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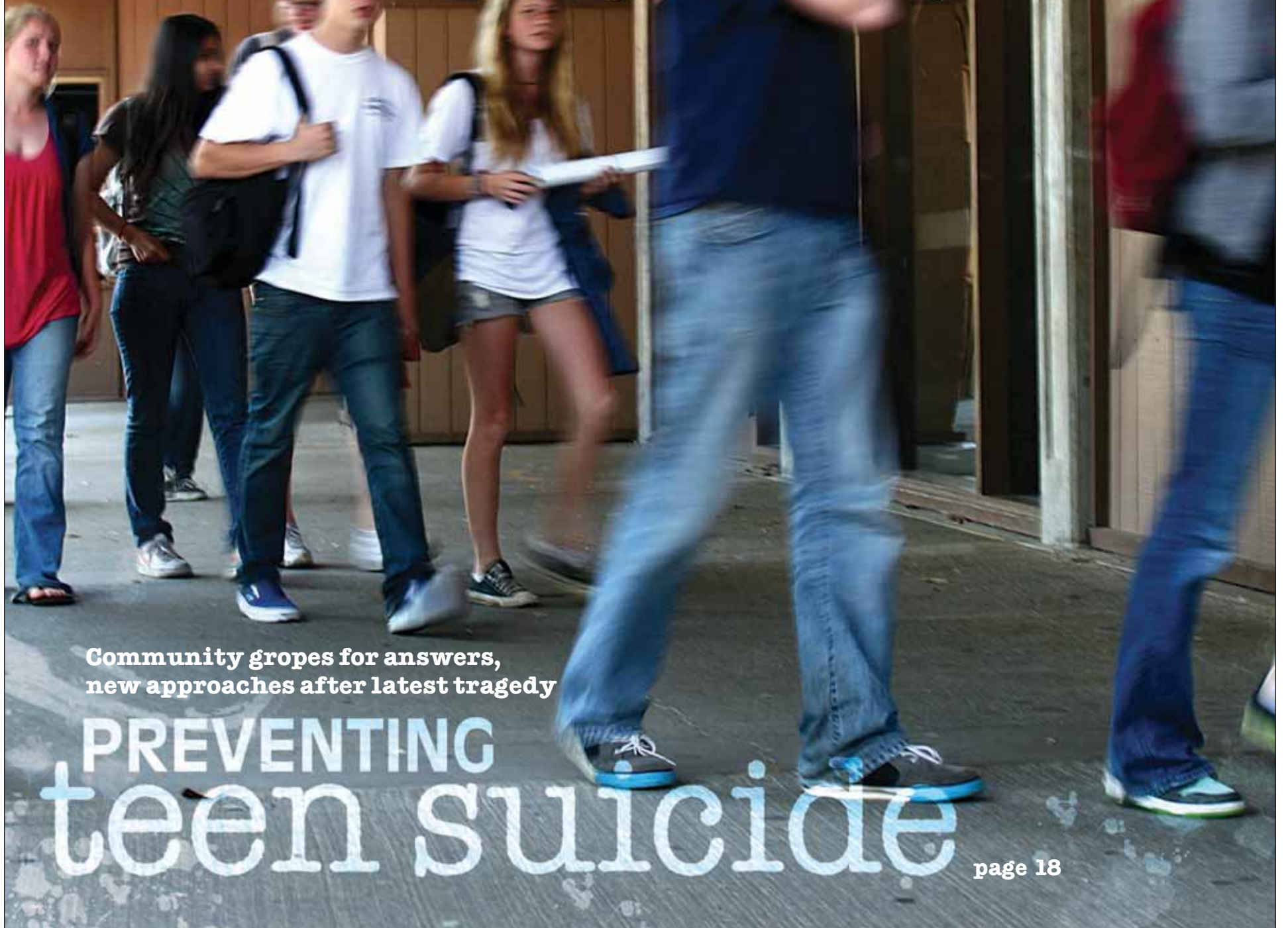
Vol. XXX, Number 33 • May 22, 2009 ■ 50¢

# Weekly

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# Upfront

Local news, information and analysis

## California in 'unprecedented' fiscal crisis

State Sen. Joe Simitian says state budget gridlock plus recession spells a catastrophe for education and 'safety net'

by Jay Thorwaldson

"It's grim. There's no other word for it," State Sen. Joe Simitian, D-Palo Alto, said Tuesday of the "unprecedented" economic catastrophe California faces in the wake of overwhelming voter defeat of a package of propositions aimed to help close California's \$21.3 million budget gap.

School districts, cities, counties and special districts throughout the state are girding for a massive impact that will land primarily on education and health and human services programs, according to officials.

Santa Clara County officials are huddled in meetings trying to assess

how badly the county's \$4 billion annual budget — half of which goes to health, welfare and other discretionary programs — will be hit.

It will be very bad, Supervisor Liz Kniss, who represents Palo Alto and other North County communities, said Thursday.

"I think we're looking at ampu-

tation of programs. We're not looking at surgical removal (of program components) any more but at major cuts of entire programs."

She said such cuts would be felt especially hard in health and human services.

"I see our tightly woven social and safety network really beginning

to develop enormous holes in it that I don't think will be mended easily, if ever," Kniss said of cutbacks at the county level.

"The holes are getting bigger, and may soon be larger than the net itself," she said.

(continued on page 7)



Veronica Weber

'Kidizen' Joel Manning crouches low on Monday to get a better view of the front entrance to the history museum he is constructing.

### COMMUNITY

## Building a city, one block at a time

Students build cities, manage disasters and run council meetings in fledgling Kidizens program

by Gennady Sheyner

Xander Hughes was doing well for himself even before he struck gold.

After securing a loan from a local bank, Hughes founded the first bakery in Silver Canyon, a booming city with a bustling business district and an assortment of

small, scattered houses and attractions. By the time Hughes sailed off to a distant island to seek gold, he was already a successful entrepreneur, a local sheriff and an engaged citizen.

Or, as the case may be, a "kidi-zen."

Hughes, a third-grader with a knack for engineering and constructing elaborate Lego structures, is one of 48 elementary-school students who've spent the past semester in educator Matt Bowling's after-school program learning about tax increases, flood control, business development and other facets of running a city. The students hold regular council meetings each week to propose legislature, hear the latest civic gossip and debate the burning issues of the week.

Bowling, a soft-spoken, multi-tasking overlord of the blocky universe, taught at Duveneck Elementary School before leaving the school district last year to focus full-time on Kidizens. The goal, he said, is to directly immerse the

students in their weekly lessons, which range from the Gold Rush and disaster preparation to tax policy and responsible land-use practices. What was once a classroom experiment has morphed into a suite filled with bulletin boards, charts and four expansive Lego metropolises featuring such staples of modern civilization as power plants, train tracks, levees, gyms and clinics.

"In general, my philosophy is: The more interactive it is, the more students learn," said Bowling, while students around him hastily assembled historical museums (one of which would ultimately be included in Silver Canyon).

During a council meeting later

(continued on page 6)

### TRANSPORTATION

## City finds high-speed rail allies

New consortium, citizen group form to encourage transparency in design of 300-mile rail line

by Gennady Sheyner

As they seek a greater say on the state's proposed high-speed rail system, Palo Alto officials are finding allies both within and beyond the city borders.

On Wednesday, the city's effort to form a coalition of Peninsula cities came to fruition when Atherton became the fifth member to sign on to a memorandum of understanding written by Palo Alto City Attorney Gary Baum. Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Belmont and Burlingame previously signed on to the document, which establishes the Peninsula Cities Consortium — a coalition devoted to dealing with state agencies on high-speed rail issues.

The consortium, which needed at least five member cities to be officially recognized, will be able to speak in negotiations with the High-Speed Rail Authority, the agency charged with building the 300-mile line between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

At the same time, city officials have been getting a plethora of free assistance from a group of city residents who, over the past few months, immersed themselves in rail-related issues. One of the group's leaders, Sara Armstrong, has been reaching out to neighborhoods both inside and outside Palo Alto to strengthen the citizen coalition. Residents Rita Wespi and Elizabeth Alexis have been tracking the web of rail-related bills passing through the state Capitol, while Nadia Naik has joined Councilwoman Yoriko Kishimoto in advocating a "context-sensitive solution" to the design of the new system.

(continued on page 7)

# Expect Excellence

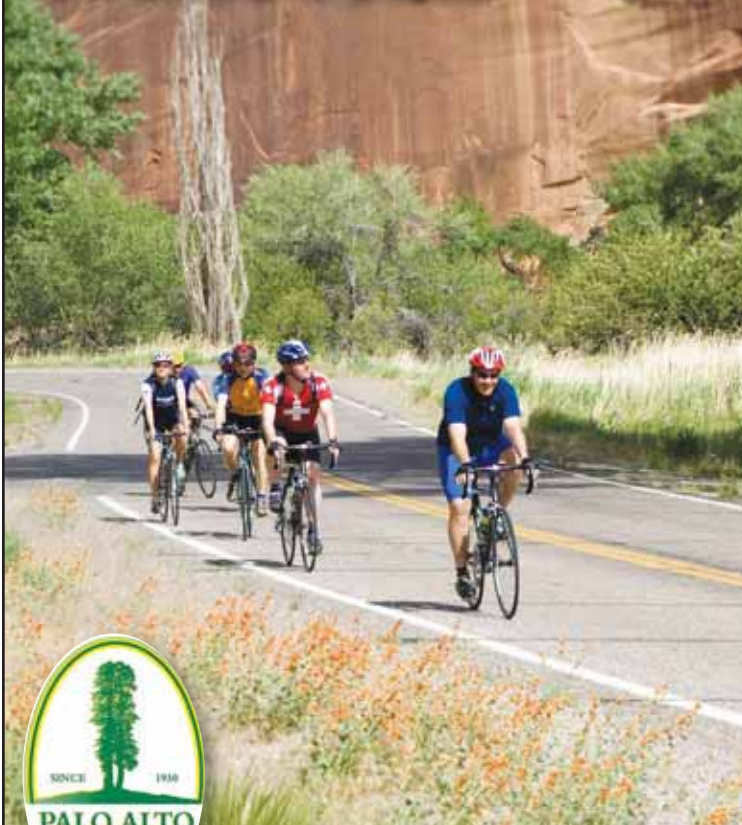


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The Palo Alto Weekly (ISSN 0199-1159) is published every Friday by Embarcadero Publishing Co., 703 High St., Palo Alto, CA 94301, (650) 326-8210. Periodicals postage paid at Palo Alto, CA and additional mailing offices. Adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation for Santa Clara County. The Palo Alto Weekly is delivered free to homes in Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley, East Palo Alto, to faculty and staff households on the Stanford campus and to portions of Los Altos Hills. If you are not currently receiving the paper, you may request free delivery by calling 326-8210. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Palo Alto Weekly, P.O. Box 1610, Palo Alto, CA 94302. Copyright ©2009 by Embarcadero Publishing Co. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited. Printed by SFOP, Redwood City. The Palo Alto Weekly is available on the Internet via Palo Alto Online at: www.PaloAltoOnline.com

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## Upfront

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“

There's no way to put a happy face on this.

”

— Joe Simitian, state senator, on the economic catastrophe facing California. See story on page 3.

## Around Town

### UNLIKELY BEDFELLOWS ...

Landlords, labor leaders and environmentalists don't always travel in the same social circle, much less speak with the same voice. So when leaders from the three arenas came together this week to lobby for a new loan program for small businesses, they had no trouble getting the City Council's attention. The program — known in its two forms as “on-bill financing” and “off-bill financing” — would finance energy-efficient appliances and programs for small businesses, who would then pay off the interest-free loans in either their utility bills or in separate bills. Staff has already studied the prospect for such a program and proposed doing a thorough legal review. But several industry leaders, including those representing the **International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 332, Working Partnerships USA** and **Acterra**, asked the council to speed the fledgling project along. The council directed staff to come up with an implementation plan by Sept. 30.

### COPPING OUT? ...

Wanted: a group of 15 honest, eloquent citizens willing to meet with Palo Alto police officers every other month and help to ensure the department's enforcement tactics are fair and unbiased. The goal? To strengthen the relationship between police and the larger community and show the world how transparent the department is. Interim Police Chief **Dennis Burns** told the Human Relations Commission May 14 that the department is recruiting members to the new community advisory group, and laid out criteria for the new members. But interested residents shouldn't expect full transparency. Burns said he decided not to follow the Brown Act (which governs public disclosure) after consulting with **Lorie Fridell**, an acclaimed expert on the subject of racial profiling. “We thought it might be more effective, people might be more inclined to share, if there wasn't a huge public or a lot of people participating and observing,” Burns told the commission. “People might be more honest.” But this policy struck

at least one police critic as strange. **John Abraham**, a statistician who has long pointed to the department's demographic data as evidence of racial bias, noted the irony of the department holding secret meetings to demonstrate how transparent it is. “Only in Palo Alto does that seem to make sense,” Abraham said. “You need to have open meetings to attain some credibility.” Interested citizens can download applications for the new group from www.papd.org or contact Barbara Teixeira at 650-329-2556. The deadline for application submittal is June 3.

### THEY LIKE TO BIKE ...

Palo Altans apparently like their bikes. At least once a year. On May 14, the official Bike to Work Day, 1,389 people biked to work, according to counts from stations set up throughout the city. That's an increase of more than 100 riders from last year, when 1,286 people exchanged their steering wheels for handlebars. City Manager **James Keene** announced the figures Monday, noting the city has shown steady progress in its ridership numbers. Palo Alto had 1,063 bikers participating in Bike to Work Day in 2007 and 934 riders in 2006.

### OFF-COLOR ...

After gracing King Plaza for the past year, “The Color of Palo Alto” exhibit is about to depart. The exhibit, designed and assembled by artist **Sam Yates** over a period of seven years, includes photos of all 17,729 parcels in Palo Alto, each prominently displayed on the City Hall's glassy facade. The installation also includes telescopes at King Plaza and in front of City Hall, and the temporary building Yates worked in and the red scooter he used to get around the city and take the photos. **Linda Craighead**, the city's director of arts and sciences, said all components of the exhibit will be removed in the first two weeks of June. Meanwhile, the city is waiting for Yates to update the exhibit's official website, www.thecolorofpaloalto.com. Once that's done, the city will announce Palo Alto's favorite shade of green, as voted on by residents. ■

# City plans police cuts, new golf fees

*Council looks for ways to balance 2010 budget, mitigate future deficits*

by Gennady Sheyner

**F**ewer police officers. New golf fees. Unfilled positions.

These are some of the solutions Palo Alto City Council members are mulling over these days as they seek to close a projected \$10 million gap in the 2010 budget.

The council's Finance Committee has met five times so far this month to discuss ways to balance the budget that begins July 1. The group will hold its final meeting on City Manager James Keene's budget proposal Tuesday, after which time its recommendations will be debated by the full council.

One area likely for cuts is the police department. On May 7, the four-member committee split on whether to request specific cuts from the police budget — as Chairman Pat Burt and Councilman Larry Klein suggested — or to require the de-

partment to issue its own proposal to free up \$500,000, as advocated by Vice Mayor Jack Morton and Councilman Greg Schmid.

In either case, the two programs most likely to see staff reductions are the department's School Resource Officer program, which may lose one of its two officers, and the four-officer traffic-enforcement team, which could lose either one or two members.

"These are very tough decisions to make," Klein said. "I don't get any joy out of proposing to reduce the traffic team. I'm sure they're all needed, but we have to start somewhere."

Other departments managed to avoid major cuts, but just barely. The city attorney's office, which already trimmed \$67,500 from its budget, faced the prospect of laying off an

attorney and a secretary. But the Finance Committee chose not to make the cuts Tuesday after City Attorney Gary Baum gave a detailed, chart-heavy presentation comparing Palo Alto's staffing levels with those of other Peninsula cities (Palo Alto was generally near the middle of the pack). The layoffs would require the city to spend more money on outside counsel, Baum said, which would cost an extra \$100 to \$200 per hour than the city currently spends on in-house work.

Klein, who initially proposed trimming the city attorney's office budget, ultimately voted with the rest of the committee. But he also suggested hiring a consultant in the near future to look at staffing levels in various departments.

(continued on next page)

LAND USE

# Students push for downtown promenade

*Plan would close University Avenue to traffic, shift parking to designated garages*

by Gennady Sheyner

**A** graduate student-led proposal to drive all cars off the busiest section of University Avenue is slowly but steadily garnering Palo Alto's attention.

Under the plan, developed by a group from Stanford University, the merchant-heavy stretch of University between High and Cowper streets would be converted into a vehicle-free promenade. Student David Hughes said he and three of his classmates hope to convert other residents and city officials to the cause.

The students pitched the idea as an assignment for their Creating Infectious Action class, which requires them to come up with ways to reduce gas consumption. Since then, they have created a blog and a Facebook group to promote the idea, which they believe would both reduce Palo Altans' gas dependence and alleviate the parking woes on the city's busiest thoroughfare.

Instead of clogging up the two-hour-parking spots along University, employees of the businesses along the thoroughfare could get parking permits from the city and fill the garage spots formerly occupied by Facebook employees, Hughes said. The company moved out of downtown earlier this month and into its new office on California Avenue.

The idea, Hughes said, is to promote less driving and more walking. But if it helps alleviate some of University Avenue's parking woes, so much the better.

"Parking is such a huge issues for employees, many of whom are getting ticketed a bunch of times every month," Hughes said. "If there is a

customer in the store, they have to either take a gamble and stay with the customer or say, 'I have to move my car.'"

The idea of turning University into an auto-free promenade isn't entirely new. In July 2007, city officials decided to close the busiest section of University on a Friday afternoon only to see adjoining streets fill with traffic and merchants fill with anger and frustration.

***"It creates an environment where you, by serendipity, run into neighbors and meet up and have dinner with them."***

—Yoriko Kishimoto, councilmember

But Councilwoman Yoriko Kishimoto, who was mayor at the time, said the biggest flaw with the event was inadequate planning and publicity. Kishimoto is a longtime proponent of creating a more walkable Palo Alto. She said the idea of turning University into a pedestrian-only zone is not without merit, provided it's implemented in gradual phases.

"I think people are very hungry for a place to just meet and mingle," Kishimoto said. "It creates an environment where you, by serendipity, run into neighbors and meet up and

have dinner with them."

The first phase, Kishimoto said, could be to eliminate parking spots along University Avenue to allow for wider sidewalks and more bicycle parking spots. Later phases could include closing the busy stretch to cars on a monthly or a bi-weekly basis. The street, for example, could be closed to traffic late Friday afternoon and remain closed on Saturday morning, during which time it could host a farmers market, she said.

Kishimoto isn't alone in wishing for a car-free stretch of University Avenue. On May 13, Planning and Transportation Commissioner Arthur Keller mentioned the idea as an example of the "out-of-the-box" policies he'd like to see city consultants consider as they present recommendations for amending the city's Comprehensive Plan, which guides land-use policies.

Hughes and his group, meanwhile, are keeping busy trying to convert more residents to their cause. The group's Facebook group, Palo Alto Pedestrian Mall, aims to attract 1,000 supporters by May 27. Between May 16 and May 20, its membership swelled from 66 to 452 members.

Hughes also said most of the conversations with downtown shoppers were promising. While some merchants said they were concerned about the proposal's impact on their business, the shoppers were generally enthusiastic, he said.

"We didn't find one consumer who didn't like the idea," he said. ■

Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner can be e-mailed at [gshyner@paweekly.com](mailto:gshyner@paweekly.com).

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## Upfront

### Budget

(continued from previous page)

"I think we do need some expert help for us to take a careful look at the various areas, particularly our back-office work, to see if we're getting the maximum production for our dollars," Klein said.

Meanwhile, the Palo Alto Municipal Golf Course appears to be heading for more near-term changes. Though the Finance Committee didn't offer any specific proposals, committee members agreed on May 5 to direct staff to make "accounting adjustments" to make the golf course achieve a break-even posi-

tion. This could be achieved through higher fees, expense reductions or a combination of both and would narrow the budget gap by \$198,000.

At the same time, under Keene's proposal, the city would eliminate about 20 city positions that are currently vacant.

The proposed budget includes a \$141.2 million general fund and a \$316 million enterprise fund, which includes storm drains, wastewater treatment and the various city-owned utilities.

As city officials look to close the 2010 budget gap, they are also seeking to fix the city's long-term revenue woes. Keene told the Finance Committee Tuesday that of-

ficials held a series of meetings with business leaders in the past month to make a case for a new business-license tax.

Keene also said staff is considering other revenue-raising options, including an increase in the city's documentary-transfer tax (which gets paid during real-estate transactions) and an increase in sales tax. Both measures would have to be approved by voters before they could be implemented.

The business-license tax, which would have no effect on the 2010 budget, would also need to be approved by the voters. Council members have until July 20 to place the measure on the November ballot, Keene said.

The Finance Committee will discuss the business-license tax proposal on June 2. The City Council is scheduled to discuss the 2010 budget on June 8 and adopt it on June 15. ■

Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner can be e-mailed at [gsheyner@paweekly.com](mailto:gsheyner@paweekly.com).

### Kidizens

(continued from page 3)

in the lesson, Bowling informed the group (through a newscast) of a complaint from an environmentalist group about too much development in one of the Lego cities, Trotterville ("It's so crowded, we can hardly breathe," the newscast proclaimed). Meanwhile, the founders of Silver Canyon received kudos for building a nature preserve, an initiative proposed by one of the students and adopted through a vote.

Each of the 12-student groups meets in the Fabian Way suite on a different day of the week, but every once in a while they are forced to interact over regional issues. The four cities elect ambassadors, who then write letters to one another to negotiate on borders and other topics that exceed provincial interests. Just like in real life, the delicate dance of diplomacy in the Kidizen universe can drain the patience of those involved.

"It took like a month to go back and forth with the letters," Bowling said.

Though Bowling acknowledges he was initially nervous about the logistics of filling the program with students and getting enough Lego blocks to support four densely developed cities, he's been pleased with how the program has progressed in its first year and is preparing to begin the cycle all over again in the fall. He also plans to raise the age of the participants, now second-through fourth-graders, to encompass third- through fifth-graders.

Students, for their part, said they enjoyed learning about how cities function, even when discussions turned to topics that may seem trivial or boring to a layman. Lila Mack, a third-grader at Escondido Elementary School, said one of the more memorable lessons for her was about taxes.

"We all have to pay them," she said. ■

Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner can be e-mailed at [gsheyner@paweekly.com](mailto:gsheyner@paweekly.com).



### CITY OF PALO ALTO NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Palo Alto will be considering adoption of a resolution determining the calculation of the appropriations limit for Fiscal Year 2010 at the regularly scheduled meeting of the City Council on Monday, June 15, 2009, at 7:00 p.m., or as near thereafter as possible, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, California. The calculation of the limit and the supporting documentation are available for review in the City Budget Office, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, 250 Hamilton Ave, Palo Alto. If you have any questions, please contact Amy Javelosa-Rio, Administrative Services Department at (650) 329-2238. There is a charge of \$.12 per page for copying documentation.

DONNA J. GRIDER  
City Clerk



### CITY OF PALO ALTO NOTICE OF HEARING ON PARKING ASSESSMENT ROLL

FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010

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(Resolution of Intention No. 7230, Adopted August 9, 1993)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Engineer has caused to be prepared and filed with the City Clerk a report which provides for the levying of special assessments on the properties within the parking assessment districts created and established for the projects and pursuant to the Resolution of Intention cited above. The report sets forth the amounts proposed to be levied for the fiscal year 2009-2010 upon the several parcels of real property in the parking assessment districts created to pay the principal and interest of the bonds issued in the projects, which report is open to public inspection.

The report will be heard by the Council at its meeting to be held on the 8th day of June 2009 at the hour of 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall, 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, California, at which time said Council will examine said report and hear all persons interested therein.

Any person interested in objecting to the amount of the assessment on any parcel of real property owned by him or her, may file with the City Clerk, at or before the hour fixed for hearing, a protest in writing signed by him or her, describing the parcel so that it may be identified, and stating the ground or grounds of protest, and may appear at the hearing and be heard in regard thereto.

DONNA J. GRIDER, MMC  
CITY CLERK

## Fiscal crisis

(continued from page 3)

Simitian told the Weekly he's never seen a situation even close to the present crisis in his 25 years as an elected official, serving on the Palo Alto school board and City Council, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, state Assembly and Senate.

"We've had (political) debates in previous years, when we had to cut the budget severely," Simitian said. He said the legislative debate "played out again in February" when the Legislature tackled a projected \$42 billion state budget shortfall.

"We dealt with \$36 billion" and moved \$6 billion into the package of propositions, all but one of which failed resoundingly, he said.

"This is not just like 'another hard year, only more so.' This is a qualitatively different kind of experience: a worldwide recession with revenues plummeting as a result of a failed economy," Simitian said. "State revenues went down 35 to 40 percent — boom, just like that."

"We are facing a situation that is orders-of-magnitude greater than anything we've faced before," he said. "There's no way to put a happy face on this."

"Because public education is half the budget, there is no way the state is going to save \$21 billion without some really painful cutbacks."

Health and welfare programs constitute another 30 percent of the state budget, he said. There will be a heavy impact on counties, which

are mandated to implement many such health and "safety net" programs.

Some people have suggested making deep cuts in the state's prison system, but prisons and related services account for only about 10 or 11 percent of the state's budget, he said. The state is also under federal-court order to increase spending on prisons in health and some other areas, he noted.

Some cities and school districts, such as Palo Alto, have reserve or "rainy day" funds into which they can dip as a one-time fix. But City Council member Larry Klein said Palo Alto has treated its approximately \$20 million reserve fund as more of an "earthquake fund" to be used only after a major catastrophe, perhaps to rebuild a fire station or some other major fix.

Councilman Pat Burt, who chairs the council's Finance Committee, said the city has been working to close a \$10 million gap, which in the past two weeks has grown to \$12.5 million with the announcement that Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger likely plans to "borrow" \$2.5 million from Palo Alto's tax-revenue stream for three years.

Some other Midpeninsula communities and school districts report that use of reserves may help them avoid the worst of the impacts in the short term, but that impacts on county services will be felt in both Santa Clara and San Mateo counties.

Kniss said that cutbacks being discussed for Santa Clara County include numerous prevention and diversion programs, including public-health nurses who provide

front-line care to the chronically ill and elderly. She said one program that will likely be cut is a program that provides counseling, job training and recovery guidance for people released from jail or prison for drug-related offenses.

Such a cut would make it more difficult for many of the 38,000 prisoners Schwarzenegger has said might be released from state prisons to save money, and many are there for drug-related offenses and related crimes, Kniss said.

She said once such amputations are made the programs tend to simply disappear forever rather than being recreated later. She compared the cuts to the closure of state mental-health centers in the 1960s that resulted in an influx of homeless persons into communities.

Community-college districts will be hard hit, along with colleges and universities and community school districts.

Martha Kanter, chancellor of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District, informed all faculty and staff members in an e-mail memo Thursday that the combination of declining tax revenues and the state's "dire budget situation" will mean layoffs.

