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# Weekly

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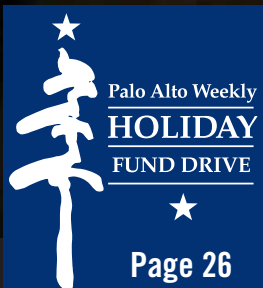
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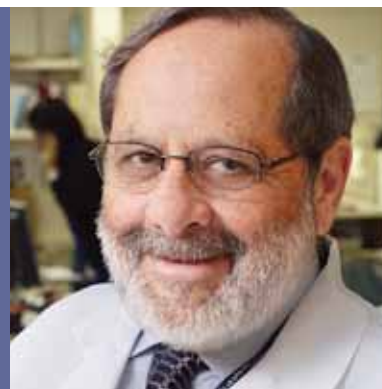
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# Upfront

Local news, information and analysis

## East Palo Alto launches 'Most Wanted' television series

Cable program, forums and block meetings build community cooperation to fight crime

by Sue Dremann

Mug shots of the accused stare out from black-and-white images on the television screen. "Wanted," the postings read, listing the alleged crimes of East Palo Alto's most wanted criminals: murder, assault, conspiracy, drug sales and sex offenses.

Retired Judge LaDoris Cordell, a former Palo Alto City Council member, addresses viewers on "Make the Call," the East Palo Alto Police Department's home-grown version of "America's Most Wanted," the popular crime-solving television show.

"Over the last 15 years, approxi-

mately 100 homicides have occurred in East Palo Alto and only half of those murders have been solved. This means that there are 50 people out there who have gotten away with murder. That's not right and you all know that's not right. ... So make the call," Cordell said.

The one-hour cable television series is one aspect of the police department's overall community-alliance building to fight crime: holding

neighborhood block meetings and "Chat with the Chief" community forums; sending e-mail blasts; arranging youth summits and cultural-sensitivity training for officers.

The show spotlights East Palo Alto's cold-case homicides, mixing police and family interviews with photographs of the city's most-wanted criminals, plus holding panel discussions with community leaders on topics such as the "snitching"

mentality and gaining youth trust.

Co-produced by the Midpeninsula Community Media Center in Palo Alto, the program has aired three shows since July 2008, with a new episode to be dubbed in Spanish forthcoming, Police Chief Ronald Davis said on Wednesday.

Eleven-year-old Jocelyn Sandoval faced the cameras in November, dis-

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Veronica Weber

### Are you smarter than a middle schooler?

Terman Middle School student Adam Price held up the winning response during the championship round of the National Geographic Bee held Jan. 13. His winning answer, "Greece," was to the question: "Which Mediterranean country located at the Southern end of the Balkan Peninsula is Europe's largest exporter of cotton?"

### HEALTH

## 'Make that a low-fat muffin with my hot chocolate'

Stanford University study probes impact of calorie postings on consumers' choices

by Chris Kenrick

Do people eat smarter if calorie counts are posted on the menu?

The question looms large as California leads the nation in imposing the first statewide calorie-posting law.

By next Jan. 1, more than 17,000 restaurants in the state will be required to print calorie data directly on menus.

Researchers at Stanford Business School studied the effect of calorie information on consumer behavior by analyzing more than 100 million Starbucks transactions both before and after a similar calorie-posting law took effect in New York City in 2008.

They found that calorie postings led to a 6 percent calorie drop in the average purchase,

with no statistically significant impact on Starbucks revenue.

The calorie reduction was even larger — 26 percent — for people who previously had been in the habit of making higher-calorie purchases, defined in the study as more than 250 calories.

The drop in calories per purchase was more significant in ZIP codes with higher income and higher education.

Though a 6 percent calorie drop at Starbucks scarcely makes a dent in the nation's collective waistline, the cost of posting calories is so low that even that small benefit could outweigh the price, the Stanford team concluded.

"Moreover, the long-run effects of calorie postings are potentially more dramatic (than 6 percent)," encouraging restaurants to innovate and offer low-calorie items, the researchers said.

The Starbucks study offers another drop of

The project, to be overseen by the state Department of Transportation, would significantly modify what Palo Alto staff called one of the most dangerous intersections in the city for bicyclists. The redesign includes new sidewalk bulbouts at all four corners of the intersection, a widened pedestrian median on El Camino, new trees and benches. All six through lanes on El Camino Real would be narrowed from 12 feet to 11 feet. The "porkchop" islands, which staff argued encourage cars to make speedy turns, would be removed.

Shahla Yazdy, the city's transportation planner, said the project would both make the intersection safer and support the city's goal of transforming El Camino from a vehicle-oriented highway to a "true multi-modal urban thoroughfare." New benches, streetlights and trees would give drivers visual cues to slow down, she said.

Pedestrians crossing the street would have a safe place to stop in the middle of the crosswalk.

The commission praised the project and voted to recommend approval. The City Council is scheduled to discuss the plan on Feb. 8.

"If we're going to be true to our

### TRAFFIC

## Fix due for 'dangerous' intersection

Planning commission, local bicyclists endorse plan to redesign El Camino Real at Stanford Avenue

by Gennady Sheyner

A proposal to redesign one of Palo Alto's dangerous intersections earned a rave review from the city's Planning and Transportation Commission Wednesday night.

The commission voted 6-0 to support a proposed redesign of the busy intersection of El Camino Real and Stanford Avenue — a project that city and state officials hope to begin this fall.

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## Real Estate Matters

### KNOW YOUR OPTIONS

If any of your friends or family have recently applied for a home loan, you've probably heard that lenders are nervous, with tough new rules and demands for stacks of paperwork. Good mortgages are still out there, but you should be prepared before applying.

First, understand how your credit score impacts the interest rate charged on your loan. If your score is 720 or higher on the scale of 850, you will qualify for the best rates. If it's between 700 and 719, you could expect 0.375% added to that rate, while a score between 680 and 699 might add 0.5%.

Next, determine how much you have available for down payment, and how that will affect your loan's terms. A conforming loan will require a minimum 10% down payment.

However, if you don't have that much to put down, you can investigate a Federal Housing Administra-

tion (FHA) or Veterans Administration (VA) loan. These government-backed loans are targeted towards those with lower credit scores and only require a 3.5% down payment.

You can even use this year's First Time Homebuyer Tax Credit to help pay closing costs, buy down the interest rate, or add to your minimum down payment.

Jackie Schoelerman is a Realtor with Alain Pinel Realtors and a Real Estate Specialist for Seniors. Call Jackie for real estate advice.



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## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“

People heard gunshots and had no reaction — that was normal.

”

— David Woods, East Palo Alto's mayor, speaking about how the culture of crime has changed in recent years. See story on page 3.

# Around Town

### WHERE THERE'S SMOKE ...

Palo Alto isn't exactly a smoker's paradise. The health-conscious city takes pride in having smoke-free playgrounds, bleachers and trails. Last year, the city halted its proposal to ban smoking at all parks after the Parks and Recreation Commission recognized that the issue is, well, a non-issue. So residents could be justifiably confused to learn that the city just received a grade of "D" from the **American Lung Association** when it comes to "tobacco control." The association's new report, **State of Tobacco Control 2009**, gives grades of either D or F to every city in Santa Clara County. The association established the grade based on the existence — or non-existence — of local laws in three areas: smoke-free outdoor air, smoke-free housing and reducing sales of tobacco products. Generally smoke-free Palo Alto's grades in the three categories were C, F and F, respectively. But residents shouldn't feel too depressed about Palo Alto's mediocre placement. The county received an F, as did two-thirds of the cities and counties surveyed.

### MARKET MARKETING ...

Palo Alto's recent experiment with a farmers market near City Hall ended with a thud last fall, when the City Council pulled the plug on the city-subsidized market, citing underwhelming participation by employees. But now, city officials hope to resurrect the market at another prominent nearby site — the newly renovated **Lytton Plaza**. This time, however, the market would not receive a subsidy from the city. **Debra van Duynhoven**, assistant to city manager for sustainability, said the city is looking for a volunteer who would manage the new farmers market. According to an advertisement, the volunteer would act as a main contact for vendors and community members, maintain accounting records and manage entertainment at the **Farmshop**. The position also includes handling parking issues around the Farmshop and creating a "marketing and outreach plan." Van Duynhoven said the city doesn't know if and when the new Farmshop would

open at Lytton Plaza. "It's all based upon us finding a volunteer who can help out," she said.

### "WORLD'S FINEST ACCOMMODATIONS?" ...

Looking for a top-quality, low-cost room in Palo Alto? According to the **Financial Times Executive Education Survey**, local residents don't have to look far, provided they have connections. The **Schwab Residential Center** at Stanford University offers "spacious private bedrooms with double extra-long beds," private baths, desktop computer with high-speed Internet, TV, laundry service and a 24-hour concierge for just \$140 a night. "Once again," the university boasted, Schwab was voted "the world's finest accommodations in the Financial Times Executive Education Survey." In addition to executives attending programs at Stanford Business School, the center is open to alumni and anyone else attending conferences or reunions at Stanford.

### GARBAGE FEES ...

Hundreds of local residents were dismayed to learn this month that they now have to pay an extra \$15 to have their garbage collected. The residents live in what the city calls "hard to serve" areas, which include narrow private streets, alleyways and particularly hilly areas. As a result, the city's garbage collector, **Green-Waste Recovery, Inc.**, has to go through the trouble of using smaller and nimbler trucks to get to these residents' garbage. City Manager **James Keene** said the new fees affect about 658 local properties. About 63 percent of these properties have the option of avoiding the new fee by dragging their garbage to the curb for standard collection. Keene said the majority of the people who have the option have already chosen to exercise it. What about those who don't have this option? Keene announced at Monday night's City Council meeting that after hearing from many customers, city officials have decided to scrap the "hard to serve" fee, at least for now. "We'll be looking at additional notification and outreach with these customers," Keene said. ■

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# Union calls for new look at organizational structure

*New contracts for SEIU workers, police managers, firefighters all on City Council's 2010 agenda*

by Gennady Sheyner

**P**alo Alto's largest labor union is calling on the city to re-evaluate its entire organizational structure before both sides resume their negotiations on a new workers' contract.

The Service Employees International Union Local 521, which represents more than half of Palo Alto's workforce, is scheduled to continue its negotiations with the city this spring. Last year, the two sides failed to reach a consensus on a new contract, prompting the City Council to unilaterally impose conditions on about 600 workers.

Dozens of union members met before this week's City Council meeting to discuss the status of negotiations. Many wore stickers urging the council to take a "new direction" in their negotiations this year. The council includes four newly elected members, including two — Gail Price and Nancy Shepherd — who earned the union's endorsement be-

fore the November election.

The City Council spent several hours in a closed-door session Monday night discussing labor negotiations.

Lynn Krug, chair of the SEIU chapter, said Monday night that the union would like to see the city conduct an "organizational survey" that examines the city's services, its manager-to-employee ratio and the personnel required to provide these services. Without such a survey, both sides would have to rely on "conjecture and politics" during the negotiations, Krug said.

The new study would give the city and the union an objective baseline that could be used during the upcoming negotiations, she said.

"Employee morale has suffered greatly," Krug told the council. "We have been in disarray because of all the ambiguity."

City Manager James Keene said some of the questions the SEIU had

raised about employee ratios are worth considering. But he cautioned that discussions of employee numbers should be tied to the larger question of making the city government efficient — a question that would not be answered with numbers alone.

Keene said the city should also think about new policy and procedures that would make the operation more efficient, as well as programs and services that could be eliminated.

"The bigger question is, 'What are the process improvements that can make the organization more nimble, more effective and more responsible?'" Keene said. "I think this requires a broader scope of work than is being talked about."

Keene said the city has held informal discussions with the SEIU to learn more about the type of study the union is seeking. The city budgets for 617 full-time SEIU positions, though 66 of these positions are now

vacant, according to the city's Human Resources Department.

SEIU Local 521 is one of several worker groups with whom Palo Alto will be trying to reach an agreement this year. The city is also planning to renew its negotiations with the firefighters' union; the new Palo Alto Police Managers' Association, which represents high-ranking police officers; and the Management and Professionals Group, which is not represented by a union.

The city is also awaiting the results of a new study that assesses the current staffing levels and staffing needs in the Fire Department. The study is scheduled to be completed by early April, about the time Palo Alto is scheduled to negotiate with the International Association of Firefighters on a new contract. The firefighters union's contract is scheduled to expire on June 30.

Meanwhile, the city's negotiations with its largest police union will now

wait until 2011. On Monday, the City Council finalized its agreement with the Palo Alto Peace Officers' Association to defer salary raises for 80 of the union's 83 members until fiscal year 2011, which begins July 1. The agreement also extends the police union's contract until June 30, 2011.

Keene said the city's negotiations with the various unions are expected to begin this spring. Though he said it's too early to tell what sort of concessions the city will seek from the various labor groups, he expects the city to seek similar savings from each group.

"It's really important that all of the various employee groups make similar contributions to help solve the city's financial problems," Keene said. "It's not fair to balance concessions of cost savings on just one subset of our city workers." ■

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

## Crime TV

(continued from page 3)

cussing the shooting death of her father, William. Her father was killed in March 2009, after a gunman fired into a crowd at an outside party, following an altercation with some of the participants.

Jocelyn spoke about not planning a birthday party, because her dad won't be there.

John Leonard, 20, was shot and killed in July 2008, after the Milpitas resident was seen possibly speaking with two young men. Leonard's 20-month-old son, John Jr., played in the Media Center's studio as photos of Leonard flashed on the screen.

"He was so excited to be a dad," Leonard's mother said, weeping.

Putting a human face on the victims and their families is part of the department's strategy to fight crime, according to Capt. Carl Estelle, the department's spokesman.

"When the media is involved they put out statistics: how many shots were fired, the victim's age. You just become a number. People don't know anything about the victim," he said.

So far, the department hasn't cracked the profiled cases, but people have come forward with leads, Estelle said.

"Make the Call" and other community-based approaches are beginning to have an effect in East Palo Alto, a community long wary of police but fed up with violent crime.

Firearm assaults are down 29 percent from 2008, helped by the ShotSpotter system to track gunfire and a greater community willingness to report crime, Estelle said.

The city's eight homicides in 2009 are a bump up from five in 2008, but are a far cry from the 42 in 1992 and the 15 killings inherited by Da-



*East Palo Alto Police Chief Ron Davis*

vis four years ago when he became chief.

The city has hit a "statistical norm," Davis said.

"I'm not satisfied. It serves as a warning. We want to stop these incidents. The difference between a homicide and assault with a deadly weapon is two inches," he said.

When violence spiked in July, a youth summit was held in October. "Operation 4th Quarter," a crackdown on gang members, launched a month early in August.

Police identified individual gang members and knocked on their doors, warning that they were being watched. Officers, community and faith leaders offered ways out of the gang life, including mentoring, education and job assistance. But those who persist in a criminal lifestyle face in-depth investigations by city, county, state and federal agencies that could result in long prison sentences, Davis said.

The program is a spin-off of the investigation and arrest of 42 criminals in "Operation Ceasefire," which broke up the city's notorious Taliban gang in March 2009.

The effort has again paid off, Davis and Estelle said.

The fourth quarter of the year is historically the most crime-filled in the city. There were 23 shootings in December 2008 — nine people were shot in a five-day period, according to Davis.

By December's end in 2009, firearm assaults were down 82 percent

— just four shootings — and there were no homicides, according to Estelle.

David Woods, East Palo Alto's mayor, is pleased with the results.

"Although we have a way to go, the relationship between the police department and the community is better than it has ever been before. A lot of ... the reduction in crime is due to the leadership of Chief Ron Davis and the community's willingness to cooperate and take ownership," Woods said.

"The culture has changed in that the things that used to be acceptable as crimes are not acceptable anymore. People heard gunshots and had no reaction — that was normal."

The economy has caused economically based crimes such as burglaries, robberies and larcenies to spike in 2009, bumping up the overall crime rate to 11 percent, according to Estelle.

But Davis is ready to start a program of "advanced community policing" that gets at the root causes of crime, not just chase the bad guys, he said. Programs that address poverty, school drop-out rates, unemployment, substance abuse and other social issues are being developed in collaboration with the city's non-profit groups, he said.

In the three years since the Parolee Reentry program began, offering counseling, and help with education and job opportunities, only 15 percent of ex-cons have returned to crime, he said.

"Over three years, the homicide rate has dropped 29 percent and overall crime is down 16 percent. No entity could ever take credit for that reduction. It comes from the community," he said. ■

*Staff Writer Sue Dremann can be e-mailed at sdremann@paweekly.com.*

## 2010 crackdown on East Palo Alto gangs planned

*Police to form new gang-crime unit*

by Sue Dremann

**E**ast Palo Alto police will beef up their hard-core attack on gangs in 2010, Police Chief Ron Davis said on Wednesday.

Using the same strategy that successfully dismantled the city's notorious "Taliban" gang in March 2009 and led to 42 arrests, the department will collaborate with county, state and federal agencies for in-depth investigation and arrest of individual gang members, he said.

A new gang-crime unit is being formed and will work with San Mateo County's gang-intelligence unit, according to Capt. Carl Estelle, the East Palo Alto department's spokesman.

Davis said the strategy is based on "Operation Ceasefire," a gang-fighting program that originated through the Boston Gun Project and is used in Chicago, Ill.; Stockton, Calif.; and other cities plagued by gang violence.

The department is using sophisticated techniques to predict why crime is happening and when and where it is likely to occur, he said.

"We use intelligence and crime analysis to understand and identify individuals and go after guns — sales, purchases and possession," Davis said.

The department is now staffed 95 percent and has "two more in the hopper," Davis said.

Officers will go after open-air drug markets and a disturbing trend of robberies by gang members on Latino males on payday, he said.

During the last quarter of 2009, police redoubled their efforts to keep retaliatory shootings down after a spate of shootings in July.

In an effort dubbed "Operation 4th Quarter," police knocked on doors of known gang members and informed them that they were aware of their activities. Officers used one-on-one intervention, bringing in community and faith leaders, and offering alternatives, such as mentoring, education and job counseling. Individuals were warned they were being investigated and could face long prison terms, Davis said.

A police report indicated a 59 percent drop in firearm assaults from Sept. 1 through Dec. 21, as compared to 2008. From Oct. 1 through Dec. 21, homicides dropped 50 percent compared to the same period in 2008.

The department's Police Activities League program just received a \$200,000 grant for additional programs to help keep youth engaged and out of trouble and a youth summit is planned in 2010, he said. ■

*Staff Writer Sue Dremann can be e-mailed at sdremann@paweekly.com.*



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## Upfront

## Starbucks

(continued from page 3)

data in the national debate over how to combat obesity.

The percentage of Americans considered obese, with a body mass index greater than 30, rose from 15.9 percent to 26.6 percent from 1995 to 2008. That makes the United States the most obese country in the world, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

In California, 18.6 percent of adults — more than 4.5 million people — are classified as obese, according to the state's Department of Public Health. The figure was somewhat lower, just above 15 percent, in Santa Clara County.

Under California's new law, restaurants with 20 or more facilities in the state will have to display clearly the calorie and fat content information on menus and menu boards by Jan. 1, 2011. Starting last July 1, they were required to provide the information in brochure form.

The calorie-posting law, authored by State Senator Alex Padilla, D-Pacoima, was signed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2008.

Obesity now costs the state \$28.5 billion in health care costs, lost productivity and workers' compensation, the governor said.

New York City's calorie-posting law took effect April 1, 2008. The Stanford team analyzed every Starbucks transaction in the city from Jan. 1, 2008, to Feb. 28, 2009.

To control for other factors, they also looked at every Starbucks transaction in Boston and Philadelphia, where calorie postings were not in effect, during the same time period.

In another part of the study, Stanford tracked 2.7 million anonymous Starbucks cardholders, both inside and outside of New York City, to examine the impact of calorie-posting on an individual's behavior.

The individual data showed that female cardholders were more responsive to the calorie postings than males.

The researchers also found that calorie postings had the greatest effect on food, not beverage, choices. Average food calories per transaction fell by 14 percent, while average beverage calories per transaction did not substantially change.



*John Lafora and Kathleen Lindenmuth enjoy their coffee as they exit Starbucks at El Camino Real and Stanford Avenue. A recent Stanford University study of Starbucks customers found they made lower-calorie choices after the information was posted.*

Starbucks beverages ranged from brewed coffee, at 5 calories a cup, to the 24-ounce Hazelnut Signature Hot Chocolate with whipped cream, at 860 calories. Food items ranged from small cookies, at about 100 calories each, to muffins that were as much as 500 calories.

The Stanford team also found that calorie postings actually led to increased revenue in Starbucks stores located within 100 meters of rival Dunkin' Donuts, perhaps be-

cause customers were reminded of doughnuts' high calorie content.

"It is perhaps worth noting that some chains like Starbucks are in fact fully supportive of mandatory calorie posting — this is not necessarily bad for chain restaurants, as our study shows in the case of Starbucks," said Phillip Leslie, an associate professor of strategic management in Stanford's Graduate School of Business.

Leslie said calorie postings are a good idea but that much remains to be learned about their effects.

