

Weekly

Mitchell library costs alarm Council

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Upfront

Local news, information and analysis

Council irked by errors, rising costs at Mitchell Park Library

City agrees to add money, oversight for construction of \$41 million library and community center

by Gennady Sheyner

Palo Alto's effort to rebuild Mitchell Park Library and Community Center — the centerpiece of the city's \$76 million library bond package — is facing heavy scrutiny from city leaders because of escalating costs and possible

errors by project architects.

The City Council was apprised Monday evening of the problems, and members expressed great frustration at the news and the fact that the city's Public Works department did not inform them earlier.

Nonetheless, the council agreed by a 7-0 vote to increase the construction and design contracts for the library project by \$3.7 million. The project now has an estimated price tag of \$41 million, though the Mitchell Park redevelopment remains on schedule and well within the budget.

The city's contractor, Flintco Pacific Construction, Inc., requested the change order from the city. Officials from Turner Construction Inc., the city's construction manager, told the

council that some of the rising costs could be attributed to details that were missing from the plans at the time that Flintco entered its \$24 million bid. The bid was about 25 percent below the city's expectations.

The design plans, created by Group 4 Architects (the firm tasked with designing all three libraries in the bond) specifically did not include any details about the steel that would be needed to support various elements of the building's exterior, including stone

cladding and window openings, said Greg Smith, the field supervisor for the project.

"The steel needed is not shown on any plan and is not shown on structural drawings," Smith said.

After realizing that it would need more steel to finish the project, Flintco requested more money. Interim Public Works Director Mike Sartor told the council its approval would "keep the

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Veronica Weber

Barron Park Market and Florist owner Hassan Bordbari arranges flowers in the floral area of his store. The longtime Barron Park resident is facing foreclosure of the store he's owned for 27 years.

BARRON PARK

Neighborhood market faces foreclosure

Barron Park Market and Florist struggling to survive in the harsh economy

by Sue Dremann

Hassan Bordbari sat in a chair in the floral section of his Barron Park Market and Florist eating lentil soup out of a battered pot for his lunch.

"Customer!" he yelled to an employee who was tending to the fruits and vegetables in the small neighborhood market at 3876 El Camino Real.

Bordbari, 58, opened the floral shop 27 years ago and the market in 2007 with high hopes of filling a gap and serving the community after another neighborhood grocer, The American Market, closed, he said.

But these days his spirit is feeling as battered as the bean pot from which he ate. Bordbari is facing foreclosure and doesn't know how

much longer the store will go on. Chase Bank is foreclosing on the building, which he owns. He owes \$35,000 for four months of delinquent payments, including fees and penalties, he said.

"When I opened it, people said if it goes in, they would come, so I opened it. I put my life savings in it, but they don't shop here," he said.

"I understand, they say the fruit isn't fresh, but if they don't come and buy, there isn't any turnover. I throw it away all the time. I lost everything," he said.

Barron Park Market has received five- and four-star reviews on Yelp!, with customers calling it "part Bodega, part roadside fruit stand, part florist" and praising its offerings as a "crazy, eclectic smorgasbord" of

Mexican, Middle Eastern and European products with surprises such as Captain Toady's Cocktail Sauce, Cotija cheese and gourmet Frantoia olive oil.

Bordbari blamed the market's failure on a preference of busy residents to go to larger markets such as Whole Foods and Costco. For a time, he thought about selling the building but changed his mind when the real-estate market collapsed. When he bought the building, it cost \$4 million; he still owes \$700,000 on the loan, he said, and he pays \$6,000 each month on his mortgage.

Now he is trying to secure a \$100,000 private money loan company to keep going.

Bordbari said he has seen many changes in retail along the El Camino Real strip.

"Taco Bell goes; Compadres goes; Jack in the Box goes — all gone! Every little business — they are all moving out. Then a big company moves in and takes the essence out of the neighborhood," he said.

Residents agreed that if Barron Park Market and Florist closes, it would be a loss for the neighborhood.

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EDUCATION

Parents praise vote on academic stress

New school board directive to probe homework practices, testing schedules

by Chris Kenrick

Parents who have lobbied the Palo Alto Unified School District about excessive academic stress said they were pleased with a Tuesday school board vote on the subject.

Among its 12 "focused goals" for 2011-12, the Board of Education Tuesday pledged to implement practices to "reduce unnecessary academic stress and promote a more supportive school culture."

To pursue the goal, principals and others will be asked to "examine the purpose and volume" of homework and contribute ideas for a district policy on "sound practices."

School leaders also will gather data on the distribution of tests and project deadlines in an effort to create a system to minimize "test clumping."

Other aspects of the goal involve an array of programs to "promote connectedness for every student" and continued use of a youth-wellness framework known as the Developmental Assets, which schools adopted last fall, to support the social-emotional health of students.

"The content of these goals is quite remarkable, and I appreciate the progress," said parent Ken Dauber who, with his wife, Michele, had called for "new leadership" for the school district seven months ago. The Daubers last spring organized parents into a group, We Can Do Better Palo Alto, to press for changes.

Matthew McDermott, rector of St. Mark's Episcopal Church and JLS parent, volunteered the assistance of his congregation in the "slow and challenging work" of executing on the stress-reduction goal.

A group from St. Mark's and other religious congregations, which formed after a devastating cluster of Palo Alto student suicides that began in 2009, had lobbied the district for 18 months to adopt programs promoting "student

connectedness."

Superintendent Kevin Skelly said he will present a calendar within the next month that lists a system for reporting progress toward the goals.

Regarding a new homework policy, he said research could wrap up in the current academic year and results in terms of "impact it has on teachers, course outlines and expectations" would likely be seen next fall — or possibly, in some cases, by spring of 2012.

"I hope members of the community see their handprint on the work we have for this year," Skelly said.

Parents and school board members had sought to make the ambitious goals as specific and measurable as possible.

But some remained critical of the district for not doing more to implement uniform "best practices" across Palo Alto's 17 campuses, instead leaving individual schools to pursue the goals independently, in different ways.

"Things like Panther Camp at JLS are not leveraged to Terman or Jordan," said Kathy Sharp, a Gunn parent and member of We Can Do Better Palo Alto.

"It leads to reinventing the wheel. That's not what parents are looking for. They want to understand what best practices are and roll them out across the district," she said.

Michael Milliken, former principal at Jordan Middle School and now the district's director of secondary education, said the district has a policy of allowing each school to make its own decisions.

"A lot of this analysis and activity is already taking place at the site level," he said.

"Lack of centrally planned activities reflects our approach. It's our intent to message this area as a priority for our

(continued on page 6)

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Upfront

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“

I put my life savings in it, but they don't shop here.

”

—**Hassan Bordbari**, owner of *Barron Park Market and Florist*, on why his neighborhood business might close. See story on page 3.

Around Town

OUR MAN IN SACRAMENTO ...

Fresh off his freshmen year in Sacramento, Assemblyman **Rich Gordon** met with the Palo Alto City Council this week to discuss the latest happenings in the state Capitol. Gordon, a 13-year veteran of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, described his first year in the Assembly as a “very interesting experience” — and not necessarily in a good way. State politics, he said, are very different from those at the local and county levels. “The partisanship is unbelievable,” said Gordon, for whom consensus-building was a major theme of last year’s Assembly campaign. “It’s a real challenge to tackle some of the big problems confronting the state when you can’t even communicate sometimes.” One problem, he said, is the sheer amount of legislation. Each legislator is allowed to introduce 40 bills, and while few actually reach that limit, the result is still a massive quantity of proposals. Consequently, there’s “often not much quality,” Gordon said. Another challenge is figuring out what Gov. **Jerry Brown** will do with the bills once they get to his desk. This includes a bill, co-authored by Gordon, that would strengthen lobbying and gift-giving policies pertaining to rail officials. Gordon said it’s tough to pick out a pattern in Brown’s vetoes. The governor said, for example, that he would veto any bill that would change the governance structure of the California High-Speed Rail Authority, a topic of great interest in Palo Alto. “Many of us who have spent time with Jerry Brown think that probably most of his decisions are made through some kind of a ‘Zen moment’ thing rather than some kind of consistent policy, but we’ll see how it all plays out.” He did have one bit of good news for the council — the Legislature’s current interim recess means no surprises. “The good news is that at least for the next several months, you’re safe from us. We can’t pass any new legislation.”

WE LOVE YOU, BUT ... Tickets for **Gunn High School’s** wildly popular **Night Rally** are in such demand that the student government has struggled with how to allocate

them. Students practice competitive dance routines for weeks and will perform them in the gym on Oct. 27. “The dilemma is that many parents want to see the kids perform,” Gunn student representative **Gurpal Virdi** explained to the Board of Education this week. “However there isn’t much space, and we’d like to give priority to students, not parents.” The school’s student government has proposed early ticket sales for students only and later limiting the number of tickets a student may buy for family members. This year’s plans also include a likely live streaming of the event, so that “parents who aren’t able to go to the Night Rally will be able to see it from the comfort of their own homes,” Virdi said.

A CUP OF VIRTUE ...

Palo Alto officials faced a strange conundrum this week as they debated a new café at the soon-to-be-built **Mitchell Park Library and Community Center**. The city has yet to choose a vendor, but residents have some ideas. More than a dozen of them attended the City Council’s Monday night meeting and sent in letters lobbying the council to select **Ada’s Café**, a nonprofit group known for hiring disabled adults and children. Speakers and writers lavished praise on the café’s offerings and on its founder, **Kathleen Foley-Hughes**, a longtime volunteer at local schools. The council did not make any decisions on the new café, but members agreed that the vendor should do more than serve coffee and make sandwiches. It should also serve us “social responsibility.” The council unanimously directed staff to submit a request for proposals to vendors that includes the “social” component, as well as traditional factors such as costs and whether food is sustainably grown. Councilman **Pat Burt** said having a “social responsibility” component would further a number of council priorities, including environmental sustainability and youth well-being. Councilman **Larry Klein** agreed. “Absolutely, social responsibility should be a factor in a decision like this,” he said. The city is scheduled to choose a vendor by late November. ■

Developer gets OK for housing near Cubberley

School district also 'expresses interest' in buying San Antonio Road site

by Gennady Sheyner

After hitting a wall earlier this year, developer SummerHill Homes scored a major victory Wednesday evening when its bid to build houses on a coveted south Palo Alto property earned the backing of the city's Planning and Transportation Commission.

SummerHill's proposal, which the commission swiftly approved 6-0 with Arthur Keller absent, is far less ambitious than the one the City Council unanimously struck down in May. At that time, the builder requested a zone change that would enable construction of 23 townhouses — far more than the zoning typically allows — at 525 San Antonio Road.

Also this week, the Palo Alto school district reaffirmed its possible interest in acquiring the site, which is owned by the operators of the former Peninsula Day Care Center but under contract to SummerHill.

In closed session Tuesday, the school board voted unanimously to "enter into an agreement with the property owner and SummerHill" that would give school officials access to the site for inspection and testing.

SummerHill's original 23-home proposal faced heavy opposition from the community and was panned by both the planning commission and the council. The new plan, which calls for 10 homes and no zoning changes, sailed through

the commission hearing with little discussion and no neighborhood opposition.

The property, located near the Mountain View border, has been the subject of much debate in recent years, with SummerHill, the Palo Alto Unified School District and the surrounding neighborhoods offering disparate visions for its future. While SummerHill has consistently maintained that the site's proximity to the Caltrain station at San Antonio Road and Central Expressway makes it ripe for dense housing, residents have argued that their area is too crowded and has insufficient services to accommodate an influx of new residents. The school district, meanwhile, has been eyeing the site — which abuts Greendell School and Cubberley Community Center — for a possible school expansion.

The 2.64-acre site was most recently used by Peninsula Day Care, which closed in June after 35 years of operation.

The commission's approval of SummerHill's request could deal a blow to the plans of the school district, which earlier this month formally announced its interest in buying the site. This week, however, district Superintendent Kevin Skelly sent a letter to the commission saying that the district remains undecided about the possible purchase. He also stated in the letter that the district's expression of interest in the

site was not related to SummerHill's most recent application.

"We again wish to emphasize that the PAUSD Board has made no formal decision to acquire the site and is still in the exploratory phase," Skelly wrote. "We understand that SummerHill Homes, Inc., remains under contract with the property owner, A&D Protocol, Inc., to purchase the property."

"Should development on the property be proposed by any party, including the owner or SummerHill, we again wanted to emphasize the fact that PAUSD has not made a decision to acquire the site. The City should remain free to process any applications for development as it otherwise would."

The new proposal calls for five single-family lots on each side of a cul-de-sac. Lot sizes would vary but would average about 9,700 square feet, said SummerHill Vice President Katia Kamangar. The cul-de-sac would be lined with a 5-foot-wide sidewalk. SummerHill has also agreed to include a public easement at the end of the cul-de-sac to allow future pedestrian and bike paths to Cubberley and Greendell, according to the project application.

Commissioner Greg Tanaka said the project "seems to be heading in the right direction," while Commissioner Samir Tuma lauded the new

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COMMUNITY

Echelon events, food festival to be held Saturday

Some streets will be closed for bike courses and Taste of Palo Alto

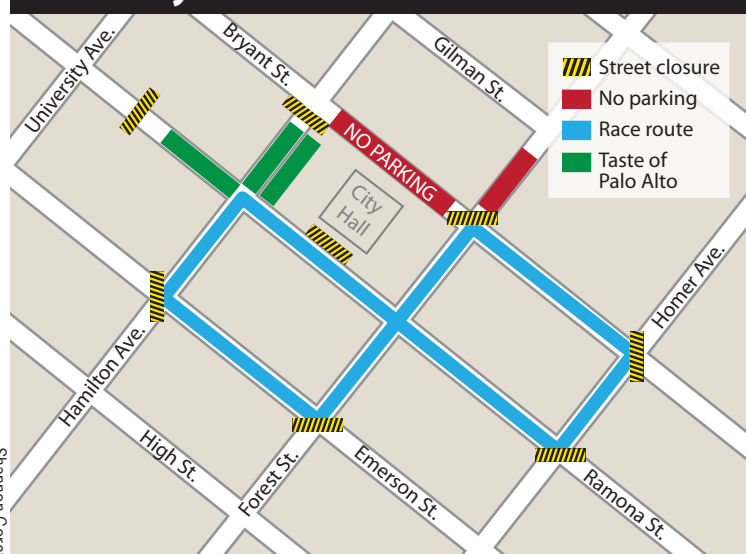
by Karla Kane

Three city-sponsored events will be held in downtown Palo Alto this Saturday (Sept. 17): The Echelon Gran Fondo (a multi-mile bike ride from town to the coast and back), the Echelon Challenge (a closed-loop 0.6-mile course for fundraising cyclists or walkers) and the Taste of Palo Alto food festival, offering samples from many local restaurants, located on Hamilton Avenue and King Plaza.

Due to the events, street closures will impact portions of Hamilton, Forest and Homer avenues, as well as Emerson, Ramona and Bryant streets near City Hall (see map). Residents and businesses along the route will have access to driveways and parking, according to the city.

Gran Fondo riders will bike from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. The Challenge is open also from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., but participants can stop and go as they please. The Taste runs from noon to 6 p.m. Tickets to the food festival, which include five food samples, can be purchased at the event for

Saturday's Gran Fondo street closures



\$25 for adults and \$15 for children under 12.

More information is available at www.echelongranfondo.org/palo_

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Editorial Assistant Karla Kane can be emailed at kkane@paweekly.com.

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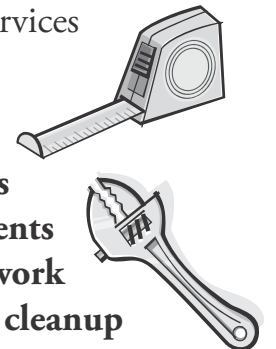
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CityView

A round-up of Palo Alto government action this week

A round-up of Palo Alto government action this week

City Council (Sept. 12)

Downtown parking: The council discussed the city's parking strategies for downtown, the California Avenue Business District and future residential parking permit programs. **Action:** None
Mitchell Park Library: The council approved a staff proposal to increase contingency and approve change orders for construction of the new Mitchell Park Library and Community Center. **Yes:** Burt, Espinosa, Holman, Klein, Schmid, Shepherd, Yeh **Absent:** Price, Scharff

Board of Education (Sept. 13)

Goals for 2011-12: The board approved 12 "focused goals" for the school district for 2011-12, including a policy to implement steps to reduce "unnecessary academic stress." **Yes:** Unanimous
Test scores: The board discussed a report on standardized test scores for elementary and middle students, which measured the most recent results against goals set in the district's 2008 strategic plan. **Action:** None
Cubberley: The board heard an update from Superintendent Kevin Skelly on the status of framework discussions with the City Manager on the future of the old Cubberley High School property. **Action:** None

Council Finance Committee (Sept. 13)

Percent for Art: The committee approved minor revisions to the city's Percent for Art policy. **Yes:** Unanimous
Technology: The commission discussed staff's proposal to craft a policy regarding city partnerships with companies creating emerging technologies. **Action:** None

Planning and Transportation Commission (Sept. 14)

525 San Antonio Road: The commission approved a proposal by SummerHill Homes to build 10 homes at 525 San Antonio Road. **Yes:** Fineberg, Garber, Lippert, Martinez, Tanaka, Tuma **Absent:** Keller

Architectural Review Board (Sept. 15)

Main Library: The board discussed proposed changes to connectivity between Main Library, the Palo Alto Art Center and Community Gardens. **Action:** None



LET'S DISCUSS: Read the latest local news headlines and talk about the issues at Town Square at PaloAltoOnline.com

Public Agenda

A preview of Palo Alto government meetings next week

CITY COUNCIL ... The council plans to hold a joint session with the Planning and Transportation Commission; adopt increases to water and refuse rates; discuss the latest regional housing projections; and consider a tentative map and a mitigated negative declaration for 195 Page Mill Road. The meeting begins at 6 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 19, in the Council Chambers at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

CITY COUNCIL ... The council plans to meet with Santa Clara Supervisor Liz Kniss. The meeting begins at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 20, in the Council Conference Room at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE ... The committee plans to discuss the purpose of Calaveras Reserve; proposed changes to the city's gas-purchasing strategy; and the audit of purchasing-card transactions. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 20, in the Council Conference Room at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

HISTORIC RESOURCES BOARD ... The board plans to discuss 935 Ramona St., a proposal to remove a residence from the city's Historic Inventory. The meeting begins at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 21, in the Council Chambers at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

COUNCIL RAIL COMMITTEE ... The committee plans to discuss the city's response to the Bay Area Council letter to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission; consider the High-Speed Rail Guiding Principles Policy Document; and discuss a request for proposals for rail legislative advocacy services. The meeting begins at 8 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 22, in the Council Chambers at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

INFRASTRUCTURE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ... The commission will continue its discussion of the city's infrastructure backlog and possible ways to pay for the items on the list. The meeting begins at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 22, at Lucie Stern Community Center (1305 Middlefield Road).

LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION ... The commission will discuss rules of conduct and procedures at its meetings; hear a presentation on Library Youth Services Program; and hear a report from commission subcommittees about 2011 priorities. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 15, in the Downtown Library Community Room (270 Forest Ave.).

Market

(continued from page 3)

"Although we rarely shop there it still is useful to have a market in the neighborhood within walking distance of most of Barron Park and Ventura. I think we all would be very sad to see them go. Unfortunately it's hard for small markets to be competitive with the giants like Safeway and Raley's," Bob Moss, who has been keeping an eye on recent retail closures along El Camino near Barron Park, said in an email to the Weekly.

"Walmart and Target also are expanding in the grocery business, so competition for the smaller stores like Barron Park Market is tough. Let's hope this is just a temporary rough patch and they are able to survive," Moss said.

Resident Tom Wagner said he shops at the market periodically but not routinely. Lisa Altieri said she hoped the Barron Park Green Team, of which she and Wagner are members, could come up with creative ways to help the market.

"I can't speak for other residents, but I would feel that it is unfortunate for the neighborhood to lose a local market. ... I think this is a great opportunity for our neighborhood to be more sustainable by having a local market that we can easily walk or bike to for groceries.

"I have been thinking about whether it would help the market to continue if we set up some way for neighbors to provide feedback and info to the market on what kinds of items they would come in to buy, so that the owner could stock items that were more likely to support neighborhood customers," she said. But, she added, the Green Team is working on numerous other projects and would not be able to launch a feedback system right away.

The stress of loss has affected Bordbari's health.

"I almost collapsed two months ago," he said, pointing to the floor. "Right here — I almost had a nervous breakdown." ■

Stress

(continued from page 3)

sites, build capacity and monitor and support progress."

Skelly said principals share information on a regular basis.

"The thing that's often cited is Panther Camp at JLS, but there's also something very similar at Terman, and Jordan takes a look at that. I hope we've created a culture of collaboration and the sharing of best practices around our activities."

Other school district goals adopted Tuesday include improving the "consistency and quality of instructional practices"; presenting a plan "to have more students complete college preparatory coursework and more fully support those who do not"; obtaining an independent analysis of college counseling practices at Gunn and Paly; providing one-to-one "coaching and mentoring to administrators"; expanding professional development for teachers; and planning for "fiscal uncertainty" and enrollment growth. ■

Staff Writer Chris Kenrick can be emailed at ckenrick@paweekly.com.

Neighborhoods

A roundup of neighborhood news edited by Sue Dremann

AROUND THE BLOCK

RETURN OF THE EUCALYPTUS

... College Terrace residents will celebrate on Saturday (Sept. 17) the reincarnation of their beloved **blue gum eucalyptus** tree, which was cut down in 2008 when the **College Terrace Library** was renovated. Residents turned the felled tree into three benches for outside the library, which will be dedicated at the **College Terrace Residents Association** fall picnic, from 4 to 7 p.m. The picnic, which is open to College Terrace residents, takes place at Mayfield Park, adjacent to the library at 2300 Wellesley St. Information: board@cetra.org

GETTING THE SCOOP ...

The annual **Midtown Residents Association Ice Cream Social** will be held Sunday (Sept. 18) from 1 to 4 p.m. at Hoover Park, 2901 Cowper St. in Palo Alto. The ice cream social is a way to bring Midtown "old-timers" and new arrivals together, organizers said. Members of the **Palo Alto City Council**, city staff and commissioners will scoop ice cream for Midtown residents. **Palo Alto firefighters** will serve their award-winning chili. Other activities include popcorn, face painting, emergency information and children's activities.

A 'SUPER' DEAL ... "An Evening with the School Superintendent Kevin Skelly" takes place at the **Midtown Residents Association** general meeting Tuesday (Sept. 20) at 7 p.m. Topics include an update on current construction projects, enrollment information, and school board goals. The meeting takes place at the Ohlone Elementary School Library, 950 Amarillo Ave., Palo Alto.

BIKE PALO ALTO ... The Second Annual **Bike Palo Alto!** community bike ride, which is hosted by the **Palo Alto Neighborhood Green Teams**, will take place Oct. 9 from 1 to 4 p.m. The ride starts at El Carmelo School, at the corner of Bryant Street and Loma Verde Avenue. Self-guided route maps with a variety of rides for all ages will be provided. Vendors along the routes will offer free treats such as ice cream and fruit. More than 600 participants are expected. The event includes bike safety, free bike maintenance, bike registration and a raffle. Information: www.pagreen-teams.org/bikepaloalto ■

Send announcements of neighborhood events, meetings and news to Sue Dremann, *Neighborhoods* editor, at sdremann@paweekly.com. Or talk about your neighborhood news on Town Square at www.PaloAltoOnline.com.

OLD PALO ALTO

A neighborhood literary salon engages women

The Peninsula Parlour brings residents, writers together in an intimate setting

by Sue Dremann

Once every three months, words tumble through the doorway at Lisen Stromberg's Old Palo Alto home as a local woman writer discusses her work. More than 30 visitors gather in a setting akin to an 18th-century French literary and philosophical salon, sipping on wine and munching on appetizers.

Stromberg digs deeply during an interview that follows a brief reading from the author's latest work, mining in detail the writer's process and influences.

This space — The Peninsula Parlour — is a gathering place for lovers of the written word. Each meeting brings writers and their audience face to face in a way not experienced in lecture halls and bookstore readings, she said.

In Stromberg's living room, attendees and author bond.

"There are not many opportunities to really connect with authors and writers. ... It's a special relationship when a reader has the opportunity to understand the author's process in creating their work — not just in terms of character development or story development but in terms of the actual process of the written word, the journey from beginning to end," she said.

"There is such a rich literary community around here; it's not hard to

find authors who are wonderful to read and exciting to hear and meet," she said.

Stromberg started The Peninsula Parlour last December as a way to raise funds for her children's school (she donated the cost of admission). The events drew neighbors, friends and many people whom she did not know, brought to her home by word of mouth, she said.

The Peninsula Parlour is not a writers' group.

"It's not intended to be anything more than welcoming," Stromberg said.

Guest writers have included renowned author Cornelia Nixon; award-winning filmmaker and novelist Holly Payne; Mills College Distinguished Visiting Writer and PEN award winner Faith Adiele; and Stanford instructor and Wallace Stegner Fellow Malena Watrous. Next Tuesday (Sept. 20) from 7 to 9 p.m., author Carol Edgarian will read from her latest work, "The Three Stages of Amazement."

Proceeds from a \$20 door charge go to the charity or cause of the writer's choice, and Books, Inc. in Palo Alto donates 10 percent of the author's book sales on the day of the event, she said.

Adiele's proceeds went to the National V-Day Organization, a global



Veronica Weber

Lisen Stromberg started a literary salon, dubbed *The Peninsula Parlour*, where authors and readers meet to discuss literature in her Old Palo Alto home.

movement to stop violence against women and girls. The 49ers Academy will be the beneficiary during Palo Alto author Maria Murnane's Jan. 4, 2012, reading, Stromberg said.

Building community and neighborhood connections are goals of the parlour and are reflected in her own writing, Stromberg said. Her essays have been published in Newsweek and Salon.com, among other publications.

"When a writer can help you connect to your soul, when a writer can help you feel less alone, if a writer can make you feel known, then that is the gift of a writer," she said.

Stromberg turned to writing several years ago and is working on her first novel. It's about a woman who is on bed rest and who is coming to terms with her choices in life.

"I've never been happier," she said of her own decision to become a writer.

She said she is not opposed to inviting male authors but has focused on women because "the system is structured to support men authors."

In the 17th and 18th centuries salons became the universities of sorts for women, especially in France, ac-

(continued on page 9)

MIDTOWN

A garden in the concrete jungle

Neighbors find camaraderie at Midtown's 'Big Snail Ranch'

by Sue Dremann

Along a noisy stretch of Middlefield Road, beside Matadero Creek, a refuge from the sun and cement has taken hold.

Birdhouses hang from a flowering privet, buzzing with nectar-sipping bees. Sculptures ranging from dinosaurs to nudes pop out from between pink hydrangeas and herbs.

A tiny blue watering can and spray bottles encourage passing children to water the flowers, and a dog bowl filled with water from a miniature stylized "stream" serves passing canines out for a walk with their owners.

Welcome to the "Big Snail Ranch," a corner garden so named after the pesky mollusks that invariably lunch on the plants in Lynn

Krug's garden.

The garden is the Midtown resident's work of art, populated with her own figure sculptures and plants rescued from construction sites and remodels. It's where Krug unwinds after a long day as a field inspector for the City of Palo Alto's Water, Gas, Wastewater Engineering Department.

But most importantly to Krug, the garden's main function is building community, she said.

"Parents used to race by with their kids pushed in strollers with one hand and talking on their cell phones with the other. I started putting stuff out to make them stop by," she said.

Krug's dream of building a corner



Veronica Weber

Lynn Krug stands in the garden she created, adjacent to her apartment complex on Middlefield Road. Today the garden showcases hand-painted birdhouses, eclectic ceramic animals and sculptures created by Krug, as well as plants rescued from construction sites.

space for residents began six years ago, just months after she moved into her apartment on the northeast side of the creek. She began putting out plants in the trash- and

ivy-covered lot and eventually won over her initially skeptical landlord, she said.

(continued on page 8)

Real Estate Matters

WHY OVER IMPROVE

You live in a fine older home in a good neighborhood, but you're ready to sell. You've noticed over the years that some of your neighbors have remodeled, added on, replaced old windows. Now you're concerned that your home won't look as attractive as the others, but just how much do you need to remodel to persuade potential buyers?

Surprisingly little. If your home is in good condition and offers amenities like location, multiple bedrooms and baths, or large yard. Your real estate professional can walk through your home and offer sound ideas for reasonable im-

provements that will get you the best price for your home. Often, the greatest suggestion is to simply repaint the exterior and possibly some interior spaces.

You'll be happy to know that painting is one of the most profitable cosmetic improvements you can make. The time and money invested can really pay off when your home looks fresh and well cared for. Major kitchen or bath remodeling can be a major and costly inconvenience for you if not absolutely necessary.

Just be sure to get your home into its best presentable condition before you list it, and then let buyers imagine how to best remodel the home to suit their desires. Stop guessing and start packing!

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Garden

(continued from page 7)

After working out a deal regarding water use, she expanded the garden to a roughly 20-foot-by-60-foot area amid existing oaks, California pepper and palm trees.

Now the garden features a plethora of flowering plants, herbs and vegetables ripe for the smelling, gazing at and picking. Neighbors bring plant gifts, do plant exchanges and donate unwanted and rescued sheds, trellises, bird baths and other garden additions, she said. A once-scrawny avocado tree with three leaves came with a note on it: "Please take care of me."

Krug gazed about and smiled. "The only thing I see from my apartment are the trees — no buildings. I moved here because I wanted an apartment that gave me a feel of the outside. There are tons of finches and chickadees and hummingbirds," she said, pointing out paintings on the birdhouses of each species that visits the garden.

A woman and her child come to the garden every Sunday morning to pick a strawberry from the planter strip edging the street. In summer, there are fresh tomatoes. Adults stop to pot up herb cuttings to bring home, she said.

"It really makes me excited. People are out here talking and friendly because of the garden," she said.

Every place she has lived has had

a trash or weed-strewn alley nearby that Krug has transformed into a garden, she said.

Krug said people don't usually associate gardens with apartment dwelling, but she believes creating such spaces should happen all over town — especially in areas where there are apartments.

"I feel personally strongly about the garden, I want people to engage — to take the time to stop and reflect. People have sort of fortified their homes. The garden encourages people to imagine," she said.

The garden is the only thing like it between Loma Verde Avenue and the Midtown shopping area, she said. "It's like having a park at the end of the street."

Each season brings something different; Krug "works with what the garden wants to become," she said.

On holidays, she decorates for Valentine's Day or Christmas or the Fourth of July. Twenty neighbors from adjacent Ellsworth Place gathered in the garden for a July 4 block party, she said.

If Krug isn't in the garden for a day or two, or if another neighbor who frequents the garden isn't seen, residents become concerned, she said. The garden has become a neighborhood destination. Sometimes, people don't realize she is the garden's creator.

"I'll stand out here and people introduce me to the garden. People feel a sense of ownership or place. It makes people feel homey," she said.

Krug, 55, grew up in upstate New York's Finger Lakes region, the daughter of a construction worker and mother who hung out with artists.

Krug studied art at Pratt Institute and became a sculptor. She has taught at the Pacific Art League. She lived on a stagecoach inn and dairy farm surrounded by nature, she said.

The Middlefield garden is not the only garden she has developed locally. Krug and her daughter, Rose, 16, created a garden at a women's and family shelter for a Girl Scouts project; Krug and city union volunteers also installed a garden on the side of the Palo Alto Municipal Services Center on East Bayshore Road, she said.

Sitting at a small wicker table among the trees in her "junior Stern Grove," Krug reflected on the changes the garden has brought to the neighborhood: friendship, sharing, a connection with nature — and inspiration.

People have started remodeling the front of a nearby apartment complex and new landscaping has been added at another building, she said.

"A guy said he bought his house because of the garden," she said. "People could do this all over town." ■

A video created by Lynn Krug about her garden and her neighbors can be viewed at youtube.com/user/mczoomin by searching for "Share a Garden."

Staff Writer Sue Dremann can be emailed at sdremann@paweekly.com.

September 29, 2011

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Mitchell

(continued from page 3)

project moving on schedule and to avoid claims down the road.”

During the council’s hour-and-a-half discussion, Councilman Larry Klein said he’s “not happy with where we are” and told Sartor that he should have approached the council earlier and that he should have been more candid.

“We have to be frank with ourselves,” Klein said. “We’re not doing as well as we expected on this deal.”

The council also agreed to increase the “contingency costs” for the project — the costs that are tagged on to the price tag to account for unexpected developments and complications. Initially, the Mitchell Park project carried with it a contingency of 10

percent. The council agreed to raise the contingency cost to 20 percent, short of the 25 percent city staff requested.

City officials had expected the project to fall far below budget because of the tight construction climate. Councilwoman Nancy Shepherd said she was “shocked” by the rising costs.

“Quite frankly, I’ve been a construction accountant for about 25 years, and I’ve never seen a 25 percent contingency factor in a construction project — especially of this size,” Shepherd said. “I’m deeply concerned.”

Meanwhile, the city attorney’s office is mulling a claim against Group 4 because of the errors in the design plans. Klein, an attorney, said it seemed like “we have a very serious claim against Group 4.” Sartor agreed. He said the firm has “accepted the

fact that the plans have problems” and has added staff to address these problems as quickly as possible.

“Whether it’s at the level of errors and omissions or not, we have not determined,” Sartor told the council.

Group 4 did not return a request for comment.

In approving the change order, the council tacked on a series of conditions strengthening its oversight of the project. The council directed staff to provide monthly reports on all change orders and asked City Attorney Molly Stump to provide monthly reports regarding potential claims the city should file against Group 4 or other contractors working on the Mitchell Park project.

“We have to exercise a lot more oversight into what’s going on to make sure the city is getting its money’s worth and that we’re being sufficiently aggressive,” said Klein, who crafted the motion with the added oversight provisions. “If Flintco thought they’d be able to recoup their low bid just by putting in change orders, one of our answers will be that we won’t let them do that unless where it’s appropriate.”

Stump told the Weekly Tuesday that her office is reviewing the roles of the various contractors to determine whether the city should file any claims.

Though errors in the design plans contributed to the rising cost, Flintco’s low bid also played a part, Sartor said. The construction climate had prompted contractors to submit low bids and then look for ways to raise costs.

“This contractor and other contractors we’ve been working with in the last couple of years really squeezed every opportunity they can to identify potential changes,” Sartor said.

The city has received about \$4 million in change-order requests from contractors, Smith said, and has settled requests totaling about \$1.25 million.

The explanation did not entirely satisfy Councilman Pat Burt, who said he’s concerned whether “we’ve been gamed and how aggressively we’re willing to push back on a contractor who it seems like they low-balled us and they’re coming back with change orders that on a fixed bid shouldn’t be that big.”

Sartor assured the council that he does not expect any other major additions to the contract. Staff, he said, does not take the contract adjustments lightly. He told the council he was “freaked out” about the latest changes, but said he is confident the increased contingency would be sufficient to pay for the project and to complete the project by fall of 2012.

“There’s a lot riding on this project, particularly considering future potential bond elections,” Sartor said.

The Mitchell Park Library and Community Center is one of three library projects funded by a bond voters passed in 2008. The Downtown Library was renovated and reopened in July, while the renovation of the Main Library is scheduled to begin once the new Mitchell Park Library reopens. ■

Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner can be emailed at gsheyner@paweekly.com.

Housing

(continued from page 5)

plan for adhering to feedback from commissioners, council members and neighborhood residents, who overwhelmingly demanded a more modest proposal. He said he is very supportive of the new plan.

“To me that’s the right project for here,” Tuma said.

Kamangar told the commission

Wednesday that the company will continue to hold talks with school officials about the district’s interest.

“The school district has the ability to buy that land now,” Kamangar told the commission. “They had that ability previously as well and we will continue to work with them.”

The council is scheduled to discuss the project within the next month. ■

Staff Writer Chris Kenrick contributed to this report.

Parlour

(continued from page 7)

According to historian Evelyn Gordon Bodek. Women had no power or influence in society outside of the salon.

Female literary gatherings began in 16th-century Italy; ladies in France soon followed suit, reclining on their beds in the 17th century. Friends surrounded the bed on stools engaging in intellectual conversations, historians note.

Attendees and writers at The Pen-

insula Parlour might today have more powerful, worldly roles than their earlier counterparts — Stromberg, a mother of three, is a former businesswoman with an MBA in marketing — but the exchange of ideas is no less invigorating.

“Each event is different. It’s a really wonderful, almost elastic, changeable experience,” Stromberg said. ■

Information is available at peninsulaparlour.com. ■

Staff Writer Sue Dremann can be emailed at sdremann@paweekly.com.

