

**Palo
Alto**

Vol. XXXI, Number 20 • February 19, 2010 ■ 50¢

**Palo Alto's budget
deficit balloons**

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Weekly

www.PaloAltoOnline.com

Powerless Palo Alto

**Fatal plane crash
knocks out electricity
to 28,000 homes,
businesses**

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Eat Healthy, For Life.

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A registered dietitian will be available to answer questions. Pick up free handouts, a portion guide bookmark, and view special displays and other nutrition resources. Free.

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795 El Camino Real
Community Health Resource Center
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Tuesday, March 9, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 23, 2:30 – 4 p.m.
Wednesday, March 31, 10:15 – 11:30 a.m.

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Redwood City Center, 650-853-2961
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This two-hour walk through Nob Hill Foods will enlighten and inspire you with tips for reading food labels, understanding how stores are laid out and shopping strategies. Pre-registration, fee charged.

Nob Hill Grocery, 650-934-7373
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For more nutrition-related information, visit pamf.org.



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Upfront

Local news, information and analysis

Palo Alto braces for ballooning budget gaps

Flagging sales figures, slumping state economy blamed for city's bleak financial future

by Gennady Sheyner

Palo Alto's annual budget deficit will more than triple over the next decade if the city doesn't slash its services or find significant new revenue sources, a financial forecast shows.

The new document, which the

City Council's Finance Committee discussed Tuesday night, projects that the deficit in Palo Alto's general fund will balloon from \$6.4 million in fiscal year 2011 to \$19.6 million in 2020 if the city doesn't reduce costs or find new revenue sources.

The general fund, which pays for most basic city services, also faces a \$6.3 million shortage in the fiscal year 2010, which ends June 30. City officials raised the projected 2010 budget deficit from \$5.4 million to \$6.3 million this month because of continuing decline in sales-tax revenues.

On Tuesday, city officials proposed to close the 2010 gap through a combination of fund transfers, sav-

ings from vacant positions and one-time cost reductions. This allows the city to postpone making major "structural" (more permanent) cuts until the next year.

But council members also agreed that bigger structural changes would need to be made in future years to contain Palo Alto's spiraling deficit. Councilman Greg Scharff was one of several committee members to argue Tuesday that program cuts

alone won't achieve the balanced budgets — new revenue sources will be equally critical.

"The cuts you're making in 2012, 2013 through 2020 — you can't make those kinds of cuts every year and survive as a city," Scharff said. "You can't tax your way out of this. You need some growth in sales tax and property tax."

(continued on page 5)



Veronica Weber

Pheasant not under glass

A male pheasant roams in the grass along Runnymede Street in East Palo Alto, not far from the Baylands.

CRIME

Victim: Murder suspect 'infatuated with killers'

No bail for Bulos Zumot of Palo Alto, who is charged with strangling girlfriend, setting house on fire

by Gennady Sheyner

Accused murderer Bulos Zumot of Palo Alto was "infatuated with serial killers" and wanted to "plan the perfect murder where no one would suspect him," according to a police report released Tuesday by Chuck Gillingham, Santa Clara County deputy district attorney and the lead prosecutor in the case against Zumot.

Zumot, whom police allege mur-

dered his girlfriend, Jennifer Schipsi, and set the cottage they shared on fire to cover up the crime, was in Santa Clara County Superior Court Tuesday morning in hopes of being released on bail. However, Judge Patricia Lucas denied Zumot's request despite arguments from the defense that Zumot is not a flight risk and that the circumstances of the case have changed significantly since

the court first decided to hold him without bail.

Lucas ruled against Zumot after the prosecution released new evidence, including excerpts from police reports in which Schipsi accused Zumot of having a "shady" thought process, "suspicious paranoid nature, fascination with crime scene shows, creating the perfect crime, and making sure he would never be caught."

Zumot, 36, has been held without bail since Oct. 19, when Palo Alto police arrested him and charged him with killing 29-year-old Schipsi and burning down their Addison Avenue cottage. Zumot's attorney, Cameron Bowman, filed a motion last month asking the court to set bail for his client, who pleaded not guilty to the charges last month.

Zumot, who operated Da Hookah Spot on University Avenue in Palo

Alto before his arrest, was charged with homicide and arson after an accelerant-sniffing dog detected accelerant on Zumot's shoes, socks, pants and sweatshirt. Bowman had disputed these results and pointed to an analysis from the U.S. Department of Justice, which could not verify the police dog's findings.

Bowman had argued that Zumot was at Da Hookah Spot at the time of the Oct. 15 fire and thus could not have committed the crime.

Bowman said Tuesday that a "reasonable bail" in this case would be about \$1 million.

He argued that Zumot is not a flight risk and said Zumot's family is willing to pay for an electronic-monitor bracelet and to hire a security guard to make sure Zumot doesn't flee.

(continued on page 5)

COMMUNITY

Honors for accomplished seniors

'Lifetimes of Achievement' awards recognize outstanding, long-term community involvement

by Martin Sanchez

A former Los Altos mayor, a physicist for HP and the U.S. Navy and a philanthropic husband-and-wife team were among six local seniors honored with "Lifetimes of Achievement" awards from the nonprofit group Avenidas last week.

This year's honorees are community volunteer/philanthropist Elizabeth Wolf, venture capitalist Gordon Russell, former Mayor Marge Bruno, physicist Emery Rogers and philanthropists Fred and Marcia Rehmus.

Avenidas, a Palo-Alto based organization serving local seniors and their families, presents the annual awards to seniors who distinguish themselves through outstanding contributions to their communities.

There were 39 nominees for this year's awards, Kari Martell, Avenidas' director of marketing and communications, said.

The honorees "exemplify the successful traits of remaining active, involved and committed to the causes they care about, helping to make a difference in our community," Avenidas CEO Lisa Hendrickson said.

The award recipients were announced at a private reception Feb. 11 at the Garden Court Hotel in Palo Alto. A May 16 garden party will be open to the public and hosted by Avenidas, the Palo Alto Weekly and Palo Alto Online.

The nominees were drawn from a broad spectrum of community service.

Wolf has participated in a wide

(continued on page 6)

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK



There was fire everywhere.



— Benita Brown, eyewitness to Wednesday's fatal small-plane crash in East Palo Alto. See story on page 12.

Around Town

WHAT MAKES SILICON VALLEY SPECIAL? ... It's the only place in the world where Google

and Yahoo are considered old school; where the salespeople at RadioShack ask the customers for help; where Bible study groups talk about "God's garage," and where there are the highest percentage of 40-year-olds in the world who still have roommates. The observations come courtesy of comedian Will Durst, who recently entertained more than 1,000 participants in a "State of the Valley" conference. And by the way, Durst noted, Jerry Brown just got a clean bill of health from his paleontologist.

OUT OF POWER ...

A Palo Alto resident is seeking \$60 from the city after two of his VCRs were damaged in an electrical failure earlier this month. This wasn't the major Feb. 17 outage, which hit the entire city and forced most local businesses to close down, but a brown-out that occurred on Madison Way on Feb. 4. According to a claim filed by Lewis Schiff, the brown-out caused the power-supply sections of the two VCRs to burn out, "rendering both units useless." The claimant is seeking \$30 for each VCR, based on VCR selling-prices he found on eBay.

VIRAL VIDEO ... Once perceived as a significant threat, the H1N1 virus now earns shrugs from the general populace — so much so that health departments, fearful of a third wave of the flu, are trying to entice people into getting vaccinated.

Last week, county officials called every home in East Palo Alto to publicize a free flu-shot clinic, and Santa Clara County is posting videos on YouTube, such as the goofy yet informative "H1N1 vs. Superheroes," to reach young adults. The low-budget video features four caped crusaders and a stealthy, black-clad attacker with a mask and an "H1N1" nametag. The four superheroes end the clip by shouting out advice for keeping the virus at bay: "Isolation," "Vaccines," "Cover your coughs and sneezes!" and "Superwater!"

WHOOOPS ... City roads have not been kind to Palo Alto police cruisers in December. Two weeks after a distracted Palo Alto police officer allegedly rear-ended a car at a stop sign on Lytton Avenue, another officer accidentally hit a Mercedes while pulling out of a parking spot on Encina Avenue. According to a police report, Officer Cole Anthony Ghilarducci's cruiser was parked and facing westbound — toward incoming traffic. As he was pulling out of his parking spot, his car clipped an eastbound Mercedes, driven by Redwood City resident Kim Huynh. The police cruiser damaged the Mercedes' right-front bumper and fender, causing \$5,764.22 in damage. The officer said his view was obstructed by a large truck parked along the curb in front of the cruiser. Still, he was found "at fault" for driving on the wrong side of the roadway. No one was injured.

DRIVING HABITS ... Sen. Joe Simitian, who championed California's "hands-free" cell phone law, is pointing at recent traffic-collision statistics as proof that the new law works. Simitian cited numbers from the California Highway Patrol showing a 20 percent reduction in fatalities and collisions in the state in the first six months of the law's implementation, as compared to the same six-month period in recent years. The law, which bans drivers from talking on their cell phones without hands-free devices, was implemented on July 1, 2008. Simitian said in a statement that the new statistics are consistent with a 2008 analysis from the Public Policy Institute of California, which predicted that the law would save 300 to 900 lives a year. "That's a lot of folks who are sitting down to dinner with their families every day, who might otherwise not have made it," Simitian said in the statement. He noted that the data is particularly compelling given the growing number of drivers and cell-phone users. "We've been able to reduce the number of deaths and crashes even as we've seen more drivers and more cell phones out on the highway." ■

Budget gaps

(continued from page 3)

The projections assume scant economic growth in the next few years. A report from the city's Administrative Services Department restates that California's slumping economy and high unemployment rate have walloped the local economy.

In 2009, Palo Alto's sales revenues dropped by \$2.9 million, or 14 percent, while hotel-tax revenues dropped by \$500,000, or 7 percent. On the upside, the city's share of property-tax revenues rose by \$300,000 and its documentary-transfer taxes went up by \$200,000

(increases of 1.3 percent and 5 percent, respectively).

Even if Palo Alto's financial fortunes improve, city officials will need to rethink its services and employee-compensation packages, the report stated.

"Furthermore, even when the local recovery takes hold, the traditional revenue sources will not sustain the current array of city services, employee salaries and benefits, and extensive infrastructure," Senior Financial Analyst Nancy Nagel wrote in the report.

"Thus the city will need to trim its service offerings, find new sources of revenue, or continue to prune the benefits packages offered to its em-

ployees in an equitable manner."

Councilman Larry Klein challenged some of the numbers in the long-term forecast, particularly its assumptions that salaries will continue to climb by about 4 percent even during a dismal economy. Klein said the city should only assume salary growth if it has an accompanying growth in revenues.

"I don't think any City Council will allow those increases at the same time they cut programs," Klein said. "It's much more reasonable to assume if revenues go down significantly, the (salary) payments will go down significantly."

The new long-term forecast shows the city's infrastructure

backlog swelling to \$510 million. This includes a \$302 million backlog in maintenance for existing city structures and \$208 million backlog for replacing and updating facilities.

The full council will discuss the long-term budget projections on March 29, at which time staff plans to lay out a list of possible cost-saving measures. City officials also plan to hold a series of community meetings in late March and April to assess community feeling about the city's financial outlook and possible cutbacks or fee increases in services and programs.

City Manager James Keene said he plans to talk to local neighbor-

hood associations in the coming months about possible cuts. The council's Policy and Services Committee also plans to participate in the process of prioritizing the city's programs and services.

Keene is scheduled to present what he called a "trial budget" for fiscal year 2010 to the council on April 26. The budget would then be revised and adopted by the council on June 28.

"It's clear that there's no escape from difficult long-term choices," Keene said.

"That's the whole point of this." ■
Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner can be e-mailed at gsheyner@paweekly.com.

Zumot

(continued from page 3)

But Gillingham maintained that Zumot would pose a danger to the public if released. He pointed to Zumot's history of domestic violence with Schipsi; his 1994 conviction following a family spat in Washington; his recent fallout with Hisham Ghanma, a former friend against whom Zumot and Schipsi had obtained a restraining order; and new evidence suggesting that Zumot may have been involved in money laundering.

Gillingham also pointed to a conversation Zumot allegedly had with his distant cousin and business associate, Said Hattar, the day after the Oct. 15 fire. According to a report from Palo Alto police, Hattar told Zumot, "If you did these things, let me help. We'll get you out of the country at least." Zumot responded, "No, I wouldn't lie to you."

Bowman argued that the conversation in fact supports the defense's position. Zumot was given an opportunity to flee, but he chose to stay and defend himself from accusations, Bowman said.

"When given the opportunity to leave, he chooses to stay and fight the case," Bowman said.

But Gillingham noted that Zumot is originally from Jordan and argued in his brief that unlike other defendants Zumot "has a country to flee to with monetary resources located therein." He also pointed to a "suspicious activity report" filed by Zumot's bank on Oct. 14, the day before the fire. According to the report, Zumot had received a \$79,000 wire transfer from the United Arab Emirates on Sept. 17, reportedly for "personal needs."

The bank, Comerica, also observed a "sudden increase in currency withdrawal transactions" and "what seems to be a suspicious movement of funds transacted on Bulos Zumot's business and personal accounts."

Gillingham also cited a series of police reports further detailing the ongoing dispute between Zumot and Schipsi, a real-estate agent who moved to Palo Alto from San Jose last year. According to one report, Schipsi had told the police that Zumot "always talks about his infatuation with murder and how he would plan the 'perfect murder.'" Schipsi also told the police that Zumot was "very angry" and that he swore at her and told her he would kill her.

Zumot had also allegedly talked

about burning down Da Hookah Spot for insurance money, according to a police report. His plans had prompted Schipsi to leave a voice-mail message for the daughter of the building's owner, informing her that she has information about a "tenant at the hookah bar." Later, in a phone conversation with the daughter, Schipsi allegedly "stated that Bulos Zumot threatened to kill and burn down Jennifer Schipsi's house, if Jennifer talked to the police."

Gillingham also dismissed Bowman's argument that Zumot was at Da Hookah Spot at the time of the crime. He said surveillance evidence shows that Zumot was only at his smoke shop for about 3 minutes and could have easily set the fire and then drove to Da Hookah Spot. Bowman had told the judge that Zumot was at the University Avenue smoke shop for about 30 minutes.

"The reality is that the defendant was at his business for a mere 3 minutes prior to the call regarding the fire," Gillingham wrote. "That fact makes his arson alibi non-existent and certainly does not make for a change of circumstances warranting a lower bail."

After the fire, a Santa Clara County medical examiner concluded that Schipsi had a broken hyoid, which suggested death by strangulation. According to the police report, the medical examiner "said that the body smelled like gasoline."

The day after the fire, investigators found that Schipsi's back was relatively untouched by fire, which suggested to the police that the victim was "incapacitated or dead at the time of the fire." Palo Alto police also found that the victim's hair appeared to have been soaked in an accelerant such as gasoline. Police also smelled gasoline around the house and found a comforter on the couch that appeared to be soaked in an accelerant, according to a police report written by Detective Aaron Sunseri.

Court records show that Zumot and Schipsi had a turbulent history of breaking up and getting back together again. In February 2008, Schipsi took out a restraining order against Zumot and accused him of harassing her with threatening calls and text messages. But in October 2008, she asked the court to rescind the order.

Last August, Schipsi obtained an emergency restraining order against Zumot after he allegedly threatened her. Zumot also told the police that he and Schipsi had been arguing the day of the fire, according to a Palo

Alto police report.

Zumot also acknowledged to the Palo Alto police that he was "involved in illegal drug usage." Officers found vials of human growth hormone (HGH) and syringes at the Addison Avenue cottage after the fire. According to Gillingham's declaration, Zumot told the police that he would "inject the drug into himself and the victim."

On Tuesday, Zumot's sister Khaloud Diggs, testified that her family had no reason to suspect any friction between Zumot and Schipsi. She said the pair kissed and hugged during social gatherings. Everything between them seemed to be fine, she said.

Gillingham then asked her whether Zumot's family became suspicious after the police intervened on two occasions.

"The fact that the police were brought in twice — did you or your family members decide to get involved and make sure it didn't happen again?" Gillingham asked her.

"Everything was fine," she responded.

Zumot's pretrial hearings are scheduled to begin on April 12. ■

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

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Senior awards

(continued from page 3)

variety of local and national service projects. She established a charitable foundation with her late husband, Hans, in 1966 and has contributed funding to Eastside College Prep School in East Palo Alto and other schools across the country.

Wolf also housed foreign graduate students and Gunn High School exchange students for more than 20

years and volunteers at her church.

A Palo Alto resident, she served on numerous boards, including Adolescent Counseling Services, and currently serves on the board of Abilities United (formerly C.A.R.).

Rogers had been working at HP for 12 years when, in 1979, he launched the company's charitable foundation at the request of its founders. Rogers has also served on the boards of the Children's Health Council, Stanford Convalescent Hospital and Castilleja School.

He received his bachelor's degree and doctorate in physics from Stanford University. He also worked at the U.S. Naval Research Lab, where he served on a research team dedicated to improving radio functionality during heavy storms.

He lives in Palo Alto with his wife, Nancy.

Bruno served two terms as mayor of Los Altos and two more as a member of the Los Altos City Council. Her additional government service includes chairing the boards of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and the Santa Clara County Paratransit committee.

She received her M.B.A. from San Jose State University in 1977 and founded the Adobe Financial Group in 1980.

Bruno lives in Los Altos with her husband, Mike.

A graduate of Dartmouth College, Russell was awarded an honorary doctorate from his alma mater in 2005. He is a member of Dartmouth's Native American Visiting Committee and President's Leadership Council and chaired the Dartmouth Medical School Board of Overseers.

Russell has held senior management positions in the biomedical and health care industries and was a general partner at Sequoia Capital, a venture-capital firm, for more than 20 years.

