

**City seeks more
PG&E information**

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Not so fast



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City officials press for greater PG&E info

Stanford gas line on PG&E 'Top 100' risk list, San Bruno line runs through Palo Alto

by Sue Dremann

In the wake of the fatal Sept. 9 San Bruno gas-line explosion, state and local officials have been pressing Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) for detailed maps and information regarding its natural-gas mains and the conditions and maintenance of those lines.

This week, under order from the California Public Utilities Commission, the company released a report, "Top 100 Segments," which identifies pipelines throughout its system that carry the greatest potential risk.

Palo Alto City Manager James Keene on Monday gave PG&E a

deadline for providing accurate information on its gas mains that run through the city. PG&E officials responded Wednesday and arranged to meet with city staff, he said Thursday morning.

Stanford University officials also met this week with PG&E personnel, following the disclosure that a 6,005-foot section of pipeline along Junipero Serra Boulevard is on the Top 100 list.

Palo Alto, which owns and oper-

ates its own utilities department, receives natural gas from PG&E and relies on three main transmission pipes, lines 101, 109 and 132. Line 132 is the same pipeline that exploded in San Bruno.

In his Monday letter, Keene requested the following information:

- A current map with precise locations of all PG&E high-pressure gas lines and other natural-gas facilities in Palo Alto

- Updated information on the con-

dition of the city's PG&E natural-gas facilities

- Whether there are any high-risk gas-transmission facilities related to public safety in Palo Alto and where they are located

- Age of the pipelines and facilities

- Size of the pipelines

- Pressure at which PG&E typically operated the facilities

(continued on page 5)



Veronica Weber

In the name of peace: a 1,000-crane challenge

Gunn High School students Amy Creasey, left, and Sayaka Yamamota and friends fold paper cranes during a celebration of International Peace Day. Right, Yilin Liang learns how to fold a crane. Students were challenged to create 1,000 cranes, which were displayed around the school on Sept. 21.

SCHOOLS

New housing sparks enrollment bump, officials speculate

School, city leaders share data on likely impact of future housing

by Chris Kenrick

A bumper crop of kindergartners this fall has the Palo Alto school district scrambling to ensure there will be enough classrooms for even more growth in the future.

Officials speculate much of the enrollment jump is coming from new housing developments in the southern part of town, which have promoted "Palo Alto schools" as a key selling point.

Palo Verde and El Carmelo elementary schools are both completely full, and Fairmeadow Elementary soon

will break ground on a new, two-story classroom building to accommodate the growth.

With the City Council about to complete its decennial long-range housing plan for the city that is required under state law, school and city officials are exchanging information on the best course of action.

Curtis Williams, the city's director of planning and community environment, said Wednesday at a meeting of the City-School Liaison Committee that officials are hoping to satisfy state mandates for new housing with smaller, senior-oriented units that

would minimize impacts on school growth. Non-compliance with state housing requirements can result in loss of certain grants.

"We're going to see if we can balance or minimize the amount of family units created, which also tend to be the market-rate units, since we're trying to get affordable units as well," Williams told the city-school group, which includes council member Greg Schmid, council member Nancy Shepherd and school-board member Dana Tom.

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CITY HALL

Palo Alto trash rates to rise next month

City Council adopts new rates, scraps 'hard-areas-to-serve' fees

by Gennady Sheyner

Palo Alto residents will have to shell out more for trash collection starting next month, but they will be spared the most controversial rate hikes proposed by the city — at least for now.

After receiving more than 150 letters of protest and hearing from a dozen speakers at a public hearing, a reluctant City Council voted unanimously Monday night to increase the residential garbage-collection rate by 6 percent.

But the council dropped the highly unpopular proposals to raise the monthly rate for users of the 20-gallon "mini-cans" by 33 percent — from \$15 to \$20 — and to institute a monthly fee for 700 customers who live on private streets, in alleyways and in "hard-to-serve" areas.

The council adopted the rate increase as part of a package of proposals designed to close a \$6.2 million deficit in the city's refuse fund. The deficit was caused in large part by the city's successful "Zero Waste" campaign, which has resulted in 74 percent of the city's waste being diverted from landfills.

The city's revenues plummeted along with its waste output as residents swapped their regular cans for the smaller and cheaper mini-cans and boosted their recycling efforts.

City Manager James Keene said the council's garbage-rate dilemma is indicative of the challenges Palo Alto is facing as it seeks to shift from a "throwaway society to a more ecological, recycling society and community."

Solid Waste Manager Rene Eyerly said Monday that the success in diverting garbage, coupled with the waste-system's cost structure, is forcing a "paradigm shift" in how customers pay for service.

In agreeing to raise garbage rates,

the council nonetheless rejected — for the time being — some of the proposals offered by city staff. The city is in the midst of conducting a cost-of-service study that would analyze the city's rate structures and pave the way for a major restructuring of service fees a year from now. These could ultimately include new fees for recycling, a service the city currently provides for free.

Councilman Greg Scharff proposed passing the basic rate increases but holding off on the more controversial proposals relating to mini-cans and private streets. The rest of the council agreed.

"In the short term, I think this is a good compromise," Councilman Larry Klein said.

The council agreed to shelve the two controversial proposals and to raise the rates for both the mini-cans and the regular 32-gallon cans by 6 percent (from \$15 to \$15.90 for a mini-can and \$31 to \$32.86 for the 32-gallon) and to avoid hard-to-serve fees altogether. Commercial customers, meanwhile, will face a 9 percent rate hike in their garbage fees under the newly adopted rate schedule.

The council made its decision after about a dozen residents lambasted the proposed fee hikes, particularly on private roads. John Abraham, who lives on Ellsworth Place, a private street off Middlefield Road, pointed out that Ellsworth residents are already maintaining their own street and should not be hit with another fee. He also criticized the proposal to adopt a \$5 hike for mini-cans.

"The statement, 'No good deed remains unpunished,' certainly applies to the smaller garbage cans," Abraham told the council minutes

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Starting to Play* meets for one hour each Monday night for nine weeks beginning **October 4th. Students are encouraged to bring their own guitar, but both nylon-string and steel-string loaner guitars are available.

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



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PICKING SIDES ... The Palo Alto City Council will scratch its collective head on Monday as it ponders the city's stances on California's November ballot measures. Some stances are straightforward. The council plans to pass resolutions supporting **Proposition 22**, which limits the state Legislature's ability to "borrow" local revenues; opposing **Proposition 23**, which would suspend implementation of Assembly Bill 32, a 2006 bill that mandates greenhouse-gas reductions; and opposing **Proposition 26**, which restricts local governments' abilities to adopt new fees. Others are trickier — none more so than **Proposition 19**, which would legalize and tax marijuana. Though the proposition could bring in more revenues, the League of California Cities has recommended opposition because city officials were "concerned about the potential increase in crime, the unsatisfactory experience with medical marijuana, and the measure's breadth and poor drafting." **Councilman Greg Scharff**, who traveled to Amsterdam last month, said he was "very skeptical" about the measure for another reason — he doesn't want Palo Alto smelling like pot.

PRICEY DIGS ... If you're looking for a four-bedroom, two-bath home, **Palo Alto** is second priciest only to **Newport Beach, Calif.**, nationally, according to the **2010 Coldwell Banker Real Estate Home Listing Report**. Newport Beach's \$1.83 million topped Palo Alto's \$1.48 million. At the bottom of the list was Detroit, Mich., with average listing price \$68,007. The national average is \$353,032. The Coldwell Banker listings covered February through August 2010 in about 300 U.S. markets.

HAIL TO THE DEPUTY CHIEF ... When it comes to thinking regionally about emergency preparedness, Deputy Fire Chief **Roger Bloom** walks the walk. Bloom, the department's soft-spoken master of logistics, was selected this month as Santa Clara County's fire-training officer of the year. Bloom was selected for the award by fire officials from across the county for

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ Having time together is a lost art. ”
 — **Dianne Giancarlo**, founder of *The 3rd Door*, whose business aims to bring people together for fitness, food and friendship. See story on page 5.

Around Town

demonstrating "leadership and work ethic to improve regional fire-training efforts," City Manager **James Keene** said Monday night. "Roger was the unanimous choice for this award for his efforts," Keene said. Bloom was honored for his leadership on the Santa Clara County Fire Training Officers Association between 2007 and 2010; his efforts as director of the county's high-rise training exercise in 2009; and his work in promoting a regional approach to training throughout the county, Keene said.

WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE GYM ... Two months ago, Palo Alto's police officers, recreation managers and hyper toddlers were dismayed to learn that someone had burned down a play structure at **Hoover Park**. The play structure, which is located next to Keys School on Cowper Street in the Midtown Palo Alto area and includes a jungle gym and a slide, was found completely engulfed in flames and deemed a total loss. Earlier this month, members of the **Palo Alto Rotary Club** and the **Kiwanis Club of Palo Alto** armed themselves with power drills to restore the play structure. The new structure officially opened for business — or play — last week.

ENERGIZED ... Palo Alto's heated debate about the future of local yard trimmings and food waste will officially escalate Saturday at 10 a.m., when a coalition of local environmentalists launches its "Palo Alto Green Energy and Compost Initiative." The initiative, spearheaded by former Mayor **Peter Dreke**, seeks to "undedicate" a 10-acre portion of **Byxbee Park** so the land can be used for a new composting and electricity-generating facility. The coalition will kick off its drive at King Plaza, in front of City Hall, 250 Hamilton Ave. The event will feature a presentation about anaerobic-digestion technology and its potential benefits to Palo Alto, along with entertainment. The proposal to undedicated the parkland has been blasted by another coalition of local environmentalists, which includes former City Council members **Emily Renzel** and **Enid Pearson**. ■

PG&E

(continued from page 3)

- Whether PG&E has reduced the operating pressure recently and what is the current operating pressure

- Scope and date of PG&E's most recent pipeline maintenance activities

- Frequency and nature of maintenance activities for all of PG&E natural-gas facilities in the city

Palo Alto utilities officials have taken pains to assure customers that the city-run natural-gas system is proactively maintained. In a statement on its website, the city described its "leak detection surveys, pipeline upgrades and replacements, pipeline corrosion control, 24/7 customer response, and promotion of gas safety awareness and education to residents and businesses in Palo Alto."

City personnel have also said that, while larger PG&E transmission lines such as Line 109 (22 inches in diameter) and Line 132 (24 inches in diameter) operate at between 100 and 400 pounds of pressure per square inch, smaller city-owner pipes distribute 25 pounds of pressure per square inch or less and are 2 to 12 inches in diameter.

Details have emerged about 54-year-old Line 132, which runs from Milpitas along California State Route 237 and Interstate 880, along the Peninsula, and ends in San Francisco at 23rd Avenue and Illinois Street.

In Palo Alto, Line 132 follows Page Mill Road to Oregon Expressway. It turns south on Alma Street, goes left onto El Carmelo Avenue, jogs south onto Waverley Street, then goes eastward on Loma Verde Avenue. It proceeds south on Cowper Street and heads east on Ashton Avenue, then continues south along Middlefield Road through Mountain View. (One stretch of the line along El Carmelo was "retired," a map from the federal Pipeline and Hazard Materials Safety Administration shows. A second, replacement line was installed along El Carmelo and currently is in use.)

The steel pipeline has not been replaced since its installation in 1956, PG&E spokeswoman Katie Romans said last Friday.

Line 132 is one of 10 aging PG&E pipelines scheduled for retrofit. None currently can be inspected using the latest technology, called "smart pigging," according to a PG&E capital-

improvements project report. Pigging is an industry term referring to the process by which a data-gathering instrument travels within a pipeline to accurately assess steel-pipe wall thickness and look for weakened metal due to corrosion and damage.

Line 132 is slated for a \$13 million retrofit and \$1 million repair.

The last corrosion check on Line 132 was done in November 2009, and the last routine gas-leak surveys, which are above ground, were done in March 2010, Romans said.

Residents who live on the north side of Ashton in Midtown, in whose back yards PG&E Line 132 is buried, said PG&E and City of Palo Alto Utilities workers showed up as early as Sept. 11, two days after the San Bruno explosion, to inspect the pipeline.

Residents expressed varying degrees of concern about the risk of a gas explosion in their neighborhood.

"It's a thing not likely to happen. I'm not that concerned. It hasn't been a problem before," said Jane Volpe, a Realtor.

But neighbor Judith Dvorak said she feels uneasy. There are a number of homes that are built too close to the PG&E gas-transfer line, she said.

When she and her husband planned to remodel their house in 1990, extending it into the back yard, they were told by PG&E that their remodel would not work due to the home's proposed proximity to the pipeline, she said. So the Dvoraks changed their plans.

But other neighbors have since rebuilt their homes nearer to the pipes, she said.

"I feel very uneasy especially because of the houses that are too close to the line," Dvorak said. "It's a sore point for us."

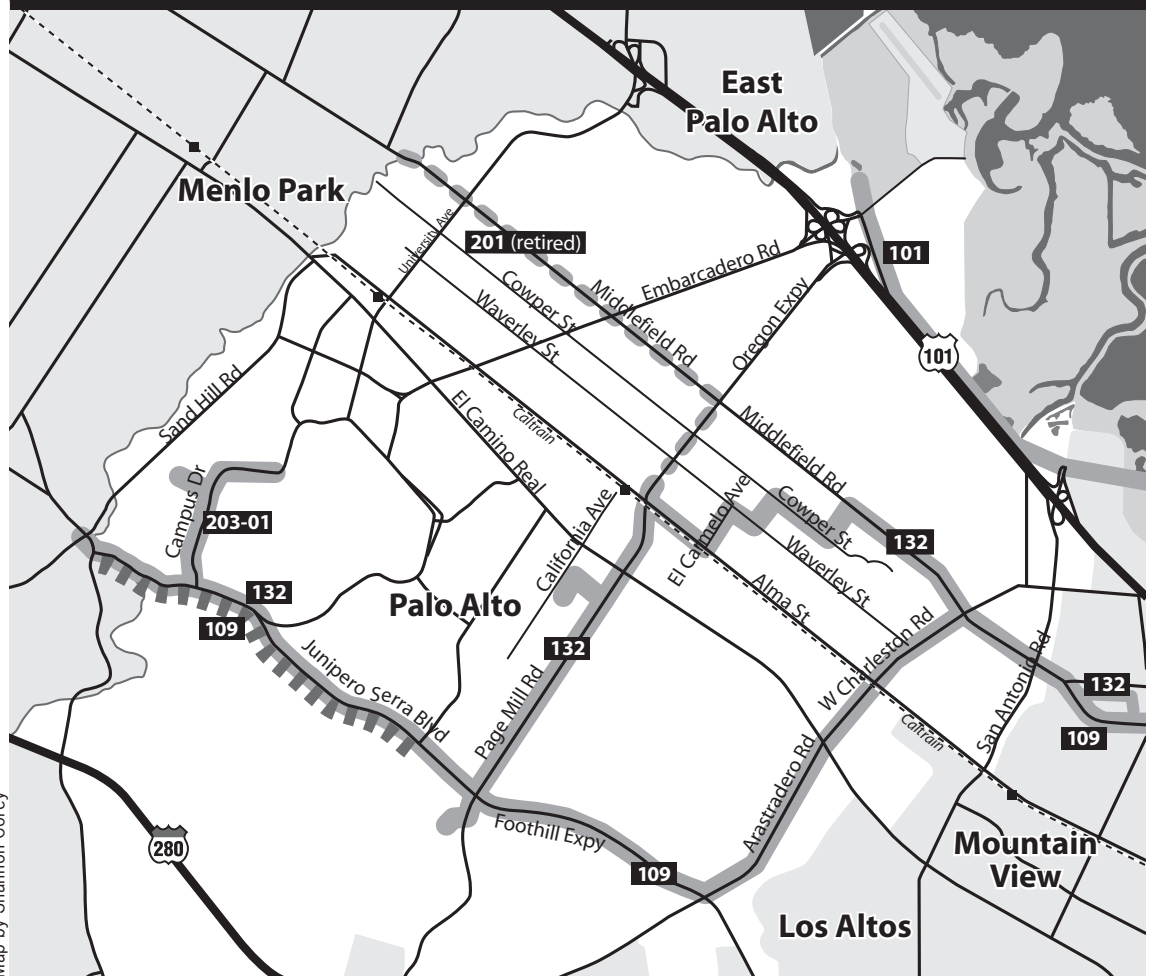
Another resident, who asked not to be identified, said that nothing has changed for her because of the San Bruno incident.

"What can I do? It's always been there," she said, referring to the pipeline.

At Stanford, Larry Gibbs, associate vice provost for environmental health and safety, told the Stanford Report on Tuesday that staff is seeking to better understand the risks associated with Line 109, which was identified in the Top 100.

Several segments of the line along Junipero Serra are at risk of corrosion, according to the PG&E list.

PG&E gas-transmission pipelines in Palo Alto



Map by Shannon Corey

PG&E's gas-transmission lines through Palo Alto and Stanford include one segment (along Junipero Serra) identified on the utilities company's "Top 100" list. The Top 100 are stretches with the greatest potential risk. Also, the 54-year-old Line 132, which runs through Palo Alto, is slated for a retrofit, according to PG&E.

The utility conducted an analysis of the cathodic system (a process that protects the pipeline segment from corrosion) and adjusted that system for better protection. A subsequent 2009 analysis showed "marked improvement," and engineers will continue monitoring the segment.

Gibbs told the Stanford Report that PG&E monitors the pipeline both electronically and physically every two months.

"We will be working to better understand what work has been done on the pipeline, what will be done to ensure continued integrity of the pipeline and why the segments remain on PG&E's 'Top 100' list if no further action is contemplated at this time," he said.

In addition to Stanford's pipeline, an East Palo Alto segment appeared on the Top 100 — an 18-foot line

near Dumbarton Avenue and Donohoe Street.

At a PG&E press conference Monday, several reporters questioned the Top 100 list's credibility, since the San Bruno segment that exploded did not show up at all as a "red flag."

PG&E President Christopher Johns said investigators' findings related to the explosion could help determine if present processes of evaluation for pipelines are good or not.

In response to an order by the California Public Utilities Commission, PG&E has nearly completed a resurvey of the three Peninsula pipelines, Johns said.

The pipelines in the Top 100 were evaluated against four criteria: potential for third-party damage during construction work; corrosion; ground movement; and physical design and characteristics of the pipe segment.

Concerned residents can call PG&E at 1-888-743-7431 to find out if their home or business is located within 500 feet of a gas-transmission line or if it is on the Top 100 list. ■

Managing Editor Jocelyn Dong, Editorial Intern Sally Schilling and Menlo Park Almanac Staff Writer Sandy Brundage contributed to this report.

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

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Upfront

BUSINESS

Town & Country exploring 'pop-up' stores

New Zealand company joins short-term lease trend to brainstorm new marketing approaches

by Ryan Deto
 and Georgia Wells

Town & Country Village in Palo Alto is testing out "pop-up" stores as a way to enhance the shopping center. Such short-term leases have traditionally been used for holiday retail but are now being used by companies to test the market or create buzz for a product, industry experts report.

At Town & Country, fine-wool supplier New Zealand Merino has leased a suite for six weeks. The company is using the space for an executive "thinking" session rather than a store, officials said, with the goal of exploring whether such venues could be used for collaborative marketing around retail clothing lines that use its wool, such as SmartWool and Ibex.

From the businesses' standpoint, a "pop-up" location can increase excitement around a product without the burden of a long-term commitment, according to inc.com, a website that provides business resources for entrepreneurs.

"Pop-up" businesses also increase visibility for the real estate.

"If something is new and interesting, it creates a bit of a buzz. We see it as an opportunity to drive business to the shopping center," said Caroline Morris, vice president for asset management at Ellis Partners, which owns the retail center.

Ellis Partners is willing to support such a concept on a temporary basis because they "thought Merino was an interesting group, with an interesting business plan that hadn't been tried before," Morris said.

The commercial real-estate firm could fill Town & Country without short-term leases, but its top priority is to create the right mix of tenants, even one that includes short-term shops, Morris said.

Ellis Partners is currently evaluating short-term concepts for the holiday season, but Morris declined to share specifics.

At Town & Country Village's Suite 16 recently, more than 30 shoeless New Zealand retail CEOs sat on fine-wool shag carpeting; clumps of white fuzz stuck to their fine wool socks.



Nick Aubrey, business development manager for New Zealand Merino, sits inside the "pop-up" space in Town & Country Village, Palo Alto, where his company rented a space for a few weeks to introduce its products to corporate buyers.

New Zealand Merino hosted the event to bring their partners together for a meeting designed to brainstorm ways to increase marketing collaboration. The ultimate market collaboration would include a "pop-up" retail location that would sell only products made from Merino wool.

Nick Aubrey, Merino business-development manager, said they hosted the creative meeting of the minds in an effort to explore how Merino's business partners can work together to counteract the global recession and jointly increase sales.

"For our partners, the prize is in growing the pie of Merino wool," Aubrey said, "rather than fighting over their slice of the market share."

Merino chose the Town & Country location because of the key influences nearby, such as Stanford University, Facebook, Apple and design firm IDEO, he said.

"This place is supposed to be a really hard, hitting, short-impact area — a place to bring up the buzz on our product," he said.

Though Merino leased the suite for six weeks, only four days served a business purpose. The remaining weeks of the lease were used for constructing an authentic New Zealand experience within the space.