Still to be studied, he said, are questions like whether calorie postings cause chains to come up with more low-calorie offerings, or whether people offset their lower-calorie purchases by eating more at home.

In general, Leslie said, "information provision" such as calorie posting is at the forefront of policy interventions to combat obesity.

That strategy has worked in other areas, he said, noting his research showing that "restaurant-hygiene grade cards" led to a 20 percent decrease in hospitalizations for food-related illnesses. ■

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



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Veronica Weber

### A warm thank-you

Nixon School second graders, from left, Daniela Perez, Gisselle Alarcon and Chloe Chang talk with a member of the Downtown Streets Team at King Plaza Tuesday. The children gave away hand-made scarves to the crew as part of the Scarves with Love program. The program, created by teacher Jan Krinsley, also works with other agencies that serve the homeless.

## EDUCATION

# High school teachers laud campus building plans

Gunn educator: 'We will be squared away for decades to come'

by Chris Kenrick

Teachers from Gunn and Palo Alto high schools expressed enthusiasm Tuesday night for new campus buildings they said will improve teaching and learning.

"This new building will bring us all together, rather than being spread out all over campus with some in portables," Gunn French teacher Anne Jensen told the Board of Education.

"We now have 14 teachers using nine desks, and no private area to talk with students when they come to talk with us about their grades. Now we'll have offices with meeting areas and we'll all be near the language lab," said Jensen, who heads Gunn's World Languages Department.

Paly journalism teacher Paul Kandell said he is "almost speechless at how wonderful" the school's new Media Arts Building will be.

"In my own head I keep thinking of it as the media arts temple," he told the school board. Fellow media arts teachers Esther Wojcicki,

Margo Wixsom and Ellen Austin echoed Kandell's comments.

Austin said the state-of-the-art building, modeled after the Walter Cronkite School at Arizona State University, will be an architectural reminder of the cutting-edge work Paly's program attempts to foster.

"It's a real gift to the children who are going to be in it for decades," she said.

The teachers attended the school board meeting to express support for five major new buildings on the two campuses. Groundbreaking is expected in June 2011, pending state approvals.

The school board will be asked to approve schematic designs for the buildings Jan. 26.

At Paly, the \$34 million worth of upgrades call for the new Media Arts Building on the Embarcadero Road side of the campus and a two-story, 38,000-square-foot math and social-studies building near the corporation yard.

At Gunn, the \$37 million worth

of upgrades include a new, two-story, 38,000-square-foot math and English building, a separate, 6,650-square-foot World Languages Building, a new gymnasium that will seat 1,900 students and renovations to the existing 1,400-seat gym.

The two-story classroom building will be located in the area known as Titan Village, which has long held portable classrooms.

"In a word, 'Wow,'" Gunn Athletic Director Chris Horpel said to the board. "I think we've stretched our dollars really far and we'll be squared away for decades to come."

The new buildings at Gunn and Paly comprise Phase 1 of the spending of Measure A funds, a \$378 million facilities bond approved by 78 percent of voters in June 2008.

The measure was intended to equip Palo Alto's 17 campuses for the coming decades, making room for anticipated enrollment growth. ■

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

## EDUCATION

# Parcel tax committee chairs pledge positive campaign

Palo Alto Board of Education places measure on May 4 ballot

by Chris Kenrick

Three parents leading the effort to renew Palo Alto's school parcel tax vowed Tuesday to mount a campaign that will unite the community around its schools.

The three, Tracy Stevens, Anna Thayer and Al Yuen, introduced themselves to the Board of Education just prior to a unanimous board vote to place the \$589-per-parcel tax measure on the May 4 ballot. If passed by a two-thirds majority, it will replace the current \$493-per-parcel tax, which expires next year.

"This campaign is absolutely the most critically important thing I could be doing with my time," said Thayer, a PTA executive board member and mother of four children who attend Fairmeadow Elementary School and Gunn High School.

Yuen, whose family immigrated to the United States from Taiwan when he was in second grade, said his father instilled in him "a need to pay back, to fulfill a lot of the things we got growing up in the United States." He is the father of four boys.

Stevens, a Stanford resident whose two children attended Nixon Elementary School, Terman Middle School and Gunn High School, said parcel-tax campaigners aim to achieve the twin goals of uniting the community and "reminding ourselves why our schools are so successful."

Noting the state financial crisis

and the fact that parcel-tax funds are completely locally controlled, Stevens said, "At this time, this district should continue to represent what public education can be at its best."

The co-chairs said the campaign will be called Support Palo Alto Schools 2010, and that it will launch a website, [supportpaloaltoschools2010.org](http://supportpaloaltoschools2010.org), by next week.

The proposed tax would replace the current parcel tax and increase it by \$96 a year. The current tax generates about \$9.4 million a year, about 6 percent of the school district's operating budget.

Like the current parcel tax, the proposed replacement would last for six years and have an optional waiver for seniors.

Palo Alto resident Roberta Stone spoke against the proposed tax, which does not allow a waiver for low-income homeowners.

"I believe the goals of this parcel tax are very important and admirable, but I don't believe the means for achieving that goal are ethical," Stone said. "A flat tax of close to \$600 places a very significant and harmful burden on the low-income residents of the city, the homeowners who are low-income or very low-income."

In response, district staff members said state law does not allow them to offer a waiver of the parcel tax for low-income residents. ■

## EDUCATION

# 'Egg wars' come to Palo Alto school board

Attorney demands suspensions be expunged for district to avoid lawsuit

by Chris Kenrick

The controversial "egg wars" of last October came back to bite the Palo Alto Board of Education Tuesday when a lawyer asked board members to expunge the suspensions of students associated with the incident or face a lawsuit.

In a statement delivered during the "open forum" portion of the school board meeting, attorney William D. Ross said the suspensions are harming the ability of students to apply for athletic scholarships because of NCAA rules requiring that students disclose whether they have been a subject of school discipline.

Ross asked board members to review and expunge the suspensions as soon as possible to "avoid liability" for interfering with students' ability to obtain scholarships.

The Oct. 27 "egg war" took place between members of Palo Alto High School's junior and senior classes on the Gunn High School campus, damaging the school's new track, scoreboards and pool deck and requiring professional cleanup at a cost of \$3,200.

ing professional cleanup at a cost of \$3,200.

Palo Alto High School Principal Jacquie McEvoy initially issued five-day suspensions to students known to have participated, quickly reducing them to one-day suspensions after she said she learned the egg fight had not been as serious as she'd first believed. Later, McEvoy said she would expunge the suspensions entirely if students remained on good behavior for the rest of the year.

Frustrated by what they viewed as McEvoy's punitive discipline style, some parents have demanded a probe of the school's investigative procedures in the incident.

The "egg war" between juniors and seniors is an unauthorized tradition of Paly's Spirit Week, normally taking place in a Stanford eucalyptus grove. This time, the students spontaneously moved to Gunn after Stanford police scared them away. Paly student representatives later apologized to Gunn for the incident. ■

**express**

Today's news, sports & hot picks

Fresh news  
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# News Digest

## Intersection

(continued from page 3)

### Local fund seeks Haiti quake relief donations

The Irene S. Scully Fund, a donor-advised fund of Silicon Valley Community Foundation in Mountain View, will provide up to \$50,000 in matching money to help Haiti and its people recover from the devastating Jan. 12 earthquake, the foundation announced Wednesday.

Through the Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund, donations will be matched dollar for dollar. The funds will be given to organizations working to provide critical assistance to help Haiti following the worst earthquake there in more than 200 years.

The community foundation Wednesday made the first donation, \$10,000.

The Irene S. Scully Family Foundation in Greenbrae focuses primarily on the Bay Area but became interested in Haiti through its work with the What If? Foundation, according to spokeswoman Kathleen Maloney.

Community foundation staff has researched organizations that are on the ground in Haiti and are able to provide effective assistance, according to a news release.

Donations are being accepted online through [www.siliconvalleycf.org](http://www.siliconvalleycf.org), [donate@siliconvalleycf.org](mailto:donate@siliconvalleycf.org) or 650-450-5444. Checks also can be mailed to Silicon Valley Community Foundation, 2440 West El Camino Real, Suite 300, Mountain View, CA, 94040, attn: "Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund."

Other organizations helping with recovery efforts in Haiti include Save the Children, World Vision, Partners in Health and American Red Cross. ■

— Palo Alto Weekly staff

### Four Palo Alto school administrators to retire

The Palo Alto Unified School District announced a spate of retirements Wednesday.

Among those retiring in June will be an assistant superintendent who joined the district just last summer, and the administrator who has spearheaded the school district's efforts in responding to four student suicides at the Caltrain tracks last year.

"We are deeply grateful for the service of these outstanding educators," Superintendent Kevin Skelly said.

"Our challenge over the next six months is to build the strongest district administrative team possible so we can provide outstanding support to schools and our community."

Carol Zepecki, the district's director of special education and student services, has held that position since arriving at the district 12 years ago. Most recently, Zepecki has been at the forefront of district efforts to respond to the suicides, bringing in outside experts and helping to set up programs for students and staff.

Linda Common, assistant superintendent of administrative services, joined the district last July, replacing Scott Laurence, who left to become superintendent of the San Mateo Union High School District. Common, who was principal of Woodside High School for 11 years, also has worked in the Santa Clara Unified School District and the San Mateo Union High School District.

Also retiring will be Burton Cohen, the district's director of secondary education since arriving at the district 10 years ago, and Barbara Lancon, summer school coordinator, who joined the district in 1996 and served as a teacher and administrator at JLS Middle School. ■

— Chris Kenrick

### Plan approved for offices at historic church

A historic church in downtown Palo Alto will be preserved, renovated and transformed into an office building under a plan approved by the City Council Monday night.

The iconic building at 661 Bryant St., was constructed in 1916 and has housed the First Church of Christ, Scientist, until 2006, when the church merged with the Second Church of Christ, Scientist.

In 2008, the company ECI Three Bryant, LLC, purchased the building with the intention of preserving and upgrading the building, which is considered one of the area's best examples of Mission Revival architectural style.

On Monday, the council unanimously endorsed the company's plan to preserve the building and to create office space on the ground floor. The council also granted the applicant the right to develop more than 5,000 square feet at a different site, as part an incentive to preserve the historic features of the structure.

The project was prompted by the city's policy of giving development "bonuses" to builders who preserve historic structures.

The proposal also includes a new handicap ramp and replacement of the tinted glass in 22 of the church's windows. The "historic opalescent glass" at five other windows would also be replaced and new landscaping installed.

Councilman Larry Klein called the proposed renovation a "superb project," one that would make a "great contribution to our community." The city's Historic Resources Board had also unanimously approved the project, though it added more than 20 conditions of approval. ■

— Gennady Sheyner

Comprehensive Plan — where we talk about walkable streets and pedestrian improvements along El Camino Real — you can't get a much clearer example than this," Commissioner Eduardo Martinez said.

Commissioner Susan Fineberg agreed.

"I think the project is attempting to accomplish a great good," Fineberg said. "Getting this intersection more pedestrian friendly and more safe for bicyclists is a good thing that's supported by our Comprehensive Plan."

About a dozen neighborhood residents and bicyclists said they back the plan and argued that the proposed changes would make the intersection safer. A few residents said they were concerned the renovation would create too many distractions on the busy street — a common route for Escondido Elementary School students.

Several residents told how they or their children were nearly hit by turning vehicles while trying to cross El Camino.

"I didn't let my kids cross El Camino Real on their own until fifth grade," Evergreen Park resident David Shapiro said. "My last words to them in the morning would be, 'Be careful crossing El Camino.'"

"I shouldn't be saying this every morning."

Commissioner Arthur Keller criticized the accelerated timeline for the redesign, which needs to be approved by this spring to qualify for federal funding. Keller said he was frustrated by what he felt was inadequate traffic analysis by Caltrans and the city. But even he ended up supporting the plan.

"I think on the whole this is a good project," he said. "It increases safety." ■

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

## Joan Baez to speak

This Sunday in Palo Alto, famed folk singer Joan Baez lends her voice to a free local celebration for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

At the event, titled "Reflecting on the Dream," keynote speaker Baez will share reflections of her work with King, and perhaps a few songs. She's sure to have plenty of memories to share — the longtime human-rights and civil-rights activist marched with King in the 1960s.

The event is planned from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church at 625 Hamilton Ave. The volunteer Community Interfaith Choir will also perform, along with the school choir from Eastside College Preparatory in East Palo Alto. Alex Freeman, a youth speaker from Palo Alto High School, will give an address.

LaDoris Cordell, a former judge and Palo Alto City Council member, will serve as master of ceremonies. Refreshments will be served after the program.

For more information, go to [www.firstpaloalto.com](http://www.firstpaloalto.com) or call 650-688-0850. ■

— Rebecca Wallace

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**Palo Alto Weekly**

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**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)



## COMMUNITY



Bill Hahn, 85, and Colleen Coleman, 84, chat while sitting on a bench outside Palo Alto Commons in December. The couple, who met at the Commons and often take walks together, recently wed.

Veronica Weber

## An old-fashioned love story

Two seniors at Palo Alto Commons find romance — a second time

by John Squire

“I asked her to marry me,” Bill Hahn said on a recent weekday afternoon, holding his fiancée’s hand in her cozy apartment in the Palo Alto Commons senior community on El Camino Way.

“We were sitting out on the veranda together,” Colleen Coleman said. “He looked at me and said... Do you remember what you said, Bill?”

“He said, ‘I’d like you to be my wife.’ I thought about it for a second and said, ‘OK, I will.’”

“He didn’t get down on one knee. I didn’t expect him to. He might not have gotten up,” she said with a smile.

With 118 years of combined experience being married, Hahn and Coleman decided to take the plunge again this week. Hahn is 85 and Coleman 84. They met at Palo Alto Commons.

“Falling in love when you’re 84 makes a lot more sense than when you’re 18,” Coleman said. “You look for different qualities. You look for what’s inside not outside, and that’s a big deal.

“I’d recommend everybody marry after 80,” she said.

What ended up as love started out as something else entirely.

When Hahn and Coleman first met, Hahn was still married. His wife was moved to Palo Alto Commons in 2007 for what turned out to be end-of-life treatment. Hahn had been a loving, diligent husband and was with his wife through 10 years of illnesses and medical complications. Hahn’s wife died April 22.

“He was just so depressed and morose. We just became acquaint-

ed having dinner at the same time every night. If he was sitting alone, I’d talk to him,” Coleman said.

Being an optimistic, kind person, Coleman said she couldn’t bear to see someone else in so much pain. She reached out to Hahn, and the two found they had a lot in common.

“He’s my best friend here. We get along so well together,” she

**‘Falling in love when you’re 84 makes a lot more sense than when you’re 18. ... I’d recommend everybody marry after 80.’**

— Colleen Coleman, on her recent marriage to Bill Hahn

said leaning into him.

Neither expected anything more than friendship. The relationship was platonic but soon turned symbiotic.

“He’s my eyes, and I can be his legs,” said Coleman, who is legally blind.

Hahn uses a walker to get around.

“It was between the Apple computer and the Bible” that brought them together, Hahn said.

“And the fact that he’s a sweet, wonderful man,” Coleman added.

Hahn would read verses from the Bible to Coleman and Coleman would teach Hahn how to use the new laptop his son bought him.

“He got really dependent on me. He couldn’t live without me.” Coleman laughed.

The two listened to music, talked about faith and politics and took weekly walks to Starbucks.

“Then there was that night,” Coleman said.

After the pair had known each other for two years, the idea came to Coleman that it would be a good idea to have Hahn escort her to dinner. It was to be a big night at the Palo Alto Commons dining room, with dancing and a live band.

“I sat here, and I waited and waited. Finally, I went downstairs to look for him. He was just sitting there waiting for me,” Coleman said.

“Afterwards, he walked me to the door. I felt like kissing him, so I did,” she said.

Coleman said that, looking back, it wasn’t surprising they fell in love. But it also wasn’t anything they sought or expected.

“I would never guess I’d find another love like Colleen. It’s unbelievable to me,” Hahn said, his voice cracking.

The couple has asked that their wedding plans be kept private but said it would involve a small ceremony at their church, with a big reception afterwards.

For the first time, Hahn will be a grandfather.

“I’m picking up about 30” new family members, he joked.

After a honeymoon to Half Moon Bay, the couple plan to move into a larger apartment — in Palo Alto Commons. ■

Editorial Intern John Squire can be contacted at [jsquire@paweekly.com](mailto:jsquire@paweekly.com).

## 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.

### Police say Menlo Park girl, 14, is still missing

Police are still looking for Jennifer Blair, a 14-year-old resident of Menlo Park who was last seen leaving her residence in the 400 block of Olive Street on Jan. 6 around 4:30 p.m. Because of her age, police are considering her as “at risk.” (Posted Jan. 13 at 8:20 a.m.)

### Santa Clara County elects new board president

The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors today elected Supervisor Ken Yeager as its new president, replacing Liz Kniss. (Posted Jan. 12 at 3:36 p.m.)

### Palo Alto begins process to rename Lytton Plaza

Lytton Plaza officially began its transformation into Thoits Plaza Monday night, when the Palo Alto City Council voted unanimously to begin the renaming process. (Posted Jan. 12 at 9:06 a.m.)

### Armed men rob Menlo Park gas station

Police in Menlo Park are trying to identify two suspects who robbed a 76 gas station at gunpoint Monday night. (Posted Jan. 12 at 8:27 a.m.)

### Knife-wielding man robs Mountain View bank

A man brandishing a knife robbed the Wells Fargo Bank on Castro Street in Mountain View Monday morning before fleeing into nearby Pioneer Park, police reported. (Posted Jan. 11 at 4:33 p.m.)

### Conference aims to boost father-child bond

Encouraging fathers to be present in the lives of their children is the goal of a Jan. 29 conference planned by the Fatherhood Collaborative, an official advisory board to the County of San Mateo. (Posted Jan. 11 at 12:02 p.m.)

### New trees, wider sidewalks eyed for El Camino

Months after Palo Alto residents shot down a city proposal to plant red maples on California Avenue, the trees are causing a stir at another streetscape project just a few blocks away. (Posted Jan. 11 at 9:53 a.m.)

### Saturday fire displaces Mountain View family

A family was displaced in Mountain View on Saturday night after their home caught on fire, according to the fire department. (Posted Jan. 10 at 1:59 p.m.)

### Facebook expansion could relieve parking woes

Facebook plans to shift nearly 500 employees from its California Avenue headquarters at Stanford Research Park to its new 265,000-square-foot building at 1050 Page Mill Road, a company spokesman told residents in an e-mail on Friday. (Posted Jan. 8 at 8:07 p.m.)

### Apple plans new flagship store on University Ave.

Palo Alto’s Apple Store may soon be moving across the street. The Palo Alto Architectural Review Board Thursday approved facade improvements for the building at 340 University Ave. — although the Apple Store tenancy was not mentioned. (Posted Jan. 8 at 9:46 a.m.)

### Simitian to offer ‘education update’ in Palo Alto

State Senator Joe Simitian, D-Palo Alto, will hold an “Education Update” Jan. 23 in Palo Alto, reviewing K-12 education funding and legislation pending in Sacramento. (Posted Jan. 8 at 9:49 a.m.)

### Truck crash jams traffic at El Camino/Page Mill

A large delivery truck that hit a car and a pedestrian on El Camino Real at 7 a.m. Friday wound up at a steep angle next to the We Fix Macs store just south of Page Mill Road, according to police. (Posted Jan. 8 at 9:10 a.m.)

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## New grant funds police equipment

\$100,000 would pay for GPS, canine unit

**P**alo Alto's police officers will soon be equipped with global-position-system devices, binoculars and radio earpieces thanks to a \$100,000 state grant.

The Citizens Options for Public Safety (COPS) grant, which the City Council voted to accept Monday night, will also allow the department to enhance its evidence-collection trailer and to get a new canine unit — which would allow one of the department's aging canines to retire. The department also plans to use the COPS funds to buy 12 "heavy-duty cases" for storing patrol equipment; 12 large-capacity USB flash drives; and five new "remote area lighting systems."

The department's "enhanced" evidence-gathering vehicle would include a drying shed for "wet evidence," a refrigeration unit for other types of evidence, a place to view DVDs and security tapes,

a generator and improved lighting. The cost of outfitting the evidence-collecting vehicle would be \$50,000.

The council voted unanimously to accept the COPS money, saying the funds would bolster the police department and make the city safer. Palo Alto has been accepting COPS funds every year since 1998. In the past, the funds helped the department buy Tasers, surveillance equipment, upgrades to patrol vehicles and automatic license-plate readers.