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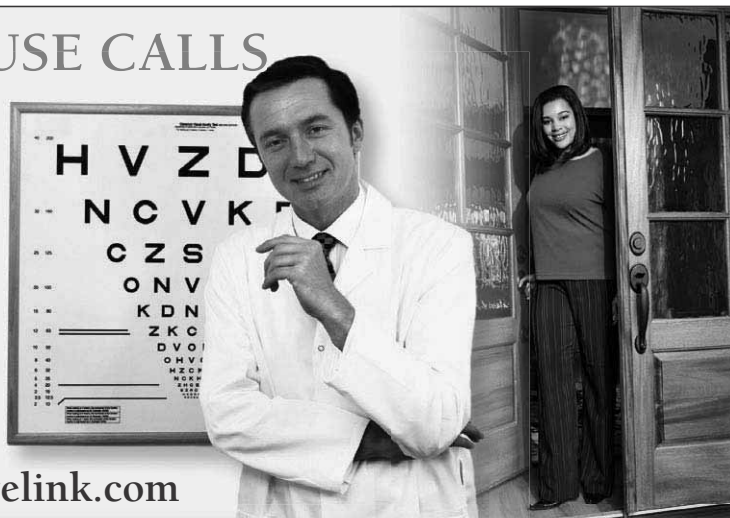
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News Digest

School board dips toe into Cubberley discussion

As the Palo Alto school district and City Council prepare for talks on the future of Cubberley Community Center, school board member Dana Tom said Tuesday the district needs to clarify its own “working models” for the 35-acre parcel.

Talks are slated to begin this fall on Cubberley, located at 4000 Middlefield Road, which closed as a high school in 1979 and has been leased to the City of Palo Alto for use as a community center in the decades since.

Worried about a rising rate of enrollment growth, the school board in July blocked a plan for the sale of 8 city-owned acres of Cubberley to Foothill College for construction of what Foothill said would be a state-of-the-art satellite campus.

Without detailing its intentions, the school board asserted it would need all of Cubberley’s 35 acres to accommodate prospective growth and vowed to work with the City Council to clarify a future for the aging campus.

Superintendent Kevin Skelly said Tuesday that city and school staff members are collaborating on the issue, and the council is scheduled to discuss Cubberley Oct. 3.

The current, decades-long management agreement for the popular and well-used Cubberley campus represents costs for the city and income for the school district.

Currently, the city pays the school district \$4.48 million to lease Cubberley and an additional \$1.73 million not to develop vacant school sites, according to a draft document prepared in August by the city’s Infrastructure Blue Ribbon Commission.

The city collects \$2.54 million a year in rent from various Cubberley users and spends \$2.21 on maintenance of the facility. ■

— Chris Kenrick

Parking program a tough sell for Professorville

Residents of the Professorville neighborhood, which abuts downtown Palo Alto and has been plagued with people parking their cars all day on the residential streets, have been pleading with the Palo Alto City Council for more than two years to set up a program under which parking for visitors would be limited to two hours.

They reiterated these concerns Monday night (Sept. 12), during the City Council’s broad-ranging discussion of parking problems downtown and near California Avenue.

Ken Alzman, a Professorville resident who is leading the effort to create a new parking-permit program for the neighborhood, said he supports downtown businesses but doesn’t want to “subsidize their success with destruction of our neighborhood.”

Downtown business leaders reject this characterization and note that they have already sunk millions of dollars into creating new parking structures.

Russ Cohen, executive director of the Palo Alto Downtown Business and Professional Association, acknowledged, “We have a problem in Professorville,” but he urged the council not to launch the permit program until the city has a chance to evaluate other less drastic proposals on the table. These measures include new way-finding signs leading visitors to downtown garages (many of which remain underused, according to a recent city survey) and new rates for parking permits to encourage downtown workers to buy these permits and park in garages.

“We need to see if those incremental changes make a difference,” Cohen told the council.

The council did not make any decisions about the permit program Monday but members seemed generally sympathetic toward the Professorville dilemma.

Councilman Larry Klein was the only council member who advocated speeding ahead on a new permit program in Professorville. The neighborhood, he said, is a “unique situation” that does not require a citywide solution.

Others were more cautious. Mayor Sid Espinosa said he was concerned that downtown workers would take their cars to other neighborhoods, including Downtown North, once a permit program is in place in Professorville. ■

—Gennady Sheyner

Explosion rocks Midtown apartments

Palo Alto police and firefighters responded to a small explosion in a Palo Alto apartment complex Tuesday night. The building was evacuated, and traffic was halted in the surrounding area due to toxic gas, police said.

A resident of the building at 2727 Midtown Court reported the explosion and subsequent noxious odor in a 911 call at 7:20 p.m.

The Palo Alto Fire Department located the source of the odor in a pool-supply area beneath a stairwell. Firefighters found a 5-gallon bucket containing a chlorine-based substance that was violently “off gassing,” police said.

The substance was removed from the building and firefighters were able to stop the hazardous fumes. Residents were allowed to return to their apartments at around 9:30 p.m.

Seven residents and one Palo Alto firefighter were evaluated for exposure to the substance and were treated on the scene. The Red Cross assisted one family who were unable to return to their residence.

Firefighters stored the substance for further evaluation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. Investigators do not yet know if the explosion was accidental or intentional. ■

— Bay City News Service

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STAYING CLOSE WHILE STANDING BACK

Julie Metzger, RN, creator of our “Heart to Heart” program, hosts a lively discussion for parents of preteens and adolescents focused on ways to be present for our teens while fostering their independent development.

- Monday, October 3: 7:00 – 8:30 pm

HEALTHY PREGNANCY 101

Dr. Natali Aziz, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Stanford University School of Medicine, offers an overview of pregnancy for the newly pregnant or soon-to-be pregnant couple. The program includes the physical and emotional changes of pregnancy, comfort measures for pregnancy, fetal development, pregnancy testing, life changes and much more. This is a free seminar...however space is limited.

- Monday, October 17: 7:00 – 9:00 pm

STAYING HEALTHY THROUGH FOUR SEASONS OF SPORTS

Please join Dr. Meghan Imrie, pediatric orthopedic surgeon, for a discussion on how to avoid common sports injuries in children and adolescents. Parents, coaches and interested others will also gain ideas for how to keep children safe and healthy in a variety of sports settings throughout the school year.

- Thursday, October 13: 7:00 – 8:30 pm

BRINGING BABY HOME

This two-part workshop focuses on the couple relationship after the birth of a child. Designed by Drs. John and Julie Schwartz Gottman, the course assists expectant and new parents in building a stronger bond between each other and with the new baby.

- Two Sundays, October 23 & 30: 10:00 am – 3:30 pm

Call (650) 724-4601 or visit calendar.lpch.org to register or obtain more information on the times, locations and fees for these and other courses.



Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford

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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.

Woman, 78, dies in car crash on Foothill in Palo Alto

A 78-year-old Mountain View woman died Wednesday afternoon (Sept. 14) after the Toyota Camry she was driving collided with a tree on north-bound Foothill Expressway, just south of Arastradero Road in Palo Alto, according to Palo Alto police and fire officials. (Posted Sept. 14 at 3:47 p.m.)

Historic oak on Cowper Street to be cut down

A 51-inch-diameter "significant and historic" coast live oak on Cowper Street is slated for removal in late September, City Manager James Keene said Monday (Sept. 12). (Posted Sept. 14 at 11:07 a.m.)

Palo Alto looks for partners among green startups

Palo Alto is no stranger to game-changing technologies, but life isn't always easy for local startups looking to City Hall for support. (Posted Sept. 14 at 10:57 a.m.)

Cal edges out Stanford in college ranking

Cal beat Stanford — though not by much — in new college rankings aiming to compete with those of U.S. News & World Report. Since 2005, The Washington Monthly has issued rankings based on its measures of "how much a school is benefiting the country." (Posted Sept. 14 at 8:21 a.m.)

Nail salon chain hit with class action lawsuit

A class action lawsuit was filed in San Mateo County Superior Court Tuesday (Sept. 13) against a popular nail salon chain accused of wage theft and other violations against their employees, an attorney with the Asian Law Caucus said. Natalie Salon has a shop in Palo Alto. (Posted Sept. 14 at 8:13 a.m.)

Palo Alto police search backyards for prowlers

Police were searching backyards in a Palo Alto neighborhood early Tuesday morning (Sept. 13) looking for a pair of prowlers. (Posted Sept. 13 at 11 a.m.)

Mountain lion reportedly seen on Alpine Road

A mountain lion was reportedly seen Monday night (Sept. 12) near the 4700 block of Alpine Road in Portola Valley, San Mateo County emergency officials said. (Posted Sept. 13 at 9:13 a.m.)

City turns to retirees to deal with worker 'exodus'

Faced with an exodus of experienced city workers, Palo Alto is turning to familiar faces for help — its own retirees. (Posted Sept. 13 at 9:20 a.m.)

Authorities identify motorcyclist killed Friday night

The Santa Clara County medical examiner's office has identified a man killed in a motorcycle crash in East Palo Alto Friday night (Sept. 9) as Jingfu Chen, 59, of Los Altos. (Posted Sept. 13 at 9:01 a.m.)

Breast cancer detection bill passes Legislature

A new breast cancer detection bill authored by State Sen. Joe Simi-tian, D-Palo Alto, passed the California Legislature Monday (Sept. 12), requiring medical professionals to inform their patients that dense breast tissue could mask cancer when they have a mammogram. (Posted Sept. 12 at 3:41 p.m.)

Palo Alto Recycling Center to close in February

Palo Alto Recycling Center, a Byxbee Park fixture for the past four decades, will shut down for good in February as part of the city's broad effort to reform its waste operation. (Posted Sept. 12 at 11:16 a.m.)

Medical Foundation educator earns President's Award

Becky Beacom, a health educator with the Palo Alto Medical Foundation, received the President's Volunteer Service Call to Action Lifetime Award Tuesday (Sept. 13) in Palo Alto. The award is given to individuals who have given more than 4,000 hours to volunteering. (Posted Sept. 12 at 9:49 a.m.)

Palo Altans somberly observe 9/11

As a bagpiper's "Amazing Grace" pierced the cool morning air, about 150 Palo Altans gathered under oak trees at the Palo Alto Art Center Sunday (Sept. 11) to mark the passage of 10 years since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. U.S. flags — 2,977 in total, representing the victims of 9/11 — adorned the lawn along Embarcadero Road. (Posted Sept. 11 at 10:53 a.m.)

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Go to www.PaloAltoOnline.com to sign up. 

El Camino Real Rapid Transit Project Public Meeting Notice

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) will hold eight public meetings to provide information to the community about the El Camino Real Rapid Transit Project. The project would make changes to El Camino Real, from Palo Alto to San Jose, that would speed up bus service throughout the corridor by installing bus-only lanes and enhanced light rail-like stations.

There will be two meetings (from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. and also from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.) held at each location listed below:

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mountain View City Hall
Council Chambers

This location is served by VTA Bus Lines 35 & 51. Bus lines 22, 522 and LRT are within 3-4 blocks.

Tuesday, September 27, 2011

Sunnyvale Community Center
Neighborhood Room

This location is served by VTA Bus Line 55. Bus lines 22 & 522 are within 3-4 blocks.

Tuesday, October 18, 2011

City of Santa Clara City Hall
Council Chambers

This location is served by VTA Bus Lines 22, 32 & 60. Bus lines 522 and LRT are within 3-4 blocks.

Thursday, October 20, 2011

Palo Alto Medical Foundation
Hearst Education Conf. Ctr., Palo Alto
Jamplis Building, 3rd Floor, Rooms A & F

This location is served by VTA Bus Line 22.

For more details please visit: www.vta.org/rapidtransit or call VTA Community Outreach at (408) 321-7575.

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Editorial

A muddled approach to downtown parking

Lacking consensus and hearing some business concerns, City Council puts off relief for downtown residents

Despite the clear evidence before them that 1,200 or so of the city's 3,000-plus downtown parking spaces are vacant much of the time, the City Council and some local business owners were all over the map this week during a discussion of the downtown parking issue.

The political hot potato bounced between Professorville residents, who want to rid their neighborhood of employees who flood their streets during the day, and downtown business leaders, who fear a neighborhood permit system would result in downtown employees using two-hour spaces intended for shoppers. Both have valid concerns, but this is an old problem that demands new ideas, not the kind of posturing that was evident at Monday night's council meeting.

Business leaders who suggest downtown neighborhoods have a duty of sorts to absorb the employee parking generated from businesses because it is essential to maintaining the downtown's vibrancy and viability are not going to win over public support.

Some council members are understandably hesitant to support a permit system for Professorville for fear it simply would move the day-parking problem to other neighborhoods. That's a risk that any good solution must address and prevent.

But the Council and downtown business community should, at a minimum, be able to agree that neighborhood parking by employees will not be tolerated until garage and other permit parking spaces are being fully utilized. Recent studies show that the problem isn't so much a lack of available permit parking spaces for employees, it is that workers and their employers have been unwilling to pay for permits given the availability of free parking in the neighborhoods. The large number of restaurants and retailers with low-paid employees undoubtedly aggravates the problem.

Professorville residents came to Monday's council meeting expecting a much warmer reception to their long-standing quest for a parking permit system that would effectively push out the day parkers. Instead, while some council members are sympathetic to the residents' concerns, others are taking a wait-and-see approach.

We believe this situation is ripe for some innovative solutions. For example:

- The city should set a goal to sell permits for 600 of the current 1,200 vacant slots in the downtown garages, perhaps by using a low introductory rate.

- Downtown businesses could chip in to help their employees purchase the already inexpensive garage permits, which now cost \$45 a month, or just \$2.25 a day for a 20-day month. Who wouldn't jump at the chance to lock up a parking place in a covered garage for less than a latte?

- During this experiment, the city should monitor the Professorville neighborhood to assess whether day parkers have at least partially disappeared. If not, the city should move toward implementing a permit system.

- If other neighborhoods, like Downtown North, are impacted by these changes, permit systems should be considered.

With 1,200 vacant parking spaces and many more during some parts of the day, the city should not be in this predicament. There are adequate spaces to accommodate most city workers and shoppers, if managed properly. Surely the city staff and its consultants, working with the neighbors and business leaders, can find the incentives needed to move employees into these available downtown spaces and provide relief to the residents.

Amazon caves on taxation

Local merchants will have to wait a year for online giant to pay taxes

After applauding when the Legislature finally acted to force Amazon to collect California sales tax on products it sells over the Internet, local small businesses now will have to wait until next year to see the online giant compete on an equal footing with brick-and-mortar stores in the state.

The change of course came last week when the Legislature struck a deal with Amazon and many of the state's large and small retailers who agreed with a legislative majority to delay the tax for one year in return for Amazon dropping its misguided effort to kill the earlier tax measure by referendum.

The resulting deal may not please everyone, but it will require Amazon to collect state sales taxes by next September. The company also has promised to create jobs by building large distribution centers in the state, which could help economies in some areas.

A few weeks ago in this space we castigated Amazon for unfairly taking advantage of a loophole in California law that allowed them to pass responsibility of paying sales tax on its merchandise to the purchaser. But consumers rarely paid the tax, while Amazon enjoyed a huge tax advantage over its primary competitors, including many small businesses.

Providing Gov. Brown signs the measure as expected, local merchants will have to wait another year until Amazon and other online retailers are held accountable to collect the state sales tax, but at least an end of this unfair tax advantage is in sight.

Spectrum

Editorials, letters and opinions

Firefighters' union fight

Editor,

I was delighted to read that our City Council is showing resolve and a true commitment to balancing the city's finances in their dealings with the firefighters union. And I would find the union's posturing amusing if our city's financial future and outlook weren't so serious.

The firefighters had many invitations to make their contribution to solving our city's financial troubles when everyone was asked to pitch in and they dug in their heels. Interesting too, that the union didn't have a problem with a ballot initiative as long as the decision to be considered was to enshrine firefighter's jobs, rampant overtime and six-figure salaries along with a ladder truck permanently parked in front of Lytton Gardens into the city charter.

To frame this particular ballot initiative, where we will get to consider whether these ancient guarantees should go the way of our 4th of July block-party fireworks and help the city regain financial control, to frame this as unfair labor practices and bad faith seems rather dishonest. And rather selfish for public servants. Kudos to our city council and I hope the people and common sense prevail.

Michael Tompert
Fulton Street
Palo Alto

Parking problems

Editor,

The City of Palo Alto is encouraging long-term parking in my area by its actions and non-actions. El Camino between Stanford Avenue and California Avenue has no parking restrictions enforced on a daily basis. Oxford, Staunton and Cambridge are the same way. These streets are near a business district but there is no "two-hour parking" rule during business hours. The 72-hour rule is only enforced after residents get tired of vehicles parked there and call the city and the community service officer comes back on duty and gets time to visit our streets. That is when the 72-hour countdown begins.

There is one individual who has been utilizing about 10 parking spaces here for more than 20 years because he knows how to game the system. After the police put the 72-hour notice on several of his vehicles, he rotates them so they have technically been moved and the police are powerless to issue him tickets. He is still occupying 10 parking spaces, usually six on my block of Oxford at all times. I see this man's 15 or so vehicles continuously from Serra Avenue, on the Stanford Campus, to San Antonio Road in Mountain View along El Camino and the side streets within a block or two of El Camino.

If this is how you wish our city

to be run, then do nothing. Otherwise, encourage the city fathers to come up with a rule enforceable by the police to take back our parking spaces for business customers and residents during the day. Are there other areas of Palo Alto with the same problems?

Larry Kavinoky
Oxford Avenue
Palo Alto

Cal Ave streetscape

Editor,

To my fellow pedestrians and bicyclists that venture down California Avenue: Don't expect any change in the 4-lane hazardous maze. The merchants have a vice-grip on the project and will never budge. We are left with narrow sidewalks, car domination and the same ho hum.

Mimi Wolf
San Carlos Court
Palo Alto

This week on Town Square

Steve Jobs, Apple, and Palo Alto

Posted Sept. 14 at 8:38 p.m. by Fred Balin, a resident of the College Terrace neighborhood:

Steve Jobs rarely looks to the past; it is the present state of his art and his inexorable drive toward the next big thing that dominates.

When Apple introduces new hardware, there is no grace period in their stores to contemplate the unsold inventory at end-of-life; display items are replaced as soon as new equipment arrives. When the operating system

is upgraded to the next feline in the Mac OS X progression, it is immediately imaged onto new products at the factory. Your MacBook Air of today comes loaded with Lion, and there's no retreating to Snow Leopard; the hardware does not allow it.

If there is a glitch in a product transition, as occasionally happens, Apple will issue a software patch, provide a part replacement, or institute a repair program, but it will never turn

(continued on next page)

YOUR TURN

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

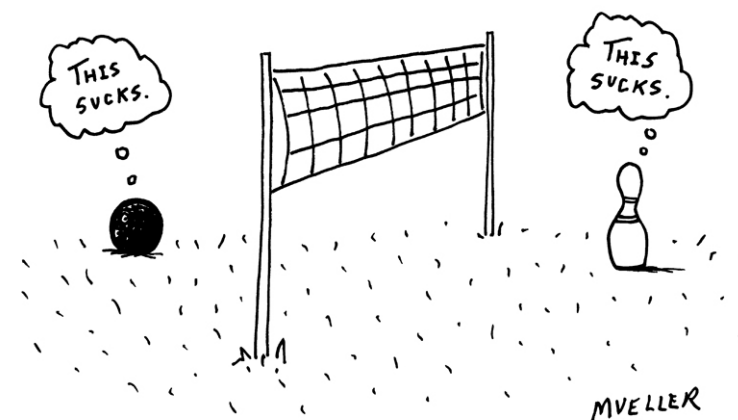
What do you think? How do you think the Cubberley site can be best used?