Russell has also contributed to local health care initiatives as a volunteer, serving as a trustee for the Palo Alto Medical Foundation and the Ravenswood Family Health Center in East Palo Alto. The latter is a nonprofit health center that treats recent immigrants and the uninsured.

Russell lives in Portola Valley.

The Rehmuses have directed much of their service and philanthropy towards the growth of the arts at Stanford, where Fred received his M.B.A. in 1961. The couple endowed a faculty position in Stanford's Humanities program and donated several works of art to the Gallery of Native American Art at the Cantor Arts Center.

Fred Rehmus also chaired the Cantor Center's membership board and is currently on the board of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

Marcia Rehmus is a co-founder of Avenidas Village, a service providing transportation, health and legal advocacy and community activities for local seniors living at home.

She has also served on Avenidas' board and fund-raising committees and worked with various committees of Menlo-Atherton High School and the Menlo Park School District.

The Rehmuses recently moved to Palo Alto after living in Atherton for many years.

Tickets for the May 16 garden party can be purchased online at www.avenidas.org or by contacting Avenidas at 650-289-5445. Proceeds from the event help fund the programs offered at Avenidas. ■

Editorial Intern Martin Sanchez can be e-mailed at msanchez@paweekly.com.

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Online This Week

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

Trio of premieres in TheatreWorks' new season

Three world premieres, including a musical based on the Truman Capote short story "A Christmas Memory," are on the bill for TheatreWorks' 2010-11 season. (Thursday, 4:17 p.m.)

Wind-tunnel used to test trucks' wind resistance

A wind tunnel at Moffett Field normally used to test airplanes and other things that fly is being used to test the aerodynamics of a big diesel truck — to save up to 3.4 billion gallons of fuel a year. (Posted Feb. 16 at 11:15 p.m.)

Los Altos police seek man in July sex assault

Police in Los Altos are investigating the sexual assault of a teenage girl while she was out jogging in July 2009. The incident was only recently reported to police. (Posted Feb. 16 at 11:12 a.m.)

Was woman pushed from vehicle in Palo Alto?

Palo Alto police are investigating a case in which a 33-year-old woman jumped or was pushed from a moving vehicle at Alma Street and Charleston Road shortly before 8 p.m. Monday. (Posted Feb. 16 at 9:58 a.m.)

Big waves hit Mavericks observers, injuring 13

The Mavericks Surf Contest near Half Moon Bay — called by surfers as the biggest surfing event in history — had bigger-than-expected waves Saturday that flooded beaches and observers and injured at least 13 persons. The contest was won by a 36-year-old man, Chris Bertish, from South Africa. (Posted Feb. 14 at 11:36 a.m.)

Palo Altan John Berwald dies

John Joseph Berwald, a Palo Alto resident for 55 years, former Palo Alto City Council member and retired Standard Oil administrator, died Feb. 9 following five years of declining health relating to Alzheimer's disease. He was 92. (Posted Feb. 13 at 8:33 p.m.)

Palo Alto company brings Haiti relief

As relief workers toil to rebuild Haiti following a massive earthquake, they're getting a boost from Palo Alto technology floating 22,000 miles over their heads. (Posted Feb. 12 at 5:41 p.m.)

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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

News Digest

Palo Alto Online swamped by demand

Palo Alto Online's Web servers received unprecedented traffic during Wednesday's power outage, slowing the system to a crawl for most of the day. More than 18,000 visitors came to the site, with as many as 500 people simultaneously attempting to load pages throughout the day, substantially more than the previous maximum.

Normally, Palo Alto receives more than 130,000 unique visitors each month.

Palo Alto Online's servers are not located in Palo Alto and were unaffected by the power failure. Reporters and editors worked from locations outside the city limits or from the Embarcadero Media office in Palo Alto using limited emergency power from generators.

"We regret that our servers were unable to handle the tremendous volume yesterday," Webmaster Frank Bravo said. "This experience makes clear that people are counting on us to provide information on major breaking stories and we are working to expand our ability to serve massive spikes in Web visitors during emergency situations," Bravo said.

Some Palo Alto residents reported phoning friends or relatives outside the city and asking them to relay news from Palo Alto Online, but this only magnified the demand on the servers already caused by there being a national news story taking place in the community.

Palo Alto Online and the Palo Alto Weekly also used the Palo Alto Weekly Twitter account (twitter.com/paloaltoweekly), to make tweets throughout the day with news updates. ■

— Palo Alto Weekly staff

Valley losing federal 'mega-investments' race

Silicon Valley is losing the race for huge federal investments that will jumpstart the industries of the future, a panel of Valley leaders said.

As the Obama administration makes "a series of mega-investments in the future," Silicon Valley trails regions such as Huntsville, Ala., in procuring funds, CEO Emmett Carson of the Silicon Valley Community Foundation told more than 1,000 attendees at a 2010 "State of the Valley" conference Feb. 12 in San Jose.

The conference was convened by the Community Foundation and Joint Venture: Silicon Valley Network, a nonprofit "analysis and action" group.

Carson and others outlined a regional funding gap in clean technologies.

He said the Valley is getting none of the \$2 billion federal funds now being disbursed for research in vehicle batteries and only \$4 million of a \$184-million federal investment in energy storage.

Silicon Valley got none of the \$3.5 billion going to smart-grid technology, and just \$38 million of the \$16 billion going to energy efficiency and renewable energy, he said.

Attendees heard a range of expert analyses of the 2010 Silicon Valley Index, an annual measurement the region's wealth and health.

Joint Venture CEO Russell Hancock announced he will create a new position to run "special ops" for procurement of federal investment for Silicon Valley.

"The person will travel to Washington, D.C., a lot and mobilize the entire region to advocate and cheerlead for the federal funds we require," Hancock said.

There is a Silicon Valley mythology that could feed overconfidence: That entrepreneurs created it all by themselves, Managing Director Gary Pinkus of McKinsey & Co. said.

But the reality is that early companies such as Fairchild Semiconductor secured 80 percent of their original contracts from the Defense Department, he said.

Despite the problems Pinkus said the state still has many factors working in its favor.

"We're still the eighth-largest economy in the world, though it might not be going quite in the right direction."

"While 90 percent of our economy is in services, we still hold the highest level of manufacturing employment in the country, ahead of number two, Texas. ■

— Chris Kenrick

Youngsters escape Atherton house fire

A fire caused more than \$200,000 in damage to a large ranch-style home in Atherton late Tuesday afternoon, Menlo Park Fire Protection District Chief Harold Schapelhouman said.

Three children, ages 12, 14 and 16, were inside when the fire started but escaped unharmed.

The single-alarm blaze damaged a 5,000-square-foot, single-story home at 251 Greenoaks Drive. Schapelhouman said a neighbor reported seeing heavy smoke at about 4:15 p.m.

It appears the blaze started in the motor compartment of a Ford Expedition and spread to a breezeway, then through the attic and wood-shingled roof, Schapelhouman said.

Twenty-four firefighters responded and had the fire controlled by 4:43 p.m.

Schapelhouman said the fire caused \$150,000 to \$200,000 in damage to the structure and approximately \$50,000 in damage to contents. The house was not immediately habitable, he said.

The official cause of the fire is under investigation. ■

— Bay City News Service

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Answers to this week's puzzles, which can be found on page 47

S	T	S		Q	U	I	C	K	B	R	E	A	D						
L	A	M	B	V	A	L	O	R	O	U	S	L	Y						
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9	5	2	8	7	4	3	1	6
3	1	4	5	9	6	2	7	8
8	7	6	2	1	3	9	5	4
1	8	3	6	2	9	5	4	7
2	6	5	1	4	7	8	9	3
7	4	9	3	5	8	6	2	1
6	2	1	7	8	5	4	3	9
5	9	8	4	3	1	7	6	2
4	3	7	9	6	2	1	8	5



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Palo Alto Unified School District

25 Churchill Avenue,
Palo Alto, CA 94306

February 19, 2010

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Division of State Architect Approved Inspectors of Record

The Palo Alto Unified School District (District), is seeking qualifications from Division of State Architect (DSA) Approved Class I and, II Inspectors of Record (IOR). The District intends, through this RFQ, to establish a shortlist of qualified professionals eligible to provide Inspection Services for various construction projects that will take place throughout the Palo Alto Unified School District over the next five (5) years.

If interested and qualified, proposal packets may be obtained from the Palo Alto Unified School District Facilities office located at 25 Churchill Avenue, Building "D", Palo Alto, CA 94306, Phone (650) 329-3927.

Statements of qualifications must be submitted on or before **2:00 p.m. March 23, 2010**. Statements of Qualification must be marked clearly on a sealed package "RFQ No. 01-I" and delivered to:

**Palo Alto Unified School District
District Facilities Office
25 Churchill Avenue, Building "D"
Palo Alto, CA 94306
Attn: Arnold Teten**

Questions regarding this request for proposals ("RFQ") may be directed to Arnold Teten at FAX# (650) 327-3588.

This is not a request for bids or an offer by the District to contract with any party responding to this RFQ. The District reserves the right to reject any and all Proposals. All materials submitted to the District in response to this RFQ shall remain property of the District and may be considered a part of public record.



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CAR SEAT EDUCATION & INSTALLATION

The Kohl's Child Safety and Outreach Program at LPCH offers a free car seat check and installation education at LPCH. Additionally there will be a car seat check at Kohl's in Redwood City on Saturday, February 6.

Appointments can be made by calling (650) 736-2981.

PRENATAL YOGA

Join other expectant mothers-to-be in a yoga class designed to enhance strength, flexibility and tranquility in preparation for the upcoming birth of your child.

- Thursdays: 5:30 - 6:30 pm

MULTIPLES SEMINARS

Are you expecting twins, triplets or more? With the potential for early delivery, expectant parents of multiples are encouraged to learn everything there is to know about carrying and delivering multiple infants.

- Preparing for Multiples Class: Sunday, March 7: 12:30 - 5:00 pm

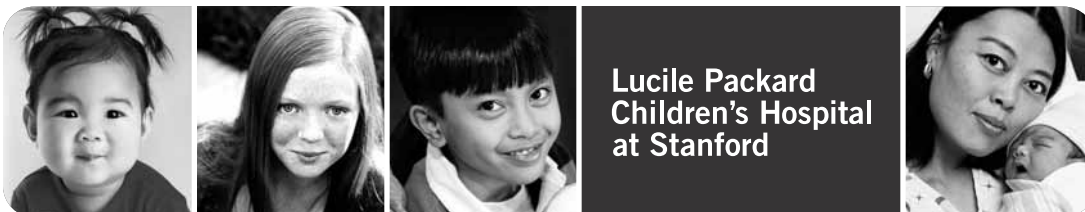
- Multiples Breastfeeding Seminar: Thursday, March 10: 7:00 - 9:00 pm

STAYING CLOSE WHILE STANDING BACK

Julie Metzger, RN, creator of our "Heart to Heart" program, hosts an evening for parents of adolescents and young teens with a discussion of ways we can encourage our children to be resilient, accountable, and independent people in a fast-changing world.

- Tuesday, March 9: 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Call (650) 723-4600 or visit www.lpch.org to register or obtain more information on the times, locations and fees for these and other courses.



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Palo Alto Unified School District

25 Churchill Avenue,
Palo Alto, CA 94306

February 19, 2010

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Labor Compliance Consulting Services

The Palo Alto Unified School District ("District") is requesting proposals and a statement of qualifications from qualified firms and persons to provide professional services for labor compliance consulting services ("Services") for various new construction and modernization projects throughout the Palo Alto Unified School District over the next five (5) years.

If interested and qualified, proposal packets may be obtained from the Palo Alto Unified School District Facilities office located at 25 Churchill Avenue, Building "D", Palo Alto, CA 94306 Phone (650) 329-3927.

Statements of qualifications must be submitted on or before **2:00 p.m. March 24, 2010**. Statements of Qualification must be marked clearly on a sealed package "RFP No. 02-L" and delivered to:

**Palo Alto Unified School District
District Facilities Office
25 Churchill Avenue, Building "D"
Palo Alto, CA 94306
Attn: Arnold Teten**

Questions regarding this request for proposals ("RFP") may be directed to Arnold Teten at FAX# (650) 327-3588.

This is not a request for bids or an offer by the District to contract with any party responding to this RFP. The District reserves the right to reject any and all Proposals. All materials submitted to the District in response to this RFP shall remain property of the District and may be considered a part of public record.

CityView

A round-up of Palo Alto government action this week

City Council Finance Committee (Feb. 16)

Long-term forecast: The committee discussed the city's long-term financial projections for the years 2010 to 2020, and heard an update on the \$6.3 million deficit in the fiscal year 2010 and projections on future budget gaps. The full council is scheduled to discuss the long-term financial outlook on March 29. **Action:** None

City Council High-Speed Rail Committee (Feb. 17)

Alternative analysis: The committee voted to request that the California High-Speed Rail Authority increase the comment period for its alternative analysis for the San Francisco-to-San Jose segment of the rail line from 45 days to 90 days.

Yes: Unanimous

Community meetings: The committee voted to hold public meetings for the high-speed-rail project in both north and south Palo Alto. **Yes:** Unanimous

Architectural Review Board (Feb. 18)

Mitchell Park: The board voted to recommend approval of the proposed revisions to the design of the new Mitchell Park Library and Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road. These include landscaping changes and a proposed below-grade water tank at Middlefield Road. **Yes:** Lee, Lew, Malone Pritchard, Wasserman **Absent:** Young

Public Agenda

PALO ALTO CITY COUNCIL ... The council is scheduled to hold its annual joint study session with the Architectural Review Board. The meeting is scheduled for 7:45 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 22, in the Council Chambers at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

BOARD OF EDUCATION ... The board will discuss and likely vote on proposed cuts for the school district's 2010-11 operating budget. The meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. in the board room of school district headquarters (25 Churchill Ave.).

PALO ALTO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ... The commission is scheduled to elect a chair and vice chair for 2010; to discuss the city's budget challenges and to consider topics for its joint meeting with the City Council, which will be held in May; and to hear an update on recreational opportunities for dog owners. The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 23, in the Council Conference Room at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

PALO ALTO PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION ... The commission is scheduled to hold a study session to provide early input in the city's Capital Improvement Program Plan for years 2011 to 2015; to discuss topics for its March 3 joint study session with the City Council; and to discuss the Natural Environment chapter of the Comprehensive Plan. The meeting is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 24, in the Council Chambers at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

PALO ALTO CITY COUNCIL HIGH-SPEED-RAIL COMMITTEE ... The committee is scheduled to continue its discussion of California's high-speed-rail project. The alternatives analysis for the San Francisco-to-San Jose segment of the high-speed-rail line is scheduled to be released on March 4. The meeting is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, Feb 25, in the Council Conference Room at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

PALO ALTO LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION ... The commission is scheduled to elect a chair and a vice chair for 2010, to review its 2010 goals and to prepare for the joint meetings with the City Council. The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 25, in the Council Conference Room at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).



PALO ALTO CITY COUNCIL

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(TENTATIVE) AGENDA-SPECIAL MEETING- COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM

FEBRUARY 22, 2010 - 7:45 PM

1. **STUDY SESSION:** Joint Study Session with the Architectural Review Board.
2. Broadband

STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The High Speed Rail Committee Meeting will be held at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 25, 2010.

The Special Policy and Services Committee Meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 25, 2010.



CITY OF PALO ALTO NOTICE OF DIRECTOR'S HEARING

To be held at **3:00 p.m., Thursday, March 4, 2010** in the Palo Alto City Council Conference Room, 1st Floor, Civic Center, 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, California.

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

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

1449 University-09PLN-00231-Request by Bogdan Ryczkowski for a Preliminary Parcel Map for subdivision of one parcel into two. Zoning: R-1 (10000).

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 and Sign language interpreters will be provided upon request with 72 hours advance notice.

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Dark day for two cities



Left, firefighters and Federal Aviation Administration officials surround the wreckage of the Cessna 310R that crashed into an East Palo Alto neighborhood Wednesday morning. Above right, resident Bernice Turner watches the fire department at work at the crash site.



Michelle Le

Report on cause of crash expected by early next week

Cessna 310R hit power line, tower and plummeted into East Palo Alto neighborhood Wednesday

by Sue Dremann, Jay Thorwaldson and Tyler Hanley

Investigators into the fatal crash of a Cessna twin-engine plane in an East Palo Alto neighborhood Wednesday morning said that there was no distress call from the doomed aircraft, which sent a jolting wake-up call of debris and fire shortly after takeoff into the sleepy neighborhood.

The National Transportation Safety Board is nearing completion of its portion of the investigation, spokesperson Josh Cawthra said Thursday. The agency has located all major parts of the Cessna 310R, and remnants will be sent to Washington, D.C., for analysis.

The report is expected to be completed in five days, he said. Autopsies and toxicology tests will be performed, per standard procedure.

The aircraft's first communication was with the air control tower; its last recorded communication was takeoff clearance, he said.

All three men aboard the plane were killed, but no one on the ground was injured, which Chief Harold Schapelhouman of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District called "a miracle."

He and others outlined the precise sequence of the crash, starting when the plane took off moments before

8 a.m., flying on instruments due to the dense fog blanketing the area.

Cessna 310Rs can travel between 80 and 100 mph during takeoff, according to one aviation source.



Menlo Park Fire Chief Harold Schapelhouman speaks to the media during the investigation of the Beech Street plane crash.

But something went wrong. The plane failed to make a turn over the bay as dictated by the Palo Alto Airport's noise-abatement guidelines, which suggest that pilots turn 10 degrees to the right in the direction

of the Dumbarton Bridge.

Instead, the Cessna veered sharply left then hit a high-voltage power line and 100-foot-tall steel transmission tower.

Several experienced pilots said a sharp veering in a twin-engine plane could indicate a power failure in one of the engines, but they said they were not speculating on Wednesday's crash.

The top of the tower partially collapsed, severing several live wires that fell to the ground.