"I think this is important for our police force and our community," Vice Mayor Sid Espinosa said Monday. "I know we've accepted funds for this program since 1998 and I hope we never get to the point where we're not accepting money for much-needed Police Department needs." ■

— Gennady Sheyner

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**THE ETHICS OF FOOD & THE ENVIRONMENT WINTER 2010**

**January 21, 2010 / 7:00 pm / Annenberg Auditorium, 435 Lasuen Mall, Stanford**  
**Kathleen Merrigan** (Deputy Secretary, US Department of Agriculture)  
"Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food"

**February 4, 2010 / 7:30 pm / Cubberley Auditorium, 485 Lasuen Mall, Stanford**  
**David Kessler** (Professor, UCSF School of Medicine / former commissioner FDA)  
"Taking Control of the Insatiable American Appetite"

**February 11, 2010 / 7:30 pm / Annenberg Auditorium, 435 Lasuen Mall, Stanford**  
**Steve Schneider** (Professor Interdisciplinary Environmental Studies & Biology Stanford)  
"The Climate Change Problem: Science, Ethics and Policy"

**February 18, 2010 / 7:30 pm / Memorial Auditorium, 551 Serra Mall, Stanford**  
**Jeffrey Sachs** (Director, The Earth Institute, Columbia University)  
"Designing a Path to Sustainable Development"  
*This is a free event but tickets are required.*  
*Tickets available at the Stanford Ticket Office.*

**February 25, 2010 / 7:00 pm / Annenberg Auditorium, 435 Lasuen Mall, Stanford**  
**Killer at Large (film)**  
Faculty talk back with  
**Christopher Gardner** (Director of Nutrition Studies; Stanford)

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# CityView

A round-up of Palo Alto government action this week

## City Council (Jan. 11)

**Church renovation:** The council approved a proposal by Embarcadero Capital Partners to renovate the historic building at 661 Bryant St., and to build a new mezzanine with office space. The building formerly housed the First Church of Christ, Scientist. **Yes:** Burt, Espinosa, Scharff, Schmidt, Klein, Holman, Price, Yeh **Recused:** Shepherd

**Lytton Plaza:** The council voted to initiate the renaming process for Lytton Plaza. The process was prompted by a request from Chop Keenan and Friends of Lytton Plaza to rename the plaza Thoits Plaza. **Yes:** Unanimous

**Police union:** The council voted to defer salary increases for members of the Palo Alto Police Officers' Association for one year and to extend the city's current contract with the police union until 2011. **Yes:** Unanimous

## Palo Alto Board of Education (Jan. 12)

**Parcel tax:** The school board voted to place a parcel tax on the May 4 ballot. The \$589-per-parcel annual tax would replace the current \$493-per-parcel tax, run for six years and carry an optional exemption for property owners 65 and older. **Yes:** Unanimous

## Planning and Transportation Commission (Jan. 13)

**El Camino Real intersection:** The commission voted unanimously in favor of proposed renovations at the intersection of El Camino Real and Stanford Avenue. Changes include sidewalk bulbouts, new street furniture and lighting fixtures and a widened median in the middle of the crosswalk.

**Yes:** Unanimous  
**Comprehensive Plan:** The commission discussed the Business Element programs and policies in the city's Comprehensive Plan. The discussion was part of the commission's ongoing revision of the Comprehensive Plan.

**Action:** None



**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)

## Public Agenda

**PALO ALTO ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD ...** The board is scheduled to conduct its annual retreat. The board plans to discuss design implications for public art and consider ARB 2010 Awards project finalists. The retreat will be held at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 21, in the Palo Alto Art Center (1313 Newell Road). ■

# Pulse

A weekly compendium of vital statistics

## Palo Alto

Jan. 6-12

### Violence related

Assault w/deadly weapon . . . . .1  
Child abuse/physical . . . . .1  
Family violence . . . . .1  
Sex crime/misc. . . . .1

### Theft related

Grand theft . . . . .1  
Residential burglary attempt . . . . .1  
Petty theft . . . . .3

### Vehicle related

Driving w/ suspended license . . . . .2  
Hit and run . . . . .2  
Theft from auto . . . . .4  
Vehicle accident/mnr. injury . . . . .1  
Vehicle accident/property damage . . . . .4  
Vehicle impound . . . . .1  
Vehicle stored . . . . .1

### Alcohol or drug related

Drunken driving . . . . .4  
N&D possession . . . . .1

### Miscellaneous

Accident property damage . . . . .1  
Elder abuse/financial . . . . .1  
Found property . . . . .1  
Lost property . . . . .1  
Missing person . . . . .1  
Other/misc. . . . .2  
Outside investigation . . . . .2  
Psych. Subject . . . . .3  
Unattended death . . . . .1  
Warrant/other agency . . . . .4

## Menlo Park

Jan. 6-12

### Violence related

Battery . . . . .1  
Child abuse . . . . .1

### Theft related

Commercial burglary . . . . .1  
Fraud . . . . .3  
Grand theft . . . . .2  
Petty theft . . . . .2  
Residential burglary . . . . .1  
Robbery . . . . .1

### Vehicle related

Auto theft . . . . .1  
Hit and run . . . . .4  
Stolen vehicle . . . . .1  
Suspended license . . . . .2  
Theft from auto . . . . .4  
Vehicle accident/prop damage . . . . .4  
Vehicle accident/injury . . . . .1

### Alcohol and drug related

Registrant . . . . .1

## Miscellaneous

Disturbance . . . . .1  
Info. case . . . . .2  
Lost property . . . . .1  
Missing person . . . . .2  
Outside assistance . . . . .1  
Probation arrest or assist . . . . .1  
Property for destruction . . . . .2  
Suspicious person . . . . .1  
Warrant arrest . . . . .5  
Vandalism . . . . .1  
Other/Misc. . . . .1

## Atherton

Dec. 23-Jan. 8

### Theft related

Fraud . . . . .3  
Grand theft . . . . .1  
Petty theft . . . . .1

### Vehicle related

Bicycle stop . . . . .1  
Hit and run . . . . .1  
Suspicious vehicle . . . . .8  
Vehicle accident/prop damage . . . . .1  
Vehicle stop . . . . .1  
Vehicle tow . . . . .1

### Miscellaneous

Citizen assist. . . . .1  
Disturbing/annoying phone calls . . . . .1  
Fire call . . . . .2  
Follow up . . . . .1  
Juvenile problem . . . . .1  
Medical aid . . . . .4  
Meet citizen . . . . .1  
Noise ordinance/violation . . . . .5  
Outside assistance . . . . .9  
Suspicious circumstances . . . . .4  
Suspicious person . . . . .5  
Vandalism . . . . .2  
Welfare check . . . . .1  
Other/Misc. . . . .11

## VIOLENT CRIMES

### Palo Alto

**2700 Block Ash Street**, 1/6/10, 9:42 p.m.; assault with deadly weapon.

**Page Mill Road**, 1/7/10, 2:37 p.m.; family violence.

**Hamilton Avenue**, 1/7/10, 9:10 p.m.; child abuse/physical

**Kings Lane**, 1/1/10, 7:55 a.m.; sex crime misc.

### Menlo Park

**1100 block of Elder Avenue**, 1/8/10, 9:35 p.m.; battery

**100 Block O'Keefe Street**, 1/11/10, 4:37 p.m.; child abuse.

## Answers to this week's puzzles, which can be found on page 65

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

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

# MONSTER DAY AT WAHOO'S

## Saturday January 23, 2010

### 12pm - 2pm



Rider: Ryan Villopoto Photo: Frank Hoppen

**Lots of giveaways, music and fun.**  
**FREE MONSTER ENERGY DRINKS** when you purchase any combo meal from Wahoo's.

**Win a pair of VIP pit passes to the 2010 Monster Energy Supercross on January 30 at AT&T Park**

**SANTANA ROW** (San Jose) - 3055 Olin Ave  
**PALO ALTO** 2305 El Camino Real  
**CUPERTINO** 19626 Stevens Creek Road  
wahoos.com



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## 19th Annual Photo Contest

**Coming Soon!**

Look for rules and entry form starting Friday, January 29 in the Palo Alto Weekly or online at [www.PaloAltoOnline.com](http://www.PaloAltoOnline.com)

## Help the City of Palo Alto Develop Its New Palo Alto Recycling and Composting Ordinance

Nearly 43% of our 'garbage' is actually recyclable. By simply placing items in the appropriate containers, we can further our community goals of Zero Waste by 2021 and 15% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2020. To address this important issue, the City is creating a new Recycling and Composting Ordinance to restrict recyclables and compostables from the garbage.

### Join the Community Discussion

The Palo Alto community is invited to attend public meetings hosted by the City to develop the specifics of the new ordinance. The meetings have been separated into two categories, residential and commercial, to specifically address the differing needs and concerns of these community members.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

### - Commercial -

**Wednesday, January 27**

2:30 – 4 p.m.

Roche, A2-1 Conference Room  
3431 Hillview Ave., Palo Alto

**Thursday, January 28**

8:30 – 10 a.m.

Comerica Bank boardroom  
250 Lytton Ave., Palo Alto

### - Residential -

**Wednesday, February 3**

7 – 8:30 p.m.

Art Center Auditorium  
1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto

**Saturday, February 6**

10 – 11:30 a.m.

Art Center Auditorium  
1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto

Visit [www.cityofpaloalto.org/zerowaste](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/zerowaste)  
or call (650) 496-5910 for more  
information on this issue.



Achieving zero waste together

# Transitions

*Births, marriages and deaths*

## Deaths

### Frances Gibbs

Frances Jacobson Gibbs, 99, a longtime resident of Ladera, died Jan. 1 at The Sequoias in Portola Valley.



Her parents emigrated from Sweden, and her father was a pastor of several Swedish Baptist churches in Wisconsin. Her mother named her after 19th century suffragist and prohibition campaigner Frances Willard, relatives said.

The family eventually moved to Los Angeles, where she worked as a librarian for a time to earn money to help her brother through medical school. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Occidental College in 1934.

She married Owen Gibbs in 1938 and moved to Ladera in 1951. She and her husband were founding members of the Ladera Community Church, where she led the current-affairs discussion group as well as community book groups. She wrote memorable narratives about her family and experiences, and poems for

her Christmas cards, relatives said.

After raising five children, she became a social worker for San Mateo County, then retired to work as an activities director at the Palo Alto Senior Day Care Center. She moved to The Sequoias in 1995.

She is survived by her children, James Gibbs of Evanston, Ill.; Janet Hunt of Takoma Park, Md.; Mary Delaney of Willits, Calif.; David Gibbs of Cedar Park, Texas; and Carol Tenter of Bolinas, Calif.; 10 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Private funeral services are pending. The family recommends donations in her memory be made to a charity or cause of the donor's choice.

## Births

**Orr, Christine and James** of Menlo Park, a son, Dec. 11.

**Nielson, Tyler and Melinda** of Menlo Park, a daughter, Dec. 13.

**Dillingham, Angela, and Pineda Rivera, Christian**, of Palo Alto, a son, Dec. 15

**Whealan-Andersson, Carolyn, and Andersson, Christer**, of Menlo Park, a son, Dec. 16

**Fifita, Ana and Una** of Menlo Park, a son, Dec. 29.

We invite you to experience our

## BEAUTIFUL RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY



- ❖ Take a stroll down our **walking paths** and lovely landscaped gardens.
- ❖ As you tour our spacious apartments enjoy the view from the **balcony or patio**.
- ❖ Take advantage of our many **amenities** and **concierge services**.
- ❖ We offer independent and assisted living options with **six levels of care** available.



Palo Alto Commons is a privately owned and managed senior residence in Palo Alto.

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650-494-0760

www.paloaltocommons.com

License #435200706

## PATRICIA NITTLER GAREIA

Patricia Nittler Gareia passed away on December 21, 2009 from a lingering illness.

Patricia was a loving daughter, sister, mother, and grandmother. She is survived by her children, Michael Patrick, Kathy Patrick, Carol Mannas, and Tayllor Gareia. She is also survived by her father, John Nittler, and her sisters, Cheryl Mautner, Elizabeth Rodriguez, and Mary Piciullo. Patricia had ten grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Please join us in a celebration of Patricia's life on January 23rd at 10:00 a.m. at Our Lady Of The Rosary Church, 3233 Cowper Street, Palo Alto, California.

PAID OBITUARY



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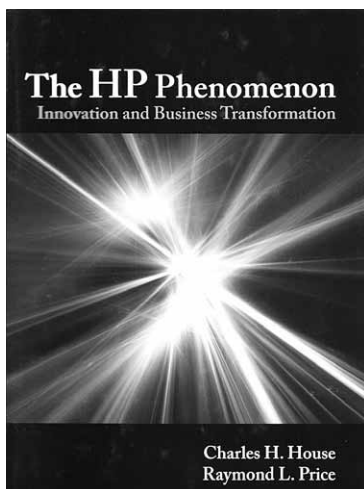


369 Lytton Avenue  
Downtown Palo Alto  
462-5903

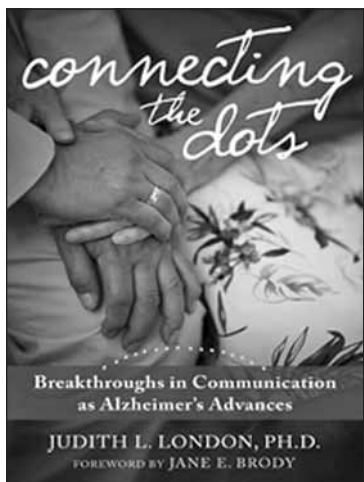
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# Book Talk



**HERALDING HP ...** Stanford University scholar **Charles H. House** and University of Illinois Professor **Raymond L. Price** have teamed up to write a 656-page history of Hewlett-Packard Company (now known simply as HP), for which House was an engineer in the 1960s. In reviewing the high-tech company's six eras of innovation since its founding in 1939, the authors lay the foundation for questioning what the Silicon Valley giant's future will hold. "The HP Phenomenon" is published by Stanford Business Books, an imprint of Stanford University Press.



**HOPE FOR ALZHEIMER'S ...** When a loved one has traveled on the downward spiral of Alzheimer's disease, losing memories and ability to communicate, there are still ways family and friends can keep a relationship with the person alive. So writes **Judith London**, a Los Altos author and licensed psychologist with 16 years' experience in treating people with Alzheimer's and other dementias. "Connecting the Dots: Breakthroughs in Communication as Alzheimer's Advances" shows readers how to reach the minds and hearts of people with mid-to-late stage Alzheimer's. London uses anecdotes from her work with patients and describes techniques she's used to draw meaning from their communication. London will be speaking on **Wednesday, Feb. 17**, at 7:30 p.m. at Books Inc. in Mountain View.

**AUTHOR, AUTHOR ...** Authors, (continued on next page)

# Title Pages

*A monthly section on local books and authors, edited by Jocelyn Dong*



*Palo Alto educator Phillip Done offers tales of elementary-school teaching in his latest book.*

## The power of the story

**Addison's Phillip Done shares classroom stories in his second book**

**"Close Encounters of the Third-Grade Kind: Thoughts on Teacherhood,"** by Phillip Done; Center Street/Hachette Book Group; 336 pp.; \$22.99

**by Chris Kenrick**

**H**ey, did you hear about the time Mr. Done worked in a restaurant and he was carrying 10 salads on a tray and he dropped it? Or about when he was in third grade and put gel in his hair because he had a crush on Miss Greco, his teacher?

Phillip Done's third- and fourth-grade students at Addison Elementary School in Palo Alto have heard both of those stories, and many more.

In his classroom, the storytelling has a purpose — to make a connection with students, creating an environment that he believes fosters the best learning.

Done, who's taught for more than two decades, has spent years cultivating the art of storytelling, not just for kids, but also for fellow teachers and for the world at large.

This year, he's taking time off from the classroom to promote his latest compilation of stories, "Close Encounters of the Third Grade Kind," published by the Hachette Book Group.

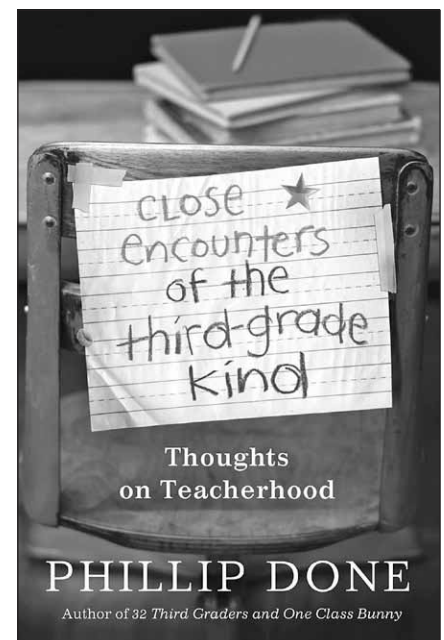
Done's appearance at Kepler's Books and Magazine in September drew lines out the door. He has spoken in Sacramento, Seattle, Denver, appeared on various television shows and at the Keystone State Reading Association Conference in Hershey, Pa.

Done delivered the "welcome back" speech last fall for teachers and staff in the Sunnyvale School District — a motivational speech for 600 educators in the district where he himself attended elementary school and spent his first nine years of teaching.

His topic was the qualities of an outstanding educator.

"What makes teachers excellent — what makes them stand out — is the connections they make with the children," he said

(continued on next page)





## CITY OF PALO ALTO NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Palo Alto City Council will hold a public hearing at the regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, February 1, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. or as near thereafter as possible, in the Council Chambers, 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, to Consider Approval of an Ordinance Amending Title 21 (Subdivisions) of the Palo Alto Municipal Code to Revise the Definition of "Private Street."

DONNA J. GRIDER, MMC  
City Clerk



## NOTICE OF VACANCIES ON THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION FOR TWO TERMS ENDING MARCH 31, 2013 AND ONE UNEXPIRED TERM ENDING MARCH 31, 2012 (Terms of Hirsch Khan, Hamilton, and Mora)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council is seeking applications for the Human Relations Commission from persons interested in serving in one of two terms ending March 31, 2013, or one unexpired term ending March 31, 2012.

Eligibility Requirements: Composed of seven members who are not Council Members, officers or employees of the City, who are residents of the City, and who shall be appointed by the Council. Regular meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month.

Duties: The Human Relations Commission has the discretion to act with respect to any human relations matter when the Commission finds that any person or group does not benefit fully from public or private opportunities or resources in the community, or is unfairly or differently treated due to factors of concern to the Commission: a) public or private opportunities or resources in the community include, but are not limited to, those associated with ownership and rental of housing, employment, education and governmental services and benefits; and b) factors of concern to the Commission include, but are not limited to, socioeconomic class or status, physical condition or handicap, married or unmarried state, emotional condition, intellectual ability, age, sex, sexual preference, race, cultural characteristics, ethnic background, ancestry, citizenship, and religious, conscientious or philosophical belief. The Commission shall conduct such studies and undertake such responsibilities as the Council may direct.

Application forms and appointment information are available in the City Clerk's Office, 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto (650) 329-2571 or may be obtained on the website at <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org>.

Deadline for receipt of applications in the City Clerk's Office is 5:30 p.m., January 27, 2010. If an incumbent does not apply, the deadline will be extended to 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 2, 2010.

DONNA J. GRIDER  
City Clerk

**MEMBERS MUST BE PALO ALTO RESIDENTS.**

## Title Pages

### Phillip Done

(continued from previous page)

in an interview with the Weekly.

"It's not about STAR Test scores, standards, lesson plans, math books, spellers or overheads. The most important thing is the connection you make with the child. They are motivated by stories from our lives."

Done calls it "personal teaching."

"The storytelling isn't just for fun and filler; it's purposeful. If you connect with children, it does many things. They're more apt to respect you and believe in what you're trying to do. There's more buy-in to the program. There's more closeness."

Done recently encountered a Wells Fargo Bank teller who had been one of his students 20 years ago. During the transaction, the teller flawlessly recounted a story Done had told his class way back when.

"We underestimate the power of storytelling," he said.

"When you have 25 children in a classroom you have to create a tone of warmth and camaraderie. These children are all working together for 185 days. The teacher needs to set a tone whereby children can work well together, be willing to make mistakes in front of each other.

"How do you create that? You tell stories, showing them your own vulnerabilities and mistakes."

Done began his storytelling — and writing — efforts not so much with students as with teachers in mind.

"There's a lot of pressure on teachers. It's not easy being in the trenches," he said.

"I wanted to do for teachers what Erma Bombeck did for mothers — give them some laughs and some hopes."

However, after the 2005 publication of his first book, "32 Third Graders and One Class Bunny," he found that many of his readers were actually parents.

"I get e-mails every day — in the beginning it was 20 to 30 a day — from all over the country. The people who write are the parents, because the book is a glimpse of their child's life in the classroom."

He acknowledged that some parents are overbearing. But, he said, "You have to realize they're just caring for their child.

"Ninety-five percent of parents are fantastic. They drive on field trips, make costumes, send in treats on birthdays — they're there for you.

"You do have your one or two.

You've been told by the previous teacher who these parents are.

"You need to immediately let the parent know that you're a team. At the parent-teacher conference, I sit next to parents, never across from them.

"If a parent senses that you care for their child, that you're doing your best and you know what you're doing, there are usually no problems."

Done wrote his first book in Budapest, where he taught at the American International School from 2000 to 2005. He never could have written it here, he said.

"As a California public school teacher, you get one hour of release time a week — your time away from the children, when they go to the library or P.E. Otherwise, all day you're on show. I call it the best stage in town.