"This is devastating news for all of education and we wish it were not so," she said in the memo. The district could face an immediate 2009-2010 school-year shortfall of between \$19 million and \$25 million on a total budget of \$185 million, according to rough estimates presented Thursday at a budget meeting. ■

*Weekly Editor Jay Thorwaldson can be e-mailed at [jthorwaldson@paweekly.com](mailto:jthorwaldson@paweekly.com).*

## High-speed rail

(continued from page 3)

"They've really become this informed and effective spokesperson for the community," Kishimoto said at Monday night's council meeting. "Not just for Palo Alto, but they're extending their reach to other communities as well."

The residents recently formed a new group — Citizens Advocating Reasonable Rail Design — which lobbies for more transparency for the \$40 billion project and for the context-sensitive approach, which requires outreach to stakeholders before development of a transportation project and a focus on local context when designing the project.

Dominic Spaethling, project manager for the San Francisco-to-San Jose segment of the proposed line, said the rail authority and Caltrain are both sensitive to the concerns of the various communities. But he warned that cities could have different ideas for how to collaborate with the rail authority on design ideas.

"It's important to acknowledge the need for collaboration in design, but it's not a 'one size fits all' situation," Spaethling said. "Charrettes may be fine for Palo Alto, while other cities may have other approaches."

The High-Speed Rail Authority and Caltrain are currently working on an outreach plan for the project,

said Seamus Murphy, Caltrain's manager for government affairs. The agencies, which are working jointly on an electrified rail system, expect to release the plan in the end of June.

"We've been pretty diligent about meeting with the community," Murphy said. "We felt it was really important for Caltrain and high-speed rail to have a more transparent process than is required by law."

The trains on the proposed system would run through Palo Alto along the Caltrain corridor at about 125 mph before accelerating to 220 mph when they hit Central Valley. California voters approved a \$9.95 billion bond for the new line in November, and the high-speed rail authority plans to have the San Francisco-to-Los Angeles segment in place by 2020.

In October, the Palo Alto City Council approved a resolution supporting the proposed high-speed rail system. But since then, council members and residents have grown concerned about the impacts of the proposed rail line, which could include an elevated barrier stretching through the city along the Caltrain corridor. Many have called for more transparency and dialogue between the rail authority and residents within the communities along the line.

On Monday, the City Council attempted to make this dialogue smoother by adopting a set of guiding principles for its newly estab-

lished ad hoc committee. The committee, which includes Kishimoto and councilmen Pat Burt and John Barton, is authorized to speak on behalf of the full council on rail-related issues whenever the city's input is needed on short notice.

The principles proclaim the city's support for consideration of alternative alignments (other than the Caltrain right-of-way). They also call for a collaborative approach to urban design, more transparency in the design process and an economic study that would help determine which design alternatives are feasible.

Councilman Greg Schmid, who wanted the principles to explicitly state the city's concern about elevated trains, was the only council member who voted against adopting the principles (Barton and Vice Mayor Jack Morton were absent).

Councilman Sid Espinosa, who voted with the majority, praised the new document for encouraging more openness and information and for giving the city a greater power to communicate with state agencies implementing the project.

"It engages us in a real-time manner in discussions," Espinosa said. "There won't be the delays we often have of things coming back to the council three weeks later. We'll be able to stay on top of things." ■

*Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner can be e-mailed at [gshyner@paweekly.com](mailto:gshyner@paweekly.com).*

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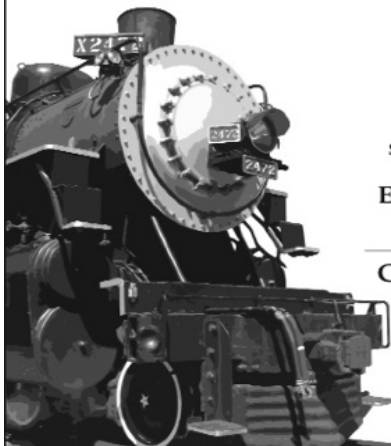
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## Upfront

# News Digest

### Prosecution, defense rest in Burpee trial

The prosecution and defense both rested their cases Tuesday afternoon in the trial of Palo Alto High School graduate Todd Burpee, who stands accused of attempted murder, kidnapping and sexual assault.

However, the prosecution did not present Burpee's earlier confession of the crime to police. Burpee told Palo Alto police detectives that he beat, threatened to kill, and sexually assaulted the girl, identified in court as "Jane Doe," because he was angry after a fight with his fiancée.

In an equally surprising move, Defense Attorney Daniel Olmos rested the defense's case Wednesday without presenting any additional evidence.

Jurors were scheduled to hear instructions from Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge Griffin Bonini and closing arguments from the prosecution and defense on Friday (May 22). Jury deliberations will follow.

Jurors cried earlier Tuesday when they heard a recording of Jane Doe's emotional interview with police taped within hours after Doe was taken to Valley Medical Center.

With the sound of medical monitors pinging in the background, a tearful Doe begged for her mother and described the attack to officers through swollen lips and jaws that at times muffled her responses.

Burpee appeared emotionless as the recording played and followed along with a written transcript.

Earlier testimony by Santa Clara County criminologist Opritsa Tudorriu positively linked several blood stains to Doe, which were found on a shoebox, tissue paper and upholstery in Burpee's car.

Blood matching Doe's was discovered on a sweatshirt found in Burpee's bedroom, but no testing was done to ascertain who may have been wearing the sweatshirt at the time of the attack, Olmos said. ■

The verdict will be posted on [www.PaloAltoOnline.com](http://www.PaloAltoOnline.com) as soon it is announced.

—Sue Dremann

### Palo Alto website to get facelift — or makeover

Palo Alto's official website — a longstanding object of confusion, anger and ridicule in a city that likes to flaunt its technological might — could be heading for a facelift.

Or possibly full-on plastic surgery.

A committee of 12 volunteers who have spent the better part of the past year discussing plans to refurbish the much-maligned site, submitted an ambitious, 69-point plan for revamping the site to an enthusiastic City Council Monday night.

The revamp will start by losing the dark-grey background, then revise the links, simplify the flow and basically make the site "user-centric" from end to end.

If the vision of the Website Advisory Commission comes to fruition, the website at [www.cityofpaloalto.org](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org) will soon become a one-stop portal for visitors who wish to check up on current construction projects, dig up old staff reports or find someone to fix those annoying potholes in front of their homes.

It would also link users to neighborhood groups, entertain them with webcam feeds and notify them when a public works crew is closing a neighborhood street to work on a construction project.

The City Council reacted to the committee's report with unabashed enthusiasm and approved 7-0 the committee's recommendations.

Committee members vowed to continue working closely with city staff to implement the recommendations, but there is no timeline or cost estimate yet for the makeover. ■

—Gennady Sheyner

### Family: City negligence caused mother's death

The daughters of Phyllis Seidman, the Palo Alto resident who was fatally struck while crossing Cowper Street in her wheelchair Dec. 2, 2008, have filed two claims against the City of Palo Alto in an amount exceeding \$2 million.

In the identical claims, Karen Seidman and Jennifer Seidman allege the city was liable for their mother's death due to "a dangerous condition of public property."

Seidman, 66, was crossing Cowper at Embarcadero Road at 3:15 p.m. that Tuesday when an SUV crossed Embarcadero and struck her in her wheelchair. She died three hours later.

The Seidman daughters are claiming the loss of financial and emotional support. The amount of recompense is uncertain but "expected to exceed \$1 million" each, the claims state.

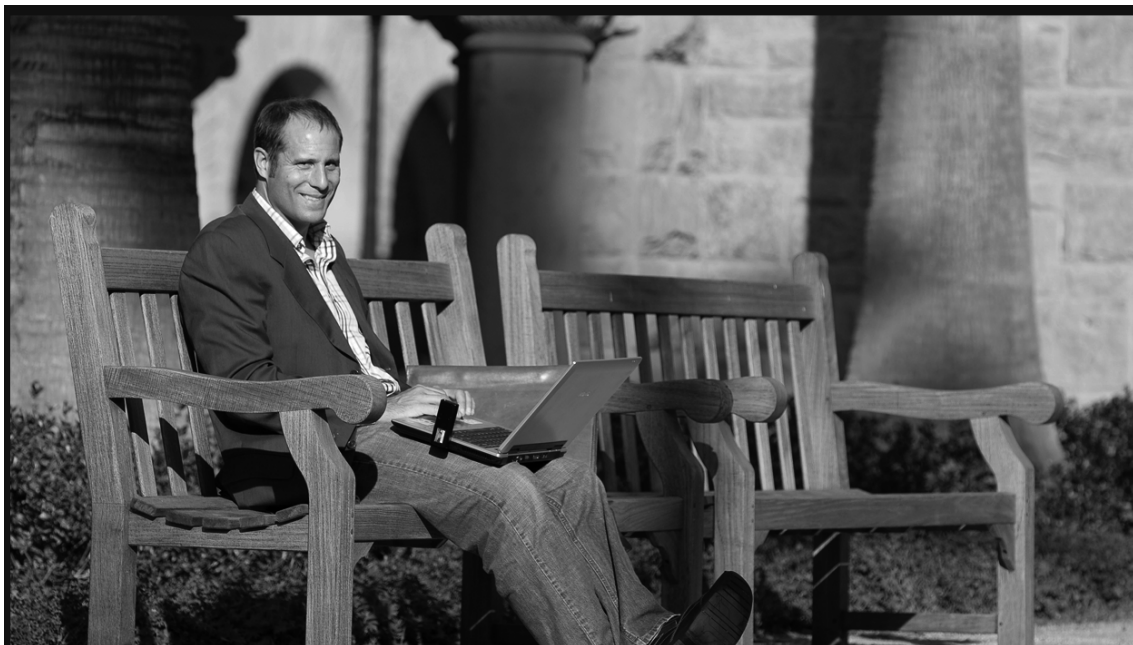
Assistant City Attorney Don Larkin said this week the claims were unexpected.

The City Attorney's Office has until the end of May to either accept or reject the claim, Larkin said. A follow-up investigation is underway.

Rejecting the Seidmans' claims would open the city to a possible lawsuit.

In February, the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office decided not to press charges against the SUV driver, following the police investigation. ■

—Palo Alto Weekly staff



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# Online This Week

These and other news stories were posted on Palo Alto Online throughout the week. For longer versions, go to [www.PaloAltoOnline.com/news](http://www.PaloAltoOnline.com/news) or click on "News" in the left, green column.

## Stanford Independence Day event canceled

Stanford campus construction, which forced Stanford Lively Arts to cancel the fireworks portion of its annual July 3 Independence Day celebration at Frost Amphitheater in 2008, has led to the cancellation of the entire event — both fireworks and live concert — this year, Stanford announced Wednesday. (Posted May 20 at 3:50 p.m.)

## Gail Price enters Palo Alto council race

Gail Price, who spent eight years on the Palo Alto Board of Education, is now seeking a seat on the City Council. Price, who completed her second term on the school board in 2007, made her announcement Wednesday. (Posted May 20 at 3:15 p.m.)

## Oregon jury convicts M-A grad in rape case

Gregory Sako, a graduate of Hillview Middle School and Menlo-Atherton High School, was sentenced Tuesday, May 19, in Corvallis, Oregon, to eight years and four months in state prison after a jury trial in which he was convicted of first-degree rape, according to the prosecutor in the case. (Posted May 20 at 2:41 p.m.)

## Gunn, Paly seek help in planning campuses

Gunn and Palo Alto high schools are seeking parent and community members to augment their facilities steering committees, which are charged with guiding major renovations funded by last year's \$378 million bond. (Posted May 20 at 2:37 p.m.)

## Brandy named interim head of Foothill-DeAnza

Mike Brandy is stepping in as interim chancellor of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District — and he's serious about the "interim." Trustees announced Brandy's selection Monday. (Posted May 20 at 9:10 a.m.)

## Foothills fire-management plan stalls

A long-awaited proposal to reduce fire danger in the foothills by creating evacuation trails, trimming fire-prone vegetation and maintaining a nearby fire station stalled Monday night after the Palo Alto City Council decided it doesn't sufficiently address ways to preserve the area's natural habitat. (Posted May 19 at 1:59 p.m.)

## Van Bragt pleads 'no contest' to murder charge

Herman "Tim" Van Bragt pleaded "no contest" today in Santa Clara County Superior Court in San Jose for the March 7, 2008, stabbing death of his mother's friend, prosecutor Lane Liroff said. (Posted May 19 at 1:04 p.m.)

## Middlefield Road closures will back-up traffic

Lane closures on Middlefield Road in Redwood City related to the construction of a new Costco store are expected to cause significant delays to motorists for the next month, a city spokesman said this week. (Posted May 19 at 12:15 p.m.)

## Palo Alto council resets public safety building

A discussion of the fate of the ill-fated "public safety building" in Palo Alto was suspended until June 1 by the City Council Monday night in a meeting that was running late. (Posted May 19 at 6:49 a.m.)

## Alleged burglars caught in Palo Alto baylands

A high-speed chase that ended in Palo Alto's baylands at Embarcadero Road early Sunday morning resulted in the arrest of three men on suspicion of burglarizing a rental agency in the Fair Oaks area of Redwood City. (Posted May 19 at 6:34 a.m.)

## Todd Burpee's girlfriend won't testify in trial

Todd Burpee's girlfriend took the Fifth Amendment protection against self-incrimination during a closed hearing on Monday in Santa Clara County Superior Court, according to James Leonard, Santa Clara County deputy district attorney trying the kidnapping/assault case against Burpee. (Posted May 18 at 11:50 p.m.)

## Minor quake, 2.0, strikes east of Milpitas

An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 2.0 struck Saturday morning in Santa Clara County, the U.S. Geological Survey reported. (Posted May 18 at 9:24 a.m.)

## Tribute honors officers killed in line of duty

Dozens of Santa Clara County police officers and sheriff's deputies paid tribute Friday to the 38 area peace officers killed in the line of duty over the past 150 years. (Posted May 15 at 4:55 p.m.)

Palo Alto Medical Foundation

# HEARING HEALTH FAIR

Wednesday, May 27

3 – 5 p.m.

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The Center for Hearing Health at PAMF will feature presentations by PAMF audiologists and physicians about hearing loss and treatment options, as well as information and demonstrations from hearing device manufacturers and other vendors on the latest products and services for individuals with hearing loss.

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# CityView

A round-up of  Palo Alto government action this week

## City Council (May 18)

**Website Committee:** The council heard a presentation from the city's Website Advisory Committee. The council unanimously approved a report submitted by staff and the committee outlining suggestions for improving the city's website. **Yes:** Burt, Drekmeier, Espinosa, Kishimoto, Klein, Schmid, Yeh. **Absent:** Morton, Barton

**Foothills Fire Management:** The council discussed the proposed Foothills Fire Management Plan and agreed to send it back to the Parks and Recreation Commission for further review and a recommendation. The council also asked staff to come up with a plan to reduce the fire risk for the 200 houses in the foothills area.

**Yes:** Drekmeier, Kishimoto, Burt, Klein, Espinosa, Yeh, Schmid. **Absent:** Morton, Barton

**High-speed rail:** The council adopted a set of principals for its ad hoc committee to follow regarding proposed high-speed rail. These include supporting the "context-sensitive solution" approach to rail design and support for looking at alternative alignments for the new train line.

**Yes:** Drekmeier, Kishimoto, Burt, Klein, Espinosa, Yeh. **No:** Schmid. **Absent:** Morton, Barton

## City Council Finance Committee (May 19)

**Public Works Enterprise Funds:** The committee approved staff's recommended budget for Public Works Department's storm drainage, refuse and wastewater treatment enterprise funds. **Yes:** Burt, Klein, Schmid. **Absent:** Morton

**City Attorney:** The committee approved staff's recommended budget for the city attorney's office. **Yes:** Burt, Klein, Schmid. **Absent:** Morton

**Calaveras Reserve:** The committee approved staff's recommendation to use \$270,000 from the Calaveras Reserve for cogeneration projects (\$200,000) and for evaluation of smart-metering infrastructure (\$70,000). **Yes:** Burt, Klein, Schmid. **Absent:** Morton

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## Public Agenda

**PALO ALTO CITY COUNCIL ...** The City Council is not scheduled to meet this week.

**SCHOOL BOARD ...** The board will hear an update on the state budget and county property-tax revenue forecasts and hold an initial discussion of items at stake in union contracts for 2009-2010. The board also will hear an update on the pilot Mandarin Immersion program and a report on plans for re-opening Garland Elementary School. The meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 26, in the board room of school district headquarters (25 Churchill Ave.).

**FINANCE COMMITTEE ...** The committee plans to hold its final meeting on the fiscal year 2010 budget and to consider approving contract scopes of consultant services for 2010. The committee also plans to discuss changes to methodology used to calculate equity transfers from utilities funds to the general fund. The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 26, in the Council Chambers at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ...** The commission plans to hear a presentation on summer camps and the city's aquatics program. The commission also plans to hear presentations on the cardiac-therapy program and on the open-space rangers staff and programs. The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 26, in the Council Conference Room at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

**PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION ...** The commission plans to hear about community services and sustainability as part of its review of the city's Comprehensive Plan Amendment. The commission also plans to hold a public hearing on 200 San Antonio Road, a request by Hewlett Packard for a development agreement that would extend architectural review and preliminary parcel map approvals by five years for a 45-home development. The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 27, in the Council Chambers at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

**LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION ...** The commission plans to hear updates by Group 4 Architecture on plans for the Downtown Library and Mitchell Park Library construction projects. The committee is also scheduled to hear a report from the Downtown Library Focus Group. The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 28, in the Council Conference Room at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.). ■

## 18th Annual Palo Alto Weekly Photo Contest

Look for the winners in the June 5th issue of the Palo Alto Weekly

# Neighborhoods

A roundup of neighborhood news edited by Sue Dremann



Jeb Eddy, leader of the Midtown neighborhood's 'green team,' points to a solar heater on a resident's home, as neighbors take their first 'Going Green' stroll.

## A conversation, or maybe a movement

Midtown encourages its residents to go green

by Jocelyn Dong

When trying to spark a new movement, Midtown resident Jeb Eddy shuns meetings. He abhors the structure that such endeavors in the city normally require. Eddy prefers a walk around the neighborhood.

"I'm bad at sitting around a table, coming up with an agenda, following who said what and putting out minutes," Eddy said. "An important part of things is: I want to have fun."

Eddy, 66, is the volunteer "green team" leader for Palo Alto's Midtown neighborhood. A member of the citywide Community Environmental Action Partnership, Eddy is tasked with encouraging his neighbors to bring all things environmental into their homes and yards.

And so, as sunlight waned Wednesday evening, Eddy and a dozen of his neighbors took a stroll.

They started at Ohlone Elementary School, whose farm features goats and an organic garden.

"I'm not going to ask for your telephone numbers," Eddy promised as the group made its way across the hopscotch and basketball courts. "I don't even know if I want to do organized introductions. I want people to pair off and talk."

At the farm, the group observed the solar panels on the barn's roof and exchanged ideas on composting.

Then Eddy returned to the idea of people getting to know each other, betting on the power of relationships

— more than organized information — to fuel the movement. Do the neighbors want to continue the walk in groups of threes and fours?

"Opinion?" he asked, pointing to one group member.

Others spoke up: "Let's stay together."

"It's the first time," they said.

***"If we are going to make significant progress enabling our kids and grandchildren to have lives anything close to what we have, we have to do things differently."***

—Jeb Eddy, Midtown resident

Eddy rolled with the punches. He wasn't about to push it.

Eddy moved the group back across the playground, giving a history lesson on the Japanese composting process called "bokashi." Heads nodded.

In an interview the day before, Eddy explained his more organic, "come what may" method to encouraging individual environmentalism.

"I'm not trying to create an organization, as such — at least, not yet," he said.

But if his approach is uncon-

ventional, his motivation is deeply rooted. Eddy has two grandchildren, ages 1 and 2.

"If we are going to make significant progress enabling our kids and grandchildren to have lives anything close to what we have, we have to do things differently," Eddy said. "They're going to be taken in the teeth (by) what we are not responding to now."

"I want them to know their grandfather tried to raise the level of understanding," he said.

Some 90 percent of greenhouse-gas emissions in Palo Alto are caused by residents and businesses, according to the city.

"Residences, and vehicles people come in, are the biggies," Eddy said. "I don't think most people really get how challenging this is."

Back on the tour, a moment of uncertainty in the school parking lot: Where to go next? Eddy did not have a route planned. His approach was Zen-like: The journey is the destination.

One person spied a house across the street and informed the group that the homeowner works for Sunset magazine.

"Let's go!" said one group member, propelling everyone forward.

But the homeowner wasn't there, leading resident Radhika Thekkath to offer up her garden several blocks away as a destination. The group followed her lead.

(continued on page 12)

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## Midtown

(continued from page 11)

Soon, the pairing-off that Eddy tried to promote earlier began to happen naturally along the sidewalks, as people fell into step with one another. A cluster of women talked about lawns, the wastefulness of watering them, how to remove grass and techniques for planting other foliage.

Crossing Louis Road, Eddy suggested taking a poll of how many hybrid-car owners were in the group.

The count turned up at least two Honda Civics and two Toyota Priuses, in addition to a biodiesel-fueled Vanagon. Talk turned to electric cars. A silver Prius drove by.

The group stopped to look at a front-yard vegetable garden boasting shiny dark-green peppers.

"It's a great use of space, and it's also an advocacy symbol," Midtown resident and architect Henry Jackson said. "If you make it public, everyone else gets the idea."

The strolling neighbors, now strung out along two blocks and grouped in twos, threes and fours, walked past palms, pines, rose bushes and tanbark-lined yards.

Arriving at a tidy front yard in a cul-de-sac of Rosewood Drive, Thekkath showed off her artichoke plants, poppies and plum trees, then brought the group to her backyard, past planters made of recycled milk cartons.

"Tempered plastic?" Jackson asked her, pointing to translucent sheets above a portico.

"No, plastic," Thekkath replied. "Bravo!" he said, appreciatively. "Well done!"

As people gazed at Thekkath's pond, Eddy reminded the group it was time to return to Ohlone. By now, the neighbors were freely mixing and mingling, sharing thoughts on plants, recycled materials and their own green efforts.

Pleased, and feeling somewhat justified, Eddy said the walk met his expectations. The spontaneous conversations and budding friendships spelled a promising future for Midtown's environmental efforts.

"That, to me, is the kind of thing that sticks," Eddy said. If people find an activity interesting and enjoyable, they're going to come back.

"Over time, we'll walk once a month," he said.

The group wandered back to Ohlone as the sunbeams grew longer and dimmer, taking in more green practices as they walked, including broken-glass "mulch" in one resident's yard.

Thekkath suddenly remembered that she hadn't shown the group her composting bin.

"Next time," she said. ■

*The next Midtown "Going Green" stroll is scheduled for Wednesday, May 27, starting at El Carmelo Elementary School at 6:30 p.m.*

*Managing Editor Jocelyn Dong can be e-mailed at [jdong@pawebly.com](mailto:jdong@pawebly.com).*

## AROUND THE BLOCK

**AND THE AWARD GOES TO ...** The first **Palo Alto Neighborhoods (PAN) Awards** took place on Tuesday, May 19, at **Channing House**, with an overflow crowd of 110 celebrants and numerous city dignitaries. The awards were given to individuals who made outstanding contributions to PAN's **emergency-preparedness** programs, which work to engage residents in block preparedness and emergency coordination. Silver stars recognized persons who had been previously recognized for their work: **Sheri Furman** and **Al Dorsky** previously received commendations from the City of Palo Alto and **Ken Dueker** was formally recognized by the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce for his work with local businesses. Awards were given to: **Carl Braginsky**, executive director of Channing House for continued commitment to emergency and disaster preparedness; **Lydia Kou**, for revitalizing efforts in Barron Park; **Ann Crichton**, for organizing a significant portion of Midtown; and **Ronna Devincenti**, president of the California Avenue Area Development Association, for her work in preparing the business community. Honorable mentions went to Palo Alto Hills resident **Mark Nadim** and Midtown resident **Caryll-Lynn Taylor**. Palo Alto Medical Foundation's **Dr. Enoch Choi** discussed pandemic influenza and the keynote speaker was

**Dr. Thomas Brocher**, chief scientist of the U.S. Geological Survey Earthquake Hazards Team. PAN Emergency Prep Neighborhood Preparedness and Block coordinators were resplendent in orange identification vests supplied by the **Santa Clara Valley Water District with a \$1,000 grant.**

**A GRAND BOULEVARD? ...** The second public workshop for the **California Avenue Concept Plan** will take place on June 23 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Lucie Stern Community Center, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. The workshop offers an opportunity for residents to weigh in on Palo Alto's revitalized "second downtown." The plan includes mixed-use areas, height of buildings, housing and the Fry's Electronics site.

**MEET THE POLICE CHIEF ...** Interim Police Chief **Dennis Burns** and members of the Palo Alto Police Department will speak about issues in the community and the department's response. A question-and-answer session will follow. Meetings with Palo Alto's top brass take place on May 26 at 7 p.m. at the Garden Court Hotel, and June 20 at 9 a.m. at Scott's Seafood. ■

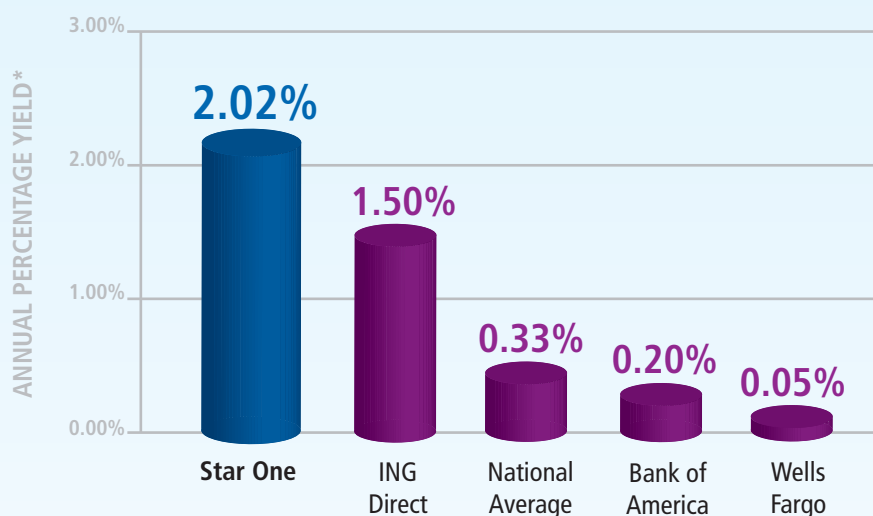
*Send announcements of neighborhood events, meetings and news to Sue Dremann, Neighborhoods editor, at [sdremann@pawebly.com](mailto:sdremann@pawebly.com). Or talk about your neighborhood news on Town Square at [www.PaloAltoOnline.com](http://www.PaloAltoOnline.com).*



## 18th Annual Palo Alto Weekly Photo Contest

Look for the winners in the June 5th issue of the Palo Alto Weekly or online at [PaloAltoOnline.com](http://PaloAltoOnline.com)

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# Pulse

A weekly compendium of vital statistics

## POLICE CALLS

### Palo Alto

May 12-18

#### Violence related

Battery .....2  
Child abuse .....3  
Family violence .....1

#### Theft related

Commercial burglaries .....2  
Credit card forgery .....1  
Fraud .....1  
Grand theft .....5  
Identity theft .....3  
Petty theft .....5  
Shoplifting .....7

#### Vehicle related

Abandoned auto .....2  
Auto recovery .....3  
Auto theft .....3  
Bicycle theft .....5  
Driving with suspended license .....4  
Hit and run .....6  
Misc. traffic .....4  
Theft from auto .....6  
Vehicle accident/minor injury .....6  
Vehicle accident/property damage .....15  
Vehicle impound .....7

#### Alcohol or drug related

Drunk in public .....2  
Drunken driving .....1  
Possession of drugs .....3

#### Miscellaneous

Found property .....11  
Lost property .....2  
Misc. penal code violation .....1  
Muni code/misc. ....2  
Missing person .....1  
Noise ordinance violation .....4  
Other/miscellaneous .....4  
Suspicious circumstances .....1  
Vandalism .....1  
Warrant/other agency .....7

### Menlo Park

May 12-18

#### Violence related

Domestic violence .....1

#### Theft related

Commercial burglaries .....2  
Fraud .....1  
Grand theft .....2  
Petty theft .....9

#### Vehicle related

Auto theft .....2  
Driving with suspended license .....2  
Driving without license .....4  
Hit and run .....1  
Theft from auto .....2  
Vehicle accident/minor injury .....2  
Vehicle accident/no injury .....1  
Vehicle accident/property damage .....1  
Vehicle tow .....2

#### Alcohol or drug related

Possession of drugs .....3

#### Miscellaneous

Animal call .....1  
Disturbance .....1  
Disturbing the peace .....1  
Info case .....1  
Juvenile problem .....1  
Outside assistance .....2  
Psychiatric hold .....2  
Registrant .....1  
Suspicious circumstances .....1  
Threats .....1  
Vandalism .....3  
Violation of court order .....1  
Warrant arrest .....4  
Warrant/other agency .....1

### Atherton

May 12-18

#### Violence related

Assault & battery .....2

#### Theft related

Petty theft .....1  
Residential burglaries .....1

#### Vehicle related

Bicycle stop .....4  
Miscellaneous traffic .....1  
Suspicious vehicle .....12  
Vehicle accident/minor injury .....2  
Vehicle accident/no injury .....4  
Vehicle code violation .....1

(continued on page 15)

REPURPOSED  
RESOLD  
TREASURES  
SHOP  
BARGAINS  
REUSED

# PALO ALTO ★ CITYWIDE YARD SALE

## SATURDAY JUNE 6TH

{8AM TO 1PM}

A map and list of sale locations and merchandise will be available online in late May and in the June 5th edition of the *Palo Alto Weekly*.