"It was a serious situation," Schapelhouman said, noting the danger to the emergency crews dispatched to the power line site.

One of the plane's wings, loaded with fuel for the flight to Hawthorne Municipal Airport near Los Angeles, was severed by the impact with either the power line or tower and sailed several hundred feet into the back end of a home that doubles as a day care/preschool center on Beech Street near Pulgas Avenue. Small sections of the power line were found embedded in the wing.

The wing burst into flames, setting the home on fire. A woman feeding a baby in the day care center ran out along with six others when she saw flames engulfing the rear.



Veronica Weber

The small plane struck a PG&E tower, causing a day-long power outage in Palo Alto.

The flames destroyed about half the house, and water and smoke damage ruined the rest, Schapelhouman reported.

Simultaneously, a portion of the plane's fuselage, its landing gear and an engine crashed into the carport next door, destroying it. The engine, continuing to hurtle, then slammed through the wall of the garage at a third home, where it was found. A vehicle in the carport was smashed, officials reported.

The main fuselage, with the plane's occupants, continued another block, where it ran into a home's front retaining wall, collided with a BMW and set fire to three parked vehicles, including a motorhome, and the front of the house next door.

The fuselage finally came to rest in front of a driveway and then ex-

ploded. All that was left after firefighters put out the blaze was a two-foot-tall heap of aluminum metal.

Cawthra said the debris from the aircraft was strewn along 1,200 feet of Beech Street. Schapelhouman said in the 29 years he has worked with the fire district there has never been a plane impacting a residential area, although a number of crashes occurred in the marshlands, the bay or San Francisquito Creek over the years.

"This is one of the more significant crashes I've seen," he said.

A few residents in the neighborhood who heard the crash and called 911 said the dense morning fog made it difficult for them to know exactly which street — Garden or Beech — to direct emergency personnel to, causing some delays. ■

Airport worries East Palo Alto residents, but pilots defend track record

Plane crash was first to involve a structure in at least three decades

by Jocelyn Dong, Sue Dremann and Martin Sanchez

Wednesday's crash of a Cessna 310R in East Palo Alto has renewed concerns about the dangers of a municipal airport located close to a densely populated neighborhood.

For the Palo Alto Airport, the fatal incident comes at a time when the future of the 75-year-old municipal facility is under consideration.

The City Council Finance Committee is scheduled on March 2 to discuss the new business plan for the airport. Santa Clara County currently operates the airport under a 50-year-lease with Palo Alto that is scheduled to expire in 2017.

County officials have indicated in recent years that they would not renew the lease once it expires. The Palo Alto City Council and city residents have been debating over the past two years whether the city should try to take over airport operations before the lease expires.

At the same time, some have called for a portion of airport land to house a new composting facility — a proposal that has met resistance from local aviators.

After Wednesday's crash, some area residents said they wouldn't mind seeing the airport gone.

"They should do away with the Palo Alto Airport. We know accidents happen. They need to fly over another neighborhood," said Pamela Houston, who works for Eppie's Preschool in the 1200 block of Beech Street. She escaped from the school, which is located in a home, after it was struck by a sheared-off plane wing and caught fire.

Albertstine Pride has lived in the

neighborhood since 1959. The aircraft fuselage plowed into her driveway Wednesday.

She and her daughter have talked about the planes from Palo Alto Airport many times.

"They fly too low for comfort," she said. "But I live with it."

"This is a rude awakening." Benita Brown, another longtime resident of the Gardens neighborhood, heard two loud "booms" when the plane crashed. From her window, she saw an explosion.

Airplanes from Palo Alto Airport "used to scare me. When we added onto the house (by building the second story), you could hear the putt-putt of the plane and look out the window and see the people in it."

But she said that "planes seem to fly higher than they used to."

Ralph Britton, co-chair of the Palo Alto Airport Association, defended the municipal airport.

"The airport's safety record is really quite good," he said. "This is certainly the first time that a plane (from the Palo Alto Airport) has crashed into a structure."

"I'm sure that there will be political repercussions from this," Britton said. "For years, some people have been against the airport, and I'm sure they will try to take advantage of this."

Standard procedures call for all planes to turn to the right a mile out from the airport, so they fly over the bay. The Cessna veered to the left, off the flight path, he noted.

But about half of the planes that fly out of Palo Alto Airport do not follow this rule and fly straight to-

wards the Dumbarton Bridge after taking off, according to an experienced local pilot who asked to remain anonymous.

Still, the area of East Palo Alto that this alternate route passes over is well north of the crash site and should not factor into questions about yesterday's crash, the pilot said.

Another aviator, Richard Alexander, also supported the facility's track record.

"The airport's been there 60 years or so, and no one's ever hit the power lines," said Alexander, who has flown out of the airport hundreds of times.

Within the past seven or eight years, a homemade plane tipped into the Palo Alto duck pond and the pilot drowned, Britton recalled.

Harold Schapelhouman, fire chief of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District, said this is the first time a plane has crashed into a residential neighborhood in his 29 years with the district.

There have been other crashes into San Francisquito Creek, the bay and the marshes, he said.

"This is one of the more significant crashes," Schapelhouman said. ■

Pilot had plenty of experience, friends say

Three Tesla Motors employees killed in East Palo Alto crash Wednesday

by Sue Dremann, Jocelyn Dong, Gennady Sheyner and Chris Kenrick

Doug Bourn, 56, is being described as a "very thorough pilot" who had thousands of hours of flight experience, according to longtime friend Elizabeth Houck, who once flew with him in the same Cessna twin-engine plane that crashed Wednesday into an East Palo Alto neighborhood.

"He was very comfortable behind the wheel," she said. "He knew motors, engines, air and oil."

She was "extremely comfortable" flying with him, she added.

Tesla Motors of Palo Alto confirmed Wednesday that three of its employees were killed in a small-plane crash in East Palo Alto.

"Tesla is a small, tightly knit company, and this is a tragic day for us," said Elon Musk, CEO of the electric-vehicle manufacturer.

He declined to name the employ-

ees, saying that the company was working with authorities to notify the families.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with them," Musk said.

Sources close to the company identified the three men as Bourn, a senior electrical engineer and Santa Clara resident; Andrew Ingram of Palo Alto, an engineer; and Brian Finn of East Palo Alto, a senior manager.

Houck considered Bourn a good friend, calling him "an outdoor adventureman with a zest for life. ... He was a real life enthusiast."

Bourn also was beloved by members of the robotics team at Castilleja School, where he had volunteered as a mentor for the past six years.

"My daughter is studying what she's studying in college because

(continued on page 12)

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Stanford Continuing Studies and Hamid and Christina Moghadam Program in Iranian Studies Present

George Lakoff: Why You Can't Understand 21st Century Politics with an 18th Century Brain



"Our democracy is in danger. That danger has its roots in money, power, social structure, and history, but the ultimate source of that danger is in the brains of our citizens."

- George Lakoff, *The Political Mind*

George Lakoff, one of the world's best-known linguists and cognitive scientists, has written books for those who want to know their own minds better, to understand why so many Americans are willing to vote against their own interests, and to figure out why so many progressive leaders don't seem to make much progress.

The program is the subtitle of his latest book, *The Political Mind*, in which Lakoff argues that the political divide in the US between red and blue, conservative and progressive, has its source in the deep cognitive frames, prototypes, and metaphors we use to make sense of the world we live in. Political reason is not as reasonable as we suppose, but its unconscious and emotional logic can be better understood — in fact, it has to be understood if we hope to defend our most valuable political ideals: freedom, equality, and democracy.

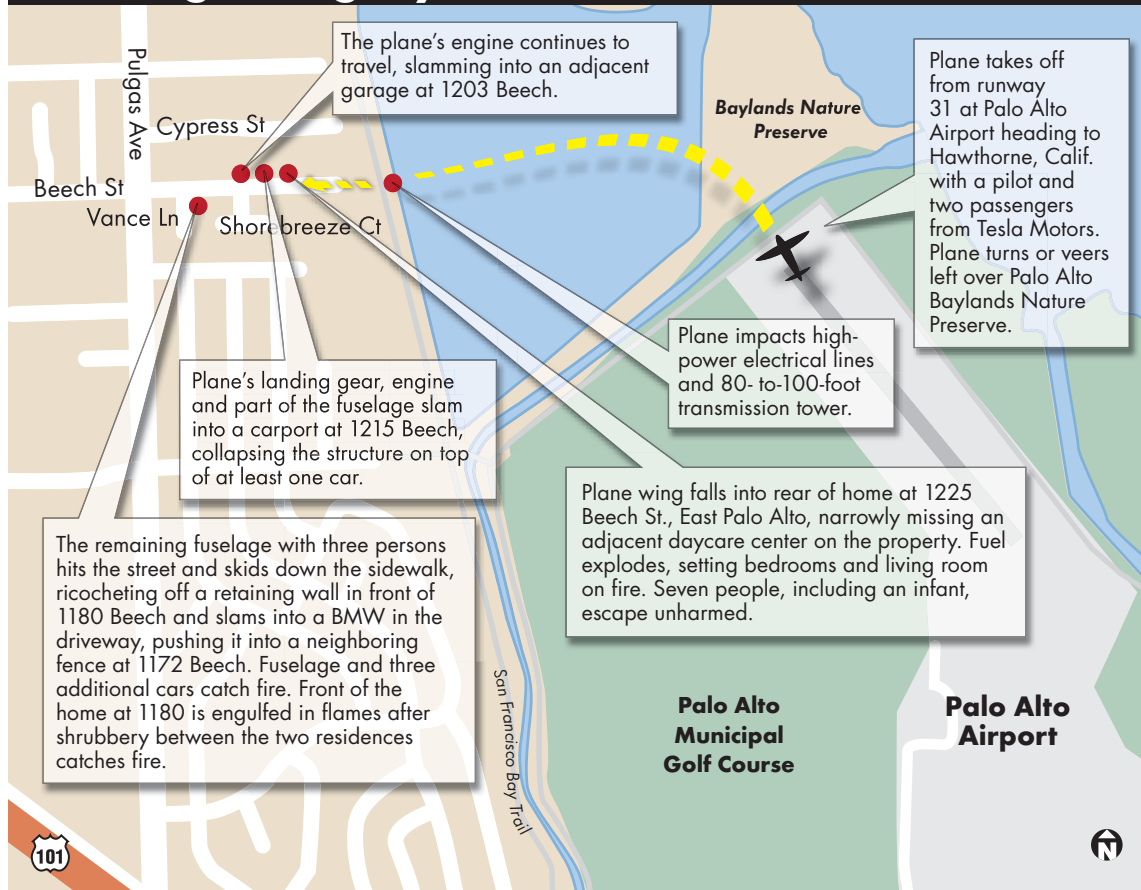
Wednesday, February 24
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Cubberley Auditorium, School of Education
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For more information please visit:
continuingstudies.stanford.edu

Tracking a tragedy



Above, a wing of the plane landed in a day care center, with wires from the high-voltage transmission line embedded in it. Below, Juan Carlos Ramirez, left, and Benita Brown, center, watch investigators.



Pilot

(continued from page 11)

of the commitment of people like Doug," Castilleja parent Beth O'Malley said Thursday.

O'Malley said Bourn had offered to take her and her husband flying several times, although they never went.

"I always felt like if there was anybody I would trust (flying) it would be Doug," she said.

Bourn even traveled with the Castilleja team to robotics competitions.

"He really forced the girls to take the time to understand the physics of the problem, and he gave the girls a lot of room to fail — to learn and to fail," O'Malley said.

"He didn't stand there and tell them how to do it. He'd make suggestions, but ultimately it was their decision how to build the robot and how they would enter the competition."

Bourn enjoyed motorcycles and was a member of a beer club. He would often go to Devil's Canyon Brewery in Belmont on the last Friday of each month with co-workers, Houck said.

"It's really sad for Tesla. He was instrumental in getting the Roadster out the door" and was developing the Model S, she said.

A highly detail-oriented engineer, he worked on batteries and electrical systems for the company.

Vicky Tuite, a friend and former colleague at Tesla, said Bourn had come to her birthday party last month.

"He was a great guy," Tuite said, adding that he worked on the first powertrain for the Tesla Roadster.

"He was one of the original handful of people to work for Tesla," she said.

Tuite, whose husband is an amateur pilot, said she would not have hesitated to fly with Bourn.

Bourn held commercial pilot, instrument, multi-engine, ground instructor and single/multi-engine

flight instructor ratings, according to a biography posted on the American Society of Mechanical Engineers website before a talk he gave in 2007. The bio noted he enjoyed "motorcycling, skydiving, flying, and teaching others how to fly."

Bourn graduated from Stanford University with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. He worked for IDEO of Palo Alto as a senior engineer from 1995 to 2005, his former employer confirmed.

Finn had worked for Tesla for a year and eight months, according to his profile on LinkedIn.com. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Northern Illinois University in 1990 and 1992, respectively. He previously worked for Volkswagen Electronics and Volkswagen of America.

He enjoyed gardening, cycling, skiing and playing the guitar, his profile stated.

Ingram, a 2001 Harvey Mudd College graduate, previously worked for Dolby Laboratories and Christie, Parker and Hale. ■



From left, Jamar Gaddis, Daron Meacham and Gracie Gaddis watch from their home as police and firefighters attend to the nearby crash site.

Organizations to help residents in aftermath of crash

Nonprofits seek to heal mental, financial wounds of those impacted by plane disaster

by Sue Dremann

Local organizations are stepping forward to help East Palo Alto residents who are struggling after Wednesday's plane crash into a residential neighborhood.

The commute-hours crash, in which a Cessna 310R slammed into high-powered electrical lines along San Francisquito Creek and broke up over the 1100 and 1200 blocks of Beech Street, damaged four homes and several vehicles.

Three engineers from Tesla Motors, Inc. died in the crash but no residents were injured, according to fire and police authorities.

Some residents were left homeless and others were evacuated. At least two families lost their livelihood, family members said.

Shortly after the accident an American Red Cross Bay Area Chapter team opened a shelter at the East Palo Alto YMCA to prepare for a possible evacuation of the entire block, according to spokeswoman Melanie Finke.

By evening, an emergency vehicle was still available on Beech to assist residents in crisis and volunteers found housing for an evacuated family, she said.

Volunteer counselors also helped residents, many of whom felt a great deal of uncertainty after the crash, she said. Neighbors said an 80-year-old

woman fainted after the fiery plane plummeted from the sky, thinking the end of the world had come.

And the owner of a day care facility whose adjacent home was destroyed was taken by ambulance to the hospital for treatment of high blood pressure.

Residents' nerves were again rattled at about 4 or 5 a.m. on Thursday, after one of the burned and damaged vehicles again caught fire, they said.

"Even if it doesn't affect them physically, it affects them mentally," resident Joy Wright said.

Witnesses to the crash, some of whom saw the fiery wreckage and bodies of the men who died, will not soon forget what they saw.

"There was fire everywhere," said Benita Brown, who was at home when she heard the first "boom" and ran to her window, only to see the plane explode. "The house shook. It felt like an earthquake."

Volunteers from Habitat for Humanity, a nonprofit organization that builds affordable homes for needy families, arrived at the crash site around 1 p.m. Wednesday to check on several homes the group has built on Beech. The Greater San Francisco chapter built its first home on the

(continued on page 16)

Plane crash takes life of Castilleja mentor

Doug Bourn helped students learn robotics

by Chris Kenrick

Doug Bourn spent Tuesday evening the way he spent many evenings: in a basement at Castilleja School, helping members of the robotics team prepare for an upcoming competition.

Telling the girls he had to fly to Los Angeles Wednesday morning and probably would stop in the next night, he left at 8 p.m., earlier than usual. He told them he was excited about his trip.

On Thursday, while other Castilleja students enjoyed their winter break, a half-dozen members of the school's "Gatorbotics" team worked to complete their robot for an upcoming Portland, Ore., competition and reminisced about their mentor, who died Wednesday morning when the plane he was piloting crashed.

"He came by whenever he could — he said it was a way for him to relax," said team member Nandini Mukherjee, a Castilleja senior, who plans to study mechanical engineering.

"He was extremely generous. If we needed something he would say,

'Oh, I just happen to have that at home.'

"And he was always an advocate of having the right tool at the right time. Sometimes we would kind of sketchily put together stuff with duct tape and he would say, 'No, you need to plan this out and have the right tools,'" Mukherjee said.

An electrical engineer, Bourn began volunteering at Castilleja six years ago, initially on the electronics side of the team. But soon, he was helping both with the mechanical "build" side as well as the electronics.

"He knew a lot about coding and he could always help us fix our sensors," senior Caroline Abbott said.

"We would literally have plumes of smoke and Doug could fix it," said team captain Sherri Billimoria. "And he would show us how to avoid that mistake in the future."

Like high school robotics teams elsewhere, the Castilleja students are preparing for the 2010 FIRST Robotics Competition (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and



Courtesy of Castilleja School.

Doug Bourn assists a Castilleja School robotics-team member. Bourn volunteered with the team for six years.

Technology).

In a six-week time period, students must design and build a 120-pound robot that can drive a soccer ball over bumps and later lift itself on a tower to a height of 7 feet.

Bourn often traveled with the Castilleja team to the competitions.

"He made the time," said Castilleja parent Beth O'Malley, who said she sat with Bourn at many of the competitive events. Her daughter Erin, now studying biotechnology at Rice University, was a member of the team through high school. ■

Cheers and relief greet return of power

Palo Alto businesses and homes survive daylong outage with a greater appreciation for light switches and live plugs

by Gennady Sheyner and Palo Alto Weekly staff

There were cheers and relief in many Palo Alto homes and businesses late Wednesday afternoon when electric power surged back shortly before and after 6 p.m.

PG&E informed city officials at about 5:45 p.m. that it had power back to a transfer substation at the city limits after nearly 10 hours of blackout.

City Utilities Department employees then restored power within 30 minutes to the estimated 28,000 customers left without electricity due to a small plane that severed main transmission lines serving Palo Alto.