"When you're done at the end of the day you're exhausted, wiped out. It's all you can do to put some dinner in the microwave.

"If you're good, there's nothing left. You've given it all to the children." ■

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

### Book Talk

(continued from previous page)

ranging from a California gubernatorial candidate to an emergency-room psychiatrist, are scheduled to speak at Kepler's Books in Menlo Park in the coming weeks. **John Lescroart**, a New York Times bestselling author of 20 novels, will be speaking on his newest book, "Treasure Hunt," on Monday, Jan. 18 at 7 p.m. The thriller is set in San Francisco and pairs private investigative Wyatt Hunt with a new protégé, Mickey Dade, who together sleuth the murder of a well-known figure in the City's charity circle. **Dr. Paul Linde**, a clinical professor of psychiatry at UC San Francisco, will talk about his first-person narrative, "Danger to Self: On the Front Line with an ER Psychiatrist," on Tuesday, Jan. 19, at 7:30 p.m. Linde takes readers behind the scenes at an urban psychiatric emergency room to witness mental-health professionals trying to alleviate suffering and repair shattered lives.

**Bill Fernandez**, a retired Santa Clara County judge, will share memories of the special town on Kaua'i where he was born and raised on Wednesday, Jan. 20, at 7:30 p.m. In "Rainbows Over Kapa'a," Fernandez talks about the values he learned from his family and the small farmers and shop owners who lived in the town. Fernandez graduated from Stanford University and its law school. As a judge, one of his cases became nationally prominent as he decided in favor of a child's right to live when the child's parents refused surgery. **Daniel A. Olivas**, a Stanford University graduate and an attorney in Los Angeles



Job-change expert Carol McClelland explores "Green Careers for Dummies."

with the California Department of Justice, will talk about his latest collection of short stories on Thursday, Jan. 21, at 7:30 p.m. "Anywhere but L.A." features tales that range from contemporary narratives to more traditional cuentos de fantasma, painting a portrait of modern Latinos in search of their place in the world. The event is co-sponsored by the Stanford Chicano Latino Alumni Association of Northern California. **Terry Castle**, a humanities professor at Stanford University, will share about her new book, "The Professor and Other Writings," on Tuesday, Feb. 2, at 7:30 p.m. Called "one of America's most brilliant critics and cultural commentators," Castle has penned a collection of autobiographical essays that author Edmund White described as "startling (and) gorgeously written." Career-change consultant **Carol McClelland** will speak on her book, "Green Careers for Dummies," on Saturday, Feb. 6, at 2 p.m. The book explores career opportunities in the

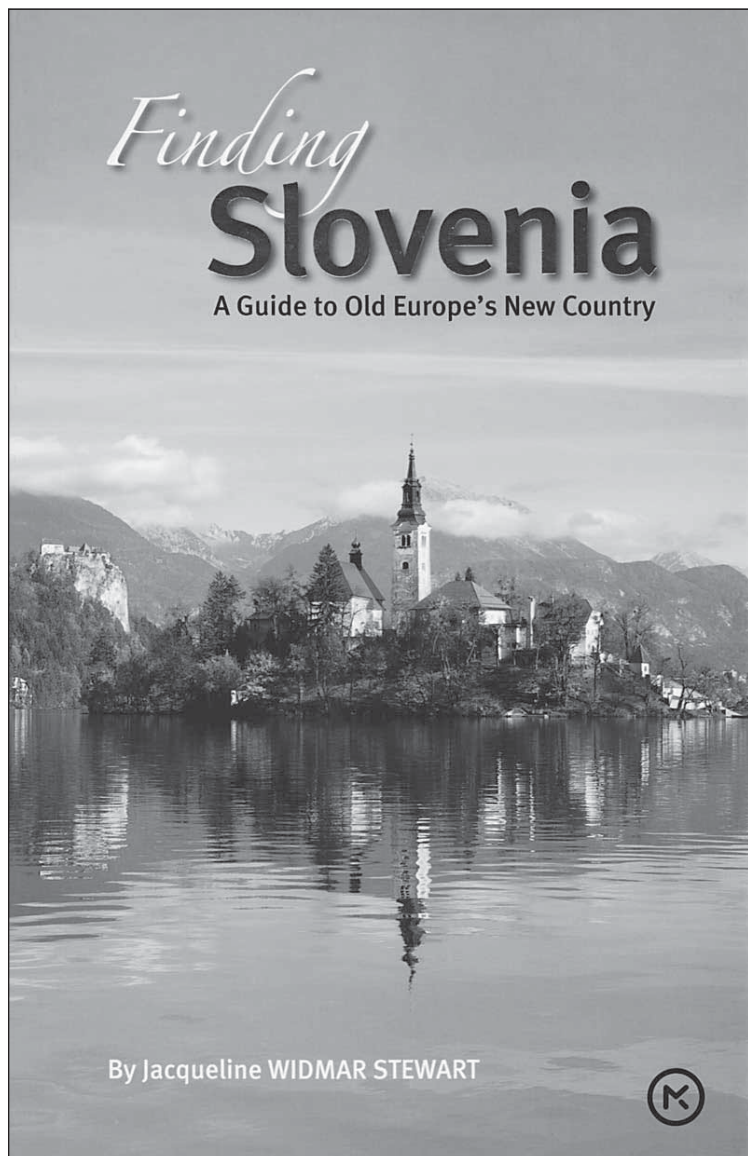
environmental field, automobile industry, businesses with environmentally friendly practices and more, along with the newest job-search techniques.

**Meg Whitman**, a candidate for California governor, will speak about her book, "The Power of Many: Values for Success in Business and in Life," on Monday, Feb. 8, at 7:30 p.m. In the book, Whitman, former president and CEO of eBay, writes about ethical questions involved in a corporate career and explores 10 core values she says guided her. Award-winning reporter **Randall Smith** of The Wall Street Journal will talk about the rise of investment banker Frank Quattrone on Wednesday, Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m. In "The Prince of Silicon Valley: Frank Quattrone and the Dot-Com Bubble," Smith writes about how Quattrone rose from the back streets of South Philadelphia to the peak of finance as the highest paid banker on Wall Street. Quattrone took some of the biggest names in technology, from Cisco to Netscape to Amazon, public. Kepler's is located at 1010 El Camino Real in Menlo Park. More information is available at [www.keplers.com](http://www.keplers.com).

#### MORE AUTHOR, AUTHOR ...

Additional author talks are held at Books Inc., 301 Castro St., Mountain View and Books Inc. at Town & Country Village in Palo Alto ([www.booksinc.net](http://www.booksinc.net)). ■

Items for Book Talk may be sent to Associate Editor Carol Blitzer, Palo Alto Weekly, P.O. Box 1610, Palo Alto, CA 93202 or e-mailed to [cblitzer@paweekly.com](mailto:cblitzer@paweekly.com) by the last Friday of the month.



By Jacqueline WIDMAR STEWART



## Palo Altan uncovers Slovenia

*Jacqueline Stewart's guidebook sheds light on a little-known Central European nation*

by **Karla Kane**

**F**or Palo Alto resident and attorney Jacqueline Widmar Stewart, publishing a book about her grandparents' homeland of Slovenia is a highlight in a longtime love affair with the small Central European country, one that started with her first family visit in 1967.

"It was such a magical time, despite the poverty and conditions then," she said of her initial trip, taken with her parents while she was on a college study-abroad program. "And the people are so amazing."

Her years of experience and interest in Slovenia (including study of the language) led to the recent publication of "Finding Slovenia: A Guide to Old Europe's New Country," which is part travel guide, part historical homage. Her personal ties to the country and its culture are evident, as she includes personal anecdotes such as her grandmother's procedures for making potica, an Easter dessert.

Stewart hopes the book will introduce readers to the "lovely, diverse landscape" of Slovenia, as well as the people and their lifestyle, she said.

The book narrates the natural and cultural history of the New Jersey-sized land (formerly part

of Yugoslavia) which is bordered by Austria, Italy and the Adriatic Sea and gained its independence in 1991.

Visitors to Slovenia will find a land in which "everyone loves the outdoors," full of gardens, castles, Alpine bike and hiking trails, large national parks and a Venice-like shoreline.

"And the people pride themselves on their hospitality," she said.

Stewart, who will present "Finding Slovenia" at Books Inc. in Palo Alto this Saturday, said the book is geared toward both potential visitors to Slovenia as well as people with Slovenian heritage (or Slovenian residents themselves) who want to learn more about its rich history and natural resources.

"It's versatile. You can flip through for some quick information or really read it in depth," she said.

The book explores favorite places, such as the capital of Ljubljana and Old World castles, as well as lesser-known parks, trails and footpaths. The 200-page hardback features family recipes and cuisine notes, a language guide, full-color photographs, maps, charts and illustrations.

"Finding Slovenia" was published by Slovenia's largest publisher: Mladinska knjiga. Stewart said



Local author Jacqueline Widmar Stewart's family heritage inspired her to write her guide to Slovenia.

she is proud to be the publishing house's first non-Slovenian author.

"It's been wonderful" working with the publisher on the project, she said.

In September a reception for the book was held at Bled Castle (pictured on the book's cover), and Stewart embarked on a book tour of other Slovenian locations.

Though Germans and other Europeans have been flocking to Slovenia for years, in America the country is less well-known.

"A lot of people confuse it with Slovakia," Stewart said.

However, pockets of Slovenian-descended populations exist all over the United States, including areas in Kansas City. They have taken interest in the book and invited Stewart to present it to their communities, she said.

The book is also a runner-up for an award from the London Book Festival. Stewart is flying to London next week for the award ceremony.

Locally, Stanford-grad Stewart has served as an attorney for the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District and co-founded the East Palo Alto Kids Foundation, a volunteer group that raises funds for teacher grants. She self-published a previous guidebook, "The Glaciers' Treasure Trove: A Field Guide to the Lake Michigan Riviera."

Stewart next plans to spend time in Paris, France, to work on her next project, a guide to Paris parks.

She will be speaking Saturday, Jan. 16, at 3 p.m. at Books Inc., 74 Town & Country Village, Palo Alto. ■

**Editorial Assistant Karla Kane can be e-mailed at [kkane@paweekly.com](mailto:kkane@paweekly.com).**

The Palo Alto Story Project

# 'What's your story?'

Stories about Palo Alto, as told by local residents as part of the Palo Alto Story Project, are now posted on the Internet.

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## Editorial

# Finding ways to save 'what really matters'?

*Impending loss of Palo Alto's last bowling alley to condos and a hotel raises a question: What makes Palo Alto special to residents?*

**T**he Palo Alto Bowl on El Camino Real will soon become a footnote to Palo Alto's history, as it gives way to a recently approved hotel and condominiums.

That loss will be felt especially by Palo Alto-based developer Roxy Rapp, whose father, Lou Rapp, built the bowling alley 55 years ago — where Roxy worked when he was a kid.

The City Council approved the transition despite statements of personal regret by several council members. Those statements raise intriguing questions: What specific features of the community have special value to residents? Which deserve efforts to preserve them?

A key question is whether more could, or should, have been done to save the historic bowling alley. Roxy Rapp apparently quietly tried but was outbid for the property by about \$1 million, he reports. Could the city have helped?

The focus in such cases is on privately owned businesses, such as the Palo Alto Bowl, that provide family-oriented recreational opportunities for the community. Traditional planning and zoning procedures provide little opportunity for city staff or residents to raise the question of broader value of existing features of the community.

There have been successes, such as the recently approved College Terrace Centre plan that includes retention of a neighborhood-serving market as part of an office development — perhaps, one hopes, the JJ&F family-owned market.

An earlier success of decades past was preserving the Winter Lodge in Midtown, once threatened with extinction. A land swap for some city-owned land near the baylands helped save that community icon.

Other cities have had successes, such as Menlo Park's proactive public/private effort to save the landmark Kepler's bookstore.

Identifying and seeking to preserve valued aspects of the community is an area that traditionally has been outside the scope of city planning and building approvals.

And, of course, could Palo Altans agree on what's most valued?

The Weekly in its Jan. 8 cover story raised the question of what community features are most valued and perhaps worth efforts to preserve in the face of new development proposals. It is disappointing to see valued community icons disappear, often "without a fight," under the traditional zoning and project-approval process.

But short of jumping in and buying properties, an impossibility that would raise an outcry in its own right, there may be other ways to preserve valued community features — creative ways to provide incentives to developers to be sensitive to such elements.

The city's planned community (PC) zone could be a more effective negotiating tool with developers, with a tighter definition of "community benefit" plus long-term monitoring and enforcement of such benefits — a continuing problem.

But a first step would be to identify what are the valued features, a process Palo Alto has not even considered.

The city's Parks & Recreation Commission, which recently expressed concern about loss of private recreational opportunities, might logically spearhead such an inventory, inviting public input in a constructive, "brainstorming" mode.

We as a community should not have to listen to how sad council members are about losing yet another community icon, such as the bowling alley, without a leadership effort to preserve it.

## Home stretch for Holiday Fund gifts

**W**e are entering the final week of this year's annual Holiday Fund effort by the Palo Alto Weekly, with a solid showing of donors and gifts.

More than 430 donors have given more than \$220,000 in gifts and grants to the annual fund, founded by the Weekly in 1993.

The donations, down a bit from the past two years, will nevertheless fund modest-size grants to community-based organizations that provide services and programs for children,

(continued on next page)

# Spectrum

Editorials, letters and opinions

## Rail woes

Editor,

For the last year, California, and especially the Peninsula, has been inundated with propaganda about how our future will be saved if we embrace High-Speed Rail.

However, as facts emerge (highlighted by the most recent HSRA business plan), it's becoming clear that the only things that will be saved if this project moves forward are the jobs of the board members pushing it through.

Here are a few things that HSR won't save.

For starters, \$42 billion that the state could desperately use to offset existing debt, improve schools and secure our water supplies. HSR will not save a single community that it barrels through from the tremendous noise it will create to the tune of 270 trains per day in 2035 (HSRA business plan, page 79).

It will not save our transportation system or energy consumption, as a vast majority of California's transportation needs involve regional commuting difficulties, not long-distance travel.

Finally, it will not save our state from the present recession, as only a fraction of the 600,000 promised construction jobs will ever come to fruition. It's beyond deceiving that the criteria used to arrive at this number defines a full-time job as one year of work during the course of construction and not full-time jobs created that will last throughout the entire course of construction (HSRA business plan, page 110).

So before California becomes indebted to this project any further, let's save ourselves from everything we didn't bank on.

Richard Hackmann  
Embarcadero Road  
Palo Alto

## Rush to judgment?

Editor,

In a Jan. 7 letter to the Daily Post, Yoriko Kishimoto responded to my letter asking why she supported the high-speed rail measure last November without knowing all the details and problems behind it.

How refreshing it would have been had she simply said, "I made a mistake. If I knew then what I know now, I would not have urged residents to vote for it."

Instead she says, "In retrospect, of course I wish we had had the resources and knowledge then that we do now."

Is this how one wins awards for "leadership," advocating for critical issues without full knowledge?

Kishimoto writes, "... the voters were asked to support the concept of high-speed rail without a mechanism to ensure good governance and accountability." Why not have the honesty and courage to write, "I asked voters to support high-speed

rail"?

Rather than acknowledge her mistakes, Kishimoto uses her letter as a PR opportunity to pat herself on the back for all the wonderful things she's doing with the Peninsula Cities Consortium — things she should have done before recommending a yes vote.

She claims her consortium does more outreach than VTA or Dumbarton Rail — while admitting that she's on the boards of both organizations.

When "we focus our energy to tackle the big issues moving forward," as Kishimoto suggests, let's make sure we do so with our eyes wide open. Let's elect State Assembly leaders who don't rush to judgment and who have the courage to admit their mistakes.

Pat Marriott  
Oakhurst Avenue  
Los Altos

## Wage dispute

Editor,

I'm informed by 50 years in construction.

Good outcomes occur when contractors respect workers, pay prevailing wages and pay for apprentice and lifetime training, empowering workers with competent, comprehensive craft capability.

Cutting corners, low-balling labor costs and exploiting untrained workers produces shoddy construction, with taxpayers bearing the social costs of construction.

I'm no Palo Alto resident, but I've handled the tools here in high-tech labs, restaurants, downtown buildings, student housing and the V.A. Hospital.

Thousands of construction workers have invested pieces of our lives in your structures. We deserve a voice in the prevailing wage controversy. Our union apprentice programs equal any in the country. A five-year apprenticeship in my local union equips one to produce safe, efficient, skilled pipe-trades work anywhere on the planet. We work with confident efficiency that can lower the overall cost of construction.

When Palo Alto ducks paying prevailing wages, it disrespectfully denigrates workers. It produces a climate of contractor competition in a dog-eat-dog race to the bottom on workers' backs. Competition should be based on management skills and a trained, safe, efficient workforce.

The irony of Palo Alto's low-ball policy is that prevailing wage payment on government-funded projects became law when Palo Alto's proud

(continued on next page)

## YOUR TURN

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

**What do you think?** Should Lytton Plaza be renamed?

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.

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

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

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





## Check out Town Square!

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

## Board of Contributors

# Out of the mouths of kids: collective wisdom for 2010

by Nancy McGaraghan  
**“T**hat's not funny; it's odd.”



So said Lucy, with a perfectly straight face, when I laughed at something she said. Lucy is our 2 1/2-year-old granddaughter. No doubt she heard the rejoinder from someone else. Now she uses it whenever she doesn't understand why others are laughing, especially at her.

Sometimes she says it just to get a rise, which it always does. Lucy loves a good laugh.

We had a houseful of grandkids with us for the holidays. They kept us laughing. But we all know that some of the funny things kids say have a surprising ring of clarity. Throughout the week, prophets of all stripes offered predictions and advice for the New Year. Unlike those sages who inhabit the hallowed halls of power and fame, these kids ran through the hallways of our house having fun — and telling it like it is. Some of their comments were as helpful as any I've heard in terms of making sense of the past decade (or nine-tenths of a decade, as some say) and getting a grip on life in 2010.

Here is some of what the kids had to say: Starting with Lucy, humor has to be at the top of the list. For example, how can we not say to the Christmas Day underwear wannabe airplane bomber, “That's not funny; it's odd.” In spite of its seriousness, this stunt provoked smirks all around. We know danger and botched security when we see it. Laughter doesn't make things right but it helps us deal

with things that aren't.

Resolution number one: Funny or odd, a good laugh is good medicine.

Next, from 5-year-old Gus: “Don't take the bait.”

Gus and I were making pies in the kitchen when out of the corner of my eye I noticed that part of our hedge was being sawed down by over-zealous tree trimmers. I flew out the door in a panic. And, yes, fuming. Gus came to the rescue — the tree trimmers' and mine — saying, “Don't take the bait, Grandma. Don't take the bait.” Since I had already chomped down pretty hard on the bait, all I could do was let it go.

***Even if I don't have a job, I can come up with a plan for what I need to do this year and how I am going to do it.***

Resolution number two: Don't take the bait. Chill. Give folks a break. Don't let the naysayers ruin your day. Get some perspective. Just ask Gus. Without perspective, we would have had burned pies, a much bigger problem in his eyes.

Jack, wise and ever practical at age 7, says: “Get a job.”

We had just passed by the building where I used to work and I said I missed having a 9-to-5 job. Post retirement, I seem to work more, get less done and get paid too little to notice. “Just get a job, Grandma.” Life is sim-

ple when you are 7. But Jack had a point, and an especially good one for the start of the New Year. Even if I don't have a job, I can come up with a plan for what I need to do this year and how I am going to do it.

Everyone needs a plan. Mr. Bernanke, we need mortgages and housing prices that people can afford. What's your plan? Ms. Napolitano, we need security from crazy people who are a threat to our security. Show us what you've got. Mr. President, we need jobs and health care and a free and safe world in which to watch our kids and grandkids grow up. Lives are on the line. What's your plan?

Resolution number three: Get a job or have a plan. And do something that matters.

Finally, from Paige, who is 20 months old: “More God.”

Every family needs a spiritual leader and Paige might be ours. When we were all gathered at the dinner table, she held out her hands, smiled and said, “God.” She wanted to say grace before we ate. And after we had all said our “thank-you's” and “God bless you's,” she said, “More God.” So we went around again. Religion is barely surviving in our family, but this little girl reminded us of the need to be grateful — grateful for our connections, for belonging, for family and friends, for life itself. The Christmas Day bomber and others like him should know about this, too.

Resolution number four: More God. More simple pleasures. More gratitude.

That is the shared wisdom of the grandkids for the New Year: Have some fun. Chill and give folks a break. Have a plan and do things that count. And, finally, more God. Our thank-you's might be our most solid connection to life itself in this sometimes crazy world.

Thanks for the wisdom, kids, and thanks for

all the ways you make us laugh. Good job.

Happy Twenty Ten. ■

*Nancy McGaraghan is a member of the Weekly's Board of Contributors. She can be e-mailed at [chezmcg@hotmail.com](mailto:chezmcg@hotmail.com).*

## Letters

(continued from previous page)

resident, President Herbert Hoover, signed the 1931 Davis-Bacon Act. That pen stroke was significant in his effort to backfill the economic ditch we call the “Great Depression.”