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

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

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

For more information contact Editor Jocelyn Dong or Online Editor Tyler Hanley at editor@paweekly.com or 650-326-8210.



Check out Town Square!

Hundreds of local topics are being discussed by local residents on Town Square, a reader forum sponsored by the Weekly on our community website at www.PaloAltoOnline.com. 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

Could public-safety building, high school share Cubberley space?

by Gail A. Price

As the dust settles following the discussions about the potential sale or lease of eight city-owned acres to Foothill College to utilize that portion of Cubberley for a Foothill College campus, other options emerge. While I still believe the original Foothill proposal had significant and real merit, it is over.



There's another option that should be explored to address the needs of both the City of Palo Alto and the Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD). The entire 35-acre site should be planned jointly for a new public-safety building and a new alternative secondary school. A well-designed and thoughtful site plan could do both. The uses are compatible and achieve important outcomes.

The need for a new public-safety building has been clearly and repeatedly established. Most recently, the Public Safety Building Blue Ribbon Task Force (2007) produced a comprehensive and detailed report. The current Infrastructure Blue Ribbon Commission also identifies both the future of Cubberley and the need for a new public-safety building as important infrastructure and community issues.

The eight city-owned acres are significantly more than needed for a well-designed, sustainable and exciting building (compact footprint), landscaping and parking. A "stepped-back" design could reduce its "mass" from adjacent properties and Middlefield Road. Funding, design and construction alternatives

should be explored, including bonds, public-private partnerships and buy/lease-back options. Potential solutions used successfully in other communities should be researched.

A noteworthy design would result in an award-winning 21st-century civic building that would also support one of our key city priorities: emergency preparedness. It would also complement the implementation of the Office of Emergency Preparedness and our many community emergency-preparedness programs. A new, innovative building could coincide with changing service-delivery models that are now under consideration. Other communities provide some excellent examples.

I will refrain from commenting on the condition of our current public-safety facilities; their decrepit state is well understood. What an embarrassment. We must do better. Surely, we can come up with a solution. With very limited resources to buy real estate, why would we not use some of the city-owned land for a public-safety building?

A well-planned site also would address the needs of the Palo Alto Unified School District. While cycles vary over time, currently student enrollment continues to grow. Several years ago, a high school task force identified the importance of Cubberley as a potential alternative school site for secondary school students. The task force concluded that a full comprehensive high school, like Gunn or Paly, might not be necessary or appropriate. A new campus could focus on specialized educational content or experiences.

How often do we hear about "schools within schools" or innovative models in education? This is our chance.

In my mind, we should be beyond "brick-and-mortar" solutions. The one-story sprawl-

ing campus is not a modern educational facility. A more compact secondary school, with flexible and adaptive spaces, combining on-line and traditional classroom teaching makes much more sense.

There are also a number of program and scheduling solutions that could serve students and staff, such as using classroom and community space for enhanced adult education, training programs, child care and the arts.

This type of flexibility would also be exciting — and would require buy-in by educators, the city, students and the community. If larger entities, such as other school districts in the region, the University of California and Stanford University can do this, so can we. Some districts have "community schools," a separate entity that programs existing schools for after-school and evening classes and community programs. One excellent example that was highly responsive to community needs is Montgomery County, Md., where I formerly lived.

Again, with careful site planning these various uses are feasible; we would still be protecting recreational fields and open space for school and community use.

If the school district seriously needs a revised operating campus, now is the time to begin planning and budgeting. District officials have experience and will do a great job.

The city could also achieve multiple goals and needed facilities that would also improve the safety and security of our community and businesses.

As a City Council member and former school board member, I recognize and appreciate the needs and concerns of all stakeholders, including current tenants and users of Cubberley. All parties need to explore this

concept and scenarios that would meet multiple and complex needs.

I believe this is a complex yet vigorous solution that has promise.

In a period of severely limited public resources, need for multiple use facilities is more acute than ever. Jointly, we would demonstrate our abilities to work together to be innovative and responsible. Let's step up and show what can be done — change is an opportunity. ■

Gail Price is a member of the Palo Alto City Council and former member of the Palo Alto Unified School District Board of Education. She can be emailed at gail.price@cityofpaloalto.org.

Town Square

(continued from previous page)

back. You ride on a breathtaking, perpetual migration to the next wonder from Cupertino.

With rare exception, Steve's interviews and talks adhere to a similar rule. Look ahead, not behind. ...

Later this year, we will be privy to another, and probably extensive, window into Steve's retrospection, via a forthcoming authorized biography scheduled for release by Simon and Shuster on Nov. 21, including material from over 40 interviews with Steve over the past two years.

The completed manuscript is being updated to include his Aug. 24 resignation as Apple CEO, a sad announcement, leading to the thoughts in this lengthy post.

Read the rest of this posting on Town Square.

Streetwise

What is your most prized piece of technology and why?

Asked at Town & Country Village, Palo Alto. Interviews and photographs by Casey Moore.



Emily Guimaraes
Student
Montecito Avenue, Mountain View

"My computer. It's been the easiest source for basically anything. I'm actually getting married so I've been searching for everything."



Ash Lilani
Banker
Grove Avenue, Palo Alto

"I'd say my iPad, because now I don't have to carry my laptop when I travel. It has everything on it: my newspapers, magazines, music, email."



Lori Haggbloom
Bookseller
North Fair Oaks, Menlo Park

"My iPod. I love music, and this way I can carry all my music around and listen to whatever I want."



Mark Haas
Company President
Indianapolis, Ind.

"It has to be the iPhone. I can get out of the office and remain connected. But it goes both ways. It allows me to get away from my business, but then again, I can never really get away."



Stephanie Chin
Student
Portola Avenue, Palo Alto

"My phone. Besides calling and texting people, I check Twitter all the time, and check the news and Facebook."

James John Curtis

June 18, 1935 – July 23, 2011



James John Curtis, loving father and husband died peacefully at his home on the morning of July 23rd from complications of a year-long fight against lung cancer at the age of 76.

Jim was born in St. Charles, MO in 1935 and brought his wife, Kita to California in 1960 to start a new life. He was a stockbroker in San Francisco until he started his own company called the Energy Efficient Mortgage Company that facilitated energy improvement on new home purchases.

Jim was an active member of the Palo Alto Tennis Club for many years. He loved to watch basketball, listen to jazz, go to the theatre and pursue his interest in history and the arts. He also liked to rail at the "Talking Heads" on the News, as he called it.

Jim delighted in organizing athletic gatherings called the J&K Pentathlon for a close set of friends. He was a talented story and joke teller and loved to dazzle people with

his slight of hand skills in card magic. Jim had a twinkle in his eye and a generous spirit of fun that he shared with those around him. His skills in the kitchen as a chef and dessert maker are legendary. Jim never lost his positive outlook on life.

Jim is survived by Kita, his wife of 51 years, his family Richard, Steven, David and Margaret Curtis, Shelly, Jon, David and Billy Pargh, and his extended family Kathleen Quaipe, Max and Curtis Hodge.

A celebration of Jim's life will be held at 1:00 PM on Saturday, Oct. 1 in the garden of Jack and Ruth Letts, 439 Lincoln Ave., Palo Alto. Memories of Jim by family and friends will begin at 2:00 PM.

PAID OBITUARY

Transitions

Alonzo Winn

Alonzo Judson Pursley Winn, 94, a resident of Palo Alto, died Sept. 6.

He was born July 15, 1917, in Guyton, Georgia. He attended the Riverside Military Academy and Georgia Tech, and later received a degree in civil engineering from Heald Engineering College in San Francisco. He moved to California to teach at the Palo Alto Military Academy in 1939 and was a resident of Palo Alto for nearly 70 years. During World War II he served in the U.S. Army Air Corps as a flight instructor and bomber pilot, flying 51 missions in Europe and receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross. He later served as a Major in the reserves. After a career with several large engineering firms, which included overseas assignments, he retired from Fluor in 1982.

He was an avid tennis player throughout his life and competed in USTA tournaments nationally until the age of 90, holding both national and world rankings. He was President of the Palo Alto Tennis Club in the 1950s. He also traveled the world extensively with his family.

He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Gladys Liddicoat Winn of Palo Alto; his daughters Katherine Winn Rider and Arlene Leslie Winn; son-in-law Gregory Rider; sister Lucy Winn Williams; and one grandchild.

A private memorial service will

be held. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the VA Hospice Care Center, 3801 Miranda Ave., 100 4A, Palo Alto, CA 94304 or the Lymphoma Research Foundation, 115 Broadway, Suite 1301, NY, NY, 10006.

Memorial Services

A memorial service for **Margaret McCaleb**, 88, a resident of Portola Valley, is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 17, at the Ladera Community Church at 3300 Alpine Road in Ladera. The family prefers memorial donations to the Ladera Community Church Scholarship Fund at 3300 Alpine Road, Portola Valley, CA, 94028; or to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society at 1311 Mamaroneck Ave., Suite 310, White Plains, NY, 10605.

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Palo Alto Weekly

Title Pages

A monthly section on local books and authors, edited by Gennady Sheyner

BEHIND THE CURTAIN

by Gennady Sheyner

The language of the Cold War often leaves little room for subtlety. Just about every popular term that jumps to mind from the era — Iron Curtain, Berlin Wall, Evil Empire — connotes a world of broad strokes, clear lines, universal truths and larger-than-life forces striving to assert their superiority over the other.

The truth, as is often the case, is both more fascinating and more complicated, as Edith Sheffer demonstrates in her insightful, well-researched and often harrowing new book, “Burned Bridge: How East and West Germans Made the Iron Curtain.” Sheffer, an assistant professor at Stanford University, takes apart the popular conception of the Iron Curtain as an immovable barrier imposed by the world’s two superpowers and shows the wall between East Germany and West Germany as a living organism. The Iron Curtain doesn’t seem so iron here. It is fluid, evolving and, in many ways, self-imposed by the residents at either side of the fault line.

The book’s title refers to a small, medieval bridge traversing a marsh in central Germany and separating the towns of Neustadt and Sonneberg. Sheffer zeroes in on the two cities and chronicles their shifting conditions and changing dynamics between 1945, when they were adopted by the two competing Cold War camps, and 1989, the year the Berlin Wall came down, the checkpoint at the bridge ceased to exist, and the residents of the two towns began to rediscover one another.

Over the course of the story, the two towns follow largely predictable arcs. Neustadt, which became part of Western Germany, enjoyed an economic boom and became a magnet for border crossers from the different world a stone’s throw away. Sonneberg, once a proud manufacturer of dolls and toys, was pulled into the Eastern Bloc and saw its economy sputter, its residents flee west and its civil rights decay under a sprawling and shadowy surveillance network.

EDITH SHEFFER SHOWS HOW THE RESIDENTS OF EAST AND WEST GERMANY BUILT THEIR OWN WALLS

What’s surprising is the extent to which the citizens of the two towns, particularly Sonneberg, contributed to their own isolation. “The physical border between East and West was not simply imposed by Cold War superpowers but was also an improvised outgrowth of anxious postwar society,” Sheffer writes in the introduction.



Edith Sheffer

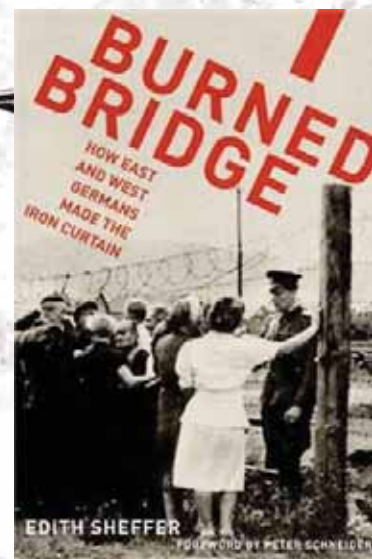
“While devised in Moscow and Washington, Berlin and Bonn, the border gained shape and meaning from the wary residents who lived along it, prisoners who became witting and unwitting wardens. The daily choices of ordinary people helped construct and sustain a barrier more lasting and lethal than anyone foresaw.”

Sheffer more than backs up this claim

in the ensuing pages. Through interviews with locals and generous use of newspaper clips and government archives, she demonstrates that the border (and, to some extent, the Iron Curtain) would not have been possible without acquiescence, in some cases participation, of the public. In some cases, this is explicit. We have scenes of Sonneberg residents building the very fences that would isolate them from the Western world; patrolling the “prohibited” zones along the border; and snitching on their neighbors in exchange for modest bribes from the often hapless secret police.

At other times, they enable self-imprisonment through inaction. A dramatic turning point in the relationship between Neustadt and Sonneberg came in 1952, when East Germany erected barbed-wire fences along its frontier and established a police state at the frontier. The regime depended on frontier residents for both construction and enforcement, setting up community policemen and squads of Voluntary Border Helpers who were charged with keeping an eye on local affairs. Though some resisted by stealing materials from work sites or protesting the government’s “work quotas,” most people did as they were told, accepting the us-versus-them dynamic as the new normal. At one point, after East Germany raised work quotas in 1953, spawning strikes and protests across the nation, Sonneberg remained so tranquil that even local party leadership was surprised, reporting that “the calm behavior of all social classes gives us pause.”

So why the inaction? To be sure, many people simply wanted to get on with their lives without risking deportation, separation from their families or job loss. But East Germany’s scare tactics helped cement the inertia. The government undertook two major efforts, one in 1952 and another one in 1961, to relocate frontier residents fur-



“Burned Bridge: How East and West Germans Made the Iron Curtain,” by Edith Sheffer; Oxford University Press, New York; 357 pp.; \$29.95

ther inland. Action Vermin, the regime’s clumsy and largely botched attempt to move “criminal elements” to counties further east, failed to capture all of its targets but succeeded in giving future dissidents pause. In one of the book’s more chilling passages, Sheffer describes the East Germans’ reaction to the 1952 operation:

“Neighbors watched nervously as friends and family were put on wagons and cargo trains, exiled to an uncertain future. One young deportee was hurt to see the predominant passivity, remembering how ‘relatives and neighbors stood around us, their eyes blank with fear. No one waved as our truck pulled away. Everyone retreated into their houses and closed the doors safely behind them. ... The places we drove through were like ghost towns. We didn’t see anyone in the streets, in their yards or at their windows.’”

The often-arbitrary deportations were by no means inevitable. In the town of Heinersdorf, for example, scores of residents fled west to avoid Action Vermin. Others gathered en masse at the border to protest the operation, which the town council also refused to support. Ultimately, protests on both sides of the border succeeded in disrupting the operation. In the tiny but “problematic” border village of Liebau, the 66 residents learned about the upcoming deportations and fled west, where they found shelter in Neustadt (three elderly residents stayed behind). The outcome of Action Vermin in each community, Sheffer writes, “depended largely on the extent to which locals caused trouble.”

The heavy-handed measures prompt-

(continued on page 18)

A community health education series from Stanford Hospital & Clinics

An Intersection for Concerted Care: Stanford Brain Tumor Center Debuts

A few hours after Marjorie Paulsen learned that a tumor was growing in her brain, she told her husband she didn't want to go to sleep that night. "I'm afraid I won't wake up," she said.

For a couple of years before her diagnosis, Paulsen, who was otherwise in good health, had been bothered by a weird and random phenomenon. "My hand would rise up in the air and move on its own," she said, and recalling a popular television show, "like the hand on 'The Addams Family. It would last for a few seconds and then get back to normal."

Paulsen was a flight attendant for United Airlines. When that symptom struck while she did her job, perhaps as she served coffee, the unpredictable movement was more alarming. She thought it was probably a nerve in her neck acting up. The odd movements happened more and more often. Then another symptom emerged. Her left leg began to tingle "like I'd sat on it funny," Paulsen said. The tingling lasted for hours until finally she called a doctor. He advised her to get help at her nearest emergency room.

As the doctor there looked at her test results, Paulsen could see the look on his face and she turned quickly to her husband. "Jerry, I think we're in for something."

A place to turn

Eight years later, Paulsen, now a patient at the newly-minted Stanford Brain Tumor Center, is a happy great-grandmother enjoying a happy retirement with her



Her doctors told Margie Paulsen that there was a 50/50 chance her tumor might come back after surgery in 2003. When it did, in 2008, she was prepared.

husband. This February, Griff Harsh, MD, director of the Center, took out a tumor in her brain that had regrown since its first removal in 2003.

The Center frames the hospital's considerable corps of top-notch brain specialists into a treatment team driven by expertise, experience and compassion. The Center will not have its own building; it does reflect a collaboration-shaped structure and process designed to streamline diagnosis and treatment. The goal, Harsh said, "is to give patients the highest quality of care, delivered with a matching level of efficiency."

"The nurse coordinator said, 'We have a plan,' and she was so positive I thought, 'Okay, I'll go along with that.'"

— Margie Paulsen, patient, Stanford Brain Tumor Center

"Using the word center implies a higher level of organization than just a few doctors running around," said Stanford neurosurgeon Steven D. Chang, MD, Director of Stanford's Neuromolecular Innovation Program, and a Center team physician. "Somewhere else you can patch together a surgeon, a radiation oncologist, etc., but are you going to get them in a room together to talk about you? Our patients can feel that not only are they being seen in a world-class medical center, but that they're getting the expertise of all our physicians."

That expertise translates into the most advanced care available. "If something cutting edge is going to be done, it's likely to be done here at Stanford," said Lawrence Recht, Director of Adult Neuro-Oncology, one of Paulsen's physicians and part of the new Stanford Brain Tumor Center. "We have cut a wide swath for the Center, with virtually every possible discipline and specialty represented here."

Tumors that originate in the brain are still rare, compared to many other health conditions, he said, "so it makes a difference if you are treated at a place where they know what they're doing. We have a

large body of accumulated experience and the coordinated experience of many specialists. That can make a big difference in results for patients."

More than one view

At every step of Paulsen's way, her care included a neuro-oncologist, neuroradiologist, neuropathologist, neurosurgeon and a seizure specialist, each contributing special knowledge then blended to coordinate her treatment. "From day one, the team care at Stanford has been so wonderful," Paulsen said. "The level of care has been off the chart."

What Paulsen noticed especially was a positive and supportive attitude. "I'll never forget the day I found out my tumor was malignant," she said. "That set me back a bit, but Lynn Adler, the nurse coordinator said, 'We have a plan,' and she was so positive I thought, 'Okay, I'll go along with that.'"

At Stanford, in addition to joint consultations between physicians, an interdisciplinary brain tumor board meets weekly to review and discuss patient treatment plans. More than 20 specialist physicians and nurses in neuropathology, neuroradiology, neurosurgery, neurology and neuro-oncology usually attend.