Contrary to earlier reports that a larger area was impacted, the outage affected just Palo Alto, officials said.

PG&E crews struggled all day to restore power, finally erecting temporary power poles in the late afternoon.

Most city facilities, including City Hall and the Police Department, lost power, though police had limited power through a generator. City officials had also activated an Emergency Operations Center to oversee the response to the power outage, which included increased traffic patrols. Most of the city's traffic lights either lost power or flashed red throughout the day, but there was no surge in accidents beyond the eight to 10 reported on a rainy day, police reported.

Police Chief Dennis Burns said there were simply too many intersections to staff them with officers to do

traffic control, and they were needed for regular patrol duties and to deal with situations relating to the outage.

He said the state Vehicle Code is specific on power-outages at signalized intersections and says that motorists should treat it as a four-way stop intersection.

He said in the first hour of the blackout there were 220 9-1-1 calls, a number of which needed specific police responses.

"We had to pick and choose" how to use the 14 or 15 officers on duty, he said.

Also, he said a worst-case possibility was that the outage could last 24 hours, which added to the challenge of staffing intersections.

Mayor Pat Burt said city workers from the Utilities, Public Works, Police and Fire departments all took part in the city's emergency response following the outage.

The transmission tower is located west of Palo Alto Airport and includes three transmission lines that carry power to Palo Alto, said Joe Molica, PG&E spokesman. The plane damaged both a tower and the lines.

Molica said no PG&E customers lost power as a result of the crash. A small pocket of residents in East Palo Alto, near the crash site, also lost power.

PG&E workers installed two wooden transmission poles on Cypress Road in East Palo Alto Wednesday afternoon, he said.

Molica said once the new line is installed the company would focus

on repairing the damaged lines and creating redundancies in the power system.

The city repeatedly asked residents to conserve water because of the outage affecting pumps. But that warning was precautionary, according to Linda Clerkson, the city's information officer.

The city's Utilities Department said it has backup generators for its four pump stations that lift water to reservoirs in the hills for the gravity-fed system.

"Because we did not know for sure how long the citywide power outage would last, we urged water conservation to minimize strain on water storage and the backup generators on the pump stations," according to a department statement.

In addition, reducing water use also cuts flow to the wastewater treatment plant, "which reduces strain on the system operating under backup generation," the statement said.

To community questions about pumps to prevent flooding, the city's Public Works Department said major improvements have been made since the big flood of 1998, funded by a storm drain fee approved by voters. All four major storm-water pumping stations have back-up generators that start automatically when needed: at the Palo Alto Airport and at Matadero, Adobe and San Francisco creeks.

Four minor pumping stations have receptacles for portable generators when needed, the department said. ■



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**NOTICE OF VACANCY ON THE LIBRARY
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(Term of Mashruwala)**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council is seeking applications for the Library Advisory Commission from persons interested in serving in one unexpired term ending January 31, 2011.

Eligibility Requirements: The Library Advisory Commission is composed of seven members who shall be appointed by and shall serve at the pleasure of the City Council, but who shall not be Council Members, officers or employees of the City of Palo Alto. Each member of the Commission shall have a demonstrated interest in public library matters. All members of the Commission shall at all times be residents of the City of Palo Alto. Regular meetings will be held at 7 p.m. on the fourth Thursday the month, at least one month per quarter.

Purpose and Duties: The purpose of the Library Advisory Commission shall be to advise the City Council on matters relating to the Palo Alto City Library, excluding daily administrative operations. The Commission shall have the following duties:

1. Advise the City Council on planning and policy matters pertaining to: a) the goals of and the services provided by the Palo Alto City Library; b) the future delivery of the services by the Palo Alto City Library; c) the City Manager's recommendations pertaining to the disposition of major gifts of money, personal property and real property to the City to be used for library purposes; d) the construction and renovation of capital facilities of the Palo Alto City Library; and e) joint action projects with other public or private information entities, including libraries.
2. Review state legislative proposals that may affect the operation of the Palo Alto City Library.
3. Review the City Manager's proposed budget for capital improvements and operations relating to the Palo Alto City Library, and thereafter forward any comments to one or more of the applicable committees of the Council.
4. Provide advice upon such other matters as the City Council may from time to time assign.
5. Receive community input concerning the Palo Alto City Library.
6. Review and comment on fund-raising efforts on behalf of the Palo Alto City Library.

The Library Advisory Commission shall not have the power or authority to cause the expenditure of City funds or to bind the City to any written or implied contract.

Appointment information and application forms are available in the City Clerk's Office, 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto (Phone: 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., Monday, March 8, 2010.

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City Clerk

A community health education series from Stanford Hospital & Clinics

Surgery Can Be Effective Tool in Fight Against Weight

Rabbi Nat Ezray's decades of struggle with weight began early. He joined Weight Watchers in the fifth grade. In the 30 years to come, he would lose and gain weight several times over, each time gaining a bit more until his 5 foot 6 inch frame carried 280 pounds.

"I felt hostage to it," Rabbi Ezray said, "and powerless in the face of it, even though I did diet after diet."

He had tried to keep fit, jogging and playing racquetball. But his body was breaking down. He developed sleeping problems, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, acid reflux and diabetes—all issues very common in people who are seriously overweight. Still, while he would often lose the extra pounds, he would regain them.

"I felt powerless in the face of it, even though I did diet after diet."

— Rabbi Nat Ezray, bariatric surgery patient at Stanford Hospital & Clinics

In 2002, when he was just 42, he had a heart attack. His cardiologist told him, "You're one of the brightest, most motivated people I've met, but I just don't think you can lose this weight on your own."

Rabbi Ezray fit a profile shared by many. His face-off with weight was years long and, in spite of his best efforts, the weight he lost always came back. In recent years, as the rabbi of Congregation Beth Jacob, Ezray was managing a demanding schedule that wholly filled his days.

Still, Rabbi Ezray tried, even after doctors inserted stents in his heart to open up blocked arteries. For a second time, he tried a liquid diet. He continued to see a counselor to talk about the role of food in his emotional life. And, finally, he investigated a suggestion his cardiologist had made years earlier to have his gastrointestinal system surgically altered.

A physician friend recommended Rabbi Ezray see John Morton, MD, MPH, director of bariatric surgery at Stanford Hospital & Clinics. Bariatrics, from a Greek word meaning weight, refers to the study, prevention and treatment of obesity. Morton's treatment and research focus also includes minimally invasive surgery and quality. His interest in weight and its health impacts dates back to high school, when he saw what many pounds of extra weight did to his best friend.

Not a quick fix

What Morton tells anyone interested in gastric surgery is that it is "no magic bullet... We can't operate our way out of the obesity problem. It's part and parcel of a lifestyle change. These surgeries are simply tools." At Stanford, Morton said, "We don't want to shoe-horn anybody into a specific operation. You have to take into consideration the risks and benefits."

When prospective patients come to Stanford to discuss bariatric surgery, they face a set of hurdles designed to test their motivation and discipline. They must attend an information seminar to learn about the surgery and the most successful methods to reach and maintain their weight loss goals. They must be evaluated by a psychologist and a nutritionist. They are also required to lose 10 percent of their weight before surgery.



After bariatric surgery, combined with lifestyle changes, Rabbi Nat Ezray finds that his energy has dramatically increased and his anxiety about his health much diminished.

Stanford also follows the bariatric surgery guidelines established by the U.S. National Institutes of Health. That organization recommends surgery for people with a body mass index (BMI) of 40 or more and for people with a BMI of 35 who also have serious health issues related to their weight like Type 2 diabetes and high blood pressure.

BMI is a way of comparing height to weight. Clinical guidelines set out a BMI of 25 to 29 as overweight. Anything over that is considered obesity. Someone who is 5 feet 4 inches tall and weighs 204 pounds (BMI 35) will be a candidate for surgery if those obesity-related health issues are present.

Weight is not the only measure. It also matters where it is. Abdominal fat has the most negative impact on overall health.

Rabbi Ezray was also concerned about the risks of surgery. "I did all the

research," he said. He learned that Stanford's Bariatric Surgery program is the only one in Northern California recognized by the American College of Surgeons as a Level 1A Center for Excellence. Morton has performed more than 1,000 bariatric surgeries, with no serious post-surgical complications. Those complications can often happen, Morton told Rabbi Ezray, "because patients haven't been properly screened or prepared."

"We can't operate our way out of the obesity problem. It's part and parcel of a lifestyle change."

— John Morton, MD, MPH, Director, Bariatric Surgery at Stanford Hospital & Clinics

Morton has also made it a priority to keep his clinical team together, to build the collective experience. "The more cases you do, the better you are," he said. "We have also researched

Are you a candidate for bariatric surgery?

You might be—if you have:

- a body mass index of 35 or above and have weight-related health issues including Type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, sleep apnea, depression, arthritis, low back pain, stress incontinence, acid reflux, degenerative joint disease or high cholesterol and triglyceride levels
- a BMI of 40
- a history of dieting, with weight loss followed by weight gain; and weight restricting your activity

The Stanford Bariatric Surgery program requires all its patients to lose 10 percent of their weight before surgery to make certain patients have the ability to follow the continuing diet and exercise that is key to successful maintenance of their weight loss. Patients must also have a psychological evaluation.

For more information on obesity and weight loss surgery, visit stanfordhospital.org/weightloss



John Morton, MD, MPH, became interested in the health effects of weight while still in high school.

where problems can occur and created protocols to prevent those. For us, patient safety is first."

Choices to be made

One of the most frequently performed bariatric surgeries, the gastric bypass, first appeared in the mid-1960s. Now surgeons, staple off all but a small portion of the stomach and connect that directly to the intestines. That reduces caloric absorption and reduces exposure to hormones physicians suspect influences appetite and blood sugar.

The bypass has shown to have the most immediate effect. Other approaches reduce the stomach's size but do not involve the intestine, and are

reversible. The weight loss associated with those surgeries is less.

About 70 percent of the bariatric surgeries at Stanford are the gastric bypass. After considering his options, Rabbi Ezray chose that one. Even before the surgery, however, he had examined what his prior stumbling blocks were and figured out how to address them. One thing he did, he said, was to approach food mindfully, "to sit down when I eat and really value it. I loved that the surgery would slow me down and I would appreciate taste and texture."

He would also make his exercise time as high a priority as possible, "part of a true devotion to health being first on my list," he said.

He was home about four days after the surgery and recovered quickly, he said. Also quickly, his high blood pressure and cholesterol levels dropped so he didn't need to take as much medication. He no longer needs any diabetes medication. The positive impact on Type 2 diabetes of surgery-assisted weight loss was first documented in the 1990s.

A life renewed

Stanford has a comprehensive after care program. After surgery, patients are seen five times for check-ups in their first year, and then annually. The Bariatric Surgery program also organizes a support group for patients to see them through the changes in their lives.

Putting your health at risk

You don't have to be obese to have extra weight trigger changes that can threaten your health—a BMI of 25, or 10 percent over ideal body weight, can be enough for some people, depending on family history. The more overweight you are, the more you raise your risk of harm.

Side effects include:

- Type 2 diabetes—can cause heart and kidney disease, nerve damage and stroke
- high blood pressure—increases risk of stroke and heart disease
- osteoarthritis in hips and knees
- sleep apnea and breathing limitation
- higher risk of certain cancers

Rabbi Ezray wants to lose a few more pounds, but otherwise, he could not be happier. The people who helped him at Stanford "were very kind and compassionate," he said.

"I don't have to hold on to the fear that I was going to die young. I feel like I've been given a second chance."

— Rabbi Nat Ezray, bariatric surgery patient at Stanford Hospital & Clinics

He is still not eating certain foods: no red meat or ice cream or alcohol, and almost no processed foods. He rises early several days a week to stretch and do 45 minutes on his elliptical exercise machine; frequently he adds

weight training to develop his core muscles.

And now, as he talks with people in his congregation, they'll often be walking with him. "I had a lot of energy before, but boy, do I have a lot of energy now!" Rabbi Ezray said. "I didn't realize how much energy it took to fight the daily fight with food."

His congregation gave him great support when he told them about his surgery, he said. "I didn't realize how much anxiety people felt about my health."

And he has realized something else. "I don't have to hold on to the fear that I was going to die young," he said. "I feel like I've been given a second chance."



One of Rabbi Nat Ezray's favorite parts of his job is telling stories to the children of his congregation. He does it with great enthusiasm and a much stronger confidence in his future health.



Every day, Rabbi Nat Ezray devotes at least an hour to exercise, whether on running on an elliptical machine or lifting weights or sweating through crunches.

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



Residents

(continued from page 12)

street in 1989, according to spokeswoman Jennifer Doettling.

Doettling said one home previously built by Habitat was damaged. The organization had not yet reached the owner of that home to determine if it can help with any repairs, she said.

David Foley, director of 2nd Mile, a Menlo Park faith-based nonprofit that has renovated homes and schools in East Menlo Park and East Palo Alto, such as Cesar Chavez Academy, Ronald McNair Academy, James Flood School and Willow Oaks Elementary School,

arrived on Thursday morning to assess the damage to four homes. Foley could not gain entry to the secured area but said after police allow access he would return.

Two homes on Beech were renovated by the organization, including the YoungLife house and another home that houses struggling young women with children, he said.

Foley said he wanted to see about renovating the home of Lisa Jones, the preschool owner.

Fifty percent of the home was burned after the plane's wing crashed into it and exploded. The rest of the home was water- and smoke-damaged — a total loss, according to Menlo Park Fire District

Chief Harold Schapelhouman.

"We were going to renovate Brentwood Elementary School as our April project but we heard about the loss of homes here and said, 'We have to switch,'" he said.

Foley said the group receives its funding from private donations, many of whom live "up on the hill." Engaging with the East Palo Alto community has opened many volunteers' and donors' eyes and hearts, he said.

One victim of the crash who walked away was feeding his baby when the plane careened into a retaining wall and crashed in front of his rental home, he said. Juan Carlos Ramirez said he ran into the backyard with his wife and child.

"I was scared. I thought the house blew up," he said. But Ramirez worried that he might face more than temporary evacuation from his rental home. Both of the family's trucks were burned in the crash, he said.

"My dad makes the rent payments. He picks up scrap metal to make the rent payments," he said.

On Wednesday he was searching for answers about who would pay to replace the trucks. The family could not afford insurance on the vehicles, he said.

As the afternoon wore on, he looked on helplessly as emergency crews and aviation officials investigated the scene.

"We're getting hungry. There's no place like home, you know." ■

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



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"Join Us! Membership is open to individuals who live, work, or attend school in Santa Clara County."

Transitions

Deaths

John Berwald

John Joseph Berwald, a Palo Alto resident for 55 years, former Palo Alto City Council member and retired Standard Oil administrator, died Feb. 9 following five years of declining health relating to Alzheimer's disease. He was 92.



He and his wife of 66 years, Genevieve, moved to Palo Alto in 1954, where they raised their six children and became active members of the Catholic Church.

He joined Standard Oil in 1939 as a part-time service-station salesman in North Hollywood. When he retired from Standard Oil in 1984 he was senior adviser for public policy.

Following their marriage, the Berwalds moved 11 times in the following decade as he followed job assignments with Standard Oil.

He served on the Palo Alto council during the turbulent decade of 1967 to 1977, when there were a series of counterculture demonstrations in downtown Palo Alto and residents struggled over the city's policy toward growth versus slow growth.

He in the late 1960s proposed that an "environmental design study" be done on the Palo Alto foothills region, from west of U.S. Highway 280 to Skyline Ridge.

The study evolved from seeking ways to create environmentally sensitive low-density housing, as he envisioned it, into one that concluded it would be cheaper for the city to acquire foothills lands than to allow them to be developed due to the cost of infrastructure, services and schools compared to tax returns from the area.

He also served on the board of the Senior Coordinating Council of the Midpeninsula Area, Inc. (now Avenidas) and was a member of the Knights of Columbus.

In retirement, his energies extended far beyond the Palo Alto borders.

In 1979, he co-founded and became the first president of the non-profit organization, Rescue Now International (RNI).

He is survived by Genevieve and their six children: Patricia Berwald-Jones, Janette Aljian, John R. (Suzanne), Michael (Allison), Matthew (Carla) and Mary; and by eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Alzheimer's Association.

Joseph Lewis

Joseph F. Lewis, 85, a former resident of Palo Alto, died Jan. 14.

A second-generation San Franciscan, he was born June 13, 1924, the eldest son of Bucey and Josephine (Cama) Lewis. He was a graduate of St. Ignatius and S.F. Junior Col-

lege (serving as class president his freshman and sophomore years.) During WW II, he served as an officer in the U.S. Navy and, after his discharge, earned his college degree from U.C. Berkeley.

He received his law degree from Hastings College of the Law and practiced for three decades primarily in Sunnyvale and Palo Alto in the firms; Lewis, Scher and Fernandez, Lewis and Fannesbeck and Lewis and Fortune. He tried a number of high-profile cases and volunteered his time in support of civil rights causes and political issues.

In 1962, he ran unsuccessfully for the Democratic nomination for the State Senate seat serving Sunnyvale and San Jose. He served on the Democratic Central Committee of Santa Clara County for more than a decade.

In the mid-1960s, he opened the Whisky A Go Go nightclub, which later became Wayne Manor, and

helped revitalize downtown Sunnyvale. The latter, a Batman-themed rock club, was featured in Life Magazine as he lobbied the Sunnyvale town council to change the town's name to "Gotham City." Both clubs featured nationally known artists including Sly and the Family Stone, Johnny Rivers and the Platters.

He lived in Palo Alto for more than 40 years and spent his later years in San Francisco where he managed a variety of investments and developed real estate in Grass Valley.

He is survived by his four children from his first marriage to Sue Simanton: Todd, Shaun (Egbert), Garth and Scott Lewis; younger brother Jack; his wife of 11 years Margaret Boddie Lewis; eight grandchildren; former wife Fereshteh Khodadad; and many relatives and friends.