We're back into a similar economic ditch. Palo Alto ought not dig it deeper by short-changing workers and inviting shoddy construction.

Fred Hirsch  
 Carmel Street  
 Santa Cruz

## Editorial

(continued from previous page)

youth and families. The grants will be announced in April.

Because the Weekly absorbs overhead costs, 100 percent of all donations go directly to community programs — with matching funds provided by several local foundations. There is an online donation form on the [www.PaloAltoOnline.com](http://www.PaloAltoOnline.com) website.

Please join us in once again giving a needed boost to our local agencies and programs benefiting children and families.

# Streetwise

## “If Palo Alto were to build a new park, who would you name it after?”

Asked at the main branch of the Palo Alto Library. Interviews by John Squire. Photographs by Veronica Weber.



**Richard Arase**  
 Engineer  
 Talisman Court, Palo Alto

“Buzz Aldrin. He's my personal hero. We don't honor our heroes, we honor our politicians, and I think that's really sad.”



**Lisie Sabbag**  
 Student  
 Heron Way, Palo Alto

“Christina Regalia. She was our assistant principal at Jordan. She was always around and a very good assistant principal.”



**Ralph Cooke**  
 Analyst  
 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto

“David Packard. He always loved open spaces.”



**Robert Hall**  
 Operations Engineer  
 University Avenue, Palo Alto

“Capitan John Lucas Greer. He was a captain of one of those sailboats in the bay that were abandoned in the gold rush. He sailed down San Francisquito Creek and married the Spanish woman that owned all of Palo Alto.”



**Tarne Lamp**  
 Student  
 El Cajon Way, Palo Alto

“Abraham Lincoln, because he's on the penny.”

**In Palo Alto, criteria for renaming landmarks are subject to interpretation**

**What's in a**  
**name**



by Gennady Sheyner

**B**art Lytton was a self-proclaimed narcissist, a millionaire banker, an acknowledged Communist and a flamboyant Democratic fundraiser who threw parties for John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson.

His real name wasn't even Lytton. Born Bernard Shulman, he took on the name Bart Lytton (or "Black Bart" to his adversaries) during his time as a young, ambitious writer, presumably to imitate a Victorian author.

Lytton was born in Pennsylvania, worked as a writer in New York and rose to prominence as a financier in Las Vegas and Los Angeles. But it's in Palo Alto where his name rings the most bells.

At one point, he founded Lytton Savings

and Loan, a bank that had a branch on University Avenue. In the early 1960s, a few years before his financial empire collapsed, he built a private plaza at University and Emerson Street with the intention of having it house his art collection.

Lytton probably would have dissolved into historic obscurity over the past half century if not for the prominent plaza, which changed ownership several times before the city bought it in 1975. Lytton Plaza has served as Palo Alto's most prominent hub for ideological radicals, peaceful protesters, scruffy skateboarders and small-time pot dealers. More people associate the plaza with Vietnam War protests, rock music or their first joints than with a high-rolling

banker who, according to Time magazine, once said, "The day I turn mellow, I hope they melt me."

That is, until now. In recent weeks, the ghost of Bart Lytton has reappeared in City Hall during discussions of the newly renovated plaza. City officials and members of the downtown community are now leading a push to rename Lytton Plaza after the Thoits family — prominent property owners, business people and civic volunteers who have made Palo Alto their home since 1893.

The move has raised the question, though, of how the city handles the renaming of its landmarks. Throughout Palo Alto, open spaces and buildings have received the moniker of figures who range from local

school leaders to nationally respected icons. The current renaming policy, initiated in December 1983, specifies that the honorees should have made substantial contributions in any one of three areas: to the protection of the city's natural/cultural resources; to the betterment of the specific facility or park; or to the advancement of other types of recreational opportunities in Palo Alto.

Those criteria, as the Lytton Plaza debate has shown, have numerous interpretations, however. And while the process for proposing a name change is also spelled out in the city's policy, even that's had a history of being forgotten in the mad rush to rename a landmark.



Veronica Weber

Nixon Elementary School second-graders, from left, Yotaro Mori, Gisselle Alcaron, Chloe Chang and Daniela Perez play in Palo Alto's King Plaza, outside of City Hall, on Tuesday.

The group Friends of Lytton Plaza, which helped fund the plaza's recent renovation, has made it clear that they're not necessarily friends of Bart Lytton. Developer Chop Keenan, member of the Friends group, filed the official application to rename the plaza after the Thoitses.

Other business owners and friends of the Thoits family have joined the Friends' renaming movement.

"This is about honoring a Thoits family that has been avidly involved in the growth and success of Palo Alto for as long as any of us can remember," said Duncan Matteson, a friend and business associate of Warren Thoits, a popular lawyer, banker and developer who died last October at the age of 87.

So far, the city has been more than receptive to the request from the Friends group. The city's Parks and Recreation Commission expressed tentative support for the renaming of the plaza, as has staff from the Community Services Department and members of the Palo Alto Historical Association. The City Council initiated the renaming process at its Jan. 11 meeting, though it has yet to officially sign off on the new name.

But others argue that the name "Lytton Plaza" is fine the way it is. Bart Lytton may not have been a saint, critics say, but residents associate his plaza with free speech, tolerance and diversity.

Former City Council member Emily Renzel (of Palo Alto's "Emily Renzel Wetlands") was among those who urged the council Monday night not to rename Lytton Plaza. Renzel, a longtime environmentalist who volunteered for U.S. Rep. Pete McCloskey back when the congressman's headquarters was near the plaza, said she had cared for the plaza for more than a year after it was left vacant. The historical significance of Lytton Plaza is reason enough to preserve its original name, she told the council.

"Lytton Plaza was an important historical location for free speech in Palo Alto, and it's well-known for that," Renzel said. "It seems to me, it should take a pretty strong momentum to change the name given the impor-

tant historic events that occurred there."

Still others said they have no problem with the city rechristening Lytton Plaza, but they called for the City Council to consider other names. Police critic Aram James said the new plaza should be named after an internationally renowned figure — someone who could serve as a role model for the city's youth.

"We're an international city and our youth deserve to have some role models," James told the council. "I'd really like to see that park renamed for someone like Malcolm X or Cesar Chavez."

"That would start to mitigate some of the long history of racism that the city has unfortunately been too well-known for."

Council watchdog Herb Borock also criticized the city's plan to rename the plaza after the Thoits family — on procedural grounds. On Dec. 15, it was Borock who prevented the Parks and Recreation Commission from prematurely voting on the renaming proposal. The commission was discussing the idea even though the City Council had never initiated the renaming process — a clear violation of the city's process for renaming public parks. After Borock pointed out the procedural violation, the commission opted to continue the discussion at a later date, after it gets the go-ahead from the council.

Borock also argued Monday that naming the plaza after the Thoits family is akin to the city selling the plaza's naming rights to business interests — a process that carries with it a different protocol.

"There needs to be compelling reason to make the change," Borock said, citing the policy directive that discourages renaming, "and there has been no compelling reason."

**H**istorically, there's nothing new about rich and powerful interests designating the names of local streets and landmarks.

City Historian Steve Staiger noted that for most of

(continued on page 20)

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### Renaming

(continued from page 19)

Palo Alto's history, the city had no policies in place for naming its streets, leaving these decisions to developers. Some of the city's older streets bear the names of classical authors with no connection to Palo Alto (including Tennyson, Lowell and Coleridge avenues in Old Palo Alto). Other street names are even more arbitrary. Kenneth Drive is named after a local architect, while Donald Drive is named after a developer's son.

The system became formalized in 1983 when Palo Alto adopted new policies for naming public lands and facilities. (It was subsequently revised in 2004 and 2008.) Under the current rules, residents can suggest new names for parks and facilities — names that are then reviewed by appropriate local commissions and the City Council. New street names, meanwhile, have to be approved by the Planning and Community Environment Department.

Most of the city's naming (and renaming) efforts have strived to honor Palo Alto residents who made significant contributions to the community. Gunn High School, for example, is named after Henry M. Gunn, the well-respected superintendent of Palo Alto's school district in the 1950s. Greer and Seale parks are both named after the city's early settlers, while the Lucie Stern Community Center bears

the name of the woman who helped found and support many of the city's most cherished recreational programs.

The Emily Renzel Wetlands and the Enid Pearson Aratradero Preserve are both named after former city leaders who have made significant contributions to local parklands and conservation.

Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King are notable exceptions, though the City Council emphasized their connections to Stanford University (Dr. King's papers are managed by a Stanford professor) when it changed the name of Civic Center Plaza to King Plaza three years ago.

There are other exceptions, including the vague and all-inclusive "Heritage Park" and the melodious "Castilleja School" (named for the Spanish translation of the Indian paintbrush plant).

But most local facilities bear the names of notable Palo Altans who worked to make Palo Alto better. Next month, the City Council is scheduled to continue this tradition by voting on the naming of a small plaza near the High Street garage in honor of Anna Zschokke, founder of Palo Alto's school district. Because the plaza currently has no name (and thus, unlike Lytton Plaza, isn't being renamed), it has followed a different process.

The City Council wasn't required to initiate the naming process, said Greg Betts, interim director of the Community Services Department.

**B**y the lofty standards of other notable namesakes, Bart Lytton is neither very local nor particularly beloved. He gave the city a treasured plaza, but he did it inadvertently and only after Lytton Savings and Loan Bank went bust and he had to sell his holdings. Palo Alto only acquired the plaza after Lytton sold it to a different bank, which then sold it to the city.

"You look at the names of other parks — they're all named after people who have done something for Palo

Alto," Staiger said. "Bart Lytton really didn't. That's one of the reasons why the Historical Association was prepared to support the name change."

The Thoits family, by contrast, has been rooted in Palo Alto since 1893, the year Edward K. Thoits moved to the city and opened a shoe store kitty corner from where Lytton Plaza currently stands. His sons, Willis and Edward C., later took over the store and began investing in commercial real estate around town. Edward C. also served on the Palo Alto City Council for more than 40 years.

Willis Thoits' youngest son, Warren, graduated from Stanford Law School and co-founded the local firm Thoits, Love, Hershberger & McLean. Warren also co-founded the

Mid-Peninsula Bank and took part in a myriad of local civic organizations. He won the city's Tall Tree Award in 2001.

Several speakers argued at this week's council meeting that the family's long history of civic accomplishments and contributions to local causes should warrant the city's recognition. Roger Smith, a member of the Friends of Lytton Plaza, disputed claims that the group is trying to "buy" the name for a member of the business community. The city should rename the plaza after the Thoits family to recognize the family's many contributions to Palo Alto, he said.

"There's no one, in my opinion, who has done more for downtown Palo Alto than the Thoits family," Smith said. ■ **Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner can be e-mailed at gsheyner@paweekly.com.**



Veronica Weber



Veronica Weber



Opposite page: Henry Pastorelli rides at Enid Pearson Aratradero Preserve.

Inset: Lorenzo Maino and his sister Celeste touch the new fountain in Lytton Plaza during the plaza's re-opening ceremony Dec. 18, 2009.

This page: Pedestrians walk by Lytton Plaza, at the corner of University Avenue and Emerson Street, on Tuesday.

# Arts & Entertainment

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



Veronica Weber

Steve "Spike" Finch draws outlines on a drum for areas he will cut out to play different notes.

## SERENITY IN DRUMS

Artist finds peace  
in propane tanks  
— he turns them  
into gentle  
Zen Tambour  
drums

by John Squire

Steve "Spike" Finch of Menlo Park is busy when he can be making his Zen Tambour drums.

"I'm selling them as fast as I'm building them, but that's not that fast," he said on a recent afternoon in his kitchen. After displaying some of the techniques he uses to create a drum, he slid into the kitchen to take his pain medication.

"That's it. I'm done for the day," he said.

Finch has osteoporosis and three fractured vertebrae. He had to leave his job as a heating, ventilation and air-conditioning technician in 2003 because of a fall in which he injured his back.

"Previous to my condition, I did a lot of physical activity. I did rock climbing; I had a physical job. For someone like me to sit around and watch TV all day, I'd go crazy," Finch said.

So he turned to art.

Finch builds drums out of propane tanks. He uses only the curved sections at the top and bottom to create his extra-terrestrial-looking drums. The notes hit like weighty rain drops, creating a constant rhythmic pattering. It sounds nothing like the harsh clang of an untouched propane tank.

Finch initially practiced stone turning, creating the types of stone vases his wife loved. Though much of his focus is now on his drums, stone turning, he said, "is my artistic venture by default."

Veronica Weber



Above: As sparks fly, Steve "Spike" Finch uses a plasma cutter to saw the top off a propane tank, which he'll later turn into a Zem Tambour drum. Below: Finch shows how he takes two propane-tank tops to turn into a drum.

"I made the transition (to drums) by accident. It was actually on Father's Day," he said. His wife broke a handle off of a pot while cooking, and she asked him to weld the pot back together.

"I ended up burning a big old hole in the thing and got really kind of upset about the whole thing. I started to throw it around the garage a little bit and said, 'Stupid pans.'"

Through frustration, he came up with an idea. He started to think about the interesting sounds the pan was making as it bounced off walls and work benches. He thought of Caribbean drums, and after research, came across Dennis Havle-

na, a Michigan musician who builds his own instruments.

"His concept was incredible, a drum from a propane tank. They just looked terrible. I put an artistic spin on it," Finch said. Finch shortened the drum, turning it into something that looks like a flying saucer. "This makes them more manageable. You can put them on your lap," he said.

He added a darkener, patina and a gloss, giving the drum the finish of a polished skipping-stone. At last year's Palo Alto Festival of the Arts, he debuted his new creation.

"It was absolutely an incredible experience: the physical quantity of people who just came to the booth

and didn't even look at my stone turning. They were just stuck on these drums," Finch said.

Finch said that his drums attract a wider audience than his stone work. Generally, he said, older homeowners like his stone pieces as art to fill up their houses. The audience for the drums ranges from people who hang the drums on the wall to musicians who need them tuned to specific octaves.

Nick Toone from Worcestershire, England, said in an e-mail that he found out about the Zen Tambour from a steel-drum forum. Toone said he "was taken by the way they (continued on next page)

Veronica Weber



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Megan McGinnis PHOTO MARK KITAOKA

## Sound

(continued from previous page)

looked as well as the way they sounded.”

“The guy obviously cares as much about the visual presentation as the audible end result. He’s a true artist,” Toone said.

Karen Aguila of San Jose recalled seeing the drum at the Palo Alto festival. She doesn’t claim to have any musical talent, yet said she bought the instrument primarily for the relaxing sound. She displays her drum on her bedroom wall and is buying another for her living room.

A few fans have even uploaded YouTube videos of themselves playing the drums.

Finch starts with new propane tanks and cuts off the base and handle with a plasma saw. He then takes out the center cylinder and welds the two ends together. He uses a layout to mark where to cut out different-sized tongue-shaped areas to play various notes. The size of the “tongue” and the width of the cut determine the note each tongue will play when struck.

Finch uses a patina, stencils and a gloss finish for an aesthetic boost. Overall, the creation process takes about eight hours, but due to his back problems, Finch works on and off with the drums.

The drums play a pentatonic scale, with five pitches per octave. Western music is almost all in the seven-pitch heptatonic scale, with the notes “A” to “G.”

“It’s kind of a magic scale,” Finch said of the pentatonic scale. “You take any five notes and put those together, they all sound good together. ... I’m not sure of the music theory behind that. I just know it’s an incredible sound.”

He always had an interest in music, but never had any formal training. “I just loved the concept and I wanted to add my own artistic touch.”

Despite his claims to the contrary, Finch clearly has a knack for playing the drums. He plays in the evening to relax and help him visualize his next project.

“Forget TV: I just play my drums,” he said. “Whether it be actually building them or just thinking about the idea, it just occupies my mind. It takes me away from my back pain and lets me take up the day with other things.”

Finch is already selling his drums widely on eBay, and plans to expand. “I’m still young at it, so I don’t know where it’s going to go. My goal is to keep them going if I can.” ■

**Info:** Zen Tambour drums cost \$300. For more on Finch’s artwork, go to his website, [exoticvessels.com](http://exoticvessels.com). His work is available at [myworld.ebay.com/exoticvessels/](http://myworld.ebay.com/exoticvessels/). To read a Dec. 16, 2005, Weekly home and real estate story on Finch’s work in stone, go to [www.PaloAltoOnline.com](http://www.PaloAltoOnline.com), click on “Palo Alto Weekly” and click “previous year” until you get to 2005.

To watch a Weekly video showing Steve “Spike” Finch making and playing his Zen Tambour drums, go to [www.PaloAltoOnline.com](http://www.PaloAltoOnline.com).



Tracy Martin

*Orphan Jerusha Abbott (played by Megan McGinnis, left) pens a letter to her anonymous benefactor (Robert Adelman Hancock) in the new musical “Daddy Long Legs.”*

## Love letters

*Creator of the musical ‘Emma’ returns to TheatreWorks with an epistolary romance*

by Rebecca Wallace

The creator of the 2007 TheatreWorks hit “Emma” is back with a new musical, another tale of romance centered on a strong woman. This time he jumps the pond from England to New England, from Jane Austen’s day to 1908.

Paul Gordon wrote the music and lyrics for “Daddy Long Legs,” the tale of plucky orphan Jerusha Abbott, whose university schooling is unexpectedly paid for by an anonymous patron. The man, Jervis Pendleton, asks only that she write him regularly about her progress. As time goes on — and Jerusha grows up — Jervis becomes increasingly charmed by her letters.

The 1912 Jean Webster novel centered on Jerusha. However, the musical, which opens at TheatreWorks next week, also includes Jervis as a full character.

“My first take was going to be a one-woman musical ... a one-act with songs and letters,” Gordon said. “I still think that would be a very interesting version of the piece.”

Then John Caird, who wrote the musical’s book and is directing the TheatreWorks production, wanted the character of Jervis to be created. With two people on stage, a

new world of harmonic possibilities opens up.

“That’s really where the magic started to happen, this transition from a one-woman show to a two-hander love story,” Gordon said. “Musically it opened up a lot of very nice avenues.”

The resulting show is a 23-song pop musical that Variety magazine called “wholesome,” with “win-some melodies.” One theme is that while Jerusha (Megan McGinnis) is continually discovering something new, so Jervis (Robert Adelman Hancock) is opening up through her enthusiasm.

In the song “Things I Didn’t Know,” Jerusha begins by admitting that she had no idea Henry VIII was married more than once, or that “people came from monkeys.” Later in the song, her voice blends with Jervis’ as they both sing: “I always feel like I’m Alice in Wonderland, stranded in Vanity Fair / Once upon a time, oh captain, my captain, I’m so many years behind.”

The band consists of piano, bass, drums, violin, cello and guitar — both acoustic and electric. Electric guitar might seem surprising for a story in the early 1900s, but Gordon says it blends right in.

“I’m trying to create a sound



Composer Paul Gordon

that’s a little more contemporary but still within the confines of musical theater,” he said. “I was a little concerned about the time period. But I don’t really write in time periods.”

The project began when Caird and Gordon became taken with the Jean Webster novel. It was definitely *not*, Gordon said, because of the 1955 Fred Astaire movie of “Daddy Long Legs,” in which Astaire is considerably (some say creepily) older than his Jerusha, Leslie Caron.

Gordon said the pair enjoyed Webster’s “simple, sweet children’s story” and the kind humor of her prose, a nice change after the heavy “Jane Eyre” musical they wrote together. That show was performed in TheatreWorks in 2002 and went on to Broadway.

In “Daddy Long Legs,” the character of Jerusha also proved irresistible. Spiritual and spirited, she’s a young woman driven by ahead-of-her-time social ideas. At one point she observes, “Wouldn’t I make an admirable voter if women had rights?” “She’s also very strong and independent. Even though she’s receiving money from this strange benefactor, she’s very diligent about paying him back and realizing that he doesn’t own her because of it,” Gordon said.

Jerusha is a role filled with acting and vocal opportunities. When the production team held auditions last March, McGinnis said she told her agent, “Please, please, please get me in.”

McGinnis knew both Caird and Gordon; Caird had directed her as Eponine in a Broadway revival of “Les Misérables,” and McGinnis had also auditioned for “Jane Eyre.” While she didn’t get the part, Gordon remembered her, and they became friends. He later gave her a CD of “Daddy Long Legs” songs, to see what she thought.

“Everything about Jerusha speaks to me because she’s so human. She’s full of flaws like everybody, and the whole story’s about her learning,” McGinnis said.

This time, when McGinnis auditioned for Gordon, she got the part. It’s a good lesson for actors, she said. “You never know — who you’ll meet, who will see you. It always comes back around.”

McGinnis, who grew up in Southern California and now lives in New York, has been doing theater since she was a child. She originated the role of Beth in the 2005 Broadway production of “Little Women”; oth-

er Broadway shows have included “Beauty and the Beast” and “Thor-oughly Modern Millie.” She’s still best friends with Sutton Foster, who played Millie.

Robert Adelman Hancock’s past shows include the national tour of “Mamma Mia!” and regional productions of “Fiddler on the Roof” and “The Fantasticks.”