Adjoining Suite 16, Merino lined a space with real sod grass, to be used for barbecues and rugby matches to

entertain CEOs who attended the company's summit from Sept. 8-10. Merino brought in chefs to prepare New Zealand cuisine and an iPad-lined wall was set up with videos and photos of the New Zealand countryside.

Suite 16 was filled with Merino wool products, such as carpets, clothing and wool samples that could decorate a future store. Aromatic containers provided scents of a Merino sheep farm in an effort to bring in all the senses, Aubrey said.

In one hopeful advertising effort, Aubrey waited patiently outside the Apple offices in Cupertino for more than an hour, so he could ambush CEO Steve Jobs and offer him a black Merino-wool turtleneck. Jobs graciously denied the turtleneck, Aubrey said.

Baba Shiv, a Stanford business professor, worked with Merino to help create new marketing ideas. He said marketers usually have no contact with the suppliers and know little about where the product comes from or how it is created. Aubrey said a goal of marketing should be to bring the growers to the retailers.

"This is a potential world first in the sense that a supply chain is part of marketing," Shiv said. ■

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MOONLIGHT RUN

Carpool, walk, bike or run

Record pre-registration numbers may create parking problems in area

A record pre-registration of more than 2,800 persons for tonight's Palo Alto Weekly Moonlight Run & Walk in the Palo Alto Baylands means there could be serious parking problems and traffic congestion in the area, event coordinator Amy Renalds is warning.

She said the pre-registrants plus the 800 to 1,000 persons who show

up on race night could jam parking spaces and overwhelm Palo Alto police efforts to move traffic along smoothly.

She encouraged anyone who can to carpool, bicycle, walk or even run to the event, which begins at 6 p.m. at the Baylands Athletic Center at the end of Geng Road, off Embarcadero Road just east of U.S. Highway 101. Pre-registrants have

already been e-mailed, Renalds said, adding that word-of-mouth might help alleviate the parking and traffic jams.

More than 20 booths from community-based organizations and local restaurants participate in the event, along with numerous volunteers. Funds raised support the Weekly's Holiday Fund drive and are disbursed in grants to local organizations that provide services to children and adolescents and their families.

A full list of 2009 Holiday Fund agencies is posted at www.paloaltoonline.com/weekly_promo/holiday_fund/index.php. ■

— Palo Alto Weekly staff



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Key city structures vulnerable in a disaster

Many are retrofitted but would not be 'operational' after a large earthquake or flood, city leaders warn

Part 3 in a series

by Sue Dremann

When the 1998 flood hit Palo Alto, Public Works and Utilities departments' workers encountered a problem that could be potentially disastrous in a more serious crisis: East Bayshore Road was impassable to cars and workers couldn't get to the city's Municipal Services Center, where equipment, trucks, backhoes and emergency supplies are located, Debra Jacobs, public works project engineer, recalled.

"We have a small fleet of row-boats," Jacobs quipped — although they weren't used to ferry workers to the center at that time.

But the situation was a lesson for how quickly essential equipment and buildings the city needs in an emergency can become useless.

City leaders say they are well aware of the vulnerability of key facilities

— particularly in an earthquake.

City Hall, the police-and-fire dispatch center and the Emergency Operations Center could be dangerous to enter and non-useable in a major quake.

The Municipal Services Center remains among the most vulnerable, yet it is also among the most strategic in the city's disaster plan. The center is supposed to be the first alternative seat of city government if City Hall is inoperable, according to the city's 2007 emergency operations plan. But the center and two fire stations sit in earthquake liquefaction zones, among the most dangerous areas to be, according to Jacobs and Assistant Director of Public Works Mike Sartor.

Made of cement walls that were poured on the ground and tilted upright, then bolted together, the Municipal Services Center is of a building type that was one of the most dangerous and heavily damaged in the 1994 Northridge earthquake in Southern California, according to Director of Public Works Glenn Roberts.

Sartor did see one bright spot. "The good news is the equipment is outside," he said.

Palo Alto leaders are grappling with how to continue a steady stream of building upgrades amid faltering revenues and budget gaps. The city is about to launch its new Infrastructure Blue Ribbon Task Force, which the council approved on Sept. 13. The 18-member task force is assigned with finding ways to reconcile the city's \$500 million infrastructure backlog with the reality of current city revenues.

Replacing the Municipal Services Center is on the backlog list, at an estimated cost of \$93 million, according to the city's 2011 Capital Budget.

Fire stations 3 and 4 are on the backlog list. A feasibility study found they were not worth retrofitting because they cannot accommodate large fire equipment the city now uses. Both are in the liquefaction zone and subject to flooding. The study recommended doubling the stations' sizes from 2,500 square feet to 5,000 square feet. Price tag: \$14.2 million total.

The city owns 100 buildings and facilities, which include rest rooms in parks and pump stations for water, Jacobs said.

Many city buildings and the pump stations are already upgraded.

The Children's and College Terrace libraries are up to current seismic standards, Sartor said. Mitchell Park Library is being rebuilt. The Downtown library is presently under construction and will be retrofitted and is expected to be finished in May 2011. The Main Library retrofits will not start until the new Mitchell Park Library and Community Center is completed in about two years from now, Jacobs said. It will take a year

to do the construction at the Main Library.

Avenidas Senior Center was upgraded in 1993-1994, but if the city loses power, library and the senior center's doors could jam, he said.

Some seismic work was done to Lucie Stern Community Center in the 1980s, in response to flooding in 1982.

But "nothing comprehensive at all" has been done to Cubberley Community Center, a former high school, according to Jacobs.

"Seismic codes didn't exist when it was still a school," she said.

One of the most serious consequences to some fire stations could be that large side-by-side doors would jam in a quake and prevent engines and equipment from exiting, Sartor said. This was an issue in the Northridge quake, he said.

But fire stations 1, 2, 5 and 8 have had seismic upgrades and comply with the higher state Standards of Essential-Services Facilities Act, which require them and other essential city services buildings to be operational. Operational means having doors functional and to have lighting, data systems, water and other necessities for habitation intact after a quake. (Stations 6 and 7 are under Stanford University's jurisdiction.)

But dispatch, the Emergency Operations Center and City Hall, although retrofitted, are still weak links and could be inaccessible, according to city leaders. All could potentially be the most serious losses to the city's emergency response in a disaster, according to officials.

At a June 7, 2010, study session, the City Council reviewed various alternatives and costs to construct a new public-safety facility at City Hall as compared to constructing a new facility off-site on vacant land.

The council discussed pursuing building a new facility off-site, downsizing a proposed new facility, building an off-site emergency operations center only, exploring alternatives to regionalized police and fire dispatch services, and setting priorities on a phased project over time in an effort to reduce project costs, Assistant to the City Manager Kelly Morariu said.

The council agreed that the public safety building is one of the city's highest infrastructure priorities, she added. A follow-up council discussion and possible action will likely occur later this year or early 2011.

But retrofit or not, Jacobs had a caveat:

"None of the city's buildings are imminent hazards. By the same token, no building is absolutely safe," she said.

Earthquakes are unpredictable. Buildings are only as strong as the codes and standards at the time they were built, engineers said.

City Hall, built in 1967-68, was retrofitted in the 1980s. The existing police building and emergency operations center were retrofitted in

(continued on page 14)

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Downtown venture combines 'fitness, food and friends'

Entrepreneur aims to pursue her passions and do good



Veronica Weber

Old friends and new join the "Sip and Paint" class at The 3rd Door in downtown Palo Alto, including (from left) Yanina Abecassis, Glowe Chang, Dianne Giancarlo (founder), Marina Marguet and Louise Stroe.

by Chris Kenrick

Fitness, food and friends. For people of a certain age — empty nesters, perhaps, with a bit more time on their hands — that's a powerful combination.

Entrepreneur and philanthropist Dianne Giancarlo has gathered those passions into an unusual new downtown Palo Alto start-up, The 3rd Door, which marries a fitness program, a cozy café and a social club.

The café, and an artsy retail shop, are open to members of the public — whom Giancarlo calls "unknown friends we call strangers."

Access to fitness facilities and a club room — which hosts events such as a book club, Friday night happy hours and a weekly "beer 'n' bridge drop in" — is through a membership fee.

The new venture has set up shop on a busy Lytton Avenue corner, next door to an Indian restaurant and down the street from the new boutique Hotel Keen.

"We have a lot of business people in this neighborhood, start-ups and professionals who come in for lunch and happy hour," Giancarlo said.

"We looked everywhere, and I just feel really lucky we found this space."

Membership fees support the maintenance of The 3rd Door's fitness facility, with 100 percent of profits going to WANDA (Women's Achievement Network and Development Alliance), a nonprofit organization Giancarlo co-founded several years ago that works to boost economic self-sufficiency for single moms in San Mateo County.

Giancarlo, a lawyer and former Castilleja School trustee, is no stranger to start-ups, having launched WANDA and — decades ago — her own corporate securities law firm that grew to 20 employees.

With her older children now grown and out of the house, she took time to consider her next venture.

"This idea has been brewing. I always heard that if you start your own business, make sure it's something you really care a lot about, whether

it's a dry-cleaning business or a car wash," she said, perched on a chair outside her cafe.

"The 'fitness, food and friends' happen to be three things I feel very passionate about.

"The time people have with each other on a face-to-face basis is incredibly important — what life is all about — whether face-to-face helping or face-to-face playing a game of poker or bridge.

"It's really the fabric of life, and it's getting lost with all the convenience of the digital age we live in. There may be times when there's no need to leave your house, and I think that's really sad.

"Having time together is a lost art."

Clad in exercise attire, Giancarlo conveys her passion as she walks around the facility, conversing with trainers, baristas and clients.

On Thursday, club member Kim Aldridge was lunching on salad in the café while Giancarlo worked the espresso machine behind the counter.

Aldridge, a designer of sports souvenirs who lives in Redwood City, said she heard about The 3rd Door from a bridge instructor in San Francisco. She joined for the opportunity to play more bridge, but hopes to participate on the fitness side as well.

"I think it's a great club Dianne has created," she said.

"I really like that the proceeds will go to help women who are going through a divorce with children," Aldridge said.

The 3rd Door is also the headquarters for WANDA, which serves 54 local single mothers. The group offers a financial literacy program, including an Individual Development Account (IDA) for each client, managed through the Opportunity Fund of San Jose. WANDA donors have guaranteed to double-match each woman's savings up to \$2,000 — for a total of \$6,000 — if the funds are spent on assets such as a house or education.

"The real asset we're building here is the moms," Giancarlo said. ■



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Upfront

News Digest

Diane Jennings retiring as Palo Alto library director

Diane Jennings — who since 1986 has worked on Palo Alto library system challenges, served twice as interim director and for the past four years as director — will retire in December, she announced Thursday.

"I am very pleased that, after many years of passionate debate about library service in Palo Alto, we are now in the middle of a marvelous transition for all our libraries," she said of her impending departure. She and her husband, John, will leave for Santa Fe in early November even though her official retirement date is in December.

Jennings, who began her library career in 1976 in a community-college library, served her first stint as interim director in Palo Alto following the 2002 retirement of longtime Library Director Mary Jo Levy. Her second stint in that role followed the 2004 departure of Paula Simpson, after a tumultuous term that pitted her support for a single large library against residents favoring the existing branch-library system. The branch-versus-single-library debate had stalled progress on refurbishing city libraries for nearly 15 years.

But Jennings and community campaign leaders were successful in moving past the deadlock and winning voter approval for a \$78 million construction bond measure in November 2008, now beginning to be implemented with the reconstruction of the Mitchell Park Library and Community Center.

Jennings sees her major achievements as, among others, developing the library's first online catalog in 1986; working with community members to become one of the first public libraries in the region to provide public WiFi access; managing a multi-year upgrade of library technology; working with a coalition of library-support groups on funding, refurbishing and equipping the historic Children's Library; and spearheading library-improvement projects. ■

— Jay Thorwaldson

Judge backs Palo Alto's affordable-housing fee

Developer John Mozart, who sued Palo Alto over its affordable-housing program, lost his case this week after a judge upheld the legality of the program and ruled that the developer waited too long to file the lawsuit.

Mozart argued that the city is unfairly requiring him to devote 10 units in his 96-unit Sterling Park development to below-market housing. In his lawsuit, Mozart called the requirement "arbitrary and capricious" and that it essentially amounts to a "special tax."

Santa Clara Superior Court Judge Kevin McKenney disagreed and granted the city's motion for summary judgment, dismissing the case.

Mozart's development, located on West Bayshore Road, was approved in 2006. The developer's lawsuit, which was filed late last year, is thus "barred by the 90-day limitations period," McKenney ruled.

McKenney also upheld the legality of the city's program, which has been producing about 7.5 below-market-rate units of housing per year. Palo Alto has a recognized shortage of affordable housing and city planners are now trying to identify possible sites for affordable housing as part of the city's ongoing Housing Element update.

McKenney ruled that the city's below-market-rate (BMR) housing program, which allows developers to pay "in-lieu fees" to reduce the affordable-housing requirement, does not violate the state's Mitigation Fee Act, which sets limitations for developer fees. ■

— Gennady Sheyner

Zumot's arson-and-murder trial set for October

Bulos Zumot, owner of a hookah shop in downtown Palo Alto, could face an arson-and-murder trial as early as next month in connection with the death of his girlfriend, Jennifer Schipsi.

Zumot, who owns Da Hookah Spot on University Avenue, has been in jail since Oct. 19, 2009, when Palo Alto police arrested him and charged him with killing Schipsi, 29, and setting their Addison Avenue cottage on fire. He has pleaded not guilty to the charges.

At a brief hearing Tuesday afternoon (Sept. 21), Zumot, 36, waived his right to a speedy trial after attorneys agreed to schedule his trial for the weeks of Oct. 11 and Oct. 18.

The exact date could depend on how long it will take for the court to conclude another high-profile murder case. Judge David Cena, who is handling Zumot's case, is now presiding over a murder-for-hire case in which a Los Gatos restaurant owner was killed.

Meanwhile, Zumot's attorney, Mark Geragos, is seeking the court's assistance in obtaining reams of discovery documents, including police reports, photographs and finger prints from the crime scene.

"We received some of the discovery that was ordered, but there's still items that are outstanding," Geragos said Tuesday.

Judge Philip Pennypacker, who handled Tuesday's hearing, scheduled another hearing for Friday to consider the status of discovery. ■

— Gennady Sheyner

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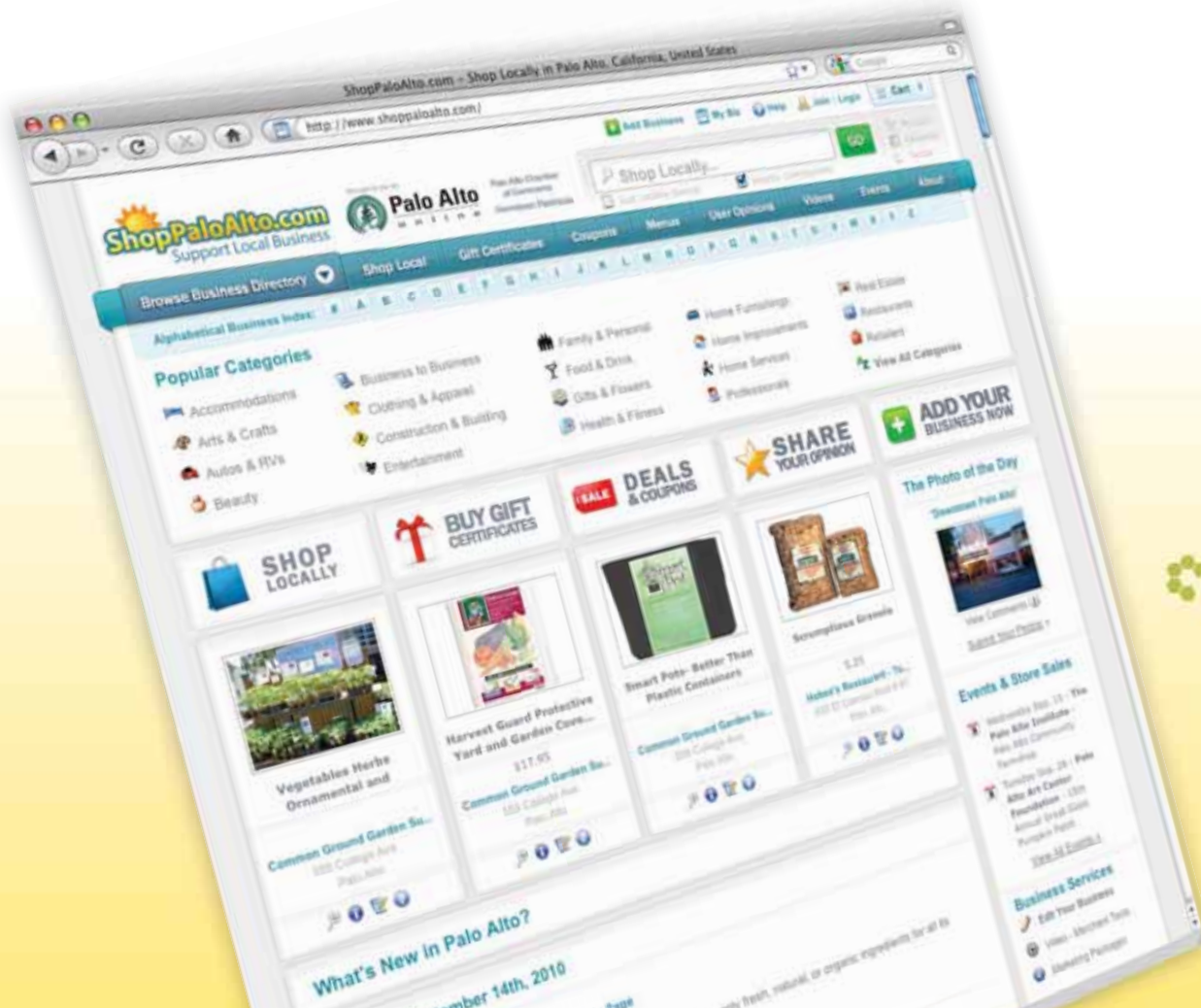
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Online This Week

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.

Argument at Town & Country ends in stabbing

An argument between a 62-year-old stepfather and 21-year-old stepson ended in the stepfather being stabbed several times with a penknife about 8 p.m. Wednesday at Palo Alto's Town & Country Village shopping center, police reported. (Posted Sept. 23 at 8:28 a.m.)

Police arrest Menlo Park man, 67, in stock scam

Describing Roger Miller, 67, of Menlo Park as a "lifelong con man," police announced his arrest on Sept. 22 for allegedly selling thousands of dollars in non-existent Apple stock. (Posted Sept. 22 at 4:50 p.m.)

CrossFit trend expands in Palo Alto

CrossFit, a new intensive group fitness program that incorporates weight lifting with cardio and body-weight exercises (such as push-ups and pull-ups), was developed by Greg Glassman in his Santa Cruz gym in 1995. In the past year, three CrossFit boxes have opened in Palo Alto, two on El Camino Real and one on San Antonio Road. (Posted Sept. 22 at 3:53 p.m.)

John Arrillaga among Acorn Award winners

Palo Alto developer John Arrillaga, the major private donor to the city of Menlo Park's new gymnasium, is among the recipients of 2010 Golden Acorn Awards, given annually by the Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce to organizations and individuals for community service and business excellence. (Posted Sept. 22 at 2:16 p.m.)

Holiday Inn sued for sexual harassment

The Holiday Inn on El Camino Real near San Antonio Road is being sued by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for allegedly firing a front desk clerk for complaining about being sexually harassed and threatened by her boss. (Posted Sept. 21 at 4:29 p.m.)

Stanford resists local high-speed-rail station

Stanford University is not supporting a proposal by the California High-Speed Rail Authority to build a high-speed-rail station in Palo Alto, according to a statement provided to the City Council Monday. (Posted Sept. 21 at 4:02 p.m.)

Police arrest Mountain View robbery suspect

Police arrested a Santa Clara man and charged him with five South Bay bank robberies, including last week's robbery of the Heritage Bank of Commerce in Mountain View. (Posted Sept. 21 at 2:55 p.m.)

Police nab purse-snatch suspects in 6 minutes

A woman walking in downtown Palo Alto Monday evening was accosted by a man who jumped from a car, threatened her with a small baseball bat and stole her purse, police Chief Dennis Burns reported Tuesday (Sept. 21). (Posted Sept. 21 at 1:53 p.m.)

Oprah highlights East Palo Alto charter school

When "Oprah" panned to their campus Monday, teachers at the East Palo Alto Charter School (EPACS) emitted shrieks of recognition and delight. The "Oprah" segment, devoted to educational inequities, featured two local campuses — EPACS and Summit Preparatory Charter High School in Redwood City. (Posted Sept. 21 at 9:37 a.m.)

Audit: Palo Alto needs stronger cash oversight

Palo Alto's cash-handling operations are riddled with errors and discrepancies and have insufficient security, a new audit by City Auditor Lynda Brouchoud's office has found. (Posted Sept. 17 at 9:52 a.m.)

Stanford designing anti-obesity program for kids

The Stanford University School of Medicine has won \$12.7 million in federal funds to design a new approach to battling childhood obesity that could be used across the country. (Posted Sept. 17 at 1:29 p.m.)

Fire damages University Avenue home

A fire at 1005 University Ave. caused heavy damage to the two-story home Friday morning (Sept. 17) and prompted responders to close a portion of University to traffic for most of the afternoon. (Posted Sept. 17 at 8:28 a.m.)