There will be a memorial celebration Sunday, Feb. 21, at 10 a.m. at the Stanford Park Hotel.

RICHARD ALLEN BERRY

9/16/65 - 2/11/10



Richard Allen Berry, loving husband of Jenifer, father of Johnnie and Tommy, precious son of Brenda and Gene, stepson of Micki, brother of Julie and her husband Marc, and Chihuahuas, Lucy and Trixie, is now at peace.

Born and raised in Palo Alto, he graduated from Gunn High school in

1983. He was employed 30 years at Hammon Plating.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to SPCA.

PAID OBITUARY

EDUINO SILVEIRA MENEZES

At rest peacefully surrounded by his family, Sunday, Feb. 14, 2010. 89 years. Beloved husband of Silvina Menezes of 56 years, loving father of Manuel (Stephanie) Menezes, adored grandfather of Nicholas (Serena) Menezes, and Monica (Daniel) Garza. Also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, and many friends. A longtime proud and active member of the Portuguese community and I.F.E.S.-LUSO of Mtn. View. Eduino will be missed everyday and will still be guiding us through our hearts. We love you forever.

Visitations will begin on Sun. Feb. 21, 2010, at 2:00 P.M. with a Vigil Service at 7:00 P.M. at Cusimano Family Colonial Mortuary, 96 W. El Camino Real, Mtn.View. A Funeral Mass will be held on Mon., Feb. 22, at 11:00 A.M. at St. Athanasius Church, 160 N. Rengstorff Ave. Mtn.View. Entombment following at Santa Clara Mission Cemetery, 490 Lincoln Ave. Santa Clara.

Please sign the guestbook at: cusimanocolonial.com

PAID OBITUARY

Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts

February 24 - 28
Tickets:
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- San Francisco Chronicle

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Soon These Two Worlds: Amy Seiwert brings her "gutsy approach to new choreography" (*SF Bay Guardian*) to her new piece, *Soon These Two Worlds*.

Medea: Michael Smuin's *Medea*, a ballet of spellbinding theatrical power weaves a story of passion, jealousy and bloodthirsty revenge.

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Editorial

Tragedy is reminder of our vulnerability

Emergency response to plane crash and power outage shows great improvement over past incidents, but more needs to be done

From East Palo Alto residents knocking on neighbors' doors near the site of the plane crash to Palo Alto efforts to keep the public informed in a timely manner, the response to Wednesday morning's tragic plane crash was superb.

But there were serious shortcomings as well.

Hundreds of Palo Alto residents and employees became "Internet refugees" jamming Menlo Park and Mountain View restaurants and coffee-shop Wi-Fi sites. Companies, stores and restaurants shut down or operated on makeshift generator setups.

PG&E crews made what a PG&E spokesman correctly called "Herculean efforts" to restore power to Palo Alto and came within minutes of meeting its 5:30 p.m. target.

City officials met in the city's Emergency Operations Center and received hourly reports from department heads, including critiques of shortcomings and areas needing improvement.

Schools stayed open but teachers reverted to old-fashioned whiteboards and squeaky pens rather than the now-powerless "smartboards."

News websites, including the Weekly's www.PaloAltoOnline.com site, were jammed with people seeking news about the outage, as was Palo Alto's city website, www.CityofPaloAlto.org. The Weekly resorted to Twitter bulletins about what was going on. East Palo Alto police used the city's new dial-up telephone-alert system to inform residents there about the crash.

Beyond the tragedy of the three Tesla employees who died, the fact that no East Palo Alto residents were killed or injured was in fact miraculous. Federal investigators have begun probing what may have caused or contributed to the crash.

But in Palo Alto attention quickly turned to the future, with a renewed realization that the community is highly vulnerable to emergency situations. And there are many questions.

It is ironic that a community that prides itself in being a world leader in electronic-communications technology suddenly slammed to a virtual halt, while communities around it continued life as usual, with the exception of the shock and relief in East Palo Alto.

The power loss also comes just a week before a major community meeting in Palo Alto on "emergency preparedness." It comes at a time when there are serious discussions with the city administration of unifying the police, fire, utilities and public works emergency-response operations — a long-overdue move that should improve past hit-or-miss communications, despite good individual efforts.

The preparation for emergencies at family and neighborhood levels should see a strong surge of interest due to the day-long power failure. Inexpensive telephones that don't require electrical power to ring or work should be a must in every home. Battery-powered lights, laptop computers, devices to recharge cell phones and emergency radios and even generators became hot sales items at local stores.

Water and food for at least several days should be a basic element of every home, along with a good First Aid kit.

As in East Palo Alto, neighbors helping neighbors will be the first line of response in a serious emergency or catastrophe, and the "block captain" program of Palo Alto Neighborhoods organization deserves more support and participation.

Yet there are bigger questions that go to the very core of emergency readiness.

Foremost is: "Why is Palo Alto dependent on a single transmission link for its entire power supply?" This extreme vulnerability to a repeat accident or intentional sabotage needs to be addressed as a high priority.

Close behind is a catastrophe-waiting-to-happen: Two key elements of the city's emergency-response system are located in the basement of City Hall: the citywide dispatch center that handles 911 calls and communicates with police, fire, utilities and public works personnel, and the Emergency Operations Center where top city officials and leaders gather during a crisis — as they did Wednesday.

The fact is that the City Hall is considered vulnerable in case of a large earthquake. Had advance strengthening work not been done to the late-1960s building some believe it could have collapsed or suffered serious damage in the 1989 Loma Prieta quake, destroying or disabling both emergency centers. A "portable dispatch center" bus is on order for June delivery — none to soon.

To allow these dangerous situations to continue as long as they have is irresponsible. That should be high among the "lessons learned" from Palo Alto's powerless Wednesday.

Spectrum

Editorials, letters and opinions

High-speed rail vote

Editor,

An insightful comedian said to me that voting against high-speed rail is like voting against the future.

I must make a few points regarding HSR. At the Palo Alto forum, many skeptics offered their "constructive" feedback, but as a Caltrain and BART rider many of these missed their mark.

Having HSR stop in San Jose requires a transfer to get to San Francisco. Have any forum skeptics ridden Caltrain to SFO before? If so, they'd remember taking three separate trains to get there with their luggage. Transfers are the bane of quick and convenient public transit.

Why should we listen to longtime residents of Palo Alto when planning for future transit? Their lack of vision years ago left the Peninsula with crowded highways and without BART!

Palo Alto should support HSR for the future of Peninsula transit and with a Palo Alto station we might even get a true Destination Palo Alto.

Leo Hochberg
Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto

Destination Palo Alto

Editor,

Your editorial saying of the Destination Palo Alto program, "all's well that ends well" ignores an obvious and serious error in CMR 138:10, from which the council concluded the program was a success.

It is a good thing the council voted to end the program and transfer it to a regional business group, but the data suggests the program has been an abysmal failure from the beginning.

CMR 138:10 was prepared by Susan Barnes, manager of economic development, and sent to council prior to last Monday's meeting. Staff and consultant agreed there was no way to measure the results of the consultant's year long activities. Any revenue coming from the hotel tax (TOT) and retail sales taxes might have happened without the program. The staff report summarized data in a chart showing the first year program cost of \$240,000, revenue of \$187,061 and a return on investment (ROI) of 78 percent.

While it is true that \$187,061 is 78 percent of \$240,000, this is not a ROI. A ROI of 78 percent would have yielded revenue in the first year of \$427,200.

The city did not "invest" \$240,000 in the Destination program; it spent that amount as a fee to the consultant. It is gone, forever! The result of the first year is a loss of \$52,939! How can this be considered a success?

But it gets worse. The city has spent another \$120,000 on the program for the first half of the current fiscal year, bringing the "investment" to \$360,000. Add the \$350,000 the

city spent on the Senior Games, the total the city has spent on promoting Destination Palo Alto is \$710,000.

Too bad council members (and the Weekly) didn't catch this error. I can only hope council members will refrain from believing the unbelievable, be more diligent in their oversight obligations and be more temperate in showering praise in the future.

Richard C. Placone
Chimalus Drive
Palo Alto

Freedom to marry

Editor,

Last Friday, Feb.12, was National Freedom to Marry Day. Local rallies took place at county clerk-recorder's offices in Redwood City and San Jose to support same-sex couples that wish to marry.

Before last summer, when people would ask whether our daughter Kristina, a 1994 Gunn graduate, was married, I would respond "married as she can get in California." I explained that she and the woman she loved had a beautiful wedding at Hidden Villa in 2005, with family and friends in attendance. But since they were a same-gender couple they had to settle for registering as domestic partners.

Then last summer they proudly walked up the steps of City Hall in San Francisco to lay claim to their newly acknowledged right to marriage and in a brief but moving civil

ceremony became married spouses.

It didn't change their love for each other, or ours for both of them, but it's wonderful to be able to answer the question, "Is Kristina married?" with an enthusiastic "yes" and follow up with how wonderful it is to live close enough to be able to help out with their 1-year-old twin sons.

Sadly, the doorway to equal rights was closed by passage of Proposition 8. For now, argument focuses on who should prevail in the federal court case challenging the validity of the measure. Less attention has been given to the status of marriages performed before its passage, but foes of same-gender marriage are unlikely to settle for any exceptions to their vision of marriage as exclusively between a man and a woman.

I cringe when I think of the assaults on marriages like our daughter's should the spirit of Proposition 8 prevail.

Someday, we won't need a National Freedom to Marry Day each year, but until then the Valentine's Day season will continue to be a time to remind Americans of our constitution's promise of equality before the law. Please support the right of all Americans to marry the person they love.

Jerry Underdahl
Georgia Avenue
Palo Alto

YOUR TURN

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

What do you think? How did you cope with the Palo Alto power outage?

Submit letters to the editor of up to 250 words to 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. 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 or 650-326-8210.



Sports Shorts

CARDINAL CORNER . . . The eighth-ranked Stanford women's tennis team defeated visiting Boise State, 7-0, in a nonconference match Wednesday, extending the longest active home winning streak in any collegiate sport to 155 matches. The last time the Cardinal lost at home, Monica Lewinsky was still in the news. It was also the only time (Feb. 27, 1999) California beat the Cardinal at Taube Tennis Center. Stanford (6-0) returns to action next Wednesday against visiting Hawaii at 1:30 p.m. The Stanford men's tennis team will host Boise State on Friday at 1:30 p.m., before hosting Cal on Saturday at 1 p.m.

NEW COACHES . . . Former Stanford coach **Ron Turner** is back in town and joins **Jim Harbaugh** on the Cardinal football coaching staff along with **Derek Mason**, it was announced Wednesday. In addition, three other current coaches had their duties redefined. Turner, a former assistant coach at Stanford and the former head coach at San Jose State and Illinois, will serve as quarterbacks and wide receivers coach. Mason, who spent the last three seasons as the assistant defensive backs coach with the Minnesota Vikings, will serve as defensive backs coach.

HELP WANTED . . . Priory is looking for a track and field coach plus an assistant lacrosse coach for the spring season. Those interested should contact Athletic Director **Mark Stogner** at ms-togner@prioryca.org. . . 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. . . Sacred Heart Prep is seeking assistant coaches in its girls' lacrosse program. Interested applicants please contact AD **Frank Rodriguez** at frdri-guez@shschools.org or at (650) 473-4031.

ON THE AIR

Friday

College baseball: Rice at Stanford, 5:30 p.m.; KZSU (90.1 FM)

Saturday

College baseball: Rice at Stanford, 1 p.m.; KZSU (90.1 FM)

Men's basketball: Stanford at Oregon St., noon; Comcast Sports Net Bay Area; XTRA Sports (860 AM); KZSU (90.1 FM)

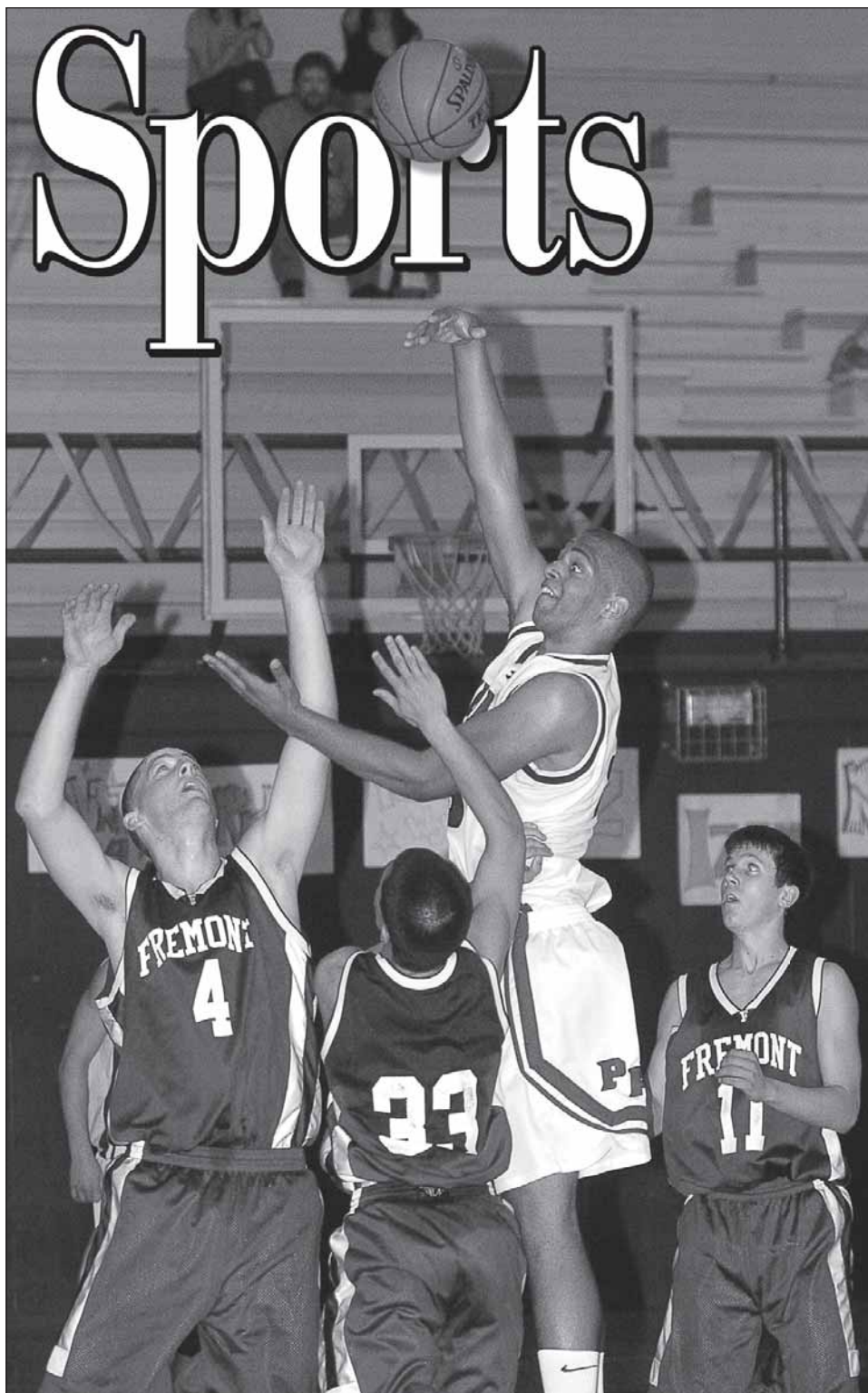
Women's basketball: Oregon St. at Stanford, 7 p.m.; KZSU (90.1 FM)

Sunday

College baseball: Rice at Stanford, 1 p.m.; KZSU (90.1 FM)

SPORTS ONLINE

For expanded daily coverage of college and prep sports, please see our new site at www.PASportsOnline.com



Palo Alto senior Kevin Brown (in white) helped four other seniors celebrate the team's first SCVAL De Anza Division title since 2007 with a 65-19 victory over Fremont on Wednesday.

Keith Peters

PREP BASKETBALL

There's no lack of power for Palo Alto

Vikings overcome distractions and roll to their first championship since 2007

by Keith Peters

When a small plane crashed into a neighborhood in East Palo Alto on Wednesday morning and knocked out power to the City of Palo Alto, the hope of the Palo Alto boys' basketball team hosting its Senior Night was left in the dark.

As the players wandered from one dark classroom to another during the day-long power outage, the players wondered if they would have a chance to host Fremont at 7 p.m., honor the team's five seniors on Senior Night and, most likely, clinch the program's first SCVAL De Anza Division title since 2007 on their home floor.

"We were hoping it wouldn't be postponed," said Paly senior Joseph Lin. "We were really ready to play . . . being home is always special."

The power was still out at 5 p.m., it was looking like the game would be postponed — thus forcing the Vikings to wait until Friday to clinch on the road at Wilcox. Forty-five minutes later, however, the power was back at Palo Alto High and the game was on.

That was a good thing for Palo Alto, but not so good for Fremont.

With all five seniors starting the game, the Vikings ran the Firebirds ragged. Paly raced to a 25-point half-time lead and coasted to a 65-19 triumph, its ninth straight.

Palo Alto coach Bob Roehl was pleased with the effort and the result, especially given the day's distractions.

"It shows the growth of our team," he said. "Dealing with the power outage, Senior Night, the changes in our lineup — a lot of changes. I was very impressed with how they handled it."

Roehl admitted to being concerned by how the day would affect his players. When he walked into the locker room before the game, he looked around and saw a bunch of loose kids.

"They showed me that they were ready, so I just left them alone to have fun," Roehl said.

Roehl has been good about knowing when to reign in the players and when to let them loose. That's why his team has grown so closely together and responded

(continued on page 20)

COLLEGE BASEBALL

For Stanford, season is new; for Diekroeger, it's his debut

by Rick Eymmer

Menlo School grad Kenny Diekroeger could just as well be in Port Charlotte instead of taking the field with the rest of his Stanford baseball teammates to open the season on Friday night in Sunken Diamond.

