gave his first reading. This is the Palo Alto Friends Meeting House, where the poetry readings have taken place every first Friday of the month since 1984 (except in July and August). It’s a peaceful spot, set far back from Colorado Avenue and cushioned from the busy world by trees.

The house is also the perfect place to talk about the new book “Waverley Writers: Celebrating 25 Years with new book” by Rebecca Wallace.

The group started working on the book after realizing that many important Waverley writers had died or moved away, Pinney said. Originally, the book was to be more about the craft of writing poetry, but it evolved into a tribute to the Waverley community.

The tome officially debuts tonight at a party at the Meeting House, 9:30 p.m. reading will feature poems by many longtime and former Waverley poets, including Bob Evans, Dave Berry and the late Katie Reeder and Margaret Mullen, who founded the group in 1981 with others.

It’s clear, too, that the evening wouldn’t be complete without hearing work by the late Dick Maxwell. Maxwell’s Waverley Writers Conference and led poetry workshops at Foothill College that “were the heart and soul of the Palo Alto area poetry scene, from the 1970s through the 1990s,” Olson wrote in the book.

“Most of the early Waverleys studied with him at Foothill’s downtown Palo Alto campus on Waverley,” Olson wrote. “That building no longer exists.” He sent legions of writers to Waverley Writers.

Maxwell and his wife, Sarah, also hosted many legendary parties at their Bryant Street home after Foothill Writers Conference readings.

“People just go to read and turn off. … It has lived up to its original intent of making the oral delivery of poetry what it once was, an important part of the composition.”

The Waverley Writers also have prominent poets to come and give workshops. In addition, some Waverley poets meet in smaller groups to provide feedback to each other, and here the tone remains constructive, Pinney said.

“The object is to suggest to these poets what direction they might go, rather than destroying their sense of self,” he said.

Besides honoring the Waverley community, the new book also features photos and maps of important spots in the local poetry scene. Its map section includes bygone Palo Alto hangouts, such as the Varity Theater, the Art21 Gallery (recently closed), and Ramona’s Pizza (now the Old Pro).

As a librarian, Olson tends to save things, and she enhanced the book with clippings, notes and a memory for details. She hopes it will serve as a historical document, part of the chronicles of Peninsula literary life.

“We had many books of poetry, but not a context,” she said. “Now if a book surfaces in someone’s garage, we can put it in context.”

What: A party for the release of the Waverley Writers’ 25th-anniversary book

Where: Palo Alto Friends Meeting House, 957 Colorado Ave.

When: The party starts at 6 p.m., with poetry readings at 7:30.

Cost: The party is free; books will be sold there for $15.

Info: For more about the Waverley Writers and the book, contact Palmer Pinney at 650-485-9885 or palmepp@pacbell.net, or Sharon Olson at 650-323-7897 or slopoet@well.com.

The way we were

Waverley Writers look back at a rich 25-year history with new book

by Rebecca Wallace

The party is free; books will be sold there for $15.

The house is also the perfect place to talk about the new book “Waverley Writers: Celebrating 25 Years with new book” by Rebecca Wallace.

The group started working on the book after realizing that many important Waverley writers had died or moved away, Pinney said. Originally, the book was to be more about the craft of writing poetry, but it evolved into a tribute to the Waverley community.

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Hearing applause and laughter from a mock audience behind the stage — as you sit in your seat applauding and laughing — is an eerie theatrical experience.

But watching the play “Noises Off” is like being turned inside-out. Suddenly, you, the audience, are seeing the wrong side of the play (or, maybe more accurately, the play’s backside) as you are transported backstage to see what really goes on as a spectacularly befuddled British theater company attempts to put on a dreadful farce entitled “Nothing On.”

“Noises Off” begins just after midnight on the morning of the opening night of “Nothing On,” during a final dress rehearsal, as frustrated director Lloyd Dallas (Dan Kapler) tries to get the actors to remember their props and lines in the first act.

The problem is that everyone is distracted. One actor’s wife has just left him, and stress causes his nose to bleed without warning. Two members of the cast are carrying on a clandestine affair. Meanwhile, the director has got himself embroiled with not only a ditzy actress, Brooke Ashton (Bevin Bell-Hill), but also with the assistant stage manager, Poppy Norton-Taylor (Nicole C. Hastings), who is in a constant stew of nervous tension, mostly expressed through wild British farce.

It’s a challenge to be well rehearsed, but this cast works superbly as an ensemble. One actor’s wife has just left him, and stress causes his nose to bleed without warning. Two members of the cast are carrying on a clandestine affair. Meanwhile, the director has got himself embroiled with not only a ditzy actress, Brooke Ashton (Bevin Bell-Hill), but also with the assistant stage manager, Poppy Norton-Taylor (Nicole C. Hastings), who is in a constant stew of nervous tension, mostly expressed through wild British farce.

Lynn Redgrave. He realized the double entendre was concocted by her legs.

On. The act is seen first from the audience perspective during another version of Act One of “Nothing On.” The act is seen first from the audience perspective during another version of Act One of “Nothing On.”

The actions of inarticulateness; his every move is seen as a spectacle. The public can see the company members’ personal passions, resentments and angst are exposed as indelible parts of their performances.

The only figure with any grasp of reality is Belinda Blair (Kristen Otley, a woman whose innocent attempts to put her feet up are plagued by a succession of mistimed arrivals, a telephone cord, and a plate of errant sardines.

The two-story set is designed by Kai-Hao Lo to rotate, revealing both front stage and backstage. Its stairs, doors and windows reverberate as bodies fling themselves up and down, and in and out. The action is so intense you get the impression that the combined cast must have logged at least 100 kilometers during the evening. When a character comments, “This is getting farcical!” you can only heartily agree, sit back and revel in the farces.

After seeing “Noises Off,” the theatergoers may never again hear that soothing auditorium announcement “Ladies and gentlemen, please take your seats, the curtain will rise in three minutes” without wondering what’s really going on backstage in those moments before the play begins.

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Where: Lucie Stern Theatre, 1306 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto.

When: Through July 1, Wednesdays through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2:30 p.m.

Cost: Tickets are $26 on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays and $30 on Fridays and Saturdays.

Info: Call 650-329-0891 or go to www.paplayers.org.

Learn about a spiritedly art exhibit dedicated to the pomegranate. Or play newspaper editor and write your best captions for a quirky arts photo. It’s all on arts editor Rebecca Wallace’s blog. Go to www.PaloAltoOnline.com and scroll down to Ad Libs.
Worth a Look

Art

‘Beyond the Surface’

For those frustrated with the grade-school commandment to “keep your hands behind your back,” Gallery House’s upcoming exhibition might evoke a twist-n-shout response.

“Beyond the Surface” includes “multi-orientation” paintings by Sydell Lewis that viewers can manually rotate to see images from different perspectives. Other canvases mounted on battery-operated devices periodically rotate in 45-degree increments.

The layers of Martha Castillo’s clay prints also help viewers go “beyond the surface.” Castillo makes hand-pulled monotypes from a multi-layered slab of unfired stoneware.

The exhibit opens June 26 and runs through July 21, with an artists’ reception planned for June 29 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Also scheduled are a talk by Lewis on July 7 at 1 p.m., and a monotype demonstration by Castillo on July 21 at 1 p.m.

Gallery House, located at 320 California Ave., is open Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Wednesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Call 650-326-1668 or go to www.galleryhouse2.com.

Botanical art

Those dreading the pending hot and arid summer can instead savor the botanical beauties of spring at the Palo Alto Art Center. The gallery’s new summer exhibitions include paintings by Frances McCormack, sculpture by Renee Adams and photography from a collection of artists.

In “From the Ground Up: Painting, Process and the Garden,” McCormack evokes the colors and motions associated with working in the garden. “Photography: Beyond Botanica” includes work both modern and historical, both literal and surreal, from artists such as Anna Atkins and Karl Blossfeldt. Renee Adams’ collection of mixed-media sculptures explores how human manipulation of nature reflects human nature itself.

The summer shows run through Sept. 9 at the art center at 1313 Newell Road in Palo Alto. Center hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m.; and 7 to 9 p.m. Thursdays. Admission is free.

For more information, call 650-329-2366 or go to www.cityofpaloalto.org.

Music

Nancy King

Some jazz musicians have brass and others have strings, but only vocalists can make the improvised, syllabicated sounds of scat singing.

Nancy King, a jazz vocalist known for her scat singing, will perform at the Stanford Jazz Festival on June 24 at 2:30 p.m. with Steve Christofferson on the piano. The two have played together frequently since their first collaboration in 1978 and have released several recordings.

Nancy King sings at the Stanford Jazz Festival on June 24.

Film and theater

‘Africans in Stage’

Africa takes center stage at the Stanford Summer Theater’s 2007 Summer Festival. A series of films and stage productions focus on Africa’s cultural richness, historical and modern complexities and human potential.

The film series will hold screenings every Monday night from June 25 through Aug. 13. The series begins with “A Dry White Season,” and continues with "Hotel Rwanda," “Chocolat,” “Lumumbu,” “Black Gold,” “Bamako,” “Sometimes in April” and “Tsotsi.” All screenings will begin at 8 p.m. in Cubberley Auditorium at Stanford University’s School of Education.