As for “Daddy Long Legs,” it first played recently at the Rubicon Theatre Company in Ventura. That was a co-world premiere with the TheatreWorks production and with the production that will open in March at Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park.

Much of the critical praise for the Rubicon performances went to McGinnis; Variety called her “magical,” while a Los Angeles Times review stated that she “could no doubt have handled this as a one-woman show.” The Times review, though, said that the musical needed to better explain Jervis’ motivation for quietly helping the young orphan.

The show’s creators were listening. While Gordon says the changes made since the Ventura show weren’t major, TheatreWorks audiences will see a more fleshed-out Jervis.

“Since he was created from scratch, that was the more challenging characterization,” Gordon said. “We wrote a new song for the end of Act One that we think will better help the audience understand his motivation.”

“We did some minor tweaks all through the show, trying to strengthen him. We changed a few other musical moments and tried to make things clearer. ... It’s sort of nuances, as opposed to ‘Act Two doesn’t work.’”

Critical and audience feedback were the main reasons why Gordon and Caird made these changes. They also listened to their cast. “The person who knows the character the best is always the actor playing the character,” Gordon said.

For Gordon, a show is an ever-changing being. He kept making changes to “Emma” after it left TheatreWorks for Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, and then when it went to the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis. There are several possibilities for its future, which no doubt will include revisions of some sort.

A show, Gordon says, is “like a piece of clay that you can keep sculpting.” When is it finished? “I don’t think it’s ever done as long as I’m still on the planet.” ■

**What:** “Daddy Long Legs,” a new musical with book by John Caird and music and lyrics by Paul Gordon, opening at TheatreWorks

**Where:** Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St.

**When:** The show previews at 8 p.m. Jan. 20-22 and then opens Jan. 23, running Tuesday through Sunday through Feb. 14.

**Cost:** Tickets are \$29-\$44 for previews and \$34-\$67 for regular performances.

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

# Worth a Look

## Music 'A Chinese Home'

Around the turn of the millennium, Yin Yu Tang, a 300-year-old house in a Chinese village, was taken apart piece by piece and then rebuilt at the Peabody Essex Museum in Massachusetts. Now the house's story — with all its themes of migration and rebirth — has inspired various composers to craft a musical and dramatic work, "A Chinese Home."

The Kronos Quartet and Chinese pipa player Wu Man will perform the work, which mixes Shanghai jazz with traditional songs, at 8 p.m. this Saturday, Jan. 16, at Stanford University's Memorial Auditorium. Stage and film director Chen Shi-Zheng also contributes video and live staging elements.

Co-commissioned by Stanford Lively Arts, the piece premiered last fall at Carnegie Hall. Saturday's program also includes the 1994 piece "Ghost Opera" by Tan Dun, the composer of the film score for "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon."

Tickets are \$34/\$40 general admission, with premium seats priced at \$60. Stanford students pay \$10. Other discounts are available for groups, other students, and those ages

18 and under. Go to [livelyarts.stanford.edu](http://livelyarts.stanford.edu) or call 650-725-ARTS.

### Joan Baez

This Sunday in Palo Alto, famed folk singer Joan Baez lends her voice to a free local celebration for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

At the event, titled "Reflecting on the Dream," keynote speaker Baez will share reflections of her work with King, and perhaps a few songs. She's sure to have plenty of memories to share — the longtime human-rights and civil-rights activist marched with King in the '60s.

The event is planned from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church at 625 Hamilton Ave. The volunteer Community Interfaith Choir will also perform, along with the school choir from Eastside College Preparatory in East Palo Alto. Alex Freeman, a youth speaker from Palo Alto High School, will give an address.

LaDoris Cordell, a former judge and Palo Alto City Council member, will serve as master of ceremonies. Refreshments will be served after the program.

For more information, go to [www.firstpaloalto.com](http://www.firstpaloalto.com) or call 650-688-0850.



Chinese pipa player Wu Man performs at Stanford University this Saturday, together with the Kronos Quartet.



Ceramic sculptures titled "Bottle Necks" are among the works by Francisco "Pancho" Jimenez now on display at the Community School of Music and Arts.

## Art

### Pancho Jimenez

Can a face be expressive if it isn't really a face? Ceramic sculptor Francisco "Pancho" Jimenez creates gleaming, smooth-visaged busts that have no nose or mouth, no eyes or ears. Instead, their feature-less faces explore the notion of collective identity.

The busts often take their inspiration from pre-Columbian Olmec heads. Jimenez says in an artist's statement: "I attempt to capture that mystery, that 'eternal presence' of ancient art forms, which elicit particular emotions in me that may be universal and timeless. My intention is to create art forms that bring the eternal presence of the past to the present, to inspire reflection on contemporary time and place."

Viewers can embark on some reflection of their own in the Mohr Gallery at the Community School of Music and Arts, where Jimenez is exhibiting sculptures through Jan. 24. Some pieces are busts, while others are more abstract, ripe with lush color.

Jimenez is a lecturer in the Art and Art History Department at Santa Clara University, and also teaches ceramics at West Valley College in Saratoga. Mohr Gallery is at 230 San Antonio Circle in Mountain View, open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 to 3. Go to [www.arts4all.org](http://www.arts4all.org) or call 650-917-6800, extension 306.



Caitlin Dissinger and Norman Luce in Shel Silverstein's short sketch "The Life Boat is Sinking" at Dragon Productions.

Palo Alto; shows are Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2. Tickets are \$20 general admission and \$16 for seniors and students (the opening-night gala is \$25/\$20). Go to [www.dragonproductions.net](http://www.dragonproductions.net) or call 650-493-2006.

## Theater

### 'An Adult Evening of Shel Silverstein'

Apparently, there was something interesting going on after the sidewalk ended.

When, as a youngster, you read Shel Silverstein's classic kids' poetry and books, such as "The Giving Tree," you probably had no idea he wrote things for big people, too. Oh, he wrote the music and lyrics for the song "A Boy Named Sue," among many other compositions, but there's also "An Adult Evening of Shel Silverstein," a theatrical collection of his short on-stage sketches. Absolutely not for kids.

Sometimes raunchy, sometimes ghoulish, the sketches delve into human relationships, laundry, prostitution and other topics. They're on stage locally at the Dragon Theatre from Jan. 22 through Feb. 14, presented by Dragon Productions.

The theater is at 535 Alma St. in downtown

### A&E DIGEST

#### PUBLIC ART IN LOS ALTOS HILLS...

A starry night and the Stars and Stripes are among the patterns painted on tiles in the new serpentine wall at Los Altos Hills Town Hall. Starting in 2004, local students and other residents hand-painted the tiles to create the wall, which Los Altos Hills art curator Karen Druker says is the first public-art project in town. Town Hall is at 26379 Fremont Road; the town's website is at [losaltoshills.ca.gov](http://losaltoshills.ca.gov).













# Eating Out

## RESTAURANT REVIEW



Michelle Le

The homey decor at Hong Kong Bistro.

## Comfort food, Hong Kong-style

*Hong Kong Bistro brings the eclectic cha chaan teng experience to Mountain View*

by **Monica Hayde Schreiber**

**Y**ou're on Castro Street in downtown Mountain View and it's inching past 11 p.m. Most of the restaurants are closed, but you're craving a big plate of shrimp chow fun or a baked pork chop on rice. Or maybe it's a steaming bowl of borscht that's calling your name.

Down at the end of the street, you'll find the fluorescent lights and TVs are still on at the neighborly Hong Kong Bistro, the

(continued on next page)

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## Ciao Bella!

It didn't take long for businesswoman, Bella Awdisho, to recognize something was missing in Mountain View. After long research, it became apparent that finding a one-of-a-kind restaurant to bring to the Mountain View area would not be easy. "I just could not see opening another run-of-the-mill restaurant in an area filled with such innovation" said Mrs. Awdisho. Her search ended when she found Pizzeria Venti, a small boutique pizzeria based in Italy.

Her introduction to Italian cuisine was in-depth, to say the least. It began with a culinary arts program that included training under the Tuscany sun. "The training was really eye-opening. I learned about the nuances of true Italian cooking; about the quality and passion that goes into every dish. It's amazing," said Bella. "Covering everything from pasta and sauces to the tradition of Italy famous "pizza al taglio" or pizza by the cut, the training was a once-in-a-lifetime experience which is simply not available to most restaurateurs."

## Traveling in Italy

Awdisho said that she was extremely anxious to start her own Pizzeria Venti right here in Mountain View. "I recognized the uniqueness of our location," she noted "so I put many resources into the marketing of the location. We continue to offer to our customers many of the dishes I was introduced to in Italy." So successful was this introduction that Awdisho had to double the size of her kitchen, adding additional equipment to handle the demand. Executive Chef, Marco Salvi, the training chef in Italy, provided many new recipes for use in her restaurant. Chef Marco provided some insight "The ingredients say it all. We work to provide a finished dish which will honor its origins and create a wonderful experience for our customers."

## Authenticity – Not just a word

Each new dish is hand selected with an eye towards authenticity. Even its rustic style pizza has a bit of Italia in it, made daily on-premise and using only imported water from Italy. "For me, one of the most important components of the training in Italy was the cultural understanding of these recipes. I was able to bring this back to our customers," said Bella. She continues, "I know our customers really appreciate what we do. We are so grateful that they allow us our passion."



# ShopTalk

by Daryl Savage

**TJ CHEF COMING NORTH ...** Cuisine on California Avenue is getting a huge boost, thanks to French-born Bruno Chemel, the former executive chef at Chez TJ in Mountain View. Chemel is opening his own restaurant, Baumé, at 201 S. California Ave. Chemel, who has been at the Michelin-rated Chez TJ for two years, will offer modern French cuisine at his new Palo Alto site. The location has seen several restaurants come and go over the last few decades (most recently Bistro Basia). But Baumé, which is scheduled to open Jan. 28, may have some staying power. Chemel has been chef at some of the top restaurants in San Francisco and other major cities and gets high reviews wherever he goes. He and, reportedly, members of his kitchen staff left Chez TJ on Dec. 19 in what was reported as a sudden departure due to a disagreement with the owner. His new place is getting attention in the blogosphere, with a writeup in the Zagat restaurant blog, which reports that it will feature a "prix fixe-only format," meaning six-, 10- or 15-course dinners. Lunches will be three courses. The new restaurant is named after French chemist Antoine Baumé. It will feature special house-made juices as an alternative to wine with meals.

**GROUND-FLOOR RETAIL IN MIDTOWN? ...** The small retail strip in Midtown Palo Alto that houses Cafe Sophia, Indochine Restaurant and three other businesses is getting a new tenant: a dental office scheduled to open this month. Palo Alto Dental Wellness will fill the vacant corner at the north end of the strip, at 2700 Middlefield Road. But the owner of the adjacent Cafe Sophia is concerned. Sophia Omar fears that the tight parking situation will only get worse. "When you go to the dentist it's not in and out. You're there for a while. So where will my customers park?" she asked. Omar is also losing her triangular-shaped outdoor seating area, in front of the dental office. It was not only for Cafe Sophia's customers, but it was also a place for people to gather. "People who had pets would sit out there and people with disabilities also used the outdoor seating," she said. Indochine owner Don Stewart also has worries about the impact of a dental office as his neighbor. "I don't feel bad that another business is coming to Midtown; I feel bad that we have limited parking here," he said. But Omar is realistic. "I have no choice. I will accept it," she said. Omar moved into her current space in March 2006, following a 15-year-stint in Charleston Plaza, where Peet's

Coffee now brews.

**GOURMET CHOCOLATES, PALO ALTO-STYLE ...** Mark West knows chocolate. He has spent the last eight years re-searching, tasting and making a variety of chocolates from a variety of countries. His hard work culminated in this weekend's opening of Monique's Chocolates at 539 Bryant St. Purchasing chocolate at West's store is a complete experience. "You buy it, then you can sit at our bar and eat it and watch how it's made," he said. The kitchen is on display in the store, along with the chocolates. And each plate of chocolate displayed has its country of origin listed. Bolivia, Dominican Republic, Madagascar and Venezuela are a few of the countries represented. West, who lives in Palo Alto and bikes to his store, focuses on the organic side of the business. "I don't use chemicals. It's all natural. I even get my organic cream from Michal the Milkman," West said. The small space is decorated in different shades of chocolate, topped off with high-end Italian globe lighting. But the cement floor is stark. "That's because it's a working floor. We cook right here," West said. Monique's Chocolates is the former site of two art galleries, but more importantly the former site of Just Desserts. "We've come full circle here," West said.

**Heard a rumor about your favorite business moving out or in? E-mail Daryl at [shoptalk@paweekly.com](mailto:shoptalk@paweekly.com).**



Hainanese chicken is served with curry rice, and house soy and Thai spicy sauce.

(continued from previous page)

kitchen busily serving up steaming plates of Hong Kong-style comfort food.

With its photo-illustrated menu, more pictures of the food adorning the walls and its diner vibe, this two-year-old eatery might just be the culinary love child of dim sum and Denny's. Won ton soups, curries and fish porridge share the menu with peanut butter toast, tuna salad and baked seafood served over spaghetti. The specials board might tout such wildly dissimilar offerings

as coffee spare ribs, macaroni soup, French-style ox tail or spicy Singaporean noodles.

And, yes, they really do serve borscht.

For transplants from Hong Kong, this is a seriously satisfying taste of home. For everyone else, Hong Kong Bistro is a funky cultural-culinary experience, the kind of place where half the fun is checking out what people around you are eating. To your left, a creamy seafood soup in a puff pastry; to your right, a huge slab of baked beef tongue.

In addition to being budget-

friendly and amusingly eclectic, the fare is overall fresh, tasty and satisfying.

This is one of the few local restaurants that is firmly in the tradition of *cha chaan teng*, a type of "tea restaurant" or "cafe" common in Hong Kong and Macau that serves an incongruous mix of affordable Asian and Western-influenced dishes. A hallmark of these establishments is Hong Kong-style milk tea (\$2.50), a blend of black tea and sweet evaporated milk. Take it hot or iced; its sweet, milky goodness will have you sinking immediately into the Asian comfort food zone.

Any of the chow fun dishes (\$7-\$8.50) will take you deeper into that happy place. We chose the shrimp version, and in about one-and-a-half minutes a huge plate of fat, steaming noodles, generously populated with shrimp and some crunchy bean sprouts, was upon our table. Delicious.

The BBQ pork and won ton noodle soup (\$6.75) was enough for two people. The pork-and-shrimp won tons floating amid the broth and noodles were little pillows of meaty decadence. No doubt they were freshly made, as one of the servers was camped out in a nearby booth, in front of a huge pile of

(continued on next page)

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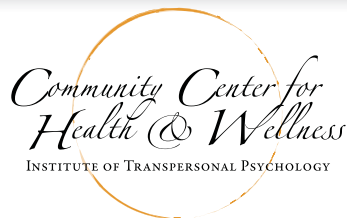
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Eating Out

(continued from previous page)

raw pork, making them by hand.

Another highlight of our first dinner was the large plate of tender greens in oyster sauce (\$7). The Chinese bok choy was lightly stir-fried and gently dressed in a savory oyster sauce.

On another visit we started with the Indian-style pancakes (\$5.50), a duo of roti-like breads with a curry dipping sauce. The curry was a bit pasty and lacked punch, but the overall effect of fried bread in sauce was still satisfying. The lackluster curry also dampened our enthusiasm for the salmon curry dish (\$9.50). The fried salmon itself was tender and fresh, but the overabundant curry and underdone sweet potatoes that accompanied left us wishing we had ordered something else.

Curry fared better in the spicy, Singapore-style vermicelli (\$7.50). A standard riff on the popular dish, it was stir-fried with onions, egg and bean sprouts. It was another generous plate that was easily shared among three people.

The baked pork chop (\$7.50), served in a metal dish over rice or spaghetti, is one of the go-to items at a cha chaan teng, but Hong Kong Bistro's left me scratching my head. It was doused in a ketchupy red sauce that tasted vaguely canned. I couldn't understand the appeal.

Service during each of our vis-

its was lightning-fast and friendly. At lunch, Hong Kong Bistro offers specials, or "sets," for \$7.50, which include a drink, soup and an entree.

There isn't much to say about dessert as seven of the eight items had been scratched off the menu, leaving only mango pudding. Custard-like and slightly gelatinous, it was served in a bath of sweetened milk.

Hong Kong Bistro is owned by Ben and Annie Quan, who also own Fu Lam Mum, the massive Cantonese seafood establishment next door. More power to them — and to any locals looking for a fast, filling and wallet-friendly meal on Castro Street. ■

**Hong Kong Bistro**

147 Castro St., Mountain View  
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 Hours: Daily 11 a.m.-11:45 p.m.

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# Sports Shorts

**SOCCER HONOR . . .** Senior forward **Kelley O'Hara** became the first Stanford player in history to win the Missouri Athletic Club's Hermann Trophy, college soccer's highest honor. O'Hara was one of three finalists — North Carolina midfielder Tobin Heath and UCLA forward Lauren Cheney were the others — invited to last weekend's ceremony in St. Louis, Mo., with the award decided by a vote of coaches. O'Hara received the women's honor and Akron's Teal Bunbury received the men's. "It's a great way to end the college season," O'Hara said. "I'm so thankful, and blessed. But the reason I was able to get the award was because of my teammates. I couldn't have done it without them." O'Hara, a native of Fayetteville, Ga., led Stanford (25-1) to its best record and to its first NCAA championship final, shattering school scoring records along the way and leading the nation in goals and points. O'Hara (26 goals, 13 assists, 65 points) had been nominated three times for the award, but had never been a finalist until this year, joining **Julie Foudy** (1991 and '92) as the only finalists in Stanford history.

**SWIM HONOR . . .** Stanford senior **Julia Smit** was named the Pacific 10 Conference's December Athlete of the Month following her two world records at the Duel in the Pool in Manchester, England last month. Smit was also named the conference's November athlete of the month, giving the All-American swimmer four such honors over her career, tying her with Olympic teammate Rebecca Soni of USC (2006-09), for the all-time conference record. Smit over a two-day span in December broke two world record short course records in the individual medleys.

**HELP WANTED . . .** Menlo-Atherton is looking for a new head football coach as well as coaches for track and field, swimming and a head frosh-soph baseball coach. Anyone interested can contact **Mary Podesta** at mpodesta@seq.org or 650-322-5311 ext 5708 . . . Castilleja is looking for an assistant softball coach for this spring. Those interested should contact Athletic Director **Jez McIntosh** at jez\_mcintosh@castilleja.org.

## ON THE AIR

### Saturday

**Women's basketball:** Washington at Stanford, 2 p.m.; KZSU (90.1 FM)

**Men's basketball:** Stanford at Washington St., 2 p.m. XTRA Sports (860 AM)

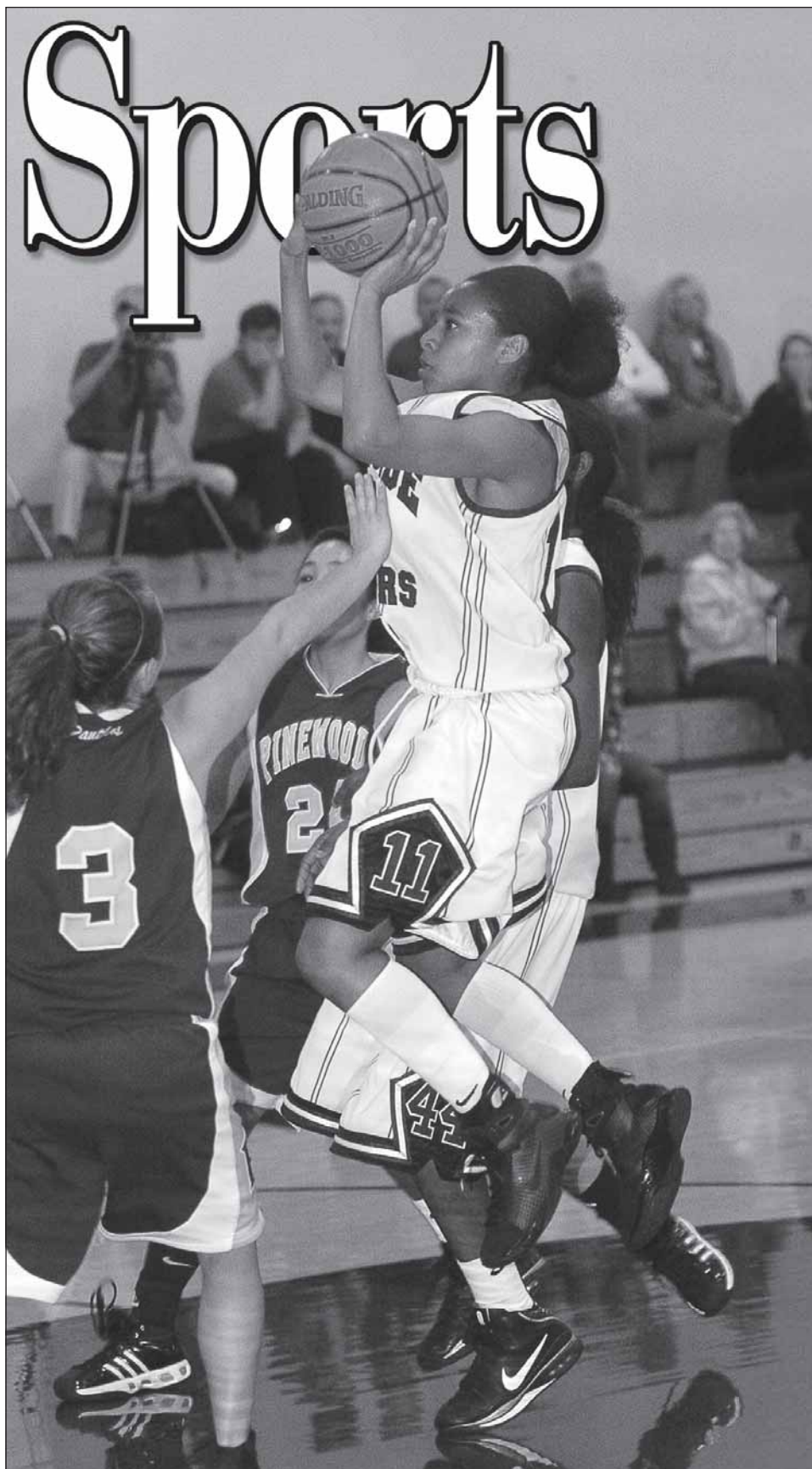
### Thursday

**Women's basketball:** Stanford at Oregon St., 7 p.m.; KZSU (90.1 FM)

**Men's basketball:** Oregon St. at Stanford, 7 p.m.; XTRA Sports (860 AM)

## SPORTS ONLINE

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



Eastside Prep junior **Ahjalee Harvey** puts up a runner for two of her 13 points that helped the Panthers end Pinewood's 149-game winning streak in league play on Tuesday night.

