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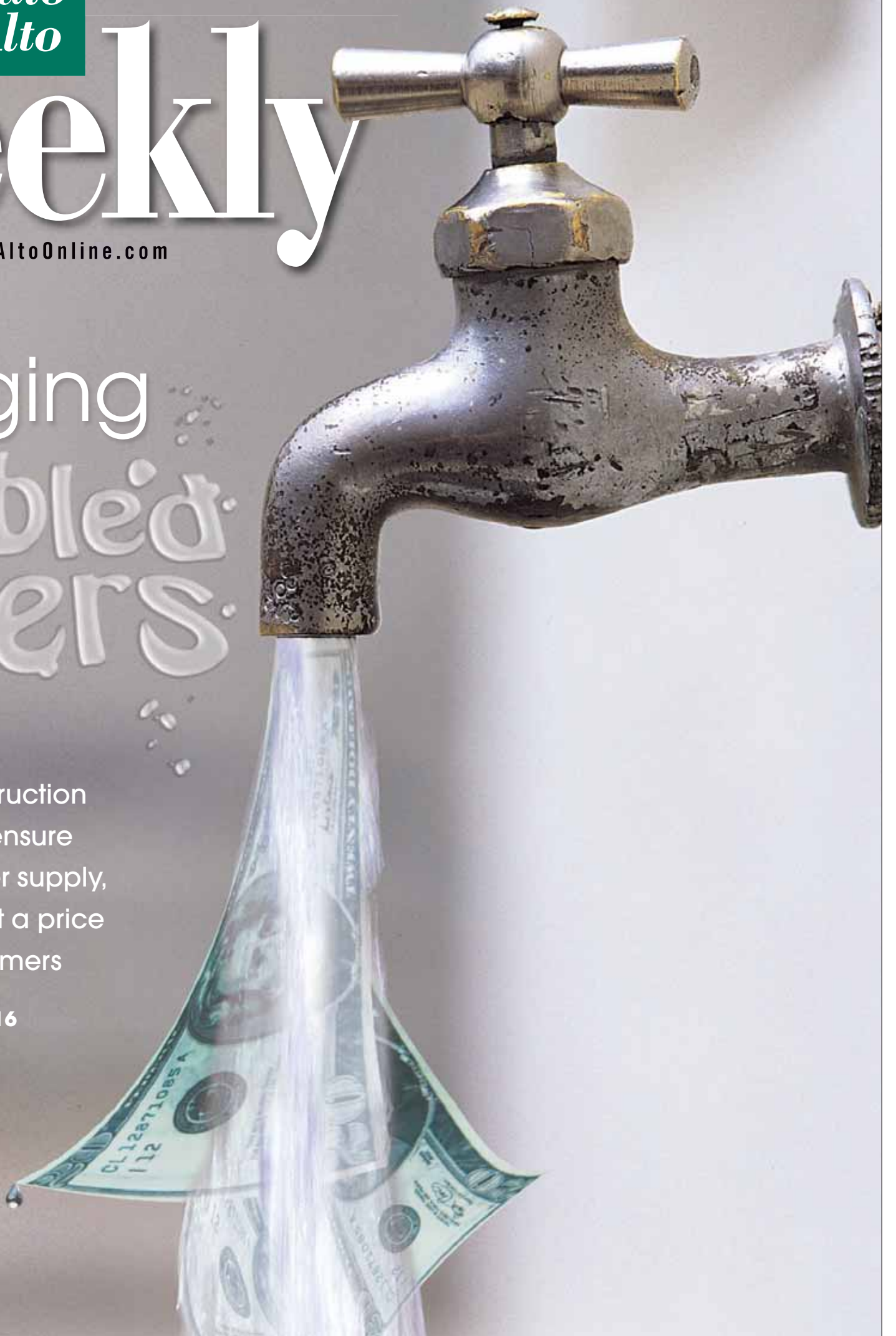
# Weekly

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## Bridging troubled waters

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but come at a price  
to consumers

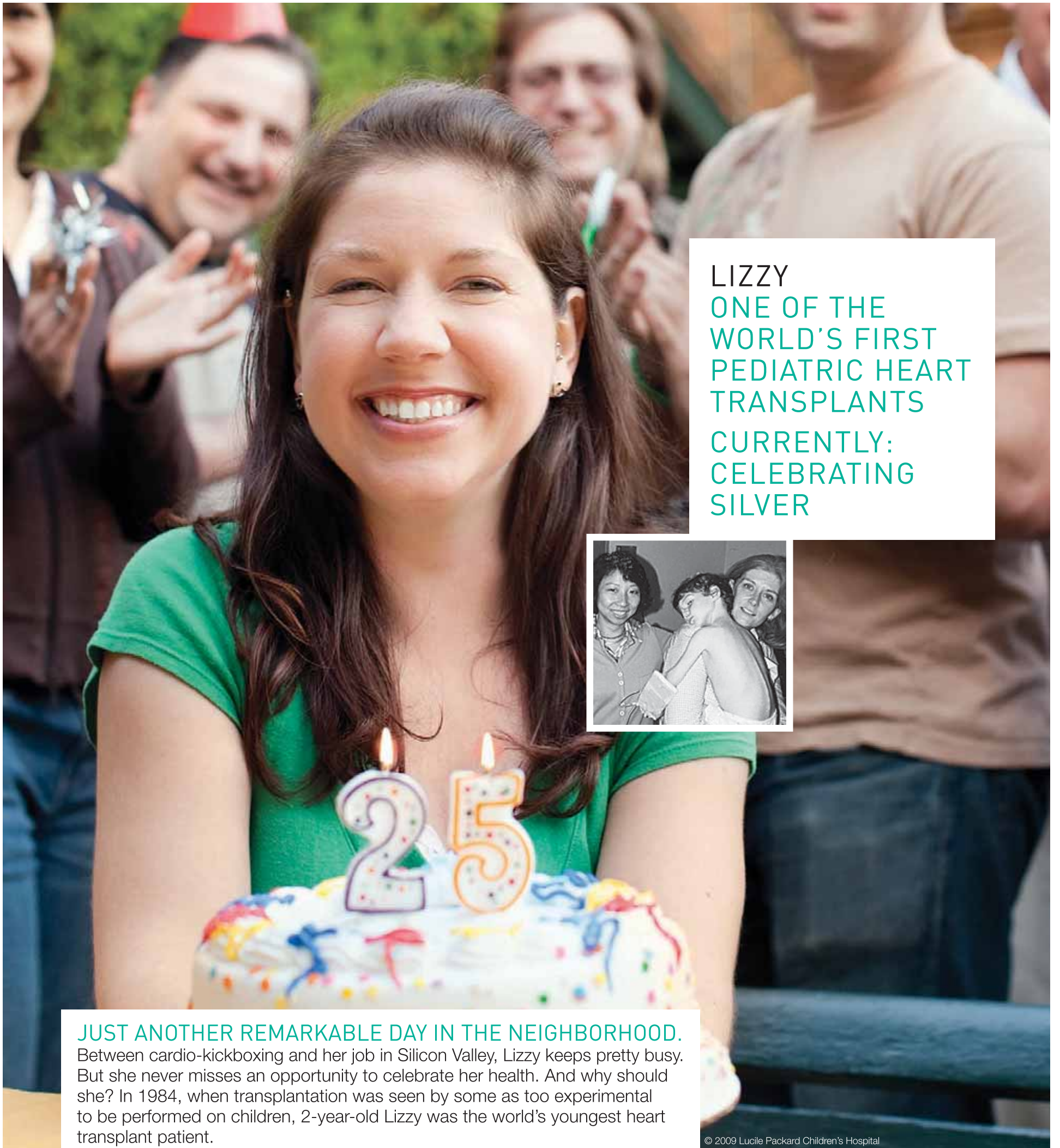
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# Upfront

Local news, information and analysis

## Cities blast state plan to 'borrow' local funds

Compromise would take bite out of county social-service programs, Palo Alto road upkeep and safety programs

by Gennady Sheyner

**P**alo Alto and other cities around California are rallying against the state budget proposal, which would dip into city and county funds to close California's \$24 billion budget gap — and take a bite out of local transportation and social-service programs.

The compromise, reached by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and leaders of the state legislature Monday and scheduled for a vote Thursday, after the Weekly's press deadline, would cost cities and counties \$4.7 billion. That includes about \$2 billion that would be borrowed and paid back

within three years, about \$1 billion withheld in gas-tax revenues and another \$1.7 billion withheld in re-development funds.

Santa Clara County stands to lose more than \$40 million — mostly in social-service programs for some of the county's neediest residents — while Palo Alto could lose \$2.4 million in property-tax revenues and about \$1 million more in gas-tax funding.

"There's no way to put a happy

face on it," said state Sen. Joe Simitian, D-Palo Alto, who formerly served as Palo Alto mayor and sat on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors. "It's grim, but it could have been worse."

Simitian said Tuesday he was hoping for a plan that would avoid taking funds away from local governments. He and other Democrats supported raising new revenues through an oil-severance tax or a cigarette tax.

But Simitian said that the proposed budget agreement succeeded in preventing other cuts Schwarzenegger had previously called for, including plans to cut the Healthy Families program, which provides insurance to children and teens, eliminate the Cal Grant program and close about 220 state parks.

"There aren't a lot of good choices left at this point," Simitian said.

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### Fatal shooting of teen in East Palo Alto

Police from East Palo Alto and Menlo Park Wednesday afternoon begin investigating the fatal shooting of 18-year-old Paris Meacham at the corner of Bay Road and Laurel Avenue in East Palo Alto. Anyone with information about a green vehicle seen leaving the scene or the shooting is encouraged to call the anonymous witness line at 800-547-2700.

Veronica Weber

### STATE BUDGET

## Agencies serving elderly and kids brace for impact

State cuts to safety-net programs could prove costlier in long run, officials say

by Sue Dremann

**T**he impact of California's looming budget cuts on health and welfare programs serving the elderly, children and persons with disabilities or low-incomes could reach a critical state, local officials said this week.

Major cuts statewide are planned for three safety-net programs: In-Home Supportive Services, CalWORKs and Healthy Families. And an additional \$1.3 billion is likely to be cut from Medi-Cal, the state's health care program for the poor.

But with many details still to be determined on how state cuts would be divided up locally, heads of nonprofit agencies and government programs are scrambling to prepare as

best they can for the unknown.

"All this is very, very serious and will have a big impact," said Gayle Zahler, associate executive director of Jewish Family and Children's Services, which has a Palo Alto center.

Some of the nonprofit's clients who are disabled or seniors receive funding through In-Home Supportive Services, which provides care ranging from domestic duties such as housekeeping to personal care such as bathing.

The state cuts would mean some clients would lose all of their care, which could push them into skilled-nursing facilities, she said.

James Ramoni, In-Home Support-

ive Services program manager for Santa Clara County, estimated that 2,000 people will lose their benefits completely, out of 16,500 clients in the county. Their attendant workers could be laid off — resulting in a loss of wages, benefits, health, dental and vision coverage, he said.

"Some (clients) don't have great need, but when they don't have someone to care for domestic needs, things can spiral out of control quickly. That's the fear," he said.

One of those likely to lose services is paraplegic Cindy Faulkner.

"I will most likely be cut," said Faulkner, an advisory-board member for the Public Authority of Santa

### SCHOOLS

## Education options shrink for local college students

In Palo Alto, state budget impacts may not hit till 2010

by Chris Kenrick

**I**n ways large and small, local schools are feeling the consequences of California's fiscal tradeoffs — not only in cuts anticipated for the coming year but also those applied retroactively for the fiscal year that ended June 30.

De Anza College will eliminate 300 classes and reduce library hours.

Some lower-grade elementary classes in Palo Alto this fall will exceed the 20-student cap and go to 21.

School officials began battening down the hatches during the spring, but the final figures were a moving target.

This week, presidents at Foothill and De Anza community colleges and officials of the Palo Alto school district still were awaiting details but had a slightly better sense of what the final picture will look like.

"We're scrambling to figure out ways to meet the demand, which is increasing, at the same time our budget is decreasing," De Anza President Brian Murphy said.

The California State University system, a transfer destination for many students coming out of community college, has announced restrictions on enrollment, meaning there will be greater enrollment at Foothill and De Anza, he said.

However, "probably 50 or 60 of our part-time faculty will lose their jobs," he said. "These are locally employed professionals for whom this is a sidebar; or (they are) the so-called 'freeway fliers,' whose whole livelihood is piecing together part-time work at three or four colleges.

"We're losing some very talented faculty, and we're concerned about that loss," he said.

De Anza will squeeze a few extra students into classes, where possible, but in many cases students simply will have to wait longer for the courses they need, he said.

In Palo Alto schools, students and faculty are unlikely to see major changes in the near term.

Superintendent Kevin Skelly declared an "aggressively conservative" strategy when drafting the district's 2009-2010 budget in May. Reserve funds and federal stimulus money will be on hand to cover retroactive cuts and those coming in 2009-2010.

But schools will face significant problems the following year.

A \$4 million to \$5 million "structural" deficit in the \$154 million operating budget will need to be addressed in 2010-2011, the district's co-chief business officer Cathy Mak warned the school board last month.

School leaders have not yet publicly addressed that issue.

At Foothill, President Judy Miner said the college is giving top priority to programs addressing basic skills, local workforce development and the needs of students transferring to four-year colleges.

"These are the three areas we're looking to save as much of the curriculum as we possibly can," she said.

However, student choices will be limited.

In the coming year, the college will phase out French, as it already has phased out German and Italian.

"We're going to have to look at other departments like that as well and see how much we can afford to do because the state will only fund us for so many students," Miner said.

"With the limitations at CSU and UC, the pressures to come to community college are larger than they've ever been.


"And because the community colleges are so important for workforce development, individuals who are getting laid off or need to retrain

(continued on page 6)

(continued on page 6)



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Upfront

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“There aren't a lot of good choices left.”  
— State Sen. Joe Simitian, D-Palo Alto, on proposed cuts to state budget. See story on page 3.

Around Town

**HOLD THE APPLAUSE ...** City Manager James Keene earned an unexpected standing ovation from the Palo Alto City Council Monday after he volunteered to trim his own salary by 5 percent. Keene, who last year eliminated the bonus program for top managers, is grappling with ways to trim the city's \$10 million-and-growing projected budget gap in the coming year. “I wanted to say how much I appreciate that he did that and to salute him for his efforts,” said Councilman Larry Klein, who announced Keene's decision. “I really prefer not to have a lot of standing ovations for this reason,” Keene responded.

**HELP WANTED ...** With just over a week left until the Senior Games, organizers are still scrambling to line up volunteers for the event, which is expected to bring more than 12,000 athletes and their families to Palo Alto and the surrounding area. Palo Alto's lawn-bowling green and golf course will be among the facilities used. Students and adults interested in helping out can learn about the available opportunities and sign up at www.2009seniorgames.org.

**LOSING OUR VOICE ...** Already at odds with the city's largest labor union, Palo Alto officials are now facing criticism from a group of non-unionized managers. Shortly after the city's salary negotiators held a closed-door negotiation session with its Management and Professional Group earlier this month, the Management and Professional Committee representing the group sent City Manager James Keene a letter expressing disappointment. According to the memo, the committee has traditionally advised the city manager on compensation issues affecting its group. But Keene's alleged refusal to recognize the committee “has marginalized the credibility of the Management and Professional Committee,” as well as its effectiveness. Keene was out of town this week and could not be reached for comment.

**TAKEN TO TASK ...** Should Palo Alto create a task force to study task forces? That idea came from resident William Cutler, who told

the City Council Monday that task forces dealing with composting, waste treatment and the Charleston-Arastradero corridor offer templates for solving problems. Then there's the “stumbling, fumbling, muddling and wrangling ways that Alma Plaza, Edgewood Plaza, the JJ&F development and, in past years, the downtown traffic calming have been handled,” Cutler said. If a new group is formed, Cutler said he'd be happy to serve.

**SELF EVALUATION ...** Wouldn't it be nice if students could grade their own papers and fill their report cards with A-pluses? Now, using the latest and greatest technology, Palo Alto officials have that power and they're not afraid to use it. The city's recently unveiled See-It website — a sleek, interactive tool that allows city officials to update residents and monitor progress on a variety of City Council priorities — features a glut of little green circles, representing “strong progress achieved” (highest possible rating), but has only a few orange circles (“moderate progress achieved”) and no red circles (“progress needed”). The stunning, graphic-heavy but somewhat elusive site (which could be accessed from the “City Council and Mayor” page of the city's website, www.cityofpaloalto.org), focuses on the three council priorities: environmental protection, economic health and civic engagement for the common good. All three proudly display green circles. Within each priority, a whole new subset of green circles greets a user, signifying strong progress in just about every strategy the city undertook for the priorities. The pleased-with-itself website also features charts residents can use to track the city's progress and to draw their own conclusions. For example, a chart about “Destination Palo Alto” shows the program helped book 17,178 “room nights” at local hotels before its last reporting date on March 30. In the previous quarter, the program helped book 18,372 book nights. How the dwindling bookings qualify as “strong progress” is not explained, but residents can opine by clicking on the Feedback tab. ■



# Software to make teens happier?

Start-up firm teams up with Stanford to offer wellness, stress management

by Chris Kenrick

Local high school students measurably reduced their feelings of depression last year after using interactive “wellness” software developed at Stanford University.