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Roy Lichtenstein, Blue Floor (detail), 1990. Lithograph, woodcut, and screenprint on four-ply paper. Cantor Arts Center, Given in honor of Gerhard Casper, President, Stanford University, by Mr. and Mrs. John Freidenrich © Estate of Roy Lichtenstein

Answers to this week's puzzles, which can be found on page 59

A	M	O	B	O	R	N	C	D	R	O	M	S	5	2	6	3	7	1	4	8	9	
F	A	N	D	A	N	C	E	W	E	E	N	I	E	3	8	1	9	2	4	6	5	7
C	O	L	E	S	L	A	W	O	L	D	B	A	G	9	7	4	6	5	8	3	1	2
A	C	M	E	A	B	A	T	E					1	5	2	4	3	7	9	6	8	
D	A	D	A	G	I	O	O	N	E	C	A	R	7	4	8	1	6	9	2	3	5	
A	M	Y	T	O	R	N	O	A	H				6	9	3	5	8	2	1	7	4	
R	I	B	I	F	I	H	A	D	N	E	M	O	8	1	5	2	9	6	7	4	3	
T	G	I	F	M	A	A	C	O	S	L	A	M	2	6	7	8	4	3	5	9	1	
S	A	R	I	U	N	R	O	L	L	O	R	E	4	3	9	7	1	5	8	2	6	
D	R	A	T	P	I	L	E	R	I	G												
A	B	J	E	C	T	O	N	Y	X	S	E	A										
M	O	O	C	H	P	I	B	B														
E	C	H	O	I	C	F	R	A	C	T	U	R	E									
B	A	N	E	D	R	E	R	O	U	T	E	S										
A	S	S	E	R	T	A	T	T	N	T	O	P										



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## Paying for Long Term Care

Free Presentation for Seniors & Caregivers

Please join us for an informative presentation to learn about little known or understood Long Term Care benefits & Government programs, how to protect your assets and afford the care you need.

Discussion topics to include:

- VA Benefits for Veterans & Surviving Spouses
- Avoid Long-Term Care Cost with Medi-Cal
- Protect your estate
- Increase income & minimize taxes
- Access your IRA in the most tax advantageous manner for you and your beneficiaries
- Eliminate financial risk on investments- Avoid running out of money
- Plan ahead for those not yet needing care. Learn about Long Term Care insurance & alternatives

A question and answer session will follow the presentation. Light refreshments will be served.

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## KUNIKO JUNE NAKAMURA STEEL

Kuniko June Nakamura Steel (born 3 June 1929) died on Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, after a distinguished and award winning career as an artist. She studied with several important artists while living in Paris and later New York. After living in Tokyo as a child, Mrs. Steel attended the University of California at Berkeley, and then studied art in Chicago, Paris, and New York, won numerous prizes in juried art shows throughout the United States for her paintings, and once participated in an exhibit at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. She was a member of the Art Students League in New York, was a dedicated volunteer as a restorer at the Costume Institute of the Metropolitan Museum in New York, and also volunteered at New York Hospital. After living in New York for many years, and leading a very active life, she moved to Palo Alto in 1995 to be with her family.

She was the widow of the late John Steel, originally from Munich, Germany, and more recently from New York. He was a member of the Lowenbrau beer family. Mrs. Steel was predeceased by her sister Lois Takaoka, and was the daughter of the late Jirohei and Moriyo Nakamura. She is survived by her brother in law and nephews, Howard, Eric and Scott Takaoka, her sister and brother in law, Tom and Eunice Yoshio Yanari, and her nephew and nieces Carl, Doris and Yoko Yanari, and great nephews Brandon and Brian Yanari, all of Palo Alto. She is also survived by her step-daughter Danielle Steel, of Paris and San Francisco, and grandchildren Beatrix Seidenberg, Trevor, Todd, Samantha, Victoria, Vanessa, Maximilian and Zara Traina, and great grandchildren Sebastian and Isabel Seidenberg, and Daisy, John, and Delphina Traina.

Kuniko was greatly loved by all who knew her and will be much missed.

A memorial service will be held at the Palo Alto Buddhist Temple, 2751 Louis Road, Palo Alto, CA on Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 P.M.

PAID OBITUARY

## 18th Annual Palo Alto Weekly Photo Contest

Look for the winners in the  
June 5th issue of the  
Palo Alto Weekly  
or online at [PaloAltoOnline.com](http://PaloAltoOnline.com)



## CINDY CHRISTINE CHRISTENSEN



Cindy Christine Christensen (nee Goodwin nee Williams) died in her home in Wilton, CA the morning of May 7, 2009 after battling aggressive lung cancer with her husband Ole at her side. Cindy was born in Oakland CA on July 24, 1950 to John Sr. and Diana Kunzman. After her parents separated and mother remarried Dwight Goodwin, she settled in Palo Alto, CA with her half-sisters, Carol and Madeleine. Cindy attended Palo Alto High School, graduating in 1968. While attending college, she met and married Dennis Charles Williams on June 10, 1972. In 1975 she gave birth to Paul Charles Williams, and in 1978 to Emily Ann Williams. It was at this time she was reintroduced to her Kunzman family, her father John, her stepmother Elizabeth (Betty) and her half-brothers John Jr. and James (Jim) of Oregon City, OR. After divorcing Den-

nis in 1999 and his death in 2003 she married her high-school sweetheart, Ole Christensen, with whom she loved living with through the end. Cindy had recently moved from San Jose to her retirement home in Wilton, CA. Those who met Cindy will remember her enthusiasm for life, friends and family even in the face of adversity. She loved bullfrogs, small dogs, children and the color purple.

Cindy is survived by her husband, Ole, father, Dwight, siblings Carol, Madeleine, John, and Jim, children Paul, Emily, Scott and Mark, stepchild, Jon, grandchildren Brooke, Allison Hannah and Alex, her "babies" Bobbie and Murphy the Dogs, and friends Bonnie Hellman, Jana Violet, Zee Gibson, Ann Bethune, and others too numerous to list.

Public memorial services will be held at 2:00 PM on Sunday, May 31, 2009 at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto 505 E Charleston Rd., Palo Alto, CA. Deacon Warren Paul Eustace will be officiating.

In lieu of gifts or flowers, please make donations to the American Cancer Society or the Sacramento Tree Foundation (916-924-8733). Info [Ranamuck@pacbell.net](mailto:Ranamuck@pacbell.net)

PAID OBITUARY

# Transitions

## Births, marriages and deaths

### Robert Ahlberg Loney

Bob Loney, 86, a resident of Los Altos, died following a period of illness at El Camino Hospital.

He was born to Helen and Robert Loney in Iowa City, Iowa, settling in Seattle, Wash., in the 1930s.

He was commissioned into the Navy during World War II, and served in the Pacific as a lieutenant on an LSM amphibious landing ship.

After the war, he returned to his studies at the University of Washington, completing a bachelor's degree in geology. Subsequently, he enrolled in the doctoral program at the University of California, Berkeley, where he met and married fellow geologist Sabra Osborn in 1956.

He completed his doctorate in 1961, while becoming a permanent employee of the United States Geological Survey, a position he held until his retirement in 1992.

He is remembered by his family as a loving and committed father. After the death of his wife in 1971, he raised his three young children: Helen, Robert and Sabra.

In the 1970s he established a small vineyard in the back garden producing Cabernet Sauvignon for over thirty years.

He was cremated at the Spangler Funeral Home in Los Altos and will be interred beside his wife.

His memory will be honored by a memorial service later in the year.

He is survived by his children; sons-in-law Terry and Andrew; and five grandchildren.

### Hans Sorensen

Hans Olaf Sorensen, 80, a resident of Palo Alto, died on May 14 after complications with a chronic disease.

He was born to Pastor Alfred and

Gertrude Sorensen, and grew up in a small Danish-American community in Seattle, Wash.

Following an interest in maritime travel, he enlisted with the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey and sailed up the northwestern coast through Alaska as a ship radio operator for four years. He met his wife of 57 years, Gretchen Krogh, when he was home on leave. During the first years of their marriage he served in the Korean War. Afterward they moved to Chicago and he graduated from the Illinois Institute of Technology in 1958, where received a degree in electrical engineering. He and his growing family moved to Palo Alto while he obtained a master's degree in electrical engineering at Stanford University and worked for Hewlett-Packard Co. He was known by HP colleagues as "the Father of Light" for his work with light-emitting diodes (LED).

At his home he was known for pranks and inventions, such as creating the world's fluffiest popcorn.

Despite difficulties with Type I Diabetes, he and his wife toured Mont Blanc in Switzerland, hiked Mount Shasta, Calif. and Mount Rainier, Wash., and river rafted through the Grand Canyon, Ariz.

Though autoimmune diseases and chronic pain troubled him, he always kept his humor. When questioned why he always wore two wristwatches, he said, "that way I'll have more time."

He is survived by his wife, Gretchen K. Sorensen of Palo Alto; children, Lise Brunhart of Salt Lake City, Utah, Kristin Sorensen Gerhart of Billings, Mo., Peter Sorensen of Sliema, Malta, and Amalie Sorensen of Chico, Calif.; two granddaughters; and four siblings.

A "celebration of life" memorial

will be held at 2 p.m., Saturday, May 23, at the First Lutheran Church of Palo Alto, 600 Homer Ave.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association or Operation Smile.

### Herschel Wright

Herschel James Wright, 96, a resident of Los Altos, died April 4.

Born in Cripple Creek, Colo., he lived at no fewer than 27 addresses in Colorado, Wyoming, Philippine Islands and California. His final residence, for the last 27 years, was Pilgrim Haven retirement home in Los Altos.

He enlisted in the National Guard in 1929, joined the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1933 and enlisted for the first time in the army in 1937. He was promoted to Captain in 1944, completing his WW II service in Philippine Islands in 1946. He met and married Pauline Ester Overleese in Sept. of 1936. He was an insurance salesman from 1937 until 1974. After Pauline's death in 1981, he met and married Alma Nelsena (Lindgren) Fitzloff, with whom he shared 15 happy years.

He was a beloved father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He and Pauline built two houses almost by themselves. He belonged to the Lions Club for many years and was the chapter president in Orangevale, Calif., for several years.

He lost his daughter Janice (Katie) Conlon earlier this year.

He is survived by his son, Herschel Eugene; four grandchildren; and six great-grandsons.

A private family celebration will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Pilgrim Haven, 373 Pine Lane, Los Altos, CA 94022.

## DAVID EUGENE BOHANNON

David Eugene Bohannon, 75, passed away peacefully at his home in Eugene, Oregon on May 5.

Born in San Mateo July 4, 1933, "Dave" grew up in Woodside, in the Woodside Hills area, graduating from Sequoia High School and attending San Jose State University. As a boy he had horses, and rode the trails in Woodside before Highway 280 was built. He spent his early career working for the David D. Bohannon Organization, the real estate company founded by his farther. In 1969 he moved to Sacramento, establishing his own home building company. His home building company was responsible for significant housing projects in several communities in California and Nevada. He was a 'scratch' golfer and fierce competitor, placing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the California State Amateur in the early 1950's and winning several club championships at local golf courses. He loved Lake Tahoe where he and his family enjoyed many years of snow skiing, water skiing, and boating, including sailing. He won the Trans-Tahoe sail boat race in 1977. He was also a skilled pilot, and had his instrument rating. Dave was an accomplished photographer and enjoyed photographing family events. He was also an avid sportsman, and had many hunting and fishing adventures during his life, including African Safaris and Alaskan fly-fishing trips.

In 2005, he moved to Eugene, Oregon, with his wife Susan, where he lived until his death.

He is survived by his wife, Susan Bohannon; his children, David Bohannon of Menlo Park, Lisa Bohannon of Menlo Park, Scott Bohannon of Woodside, Jeremiah Bohannon of Redwood City, Ophelia Bohannon of Eugene, Oregon, Robert Bohannon of Eugene, Oregon; and his sister Frances Nelson of Woodside. He was predeceased by his sister Barbara Carleton.

Private memorial arrangements have been made. The family suggests those who wish to make donations, do so with the charitable organization of their choice.

PAID OBITUARY

**Pulse**

(continued from page 13)

Vehicle/traffic hazard . . . . .1  
**Alcohol and drug related**  
 Drunken driving . . . . .1  
**Miscellaneous**  
 Be on the lookout . . . . .1  
 Building/perimeter/area check . . . . .2  
 Citizen assist. . . . .5  
 Construction . . . . .5  
 Disturbance . . . . .3  
 Foot patrol . . . . .1  
 Found property. . . . .1  
 Juvenile problem. . . . .2  
 Medical aid . . . . .5  
 Missing person . . . . .1  
 Other/misc. . . . .1  
 Outside assistance . . . . .2  
 Pedestrian check . . . . .1  
 Public works call. . . . .1  
 Suspicious circumstances . . . . .4  
 Suspicious person . . . . .3  
 Town ordinance violation . . . . .9  
 Tree block roadway. . . . .1  
 Trespassing . . . . .1  
 Vandalism . . . . .4  
 Warrant arrest. . . . .1  
 Welfare check. . . . .1

**VIOLENT CRIMES**

- Palo Alto**  
**Arastradero Road**, 5/12, 3:58 p.m.; child abuse/physical.  
**Forest Avenue**, 5/13, 12:00 p.m.; child abuse/sexual.  
**Forest Avenue**, 5/13, 12:00 p.m.; child abuse/physical.  
**San Antonio Road**, 5/15, 9:36 a.m.; battery/simple.  
**Middlefield Road**, 5/16, 5:39 a.m.; family violence/misc.  
**Meadow Drive**, 5/18, 2:41 p.m.; battery/simple.  
**Menlo Park**  
**1100 block Bieber Avenue**, 5/16, 3:40 p.m.; domestic violence.  
**Atherton**  
**Menlo Atherton High School**, 5/13, 10:20 a.m.; assault & battery.  
**Menlo Atherton High School**, 5/13, 10:53 a.m.; assault & battery.

# 9th ANNUAL Victory Over Stroke 2009

Stroke is a Medical Emergency. Everybody Needs to know

MEDICAL PRESENTATIONS, MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKERS, EXHIBITORS NETWORKING RECEPTION, AND DINNER WITH KEN WAYNE OF KTVU 2, AND DAVID TONG, MD OF CALIFORNIA PACIFIC MEDICAL CENTER

**THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2009**  
**4:00PM – 7:30PM**

**GARDEN COURT VINCCI HOTEL**  
**PALO ALTO**

TICKETS: \$35/PP  
 RSVP REQUIRED

For information and to reserve seats,  
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 or 650-565-8485

[www.psastroke.org](http://www.psastroke.org)



JUNE 18 - AUGUST 30, 2009

# PERMUTATIONS FROM NATURE'S PERIMETER: RADIUS 2009

RADIUS 2009 features the work of seven regional artists who explore the phenomenon of transformation against the backdrop of the natural world.

**SUKEY BRYAN, TRACY BURK, DANA HAREL, AMY HIBBS, ULLA DE LARIOS, CATIE O'LEARY & SARAH RATCHYE**

JUROR: KAREN KIENZLE, DIRECTOR, PALO ALTO ART CENTER

**Reception for the artists, Thursday, June 18, 2009**  
**6-7 pm, members-only wine reception**  
**7-8 pm, public preview**

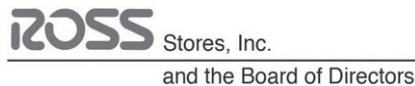
RADIUS 2009 is supported by the Division of Arts and Sciences, City of Palo Alto, the Palo Alto Art Center Foundation and the Arts Council Silicon Valley in partnership with the County of Santa Clara and the California Arts Council. Generous support has been received for RADIUS from University Art in Palo Alto and the Palo Alto Weekly.



## AVENIDAS LIFETIMES OF ACHIEVEMENT 2009

Honoring: Ray Bacchetti • Jill & John Freidenrich • Norma Hesterman • Sharon Hofstedt • Tom Jordan • Donald Seiler

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## Editorial

# Palo Alto website — a citizen/staff model?

*Concepts for an extensive makeover of the city's embarrassing website show good ideas, but the real importance may be in the process*

Anyone who has looked up [www.cityofpaloalto.org](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org) knows what the problems are with the city's official website.

From the dark grey background with small white type showing through to clip-art photos and confusing categories and hard-to-find information, the site has been the source of criticism and ridicule since it was unveiled in August 2007. If any "audience" was defined at all the site seems to be aimed at tourists, not residents or local business people.

To make matters worse, the website was created by out-of-town consultants and cost taxpayers nearly a quarter million dollars.

But for the past year about a dozen Palo Alto residents — each with expertise in some facet of website architecture, design, content or functionality — have been quietly working with city staff members in a partnership effort to define what needs to be done to recreate the website in a new user-friendly mold.

They unveiled their concepts Monday night, along with Administrative Services Director Lalo Perez and his staff who have been working with them.

The redesign is the easy part, starting with getting rid of the pervasive grey background and going to easy-to-read, larger black-on-white type.

Restructuring of the content is a greater challenge, but the ad hoc committee worked through occasional disagreements and the members are now expressing remarkable unanimity about what needs to be done.

One item of good news is that the underlying structure of the site doesn't have to be redone, the committee and staff have determined. That could have been a costly and time-consuming technical challenge.

The citizens involved, who have together put in more than 700 hours of personal time in the past year, also have pledged to continue working with city staff to help accomplish their mutual vision of a sleek new website that focuses primarily on needs of residents and locals: a "user-centric" site rather than one based on a city organizational chart or PR-sounding pitches about Palo Alto's many attractions and assets.

The staff and committee members together have broken down the redesign effort into three "buckets" of tasks. The first is the easy stuff, some of which is already being done. The other two are more complex and will require some expenditure of funds, but nothing near the earlier expenditure. When asked if the costs might be in the quarter-million range, one committee member laughed and said, "No way!"

This sad chapter of the existing website is replete with lessons to be learned. First, the city's IT staff under Director Glenn Loo in 2006 or before had been quietly planning in-house content upgrades to the city's original website, created as one of the first municipal websites in 1994. Loo and staff members had made a well-received report to a Chamber of Commerce committee and others about the plans. But then the department got caught by a budget ax and lost five people.

That prompted the need to turn to consultants, in this case very outside: the contract was awarded to a distant firm in the Midwest.

The redesign also got underway at a time when the City Council had directed then-City Manager Frank Benest to make "Destination Palo Alto" a top priority to attract more visitors to raise lagging city revenues. So creating a "come to Palo Alto" website seemed like a good idea at the time, despite the inexcusable mish-mash of the end product — notwithstanding the immense amount of staff work that went into it.

There is a danger of creating a large citizen group, as we have seen in a number of cases over the years in Palo Alto. The seemingly endless South of Forest Avenue neighborhood study is a case in point, along with other "blue-ribbon committees" (on everything from taser use by police to a new public-safety building) that turned out primarily to be wastes of time for everyone involved.

But this time the staff members involved welcomed the participation of the residents as fully competent partners in an exploratory venture, not as "us and them" between staff and others.

And it seems to have worked. The question remains as to whether the process can be replicated when addressing other knotty subjects in town. But this model of success shows promise.

Now to the implementation of the redesign — the sooner the better.

# Spectrum

Editorials, letters and opinions

## Palo Alto is food oasis

Editor,

I was appalled by your recent page-three headline, "Report finds dearth of grocery stores in Palo Alto."

Earlier that day, a colleague and I had been discussing food deserts, a term that refers to geographic areas where mainstream grocery stores are absent and nutritious food is largely unobtainable. Residents depend on fast food restaurants and on corner stores where prices are high, products are processed and fresh fruit and vegetables are poor or non-existent.

Does that sound like Palo Alto to you? We have a several high-quality supermarkets to choose from: a small-but-adequate Safeway, Piazza's, Mollie Stone's, Whole Foods, JJ&F and the soon-to-be-opened Trader Joe's.

Granted, I miss being able to walk to Alma Plaza to buy groceries but to suggest that Palo Alto has a "dearth of grocery stores" is an insult to our neighbors in East Palo Alto, who actually do live in a food desert.

Vivian Distler  
South Court Road  
Palo Alto

## Objection to Mah

Editor,

I disagree that Grace Mah should be featured on the front of the May 22 Weekly as an involved citizen.

The only citizens she was serving in her pursuit of the Mandarin immersion program was the small community desiring this specialized, boutique language program. As in the article, she is always quick to raise the "race card" insinuating that the opponents of Mandarin immersion were simply motivated by racism. That's a false and unfair portrayal.

I and many others opposed Mandarin immersion for the simple reason that for the district to provide foreign language to less than 5 percent of elementary students is unfair. The community didn't want Mandarin immersion and it was eventually voted down by the board.

Mah then used the threat of a charter-school petition to reverse the original vote and get her way. She used the flaws in charter-school law to bypass the democratic process.

This action tarnished her image but she chose to act in this manner.

Citizens that bypass the democratic process should not be featured in the Weekly.

Lisa Steinback  
Creekside Drive  
Palo Alto

## Safe Ride

Editor,

This year marks the 24th anniversary of the Red Cross sponsored Safe Ride Program. In 1984, after an alcohol-related vehicle accident involving fellow classmates, a group

of students from Gunn and Palo Alto high schools initiated a program called Safe Ride. Red Cross youth volunteers from the former Palo Alto Area Chapter, now known as the Silicon Valley Chapter, have been helping their peers arrive home safely on weekend nights the last 24 years.

While Safe Ride operates thanks to the generous support given by adult volunteers who supervise on operating nights, the program is completely run by teens, for teens. Two Student Coordinators from each of our eight participating high schools take leadership roles that include recruiting volunteers from among their peers, advocating within their school community, holding fundraisers, and disseminating information about Safe Ride in our community. Participating schools include Palo Alto, Gunn, Castilleja, Sacred Heart Prep, Los Altos, Mountain View, Menlo, and Menlo Atherton.

From September 2007 to June 2008, Safe Ride gave 633 rides home to teens. This represents an increase of about 18 percent over the previous year. During the same time frame, local teens served the community by devoting 1,808 volunteer hours to the Safe Ride program. This pro-

gram truly would not be operational without the support of its dedicated teen and adult volunteers.

The current economic downturn places a tremendous strain on local Red Cross programs and services, and Safe Ride needs the community's support now more than ever. We desperately need ongoing financial support in order to ensure the sustainability of this local, longstanding program dedicated to saving young lives. We also seek more adult volunteer support as we have been relying heavily on the same 4-5 adult volunteers over this past year to supervise every operating night.

Please help us keep this vibrant and necessary service going by making a monetary gift or volunteering your time as an adult volunteer. For more information, please contact Gabriela Pierre at [pierregabr@usa.redcross.org](mailto:pierregabr@usa.redcross.org) or by calling 650-688-0433. Volunteering with the program is an extremely rewarding experience, and we hope that you will consider getting involved.

Barb Larson  
Chief Executive Officer  
American Red Cross  
Silicon Valley Chapter

## YOUR TURN

The Palo Alto Weekly encourages comments on our coverage or on issues of local interest.

**What do you think?** Will you be affected by the major budget cuts in education, health and welfare and public safety services?

Submit letters to the editor of up to 250 words to [letters@paweekly.com](mailto:letters@paweekly.com) or shorter comments to [readerwire@paweekly.com](mailto:readerwire@paweekly.com). Include your name, address and daytime phone number so we can reach you. We reserve the right to edit contributions for length, objectionable content, libel and factual errors known to us. Anonymous letters will generally not be accepted.

You can also participate in our popular interactive online forum, **Town Square**, at our community website at [www.PaloAltoOnline.com](http://www.PaloAltoOnline.com). Read blogs, discuss issues, ask questions or express opinions with you neighbors any time, day or night.

Submitting a letter to the editor or guest opinion constitutes a granting of permission to the Palo Alto Weekly and Embarcadero Publishing Co. to also publish it online, including in our online archives and as a post on Town Square.

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## THE DICK CHENEY OF SNOWMEN



MUELLER



## Check out Town Square!

Hundreds of local topics are being discussed by local residents on Town Square, a reader forum sponsored by the Weekly on our community website at [www.PaloAltoOnline.com](http://www.PaloAltoOnline.com). Post your own comments, ask questions, read the Editor's blog or just stay up on what people are talking about around town!

## Guest Opinion

### Who would ever want to go back to middle school?

by **Carrie Manley**  
**W**ho would ever want to go back to middle school?



That question, asked at a recent community meeting, prompted one person (out of 100 adults) to raise a hand, and not in jest.

The lone hand-raiser, a Gunn High School student, explained that he had enjoyed 8th grade, specifically thanks to a "Panther Pride" party, referring to JLS Middle School's mascot.

"We don't have Pride parties at Gunn," he said, adding that he especially appreciated the friendships he'd made in middle school.

While the impact of a school party can't be measured by test scores, it's still a source of pride for JLS Principal Don Cox, who is in June after 25 years in public education, including the last four at JLS.

"You never know the one small thing a student will remember," said Cox, clearly pleased that his community-building efforts had made a positive difference for that one student — and, he hopes, for others, too.