The 2007 Summer Festival also puts Africa “on stage” with four storytelling, theatrical and musical stage productions. They are: “Tings Dey Happen” from July 5 to July 8; “Les Blancs” from July 19 to Aug. 8; “Farewell to a Cannibal Rage” from Aug. 9 to Aug. 12; and “Oda Oak Oracle” from Aug. 16 to Aug. 19. All performances begin at 8 p.m. at various locations on the Stanford campus.

See summertheater.stanford.edu or call 650-725-5838 for tickets and more information.
**AMERICAN**

**Armadillo Willy's** 941-2922
1031 N. San Antonio Rd., Los Altos
Range: $5.00-13.00

**Hobee's** 856-6124
4224 El Camino Real, Palo Alto
Also at Town & Country Village, Palo Alto 327-4111

**Burmese**

**Green Elephant Gourmet** (650) 494-7391
Burmese & Chinese Cuisine
3950 Middlefield Rd., Palo Alto
(Charleston Shopping Center)
Dine-In, Take-Out, Local Delivery-Catering

**Chinese**

**Chef Chu's** (650) 948-2696
1067 N. San Antonio Road on the corner of El Camino, Los Altos

**Jing Jing** 328-6885
443 Emerson St., Palo Alto
Authentic Szechwan, Hunan Food To Go, Delivery
www.jingjinggourmet.com

**Ming's** 856-7700
1700 Embarcadero East, Palo Alto
www.mings.com

**New Tung Kee Noodle House**
520 Showers Dr., MV in San Antonio Ctr.
Voted MV Voice Best '01, '02, '03 & '04
Prices start at $3.75 See Coupon 947-8888

**Peking Duck** 856-3338
2310 El Camino Real, Palo Alto
We also deliver.

**EUROPEAN**

**Chez Zucca** 327-0132
541 Bryant St., Palo Alto
Lunch M-F 11:30am-3:00pm
Dinner Sun-Wed 5-10pm; Th-Sat 5-11pm
Brunch Sun 11:30am-3:00pm
Now serving our Spring Menu

**French**

**Chez TJ** 964-7466
939 Villa St., Mountain View
Tues-Sat Dinners only 5:30-9:00pm
“Outrageously good” New French-American fare
—Zagat 2003

**Indian**

**Cafe Bombay** 946-9463
4546 El Camino, Los Altos
Lunch, Dinner, Buffets every day

**Darbar Indian Cuisine** 321-6688
129 Lytton, Downtown Palo Alto
Lunch Buffet M-F; Open 7 days

**Janta Indian Restaurant** 462-5903
369 Lytton Ave., Downtown Palo Alto
Lunch Buffet M-F; Organic Veggies

**Italian**

**Oregano’s** 941-3600
4546 El Camino, Los Altos
Gourmet Pasta, Pizza, Banquet Rooms

**Spalti Ristorante** 327-9390
417 California Ave, Palo Alto
Exquisite Food • Outdoor Dining

**Trattoria Buon Gusto** 328-2778
161 Maloney Lane, Menlo Park
Sicilian Menu • Family owned

**Japanese & Sushi**

**Fuki Sushi** 494-9383
4119 El Camino Real, Palo Alto
Open 7 days a week

**LEBANESE**

**Illusions**

**Mexican**

**Fiesta Del Mar** 965-9354
1006 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View
Mexican Cuisine & Cantina

**Fiesta Del Mar Too** 987-3525
735 Villa Street, Mountain View
Open Weeknites to 11pm, Weekends to 12pm

**Palo Alto Sol** 328-9940
408 California Ave, Palo Alto
Range: $1.50-16.50

**Pizza My Heart** 327-9400
220 University Ave., Palo Alto
Range: $6.00-18.00

**Pizza Chicago** 424-9400
4115 El Camino Real, Palo Alto
This IS the best pizza in town

**Spot A Pizza** 324-3131
107 Town & Country Village
Voted Best Pizza in Palo Alto
www.spotapizza.com

**Polynesian**

**Trader Vic’s** 849-9800
4289 El Camino Real, Palo Alto
Try our Sunday à la Carte Brunch!
Lunch Tue-Fri 11:30am - 2pm
Brunch Sun 10:30am - 2pm
Dinner Mon-Thurs 5-11pm, Fri-Sat 5-11pm;
Sun 4:30 - 9:30pm
Lounge open nightly

**Seafood**

**Cook’s Seafood** 325-0604
751 El Camino Real, Menlo Park
Seafood Dinners from $8.95 to $19.95

**Thai**

**Thaiphoon Restaurant** 323-7700
543 Emerson St., Palo Alto
Full Bar, Outdoor Seating
www.thaiphoonrestaurant.com
2006 Best Thai Restaurant in Palo Alto

**Indochine** 853-1238
Thai & Vietnamese Cuisine
www.indochinethai.com
2710 Middlefield Rd, Palo Alto
Midtown Shopping Center

**Krug Siam** 322-5900
423 University Ave., Palo Alto
King of Krung Siam 960-7077
194 Castro St., Mtn. View

**Search a complete listing of local restaurant reviews by location or type of food on PaloAltoOnline.com**
Eating Out

Fusion blown apart

3ta thinks different, a little too different

by Sheila Himmel

F irst, the name question: 3ta is pronounced “three-ta” like cheetah. There are three own-
ers, and the restaurant was inspired by a Thai woman whose name is spelled Threeta in English.

In this and other ways, the own-
er crew took over between courses.

Matt Pimsakul, became a very pop-
ular bartender and wanted to try something different. They gutted the space between the El Grullense
taqueria and Pasta? and brought in an architect from Thailand to cre-
ate a very cool space that skews to a younger crowd. Around the bar, a nchored cement floor tiles and painted
cells mix shows up as a
crumbly teracotta tile and painted
cement mix of dark wood floors.

Happy hour offers $2 kamikazes and $5 garlic fries.

Matt Pimsakul is a friendly guy. You can see why people want to be around him. I entered 3ta one
weekday at noon, and although there were tables set, it wasn’t entirely clear whether this was a restaurant or just a bar. He imme-
 diately greeted me and told me to sit anywhere. When I chose a table for four for my part of just two he
said, “Fine, but you have to eat for four.”

The servers and the soft-shell crabs are beautiful. But overall ser-
vices and food are so inconsistent that it may feel like a whole new crew took over between courses.

The menu says French-Thai Cuis-
ine, which would be complicated enough without the stylings of India
(3ta, samosa) and Italian (anhe, tem-
pura), China (hot and sour soup)

California (portobella mush-
room steak). Elsewhere it is called
Asian fusion. Many dishes have arieties next to their names, but you have to ask what that means. It
means the dish is spicy.

Green papaya salad ($10) is full
of crisp julienne of carrots and green papaya, just-blanched green beans, peanuts and pretty red
things that are either cherry toma-
toies or chilies. Be careful.

The julienne mix shows up as a
sidekick, with mild dressing, on the
smoked duck salad ($12) that also
is marked as spicy but isn’t. A gen-
erous number of creamy coconut milk sauce, were served very rare. The server should have asked if that’s what we wanted.

3ta servers another complication is that they don’t need. Many people plant themselves in the wrong patch, and

Matt Pimsakul, who was a popular bartender at Amarin Thai, is now running 3ta. Pictured at left is Kristina
Chapman preparing a drink at 3ta.

NOW SERVING

Following are condensed versions, in alpha-
batical order, of longer restaurant reviews
published in the Weekly over the past several
years. This week’s reviews begin where the
list ended one week ago.

Alice’s Restaurant, 17288 Skyline Blvd.,
Woodside (650) 851-3033
Alice’s serves a basic breakfast and lunch
dinner. Evening fare includes a surprising
list ended one week ago.

Amaran’s, 156 Castro St., Mountain View
(650) 988-9323
Fresh and contemporary with traditional
Thai touches. Wide range of vegetar-
ian options, aromatic curries, lunchtime
complimentary soup of the day. Lunch
Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Dinner 5-10 p.m.
Sat.-Sun. noon-10 p.m. (Reviewed March
15, 1996)

Amarin Thai, 290 Portola Valley (650) 851-3997
This Mexican restaurant bills itself as a
combination of “burrito stand casual” and
“upscale dining.” Full tequila bar and hap-
pier-hour appetizers. Daily 9 a.m.-10 p.m.

Andale Mexican Restaurant, 209 Univer-
sity Ave., Palo Alto (650) 323-2939
This number of tenderloins, in rich
taqueria and Pasta? and brought in
an architect from Thailand to cre-
ate a very cool space that skews to a younger

Ambro’s downtown Eastrside, 139 Main Street, Los Altos (650) 948-6765
A full-service deli with gelato and espresso
drinks. Other menu items include tradi-
tional Italian favorites such as lasagna and
raviolis. Catering is also available. Daily
9 a.m.-9 p.m.

Amici’s East Coast Pizzeria, 780 Castro St., Mountain View (650) 988-2753
“Indian bits and bites,” courtesy of the
same folks who brought you the ac-
claimed Amber India Restaurant. Many
smaller plates, such as lentil dumplings,
“Chili Cheese Toast,” Indian-style wraps,
and chicken wings. Tandoori dishes and
combos, too, as well as lassi drinks. Mon.-
Thurs. 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and 5-10 p.m.; Fri.
Mon. 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and 5-10 p.m.; Sat.
noon-10 p.m.; Sun. noon-10 p.m.