Now, a Los Altos start-up company, Thrive Research, is hoping to make similar software available on a larger scale, packaged with a social-networking component.

The online, interactive programs, developed in collaboration with Stanford’s Laboratory for the Study of Behavioral Medicine, address teen concerns such as depression risks, nutrition and fitness, body image and stress.

The for-profit Thrive Research plans to sell the software to public and private schools to deliver tailored, interactive wellness curricula on a large scale.

Researchers declined to identify the Santa Clara County public high school where the software was piloted last year, although it was not in Palo Alto. The software also was tested in Stanford freshman dorms and will continue to be offered there this fall, said Craig Barr Taylor, a Stanford professor in psychiatry and behavioral sciences.

The curriculum first walks a student through a general wellness orientation and then, based on responses, creates a “personal growth profile,” according to Thrive executives.

“It is interactive, multi-session — a session a week,” said CEO Jonathan Golding. “You get content and you log your behavioral change.”

The software tracks students’ progress in nutrition, exercise, sleep, stress, mood and social connections and provides a “Health Risk Assessment” in areas such as depression, eating disorder, sleep disturbance, alcohol and fitness.

The program encourages students to question their negative thoughts and try to replace them with more realistic and helpful ones.

“Questioning your negative thoughts is not the same as positive thinking. We are not just asking you to think about sunny beaches or golden retriever puppies. This is a bit harder.

“We are asking you to consider the negative thoughts you have about yourself and challenge them each time they come up in order to develop a more balanced and accu-

rate perspective.”

On another page, students are asked to “notice which feelings you deal with well and which ones are hard for you to express or to cope with. Which strategies work for which emotions?”

It then asks students to post to a discussion board “about the strategies you use for specific emotions,” possibly generating an anonymous discussion among students.

While the pilot software has led to improved mood and changed behavior in students, Golding and Taylor said they make no claim to know how to prevent suicide — an indirect reference to two student suicides at Gunn High School in May and June.

In June the Palo Alto school district’s director of student services told community members that a growing number of local students are being identified as emotionally disturbed, anxious and depressed.

“We’re seeing more social-emotional issues with our students than we’ve seen in a long time,” Carol Zepecki said at the time.

(continued on page 6)

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## Teen software

(continued from page 5)

The school district has an ongoing committee looking at “best practices” in student social and emotional health and is actively reviewing its programs, Zepecki said. She could not be reached for comment this week.

Constantly under improvement, the software in the future will become simpler in some ways and move toward the lessons of “positive psychology,” Taylor said.

“We want ... to use the Internet to go a step beyond what we’ve traditionally

done in health education and psycho-educational programs,” he said.

Thrive’s board of directors includes 3Com President and CEO Ron Sege and Peter Hero, former president and CEO of Community Foundation Silicon Valley.

It is an early-stage start-up seeking \$2.5 million to \$3 million in venture funding. Business development officer Mache Creeger said Thrive Research has generated “significant interest from local institutions waiting to see our final-release product,” which is due out early next month. ■

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

## Education cuts

(continued from page 3)

while they’re still employed won’t necessarily be able to get into the courses that affect their ability to be workers.

“We really hope that our community understands that, with the decrease in re-

sources, we cannot do everything we’ve always done. It’s really hard for people to understand that. When I look at the e-mails that come in, people are so angry that we’ve canceled a class — even when classes may have been popular in the past,” she said. ■

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

## Social services

(continued from page 3)

Clara County, which oversees In-Home Supportive Services.

Faulkner, who sustained a spinal cord injury 11 years ago, has relied on having a person help with groceries, cleaning her apartment, laundry and other errands four days a week for two hours each day.

“It will be hard,” she said, adding that she might ask her mother for more help.

As of July 1, Medi-Cal benefits have cut dental, optical and mental-health services, which many with disabilities have relied on, she said.

“There will be a lot of people in the emergency room for (complications of) dental care because they aren’t getting preventive care. All these cuts — it’s affected people double ways,” she said.

A shrinking Medi-Cal program will affect seniors at Avenidas’ Rose Kleiner Senior Day Health Center, said John Sink, vice president of programs. The budget includes a limit for Medi-Cal beneficiaries to three days a week instead of five and that will leave many frail older adults and those with dementia without care, he said.

About 22 adults out of 60 per day who attend the Rose Kleiner Center will be affected by the cuts, he said.

Avenidas is beginning to work with patients’ families to make other arrangements for daytime care. But “obviously, there are not many good options,” he said. “It’s a permanent change in the law without any appeal rights for patients.”

Families will also be affected by decreased state funding.

The Healthy Families program, which provides low-cost health insurance for children, is scheduled to be cut by \$124 million. And CalWORKs, the welfare-to-work program, is slated to lose \$528 million.

Karl Sonkin, regional spokesman for Northern California Kaiser Permanente, said gutting Healthy Families could have a serious but as-yet-unknown impact on preventive health care for children. The state has already frozen new applications and others could lose their benefits, Sonkin said.

The first medical care these children will receive may be in the hospital emergency room, county officials said.

“We’re trying to foresee what’s coming down the road when the budget is

in place. It’s kind of a moving target,” Sonkin said.

Kaiser’s support for clinics, such as the Ravenswood Family Health Center in East Palo Alto would continue, he added.

Cuts to CalWORKs will also affect children and families, said Denise Boland, the program’s administrator for Santa Clara County.

CalWORKs, which has served 14,000 families in the county, has seen a 15 percent increase in demand because of the economic downturn, she said.

The program has long waiting lists, she said. Many families are taking longer to find work, with large job losses in the service and retail sectors, she said. Retraining and education are vital to survival in the Bay Area, she said.

One bright spot is that new federal stimulus money will help fund programs starting in August. The state will receive \$1.8 billion and counties can draw down that fund until it is depleted, she said.

But the social impact of the cuts will affect the entire community, according to Boland.

“We’re penalizing ourselves in the long run,” she said, echoing the sentiments of other agency heads.

Santa Clara County officials are worried a \$40 million rainy-day fund could be depleted as officials try to plug up holes left by the cuts.

It’s not as if the county hasn’t already been hurting, according to Santa Clara County Supervisor Liz Kniss.

In June, the Board of Supervisors slashed \$260 million from the county’s general fund. And the state could additionally take an estimated \$40 million to \$80 million from county coffers. It could all have a huge impact on programs within the county, Kniss said.

“Since early 2000, we have cut the general fund budget every year. There comes a time when you just can’t keep a program intact anymore,” she said.

Supervisors could make additional changes to the budget in August and September, she said.

Leslie Crowell, county budget director, said few details are known at this point, so officials have no way of preparing.

“We are working vigorously with the county and with advocacy organizations. We’re still just grasping at straws. ... It’s very challenging,” she said. ■

**Staff Writer Sue Dremann can be e-mailed at [sdremann@paweekly.com](mailto:sdremann@paweekly.com).**



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**(TENTATIVE) AGENDA-SPECIAL MEETING-  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
JULY 27, 2009**

1. Proclamation for the 2009 Summer National Senior Games
2. Adoption of a Resolution Expressing Appreciation to Adam Atito for Outstanding Public Service as a Member of the Human Relations Commission
3. Adoption of a Resolution Expressing Appreciation to Donald Mendoza for Outstanding Public Service as a Member of the Human Relations Commission
4. Adoption of a Resolution Expressing Appreciation to Jeffrey Blum for Outstanding Public Service as a Member of the Human Relations Commission
5. Appointment of P&TC
6. Approval of Renewal of OIR Contract for Police Auditor Services
7. Approval of a Record of Land Use Action and Conditional Use Permit Application by AT&T on Behalf of Aldersgate Methodist Church for a 45-Foot Mono-Pine Wireless Communications Facility with Concealed Antennas and Associated At-Grade Equipment Cabinets at 4243 Manuela Avenue
8. Approval of Contract with Barry Swenson Builder in the Total Amount not to Exceed \$1,365,988 for the College Terrace Library and Child Care Center Seismic Upgrade and Rehabilitation Project and Approval of Amendment No. 2 to Contract C07117374 with The KPA Group, Inc. to Add \$108,940 for a Total Not to Exceed Amount of \$393,109 for Construction Administration Services for the College Terrace Library Seismic Upgrade and Rehabilitation Project – Capital Improvement Program Project PE-05010
9. 2nd Reading Adoption of an Ordinance Amending Section 2.40.040 of Chapter 2.40 of Title 2 of the Palo Alto Municipal Code Pertaining to Municipal Elections for Web Posting of Campaign Contributions (First reading July 6, 2009 – Passed 8-0 Morton absent)
10. 2nd Reading Adoption of an Ordinance Approving a Development Agreement between Hewlett-Packard Company and the City of Palo Alto \*Quasi-judicial (First reading July 13, 2009 – Passed 8-0 Espinosa not participating)
11. 2nd Reading Adoption of an Ordinance Increasing the Utilities Advisory Commission from Five to Seven Members and Amending Section 2.23.010 (Membership), Section 2.23.030 (Term of Office) and Section 2.23.060 (Meetings) of Chapter 2.23 of the Palo Alto Municipal Code (First reading July 13, 2009 –Passed 7-1, Barton no, Morton not participating)
12. Parks And Recreation Commission Recommendation That Council Adopt the Gym Use Policy for the Cubberley Community Center's Pavilion, Gym A and Gym B
13. Confirmation Of Appointment Of Curtis Williams As Director Of Planning/Community Environment.
14. Initiation of (1) a Zone Change from Neighborhood Commercial (CN) District to Planned Community (PC) District at 2180 El Camino Real (The New College Terrace Centre) for a Mixed Use Project Having 61,960 Square Feet of Floor Area Including 8,000 Square Feet of Grocery (Intended for JJ&F Market), 5,580 Square Feet of Other Retail, 14 Affordable One-Bedroom Residential Units, 39,980 Square Feet of Office Use, and Two Levels of Below-Grade and Surface Parking Facilities Providing 227 Parking Spaces, and (2) a Comprehensive Plan Amendment to Assign the Mixed Use Land Use Designation to a Site currently designated as Neighborhood Commercial. (Public Hearing Closed).  
\*Quasi-judicial (continued from July 13, 2009)
15. Adoption of Ordinance Amending Sections 18.10.030 (Historical Review and Incentives), 18.10.060 (Parking), 18.12.140 (Historical Review and Incentives), 18.12.060 (Parking), and 18.13.040 (Single and Two Family Uses) of Title 18 (Zoning), and Sections 21.20.010 (General Provisions) and 21.20.301 (Flag Lots) of Title 21 (Subdivisions) of the Palo Alto Municipal Code Regarding Subdivision of One Lot into Two Nonconforming Lots Where Covenants are Provided to Protect Historic Properties
16. Approval of a Trial Implementation of Phase 2 of the Charleston Arastradero Road Corridor Project - Lane Restriping on Arastradero Road
17. Adoption of a Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of Water Revenue Bonds, Approving Indenture of Trust, Official Notice of Sale, Notice of Intention to Sell, and Official Statement, Approving the Form and Authorizing Execution of Documents Related to Bond Issuance; and Authorizing Official Actions Related Thereto
18. Council Direction on Initiative Qualified for Election Regarding Defining Minimum Width of Private Streets

Upfront  
**Neighborhoods**  
*A roundup of neighborhood news edited by Sue Dremann*

**AROUND  
THE BLOCK**

**INTRODUCING ...** Two new pastors have joined Palo Alto's faith community. **Rev. Michael Love**, senior pastor, and **Rev. Laurie McHugh**, associate pastor, are now heading **First United Methodist Church of Palo Alto**. Rev. Love was ordained in 2002 and comes to Palo Alto with his spouse, Dolly, and son, Sam. Rev. McHugh came from Burlingame United Methodist Church, where she served for eight years as associate pastor. She earned her master of divinity degree from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley. She and her husband, Tim, a federal police officer, have two children, Tom and Katie.

**BEE-HAVE YOURSELF ...** A "Tweet" by a Palo Alto resident warned people earlier this week to be mindful of a **wild bee hive** at the northwest corner of **Channing Avenue and Ramona Street**. But George Bristol, a local bee-removal specialist from **Bee Buster**, says that bees are not normally of any danger to people, even during the honey bees' swarming state. A swarm can terrify, but "the swarming of honey bees is a normal reproductive act, involving 15,000 to 18,000 bees," he said. Bristol cautioned against exterminating the beneficial insects. Bee populations are in decline due to hive collapse throughout the state. "In this case, I recommend calling a professional to catch, not kill, the bees. Bees sting in self-defense, never when out foraging," he said.

**HEAR YE, HEAR YE ...** State Sen. **Joe Simitian** and U.S. Rep. **Anna Eshoo** will host a **Town Hall Meeting on high-speed rail** Saturday, July 25, at 2 p.m., in the Menlo Park City Council Chambers at 701 Laurel St., Menlo Park. The meeting is open to the public, and no RSVP is required. A live webcast will air at <http://eshoo.house.gov> and a video will be available subsequent to the meeting at [www.SenatorSimitian.com](http://www.SenatorSimitian.com). Call 650-688-6384 or 408-277-9460.

**NIGHT OUT IN MIDTOWN ...** The Midtown Residents Association will start its celebration of **National Night Out**, a community safety-awareness celebration taking place throughout the country, at 5:15 p.m. Tuesday, Aug 4. Midtown residents are invited to join a potluck supper at **Hoover Park**. You can learn more about National Night Out or find a party in your neighborhood by contacting Susie Ord in the Palo Alto Police Department at 650-329-2632. ■



Veronica Weber

*Country Day Little School students Sadie (left) Lara Botto and Pascal Descologes pick weeds in the Ventura Court garden shared by Palo Alto Community Child Care, Country Day and local residents. A new community garden will soon be built, with help from Keys School students.*

# A garden for all

*Ventura residents, students to get extended community garden*

by Sue Dremann

Sheila Mandoli's long-held dream for a larger community garden for Ventura neighborhood residents is finally coming to fruition. On Saturday, a literal ground breaking will be held for a 25-bed garden to serve local residents and Keys Middle School students.

Mandoli, volunteer coordinator of Palo Alto Community Child Care (PACCC), started a garden at the former Ventura Elementary School on Ventura Court in 1992. Twenty-two existing raised beds are currently used by residents, PACCC and the nearby Country Day Little School. But there is a waiting list, and Mandoli hopes that more spaces will encourage additional families, many who live in nearby apartments, to grow fresh vegetables and build a greater sense of community, she said.

The new garden will be built and maintained with the help of students from Keys School, which is building a new middle school abutting the Ventura Elementary soccer fields. The school will open mid-September.

The additional garden will preserve existing mature mulberry trees, suitable for climbing, and will add areas for meditation and relaxing, a possible pond and seating area and native California plants, according to Michael Thompson, head of the middle school.

The garden was designed by the outgoing eighth-grade class along with a landscape architect, he said.

Incoming eighth graders Kira Patterson and Elena Mendez Leal are looking forward to the garden, they said.

"I've never seen an actual onion grow in a garden. Now that I've seen

them, I want to grow them," Mendez Leal said, admiring the tomatoes, hot peppers and greens overflowing in beds tended by residents.

"Our school has a tradition of doing jack-o'-lantern carving with elementary-school kids," Patterson said, adding that she is looking forward to growing tomatoes and pumpkins next year.

Thompson said he sees many educational opportunities for Keys students: service-learning projects, environmental studies, genetics lessons, science projects and language arts, such as writing essays about the garden.

Already, the students' ingenuity has amazed him, he said. One boy engineered a better way to construct the wooden planting beds so they won't bow and fall apart. And students plan to construct some higher, wheelchair-accessible beds that will also help the elderly, he said.

Experienced gardeners from the neighborhood, many of whom are seniors and from China, are a key component to the expansion plan. The intergenerational aspects of the garden will be good for the students, who can learn from the elders, Thompson said.

Students also will interact with preschoolers from Country Day Little School, who were picking squash and tomatoes in the garden on a recent Wednesday morning.

"We have lunch from the garden every day. In the winter we make soup," said their teacher, Peggy Jane Triulzi.

"The part that's exciting is this

(continued on page 11)



## VA investigates glaucoma patients' treatment

*'Exhaustive' internal review found inadequate referrals; optometry chief sidelined*

by Sue Dremann

An in-depth investigation into practices by optometrists at the Palo Alto VA Health Care System found that some patients received inadequate treatment for glaucoma that led to vision loss, a spokesman said.

The investigation was initiated by officials at the Palo Alto facility after an ophthalmologist, an eye doctor specializing in eye diseases, questioned the length of time a patient was not treated before referral to his department.

The patient was sent to the doctor in January and was found to have some vision loss, Stephen Ezeji-Okoye, deputy chief of staff and the Palo Alto VA, said.

Optometrists can treat glaucoma, in accordance with VA policy, provided the treatment is done in conjunction with an ophthalmologist, he said. Optometrists can give eye drops, but ophthalmologists do more sophisticated surgeries and laser treatments, he said.

The VA policy is more stringent than a recent California law, which allows optometrists to be certified to treat glaucoma, he said.

The VA conducted the internal investigation out of concern that other patients might have been referred in later stages of their disease, he said. The VA reviewed 14,000 patient cases seen by optometrists and identified 381 as having glaucoma or suspected glaucoma, he said. Out of those, 22 were thought to possibly have progressive visual loss; 87 were tagged as having high risk for potential glaucoma problems, he said.