Diekroeger, a second-round draft pick of the Tampa Bay Devil Rays in June, spent part of this past summer hanging out in the owner's box at Tropicana Field and taking batting practice with the likes of Evan Longoria.

"That was a special experience," Diekroeger said. "It's something I will always remember because of the all-star treatment. I talked to Evan Longoria a little bit. He's an all-star and has been on magazine covers."

Diekroeger, though, decided he would be better off pursuing his education. It helped that Stanford always held a spe-

cial place in his heart.

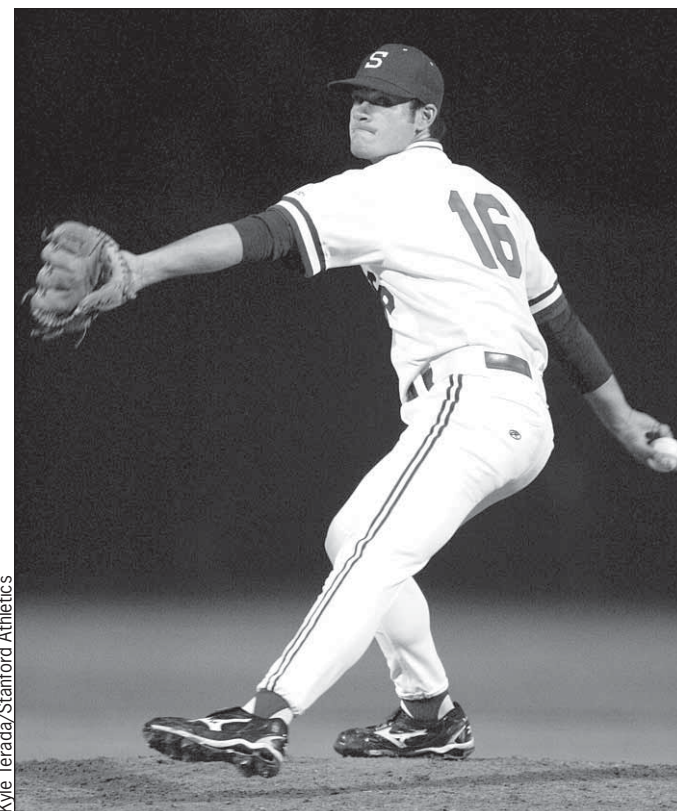
"I saw my first game here," he said. "I was 10 years old and we had good seats on the first base side. What I remember most is coach (Mark) Marquess with all his energy, and his style of playing the game."

Diekroeger has been fully indoctrinated into that style and is expected to be an important part of the Cardinal lineup as it opens the season with a three-game series with visiting Rice. He's likely to start at third base, and also will see action at shortstop, second base and designated hitter.

Stanford (30-25 last year) looks to return to the postseason after missing out last year. It was just the fourth time since 1980 the Cardinal were not part of the party, and the second time in the



Kenny Diekroeger



Kyle Terada/Stanford Athletics

Jordan Pries will be on the mound when Stanford opens its baseball season against visiting Rice on Friday at 5:30 p.m.

(continued on page 20)

Basketball

(continued from page 19)

to the challenges this season.

"It's a lot more fun and relaxed," said senior Kevin Brown, a four-year varsity player and the only link to the 2007 league championship team. "When he (Roehl) took over, we didn't have any captains. We didn't feel a sense of support for the (previous) coach. Everybody was confused. But, the team stuck together (under Roehl). We feel he has made us more of a team, instead of individuals. He knows how to win and it translates over to us."

Roehl previously coached under Peter Diepenbrock on the 2005-06 state championship team. Roehl made an impact with that group, as well. That team featured Jeremy Lin. The current squad has Jeremy's brother Joseph, a senior.

While the talent level of the two squads is vastly different, there are similar in the fact both play(ed) hard and together as an unselfish unit. Teamwork is everything.

"Everyone is comfortable playing for him," Joseph Lin said of Roehl, who brought his son, Lance, on as an assistant coach.

The teamwork was evident Wednesday as the Vikings (10-1, 17-6) showed no loss of power on the floor while making Fremont look like a JV team. Roehl went with his seniors for obvious reasons and that group responded by grabbing a 12-2 lead thanks to Brendan Rider's buzzer-beating three-pointer. Fremont couldn't penetrate Paly's zone, had a hard time just getting off a shot and didn't get its first points until just 1:25 remained in the quarter.

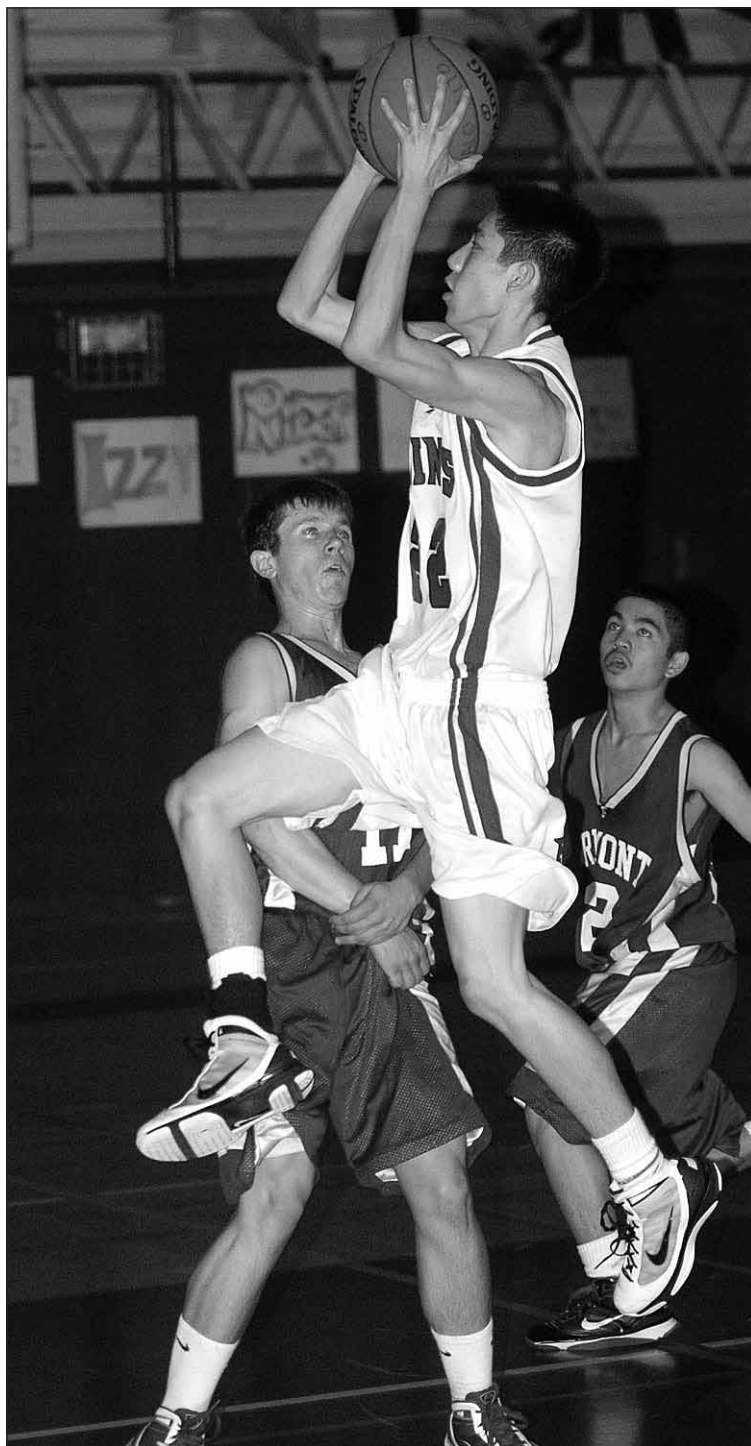
In the second quarter, Paly got three straight treys from juniors Max Schmarzo and Davante Adams plus Rider for a 26-11 lead. Schmarzo also hit a three-pointer at the buzzer to give the Vikings a comfortable 33-7 halftime lead. Paly's fullcourt press disrupted the Firebirds with 6-foot-3 junior Charlie Jones and Lin capitalizing on the press with back-to-back steals and layins at one point.

Paly's five seniors — Niklas Wahlberg, Kevin Brown, Steven Kerr, Lin and Rider combined for 36 points. Rider and Jones both scored 12 points to lead a balanced and unselfish scoring attack. The Vikings will close their regular season on Friday at winless Wilcox with a title already in hand.

"This is what their goal was, and they were able to attain it," Roehl said of the title. "Now, it's over. After the Wilcox game, we'll sit down on Saturday and get a new goal for this group."

Palo Alto was eliminated in the second round of the Central Coast Section playoffs last season and failed to make their year earlier after forfeiting 11 games due to an ineligible player. Thus, there's plenty of room for improvement this post-season and Palo Alto has the staying power to make things happen.

Gunn, however, didn't make things happen on Wednesday. The Titans decided against moving their final home game to Sunnyvale to face Homestead, thus postponing the contest until Saturday. Gunn



Palo Alto senior Joseph Lin drives in for a basket that helped the Vikings beat Fremont for the SCVAL De Anza Division title.

(3-7, 10-12) will host the Mustangs on Saturday at 5:30 p.m., after visiting Fremont on Friday.

In boys' basketball action on Tuesday night:

Sacred Heart Prep clinched no worse than a tie for the West Bay Athletic League championship with a 61-44 drubbing of visiting Crystal Springs. The Gators improved to 12-1 in league (18-5 overall) while the Gryphons fell to 2-11 (5-18 overall). Sacred Heart can wrap up its first league title since 2006 with a victory over visiting King's Academy on Friday night at 6:30 p.m.

In Atherton, Menlo School moved into sole possession of fourth place in the WBAL with a 48-44 victory over visiting Priory. The Knights (7-6, 9-14) completed their season sweep of the Panthers (4-9, 9-13) as Richard Harris and Harrison Nida led the way with 10 points each. Brandon Willhite led Priory with 13 points in the defeat.

In Los Altos Hills, Pinewood played without junior starters Kyle Riches (broken hand), Aaron Daines (concussion) and Arun Sundaresan (ACL) and had a difficult time bottling up Harker's three-point shooting. The result was a 63-50 loss for

the host Panthers (9-4, 16-6. Pinewood was led by senior Max Lippe with 18 points and sophomore Solomon Wolfgramm's 17 points.

Girls' basketball

Gunn kept its hopes alive for a return trip to the CCS playoffs with a 63-41 romp over visiting Monta Vista in a SCVAL De Anza Division game on Tuesday night. The Titans improved to 6-5 in league (9-12 overall) while the Matadors fell to 5-6 (12-11). Freshman point guard Claire Klausner and sophomore center Cat Perez led Gunn with 16 points each while senior Rachael Clark added 12. The Titans held the Matadors to 1-for-2 free-throw shooting.

In the first round of the WBAL playoffs, host Menlo defeated King's Academy, 62-44, on Tuesday night behind the strong play of Emma Paye who led the team in scoring with 15. Drew Edelman added 12 points and Lauren Lete chipped in 11. Menlo played at Mercy-San Francisco in a quarterfinal game Thursday night.

In another WBAL first-round game, host Sacred Heart Prep held off Notre Dame-San Jose, 44-29. ■

2010 STANFORD BASEBALL

Date	Opponent	Time	April 16	at Oregon St.*	5:30 p.m.
Friday	vs. Rice	5:30 p.m.	April 17	at Oregon St.*	2 p.m.
Saturday	vs. Rice	1 p.m.	April 18	at Oregon St.*	1 p.m.
Sunday	vs. Rice	1 p.m.	April 20	vs. Santa Clara	5:30 p.m.
Tuesday	vs. Pacific	5:30 p.m.	April 23	vs. California*	5:30 p.m.
Feb. 26	at Texas	1 p.m.	April 24	vs. California*	1 p.m.
Feb. 27	at Texas	noon	April 25	vs. California*	1 p.m.
Feb. 28	at Texas	11 a.m.	April 26	at Santa Clara	6 p.m.
March 2	vs. Rikkyo (Japan)	2:30 p.m.	April 30	at Washington*	6 p.m.
March 3	at UC Davis	2 p.m.	May 1	at Washington*	2 p.m.
March 5	vs. UCSB	5:30 p.m.	May 2	at Washington*	1 p.m.
March 6	vs. UCSB	1 p.m.	May 4	vs. SJ State.	5:30 p.m.
March 7	vs. UCSB	1 p.m.	May 7	at L. Beach St.	6:30 p.m.
March 19	vs. Pepperdine	6:30 p.m.	May 8	at L. Beach St.	2 p.m.
March 20	vs. Pepperdine	2 p.m.	May 9	at L. Beach St.	1 p.m.
March 21	vs. Pepperdine	1 p.m.	May 10	vs. Santa Clara	5:30 p.m.
March 23	at Pacific	6 p.m.	May 12	at SJ State	6 p.m.
March 26	vs. USC*	5:30 p.m.	May 14	vs. WSU*	6 p.m.
March 27	vs. USC*	1 p.m.	May 15	vs. WSU*	2 p.m.
March 28	vs. USC*	1 p.m.	May 16	vs. WSU*	1 p.m.
March 29	vs. USF	5:30 p.m.	May 18	vs. Hawai'i	5:30 p.m.
April 1	at UCLA*	6 p.m.	May 21	at Arizona*	6 p.m.
April 2	at UCLA*	6 p.m.	May 22	at Arizona*	6 p.m.
April 3	at UCLA*	2 p.m.	May 23	at Arizona*	noon
April 5	at California	2:30 p.m.	May 25	vs. UC Davis	5:30 p.m.
April 7	vs. St. Mary's	5:30 p.m.	May 27	vs. Arizona St.	5:30 p.m.
April 9	vs. Oregon*	5:30 p.m.	May 28	vs. Arizona St.*	5:30 p.m.
April 10	vs. Oregon*	1 p.m.	May 29	vs. Arizona St.*	1 p.m.
April 11	vs. Oregon*	noon			
April 13	at Santa Clara	6 p.m.			* Pac-10 game

Stanford baseball

(continued from page 19)

past three years.

Diekroeger joins an experienced team that features five returning position starters and eight pitchers who appeared in at least 10 games last year.

"There's an extremely high level of baseball in the Pac-10," Diekroeger said. "Some of the best pitchers in the country are here. You can't find a better collection."

Three sophomores make up the starting rotation heading into the season. Jordan Pries (4-4, 4.62 last year) is scheduled to start Friday night's 5:30 p.m. game, with left-handers Scott Snodgrass (1-3, 5.85) and Brett Mooneyham (6-3, 4.14) scheduled to follow Saturday and Sunday afternoons respectively.

"These are young sophomores but they will be strong," Marquess said. "They all pitched well last year. The Pac-10 is pitching dominant so it will be a tough league."

Among the 10 returning pitchers, seven recorded at least one victory and all but one had a decision. The staff has a combined 134 games (312 2-3 innings) of experience.

"I've been counting down the days to the season," Pries said. "There's a whole new core of talent and I hope to build on last year. I had a couple of good outings but I wasn't consistent."

Seven freshmen are also listed as pitchers, making this a deep staff. The only thing lacking may be a closer, since Drew Storen headed off to join the Washington Nationals' organization after last year.

Marquess said the likely replacement candidates include Danny Sandbrink or Alex Pratcher. Michael Marshall, Palo Alto grad Carey Schwartz, Brian Busick, Kyle Thompson and Chris Reed also return with some experience.

Pries had no idea what to expect as a freshman and he ended up leading the staff with 76 innings pitched.

"There was no way to expect that," Pries said. "I just wanted some sort of role. I got the first start at Texas

and though of it as a big opportunity. Fortunately I ended up starting the rest of the year."

Diekroeger joins an infield that has been rated among the best in the country, if not the best. Second baseman Colin Walsh (.320, 25 RBI), shortstop Jake Schlander (.232, 22 RBI) and Adam Gaylord (.289-2 HR-27 RBI) give Stanford an experienced, quality defense that should alleviate worries among the pitching staff. Schlander is the reigning Pac-10 Defensive Player of the Year.

"There are a lot of returners in the infield and there are a lot of good freshmen," said Walsh, who participated in the Cape Cod League all-star game over the summer.

Toby Gerhart won't be around this spring but Stanford's outfield still will be quite good with the likes of Kellen Kielsgaard (.313-9-46), who came to Stanford as a quarterback but will likely leave as a high draft pick in baseball.

"He'll be in the middle of the lineup," Marquess said. "His power potential is huge."

The rest of the outfield will be patrolled by returners Kellen McCool, David Giuliani and Christian Griffiths among others.

Griffiths also gives the Cardinal quality depth at the catching spot. Zach Jones (.239-3-26) moved in from third base and took over the starting spot there last year. Ben Clowe (.274-3-11) is another top-notch receiver whom Marquess would love to see in the lineup as much as possible.

Palo Alto grad Peter Abrams and Menlo School grad Jack Mosbacher head a list of redshirt freshmen who will give Stanford a deep bench.

Diekroeger isn't the only local freshman on campus. Sacred Heart Prep grad Ryan Sadowski also joins the Cardinal. The nation's second-rated recruiting class (by Baseball America) also includes Mark Appel (no relation to Jayne), Sahil Bloom, Garrett Hughes, Chris Jenkins, Dean McArdle, Gavin McCourt, Trevor Penny, Stephen Piscotty, Justin Ringo, Eric Smith and Jacob Stewart. ■

COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS

Softball

The No. 11-ranked Cardinal (4-1) will host the Stanford Nike Invitational, Friday through Sunday, at Smith Family Stadium. Stanford will play five games over the weekend, as it hosts Illinois (Friday at 2:30 p.m.), UC Riverside (Friday at 4:45 p.m.), Nevada (Saturday at 11:15 a.m.), Sacramento State (Saturday at 1:30 p.m.) and Fresno State (Sunday at 3:45 p.m.). Stanford's **Alissa Haber** and **Ashley Hansen** are among the 50 players named to the initial USA Softball National Collegiate Player of the Year watch list. The 50 picks represent 35 different schools and 14 different conferences. Haber and Hansen were two of the 12 selections from the Pac-10. Stanford dropped on spot in both the USA Today/NFCA poll and the ESPN.com/USA Softball top-25, coming in at No. 11 and No. 13, respectively. The Cardinal has appeared in every regular-season poll for more than a decade. Six of the eight Pac-10 schools appeared in both polls.