Amber India Restaurant, 220 Castro Real, Mountain View (650) 968-7511
Innovative North Indian menu with many an
equal number of mild and spicy dishes for
vegetarians and non-vegetarians. Impres-

Antonio’s Nut House, 321 California
Ave., Palo Alto (650) 322-2505
Palo Alto’s only dive bar. Although the bar
itself does not serve food, Taqueria Azteca
caters to the bar crowd with a variety of
traditional tex-mex. And, of course, there
are plenty of peanuts. Daily 10-2 a.m.
(continued on next page)
Applewood Inn, 1301 El Camino Real, Menlo Park (650) 324-3466
Creative gourmet pizzas (toppings include sun-dried tomatoes, cauliflower, exotic cheeses, salads, soups, sandwiches and pastas available at lunch. Take-out available. Mon-Fri. 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Mon-Sat. 5-10 p.m.; Sun. 5-9 p.m. (Reviewed Sept. 1, 2003)
Appledore Pizza 2 Go, 989 El Camino Real, Menlo Park (650) 328-2556
A quick version of Applewood Inn's popular pizzas. Daily 5-9 p.m. (Reviewed Oct. 1, 2003)
Arikato, 3040 A 1st Rengstorf Ave, Mountain View (650) 988-8686
Arikato offers more than 30 original sushi rolls, each including a dizzying list of ingredients. The restaurant also offers a wealth of choices for the sushi-shy, from bountiful bento boxes to generous soups and noodle plates. Combined with friendly, quick service and fair prices, Arikato seems to be more than just a quick after-shopping stop. It's a must-try for sushi fans.
Open seven days a week. Lunch: Monday through Friday, 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; Dinner: Monday through Sunday, 5:30-9:30 p.m. (Reviewed Nov. 5, 2004)
Amandala’s, 1533 N. San Antonio Road, Los Altos (650) 942-2922
This Texas-style restaurant serves up big plates of barbecue, ribs and steaks. Try any of the barbecue sandwiches or plates with a side of fries or the spicy peanut slaw. You won't go home hungry. Sun.-Thu. 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; Fri.-Sat. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. (Reviewed March 14, 2004)
Asia Fusion Cafe, 873 Castro St., Mountain View (650) 220-9393
This menu features a variety of Asian recipes with “home cooking dishes” from the Philippines. Appetizers include lumpia and spring rolls; entrees include vegetable coconut curry, eggplant fritters and creamy seafood pot pie. Mon. 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Tues.-Fri. 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; 5:30-8:30 p.m.; Fri. karaoke 8:30-11:30 p.m.; Sat. 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; 5:30-8:30 p.m.
Avanti Pizza & Pasta, 3536 Alameda De Las Pulgas, Menlo Park (650) 324-2222
Pizza, pastas, salads, sandwiches and entrees such as veal parmigiana and chicken fingers. Creative pizza toppings.
B.J. Bull, 3403 Alma St., Palo Alto (650) 493-7330
Tiny, cozy restaurant featuring homemade Cornish pasties, fruit pies, chili and salads. British beer on tap. Pub menu includes steaks, burgers, fish and chips, bangers and mash. Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (Reviewed March 14, 2003)
Baba Nee, 315 Moffett Blvd, Mountain View (650) 903-9219
Offers Malaysian-Singaporean manu items with plenty of meat, seafood and poultry choices, as well as a large vegetarian selection. Noodles abound. Lunch: Tue.-Sun. 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; Dinner: Sun. & Tue. 5 p.m.-9:30 p.m.; Fri.-Sat. 5 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
Babbo’s, 747 Stanford Shopping Center, Palo Alto (650) 321-1488
A peaceful sanctuary for shoppers at Stanford Shopping Center. Babbo’s offers an array of Mediterranean-inspired dishes, pizza, pasta, meat dishes, sandwiches and salads. Especially good are the mussels, Tuscan soup, lamb tagine, sesame-crusted tofu. Mon.-Thu. 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; Fri.-Sat. 11 a.m.-9 p.m.
Bars & Pub, 324 El Camino Real, Los Altos (650) 941-9222
Winner of Best Chinese Food RESTAURANT
Mandarin Gourmet
1001 El Camino Real
(650) 328-8898
www.MandarinGourmet-PaloAlto.com
A quick version of Applewood Inn’s popular pizzas. Daily (Reviewed Nov. 5, 2004)
Applewood Pizza 2 Go
Now Open
A quick version of Applewood Inn’s popular pizzas. Daily 5-9 p.m. (Reviewed Oct. 1, 2003)
Mandarin Gourmet
1001 El Camino Real
(650) 328-8898
www.MandarinGourmet-PaloAlto.com
A quick version of Applewood Inn’s popular pizzas. Daily 5-9 p.m. (Reviewed Oct. 1, 2003)
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www.MandarinGourmet-PaloAlto.com
A quick version of Applewood Inn’s popular pizzas. Daily 5-9 p.m. (Reviewed Oct. 1, 2003)
Mandarin Gourmet
1001 El Camino Real
(650) 328-8898
www.MandarinGourmet-PaloAlto.com
A quick version of Applewood Inn’s popular pizzas. Daily 5-9 p.m. (Reviewed Oct. 1, 2003)
the restaurant's creative -- and lengthy -- menu. A complete vegetarian menu echoes the style and flavors of many regular menu offerings. Mon.-Sat. lunch 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; Mon.-Sat.; dinner 5-10 p.m.; Sun. 5-10 p.m. (Reviewed April 22, 2005)

Bamboo Spoon, 702 Villa St., Mountain View (650) 968-2038

Affordable Thai food in a comfortable setting with excellent, friendly service. Mon.-Fri. 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; 5-10 p.m.; Sat. 11:30 a.m.-10:30 p.m. (Reviewed Feb. 20, 2004)

Bistro Maxine, 548 Ramona St., Palo Alto (650) 323-1825

Bistro Maxine, both savory and sweet, as well as salads and sandwiches. There are chorizos with liqueur for those desiring an extra kick; those selections include the Normandy (apples, butter, creme fraiche, Calvados), the Josephine (bananas, roasted almonds, Grand Mar- nier) and the Malicious (orange jam, hot chocolate, Cointreau). Swimming-pool sized cappuccinos, house red and white wine, beer and cider. Daily 7 a.m.-10 p.m. (Reviewed Sept. 8, 2006)

Blue or Vida, 642 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park (650) 462-1686

Traditional dishes with mixed results at this Persian-style cafe. Professional, knowledgeable service, edgily serviceable and a cozy ambiance. Mon.-Fri. 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; 5-10 p.m.; Sat.-Sun. 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; 5-10 p.m. (Reviewed July 13, 2002)

Blue Chali Cafe, 630 Ramona St., Palo Alto (650) 942-0960

As much a bar and pool hall as a restaurant. "Nouveau" Southern cuisine with a glittering view to match. Spe- cialties include the Josephine (bananas, roasted almonds, Grand-Mar- nier), the Malicious (orange jam, hot chocolate, Cointreau). Swimming-pool sized cappuccinos, house red and white wine, beer and cider. Daily 7 a.m.-10 p.m. (Reviewed Sept. 8, 2006)

Boston Market, 3375 El Camino Real, Palo Alto (650) 843-0288. Also at 1039 Fremont Ave., Menlo Park (650) 428-1333

While Boston Market certainly can qualify as a fast-food, take-out place, it's in a different league. Chicken and turkey are the restaurant's specialty, but it also serves ham and meat loaf - good comfort food. Daily 10:30 a.m.-10 p.m. (Reviewed Sept. 19, 1997)

Brian's Restaurant, 680 Los Altos Ran- cho, Los Altos (650) 942-0960

The owners of the Los Altos Coffee Shop have re-opened Brian's, a reasonably priced spot for breakfast and lunch. Muffins, waffles and scrambled eggs are some of the tastier standards, and the patio is at- tractive and inviting, with great umbrellas. Mon.-Sat. 7 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sun. 7 a.m.-3 p.m. (Reviewed May 18, 2007)

British Bankers Club, 1090 El Camino Real, Menlo Park (650) 327-8769

British Bankers Club serves reasonably priced, well prepared California bistro style food. Sweet corn and clam chowder is an excellent start, while baby back ribs, hangar steak and the tri-tip salad are good bets for entrees. Desserts are heavy and sweet. Huge bar, but diminutive wine list. Lunch: Mon.-Fri. 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Diner: Mon.-Thu. 4-9 p.m.; Fri.-Sat. 4-10 p.m. (Reviewed April 28, 2005)

Brix B.B.Q. and Grill, 1246 El Camino Real, Menlo Park (650) 323-3300

This is a burger joint with a quirky person- ality. You'd do just fine as long as you stick to their more regular menu offerings. Mon.-Sat. lunch 11 a.m.-2 p.m.; Dinner Tue.-Sat. 5:30-10 p.m. (Reviewed April 19, 2002)

Buck's of Woodside, 3062 Woodside Road, Woodside (650) 851-8010

Fancy fast-food, with cowhide lampshades and eclectic wall decorations. Sun.-Wed. 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; Thu.-Sat. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. (Reviewed June 1, 2001)