Seven patients were found to have

progressive visual loss and had not received adequate treatment, he said.

"We informed them ... and of the fact that we couldn't say for sure if treatment would have slowed down the progression of their disease. And we informed them of their rights (to claim for monetary damages) through the VA benefits process or tort claim," he said.

All seven patients are undergoing treatment with ophthalmologists. Two have filed tort claims. One was settled for \$87,000 and the other lawsuit has just recently been received, he said.

To rectify the situation, the chief of optometry was put on administrative leave and one optometrist was removed from clinical duties, he said. The eye department has been reorganized with more oversight by ophthalmologists, better education and awareness of the disease for optometrists and stronger referral and assessment guidelines, he said. All glaucoma and suspected-glaucoma cases are now being seen by ophthalmology, he said.

Glaucoma is tricky to diagnose, with vision loss often progressing from the periphery and not noticed by patients, Ezeji-Okoye said. In some cases, the disease is diagnosed with an elevation in eye pressure, but other factors must also be considered, such as the thickness of the cornea and changes in the optic disk and field of vision, he said.

The VA is still determining what actions will be taken, if any, against the physicians. Curtis Keswick, chief of optometry, could not be reached for comment. ■

## 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.

### Residential burglaries down from last year

Residential burglaries in Palo Alto are down from last year, but auto burglaries are up, police officials said Tuesday night. In his monthly "Meet the Chief" community briefing, Interim Palo Alto Police Chief Dennis Burns had staff members tally crime trends. (Posted July 22 at 9:31 a.m.)

### Zibibbo fire-suppression system failed

The Zibibbo Restaurant fire Saturday afternoon was caused by a cooking fire that got out of hand and flared into a hood and duct, according to a preliminary investigation by Palo Alto fire officials. But investigators want to know why a recently inspected fire-suppression system failed to activate. (Posted July 22 at 7:11 a.m.)

### Agents seize \$7 million in heroin in East Palo Alto

The largest heroin bust ever in San Mateo County occurred Tuesday in East Palo Alto when agents from the California Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement arrested a Mexican national, Adam Alfonso Herrera, and seized 70 pounds of heroin, worth about \$7 million, Attorney General Edmund G. Brown Jr. has announced. (Posted July 21 at 4:47 p.m.)

### County 'safety net' nonprofits get \$1.5 million

Several Santa Clara County nonprofits will share a \$1 million grant from the Applied Materials Foundation, it was announced Tuesday. The grant will establish an "Urgent Community Response Fund" to funnel resources to the United Way Silicon Valley's Emergency Assistance Network and other agencies that provide food, shelter and other basic services. (Posted July 21 at 3:22 p.m.)

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## Upfront

# CityView

A round-up of Palo Alto government action this week

### Public Art Commission (July 16)

**California Avenue fountain:** The commission voted to budget \$50,000 for a new fountain on California Avenue. **Yes:** Unanimous **Absent:** Einar Sunde

**Other business:** The commission noted it had received only two responses to its request for designs for artistic bike racks and decided to reissue the request in September. Election of officers was deferred to August. The commission also set a date for its retreat and discussed an advisory role for artwork at the Coronet Inn, updates for its website and guidelines for temporary art.

### City Council (July 20)

**Business License Tax:** The council voted to place a business-license tax ordinance on the November ballot. The tax would be based on employee count and take effect in the second half of 2010. **Yes:** Dreke-meier, Morton, Schmid, Kishimoto, Burt, Klein, Barton **No:** Yeh, Espinosa

**San Francisquito Creek:** The council reviewed the upstream and downstream project alternatives for the San Francisquito Creek flood-protection plan. The council recommended widening the channel downstream of U.S. Highway 101. **Yes:** Dreke-meier, Burt, Morton, Klein, Espinosa, Kishimoto, Yeh, Schmid **Absent:** Barton

### City Council Finance Committee (July 21)

**Reappropriations requests:** The committee voted to preliminarily approve reappropriations requests for the fiscal year 2009. **Yes:** Burt, Yeh, Morton **Absent:** Klein

**Energy purchase:** The committee voted to approve the Ameresco Johnson Canyon Landfill Gas Renewable Energy Power Purchase Agreement for the acquisition of up to two average megawatts of energy over 20 years at a cost not to exceed \$30 million. The committee also directed staff to work with the Utilities Advisory Commission to re-examine the goals and metrics used in the city's alternate-energy program and report back to the committee. **Yes:** Burt, Yeh, Morton **Absent:** Klein

**Ambulance billing:** The committee voted to approve the scope of services for the city's request for proposal for the ambulance-billing contract. The committee chose a scope of services that includes penalties for failure to report bills that weren't collected back to the city in a timely manner. **Yes:** Burt, Yeh **No:** Morton **Absent:** Klein

### Planning & Transportation Commission (July 22)

**Comprehensive Plan:** The commission held a study session on the Comprehensive Plan Amendment. The commission discussed the timeline for the amendment and the schedule for commission's review of the document. **Action:** None

**Ground-floor offices:** The commission voted to initiate an amendment to the city's Municipal Code to ease ground-floor restrictions in the city's commercial districts. These changes include giving property owners outside the "downtown core" district more flexibility to have offices on the ground floor. The review was prompted by growing vacancy rates in commercial areas. **Yes:** Tuma, Fineberg, Keller, Holman, Lippert **Absent:** Garber, Rosati ■

**LET'S DISCUSS:** Read the latest local news headlines and talk about the issues at Town Square at [www.PaloAltoOnline.com](http://www.PaloAltoOnline.com)

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## Garden for all

(continued from page 8)

piece of building community. It's great that our children will have up-right models," she said.

For Mandoli, it's an opportunity for Palo Alto Community Child Care to introduce a new generation to the

pleasures of the garden. The non-profit already runs a program with Walter Hays Elementary School, whose students go to Gamble Garden every other week, learn about plants and create snacks from the garden, she said.

One of the greatest benefits the garden will offer is a chance for kids and neighborhood gardeners to just

hang out together, Triulzi said.

Recently, she had a glimpse of that potential. A group of young teens were hanging out nearby and Triulzi approached them with a few of her charges. During their conversation, she learned that one of the boys played violin. She mentioned that he might like to show the instrument to the children and play for them some day.

But the boy didn't want to wait. He ran off to retrieve the instrument and returned to soulfully play for the youngsters, she said.

"This is what we do in China," the boy enthusiastically told Triulzi. "We all play together." ■

Staff Writer Sue Dremann can be e-mailed at [sdremann@pawekly.com](mailto:sdremann@pawekly.com).

## Public Agenda

**PALO ALTO CITY COUNCIL ...** The council is scheduled to discuss a grassroots initiative to create a street-width requirement for private streets. The initiative has qualified for the November ballot. The council is also scheduled to continue its review of College Terrace Centre, which includes a new JJ&F Food Store, 5,580 square feet of other retail, 14 affordable-housing units and 39,980 square feet of office space at 2180 El Camino Real. The council also plans to discuss improvements to the Charleston-Arastradero Corridor. The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Monday, July 27, in the Council Chambers at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

**PALO ALTO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ...** The commission is scheduled to hear an update on the 2009 Senior Games and to discuss the Bobcat Ridge project at the Junior Museum and Zoo. The commission is also scheduled to discuss proposed improvements to Greer Park — including the park-irrigation system, the children's play area, picnic areas, landscaping and the dog run — as well as plans for a public meeting to discuss improving recreational opportunities for dog owners. The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Tuesday, July 28, in the Council Conference Room at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

**PALO ALTO PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION ...** The commission is scheduled to hold a study session on the city's Green Building Ordinance and discuss proposed changes to compliance criteria. The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Wednesday, July 29, in the Council Chambers at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.). ■

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### Local funds

(continued from page 3)

“California is suffering from very rough economic conditions.

“State revenues dropped by about 25 percent over the last year or so.

The state will have to live within its means.”

For Santa Clara County, this means major cuts in social-service programs, said Liz Kniss, president of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors. Programs that fund in-home support for senior citizens,

health care for children and job training for low-income families could all see major cuts, she said. (See article, page 3.)

“At the county level, we literally hear people crying at the microphone because they aren’t going to get the services they’ve gotten any-more,” she said.

Palo Alto, meanwhile, would lose funding for an array of street-maintenance and traffic programs, such as Safe Routes to School. The state has proposed to take 100 percent of the city’s gas-tax revenues in the current fiscal year and 75 percent in future years. Under this plan, Palo Alto would lose about \$1.1 million in gas taxes this year and about \$856,500 next year.

Last week, the Palo Alto City Council passed a special resolution opposing a state plan to take the city’s share of gas-tax funds. The vote came about two months after a similar council resolution protesting a state plan to borrow \$2.43 million from Palo Alto’s property-tax revenues.

The seizure of local gas-tax funds would eliminate the city’s Safe Routes to School program, reduce the annual street-maintenance program by 40 percent and take funds away from other road-repair projects, a new report from the Public Works Department states.

“Hundreds of pavement segments that would otherwise receive preventive maintenance will likely deteriorate at an advanced rate and add to the city’s street-maintenance backlog,” the report stated.

Mike Sartor, Palo Alto’s assistant director of public works, said the cuts will also mean the city will have to look for new ways to pay for improvements to bike paths and pedestrian walkways and fund its membership in the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Agency.

Other cities and counties also blasted the newest state proposal for dipping so heavily into local funds. The League of California Cities called the proposed state budget a “reckless Ponzi scheme” that violates the state constitution. The League said the state is unlikely to ever repay the borrowed money and threatened to sue the state if the proposed budget is passed.

Eva Spiegel, League spokesperson, said more than 120 cities have already passed resolutions directing their legal staffs to cooperate with the League on challenging the state’s attempt to seize local gas-tax revenues. She said some of the state’s leading ballot-measure lawyers — including the firm of Nielsen, Merksamer, Parrinello, Mueller & Naylor, LLP — found the state’s plan to take local gas-tax funds unconstitutional.

“We would take action very promptly if the budget is passed as it currently stands,” Spiegel said. ■

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

# Free! Free! Free!

## East Palo Alto Children's Day in the Park

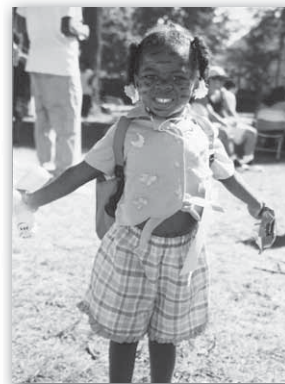
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#### Corrections

In the story on “Fiber fanatics” (Palo Alto Weekly, July 17, 2009), “ikat,” a way to create pattern in fabric by resist-dyeing, was misspelled. To request a correction, contact Managing Editor Jocelyn Dong at 650-326-8210, [jdong@paweekly.com](mailto:jdong@paweekly.com) or P.O. Box 1610, Palo Alto, CA 94302.



# Pulse

A weekly compendium of vital statistics

## POLICE CALLS

### Palo Alto

July 15-21

#### Violence related

Battery	2
Domestic violence	2
Elder abuse	2
Concealed weapon	1

#### Theft related

Checks forgery	1
Commercial burglary	1
Grand theft	6
Identity theft	1
Petty theft	14
Residential burglaries	2
Shoplifting	1
Embezzlement	1
Scam	1

#### Vehicle related

Abandoned auto	2
Auto theft	1
Bicycle theft	13
Driving with suspended license	10
Hit and run	5
Misc. traffic	3
Theft from auto	9
Vehicle accident/minor injury	9
Vehicle accident/property damage	9
Vehicle impound	2
Vehicle tow	9

#### Alcohol or drug related

Drunk in public	5
Drunken driving	2
Possession of drugs	4
Liquor law	1
Minor in possession	1

#### Miscellaneous

Casualty/fall	2
Animal call	1
Disturbing/annoying phone calls	2
Disturbing the peace	1
Found property	9
Lost property	3
Misc. penal code violation	4
Missing person	3
Noise ordinance violation	3
Other/misc.	2
Psychiatric hold	4
Suspicious circumstances	2
Vandalism	3
Warrant/other agency	7
Weapon disposal	1

### Menlo Park

July 14-July 21

#### Violence related

Battery	3
---------	---

#### Theft related

Fraud	3
Grand theft	3
Petty theft	6
Residential burglary	3

Theft undefined 1

#### Vehicle related

Auto theft	3
Driving with suspended license	3
Driving without license	2
Hit and run	4
Theft from auto	4
Vehicle accident/no injury	2
Vehicle tow	3

#### Alcohol or drug related

Drunk in public	3
Drunken driving	1
Possession of drugs	4

#### Miscellaneous

City ordinance violation	1
Dead body	2
Disturbance	2
Disturbing/annoying phone calls	1
Found property	6
Info. case	4
Lost property	1
Medical aid	1
Missing person	1
Outside assistance	1
Parole arrest	1
Property for destruction	1
Returning missing person	1
Threats	1
Trespassing	1
Vandalism	1
Warrant arrest	11

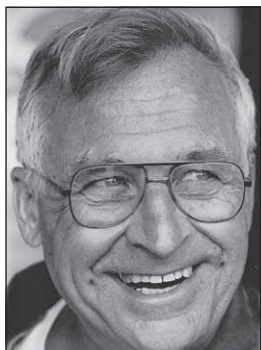
## MARY EARLINE UTTER SPITLER

Passed away June 22, 2009. Born in Carthage, MO Sept 22, 1918, 5 months after her father died in the Spanish flu epidemic. She put herself through college and graduated with a B.S. from Kansas State College in 1942. Moved to California and became a registered Occupational Therapist at USC in 1945. She later earned an M.S. in Special Ed from CSU Hayward in 1979. She married Robert Merwin Spitler June 12, 1948 in Berkeley. They were late to their wedding because Harry Truman was giving a speech in Memorial Stadium. Moved to Lawrence Lane in Palo Alto in 1960, an intentionally integrated neighborhood founded in 1949 by the Duveneks.

Active in the League of Women Voters 1953-1955, president and treasurer of the Lawrence Lane Tract Association, as a Cub Scout den mother and Girl Scout leader. She worked as an occupational therapist at the Oakland VA, Dibble Hospital in Menlo Park, Agnews and Sonoma State Hospitals retiring in 1983 as an assistant program director. Afterward she established a scholarship at her high school in Carthage for girls interested in science, and donated to Emily's List. She is survived by her two children Gregg Corley and Kim, and two granddaughters. Services have been held.

PAID OBITUARY

## EDMUND A. TOMCZAK



Edmund A Tomczak, a longtime resident of Palo Alto, died in Darien, Illinois at the age of 86 following a brief illness. An avid sports fan, Ed never missed a Stanford Women's Basketball game, and supported several Stanford teams. Ed himself was an athlete, winning the National Double's Badminton Championship in 1949. During WWII, Ed served in the U.S. Navy. After he returned, he graduated from Indiana University. From 1961-1963 Ed

lived in Toulouse, France where he worked for United Airlines on the Caravelle jet project. There he met his future wife, Anne. After returning to the U.S. he worked in purchasing for United Airlines for over 25 years. Ed will be fondly remembered for his sense of humor, gregarious nature and zest for life. He was an avid gardener, cook, and active father. He will be deeply missed by his daughters, Amy Tomczak and Tracy Noack and his son-in-law David Noack, as well as by his nieces and nephews. He is also survived by his sister, Lillian Euske, of Illinois. A Celebration of his life will be held at 2pm on Saturday August 1, 2009 at St. Albert The Great Church (Hospitality Hall) at 1095 Channing St., Palo Alto. Donations in his memory may be made to your favorite charity.

PAID OBITUARY

## DAVID ARTHUR COOKE



David Arthur Cooke died on March 30, 2009 at his Retirement Community Home in Newberg, Oregon. He was 85 years old. He is survived by his second wife, Ouida Salter Cooke, and three of his four children, Vivian C. Robins, Laurence H. Cooke, and Catharine C. Bryck. He was predeceased by his first wife,

M. Doris Hager and his son, Thomas B Cooke.

He was born on October 10th 1923, the first son of Leonard Austin Cooke and Dorothy Irma Daniel Cooke. He grew up in Santa Barbara, graduated from the Cate School in 1941, and went on to study Electrical Engineering at California Institute of Technology. In '42 he enlisted in the Navy and was sent to

complete his Electrical Engineering degree at the University of Colorado, Boulder. He was discharged in '46, and married Marian Doris Hager (Dodie) a year later. A few years after Dodie died, David moved to Palo Alto and married Ouida Salter. He worked his entire career as an electrical engineer for Westinghouse, much of it in their Sunnyvale office. During his life he completed two Masters Degrees; one in Control Systems Engineering, and a second in Safety Engineering. He was granted 9 patents and a Professional Engineering credential for control systems engineering.

In all, he was a quiet, thoughtful man, who prided himself on his use of intellect and discouraged the excessive display of emotion.

There will be a memorial honoring his life 2 pm. Saturday July 25th at the Palo Alto Unitarian church 505 E Charleston Rd, where he had been a long time member. All friends and acquaintances are welcome.