"When I started, I wanted to bring the JLS community together," he said. "I thought it was important to have things like a back-to-school dinner, so that everyone — staff, students and parents — could enjoy time together."

"Panther Camp" is another JLS innovation developed during his tenure.

"For three days at the start of the school-year 8th graders show 6th graders around the school. They make friends and learn the traditions of Panther Pride," Cox said. "Parent volunteers see their kids are in a good place

for learning, growing and building positive relationships. Our staff works hard to make Panther Camp fun. It helps 6th graders know they belong, so they can relax and be ready to learn."

Cox is also proud of JLS Character Education, featuring student-created videos on such subjects as friendship, acceptance, and responsibility.

"I think this school cares about the 'whole child.' I don't think we should be embarrassed about that. We can't underestimate the influence and responsibility we have to raise good people."

Another part of his legacy is the principal's budget advisory team: "We developed a fair, transparent, inclusive policy, so that everyone knows where the money is and how it is being spent," said Cox. "Now even if someone doesn't always get the money that he or she wants they know they will get what they need."

And after working with thousands of families, here are his top-10 tips for parents:

- "First and foremost, show children that you love them."
- "Don't tell them how to behave, show them. Kids learn from what they see. Role-model for them the human being you want them to grow up to be."
- "Love them enough to hold them accountable."
- "Middle school is a safe place to make all sorts of mistakes, and to learn from those mistakes. In fact, you want them to make mistakes! Let your child suffer the consequences. It's how they grow."
- "Let kids dream their own dreams. Your best job as a parent is to support them, and create opportunities for them to reach for the stars, to reach for their own unique star."

***"Whether a child goes to Harvard or Foothill College is not the point. The point is that child has worked hard and is on their way to finding their own unique life's success. And that's what we should genuinely support and celebrate."***

• "Celebrate success. Celebrate your straight-B student. Expect the best from your child, but recognize, as human beings, we are not good at everything."

• "It's not all about the grade. It is about progress, growth, learning, doing better. It's not about perfection. If a student gets a poor grade, they earned a poor grade. It's an important learning opportunity, to explore with that child the question of whether this was his or her best effort. If it wasn't a best effort, then that student has the chance to learn from the experience, and we can support them in trying harder the next time. Sometimes the lowest grade offers the biggest lessons to learn and persevere."

• "A child learns best when they are willing to take risks, willing to try things, even if they might not fully succeed. We need to let kids know it's okay to make mistakes, and learn from those mistakes."

• "We can't underestimate the influence we all have. It's all of our shared responsibility to raise kids not just to be academically prepared, but ultimately to be good people."

• "On a regular basis, I hear some parents say, 'We've applied to Davis, Berkeley, Stanford, we've written the college application, we're taking AP calculus, we got into Harvard.'

"This is something that does happen in our community and elsewhere, too. But it's not 'we.' It needs to be the student's experience. It's different to hear a parent say, 'My child has worked hard, and was bound and determined to go to this school or that school. My child really is getting what he really wanted, or she wanted."

"Whether a child goes to Harvard or Foothill College is not the point. The point is that child has worked hard and is on their way to finding their own unique life's success. And that's what we should genuinely support and celebrate."

What did this career teach Cox?  
 "To keep your word, to follow through, to be honest. What I've learned above all else is the importance of relationships," he said.

"Sometimes there's a tendency to be a people-pleaser, but you can't always make everyone happy. I've learned to respect different positions, and also know that I would have to make a decision, even if it wouldn't make everyone happy."

"And one more thing I've learned: You can never write too many thank-you notes!" ■

***Carrie Manley lives in Midtown Palo Alto with her husband and two children. Last fall she was a volunteer at the JLS Panther Camp. She can be reached at [carrie\\_manley@yahoo.com](mailto:carrie_manley@yahoo.com).***

## Streetwise

### What are your plans this Memorial Day weekend?

Asked around University Avenue. Interviews by Casey Scheld. Photographs by Kris Young.



**Sandra Tucker**  
 CFO  
 Lincoln Avenue, Palo Alto

"I'll be camping, going to a baby shower, going to a family barbecue and going to a neighbor's barbecue."



**Darnell Fenwick**  
 Engineer  
 Ramona Street, Palo Alto

"I really have no idea. I wish I was at Yosemite."



**Augusto Yap**  
 Parking Attendant  
 Abdia Way, Palo Alto

"I'll be working both Monday and Saturday."



**Steve Gileno**  
 Software Project Manager  
 Showers Drive, Mountain View

"I have no plans. I just want to take things a day at a time these days."



**David Goguen**  
 Website Writer  
 Waverley Street, Palo Alto

"Moving. I want to be closer to work."



Veronica Weber

story by Chris Kenrick

photos by Veronica Weber

Community gropes for answers,  
new approaches after latest tragedy

The morning after a Gunn High School student died on the Caltrain tracks May 5, shell-shocked parent leaders and school officials huddled together and grieved.

“It was all about ‘Why? Why? Why?’” PTA Council President Dan Dykwel recalled of the gathering of about 20 people in the district headquarters.

“‘Why did this happen? You look at these profiles (of recent teen suicides in Palo Alto) and you would not expect it from these kids. You just wouldn’t. Who would have guessed? This is so unacceptable,’” he said.

The May 6 gathering originally had been scheduled as a regular monthly meeting between the PTA’s Executive Council and Superintendent Kevin Skelly, typically a 15-minute exchange on district affairs.

But that day it lasted an hour and there was just one topic. Skelly didn’t do much talking, but “took a lot of notes and listened, listened, listened,” Dykwel said.

“We had some very passionate individuals in the room,” he recalled. “The question was, ‘How do we move beyond the conversation (about preventing teen suicides) to something that’s strategic, institutionalized, funded and comprehensive so that we really make a meaningful impact on this and not just have intentions?’”

When it comes to the emotional health of its youth, Palo Alto is a wellspring of best intentions.

Starting with kindergarten, teachers, principals and parent volunteers on every campus focus heavily on “character education,” working to promote respect, inclusion and prevention of bullying.

Drawing on nationally recognized Stanford University experts and others, PTAs at each school organize seemingly endless calendars of “parent-education evenings” about student stress and emotional health.

“Living Skills,” a class required for graduation at both Gunn and Palo Alto high schools, covers “knowledge that will help (students) make informed and responsible decisions about issues that affect personal health and well-being.” The curriculum depends in some measure on the choices of the instructor, but generally covers topics such as CPR, sex education and emotional health — including depression, though without a sustained focus on suicide prevention.

With school-counseling budgets squeezed, the community for years has welcomed the on-campus presence at every secondary school of Adolescent Counseling Services, a nonprofit organization whose motto is “Helping teenagers find their way.”

And yet every few years Palo Alto is confounded when another seemingly promising young student, friend and teammate steps in front of a train or goes off to college and dies of suicide.

# PREVENTING teen suicide



Veronica Weber

Vic and Mary Ojakian, at their Palo Alto home, lost their son Adam to suicide in 2004. They have become advocates for stronger suicide-prevention programs at colleges and universities.

And parents, who might have known the youth as a teen much like their own, get a queasy feeling that it just as easily could have been anybody's child.

**F**ormer Palo Alto mayor and longtime youth coach Vic Ojakian and his wife, Mary, say this sad cycle not only is unacceptable but is, in many cases, preventable.

And they know more than most people about the subject.

The Ojakians were devastated nearly five years ago when 21-year-old Adam, the third of their four children and a well-liked honor student at Jordan Middle School and Paly, died of suicide a week before Christmas in an apartment he shared with three roommates near the University of California, Davis.

"We were like most parents — not trained in mental health, certainly not in anything about suicide, such as what to look for," said Ojakian, a high-tech manager whose wife is a registered nurse.

"Of course you had to know our son, but it was a complete shock."

Investigating Adam's death amid their anguish, Ojakian said he and Mary were doubly shocked to learn that their son had been the fifth suicide at UC Davis that year.

The couple ultimately concluded that Adam had suffered from major depression of which they had been unaware.

"We looked at what the (mental health) program was at the school and, frankly, he didn't stand a chance," Ojakian said. "He was probably affected by major depression and he wouldn't have understood what was happening to him. And frankly, because of the social stigma, most people won't go seek help to figure out what's happening."

"If you have a broken arm you get it fixed, but if you have (depression) you have great difficulty going to get treatment."

Since Adam died, the Ojakians have devoted much of their time to lobbying for stronger mental-health programs in California's public colleges and universities.

In that quest they've become convinced that many student suicides can be prevented if the right mental-health services are in place.

"Every time (a suicide) happens we deal with the shock,"

Mary Ojakian said. "This is necessary, but that is all we do. We do not take action to prevent this from happening again."

"Suicide can be prevented — bottom line. It is preventable — but that requires community effort. We need to start the programs that prevent this tragedy."

"Every time we tell students, 'You've got to start listening and not be kept to this code of silence.' But we get new students every year. We all need to learn, as a community, how to prevent these tragedies."

"We all need to learn CPR for the brain. It exists, and it can be taught. We can institutionalize this. So every year when new students come, they learn that there are things they can do to help their peers," Mary Ojakian said.

Assuming that the literature on suicide is correct, "one of the things that jumps out at you is that it suggests upwards of 90 percent of people who die of suicide have a mental illness," Vic Ojakian said. "If you assume that's correct, the next thing you find out is that many of the serious mental illnesses occur in the late teens and early 20s."

"If you assume that's correct, you also learn that most people with a mental illness go undiagnosed and untreated — up to 70 percent never get treated."

Accepting those statistics, the Ojakians have aimed their efforts at strengthening mental-health services on college campuses. They point to a list of specific programs in the "best practices registry" of the Suicide Prevention Resource Center as having documented evidence of saving lives. The list includes titles such as CARE (care, assess, respond, empower) and the Columbia University TeenScreen Program.

"A high school or (the Palo Alto school district) could and should take a similar approach to these systems," Vic Ojakian said. "Approaching suicide prevention is not determined by size but program content."

Carol Zepecki, the school district's director of student services, said there is ongoing discussion among school counselors about best practices. This month's Caltrain incident has sparked a re-evaluation, including a scheduled meeting of district officials with the Ojakians.

To date, neither the district nor Adolescent Counseling

Services has institutionalized a specific suicide-prevention program, although students are continually made aware that counseling is available.

**A**t Stanford University's Vaden Student Health Center, psychologist Alejandro M. Martinez and his colleagues have trained more than 500 students, faculty and staff members using a one-hour suicide-prevention training session from the QPR Institute, which also is available on the Web.

"It's something we've undertaken more systematically this year," Martinez said. "It's really about helping individuals not just be bystanders when they see someone in distress but become more proactive in helping in those situations."

QPR, which stands for "question, persuade and refer," is intended not for experts or mental health professionals, but for any individual who wants to help someone in distress.

According to the QPR website, "just as people trained in CPR and the Heimlich Maneuver help save thousands of lives each year, people trained in QPR learn how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to question, persuade and refer someone for help."

Martinez and his colleagues have an ambitious goal — to get QPR training to more than half the Stanford community.

"Every university across the country has had to face the tragedy of suicide and Stanford is no exception," he said, adding that Stanford's suicide rate does not stand out from that of other universities. However, he noted, when a student dies, the university does not necessarily learn whether it was from suicide or some other cause.

Between 20 percent and 23 percent of deaths ruled suicides in Santa Clara County in the past two years were individuals under 30 years old, according to the Santa Clara County Medical Examiner's Office. In both 2007 and 2008, the county had 31 suicides of people under 30. The coroner did not provide city-by-city breakdowns.

Philippe Rey, a psychotherapist and executive director of

(continued on page 20)

## Teen suicide

(continued from page 19)

Adolescent Counseling Services, said Palo Alto's teen suicide rate is in line with national statistics.

At "Spring Sounds," the nonprofit's festive annual fundraiser held last Saturday, Rey devoted his remarks to adolescent depression, explaining how Adolescent Counseling Services is responding to the recent tragedy.

The group is launching a community-awareness campaign about teen depression and reminding students that free, on-campus counselors are available to listen. Two town forums entitled "Breaking the Stigma: Adolescent Depression" have been scheduled: the first on June 4 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Cubberley Theatre, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto; the second on June 18 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Menlo Park City Council Chambers, 701 Laurel St., Menlo Park.

One in five people has suffered from teen depression, which is directly related to substance abuse and suicide, according to Margaret Murchan, the nonprofit's on-campus counseling program director. "This is a very important issue that cannot be ignored," she said.

Besides on-campus counseling, the group has offered and continues to offer off-campus counseling, teen substance-abuse treatment and community education, including information sessions on depression and suicide.

It is hard to be a teenager anywhere, but may be particularly hard in a high-achieving place such as Palo Alto, Rey believes.

Pressure to succeed is such that teens and parents often feel a need to hide their challenges, he said.

"On the outside we all have that smile, we're all healthy, beautiful, drive a Mercedes, have a big house, yet we suffer in silence and alone in our homes because admitting that there's something wrong is a sign that we have failed.

"We think that going out and saying, 'I have a depressed child' is a reflection of the failure of the parents, when it is not. But I think we're all afraid of that so, sadly, we stay in denial," Rey said.

In speaking to the press after the May 5 death on the train tracks, Rey noticed he was saying the same things he said in the fall of 2003, the last time the community was stunned by a teen Caltrain suicide, that time near Paly.

"My message hasn't changed, but here we are again," he said. "The questions were the same; the answers are the same.

"Palo Alto is a wonderful community, so don't get me wrong. But the pressure to succeed here — to be perfect, bigger, richer, healthier — is really taking a toll on the children." ■

*Staff Writer Chris Kenrick can be e-mailed at [ckenrick@paweekly.com](mailto:ckenrick@paweekly.com).*

## Experts: Be patient, pay attention to signs of teen depression

### Concerned Gunn parents seek guidance on how to help their kids

by Chris Kenrick

In the wake of the May 5 death of a 17-year-old Gunn High School junior on the Caltrain tracks, more than 70 Gunn students have met with campus counselors, Principal Noreen Likins told a meeting of parents Tuesday night in the school library.

School leaders are working to ensure the counseling continues into the summer for some students, Likins said.

The gathering, organized by the Gunn PTSA and titled, "Looking out for our teens," drew about 30 parents concerned about helping their children deal with grief over their classmate's death and wanting to learn to recognize the sometimes subtle signs of teen depression.

Likins said several students in the past two weeks have been sent for counseling based on things they have written or drawn.

The school is also considering establishing discussion groups this fall, Likins told a parent who asked whether group therapy is available on campus.

In addition, teachers have taken time out from classes to provide students opportunities to talk, Likins said.

"We've done our best to provide opportunities and services to meet the needs of students who are struggling. Without exception our teachers have done a really good job in that sense," she said.

Superintendent Kevin Skelly and school board member Melissa Baten Caswell sat in the audience.

Parents expressed particular concerns about identifying depression in boys who rarely express their feelings as well as about hidden depression in the "polished teen" who is socially adept and acts as if everything is fine.

They also sought guidance in distinguishing "normal

teen angst" from clinical depression.

A panel of counselors and psychologists advised parents to be open and attentive to their teens "24/7."

"You need to provide a safe haven for them to open up," said Dr. Jorge Wong, director of behavioral health for Asian Americans for Community Involvement, a San Jose nonprofit organization. "Tell your child, 'Even though it's late at night you can always knock on my bedroom door to talk.' Parents need to be available for that."

Parents were advised to keep their eyes and ears open at all times and to pay attention to details, such as a teen leaving a diary open on her desk or changes in eating or sleeping habits.

After a suicide, friends and family sometimes find art and written materials from the person speculating on what life would be like without them, said Margaret Murchan, a licensed clinical social worker who is the on-campus counseling program director for Palo Alto's Adolescent Counseling Services.

"It's funny how kids will leave things lying around. Even if it's a diary, they'll leave it open on their desks. We respect the privacy of our teens, but often they'll leave it out like we're supposed to read it."

Some of the best chances for communication come at unlikely moments such as when driving to the mall — "when you're not even looking at each other but both sitting and looking straight ahead," Murchan said.

"When they are 16, teens are subtle, and there are limited opportunities (for communication)," said La Donna Silva of the Centre for Living with Dying at the Bill Wilson Center in Santa Clara. "They don't always



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ask for their needs to be met.”

They are quick to sense fear and dishonesty in their parents, Silva said.

“One of the most important pieces is our authenticity and our honesty. They know if you’re not saying something — it’s like the elephant in the middle of the room.”

Regarding boys, Adolescent Counseling Services staff member Roni Gillenson advised patience, recalling a therapist colleague who spent nearly a year bouncing a ball with a boy before he finally was willing to discuss his feelings.

Panelists agreed that for the younger generation mental-health problems carry less stigma than for older people and urged that mental illnesses such as depression be regarded like any physical disease.

“Depression can be treated and managed just like diabetes,” Wong said. “There are a lot of people among us who have depression and we don’t even know it because it is managed.”

“We need to encourage our teens to understand that it’s a health care issue that can be dealt with.” ■

Staff Writer Chris Kenrick can be e-mailed at [ckenrick@paweekly.com](mailto:ckenrick@paweekly.com).

**Community forums scheduled**

Adolescent Counseling Services, which provides counseling at Palo Alto’s public middle and high schools, has scheduled two town forums entitled, “Breaking the Stigma: Adolescent Depression.” The first will be June 4 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Cubberley Theatre, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. The second will be June 18 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Menlo Park City Council Chambers, 701 Laurel St., Menlo Park.



Noreen Likins (left), principal at Gunn High School, answers questions from parents Tuesday at a meeting about teen depression and mental health.

Veronica Weber

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# Stanford Hospital Health Notes

special feature

A community health education series from Stanford Hospital & Clinics

## Clearing Pathways: Imaging and Reimagining Open New DVT Treatment Doors

With confident strides and quick pace, Laura Resnansky takes the steps of the famously-steep Lyon Street stairs in San Francisco, in training for a half marathon. She's not showing any signs of being winded, and it's a 288-stair climb.

Eighteen months ago, Resnansky would not have attempted the demanding workout. Then, deep inside a vein in her left leg was a blood clot that first appeared a few months earlier when she was 20 weeks pregnant. With blood flow blocked by the clot, her leg swelled to twice its size. She was in constant pain. Her doctor prescribed medication to thin Resnansky's blood and, as another precaution, advised Resnansky to spend the last half of the pregnancy on bed rest to keep her leg elevated.

The pain in her leg lessened, but a few months after her daughter was born and Resnansky stopped taking the blood thinning medication, her leg swelled again and the pain returned.

This time, Resnansky went to see Lawrence "Rusty" Hofmann, MD, at Stanford Hospital & Clinics. Hofmann is a radiologist, a physician focused on the art of seeing inside the body. But, more importantly to Resnansky, Hofmann is an interventional radiologist, someone who is focused on creatively combining radiology's precise vision with medical devices revamped to very small scale to offer proactive treatment of blocked veins.

### Seeing More Clearly

What Hofmann discovered, with a CT scan of Resnansky's leg, was that, despite the blood thinners, the original clot was still there. And, it had grown to block most of the flow out of her vein. To help Resnansky, Hofmann used an innovative treatment approach designed to treat both recent and older clots, once thought untreatable, in the millions of people whose veins become blocked by blood clots. The clotting phenomenon is



Norbert von der Groeben

Laura Resnansky has returned to a life full of activity, including training for a half-marathon on the Lyon Street Stairs in San Francisco.

known as deep vein thrombosis, commonly referred to as DVT. The condition's most lethal possibility is that a clot will break loose and travel to the lung, heart or brain.

More than 15 million Americans suffer from some form of the disease. Each year sees another 600,000 cases of DVT. An estimated 100,000 die annually from complications related to the disease.

*"We knew we could treat chronic DVT if we had better devices."*

— Lawrence "Rusty" Hofmann, MD, Chief, Stanford Hospital & Clinics Division of Interventional Radiology

Clots appear for several reasons; many form after a traumatic injury to the body followed by long periods of low-activity recovery. DVT can also appear in women taking oral contraceptives, or, like Resnansky, when they are pregnant. Other clots form and remain to cause chronic pain and loss of mobility or function. Until now, that on-going, chronic DVT has been considered untreatable.

### Individualized Treatment

For many years, the standard treatment for all clots was to thin the blood, said Hofmann, who is

also chief of the Hospital's Division of Interventional Radiology. That approach, he said, "was the equivalent of someone coming in and saying, 'I'm not feeling well,' and the doctor saying, 'You have cancer. Here's a pill.' What we can do now is stage a clot, look at it, and understand that it's a combination of biology and anatomy."

Using advanced CT scans to locate each clot in the geography of each patient's body now makes it possible to do much more than prescribe blood thinners, Hofmann said. He discovered that Resnansky's clot was May-Thurner Syndrome, the result of a physical anomaly in the veins of the abdomen and leg. One vein compresses another, which slows blood flow and raises the odds of repeated blood clots.

Putting Resnansky on blood thinners for the rest of her life was not what Hofmann wanted to do. Instead, he placed her under conscious sedation, found the appropriate vein at the back of her left leg and made an incision small enough to be covered after surgery with a band-aid. In went a catheter that would carry the wire Hofmann would use to break through the old clot. Later, the catheter would also carry a stent, a mesh tube that Hofmann would leave in the place where Resnansky's vein

## What You Should Know About Deep Vein Thrombosis

Deep vein thrombosis, or DVT, is the formation of blood clots in veins deep inside the body.

### Clots form for several reasons:

- often simply because you are unable to move about for long periods of time. That might occur after major surgery, especially on hip, knee, leg, calf, abdomen or chest, or after prolonged periods of travel
- if you have had clots previously
- other serious illnesses can increase the odds of clot development: cancer, diabetes, heart failure, major trauma
- being overweight
- birth control pills, pregnancy and childbirth
- blood-clotting disorders

- aging
- cancer
- smoking
- varicose veins

### Symptoms may include:

- pain and swelling of leg or arm
- the leg or arm in the same area as the pain turns discolored

### Diagnosis:

Physicians typically find the clot using ultrasound, or CT venography. The latter is a CT scan taken after dye is injected into a vein. A blood test can detect the presence of a certain clotting factor.

### Prevention:

- Exercise or flex your legs if sitting for a long time. When possible, walk.

- Ask your doctor about wearing compression stockings.
- If you are already taking blood thinners, ask your doctor about foods that might affect the impact of the medication.
- Drink plenty of water so you don't become dehydrated.

### For more information, visit:

<http://healthlibrary.stanford.edu>: the Stanford Health Library Web page includes many links to resources

[www.preventdvt.org](http://www.preventdvt.org): Coalition to Prevent DVT, an organization of 50 medical associations and healthcare providers

[www.treatdvt.com](http://www.treatdvt.com): Stanford Interventional Radiology Web site



Norbert von der Groeben

Lawrence "Rusty" Hofmann, Chief, Stanford Hospital & Clinics Division of Interventional Radiology, relies on precise, detailed imagery of veins to find blockages and break them down to restore blood flow.

for whom no treatment was believed possible, Hofmann has offered hope. "These older clots were obstacles no one could get through, where the clot had completely occluded the vein and the vein almost disappeared," Hofmann said, "or, you'd see some small tiny veins where big ones used to be. The difficulty was getting through this blockage." He joked about interventional radiologists being "the MacGyvers of medicine," recalling a 1980s television character who saved every episode by ingeniously transforming a highly original combination of objects into something completely different.

had been blocked and narrowed by compression. The stent would not only strengthen the vein but also help prevent future clots.

*"I feel like I don't have the limitations or the concerns I had. If it does happen again, I know how they would treat it."*

— Laura Resnansky, patient, Stanford Hospital & Clinics

Throughout the entire procedure, Hofmann would be able to track, with real time x-rays, the progress of the catheter and the wire.

### Reimagining Solutions

Resnansky went home the same day. Breaking up her clot was relatively easy. For others, whose clots have been in place for years and

Other innovations lower the odds of possible long-term effects. The new CT scans reduce the amount

of radiation a patient receives. For recently formed clots, Stanford physicians now use a kind of soaker hose delivery of blood thinners that keeps the chemistry focused on the clot. "We can give the patient the drug right where it needs to be," Hofmann said. "And if we remove the clot quickly the vein doesn't become completely blocked."

Some of Hofmann's chronic DVT patients have flown in from outside the U.S. to take advantage of these new techniques and the special equipment, available at Stanford and only a handful of other medical facilities.

### Clearer Future

Resnansky is doing great, she said. "I feel like I don't have the limitations or the concerns I had. I'm healthy and I'm taking care of myself. I try not to worry about it." Hofmann has told her the stent will probably last about 10 years. She'll see him once a year for a special look at the vein. "It could have been something far worse," she said. "If it does happen again, I know it is treatable and that gives me peace of mind."

She's an active mother. Her son, Hayden, 5, is constantly curious. Margaret, almost 2, still likes to sit on a parental hip. Resnansky is also associate director of clinical program management at a Bay Area biotechnology company. And she's training for that half-marathon.

She thinks, too, about others with DVT, those who might be treated with these newer techniques. "It's a shame more people don't know about this," she said. "It changes the quality of life significantly."



Norbert von der Groeben

Knowing what protects her from recurring blood clots has given Laura Resnansky peace of mind about her future.



Norbert von der Groeben

A few months before her daughter, Margaret, was born, Resnansky developed a blood clot in her leg. Eighteen months later, she's able to keep up with Hayden, 5, with the help of her husband, Chris.

Stanford Hospital & Clinics is known worldwide for advanced treatment of complex disorders in areas such as cardiovascular care, cancer treatment, neurosciences, surgery, and organ transplants. Consistently ranked among the top institutions in the U.S. News & World Report annual list of "America's Best Hospitals," Stanford Hospital & Clinics is internationally recognized for translating medical breakthroughs into the care of patients. It is part of the Stanford University Medical Center, along with the Stanford University School of Medicine and Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford. For more information, visit <http://stanfordmedicine.org>.