Within the Stanford Brain Tumor Center, Recht said, "We have a very strong group identity. We get along and we meet a lot. We really work well together; we respect each other's expertise and we usually make our decisions by consensus."



The first sign that something was wrong with Margie Paulsen was the odd behavior of her right arm. Without warning, it would rise in the air for a few seconds, then return to normal.

Another element in the Center's care will be a group of nurses with special certification in neurological care and social workers experienced in the needs particular to tumor patients and their families, with access to resources in neuropsychology, rehabilitation and counseling.

Seeing the whole picture

"We are very hands-on with our patients," said neurosurgeon Gordon Li, MD, who recently joined the team. "Patients might not be used to doctors actively calling them, making sure everything is going smoothly and wanting to know what's going on. We think it's our job to take care of not just the medical issues, but the person and their family, too."



Margie Paulsen comes to the Stanford Brain Tumor Center every three months so her neuro-oncologist, Lawrence Recht, MD, can keep a close eye on her brain.

The Basics of Brain Tumors

- Unlike the lungs or the abdomen, the brain is a closed box, so a tumor interferes with brain function by its sheer presence. It can also become part of the brain's tissue and disrupt function directly.
- Brain tumors are relatively rare. About 210,000 people in the U.S. are diagnosed. Radiation can raise the risk of developing a brain tumor by 30 percent.
- There are more than 120 types of brain tumor.
- About one in three brain tumors develop because cancer has appeared in another part of the body, most often the lung or breast.
- About one in three brain tumors are independent, originating first in the brain. One in three of those primary tumors are malignant.

Join us at stanfordhospital.org/socialmedia.

Watch the new Stanford Hospital Health Notes television show on Comcast: channel 28 on Mondays at 8:30 p.m., Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. and Fridays at 8:30 a.m.; channel 30 Saturdays at 10:30 p.m. It can also be viewed at youtube.com/stanfordhospital.

"We have a heavy focus on counseling for patients. We really want to hear what they feel and we take the time to do that thoroughly," said Seema Nagpal, MD, another new member of the Brain Tumor Center team. "We know a brain tumor is a tough diagnosis to deal with. A first visit to us includes time with a doctor, time with our nurses and sometimes with social work and other support services."

"It makes a difference if you are treated at a place where they know what they're doing."

— Lawrence Recht, MD, Stanford Brain Tumor Center

The Center will also connect patients directly with clinical trials and research at Stanford, where investigations include brain cancer's cellular biology, cell markers for early tumor detection and genomic structure.

Harsh, also director of Adult Surgical Neuro-oncology at Stanford, believes that medical research and clinical care at Stanford is endowed with a "tremendous and continuous drive for excellence." He has practiced neurosurgery for more than 25 years and seen many advances in care. Like his colleagues at the Brain Tumor Center, Harsh has learned and applied innovations in minimally invasive brain tumor surgery and imaging technology. "As a team," he said, "we build on each other's expertise to improve what we can do for our patients. We are mutually enhancing in our ways of approach and thought."

That new image technology he can now employ is as much about combining the available in new ways as about inventing new devices. Stanford's Josef Parvizi,

MD, PhD, another member of the Brain Tumor Center group, is a neurologist focused on human brain mapping. He has been part of Paulsen's care team.

Parvizi and his research team combine information from functional MR, and electrophysiological recordings produced with grids and strips of electrodes overlying the tumor area. The team electrically stimulates the cortex adjacent to the tumor to map the brain's complex ordering of human behavior and perception. That map enables surgeons to operate within the curved, compact canyons of the brain knowing far more specifically what can be taken and what cannot. With a multidisciplinary team combining standard tools to expand the view of brain activity, "We have gone beyond the conventional," Parvizi said.

Expanded options

The Center's team also shares sensitivity to that fear that comes with any threat to the brain. "Brain cancer is one of the



For almost three decades, Margie Paulsen was a flight attendant, good at keeping calm under any circumstances. Learning that she had a brain tumor shook her.

- A seizure can be the first sign of a tumor.
- Symptoms reflect the location of a tumor. If a tumor is near the eyes, then vision will be affected; tumors near the brain stem, at the base of the skull, can cause trouble with speech. A tumor near the pituitary gland can disrupt the appetite.
- Brain tumors can be large and slow-growing or small and fast-growing or vice versa.
- Tumors can vary in consistency from tough and gristly to soft and soupy.

For more information about the Stanford Brain Tumor Center, call the Stanford Cancer Center New Patient Coordinator at 650.736.7440 or the Neuroscience Clinic at 650.723.6469. Visit the Center's Web site at stanfordmed.org/braintumor.

most difficult medical conditions to treat," said Li. "The brain is a lot more mysterious than the heart or lungs. It's who we are and what defines us. That raises the impact of a brain tumor diagnosis."

After her 2003 surgery, Paulsen was treated with a drug that disrupts the DNA of tumor cells, stopping their growth. She was checked for tumor activity every three months, and then, as she tested clear, every six months. In 2008, one of her neuroradiologists thought he saw something and she was back to every three months as her team monitored the tumor closely. Finally, this winter, Paulsen had a seizure and it was again time for surgery.

"When I had my first surgery, they told me that my type of tumor had a 50/50 chance of growing back," Paulsen said, "so when it did come back, I didn't go 'This is it!' Dr. Recht said, 'We'll deal with it' and Dr. Harsh said, 'We'll go get it again,' like taking a wart off my fingers. It was all done with such 'We can do this' that I thought, 'Yes, we can!'"

Attitude counts

Paulsen was struck by how much had changed since her first surgery. "My second was like drive-through. I was in and out in one day. I was doing so well they



Margie Paulsen was home the day after her second surgery to remove a brain tumor. As sharp as ever, she's enjoying life with her family, including a good game of cards with her husband Jerry.


couldn't see any reason for me to stay in the hospital, so off I went!"

"We think it's our job to take care of not just the medical issues, but the person and their family, too."

— Neurosurgeon Gordon Li, Stanford Brain Tumor Center

She'll remain in close contact with her team at the Brain Tumor Center, although "they told me that Dr. Harsh had done his job very well. Now, I'm on what they call 'watchful waiting,'" she said.

She and her husband like to travel, especially to visit the grandchildren and great-grandchild. She doesn't think much about the tumor. "I try to be a very positive person. When I go for an MRI, I don't think, 'Is this the one where it shows that the tumor's growing back?' I don't spend a lot of time thinking about it. I have the MRIs and in between I live my life!"



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Book Talk

AUTHOR AUTHOR ... Upcoming authors at Keplers, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, include **Eric Schmitt**, "Counterstrike: The Untold Story of America's Secret Campaign Against Al Qaeda" (Sept. 18, 2 p.m.); **Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson**, "The Bridge to Never Land" (Sept. 26, 7 p.m.); **Sandra Aamodt**, "Welcome to Your Child's Brain: How the Mind Grows from Conception to College" (Sept. 27, 7 p.m.); **Doreen Cronin**, "M.O.M. (Mom Operating Manual)" (Oct. 6, 6 p.m.); and **Neal Stephenson**, "Reamde: A Novel" (Oct. 7, 7 p.m.). Information: www.keplers.com

MORE TALKS ... Upcoming authors at Books Inc. at Town & Country Village in Palo Alto include **Debra Samuels**, "My Japanese Table" (Sept. 23, 7 p.m.); and **Denise Gigante**, "The Keats Brothers: The Life of John and George" (Oct. 6, 8 p.m.) Information: www.booksinc.net

PLAY BALL ...Stanford Professor **William B. Gould IV** will make an appearance at Stanford Bookstore, 519 Lasuen Mall, Stanford, at 6 p.m. on Oct. 5 to discuss baseball and labor disputes, the topics of his latest book, "Bargaining with Baseball." In 1995, Gould chaired the National Labor Relations Board and cast the vote to obtain an injunction that ended the longest strike in baseball history. ■

Items for Book Talk may be sent to Associate Editor Carol Blitzer, Palo Alto Weekly, P.O. Box 1610, Palo Alto, CA 93202 or emailed to cblitzer@pawebly.com by the last Friday of the month.

Behind the curtain

(continued from page 15)

ed a flurry of east-to-west flight, which in turn prompted further border escalations. Antagonism between the two towns snowballed as East Germans fled west in growing numbers in the 1950s. In 1961 — the same year the Berlin Wall went up — the government militarized the border, replacing police guards with soldiers. East Germany also created a heavily guarded "Prohibited Zone" on the frontier, a shifting zone characterized by martial law, early curfews and permit requirements for everything from driving to swimming.

Sheffer's details of life within the zone are particularly fascinating. Everyday existence for most residents was not an ideological tug-of-war so much as a struggle for peace and sanity. One didn't have to be a dissident or an ideologue to get in trouble with the law. Normal human foibles more than sufficed.

There's the man, for example, who got into a bar fight too close to the border and was relocated to a city several hours away. Without a car, Sheffer writes, he could see his wife and children only on the weekends. The family fell apart. Another man, who lived just beyond the "Protection Strip" (the heavily guarded edge of the Prohibited Zone), had to spend weeks applying for permits from the mayor, the police and the border commander, just so he could collect firewood for a few hours just outside his house.

These worm's-eye-view examples, as well as the hundreds of others scattered throughout the book, tell the story of the Cold War as effectively, if not more so, than any top-down history of the subject. The Evil Empire of Ronald Reagan's imagination is portrayed here as an inept bureaucracy kept alive largely through the reticence of its subjects. The emperor isn't exactly naked, but his clothes are, at the very least, far more tattered than his subjects would expect. Fear of East Germany's response often trumped reality for residents of Neustadt and Sonneberg, Sheffer writes, and "belief in the Iron Curtain helped solidify the Iron Curtain." ■

Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner can be emailed at gsheyner@pawebly.com.



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Los Altos Hills – Privacy & luxury remodeled home with lovely Bay, hills and city light views. Extensively renovated in 2001. 4bd/3.5ba offers state-of-the-art amenities and premier finishes. **\$4,350,000**



Marybeth Dorst

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mdorst@apr.com



Atherton – Exquisite multi-generational opportunity. Lovely home with separate guest house, detached office, mature gardens and spectacular pool with built-in slide and spa. **\$3,998,000**



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Palo Alto – Located on a quiet tree-lined street in desirable Community Center neighborhood, this wonderful 6bd/4ba home is near downtown Palo Alto, and Stanford University. **\$3,795,000**



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cchang@apr.com



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Jack Woodson
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Jennifer Buenrostro
650.224.9539
jbuenrostro@apr.com



Charlene Chang
650.814.2913
cchang@apr.com



SOLD

Palo Alto – Lovely 5-year-old Mediterranean home on 3 levels in prime Old Palo Alto. 5 Bedroom, 3 and a half baths on a beautiful lot. Represented Buyer. **Call for price**



Joe & Mary Merkert
650.387.5464
jmerkert@apr.com
mmerkert@apr.com



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Menlo Park – Spectacular 5bd/3ba home on the Sharon Heights Golf Course. 3700+/-sf living space on 15,500+/-sf lot. Las Lomitas Schools. Proximity to Hwy 280. **\$2,599,000**



Ted Paulin
650.766.6325
tpaulin@apr.com



SOLD

Portola Valley – Secluded 3380 sq ft Contemporary in Westridge, Portola Valley on 1.9 acres -Flexible floor plan includes 5 large bedrooms & 4 bathrooms with wrap around deck and westerly views. **\$2,300,000**



Grace C. Wu
650.543.1086
gwu@apr.com



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Palo Alto – Custom built and artfully crafted to traditional style. 4bd/3.5ba high ceilings, one level, large picture windows detailing with contemporary amenities. **\$2,300,000**

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Carol & Nicole
650.543.1195
CarolandNicole@apr.com



Menlo Park – Beautifully rebuilt and expanded 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath home sited at the end of private cul-de-sac. Superb kitchen, private gardens and great location!
\$1,998,000



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650.543.1074
dbrill@apr.com



Palo Alto – Newly constructed contemporary home in downtown Palo Alto. This home is energy efficient and built with sustainable materials. Abundance of light and modern living.
\$1,999,000



Lori Buecheler
650.387.2716
lbuecheler@apr.com



SOLD
Palo Alto – New construction Tuscan 4 bedroom, 4.5 bath home located in prime Midtown on cul-de-sac steps from Herbert Hoover Park. Represented Buyer.
\$1,988,000



Sherry Bucolo
650.207.9909
sbucolo@apr.com



Palo Alto – Desirable Green Gables neighborhood near Duveneck Elementary. Restored Eichler in the finest of finishes. 3bd/2ba + 2 office, family room + 2 car garage, on a large lot.
\$1,965,000



Delia Fei
650.269.3422
dfei@apr.com



Palo Alto – Located in sought-after Barron Park, this spacious 4 bedroom, 3 bath home begins with picture-perfect curb appeal framed by manicured gardens. Represented Buyer.
\$1,905,000



Michael Johnston
650.533.5102
mjohnston@apr.com



SOLD
Palo Alto – Built in an age when contractors were artisans, this remodeled and expanded Craftsman retains its classic design, wonderfully preserved woodwork and detail.
\$1,900,000



Denise Simons
650.543.1104
dsimons@apr.com



Palo Alto – Built in 2006, this 4 bedroom, 3 bath home is located on a tree lined street in desirable Midtown Palo Alto. Hardwood floors and chef's kitchen with granite counters. Gunn High School.
\$ 1,898,000



Monica Corman
650.465.5971
mccorman@apr.com



Menlo Park – Warm and inviting 3bd/2ba Eichler home on a .25+/- acre lot on a great street. Abundant interior glass affords lush garden views from every room.
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Jeremy Robinson
650.543.1053
jrobinson@apr.com



COMING SOON

Palo Alto – Classic Tudor in Southgate. Two stories, 4 bedrooms, 2 baths. Large country kitchen, sep. dining room, gracious living room, bay windows. Detached 2 car garage, large lot.



Jami Arami
650.400.5855
jarami@apr.com



Redwood City – Prestigious Upper Emerald Lake location. Stunning remodel throughout. Well-appointed kitchen with top of the line appliances and finishes.

\$1,625,000



Sherry Bucolo
650.207.9909
sbucolo@apr.com



SOLD

Palo Alto – Stunning completely remodeled Tudor style 3bd/2ba home on a tree-lined street just blocks to downtown Palo Alto.

\$1,599,000



Colleen Foraker
650.380.0085
cforaker@apr.com



Menlo Park – Outstanding opportunity in Sharon Heights with this 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath contemporary style home on an 11,600sf lot in the Las Lomas School District.

\$1,599,000



Christy Giuliacci
650.380.5989
christy@apr.com



SOLD

Palo Alto – Sold with multiple offers! Beautifully expanded and updated 3 bedroom home + office in desirable Green Gables. Spectacular backyard setting with covered travertine porch.

\$1,550,000



Michael Hall
650.465.1651
mhall@apr.com



SOLD

Palo Alto – Lovely 3 bedroom, 2 bath cottage in the heart of Community Center. Formal living and dining, remodeled kitchen, huge family room, great outdoor spaces

\$1,435,000



Judy Jarvis Ellis
650.740.7860
jellis@apr.com

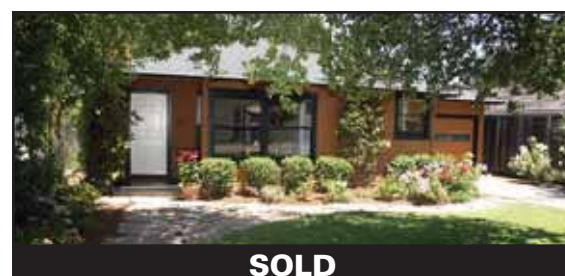


Redwood City – New on the market in Redwood City's sought-after Edgewood Park. Call me to see this light-filled, 4bd/3.5ba two-story 3400sf +/- home. Hurry on this one.

\$1,395,000



Maggie Heilman
650.543.1185
mheilman@apr.com



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Menlo Park – Spacious 3bd/2ba home includes a stunning master suite addition, extra hobby room and versatile bonus room. Fabulous backyard! Las Lomas Schools.

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Sandy Harris
650.888.5020
sharris@apr.com



Nancy Mott
650.255.2325
nmott@apr.com



SOLD

Menlo Park – Prime Willows Location. Turn Key 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom traditional home with great curb-appeal. Large professionally landscaped yard--perfect for entertaining.
\$1,395,000



Anna Park
650.543.1080
apark@apr.com



SOLD

Palo Alto – Delightful home with curb appeal, located in desirable Midtown neighborhood. 3 bd/2 ba Ranch style home with 1,553 sf of living space on 5,985 sf lot.
1,380,000



Anna Park
650.543.1080
apark@apr.com



SOLD

Palo Alto – Charming 4bd/3ba home in highly desirable Barron Park neighborhood. Newly expanded and remodeled. 1,400 sf of living space on 6,600 sf lot. Represented Buyer.
\$1,265,000



Lynne Mercer
650.906.0162
LMercer@apr.com



Valerie Lo
650.288.2237
vlo@apr.com



Palo Alto – New listing in Old Palo Alto. 3BR/2BA rancher with sunroom. Classic lines, generous proportions, custom details, excellent Palo Alto schools.
\$1,298,000



Colleen Foraker
650.380.0085
cforaker@apr.com



Palo Alto – Enchanting garden setting for this spacious and inviting 2 bedroom, 1 bath College Terrace home with a separate artist's studio / office.
\$1,235,000



John St Clair & Lydia Kou
650.996.0028
lkou@apr.com



SOLD

Palo Alto – Terrific South Palo Alto Either with walls of windows overlooking the sunny and spacious backyard. Close to Mitchell Park. Represented Buyer.
\$1,203,000



Denise Simons
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dsimons@apr.com



COMING SOON

Palo Alto – 3 bedroom, 2 bath Craftsman style home in Evergreen Park with space for large home office and media room. Hardwood floors, crown molding, and updated kitchen with granite counters.
Call for price



Lorie Satzger
650.543.1166
lsatzger@apr.com



Jami Arami
650.400.5855
jarami@apr.com



SOLD

Belmont – Remodeled home in one of Belmont's most desirable locations. Highlights include newly updated kitchen, beautifully landscaped level backyard. (Represented Buyers)
\$1,190,000

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Ali Rad
543.1105
arad@apr.com



Denise Simons
650.543.1104
dsimons@apr.com



Palo Alto – Updated 3bd/2 ba Eichler with high ceilings, double pane windows and kitchen with Caesarstone counters. Additional bonus space for family room and 4th bedroom. Gunn High School. **\$1,188,000**



Ling Lau
650.543.1055
llau@apr.com



Palo Alto – Beautiful 4bd/2ba Eichler. Chef's kitchen. Sun-filled great room. Expansive windows. Private backyard. Mature trees & greenhouse. Excellent PA schools. **\$1,085,000**



Colleen Foraker
650.380.0085
cforaker@apr.com



Menlo Park – Nestled on a quiet neighborhood street this inviting and spacious end unit townhome with 3 bedrooms and 2.5 baths feels much like a single-family home!