PAID OBITUARY

## NORMA JEANNE JACKSON



Norma Jeanne Jackson passed away July 20th, 2009. She died peacefully surrounded by four close friends. Norma Jeanne was born in Denver, Co on August 22nd 1930 and grew up in Wichita, Ka. She graduated with honors with a bachelor's degree in fine arts from the University

of Colorado Boulder. During her senior year she was approached by West Point Academy as a candidate for officer training. She also had an offer from Hallmark to be one of their artists. Norma Jeanne later took a graduate course in Cartography. She also has a masters of fine arts from Stanford University. Norma Jeanne was employed locally by Gouache map making company and later by the US Geological Survey. Her work at The Survey was considered exceptional. She mapped the floor of the Santa Barbara harbor from measurements given her by the geologists. Norma Jeanne also designed the prize winning cover for The Survey's decade of underwater research.

In Menlo Park she was a favorite personality at Starbucks coffee shop where she befriended many of the local youth. She was a good friend to firefighters, policeman, and society matrons among others.

She was a sports enthusiast with a fondness for the Giants. She was active in Menlo Park Presbyterian church and worked in the local print shop for 6 years. She started a Bible study at Woodside Terrace retirement home in Redwood City that is still going strong to this day. It is presently being led by her former primary care doctor.

Despite surviving many illnesses and setbacks Norma Jeanne was always very brave and strong of spirit. She had a very strong personality and a great sense of humor. She loved and was loved by many people. She was always empathetic to others and was there to lend her support. Norma Jeanne was famous for her zest for life and her warmth to all those that surrounded her. She had no family of her own, but is survived in death by best friends Doris, Marilyn, Matt, Geraldine, Aydee, Consuelo, Viene, and Enedina. A two day viewing will be held in Menlo Park at Spangler Mortuary on 7/28 and 7/29 from 6-8:30pm. Services will be held on Friday the 31st at Menlo Park Presbyterian Church starting at 2pm with a reception afterwards.

PAID OBITUARY

### Answers to this week's puzzles, which can be found on page 51

S	M	O	K	I	N	H	O	T	L	I	M	N	S
T	U	R	N	T	A	B	L	E	A	W	A	I	T
U	N	D	E	R	G	O	E	S	V	O	D	K	A
P	I	N	E	Y	F	I	L	E	S	L	I	N	
I	T	A	L	P	A	N	A	M	R	I	T	Z	
D	I	N	L	O	M	B	A	A	B	A	A	A	
S	O	C	I	A	L	I	M	P	A	C	T		
N	E	W	M	I	L	L	E	N	N	I	U	M	
E	A	S	Y	B	A	K	E	O	V	E	N		
S	Q	U	A	S	H	G	E	D	F	A	E		
P	U	R	R	E	C	A	R	D	S	I	T	S	
R	A	S	A	R	U	B	A	A	L	L	I	T	
I	H	U	R	T	L	O	V	E	H	O	T	E	L
T	O	L	E	T	O	V	E	R	O	B	E	S	E
E	G	A	D	S	T	E	L	E	P	O	R	T	S

8	2	4	9	3	6	7	5	1
5	6	3	8	1	7	4	9	2
7	1	9	5	4	2	6	3	8
2	9	6	3	5	4	8	1	7
3	7	8	2	9	1	5	6	4
1	4	5	7	6	8	3	2	9
4	3	7	1	2	5	9	8	6
6	5	1	4	8	9	2	7	3
9	8	2	6	7	3	1	4	5



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## Editorial

# Airport land adds twist to compost dialogue

*Palo Alto Airport enthusiasts object to being left out of 'compromise solution' to long-running composting debate*

**T**he fact that nothing is simple in Palo Alto is borne out in the latest twist to the decades-old discussion on whether or not to keep composting local or truck it someplace else.

Last week a compromise "breakthrough" agreement was reached on how to keep composting local — which makes sense in terms of fuel costs, energy use and pollution relating to trucking compost materials out of town.

But Monday night several loyalists of the Palo Alto Airport complained to the City Council that they have been left out of the loop in terms of a key element of the compromise: relocating a portion of Embarcadero Road onto a vacant, 4-acre portion of airport land.

Oops. Moving Embarcadero would create a new area for both interim and permanent composting operations adjacent to the Palo Alto Wastewater Treatment Plant, well away from dedicated parkland.

Bob Wenzlau of the city's Blue Ribbon Compost Task Force, who came up with the compromise plan, is now opening a dialogue with members of the Palo Alto Airport Association, which represents aircraft owners and airport-based businesses. The fact that Wenzlau's idea surfaced and was endorsed unanimously by the task force within a matter of days explains the omission.

Ralph Britton, president of the airport association, said a small group of task force and association members will soon discuss whether moving Embarcadero and the airport's future are compatible.

But the issue is bigger than either or both groups. There is a question of whether the airport has a long-term future, and whether roadway relocation is consistent with a Santa Clara County lease to operate it. There also are Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requirements for airports, even a small but busy one such as Palo Alto's.

The county has informed the city that it wants to end its lease by 2017, possibly sooner. The question of whether the city wants to assume the responsibility — and financial risk — of running its own airport is "up in the air," as one observer noted.

The fact that Embarcadero relocation would occupy only about 4 acres of the 100-acre airport lease area seems to be a fairly minor intrusion, but all stakeholders need to be consulted.

There is also irony in the road-realignment plan: When the county assumed the airport lease in 1964 it invested about \$1 million in moving Embarcadero Road south to its present location, creating a dog-leg turn at the sewage-treatment plant — the road once extended straight out to the now-closed Palo Alto Yacht Harbor.

In past years, revenue-conscious county airport officials made several proposals to use the vacant parcel along Embarcadero, including as a site for a new terminal, another fixed-based operator business, and (in 2005) additional hangars. But city officials have consistently opposed airport expansion or use of that area.

Director of Airports Carl Honaker said the airport now either breaks even or "in good times" makes a modest profit in day-to-day operations. Yet that falls far short of funding significant upgrades or maintenance required every decade or so, he said. Honaker, who once served as base executive officer at Moffett Field Naval Air Station, noted that the county had approached the city several times about expanding revenue potential to offset the full cost of airport operations. But city restrictions made long-term operation economically unfeasible.

The relatively small group of several hundred special-interest advocates and airport-based businesses face a formidable challenge: They must convince city officials and the public that the airport is feasible as a city operation, notwithstanding its long, worthy history that dates back to the early 1900s.

That dilemma will resurface when the city finally confronts whether to continue the airport, which clearly has advantages in terms of emergency and medical situations, making Palo Alto more attractive to major businesses and being a sub-regional general-aviation airport.

City officials have yet to grapple with whether to keep the airport alive. We see little chance that they are ready to assume such a potential financial responsibility and risk.

But in the near term every effort should be made to find a way to use that 4-acre parcel to resolve the composting quandary.

# Spectrum

Editorials, letters and opinions

## 'Humanitarian' mission

Editor,

There has been much speculation regarding the "humanitarian" boat belonging to the Free Gaza Movement that Israel intercepted before it reached Gazan waters. Jagjit Singh's latest allegations in the Palo Alto Weekly, published July 17, represent an irresponsible and untrue perspective that defies common decency and logic.

Mr. Singh presents the "seizure" of this boat as "a gross act of piracy." He fails to mention that Israel delivered the humanitarian goods that were on board to Gaza, through legitimate border crossings.

The Free Gaza boat was intercepted because Israel is currently in a state of war with Gaza's leaders. Israel has already prevented several arms shipments intended for Hamas, the terrorist group that runs the territory and that has declared an eternal jihad against Israel.

The Free Gaza movement openly supports Hamas (illegal under both Israeli and American law). Every journey to Gaza the group makes is a publicity stunt meant to garner support for this radical Islamist movement, and to antagonize Israel.

Israel provides food and medical aid to Gaza every day. Mr. Singh's contention that the aid does not reach those who need it the most is due to the actions of Hamas, not Israel. In fact, Hamas has several times attacked Israel's border crossings, forcing them to close, so that they can then complain that Israel is not delivering aid. If Mr. Singh would like to protest on behalf of Palestinians, I suggest that he speak out against the Hamas thugs — the real cause of suffering.

Stephen Fisher  
Atherton Avenue  
Atherton

## Political points

Editor,

Jagjit Singh ("Israel, release humanitarian boat," July 17) brands Israel as inflicting collective punishment on the Gazan population with its recent seizure of a vessel. Israel allows humanitarian aid through maintained land crossings so as to minimize illegal weapons smuggling.

Lawless landing outside the provenance of customs is not the recipe for honest brokers of international aid.

If the so-called humanitarians were concerned about goods getting into Gaza, why couldn't they coordinate with neighboring Egypt?

Rather than help the Palestinians, they prefer to score political points.

Gur Hoshen  
Carver Drive  
Cupertino

## This week on Town Square

### Distressed by discourse

Posted July 21 at 7:44 p.m. by  
*Civil Minded Palo Altan:*

I ... feel very embarrassed by the way many of my fellow Palo Altans who disagree with other Palo Altans react. Whether we are talking about some changes in the law for dog owners, to whether Foothills Park should be opened to non-residents or the latest bitter debate — the worth of the airport — we seem to be unable to discuss these issues in a civil manner.

The fact that we may disagree is fine, but it is the attitude of self-righteousness on whichever side of the argument the writer is taking, that makes their anonymous rantings hard to accept.

We are all different and have different opinions. That is the way it should be. We all like to voice our opinions and enjoy the right to do so. That is also the way it should be. But, we should be able to accept that our neighbors' opinions

are as valuable as our own without reducing the debate to playground squabbles.

While talking about leash laws, or local pilots, or even parents of wild teenagers, when we say some of these things, if this were about race or religion it would be classed as close to something we dare not mention. But because it is about a less PC subject matter, many of us feel that almost anything goes. This, should not be the case.

I get on very well with all my neighbors and people I meet in and about Palo Alto. ... It just seems hard to believe that these very same people are the ones that can't post civilly (on Town Square).

Next time we come across an opinion that differs from our own, we should take a deep breath before letting our fingers run free on our keyboards and another deep breath before hitting submit.

Remember, the next deleted post might be our own.

## YOUR TURN

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

**What do you think?** Should Palo Alto continue to operate the Palo Alto Airport after its lease to Santa Clara County expires?

Submit letters to the editor of up to 250 words to [letters@paweekly.com](mailto:letters@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.

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For more information contact Editor Jay Thorwaldson or Online Editor Tyler Hanley at [editor@paweekly.com](mailto:editor@paweekly.com) or 650-326-8210.





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# Bridging troubled waters

New construction projects ensure steady water supply, but come at a price to consumers

by Gennady Sheyner

The picturesque Pulgas Water Temple towers over a turquoise pool in a leafy grove by the Santa Cruz Mountains. Composed of a stone well surrounded by 10 columns, it stands a chain-link fence away from a crew of construction workers who are replacing rusty pipes and mending deep-set cracks in a water channel that runs past the temple and toward the shimmering Crystal Springs Reservoir.

The stone shrine — built in 1934 next to the southern rim of Crystal Springs — celebrates the beauty, abundance and value of the fresh water Bay Area communities managed to siphon off the snow-topped Sierras in the early years of the 20th century. The water, considered among the cleanest in the world, runs from Yosemite, through the 459-mile Hetch Hetchy system and splashes out of the showers, faucets and sprinkler systems of Palo Alto and more than 20 other Bay Area cities and water agencies.

But while the temple invokes a sense of quiet triumph, the faint sound of an electric saw whirring in the background, beneath a fountain of orange sparks, serves as a reminder that man's tenuous victory over nature comes at a high price. Cities that buy water from Hetch Hetchy not only have to pay a hefty sum to maintain the crumbling infrastructure, but they also have to

plan ahead for global warming and population growth — factors that could turn the bountiful resource into a scarce commodity.

The San Francisco Water Department began its renovation of the aging Pulgas channel July 15, but plans to refurbish it have been in the works for several years — part of San Francisco's \$4.4 billion effort to renovate the entire Hetch Hetchy system. Last week, workers began replacing corroded pipes, fixing the cracks at the bottom of the stone channel and reinforcing the sides of the channel with steel plates.

The Pulgas work is one of about 85 parts of the Water System Improvement Program, which San Francisco launched in 2002 and targets seismically shaky dams, reservoirs and pipes all along the Hetch Hetchy system.

The overall work plan also includes 14 Peninsula projects, including three near the water temple. The projects, which also include retrofitting the walls of the reservoir and upgrading the dechlorination facility near Crystal Springs, are scheduled to be completed in 2012.

While Palo Alto water customers have little reason to pay attention to the work near the Pulgas Temple, their water bills are a clear indicator of spiking infrastructure costs tied to

the cranes and hard hats around the reservoir.

This month, Palo Alto water bills — already among the highest in the mid-Peninsula region — went up by 5 percent. A year from now, they are projected to rise by another 7 percent. Then 8 percent, then 9 percent and then 9 percent again.

A 5 percent increase may be a drop in the bucket for many Palo Alto residents, but the drops are expected to add up. Palo Alto's Utilities Department estimates that the price of water it buys wholesale from San Francisco will triple between what it was in 2006 and what it will be in a decade or so. The average resident's bill — which went from \$68 to \$72 this month — is expected to double over the same time period, said Jane Ratchye, assistant utilities director.

"If you look at what's happening with the rates, they've already started down this path," Ratchye said.

The major construction projects (and, consequently, the swelling water bills) may help explain why Palo Alto's water-efficiency programs are drawing more interest from residents these days and why native-plant gardens are becoming trendier among local landscapers. But Palo Altans may soon have other long-term incen-

## New tunnels, pipes eyed for Peninsula

Major water-system project aims to make Peninsula's aging infrastructure more sturdy, efficient

by Gennady Sheyner

Other cities have hurricanes, wildfires and floods — San Francisco has earthquakes. And nothing gets a major water project moving faster in northern California than a major quake, said Maureen Barry, spokesperson for the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission.

An earthquake prompted the creation of the Hetch Hetchy system, and earthquakes (both the real one in 1989 and the prospective "Big One" that scientists from the United States Geological Survey say has a 62 percent chance of rattling the Bay Area before 2032) became catalysts for the current, \$4.4 billion renovation.

After the 1906 earthquake reduced nearly 500 San Francisco blocks to rubble and left the city burning for three days, residents clamored for a sturdy, publicly owned water utility to replace the hodge-podge of water wagons, rudimentary pipe systems and small reservoirs that characterized the city's water system in the 19th century.

The current Water System Improvement Program — the primary driver of the soaring wholesale costs — was also born after a major earthquake. After the 1989 quake, San Francisco began working with a myriad of state and federal agencies on a comprehensive plan to improve the crumbling infrastructure and ensure that it stays intact if another big one hits.

Even wholesale customers, who use about two-thirds of the Hetch Hetchy water and would pay an equal proportion of the cost, jumped on board. Art Jensen, CEO of the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency, said \$4.4 billion only sounds expensive until you consider the consequences of not rebuilding the aging infrastructure. The agency heads represents the 26 wholesale customers who purchase water from San Francisco.

"That the whole cost was going to double or triple is something that was known for a long time," Jensen said. "But we also know that the consequence of not doing WSIP is possibly going 60 days without water after an earthquake."

The high level of support the project has attracted from the myriad of stakeholders it will affect is in many ways unusual. Water officials were pleased to see that the environmental review for the project sailed through San Francisco's legislative

process without a legal challenge — a rarity for a project of this cost and magnitude.

"I think everyone agrees that this series of improvements is absolutely essential for the Bay Area," Palo Alto City Councilman Larry Klein said. "If we have a major earthquake and the Hetch Hetchy system broke, Palo Alto is one of many places that would be hit."

The grand project will become more visible on the Peninsula next spring, when water officials expect to begin construction of a new 9-mile pipeline that will stretch through the Peninsula into Menlo Park and East Palo Alto. The project — approved by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission on July 14 — is part of \$597 million worth of work that also includes a new 7-mile tunnel in the East Bay and 5-mile tunnel under the San Francisco Bay.