# Arts & Entertainment

A weekly guide to music, theater, art, movies and more, edited by Rebecca Wallace

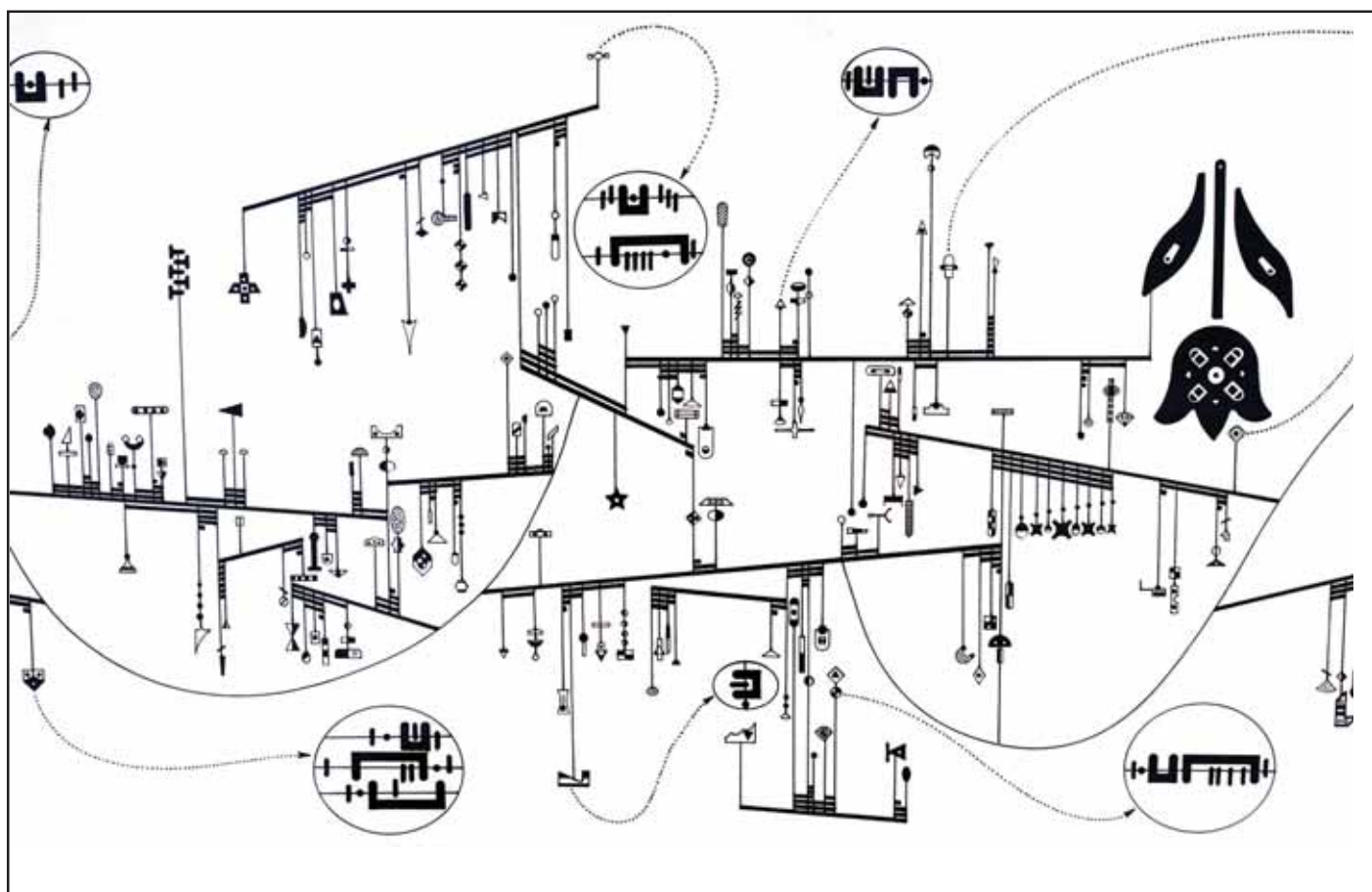
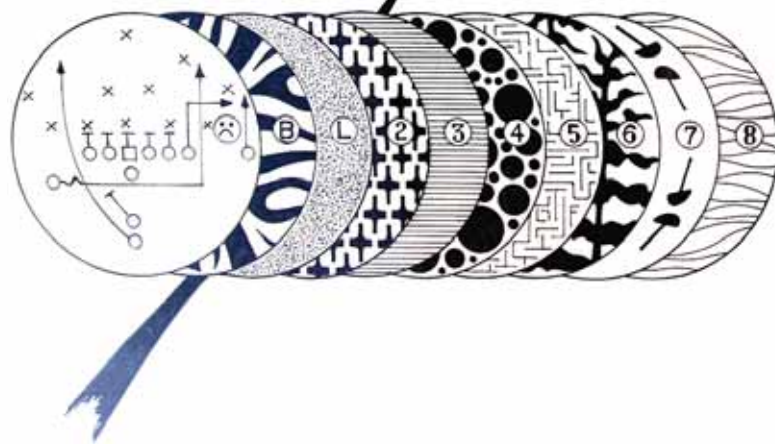
## A musical puzzle

Stanford composer's experimental score invites a world of interpretations



Toni Gauthier/Courtesy Stanford Lively Arts

Composer Mark Applebaum.



Two portions of Applebaum's "The Metaphysics of Notation" score show the intricate symbols he has hand-drawn in pen and ink. The images are purposely left undefined, like a puzzle that players and listeners must solve on their own.

by Rebecca Wallace

Standing in the balcony overlooking the Cantor Arts Center lobby, Jane Rigler is lost in a most unusual musical score. She gazes at the 12 panels hanging at eye level, thinking of how she will play the music on her flute and piccolo.

No matter how she plays it, her interpretation will no doubt be very different from anyone else's. Experimental-music composer Mark Applebaum's score for "The Metaphysics of Notation," hand-drawn in pen and ink, is also a work of visual art.

Instead of featuring a staff and notes, the score is filled with designs, glyphs and what Applebaum calls "graphic oddities." There are lines and dots and curves, a tulip and a telephone, a heart inside an apple. Shield shapes overlap like a city of coats of arms. A circular shape seems to show the beginning and the end, but other than that a musician could play the panels in any order.

Applebaum, a Stanford University associate professor of composition and theory, has purposely left the images in "Metaphysics" undefined. It's like a puzzle that each listener and player must solve on his or her



New York musician Jane Rigler plays from "The Metaphysics of Notation" on her piccolo in the Cantor Arts Center.

own. That happens every Friday at the museum. The score will be up in the balcony through February of next year, with different visiting artists and Stanford students and faculty playing from it at noon each week. So far, their instruments have included horns, strings, percussion and cell phones.

On a recent Friday, Rigler, a New York musician who has known Applebaum since their graduate school days at U.C. San Diego, is the one poring over the score for clues about what sounds to play.

"You look at lines and shapes," she says. "And texture, what's rough and what's smooth." Repeating patterns also catch her eye, and with the symbols she's looking for images that have a meaning in her life.

A classically trained musician who now focuses on experimental music, Rigler is poised as she raises her piccolo. Her rendition of "Metaphysics" is layered and diverse. The first section features delicate runs of notes, while the second starts out hectic and jazzy, an urgent cityscape that gives way to long soft tones and whimpers like a hungry baby. Emotions continually shift and evolve.

Switching between piccolo and flute as she walks around the balcony, Rigler also alternates between using the instruments and her mouth, making clicking and swishing sounds. Applebaum slips into the balcony and listens intently, nodding from time to time. After Rigler completes an explosive passage of "hey" and "bri" and "ff," sounding like a person learning to speak, Applebaum mouths, "Wow."

One of the interesting aspects of the Cantor space is all the environmental noise and the way it mingles with the performance. Doors close, footfalls sound, and people murmur in the nearby ex-



After switching to the flute, Rigler continues to play as young museumgoers listen.

hibitions. School groups wander through, and the teachers' shushing becomes part of the music. Some museumgoers listen from benches; others pause for a few moments or just pass on by.

Afterwards, one listener says, "There's lots of ambient noise; it's like playing in a subway," but tells Rigler, "It was lovely."

The unusual space is part of the appeal, Applebaum says in a later interview. Like the score, the balcony is full of possibilities. Musicians can walk along it and play anywhere, and there's no one best place to listen, he says. The museum has also set aside a small gallery at one end of the balcony for the project; a computer plays recordings from past Friday performances, while the entire score hangs on one wall and also dangles from a ceiling mobile in fragments.

In addition, Applebaum was attracted to the Cantor because it's a public space, and not necessarily one that people associate with concerts. He likes it when people are quiet and listen to the performances; he's equally delighted when a group of kids comes in and

challenges the "code of conduct" of enforced silence that exists in concert halls.

After all, couldn't it be said that the music is breaking the silence that someone might expect in a museum? "Who is the intruder?" he asks rhetorically, smiling.

Applebaum took months to draw the score for "Metaphysics" and is pleased to have a voice in the visual-arts world. Most of the time the piece exists as visual art; it's performed only for an hour once a week, he points out.

The project seems like part of a natural progression of Applebaum's career. While he still writes conventionally notated music for the concert stage, over the years he has also been creating scores that are increasingly idiosyncratic. Two years ago he wrote "Medium," the first piece he did all in graphic notation. "Metaphysics" followed.

Visual components of other sorts also abound in his work. On the evening of May 15, the same day that Rigler played "Metaphysics," performance florist James DelPrince built seven large (continued on next page)

Veronica Weber

Veronica Weber

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## Musical puzzle

(continued from previous page)

sculptures while Rigler and other musicians performed Applebaum's “Concerto for Flautist and Ensemble” in the Cantor's Inner Courtyard.

Also incorporated was “sound-sculpture” by Applebaum; he has built many unique instruments that are played with the hands and with chopsticks and other “strickers.” The Stanford Lively Arts free concert was packed — some 200 people had to be turned away.

Both the concerto and “Metaphysics” are classic Applebaum compositions: They challenge people's conventional ideas about music. But there's no confrontation intended. Rather, Applebaum wants people to see the humor in his complex work, and he's always happy to give a pre-concert talk to help audiences make personal connections with his unorthodox compositions.

“I've decided finally that there are two questions that I like to ask that

sum up my aesthetic,” he says. “My works are successes if audience members ask: ‘What the hell was that?’ and ‘Can I hear more?’”

“I'm really interested in provoking curiosity. I'm not trying to make the perfect masterpiece for our times. I'm trying to create a set of stimuli for consideration.” ■

**Info:** Various musicians are giving free performances of “The Metaphysics of Notation” at noon every Friday through February 2010 in the front balcony at the Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford. To apply to perform, go to [museum.stanford.edu](http://museum.stanford.edu) and search under “Metaphysics” for the application.

Recordings of past Friday concerts can be heard on a computer in the exhibit, and a CD is set to be released at the end of the project. For more about Mark Applebaum's music, go to [markapplebaum.com](http://markapplebaum.com).

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Bookings by Suzanne Warren





Above: *The Flying Karamazov Brothers* aren't actually professional ballet dancers. No matter; they aren't brothers, either. Below: Rod Kimball (Pavel), left, and Mark Ettinger (Alexei).



## Up in the air

*The Flying Karamazov Brothers juggle music and comedy in a show with the Pops*

by Rebecca Wallace

The California Pops Orchestra brings in lots of guest artists for shows, so conductor Kim Venaas is used to being accommodating. This time he had to say no a few times.

The Flying Karamazov Brothers wanted to know: Could they set things on fire in Spangenberg Theatre? (Um, no. The insurance would cost too much.)

Are road flares out, too? (Yes.) How about flashlights? (Well, OK.)

Even with that little matter settled, Venaas confesses that he still doesn't know exactly what the Brothers will do when they perform with the Pops later this month. But that's what happens when you book a group that does

everything from Shakespeare to juggling fish.

The Flying Karamazov Brothers, who are not brothers, are a comedy-theater-music-juggling group born 36 years ago at a Renaissance Faire in California. Their stage names are inspired by Dostoyevsky's "The Brothers Karamazov." From humble beginnings doing juggling tricks with a hat on the ground for change, the performers have become a popular touring act, from Broadway to London's West End to "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood."

Over the years the cast has changed; current performers are co-founder Paul Magid (Dmitri), Mark Ettinger (Alexei), Rod Kimball (Pavel) and Stephen Bent

(Zossima).

Besides taking the stage on their own, the performers also do orchestra shows, working with the Boston Pops and many symphonies. It's tough to rehearse with an orchestra when your own group is on tour, though. So they'll have only one rehearsal with the Palo Alto-based California Pops before they perform together — that same day.

***'I think it's going to be creative mayhem.'***

—Pops cellist Alicia Wilmunder on the upcoming shows

"We haven't met them yet," Magid said of the Pops, during a phone interview from the East Coast last week. He didn't sound concerned about performing with a strange orchestra. "We've done it a million times."

To prepare for the shows, Venaas and the Pops are learning the music that the Brothers sent ahead, which includes the William Tell Overture and music by Mozart, as well as compositions written for the group (one sounds like a fan dance, Venaas says). Because the Brothers are known for their musical prowess as well as for their juggling, the scores aren't simple.

"None of this is easy stuff," Venaas said. "All of our players are taking days off from their day jobs to practice."

The Pops can learn the music, but they still don't know exactly what'll be flying over their heads during the shows, or what kind of musical and dance mischief will ensue elsewhere on the stage.

Venaas and his wife, Pops executive director and cellist Alicia

(continued on next page)

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**Palo Alto Weekly**

## Arts & Entertainment

### Flying Karamazovs

(continued from previous page)

Wilmunder, say they're looking forward to the surprises.

"I think it's going to be creative mayhem," Wilmunder said cheerfully.

Two performances are planned, one on May 30 in Spangenberg Theatre in Palo Alto and one on May 31 in Los Gatos. The first half of the show will be pure Pops, with music including a medley from the Broadway behemoth "Wicked" and Robert Wendel's "April Fool Concerto."

Featuring piano soloist Chin Beckmann, the concerto is full of themes from other composers ("legally plagiarized," as the Pops put it). You might catch a hint of the "1812 Overture" and "Happy Birthday," among others.

After intermission — once the stage is cleared somewhat to make room for flying pins — the Brothers will join the Pops.

Magid says they'll mix straight music (such as Mozart's Bassoon Concerto in B flat Major, featuring Brother Stephen Bent) with goofiness. "We do Beethoven's 'Ode to Joy' in an unbelievably silly way," he said. This involves putting drum pads in their hockey helmets and hitting them to create Beethoven's notes. While juggling, of course.

For Magid, the shows are also a chance to come back to the Bay Area and visit his mom. While he's

now based in New York and Italy, he went to Saratoga High School, where he was a self-described science geek at first.

"And then the librarian asked me to try out for this play. It was 'As You Like It.' It just changed my life," Magid said. "I just loved the community." He became a literature major at U.C. Santa Cruz, and now also directs theater in Europe.

How did the juggling start? Magid also played tennis at Saratoga, and "when you're waiting for a match, you have three balls in a can and not much else to do. Most tennis players can juggle."

A popular part of the Brothers' show is "The Gamble," in which one of the performers juggles any three items provided by the audience. (The items have to adhere to certain rules, such as not being a live animal.)

"They've brought in anything you can imagine. We've had peeled lamb's heads. All kinds of interior body parts, breast implants," Magid said. "We get fruit; we get fish of all kinds. Slimy things. ... All kinds of cakes, ice cream. Things that people have made in their shop, welded together. It's rough out there."

Alas, "The Gamble" won't happen at the local performances. "This is a very classical, snooty show," Magid joked. "It wouldn't do to have that sort of thing."

Venaas has been following the Brothers for years and is looking forward to having them perform

with the Pops for the first time. While he's impressed with their musicianship and humor, he also praises their pretense-free showmanship. He waxes poetic about having seen them juggle computer paper, a toupee and a banana cream pie.

"They are a thinking man's Three Stooges," he said. "As a result, I have no idea why women also enjoy them so much. That's a question for the ages." ■

**What:** The California Pops Orchestra performing with the Flying Karamazov Brothers

**Where and when:** 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 30, at Spangenberg Theatre at Gunn High School, 780 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto; and 3 p.m. Sunday, May 31, at Venture Christian Church, 16845 Hicks Road, Los Gatos

**Cost:** Tickets are \$30 general, \$25 for seniors, \$20 for students and \$10 for children.

**Info:** Go to [www.californiapopsorchestra.com](http://www.californiapopsorchestra.com) or call 650-856-8432. To see video clips of the Brothers in action, go to their website, [www.fkb.com](http://www.fkb.com).

There's always more Weekly arts coverage online, including audio and video files and plenty more photos. For starters, check out arts editor Rebecca Wallace's blog, **Ad Libs**, at [blog.paloaltoonline.com/adlibs/](http://blog.paloaltoonline.com/adlibs/).

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**City of Palo Alto**  
**NOTICE OF DIRECTOR'S HEARING**

To be held at **3:00 p.m., Thursday, June 4, 2009** in the Palo Alto City Council Conference Room, 1st Floor, Civic Center, 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, California.

Documents related to these items may be inspected by the public at the Development Center, 285 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, California on:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 8:00 am - Noon, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
Wednesday 9:00 am - Noon, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

**745-747 Webster [09-PLN-00080]:** Request by Jon Schink for preliminary parcel map for a 2-unit condominium subdivision. Zoning: RM-30.

**119 Churchill Avenue [08PLN-00303]:** Request by Lall and Shabnam Jain for Individual Review of a new two-story residence. No exceptions from the Municipal Code are requested. Environmental Review: Exempt. Zoning: R-2.

**Curtis Williams**  
Interim Director of Planning and Community Environment

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

# Worth a Look

## Dance

### Smuin Ballet

The work "St. Louis Woman: A Blues Ballet" had its premiere in New York City in 2003, performed by the Dance Theatre of Harlem. But it was choreographed by the late Michael Smuin, who gave his name to the San Francisco-based Smuin Ballet. This spring it's come home to the Bay Area.

Locally, Smuin Ballet will perform "St. Louis Woman" — which mixes flavors of classical ballet with period social dances — at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts at 500 Castro St. The program also includes guest choreographer Trey McIntyre's "The Naughty Boy!" set to Mozart's Violin Concerto in G Major, and Smuin's "Bouquet," set to music by Shostakovich.

Performances are May 27 through May 31: Wednesday through Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 2 and 8, and Sunday at 2. Tickets are \$40/\$55. For more information, go to [www.smuinballet.org](http://www.smuinballet.org) or call the box office at 650-903-6000.



Robin Cornwell and Matthew Linzer dance in "St. Louis Woman" with Smuin Ballet. The group performs in Mountain View from May 27 through May 31.

## Art

### Stanford Art Spaces



"Juggler Wolf" and other paintings by Lar Landa are part of a new Stanford Art Spaces exhibition that also features paintings by Sobhan Dutta and photography by Sandra Chen Weinstein.

The same person could look quite different when depicted by painter Lar Landa, photographer Sandra Chen Weinstein, or painter Sobhan Dutta.

Landa, who often draws on childhood memories and his Italian heritage, might surround the person with masks or folk symbolism, and include a broad degree of expression. Weinstein

could capture her subject in a photograph of the Indian landscape, perhaps placing the person in a ritual of daily life. In a Dutta painting, the person might have a tranquility common to the artist's works; his art often uses silence and a kind of cool analysis.

All three artists' visions can currently be seen in a new exhibition in the halls and on the walls of the Paul G. Allen (Center for Integrated Systems) Art Spaces Gallery. The show runs through July 23, open weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A reception is set for Friday, May 29, from 5 to 7 p.m. with the Indian folk dancer Anika performing. Go to [cis.stanford.edu/~marigrors](http://cis.stanford.edu/~marigrors) or call 650-725-3622.

## Film

### 'Un Homme et Une Femme'

It's a quiet story in which two lonely people slowly open up to each other, and it's become a classic. "Un Homme et Une Femme," a 1966 French movie directed by Claude Lelouch, won the Oscar for best foreign-language film, and tied for the Golden Palm Award at the

Cannes Film Festival.

Tonight, it will be shown at 7:30 p.m. at the Palo Alto Art Center at 1313 Newell Road. The event, organized by the French Film Club of Palo Alto, includes a buffet served after the movie and plenty of French and English conversation. The film will be projected on a 30-foot-wide screen and shown with English subtitles.

Tickets bought online are \$10 general, \$8 for seniors and \$6 for students; they each cost \$2 more at the door. Go to [www.frenchfilmclubofpaloalto.org](http://www.frenchfilmclubofpaloalto.org).

## Books

### Scotty McLennan

If you're a "Doodlesbury" reader and you pay a visit to Kepler's Books next Tuesday evening, you may notice a guy who seems eerily familiar. That's because Scotty McLennan, the author scheduled to speak, was the inspiration for the "Doodlesbury" character the Rev. Scot Sloan.

Outside the funny pages, the Rev. McLennan is the dean for religious life at Stanford University, and a Unitarian Universalist minister. He's also the author of "Jesus Was a Liberal: Reclaiming Christianity for All." In this book, he calls for a type of religion that is based on the tolerance and humanity underlying the teachings of Christ. He doesn't shy away from tough issues; topics covered in the book include same-sex marriage, abortion and intelligent design.

McLennan, who earned degrees from the Harvard divinity and law schools, was formerly chaplain at Tufts University from 1984 to 2000. His previous books are "Finding Your Religion: When the Faith You Grew Up With Has Lost Its Meaning" and "Church on Sunday, Work on Monday: The Challenge of Fusing Christian Values with Business Life."

McLennan's 7:30 p.m. Kepler's talk is free and held at 1010 El Camino Real in Menlo Park. Go to [www.keplers.com](http://www.keplers.com) or call 650-324-4321.

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\*"Starting to Play" meets for one hour each Monday night for ten weeks beginning **June 8<sup>th</sup>**. Students are encouraged to bring their own guitar, but both nylon-string and steel-string loaner guitars are available.

Other classes at more advanced levels are also offered. A full brochure is available at Gryphon.



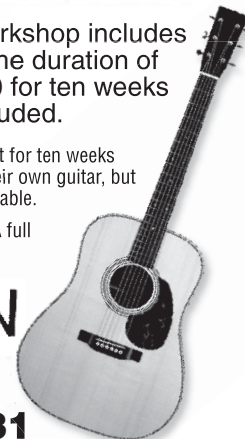
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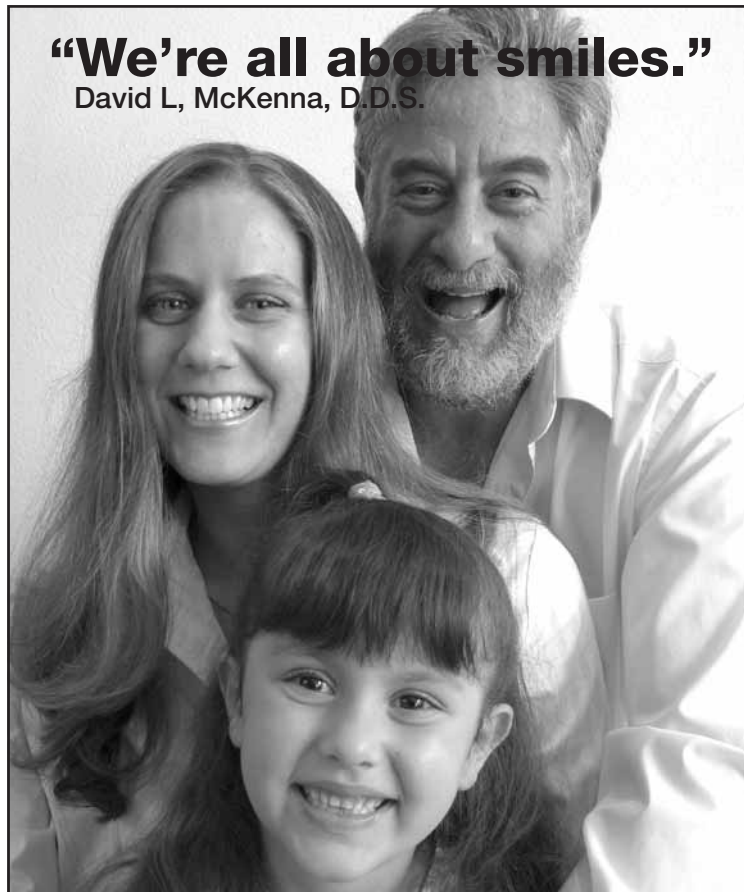
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# Movies

Movie reviews by *Jeanne Aufmuth, Peter Canavese, Tyler Hanley and Susan Tavernetti*

**"SCINTILLATING!"**  
IT STRONGLY RECALLS THE GODARD FILMS OF THE 1960s.  
Scott Foundas, LA WEEKLY

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Ross McCammon, ESQUIRE

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**TOM HANKS**  
A RON HOWARD FILM  
**ANGELS & DEMONS**

COLUMBIA PICTURES AND IMAGINE ENTERTAINMENT PRESENT A BRIAN KOPPELMAN PRODUCTION "ANGELS & DEMONS" EWAN MCGREGOR, VICTOR ZINER, STELLAN SKARSGÅRD, PIERFRANCESCO FAVINO, NIKOLAJ LIE KEAHL, AND ADAM BELLER-STAL. MUSIC BY JAMES NEWTON HOWARD. COSTUME DESIGNER LISA VETTES. HAIR BY JAMES M. CONNOR. MAKEUP BY TONY HOLLOWELL. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS DAN BRONFMAN AND DAN BRONFMAN. PRODUCED BY BRIAN KOPPELMAN. WRITTEN BY DAVID KIEPP AND ANITA GOLDSMAN. DIRECTED BY RON HOWARD.

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## OPENINGS

### Terminator Salvation ★★

(Century 16, Century 20) "Terminator" has taken on a life of its own. What began in 1984 with director James Cameron's creative and compelling actioner that introduced the world to Arnold Schwarzenegger has devolved into a generic science-fiction franchise rich in style but bereft of soul.

Director McG ("Charlie's Angels") fuels "Terminator Salvation" with exceptional visual effects and sharp sound, but more shouting and explosions than a Super Bowl in Beirut. The perpetual barrage is almost deafening and overpowers what little plot dares to peek through. Even charismatic leading man Christian Bale — whose expletive-riddled rant at "Salvation" cinematographer Shane Hurlbut became an Internet hit — can't rescue the film from its own destructive disposition.

The year is 2018, and the hopeless, war-torn future Sarah Connor so aggressively tried to alter (in "The Terminator" and "Terminator 2: Judgment Day") has come to pass. Sarah's son John (Bale) is now a key member of humankind's resistance (fittingly known as The Resistance) against Skynet and its mass army of killer machines. What human beings are left are scattered and scared, offered brief glimpses of hope by Connor's motivational radio communiqués.

The Resistance finds an unusual ally in former death-row inmate Marcus Wright (Aussie actor Sam Worthington), a Skynet-developed cyborg who refuses to relinquish his humanity. Wright teams with teenager Kyle Reese (Anton Yelchin), the young man destined to travel back in time and become John Connor's father, and deaf adolescent Star (newcomer Jadagrace) as machines blast away buildings and bodies with impunity. Connor is desperate to safeguard Reese's survival — thus ensuring his own — leading to a climactic battle at Skynet, with Wright playing a pivotal role.

Former music-video director McG helms the picture well, especially given the multitude of elaborate visual effects and inevitable fanboy scrutiny. Actors Bale, Worthington and Yelchin all do a good job with one-dimensional roles. Worthington's Wright is by far the film's most interesting character, but his backstory is sadly left undeveloped.

In 1984's "The Terminator," Linda Hamilton's Sarah Connor was a tremendously sympathetic protagonist. Who wouldn't empathize with an innocent, pregnant woman being hunted by a murderous, muscular robot? That level of character attachment is severely lacking in "Salvation," making the film feel more like a relentless roller-coaster ride or rhythmless rock concert.

Look for a few gimmicky odes to the original "Terminator," such as the classic "I'll be back" line and a CGI Schwarzenegger. "Salvation" preaches human heart over heartless machinery, but when it gets down to it the movie itself is manufactured. It is made not for the benefits of storytelling or substance but simply to rake in the almighty box-office buck.

And with that realization, the machines win well before the opening credits roll.

*Rated: PG-13 for intense sequences of sci-fi violence and action and language. 2 hours, 10 minutes.*

— Tyler Hanley

### Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian ★★

(Century 16, Century 20) "Sometimes the greatest change brings about an even greater opportunity." These sage words come from Teddy Roosevelt, or at least his magically animated waxwork, in "Night



Ben Stiller and Hank Azaria at the "Museum."

at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian." But the more things change in a movie sequel, the more they stay the same. Indeed, this child's storybook adventure — again directed by Shawn Levy and scripted by Robert Ben Garant and Thomas Lennon — proves not to be creatively adventurous.