Buda di Bepo, 643 Emerson St., Palo Alto (650) 326-1026

Noisy, entertaining, family-oriented. A bar- rage of photographs and visual forams celebrating Italy and all things Italian. Huge family-style portions. Mon.-Thu. 5-10 p.m.; Fri.-Sun. 4-7 p.m.; Sat. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. (Reviewed Sept. 13, 1996)

Buddha Bear, 4608 Charleston Road Woodside, Woodside (650) 851-8010

Far-ranging menu includes pizzas, chicken, fish and bistro sandwiches, with a considerable fan base for the coffee cake. Funky Buddha Bear has a unique touch with cowhide lampshades and eclectic wall decorations. Mon.-Thu. 7 a.m.-9 p.m.; Fri. 7 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. and Sun. 8 a.m.-9 p.m. (Reviewed May 22, 1998)

Buonobuono, 2500 W. El Camino Real, Mountain View (650) 941-0220

Casual, self-service. Burritos, tacos, ques- adillas, salads and veggie tacos. A decent selection, Los Altos (650) 941-0680

This family owned and operated market has a line of imported foods and Italian special- ity items. Mon.-Fri. 9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sun. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (Reviewed Aug. 9, 2001)

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Kids to dive into healthy cooking, Mandarin, volunteering

By Susan Hong

From gourmet cooking to language lessons to volunteering, Palo Alto kids are facing a range of educational options this summer. About 2,600 children in grades K-12 are heading to summer school, about a 200-student increase over last year, according to district staff. That’s about one quarter of the district’s 10,000 students enrolled this year. That’s about a 200-student increase over last year, according to district staff.

Summer school starts next Monday, and classes are almost full. About 2,600 children in grades K-12 are heading to summer school, about a 200-student increase over last year, according to district staff. That’s about one quarter of the district’s 10,000 students enrolled this past school year.

Summer school offers a variety of classes that cater to different interests. Some classes are mandatory for students, while others are elective.

**Mandarin Class**

Mandarin class has no connection to the district’s summer school program. It’s just one more of what we hope will be an enjoyable and academic class,” she said. Students will also have the opportunity to learn French and Spanish.

This summer’s Mandarin class has no connection to the district’s overall Mandarin-language instruction plans, Lancon added.

The most popular classes at the middle-school level are teenage gourmet cooking and Manga comic book drawing. For the cooking class, students will learn how to convert regular recipes to lower-fat meals. Students will learn recipes for all three meals of the day. Eating their creations is part of the class.

In the Manga comic book class, students can create their own characters and place them in storyboards. Students will also learn to ink the comics in a style used by professionals.

At the high-school level, students can take photography and learn about women writers. They can also get ahead with courses offered in algebra, biology and U.S. History. Also offered is introduction to Programming C++, through which students will learn variables and structured programming.

At the elementary-school level, students can learn Spanish through an immersion program as well as engage in writing activities geared towards the visual arts.

Two summer reading programs for elementary children and teens respectively, “Get and Clue” and “YNK,” which stands for “You Never Know,” are being hosted by the Palo Alto Public Library. Each student who participates will receive a free pizza coupon and free books as awards. Librarian Melinda Wing is expecting a high turn out. Last year, 1,800 elementary school children and 600 teens signed up to participate in the city-sponsored reading event. The program started June 14 and goes through the end of August. Students can sign up anytime through July 31.

Also through the summer reading program, the library will invite an agent from the FBI to talk about notorious FBI cases and a scientist to talk about forensic anthropology.

The Palo Alto middle schools also have summer reading programs. Jordan Middle School requires its students to read at least four books this summer, and Jane Lathrop Stanford (J.L.S.) Middle School requires two. Terman Middle School has made the summer reading program voluntary.

“We know if kids read they are more likely to do better in school,” Claudia Davis, a librarian at J.L.S., said. Reading improves vocabu-
Palo Alto High School graduate named presidential scholar

Marking district's eighth since 1966

by Susan Hong

Presidential scholars for any school district come along once in a blue moon, but for Palo Alto they come every few years. Recent Palo graduate Caterina Yuan will be honored on June 23 as the district's eighth presidential scholar. She is one of three in the state of California. Palo Alto saw its first presidential scholar in 1966 and seventh in 2003.

“I was really surprised I got it,” Yuan said. She found out she won the award in early May.

“The best part is honoring my teacher and being able to thank everyone,” she said. Yuan invited her AP calculus teacher, Suzanne Antink, as an honoree teacher to accompany her to Washington D.C. for the award reception, where they will meet President George W. Bush.

“It’s a huge honor for me,” Antink said.

The exclusive award goes to 141 high-school students on the basis of outstanding scholarship, service and leadership. The United States Presidential Scholars Program was established in 1964, by executive order from President Lyndon Johnson. Since then the U.S. Department of Education has honored more than 5,000 high-school seniors.

“I think she’s a really big influence on my entire high school career and my life in general,” Yuan said about Antink. Yuan didn’t think math was for girls until she met Antink. Antink’s encouragement and the positive environment she created in the club helped Yuan succeed, she said.

“She believed in me. She said ‘you can do it.’ I felt like a lot of the teachers didn’t really say it to me — ‘I believe in you,’” Yuan said.

The two first met six years ago when Yuan, prodded by her parents, joined the Jordan Middle School math club Antink coached. "She made it (math) seem like something fun and I really wanted to stay," Yuan said. “I didn’t think I would enjoy it, but I really did.” In the seventh grade Yuan was the only student in her class to win a local math competition and went on to compete in a state-wide event. Antink, who can often be seen after hours coaching her math club, used to drive Yuan to team practices in preparation for the state competition when Yuan’s parents were at work.

“Math is fun. It’s the most fun thing you could ever take,” Antink said. “It’s playing with your mind, it’s playing with the system. It’s like cards.”

Antink sees coaching and helping students as just part of doing the job.

“She just tickles me,” Antink said about Yuan. “You’d never guess when you met her that she’s as brilliant as she is, and as capable. She does anything she wants. It’s a big shock to me.”

Yuan has a 4.0 G.P.A. (unweighted) and a 2340 SAT score, but she doesn’t brag about it. Her favorite subject is biology.

“I think for biology especially, there are so many things that are unknown,” Yuan said. “Right now there is so much technology that has been developed that we can explore the unknown and the possibility to help others,” she said. “That’s what excites me about biology.”

In her spare time, recent Palo grad and presidential scholar Caterina Yuan enjoys baking desserts. She plans to attend Harvard University in the fall.

”She just believes in me,” Yuan said. “I did not think I would win at all. It was a once in a life time opportunity.”

Antink’s encouragement and the positive environment she created in the club helped Yuan succeed, she said.

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In her application for the presidential scholar award, Yuan wrote an essay describing her summer internship with the Center for Clinical Immunology Studies at Stanford University as a pivotal turning point in her life. There she worked with researchers to study how chemicals affect type-I diabetes in rats.

“Working with my mentor, a post-doctoral fellow, and helped design experiments and run experiments,” she said. “I really enjoyed it.”

Yuan also described her community service work in Michoacan, Mexico the summer before junior year as an eye-opening experience. There she helped put in a road drainage system, planted trees, and taught village children about health and hygiene.

“Working with the system,” she said. "I learned from the residents who made her feel welcome. “They didn’t say, ‘oh you’re so different, why are you here?’ It was more ‘who are you; what kind of person are you?’” Yuan said. "The experience made Yuan open up more to new people.

"The actions of other people really influence me and how they made me feel. I should do the same for others. When I can help people, it’s really meaningful for others when someone welcomes them in,” she said.

She plans to attend Harvard University in the fall where she wants to continue her studies in biology and later pursue a career in medicine. 

Staff Writer Susan Hong can be reached at shong@pawweekly.com.
“A Mighty Heart” ★★★

(Century 16, Century 20) The horror and heartbreak of Daniel Pearl's untimely death is uneasily re-created in this jittery drama based on Mariane Pearl’s biographical novel.

Pearl (Dan Futterman) was the South Asia bureau chief for the Wall Street Journal in January of 2002; he was unquestionably at the top of his game when things went badly south. He was living in the third-world environs of Karachi, Pakistan, with wife Mariane (Angelina Jolie), who was a seasoned freelance journalist pregnant with their first child.

Pearl was following a hot lead for an interpid story on “shoe bomber” Richard Reid when he disappeared, absorbed into a volatile world of byzantine bureaucracy and burgeoning terrorist cells.

For Mariane, her husband's disappearance was every spouse’s nightmare come true, an unfolding crisis for which crack journalistic skills and depth of feeling were useless tools.

The initial hours and days of Pearl's disappearance are the focus of “Heart,” palpable with dread and the definitive knowledge of a tragic result. Political snafus and red tape unfold as the National Movement for the Restoration of Pakistani Sovereignty claims responsibility for Pearl's kidnapping, claiming he's a CIA spy and giving the U.S. two short days to meet its demands.

It helps to know your Middle East politics, as “Heart” is a labyrinth of corruption and buzz words that resonate with anxiety and afford some narrative confusion. Its docudrama style makes for a dry and caustic aura, with the melodramatic backdrop intermittently lightened by flashbacks of the couple’s happier days.