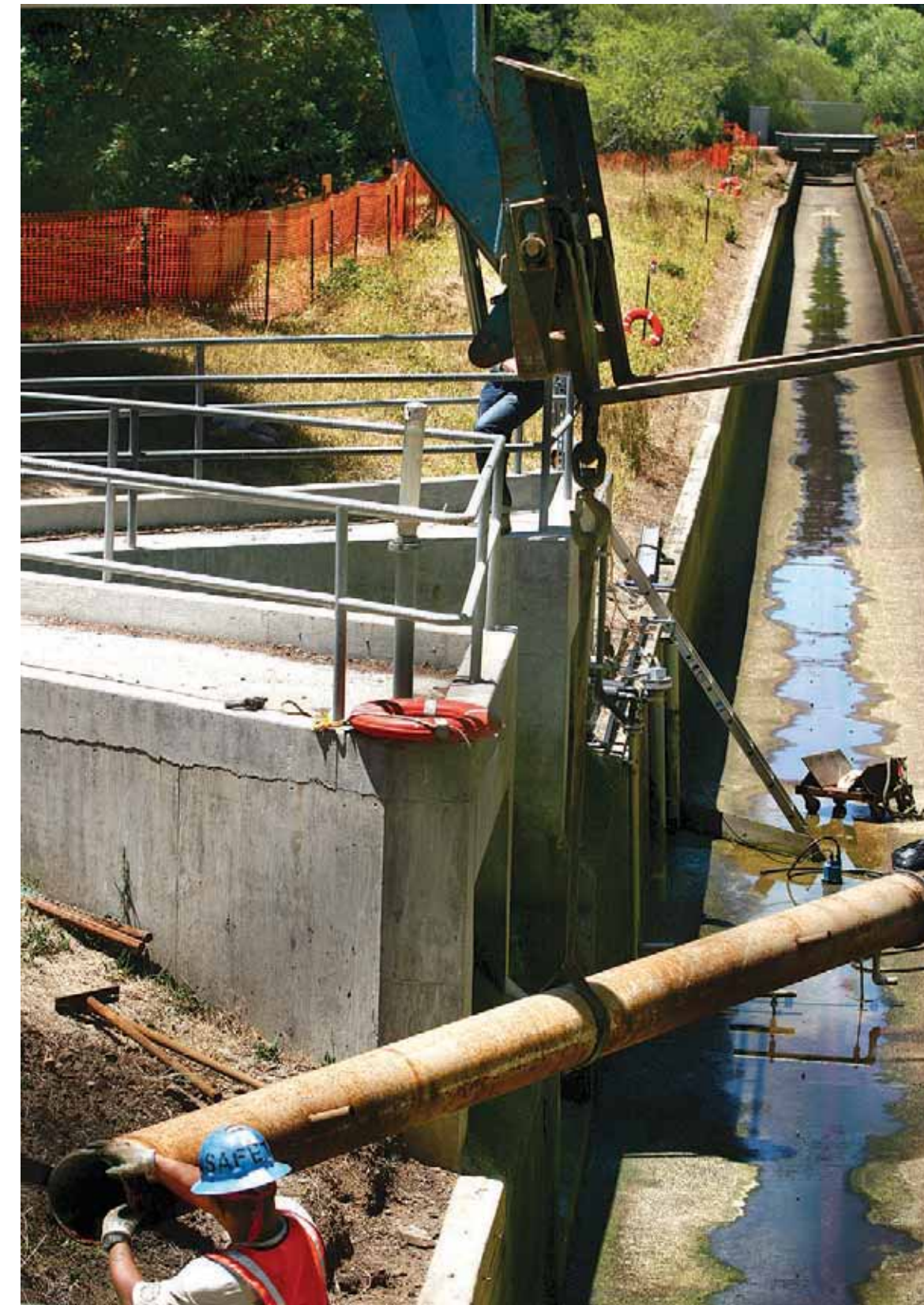
Ed Harrington, general manager of the Public Utilities Commission, said these projects will improve the water system's ability to withstand an earthquake.

"The new pipeline and tunnel will serve as a lifeline, with seismically engineered fault crossings and tie-ins to existing facilities, ensuring that Bay Area customers will receive water following an earthquake," Harrington said in a news release announcing the newly approved projects.

The ambitious water program also includes at least a dozen other projects in the Peninsula area. These include building a water-transmission system between the Crystal Springs Reservoir, the San Andreas Reservoir and the pump station at the Harry Tracy Water Treatment Plant in San Bruno; seismic and electrical upgrades at the Harry Tracy plant, and a new 4,200-foot tunnel stretching along an existing tunnel on San Mateo County land, and bringing water in from the East Bay to the Crystal Springs Reservoir on the Peninsula.

Barry said the Water System Improvement Program will cover dozens of sections of the water system that haven't been repaired or even inspected in decades. It also entails installing redundant pipelines and tunnels to make sure people's water service remains uninterrupted during construction.

"The demand for water is so great that we can't just take pipes out of service," she said. ■



Construction crews move a pipe last week as they fix a canal near Crystal Springs Reservoir.



Veronica Weber



Veronica Weber

At top, Crystal Springs Reservoir in San Mateo County, seen here from state Route 92, is a man-made lake that stores Hetch Hetchy water. Below, cracks along the canal that transfers Hetch Hetchy water to Upper Crystal Springs Reservoir will be repaired as part of a \$4.4 billion effort to renovate the water system.

### Planned local work on Hetch Hetchy Water System



Source: San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

1. Lower Crystal Springs dam improvements  
San Mateo County  
Construction: Feb. 2011 to March 2012  
Cost: \$36 million
2. Crystal Springs Pipeline No. 2 replacement  
San Francisco through Hillsborough  
Construction: May 2011 to March 2013  
Cost: \$80 million
3. New Crystal Springs bypass tunnel  
Unincorporated San Mateo County  
Construction: Dec. 2008 to Sept. 2011  
Cost: \$95 million
4. Bay Division Pipeline reliability upgrade: pipeline  
Fremont, Newark, Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, Redwood City  
Construction: Feb. 2010 to Aug. 2012  
Cost: \$246 million
5. Bay Division Pipeline reliability upgrade: tunnel  
Newark, Menlo Park  
Construction: Jan. 2010 to Dec. 2014  
Cost: \$351 million
- 6, 7, 8. Bay Division Pipeline Nos. 3 and 4 crossovers  
Santa Clara, Palo Alto, Atherton  
Construction: Aug. 2009 to March 2013  
Cost: none listed

tives to turn down their faucets.

Last month, the City Council endorsed a new water-supply contract with San Francisco — the first such agreement in 25 years. For the past quarter century, the terms between San Francisco and its wholesale customers have been guided by a legal settlement. After San Francisco proposed major rate hikes for its wholesale customers and smaller increases for its own residents in 1974, Palo

Alto led a long and bitter lawsuit against its water provider. The settlement was finally hashed out in 1984. It expired last month.

The new contract — considered a huge milestone for the 26 agencies that buy water from San Francisco — allots 184 million gallons of water per day to San Francisco's wholesale customers until 2018 and allows these customers to sell portions of their allocations to other jurisdictions. Water

officials say this new provision could potentially serve as a carrot for cash-strapped cities with water to spare.

Among the biggest beneficiaries could be Palo Alto, which city officials acknowledge has been receiving a sweet deal from San Francisco over the past 25 years. Palo Alto's share of water from San Francisco has been 17 million gallons per day. That al-

(continued on next page)



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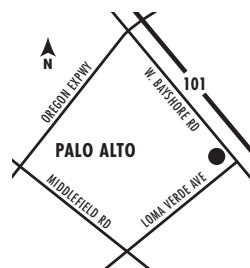
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Veronica Weber/file photo

Native plant gardens, such as resident Vicky O'Day's, require less water and feature vegetation mainly from Northern California.

## Water

(continued from previous page)

lotment won't change with the new contract, even though the city uses only about 13.5 million gallons of water.

Mayor Peter Drekmeier, who works as a program director for the Tuolumne River Trust, called Palo Alto's allotment the second-most generous among the 26 agencies that make up the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (only Hayward, which is guaranteed an unlimited supply, has a better deal). He noted that Redwood City, which has a larger population than Palo Alto, is entitled to less than 13 million gallons per day.

Drekmeier's group has been among the leading proponents of including a cap-and-trade clause in the new contract. Under this provision, Palo Alto could make money by selling some of its allotment to other communities and use the proceeds to further enhance its water-conservation programs, he said.

At a recent council discussion of the new water contract, Palo Alto Councilman Greg Schmid also expressed enthusiasm about the new provision, which he said could give water-rich communities an inducement to conserve water and give thirstier communities new options for expanding their supply.

"An effective cap-and-trade market could generate real incentives for conservation among some buyers," Schmid said. "It could be tailored to people who really need it and could really benefit everyone in the Bay Area."

But while the cap-and-trade system offers cities a carrot for conservation, another provision in the new contract provides a stick. Under the new agreement, if the wholesale customers collectively use more than 184 million gallons per day, San Francisco would fine those cities that exceed their individual quotas. The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, which oversees the water system, expects to set these quotas in December 2010.

The clause is intended to address the Bay Area's greatest challenge: population growth. The Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA) expects the population in its service area to grow by about 16 percent between 2007 and 2030. Water usage over

the same span is projected to climb to about 208 million gallons per day — far more than the 184 million gallons San Francisco currently allots to its wholesale customers.

Extended droughts could make the situation worse, as could global warming, which Drekmeier said is expected to reduce the Sierra snow-cap by 20 to 50 percent.

"There's going to be a lot more people and less water available," Drekmeier said. "The thing we have to do now is prepare for that uncertain future."

Faced with the grim numbers, BAWSCA is now working on its own long-term plan for water conservation, said Art Jensen, the agency's CEO. Jensen told the Palo Alto council in May that the plan will include water-efficiency measures and capital projects agencies could consider adopting to ensure a stable water supply in the coming years. Among the biggest challenges, he said, is finding ways to improve the system's water-storage capacity.

'There's going to be a lot more people and less water available. The thing we have to do now is prepare for that uncertain future.'

—Peter Drekmeier, mayor, City of Palo Alto

Palo Alto Councilman Larry Klein, who sits on the BAWSCA board of directors, said the threats of global warming, future droughts and population growth all offer Palo Alto and its Bay Area neighbors major incentives to turn down their collective faucets in the coming years. The prospect of paying a surcharge for using too much water only adds one more.

"Part of the water-supply contract is looking at future demand and planning for increased water conservation," Klein said. "We'll have to redouble our conservation goals."

Ratchye, who is in charge of Palo Alto's water supply, offered a blunter assessment.

"I think the whole system is at a very high risk of water shortages," Ratchye said. "I think we are, even without additional people, always





Clifford Pham

A golfer takes a swing last week at the Palo Alto Municipal Golf Course, which the city maintains with recycled water.

at risk — but it could easily get worse with climate change and more people.”

The cost of retrofitting the Hetch Hetchy system may be the primary reason why the average Palo Alto water bill is marching toward triple digits, but it's hardly the only one. Nor does it explain why Palo Alto's residential customers pay more for water than, say, Redwood City customers, who also buy from San Francisco and are also chipping in for the repairs but who, in the last fiscal year, paid an average of \$50.72 a month for water, compared to \$68.79 in Palo Alto.

According to a survey BAWSCA released earlier this year, Palo Alto's average monthly water bill was the fifth highest among the 27 agencies (Hillsborough, Skyline, Purissima Hills and California Water Service were the only four BAWSCA members ahead of Palo Alto. Since the survey, California Water Service acquired Skyline, placing Palo Alto in fourth).

Utilities staff say one major reason for Palo Alto's high bills is the city's intense maintenance program. A February report notes that over the past several years the city has been pursuing “an aggressive Capital Improvement Program to rehabilitate or replace aging water-distribution infrastructure.” The city's capital budget allocates \$4.4 million this fiscal year for upgrades on the water-distribution system and \$24.3 million over the next five years.

This week, for instance, the Palo Alto council authorized a \$5.2 million contract for the installation of 33,515 linear feet of new water main and 51 new fire hydrants. A staff report released last week notes the city needs to replace “existing water mains that begin to show signs of extensive corrosion or become subject to recurring breaks, typically cast iron pipes.”

Ratchye said the city has been methodically replacing and upgrading the aging infrastructure of all of its utilities over the past 15 years or so. “I believe we have a capital program that is larger than average,” Ratchye said. “We also have an older system, and we're now going through it and replacing it.”

At the same time, Palo Alto is

preparing its own elaborate earthquake-protection plan: an underground reservoir capable of storing 2.5 million gallons of water. If the Hetch Hetchy system were to crumble in an earthquake, the reservoir under El Camino Park would keep the city afloat for 30 days.

This fall, Palo Alto plans to issue \$35 million worth of bonds to pay for the new tank and a series of related emergency-water-supply improvements. The city issued its request for proposal for pre-design of the new reservoir last month and expects to commence construction in fall of 2010.

Palo Altans upset about the skyrocketing water rates should also reserve some blame for themselves. Palo Alto, after all, is proud of its lush canopies, verdant lawns and landscaped gardens — even if they have to pay the price. Trees, after all, aren't just a perk in Palo Alto — they are a part of the city's very identity.

Peter Drekmeier, who is one of the city's leading proponents of using more recycled water, says Palo Altans' landscaping habits are the prime reason they use close to 120 gallons of water per capita per day, roughly twice as much as their neighbors in East Palo Alto.

“Palo Alto takes a lot of pride in being a lush city,” Drekmeier said. “It's Tree City, USA. People enjoy their lawns and that takes a lot of water.”

The city tries to mitigate this problem by using recycled water to maintain the Palo Alto Municipal Golf Course and Greer Park. Palo Alto also plans to extend the system soon to Mountain View and, some day, to Stanford Research Park — where some of the biggest corporations water their vast green courtyards with potable water.

But Drekmeier and Klein both said the city's high water consumption offers a lot of low-hanging fruit — simple measures residents can adopt to conserve.

One major step would be to populate local gardens with native plants, which require little water, Drekmeier said. One local gardener, Kirsten Essenmacher, said the switch to native-plant gardens is already generating major momentum around town.

Three years ago, Essenmacher started a native-plant garden in her Channing Avenue home. Since then, the ranks of admirers of the new garden have been growing as fast as the plants.

In April, about 450 people came over during the city's annual native-garden tour to check out her path-lined garden and its arrangement of sages, grasses, persimmons, coffee berries, snow berries and other native species. That's more than twice the number who showed up just a few years ago, she said.

One reason for the renewed interest, Essenmacher said, is California's drought — presently in its third year — and the conservation ethos it inspired. The native-plant garden, she said, uses about 70 percent less water than a traditional suburban-style garden filled with wide swaths of grass and non-native staples such as azaleas and rhododendrons.

“More people are wondering how to reduce their water,” Essenmacher said. “This large rate increase we've been having in the

(continued on next page)

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## Water

(continued from page 19)

past three years and the drought made people more aware of all the environmental issues.”

Essenmacher said many local gardeners are exploring a “new aesthetic” that represents a departure from the traditional East Coast look. People are also discovering that native-plant gardens don’t have to be limited to prickly, cactus-like plants, she said. And the more they learn, the more they replicate.

Palo Alto officials are also seeing signs of hope in the numbers of residents who participate in city programs that offer rebates for water-efficient measures. Joyce Kinnear, who manages the city’s utility marketing services, said native-garden tours and news of water shortages have prompted a renewed interest in such offerings as the Water Efficient Landscape Rebate Program, which pays up to \$2,000 to residents who replace water-intensive landscaping (such as lawn) with drought-tolerant plants.

Based on past experience, the city budgeted for 10 participants to sign on per year. But between last June and April, 142 Palo Alto residents applied for a rebate, according to a staff report.

Palo Alto also partners with the Santa Clara Valley Water District on water audits, rebates for low-pressure toilets and efficient washing machines and distribution of free, low-flow showerheads. And while numbers have been encouraging, Kinnear says there’s still much work to be done.

“I think people started hearing about

water shortages and have become more concerned, but we’d love and appreciate having more people get involved,” Kinnear said.

Joe Teresi, an engineer from the Public Works Department, said the city also offers programs for limiting storm runoff. Some of these have the secondary benefit of conserving water, he said.

One program, for example, offers a \$50 rebate for people who install rain barrels to capture water running off from their roofs — water that could then be used to water plants. Another program offers up to \$1,000 for residents and \$10,000 for companies to install above- or below-ground cisterns, which can capture larger volumes of rain water. Teresi said one customer installed a 50,000 gallon underground tank in her yard last summer and has been using the rainwater to irrigate her yard.

“It’s amazing how much water you can collect,” Teresi said. “The whole tank was filled up in one year.”

But city leaders aren’t ready to celebrate victory just yet. Klein observed that while staff may feel good about having a hundred-plus participants getting involved in the landscaping rebate program, the number is miniscule when compared with the size of the city and the pressures ahead.

“When you consider that we have about 25,000 residences and more than 15,000 single-family homes, obviously a hundred participants a year isn’t going to do it,” Klein said. “We’ll have to step things up considerably,” he added. “There’s a lot more that can be done.” ■

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



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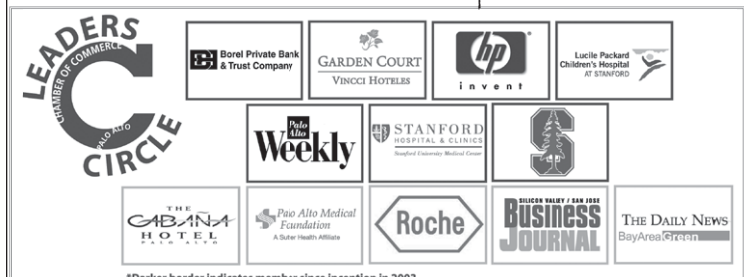


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# Arts & Entertainment

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



Veronica Weber

Above: Self-publisher Peter Maresca with his restored comic sections in his Palo Alto home.

by Lauren Jow  
**E**arth is playing host to some special visitors from the Land of Oz this summer. But they're not in Kansas anymore — this time it's Palo Alto.

Self-publisher and comic collector Peter Maresca brings back to life Sunday comic sections from early 20th-century newspapers, meticulously restoring them in large, colorful volumes. His latest reproduction, "Queer Visitors from the Marvelous Land of Oz," a newspaper comic series created by L. Frank Baum and illustrated by Walt McDougall, came out earlier this month.

There's no place like home for Maresca, who runs the company Sunday Press Books out of his Palo Alto residence. He's already published two calendars and four other books — "Little Nemo in Slumberland" in two volumes, "Little Sammy Sneeze" and "Sundays with Walt and Skeezix."