## Stanford men and women are hoping to ace their big tennis expectations

by Rick Eyrer

There's really only one big question this year as the Stanford men's and women's tennis teams prepare to begin their spring seasons for keeps this weekend:

Will some women's team bring enough kryptonite to Taube Tennis Center and finally bring the Super Streak to an end?

The 151-match home winning streak is addressed, and then ignored, by Cardinal coach Lele Forood. There are more pressing issues and 99.9 percent of them involve getting better at tennis every practice, every match.

The Stanford men, with several top recruiting classes in the mix, have only to work to bring forth their awesome potential. There are a lot of good, potentially championship, college teams out there, and the Cardinal is one of them.

"I can't wait to get started," Stanford men's

coach John Whitlinger said. "I want to see where we're at, what we can improve and to see how other teams are doing."

Senior **Richard Wire**, junior **Alex Clayton** and freshman **Bradley Klahn** will lead a formidable ladder into competition. All three have played No. 1 singles at some point in their Stanford careers.

Wire and Clayton share captain duties this year.

"Rich is a guy we count on heavily," Whitlinger said. "He'll probably play 3 or 4 and that's pretty good experience at that position."

The six-player singles ladder could be in constant flux this season as quality players are right behind the top three, willing to take over. That also means the doubles competition will be quite heated.

(continued on page 36)

## GIRLS' PREP BASKETBALL

# Eastside Prep shoots down a big streak

Panthers knock off CCS champ Pinewood with only five players in 46-38 win

by Keith Peters

Members of the Eastside Prep girls' basketball team, all seven of them, had a day off on Wednesday. No drills. No gym time. No weight lifting. They needed a break, one they certainly had earned.

A night earlier, the Panthers had ended Pinewood's historic 149-game league winning streak, one that began back in 1995 when the current players probably had no idea what a basketball was. Eastside Prep's 46-38 victory was accomplished with just five players while reserve **Cynthia Cunningham** watched along with injured starter **Takara Burse**.

Eastside's Fab Five played all out against Pinewood in the West Bay Athletic League (Foothill Division) opener. No one fouled out, despite constant defensive pressure. When all was said and done, Eastside Prep (1-0, 12-2) had exorcised some demons and Pinewood (0-1, 9-5), feeling a little shell-shocked, was looking forward to just getting a split in its league outings this week.

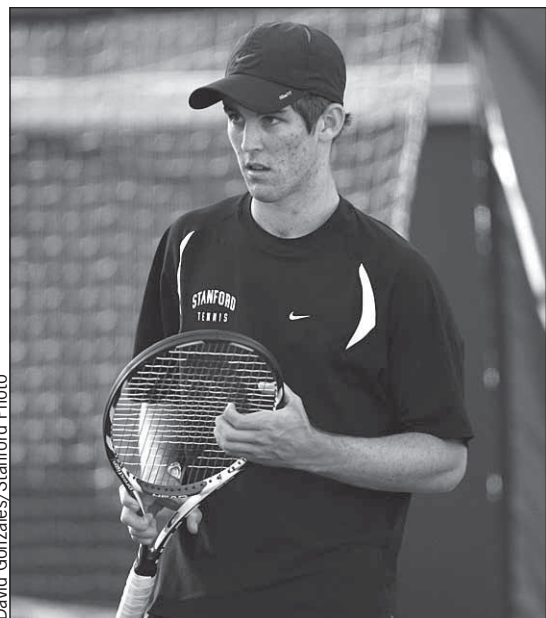
The day off for the Eastside players probably won't be the first time it happens this season. While Burse recovers from a leg injury, Eastside coach **Donovan Blythe** has only six healthy players. Practices are on the creative side, to say the least.

"There aren't too many teams that are doing what my team is doing," Blythe said after the victory. That would be winning and surviving, something the Panthers are both doing well, thus far.

This is a team that went only 15-15 last season, one year after winning the Central Coast Section Division V title and advancing to the NorCal finals before losing — finishing a remarkable 31-2. Current junior standout **Ahjalee Harvey** broke a foot last season with the team off to a 11-5 start. She didn't return until the CCS semifinals, where Eastside Prep lost to Pinewood by a point.

Current senior **Felicia Anderson** had left the team

(continued on page 37)



Stanford's **Bradley Klahn** is the reigning ITA National Rookie of the Year.

# The races are taking shape

Palo Alto boys, SHP girls and boys like the view from atop the standings

by Keith Peters

It's quickly becoming evident that there may be no easy matches in the SCVAL De Anza Division boys' soccer race this season, certainly not like last season when Palo Alto allowed only one goal while winning the division crown.

Paly coach Don Briggs probably would agree after watching his team escape with a 1-0 triumph over host Gunn on Tuesday afternoon in just another typical rivalry match between the schools.

The Vikings improved to 2-0 in league (5-2-3 overall) while the Titans fell to 2-1 (3-6) and out of first place for the time being.

Paly sophomore Kris Høglund took a pass from Jenner Fox and put it past Gunn keeper Keaton Smith with about 10 minutes remaining in the second half for the winning goal.

The match was highlighted by very competitive play by both teams. Gunn had the stronger first half with the wind to its back. While the Titans had more shots on goal, most were from far out and off the



Palo Alto's Kris Høglund (third from left) scored the game-winning goal in Tuesday's important 1-0 victory over host Gunn and was congratulated by teammates Zac Hummel (6), Jenner Fox and Alex Freeman (5).

mark. The second half swung over to Paly's favor as the Vikings gained the wind advantage. Paly had several opportunities to score but was stopped by the nice defensive plays by Gunn's Smith in goal.

Høglund beat the Gunn defense several times, which led to several

one-on-ones. While Smith broke up the first two, Høglund put the third one away to win the match. Paly had to hold on as Gunn responded with five minutes of a frenzied attack, including a set play that was trapped up against the cross bar for a moment by Paly's keeper Scott Alexander. It fell to the ground and was cleared by Mark Raftrey. Alexander had several nice saves in the waning minutes.

Nittai Malchin, Peter Laminette and Raftrey did a nice job of thwarting Gunn's attack.

Elsewhere this week:

It was only a year ago that Sacred Heart Prep started the season by losing its first four matches. The Gators wound up losing eight the entire season, including two to King's Academy in league play.

Sacred Heart Prep is off to a much better start this season and already has avenged one of those losses to King's, thanks to a 3-1 triumph on Wednesday in Sunnyvale. The Gators, in fact, used that triumph to grab control of the West Bay Athletic League race, improving to 5-0 in league for 15 points. Sacred Heart holds a solid five-point lead over both Eastside Prep (3-1-1) and Menlo (3-1-1) heading into a big match Friday against visiting Menlo at 3 p.m.

Sacred Heart Prep (7-3 overall) struck quickly as freshman Joseph Bolous took a pass from Victor Ojeda and converted at the 4:41 mark of the first half. Kyle Scherba followed some 22 minutes later on a penalty kick. SHP made it a 3-0 match when Jack Odell found Andrew Liotta, who scored at the 46-minute mark. The Gators lost their shutout when King's scored at the 62-minute mark.

In Atherton, the WBAL race just got a lot more interesting as Eastside Prep handed host Menlo a 1-0 defeat. The victory moved the Panthers (3-1-1, 3-2-3) into a second-place tie with the Knights (3-1-1, 5-4-1), both of whom trail first-place Sacred

Heart Prep.

Eastside Prep senior Darryl Sepulveda, who during the fall was a standout cross-country runner, provided the winning goal in the first half off an assist from Javier Magana in the 15th minute. Menlo had its chances, out-shooting the visitors 18-5. The Knights' Vikram Padval hit the right post in the 11th minute and Dawson Williams missed a shot wide right a few minutes later before Eastside scored. Panthers' goalie Manuel Chavez had eight saves, two big ones coming late in the second half to preserve the victory.

In Portola Valley, Guillermo Talancon and Evan Filipczyk each scored two goals and provided an assist to spark Priory to a 9-0 romp over visiting Pinewood in a WBAL match on Wednesday. Priory improved to 2-3 in league (2-5 overall) while Pinewood fell to 0-4-1 (0-7-1).

## Girls' soccer

Defending champion Sacred Heart Prep opened its WBAL (Foothill Division) season with a 5-0 victory over host Notre Dame-San Jose on Tuesday.

The Gators (1-0 (7-3-1) grabbed a 3-0 halftime lead on goals by Lizzy Weisman, Gianna Capovilla and Francesca Surraco. Abby Dahlkemper assisted on the first and third goals while Sophia Abuel-Saud assisted on the second tally. Dahlkemper added to the scoring in the second half with a goal in the 42nd minute with an assist from Surraco. Capovilla closed the scoring in the 60th minute with an assist from Kendall Jager. The Gators will host Priory on Thursday (3 p.m.) in an important WBAL match.

In Palo Alto, Castilleja opened its WBAL (Foothill Division) season with a solid 4-1 victory over visiting Mercy-Burlingame at the Mayfield Soccer Complex on Tuesday.

The Gators (1-0, 4-2) took the lead in the 12th minute when Emily Mosbacher carried the ball from

midfield, and calmly slotted it low right past the goalkeeper. In the 15th minute, Emily Colvin sent a beautiful cross to Mosbacher, who flicked it to Martha Harding for the finish and a 2-0 lead. Mercy's Julia Landholt placed a perfect free kick in the 22nd minute for Mercy's only goal.

Castilleja took a 2-1 lead into the second half before Colvin's corner kick in the 47th minute was played out of the air by Mosbacher and into the lower left corner for a 3-1 match. In the 63rd minute, Colvin sent a laser from just outside the 18-yard marker to the upper right corner to give the Gators' their final tally.

In a showdown between the WBAL's No. 2 (Priory) and No. 3 (Menlo) teams from last season, the two squads battled to a scoreless draw on Tuesday in Atherton.

"Though it was a draw, each team had scoring opportunities," said Menlo coach Donoson FitzGerald, who felt his team should have won.

"Donoson, I hear, feels they should have won," said Priory coach Armando del Rio. "But, honestly, I do not see that. They did hit the crossbar twice, but they were lucky 'Hail Mary's' from outside of the box. But, it is soccer; you must score and prevent goals from being scored. All the rest are minor details."

After starting the season 6-0-0, Menlo has fallen to 6-1-2 (0-0-1 in league). Priory is now 2-4-5 overall (0-0-1 in league).

Menlo seniors Nicole Fasola and Mila Sheeline both hit the crossbar in the first half. In the second half, senior Katie Baum just missed wide from about 12 yards out.

For Priory, del Rio "was not happy with our style of play, as we fell into their physical, direct and chaotic style -- throwing us off of what we are trying to do. However, I am happy with the work-ethic, and it is favorable for us to get a point away.

Speaking of coming to play, Menlo-Atherton did just that on Tuesday and came away with a big 2-0 PAL Bay Division victory at Carlmont. The Bears improved to 2-1 in league (6-2-1 overall).

Mallory Stevens gave the Bears a 1-0 lead in the 31st minute after teammate Gilliam Collom booted a Carlmont goal kick back toward the Scots' goal, where Stevens converted. Sophomore Jennifer Kirst provided the clincher late in the match off a pass from Lindsay Keare. Junior sweeper Tess Cain and freshman keeper Caitlyn Lanigan (along with senior goalie Brigid McCurdy in the first half) helped anchored the Bears' defense.

In the SCVAL De Anza Division, Palo Alto senior Erika Høglund scored two goals in a 2-0 victory over visiting Gunn. Høglund tallied the eventual winning goal in the first half off the first of two assists from fellow senior Kelly Jenks. The goal came from the top right side of the penalty area, starting with a five-yard pass from Høglund to Jenks, who controlled it while Høglund continued her run across the penalty spot. She one-timed Jenks' rolling feed with her left foot past the keeper.

In the second half, things got rolling in the 75-minute mark off a soaring cross from Kaitlyn Patterson on the right sideline to Jenks, who volleyed off the crossbar, with Høglund finishing it low into the net. Palo Alto (1-1, 4-3-1) outshot Gunn (0-3, 2-5-1) by 12-6. ■



Paly's Kris Høglund battles Gunn's Jorge Salazar during Tuesday's 1-0 victory by the Vikings, as Høglund scored the winning goal.



**City of Palo Alto**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared by the Palo Alto Department of Planning and Community Environment for the project listed below. This document will be available for review and comment during a minimum 30-day inspection period beginning **January 20, 2010** through **February 18, 2010** during the hours of 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. at the Development Center, 285 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, California.

**2500 Embarcadero Road (09PLN-00224):** Request by Save the Bay, on behalf of the City of Palo Alto, for Site and Design Review for the construction of a new 560 square foot greenhouse and a 625 square foot shed (replacing the existing 400 square foot shed) adjacent to the existing Duck Pond. The project involves the minimal removal of vegetation to accommodate the new structures; existing trees are not impacted.

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

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



**NOTICE OF VACANCY ON THE PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION FOR ONE UNEXPIRED FOUR YEAR TERM ENDING JULY 31, 2012 (Term of Holman)**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council is seeking applications for the Planning and Transportation Commission from persons interested in serving in one unexpired four year term ending July 31, 2012.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Composed of seven members who are not Council Members, officers, or employees of the City, and who are residents of the City of Palo Alto. Regular meetings are at 7:00 p.m. on the second and last Wednesday of each month.

**Duties:** The Planning and Transportation Commission's primary duties include: a) Preparing and making recommendations to the City Council on the City's Comprehensive Plan regarding development, public facilities, and transportation in Palo Alto; b) Considering and making recommendations to the City Council on zoning map and zoning ordinance changes; c) Reviewing and making recommendations to the City Council on subdivisions and appeals on variances and use permits; and d) Considering other policies and programs affecting development and land use in Palo Alto for final City Council action.

Application forms and appointment information are available in the City Clerk's Office, 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto (650) 329-2571 or may be obtained on the website at <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org>.

Deadline for receipt of applications in the City Clerk's Office is 5:30 p.m., January 27, 2010.

DONNA J. GRIDER  
City Clerk

**MEMBERS MUST BE PALO ALTO RESIDENTS.**

## No more rebuilding for Stanford men's volleyball as Cardinal opens season with eye on Final Four

by Rick Eymers

Stanford men's volleyball coach John Kosty has been around the program long enough to remember the glory days. He was an assistant coach when the Cardinal finished as the national runner-up in 1993 and was on the bench again when Stanford won it all in 1997.

Kosty thinks better days are ahead after the Cardinal, ranked third nationally in a preseason poll, finished 21-11 last year. Stanford won more matches than in any season since 1997, earned its highest season-ending ranking (No. 6) since 2003, had two first-team All-Americans for the first time since 1993, and increased its victory total by 18 over just two seasons.

The Cardinal lost to USC in five sets, in the first round of the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation

tournament, and then watched the Trojans reach the national final — helping fuel Stanford's competitive fires for this year.

The journey begins Friday with a 7 p.m. home match against Hawaii in Maples Pavilion. The same two teams meet again at the same time and place on Saturday.

Kosty calls it the end of the rebuilding era and the beginning of becoming a perennial national title contender. It's as good a season to start as any, especially with the NCAA Final Four being held at Stanford this season for the first time ever.

"The 'era' is getting back to national prominence," Kosty said. "This senior class has put us back in the national picture and the classes from here on out have the ability to stay there. It's their obligation to uphold what the senior class has ac-

complished and continue it on."

First-team All-American setter Kawika Shoji and opposite hitter Evan Romero, the Cardinal's all-time kills leader in the rally-scoring era, headline a group of five seniors that also includes starting middle blocker Garrett Werner, and reserve hitters Jason Palacios and Ed Howell, who witnessed humble beginnings in a 3-25 season during their freshmen year. They are 38-22 over the past two years.

The Cardinal often started three freshmen and a sophomore last year: Erik Shoji is better by all accounts and junior Spencer McLachlin, sophomores Brad Lawson and Gus Ellis each have another year of experience.

"Everybody understands the game a little bit more now," Kosty

(continued on page 40)

## Stanford tennis

(continued from page 34)

"We're pretty deep and it will come down to who plays better at 4, 5 and 6," Whitlinger said. "We need strength down there."

Both teams participate in tournaments this weekend. Dual-match play opens the following week with the men hosting Sacramento State at 1 p.m. on Jan. 23. The women host Hawaii on Jan. 27.

It's been 10 years since the Stanford men won their 18th NCAA team title, but after last year's 20-6 record and reaching the Round of 16 at the NCAA tournament, the expectations are higher this year.

"We felt we were one of the top five teams in the country last year," Whitlinger said. "We ran into a hot USC team (seeded eighth) in the Round of 16 that went on to win it all. There are at least 12 teams which can win the national title. There is just so much more depth than there was 10 years ago."

The ninth-ranked Cardinal features the past two national Newcomers of the Year.

Wire, a career 10-4 playing No. 1 singles and 36-19 at other spots, hopes to help end the long drought. He's a former all-Pac-10 pick and ITA regional singles champion.

Clayton owns a 26-11 mark playing at the No. 1 spot. He's been named first team all-Pac-10 and an All-American the past two years. He reached the semifinals of the NCAA tournament as a freshman and was named ITA National Rookie of the Year as a result.

Senior Paul Morrissey and juniors Greg Hirshman and Ted Kelly add depth to the lineup. Hirshman owns a career mark of 36-21, including a 23-11 record in dual meets.

Klahn is the reigning ITA National Rookie of the Year after winning both the Pac-10 singles and doubles championships and 35 of his 44 matches. He was 20-5 in dual matches, including a 7-1 mark playing No. 1 singles.

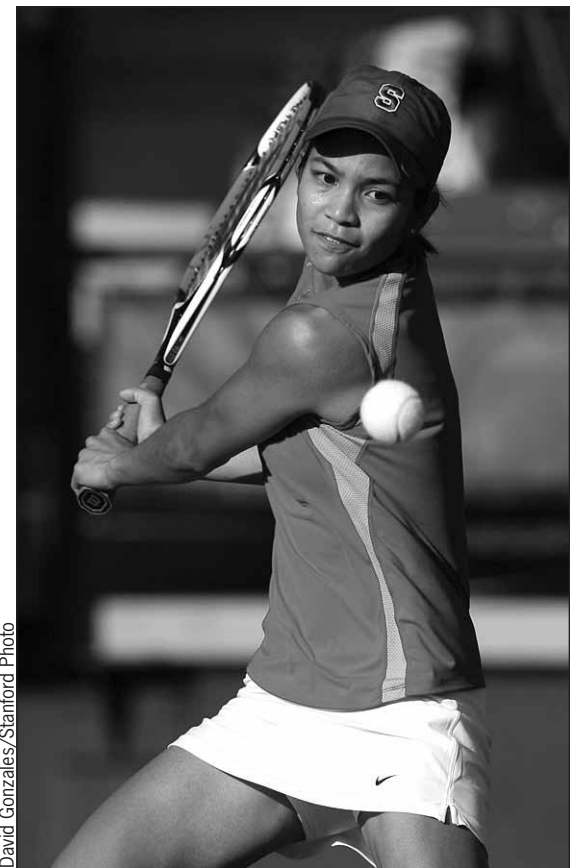
Sophomores Ryan Thatcher and Sacred Heart Prep grad Jamie Hutter are part of Stanford's deepest team in years. Thatcher joined Klahn as the conference's doubles champion.