Dana van Hulsen
650.248.3950
dvanhulsen@apr.com



COMING SOON

Palo Alto – Palo Alto- Charming 3 beds, 2 baths home w/large garage. Beautiful and quiet backyard. Close to mid-town & convenient location. Great Palo Alto schools. **Call for Price**



Grace C. Wu
650.543.1086
gwu@apr.com



SOLD

Los Altos – Spacious lot and original home offers an opportunity to live in one of Los Altos' lovely neighborhoods. Rebuild or remodel. Large 8250+/- sf lot. **\$998,000**



Jeff Stricker
650.209.1552
jstricker@apr.com



Steve TenBroeck
650.450.0160
stenbroe@apr.com



COMING SOON

Palo Alto – Take the elevator to a luxurious, one level penthouse home w/ refined finishes. This light & airy 2bd/2ba home has high ceilings & many windows. **\$998,000**



Nadr Essabhoy
650.543.1124
nessabhoy@apr.com



COMING SOON

Los Altos – Beautiful 3 bd, 2.5 ba light filled townhome situated in Los Altos Village. Top of the line finishes. Excellent Los Altos schools.



Elyse Barca
650.743.0734
ebarca@apr.com



Redwood City – Wonderful 3bd/2ba home enjoys abundant natural light. Welcoming floorplan includes spacious living room and kitchen/family room. Bonus room with wet bar. Beautiful, private backyard. **\$869,000**

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Steve Korn
650.208.5425
skorn@apr.com



San Carlos – Charming, split-level White Oaks home has 2bd/2ba plus bonus room. LR with fireplace. All new kitchen appliances. Private patio and deck with built-in spa tub. **\$829,000**



Nancy Mott
650.255.2325
nmott@apr.com



Jennifer Buenrostro
650.224.9539
jbuenrostro@apr.com



SOLD

Palo Alto – Darling 2 bedroom, 2 bath College Terrace cottage. Remodeled kitchen, large deck, bonus room with washer and dryer. Represented Buyer. **\$775,000**



Lynne Mercer
650.906.9012
LMercer@apr.com



San Mateo – Upscale condo with dramatic 2 story windows. Master suite on each level, plus an upstairs loft that overlooks the living area. Super location. **\$799,000**



Anna Park
650.543.1080
apark@apr.com



SOLD

Palo Alto – In sought after Midtown, 3 bd/ 2.5 ba townhome on 1,638 sf of living space. Represented Buyer. **\$780,000**



Shari Ornstein
650.814.6682
sornstein@apr.com



Stanford – Eligible Stanford Faculty/Staff Only! Tastefully remodeled, light filled 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom townhouse with loft. **\$675,000**



Gayle Olson
650.799.0793
golson@apr.com



Palo Alto – Lovely 2br, 2ba condo in Barron Square. Spacious, one level, 1st floor. Separate dining room. Remodeled kitchen & baths. New paint & carpet. **\$648,000**



Jolaine Woodson
650.740.9694
jwoodson@apr.com



Jack Woodson
650.740.9787
jackwoodson@apr.com



Palo Alto – Pristine, top floor one bedroom, one bathroom condo with breathtaking view of the mountains. Easy walk to shops and restaurants in California Ave district. **\$499,000**



Pam Page
650.400.5061
ppage@apr.com



SOLD

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Sports Shorts

OAKS' REPORT . . . Menlo College will put its 2-0 record on the line when it travels south to face Occidental College on Saturday at 7 p.m. The Oaks are coming off a 23-16 come-from-behind victory over Pacific University in Oregon last weekend. Menlo junior wide receiver **Robert Adan** played the role of catalyst as he had a game-high 134 receiving yards on seven catches, including two touchdowns. His second score early in the 4th quarter was the difference as it broke a 16-16 tie to give the Oaks the victory with 13:31 left in the game. Menlo had trailed 16-0 before quarterback **Matt Pelesasa** began hooking up with Adan in the second half. The first score was an eight-yard reception by Adan with 4:14 left in the third to make it 16-14. Menlo then tied the game with a safety, setting up Pelesasa's 23-yard scoring pass to Adan for the winning points. Pelesasa finished 21 of 37 for 220 yards with one interception . . . Reigning Cal Pac Player of the Week **Stephenie Monderine** had 14 kills and nine digs and recorded a .448 hitting percentage as the Menlo College women's volleyball team downed host Dominican, 25-23, 26-24, 25-21, in a nonconference match Wednesday night. **Camille Miller** added 12 kills as the Lady Oaks (4-7) won for the fourth time in five matches. **Selina Bumb** had 11 kills for Menlo, which hosts UC Santa Cruz on Friday at 7 p.m. and then opens conference play next week.

LOCAL COLLEGIANS . . . Former standout Priory soccer player **Leslie Barkmann** of Cal Poly-SLO provided contributions on both ends of the field while in earning the Big West Defensive Player of the Week award in women's soccer. The junior was named the defensive Most Valuable Player of the Viking Soccer Classic as the Mustangs limited Seattle and Boise State to a combined one goal in a pair of victories last week. Barkmann also stepped up with the game-winning goal in the 2-1 triumph over the Redhawks and delivered the game-winning assist in a 3-0 shutout of the Broncos . . . In women's volleyball, Palo Alto High grad **Allison Whitson** helped UC Davis go 4-0 at the Pioneer Classic during the weekend in Denver, Colo. The Aggies improved to 10-1 after stretching their winning streak to five. Whitson had 15 kills to help UC Davis upset Missouri in the final match, 25-16, 21-25, 25-11, 25-19.

ON THE AIR

FRIDAY

Women's volleyball: Utah at Stanford, 7 p.m.; KZSU (90.1 FM)

SATURDAY

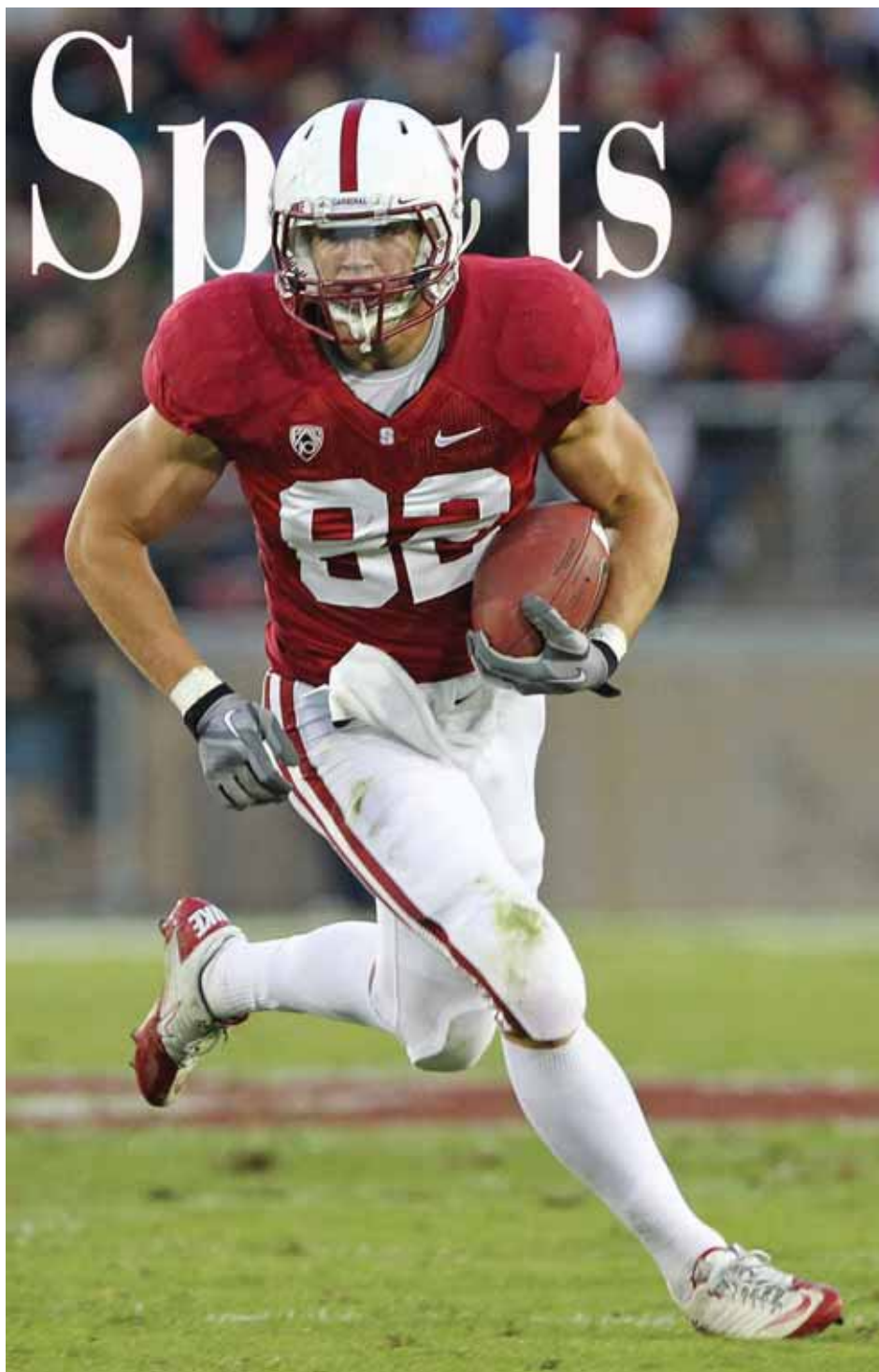
College football: Stanford at Arizona, 7:45 p.m.; ESPN; KNBR (1050 AM); KZSU (90.1 FM)

Women's volleyball: Colorado at Stanford, 7 p.m.; KZSU (90.1 FM)



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Senior tight end Coby Fleener has scored three times on his five receptions this season as a reliable target for Andrew Luck. The two likely will hook up again Saturday at Arizona.

Mitty volleyball tournament will put Palo Alto to the test

by Keith Peters

The Palo Alto girls' volleyball team is venturing into new territory this weekend, which seems strange after having captured the CIF Division I state championship last season with a 41-1 record.

The Vikings will be playing in the prestigious Mitty Invitational on Friday and Saturday, a national event featuring four teams ranked among the nation's top 25.

While Palo Alto did play in this tournament in 2001, the Vikings were big underdogs then. Not now.

"We got the No. 1 overall seed!" said Paly coach Dave Winn. "If there was any doubt before, it's gone now . . . the target is squarely on our backs!"

Palo Alto (11-0) comes in ranked No. 4 nationally in the MaxPreps Xcellent 25. Second-seeded Cardinal Gibbons (Raleigh, N.C.) is No. 5 in the same poll while third-seeded Dos Pueblos (Goleta) is No. 12 and Presentation (San Jose) is No. 24.

"This is definitely a huge honor for us and we're going to work very hard in this tournament to learn against some of the best teams in the country," Winn said.

The top-seeded Vikings will open on Friday against No. 16 seeded Santa Ynez at 4

p.m. That winner will face either No. 8 Frontier or No. 9 Santa Barbara at 8 p.m.

Should Palo Alto advance to Saturday, it could face No. 4 Presentation in a rematch of last week's five-set showdown won by Paly. That match would be at noon. Another possible opponent could be No. 5 Santa Margarita.

Three wins would put Palo Alto in the championship match at 6 p.m. The opposite bracket features Cardinal Gibbons, Dos Pueblos, No. 6 St. Francis (Mountain View) and No. 7 Mitty, among others.

Palo Alto will bring a record-tying 26-match winning streak—dating to last season—into the Mitty tourney. The Vikings first established the school record of 26 straight wins to open last season.

The streak certainly will be in jeopardy this weekend.

"No easy opponents in the Mitty tourney," said Winn, whose team tuned up with a hard-fought five-set victory over Sacred Heart Prep on Tuesday night. "Every match will be like playing SHP or better. What makes it hard is the 3/5 (best of five) format. So, we'll have to figure out a way to stay fresh, close out sets

Bob Drebin/Stanfordphoto.

STANFORD FOOTBALL

Fleener now a slam dunk as tight end

Cardinal receiver once had hoop aspirations, but football is his true calling

by Rick Eymers

Some claim Stanford tight end Coby Fleener might be the second-fastest player on the football team. The fastest, wide receiver Chris Owusu, won't comment. He doesn't want anyone mad at him.

There's one thing that neither receiver can deny—they're both important parts of the passing game. Fleener has three touchdown passes among his five receptions. Owusu leads the team with 14 catches for 182 yards.

Fleener and fellow tight end Zach Ertz are tied for second. None others have caught at least one pass through Stanford's first two games.

The sixth-ranked Stanford (2-0) opens Pac-12 Conference play at Arizona (1-1) on Saturday night in Tucson, with a scheduled 7:45 p.m. kickoff (ESPN).

The Cardinal takes a 10-game winning streak into the fray, the school's fourth-longest streak ever and the longest since a 13-game streak ended in 1941.

First-year coach David Shaw will be looking to become the first Cardinal coach to start his career with three wins since Jack Christiansen did it 1972.

Fleener earned one of Stanford's game balls for his play in a 44-14 victory at Duke last Saturday. Chase Thomas was the defensive winner and A.J. Tarpley was the special teams winner.

Fleener (6-6, 254) once had dreams of playing Division I basketball before realizing football was more his forte. Some of his basketball skills have translated to the gridiron.

"There are certain aspects," Fleener said. "It translates well as far as body position when going for the ball. It's more helpful than a hindrance."

As a high school player in Illinois, Fleener pushed for a basketball scholarship but realized he had better odds at a football scholarship.

"It is kind of a dream to play both," he said. "But I don't dwell on it."

Shaw was among the few who tried to play both football and basketball at Stanford. Menlo School grad John



Keith Peters

Paly seniors Melanie Wade (left) and Kimmy Whitson have celebrated a lot during an 11-0 start.

(continued on page 29)

It's just another challenge

Top-ranked Cardinal women's soccer visits Santa Clara on Sunday

by Rick Eymer

The Stanford women's soccer team may have a five-game winning streak against Santa Clara, but the Broncos have pretty much owned the top-ranked Cardinal over the years.

Santa Clara hasn't won since 2006, but the Broncos are good enough to give Stanford all it can handle.

Stanford, which played at Portland on Thursday night, visits Santa Clara on Sunday night in a featured matchup at venerable Buck Shaw Stadium at 8 p.m.

The Cardinal (6-0-1 entering play Thursday) moved into the top spot in the national rankings this week. Santa Clara (3-0-4) is currently ranked 18th.

The Broncos have allowed a total of five goals on the season while Stanford is tied for eighth in the nation in scoring with 3.29 goals per game.

Castilleja grad Lindsay Taylor leads Stanford with six goals and two assists for 14 points. She's the reigning National Player of the Week and the Pac-12 Player of the Week after helping the Cardinal beat Notre Dame in come-from-behind fashion last weekend.

The Cardinal has spread its scoring around this season, with freshman Chioma Ubogagu and Palo Alto grad Teresa Noyola each recording four goals. Six other players have scored at least once through seven games.

Stanford is close to being at full strength. Sophomore goalkeeper Emily Oliver remains a question mark after running into the post last Friday. Aly Gleason made her first career start and recorded a shutout in a 2-0 win over 15th-ranked UC Irvine on Sunday.

Defender Kendall Romine continues to be bothered by injuries, though Madeleine Thompson has been effective in her place.

Defender Rachel Quon and midfielder Mariah Nogueira returned from injuries to play last weekend.

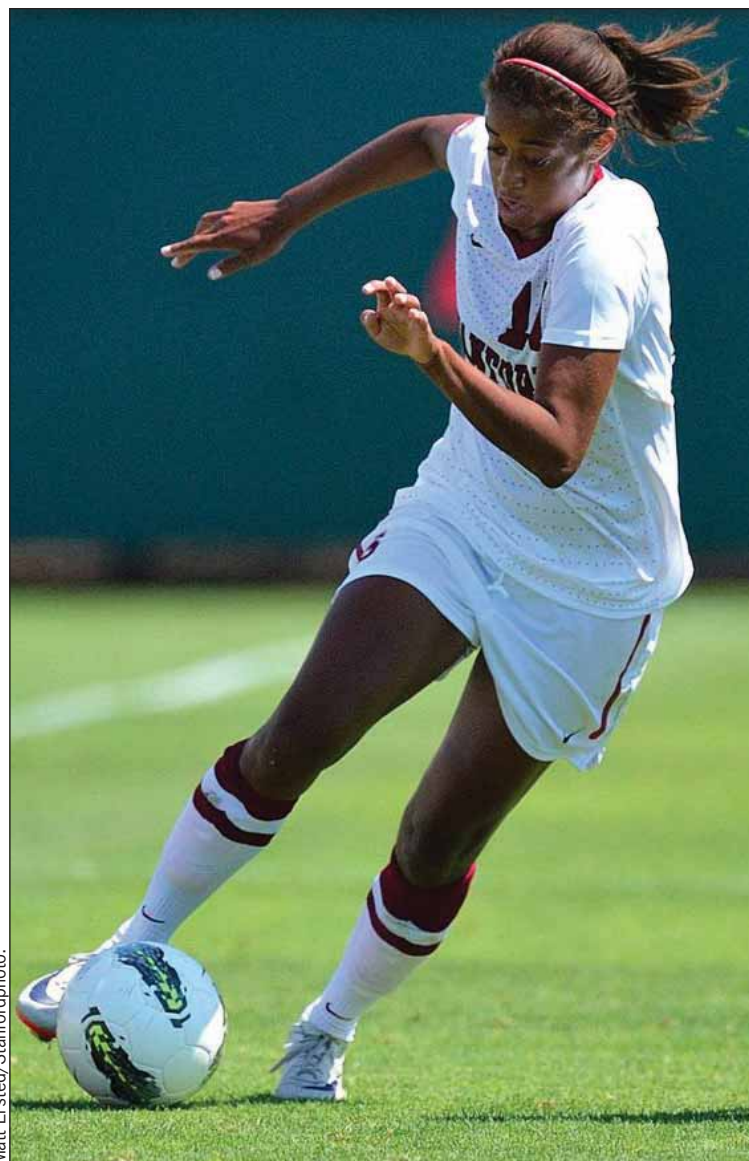
Versatile Courtney Verloo, who is on the Hermann Trophy watch list, has yet to play this season.

Research by collegesoccer360.com has revealed that Stanford's senior class has the highest four-year record (.76-4-4, .929) among any Division I school through last weekend. Portland is third on that list. Stanford's seniors are: defender Camille Levin, Noyola, Taylor and midfielder Kristy Zurmuhen.