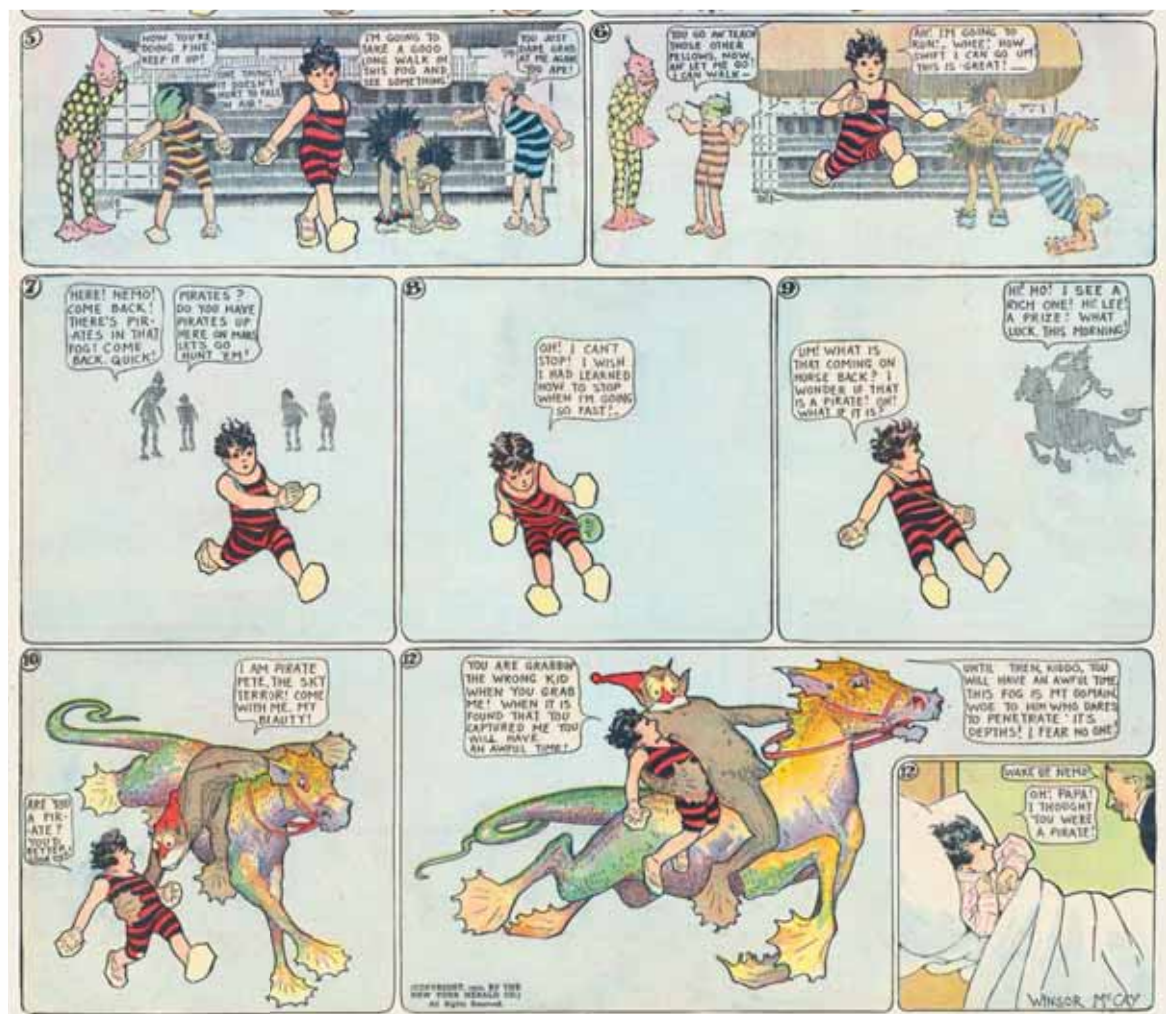
"Queer Visitors" brings the beloved "Oz" characters to Earth for a series that ran in the paper for 26 weeks. Baum, creator of "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz," wrote the strip in 1904 to promote his second "Oz" novel. Maresca's book was officially launched July 10 at the Winkie Convention of the International Wizard of Oz Club.

Right: A frame from "Queer Visitors from the Marvelous Land of Oz" by L. Frank Baum and Walt McDougall.



## Saving Sundays

Palo Alto self-publisher gives new life to vintage comic sections



Above: Nemo dreams of a pirate on a webbed horse in a strip from Winsor McCay's "Little Nemo in Slumberland" (detail).





Above: A section of Frank King's "Gasoline Alley," restored in Maresca's "Sundays with Walt and Skeezix."

Coming in September is "The Upside Down World of Gustave Verbeek," which ran from 1903 to 1905. The book contains 64 strips that are meant to be read right-side-up and then flipped upside down as inverted characters become their upright costars.

In one frame, Old Man Muffaroo is moored on an island as a fish attacks his canoe. Flipped over, the island and the fish transform into a massive bird, the canoe into its beak and Muffaroo into Lady Lovekins, caught in the feathered giant's grasp.

Maresca's goal is to preserve these comics in their intended quality so that future generations of comic art fans can appreciate the work of the pioneers.

The original strips come primarily from his personal collection, tucked away in piles of boxes in the attic. He estimates he has about half a million individual sheets, which he's been gathering for 40 years.

"To collect them now would be impossible," he says. Libraries threw out many of the comics in the 1970s and '80s, and the ones left are deteriorating — fast.

With that urgency in mind, Maresca wanted to publish a collection of "Little Nemo" comics to honor the series' 100th anniversary, approaching in 2005. But no publishers would take on the venture. Then Pulitzer-prize-winning comic artist Art Spiegelman suggested that Maresca do it himself. Armed with time and a little money after losing his job in the dot-com industry crash, the "accidental publisher" founded Sunday Press Books.

Maresca reproduces newspaper comics in their original broadsheet size — 16 inches by 21 inches — with bright but appropriately muted colors. He also created his own off-white newsprint background by taking the text off of five newspaper scans and blending the blank pages.

"I've tried to make it the way it was meant to be

seen," he says.

In his home, Maresca gingerly scans the pages in the attic where most of the sheets are encased in protective plastic. Some rest in between the pages of large art books so that he can pull them out with minimal handling or view them without touching.

He then edits with Adobe Photoshop to reverse the effects of tears, stains and yellowing. Some parts need to be completely reconstructed. Depending on the condition of the original, a page could take up to five hours from scanning to final product.

Maresca sends the images and the accompanying text to Paris-based Philippe Ghielmetti, who has been designing books for more than 30 years and comics for 11. His work lies in creating a package that mixes old and new.

"When I do the covers I try to get a cinematic look," Ghielmetti wrote in an e-mail to the Weekly. "It's supposed to get the feel of that time period but look like now at the same time. As for the inside text pages, it is based on the newspaper design from that time period."

The books are then printed in Malaysia on a press large enough to produce the size Maresca wants. He personally travels to Malaysia to check that the color is correct.

Technology has done wonders for his preservation work. "It shows this art off in ways the artist couldn't have even dreamed of," Spiegelman said in a phone interview.

Still, Maresca can't include every strip in his books. He decides which comics make the cut based on personal preference "and what's never been done before," he says.

For example, his "Queer Visitors" publication also features "Scarecrow and the Tinman," a relatively unknown series by "Oz" illustrator W.W. Denslow. Sunday Press Books usually includes other artwork from the authors and gifts such as postcards and cut-out toys.

Maresca's love for comics started young. Every Sunday morning, he'd spread out the comics section on the floor and dive in.

In college, he stumbled on one old man who kept a collection of Sunday comics — also in his attic — stacked in about 20 piles, each 5 feet high. The man ultimately sold his lifetime collection to Maresca, who developed a deep admiration for the work that was done decades ago.

"(Comics) can tell a story in a way you can't in other forms," he explains. "It's something between prose and cinema with a little poetry mixed in."

In his home, he opens his first "Little Nemo" volume to the strip from Oct. 29, 1905 in which Nemo dreams he's navigating a rocky path on stilts. The panels lengthen to reflect the child's mounting fear and shrink again as he falls. Nemo tumbles diagonally across the page until he wakes in the bottom-right corner, out of bed, his mother at his side.

The average comic section was 16 pages in the 1930s while some of today's papers run only four pages, Maresca notes. Individual strips can be as small as one-twelfth of a page, he adds.

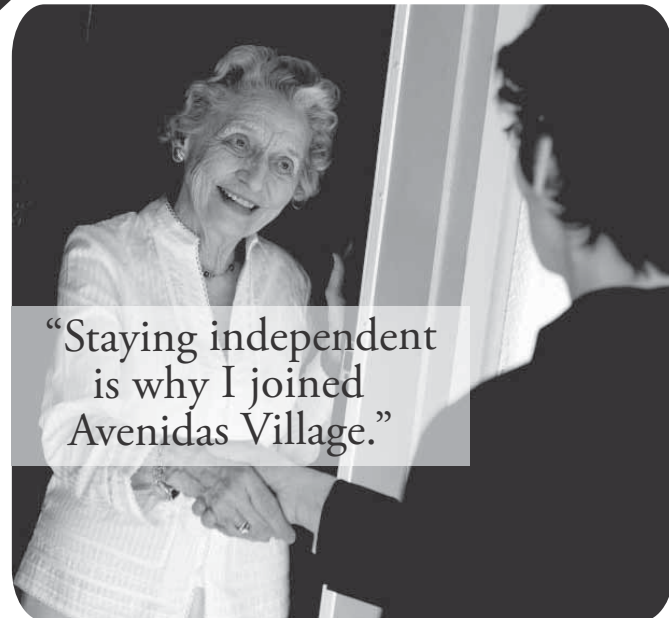
Even so, true appreciation for American comics has grown in the last 20 to 25 years as people have realized that the art can speak to adults with sophistication and relevant themes, he says.

The company has been a family business since 2007 with his wife, Linnea Wickstrom, editing articles and business managing while their son Per, 17, takes care of scanning, shipping and convention work. Although the recent economic recession has slowed book sales, Maresca says there will always be fans willing to buy.

The comic art world has responded well to Maresca's efforts at preserving history. All of the books were nominated for Eisner awards, the Oscars of comics. The first "Little Nemo" volume won the 2006 Eisner award for best publication design and two Harvey Kurtzman awards for best reprint and special award for excellence in reproduction. For many fans, Maresca's books uncover the lost stories of beloved characters.

"Comics have a past," Spiegelman said. "They have a real heritage. He's making that available in as beautiful a way as possible." ■

**Info:** For more about Maresca's books, go to [sundaypressbooks.com](http://sundaypressbooks.com). More comic-strip art is also at [PaloAltoOnline.com](http://PaloAltoOnline.com).



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## A roller coaster of a show

New musical has some plot jumbles, but the cast shines and the show is promising theater

by Jeanie Forte

Here on the mid-Peninsula we are fortunate to have a theater company in our very backyard that nurtures new works, especially new musicals, giving them the kind of support that is rare and much-needed before they ever get to widespread production. TheatreWorks is one of the premier companies in the country for "whispering" these fledgling works into being.

One such work is the current "Tinyard Hill," now playing at the Lucie Stern Theatre in Palo Alto as the mainstage production of the company's New Works Festival. Other works-in-progress are being showcased or getting staged readings, but "Hill" has been given the full production treatment.

Co-creators Tommy Newman and Mark Allen connected while attending the Tisch Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program at New York University, and began initial work on this project as a graduate thesis project. Based in part on oral history and on personal experience, the piece takes place in a little backwater town in Georgia in 1964, where a widowed blacksmith and his adult son eke out a living mostly making fake "pioneer" goods for tourists and the county fair.

The smithy, Russell (James Moyer), is happy enough with his barebones existence, but son David (Chris Critelli) can't wait for change, for something better to come his way. Soon it does, in the form of a young woman fresh from New York. Aileen (Melissa Wolfklain) has been sent for the summer to her Aunt May (Allison Briner), presumably to clear her head and give her respite before her big wedding in

### THEATER REVIEW

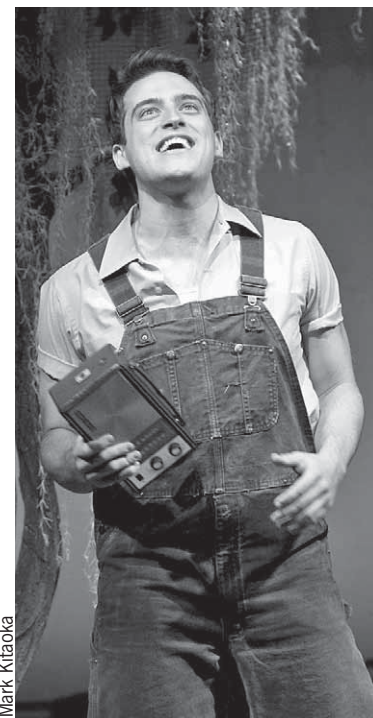
the fall. May stitches the wedding dress while Aileen explores the exotic world of Georgia backwoods with her new friend, David.

About the time they're falling for each other, a draft summons arrives for David, but what happens after that is plot information that I shouldn't reveal. Suffice to say that the two plot threads — wedding versus true love, and draftee versus Vietnam War — do intertwine, and come to at least a temporary resolution by the end of Act Two.

And they sing about it all, with great verve and energy. With only four performers in a show, you can't afford a weak link, and there isn't one here. All four possess excellent voices and acting skills, and are delightful to watch. Critelli has the requisite good looks and acting chops to portray the young heart-throb. His powerful vocals serve equally well in big belting numbers and tender ballads.

His duets with both Moyer as his father and Wolfklain as potential lover are definite highlights. Moyer carries his own weight, showing vulnerability and a zest for life as Russell that is both touching and amusing. Wolfklain does a wonderful job showing the various facets of a complex young woman in the '60s — part girl, part woman, part city-sophisticate, part naif — with a touch of feminism and confusion. She navigates serious and comic with equal aplomb, and has a silky voice that blends beautifully with her partners'.

Briner as Aunt May practically steals the scenes she's in with some



Mark Kitooka

Chris Critelli as young blacksmith David.

of the best lines and a spot-on deadpan delivery. She instantly endears herself to the audience, garnering sympathy for her character and occasional outbursts of applause. The character is in danger of being hackneyed, reminiscent of countless other tough Southern broads, but Briner keeps it honest and shows us depth and intelligence. Her solo "What Kinda Mother?" allows her to show off her terrific voice as well as emotional nuance.

The show itself rides like a roller coaster: one moment engaging and enjoyable, but in the next too predictable and trite. Then there are plot turns that are inexplicable, or even unbelievable. The response to the draft letter by the two different generations is totally puzzling, seemingly backwards. And the decision David makes as the plot veers to its end reeks of simplistic politics,



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especially egregious when the U.S. is involved in yet another lengthy conflict on foreign soil.

Ultimately one wonders what message is intended by the authors. Is it really patriotic fervor? Or an ode to the patience of true love? Or a testament to the honesty of backwoods draft boards? Even if one ignores the questionable political stance, the plot is still a jumble of threads that don't quite take us out of the woods, so to speak.

Though the show is billed as a "country musical," the music isn't particularly country — more the kind of rock/Broadway fusion that is all the rage in new musicals today. Some of it is pretty, some bold, but nothing catchy or melodic. The few ballads start off nicely, but then veer into odd chord progressions and dissonance that distract and confuse. Big numbers are rousing, but recognizable musical motifs are few.

Still, Newman and Allen are talented young theater artists with great futures in store. This is only their first collaboration, and with the right assistance and continued development, "Tinyard Hill" may yet prove worthy of Broadway. TheatreWorks provides valuable glimpses for those of us who love to see theater in the making, and who will be able to say "we knew it when." ■

**What:** "Tinyard Hill," a new musical presented by TheatreWorks

**Where:** Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto

**When:** Through Aug. 16, at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, 7 p.m. Sundays, and 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday

**Cost:** Tickets are \$26-\$64.

**Info:** Go to [www.theatreworks.org](http://www.theatreworks.org) or call 650-463-1960.

## A girl's 'Chaos' theory

Dating pains and friendship court laughs in dated comedy

by Chad Jones



James Kasavin

Kim Saunders, Noel Wood and Lorie Goulart.

It's fairly safe to say that without Cynthia Heimel, there would have been no Candace Bushnell and no "Sex and the City."

Heimel was the longtime author of the "Women" column in Playboy magazine, and she also did time at Penthouse, New York magazine, the New York Daily News and the Village Voice. She wrote the groundbreaking book "Sex Tips for Girls" in 1983 and its sequel, "Advanced Sex Tips for Girls: This Time It's Personal," in 2003.

A self-confessed "clothing addict" who also wrote for Vogue, Heimel bears more than a striking resemblance to Carrie Bradshaw, the clotheshorse sex and relationship columnist depicted by Bushnell in "Sex and the City," a 1997 book that was overshadowed by its HBO incarnation — a hit TV series that now also appears to be a lucra-

### THEATER REVIEW

tive big-screen franchise.

Rather than going the TV or movie route, Heimel opted for the stage. In the mid-'80s she wrote the play "A Girl's Guide to Chaos," which ran in New York in 1986 and has been produced around the country since.

Watching the current Dragon Productions take on Heimel's "Chaos," it's hard not to think about Carrie, Samantha, Charlotte and Miranda, the glittering, frank-talking quartet at the center of "Sex and the City."