The sequel to the 2006 hit "Night at the Museum" begins with a cursory change: Museum of Natural History night guard Larry Daley (sturdy Ben Stiller) quit his job and got rich quick selling his own products on late-night infomercials. Upon visiting his old stomping grounds, Larry learns from museum director Dr. McPhee (Ricky Gervais) that all of the old exhibits are being shipped off to storage in Washington, D.C., to make way for interactive holographic replacements. "People like 'what's next,'" McPhee explains.

But what's next is pretty much what came before: lots of frantic running around among exhibits come to life. The venue change to the Smithsonian provides the novelty as Larry tries to protect his friends (including Owen Wilson's cowboy Jedediah and Steve Coogan's Roman centurion Octavius) from becoming the collateral damage of evil, lispng pharaoh Kahmunrah (Hank Azaria, channeling Stewie from "Family Guy"). The Smithsonian gives Levy a new set of toys, including spunky Amelia Earhart (Amy Adams), the Lincoln Memorial and Rodin's "The Thinker" (both voiced by "Simpsons" vet Azaria), Archie Bunker's chair, "American Gothic," a Turner seascape and a display case full of Einstein bobbleheads.

As the film points out, the Smithsonian is not one but 19 museums spread across the National Mall (and, in real life, well beyond it). This breadth offers a wealth of possibilities, including some hairy indoor play involving planes and rockets in the Air and Space Museum (and you thought football in the house was bad). But the story feels mechanically engineered for special effect after special effect, all of them derivations of ideas we've seen before, not only in "Night at the Museum," but its predecessors "Jumanji," "Ghostbusters" and even "Looney Tunes: Back in Action."

Worse, despite a galaxy of comedy stars in cameos — among them Robin Williams (as Roosevelt), Christopher Guest (as Ivan the Terrible), Bill Hader (as hair-obsessed maniac Custer), Jonah Hill, Jay Baruchel, and "The Office" stars Ed Helms, Mindy Kaling and Craig Robinson — the film musters only

To view the trailers for "Terminator Salvation," "Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian" go to Palo Alto Online at [www.PaloAltoOnline.com](http://www.PaloAltoOnline.com)

## STANFORD THEATER

The Stanford Theatre is at 221 University Ave. in Palo Alto. Go to [www.stanfordtheatre.org](http://www.stanfordtheatre.org) or call 650-324-3700.

**Rio Bravo (1959)** A small-town sheriff (John Wayne) enlists a rag-tag team of deputies to keep custody of a murderer. Fri.-Sun. at 7:30 p.m. Sat. & Sun. also at 2:40 p.m.

**The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance (1962)** A man becomes a hero after killing a notorious outlaw but the truth is more complicated. Starring John Wayne and James Stewart. Fri.-Sun. at 5:15 and 10:05 p.m.

## Movie openings

(continued from previous page)

a few lackluster laughs.

But like its predecessor, "Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian" has one trump card: It's a kid-friendly, PG film that celebrates museums. And given that the Museum of Natural History got a major bump from the first film, this one should spark kids to learn about and from the Smithsonian, as well as other museums (on the other hand, these same kids may need some extra physics tutoring). Movie mediocrity aside, maybe it's a good thing Stiller hasn't hung up his Maglite just yet.

*Rated PG for mild action and brief language. One hour, forty-five minutes.*

— Peter Canavese

## NOW PLAYING

The following is a sampling of movies recently reviewed in the Weekly:

### Angels and Demons ★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) Tom Hanks reprises his role as ace Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon, whose knowledge of ancient Catholic history makes him ideally suited to the latest Vatican conflict. Once established the narrative kicks off a roundelay of hidden catacombs, high-tempo pursuits and medieval codes. Not to mention anxious cardinals in the throes of Conclave, a perky Pope's assistant (Ewan McGregor) and the rabidly conventional Swiss Guard led by Commander Richter (the consistently impressive Stellan Skarsgård). Director Ron Howard does not disappoint when it comes to popcorn thrills: frenetic chases, kinetic explosions and the kind of nine-lives scenarios that make for head-scratching contingencies. Not surprisingly, the plot — though stuffed with papal politics and conspiracy — is a one-dimensional affair loaded with commonplace distractions that never catch fire the way Dan Brown's prose managed so effortlessly (albeit outrageously) on the page. Rated: PG-13 for violence, bloodshed and mature themes. 2 hours, 20 minutes. — J.A. (Reviewed May 15, 2009)

### Earth ★★★

(Century 16, Century 20) Disney teams with the mastermind British documentarians behind the Emmy-winning "Planet Earth" series for this family-friendly look at life on the third planet from the sun. Magnificent landscapes and an array of creatures traverse the big screen with breathtaking beauty. But the footage is primarily pulled from the "Planet Earth" series, so viewers may get the feeling they've seen it all before. The film focuses on three mothers and their offspring: a polar bear and her cubs, an elephant and her calf, and a whale and her calf. Although "Earth" comments on the fact that the planet's temperature is rising and animal habitats are threatened, it doesn't lecture about global warming. Instead, it presents the natural beauty of the planet — its forests and deserts, its star-filled skies and deep seas, and its wildlife. This is a film the younger generation should see. Rated: G. 1 hour, 30 minutes. — T.H. (Reviewed April 24, 2009)

### Every Little Step ★★★1/2

(Aquarius) The hit Broadway musical "A Chorus Line" deals with the gauntlet of an audition: a soul-baring performance for a small, judgmental audience, often with a paycheck at stake. So too does a new documentary film about the show and its

2006 Broadway revival: "Every Little Step." The 1975 play "A Chorus Line" memorably depicted dancers auditioning for a Broadway musical. "Every Little Step" devotes screen time to recounting the development of a play referred to as "every performer's story" and "the history of dance in theater." An oral history of the show includes comments from original co-choreographer Bob Avian, composer Marvin Hamlisch, original "Cassie" Donna McKechnie and original "Connie" Baayork Lee. As director and choreographer of the revival, respectively, Avian and Lee sit behind the audition table, their experience with the play making them especially discriminating and empathetic. Rated PG-13 for some strong language and sexual references. One hour, 36 minutes. — P.C. (Reviewed May 8, 2009)

### Ghosts of Girlfriends Past ★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) This movie orbits around the narcissistic, philandering photographer Connor Mead (Matthew McConaughey). He's a jerk, which makes him catnip to all the sex kittens in this male-oriented universe. Connor and childhood sweetheart Jenny (Jennifer Garner) meet again in Newport, Rhode Island, at the wedding rehearsal of his younger brother (Breckin Meyer) and his control-freak fiancée (Lacey Chabert). Sparks fly. And you know these former flames are heading to happily-ever-after land. The title alludes to the movie's narrative conceit: The screenwriting team of "Four Christmases" raided the holiday's library of classics to adapt Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" into a tired tale of redemption. Rated: PG-13 for sexual content throughout, some language and a drug reference. 1 hour, 55 minutes. — S.T. (Reviewed May 1, 2009)

### Rudo y Cursi ★★★1/2

(Cinearts) Diego Luna and Gael Garcia Bernal rekindle their chemistry in this charming cautionary fable of futbol-playing brothers. Beto and Tato Verdusco are living life on the edge in rural Mexico. Beto (Luna) is an idealistic hothead making endless promises to his fed-up wife and kids. Tato (Bernal) is the charismatic clown, a gadabout living one day at a time in clueless obscurity. In true fairy-tale fashion an eager scout (Guillermo Francella) turns up at the dirt pitch where the boys take out their physical frustrations on the futbol-frenzied locals. He offers Tato a tryout with a professional team and somehow Tato makes the cut. Beto, consumed with jealousy over Tato's mercurial celebrity, leaves his family on a lark to make the rival team's starting lineup as their beloved keeper. Now it's mano a mano family-style, sans the brotherly love. Rated: R for profanity, brief violence and nudity. 1 hour, 43 minutes. In Spanish with English subtitles. — J.A. (Reviewed May 15, 2009)

### State of Play ★★★

(Century 16, Century 20) Washington Globe reporter Cal McAffrey (Russell Crowe) links two seemingly unconnected violent incidents to each other and to his college roommate-turned-congressman Stephen Collins (Ben Affleck). The apparent suicide of Collins' young and pretty aide leads to the revelation that Collins has been cheating on his wife, Anne (Robin Wright Penn), a secret that proves intertwined with the shooting of a thief and a bystander. As a political firestorm blazes, McAffrey and Collins prowl around each other with mixed feelings of friendship and professional self-preservation. The congressman's burning question: "Am I talking to my friend now, or am I talking to a reporter?" Rated PG-13 for brief drug content, some violence, sexual references and language. 1 hour, 58 minutes. — P.C. (Reviewed April 17, 2009)

### Star Trek ★★★1/2

Director J.J. Abrams and company have achieved quite a bit in reframing the future adventures of the explorers of Starfleet (a "peacekeeping and humanitarian armada"). The crew of the Enterprise includes Capt. Christopher Pike (Bruce Greenwood),

## MOVIE TIMES

### Angels & Demons (PG-13) ★★1/2

**Century 16:** 11:25 a.m.; 1:05, 2, 2:45, 3:45, 4:35, 5:15, 6, 6:50, 7:45, 8:40, 9:25 & 10:10 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:25 a.m.; 12:10, 1:40, 2:30, 3:15, 4:45, 5:35, 6:20, 7:20, 8:05, 8:45, 9:30 & 10:25 p.m. Fri.-Mon. also at 10:25 a.m.

### Dance Flick (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)

**Century 16:** 11:05 a.m.; 1:15, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40 & 9:50 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:35 a.m.; 1:45, 3:55, 6, 8:10 & 10:20 p.m.

### Earth (G) ★★★

**Century 16:** 11:45 a.m.; 2:15, 4:45 & 7:15 p.m. **Century 20:** 12:25, 2:50 & 5:05 p.m.

### Every Little Step (PG-13) ★★1/2

**Aquarius:** 1:30, 4, 6:30 & 8:45 p.m.

### Ghosts of Girlfriends Past (PG-13) ★1/2

**Century 16:** 11:10 a.m.; 4:25 & 9:45 p.m. **Century 20:** 3:55 & 9:55 p.m.

### The Girlfriend Experience (R) (Not Reviewed)

**Aquarius:** 1, 3, 5, 7 & 9:15 p.m.

### Management (R) (Not Reviewed)

**Century 20:** 2:55 & 8 p.m.

### Monsters vs. Aliens (PG) ★★1/2

**Century 16:** 11:10 a.m.; 1:35 & 4 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:50 a.m.; 2:20 & 4:40 p.m.

### Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian (PG) ★★

**Century 16:** 11:30 a.m.; 12:20, 1:10, 2, 2:50, 3:40, 4:30, 5:20, 6:15, 7, 7:55, 8:45, 9:30 & 10:25 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:15 & 11:55 a.m.; 12:30, 1:10, 1:50, 2:30, 3:05, 3:45, 4:25, 5:05, 5:40, 6:20, 7, 7:40, 8:15, 8:55, 9:35, 10:15 & 10:45 p.m. Fri.-Mon. also at 10:30 a.m.

### Obsessed (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)

**Century 20:** 4:15 & 9:45 p.m.

### Rudo Y Cursi (R) ★★1/2

**Century 20:** 12:30, 5:30 & 10:35 p.m. **Palo Alto Square:** 2:10, 4:40 & 7:15 p.m. Fri.-Sat. also at 9:40 p.m.

### The Soloist (PG-13) ★★

**Century 16:** 9:40 p.m. **Century 20:** 1:35 & 6:55 p.m.

### Star Trek (PG-13) ★★1/2

**Century 16:** 11 a.m.; 12:30, 1:55, 3:25, 4:50, 6:25, 7:20, 8 & 9:20 p.m. Fri.-Wed. also at 10:15 p.m. **Century 20:** Fri. - Mon. at 10:35 a.m.; 12:05, 1:30, 3, 4:30, 6:15, 7:35, 9:10 & 10:30 p.m. Fri. - Wed. at 7:05 & 10 p.m. Tue.-Thu. at 12:05, 1:30, 3, 4:30, 6:15, 7:35, 9:10 & 10:30 p.m. Thu. at 7:05 p.m.

### State of Play (PG-13) ★★★

**Palo Alto Square:** 4:20 p.m. Fri.-Sat. also at 9:45 p.m. **Century 20:** Fri.-Thu. at 1:05 & 6:50 p.m.

### Summer Hours (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed)

**Guild:** 1, 3:30, 6 & 8:30 p.m.

### Sunshine Cleaning (R) ★★1/2

**Palo Alto Square:** 1:45 & 7:20 p.m.

### Terminator Salvation (PG-13) ★★

**Century 16:** 11:50 a.m.; 1, 1:45, 2:30, 3:40, 5:10, 6:20, 7:05, 7:50, 9:10 & 10:30 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:40 a.m.; 12:20, 1, 1:40, 2:25, 3:05, 3:45, 4:20, 5:10, 5:50, 6:30, 7:10, 7:55, 8:35, 9:15, 9:55 & 10:40 p.m. Fri.-Mon. also at 10:20 a.m. and 11 a.m.

### Up (PG) (Not Reviewed)

**Century 16:** Thu. at midnight. **Century 20:** Thu. at mid night.

### X-Men Origins: Wolverine (PG-13) ★★★

**Century 16:** 11:15 a.m.; 1:50, 4:20, 7:25 & 10 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:20 a.m.; 2, 4:35, 7:15 & 9:50 p.m.

★ Skip it ★★ Some redeeming qualities ★★★ A good bet ★★★★ Outstanding

**Aquarius:** 430 Emerson St., Palo Alto (266-9260)

**Century Cinema 16:** 1500 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View (800-326-3264)

**Century Park 12:** 557 E. Bayshore Blvd., Redwood City (800-326-3264)

**Century 20 Downtown:** 825 Middlefield Road, Redwood City (800-326-3264)

**CinéArts at Palo Alto Square:** 3000 El Camino Real, Palo Alto (493-3456)

**Guild:** 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park (266-9260)

**Internet address:** For show times, plot synopses, trailers and more information about films playing, go to Palo Alto Online at <http://www.PaloAltoOnline.com/>

first officer Spock (Zachary Quinto), communications officer Uhura (Zoe Saldana), Dr. Leonard "Bones" McCoy (Karl Urban), helmsman Hikaru Sulu (John Cho), navigator Chekov (Anton Yelchin), and the brash and unwelcome James T. Kirk (Chris Pine), destined to follow in his father's footsteps to become a Starfleet captain (also on the fringes: Simon Pegg's Scottish starship engineer Montgomery Scott). Before the Enterprise takes its maiden voyage in response to a mysterious threat (involving Eric Bana's Romulan "war criminal" Nero), Abrams gets to work with some surprisingly rich and certified-fresh myth-building. It's a stroke of genius to conceive of Kirk and Spock as two rebels looking for a cause, who butt heads on the way to becoming lifelong friends. Rated PG-13 for violence, sci-fi action and brief sexual content. Two hours, seven minutes. P.C. (Reviewed May 8, 2009)

### X-Men Origins: Wolverine ★★★

(Century 16, Century 20) The story focuses on the relationship between brothers Wolverine (aka Logan) and Sabretooth (aka Victor Creed), from their adolescence to wartime heroics to involvement in the controversial Weapon X program. After being sacrificed to a firing squad Wolverine and Sabretooth are approached by General William Stryker (Danny Huston). Stryker convinces the men to join a team of tough

mutants that includes sharp-shooter Agent Zero (Daniel Henney), brawler Fred Dukes (Kevin Durand) and wisecracking mercenary Wade Wilson (Ryan Reynolds), aka Deadpool. It turns out Stryker has sinister intentions and Wolverine is fortunate to survive the adamantium infusion. As Wolverine endeavors to dismantle Stryker's nefarious program, he turns to fellow mutants for help. Overall, the movie is not unlike the character himself: Rough around the edges but memorable nonetheless. Rated: PG-13 for violence, intense sequences of action and some partial nudity. 1 hours, 47 minutes. — T.H.

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Fri/Sat Add 9:45

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# Food Places to Eat



around town...

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**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  
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3950 Middlefield Rd., Palo Alto  
(Charleston Shopping Center)  
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## CHINESE

**Chef Chu's** (650) 948-2696  
1067 N. San Antonio Road  
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**Jing Jing** 328-6885  
443 Emerson St., Palo Alto  
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www.jingjinggourmet.com

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

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**Darbar Indian Cuisine** 321-6688  
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**Trader Vic's** 849-9800  
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Dinner: Mon-Thu 5:00-10:00pm  
Fri-Sat 5:00-10:30pm, Sun 5:00-9:00pm  
www.sundancethesteakhouse.com

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# Eating Out

## RESTAURANT REVIEW



Diners take lunch at Mayfield Bakery & Cafe.

Veronica Weber



Mayfield's jazzy sour-cherry bread pudding.

Veronica Weber

### Works in progress

Mayfield Bakery & Cafe piques appetite but has spotty service

by Dale F. Bentson

Some new restaurants take longer to iron out all the kinks, especially ones that are trying to master being both a restaurant and a full-blown bakery. That's what Mayfield Bakery & Cafe is trying to do in the revamped Town & Country Village in Palo Alto. So far, some things work; others are works in progress.

The cool whitewashed interior partially overlooks the patio area and its inviting tables with expansive umbrellas. The long, open kitchen occupies a side wall with rotisserie and wood-fired oven. The starched white linen tablecloths, covered with brown craft paper, suggest a relaxed ambiance and hint that the food is fun, casual and worthy.

Adjacent to the cafe is the bakery with a glass wall in between. Bakers can be observed making breads and pastries throughout the day. In all, Mayfield is an energetic and ambitious project.

Opened in early February, the restaurant bears a name honoring the extinct town of Mayfield, which sat on this tract of land before Stanford University and Palo Alto. The project is owned by Bacchus Management Group, which operates Spruce restaurant

in San Francisco, the Village Pub in Woodside and the Pizza Antica chain. Nancy Pitta (Hawthorne Lane, Boulevard) is the *boulangier principal* while experienced Herb Harms is the cafe's general manager.

The menu is appealing, accenting American comfort foods with California freshness. Many of the dishes sparkled but a few were ill-prepared. Desserts, though, were excellent. The wine list had broad appeal and fair prices. Service was touch-and-go.

For starters, the roasted golden beet salad (\$10.50) with horseradish yogurt, walnuts and chopped fennel looked appetizing. The beets were cooked al dente but the horseradish yogurt dressing was disappointingly bland. No horseradish was evident, not the faintest hint.

The burrata bruschetta (\$10.50) was a delightfully unusual rendition with grilled artichokes draped over the buratta (cream and mozzarella cheese) and grilled bread, all drizzled with olive vinaigrette. The bruschetta was a fun twist on an Italian classic but offered creamier, more pungent flavors. A great start.

Mayfield offers several side dishes that could also serve as

starters. My favorites were the crisp Brussels sprouts (\$4.50) with chilies and lemon and the grilled delta asparagus (\$6) with preserved lemon and olive oil. Both were fresh and delicious. The Brussels sprouts alone are worth a trip.

Almond wood-grilled Hawaiian dorado (mahi-mahi, \$24) came with crispy heirloom potatoes, spring onion and green garlic aioli. The fish was firm and just grilled through (as I requested). The aioli needed another clove of garlic to make it sing.

The baked ricotta gnocchi (\$14.75) were set in a pool of melted parmesan cheese dotted with black chanterelles. I might be missing the point here but gnocchi are supposed to be feather-light potato dumplings — light, as in light as air. Baking them in cheese weighed them down, made the dish heavy (although the portion was small) and rendered the gnocchi stringy and somewhat rubbery.

Spit-roasted chicken (\$20.75) with artichoke purée and pepper soffritto (onions, garlic, carrots, et al.) was irresistible. The half chicken was fall-off-the-bone tender, juicy and aromatic. The vegetables added depth and some zing to the plate.

Niman Ranch pork shoulder (\$18.50), spit-roasted, was laced with chunks of pancetta layered

over a bed of Brussels sprouts leaves. The pork was mouthwatering with a high-flavor profile. The pancetta was plenty salty but the Brussels sprouts were so salty that they were inedible. Someone in the kitchen got carried away, ruining most of what was an otherwise delicious dish.

Spit-roasted leg of lamb (\$24) came with an excellent grainy English pea risotto, baby escarole and mint salad. The thin-sliced lamb was imbued with the rich, almost smoky flavors of the almond firewood. I had not had leg of lamb roasted quite that way. It was robust, succulent and non-fatty.

For desserts, I nominate Mayfield's sour cherry bread pudding (\$7.50) with honey-whipped crème fraîche as the dessert of the year. It was jazzy, light, rich, expressive. The cherries added sweet little flavor bombs to the pastry, while the lush crème fraîche gave it a sophisticated air.

Carrot cake (\$7.50) with cream cheese and walnuts was also grand save for the semi-frozen dollop of cream cheese (or crème fraîche — I wasn't sure what it was). The cheese or cream had an unsettling metallic taste. Fortunately, it was on the side and didn't interfere with the scrumptious cake.

Meyer lemon cheesecake (\$7.50) with blood orange compote, ditto excellent, as was the very chocolatey s'more tart (\$7.50) with graham crackers, chocolate ganache and toasted marshmallow.

Service alternated between good and infuriating. One evening, we were asked if "everything is OK" at least a half dozen times. Other visits, I was queried during each course. Once per meal is sufficient; more than that is irritating.

One dinner, an over-zealous busboy snatched away my side dish halfway through the course. When I paused to query him, he made a grab for my not-yet-done-eating dinner plate. I nearly threw my body over the plate to save it.

The wine list features about 100 far-flung labels and not one is priced over \$100. It is one of the most approachable lists I have come across in some time. There are a dozen and a half wines by the glass, none exceeding \$12. Corkage fee is \$10.

Mayfield offers many beers, old-fashioned sodas, milk shakes and ice cream floats. There are coffees galore from the Bacchus Group-owned Roast Coffee Company in Oakland.

Mayfield Bakery & Cafe adds another chic element to the suddenly trendy Town & Country. There are a few rough spots to be ironed out, but I am sure they will be. Mayfield has a polished dynamic that is stylish yet mindful of price points in this halting economy. ■

#### Mayfield Bakery & Cafe

855 El Camino Real  
Palo Alto  
650-853-9200

**Lunch:** Weekdays 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Dinner: Weekdays 5-9 p.m.; Sat.-Sun. 5-9 p.m. Brunch: Sat.-Sun. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
www.mayfieldbakery.com

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# Goings On

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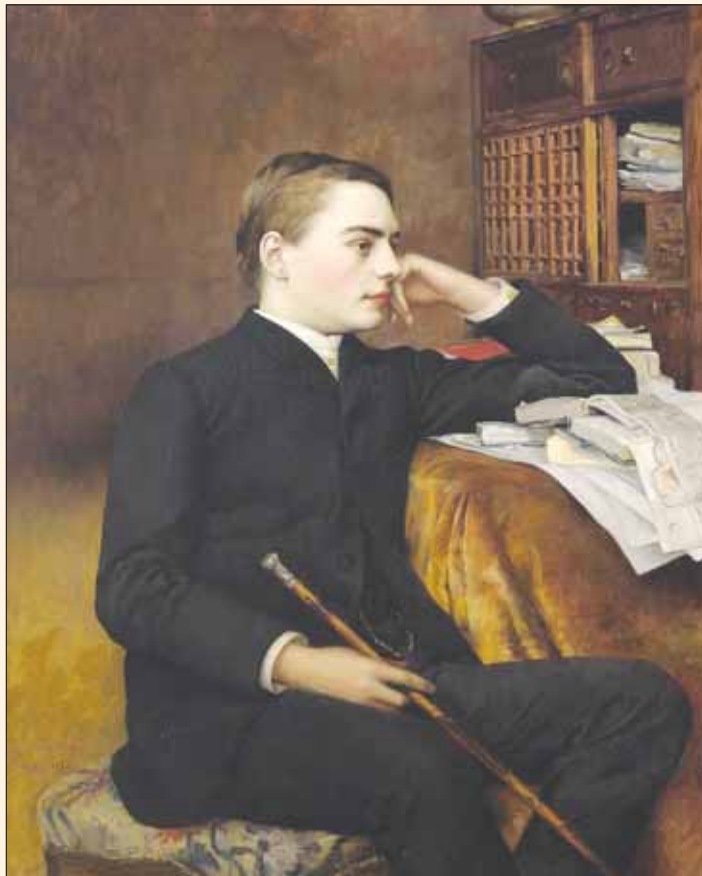
## Concerts

**'Of Thee I Sing'** Marking a new beginning in American history, coinciding with the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth, the Aurora Singers will present a musical salute to America. Highlights include songs from "Schoolhouse Rock" and

from Gershwin's "Of Thee I Sing," as well as a choral tribute to Lincoln. Sat., May 30, 7 p.m. \$7 and \$9. Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto, 505 E. Charleston Road, Palo Alto. www.aurorasingers.net  
**California Pops Flying Karamazov Brothers show!** California Pops Orches-

tra meets the Flying Karamazov Brothers. This award-winning troupe is a blend of comedy, theatre, music and juggling. Sat., May 30, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$30 adults, \$25 senior, \$20 students, \$10 children. Spangenberg Theatre, 780 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-856-8432. www.californiapopsorchestra.com

## OF NOTE



### An intent young man

"Portrait of Leland Stanford Jr.," an 1884 oil painting by Gustave-Claude Etienne Courtois, is part of an ongoing exhibition at the Cantor Arts Center that explores the Stanford family's mourning over the death of their son. "Splendid Grief: Darren Waterston and the Afterlife of Leland Stanford Jr." combines art from the museum's collection with new paintings by Darren Waterston, many of them watercolors on rag paper. The free exhibition runs through July 5 at the Stanford University museum at 328 Lomita Drive. It's open Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Thursdays until 8 p.m. Go to museum.stanford.edu or call 650-723-4177.

**Dr. Anthony Doherty & Dr. Nicholas Isaacs** An evening of compositions by Mozart and Schubert by two of CSMA's talented faculty artists. Part of the Music at 7, Faculty & Friend series. Sponsored by Applied Materials. Supported by Target; media sponsor 102.1 KDFC. Thu., May 28, 7-8 p.m. No charge; donations accepted. Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA) at Finn Center, Finn Center, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. www.arts4all.org/attend/calendar.htm

**Gunn High School Band Concert** Final concert of the year, honoring seniors. Thu., May 28, 7 p.m. Tickets \$5 adults, \$3 students/senior citizens. Gunn High, Spangenberg Theater, 780 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-354-8264.