Governor agrees to 'rail' link to cities — maybe

A direct connection may have been achieved Thursday night (Sept. 16) between Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's office and California cities concerned about impacts of high-speed rail on their communities and region. But Schwarzenegger told city officials he really liked his high-speed train ride in China. (Posted Sept. 17 at 7:43 a.m.)

Garbage

(continued from page 3)

before they scrapped the proposal.

In addition to raising rates, the city plans to reduce expenses by reducing its budget for Zero Waste outreach; increasing gate fees at the local landfill at Byxbee Park; and

delaying two capital projects relating to the landfill.

The new trash-collection fees will kick in Oct. 1 and remain in place until next fall, when the city plans to overhaul the rate structure. ■

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

CityView

A round-up of Palo Alto government action this week

City Council (Sept. 20)

High-speed rail: The council adopted a no-confidence resolution and voted in a closed session to sue the California High-Speed Rail Authority over its recently certified Program Environmental Impact Report. **Yes:** Unanimous

Refuse rate: The council voted to increase the residential refuse rate by 6 percent for all containers and to increase the commercial rate by 9 percent. **Yes:** Unanimous

City Council (Sept. 21)

Recruitment: The council interviewed three executive-recruitment firms as part of its effort to find Palo Alto's next city attorney. The three firms are Ralph Andersen & Associates, William Avery & Associates and Bob Murray & Associates. The council is scheduled to select one of the firms at its Sept. 27 meeting. **Action:** None

Finance Committee (Sept. 21)

Cash handling: The committee discussed the recent report from the City Auditor's Office about the city's cash-handling operations and travel-expense reimbursements. The committee heard a presentation from Administrative Services Director Lalo Perez about staff responses to the audit's recommendations and voted to forward the report to the full council. **Yes:** Unanimous

City-School Liaison Committee (Sept. 22)

School enrollment and housing: Representatives of the City Council and the Board of Education exchanged information about school-enrollment projections and new housing units. **Action:** None

Public Agenda

A preview of Palo Alto government meetings next week

CITY COUNCIL ... The City Council plans to discuss changes to the city's Green Building Program; discuss the California High-Speed Rail Authority's Supplemental Alternatives Analysis Report; consider the city's positions on California's 2010 ballot initiatives; and consider a proposal to stop publishing City Council agendas in the newspaper. The meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. Monday, Sept. 27, in the Council Chambers at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

BOARD OF EDUCATION ... The Board of Education plans to discuss proposed academic calendars for the school years 2011-12 and 2012-13, with a final decision expected Nov. 9. The board also will hear a staff presentation on academic achievement. The meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 28, in the board room of school district headquarters (25 Churchill Ave.).

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION ... The commission plans to elect a chair and a vice chair; review the city's Fair and Impartial Policing policy; hear an update on the city's process for developing a "priority of needs" for grants to nonprofit groups; and hear an update on Project Safety Net, a community effort to promote youth well-being. The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 28, in the Council Chambers at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION ... The commission plans to hear a presentation on 2010 Summer Aquatic Program; hear an update on request for proposals to contract out maintenance at the Palo Alto Municipal Golf Course and consider design improvements at El Camino Park relating to the ongoing installation of an emergency-water-storage tank. The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 28, in the Council Conference Room at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION ... The commission plans to discuss revisions and other changes to the goals, policies and programs in the Housing Element of the City's Comprehensive Plan. The meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 29, in the Council Chambers at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

POLICY AND SERVICES COMMITTEE ... The committee plans to consider revisions to council protocols; discuss the Healthy Cities Initiative; and discuss the committee's role. The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 30, in the Council Conference Room at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).



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- Thursday, October 14: 7:00 – 9:00 pm

▶ HEART TO HEART SEMINAR ON GROWING UP

Informative, humorous and lively discussions between parents and their pre-teens on puberty, the opposite sex and growing up. Girls attend these two-part sessions with their moms and boys attend with their dads.

- For Girls: Mondays, October 18 & 25: 6:30 – 8:30 pm

- For Boys: Tuesdays, November 30 & December 7: 6:30 – 8:30 pm

▶ BRINGING BABY HOME

A two-part workshop for expectant couples and new parents in their first postpartum trimester, this program designed by Drs. John and Julie Schwartz Gottman will assist you in making the transition to parenthood.

- Sundays, October 24 & 31: 10:00 am – 3:30 pm

▶ INFANT SAFETY

A room-by-room guide to preparing your home for a newborn and growing child.

- Saturday, October 30: 1:00 – 3:00 pm

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



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Housing

(continued from page 3)

“The short-term focus for the new housing element is to find some ways that focus more on smaller units and senior units and housing types less likely to produce school-age children.”

Shepherd expressed concern about an additional 3,000 housing units she said Stanford University has yet to build.

“What do you expect of that in terms of school-district yield?” she asked city and school staff members.

Unofficial numbers have elementary enrollment growing by 218 students this fall, just above the high end of demographic projections. Unofficial numbers for middle school and high school came in at the low end, 36 and 17 respectively.

The official headcount is due to be released by the school district Oct. 12.

Tom noted that 73 of the 218 new elementary students are kindergartners, and “that bump will probably proceed through.”

The school district has embarked on a \$378 million facilities upgrade program, to modernize school buildings and accommodate expected enrollment growth.

Construction will include two-story classroom buildings not only at Fairmeadow but also at Ohlone Elementary School and at both Gunn and Palo Alto high schools.

Made possible by a facilities bond approved by 78 percent of district voters in 2008, the construction program will touch all of Palo Alto’s 17 campuses.

The school board last year flirted with re-opening the Garland campus, at 870 N. California Ave., as the district’s 13th elementary school but retreated from that plan amid budget concerns.

Currently, vacant elementary classrooms in the district are few and far between, with the most space available at Barron Park Elementary School, the district’s co-chief business official, Bob Golton, said. ■

Staff Writer Chris Kenrick can be e-mailed at ckenrick@paweekly.com.

Buildings

(continued from page 8)

1992-1994, Roberts said.

But building integrity is to some extent theoretical.

Engineers can only plan for what they believe will be the predicted maximum quake. If a building is retrofitted to withstand a 7.9 quake but an 11-point shaker hits, the building might not stand, he said.

“It’s a moving target,” Sartor said — earthquake pun not intended.

The 1994 Northridge earthquake in Southern California proved that point, he said. Buildings everyone thought were safe were damaged.

“As the forensic work is done you go back to change the code,” Jacobs said.

Then officials try to find the funds to change the buildings to match the code. ■

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

The Palo Alto Weekly

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Palo Alto

Sept. 14-20

Violence related

- Armed robbery1
- Arson2
- Battery1
- Domestic violence5
- Elder abuse/neglect1
- Strong arm robbery1

Theft related

- Commercial burglaries1
- Grand theft2
- Identity theft8
- Petty theft2
- Prowler1
- Residential burglaries2
- Shoplifting3

Vehicle related

- Auto recovery1
- Auto theft1
- Bicycle theft3
- Suspended license8
- Driving without license5
- Hit and run4
- Misc. traffic8
- Parking/driving violation4
- Theft from auto12
- Vehicle accident/minor injury4
- Vehicle accident/property damage4
- Vehicle tow7

Alcohol or drug related

- Drunk in public10
- Drunken driving2
- Possession of drugs2

Miscellaneous

- Disposal request1
- Elder abuse/financial1
- Found property2
- Lost property2
- Misc. penal code violation1
- Missing person2
- Outside investigation1
- Psychiatric hold5
- Public incident1
- Suspicious circumstances2
- Vandalism5
- Warrants/other agency6

Menlo Park

Sept. 14-20

Violence related

- Battery1
- Domestic violence1

Theft related

- Fraud3
- Grand theft1
- Petty theft3
- Residential burglaries9

Vehicle related

- Auto recovery1
- Auto theft1
- Driving without license6
- Hit and run3
- Suspended license4
- Theft from auto3
- Vehicle accident/minor injury1
- Vehicle accident/property damage3
- Vehicle tow3

Alcohol or drug related

- Drunk in public1

Miscellaneous

- Cancelled case2
- Failure to yield1
- Found property3
- Gang validations1
- Information1
- Juvenile problem1
- Medical aid1
- Mental evaluation1
- Missing person1
- Suspicious circumstances2
- Threats1
- Trespassing1
- Vandalism2
- Verbal altercation1
- Warrant arrest7

(continued on page 19)

Answers to this week's puzzles, which can be found on page 56

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



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Real Estate Matters

DON'T PANIC

Property inspections are common in most real estate transactions. The question becomes what do you do when the inspector's report comes back with items listed in need of repair. Whether you're the buyer or the seller, just keep a cool head and approach the repairs logically.

Focus on the major defects. Minor repairs are not the ultimate goal of the inspection. Major repairs should be handled as soon as possible, in order to avoid any delays in closing.

Once the buyers have secured quotes for repairs, they should present their requests to the sellers either for the repairs or for a reduction in the selling price. The sellers may also choose to solicit quotes.

Either party may complete the repairs, but sellers who are busy preparing to move may offer a credit to the buyers so the buyers may have the repairs completed later to their satisfaction. Once agreed to,

the final terms of the arrangement should be put into writing, and then signed and dated by both parties.

Whoever accepts responsibility for the repairs should have paid receipts for all of the work done. Proper documentation of each step in this process will protect each party and help ensure a smooth and successful closing.

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



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Editorial

Time to give kids a real winter break

Long-debated issue in Palo Alto schools evokes strong opinions, but the school district leadership's priority needs to be what's best for the students

It is heartening that Palo Alto school officials have established emotional well-being of our children as a top priority this year.

It is even more heartening that steps are being taken at both Gunn and Palo Alto high schools to ease up a bit on the students in terms of demands of homework, scheduling and school start times, and to seek ways to increase a sense of "connectedness" for all students.

The district properly is moving step-by-step and judiciously, trying to weigh the ramifications and possible side effects of actions, and to enlist support of individual school administrators and teachers. It also is building or strengthening alliances with the broader Palo Alto community, through its longstanding partnership with the PTA and a new entity, Project Safety Net, that includes representatives of the city, community nonprofit and medical organizations and others.

That group is promoting a proven program, Project Cornerstone, that focuses on how to increase "developmental assets" of young persons, based on a set of 41 assets that help young people manage and balance their lives.

We have a significant way to go to achieve a truly effective, lasting change in the high-pressure environment with which many students struggle — as outlined powerfully in two Weekly cover stories in the past month.

And we are concerned about softening the message, and its urgency, through use of terms such as "encourage" in the latest draft (Sept. 14) of the "Focused Goals for 2010-2011." It is hard to disagree with an overall policy that reads: "Improve student connectedness and strengthen support systems for student social, emotional, physical health." But it also is hard to know what to do with such a policy.

The goals themselves are soft, as in: "Encourage site-developed approaches to improve student connectedness." That is more of a nudge than a high-priority directive. It raises the question of whether district-level policy decisions have any real substance after being filtered through school site-based decision-making and individual teacher decisions, as in the widely ignored "no homework" policies for some nights or breaks. Some policies need enforcement.

One important area awaiting a decision is moving final exams to before winter break.

It is time to end the Palo Alto-style debate of the past four years on when to schedule important end-of-semester tests, and it's overdue to give students some real time off during winter break. Scheduling the end of the semester in mid-January forces many students to study or complete projects during the break, either by internal pressure, parental pressure or assigned homework.

One school board member cited an extreme case where one high-school study group convened on Christmas Day to work on a project assigned over the break. Perhaps that was their preferred way to spend Christmas, but we doubt it.

There is a vigorous dialogue underway in the Town Square forum on www.PaloAltoOnline.com, ranging from thoughtful, informational postings to hard-line "toughen up" opinions.

Numerous other school districts have already shifted to before-the-break finals. Palo Alto needs to do so now, even if it means shortening the fall semester or starting school sooner in August, or perhaps finding ways to compress the semester schedule a bit.

Summer vacations are important also, and families with younger children have a right to be concerned about shorter windows for taking trips or family schedules that an earlier start-of-school schedule would entail.

There are no easy solutions, but it's time for the school administration and board to address the issue head on in light of strong evidence that pre-break testing would be a significant encouragement for students to take some real time off.

Districts all around Palo Alto have made the move, including a growing number of unified (K-12) districts. The private Castilleja girls middle and high school in Palo Alto has pre-break testing. Few schools if any seem inclined to go back to post-break testing, if they ever had it.

Superintendent Kevin Skelly has hinted he might support pre-break exams, but was awaiting results of a Calendar Committee meeting Thursday afternoon before finalizing his recommendation. Public comment before the school board will start next Tuesday night. A decision is expected by the board in October or early November.

Spectrum

Editorials, letters and opinions

Rail 'Authority' isn't

Editor,

High-speed rail transport is an extremely technical subject. It requires knowledge and expertise in many fields, including geology, seismology, soil mechanics, civil engineering, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, aerodynamics and quantitative demographics.

The countries with the largest installed base and most expertise in high-speed rail are China, France, Germany and Japan. Of these, China has become the world leader in a remarkably short time, passing all other countries in installed mileage and lines under construction. On July 1 the Chinese High Speed Rail Ministry launched its latest high-speed rail service between Shanghai and Nanjing. The line includes 21 stations serving eight cities, and is designed for running at up to 217 mph.

China now has 4,300 miles of routes suitable for operation at 124 mph and above, of which almost 1250 are suitable for 217 mph.

In addition, China has budgeted 800 billion yuan (\$120 billion) to lay more than 3,728 miles of new high-speed tracks across the country by 2012, which will bring the total length of Chinese high-speed railways to 8,090 miles.

Along with all the other countries listed above, China has recognized that decisions about high-speed rail require a high level of specialized qualifications. As a result, every member of China's High Speed Rail Directorate has, in addition to their other capabilities, an engineering or scientific degree in a field pertinent to high-speed. The results speak for themselves.

In California, decisions are made by the High Speed Rail Authority. The California High Speed Rail "Authority" is not an authority, in any sense of the word. Despite the posted political resumes of its board members, much of which are inflated persiflage, here are the facts:

1) Not one of the nine board members of the authority has ever worked for or professionally managed a railroad.

2) Not one of the board members has a single engineering or scientific degree in any field relevant to high speed rail transport. In addition to their lack of credentials, their meandering indecision, blundering overstatements, and subsequent retractions corroborate that they are not qualified to oversee this highly technical enterprise that, if built, will affect the lives and property of millions of Californians

3) The authority is a sham, a political construct appointed by an administration that has brought the economy of the hitherto most prosperous of the United States to a condition of financial, educational and industrial crisis.

The voters of California get what they deserve. They should start to take back their franchise by demanding the dissolution of this facade and its replacement with a committee that is both qualified and competent to deal with the complex issues at hand.

Morton Grosser
Lemon Street
Menlo Park

AP classes 'rat race'

Editor,

Congratulations to the Weekly, the City Council, and the school board for focusing our community's attention on the issues so wisely covered in two recent issues.

I am especially pleased by comments focusing on issues of the "culture" of our community. As another "veteran" PAUSD teacher (42 years) and a long-time supporter of Adolescent Counseling Services, I have shared these concerns.

When I was instructional supervisor of Paly's social studies department, for every parent who came to me concerned about stress there were two who pushed for more AP offerings, especially when U.S. News ranked Gunn higher because

more APs were offered there.

Palo Alto parents value excellence and competitive college-admission opportunities for kids. This will not change, though it merits careful attention by each family. At an alumni meeting at Stanford, I learned that Stanford had added a position, "Dean of Freshmen," primarily to deal with increased numbers of entering students who were burned out in the process of gaining admission to Stanford. Yet there is no indication that Stanford or other "elite" colleges have de-emphasized AP expectations.

It would be interesting to see data on graduate-school admissions and scholarly achievement of students who had graduated from colleges and universities that had not emphasized "weighted" GPAs from high school as criteria on which to base projections of academic potential.

The AP "rat race" noted by a former colleague is not the only way to ensure a successful professional future. If parents and students gain this perspective the "culture" might be more balanced.

Suzan B. Stewart
Middlefield Road
Palo Alto

YOUR TURN

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

What do you think? Should end-of-semester final exams in Palo Alto high schools be moved to before winter break?

Submit letters to the editor of up to 250 words to letters@pawebly.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.

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For more information contact Editor Jay Thorwaldson or Online Editor Tyler Hanley at editor@pawebly.com or 650-326-8210.



Check out Town Square!

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

Guest Opinion

Service to others — gateway to youth well-being

by **Leif Erickson**
Several years ago a family moved to Palo Alto in the summer, and their older son entered high school as a freshman — not knowing a soul.



His parents later learned that each day he would come home from school and climb to the top of the walnut tree in the back yard. He would stay up there all afternoon, feeling unconnected and wishing he had never heard of Palo Alto.

Somehow he wound up at a Youth Community Service Club gathering at his school, and nervously signed up to volunteer at the Palo Alto VA Hospital in the Alzheimer's Ward.

Alone, he went each week to visit with the patients and to help dig in the courtyard garden. He liked that the Alzheimer's patients would laugh at the same jokes every time he told them. He looked forward to his visits and invited other YCS students to join him. Soon they had a weekly team of student volunteers at the VA.

That student was our son, Will. He later told us how much those early links had meant to him. In service he found the lifeline every young person feels they need in school — a group of like-minded friends and ground to stand on. He enjoyed feeling that he was valued for making a difference in the lives of others.

His early discovery and his later YCS Club leadership triggered my own journey — from a 25-year career in corporate marketing to my role today as executive director of the Youth

Community Service organization.

In my seven years as YCS director, I have learned a great deal from our local Project Cornerstone organization, the group that tracks and promotes social-emotional health factors among youth in Santa Clara County.

Reinforcing the lesson my own son taught me, Project Cornerstone leaders tell me "service to others is the gateway to a whole host of positive relationships, opportunities, values and skills that youth need to thrive."

According to Project Cornerstone's research, benefits young persons can acquire through service include the sense that the community values youth and that youth are seen as resources. Through service, young people can foster values and skills such as helping others, equality and social responsibility, and interpersonal and cultural competence.

They can gain a sense of purpose, a sense of personal power and self-esteem.

Our son began to learn personal and social skills as a high school student recruiting other students to volunteer. He uses those skills today mediating conflict among health care providers in Massachusetts.

Next month the Palo Alto school district will provide a benchmark for our community by administering Project Cornerstone's Developmental Assets Survey in our schools. The results will help us identify ways we can better support our young people as they grow.

In our own research at YCS, we have learned that youth with a strong sense of self-efficacy believe in their abilities to take effective actions to serve the needs of others in specific ways. Young people can increase this sense of personal effectiveness, or ability to make a difference, through service to others.

Self-efficacy can be an important element

in building the resiliency young people need to navigate the challenges of adolescence in our community.

At YCS, I also learned from research by former Berkeley professor Andrew Furco, now at the University of Minnesota. He reported on three areas of engagement gained by youth who are involved in learning through service, or "service learning." Those are civic engagement, social engagement and academic engagement.

Civic engagement: After Hurricane Katrina's devastation in New Orleans, I watched student volunteers learn skills in writing letters to government leaders to support East Palo Alto Mayor Ruben Abrica's efforts to win emergency funding to repair weakened levees that protect his community's low-lying neighborhoods.

Social engagement: I watched middle-school students in YCS "Summer of Service" camps from East Palo Alto and Palo Alto exercise new social skills in cross-cultural understanding and reciprocity as they volunteered together to serve meals in homeless programs.

Academic engagement: I watched freshmen volunteers on a San Francisco Creek watershed-quality project stretch their mental muscles to construct meaning and make connections across disciplines as they compared service experiences on our local creek with a Guadalupe River project in San Jose.

For middle-school students in particular, I've seen that service to others can build confidence, empathy and an emerging understanding of their place in the community that can serve them well as they face challenges that lie ahead.

Palo Alto City Councilman and Oakland

Assistant City Auditor Yiaway Yeh was once a middle-school student growing up in Palo Alto. On his website, he describes his journey to public service that began as a shy student who "fell in with a well-organized and committed community-service crowd."

In high school, he remembers, "I found the easy smiles and laughs while playing piano at Lytton Gardens and planting trees up in the (open space) Preserves to be a relief from AP academics and adolescent pressures. Community service provided me with opportunities to meet and serve with students from surrounding cities.

"I developed a sense of how Palo Alto's resources were special, that I was fortunate to live in such a community, and that I had a responsibility to always understand what was going on in my community."

Yiaway and my son were best friends and co-leaders in their high school's YCS Club and student government. I am grateful today that each of them discovered that service to others could become the gateway to confidence, empathy and well-being. And as a bonus it encouraged them both toward careers in public service.

For Will, it is indeed a long way from lonely afternoons up in a walnut tree. ■

Leif Erickson is executive director of Youth Community Service (YCS) with offices in Greendell campus in Palo Alto and Ravenswood Family Health Center in East Palo Alto. YCS is a community-based non-profit that was started 20 years ago as a partnership of Palo Alto and East Palo Alto and their school districts, along with Stanford's Haas Center and the YWCA. Erickson can be e-mailed at leif@youthcommunity-service.org.

Streetwise

What would you sacrifice for Stanford football to go to the Rose Bowl or for another favorite sports team to win the championship? Asked on California Avenue in Palo Alto. Interviews by Sally Schilling and Georgia Wells. Photographs by Georgia Wells.