Though Heimel's frank-talking trio of 30-something women — Cynthia, Rita and Cleo — sat around the cafe table exchanging intimate details of their active sex lives more than a decade before the more famous quartet, you hear certain lines about oral sex or bad boyfriend behavior and think, "Well, that's a completely Samantha thing to say."

The main character of "A Girl's Guide to Chaos" is Cynthia (Magenta Brooks), a Los Angeles columnist with a deep love of fashion magazines. Her best friends are tough-talking transplanted Texan Rita (Kim Saunders) and scientifically minded Cleo (Lorie Goulart), who is described as "a nut burger but adorable."

These are modern women navigating the dating waters of 1990. They're empowered by the women's lib movement of the '70s but confused about what to do with all their so-called power because the men in their lives, it seems, haven't

(continued on next page)

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## Arts & Entertainment

### 'Chaos'

(continued from previous page)

evolved as much as they have.

When the play starts, Cynthia is the only one of the women with a boyfriend. He's a young New Zealander — called "the Kiwi Infant" — and he's not great boyfriend material. Looking for trouble, Cynthia opens his mail and discovers a questionable situation with another woman.

That's about it for plot in this two-hour comedy directed by Bill Starr. Heimel is more interested in pointed vignettes than she is in delving into the intricacies of plot or character development.

Though the cast, which also includes Denise Berumen as a motor-mouthed waitress and a game Noel Wood as all the men in the play, works hard to bring sass to Heimel's dialogue, the actors aren't able to uncover much heart in Heimel's arch writing.

It's hard to care about these women and their dating woes when none of them comes across as terribly likable. The only real af-

fecting moment in the play comes from Saunders' Rita when she essentially tells Brooks' Cynthia to stop her whining and measure the success of her life on her own terms and not on whether or not she has a boyfriend.

The material, not surprisingly, shows its age. When one of the women makes an offhand remark about the movie "The Adventures of Ford Fairlane," you really have to delve into the memory bank to recall that 1990 Andrew Dice Clay vehicle. And the line "You want peppy? Go date Lucie Arnaz!" is just baffling on every level.

Heimel's strength as a playwright comes in her ability to write the occasional line that makes you snap to attention. For instance, Cleo describes the scent of a particular man as being like "really tiny, fresh lima beans and cotton candy."

And sometimes the lines elicit big laughs. In the depths of dating despair, Cynthia moans, "I don't know whether to kill myself or go bowling."

Cynthia's best advice comes from a surprising source: herself. She decides that the best way to handle any dating dilemma with style instead of neurosis involves recalling a great old movie star. "When in doubt," she says, "act like Myrna Loy."

It's brilliant advice, actually, and it's a shame she doesn't take it more to heart.

Though "A Girl's Guide to Chaos" came first, it takes a backseat to "Sex and the City," which is

funnier, raunchier and ultimately more heartfelt. With all her experience in the sex advice trenches, and with such wonderfully titled books as "Get Your Tongue Out of My Mouth, I'm Kissing You Goodbye" and "If You Can't Live Without Me, Why Aren't You Dead Yet?" it's highly probable that Heimel could write a much more interesting and much more contemporary take on women, sex and relationships than this dated "Chaos." ■

**What:** "A Girl's Guide to Chaos" by Cynthia Heimel, presented by Dragon Productions

**Where:** Dragon Theatre, 535 Alma St., Palo Alto

**When:** Through Aug. 9 with shows at 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sundays

**Cost:** Tickets are \$20 general and \$16 for seniors and students.

**Info:** Go to [www.dragonproductions.net](http://www.dragonproductions.net) or call 650-493-2006.

Tales from Louisville: Earlier this month, a Portola Valley theater company took its new musical on the road to win applause in Kentucky.

To read more, check out the blog written by Weekly arts editor Rebecca Wallace, who was in the cast. Read **Ad Libs** at [blog.paloaltoonline.com/adlibs/](http://blog.paloaltoonline.com/adlibs/).

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## DINNER BY THE MOVIES AT SHORELINE'S Pizzeria Venti



### Recipe from Harry's Bar in Venice

Harry's Bar opened in 1931 when Giuseppe Cipriani, an enterprising bartender at the Hotel Europa in Venice, got some financial assistance from a rich, young American from Boston named Harry Pickering. According to Cipriani company history, Pickering had been a customer at the Hotel Europa for some time, suddenly stopped frequenting the hotel bar. Cipriani saw Pickering one day and asked why he no longer patronized the bar. Pickering was broke, he explained to the bartender -- his family cut him off when it was discovered he had not curtailed his recklessness and fondness for drinking. So, Cipriani loaned his patron a chunk of cash -- about 10,000 lire, or \$5,000 U.S.. Two years later, Pickering walked back into the Hotel Europa, ordered a drink at the bar, handed 10,000 lire to Giuseppe Cipriani -- he then handed Cipriani more. "Mr. Cipriani, thank you. Here's the money. And to show you my appreciation, here's 40,000 more, enough to open a bar. We will call it Harry's Bar," Located on Calle Vallaresso, close to the Piazza San Marco, the bar -- as the Cipriani's have always called it -- was first conceived as a hotel bar, serving no food, and later transformed into a restaurant. There are many imitators, but only one Harry's Bar. To honor this famous Italian culinary icon, we submit our version of one of Harry's Famous recipes...

#### Tagliolini with shrimp and zucchini from Harry's Bar (TAGLIOLINI CON I GAMBERI E LA ZUCCHINA DALLA HARRY'S BAR)

- 1/2 pound fresh young zucchini cut into 1-inch by 1/4 inch strips
- 1 pound (about 30) medium shrimp, shelled, deveined and cut in half
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 1/8 teaspoon dried red pepper flakes
- salt
- 1 pound dried tagliolini or fettuccine or fresh tagliatelle (egg pasta)
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened
- Splash of dry white wine
- 1/4 cup freshly grated Parmigiano Reggiano cheese plus extra to pass at the table

#### To cook:

Bring a large pot of water to boil before preparing the sauce. If using dry pasta salt boiling water and add pasta. Heat the oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the garlic, let it cook until golden, about 30 seconds, and discard it. Add the zucchini and cook for two minutes. Add the shrimp, the pepper flakes, and some salt, the wine and cook for three minutes, tossing constantly, until the shrimp are bright pink and firm to the touch. Reserve 1/4 cup of the mixture for garnish. Set aside. If using fresh pasta, salt the boiling water, add the pasta, and cook until "al dente" (about 2-3 minutes). Drain well in a colander. Toss the pasta with the zucchini-and-shrimp mixture, add the butter and the Parmesan, and toss well. Transfer to a heated serving platter dish and garnish with the reserved shrimp-and-zucchini mixture. Pass around a small bowl of grated Parmigiano cheese.

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# Movies

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

## MOVIE TIMES

**(500) Days of Summer (PG-13) \*\*\*1/2** **Century 16:** Noon, 2:35, 4:55, 7:20 & 10:05 p.m.

**Bruno (R) \*\*1/2** **Century 16:** 11:10 a.m.; 1:25, 3:35, 5:50, 8:05 & 10:15 p.m. **Century 20:** Mon.-Wed. at 11:30 a.m.; 12:40, 2:50, 4:05, 5:05, 7:25, 9:55 & 10:40 p.m. Fri.-Sun. also at 10:30 a.m.

**Cheri (R) \*\*1/2** **Century 20:** Fri.-Wed. at 7:10 & 9:35 p.m.

**Food, Inc. (PG) \*\*\*1/2** **Aquarius:** 2, 4:30, 7 & 9:15 p.m.

**G-Force (PG) (Not Reviewed)** **Century 16:** In Digital 3D at 11:25 a.m.; 1:50, 4:15, 7:05 & 9:25 p.m. **Century 20:** Fri. - Wed. at 12:05, 2:25, 4:35, 7 & 9:20 p.m. In Digital 3D at 11 & 1:15 a.m.; 3:30, 5:45, 8 & 10:15 p.m.

**The Girl from Monaco (R) \*\*1/2** **Aquarius:** 5 & 9:45 p.m.

**The Hangover (R) \*\*\*1/2** **Century 16:** 11:55 a.m.; 2:30, 5:20, 7:50 & 10:10 p.m. **Century 20:** Fri.-Wed. at 12:25, 3, 5:30, 7:55 & 10:40 p.m.

**Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (PG) \*\*\*1/2** **Century 16:** 11:15 a.m.; 12:15, 1, 1:45, 2:45, 3:45, 4:30, 5:15, 6:15, 7:15, 8, 8:45, 9:45 & 10:30 p.m. **Century 20:** Fri.-Wed. at 11:10 a.m.; 12:15, 1:25, 2, 2:35, 3:40, 4:20, 4:50, 5:25, 6, 7:05, 7:45, 8:15, 8:50, 9:40 & 10:30 p.m. Fri.-Sun. also at 10:40 a.m.

**The Hurt Locker (R) \*\*\*1/2** **Century 20:** Fri.-Mon. at 9:55 a.m.; 12:50, 3:50, 6:50 & 9:50 p.m. **Palo Alto Square:** 1:15, 2:45, 4:15, 5:45, 7:15 & 8:45 p.m. Fri. 4 Sat. also at 10:15 p.m.

**I Love You, Beth Cooper (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)** **Century 20:** Fri. - Wed. at 1:35 & 7:30 p.m.

**Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (PG) \*\*1/2** **Century 16:** 11:20 a.m.; 1:40, 4:20, 7:10 & 9:40 p.m. **Century 20:** Fri.-Wed. at 11:35 a.m. 12:50, 1:55, 3:10, 4:25, 5:40, 8:05 & 10:25 p.m. Fri.-Sun. also at 10:30 a.m.

**My Sister's Keeper (PG-13) \*\*1/2** **Century 20:** Fri. - Wed. at 11:20 a.m.

**Orphan (R) (Not Reviewed)** **Century 16:** 11 a.m.; 1:55, 4:45, 7:30 & 10:25 p.m. **Century 20:** Fri. - Wed. at 11:05 a.m.; 1:50, 4:45, 7:35 & 10:25 p.m.

**The Proposal (PG-13) \*\*\*** **Century 16:** 11:40 a.m.; 2:15, 4:50, 7:25 & 10 p.m. **Century 20:** Fri. - Wed. at 11:25 a.m.; 2:15, 4:55, 7:40 & 10:10 p.m.

**Public Enemies (R) \*\*** **Century 16:** 12:20, 3:25, 6:45 & 9:50 p.m. **Century 20:** Fri. - Wed. at 1, 4:10, 7:20 & 10:30 p.m.

**Seraphine (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed)** **Guid:** 2:30, 5:30 & 8:30 p.m. Sat. & Sun. also at 11:30 a.m.

**Star Trek (PG-13) \*\*\*1/2** **Century 16:** 12:45, 3:50, 6:55 & 9:55 p.m.

**Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)** **Century 16:** 11:30 a.m.; 3, 7 & 10:20 p.m. **Century 20:** Fri.-Wed. at 12:20 & 3:45 p.m. Fri., Sat. & Mon.-Wed. also at 7:05 & 10:20 p.m.

**The Ugly Truth (R) (Not Reviewed)** **Century 16:** 11:35 a.m.; 2, 4:35, 7:05 & 9:30 p.m. **Century 20:** Fri.-Wed. at

(continued on next page)

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(continued from previous page)

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**Up (PG) \*\*\*\***

**Century 16:** 11:05 a.m.; 1:35, 4:05, 6:50 & 9:20 p.m. **Century 20:** Fri. - Wed. at 11:15 a.m.; 1:40, 4:15, 6:55 & 9:25 p.m.

**Whatever Works (PG-13) \*\*1/2**

**Guild:** 2:30 & 7:30 p.m.

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

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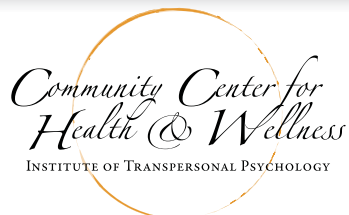
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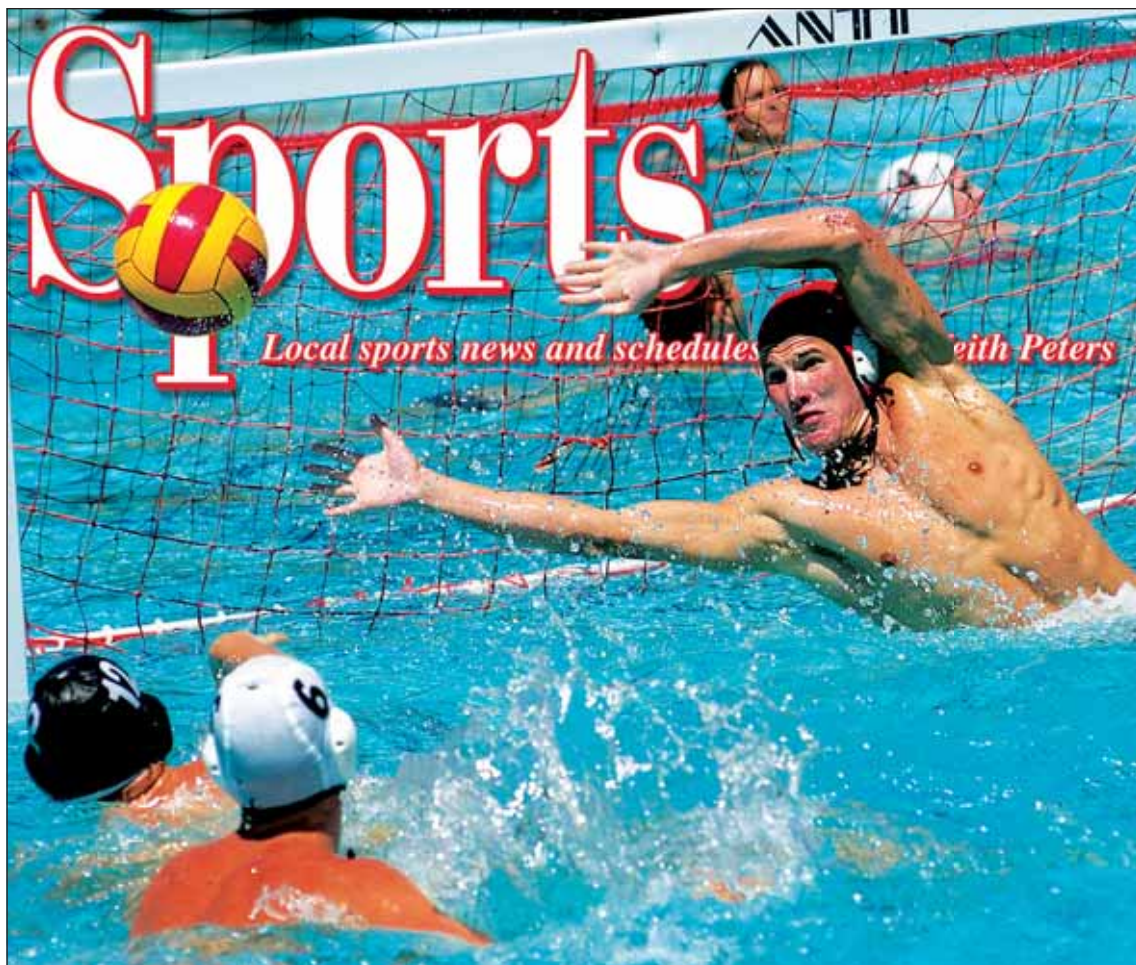
**OAKS OPEN PLAYOFFS . . .** The Palo Alto Oaks will open the 2009 Stan Musial state playoffs against the Novato Knicks on Friday at UC Davis at 11 a.m. The tournament continues through Sunday with the winner earning a berth in the West Regional at Saddleback College in Southern California starting July 31. Palo Alto needed a doubleheader sweep to guarantee a spot in the state playoffs and did just that last Sunday by taking two from the Menlo Park Legends at the Baylands Athletic Center. The Oaks won the first game, 5-4, behind pitchers **Jason Kleinhoffer** and **Ricky Navarro** and took the second, 7-0, behind the sterling effort of **Matt Campbell**. In the first game, **Skylar Brewer** doubled home **Jeff Ramirez** and **Bryan Beres** with the game-winning hit. In the second game, Campbell allowed only three hits. **Evan Warner** scored the first and eventual winning run when he led off the first with a single, was sacrificed to second, stole third and scored on an infield out.

**LACROSSE TITLE . . .** It was a perfect weekend for the Burlingame Coyotes, a new boys' Under-19 lacrosse team that traveled to Lake Tahoe for a tournament and came home as the champion following four straight victories. The Coyotes are a combination of players from Menlo School, Menlo-Atherton, Sacred Heart Prep, Mitty, Burlingame, Bellarmine, Mountain and Serra. The team was pulled together by **David McLaughlin**, a senior attack at Menlo-Atherton this past season. He used Facebook to contact other players and managed only two practices and a scrimmage before heading to Lake Tahoe. The team was lead throughout the four games by the play of Tournament Offensive MVP **Graeme Radlo** of Menlo School and on defense by goalie Scott Alms (Burlingame) and defensive players Trevor Stephens (Mitty) and **Andrew McCall** (Menlo School). The Coyotes beat the Reno Envy, 17-2; withstood the Sacramento Heat, 13-5; rolled over the Livermore Matadors, 21-1, and then edged Team Mexico in the finals, 9-8. Alms made four saves of point-blank shots. Team Mexico held a two-goal lead in the second half until a goal by **Scott Cummings** (Sacred Heart Prep) and two goals by Radlo on assists from McLaughlin and Nick Klevay put the Coyotes ahead to stay.