**Master Sinfonia Chamber Orchestra Concert** David Ramadanoff presents Helene Wickett, piano soloist, playing Faure's "Ballade for Piano and Orchestra" and Milhaud's "Le Carnaval d'Aix." The orchestra also performs Mozart's "Overture to La Clemenza di Tito" and the "Jupiter Symphony." Join the artists for a free reception at intermission. Sun., May 31, 3-5 p.m. Tickets \$5-\$18. Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Ave., Los Altos. www.mastersinfonia.org

**Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra Season Finale** Cellist (and PACO alum) Matt Haimovitz returns to the PACO stage to perform Schubert's "Arpeggione Sonata" and Luna Pearl Woolf's "Max's Moon." Suk's "Serenade for Strings" and the premiere work "Monsoon Season" by Stephen Feigenbaum, winner of the 2009 PACO youth for youth commission. Sun., May 31, 3-5 p.m. \$15 adults, \$10 seniors, \$6 students. Dinkelspiel Auditorium, Stanford University, Stanford. Call 650-856-3848. http://www.pacomusic.org

**TEN - Somei Yoshino Taiko Ensemble** Ensemble featuring drums, percussion, rare stringed and woodwind instruments, and unusual costumes. May 22-23, 8-10 p.m. \$26, senior/students/children/group discount available. Mountain View Center for Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6000. www.taikoensemble.com

### Family and Kids

**Bell System Music Group** The Bell System, a music performance group for children in grades 3-8, teaches the basics of music and bell technique. The group participates in community outreach concerts at nearby senior centers and on Santa Cruz Avenue, as well as in annual Christmas and Spring concerts. Thursdays, ongoing, 3:45-5 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Pres., 950 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park. mppc.org

**Bird watching for Kids** A two-session class designed for younger folks to learn about bird anatomy, behavior, nesting, and migration. Bring your own binoculars or borrow a pair. Parent participation optional. Ages 7-15. Saturdays through June 13, 10-11:30 a.m. \$10 Palo Alto residents / \$12 non-residents. Baylands Nature Center, 2775 Embarcadero, Palo Alto. Call 650-329-2506. enjoyonline.cityofpaloalto.org

**Cowboy Poetry** The National Center for Equine Facilitated Therapy-NCEFT is hosting a fundraiser on Sun., May 31. Cowboy Poet Dave Stamey will perform along with the Coastside Cowgirls and The Family Lines Band. Tickets are \$40 per person and children under 12 are free, lunch included. Sun., May 31, noon-4 p.m. NCEFT, 880 Runnymede Road, Woodside. Call 851-2271 ext. 7. www.nceft.org

**Family Nature Walk** Evening hike for families. Meet at the canoe dock. Open to Palo Alto residents and accompanied



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**(TENTATIVE) AGENDA**  
**MAY 25, 2009**

### STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Finance Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 26 at 7:00 p.m. regarding 1) Approval of Fiscal Year 2010 Contract Scopes of Consultant Services Agreements Greater than \$85,000; 2) Proposed Amendment to 2009-10 Municipal Fee Schedule; 3) Wrap-Up; 4) Additional questions and answers regarding the Recommendation to City Council to Change the Methodology Used to Calculate the Equity Transfer from Utilities Funds to the General Fund

guests. Wednesdays through July 15, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Foothills Park, 3300 Page Mill Road, Los Altos Hills. Call 650-329-2423. [enjoyonline.cityofpaloalto.org](http://enjoyonline.cityofpaloalto.org)

**Messy Art For Kids** Four-week class exploring messy art for kids, such as finger painting and clay. Fridays, through June 5, 10:15-10:45 a.m. \$15 per class. Cubes & Crayons, 152 E. Dana St., Mountain View. Call 650-209-4846. [cubes.typepad.com/blog](http://cubes.typepad.com/blog)

**Night Night Sleep Tight: Solve Your Child's Sleep Problems** Join Parents Place educator Heidi Emberling and learn strategies for helping children 1-5 fall asleep and sleep through the night. Tue., May 26, 7-8:30 p.m. free. Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. Call 650-525-7054. [library.mountainview.gov/](http://library.mountainview.gov/)

**Paws for tales at Atherton Library** Children ages 5 and older can sign up to read to a trained therapy dog. Reading aloud improves reading skills and builds confidence. In conjunction with the Peninsula Humane Society and SPCA. 11 a.m. to Noon, the fourth Saturday of each month. Call the library to sign up. Free. Atherton Library, 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton. Call 650-328-2422. [www.smcl.org](http://www.smcl.org)

**Picture Book Pals Goes to the Dogs!** All through May Books Inc. will be accepting entries in its "Draw your Favorite Dog" contest. Join the Picture Book Pals the last Saturday in May for an Artist Award Ceremony, and special dog-themed story time. Only children under 8 may enter the contest. 11 a.m. Books Inc Palo Alto, 855 El Camino Real #74, Palo Alto. Call 650-321-0600. [www.booksinc.net](http://www.booksinc.net)

**Prime Time with the Kids** Series of six classes for grandparents and grandkids designed to get into out nature together. Sundays through June 14. 10 a.m.-noon. \$10 residents / \$15 non-residents per class. Palo Alto Open Space, Palo Alto. Call 650-329-2423. [enjoyonline.cityofpaloalto.org](http://enjoyonline.cityofpaloalto.org)

**Safety Training** This training will include Basic CPR, life-saving skills. Tuesdays, 5-8 p.m. \$40. Home Safety Training, 862 San Antonio Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-424-0204. [www.allcareplus.org](http://www.allcareplus.org)

**Story Time with Susan Heller: Mup the Pup** Susan Heller shares the story of Mup the Pup, a tale based on Susan's pet Havanese, Mup. Mup and Josh are inseparable friends. While going on an airplane to visit Josh's grandparents, somehow Mup and Josh are separated. Will Josh ever be reunited with his best friend Mup? Sun., May 31, 11:30 a.m. free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. [www.keplers.com](http://www.keplers.com)

**Storytime and Craft at Atherton Library** The Atherton Library has a monthly family storytime. A simple craft will be provided for all ages. Second Saturdays through June 13. 11-11:30 a.m. Free. Atherton Library, 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton. Call 650-328-2422. [www.smcl.org](http://www.smcl.org)

**The Stinky Cheese Man** Favorite fairy tales and stories get a fresh twist when naughty narrator Jack gets hold of them. Peninsula Youth Theatre presents John Gore's adaptation of "The Stinky Cheese Man," the children's book by Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith. May 22-23, \$8. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. [www.pyt.net.org](http://www.pyt.net.org)

### Live Music

**Flute School Honors Recital** Sarah Kang and Kenin Coloma, students from the Meerenai Shim Flute School perform. All proceeds will benefit Sunnyvale Community Services and the Gunn High School UNICEF Club. Sat., May 23, 7:30-10 p.m. \$20/\$10 suggested donation. Main Hall, Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto, 505 E. Charleston Road, Palo Alto. Call 415-309-8364. [www.meerenai.com](http://www.meerenai.com)

**Gujarati (India) Music Concert by Amar Bhatt** On May 25, Visiting singer composer Amar Bhatt will present Gujarati (India) poetry in melodic compositions with Dimple Patel on Tabla. Mon., May 25, 6-9:30 p.m. Donation \$ 20/person. Friends Place, 957 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-858-6854.

**Jazz at Pampas** Tristram Duncan Trio plays jazz, funk and R&B Fri., May 22, 6:30-10 p.m. Pampas, 529 Alma St., Palo Alto.

**Jazz at Pampas** Brian Ho Jazz Group performs Fri., May 29, 6:30-10 p.m. Pampas, 529 Alma St., Palo Alto.

**Local Talent Night** Caffe' Sportivo promotes local talent every Friday and Saturday evening. Bands, musicians, improv, comedy, etc. 6-9 p.m. free. Caffe' Sportivo, 965 Brewster Ave., Redwood City. Call 650-369-4568. [caffesportivo.com](http://caffesportivo.com)

ivo, 965 Brewster Ave., Redwood City. Call 650-369-4568. [caffesportivo.com](http://caffesportivo.com)

**Mike Bastian's Pentimento Jazz** Lavanda Wine Bar & Restaurant presents Mike Bastian's Pentimento Jazz every Sunday night. American jazz songbook with drums/vocals by Mike Bastian. No cover. 5:45-9 p.m. Lavanda, 185 University Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-321-3514. [www.lavandarestaurant.com](http://www.lavandarestaurant.com)

**The Vintage Music Collective** Reggae, blues and soul are on tap when the East Palo Alto-based band Vintage Music Collective plays. Fri., May 22, 9:30 p.m. \$5. British Bankers' Club, 1090 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. [britishbankersclub.com](http://britishbankersclub.com)

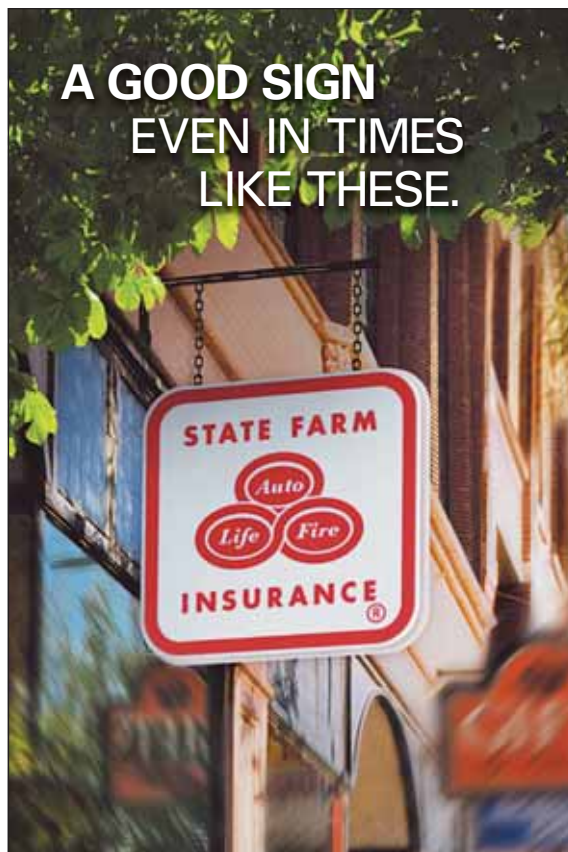
### On Stage

**Love Letters** A. R. Gurney's story of love and friendship revealed through letters. Performances Friday and Saturday evenings, with Doug Thornburg and Mandy Peoples. May 15-23, 8-10 p.m. \$10 general, \$8 students/seniors. Stephen Miller Gallery, 800 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-523-4946. [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com)

**Puccini's "Madama Butterfly"** West Bay Opera's all-new production of Puccini's masterpiece "Madama Butterfly." May 22-31, 2 p.m. \$25-55. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-424-9999. [www.WBOpera.org](http://www.WBOpera.org)

**Young Americans** The Palo Alto High School Theatre Department presents "Young Americans," an original musical written by the Paly Playwriting Collective which they will perform this August at the Festival Fringe in Edinburgh, Scot-

continued on next page



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## Goings On

(continued from previous page)

land. Three shows only: May 22, 23 and 29. Proceeds support this production. 8-9:30 p.m. \$7 students and seniors; \$10 adults. Haymarket Theatre, 50 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-329-3857. web.me.com/palytheatre

### Outdoors

**Nesting Raptors at Arastradero** Hike through the grasslands and woodlands in search of nesting raptors. Bring water and binoculars or borrow a pair. Sat., May 30, 9:30-11 a.m. Free. Pearson Arastradero Preserve, 1530 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-329-2506. enjoyonline.cityofpaloalto.org

**Star Party** Join the Peninsula Astronomical Society on Vista Hill for a look at the wonders of the night sky. Telescopes provided, or bring your own. Visitors must be inside park before the start of program;

entrance gate locked at that time. Open to Palo Alto residents and accompanied guests. Sat., May 30, 8:30-11 p.m. Free. Foothills Park, 3300 Page Mill Road, Los Altos Hills. Call 650-329-2423.

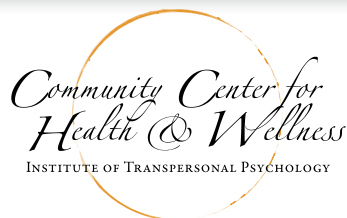
**Sunday Baylands Birdwalks** Learn to identify the birds of the Palo Alto Baylands. Designed for beginners (ages 9 and up) and others interested in recognizing the area's birds by sight, sound and behaviors. Meeting time varies to coincide with favorable tides. Call or email for current schedule. Free. Baylands Nature Center, 2775 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-329-2506.

**Twilight Hike** Twilight, ranger-led hike. Ages 8 and up. Free. Meet at the Gateway Facility. Second Fridays, May 8 through Aug. 14. No hike June 12. 7:30-9 p.m. Free. Pearson Arastradero Preserve, 1530 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-329-2423.

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# Sports Shorts

**OF LOCAL NOTE . . .** The Stanford Soccer Club's Landslide U17 Boys team beat Placer United Gold, 2-1, to win the Premier Division championship of Nor-Cal Premier Soccer's State Cup in Manteca last weekend. Both Landslide goals were scored by **Oscar Perez**. The first goal came at the 18th minute on a one-touch volley from a 40-yard flip throw-in from Palo Alto High's **Elliot Sanborn**. The game-winner came with less than a minute remaining and occurred on a crossing strike from Menlo-Atherton's **Benito Amaral** that Perez headed into the back of the net from six yards out. The win secures the Landslide a bid to play in the prestigious San Diego Surf Cup in August. On the way to the championship, the team went 6-0-0 scoring 24 goals while allowing opponents only five goals. The Stanford Landslide features mostly local juniors and seniors from Gunn, Menlo, Menlo Atherton, and the Paly varsity soccer programs . . . The East Palo Alto Razorbacks have qualified for the USA semifinals in Division 2 men's rugby. After victories in the Final 16 in Austin, Texas against the St. Louis Bombers (16-5) and Long Beach Back Bay (26-11), the Razorbacks are looking forward to the semifinal clash against Indianapolis on May 30 in Glendale, Colo. The Razorbacks, in their third season, are undefeated this season. They hold a No. 1 seeding nationally with a roster filled with players primarily from East Palo Alto. The team needs to raise \$10,000 to make it to Colorado next weekend. The Richard May Foundation, a non-profit corporation founded to help families in East Palo Alto in the memory of slain EPA police officer Richard May, has agreed to accept donations to help the team travel. Those interested can send their checks to: The Richard May Foundation, 64 Moulton Dr., Atherton, 94027 . . . Alpine FC is seeking enthusiastic soccer players for new and existing teams for fall 2009. Teams practice twice a week with weekend games. Alpine FC will be holding tryouts over the next few weeks in Portola Valley and Woodside. For more information about Alpine FC and the teams and programs, check the new team formation, tryouts, and individual team pages at [www.alpinefc.org](http://www.alpinefc.org).

## ON THE AIR

### Friday

**College softball:** Arizona at Stanford, 6:30 p.m., ESPN2; KZSU (90.1 FM)

**College baseball:** Oregon St. at Stanford, 6 p.m., KZSU (90.1 FM)

### Saturday

**College baseball:** Oregon St. at Stanford, 6 p.m., KZSU (90.1 FM)

### Sunday

**College baseball:** Oregon St. at Stanford, 1 p.m., KZSU (90.1 FM)

## SPORTS ONLINE

For expanded daily coverage of college and prep sports, please see our new site at [www.PASportsOnline.com](http://www.PASportsOnline.com)



Palo Alto's Mariah Philips (11) and Lauren Bucolo had plenty to celebrate after the Vikings edged Aragon, 1-0, to open the Central Coast Section Division II softball playoffs on Wednesday.



Paly junior Kelly Jenks tossed a four-hitter to beat Aragon, 1-0.

## CCS SOFTBALL

# Palo Alto's Coleman finally gets her turn for a big hit

by Keith Peters

Allie Coleman spent the fall with the Palo Alto volleyball team. As the squad's setter, she most often put the ball in position for her teammates to provide the big hit — or kill or spike, take your pick.

Coleman delivered once again for the Vikings on Wednesday, but this time it was in softball and it was she who was the big hitter.

Coleman came to the plate with sophomore teammate Gracie Marshall on second base with no outs in the bottom of the sixth inning of a Central Coast Section Division II opener at Hawes Park in Redwood City. After failing twice to move Marshall to third on a bunt, Coleman lined a two-strike pitch to

right-center to score Marshall with the winning run in a 1-0 victory over Aragon.

"That was probably my biggest hit this season," said Coleman, who along with Pam Wong are the only seniors on the team. "I had a (game-winning) hit against Fremont earlier in the season, but most of our league games weren't that close. So, this is my season best."

Coleman had grounded out to third and then struck out against Aragon's Justine Roscoe, who did a good job of keeping the Paly hitters off balance with a variety of breaking pitches. Her only real mistake was the pitch that Coleman lined for the winning hit.

(continued on page 38)

## STANFORD BASEBALL

# Sitting on the bubble

Cardinal needs a sweep of visiting Oregon State to help NCAA hopes

by Rick Eymers

This has not been one of the prettiest of seasons for the Stanford baseball team. In fact, the Cardinal's chances of reaching the NCAA baseball tournament shrank a little bit more following an ugly 11-2 loss to visiting UC Davis on Tuesday night.

Stanford basically has no other choice but to sweep the last Pac-10 and regular-season series this weekend with visiting Oregon State, beginning with Friday night's 6 p.m. first pitch and then hope for good things to happen when the selection committee hunkers down over the next few days.

"It's a big series for us," Stanford coach Mark Marquess said. "Oregon State is a good team and we need to get good pitching and to swing the bats the way we're capable of doing."

Stanford (12-12, 29-23) put itself in this position with a poor start, partly a product of a tough schedule and partly because some of the more reliable players struggled. Some of those players, Toby Gerhart and Kellen Kielsgaard for example, came out of their slumps and fueled a nice run that gave the Cardinal some momentum.

A change that sent Zach Jones behind the plate, Adam Gaylord to third base and Ben Clowe to designated hitter also sparked positive returns. The emergence of freshmen pitchers Jordan Pries and Brett Mooneyham also sparked Stanford's resurgence.

The consistent play of Colin Walsh, Joey August, Jake Schlander and Brent Milleville also served to help the baseball renaissance. This weekend, everything has to work for the Cardinal.

"We just need to focus on playing the game and not our record," Stanford sophomore pitcher Alex Pracher said. "We can't think too far ahead because we don't know what will happen. If we play well, good things will happen."

Stanford entered the week resting squarely on the fence. Taking two of three from host USC last weekend helped push the Cardinal up a few notches to 65th in the RPI ratings. Oregon State is at No. 41. There will be 64 teams competing in 16 regionals scattered about the country beginning May 28 and 29.

"We had a couple of days to get back on track," said Pracher, whose 4 1/3 scoreless innings of relief was one of the bright spots of the loss to the Aggies. "Since struggling early we've been a team as good as anyone in the country. The hitters have done a great job and they will keep doing a great job."

(continued on page 42)



**City of Palo Alto  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Draft Mitigated 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 will be available for review and comment during a minimum 20-day inspection period beginning May 29, 2009 to June 17, 2009 during the hours of 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. in the Planning Division, Civic Center, 250 Hamilton Avenue, fifth floor, Palo Alto, California.

This item will be considered at a public hearing tentatively scheduled by the Planning and Transportation Commission on Wednesday, June 10, 2009 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.

**4301 and 4329 El Camino Real (Palo Alto Bowl)-** Request by Aaron Barger, applicant, on behalf of Palo Alto Bowl, LLC, property owner, for Site and Design Review for the construction of a 125,034sq. ft. 4-story, 167 unit hotel and 263-story detached and duplex-type townhomes on a 3.70 acre site located at 4301 and 4329 El Camino Real. The project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act requiring environmental assessment. The site is zoned as RM-1, RM-15 and CS

###

**Curtis Williams, Director of Planning and Community Environment**

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NORCAL TENNIS

**Menlo  
looks to  
its seniors**

*Knights head into NorCals with good chance of facing Bells in rematch of CCS*

by Keith Peters

It was perhaps appropriate when the Menlo boys' tennis team won the inaugural Northern California Tournament title in 1999. That crown capped a perfect 23-0 season for the Knights.

Since then, Menlo has won four more. The Knights are hoping to bring home No. 6 this weekend from the Diamond Hills Sports Club and Spa in Oakley.

Menlo (24-2) will open Friday at 1 p.m., against either Lowell (San Francisco) or Shasta. An expected victory will put the Knights into Saturday's semifinals at 11 a.m., against the winner of Monte Vista (Danville) and Davis.

Should Menlo reach the finals on Saturday at 2 p.m., it will likely face Bellarmine in a rematch of their Central Coast Section finals last week. The Knights won their eighth section crown with a 4-3 victory after clinching at 4-0.

A big reason for the quick triumph over Bellarmine was the play of Menlo's seniors. Daniel Hoffman, Max Glenn and Ryan Duggal all had a hand in victories while leading the top-seeded Knights past the No. 2 Bells last Friday at CCS team championship match at the Court-side Club in Los Gatos.

The Bells fell to 22-2, their only two losses to Menlo.

Menlo coach Bill Shine, who is



Keith Peters

*Menlo senior Daniel Hoffman clinched his team's 4-3 victory over Bellarmine in the CCS finals at No. 1 singles.*

293-40 in his 13th season at Menlo, will look to his seniors once again this weekend after what they accomplished at CCS.

"Without them," Shine said of the three seniors who played Friday (Jay Baxter was the lone senior who did not), "we just don't get it done. This doesn't happen without our seniors. They were the ones who had that determination in their eyes. They were not going to go down."

After junior Jamin Ball won quickly by beating Ian Clark, 6-2, 6-1, at No. 2 singles, Glenn gave Menlo a 2-0 lead with a 6-2, 6-2

triumph at No. 3 singles against Michael Chang.

Moments later, Duggal teamed with sophomore Kyle Sum to wrap up their No. 2 doubles match over brothers Alex and Tommy Wall, 6-2, 6-4. That made it 3-0 with Hoffman closing in on the final point.

Hoffman, playing No. 1 singles, battled back from an early deficit in the first set to defeat Eric Johnson, 6-3, 6-1. Johnson had beaten Hoffman during the team's dual match, which Menlo won by 5-2.

(continued on page 43)

**CCS softball**

(continued from page 37)

"It was a little tense," Coleman said of her at-bat. "I hadn't done well with that pitcher. She kept pitching me outside, with curveballs and drop balls. She got me the last time with those pitches and she kept going back to it."

Coleman looked for something on the outside corner and got it, sending the No.12-seeded Dons (14-13-1) home for the season while putting the No. 5 Vikings (20-7-1) into a quarterfinal berth opposite No. 4 Leigh (23-7) on Saturday in Salinas at 10:45 a.m.

The Paly-Leigh winner will face the nation's No. 1 team, Mitty, in the semifinals next week at PAL Stadium in San Jose.

Paly coach Jake Halas says expects a similar game on Saturday, but perhaps against a different type of pitcher. Should the Vikings face more fastballs, he likes his team's chances of advancing further into the postseason than any Paly softball team in school history.

The Vikings reached the second round of CCS last season for the first time in more than a decade, finally losing to Burlingame and finishing 19-9-1. Palo Alto last reached the quarterfinals in 1996, a 17-7 season

that ended with a 4-3 loss to Mitty. Paly opened the CCS playoffs that season by beating, surprise, Aragon (4-0).

The 20 victories this season for Palo Alto are the most in school history. Junior pitcher Kelly Jenks has 19 of them. She got her latest against the Dons, striking our five and allowing just four singles.

Jenks didn't necessarily have her best stuff, but had a solid defense behind her that played errorless ball. Jenks got into only one serious jam when she gave up back-to-back singles after one was out in the top of the fourth. After getting a strikeout, Jenks walked the next batter and Aragon had the bases loaded. Jenks then induced a little popup that drifted into foul territory before Jenks raced over and snagged it for the third out.

Aragon got a runner aboard via a single in the first. She advanced to second on a wild pitch with two outs before Jenks got a strikeout for the third out. In the top of the second, Aragon got another runner on base via another single, but she was thrown out trying to steal by Paly sophomore catcher Anna Gale.

"Kelly is always going to be Kelly," said Halas. "No one is going to destroy her."

Palo Alto never really threatened



Keith Peters

*Allie Coleman*

until the sixth, making the most of those singles by Marshall and Coleman. Marshall's hit was her second of the game, a bloop down the right-field line. She promptly stole second to set up Coleman's big hit.

The victory avenged a 5-0 season-opening loss last year to Aragon.

"They laid it on us pretty good," Halas said of the contest played at Aragon. "I just told them, 'lets return the favor.' They did."

Halas, meanwhile, is still awaiting the birth of his twin sons. He had his cell phone and an extra car at the ready Wednesday, just in case. He figures it's just a matter of time, and jokes that his sons want the softball season to end before they arrive. Halas, most certainly, would like to see the season extended into next week against Mitty. ■

## CCS BASEBALL

# SHP and Menlo advance

With two more wins, local rivals could meet in section title game

by Colin Becht

The first steps have been taken by the Menlo and Sacred Heart Prep baseball teams on this journey they call the Central Coast Section playoffs. How long it lasts for the Knights and Gators will be determined Saturday when both compete in the quarterfinals in Monterey.

The No. 3-seeded Knights (25-6) will face No. 11 Soquel (17-10) at Sollecito Field while the No. 5-seeded Gators (19-11) take on No. 13 Half Moon Bay (19-12) at Monterey Peninsula College, both at 2 p.m.

At stake will be berths in the CCS Division III semifinals on Tuesday at San Jose Municipal Stadium. The championship game will return to San Jose Muni on May 30 at 1 p.m.

With Menlo and Sacred Heart Prep in opposite brackets, the possibility exists that an all-Atherton finale could result for the first time ever. But, that's still two victories away.

Menlo had no problem advancing through the first round of the tournament, defeating No. 14 Seaside, 8-3, on Wednesday afternoon. Soquel advanced with a 21-5 rout of No. 6 Harker.

The Knights got the scoring going early, scoring three runs in the first inning. Menlo only got two hits in the inning, but took advantage of a walk and three hit batsmen.

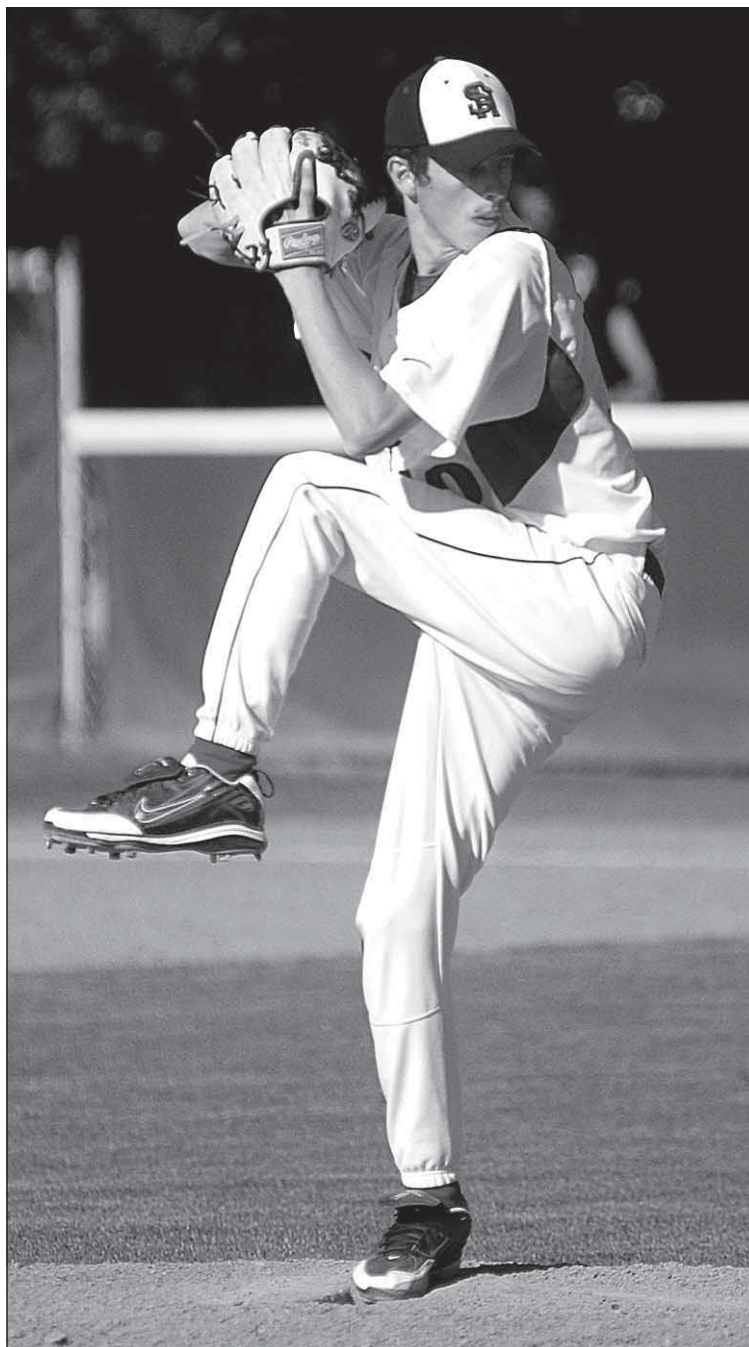
"They were nervous at the start of the game. That was pretty obvious," Menlo coach Craig Schoof said of Seaside. "They're a pretty good team and they walked a lot of guys and hit a lot of guys."