Jolie is at the heart of it all, her Mariane the crux of the story and the focal point onscreen. Unfortunately hers is a capable performance, with the melodramatic backload of feeling wasted tools.

The movie’s demands.

“A Mighty Heart” quickly becomes a cinematic sin. It’s a follow-up to the mediocre Jim Carrey vehicle “Bruce Almighty,” “Evian” features the carefree Steve Carell (“The 40-Year-Old Virgin”) as newly elected Congressman Evan Baxter. Evan is enjoying the wealth and power that goes along with questionably-able politics. When his wife (Lauren Graham as Joan) confides that she prays for their family to grow closer, Evan follows suit by asking God for the strength to change the world.

Careful what you wish for. God (Morgan Freeman) takes Evan’s prayer very seriously and visits him in person, telling the confused congressman to build an ark. Evan initially writes off the meeting as madness, until strange happenings begin to throw his world into a Biblical tizzy. Animal pairs follow him around town, piles of wood arrive on his doorstep, and his beard and hair grow with wild abandon.

Soon Evan is shirking his political life to build the ark while God warns of a looming flood. Joan and the couple’s three children struggle with the possibility that dad might be nuts, and an underhanded congressman (John Goodman) has greedy plans of his own.

The life of a prophet can get complicated quickly. Carell is a comedic genius, a welcome recent addition to the big-screen scene. The former “Daily Show” regular does his best to save “Evan” with plenty of physical comedy and excellent reactions.

The film’s funny moments all stem from Carell, such as when he tries to hide his mountain-man beard or attracts a tank full of curious fish. Graham is also well cast, lending an air of sympathy and humor to the challenging role of a troubled wife.

But the comedy ends with Carell, despite occasional chuckles of Wanda Sykes (as Evan’s assistant). Moral messages about the value of nature and the animal kingdom are admirable but forced. The movie comes across as Sunday school meets Greenpeace meets Ace Ventura — laughter, religion and environmentalism make strange bedfellows. And it’s easy to question the intelligence of these characters. Most consider Evan a lunatic, but none ever wonder why hundreds of animals surround him daily.

Carell is a rising star, but even he can’t save this holy mess.

Rated: PG for mild rude humor and some peril. 1 hour, 30 minutes.

— Jeanne Aufmuth

“A Mighty Heart” ★★★ 1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) The horror and heartbreak of Daniel Pearl’s untimely death is uneasily re-created in this jittery drama based on Mariane Pearl’s biographical novel.

Jolie is at the heart of it all, her Mariane the crux of the story and the focal point onscreen. Fortunately hers is a presence rather than a performance, a larger-than-life manifestation that can’t help but reflect her tabloid-heavy personal life and swallow up the dramatic subtleties of which she is exceedingly capable.

Supporting players Irrfan Khan and Archie Panjabi, as a police captain and Pearl friend/colleague respectively, lend the right measure of integrity without the high-profile glare.

Rated: R for language violence and very adult themes. 1 hour, 40 minutes.

— Jeanne Aufmuth

"Evan Almighty"

( Century 12, Century 16) This overblown bonanza which cost an estimated $175 million — may be Hollywood’s most expensive morality tale. Couple the forced moral message with heavy religious undertones and a drought of creative comedy, and “Evan Almighty” quickly becomes a cinematic sin.

A follow-up to the mediocre Jim Carrey vehicle “Bruce Almighty,” “Evan” features the carefree Steve Carell (“The 40-Year-Old Virgin”) as newly elected Congressman Evan Baxter. Evan is enjoying the wealth and power that goes along with questionably-able politics. When his wife (Lauren Graham as Joan) confides that she prays for their family to grow closer, Evan follows suit by asking God for the strength to change the world.

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Carell is a rising star, but even he can’t save this holy mess.

Rated: PG for mild rude humor and some peril. 1 hour, 30 minutes.

— Tyler Hanley

What’s your take on this year’s films so far? Post your own reviews on the Movies section of Town Square. Go to www.PaloAltoOnline.com.
The following is a sampling of movies parents and left to her own devices at her the rest of her life. Raised by alcoholic upbringing left scars that would impact tive superstar Edith Piaf. Piaf wasn't called (Guild) Marion Cotillard burns down the La Vie En Rose ★✭✭ viewed June 15, 2007) innuendo. 1 hour, 29 minutes. — T.H. (Re-
entertaining, family-friendly flick with humor the mysterious Surfer. "Rise" is exactly re-
licts the aid of Richards and crew to stop wrath is upon them, the U.S. government massive craters in the Earth at every turn. Ver Surfer (voiced by Laurence Fishburne)
Alba). Meanwhile, Johnny Storm (Chris
brilliant Reed Richards (Ioan Gruffudd), Despite scientific breakthroughs by the er her
elms endorsement deals as the 1/2 Aquarius: 12:05, 12:50, 2, 2:50, 3:40, 4:50, 5:40, 6:30, 7:40, 8:30, 9:20 & 10:35 p.m.
1/2 Century 16: 11:05 a.m.; noon, 1:35, 2:25, 4:55, 5:55, 7, 7:50 & 10:35 p.m.
1/2 Century 20: 5:40, 6:55, 8:10, 9:20 & 10:35 p.m.
1/2 Century 16: 10:15 p.m.
11:05 a.m.; 12:45, 1:55, 3:40, 4:50, 5:40, 6:35, 7:40, 8:30, 9:30 & 10:30 p.m.
11:20 a.m.; 1:50, 4:35, 7:25 & 10 p.m.
11:20 a.m.; 1:50, 4:35, 7:25 & 10:10 p.m.
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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Draft Negative Declaration has been prepared by the Palo Alto Department of Planning and Community Environment for the project listed below. In accordance with A.B. 886, this document is available for review and comment during a minimum 20-day inspection period beginning June 22, 2007 through July 11, 2007 during the hours of 8:00 A.M. to 12 noon and 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. at the Development Center, 285 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, California.

This item will be considered at a public hearing held by the Planning & Transportation Commission on Wednesday, July 11, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. in the Palo Alto City Council Chambers on the first floor of the Civic Center, located at 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, California. 395 Page Mill Road (07PLN-00093): Request by Ray Paul, on behalf of J.P. Paul Properties, for a Comprehensive Plan Amendment from Light Industrial to Research/Office Park and a Zone Change from General Manufacturing (GM) to Research, Office & Limited Manufacturing (ROLM). These requests are not associated with any new development on the site. Environmental Assessment: An Initial Study has been completed and a Draft Negative Declaration has been prepared in accordance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements. Zone District: GM.

Steve Emmslie, Director of Planning and Community Environment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, listening devices are available in the Council Chambers and Council Conference Room. Sign language interpreters will be provided upon request with 72 hours advance notice.

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Steve Emmslie, Director of Planning and Community Environment

The records for the City of Palo Alto show the following checks outstanding for over three years to the listed payees. Under California Government Code Section 50050, unclaimed money will become the property of the City three years after the last date of record. If any of the listed payees, please contact Stephen Green at (650) 329-...
CALENDAR.

(continued on next page)

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TWILIGHT CONCERT SERIES

Tuesday evenings
6:30 – 8 pm
June 19 – August 14

In various parks throughout Palo Alto
Free to the public
With generous support from City of Palo Alto Utilities and the Palo Alto Green program
6/19 NATIVE ELEMENTS
Reggae at its finest!
Mitchell Park Bowl, 600 East Meadow Dr.
6/26 WILD CHILD
The Doors revisited
Rinconada Park Bowl, 777 Embarcadero
7/3 NO CONCERT
7/10 LUCE
Melodic flair, warm vocal tunes and big grooves!
California Avenue Street Concert
7/14 SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY SINGERS
Choral music from the central coast and the Sequoias.
7/17/21 LUCAS HERALD
7/24 SILA AND THE AFROFUNK EXPERIENCE
Hot energy funk with remarkable musicianship!
Mitchell Park Bowl
600 East Meadow Dr.

Bay Area Bridal
BAYAREABRIDAL.NET
408. 517. 5700
19460 STEVENS CREEK BLVD.
(at Market Place Center)
280 W & WOLF RD.
CUPERTINO, CALIFORNIA

Wedding Gowns

(changed from previous page)

Nancy King
Nancy King, vocals; Steve Christoferson, piano, Sun., June 24, 2:30 p.m. general, Campbell Recital Hall, 541 Lasuen Mall, Stanford. Call 650-736-0324, www.stanfordjazz.org.
Nicholas Payton Quintet
Nicholas Payton, trumpet; Kevin Hays, piano; Veneté Anderson, bass; Bill Summers, percussion; Marcus Gilmore, drums. Sat., June 23, 8:30 p.m. general, Dinkelspiel Auditorium, 471 Laguardia Drive, Stanford. Call 650-723-0324, www.stanfordjazz.org.

San Francisco Choral Artists

St. Matthew String Quartet
As part of Bay Area chamber music seminar, the quartet will perform with friends and students. Faculty, June 25, 26, 29, 12:15 p.m. Free, Dinkelspiel Auditorium, 471 Laguardia Drive, Stanford. Call 650-723-2702, http://music.stanford.edu/Events/calendar.html.