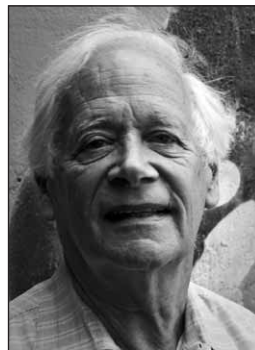
Maura Purcell
Nursing Student, UCSF
Inner Sunset, San Francisco

"I would sacrifice half of my spring break for UCLA to go to the Rose Bowl."



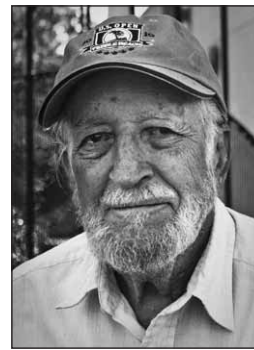
Kari McCallie
Pediatrician
Welch Road, Palo Alto

"I would sacrifice my morning coffee every morning for a month. That would be a lot of headaches."



Michael Goldeen
Insurance Agent
Cambridge Avenue, Palo Alto

"Absolutely nothing. It's of no consequence."



Ronald Dorfman
Professor Emeritus, Stanford
Downtown Palo Alto

"You don't need to sacrifice anything. Of course they are going to go."



Daniel Bohm
Student
Munger housing, Stanford

"Of course I'd kill a kitten — I'm deathly allergic."

EARL DOWNEND



Earl Downend, a Los Altos resident, passed away on Sep 16, 2010. He was 90. He attended Castlemont High School in Oakland where he lived until his wife, Erina Lovi, passed away. He spent his career working for the U.S. Coast Guard, was an avid gardener, a great cook, and loved to dance. The many people whose lives were touched by his effervescent spirit and good humor remember him affectionately

by nicknames ranging from Spook, Beav and The Arm to his all-time favorites, Daddy and Granddad. He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Chris and Nancy Downend of Fremont, and their children Noelle, Clint, Nicholas, Nathan and Ashley. He will be missed dearly by his daughter Diane Downend of Los Altos Hills, and her husband and children, Vince, Amanda, Olivia and Tony Zunino. No services will be held.

PAID OBITUARY

Transitions

Births, marriages and deaths

BIRTHS

Simanek-Cambouris, Jennifer, and Cambouris, Stephen of Palo Alto, a daughter, May 11.

Sanchez, Merced and Carlos of East Palo Alto, a son, July 13.

Witten, Illana, and Brenner, Jacob of Menlo Park, a daughter, July 16.

Boggs, Jennifer and Elliot of Menlo Park, a son, July 18.

Hosford, Ashton and Andrew of Stanford, a daughter, July 29.

Patterson, Caroline and Connor of Palo Alto, a daughter, July 30.

Kravetz, Michelle and Lee of Palo Alto, a son, Aug. 3.

Dampier, Brenda and Todd of Menlo Park, a son, Aug. 9.

Shen, Clarissa Yu, and Lin, James of Palo Alto, a son, Aug. 12.

Fernandez Lopes, Sara, and Martinez Rodriguez, Jose Angel of Menlo Park, a daughter, Aug. 23.

Sethi, Sonia, and Joshi, Himanshu of Palo Alto, a daughter, Aug. 28.

Gnegel, Julia and Steffen of Palo Alto, a daughter, Aug. 30.

Doorley, Scott and Rachele of Palo Alto, a daughter, Sept. 6.

Fetuu, Peau, and Tameifuna, Liuapeatau of Menlo Park, a daughter, Sept. 9.

Submitting Transitions announcements

The Palo Alto Weekly's Transitions page is devoted to births, weddings, anniversaries and deaths of local residents.

Obituaries for local residents are a free editorial service. Send information to Obituaries, Palo Alto Weekly, 450 Cambridge Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94306, or e-mail to editor@paweekly.com. Please include the name and telephone number of a person who might provide additional information about the deceased. Photos are accepted and printed on a space-available basis. The Weekly reserves the right to edit obituaries for space and format considerations.

Announcements of a local resident's recent wedding, anniversary or birth are also a free editorial service. Photographs are accepted for weddings and anniversaries. These notices are published on Fridays as space is available. Send announcements to the mailing, e-mail addresses listed above.

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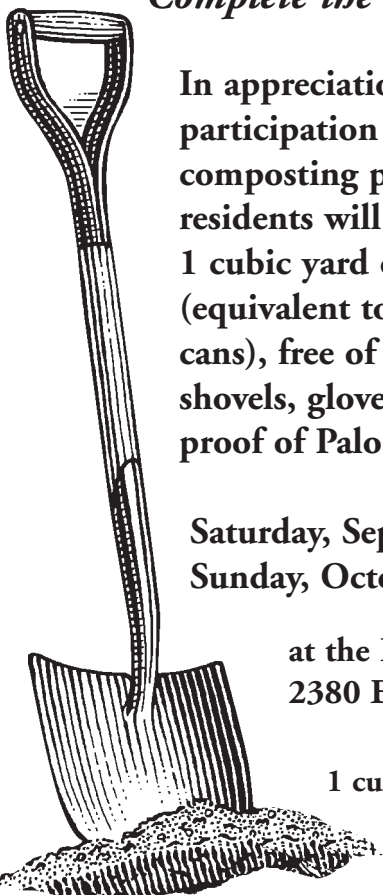
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FALL COMPOST GIVEAWAY

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In appreciation of citizen's participation in the curbside composting program, Palo Alto residents will be allowed up to 1 cubic yard of compost (equivalent to six full garbage cans), free of charge. Bring shovels, gloves, containers and proof of Palo Alto residency.

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Sunday, October 3, 2010

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1 cubic yard per event

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L.W. "BILL" LANE, JR.



A memorial service for Ambassador L. W. "Bill" Lane, Jr., AO, will be held in Stanford Memorial Church promptly at noon on Friday, October 1, 2010. All balconies will be open. Shuttle service from Galvez Field parking area will begin at 10:30. A reception following the ceremony will be at Frances C. Arrillaga Alumni Center, Stanford Campus. In lieu of flowers, gifts in Bill's memory would be welcome at Peninsula Open Space Trust, California State Parks Foundation, Yosemite Conservancy, and Portola Valley Open Space Acquisition Fund.

PAID MEMORIAL

(continued from page 15)

Atherton

Sept. 14-20

Violence related

Assault/battery 2

Theft related

Fraud 2

Petty theft 5

Vehicle related

Auto recovery 1

Parking/driving violation 9

Suspicious vehicle 6

Vehicle accident/minor injury 1

Vehicle accident/property damage 4

Vehicle code violation 2

Miscellaneous

Animal call 2

Be on the lookout 1

Citizen assistance 6

Construction 4

Disturbance 5

Fire call 2

Hang-up 1

Hazard 6

Juvenile problem 1

Medical aid 2

Meet citizen 5

Outside assistance 12

Perimeter check 15

Psychiatric hold 1

Repossessed vehicle 1

Suspicious circumstance 4

Suspicious person 4

Town ordinance violation 7

Tree blocking roadway 1

VIOLENT CRIMES

Palo Alto

300 block E. Charleston Road, 9/14, 8:05 a.m.; domestic violence.

Walter Hays Drive, 9/15, 10 p.m.; domestic violence/battery.

Maybell Avenue, 9/17, 2:20 p.m.; domestic violence/battery.

200 block California Avenue, 9/18, 1:47 a.m.; strong arm robbery.

Sierra Court, 9/18, 2:30 p.m.; family violence/battery.

Josina Avenue, 9/18, 10:21 p.m.; elder abuse/neglect.

Lytton Plaza, 9/19, 2:35 a.m.; battery.

200 block University Avenue, 9/19, 2:59 a.m.; domestic violence/battery.

Bryant Street, 9/20, 8:32 p.m.; armed robbery.

900 block Amarillo Avenue, 9/17, 7:52 a.m.; arson.

2600 block Middlefield Road, 9/18, 9:11 p.m.; arson.

Menlo Park

1300 block Willow Road, 9/15, 8:28 a.m.; battery.

100 block Terminal Avenue, 9/14, 5:17 a.m.; spousal abuse.

Atherton

500 block Middlefield Road, 9/15, 2:33 p.m.; assault/battery.

Middlefield Road, 9/20, 2:50 p.m.; assault/battery.

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CITY OF SAN JOSE
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ON THE WRONG TRACK

by Gennady Sheyner

Last week, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger so-journed to Asia for a brisk, three-nation tour of high-speed rail systems.

Before boarding Japan's widely acclaimed Shinkansen bullet train, Schwarzenegger marveled at the technology around him. Surrounded by reporters and aides, he praised the nation's rail infrastructure, including its tunnels and double-decker trains.

"The ingenuity is really unbelievable," said Schwarzenegger, whose tour also included stops in China and South Korea.

At one point, he took 10 minutes out of his busy schedule to dial into a San Diego conference, where about 30 officials from various parts of the state voiced their frustrations about California's own high-speed rail effort. The meeting, sponsored by Palo Alto, was scheduled in conjunction with the annual League of California Cities conference. City leaders from northern, southern and central California participated.

According to Palo Alto Mayor Pat Burt, who hosted the meeting with Councilman Larry Klein, Schwarzenegger told the city leaders that he understands their concerns about the rail system's potential impacts. He then asked them to subordinate these concerns for the greater good of the state.

Klein, who has recently emerged as Palo Alto's fiercest high-speed-rail critic, characterized Schwarzenegger's remarks as "condescending" and said he wasn't the only conference attendee to feel that way. One "grandmotherly" councilwoman from Southern California held up a note while the governor was talking inscribed with the letters "BS," he said.

The sign, in many ways, epitomized the feelings of Midpeninsula city officials about California's high-speed rail project, which state officials hope



Palo Alto Councilman Larry Klein, who chairs the city's High-Speed Rail Committee, initially supported the state's proposed rail project. He is now opposing it, based on a lack of confidence in the California High-Speed Rail Authority.

MIDPENINSULA CITIES CHARGE THAT PLANS FOR STATE HIGH-SPEED RAIL ARE HEADED OFF COURSE

will connect San Francisco to Los Angeles by 2020. Voters approved a \$9.95 billion bond for the rail system in November 2008, when they passed Proposition 1A.

This week, Atherton, Menlo Park and Palo Alto councils all voted unanimously (in Menlo Park, one council member abstained) to sue the California High-Speed Rail Authority, claiming the agency has failed to address their concerns in violation of the California Environmental Quality Act. Burlingame and Belmont are both scheduled to consider lawsuits in closed sessions next week.

The sign, in many ways, epitomized the feelings of Midpeninsula city officials about California's high-speed rail project, which state officials hope

Suing is one of many tools Midpeninsula officials are using in their quest to slow down the \$42.6 billion project. In recent months, city officials have attended rail authority meetings in Sacramento to criticize the most recent plans and have sent letters to state and federal officials complaining about the process. The Peninsula Cities Consortium, which consists of Atherton, Menlo Park, Palo Alto, Belmont and Burlingame, also issued a public statement in July claiming the rail authority has "an enormous credibility problem" and challenging the authority to "build right or not at all."

Palo Alto city leaders this week took their firmest stance to date against the project in its current form. The council, which voted to support the high-speed rail project back in October 2008, unani-

Where they stand How Peninsula cities have protested the rail plans

ATHERTON	Sued the California High-Speed Rail Authority in 2008, prompting the agency to de-certify and revise its Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Council voted unanimously this week to join new suit against the rail authority, claiming the revised EIR failed to address the city's comments. Wrote a letter to the Federal Railroad Administration urging the agency "not to provide any federal money to the California high-speed rail project at this time."
BELMONT	Council submitted a letter to the Federal Railroad Administration requesting that the agency "reject any proposal to fund an aerial solution along any part of the San Francisco Caltrain corridor." The council is also scheduled to consider next week whether to join the lawsuit against the rail authority
BURLINGAME	Council submitted a letter a letter to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) last month requesting the agency fund Caltrain and "let the CHSRA take the time needed to get alignment, business plan and other critical factors right before coming to you for more money." The letter urges the FRA not to fund any "aerial option" through the Peninsula. The council met in closed session this week to consider joining the lawsuit but did not reach a decision. Council members are scheduled to revisit the subject next week.
MENLO PARK	Sued the California High-Speed Rail Authority in 2008, prompting the agency to de-certify and revise its Program EIR. Council voted 4-0 this week, with one member abstaining, to join the new suit against the rail authority, claiming that the revised EIR failed to address the city's comments.
MOUNTAIN VIEW	Council held a meeting earlier this week to discuss high-speed rail. The majority of the council said they were opposed to hosting a station in the city.
PALO ALTO	Council unanimously adopted a "no confidence" resolution in the high-speed rail project this week and voted to file a lawsuit against the California High-Speed Rail Authority.

mously passed a resolution Monday night declaring "no confidence" in the project. The city also voted 5 to 4, with Mayor Pat Burt, Vice Mayor Sid Espinosa, Councilman Greg Scharff and Councilwoman Nancy Shepherd dissenting, to send a letter to the Federal Railroad Administration requesting that the agency stop its \$1 billion funding of the project.

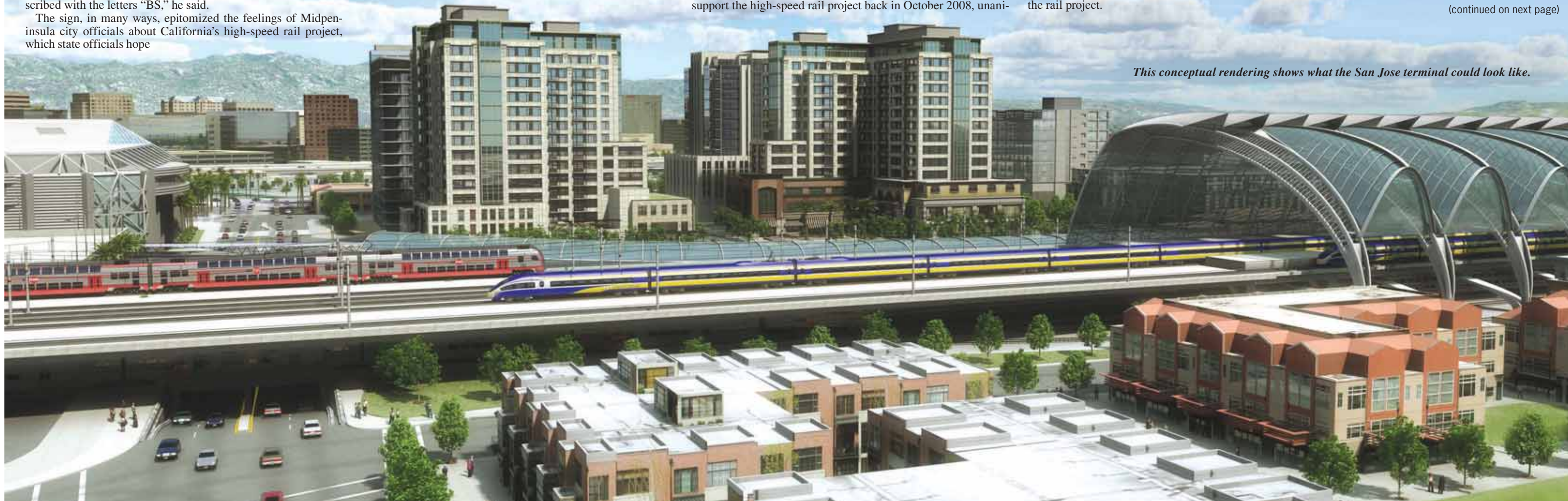
Espinosa, who was on the council when it supported Proposition 1A, said he has "gone through every emotion" over the past two years when it comes to the rail project.

"Like so many Californians, I started with excitement, then confusion while on the council, then frustration with the authority and finally to anger," Espinosa said. "Like so many Californians, I was excited by the prospect of being able to jump on a train and being able to get to L.A. in a quick manner."

"I soon realized like so many of us that the High-Speed Rail Authority was in fact not a good partner."

(continued on next page)

This conceptual rendering shows what the San Jose terminal could look like.



Courtesy California High-Speed Rail Authority

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Cover Story



Courtesy California High-Speed Rail Authority

The Altamont Pass, shown here in a conceptual illustration, is the route advocated by Menlo Park and Atherton. The rail line is proposed to take the Pacheco Pass.

High-speed rail

(continued from previous page)

Klein, who chairs the city's High-Speed Rail Committee, was also once a rail supporter. Two years ago, he co-authored a resolution with former Councilwoman Yoriko Kishimoto urging Palo Alto voters to pass Proposition 1A. The two council members called high-speed rail a "proven technology" and argued that it "will provide a faster, far better environmental solution to the problem of moving our state's growing population from one part of the state to another."

Now, Klein is the council's fiercest critic of the project. At a Sept. 15 committee meeting, he described the city's negotiations with the rail authority as a "bare-knuckles political fight" and a David-versus-Goliath struggle.

"We have a serious problem facing our city which we have little power over," Klein said.

Palo Alto officials have expressed a litany of concerns about the project, including (but not limited to) the rail authority's estimation of how many people will use the rail line; its elimination of deep tunnels and covered trenches as possible design options; its failure to provide any information about potential property seizures along the Caltrain corridor; its virtual abandonment of the "context-sensitive solutions" model, which gives stake-

holders a say in the design of the line; and the speed with which the design work is proceeding.

Though the lawsuit isn't expected to stop the project, Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Atherton officials hope it will at least slow it down. They also hope the suit will force the rail authority to reopen its voluminous Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the second time and re-evaluate its selection of Pacheco Pass as the preferred route rather than the Altamont Pass in the East Bay.

Stuart Flashman, the attorney who represented Atherton, Menlo Park and a coalition of nonprofit groups in a 2008 lawsuit against the Rail Authority, said he believes the revised Environmental Impact Report (EIR) remains inaccurate, particularly when it comes to projected ridership numbers. These estimations are critical because they provide the basis for the rail authority's choice of Pacheco Pass over the Altamont. Flashman said the rail authority probably would have reached a different decision had it made its projections correctly.

"The message we're sending to the High-Speed Rail Authority is that we're going to keep making you do it until you do it right," Flashman said.

The coalition's initial lawsuit forced the rail authority to de-certify the EIR for the Bay Area-to-Central Valley segment of the line and revise chapters relating to vibration impact, project description and Union Pacific's opposition to sharing its tracks with the new

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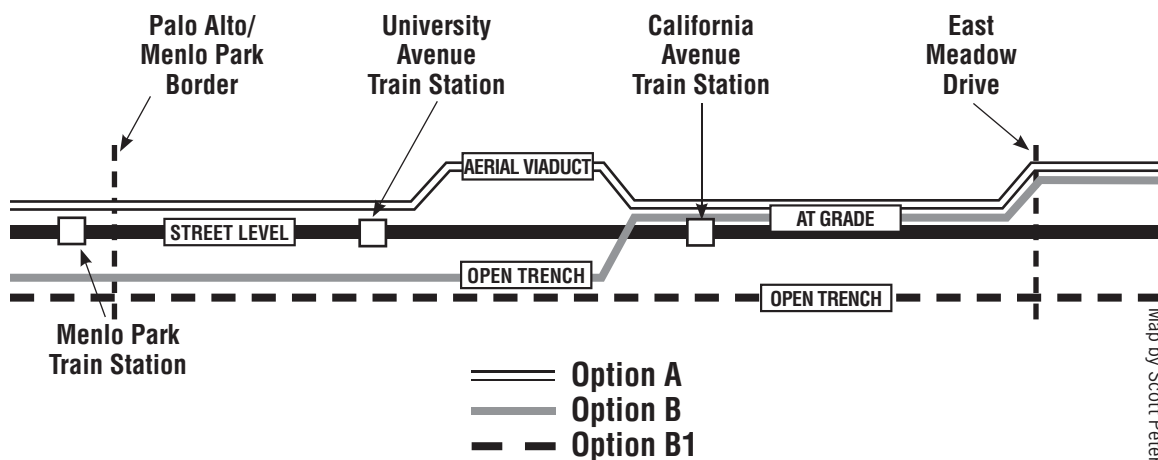
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Running rail through Palo Alto



Three options for traveling through Palo Alto are currently proposed by the state rail authority: 'A' includes both aerial and street-level tracks; 'B' combines open trench, street-level and aerial tracks; and 'B1' consists of an open trench alone.

high-speed trains. Palo Alto was not a plaintiff in that suit but filed a "friend of the court" brief in support of its Midpeninsula neighbors.

Sacramento Superior Court Judge Michael Kenny did not require the rail authority to revisit the issue of route selection. Flashman hopes the new lawsuit — along with a recent report by UC Berkeley's Institute of Transportation Studies (ITS) that found the ridership projections "unreliable" and recent evidence that the rail authority's ridership models weren't publicized or peer-reviewed before the EIR was issued — will change that.

The new lawsuit also seeks to slow down the rail authority's design process for the San Francisco-to-San Jose segment of the 800-mile line. The rail authority is scheduled to release a highly anticipated Project Environmental Impact Report in December that would analyze the various design options — including trenches, aerial viaducts and at-grade tracks — along the Peninsula.

Flashman said the group wants to make sure the rail authority doesn't certify this new document until it resolves the outstanding issues with the broader document and proves that the Pacheco Pass is indeed the proper alignment for the new line.

"They haven't made the basic decisions about the Program EIR but they're going ahead with the new (Project) EIR," Flashman told the Weekly. "It's kind of like putting on your coat before you put on your shirt."