After the rough first inning, Seaside starter Aaron Love recovered to shut down the Knights in the next two innings. With the Menlo offense temporarily halted, Seaside (17-14) got on the board with an RBI groundout by Cordero Usrey.

However, in the fourth and fifth, the Menlo bats re-ignited as the Knights scored five runs over the two innings. Danny Diekroeger brought in a run in both the fourth and the fifth with two RBI knocks, while Chris Ryan drove in two runs in the fifth with a clutch two-out single.

On the mound, senior Alex Smith threw a complete game to pick up the win, allowing three runs on five hits. Smith was certainly dominant through the first six innings, only allowing two hits and one run.

In the seventh, Smith let up, allowing four straight hits to begin the inning. With two runs already in and no outs, Smith got the benefit of a great defensive play when right fielder Clay Robbins made a diving catch and then doubled up Troy Thomae at second. Asked what his



SHP's Kevin Wilkins pitched 1 1/3 innings of scoreless relief and had the game-winning single in an 8-7 CCS opening win.

thoughts were when Robbins made the catch, Smith said, "Phew . . . Clay covers more ground than any outfielder we have."

Despite the scare of three runs, Smith managed to finish out the seventh to get the complete game and the win, his seventh of the season.

"He's our No. 1," Schoof said. "When he takes the ball, we know what we're going to get from him. He just battles. The guy's a winner."

"I got ahead of a lot of hitters. I hit a lot of spots early in the count so that I could get ahead and throw my pitch," said Smith.

Offensively, Diekroeger and Ryan were the hot bats, both driving in three runs. Ryan also had an RBI double in the fourth inning, and Diekroeger collected three hits in the game. "He (Diekroeger) is a really good hitter," said Schoof.

"I just try to hit the ball hard every time and I just found the holes today," said Diekroeger.

Still, despite Menlo's multi-faceted success, Schoof identified clutch hitting as an area in need of improvement. Menlo left 12 runners on base, including stranding the bases loaded twice.

"We're going to have to hit in the clutch a little bit better," said Schoof.

"We had a chance to blow it (the score) open and we didn't."

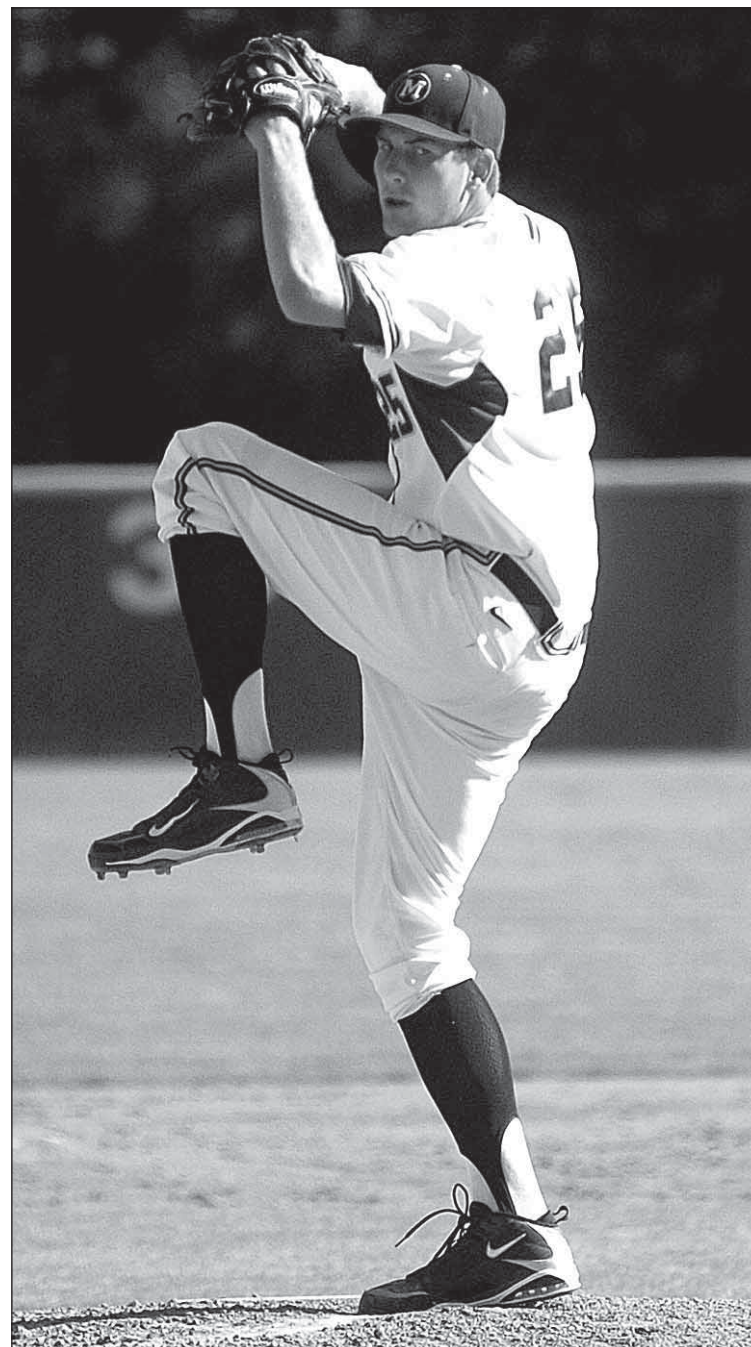
Sacred Heart Prep, meanwhile, had a chance to blow it, period, as the Gators fell behind by 7-6 entering the bottom of the seventh in their opener against visiting St. Francis-Central Coast Catholic (Watsonville).

SHP coach Gregg Franceschi, however, didn't see any quit in his team.

"We don't count ourselves out at any point of a game," Franceschi said. "We knew that if we couldn't get one run to tie, that we didn't deserve to win."

Franceschi also knew he had his No. 2-6 hitters coming up, all of them seniors. Ryan Sakowski was the first batter in the seventh and promptly singled. After a pitching change, SHP's JJ Suttle worked the count to 3-2. With Sakowski running, Suttle bounced to shortstop, whose only play was to get Suttle. Eric Andrews was intentionally walked and Matt Brezinski also walked to load the bases.

Franceschi had sophomore Thomas O'Donnell run for Andrews at second. Alex Baloff singled home Sakowski to tie the game but O'Donnell couldn't score after stumbling at second. With the bases still loaded, Kevin Wilkins came to



Menlo's Alex Smith pitched a complete-game five-hitter as the Knights bounced Seaside, 8-3, in a CCS Division III opener.

the plate after just throwing 1 1/3 innings of scoreless relief of Brezinski.

With the outfielders playing in with hopes of making a play at the plate, Wilkins lofted a fly ball over their heads for the game-winning single in SHP's 8-7 triumph.

The Gators, who came into the game with a team batting average of .382, had 11 hits but committed three errors. Sakowski raised his .394 average with four hits and an RBI. That gives him 41 hits and 24 RBI this season. Alex Siegel and Suttle each had two hits. Siegel now has 44 hits and raised his .393 average while Suttle now has 39 hits and moved closer to .400 after entering the game with a .394 batting average.

The Gators now head into Saturday's quarterfinal against Half Moon Bay, a team they've faced three times already. SHP is 2-1 against the Cougars, having beaten them early in the season in a nonleague game and then last week to secure a 9-5 record in the PAL Ocean Division and a postseason berth.

Half Moon Bay (19-12) pulled off a big upset by topping No. 4 Santa Cruz in eight innings, 7-6. Half Moon Bay is seeded No. 13.

SHP coach Gregg Franceschi probably was thinking his team

would be playing Santa Cruz, but now a familiar opponent looms. The only question that remains is which SHP team will show up Saturday?

Sacred Heart Prep has graduation ceremonies on Friday, followed by Grad Night.

"We'll see how that plays out," said Franceschi, who's confident that his players will make the right decisions and find time to get an appropriate amount of sleep.

"We're leaving it up to them," he said. "It's the only Grad Night they're going to go to. I'm confident they'll do the right thing."

Franceschi made plans for the possible game-after-Grad Night by contacting the CCS office last week and making a request that if his team made it to the quarterfinals, that it be allowed to play at 2 p.m. instead of 11 a.m. ■

For results of the Palo Alto-Willow Glen playoff game on Thursday and the rest of the CCS contests, go to [www.PASportsOnline.com](http://www.PASportsOnline.com) for live results each day.



**CITY OF PALO ALTO  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Palo Alto Municipal Code Section 2.28.070, that the City Council of the City of Palo Alto will hold a Public Hearing at its Regular Meeting on Monday, June 8 and June 15, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as possible, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, California, on the adoption of the proposed Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011 Budget. Copies of the budget are available on the City's website and in the Administrative Services Department, 4th Floor, City Hall, 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, California. There is a \$20.00 per book or \$10.00 per cd-rom charge for this publication.

DONNA J. GRIDER  
City Clerk



**CITY OF PALO ALTO  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the City Council of the City of Palo Alto will hold a Public Hearing at the Regular Council Meeting on Monday, June 8, 2009 at 7:00 p.m., or as near thereafter as possible, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, California to Consider Adoption of an Ordinance Amending Section 16.28.080 (Specific Exemptions) of Title 16 (Building Regulations) of the Palo Alto Municipal Code to Require Excavation and Grading Permits for Basements and Below-grade Parking Structures

DONNA J. GRIDER, MMC  
City Clerk



**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC MEETING  
of the City of Palo Alto  
Architectural Review Board (ARB)**

Please be advised that Thursday, June 4, 2009, the ARB shall conduct a public hearing at 8:30 AM in the Council Chambers, 1st Floor, 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, California. Any interested persons may appear and be heard.

**195 Page Mill Rd. [08PLN-00000-00281]:** A request by Hohbach Realty Company Limited Partnership for Architectural Review of a mixed use, 157,387 square foot building within the GM zone, a Design Enhancement Exception to exceed maximum lot coverage, Variances for encroachments into the rear and interior side setbacks, and two concessions pursuant to California Govt. Code 65915-65918, to allow residential use (84 rental units) in a GM zone and to exceed the maximum floor area ratio.

**4243 Manuela Drive [08PLN-00307]:** Request by AT & T on behalf of Aldersgate Methodist Church for Architectural Review of a 45-foot mono-pine with concealed antennas and associated at-grade equipment cabinets. Zone District: R-1 (20,000). Environmental Assessment: Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act per section 15301. A request for hearing before the Planning and Transportation Commission has been received for the associated Conditional Use Permit.

The City of Palo Alto does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities. To request accommodations to access City facilities, services or programs, to participate at public meetings, or to learn more about the City's compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), please contact the City's ADA Coordinator at 650.329.2550 (voice) or by e-mailing [ada@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:ada@cityofpaloalto.org).

**Amy French  
Manager of Current Planning**

## Palo Alto girls put their future title hopes in perspective after sizzling CCS swim finals

by Keith Peters

**D**anny Dye can't wait, even though it's still 12 months away. Circled on his calendar already is the 2010 Central Coast Section swimming and diving championships.

Dye certainly has plenty to look forward to after what his Palo Alto swim teams accomplished last weekend during the CCS Championships at the George F. Haines International Swim Center in Santa Clara.

A total of 48 events were held, including diving, over the two-day meet (prelims and finals). A total of 18 CCS records were set with Palo Alto freshman Jasmine Tosky and sophomore Sarah Liang having a hand in seven of them. Despite their performances, the Paly girls lost the team championship to Mitty by a mere three points, 277 to 274.

"We added some excitement," said Dye. "It was a phenomenal day for Paly swimming. The fact that it doesn't end in a CCS title is the little bitter taste in their mouths that they want to take out next year."

The girls' meet came down the final 400 free relay. Palo Alto needed to win to claim its third CCS team title. Anything less meant second place.

Tosky gave Paly an early lead by setting a CCS record of 48.98 on

her leadoff leg, erasing former Paly star Liv Jensen's 49.03 from 2008 off the record books. Before freshman Abby Duckett began her anchor leg, the Vikings trailed Monta Vista and that was it.

The Matadors swam a remarkable CCS record of 3:23.53, knocking a full three seconds off their record from last year. Paly shaved over 2 1/2 seconds off its prelim time while clocking a school record of 3:26.05.

As good as Palo Alto was last year, the Vikings were better this time. The same could be said for the entire meet as records fell right and left.

It was all about new suits, new technology and perhaps new training methods. They all added up to one of the best high school swimming meets in the nation in this or any year.

As a comparison to the ultra-fast North Coast Section finals, the NCS girls were faster in six of the 11 events while the CCS boys were faster in nine of 11 events, including an 11-second difference in the 500 free. Both section set one national record.

In the CCS boys' 100 free, the top 10 finishers all earned automatic All-American status. The consolation winner was Paly senior Mark Higgins, who broke the school record with a 45.55. Higgins ended

up breaking three school marks during the two-day meet and didn't win one event.

It was that kind of day, and Paly's Tosky and Liang were front and center with the best of them.

The two started the record breaking in the first event, the 200 medley relay where teammates Paige Devine and Margaret Wenzlau teamed with them for a 1:44.31 to break their own CCS record of 1:45.16 set in the prelims.

Tosky then won the 200 IM with a CCS record of 1:57.94, breaking her own section mark of 1:58.19 from the prelims. Liang was third in a personal best 2:00.51.

A tired Tosky won the 500 free in 4:45.66, failing to lower her CCS record of 4:43.96 in the prelims. She gathered herself for the final relay, however, and produced her final CCS record on the leadoff leg.

Liang swam on the first-place 200 medley relay and in the 200 IM, led off the fourth-place 200 free relay that clocked 1:36.97 for a school record, and then topped it off by winning the 100 breast in a CCS record of 1:01.50.

Tosky and Liang helped set 17 Palo Alto records. Higgins got his in the 200 free (1:39.11), 100 free and 50 free (21.42 leadoff leg on the 200 free relay). Fellow senior Tim Wenzlau got what he wanted, a sub-51.00 in the 100 back with his 50.59. He also broke records in the 50 free and 100 free in the prelims and in the 100 back), only to have Higgins break the freestyle marks in the finals.

The Gunn girls finished sixth with 148 points despite overcoming some late-season injuries — one that sidelined its top diver (broken foot last week). The Titans missed fifth place by eight points while setting eight school records, four each in the prelims and finals.

Freshman Julia Ama lowered her own school marks in the 50 free (third in 23.51), 100 free (third in 50.66), anchored the 200 free relay team to a record of 1:36.97 and anchored the 400 free relay team to another school record of 3:31.43.

None of the Gunn relay members are seniors, which sets up the Titans to be even better next season with Alex Lincoln, Casey Lincoln, Teva Levens and Grace Hamilton, among others, returning.

The Sacred Heart Prep girls were 12th with 60 points. Junior Katie Howard set school records in the 50 free prelims and finals (23.54) while finishing fourth. She set a school mark of 50.84 in the prelims of the 100 free and tied it while taking fourth in the finals. She also anchored the 200 free relay team to a school record of 1:37.56. Menlo senior Haley Read capped her fine prep career by scoring 23 individual points, topped by a seventh in the 200 IM in 2:06.72.

In the boys' meet, Bellarmine won its 25th straight CCS title with 319.5 points with Saratoga second (258) and Valley Christian third (220). Palo Alto was seventh with 102 points and Sacred Heart Prep was eighth with 100.5. ■



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 check was issued. If you are one of the listed payees, please contact Josh Berta at (650) 329-2365 at the City of Palo Alto by July 15, 2009 so that arrangements can be made to reissue the check.

Payee	Reference	Amount
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Fernandez, Wayne	5004032	\$2,947.77
Footcare Specialist	7274	\$146.79
Fry, Emily	5006185	\$152.85
Jones DDS, Jeffery	23823	\$127.00
Kelly, James	19159	\$124.78
Loisel DDS, Mark	22717	\$468.00
Mac Donald, Gerald	22741	\$75.00
Mac Donald, Gerald	22998	\$1,783.20
Nguyen DDS, Nhung	24475	\$45.00
Shah, Nishith	2006044	\$60.45
Snodgrass, Philip	17600	\$58.00
Soderstrom DDS, Andrew	24311	\$31.50
Suplica, Thomas	2006042	\$278.75
Taber, Hillary	5004734	\$67.75
Thomas DDS, Gregory P.	23082	\$192.93
Turner, Robert	19135	\$217.53
Turner, Robert	19159	\$238.00
Viray DDS, Christopher	22771	\$384.14

NORCAL GOLF

# Final shots for preps at state

*Gunn's Trainer, M-A's Sako will close prep careers at the CIF state finals*

by Keith Peters

**N**ick Sako and Martin Trainer are down to the final match of their high school careers. Perhaps fittingly, it's the CIF State Championships.

Both golfers are considered the best ever at their respective schools — Sako at Menlo-Atherton and Trainer at Gunn — and have made a name for themselves on the junior circuit. Sako has a golf scholarship to St. Mary's in the fall while Trainer has one to USC.

Trainer and Sako also have been friends throughout their high school golf careers. Perhaps appropriately then, the two will end their careers together on the same course and for the biggest honor in high school golf.

On June 10, the two will be competing in the state finals at Poppy Hills Golf Course in Pebble Beach. It will be their first appearances on the big stage.

"I think it's going to be fun," said Sako. "I made a lot of birdies the last time I was there (at an NCGA junior tour event) a few weeks ago."

Sako is hoping that course knowledge will pay off when he and Trainer take on the state's best.

"It's pretty cool that we both qualified together," said Sako on Monday while driving back from the Butte Creek Country Club in Chico, where both he and Trainer tied for first at the Northern California Tournament.

Playing in 100-degree heat, Sako and Trainer shot 2-under-par 70s to deadlock with Matt Ogden of Palma High (Salinas) and Kurt Kitayama of Chico High. The four had a playoff to decide the NorCal medals, with Trainer taking the first-place medal with a birdie and Sako setting for fourth after a bogey.

"Those medals aren't that important," Sako said. "It's more important that we both qualified for state . . . we were both happy to be done (today) and to be going to state."

The players were able to walk the course on Sunday in 100-plus degree heat that had them drenched. Sako had never played the course, so a little course knowledge helped despite the heat. It was so hot that Sako put his shirt in the refrigerator over night to keep as cool as possible for

## ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



**Jasmine Tosky**  
Palo Alto High

The freshman swimmer set CCS records by winning the 200 IM, the 500 free and on the 200 medley relay and added another CCS mark in the 100 free leading off the 400 free relay to help the Vikings take second at CCS.



**Daniel Hoffman**  
Menlo School

The senior tennis standout won three matches at No. 1 singles while leading the Knights past M-A, St. Ignatius and Bellarmine in the CCS team tournament. His victory against the Bells clinched the team title in a 4-3 win.

### Honorable mention

**Julia Ama**

Gunn swimming

**Maggie Brown**

Menlo lacrosse

**Angela Gradiska**

Pinewood track and field

**Sarah Liang**

Palo Alto swimming

**Sunny Margerum**

Gunn track and field

**Madi Shove\***

Menlo lacrosse

**Jamin Ball**

Menlo tennis

**Charles Chisom**

Gunn track and field

**Max Glenn**

Menlo tennis

**Sarah Higgins**

Palo Alto swimming

**Tom Kremer**

Sacred Heart Prep swimming

**Martin Trainer\***

Gunn golf

\* previous winner

To see video interviews of the Athletes of the Week, go to [www.PASportsOnline.com](http://www.PASportsOnline.com)

his 18 holes on Monday.

"I wasn't feeling really well today," he explained after three-putting the 178-yard par-3 12th from about 40 feet. "At that point I was just thinking about just making another birdie or two to get in at par or better and just hope."

Sako actually did better. He pulled out his 3-wood on holes 14, 15 and 16 and quickly turned his round well, around. He birdied the par 4, 401-yard 14th, knocked a nine-iron out of the rough to just over a foot from the pin and sank another birdie putt on 15, and hit a wedge to about 18 feet and made another birdie putt at 16.

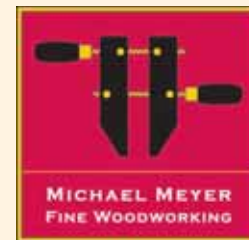
At the 172-yard par 3 17th, Sako drove it over the green and chipped it 10 feet past the hole. He made that for par. At the 403-yard par 4 18th, his birdie putt for the championship

went five feet past the hole, but he made the tough comebacker to earn a share of first.

Trainer also had a shot on the 18th hole to win the overall title, but ended up three-putting for a bogey five. Prior to that he had birdies on the par 5 13th, a 540-yarder, and at the 384-yard par 4 16th to go 3-under with two holes to play.

Trainer was shot a 1-under 35 on the front after getting a birdie on the 508-yard par 5 ninth after eight straight pars. He birdied the 10th, a 498-yard par 5, but bogeyed the 11th, a 386-yard par 4.

Trainer made up for his miscue on the 18th by drilling a 295-yard drive on the 382-yard, par-4 first hole to start the playoff. He knocked a lob wedge to within 12 feet and drained the putt to earn medalist honors. ■



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Stanford sophomore Alex Pracher was a bright spot in an 11-2 loss to UC Davis on Tuesday, throwing 4 1/3 scoreless innings.

**Stanford baseball**

(continued from page 37)

Stanford's schedule included three-game series against three of the top five ranked teams in the RPI: No. 1 Cat State Fullerton, No. 3 Texas and No. 5 Arizona State. The Cardinal won one of the nine games.

Stanford is 5-4 against the rest of the top 64 teams in the RPI. The Oregon State series represents the final chance to give the selection committee something to consider.

Pries, Friday night's likely starter, was not with the team Tuesday night because he had to take mid-term for his night class. He might have become the first player to be in the starting lineup not actually in the dugout. He was in the DH role, though Jeff Whitlow pinch hit for him the first time through the order.

"It will be nice to be at home Friday with the end of mid terms," Pracher said. "The coaching staff makes a big point of being successful in school. A good student makes a good athlete. We do have a tough task between school and baseball but that's what we signed up to do."

Against UC Davis, a pair of lengthy Stanford streaks came to an end. Colin Walsh went 0-for-4 after reaching base safely via hit, walk or hit-by-pitch in 34 consecutive games. Kellen Kiilsgaard was hitless in three at-bats, snapping his career-best 12-game hitting streak. ■

David Gonzales/Stanford Athletics

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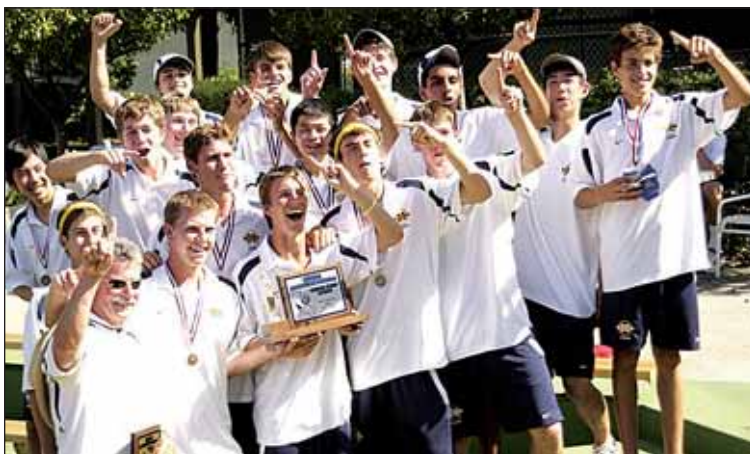
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Members of the Menlo boys' tennis team celebrated their eighth Central Coast Section team championship last week.

### CCS tennis

(continued from page 38)

No sooner had Hoffman shaken hands with Johnson that he was mobbed by his teammates in a wild celebration.

"I actually thought we had won," Hoffman said, until he noticed all his teammates moving over to his court to watch. "I figured it out pretty quickly."

As quickly as he figured out he was the clinching match, he clinched it.

"My sophomore year (in 2007) I won my match (during a 5-2 win over Bellarmine), but I didn't clinch

it. I was pretty pumped. This is what we've been working for all year."

Hoffman said there was no way the Knights were going to lose on Friday.

"We weren't going to come in here as the No. 1 seed and lose CCS," said Hoffman, who will play at Yale next fall. Menlo was a three seed in '07 when it won CCS and then beat the Bells again in the NorCal final.

For Glenn, the CCS title made up for the one he missed during basketball season. He tore meniscus in his right knee during the season and missed the Knights' CCS Division IV championship game. In fact, it was first thought that Glenn might miss the entire tennis season. But,

he recovered quickly and helped make a big impact on the tennis team, which won its 16th straight on Friday.

"This definitely does make up for it," Glenn said of the missed opportunity in basketball. "Especially after it was thought I was going to miss the season. It feels really great. Coming in, our goal was to get our last CCS title in high school."

Duggal was equally pleased to contribute this season, after Menlo was beaten in the semifinals last season. The seniors pretty much vowed not to let that happen again.

"We were really fired up to win, especially with all the disappointment of last year." ■

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- ✓ Catalytic Converters

(1 block north of Stanford Shopping Center & 2 blocks south of Downtown Menlo Park)

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# INSPIRED

to make a difference in the community

We are a city inspired by our ability to work **together** for the common good. **Community-owned utilities** provide valuable service, and they also help us **achieve** a community **vision**. That's why we're strengthening **PALO ALTO** with investments in **sustainable energy** sources, keeping community dollars in the **local economy**, and providing **responsive** maintenance. In the coming months, **overall utility** rates are expected to increase by an average of 1.4%. Just remember that every time you pay your bill, you're **supporting** something great:  
**the city we call home.**

[www.cityofpaloalto.org/inspired](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/inspired)  
(650) 329-2161



CITY OF PALO ALTO  
UTILITIES

Inspired by a brighter tomorrow.