Freshmen Denis Lin, Walker Kehrer and Matt Kandath have known each other, played with or against one another, for a number of years on the junior circuit. With Samuel Ecker, Wisconsin's third-ranked player, many observers feel this was the top recruiting class in the nation.

The men are at the Sherwood Cup in Thousand Oaks beginning Friday.

For the women, Lindsay Burdette is the lone senior. She'll be joined by her sister Mallory, a freshman. Except for a brief one-year interruption, there has been a Burdette playing tennis for Stanford since 2002, when Erin came to school.

Erin, though, is the only Burdette to play on a national championship team. Lindsay and Mallory both hope to make it a trifecta in the family this season.



David Gonzales/Stanford Photo

Stanford junior Hilary Barte is the reigning Pac-10 Player of the Year.

The 13th-ranked Cardinal (19-5 last year) has a prestigious home record that defies description. Stanford is actually 203-1 at the Taube Tennis Center since the beginning of the 1996 season.

Three Pac-10 teams — No. 3 California, No. 9 USC and No. 12 UCLA — are currently ranked ahead of Stanford.

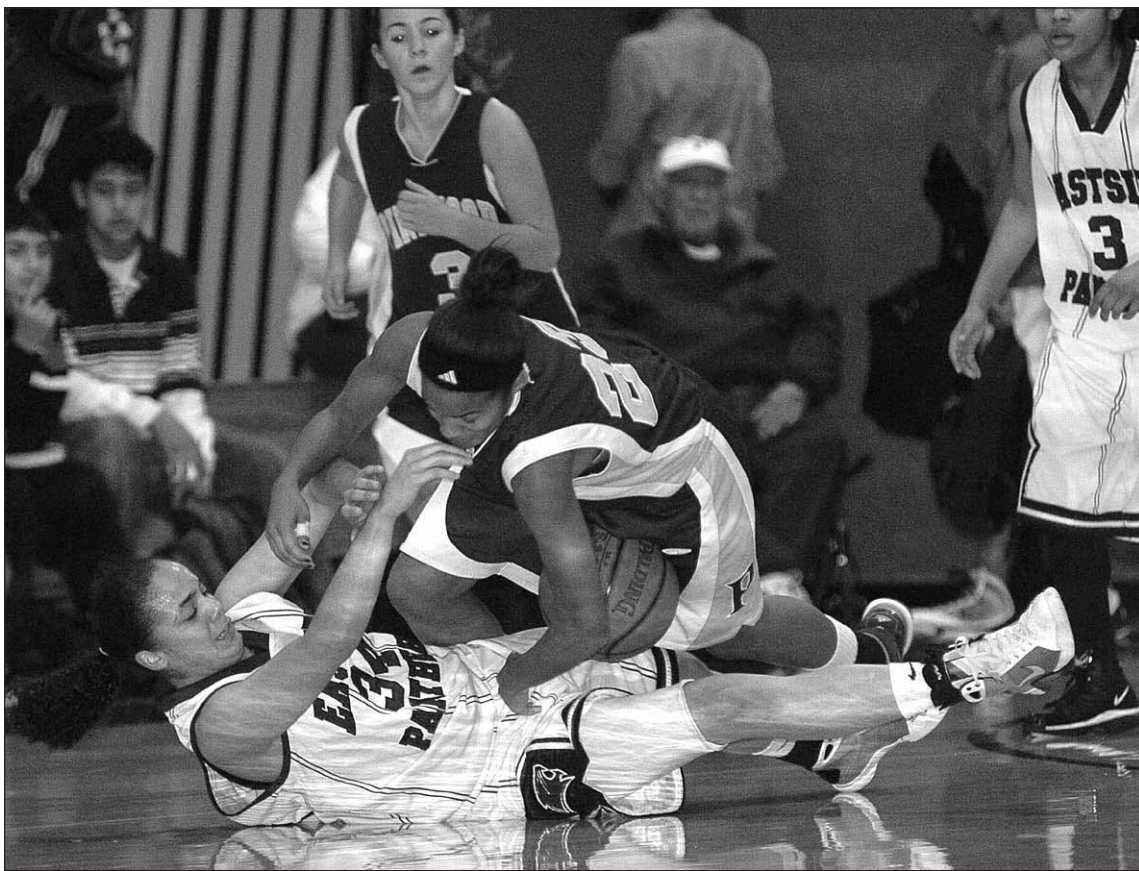
Three Stanford players are ranked nationally in singles, including two in the top 20. Mallory Burdette is at No. 16, two spots ahead of junior Hilary Barte, the team's No. 1 singles player the past two years, at No. 18. Junior Carolyn McVeigh is No. 78.

Barte holds a gaudy 41-2 record at No. 1 singles and is 44-5 in dual meets (65-14 overall). The four-time All-American (two in each singles and doubles) was last year's Pac-10 Player of the Year.

Junior Jennifer Yen (24-15), and sophomores Logan Hansen (11-10) and Veronica Li (19-11) all own winning records in singles.

Stacey Tan and Natalie Dillon join Mallory Burdette as the top rated recruiting class by tennisrecruiting.net.

The women's team sends teams to the Freeman Invitational in Las Vegas, and the NCTC Classic in Indian Wells. ■



Eastside Prep's Felicia Anderson (on floor) and Pinewood's Hailie Eackles battle for a loose ball during Tuesday's WBAL Foothill Division opener won by Prep, 46-38, to snap Pinewood's 149-game league win streak.

## Girls' basketball

(continued from page 34)

before Harvey's injury. She's back now to give the Panthers a solid one-two punch until Burse returns. There's also scrappy 5-foot-1 junior guard Leanne Martin, 5-6 junior Ausjrae Holland, and 6-foot freshman Hashima Carothers, plus the aforementioned Cunningham, a sophomore. That's it.

And that was enough on Tuesday as Anderson made four three-pointers and finished with 16 points and 12 rebounds. Harvey scored 12 of her 13 points in the first half as the Panthers raced to a 26-8 lead. Carothers pulled down 14 rebounds and scored eight big points and Martin contributed a basket to the monumental victory.

"It was a great high school game," Blythe said. "You want to be challenged."

For a while, it appeared that Eastside Prep would not be challenged. Pinewood, which reached the CIF Division V state finals last season but still has three starters sidelined by ACL injuries, couldn't buy (or make) a shot in the first quarter. Pinewood had only two points via free throws by junior Hailie Eackles. She added two baskets in the second quarter, scoring all eight of her team's points.

When Eastside Prep opened the second half with Holland and Anderson hitting three-pointers and Holland adding another basket, it was 34-8. Pinewood came alive at that point and outscored Eastside, 30-12, the rest of the way but the damage had been done.

Pinewood trimmed its deficit to just eight points (44-36) when Kelsey Morehead scored and was fouled. She made the free throw and the Panthers had a flicker of hope with 2:14 left to play. Carothers, however, took a pass from Harvey, one of her seven assists, and scored



Eastside's Hashima Carothers (44) had 14 rebounds and eight points.

with 1:47 left to play to make it a 46-36 game. That put the game out of reach for Pinewood, despite Eackles' final basket and game-high 21 points.

"They outplayed us," said Pinewood coach Doc Scheppler. "We struggled with our emotions — a big game, hadn't played in two weeks, and not getting off to a good start. I thought the difference was confidence; you have to believe your shots are going in."

After an awful shooting display in the first half, Pinewood warmed up and finished 13 of 43 (30 percent), which included 4-of-21 from three-point range.

Scheppler believed another factor was motivation, that Eastside Prep wanted to avenge an early season loss (44-43) in the Notre Dame-Belmont tournament along with two losses to Pinewood last season in league play — one that was an embarrassment with Harvey and Anderson gone.

"They were motivated to play," Scheppler said of Eastside's players. "They out-fought us on a lot of plays. Eastside's aggressive defense hurt the quality of our shots . . . I was proud of how we played (in rallying), but the mistakes we made were uncharacteristic. Fortunately

for us, we get to match up with them (at least) a couple of more times."

Scheppler is hoping to get back one of his three injured players, 5-10 junior Jenna McLoughlin, in the next 2-3 weeks. Senior Rachel Marty and junior Caitlin Ciardella, however, are done for the season with their ACL injuries.

That pretty much levels the playing field for the WBAL season. Pinewood has to travel to Castilleja on Friday (6:30 p.m.) just hoping to get a split in its opening week of the season. That's something Scheppler never has been concerned with before.

Eastside Prep, meanwhile, returns to action Friday against visiting Mercy-San Francisco (6:30 p.m.) before visiting Castilleja next Tuesday (6 p.m.) and in another early season showdown of WBAL contenders.

It's going to be that way week in and out.

Castilleja also had to shake off some rustiness from a holiday lay-off, but did so in a 50-23 win over host Sacred Heart Prep on Tuesday.

Neither team scored in the opening 3:45 before a Sacred Heart Prep free throw broke the ice. The teams also combined to miss their first 14 shots from the field en route to a combined nine first-quarter points. Castilleja finally pulled its game together in the second as it went on a 17-0 run to bury the homestanding Gators.

Sacred Heart got to within 11 by the end of the half, but Castilleja continued its strong play on defense by forcing a season-high 24 steals to spark its fast break. Senior Eve Zelinger (game-high 15 points, two blocks), the WBAL's all-time leading scorer, tied her own school record with nine steals, while senior Tayo Amos (seven points, six rebounds, three assists) and sophomore Riya Modi (10 points, game-

(continued on page 38)



## CITY OF PALO ALTO NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to California Water Code section 10910, that the City Council of the City of Palo Alto will hold a Public Hearing at its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, February 1, 2010 at 7:00 p.m., or as near thereafter in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, California. The Public Hearing will be held to consider approval of the Water Supply Assessment for the Stanford Medical Center Facilities Renewal and Replacement Project. Copies of the Water Supply Assessment for this project are available in the City Clerk's Office, 7th Floor, 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, California.

DONNA J. GRIDER, MMC  
City Clerk



## NOTICE OF A SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING of the Palo Alto Planning & Transportation Commission

Please be advised the Planning and Transportation Commission (P&TC) shall conduct a **special meeting at 6:00 PM and the regular meeting at 7:00 PM, Wednesday, January 27, 2010** in the Civic Center, Council Chambers, 1st Floor, 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, California. Any interested persons may appear and be heard on these items.

Staff reports for agenda items are available via the City's main website at [www.cityofpaloalto.org](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org), and also at the Planning Division Front Desk, 5th Floor, City Hall, after 2:00 PM on the Friday preceding the meeting date. Copies will be made available at the Development Center should City Hall be closed on the 9/80 Friday.

### AT 6:00 PM

#### NEW BUSINESS. Study Session:

1. Status Report on High Speed Rail.

### AT 7:00 PM

#### NEW BUSINESS. Study Session:

2. Review of Community Services and Facilities Element Programs and Policies for the Comprehensive Plan

#### Reports of Officials

3. Single Story Overlay Proposal for the Fairmeadow Neighborhood.

**NEXT MEETING:** Regular Meeting of February 10, 2010

Questions. Any questions regarding the above applications, please contact the Planning Department at (650) 329-2440. The files relating to these items are available for inspection weekdays between the hours of 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. This public meeting is televised live on Government Access Channel 26.

ADA. The City of Palo Alto does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities. To request accommodations to access City facilities, services or programs, to participate at public meetings, or to learn more about the City's compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), please contact the City's ADA Coordinator at 650.329.2550 (voice) or by e-mailing [ada@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:ada@cityofpaloalto.org)

\*\*\*

Curtis Williams, Director of Planning and  
Community Environment



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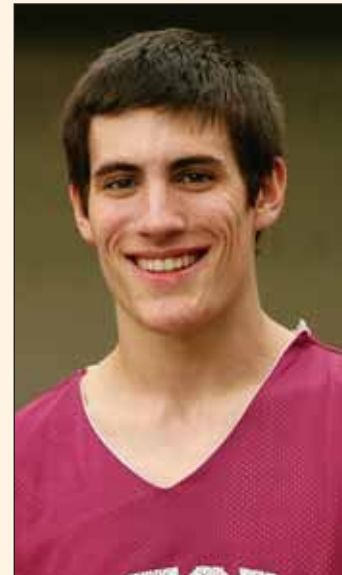
## Sports

### ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



**Katerina Peterson**  
Palo Alto High

The junior forward scored 16 points and grabbed 12 rebounds in a 51-45 overtime basketball win over Wilcox and added seven points and 13 rebounds in another victory as the Vikings opened their league season 2-0.



**Colin Terndrup**  
Sacred Heart Prep

The junior guard had his best basketball week of the season with 28 points, 10 rebounds and 14 assists in two important victories as the Gators continued to improve while moving into a first-place tie in the WBAL.

### Honorable mention

**Drew Edelman\***

Menlo basketball

**Whitney Hooper**

Menlo basketball

**Tennyson Jellins**

Menlo-Atherton basketball

**Emilee Osagiede**

Palo Alto basketball

**Emma Paye**

Menlo basketball

**Jessica Tuliau**

Menlo-Atherton basketball

**AJ Castillo**

Palo Alto wrestling

**Timmy Costa**

Menlo soccer

**Sterling Hancock**

Gunn soccer

**Reed McConnell**

Sacred Heart Prep basketball

**Matt Walter**

Sacred Heart Prep soccer

**Lowry Yankwich**

Menlo soccer

\* previous winner

To see video interviews of the Athletes of the Week, go to [www.PASportsOnline.com](http://www.PASportsOnline.com)

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**State Farm**

## Girls' basketball

(continued from page 37)

high five assists, five rebounds) each recorded career highs of six and five thefts, respectively. Castilleja junior Natasha von Kaeppler posted a double-double with 11 points and a game-high 10 rebounds days after returning from China on a school trip.

Also in Atherton, the Menlo girls won their first-ever WBAL Foothill Division game with a 49-31 triumph over previously unbeaten Mercy-San Francisco (0-1, 13-1) as the Knights (1-0, 9-4) overcame an early 10-3 deficit. At that point, Menlo went on a tear and took a 21-17 halftime lead. The Knights held the visitors to just 14 second-half points.

Menlo freshman post Drew Edelman used her 6-foot-2 height well to score 19 points and grab 13 rebounds for her 13th double-double this season. Junior guard Emma Paye added 10 points and 10 rebounds as the Knights avenged last season's Central Coast Section play-off loss to Mercy.

In the SCVAL De Anza Division, host Gunn (1-2, 4-6) snapped a three-game losing streak while

winning its first division game, 56-43, over Saratoga on Tuesday.

Senior Rachael Clark led Gunn with 18 points and 10 rebounds while sophomore Cat Perez added 11 points, seven rebounds and four steals. Freshman point guard Claire Klausner added eight points, three rebounds and three steals.

In a PAL Bay Division opener, Menlo-Atherton (0-1, 5-10) let an eight-point lead in the third quarter slip away as the Bears suffered a 57-52 loss to host Mills on Tuesday.

"We still had a four-point lead in the fourth quarter," said M-A coach Pam Wimberly, "but they tied it and then we only got maybe six points the rest of the game."

Wimberly believed her sophomore guards, Alex Flowers and Melodie Turner, just wilted under the late-game fullcourt pressure applied by Mills that resulted in the Bears turning the ball over six times in the final quarter.

"We played well for 27 minutes, but we panicked at the end," Wimberly said.

Jessica Tuliau led the Bears again with 22 points, giving her 72 in the past three games. Turner contributed 14 points while sophomore Tennyson Jellins added 12. ■

STANFORD BASKETBALL

# Washington is no pushover this time for Cardinal women

Stanford men hoping to ride momentum of weekend sweep

by Rick Eyrer

The last time Stanford hosted Washington in a women's basketball game was a record-setter; good for the second-ranked Cardinal. It was not-so-good for the Huskies, who were on the wrong side of the most lopsided score (112-35) in Pac-10 history.

Don't expect anything like that happening again Saturday when the resurgent Lady Huskies come to Maples Pavilion for a 2 p.m. tipoff with dreams of revenge and upsets.

Stanford (3-0, 13-1) should be heavily favored in the contest,

but this won't be some fast break in the wilderness. Washington (3-1, 8-6) and Oregon (3-0, 12-3) are on the fast track to being among the most-improved teams in the nation.

Senior Sami Whitcomb leads the rejuvenated Huskies (who already have matched their win totals from last year) with 14 points, 6.0 rebounds and 2.6 assists a game. She's also the most accurate free throw shooter in the Pac-10 with a 91.7 percent success rate.

After losing to Oregon, the Huskies are on a three-game winning streak entering their game at California on Thursday night.

Stanford had won four in a row heading into its Thursday game against Washington State, and last weekend received a wake-up call for the Cardinal after barely escaping with a 65-61 win over host UCLA on Sunday. Senior guard Roz Gold-Onwude scored 18 points and made two free throws in the final seconds for the winning margin.

The Cardinal beat USC, 82-62, before its encounter with the Bruins, which resulted in the second fewest points of the season.

"We learned that we have a lot of competition in the Pac-10," Stanford guard Jeanette Pohlen said after the UCLA contest.

Entering the third week of the conference season, Stanford and Oregon share the top spot while USC, UCLA and Washington are within a half-game.

Stanford sophomore Nnemkadi Ogwumike leads the team with her 19.1 points and 9.6 rebounds per game. Junior forward Kayla Pedersen is at 17.6 points and 9.2 rebounds while senior Jayne Appel averages 13.1 points and 9.4 rebounds.

The Cardinal owns a seven-game winning streak over Washington and has beaten the Huskies 10 in a row at Maples Pavilion.

### Men's basketball

Just as Stanford was left for dead at the beginning of the season, so too was Jeremy Green and his apparent legal problems.

Sorry, but the reports of Stanford's and Green's demise have been exaggerated. You don't hear much these days about the loss of highly-regarded freshman Andy Brown to an ACL injury, or junior Josh Owens' medical bout that has left his future in doubt.

The incident that required a police report to be filed on Green seems so far in the past that it may as well have happened in another lifetime.

Stanford coach Johnny Dawkins has his team looking ahead, and his post players -- despite losing the 6-8 Brown and 6-8 Owens -- are beginning to do more than fill space on the court.

The Cardinal continues conference play Saturday with a 2 p.m. game at Washington State. Green, who returned to the team after serving a suspension, seems to have more difficulty staying out of the training room than anything else.

"He had a major setback but he's

(continued on page 40)



Nnemkadi Ogwumike

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## Volleyball

(continued from page 36)

said. They're seasoned veterans, they make better decisions. It's just a different team."

With the return of redshirts Garrett Dobbs and Charley Henrikson on the front line, plus the added experience of sophomore setter Evan Barry, Stanford has even more options. Freshman Chandler Kaaa, one of seven Hawaiians on the roster, provides depth at setter.

Palacios has worked himself into the mix behind Lawson and McLachlin at outside hitter, and junior Ian Connolly is an explosive jumper. Sophomore Dylan Kordic was limited by ankle injuries last year and is now fully healthy; freshman Jake Kneller is a true competitor who hits with velocity; sophomore Jake Vandermeer, in a Cinderella story, made the team after playing at the club level last year; and freshman Myles Muagututia is a highly-regarded recruit who is balancing football and volleyball.

Junior Jordan Inafuku (libero) and Max Halvorson (middle blocker) will also be counted upon.

Following a trip to Provo for a two-match with BYU on Jan 22-23, Stanford plays 10 of its next 13 matches at home. ■

## Basketball

(continued from page 39)

been able to focus and grow from the experience," Cardinal coach Johnny Dawkins said on Tuesday. "Those are the kinds of situations where you learn a lot and determine what is important to you. For Jeremy, that's school and athletics."

Green scored a career-high 30 points in Stanford's 70-59 victory over UCLA at Maples Pavilion on Saturday. He added 17 in last Wednesday's 54-53 win over USC.

After averaging 16.2 points through his first 12 games, Green has exploded in Pac-10 play, scoring at a 23.3 pace in helping the Cardinal (2-1, 8-7) to a share of first place entering Thursday's game at Washington. And that's with a sore right wrist and pulled muscle under his rib cage.

The wrist injury occurred during Stanford's 70-62 loss at Northwestern last Dec. 19. The sore ribs were courtesy of a poke from someone during a rebounding tussle against USC last Wednesday.

"He has battled a lot of injuries and got off to a slow start," Dawkins said. "But he stayed with it and has been able to continue to get better."

Landry Fields, the Cardinal's overall scoring (22.3) and rebounding (8.9) leader, has seen his field-goal percentage drop to .464 after shooting below 40 percent over the first three conference contests.

Fields had a solid second half against the Bruins, though, and he could be coming out of his slump.

"Landry has carried a load for us and taken on that responsibility," Dawkins said. "It's good to see other guys emerge and contribute. I'd still like to see more guys get involved. The more games we've had under our belts, the better our bigger guys have been playing." ■



## ARBOR FREE CLINIC

Stanford Hospital & Clinics thanks the 50 Stanford physicians and 65 medical students per quarter who volunteer at Arbor Free Clinic for their commitment to community service. The Arbor Free Clinic fills an important role in our community by providing health services and medications free of charge to uninsured patients in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties.

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