Twilight Concert Series: Wild Child (a Doors’ cover group) will perform. Tue., July 6, 6:30-8 p.m. Free, Rinconada Park Bowl, 777 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-460-6940, www.paloalto.org/concerts.

Bay Area Bridal

Ballroom Dancing — Salsa
Salsa will be introduced and interpreted into intermediate levels, no experience or partner necessary. General admission. Party 9 p.m.-midnight. Singles and couples welcome. Refreshments by Druzy casual attire. Fri., June 22, 8 p.m.-midnight. St. Juniper Community Center Pavilion, 4400 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-856-9930, www.readybylee.com/friday-nightdance.

Congolese Dance Class

Live Music/Contra Dance
Nicholas Payton, drums; Bill Summers, percussion; Kevin Hays, piano; Maria de Nazare, vocals. First United Methodist Church of Palo Alto, 171 University Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-965-9169.

Summer Horsemanship Camp

Toddler Storytime at Mitchell Park

WBHP Open House
Do you have ques- tions about breast cancer? Do you under- stand your diagnosis? Are you exploring treatment options? Each week a doctor from a different breast cancer specialty and a therapist are available to address medical questions and concerns. Every Thursday evening, 5:30-7 p.m. Free, Com- munity Breast Health Project, 390 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto. www.cbhp.org.
Paula商户

Diet for Pre-Diabetics

The local chapter of Take Off Pounds is sponsoring a lecture on diets for pre-diabetes with guest speaker and registered dietitian. The lecture will cover strategies for weight loss and provide information on healthy eating and exercise.

Health Services

Blood pressure screening will be available at selected community centers. Call for details.

Little House Walkers

In June, the Little House/Walkers will offer a new program for patients and caregivers. This program will focus on the importance of physical activity and nutrition.

An education program for patients and caregivers presented by Dr. Martin Pall, Professor of Biochemistry and Basic Medical Sciences, will discuss his new book, "Explaining Unexplained Illnesses: Disease Paradigm for Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, Multiple Chemical Sensitivity, Fibromyalgia, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Gulf War Syndrome and Others (the No/ONOO cycle)." Fri., June 22, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Free. Dr. Gerald Cohen Meeting Room, 1040 Noel Drive, Menlo Park. Call 650-493-5408.

Senior Lunch at La Comida Dining Room

Come to lunch at La Comida Dining Room. Relax and chat while you have a hot meal with other seniors 60 years and older.

Nutrition Talks: Pathways to Health

Talks about nutrition: Plan meals based on new food pyramid: Read food labels; Identify foods that are low in sugar, fat and salt. Maria Keok, R.D., Food & Culinary Nutrition, Kaiser Permanente Hospital, San Francisco, Fridays through Sept. 1-9:45 p.m. Call 650-289-5423.


Peace Concert

Featuring singer/songwriter Karen Hiljary (with Karen and Jeff Nasso) and solo pianist Vashna Shama. A benefit for the Audio Fund at Manente Hospital, San Francisco, Fridays through Sept. 1-9:45 p.m. Call 650-289-5423.

"The Pale Pink Dragon" and "A Little Princess." July 6-15. Showtimes on AB 1634, Asm. Lloyd Levine's "California: Stories of Film and Music Festival, Downtown Festival. Films must be received no later than June 29th. $20 per DVD Promenade Festival. Films must be received no later than June 29th. $20 per DVD. Avenidas.org.

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The Elephant Man

The Tony Award-winning drama, "The Elephant Man," is being performed by the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce. Performances are June 29-July 15, 8 p.m. $10-$25. The Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce, 122 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto. Call 650-324-3121. www.pytnet.org.

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The Elephant Man

By Bernard Pomerance

Directed by Starrling Aldo Billingslea, Jason Kuykendall, and Rebecca Dines

Winner of every major award for drama, this enthralling, ravishingly theatrical play chronicles the life of John Merrick, the deformed 19th century carnival attraction who became an urban and clever favorite of Victorian society. Portrayed without makeup or device, the Elephant Man is one of the epic characters of contemporary theatre. Brief partial nudity.

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STANFORD ROUNDUP

Paye returns to Stanford as women’s assistant coach

by Rick Eymer

Stanford women’s basketball coach Tara VanDerveer kept things close to home when a second assistant coaching job became available on her staff.

Kate Paye, who worked her way from walk-on guard in the 1991-92 season to team captain in 1994-95, was named to the staff on Wednesday.

Paye joins former teammate Bobbie Kelsey, who was named to the position last week, on VanDerveer’s staff.

They fill the void left when Charm- in Smith and Karin Middleton moved on to pursue other career interests. Smith joined Joanna Boyle’s staff at California while Middleton joined Jolette Law’s staff at Illi- nos.

Paye’s older brother, John, played for Stanford’s football and men’s basketball teams in the 80s.

Just another winning year at Stanford

NCAA titles in women’s cross country, men’s golf clinch 13th Director’s Cup

by Rick Eymer

hat the Stanford women’s cross-country team started, the Stanford men’s golf team fin-ished. Those two programs produced NCAA national titles, bookmarking another successful ath-letic season on The Farm.

There’s a 13th Director’s Cup to display — the mod- el of overall athletic excellence in the nation — as proof.

Change, momentum, peaks, valleys, unsung heroes, and untold adversity represent any athletic competition, whether a single game or an entire school year. Stanford had its share of all that and for- mer Cardinal football coach Walt Harris knows it better than anyone.

One of the most successful coaches in the nation, Harris floundered at Stanford, and he still can’t take the blame for everything. Circumstances, philo-so-phies, the past, the present and the future all played a role. In other words, things happen and things change, constantly.

Harris, who coached the Cardinal to a historic low 1-11 mark in the fall, shoul dered a heavier load than one could imagine and he never once complained. His win-loss mark may say one thing, but his integrity remains intact.

What may be a setback to some was an opportunity for Jim Harbaugh, who comes across as the clean-liv-ing, well-groomed boy next door. Harbaugh says he’s ready to change past results and present conditions and move Stanford football forward into the future.

If there’s one thing Harbaugh has learned during his own illustrious playing career it’s this: to make it look easy you have to work awfully hard.

Stanford supports 33 varsity sports that compete for league, region and national titles. Of those, only four suffered a losing season. That does not include the 12 sports for which there are no win-loss records. All 12 of those teams competed for national titles, and 11 of them finished in the top 10 nationally.

The combined record of 333-118-6 (.600 winning percentage) would be tough be beat by any college around the country. Throw in things like 22 in-season tournament titles spread across those without tangible records and the picture becomes pretty clear regarding the Stanford athletic department: somebody is doing something right, and it’s more likely that a lot of some- bodies are doing a lot of things right.

The football season, played out in a wonderfully

PREP SPORTS

Paly’s Hansen top boys’ AD

by Keith Peters

I started with his football team playing for a state championship and it ended with one of the nation’s top distance runners competing in the state track and field finals.

In between was pretty good, too, for the Palo Alto High boys’ athletic program this season. For that rea-son, the Vikings’ Earl Hansen was named as the state’s Boys Athletic
All-American Kristin Richards left as the all-time digs leader and ranks among the best in kills and service aces. Ask coach John Dunning what set her apart from the crowd and I’d bet he’d only need to use one word: “heart.” That’s usually the word that separates great athletes from good athletes.

The men’s cross-country team finished fourth in the nation, winning two invitations and finishing second three times. The men’s water polo team was among the nation’s best, but failed to reach the postseason for the first time in years. J.J. Garton, Drac Wigo, Janson Wigo, Sandy Hohener and Will Handle-Katel were named All-Americans.

Basketball took the court running during the winter season. The women turned an early struggle into an unprecedented seventh consecutive Pac-10 title, finishing 29-2 after beating Stanford by Florida State in the second round of the NCAA tournament. Senior Brooke Smith and junior Candice Wiggins were named All-Americans and fans can’t wait to see what kind of sophomore seasons Jayne Appel and JJ Hones will bring to Maples Pavilion.

The men showed some moxie in fighting their way back to the NCAA tournament. Stanford was led by a bunch of fresh-faced freshmen and sophomores, some of whom loved the chance to celebrate with the Sixth Man Club. Brook Lopez got a late start, and then went borkers. Robin Lopez stood his ground. The 7-foot twins will be back for more, as will Anthony Goods and Lawrence Hill and the rest of the gang.

While the men’s soccer team finished strong, it didn’t get a bid into the postseason. The women’s team did reach the NCAA tournament, in part because of its All-American defender Rachel Buehler. The men’s and women’s gymnastics teams were dazzling. The women earned 13 All-American honors, won the NCAA West Regional title and finished fifth in the nation.

The men’s team finished third in the nation and two gymnasts — Alex Schorsch on still rings and David Sender on the vault — won NCAA individual titles.

Swimming was also a sensation for Stanford, as both teams were undefeated in dual meet action.

The men finished second at the NCAA championships after capturing their 26th straight conference title. Ben Wildman-Tobriner set three American records in the 50 free during the season and numerous school marks, as did the 800 free relay team of Andy Grant, Danny Beal, Hongzhe Sun and Shaun Phillips.