Jeffrey Barker, the rail authority's deputy director, declined to comment on the cities' planned litigation other than to point out that "this kind of thing is not unexpected for an infrastructure project of this size and scope."

The authority's goal, he wrote in an e-mail, is "to work with every community to help shape the best high-speed rail project possible, and (the authority) would hope that elected officials choose to engage meaningfully in that process."

The Midpeninsula's gradual insurgency against the rail project has not gone unnoticed by rail proponents, both in Sacramento and in the Bay Area. Authority CEO Roelof van Ark recently joined officials from Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Atherton and Mountain View for a tour of the Caltrain corridor, where the rail officials hope to place the new system. Van Ark, who did not respond to a request from the Weekly for comment, also wrote a letter to Peninsula officials on Aug. 24 assuring them that "the trench option through many Peninsula cities remains an option to be further studied and evaluated," despite recent analyses indicating that it's an unlikely option further south along the Midpeninsula.

Schwarzenegger's phone call to the San Diego

(continued on next page)

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High-speed rail

(continued from previous page)

conference also struck Klein and Burt as a sign that Sacramento is finally hearing (though not addressing) the cacophony of complaints from local officials.

"I was very glad to have the governor try to hijack our meeting," Klein said at the Sept. 20 council meeting. "It was a confession that we're being taken seriously."

The volunteer group Californians for High-Speed Rail is also trying to quell the Peninsula storm. On Sept. 13, the group launched a "Peninsula Reset" campaign, aimed at changing the tone of the conversation. The San Francisco-based group wrote an open letter urging, among other things, that Peninsula officials "publicly acknowledge the benefits that HSR will bring to their communities in terms of necessary upgrades such as improved pedestrian safety and traffic conditions due to grade separations."

The group also calls for the rail authority to commit to "better communications with Peninsula cities and to provide a new staff member that is dedicated solely to resolving all the complex issues along the Peninsula."

Chairman Robert Cruickshank, who founded the California High Speed Rail Blog, said the group is "generally pleased" with the project's progress thus far. He called the Institute of Transportation Studies report's criticism of the authority's



AFTER

Courtesy California High-Speed Rail Authority

ridership numbers "an argument between academics over how you study ridership" and said the project has come a long way since voters approved Proposition 1A. Most people on the Peninsula continue to support the project, he said.

For evidence, the group points to a poll conducted by the firm Fair-

bank, Maslin, Mullin and Metz in April for a political candidate in the 21st Assembly District. The poll showed 77 percent of Democratic and independent voters taking part in the Democratic primary as supporting the project.

"What we're seeing on the Peninsula and what we're not seeing



BEFORE

Courtesy California High-Speed Rail Authority

Conceptual illustrations show an open-trench (at top), which would replace at-grade (above) tracks at the Burbank (Southern California) crossing.

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Courtesy California High-Speed Rail Authority

High-speed rail is depicted at the Transbay Terminal in San Francisco.

around the state is a much more organized and concerted effort to undermine the project," Cruickshank told the Weekly. "We see a lot of public support that's not been mobilized."

Daniel Krause, co-founder of the Californians for High Speed Rail, said he helped found the group in 2005 largely to urge legislators in Sacramento to provide funding for the project. Late last year, he and other group members realized they would need to become more active to counter the organized opposition on the Peninsula.

He acknowledged that mobilizing supporters is always a challenge — it's the people who oppose the project who are more likely to attend meetings and get involved. But his group remains hopeful that the "silent majority" of rail supporters will soon speak up.

"High-speed rail provides a lot of opportunities, not just problems," Krause said. "We're really encouraging people to re-look at benefits of the project."

In Palo Alto, at least, the benefits of the rail system have been largely overshadowed by fears and anxieties. Over a series of emotional public hearings in August and September, council members and residents slammed the latest design plans for the planned system, which the rail authority unveiled last month.

The plans, outlined in the Supplemental Alternatives Analysis Report, eliminate the locally popular deep tunnels and covered trenches from consideration on the Midpeninsula and narrow the design options to at-grade (street level) tracks, aerial viaducts and open trenches. The rail authority is scheduled to release a fuller analysis of the remaining design options in December, as part of its Project EIR for the San Francisco-to-San Jose segment of the line.

Palo Alto officials are already gearing up for a battle over the new report. The city has hired the civil-

(continued on next page)

Family Fun Day: Learn, Laugh, Love!

Saturday, Oct. 2 11 AM to 3 PM

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City of Palo Alto NOTICE OF DIRECTOR'S HEARING

To be held at **2:00 p.m., Thursday, October 7, 2010** in the Palo Alto City Council Conference Room, 1st Floor, Civic Center, 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, California. Go to the Development Center at 285 Hamilton Avenue to review filed documents; contact Alicia Spotwood for information regarding business hours at 650-617-3168.

559 Everett Ave [08PLN-00282]: Request by Alex Andreev and Vita Gorbunova for Individual Review of a two story addition and remodeling of the existing single-family residence, and a new detached one car garage. The plans for this project have been revised since the original submittal. Zone: R-1. Environmental Review: Exempt from CEQA

2615 Cowper Avenue [10PLN-00159]: Request by Yi-Ran Wu on behalf of L.L. Dai for Individual Review for a new two-story single family residence. The plans for this project have been revised since the original submittal. Zone: R-1.

Curtis Williams
Director of Planning and Community Environment

Cover Story

High-speed rail

(continued from previous page)

engineering firm Hatch Mott McDonald to review the Alternatives Analysis, and representatives of the firm said they have already uncovered a number of flaws and inconsistencies in the document.

Hatch Mott McDonald concluded in its review earlier this month that the rail authority hasn't been clear about the depth of the open trench in its cost projections; that its plan to switch from at-grade to aerial alignments in Palo Alto "does not appear to be consistent with the CHSRA policy to avoid a 'roller coaster' configuration"; and that the rail authority's rejection of the covered-trench option is questionable, given that the construction process for open and closed trenches is "nearly identical."

Palo Alto's traffic engineers, meanwhile, have completed their own analysis of high-speed rail's possible impact on traffic and concluded that the effects would be substantial if the tracks run at street level as Caltrain does now. These impacts would be particularly significant if the rail authority chooses to build the project in phases, a plan it laid out last month in an application for federal funds.

In that application, the authority proposed a scenario in which the high-speed trains and Caltrain would use four grade-separated tracks between San Francisco and Redwood City, then switch to a shared street-level two-

track system along the Midpeninsula before going back to the four-track system in Mountain View. Staff has estimated that if this option were to materialize, it would take 10 minutes for traffic on Alma Street to recover after each train passed through.

The city is also preparing a series of studies of the Caltrain corridor, including an analysis of a high-speed rail system's economic impact and a property-value analysis for land near the corridor. These studies, the council hopes, will help the city acquire the answers it's been seeking (and not getting) from the rail authority.


Burt said the city plans to continue to "work constructively" with the rail authority over its plans, the new lawsuit notwithstanding. Klein also said the city should remain engaged in the design process for the new system, though urged his council colleagues to take a firmer tone with the rail authority during these negotiations.

"We tried to be nice guys — that's our style in Palo Alto," Klein said at the Sept. 15 meeting of the high-speed rail committee. "We've been rejected over and over again by the High-Speed Rail Authority.

"That's a view clearly shared up and down the Peninsula," he added. "We're not acting alone." ■

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

On the cover: Design by Shannon Corey, with an illustration courtesy of the California High-Speed Rail Authority.



STANFORD OUTDOOR SIREN TESTS
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7TH

Stanford University will test its outdoor emergency siren system twice, 30 minutes apart on **Thursday, October 7th**. The test, which residents of Menlo Park and Palo Alto may hear, will consist of a warning tone, followed by a verbal message.

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Ellen Sussman, *Ellen Sussman's new novel, French Lessons, will be published by Ballantine in May, 2011. She is the author of On a Night Like This, Dirty Words: A Literary Encyclopedia Of Sex and Bad Girls: 26 Writers Misbehave. Her website is www.ellensussman.com.*
Keith Raffel, Author of the local best seller "Dot Dead: A Silicon Valley Mystery"

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All Writers: All winning stories will be published online at www.PaloAltoOnline.com
October 1, 2010
5:30 p.m.

CONTEST RULES

- The contest is open to anyone who lives, works or attends school full-time in Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Atherton, Stanford, Portola Valley, Woodside, Mountain View, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, and East Palo Alto.
- Limit of one entry per person.
- Stories must be typed, double-spaced. Maximum 2,500 words. Longer stories will be disqualified.**
- \$15 entry fee, along with hard copy, for all ADULT stories; \$5 entry fee for YOUNG WRITERS under 18. Make checks payable to "Palo Alto Weekly."
- Entries may not have been previously published.
- Signed entry form must accompany story. Author's name should NOT appear anywhere on pages of story.
- All winners are required to email their story to the Palo Alto Weekly in a Microsoft Word Document as an attachment.

Mail manuscripts to: Palo Alto Weekly Short Story Contest, P.O. Box 1610, Palo Alto, CA 94302 or they can be dropped off at 450 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto

Questions: email Amy Renalds at arenalds@paweekly.com








Arts & Entertainment

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

Right: Nancy Coleman with her artwork in her Palo Alto home, where she frames many of the pieces. To her left is "Footnote," in which she laid out kale leaves in a star. Below: In "Compassion," Coleman created the flowery hand in 82 Photoshop layers.

Artist captures fleeting moments in the life of flora — wilted or fresh

Ephemeral BEAUTY



Veronica Weber

by Rebecca Wallace

The farmers market makes a great art-supply store if you like to work in beets. Nancy Coleman's Palo Alto garden has also yielded very artistic kale. Her kitchen serves up inspiration, too.

"Sometimes I'll be making dinner and I'll just stop and set up the camera," Coleman says. It's hard to resist picturesque produce.

In Coleman's works, part fine-art photography and part digital art, she focuses on items from nature, often arranged with an eye for patterns. There's a "Berry Mandala," and "Footnote," in which kale leaves are laid out in a star.

In her home studio, feathers, leaves and tree bark await their close-ups. Pensively, Coleman turns over a hummingbird's nest in her hands. "I might pull it apart and make homemade paper," she says.

Usually, Coleman captures the souls of these natural things with a camera, iPhone or scanner. She then alters the images digitally, perhaps adding a painterly texture or words. In "Compassion," she created a hand from blossoms — in 82 Photoshop layers — and then surrounded it with a handwritten meditation written over and over.

"One transformation I would like to see in our world is for everyone to be kinder, more loving, more compassionate," Coleman wrote in an artist's statement. "What better way to represent that than an open hand made of flowers?"

"Compassion" is one of her pieces now on exhibit at Palo Alto's Gallery House, in a duet with ceramicist Kiyoko Michot.

Some of Coleman's pieces in the exhibition have traditional frames, while others reflect a new direction. Recently, she's been mounting prints on wood and layering them with beeswax, or getting images printed on smooth aluminum panels. Coleman is big on artistic experimentation.

(Further evidence: Her garage door is stenciled with the numbers that make up pi. She did the spray-paint project with her son, a physics student.)

The term "picturesque" has a thousand meanings to a thousand photographers. In Coleman's studio, the most beautiful is not necessarily the

(continued on page 29)



Kiyoko Michot's ceramic piece "Purple Heart," center, and Nancy Coleman's work "Summertime," above, are both now on exhibit at Gallery House in Palo Alto.



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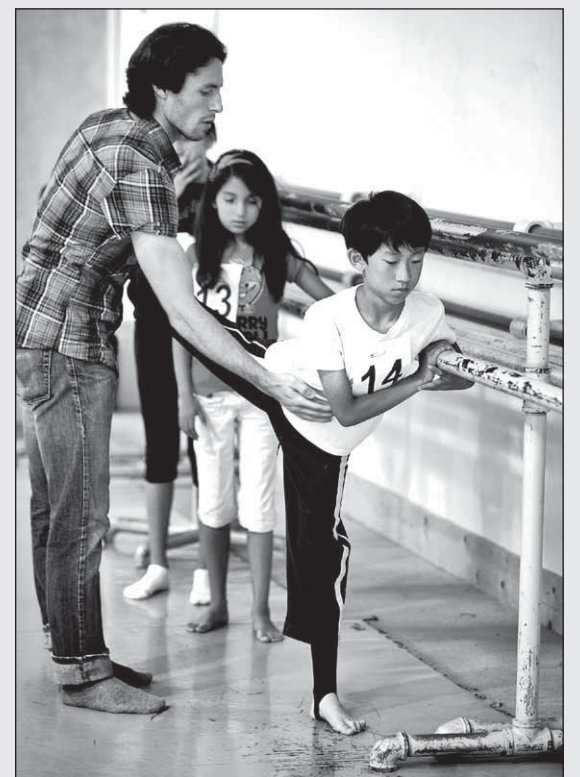
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The chance to dance

A group of girls and boys gathered recently at Western Ballet Company in Mountain View for the Nina Novak Scholarship auditions. The kids, 6 to 12 years old, sought to win a one-year grant to study dance.

The new scholarship aims to give artistic opportunities to low-income children. "The hope is that once they're in the program, they'll just keep on going until they reach the highest levels," board member Camilla Kao said.

One of the winners was Melanie Garcia of Mountain View (number 10, pictured above). The 9-year-old seemed determined to go far indeed. "I've wanted to do ballet since I was 7," she said. ■

photographs by Michelle Le

Black & White Ball may be less gray this year

Organizers of 'masked ball' seek ways to woo the under-35 set

by Jay Thorwaldson

Palo Alto's biennial Black & White Ball fundraising dinner/dance could be a bit less gray this year. Organizers are offering a reduced ticket cost to the under-35 set.

The ball is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 2, at 7:30 p.m. at the Lucie Stern Community Center, 1305 Middlefield Road. Organizers expect a turnout of up to 1,500 persons this year, up from about a thousand in recent years.

To add a touch of mystery and zest, this year's theme is a "masked ball," meaning that everyone who signs up will be given a black mask to wear to the "black-tie" event, according to Wynn Hauser, one of the volunteer organizers of the event. Or people can create their own masks, using feathers, sequins or

other accoutrements.

While black-and-white garb is encouraged, it is not required as part of the overall theme. Typically only about a third of the male attendees wear tuxedos, while most come in dark suits and ties. Women come in gowns or semi-formal dresses, not always black.

"We call it 'creative formal,'" Hauser said. "If people want to wear something other than black and white they won't be checked at the door," with a possible exception for "ordinary jeans."

Even Zorro-style capes will be welcomed this year to go with the mask theme, Hauser said.

The 2008 ball had a plaid theme, and some men showed up wearing kilts, he recalled.

About 40 restaurants are involved

in preparing food for the event and there will be live music throughout the Lucie Stern center, Hauser said.

The ball is sponsored by the Palo Alto Recreation Foundation. Proceeds go to youth programs in the community, including Youth Community Service, middle-school athletic programs, the Palo Alto Library Foundation, Partners in Education, and the Palo Alto Family YMCA.

Co-sponsors include Hewlett Packard as a "gold sponsor" and the Palo Alto Weekly/Palo Alto Online as media sponsor.

Tickets for persons older than 35 are \$135 per person, or \$100 if purchased in a group of 10 — which also gives the group a table, Hauser said. But for persons under 35, tickets are \$90 to "encourage attendance by a new generation," he said.

Advance purchase of tickets is encouraged but tickets can be purchased at the door if necessary, he said, reflecting a pattern of people tending to wait until the last minute. The ball's website is www.thepalooatoblackandwhiteball.org. ■



"Vogue" is one of the many works in which Coleman explores the beauty of older, wilting plants.

Ephemeral beauty

(continued from page 27)

newest spring blossom. She often uses withered leaves, or lets a flower wilt before she photographs it. "These petals look like organza," she says admiringly of one flower that is nearly sheer with age.

To Coleman, these choices reflect the Japanese philosophy of wabi-sabi, in which beauty is often transient, natural and imperfect. As she creates, she thinks about the passage of time, how a thing that is worn can be beautiful.

"I've got gray hair. I'm looking in the mirror. We only have so long," she says. "I try to help people see and reflect on their own lives in a new way."

In "Vogue," Coleman focuses on a single dried tulip, pairing it with similarly aged foliage.

"What struck me was the very conscious pose of the single flower above its elegantly draped, flowing robes," she wrote in an artist's statement. "The mode reminds me of the highly stylized, innovative fashion photos by Richard Avedon in the '60s for Vogue and Bazaar."

There's also an elegance about the Kiyoco Michot works in the current exhibition. Michot's porcelain bowl "Purple Heart" has an inviting smoothness, while a trio of vases stand straight-backed, but with just enough texture and curve to look organic.

Creating, Michot said in an e-mail, is not just about working with the porcelain and painting the form; it also involves "inspiration, mental play, nurturing time." After that, she added, "I do not have another way to go but materialize the idea."

As for Coleman's inspiration, it comes in part from her design sensibilities. Her background includes owning a design and marketing firm, which she closed seven years ago to focus on consulting and then on art.

In addition, she got the idea to use beeswax in her art from artist Ally Richter, who specializes in encaustic (hot wax) painting. Richter and Coleman serve together on Palo Alto's Public Art Commission.

Coleman joined the board about a year and a half ago, and says she has enjoyed the behind-the-scenes work that goes into managing the city's public-art collection and projects, "not just the sexy stuff of selecting art."

So far, the work has also included repairing and maintaining art, and building a new website to help make the commission more visible.

The latter project includes photographing all the public-art pieces, some of which are in storage, Coleman says. She notes that many Palo Altans don't have a clear picture of their city's resources. "You own this art, and you should see what you own." ■

What: "Transformation," an exhibition of artwork by Nancy Coleman and Kiyoco Michot

Where: Gallery House, 320 California Ave., Palo Alto

When: Through Oct. 16, open Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. A reception is set from 6 to 8 p.m. tonight.

Cost: Free

Info: Go to galleryhouse2.com or call 650-326-1668. For more about Coleman's art, go to gardenpoet.blogspot.com. Her new self-published book, "Garden Poetry," can be found at blurb.com/books/1588186.

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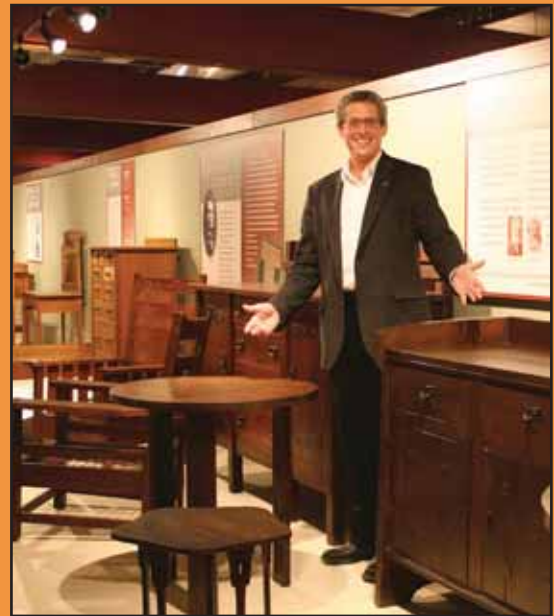
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MOVIE TIMES

Movie times for the Century 16 theater are for Friday through Tuesday only.