Women's volleyball

Second-ranked Stanford (6-1) looks to get back on track Friday night when Pac-12 newcomer Utah pays a visit to Maples Pavilion for a 7 p.m. first serve.

The Cardinal lost at top-ranked



Matt Ersted/Stanfordphoto.

Castilleja grad Lindsay Taylor, a senior, is Stanford's leading scorer and the reigning Pac-12 Player of the Week.

California in four sets on Tuesday night, its third straight defeat to the Bears, who reached last year's national championship match and shared the Pac-10 title with Stanford.

The Cardinal hit a season-low .103 against California, which is coached by Palo Alto grad Rich Feller, the reigning National Coach of the Year.

Stanford sophomore outside hitter Rachel Williams has emerged from the wings to establish herself as an All-American candidate. She leads the team with 136 kills (5.04 per set) and is hitting .250 overall. She's also one of the top defensive players on the court, averaging 2.85 digs per game.

The Cardinal has relied heavily on its defense to date. Eight Cardinal players have achieved double figures in digs, and six of them have at least 49 through seven matches.

Despite the low hitting percentage against the Bears, Stanford still maintains a .218 to .150 edge in that department over their opponents overall.

Field hockey

No. 16 Stanford (5-1) opens the NorPac Conference season Saturday at Pacific in Stockton with a four-match winning streak intact.

Kelsey Harbin became the second Cardinal freshman to earn weekly honors from the NorPac, joining Alex McCawley, after she was named a Defensive Player of the Week for helping Stanford to a pair of home victories over the weekend.

Stanford beat No. 19 Indiana, 4-2, on Friday and No. 18 North-

eastern, 3-2, on Sunday. The lone loss was at No. 4 Connecticut.

Men's soccer

Stanford (1-4) hosts USF (1-4) in a nonconference match on Saturday night at 7 p.m.

The Cardinal split two matches at home, as part of the Cal Legacy Classic, last weekend, beating nationally-ranked Kentucky, 3-1, and dropping a 1-0 decision to Lehigh.

Stanford has won the last three matches against the Dons, all by a 1-0 margin. USF continues to lead the all-time series, 15-14-5.

Men's golf

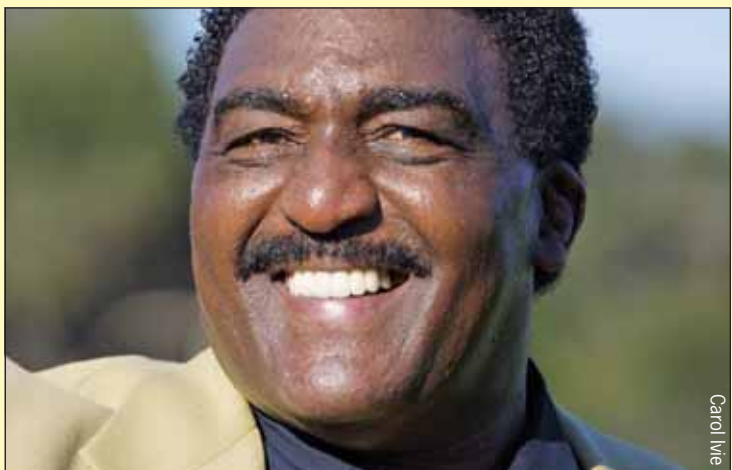
Stanford, ranked 12th in the Golf World/Nike Golf preseason coaches' poll, opens its fall schedule on Friday at the Olympia Fields/Fighting Illini Invitational against an impressive field that includes 10 Top-25 teams.

Stanford held a four-round qualifying event last week and will send Andrew Yun, Steven Kearney, Cameron Wilson, and freshmen Patrick Grimes (from Menlo School) and Patrick Rodgers to the event.

Women's golf

Stanford begins its fall schedule on Monday at the Washington State Cougar Cup with visions of competing for the Pac-12 championship.

The Cardinal, which recorded eight top-10 finishes last season, The Cardinal returns four of its top five stroke-average leaders including All-Pac-10 second-team selection Kristina Wong and All-Pac-10 honorable mention Sally Watson. ■



Carol Wie

A final tribute to Coach Parks

Life of legendary M-A coach will be celebrated Saturday

When former Menlo-Atherton High football coach Ben Parks passed away in his sleep on Aug. 19 at age 77, there was an immediate outpouring of emotions from those he touched throughout his rich life.

"This will not be an easy thing for any of us who were close to a man that was bigger than life," wrote one M-A alum. "Whether it was being conditioned to death, delivering food for the needy or simply receiving one of those famous 'hey there big fella' all of us were enriched, tempered and made better human beings by the passion, love and pure love of life that was ever present in Coach.

"He taught me to respect the content of a person's character without concern for the color of their skin. When you attempt something, give every bit of your ability, effort regardless of the challenge, and above all never quit until they have pull you off. To be thankful for what life gives you, because there are a lot less fortunate out there. And to respect my parents. I know if there is a God, that he's gonna be in great condition in about six weeks."

In addition to his years of coaching, Coach Parks also trained more than 1,000 NFL athletes over the years, including Joe Montana and Ronnie Lott of the San Francisco

49ers.

A final chance to celebrate the life of Coach Parks, who coached football at the school from 1968-84 in addition to be the longtime wrestling coach, will take place Saturday during a public memorial at Menlo-Atherton High beginning at 11 a.m.

From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., a 23-minute documentary on Coach Parks will be shown continuously in the new Performing Arts Center on campus.

Beginning at 11:30 a.m. on Coach Parks Field, Lott will join a host of speakers that include former California Controller and M-A alum Steve Westly, members of the Parks family, and members of the NFL Alumni Association. Jan Hutchins, a former sportscaster for KPIX, will be the Master of Ceremonies.

At 1 p.m., the event moves to the main gym for slide shows, memorabilia, and a chance for the public to share their stories of Coach Parks on video.

Parking is available at the school and across Middlefield Road at the SRI lot.

A tribute to Coach Parks, along with the dedication of the new lights at the football field, will take place during halftime of M-A's game (7 p.m.) against visiting St. Ignatius on Friday night. ■

PREP FOOTBALL

Palo Alto's win streak to be tested by Mitty

by James Huber

If there is any game on Palo Alto's preseason football schedule with a red flag attached, it's Friday's showdown with Mitty at Foothill College. Revenge can be a powerful motive.

Well-rested from last week's bye, the Vikings (1-0) will have to be at their best for the 7 p.m. showdown against a team they defeated twice last season.

Palo Alto beat the Monarchs in Game 2 of the 2010 season, 20-7, and then did it again in the first round of the Central Coast Section Open Division playoffs, 13-10, on a last-second TD pass in a driving rainstorm.

Mitty (1-1) hasn't forgotten those two losses and would like nothing else than to upend the defending Division I state champion, especially

after dropping a 21-14 nonleague game to San Ramon Valley on Monday. The game originally started on Friday, but was postponed due to lightning.

"As tough as today's situation was, there's no doubt in my mind we'll be ready for Friday," said Mitty's Cail McClenahan said. "Palo Alto is the biggest game of our season. It's time for some payback."

Palo Alto has had plenty of time to prepare since opening the season with a 28-18 victory over San Benito. Combined with last season's 14-0 record, the Vikings will take a 15-game win streak into Friday's game — just another reason for Mitty to be ready.

While Paly attempts to keep its season rolling, Sacred Heart Prep

(continued on page 29)



PALO ALTO CITY COUNCIL

**CIVIC CENTER, 250 HAMILTON AVENUE
BROADCAST LIVE ON KZSU, FM 90.1**

CABLECAST LIVE ON GOVERNMENT ACCESS CHANNEL 26

THIS IS A SUMMARY OF COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS. THE AGENDA WITH COMPLETE TITLES INCLUDING LEGAL DOCUMENTATION CAN BE VIEWED AT THE BELOW WEBPAGE:

<http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/knowzone/agendas/council.asp>

**(TENTATIVE) AGENDA - SPECIAL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
SEPTEMBER 19, 2011 - 6:00 PM**

1. Study Session with Planning & Transportation Commission
7:00 P.M. COUNCIL CHAMBERS
2. Resolution Honoring Audrey Rust, President of the Peninsula Open Space Trust, for her Outstanding Service to the Community
3. Proclamation Recognizing Sea Otter Awareness Week
4. Approval of a Contract Amendment with AV Integrators, Inc., required to Complete the Council Chambers Audio and Visual Equipment Upgrades
5. Resolution Adopting the Affidavit of Loss and Indemnity Agreement with American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC and Authorizing the City Manager to Sign the Affidavit and Agreement
6. Adoption of a Resolution Summarily Vacating a 10-foot Portion of an Original 30-foot Dedication for Street Purposes Easement at 945 Matadero Avenue
7. Approval of a Budget Amendment Ordinance in the Amount of \$52,108 and Approval of a Contract with Petrotek in an Amount Not to Exceed \$147,108 for Design and Construction of Replacement Fuel Pumps and Related Equipment at Foothills Park (CIP VR-92006)
8. Recommendation from P&S to Approve Updates to the Council Procedures & Protocols
9. Request for Authorization to Enter into a Contract with the Law Firm of Liebert Cassidy & Whitmore in an Amount Not to Exceed \$175,000 for Legal Services
10. Request for Authorization to Increase the Existing Contract with the Law Firm of Stubbs & Leone by an Additional \$100,000 for a Total Not to Exceed Amount of \$185,000
11. Public Hearing: Pursuant to Proposition 218 - Adopt a Resolution Amending Water Rate Fees
12. Public Hearing: (Proposition 218) Adopt a Resolution Amending the Utility Rate Schedules R-1, R-2, and R-3 for a Refuse Rate Increase; Adopt Budget Amendment Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2012 to Adjust Projected Revenues and Expenses in Refuse Fund and Authorize Short Term Loan from General Fund to Refuse Fund
13. Council Direction in Response to Sustainable Communities Strategy (SB375) Alternative Scenarios and Update of Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) Process (*continued from September 12, 2011*)
14. Public Hearing: Consideration of an Appeal of an Architectural Review Approval, a Tentative Map for Condominium Purposes, and a Record of Land Use Action, (1) Approving a Mitigated Negative Declaration, (2) Upholding the Director's Architectural Review Approval of a Three Story Development Consisting of 84 Residential Units within the Upper Floors, 50,467 s.f. Ground Floor Research and Development area, Subterranean and Surface Parking Facilities, and Offsite Improvements, with Two Concessions Requested Under State Condominium Purposes on a 2.5 Acre Parcel at 195 Page Mill Road and 2865 Park Boulevard

**(TENTATIVE) AGENDA-SPECIAL
COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM
September 20, 2011 - 6:00 PM**

1. Meeting with Liz Kniss

STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Finance Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 20, at 7:30 p.m. regarding: 1) Utilities Advisory Commission Recommendation to Change the Purpose of and Rename the Calaveras Reserve to the Electric Special Project Reserve and Adopt New Reserve Guidelines 2) Proposed Change to the Gas Purchasing Strategy to Implement a Market-based, Monthly-adjusted Gas Supply Rate.

The City Council Rail Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 22, at 8:00 a.m. regarding: 1) Discussion of the July 19, 2011 Bay Area Council letter to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and potential Palo Alto City Response, 2) Discussion of High Speed Rail Guiding Principles policy document, 3) Discussion of potential position on SB 791 Steinberg proposed bill, 4) Discussion of rail legislative advocacy services and draft Request for Proposal (RFP), 5) Discussion of next rail update to the City Council and presentation by Economic & Planning Systems (EPS) and 6) Discussion of draft outline of future City response to Caltrain Certification of Electrification Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Sports

Prep football

(continued from page 27)

(2-0) will try to do the same when the Gators visit Los Altos on Saturday for a nonleaguer at 1:30 p.m.

Sacred Heart will have to do a better job of taking care of the ball, something the Gators struggled with last week during a 24-17 nonleague win at Riordan. SHP fumbled four times, losing one.

Junior flyback Ryan Gaertner caught a 19-yard scoring pass from quarterback Jack Larson with 1:02 left in the game to pull out the victory in San Francisco. The Gators trailed the entire game before Gaertner's winning catch.

Will Morgan carried 11 times for a career-high 129 yards to lead a Sacred Heart Prep rushing attack that totaled 236 yards.

Sacred Heart Prep trailed 7-0 before Nic Kawasaki recovered a fumble in the end zone to tie the game in the second quarter. After Riordan went ahead 10-7, SHP answered again with Brendan Spilane kicked a 36-yard field goal for a 10-10 halftime deadlock.

Riordan (0-2) once again took the lead just into the fourth quarter, but Daver Refioglu scored on a 16-yard run for the Gators, who missed the point-after attempt and it was 17-16.

The SHP defense got the ball back deep in Riordan territory with under 2:00 left in the game. Four players later, Larson and Gaertner hooked up for the winner.

Tyler McCool, who had 145 rushing yards last week, was kept in check by Riordan. He finished with 32 yards on seven carries. Regioglu, in his first season of playing football, rushed for 43 yards. Larson was efficient again with 104 yards on 12-of-18 completions.

In other games this weekend:

Menlo-Atherton (1-1) will host St. Ignatius at 7 p.m. and have a special dedication of its new permanent lights during halftime. Gunn (0-1), meanwhile, will play host to Burlingame on Friday night at 7:30 p.m.

On Saturday, Priory (0-2) will host Rincon Valley Christian at 1 p.m. and Pinewood (0-1) will visit Crystal Springs, also at 1 p.m. Menlo School (2-0) has a bye this week.

In games last week:

Menlo 16, Mission 12

Senior wide receiver Tommy Ford hauled in the game-winning touchdown catch midway through the fourth quarter and the Knights' defense forced an incompleton on its own 10-yard line as time expired to secure the victory in Atherton.

Ford, who ended the night with four receptions for 101 yards, scored on a 30-yard pass with 6:51 left from sophomore quarterback Jack Heneghan to give Menlo the lead for good. Ford's touchdown was set up by a stellar effort by the Knights' defense, which caused a turnover on downs to give the offense excellent field position.

"The backside seam was wide open the entire game," Ford said. "Jack (Heneghan) stepped up, threw a nice pass, nice easy catch for a touchdown."

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



Natalie Roy
Menlo School

The senior outside hitter had 14 kills and four aces in a nonleague volleyball victory before adding 29 kills while helping the Knights win four straight matches and the Del Mar Tournament championship.



Ryan Gaertner
Sacred Heart Prep

The junior two-way player rushed 11 times for 38 yards and caught six passes for 53 yards, including a game-winning 19-yard reception plus a two-point conversion in a 24-17 come-from-behind football victory.

Honorable mention

Christine Eliazo

Menlo tennis

Marine Hall-Poirier

Priory volleyball

Clara Johnson

Priory volleyball

Alexandra Ko

Menlo volleyball

Emma Thygesen

Menlo volleyball

Briana Willhite

Priory volleyball

Kevin Donahoe

Sacred Heart Prep football

Tommy Ford

Menlo football

Dante Fraioli

Pinewood football

Brad Haaland

Menlo water polo

Nick Hale

Menlo water polo

Will Morgan

Sacred Heart Prep football
* previous winner

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

The Knights, who won on a last second-second touchdown over Santa Cruz in their opener, made things interesting on the last drive of the game for Mission (1-1).

McClymonds 20, Gunn 14

The Titans opened their season under new head coach Dan Navarro, but weren't able to hold on to a 14-0 first-quarter lead on Friday night in Oakland.

JJ Strnad gave Gunn (0-1) a 7-0 lead on a 20-yard run and junior quarterback Andrew Guzman made it 14-0 after scoring from three yards out. That held up for a 14-0 lead at the half.

The Titans, however, stalled offensively in the second half and finished with 194 total yards. Strnad had 56 yards rushing on 14 carries while Guzman finished with 101 passing yards while completing eight of 13 passes. Five receptions went to Skyler Larson for 70 yards.

Los Gatos 27, M-A 14

The Bears had enough offense but not enough defense and suffered a nonleague loss on Saturday in Atherton. For the perennial power Wildcats, it was their third straight season-opening win over

the Bears.

Menlo-Atherton quarterback Willy Fonua was 14 of 31 for 220 yards, with a touchdown and an interception. Evan Perkins caught six passes for 89 yards and senior running backs Cameron Moody and Taylor Mashack combined for 221 rushing yards as the Bears showed improvement over their two previous losses to Los Gatos.

Anderson Valley 56, Priory 8

Priory dropped its second straight nonconference game in eight-man competition by falling to host Anderson Valley.

Stuart Hall 26, Pinewood 22

Pinewood opened its season with a tough loss. John Bennet led the Panthers by completing 14 of 26 passes for 187 yards and two touchdowns while Dante Fraioli paced the rushing attack with 45 yards on 14 hauls. Kevin Sweat caught six passes for 70 yards and one touchdown. Fraioli and Daniel Branski paced the defensive effort with 11 tackles each while Greg Naumann added eight. M.J. Stevens had a pair of sacks.■

PREP WATER POLO

A good start for the Gators

SHP boys and girls sweep St. Francis to open WCAL water polo season

by Keith Peters

When it comes to water polo in the West Catholic Athletic League, the Sacred Heart Prep and St. Francis boys and girls are well-connected.

The Sacred Heart Prep boys and girls both took positive steps forward in the early season with impressive victories against rival St. Francis in WCAL openers on Wednesday in Mountain View.

The SHP boys avenged their lone WCAL regular-season loss from 2010 plus a setback to the Lancers in the league playoffs with a 10-9 triumph. The SHP girls, meanwhile, opened defense of their league title with a 13-6 win over host St. Francis.

SHP boys' coach Brian Kreutzkamp said he believed his team probably was ranked No. 3 in the WCAL before Wednesday's victory. The Gators (1-0) now look to be No. 2 behind Bellarmine.

There's still a long way to go in the season, but SHP certainly made a statement against the Lancers with sophomore Harrison Enright doing likewise with seven goals.

"It was all Enright tonight," said Kreutzkamp. "He carried us. (Goalie Will) Runkel had some great saves down the stretch, but it was mostly Enright."

Sacred Heart trailed at the end of every quarter but tied the match at 9 with 2:42 left to play on Enright's final goal. He also figured in the winner as his pass to Brett Hinrichs resulted in a five-meter penalty shot that Zach Churukian buried for the clincher.

Runkel helped blank the Lancers



Zach Churukian of Sacred Heart Prep scored on a five-meter penalty shot to give the Gators a 10-9 win over St. Francis on Wednesday.

in the crucial fourth quarter — he made a stop on a point-blank shot with under 15 seconds to play — with some of his 15 saves, keeping him in line with his goalie predecessors Michael Wishart and Ben Dearborn. Kreutzkamp, in fact, believes Runkel might even be ahead of where Wishart and Dearborn were as juniors. Wishart now plays for Santa Clara while Dearborn is in goal for Princeton.