The women’s team finished fourth at the NCAA finals. Elaine Breeden was the 200 fly national champion and senior Cassidy Krug was named NCAA Diver of the Year after capturing both the 1-meter and 3-meter national crowns.

The women’s lacrosse team won the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation title and goaler Laura Shane earned All-American honors.

Women’s sailing also accounted for the national championships and two more All-Americans in Brian Haynes, Kelly McKenna and Emery Wager.

Women’s sailing added a third place finish at the ICSA nationals and two more All-Americans in Evan Brown and Taylor Grimes.

The women’s crew team was fourth in the national petit final and the men’s crew team finished a program best second at the IRA Grand Final.

The fencing team finished ninth in the NCAA championships and sophomore Eva Jellison earned All-American honors.

Stanford synchronized swimming is recognized as among the best in the nation and winning the U.S. Collegiate national title bolstered that viewpoint. Finishing second at the United States Nationals was a big bonus. Stanford performers will likely share the limelight with the U.S. national team come Olympics time.

Both the men’s and women’s track and field teams finished 10th at the NCAA championships. The men produced four All-Americans in Michael Robertson, Graeme Hoste, Russell Brown and Garrett Heath.

The women also produced four All-Americans, including Erica McLain twice. Lauren Centrowicz, Teresa McWalters and — here she is again — Arianna Lambie joined McLain.

Stanford’s softball team reached the NCAA tournament for the 10th consecutive year, and freshman Alissa Haber earned a spot as an All-American.

And so we’re down to our Final Four. It doesn’t get much better than this, with three women’s teams and a men’s team.
The Vikings took a school-record — playing for a state championship. the Central Coast Section had before football team accomplishing some- Thursday. “It was quite a year. I’ve day during a banquet at the Orange Director of the Year by the Califor- Hansen called his team’s 23-21 victory over Oak Grove in the CCS Open Division championship game as most satisfying this past season. For one, the win avenged the Vikings’ only loss during the regular season and it came in the most dif- division against the toughest competition.

“Football started the year out pretty well,” Hansen said. And it just kept rolling after that. The Vikings’ young basketball team on the SCVAL De Anza Divi- into the first state foot- ball finals in 79 years, a Division II matchup with nationally-ranked Orange Lutheran.

While Palo Alto suffered a 42-28 loss in the season finale, it nonetheless another highwater mark for the school’s athletic program, which produced a state Division II basketball championship a year earlier.

For one, the win avenged the Vikings’ only loss during the regular season and it came in the most difficult division against the toughest competition.

“The Vikings’ young basketball team on the SCVAL De Anza Division championship and reached the CCS semifinals before falling to eventual state finalist Mitty; foot- ball standout John Hall reached the state wrestling finals before losing only his second match of the year and freshman Philip McQuitty ran in the 3,200 finals at the CIF State Track & Field Championships in Sacramento, a week after earning the distinction of being the fastest freshman in the nation at that dis- tance.

The Paly boys’ tennis team won the SCVAL El Camino Division title and played in the CCS tour- nament; the boys’ swimming and diving team tied for second at the CCS championships after winning the De Anza Division dual-title with a 6-0 record; MacQuitty highlighted the cross-country season by running in the state finals; the boys’ water polo team captured the SCVAL De Anza Division regular-season and tournament titles before competing in CCS; and the boys’ soccer team reached the section Division II title match before finally losing.

To top it all off, one of Hansen’s former football players — Jim Har- baugh — was named as Stanford’s head football coach in December.

Hansen, of course, also oversees the Paly girls’ sports program, one that had its own share of success this season. The Viking girls, in fact, have at least four nationally ranked athletes who were juniors this sea- son — Liv Jensen (swimming), Teresa Noyola (soccer), Michaela Fos- sati (diving) and Mia Lattanzi (track in 2006).

All four give the Paly girls a strong head start on what could be a very successful sports season in 2007-08.
Stanford roundup (continued from page 26)

Paye, a four-year letter winner with the Cardinal from 1992-95, served as an assistant coach at San Diego State for the previous two seasons.

The Menlo School grad led Stanford in assists and free throw percentage and helped the Cardinal reach the Final Four in her senior year.

“I am so thrilled to return to Stanford and honored that Tara wants me to be a part of this staff,” Paye said. “I feel fortunate to have the opportunity to contribute to a program that has meant so much to my life. Stanford is one of the most storied programs in women’s basketball and I am excited to return to my alma mater.”

A three-time Pac-10 All-Academic selection and two-time team captain, Paye earned her Bachelor’s degree in political science from Stanford in 1995. She also graduated with distinction with both her Juris Doctorate and Master’s of business administration degrees from Stanford in 2003.

Paye, who has also served as an assistant coach at Pepperdine, played professional ball for several years with the Seattle Reign of the ABL and Minnesota Lynx and Seattle Storm of the WNBA.

“I am excited to have Kate on board as we finalize our coaching staff,” said VanDerveer. “Kate will be instrumental in the development of our guards and working with that particular group will be her focus. One of her best qualities is the ability to teach, as she has a tremendous understanding of the game. She is very intelligent and upbeat, an excellent recruiter and familiar with Stanford and our program.”

Middleton played at the University of South Carolina, where she was a four-year letter winner from 1988-91. She was a team captain, team MVP and a two-time All-Metro Conference selection during her career at South Carolina and finished with five as the fifth-leading scorer in school history with 1,714 career points.

“I am excited to join the Ilímini family and work with Jolette,” Middleton said. “Illinois is a great opportunity and a new challenge for me at this point in my career. I’m thankful to Tara and Stanford for 10 invaluable years. I look forward to bringing those experiences to Ilímini and help our program reach new heights.”

Smith began her coaching career in 2003 as an assistant coach at Boston College, helping the Eagles to one of their most successful seasons in school history.

A four-year letter winner at Stanford, Smith earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in civil and environmental engineering.

“I am very excited about this opportunity,” Smith said. “I have been very fortunate to work with some excellent coaches and I have learned so much. Moving on to work with Joanne will continue that process for me. Everything she has accomplished in her career tells me she is a great coach; and this is a great program and a great situation, which will offer me new responsibilities and challenges. It was very tough to leave Stanford; I had such great relationships there, it’s my home and my alma mater, but this is an opportunity to step outside my comfort zone and grow professionally.”

Women’s volleyball

Stanford junior Cynthia Barboza returned indoors from a brief foray on the Beach Volleyball circuit to join the United States National Volleyball Team as the Americans open the summer season at the 12-team Sixth Annual Pan American Cup, which began Thursday in Colima, Mexico at the Polideportivo Universitario de villa de Alvarez.

Barboza and Stanford senior Bryn Kehoe combined to reach the finals of the U.S. Collegiate Beach Volleyball in April, losing to a familiar nemesis in the form of a team from Nebraska.

Barboza, a first team All-American and team MVP and a two-time Pac-12 Player of the Week needs three 3-pointers to unseat her former teammate and Stanford senior Bryn Kehoe as the nation’s No. 1 ranked outside hitter.

While the 12 players represent the US at the Pan American Cup, 16 other national team players will remain in Colorado Springs with three coaches to train for the Pan American Games, which begin July 14 inRio De Janeiro, Brazil, and the FIVB World Grand Prix, which starts Aug. 3.

Incoming freshman outside hitter Alix Klineman could be a future Team USA member, and will definitely become Barboza’s teammate in the fall.

Led by Klineman, Stanford’s recruiting class was determined the best in the nation by PrepVolleyball.com.

Klineman, one of the most highly sought-after recruits in the history of women’s volleyball, carried her Mira Costa High School squad to a 37-1 record, the nation’s No. 1 ranking, and the school’s third straight state championship.

She earned the state tournament MVP for the second time in her career and followed with her second Gatorade State Player of the Year honor and the prestigious Gatorade Women’s Volleyball Player of the Year award.

Klineman led the American women’s Junior National Team to a gold medal at the NORCECA Continental Women’s Junior Championship last year, averaging a team-leading 4.88 points and 3.88 kills per game.

In addition to Klineman, three other incoming freshmen add to the luster of the recruiting class.

Cassidy Lichtman, a member of the Junior National Team, was named a PrepVolleyball All-American for the second-straight season.

Stephanie Browne has been a USA Youth and Junior National Team member and Gabi Ailes was named the Nebraska Gatorade State Player of the Year after leading Bellevue West High School to its fourth straight Division I state title, overwhelming opponents with 476 kills, 458 digs, 61 service aces and 25 blocks on the season.

Ailes, whose older sister Tatum plays for Missouri, comes to Stanford as a libero. The Tigers participated in the Stanford regional last fall.

Women’s basketball

Stanford senior Candice Wiggins is headed for Moscow as a member of the United States Under-21 national team to compete in the World Championships, which begin June 29.

The three-time All-American guard and two-time Pac-10 Player of the Week needs three 3-pointers to become Stanford’s all-time leader, and she’s 374 points shy of overtaking Kate Starbird to become the school’s all-time scoring leader.

Wiggins, who scored 490 points in an injury-shortened junior season, is the only player from a college west of Wisconsin.

“This is a fantastic group,” National Team coach Joanne P. McCallie said. “They’re all very talented and it’s going to be fun to go from being individually elite to building an elite team.” (continued on page 32)
Sports

The Stanford women’s basketball team celebrated another Pac-10 Tournament title during the 2006-07 season.