Alpha and Omega (PG) (Not Reviewed)	Century 16: In 3D at 11:25 a.m.; 1:45, 4:15, 6:30 & 8:50 p.m. Century 20: 12:20, 2:40, 4:55 & 7:10 p.m.; In 3D at 11:20 a.m.; 1:35, 3:50, 6, 8:15 & 10:30 p.m.
The American (R) **	Century 16: 11:15 a.m.; 1:50, 4:25, 7:15 & 9:50 p.m. Century 20: Fri.-Tue. at 1:50 & 6:40 p.m.
Anna Karenina (1935) (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed)	Stanford Theatre: Sat.-Mon. at 7:30 p.m.; Sun. also at 3:25 p.m.
Beauty and the Beast Sing-Along Event (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed)	Century 16: Wed. at 6:30 p.m. Century 20: Wed. at 6:30 p.m.
Cairo Time (PG) ***	Guild Theatre: 3:30, 6 & 8:30 p.m.
Devil (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)	Century 16: 11:05 a.m.; 1:10, 3:15, 5:20, 7:50 & 10 p.m. Century 20: 11:35 a.m.; 12:40, 1:45, 2:45, 3:55, 4:50, 5:55, 6:55, 8:05, 9 & 10:10 p.m.
Easy A (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)	Century 16: 11:40 a.m.; 12:55, 2:20, 3:20, 4:45, 5:45, 7:10, 8:15, 9:45 & 10:35 p.m. Century 20: 11:30 a.m.; 12:25, 2:50, 4:25, 5:15, 7:50, 9:15 & 10:20 p.m.
Eat Pray Love (PG-13) **1/2	Century 16: 11:35 a.m. & 6:35 p.m.
The Exorcist Director's Cut Event (R) (Not Reviewed)	Century 16: Thu. at 7 & 10:30 p.m. Century 20: Thu. at 7 & 10:30 p.m.
Going the Distance (R) **	Century 20: 12:15 p.m.
Heartbreaker (PG) ***	Aquarius Theatre: 2, 4:30, 7 & 9:30 p.m.
Inception (PG-13) ***1/2	Century 16: 2:55 & 9:40 p.m. Century 20: 3:25, 6:45 & 10 p.m.
Jack Goes Boating (R) ***	Century 16: 11:45 a.m.; 2:15, 4:55, 7:45 & 10:20 p.m.
Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole (PG) (Not Reviewed)	Century 16: 12:10, 2:50, 5:30, 8:10 & 10:40 p.m.; In 3D at 11 & 11:30 a.m.; 1:30, 2:10, 4:10, 4:50, 6:50, 7:30, 9:30 & 10:10 p.m. Century 20: Fri.-Sun. at 11:55 a.m.; 2:25, 4:55, 7:25 & 9:55 p.m.; In 3D (Fri.-Thu.) at 11:25 a.m.; 12:30, 1:55, 3, 4:25 & 10:25 p.m.; Fri.-Tue. also at 5:30, 7, 8 & 9:25 p.m.; Wed. also at 7 & 9:25 p.m.; Thu. also at 5:30 & 8 p.m.
Mao's Last Dancer (PG) **	Aquarius Theatre: 2:30 & 5:15 p.m.; Fri.-Mon., Wed. & Thu. also at 8 p.m.
Resident Evil: Afterlife (R) (Not Reviewed)	Century 16: In 3D at 11:20 a.m.; 2:05, 4:30, 7 & 9:35 p.m. Century 20: 9:30 p.m.; In 3D at 12:45, 3:10, 5:35, 7:55 & 10:35 p.m.
The Romantics (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)	Century 20: 11:45 a.m.; 2:15, 4:40, 7:15 & 9:45 p.m.
The Social Network (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)	Century 20: Thu. at 12:01 a.m.
Tapestries of Hope (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed)	Aquarius Theatre: Tue. at 8 p.m.
The Town (R) ***1/2	Century 20: Noon, 1:30, 3, 4:30, 5:50, 7:30, 8:50 & 10:30 p.m. CinéArts at Palo Alto Square: 1:25, 3, 4:25 & 7:15 p.m.; Fri. & Sat. also at 6, 8:50 & 10:05 p.m.; Sun.-Tue. & Thu. also at 6 p.m.
The Virginity Hit (R) (Not Reviewed)	Century 20: 12:05, 2:20, 4:45, 7:20 & 9:40 p.m.
Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)	Century 16: 11 a.m.; noon, 12:50, 2, 3, 3:50, 5, 6:20, 7:20, 8:20, 9:20 & 10:30 p.m. Century 20: 11:50 a.m.; 12:55, 2, 2:55, 4, 5, 6, 7:05, 8:10, 9:05 & 10:05 p.m.
We Live Again (1934) (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed)	Stanford Theatre: Sat.-Mon. at 5:55 & 10 p.m.
You Again (PG) (Not Reviewed)	Century 16: 11:10 & 11:55 a.m.; 1:40, 2:40, 4:10, 5:10, 7:05, 8, 9:55 & 10:40 p.m. Century 20: 11:40 a.m.; 1:10, 2:30, 3:45, 5:05, 6:20, 7:40, 8:55 & 10:15 p.m.

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

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

Real, Palo Alto (493-3456)

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

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

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

Stanford: 221 University Ave., Palo Alto (324-3700)

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Internet: For show times, plot synopses, trailers and more information about films playing, go to PaloAltoOnline.com.

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OPENINGS

Jack Goes Boating

★★★

(Century 16) Philip Seymour Hoffman's directorial debut, "Jack Goes Boating," offers an alternative for those tired of the conventions of Hollywood romantic comedy.

Arguably, it replaces one set of conventions for another — those of the typical Off-Broadway dramedy — but I'll take shaggy weirdness over cynical slickness every time. Adapted by Bob Glaudivi from his own play, "Jack Goes Boating" indeed comes directly from Off-Broadway, where Hoffman played the title character. Hoffman reprises his role on screen, and reunites with his costars John Ortiz and Daphne Rubin-Vega.

Hoffman's lonely bachelor Jack is a sad-sack striver whom we catch in mid-"strive." Alongside best bud Clyde (Ortiz), Jack works as a New York City limo driver, but he harbors an aspiration to climb the next rung on the social ladder by getting a job with the MTA. Clyde has a more important advancement in mind for his friend: pairing Jack up with Connie (Amy Ryan, always welcome), a misfit co-worker of Clyde's wife, Lucy (Rubin-Vega).

With his hair "styled" in an abortive attempt at dreadlocks, Jack demonstrates he's a man of enthusiasms (lately, The Melodians' Rastafarian anthem "Rivers of Babylon," which he takes with him wherever he goes). So when Connie suggests that a boating excursion would be nice, when the weather warms up, Jack seizes on the thought. If he's to get in a boat, he'll have to learn to swim, and Clyde agrees to begin giving his friend lessons. Another vein of self-improvement finds Jack having accidentally agreed to make dinner for Connie. Time to learn how to cook a meal.

In its early-going, "Jack Goes Boating" proves especially tender and sweet. Though Lucy is a world-weary type, her husband is a conspicuously dedicated friend, whose loyalty to Jack is touching. The sensitive Connie also gives Jack good reason to hope in their awkward but warmhearted verbal dances. Still, there's a reason Lucy warns Jack, about relationships, that "things'll come up that you have to live with." It's clear that dysfunction has brought these characters to a place where they need each other perhaps a little too desperately, and greater signs of dysfunction begin to seep into the narrative on the way to a third-act social disaster: a dinner party that goes horribly wrong.

Hoffman's actorly sensibility allows the film's best moments, expressed in gestures and non-verbal signifiers (nervous throat-clearing, an unanswered question hanging in the air). The characters' spectacular "in vino veritas" cracking up at the climax is a bit heavy-handed, but there's an intriguing contrast that builds to the moment, as we watch one relationship that's troubled — Clyde and Lucy's longstanding marriage — and another that's just trying to get off the ground.

In one way or another, all of the characters yearn for an indefinite

future, emblemized by the idea of the boating trip. Jack puts his trust in the "positive vibe" he's been cultivating, a willfulness mirrored in Clyde's swimming instruction for Jack to visualize himself achieving results. And perhaps the answer to all their problems is just that simple: an agreement to forgive the flaws and "see" the best in each other.

Rated R for language, drug use and some sexual content. One hour, 29 minutes.

— Peter Canavese

Heartbreaker ★★★

(Aquarius) There are matchmakers. And then there are matchbreakers, like Alex Lippi (Romain Duris), who is hired by anxious parents bent on breaking up what they believe is a daughter's terrible romance. Alex, together with his sister and brother-in-law (Julie Ferrier and François Damiens) and with the help of sophisticated electronic gadgets, is the man for the job.

"Heartbreaker," a first-time feature by Pascal Chaumeil, is one of those delirious French farces that inevitably gets remade into an inferior Hollywood product. I understand that a deal has already been struck, but they'll have a hard time replacing the chameleon-like Duris ("L'Auberge Espagnole," "The Beat My Heart Skipped"), a superb physical comedian and toothy charmer.

The film starts out in Morocco, where Alex's target is Florence, a young French woman whose boyfriend prefers ogling other women at the hotel pool to seeing the sights. Pretending to be a selfless doctor (with a hired crew of adoring child patients), Alex charms Florence until she sees the light about her boyfriend.

Alex has his principles. He doesn't sleep with his targets, he doesn't break up couples for racial or religious reasons, and he doesn't mess with couples who are really in love. But a financial crisis and a hulking debt collector force him to break the last rule, and when an unscrupulous French financier asks him to stop the impending marriage of his daughter, Juliette (Vanessa Paradis), and her British fiancé, he's forced to accept.

The rest of the plot takes place in Monte Carlo, affording cinematographer Thierry Arbogast the opportunity for some romantic shots.

Things get complicated when Juliette's nympho pal Sophie (Helena Noguerra) shows up and sets her sights on Alex, and even more so when the fiancé (Andrew Lincoln) arrives — and then even hotter, with action sequences, revolving hotel-room doors, bedroom romps, and everything else you expect from a French farce. However, the plot (screenplay by Laurent Zeitoun, Jeremy Doner and Yohan Gromb) always stays a few steps ahead of us, until the not-very-satisfactory conclusion.

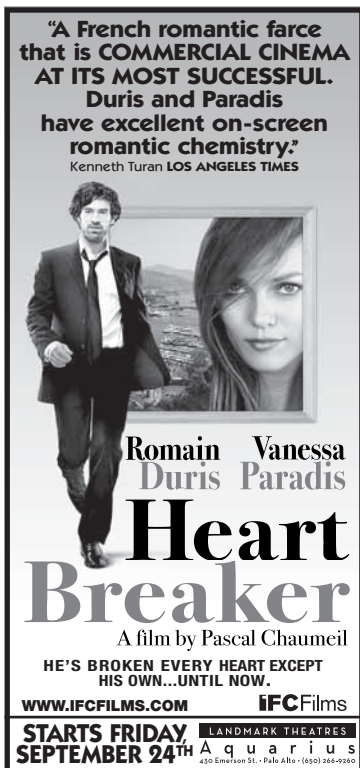
"Heartbreaker" is more a footnote in French cinema rather than a Major Motion Picture. But willingly suspend your disbelief for 104 minutes and settle in for some good laughs.

Not rated. 105 minutes.

— Renata Polt

For a review of "Howl," which stars Palo Alto native James Franco but did not open in the area this week, go to PaloAltoOnline.com/movies.

"A French romantic farce that is **COMMERCIAL CINEMA AT ITS MOST SUCCESSFUL.** Duris and Paradis have excellent on-screen romantic chemistry." Kenneth Turan **LOS ANGELES TIMES**



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Eating Out

RESTAURANT REVIEW



Veronica Weber

The Mediterranean plate includes fruit, meats and cheeses.

lazy trees and flowering bushes.

The times aren't all that quiet any longer on that block of Kipling, but Vino Locale has a secluded patio/garden in the back that isolates patrons from street noise and, on balmy summer nights, is a tranquil oasis that quickly soothes jittery nerves. It's a pleasant place to relax with a partner or a group of friends.

Inside, the diminutive three-room space is spartan but homey: bare wood floors and tables in two rooms, a tasting bar in the third. Vino Locale isn't a full-blown restaurant. It has a panini grill for making sandwiches, and the remainder of the menu is assembled plates, salads and desserts. This is lighter fare that perfectly complements the local wines.

On a recent visit, we particularly enjoyed the crostini sampler (\$12). Two each of feta herb, red onion and prosciutto; Asian mushroom mix; and hummus atop slices of toasted baguette. The crostini was well matched with the Downhill Winery 2009 Barbera Rosato (\$6 per glass), a dry, crisp rosé.

Tasty chunks of mildly spiced Spanish chorizo (\$8) were simmered in red wine and herbs. It's a tapa nearly ubiquitous from the Rioja wine region to Barcelona and beyond. In Spain, the wine would be sopped up with yeasty, rustic rolls. Here it was served with a French baguette.

The Mediterranean plate (\$16.50) was a delight. The platter was loaded with Cowgirl Creamery cheeses: nutty Tarentaise, lush triple-cream Mt. Tam, and peppercorn-studded papato. There were meats as well: a dry salami, a rich coppa salami and a tasty so-pressata. Olives, fruit, bread and crackers completed the platter. It was enough for two for a light dinner, or just a great plate of nibblers if you have something else in mind for a later dinner elsewhere. The 2007 Downhill Pinot Noir (\$30 a bottle) went well with its subtle layers of cherry, spices and blackberry.

The Mediterranean plate combined, albeit in smaller portions, the essence of the artisanal cheese plate and the charcuterie plate (\$16.50 each).

The grilled panini were all \$9. I tried the smoked chicken on baguette and wasn't disappointed, although there was no garnish on the plate to heighten aesthetic appeal. The chicken was tender, the bread crisp and flaky.

There were other choices for panini: smoked ham, turkey and salami, chorizo, smoked turkey and a vegetarian selection.

There are three choices for desserts: XOX chocolate truffles (\$2 each) made in San Francisco, Charlie's cheesecake minis (\$2) from San Jose and the chocolate panino (\$6). Twice I ordered the cheesecake, but neither time was it available.

The chocolate panino was likely the best of the lot. Creamy bittersweet chocolate was melted between slices of crunchy baguette on the panini grill. Hard to beat that deliriously wonderful combination of bread and oozy chocolate.

We bought a taste (\$1.50) of the Late Harvest Viognier from Poetic Cellars in Soquel to accompany the panino. It held just enough honeyed sweetness, satisfying without overwhelming.

There is one more element to Vino Locale: local art. Each month, different artists are featured. During my visits, the watercolors of Palo Alto artist Steve Curl adorned the walls, while jewelry artist Lynn Fielder, also of Palo Alto, showcased her wares in a glass display cabinet.

Service can be rather slow as the waitstaff assembles the orders, busses tables, explains and pours wines. One evening, after a lengthy wait, I had to chase down the waitress to get the check. If you sit in the garden, choose an easily visible spot, as arm-waving is permitted.

Overall, though, Vino Locale is a locavore's paradise. I couldn't identify any wine or food component (continued on page 34)

A locavore's paradise

Vino Locale is a peaceful place to sample the flavors of this area

by Dale F. Bentson

In Italy, an enoteca is a place where lesser-known local wines are introduced to the public. Over the years, many enotecas segued into restaurants that feature not only the local wines, but local foods as well.

Vino Locale, in downtown Palo Alto, has been a Bay Area version of that notion since 2004. Owner Randy Robinson was smitten with the idea after visiting enotecas in Italy.

"I wanted to introduce the idea of Euro-style dining to the area," Robinson said.

Not only does Vino Locale represent more than 70 Santa Cruz Mountains wineries, the menu is composed almost exclusively of meats, fruits, vegetables and cheeses raised in the greater Bay Area, with organic products used as much as possible.

"Our meat is from Niman Ranch, grass-fed. Our goat cheese is delivered from Harley Farms in Pescadero. We buy our seasonal, organic produce from Live Earth Farm in Watsonville," Robinson said.

Indeed, Vino Locale is about as locavore as any restaurant can be when it's situated in a huge urban setting. Then again, this is Northern California and we are blessed with both grand agriculture and superb viticulture.

Each month, Vino Locale features a different winery. During my visits, the wines of Downhill Winery of Los Gatos were offered by the taste (\$2-\$3.50), glass (\$6-\$9.75) or bottle (\$18-\$30) for rosé, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Cabernet, Barbera or a Zinfandel/Syrah blend. There were wines from other wineries ready to pour as well — reds, whites, rosés, sparkling and dessert wines.

Vino Locale is located in a 100-year-old Colonial Revival house on Kipling Street and is listed in the Palo Alto historical register. The houses on that block are a step back to quieter times, with front porches,



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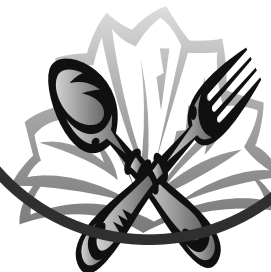


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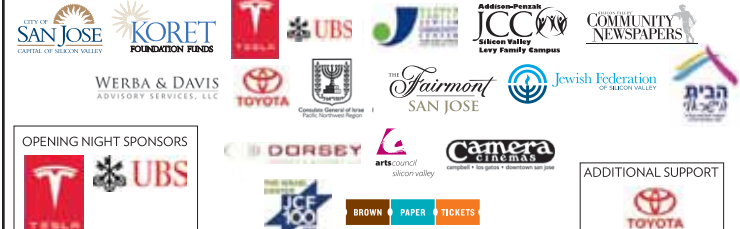
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- November 4: After the Cup**
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- November 6: Inside Hana's Suitcase**
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- November 13: Amnon's Journey**
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ShopTalk

by Daryl Savage

MAC'S BY THE TRACKS DERAILED ... It's the end of the line for Mac's by the Tracks. The restaurant at 109 S. California Ave. in Palo Alto was evicted before it even had a chance to leave the station. "If we were open and didn't pay the rent, that's one thing. But we weren't even open yet and they still evicted us," Mac's owner Anthony McFadden said. So what began as a labor of love "became a nightmare at the end," said McFadden, who had been trying for more than a year to open Palo Alto's only soul-food restaurant, located near the Caltrain station.

There was a brief glimpse of what McFadden had in mind for Palo Altans on July 4 when he scheduled an outdoor feast. Hundreds of customers showed up, creating lines that snaked around the corner, for a taste of Mac's BBQ brisket, ribs and chicken. But it was the problems inside the building, formerly Plantation Cafe, that plagued McFadden. "We kept running into potholes. And each one cost us another \$20,000 to fix. It became a real bad situation. But we did everything by the book ... and we had the support of the community." McFadden added that his catering

clients are still going strong. "We're not giving up," he said. "We're searching for a new location. We'll find something."

MORE COMINGS, GOINGS ... Madame Tan, a gourmet Asian bistro, has opened at 322 University Ave. Another new restaurant, Bon Vivant Cafe, will be coming to 535 Bryant St. Meanwhile, Melt, a lounge that featured two floors of dancing and drinks and appetizers at 544 Emerson St, has closed. And the women's golf specialty store From Tee to Green has moved from Town & Country Village to Stanford Shopping Center.

Heard a rumor about your favorite store or business moving out, or in, down the block or across town? Daryl Savage will check it out. She can be e-mailed at shoptalk@paweekly.com.



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(continued from page 32)
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Sports Shorts

CARDINAL CORNER . . . Stanford grad **Jayne Appel**, who led the Cardinal women's basketball team into the Final Four the past three years, will be looking to add a FIBA World Championship to her impressive resume. Appel, the four-time college All-American and an all-star in her first year with the WNBA San Antonio Silver Stars, was named to the United States World Championship team, the USA Basketball Women's National Team Player Selection Committee announced Tuesday. Appel, who scored 2,125 points in her Cardinal career, will make her World Championship debut with the U.S. senior national team at the FIBA World Championship in Ostrava and Karlovy Vary, Czech Republic. Appel is the third Stanford grad to represent the United States at the FIBA World Championship, joining **Jennifer Azzi** and **Sonja Henning**. Appel is a two-time gold-medal winner with the 2006 FIBA Americas U18 Championship and 2007 USA Pan-American Games teams. . . . Stanford senior **Dominique Yahyavi** earned Pac-10 Player of the Week honors in men's soccer after an outstanding performance in the Bay Area Classic last weekend. Yahyavi scored three goals in the tournament, leading Stanford to a co-championship. He scored the game-winner in the 86th minute to give the Cardinal a 1-0 win at San Francisco on Thursday. He followed that with two goals in a 4-1 win over Santa Clara on Sunday. The Cardinal (2-4) hosts the Stanford Nike Classic this weekend, meeting St. Mary's on Friday at 7 p.m. and Denver at 1 p.m. Sunday.

OF LOCAL NOTE . . . Palo Alto High grad **Tim Wenzlau** scored two goals as the 17th-ranked Princeton men's water polo team topped 20th-ranked Bucknell, 9-6, to claim third-place at the 2010 ECAC Championship on Sunday at Harvard's Blodgett Pool. In goal, Menlo School grad **Mike Merlone** made six saves in the half while freshman **Ben Dearborn** from Sacred Heart Prep stopped 10 in the second half.

ON THE AIR

Friday

Women's volleyball: Stanford at Arizona St., 6 p.m.; live stats at gostanford.com

Saturday

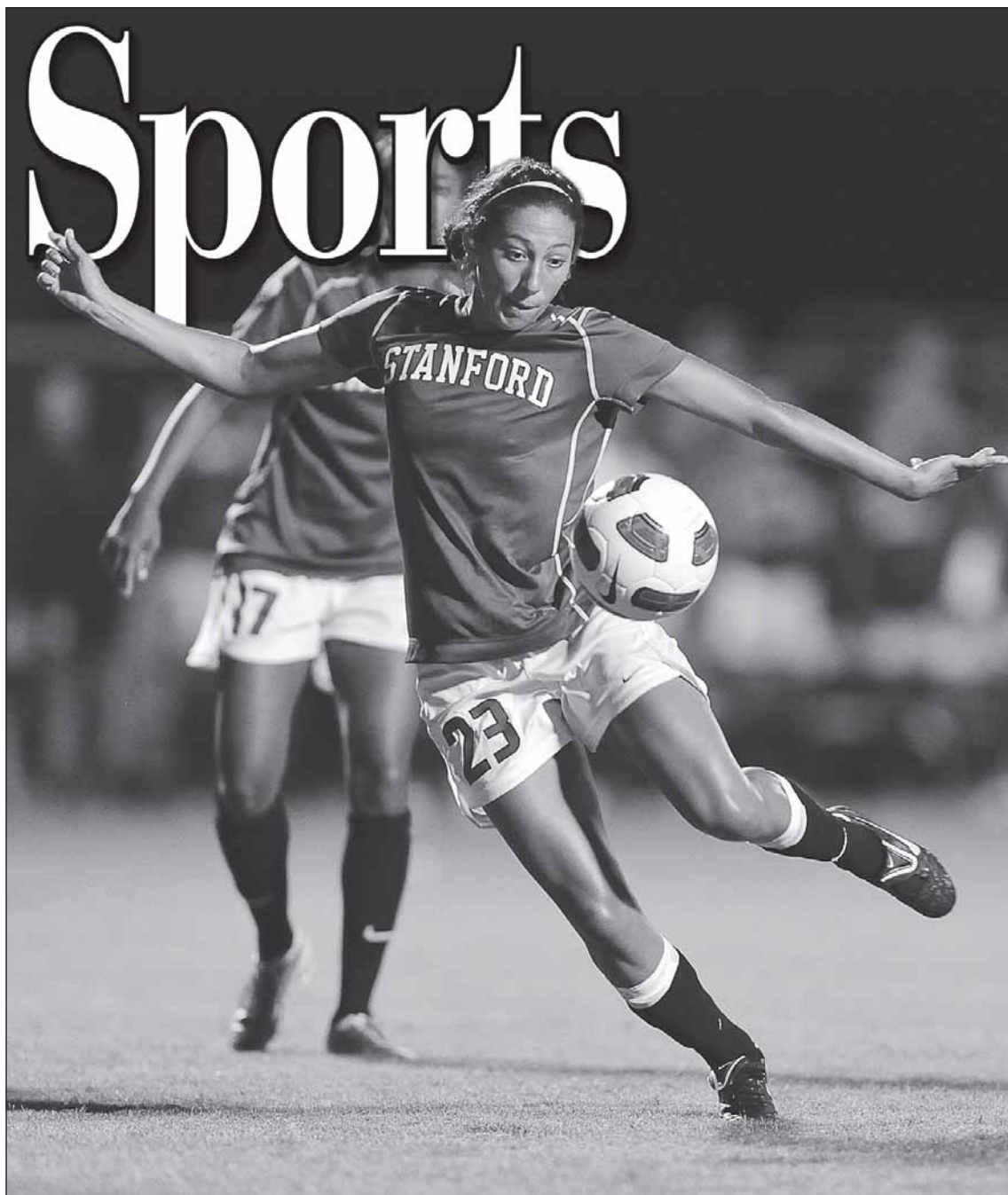
Football: Stanford at Notre Dame, 12:40 p.m.; NBC; KNBR (1050 AM)

Sunday

Women's volleyball: Stanford at Arizona, noon, live stats at gostanford.com

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www.PASportsOnline.com

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



Stanford senior Christen Press, who needs seven points to supplant Sarah Rafanelli as Stanford's all-time scoring leader, will be lead the No. 2 Cardinal women's soccer team against No. 3 Portland on Saturday.