**COACHING CORNER . . .** Sacred Heart Prep is seeking a head coach for its girls' JV soccer team. Interested applicants please contact Athletic Director **Frank Rodriguez** at 473-4031 or [frdri-guez@shschools.org](mailto:frdri-guez@shschools.org).

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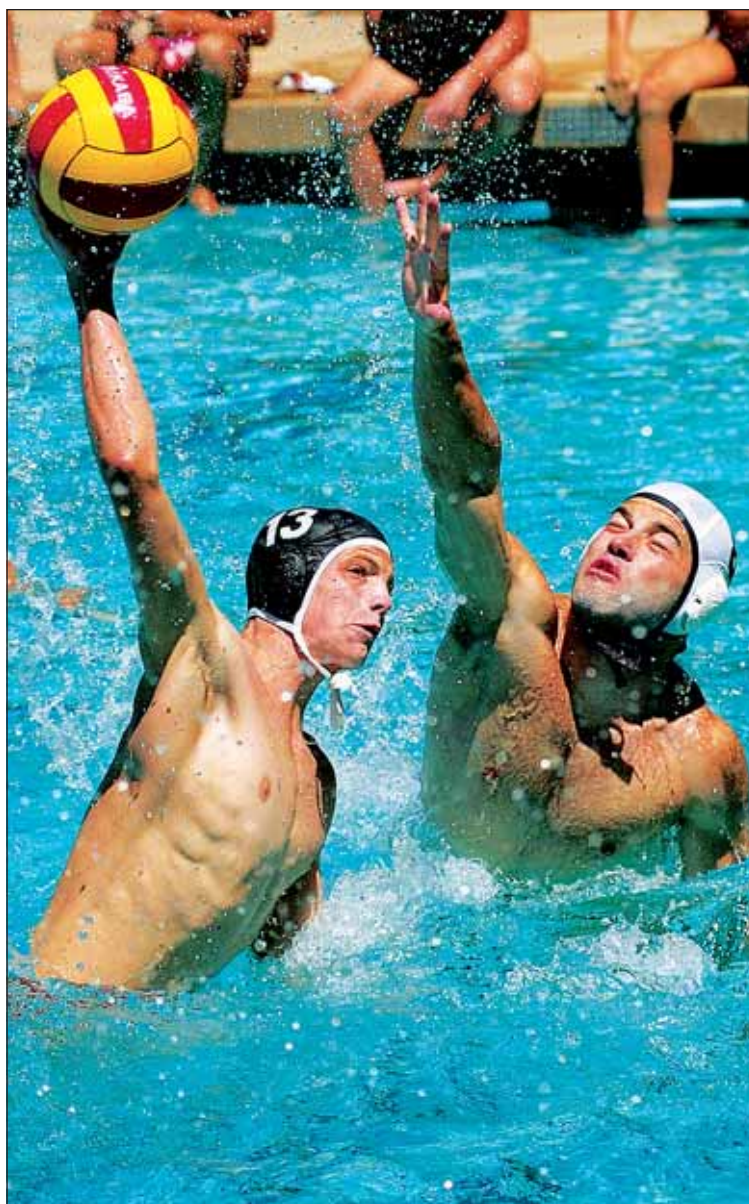


Goalie Ben Dearborn, who was named MVP after helping the Stanford Red 16s win a title at the National Junior Olympics last summer, hopes to help the Stanford 18s do the same beginning this weekend.

## The goal begins in Junior Olympics

*Stanford Water Polo Club teams have high expectations as the world's largest water polo tournament comes to Stanford and the Peninsula*

by Keith Peters



Colin Mulcahy of the Stanford Red 16s (left) and James Balassone of the Red 18s, battled each other in practice this week.

**B**en Dearborn is ready and waiting. After all, that's his job as the backup goalie for the Stanford Water Polo Club's 18-under team as it heads into the start of the 2009 S & R Sport Junior Olympics this weekend.

Dearborn and his teammates open play Saturday at Palo Alto High, first against Stockton at 8:40 a.m. and then against De Anza Blue at 3:20 p.m. While Dearborn is listed as the backup, things could change depending on travel schedules.

Stanford's starting goalie is Scott Platshon, who graduated from Menlo School in the spring and who is headed to Stanford University this fall. Platshon was in the cage this past week for the U.S. team that finished second in the Maccabiah Games in Israel.

Platshon was due home on Friday, if all the connections are made. There's the question of jet-lag to be addressed, as well, so Dearborn could be in the cage earlier than expected.

Dearborn is more than qualified for the job. As a member of the Stanford 16-under team last summer, he helped his team win the gold medal at the Junior Olympics and was named his age group's Most Valuable Player.

In the fall, Dearborn helped lead Sacred Heart Prep to the Central Coast Section Division II title with a victory over Menlo, which had Platshon in goal.

And, just last weekend, Dearborn was in the cage as Sacred Heart Prep finished fifth out of 32 teams in the High School Championships

Keith Peters

BANK OF THE WEST

# All about Serena, Venus

*Williams sisters make first appearance together in singles and doubles*

by Keith Peters

**A**leksandra Wozniak walked away from the 2008 Bank of the West Classic with a nice paycheck, a huge stuffed bear and the unofficial title of the most unlikely winner in the history of the annual women's professional tennis tournament after having to first play in the qualifying.

While the Canadian will be back to defend her title when the 39th edition of the women's-only tournament begins Monday at Stanford's Taube Family Tennis Stadium, the winner's check for \$95,500 most likely will be handed to someone named Williams following the singles finale on August 2.

Serena Williams, the 2009 Australian Open and Wimbledon champion, not too surprisingly is the top seed for the Bank of the West Classic. The No. 2 seed is Venus Williams, a seven-time Grand Slam champ who lost to her sister at Wimbledon earlier this month.



Serena Williams

Not only are the Williams sisters expected to dominate the singles, but on Thursday they entered the doubles draw. They have been nearly unbeatable this year while posting a 14-1 record, which includes titles at the Australian Open and Wimbledon. Their 14 career doubles crowns include nine Grand Slam titles.

Already entered in doubles are Cara Black and Liezel Huber, the defending US Open champions who are currently ranked No. 1 in the world.

If for some strange reason neither Serena nor Venus reaches the singles final (an injured Serena lost to Wozniak last year in the semifinals), the first-place check could go to No. 3 seed and 2008 Olympic gold medalist Elena Dementieva, to No. 4 seed and former world No. 1 Jelena Jankovic, to No. 5 seed and current world No. 10 Nadia Petrova, or to No. 6 seed and 2009 French Open semifinalist Dominika Cibulkova.

There's also three-time Grand Slam singles champion Maria Sharapova, 2007 Wimbledon finalist and '08 Bank of the West run-



Venus Williams

Keith Peters

(continued on page 30)

(continued on page 31)



## It has been a successful postseason for the Palo Alto Babe Ruth 14s

by Colin Becht

If all went according to plan on Thursday night, the Palo Alto Babe Ruth 14-year old all-stars will be practicing next week in preparation for the Pacific Southwest Regional that begins Aug. 6 in Harriman, Utah.

In order for that plan to work, however, Palo Alto needed to beat Hayward twice in the championship and challenge games of the Northern California State Tournament at Clark Field in Woodland.

While winning back-to-back all-star games is never easy, Palo Alto manager Andrew Shenk was in a positive mood after his team defeated Sonoma on Wednesday, 7-2. It was Palo Alto's fourth straight victory after an opening-round loss to Hayward last Saturday.

"Everything's moving like clockwork at this point," Shenk said after the Sonoma game. "Everything seems to be working."

What worked well for Shenk was handing the ball to starter Christian Kadash, who pitched five innings while allowing only one hit and one walk.

"He did a marvelous job," said Shenk.

Kadash was relieved by Nick Wells, who matched Kadash's dominance while surrendering just one hit.

Complementing Kadash and Wells' great pitching, Palo Alto crushed the ball, picking up 12 hits, its second straight game with double-digit hits. Wells contributed immensely to the offense with two hits and three RBI. Over the past two games, Wells has established himself as a very tough out. In Tuesday's

11-1 win over Woodland, Wells had three hits and two RBI.

Andrew Lim and Justin Grey also had great days at the plate Wednesday night, collecting three hits each. Grey additionally drove in a run, as did Eric Tam.

"We really swung the bats well," said Shenk.

Looking toward Hayward, Shenk said he was happy with the depth his pitching staff has shown. As a result, Shenk has been able to conserve arms, despite having to play one more game than Hayward.

"We're really excited because we've probably saved our best pitchers," he said.

Shenk said he planned to have Ben Sneider start the first game with Tyler VauDell ready to relieve him. If Palo Alto was able to force a second game, Shenk was going to hand the ball to Clay Carey.

All three pitchers had great success in the state tournament leading up to Thursday's action. Sneider pitched four hitless innings in Palo Alto's 10-0 win over Elk Grove. VauDell threw four innings without allowing a single batter to reach base against Woodland, and Carey allowed only one run in five innings to get a 4-1 win over Alameda.

With the consistent success of his pitching staff, Shenk believed Palo Alto's hitting would determine its fate on Thursday.

"If we hit the ball, there's no one who seems to be able to give us a lot of trouble," said Shenk.

That point has been emphasized in Palo Alto's recent games. Over the past two games, Palo Alto has outscored its opponents, 18-3, led by 28 hits over those games.

### Babe Ruth 13s

The baseball season is over for Palo Alto following a 5-3 loss to host Alameda in the consolation semifinals of the NorCal State Tournament on Tuesday at College of Alameda.

Palo Alto grabbed a 2-0 lead in the top of the first, but couldn't hold it as Alameda charged back to grab a 5-2 advantage in the bottom of the fifth.

Palo Alto got a run back in the top of the sixth when Chris Lee singled, stole second and advanced to third on a single by Alec Furrier. When Furrier took off for second to start a double steal, Lee scampered home with a run while Furrier was being thrown out at second base.

Palo Alto made a final attempt to pull out the victory by getting the potential runs at second and third in the top of the seventh with just one out. Christian Kurtella ripped a shot down the third-base line that was caught for the second out and a foul popout ended the threat and the game.

### Babe Ruth 15s

Palo Alto will open play in the NorCal State Tournament in Antioch on Saturday, taking on the District 5 representative at 11 a.m. The winner will play Sunday at 1:30 p.m., while the loser will play Sunday at 10 a.m.

Palo Alto hasn't played since winning the District 6 title on July 8. Should Palo Alto win its opening two games, it will play in the winners'-bracket semifinal on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. The championship game is Thursday at 5 p.m.

The tourney champ will advance to the Pacific Southwest Regional in Rohnert Park, starting Aug. 6. ■

## Water polo

(continued from page 29)

in Southern California.

Thus, Dearborn is more than ready to step in at any time for the Stanford Red 18s, which finished third at the Junior Olympics last season under then head coach Jon Barnea. The 18s are being coached this summer by Brian Kreutzkamp, who guided the Red 16s to the gold last summer. Kreutzkamp also is Dearborn's coach at SHP and knows his goalie's potential.

Either way, the Stanford Red 18s are set with both Platshon and Dearborn on a roster that's loaded with talent. Miguel Martin de Bustamante (St. Francis) and Paul Rudolph (SHP) were the CCS Division I and II (respectively) Players of the Year last season. There's also 6-foot-9 Jed Springer from Menlo-Atherton.

Along with Dearborn, Connor Still and Robert Dunlevie have joined the 18s after helping the 16s win last season's title.

The Stanford Red 16s, who are being coached by Barnea and Terry O'Donnell of St. Francis, still have plenty of talent to make another run at the JO title. The 16s will play in Stanford's Belardi Pool on Saturday at 7 a.m. and 1:40 p.m. Keegan Williams has inherited Dearborn's

goalie position while Peter Simon, Colin Mulcahy, Mark Garner, Philip Bamberg and Thomas Agramonte return from last season's team.

The Stanford Red 16s won the Pacific Zone qualifying for JOs as well as its division at the U.S. Club Championships in Santa Barbara.

Joining the Red 16s at Stanford for the opening two games Saturday will be the 14 Reds and Whites in Baker Pool. The Reds play at 11:10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., with the Whites preceding them at 10:20 a.m. and 1:40 p.m. The Red 14s went 10-1 at JOs last season, winning the Gold Division, while the Whites went 3-7.

Other Stanford teams entered in the boys' competition, which runs through Tuesday, includes the White 18s (seventh last year) plus the Red 12s and White 12s. There's also a co-ed 10-under team that will open at Menlo School.

SOLO, based at Menlo-Atherton, will have three teams competing. The 18s, coached by M-A boys' coach Johnny Bega, open Saturday at Stanford's Avery Pool at 7 a.m. and 10:20 a.m. The 16s will play at Santa Clara University while the 14s will compete at Sacred Heart Prep.

More than 4,000 athletes will compete at 17 local venues over the eight days of the Junior Olympics.

Following a day off next Wednesday, the girls' competition begins July 30 and wraps up Aug. 2.

All the medal-round matches will be held in the stadium pool at Stanford's Avery Aquatic Complex.

Live daily updates can be found at [www.pasportsonline.com](http://www.pasportsonline.com) and at the Junior Olympics' local web site at [www.jo2009.com](http://www.jo2009.com).

### Women's 20-Under Nationals

Stanford played for the title of the USA Water Polo Women's 20-Under National Championship on late Thursday afternoon following a 12-11 overtime win over CHAWP in the semifinals earlier in the day at the UOP Aquatic Center in Stockton.

Stanford, coached by Susan Ortwein, took a 6-0 record into the title match against Santa Barbara Water Polo Club, a team Stanford defeated in Round 5 on Wednesday, 11-6.

In the semifinal victory, Stanford held a 6-2 halftime lead but lost it when CHAWP took a 10-9 lead with 50 seconds left in regulation. Stanford drew a kickout and called time. With a 6-on-5 advantage, Melissa Seidemann scored to send the match to a pair of overtimes.

Sacred Heart Prep grad Pallavi Menon scored twice in the first overtime period for a 12-11 lead while the second OT was scoreless. ■

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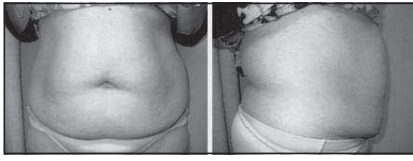
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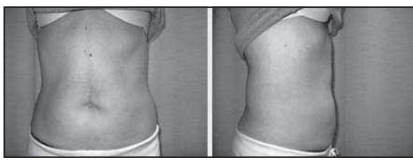
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## Bank of the West

(continued from page 29)

nerup Marion Bartoli, and 2009 French Open semifinalist Samantha Stosur.

The focus, however, is on the Williams sisters. Barring any last-minute injuries or illness, they will be making their first-ever appearances together at Stanford. The two have a combined 18 Grand Slam singles titles between them and are two of the most popular tennis players in the world.

If that wasn't enough, tennis fans will have the opportunity to see both of these future Hall of Famers play on the same day. On Tuesday,

Venus will take to the court for her opening-round match during the day session — marking her first match at Stanford since 2005.

Serena will highlight Tuesday's evening session when she takes to the court in her first match since winning her 11th career Grand Slam singles title at this year's Wimbledon Championships.

Tuesday's day session matches are scheduled to begin at 11 a.m. with the evening session kicking off at 7 p.m. Venus and Serena's opponents and official start times, as well as the rest of the tournament matchups, will be announced Friday at the Bank of the West Classic draw ceremony.

The Bank of the West Classic

player field is one of the best on the 2009 Sony Ericsson WTA Tour schedule and arguably the finest ever assembled for the Stanford venue.

Single-session tickets for the tournament's opening round start at just \$23.

The Bank of the West Classic features a 32-player singles draw as well as a 16-team doubles draw. Qualifying will be held Saturday and Sunday, beginning each day at 10 a.m., and is free to the public.

A top field of qualifiers will attempt to break into the main draw, which also includes Chinese star Li Na, 2007 singles champion Anna Chakvetadze, former top 10 player Daniela Hantuchova and Japanese

standout Ai Sugiyama.

That lineup is a scary one for Stanford junior Hilary Barte and incoming freshman Stacey Tan. Barte will be competing in the main draw as a wildcard while Tan received a wildcard in the qualifying draw and must battle her way through a difficult qualifying tourney. Barte knows that that is like after receiving a wildcard into qualifying last year.

Barte is a two-time All-American in both singles and doubles and has been Stanford's top player during her first two seasons. Her career singles record is 65-14 (overall) and 44-5 (dual). Barte was named the 2009 Pac-10 Player of the Year, becoming Stanford's first selection since 2002

and 14th in school history.

Tan, meanwhile, is a four-year letterwinner from Lakewood High School. She has earned a top-five ranking among Southern California 18-year-old singles players.

The 2009 Bank of the West Classic player field is loaded and boasts a list worthy of a Grand Slam event. Players in the tournament draw have combined to win 21 Grand Slam singles titles and include the singles champions from seven of the last 11 Grand Slam events.

Tickets for the 2009 Bank of the West Classic can be purchased by calling the box office at 866-WTA-TIXS (866-982-8497) or by logging on to [www.BankoftheWestClassic.com](http://www.BankoftheWestClassic.com). ■

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