Year in review
(continued from page 27)

The women’s golf team gets the first nod. Stanford won three titles and finished in the top 10 in all 11 tournaments. Its fifth-place finish at the NCAA championships was its best since 2000. Seniors Jenniffer Tangtiphaibootana and Lauren Todd, and junior Mari Chun were named All-Americans.

The women’s tennis team probably doesn’t need much introduction. Unfathomably long winning streaks and undefeated seasons can do that for a program. Stanford loses in the semifinals of the NCAA tournament? OMG! But seriously, throw in the two losses from this season and it gives the Stanford women’s program a combined two losses in their last 112 matches.

The tennis program collects All-American honors like some people collect bottle caps. Add five more to the mix from this year’s team: seniors Theresa Logar and Anne Yelsey have witnessed all two of those losses during their prestigious careers. Celia Durkin, Jessica Nguyen and freshman Lindsay Burdette joined them as All-Americans.

The women’s water polo team and its history takes center stage next. Like in women’s tennis, coach John Tanner and his group were ranked first in the nation for much of the season. They also played in the NCAA tournament, reaching the championship match before losing to an old nemesis in UCLA. The Cardinal has appeared in every NCAA tournament ever held.

They also had five players earn All-American honors: Christina Hewko, Katie Hansen, Alison Gregorka, Meredith McColl and Lauren Silver.

We leap from the water onto the fairway and join the Stanford men’s golf team, already in progress of winning its first NCAA title since 1994.

The pastoral view at Golden Horseshoe Golf Club in Virginia is a nice place to stop and rest, a time to reflect on what athletics mean and whether golf is really a good walk ruined.

Rob Grube, Daniel Lim, Zack Miller, Matt Savage and Joseph Bramlett, All-Americans every one, made sure that men’s golf had the final say. The team won seven titles during the season and recorded 13 top-seven finishes. Lucky 13 was the national title.

If one should have a brokers’ account, and used Stanford Athletics as its S&P 500, than one would be set for retirement. Along the way, it would certainly be fun to watch it grow.

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WOMEN’S PRO TENNIS

India’s top tennis player added to growing list for Bank of the West Classic

by Rick Eymer

Sania Mirza may not be well known in most circles, but just ask an Indian and she becomes as famous as any Bollywood actress.

Mirza is the most successful women’s tennis player from India and is the only Indian woman to win a women’s tour title.

For the third consecutive year, she’ll call the Bank of the West Classic home between July 23 and 29 at Stanford’s Taube Tennis Center. And if you saw her play in the last two years, you know she draws quite an impressive following.

Mirza is one of 21 athletes who have committed to play in the event this year, including three in the top 10, and all 21 are ranked among the top 50.

Mirza, currently ranked 46th in the world, was at a career high No. 31 after winning her first and only title in her hometown of Hyderabad, India. She was the Sony Ericsson WTA Tour Newcomer of the Year in 2005 after improving her ranking to 31 from a season-ending 206 in 2006.

“Expectations just come with the package,” Mirza said. “You need to learn how to take it. I think it just in a way motivates me because I know there are so many people backing me. Before it was just India, but now it’s the whole of Asia that’s backing me.”

Mirza has won 12 ITF Circuit titles and has a career mark of 162-72. She reached the second round at the Qatar Total Open at the end of February. She made her return at the Grand Prix de SAR La Princesse Lalla Meryem in Fez on May 14.

“I am going to take it one at a time and not worry about Wimbledon, or even next week. I only want to worry about tomorrow,” Mirza said. “But pressure is growing by the day. People expect me to do better and not worry about Wimbledon, or even next week. I only want to worry about tomorrow.”

Mirza bowed out in the first round of the Ordina Open in Den Bosch, Holland on Monday, losing to Italy’s Francesca Schiavone 6-3, 6-2, 6-2. The Russian has been impressive all season, a 29-9 record coming into the Western & Southern Financial Group Women’s Open, which begins Wednesday.

“She made her return at the Ordina Open with a bang,” Mirza said. “There’s a lot of pressure on me. Everyone’s fresh.”

“Toughest things to do in a tournament is to win the first round. My goal is to win the first round. Passing the first round is one of the toughest things to do in a tournament because everyone’s fresh.”

The Mirza family immersed themselves in sports, although cricket is the sport of choice.

“I was the first one to play tennis,” Mirza said. “There’s a lot of cricket in my family, like from my dad’s side. In fact, he used to play top cricket. I had a few uncles who played a lot of cricket. I guess if I was a guy, I’d be playing cricket, too. I used to do everything except play cricket. When I was, I used to play badminton, swimming, and tennis. For some very weird reason, I didn’t play cricket. I don’t know why.”

Also at the Ordina Open, eighth-ranked Anna Chakvetadze, also entered in the Bank of the West Classic, beat Victoria Azarenka, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2. The Russian has been impressive all season, a 29-9 record coming into the Western & Southern Financial Group Women’s Open, which begins Wednesday.

India’s Sania Mirza is one of 21 players ranked among the world’s top 50 who are entered in the Bank of the West Classic at Stanford.

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Stanford roundup
(continued from page 29)
Team USA is currently training in France, where the squad is 2-0 against the French national 21-under team. Wiggins scored 14 points in an 82-59 win on Monday and added nine points and five assists in an 81-68 victory on Tuesday.

“It was exciting,” Wiggins said after Monday’s game. “After a long day of traveling we were ready to start playing. Once we got into the flow in the third quarter, we really got things going and opened things up.”

The Americans practice through Monday in France before departing for Moscow.

Softball
Stanford sophomores Rosey Neill and Alissa Haber will begin competition with the USA Junior Women’s National team at the VIII ISF Junior Women’s World Championship in Enschede, Netherlands today.

The Americans meet Puerto Rico in the first round after having Thursday’s contest with Puerto Rico rained out. The U.S. also plays Australia today.

Men’s swimming
Stanford strengthened its roster by signing eight outstanding recruits, including seven swimmers and one diver. The Class of 2011 includes Jake Allen, Joshua Charrin-Aker, John Criste, Brent Eichenseer, Scotty Korotkin, Chad La Tourette, David Mosko and Austin Staab.

Staab (Westerville Central High) is the most heralded of the group after being named the Ohio high school Swimmer of the Year in 2006 and ’07. He is a state champion in the 100 fly (twice) and the 100 freestyle (twice), as well as being the National high school record holder in the 100 fly (47.10). He has gone 20.18 in the 50 free, 43.93 in the 100 free and 1:47.86 in the 200 IM.

Allen (Davis) is a three-time high school MVP and a three-time North Coast Section champion in the 50 and 100 free, where he holds NCS records of 20.35 and 44.72, respectively.

Charrin-Aker (Princeton Junction, N.J.) is a Senior National qualifier in the 200 and 400 IM, as well as the Peddie School recordholder in the 400 IM in 3:55.93.

Criste (Trabuco Canyon) is the California recordholder in the 100 breaststroke (54.15). He is also a 2007 season champ in the 100 breast and 200 IM (1:49.25) with 1:57.43 in the 200 breast to his credit.

La Tourette (Mission Viejo) was a teammate of Criste’s at Mission Viejo High. He was the 2007 Spring National champion in the 1500 free and All-American with a 4:21.02 best in the 500 free.

Women’s tennis
(continued from page 31)
Ordina, including her third career title at Hobart and quarterfinals at the Australian Open and Roland Garros.

Sixth-ranked Ana Ivanovic is also entered in the $175,000 Ordina Open, one of two tune-ups the week before the year’s third major, Wimbledon.

The complete list of the 21 entrants are Ivanovic (6th ranked), Serena Williams (7), Chakvetadze (8), Patty Schnyder (15), Shahar Peer (16), Na Li (18), Vera Zvonareva (19), Marion Bartoli (20), Katarina Srebotnik (21), Sybille Bammer (22), Ai Sugiyama (27), Mara Santangelo (29), Olga Poutchikova (32), Meghann Shaughnessey (36), Severine Bremond (37), Meilen Tu (41), Julia Volynenko (42), Maria Kirilenko (43), Eleni Daniilidou (44), Mirza (46), and Shuai Peng (47).

Eichenseer (New Albany, Ohio) is the lone diving recruit. He was the state runnerup at the high school championships, and tied with the National Junior Olympians on the 1-meter board.

SCOREBOARD
BASEBALL
American Legion
Monday
At Palo Alto High
Menlo Park 000 3 3 — 5
Palo Alto 100 2 2 0 1 — 11
HR — Einfalt (PA); Berry, Einfalt (PA).
Records: Palo Alto 10-0

Tuesday
At Washington Park, Burlingame
Palo Alto 101 0 3 2 2 2 — 11
Burlingame 000 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 — 3
HR — Einfalt (PA); Berry, Einfalt (PA).
Records: Palo Alto 10-0

Wednesday’s game
Palo Alto Post 375 at Menlo Park Post 249, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY
Swimming
Junior Pan Pacific Invitational at Stanford’s Avery Aquatic Complex (Belardi Pool), 11 a.m.

SUNDAY
Swimming
American Legion — Palo Alto Post 375 at Los Altos, 5 p.m.

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