Jim Shorin/stanfordphoto.com

STANFORD ROUNDUP

Press is getting her kicks

National player of week leads No. 2 Stanford against No. 3 Portland

by Rick Eymmer

Stanford senior Christen Press leapt into the national lead for points after her sensational performance in the Bay Area Classic over the weekend, in which she scored five times to earn both the Pac-10 and National Player of the Week honors.

She'll be at the forefront of the Cardinal attack again this weekend, which features a 7 p.m. showdown Saturday against visiting third-ranked Portland, which owns the nation's best record at 9-0 entering play Thursday against California. Second-ranked Stanford (6-0-2) met Hawaii on Thursday night.

"Christen is an amazing player," Stanford coach Paul Ratcliffe said. "Scoring five goals speaks volumes. She's deadly in front of the goal and a great leader on this team. She is emerging as one of the best players in the country."

Press, who needs seven points to supplant Sarah Rafanelli as Stanford's all-time scoring leader, will be pitted against the defending national scoring champion in Pilots' junior forward Danielle Foxhoven.

"She's a great goal scorer, and she can set players up," Ratcliffe said of

(continued on page 38)

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Palo Alto keeps on winning

Unbeaten Vikings follow Harbor title with league-opening win

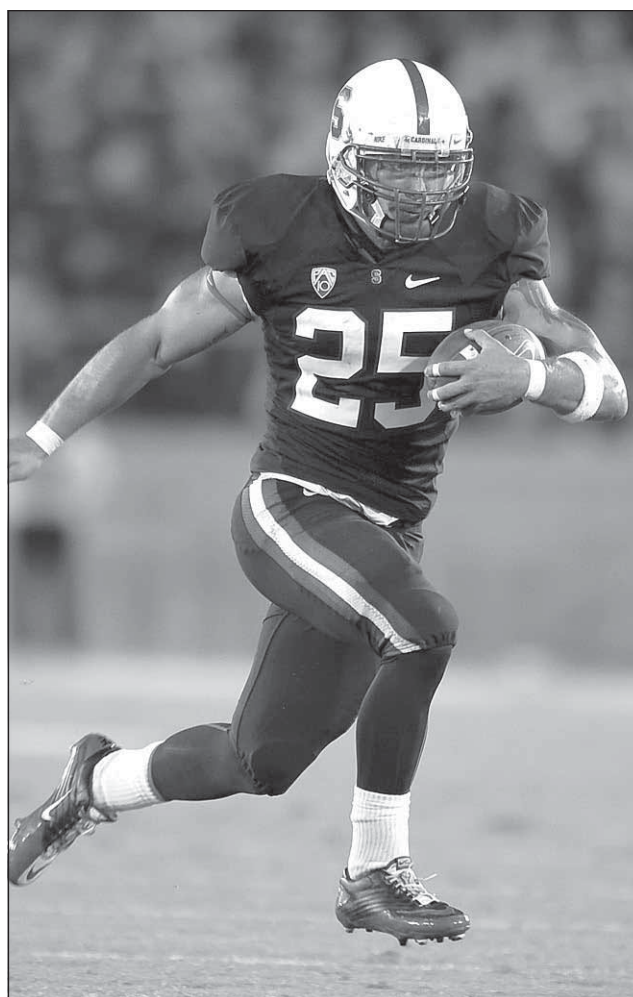
by Keith Peters

The SCVAL De Anza Division volleyball season is under way and defending champion Palo Alto appears well-prepared to claim a fifth straight championship — shared or outright — after an impressive opener this week.

The Vikings, coming off a tournament title at the Harbor Invitational on Saturday, kept their momentum and win streak intact with a 25-10, 25-13, 25-7 triumph at Los Altos on Tuesday.

Palo Alto is 19-0 this season, the best start in school history. The Vikings went after No. 20 in a row against visiting Monta Vista on Thursday night. Paly won 33 straight matches last season to establish a school record.

(continued on page 36)



Tyler Gaffney would like to help Stanford win at Notre Dame for the first time since 1992.

John Todd/stanfordphoto.com

STANFORD FOOTBALL

Gaffney hoping to follow Gerhart's familiar footsteps

He'd also like to one-up his mentor by beating Notre Dame on Saturday

by Rick Eymmer

Stanford sophomore Tyler Gaffney is a record-setting running back in high school in San Diego. He was also considered a top baseball prospect and wanted to play both sports in college.

A fullback at Cathedral Catholic, Gaffney is a bruiser of a runner, preferring to take on a would-be tackler rather than wait to be hit.

Last year he got to see, up close and personal, a running back with similar traits. Stanford's all-time season-season rushing leader Toby Gerhart, now with the Minnesota Vikings of the NFL, wasn't much for finesse. He normally carried tacklers along with the football as he charged downhill.

Gerhart still owns the California prep state career rushing record, gaining over 9,000 yards while at Norco. He also came to Stanford as a two-sport star.

Gerhart may own the state, but Gaffney owns San Diego, as in a San Diego Section single-season record 2,866 yards. That was second in the state in 2008 and his 56 touchdowns ranked

(continued on page 38)

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Prep volleyball

(continued from page 35)

“Our SCVAL leaguemates are hungry to have someone else be league champ,” Paly coach Dave Winn said earlier this season. “Our focus really has been as it always has been at the start of every season — serve and serve receive. We know we have great hitters, but we need aggressive serving and consistent passing to make it work. We stay focused on doing the simple things really, really well.”

Palo Alto did just that against Los Altos as the Vikings made only four hitting errors the entire match showcasing “some excellent balance between aggressive swings and smart shots,” said Winn. Junior Maddie Kuppe led the offense with 11 kills with junior Melanie Wade adding 10 and junior Caroline Martin contributing eight.

On Saturday, the Vikings went 6-0 and successfully defended their title at the annual Harbor Invitational in Santa Cruz.

Playing some of their best volleyball of the season, the Vikings dominated both North Salinas in the semifinals (26-16, 25-15) and previously unbeaten Aptos in the Gold Division finals (25-18, 25-16).

Paly senior Trina Ohms was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player while Kuppe and fellow junior Kimmy Whitson were named to the all-tournament team.

“The girls played at a very high level the whole day,” said Winn, who is 142-32 in his fifth season with the Vikings. “Our defense was definitely better than we displayed at Reno (when Paly won the High Sierra Classic).

“Several opposing coaches commented that they just could not stop our offense since we had such a balanced attack, but what I'm most proud of was our defense. The girls were very focused on being disciplined in each of their defensive assignments and really celebrated the great defensive plays just as much as our big kills. It was a truly great day of high quality volleyball for our squad.”

Ohms had 42 kills, 23 digs and two aces while seemingly making big plays at the biggest times. Wade had a team-high 54 kills (.588 hitting) with five aces and eight blocks.

Kuppe added 38 kills (.373 hitting) with 42 digs, her best defensive day of the season. Martin contributed 12 kills and four blocks while Whitson had 22 digs, nine kills and a whopping 132 assists. Megan Coleman, the team's other senior, added 48 digs and nine aces while Shelby Knowles produced 16 aces and 11 digs with Jackie Koenig adding 11 kills and two blocks.

In the SCVAL El Camino Division on Tuesday, Gunn (1-0, 13-4) opened its league season with an easy 25-9, 25-8, 25-20 victory over host Fremont on Tuesday night. Alana Titzler served four aces and Anna Simanovskaia had a match-high six kills for the Titans. Alyn Shen dished out 20 assists.

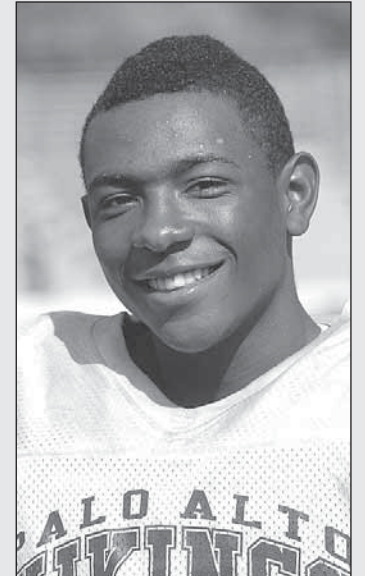
In the PAL Bay Division, Menlo-Atherton (1-0, 8-5) opened its league season with a 25-15, 25-9, 25-17 triumph over visiting San Ma-

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



Trina Ohms
Palo Alto High

The senior outside hitter had 18 kills and 11 digs in two nonleague volleyball wins before getting 42 kills and 23 digs while earning MVP honors and leading the Vikings to a 6-0 mark and the title at the Harbor Invitational.



Dre Hill
Palo Alto High

The junior running back, in only his second varsity game, carried 15 times for a career-high 129 yards and scored all three touchdowns on runs of 35, 56 and one yard to spark a 20-7 nonleague football win over Mitty.

Honorable mention

Hannah Boland
Castilleja volleyball

Sarah Collins
Menlo-Atherton volleyball

Maddie Huber
Menlo volleyball

Maddie Kuppe
Palo Alto volleyball

Regina Mullen
Menlo-Atherton volleyball

Kimmy Whitson
Palo Alto volleyball

Kevin Anderson
Palo Alto football

Tim Benton
Menlo football

Jack Finch
Menlo water polo

Tyler McCool
Sacred Heart Prep football

Colin Terndrup
Sacred Heart Prep football

Robert Wickers
Menlo football

* previous winner

To see video interviews of the Athletes of the Week, go to www.PASportsOnline.com

teo. Diane Seely had 10 kills and six blocks for the Bears while Hannah Branning added 10 digs and Sarah Collins contributed 19 assists, seven digs and nine kills.

The Bears were coming off a second-place finish in their own Menlo-Atherton Varsity Invitational on Saturday. Second-seeded M-A dropped a 9-25, 25-15, 15-12 decision to fourth-seeded Homestead in the title match.

Menlo-Atherton went 3-0 in pool play with victories over Saratoga (25-21, 25-11), Homestead (25-12, 25-15), and Sobrato (25-12, 25-12). The Bears topped Live Oak in the semifinals (25-12, 25-16) before Homestead avenged its earlier defeat to M-A.

The Bears were led by Collins (50 assists, 26 digs), Seini Moimoi (19 blocks), and Regina Mullen (25 kills, 8 aces).

In nonleague action on Tuesday:

Castilleja (12-2) rolled over host Pinewood, 25-7, 25-4, 25-12, as Abby Thornburg served 13 aces and Sophie Koontz added eight. Hannah Boland finished with a team-high 12 kills for the Gators after registering 35 kills and 10 blocks to pace Castilleja to a 4-1 mark and second-place finish at the Westmont Tournament last weekend.

At the Westmont Tournament, Castilleja fell to West Bay Athletic League rival Mercy-Burlingame in the championship match, 25-15, 25-15.

Castilleja swept Lynbrook (25-19, 25-16), Sequoia (25-14, 25-13) and San Lorenzo Valley (26-24, 25-9) to reach the Gold Division semifinals where the Gators upended CCS rival Mt. Madonna, 25-14, 25-18, to reach the finals.

Junior Hannah Boland had 35 kills and 10 blocks during the tournament while sophomore Lucy Tashman added 24 kills and 30 digs. Lindsey Wang contributed 54 digs and eight aces while Hannah Hsieh produced 76 assists.

Also at the Harbor tourney, Menlo School finished third in the 16-team event played at Santa Cruz and Harbor highs. The Knights went 3-2 on the day while improving to 8-4 this season.

“Overall, it was a great tournament for us,” Menlo coach Chris Crader said.

In the semis, Menlo fell to a strong Aptos squad, 17-25, 25-17, 15-9. Freshman Maddie Huber hit .292 with 10 kills and 12 digs, and Alexandra Ko added seven digs and 14 assists. Huber was named to the all-tournament team. ■

PREP WATER POLO

SHP boys will need early tests

Three-time defending CCS champ Gators have their youngest team in years

by Keith Peters

The Sacred Heart Prep boys' water polo team lost eight players, including its starting goalie, to graduation from last season's team that went 24-5 and captured a third straight Central Coast Section Division II championship.

While everything should point to a rebuilding season for the Gators, coach Brian Kreutzkamp is hoping otherwise.

Despite the obvious loss of talent, the Gators are off to a 2-0 record after swamping visiting Serra, 17-9, in a West Catholic Athletic League opener on Wednesday.

"We have a lot of new guys," said Kreutzkamp, who has only two returning players — seniors Philip Bamberg and Robert Dunlevie — who saw significant playing time last season.

"I have four seniors, five sophomores and one freshman," Kreutzkamp said. "And all are playing minutes."

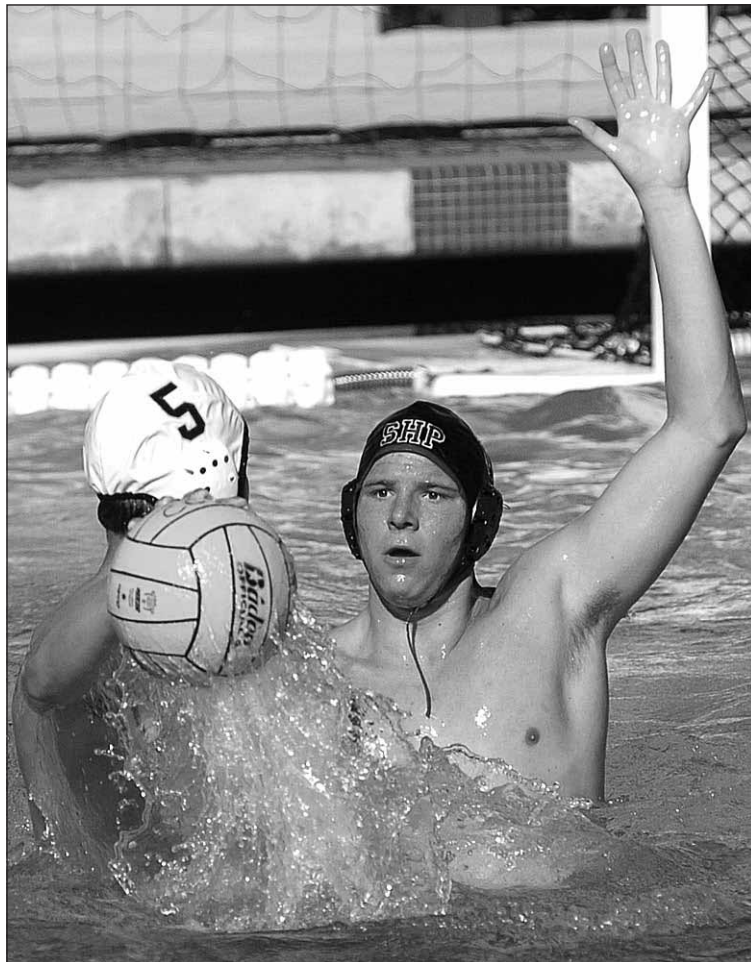
Kreutzkamp said this is highly unusual for one of his teams to be so young, but it's out of necessity because the Gators were hit hard by graduation. SHP starting goalie Will Runkel, for example, is the first sophomore ever to start in goal for Kreutzkamp.

Runkel worked out during the summer with the previous two SHP goalies, Michael Wishart (at Santa Clara University) and Ben Dearborn (at Princeton).

"He's a big kid (6-foot-3), with more size than the others," Kreutzkamp said. "But, he has a lot to learn."

Bamberg led the Gators against Serra with seven goals while Dunlevie added four. That one-two punch was enough to knock out the Padres, who trailed after one quarter (5-1) and at the half (8-3). A seven-goal explosion by SHP in the third period blew the match open. Runkel had nine saves for the Gators.

Sacred Heart Prep next will com-



SHP senior Philip Bamberg (right) is only one of two key players returning from last season's CCS Division II title-winning team.

pete in the CCS-NCS Challenge, a mammoth 32-team tournament being held at four sites around the Bay Area. The Gators, who are the defending champions, open play Friday against Monte Vista (Danville) at Campolindo High in Moraga at 2 p.m. That winner will face the De La Salle-Serra winner at 5 p.m.

Menlo School will open at noon against host Campolindo, with a victory by the Knights matching them against either Acalanes or Leland. Should both Menlo and SHP win twice on Friday, they will face each other in the semifinals on Saturday at St. Francis High at 11 a.m. The title match is set for 3 p.m.

"This will be the big test," Kreutzkamp said of this weekend.

Menlo-Atherton (6-3) will open on Friday against San Ramon Valley at St. Francis at 2 p.m. A first-round win will match the Bears against the host Lancers at 5 p.m.

Should Menlo have the success it did in its own Scott Roche Invitational last weekend, the Knights could find themselves in the finals against St. Francis for the second straight week.

Those teams battled in the Roche finals, with St. Francis pulling out a 9-6 victory. It was the Lancers' third title in the tourney's 13-year history. Menlo is the only team to have won more (four) times.

Girls' water polo

Sacred Heart Prep opened its WAL season with a 17-3 dunking of visiting Notre Dame-Belmont on Wednesday.

The Gators (1-0, 5-1) had balanced scoring with seven players tallying two goals each -- P.J. Bigley, Kate Bocci, Bridgette Harper, Colleen Nawn, Erin Sheridan, Pippa Temple and Sarah Westcott.

Like the SHP boys, the Gators also will be busy in tournament action this week. SHP will open the 16th annual Amanda MacDonald Invitational on Friday by hosting Buchanan at 1 p.m. The Gators also will play Soquel at 3:10 p.m., with a victory over them into Saturday's semifinals at SHP. The championship match will be played at Menlo School at 1:30 p.m., and will be followed by the third- and fifth-place games. ■

Menlo 49, Justin Siena 7

Before the season began, Menlo School football coach Mark Newton said he wasn't concern about trying to replace graduated quarterback Danny Diekroeger and his 4,100-plus passing yards from last season. Newton just wanted to focus on how his team could

move the ball. Given the job to do that was untested senior Robert Wickers, who spent much of his junior year as Diekroeger's understudy. Now, with the chance to show that he, too, can throw the ball, Wickers has performed quite well.

On Saturday night, Wickers threw for 273 yards and five touchdowns to lead the Knights (2-1) to a lopsided nonleague victory over host Justin Siena in Napa.

Menlo senior Tim Benton caught six passes for 163 yards and two touchdowns. Beau Nichols also had two touchdown catches in addition to leading Menlo on the ground with 63 yards on six hauls.

Menlo didn't waste any time taking the lead as Wickers and Benton hooked on for a 71-yard TD with just 20 seconds gone. After Justin Siena (0-3) tied things with a 35-yard scoring drive, Menlo senior Jordan Williams took the ensuing kickoff and returned it 95 yards for a touchdown and the Knights never trailed.

Palo Alto 20, Mitty 7

The nonleague season is all about getting ready for league play. With one tuneup game remaining, Palo Alto may be ahead of schedule following a stunning defensive performance to beat highly regarded Mitty on Friday night.

The host Vikings registered five sacks and held Cal-bound quarterback Kyle Boehm to just 75 total yards while improving to 2-0. Boehm, the team's leading passer and rusher, managed just 12 yards rushing and 63 passing in his lowest output of the Monarchs' 1-2 season.

Paly defensive end Kevin Anderson, who is headed to Stanford, had four of his team's sacks as the Vikings avenged last season's 35-13 humbling loss to Mitty, which began this season ranked among the top 15 teams in the state. That is no longer the case.

While Boehm came in as the marquee performer, it was Paly junior running back Dre Hill who stole the show. Playing in only his second varsity game, Hill scored three touchdowns and rushed for a career-high 129-yards on 15 carries.