Men's swimming

Nationally No. 2-ranked Stanford (6-1, 2-1 Pac-10) will host arch rival, No. 4-ranked California (5-1, 2-1 Pac-10) on Saturday at the Avery Aquatics Center at 1 p.m., closing out the dual-meet season prior to embarking on the team's 29th consecutive Pac-10 Conference title. The Cardinal features 17 times ranked among the national top-15, led by backstroke **Eugene Godsoe**, and distance swimmer **Chad La Tourette**. Stanford will have to contend with one of the nation's fastest sprinters in Cal's **Nathan Adrian**, who has the nation's

fastest 50 free time, second-best 100 time and ninth-fastest 100 butterfly time. Adrian set American records in the 50- and 100-meter frees for short course at the Duel in the Pool in December, the same meet La Tourette set the U.S. record in the 800 freestyle. Godsoe, a two-time national swimmer of the week this season, has the nation's fastest 100 back time of 46.67. La Tourette, one of four Cardinal distance swimmers ranked, has the sixth-fastest 500 free (4:20.38) and 1,000-free (9:06.11) times, as well as the third-fastest 1,650-yard time. Joining the Cardinal sophomore over the long haul is **David Mosko**, **Michael Zoldos** and **Trevor Scheid**, all of whom boast a top-20 national time. In the breaststroke, **John Criste** (8th) and **Curtis Lovelace** (16th) will have to contend with Cal All-American **Nolan Koon** and Slovenian Olympian **Damir Dugonjic**, who rank third and 10th, respectively in the 100-yard event. In diving, Cardinal All-American **Brent Eichenseer** has been the team's top performer while senior All-American **Dwight Dumais** battles a shoulder injury that has kept him out since late January.

Women's water polo

Top-ranked Stanford (8-0) opens Mountain Pacific Sports Federation action on Saturday with a noon at No. 10 San Jose State (7-5). San Jose State (7-5, 0-1 MPSF) enters Saturday's contest after having dropped its MPSF opener, 10-5, to California last Saturday. The Spartans are led by the scoring of Sacred Heart Prep grad **Adriana Vogt** (17 goals).

PREP WRESTLING

They're hoping to pin down CCS honors

Palo Alto freshman Trent Marshall won the lightest weight division and Gunn's Jake Cherry took the heaviest. In between, Palo Alto sophomore Kalen Gans won at 162 to highlight local efforts at the SCVAL Championships on Saturday at the old Blackford High.

Palo Alto finished third in the team standings on Saturday with 174 points while Gunn was fifth with 136.5.

Despite being unseeded Marshall captured the 105-pound title while Cherry too the 287-pound division. Gans, the top seed in his division, defended that lofty spot by providing the third individual crown as all advanced to the Central Coast Section championships on Friday and Saturday at Independence High in San Jose.

Action begins each day at 9 a.m., with finals on Saturday starting at 7 p.m.

Marshall, Gans and Cherry are among a combined 15 Palo Alto and Gunn wrestlers who qualified for CCS by finishing in the top five on Saturday. Other top qualifiers included Paly's Nick Ortiz (second at 114), Paly's Jack Sakai (second at 132), Gunn's Stefan Weidemann (second at 142), and Gunn's Spencer Jones (second at 191).

Gunn qualifiers for CCS are: Cherry (285), Weidemann (140), Jones (189), Yoni Alon (130), Eric Schmidt (160), Jon Chaplin (215).

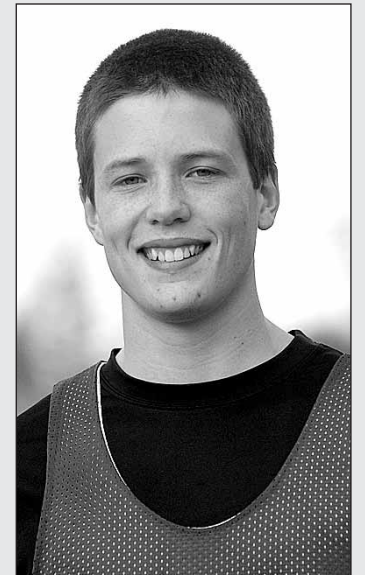
Palo Alto qualifiers for CCS are: Marshall (105), Ortiz (112), Joey Christopherson (119), Sakai (130), Max Simon (152), Gans (160), Michael Cullen (171), AJ Castillo (215), and Jose Tochez (285). ■

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



Nicole Fasola
Menlo School

The senior scored five goals during three soccer victories, including two goals in a 3-0 triumph over King's Academy in a playoff match that earned the Knights the WBAL's third automatic berth into the CCS playoffs.



Max Schmarzo
Palo Alto High

The junior guard had 17 points in an important basketball win over Los Altos and added 12 points plus solid rebounding and defense to beat Homestead and clinch no worse than a title tie in the SCVAL De Anza Division race.

Honorable mention

Felicia Anderson

Eastside Prep basketball

Massiel Castellanos

Priory soccer

Emilee Osagiede

Palo Alto basketball

Mila Sheeline

Menlo soccer

Natasha von Kaepler

Castilleja basketball

Lizzy Weisman*

Sacred Heart Prep soccer

Jake Cherry

Gunn wrestling

Kalen Gans

Palo Alto wrestling

Jesus Magana

Eastside Prep soccer

Trent Marshall

Palo Alto wrestling

Brendan Rider

Palo Alto basketball

Guillermo Talancon

Priory soccer

* previous winner

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Arts & Entertainment

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



Left: The shadow box "Shakespeare Writes A Play," complete with crinkly-paper hair. Below left: In "Theater in Brazil in the 1500s," the puppets have clay bodies and wiry legs. Below: Artist Raquel Coelho in her exhibition.



A DOZEN VIGNETTES

Scenes from the history of theater come alive in artist's fanciful shadow boxes

by Rebecca Wallace • photographs by Vivian Wong

It would be tough to recount the entire history of world theater in 12 shadow boxes, but artist Raquel Coelho does a pretty good job hitting the highlights.

Inside handmade redwood frames, Coelho's dioramas depict crayon-colored scenes from theater traditions in Japan, Greece, India and other lands. Perky clay puppets take center stage, orating and dancing. It's like a festival of visual-art one-acts.

And the Bard gets a box to himself. In "Shakespeare Writes A Play," the puppet playwright has a body made from elegant wine-colored corduroy and hair of crinkly paper. He grasps a giant quill.

The details aren't just whimsy. In the dozen shadow boxes now on display at the Community School of Music and Arts in Mountain View, Coelho hopes to capture the fleeting attention of children. Once they zero in on the doll eyes of the medieval actors in the "Middle Ages" box or the pennies that serve as Diony-

sus' cart wheels, they may be intrigued to learn more about the theater.

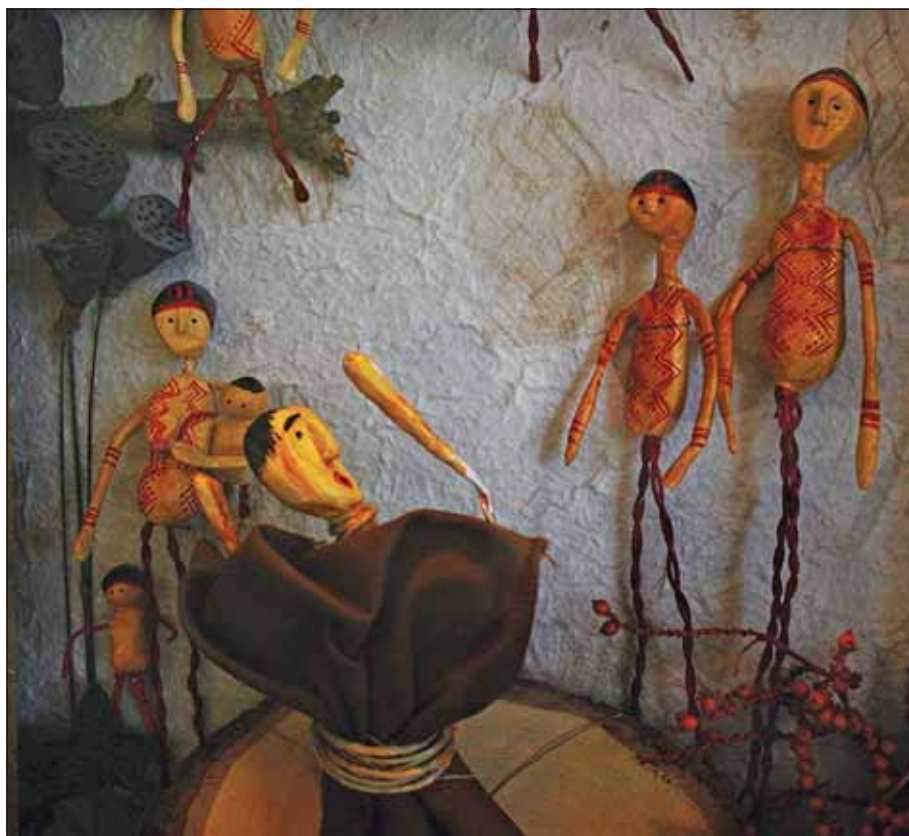
The Brazilian artist, who teaches in San Jose State University's animation/illustration program, also creates kids' books. Illustrations of the "Teatro" boxes were published as a book in Brazil, as part of a series that also includes the history of animation and music.

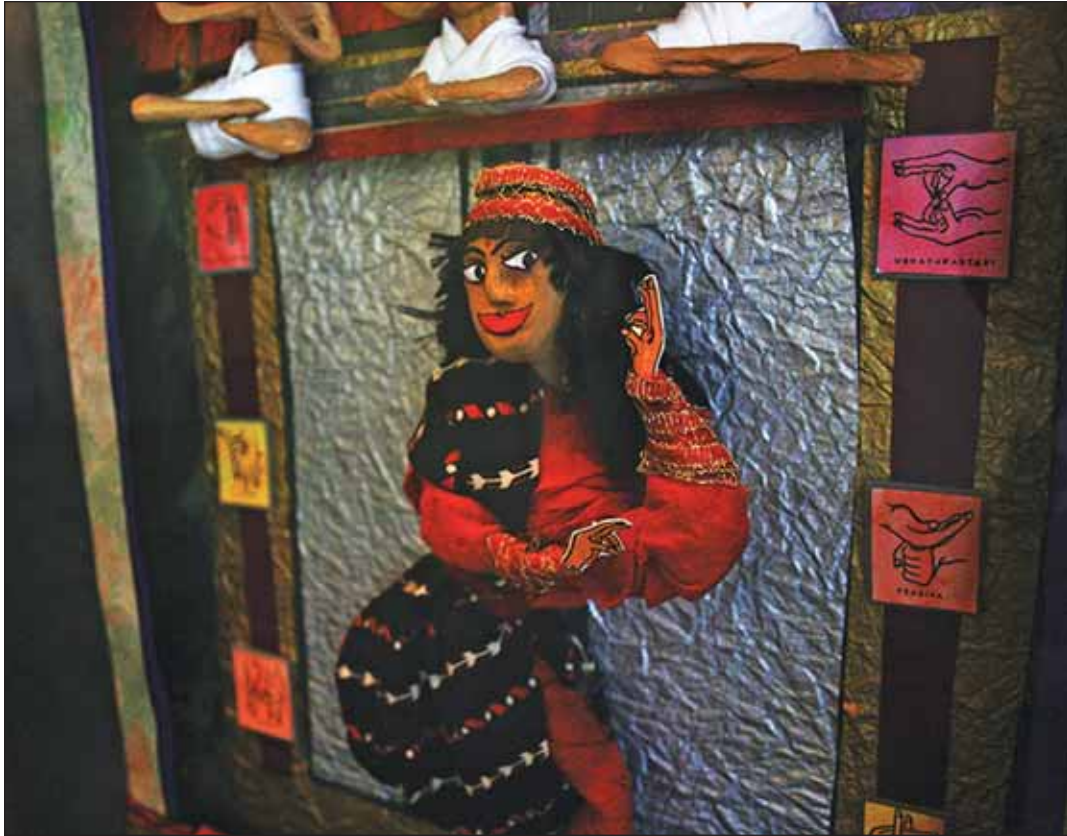
First Coelho wrote the books, then designed them. She then created the boxes and illustrations. It's all done in a cheerful, approachable style. At the CSMA opening reception last Friday, Coelho told a crowd she sees the works as "rustic, not perfectionist," almost improvisational.

Clearly delighted to see all the shadow boxes together again in a gallery, she said: "Here's my family. My 12 kids!"

The crowd seemed pleased, too. One visitor, John Reiland, praised the work for its "folkloric quality."

In creating the shadow boxes, Coelho said, she started by thinking about her favorite aspects of theater: the sense of





play, the chance for an actor to become something he's not, the costumes. She incorporated antique hardware, handmade puppets and other items in the boxes.

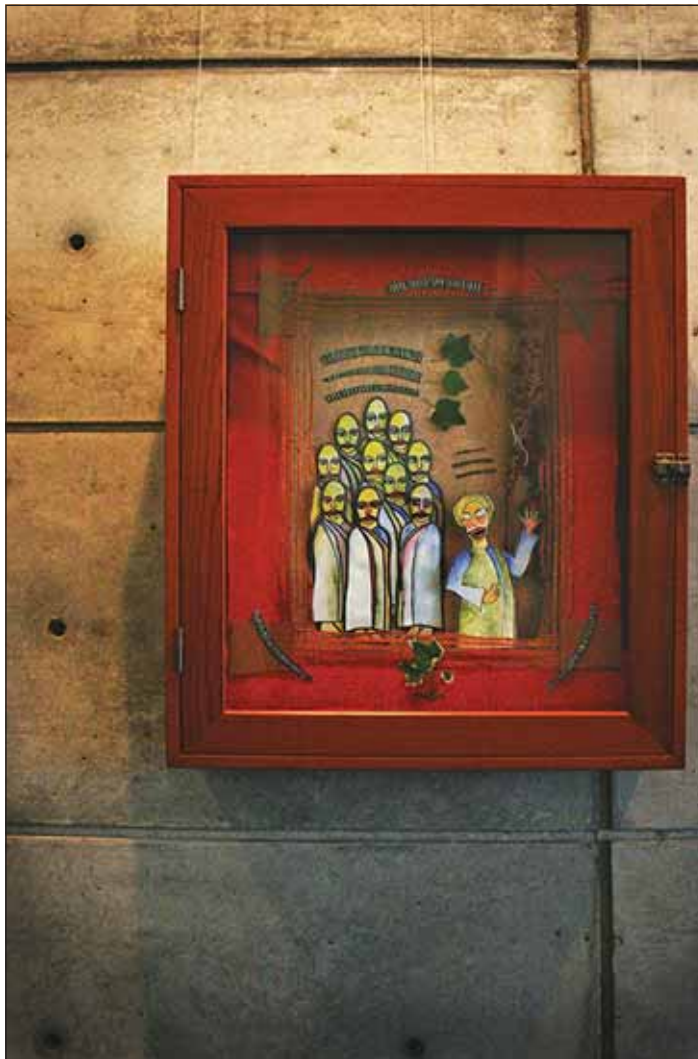
In "Early Greek Theater," painted cut-outs of people are the focus. One declaims enthusiastically as a chorus of other figures awaits a cue. The diorama is trimmed with plastic ivy leaves and bordered with a proscenium of red and gold ribbons.

Actors' legs are fashioned from red twisted wire in "Theater in Brazil in the 1500s," giving them a playful look. A monk in brown cloth robes teaches, or perhaps leads a rehearsal.

The exhibition also includes a glass case featuring some of Coelho's books and figures used in her animation work.

Coelho has also explored other branches of the arts world, playing viola, studying modern dance and singing with Brazilian-music bands. Looking at her shadow boxes on Friday, she said she wouldn't mind adding another hands-on skill to her arsenal.

"I wish each box had a crank," she said: Viewers could turn it and the puppets could move. She shrugged, grinning. "But I can't do the mechanism — too much engineering." ■



Top: The colorful, mixed-media "Indian Theater." Above: An actor declaims energetically in "Early Greek Theater."

What: A show of shadow boxes exploring the history of theater, by Raquel Coelho
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Megan McGinnis PHOTO MARK KITAOKA

A hard look at bullying

Palo Alto Children's Theatre puts on 'The Secret Life of Girls,' a tale of middle school

by Rebecca Wallace

Sitting in the audience at the Palo Alto Children's Theatre, seventh-grader Jeanette Freiberg ponders her acting career. She's a veteran of six productions here so far.

"In past shows I've been princesses and dragons," she says. Her latest role may require a different strain of Method acting. This time, this middle-schooler is playing a middle-schooler.

Jeanette says Linda Daugherty's "The Secret Life of Girls" is the first play she's done that's "really realistic." The script takes a hard look at middle-school bullying: the name-calling, rumors and exclusion that have become rampant. Technology is a big player, with the characters shooting nasty photos on their phones and dropping gossip bombs through texting and IMs.

It's an up-close, up-to-the-minute story, so the show is being done in the theater's informal black-box space. Here, the smell of fresh paint from the scene shop mingles with audience chairs that line the small performance space on three sides. Various props are scattered about: cellphones, a Ouija board for a slumber-party scene, a volleyball.

The story may seem to hit too

close to home for the young actors. But Jeanette doesn't appear fazed by playing Kayla, a girl who was once best friends with the "queen bee," Stephanie, and now desperately tries to win back her favor.