Palo Alto took its 20-0 lead into the fourth quarter and never was threatened as its defense kept the Monarchs in check. Along with Anderson, Tori Prati, Sam Moses, Will Glazier and Morris Gates-Mouton helped stifle the visitors with outstanding defense.

Palo Alto outgained Mitty, 258-199, in total offense with senior quarterback Christoph Bono completing nine passes for 109 yards. Adams caught six for 77 yards.

SH Prep 49, VC-Dublin 21

The Gators continued their success with running the ball as they ground out 384 yards on the way to a big nonleague victory on Friday night at Chabot College in Hayward.

Senior Colin Terndrup led the way with 139 yards on 11 carries. Senior Pedro Robinson added 101 yards on just five hauls while junior Tyler McCool missed the

100-yard plateau — he gained 87 yards on nine carries — but scored four touchdowns.

McCool scored on runs of seven, one and 28 yards in addition to catching a 31-yard touchdown pass from senior John Geary as the Gators improved to 3-0. Geary completed eight of nine passes for a season-high 194 yards, adding a TD pass of 15 yards to Tomas O'Donnell, who caught four balls for 90 yards. SHP finished with 577 yards in total offense.

Defensively, the Gators recovered three fumbles. Hunter Shaw was in on 16 tackles and Matt Hardy assisted on 11. Charlie Moran added five solo tackles.

Burlingame 21, Gunn 3

Gunn had everything going for it early on Friday afternoon. As the game wore on, nothing went right. The Titans took an early lead when Dekel Sherman connected on a 28-yard field goal midway through the first quarter. That was the extent of the scoring, though, as Gunn (1-1) fell to visiting Burlingame in a non-league contest.

"Offensively, good things were working and there are things to work on," Gunn coach Bob Sykes said. "If we were in synch offensively I think we would have done much better. You have to credit Burlingame. They were partly responsible for putting us out of synch."

"We didn't do well on some plays we needed to do well on," Sykes added. "I'm glad we played a competitive team because it showed us where we are and what we need to work on."

Anthony Cannon passed for 117 of his 134 yards in the second half as Gunn took to the air in an attempt to put additional points on the scoreboard. Miles Sturken was his favorite receiver to the tune of five catches for 77 yards.

Jefferson 17, Menlo-Atherton 0

Turning the ball over six times, Menlo-Atherton suffered a non-league shutout loss to Jefferson on Friday night in Daly City. Jefferson (2-1) competes in the PAL Ocean Division while the Bears (0-3) play in the tougher PAL Bay Division.

Jefferson's defense forced six turnovers and blocked a punt. The Bears saw their second-half possessions end in three fumbles and two interceptions and managed just 114 total yards on offense. Cameron Moody got 40 of those on a screen pass late in the game. ■



PREP FOOTBALL THIS WEEKEND

FRIDAY

Palo Alto (2-0) at San Benito (2-1), 7:30 p.m. San Benito is averaging 34 points a game and allowing 13.6 while Paly is scoring at 20.5 and giving up 8.0 per game. Vikings' QB Christoph Bono is averaging 152.5 passing yards per game and junior RB Dre Hill is averaging 87 yards rushing. Paly needs another big defensive effort, along with enough offensive spark, to defeat the Haybalers.

Hillsdale (3-0) at Gunn (1-1), 7:30 p.m. The Knights come in averaging 35.3 points a game while

allowing just 5.3 points per outing. Gunn needs to get its offense untracked in order to have a chance. The teams had a common opponent in Yerba Buena, which lost to Hillsdale (41-0) and Gunn(39-0).

Pinewood (1-0) at Clovis Christian (0-3), 7 p.m. The Panthers managed 16 points in their opener last week, but will probably need more to remain unbeaten.

SATURDAY
Sacred Heart Prep (3-0) at Scotts Valley (0-3), 2 p.m. The Gators are averaging 43 points a game

while allowing 18. Colin Terndrup leads an explosive backfield with 136.3 rushing yards per game. Scotts Valley gave up 236 yards to Amir Carlisle of King's Academy last weekend.

St. Elizabeth (0-2) vs. Menlo (2-1) at Woodside High, 7 p.m. With senior QB Robert Wickers averaging 265.5 passing yards per game, the Knights continue to be explosive. Menlo is averaging 30.6 points a game, but that could go up because St. Elizabeth (Oakland) is allowing 46.5 points a game. ■



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

8:30 A.M., Thursday, October 7, 2010 Palo Alto Council Conference Room, 1st Floor, Civic Center, 250 Hamilton Avenue. Go to the Development Center at 285 Hamilton Avenue to review filed documents; contact Alicia Spotwood for information regarding business hours at 650-617-3168.

4073 El Camino Real [10PLN-00294]- Request by Hayes Group on behalf of Eton Capital for preliminary ARB review for a new three story mixed use building. The application also includes a Design Enhancement Exception (DEE) for an encroachment of two feet into the 12' El Camino Real setback. Zone District: CN

Amy French
Manager of Current Planning



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(TENTATIVE) AGENDA-SPECIAL MEETING COUNCIL CHAMBERS SEPTEMBER 27, 2010 - 6:00 PM

1. Selection of a Recruitment Firm for City Attorney Recruitment
2. Discussion on Proposed Changes to the City's Green Building Program to Integrate the City's Requirements With the California Green Building Code and Adding Criteria for Sustainable Neighborhood Developments 7:00 p.m. or as soon as possible thereafter
3. Approval of Contract Amendment No. 15 Extending the Term of the Rail Shuttle Bus Administration Agreement With the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board Through 6/30/2011 and Increasing the Expenditure Limit By \$198,118 for a Cumulative Total of \$2,808,537
4. Approval of Mutual Cooperation and Support Agreement With the Palo Alto Art Center Foundation
5. Approval of a Renewal of a Public/Private Partnership Joint Venture Agreement Between the City of Palo Alto and the Cardiac Therapy Foundation of the Mid-Peninsula, Inc. Concerning the Use of Gymnasium Facilities and Associated Fees for Facility Use at Cubberley Community Center for Jointly Supported Cardiac Therapy Programs
6. Approval of a Purchase Order With Municipal Maintenance Equipment, Inc. for a Total Not to Exceed Amount of \$275,844 for the Purchase of a Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Fueled Regenerative-Air Street Sweeper
7. Approval of a Contract With Siegfried Engineering Inc. in the Total Not to Exceed Amount of \$95,689 to Conduct a Landscape Inventory and to Draft a Conceptual Design for Landscaping in and Around the Regional Water Quality Control Plant
8. Adoption of an Ordinance Amending Section 2.08.210 of Chapter 2.08 of Title 2 [Officers and Departments], and Section 22.04.035 of Chapter 22.04 of Title 22 [Park and Recreation Building Use and Regulations] of the Palo Alto Municipal Code to Amend Employee Titles and Names of Divisions and Reflect the Titles of Employees Who Are Authorized to Issue Citations Respectively
9. Adoption of a Resolution Naming the New Phase IV Area of Greer Park "Scott Meadow" in Recognition of Jean and Charles Scott's Contributions to the Full Development of Greer Park
10. Direction to Staff Regarding High Speed Rail Issues Including Approval of a Letter to Federal Railroad Administration, Direction on Response to the Supplemental Alternatives Analysis and Additional Direction to Staff on High Speed Rail issues
11. Adoption of Three Resolutions Addressing Fall 2010 Ballot Initiatives and Consideration of City Positions on Other State and Regional Ballot Initiatives: (1) Resolution Supporting Proposition 22, the Local Taxpayer, Public Safety and Transportation Protection Act of 2010; (2) Resolution Opposing Proposition 23, an Initiative to Suspend AB 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, Until Unemployment Drops to 5.5% or Less for a Full Year; and (3) Resolution Opposing Proposition 26, an Initiative that Increases the Legislative Vote Requirement to Two-Thirds for State Levies and Charges and Imposes an Additional Requirement for Voters to Approve Local Levies and Charges.
12. Adoption of an Ordinance Amending Section 2.04.010, Relating to Notice of Regular Meetings, and Section 2.04.070, Relating to Notice of Agendas, of Chapter 2.04 of Title 2 of the Palo Alto Municipal Code to Eliminate the Publishing of the Council Agendas in the Newspaper and Updating the Language for the Council Regular Meetings and Agenda Sections of the Municipal Code (Continued from 9/13/10)

STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Policy and Services Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 30, at 7:00 p.m. regarding 1) Review of Revisions to Council Procedures and Protocols, 2) Discussion of Healthy Cities Initiative, 3) Discussion on the Role of Policy & Services and Work Plan and 4) Discussion on Structure of Council Priorities Accomplishments Report

Stanford roundup

(continued from page 35)

Press. "She's having an incredible career at Stanford, and I can't say enough about her ability."

Press is also five goals and five assists from assuming the top of Stanford's all-time lists in those categories.

"It was a great weekend in terms of finishing," Press told the Stanford Daily. "But I think I still have a lot of things I need to improve on. I need to keep more possession and work on getting around the backs and get crosses in. I plan on playing better soccer than I am right now."

Junior Camille Levin is third in the nation with a 0.88 assists per game average.

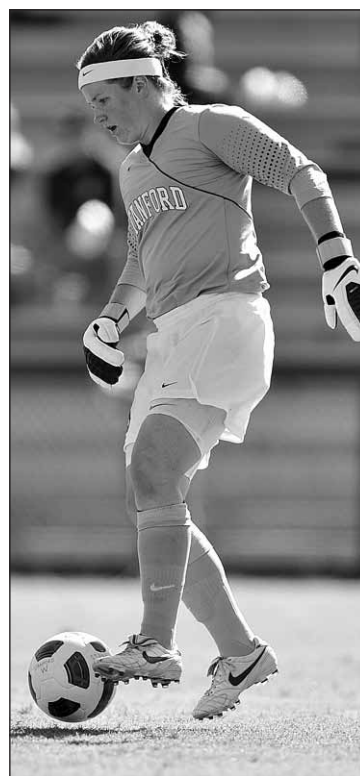
The Cardinal ended Portland's season in 2008 by beating the Pilots in the NCAA quarterfinals en route to the Final Four.

Portland, however, can boast of two national titles. Stanford is still looking for its first, having reached the Final Four three times.

The Pilots enter the week with their third-best start in school history following a 1-0 victory over No. 6 Texas A&M last Friday. Portland owns a 3-0 record against the Top 25 this season.

Stanford brings a four-match winning streak into the week and has a 3-0-2 mark against ranked opponents.

Portland returns eight starters from the nation's top-scoring offense. In



Freshman keeper Emily Oliver has started three straight matches.

addition to Foxhoven, the Pilots feature senior midfielder Sophie Schmidt and current WCC co-Player of the Week Halley Kreminski.

The Pilots have been a second-half team, outscoring opponents, 13-2.

Stanford has outscored its opponents by a 21-6 margin and recorded two shutouts.

Stanford football

(continued from page 35)

first in the state.

"No one wants to just take a hit," Gaffney said. "I come from a defensive background in high school and I want to deliver the blow."

He did that last weekend by scoring two touchdowns and rushing for 76 yards in a 68-24 blasting of Wake Forest.

Tyler Gaffney shares more than his initials with Toby Gerhart, and Cardinal coach Jim Harbaugh couldn't be happier about it.

Gaffney makes a return trip to South Bend this weekend as No. 16 Stanford (3-0) tries to end its drought at Notre Dame (1-2) on Saturday in



Stanford freshman Usua Amanam is helping carry the rushing load.

a 12:30 p.m. (PDT) kickoff.

Gaffney took a recruiting trip to Notre Dame, and had the Irish in his top three before deciding on Stanford. He could do something Gerhart never could, and that's win in South Bend. No Stanford football team has won at Notre Dame since 1992.

Gerhart was California's Gatorade Player of the Year. Gaffney (6-1, 215) was named Mr. Football by CalHiSports.com in recognition of being the state's top player. The San Diego Hall of Champions, in addition to the San Diego Union-Tribune, named Tyler Gaffney its Offensive Player of the Year.

"Toby taught me a lot," Gaffney said. "The most important thing he taught me was organization and time management. He grilled that into me."

Gaffney said he's been able to juggle football, baseball and his schoolwork. If he takes on time management like he does would-be tacklers, he's already a success.

Gaffney is one of several running backs playing the grand scheme of the Stanford offense. For now he's just fine with sharing.

"You definitely get a feel for the defense the more you carry the ball," he said, "But all of our running backs are a little different."

Gaffney tends to bull his way through the line, while most of the others — Stepfan Taylor, Usua Amanam and the injured Jeremy Stewart — tend to use quick, feint feet to gain yardage.

No one running back, and quarterback Andrew Luck and Alex Loukas are in the mix here, have outstanding numbers but together they have nearly doubled their op-

"We have a lot of good depth on this team, and if people are getting a little tired, they need to come out to let somebody else get there and make an impact," Ratcliffe said. "It's great to see people come in off the bench and have a great impact on the game."

Portland has a 17-5 scoring edge over its opponents with five shutouts. Freshman goalie Erin Dees ranks 14th in the nation with a 0.429 GAA.

Ratcliffe has started freshman Emily Oliver in goal the past three games. She's recorded both shutouts and gave up one goal to Utah.

As an added bonus, five members of the Bay Area-based FC Gold Pride will be available for autographs during halftime.

The Gold Pride hosts the Women's Professional Soccer championship final on Sunday at Hayward's Pioneer Stadium against either the Boston Breakers or Philadelphia Independence, at 2:30 p.m.

The players are graduates of either Stanford or Portland: WPS goalkeeper Nicole Barnhart (Stanford), Rookie of the Year Ali Riley (Stanford), 2009 Hermann Trophy winner Kelley O'Hara (Stanford), U.S. national team great Tiffeny Milbrett (Portland), and all-time Canadian national-team scoring leader Christine Sinclair (Portland).

Women's volleyball

Stanford senior Alix Klineman is

(continued on next page)

ponents' rushing yardage after the first quarter of the season. The Cardinal has rushed for 727 yards, as compared to 614 at this point last year.

Taylor, Luck, Gaffney and Loukas have all accumulated at least 111 yards. Amanam and freshman Anthony Wilkerson will almost certainly join that club in the next few weeks.

"We want to play with class and we want to play with cruelty," Gaffney said. "We want the world to know we come to play. People know we run power and run it over and over."

A disciplinary action, during his high school days, by his father, Gene, had an impact on Gaffney's view of life and led to a belief in truth and morals above all else.

A Cathedral Catholic teacher imposed a grade punishment after Gaffney was caught sharing class work with a classmate. His father, after discussions with all involved, took him off the baseball team for the regular season.

He no longer worries about a repetition of the incident. He's playing things on the level, which makes him tougher to handle for a defense.

Harbaugh also gave the offensive line props. Stanford has allowed one sack thus far.

"A lot of that starts with Chase Beeler and Andrew Luck," Harbaugh said. "They are so on the screws and dialed into the game plan, orchestrating it like a catcher and pitcher in baseball. That's a great battery. Derek Hall has continued to elevate his game every week. (David) DeCastro, (Andrew) Phillips, (Jonathan) Martin are all playing solid football." ■

Stanford roundup

(continued from previous page)

healthy and that's likely to make a lot of Pac-10 coaches sick.

The three-time All-American outside hitter has successfully dealt with shoulder problems in the past. Now that she can swing freely, her kill numbers have risen and she's off to the best start of her career.

Klineman has 146 total kills, averaging 4.87 per set, nearly doubling her total of 79 (2.72) at this point last season. She averaged 4.34 kills a set after nine matches of her freshman year.

Top-ranked Stanford (9-0) opens

Pac-10 play Friday at Arizona State in search of its fifth consecutive conference title. The Sun Devils (5-7) are the only conference team with a record below .500 and they're still dangerous.

Three of Arizona State's losses have been to ranked opponents and another was to an unranked, unbeaten team. The Sun Devils were swept once.

The Pac-10 is considered the best women's volleyball conference in the country. There are currently five undefeated teams entering conference play this weekend. Two others have at least 10 victories and two or fewer losses. Washington State and Oregon State are a combined 13-11.

Six conference teams are ranked among the top 15 in the country, including four of the top eight. No other conference has any more than four teams ranked in the Top 25.

Senior Cassidy Lichtman averages 3.03 kills and 6.13 assists per set and is the team's second-leading scorer behind Klineman.

Freshmen Rachel Williams and Carly Wopat and sophomore Hayley Spelman are quietly putting together solid seasons. All three have at least 52 kills, while Wopat leads the team with 27 blocks, just ahead of Lichtman's 25, and is the team's third-leading scorer. Williams and Spelman are fourth and fifth, respectively.

Cross country

The Stanford Invitational is slated for Saturday on the Stanford Golf Course, with 12 high school races scheduled. The first race is set for 9 a.m.

The men's college race gets underway at 10:50 a.m. and the women's race will go off at about 11:30 a.m.

Stanford traditionally uses its invitational to showcase its full team for the first time. The men are currently ranked first in the nation while the women are ranked 13th.

Six-time All-American Chris Derrick, third at the national championship race last year, competed with the U.S. junior cross country team in 2009. ■

STANFORD INVITATIONAL

Saturday at Stanford Golf Course

- 9 a.m. -- Division 5 varsity boys
 - 9:25 a.m. -- Division 5 varsity girls
 - 9:50 a.m. -- Division 4 varsity boys
 - 10:15 a.m. -- Division 4 varsity girls
 - 10:50 a.m. -- College men's 8K
 - 11:30 a.m. -- College women's 6K
 - 12:10 p.m. -- Division 1 varsity boys
 - 12:40 p.m. -- Division 1 varsity girls
 - 1:10 p.m. -- Seeded (elite) boys' race
 - 1:40 p.m. -- Seeded (elite) girls' race
 - 2:10 p.m. -- Division 2 varsity boys
 - 2:40 p.m. -- Division 2 varsity girls
 - 3:10 p.m. -- Division 3 varsity boys
 - 3:40 p.m. -- Division 3 varsity girls
- All high school races are 5,000 meters (3.1 miles)

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City of Palo Alto Recreation Presents - 26th Annual PALO ALTO WEEKLY MOONLIGHT RUN & WALK

Friday, September 24, 2010

RACE TONIGHT!



TIME & PLACE PLEASE NOTE NEW WALK TIME: 5K walk 7:00pm, 10K run 8:15pm, 5K run 8:45pm.

Race-night registration 6:15 to 8:00pm at City of Palo Alto Baylands Athletic Center, Embarcadero & Geng Roads (just east of the Embarcadero Exit off Highway 101). **Parking** — go to PaloAltoOnline.com to check for specific parking locations.

COURSE 5K and 10K loop courses over Palo Alto Baylands levee, through the marshlands by the light of the Harvest Moon!

Course is flat, USAT&F certified (10k run only) on levee and paved roads. Water at all stops. Course map available at www.PaloAltoOnline.com.

REGISTRATIONS & ENTRY FEE Race-night registration is \$30 and includes a shirt *only while supplies last*. A scantron card must be filled out at race-night registration.

FAMILY PACKAGE: Children 12 and under run free with a registered parent. A completed entry form for each child must be submitted with adult registration.

MINORS: Minors under 18 **MUST** bring signed parental/waiver form on race night to participate. **In addition scantron card must be completely filled out at race-night registration.**

DIVISIONS Age divisions: 9 & under; 10-12; 13-19; 20-29; 30-39; 40-49; 50-59; 60-69, and 70 & over with separate divisions for male and female runners in each age group. Race timing provided for 5K and 10K runs only; not 5K walk.

COMPUTERIZED RESULTS by A Change of Pace Race results will be posted on the Internet at www.PaloAltoOnline.com 10am on 9/27. Registration forms must be filled out completely and correctly for results to be accurate. Race organizers are not responsible for incorrect results caused by incomplete or incorrect registration forms.

AWARDS/PRIZES/ENTERTAINMENT Top three finishers in each division. Prize giveaways and refreshments. DJ Alan Waltz. Pre-race warmups by Noxcuses Fitness, Palo Alto

PALO ALTO GRAND PRIX Road Race Series — Moonlight Run, 9/24; Marsh Madness, 10/23; Home Run 11/14, for more information go to www.paloaltogp.org.

BENEFICIARY Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund. A holiday-giving fund to benefit Palo Alto area non-profits and charitable organizations. In April 2010, 43 organizations received a total of \$240,000 (from the 2009-2010 Holiday Fund.)

MORE INFORMATION Call (650) 463-4920, (650) 326-8210 or go to www.PaloAltoOnline.com

FLASHLIGHTS/HEAD LIGHTS RECOMMENDED

For safety reasons, no dogs allowed on course for the 5K and 10K runs. They are welcome on the 5K walk only. No retractable leashes! Please bring your own clean-up bag. Jogging strollers welcome in the 5K walk or at the back of either run.

GOT OLD SHOES? Give them to Meb! We'll be collecting gently worn athletic shoes to go to those in need in war-zones and post-conflict areas. Bring your shoes to the Project Active booth on the baseball diamond and support your sport by giving back.

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Are you a Foursquare user? Try to earn the elusive "swarm" badge (50 or more people checking in at the same time in the same location) for your profile by checking in on Moonlight Run Race night -- or even better, the harder to obtain "Super Swarm" badge (250 or more people checking in at the same time in the same location)! The Foursquare location is the Palo Alto Weekly Moonlight Run on race night. These are among the hardest badges to earn!