"I can share a lot of experiences with Kayla," Jeanette says matter-of-factly.

Sharing experiences is the goal behind the production, which opens Feb. 25. Managing artistic director Judge Luckey and the rest of the children's theater staff want to use the play as an opportunity not only to highlight what really goes on with girls, but also to offer an outlet for discussion. Each performance will be followed by a talkback session facilitated by family psychologist Erica Pelavin and life coach Susie Idzik. The show is meant for audience members ages 12 and over.

Luckey was originally struck by the play because of its focus on educating the community. He and "Girls" director Nancy Sauder met with middle- and high-school counselors in the Palo Alto Unified School District to go over the script. "They all said everything that was in the script they encounter," Luckey says.

Sauder, who has acted with The-



Veronica Weber

From left, Carly King, Sioned Hughes, Addie McNamara, Chelsey Ko and Jeanette Freiberg rehearse a scene from "The Secret Life of Girls."

atreWorks and other Bay Area companies, sees theater as an excellent medium to educate about bullying. "Girls" shows cruel acts from the perspectives of both the perpetrator and the victim, highlighting the consequences of actions.

In the slumber-party scene, for instance, audience members glimpse girls on both ends of a mean phone call. Queen bee Stephanie is on one end, and the girl who is being ridiculed and left out of the party on the other.

"It's a chance for the girls to see themselves," Sauder says. That goes for those both in the audience and on stage. The cast consists of seven girls — all seventh- and eighth-graders in real life — and two adults.

The play highlights how a girl's social status, like her Facebook status, can constantly change. One minute she's popular; the next she makes a mistake on the volleyball court and her teammates decide to hate her. The roller coaster can be just as traumatic for parents, and the play also shows that, says Sauder, herself the mother of two girls.

"It's that place where you don't know what to do, don't know what to say," she says. "There's no manual."

Resource materials will be provided for parents at each performance.

Sioned Hughes, a seventh-grader

at JLS Middle School in Palo Alto, plays one of the characters who feels her stock go up and down. She gets to go to the mall with Stephanie and thinks they're friends, but before long Stephanie is ridiculing her and everyone's making fun of her weight.

"It's really honest," Sioned says of the script. "I've been through bitchiness in middle school before. ... You realize you're not the only person getting picked on. Everyone has been picked on."

Playwright Daugherty allows theater groups to update her 2006 script in each production, changing slang, technology and music so that the show feels fresh. For her part, Sioned is pleased to be replacing some of the songs used in earlier productions. "The Beatles," she says, rolling her eyes.

As rehearsal starts, the girls cluster around Sauder in their jeans and Ugg boots and sneakers. They work on various scenes, vignettes in the life of this group of girls on a middle-school volleyball team. Sauder gives gentle but firm direction, fixing blocking, helping the girls adjust their motions and motivations.

Playing Kayla, Jeanette has a monologue on the phone with her mother after the other girls have yelled at her. She says she has a stomachache, asks to be picked up, and says despondently, "This year's

just not going good."

In another scene, Stephanie complains about Rebecca, saying: "She is such a pathetic suck-up. And you cannot trust her."

From time to time, the girls forget lines, act goofy and giggle together. There is a lot of youthful energy going around, after all.

But in a play with such painful moments, it's almost a pleasure when the actors break character. The laughter sounds sweet, not gossipy. The girls seem to be making friends through their common love of theater, and when the stories being told are so difficult, that's refreshing. ■



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Movies

OPENINGS

Shutter Island ★★★

(Century 16, Century 20) Movie projectors have shutters that regulate the output of light, and cameras have shutters that regulate the intake of light, not unlike the iris of the human eye. So it is, then, that "Shutter Island," Martin Scorsese's new film from Dennis Lehane's novel, takes on a reflexivity reminiscent of the work of two of Scorsese's idols, Alfred Hitchcock and Michael Powell.

With its symbolic lighthouse keeping silent watch, "Shutter Island" tells an age-old story — one that goes back over 2,000 years to Sophocles — of the human capacity to withhold or accept light, aka the truth, as it insistently shines into our Jungian shadows.

Uttering disconcertingly from Boston Harbor, the foreboding Shutter Island is home to Ashecliffe Hospital for the Criminally Insane. In 1954, U.S. Marshal Teddy Daniels (Leonardo DiCaprio) and new partner Chuck Aule (Mark Ruffalo) arrive to investigate the mysterious and perhaps fatal disappearance of a female patient. They meet with stone walls both literal and figurative, as chief physician Dr. John Cawley (Ben Kingsley) and colleague Dr. Jeremiah Naehring (Max von Sydow) discuss and display defense mechanisms. Something lies beneath the orderly surface of Ashecliffe, but what?

A postwar alcoholic, Teddy is haunted by varieties of violence: the death of his wife and children in an apartment fire; his war experience, including the liberation of Dachau; and now, on Shutter Island, the psychological violence between men as ideologies clash for dominance. Even the psychiatric profession is at war, with surgical and pharmaceutical options jockeying for sway over old-fashioned person-to-person therapy.

Teddy's investigation will take him into the heart of a dark labyrinth, literally (in the form of the off-limits "Ward C") and figuratively as he is pulled down into

the claustrophobic insanity of the place he's supposed to be investigating. (Some of the film's first words are famous last words, spoken by Teddy to a warder: "You act like insanity is catching").

A mystery and a paranoid thriller with more than a touch of Gothic horror, "Shutter Island" gives Scorsese plenty of to work with. In most respects, his direction here is masterful. The music (a modern-classical collage soundtrack again produced by Robbie Robertson), the richly detailed production design of Dante Ferretti, and the overall genius of Scorsese's audiovisual storytelling transcend the practical element of Laeta Kalogridis' purposefully cluttered screenplay to feed a fever dream. Aply, the famed German expressionist silent "The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari" was another inspiration to the filmmaker.

Because it's a Scorsese film, the cast is cream of the crop. Along with Ruffalo, Kingsley and von Sydow, Michelle Williams, Emily Mortimer, Patricia Clarkson, Jackie Earle Haley, Ted Levine and John Carroll Lynch all strike appropriately dissonant notes that contribute to the picture's unsettling tone.

As for DiCaprio, he's never been better; pushed to extremes, he ably conjures the torturous strain of each situation. The perhaps overlong midsection of "Shutter Island" can be trying, and certainly, apart from the presence of its star, the film is defiantly uncommercial in its sometimes indulgent arrhythmia and its tingly unreliable narrative. But multiplex entertainment this distinctive and provocative doesn't come along every day: It's a head trip well worth taking.

Rated R for disturbing violent content, language and some nudity. Two hours, 18 minutes.

— Peter Canavese



To view the trailer for "Shutter Island," go to Palo Alto Online at www.PaloAltoOnline.com

NOW PLAYING

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

Avatar ★★★

(Century 16, Century 20) James Cameron's plot focuses on Jake Sully (Sam Worthington), a disabled ex-Marine lying in a VA hospital. He's tapped to replace his late twin brother in a corporation's avatar program, which mixes human DNA with that of the native Na'vi population living on Pandora, the company's mining colony. The "dumb grunt," who has no avatar training, must quickly learn how to manage his remotely controlled, 10-foot-tall body in a hostile environment. The payoff? The jarhead gets his legs back. Things get more complicated when the avatar team headed by Dr.

Grace Augustine (Sigourney Weaver) realizes that science and peaceful diplomacy are only part of its mission. Rated PG-13 for intense epic battle sequences and warfare, sensuality, language and some smoking. Occasionally in the fictional Na'vi language with English subtitles. 2 hours, 42 minutes. — S.T. (Reviewed Dec. 18, 2009)

Crazy Heart ★★★

(CineArts, Century 20) There's one reason "Crazy Heart" is a must-see: Jeff Bridges. Bridges plays Bad Blake, a faded country-western music star relegated to playing dives. He treats his chronic weariness with drinking, defensive pleasantries and one-night stands. It's hard to face up to the disappointments that have brought him here, and it's easier to blame someone else

— his manager, perhaps, or his one-time friend and colleague Billy Sweet (Colin Farrell), currently living the music-star life that has slipped from Bad's fingers. Traveling America in his beat-up '78 Chevy truck, Bad would rather be left alone to anesthetize himself before, during and after gigs, but he agrees to an interview with a hopeful music journalist named Jean (Maggie Gyllenhaal). Bad seduces her and realizes that, for the first time in a long time, he's not interested in leaving his conquest behind. Rated R for language and brief sexuality. One hour, 51 minutes. — P.C. (Reviewed Jan. 8, 2010)

Dear John ★★

(Century 16, Century 20) John (Channing Tatum) is a head trip well worth taking. (continued on next page)

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**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC MEETING
of the City of Palo Alto
Architectural Review Board (ARB)**

Please be advised that Thursday, March 4, 2010, the ARB shall conduct a public hearing at 8:30 AM in the Council Chambers, 1st Floor, 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, California. Any interested persons may appear and be heard.

2310 El Camino Real-10PLN-00019: Request by Kyle Chan of Hayes Group Architects on behalf of Tevis Family Partnership for preliminary review of the remodel of an existing restaurant to be occupied by new tenant. Environmental Assessment: Categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements. Zone: (CN).

310 University Avenue [10PLN-00050]: Request by Joe Kazlauskas on behalf of Milpitas Dixon LLC for architectural review of illuminated above canopy signs for Walgreens. A sign exception has been requested. Exempt from the provisions of CEQA per Section 15301. Zone: CD-C(GF)(P).

2701 Middlefield Rd. [09PLN-00314]: Request by All Signs Services, on behalf of Duca and Hanley Properties, Inc., for architectural review for of illuminated wall signs and façade improvements for CVS Pharmacy. Exempt from the provisions of CEQA, Section 15301. Zone: CN(GF)(P).

California Avenue Streetscape Changes-Phase II: Request by Public Works Engineering for a Study Session on the proposed California Avenue streetscape modifications from El Camino Real to the CalTrain Depot that include replacement of street furniture (benches, bicycle racks, news racks, etc), addition of bicycle racks, crosswalk improvements, and restriping of traffic lanes and automobile parking spaces. Phase II includes improvements to the plaza at the end of the street.

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.

**Amy French
Manager of Current Planning**

Movies

MOVIE TIMES

A Single Man (R) ****	Aquarius: 8:30 p.m. Fri.-Wed. also at 5:30 p.m. Fri.-Sun. also at 2:30 p.m.
Avatar (PG-13) ***	Century 16: In 3D at 11:55 a.m.; 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7, 9 & 10:25 p.m. (No 1:30 show Sat. and Sun.) Century 20: In 3D at 11:20 a.m.; 12:35, 1:35, 2:50, 4:10, 5:30, 6:30, 8, 9:05 & 10 p.m.
The Blind Side (PG-13) **	Century 20: 12:40, 3:40, 6:35 & 9:30 p.m.
Celine: Through the Eyes of World (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed)	Century 16: Sat. & Sun. at 1:30 p.m. Mon. & Thu. at 7:30 p.m. Century 20: Sat. & Sun. at the 1:30 p.m. Mon. & Thu. at 7:30 p.m.
Crazy Heart (R) ***	Century 20: 11:25 a.m.; 2, 4:35, 7:20 & 9:55 p.m. Palo Alto Square: 2, 4:40 & 7:20 p.m. Fri.-Sat. also at 10:05 p.m.
Dear John (PG-13) **	Century 16: 12:10, 2:45, 7:05 p.m. Century 20: 11:15 a.m.; 1:45, 4:25, 7 & 9:50 p.m.
Edge of Darkness (R) ***	Century 20: 11:30 a.m.; 5 & 10:30 p.m.
From Paris with Love (R) **	Century 16: 7:50 & 10:10 p.m. Century 20: 4:50, 7:10 & 9:40 p.m.
The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus (PG-13) ***	Century 16: 9:40 p.m. Century 20: 10:20 p.m.
It's Complicated (R) ***	Century 20: 2:15 & 7:40 p.m. Palo Alto Square: 1:45 p.m. Fri.-Tue. & Thu. also at 4:30 & 7:15 p.m. Fri.-Sat. also at 10 p.m.
The Last Station (R) **1/2	Guild: 3:15, 6 & 8:45 p.m. Fri.-Sun. also at 12:30 p.m.
The Metropolitan Opera: Simon Boccanegra (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed)	Century 20: Wed. at 6:30 p.m. Palo Alto Square: Wed. at 6:30 p.m.
Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) (Not Reviewed)	Century 16: 11:30 a.m.; 12:50, 2:15, 3:35, 5, 6:20, 7:45, 9:10 & 10:30 p.m. Century 20: 11:10 a.m.; 12:25, 1:55, 3:15, 4:40, 6:10, 7:30, 9 & 10:15 p.m.
Shutter Island (R) ***	Century 16: 11:45 a.m.; 12:55, 2:05, 3:15, 4:25, 5:35, 6:45, 7:55, 8:55 & 10 p.m. Century 20: 11:45 a.m.; 12:55, 2:10, 3:10, 4:05, 5:15, 6:15, 7:15, 8:20, 9:20 & 10:25 p.m.
Tooth Fairy (PG) (Not Reviewed)	Century 16: 12:20, 2:50 & 5:20 p.m. Century 20: 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:55 p.m.
Up in the Air (R) **1/2	Century 16: Noon, 2:35, 5:05, 7:40 & 10:15 p.m. Century 20: 11:50 a.m.; 2:25, 5:10, 7:50 & 10:25 p.m.
Valentine's Day (PG-13) **1/2	Century 16: 11:35 a.m.; 12:35, 1:35, 2:30, 3:40, 4:35, 5:35, 6:35, 7:30, 8:25, 9:25 & 10:20 p.m. Century 20: 11:15 a.m.; 12:05, 1, 2, 2:55, 3:50, 4:55, 5:55, 6:45, 7:45, 8:50, 9:45 & 10:35 p.m.
When in Rome (PG-13) 1/2	Century 20: 11:55 a.m. & 2:20 p.m.
The White Ribbon (R) ****	Aquarius: 4:30 & 8 p.m. Fri.-Sun. also at 1 p.m.
The Wolfman (R) (Not Reviewed)	Century 16: 11:40 a.m.; 12:30, 1:20, 2:10, 3:05, 3:55, 4:45, 5:40, 6:30, 7:10, 8:10, 9:05, 9:55 & 10:40 p.m. Century 20: 11:40 a.m.; 12:45, 2:10, 3:05, 4:35, 5:35, 7:05, 8:05, 9:35 & 10:40 p.m.

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

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

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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 Tuscan 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."

(continued from page 25)

Tatum) is one hunky dude: broad chest, good head of dark hair. And Savannah (Amanda Seyfried), with her little round gerbil face and enormous turquoise eyes, is certainly a cutie. During a two-week spring break — hers from college, his from the army — they meet and fall in love on the beach near Charleston. But what they have in common besides their good looks (she's a horse-country rich girl, he's the bad-boy son of a reclusive coin collector) is a mystery. "Dear John" is a sweet enough romance-cum-war story, though its cloying score and the numbing nobility of all its characters are off-putting. The plot had enough complications to hold my interest. Rated PG-13 for some sensuality and violence. One hour, 48 minutes. — P.C. (Reviewed Feb. 5, 2010)

The Last Station ★★1/2

(Guild) The film opens in 1910, with Leo Tolstoy (Christopher Plummer) more or less happily ensconced at his family estate Yasnaya Polyana. He's irritably aware of the contradiction represented by this piece of private property, a notion he has publicly renounced. With his career as a novelist already history, Tolstoy has become the spiritual leader of a social movement that captures the imagination of many a youth and in equal proportion threatens those invested in the social order. His wife, Count-

ess Sofya (Helen Mirren) falls in the latter camp. Since her husband seems likely, in death, to relinquish his estate — and the rights to his works — to a common good, jealous socialite Sofya maintains a thick, rich lather around her husband and his trusted associate Vladimir Chertkov (Paul Giamatti). Rated R for a scene of sexuality/nudity. One hour, 52 minutes. — P.C. (Reviewed Feb. 5, 2010)

A Single Man ★★

(Aquarius) Little actually happens in "A Single Man," Tom Ford's debut film about a gay British expatriate living in Santa Monica in 1962. And yet everything happens in one day in the life of George Falconer (Colin Firth): grief, love, remembrance, work, fear ... Jim (Matthew Goode), George's longtime lover, has been killed in an accident, and George sees little reason to continue living. But he goes through the motions, teaching at the college where he works, visiting his best friend, Charley (Julianne Moore), letting himself be pursued by a student who wants to confide in him, and perhaps more. Ford's script, from a novel by Christopher Isherwood, captures not only the pain, both hidden and overt, of one gay man, but also some of the repressive spirit of the time just before the sexual revolution changed everything. Rated R for nudity, some disturbing images and sexual content. One hour, 39 minutes. — R.P. (Reviewed Dec. 25, 2009)

Valentine's Day ★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) Celebrated director Garry Marshall assembles an A-list cast for this mediocre romantic comedy about everyone's favorite — or most reviled — Hallmark holiday. Varied characters and storylines weave together on Feb. 14 in the city of angels, including Ashton Kutcher as a flower-shop owner and Jessica Alba as his ambivalent girlfriend; Jennifer Garner as a sensitive teacher and Patrick Dempsey as the two-timing doctor romancing her; and Taylor Lautner and country singer Taylor Swift as a nauseatingly chipper set of high-school sweethearts. Confused by the cornucopia ensemble? You're not alone. The biggest problem with the film is that the big-name cast is distracting, and it doesn't allow the audience to get attached to any one character. The script is sporadically clever and there's plenty of V-Day cheer. But with a cast that reads like the Vogue Oscar party guest list, this should have been can't-miss cinema instead

of standard Hollywood schmaltz. Rated PG-13 for some sexual material and brief partial nudity. 1 hour, 30 minutes. — T.H. (Reviewed Feb. 12, 2010)

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