That remains to be seen as the Gators will be tested throughout the season as they attempt to get back to the Central Coast Section Division II championship match, which they lost to rival Menlo School last season.

Next up for the Gators will be the Santa Barbara Tournament on Friday and Saturday, where 16 of the top 20 teams in California will be competing. SHP opens against Agoura, the No. 5-ranked team in the state.

The Sacred Heart Prep girls, meanwhile, avenged a 15-7 loss to St. Francis in the third-place match at last weekend's St. Francis Autumn Invitational as senior Pippa Temple scored four goals and fellow senior Clare Rudolph added three.

"We focused more on our press and it worked well," SHP coach Jon Burke on the difference's in the two matches against the Lancers. "Our primary defenders, Clare Rudolph and Mackenzie O'Holleran, did an outstanding job with their matchups and (sophomore) Kelly Moran had a good game in the goal (with 12 saves).

In other water polo action Wednesday:

Palo Alto (2-0, 4-0) continued its strong early season success with a 7-6 victory over visiting Mountain View as Will Conner converted a five-meter penalty shot with 1:05 remaining to clinch it. Paly goalie Daniel Armitano had seven saves in the SCVAL De Anza Division matchup between two of the top three squads.

In another De Anza Division match, host Gunn outscored Homestead 14-7.

In other girls' action, host Palo Alto (0-1, 1-4) had its match with Wilcox postponed due to a communication mishap. The Gunn-Homestead match was not reported.

In nonleague action, Menlo-Atherton (1-4) dropped a 14-6 nonleague decision to visiting Leland.■

tween two 2010 state finalists on Tuesday night.

The Vikings overcame five match points in the fourth set and got a clinching kill from senior Jackie Koenig in the deciding set to post a 20-25, 16-25, 25-13, 27-25, 15-11 triumph over the Gators (6-3), who finished second in the CIF Division IV state finals last season.

Senior Melanie Wade produced 19 kills to pace Palo Alto, which took some advice from Winn to get untracked.

"We just relaxed," Paly coach Dave Winn set of the turnaround third set. "I tried to remind our team to start having fun and let the results take care of themselves. We cruised in the third set while taking on that attitude and SHP started making errors.

"The fourth set was just two good teams both playing well, but a few too many missed serves by us got us down 24-20. We made a miraculous save on a dig to force

a hitting error out of SHP. We tied it at 24 (saving four match points), then again at 25. We went on to win 27-25 and carried that momentum into set five."

Winn said the first two sets were a result of "SHP playing their hearts out, with us executing OK, but not good enough. Their passing, setting and hitting out-ranked ours the first two sets, but not because of lack of effort on our side. They (the Gators) were just dang good and very scrappy on defense."

Junior Sonia Abuel-Saud led SHP with 17 kills and 24 digs while senior Sarah Daschbach added 12 kills and 14 digs. Junior Ellie Shannon finished with 12 kills, senior Olivia Bertolacci had 25 digs while Jojo Kurtzman and Cammie Merten contributed 26 and 20 assists, respectively.

In other volleyball action Tuesday, Castilleja won on the road with a 25-17, 23-25, 25-14, 25-22 nonleague victory over Live Oak.

Stanford football

(continued from page 26)

Paye did it successfully in the mid-1980s. Mark Bradford and Evan Moore were the most recent (2005) to play, though Tavita Pritchard joined the basketball team late in his senior season.

Fleener did get a chance to show off against Shaw in his freshmen year during a coaches-players game.

"Let's just say I got the better of him that day," Fleener said.

His height and bulk hide the fact he's also a speedster. Fleener has a 60-yard touchdown catch this season. In last year's final three games, Fleener scored six times on his final nine receptions — five of them for 38 yards or longer. Three of his TD receptions came in the Orange Bowl.

"People do forget he's fast," Stanford quarterback Andrew Luck said. "He's very fast. He also does a great job of body control when he's in the air. He uses his athleticism to the fullest while the ball is in the air."

Linebacker Chase Thomas can see it from the sidelines.

"He has unbelievable speed for a guy his size," Thomas said. "He creates mismatches all over the field. Having Luck throw to him is also nice. When I guard him I can't let him get a free release or it's bad news."

Fleener says going up against guys like Thomas in practice only helps.

"I enjoy battling with him," Fleener said. "To say he's tough to block is an understatement. He's made me a better player by going up against him."

A lot of people think this game will feature two of the top quarterbacks going at it in a high-scoring offensive display.

Shaw is high on Arizona quarterback Nick Foles, for one.

"In all my years evaluating quarterbacks, the best ones make quick decisions, have a quick release and throw the ball with accuracy," Shaw said. "(Foles) does all those, and he does all those repeatedly and has for years.



Coby Fleener

Luck and Foles became friends at the Peyton Manning camp and the friendship continued at conference media days. Luck got the better of him in a throwing accuracy contest at the ESPN headquarters in Bristol, Conn., last year.

"Nick is a great guy," Luck said. "I found out later that we lived 20 minutes apart for a couple of years in Austin."

Shaw also said Luck has made improvements in his game since being named the Heisman Trophy runner-up.

"He's just more vocal with everything," Shaw said. "He has really taken this offense on his shoulders. He's really mastering not just his job, but everybody else's job."

Luck said he reviews the play-book once in awhile to make sure he's directing a certain play correctly.

"I feel I'm understanding our game plan more, why it's built to attack this defense, and why it changes for this opponent," he said. "Instead of going into the huddle and calling a play and thinking, 'What am I doing here?' It's much more fluid now. I know what I'm doing now and know how the defense will adjust to this play."■

Prep volleyball

(continued from page 26)

when we can and adapt faster than our opponents."

Most tournaments feature best-of-three matches, but the Mitty tourney reflects the toughest conditions possible against some of the toughest opposition the Vikings will face this season.

Palo Alto is getting used to facing tough competition though, having played five-set matches in its past two outings.

"Both the Pres (Presentation) and last night's SHP match took a lot of energy out of us," Winn said. "But, we were physically prepared for it. Those matches also have given us confidence to come back if we ever find ourselves behind again."

The Vikings kept their perfect season intact by rallying from a two-set deficit to pull off a thrilling nonleague victory over visiting Sacred Heart Prep in a battle be-

Hannah Boland led the Gators (4-3) with 13 kills and 11 blocks, Lindsey Wang contributed 13 kills and Hannah Hsieh finished with 30 assists and four aces.

On Wednesday, sophomore Maddy Frappier had 11 kills and eight digs to help Menlo School defeat host Sequoia, 25-12, 25-21, 28-26. Freshman setter Elisa Merten contributed 16 assists as the Knights improved to 10-2.

Last weekend, Menlo won all four of its matches in a near-sweep to capture the 13-team Del Mar Tournament title in San Jose.

The Knights opened with a 25-6, 25-11 victory over tournament host Del Mar before dispatching South San Francisco, 25-11, 25-18. Menlo then topped Mills, 25-5, 25-19. In the finale, the Knights beat Los Altos, 23-25, 25-19, 15-9 to claim the championship.

Emma Thygesen had 31 kills while Natalie Roy added 29 for Menlo.

In Portola Valley, Priory captured its own Panther Invitational by sweeping all four matches over the weekend. The Panthers (5-0) opened with a 2-0 win over St. Thomas More, and followed that with 2-0 victories over St. Lawrence and Providence Hall. Priory capped the tourney with a 2-1 victory over Burton.

Junior Clara Johnson, junior Briana Willhite and sophomore Marine Hall-Poirier all had standout weekends while helping Priory to the title.

In the Fresno area, Gunn compiled a 5-2 record over the two-day Central California Classic and wound up ninth after going 3-0 after the opening day. The Titans were forced to a third set in each match on Saturday.

This weekend, Gunn will travel to Harbor High School in Santa Cruz for its first-ever appearance in the Harbor Invitational tournament.■

Movies

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Sat, Oct 8: 9:30am
Jr. Congregation: 9:45am
Young Children's Service 10am
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Minchah, Yizkor, Neilah: 5pm

OPENINGS



Ryan Gosling in "Drive."

Drive ★★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) As they watch TV together, a man asks a boy if a cartoon shark is a "bad guy." "Just look at him," the boy replies. "Does he look like a good guy to you?" Over and over, Nicholas Winding Refn's neo-noir "Drive" implicitly asks this question, sizing up an individual and contemplating whether or not he deserves the benefit of the doubt.

For one thing, the best "wheel man" in L.A. (Ryan Gosling) must decide if he should help out an ex-con (Oscar Isaac) by serving as his getaway driver. Then there's Refn's playful casting of erstwhile comedy star Albert Brooks in what would ordinarily be the Robert Loggia role of a growly crime boss: Underestimate him at your peril. Above all, there's Gosling's anti-hero, the picture's still, quiet center. The scorpion on the back of his jacket alludes to the fable of the scorpion and the frog (famously appropriated by Orson Welles in his "Mr. Arkadin"). The driver's nature is to sting, but he finds himself in the role of rescuer. So Refn asks you: Does he look like a good guy to you?

The rescue in question involves the cartoon-watching boy and his pretty young mother Irene (Carey Mulligan), neighbors to Gosling's unnamed driver. By day a Hollywood stunt driver and local grease monkey, he's nothing if not a car whisperer. In the film's virtuosic opening movement, the driver demonstrates why he's so in-demand, playing a Chevy Impala in concert with a police scanner and making beautiful music of a robbery getaway. Though he mostly looks out for number one, the driver shows loyalty to his boss — a limping garage owner named Shannon (Bryan Cranston, pitch-perfect) — and a sympathy for Irene, for whom the driver clearly longs. (Also in Refn's rogues' gallery mix: Ron Perlman and "Mad Men"'s Christina Hendricks.)

Adapted by Hossein Amini ("The Wings of the Dove") from the book by James Sallis, "Drive" also tips its hat to Walter Hill's 1978 film "The Driver," whose hero also went nameless. But one might just as well say the L.A. sto-

ry unfolds at the corner of Michael Mann and David Lynch. The Danish Refn ("Bronson") throws himself into a stylish genre exercise routine, expertly setting a mood with Echo Park dives, neon street light and '80s flavored music, as well as distinctive use of slo-mo, tense sound design and low-angle photography. Add bursts of ultra-violence compared and contrasted to throbbing libido, and "Drive" proves it's got atmosphere to spare.

Strip away that atmosphere and there's practically no there there, and certainly some will find repellent this next-generation noir made by and for those raised on a diet of gore pictures. But "Drive" is witty (especially a reference to arty European movies), exciting in its action sequences, and oddly moving in its stolen moments of repose, thanks in no small part to Gosling's resonant acting and Refn's haunting musical selections.

The film may be hard to swallow, but it leaves viewers with an ambiguous ending to chew on, and Refn's willingness to go out on the stylistic edge marks him as one to watch.

Rated R for strong brutal bloody violence, language and some nudity. One hour, 41 minutes.

— Peter Canavese

Detective Dee and the Mystery of the Phantom Flame (Di Renjie) ★★★

(Aquarius) Highly stylized and over-the-top nuttiness characterizes Tsui Hark's generic hybrid of historical epic, mystery and martial-arts extravaganza. The Steven Spielberg of Hong Kong delivers Tang Dynasty spectacle and intrigue alongside men unexpectedly bursting into flame and a magic talking deer. If you're looking for a popcorn movie, producer-director Tsui ("Once Upon a Time in China," "Seven Swords") has crafted an absurdist fantasy that might cure — or spontaneously combust — the summertime blues.

But even escapist entertainment can have interesting angles. Set in

689 A.D., Zhang Jialu's screenplay focuses on Wu Zetian (Carina Lau of "Infernal Affairs II") as she prepares to ascend to the throne and become the first-and-only female emperor in the history of China. Depicted more as a dragon lady than lotus blossom, she faces fierce opposition from powerful men (including Tony Leung Ka Fai of "Ashes of Time") who would rather see her dead than celebrate her impending coronation. She relies on her closest confidants (Li Bingbing and Deng Chao) for advice and protection.

This tale of ancient China attracted top talent. Andy Lau ("House of Flying Daggers," "Infernal Affairs") acts his way out from under a bad wig to play Detective Dee, freed from eight years in prison by Wu, who put him there in the first place. The detective has the steel-trap mind of Sherlock Holmes and the kung-fu skills of an action-adventure hero — aided by veteran action director Sammo Hung's jaw-dropping choreography of the fight scenes. Dee must solve the mystery of why people are being consumed by flames, while dodging arrows and knives and masked assailants trying to kill him.

From the towering, under-construction Buddha that overlooks the coronation stage to the underworld Phantom Bazaar populated with outcasts and legendary fire turtles, the production design by Sung Pong Choo offers stunning visuals that contribute to the lavish spectacle. Although the opulent look and kinetic movement attract the eye, the plot twists demand that you pay attention.

Yet Tsui's effort doesn't measure up to the cinematic poetry of "Hero" (2002), Zhang Yimou's masterwork of sight and sound. Despite Andy Lau's star wattage, the character of Detective Dee isn't particularly engaging, and the others are unlikeable for the most part. The movie feels bloodless, a wasteland devoid of emotion.

But the China-Hong Kong co-production does share a thematic thread with "Hero": Individuals must sacrifice for the greater good of the country. Does this theme constitute a "national style," or is the message mandatory to getting a movie made in post-reunification China? Having rebels willingly bow down to authority for the sake of national unification and peace continues to surface in notable Chinese films.

That gives you something to think about while indulging in this otherwise guilty pleasure.

Rated: PG-13 for disturbing images, violence and some sexuality. In Mandarin with English subtitles. 1 hour, 22 minutes.

— Susan Tavernetti

Movies

MOVIE TIMES

An Affair to Remember (1957)	Stanford Theatre: Sat.-Thu. at 3:30 & 7:30 p.m.
Apollo 18 (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)	Century 20: 11:25 a.m.; 1:35, 3:50, 6, 8:20 & 10:30 p.m.
Bringing Up Baby (1938)	Stanford Theatre: Sat.-Thu. at 5:35 & 9:35 p.m.
Bucky Larson: Born to Be a Star (R) (Not Reviewed)	Century 16: 12:50 p.m.; Fri. & Sun.-Thu. also at 6:50 p.m. Century 20: 7:40 & 10:15 p.m.
Circumstance (R) (Not Reviewed)	Palo Alto Square: 1:45, 4:20 & 7:15 p.m.; Fri. & Sat. also at 9:45 p.m.
Colombiana (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)	Century 16: 9:50 p.m. Century 20: 12:10, 2:45, 5:15, 7:55 & 10:35 p.m.
Contagion (PG-13) ***	Century 16: 11:30 a.m.; 12:30, 2:05, 3:05, 4:45, 5:45, 7:45, 8:40 & 10:25 p.m. Century 20: 11:20 a.m.; 12:15, 1:50, 2:55, 4:20, 5:25, 6:55, 8, 9:35 & 10:35 p.m.
Crazy, Stupid, Love (PG-13) **1/2	Century 16: 7:20 & 10:10 p.m. Century 20: 11:15 a.m.; 1:55, 4:45, 7:45 & 10:25 p.m.
The Debt (R) ***	Century 16: 11:30 a.m.; 2:10, 4:50, 7:35 & 10:20 p.m. Century 20: 11:20 a.m.; 2, 4:40, 7:25 & 10:05 p.m.
Detective Dee and the Mystery of the Phantom Flame (PG-13) ***	Aquarius Theatre: 1, 4, 7 & 9:55 p.m.
Drive (R) ***1/2	Century 16: 11:40 a.m.; 12:40, 2:10, 3:10, 4:40, 5:40, 7:40, 8:40 & 10:25 p.m. Century 20: Noon, 2:50, 5:20, 8 & 10:40 p.m.
The Guard (R) (Not Reviewed)	Palo Alto Square: 2:15, 4:40 & 7:20 p.m.; Fri. & Sat. also at 9:50 p.m.
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2 (PG-13) ****	Century 16: 12:20 & 6:40 p.m.; In 3D at 3:20 & 9:40 p.m. Century 20: 12:30 & 7 p.m.; In 3D at 3:25 & 9:55 p.m.
The Help (PG-13) **	Century 16: 11:45 a.m.; 12:45, 3, 4, 6:30 & 7:30 p.m. Century 20: 12:20, 2:20, 3:35, 7:05, 8:50 & 10:15 p.m.
I Don't Know How She Does It (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)	Century 16: 11:30 a.m.; 1:50, 4:10, 7 & 9:45 p.m. Century 20: 12:05, 2:40, 4:55, 7:20 & 9:45 p.m.
The Lion King (G) (Not Reviewed)	Century 16: 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:55 & 10:20 p.m.; In 3D at 11:30 a.m.; 2, 4:30, 7:10 & 9:35 p.m. Century 20: 11:15 a.m.; 1:30, 3:45, 6, 8:15 & 10:30 p.m.; In 3D at 12:20, 2:35, 4:50, 7:10 & 9:30 p.m.
Love Crime (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed)	Guild Theatre: 3:30, 6 & 8:30 p.m.
Mayweather vs. Ortiz Fight Live (PG-13)	Century 16: Sat. at 6 p.m. Century 20: Sat. at 6 p.m.
Midnight in Paris (PG-13) ***1/2	Aquarius Theatre: 3 & 5:30 p.m.; Fri., Sat. & Mon.-Thu. also at 8 p.m.
One Day (PG-13) *1/2	Century 20: 11:40 a.m. & 6:15 p.m.
Our Idiot Brother (R) **1/2	Century 16: 3:30 p.m.; Fri. & Sun.-Thu. also at 9:30 p.m. Century 20: 11:15 a.m.; 1:25, 3:40, 5:55, 8:10 & 10:20 p.m.
Rebecca (1940)	Stanford Theatre: Fri. at 7:30 p.m.
Rise of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)	Century 16: 11:50 a.m.; 2:30, 5, 8 & 10:30 p.m. Century 20: 11:40 a.m.; 2:30, 5:05, 7:35 & 10:10 p.m.
Saving Private Perez (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)	Century 20: 9:30 p.m.
Shark Night (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)	Century 20: In 3D at 11:35 a.m.; In 3D Fri. & Sun.-Thu. also at 5 & 10:40 p.m.
The Smurfs (PG) (Not Reviewed)	Century 20: 11:25 a.m.; 1:50 & 4:30 p.m.
Spy Kids: All the Time in the World (PG) (Not Reviewed)	Century 16: 11:55 a.m.; 2:15 & 4:35 p.m. Century 20: 11:45 a.m. & 4:35 p.m.; In 3D at 2:15 & 7:15 p.m.
Straw Dogs (R) (Not Reviewed)	Century 16: 11:30 a.m.; 2:20, 4:55, 7:50 & 10:30 p.m. Century 20: 11:50 a.m.; 2:25, 5:10, 7:50 & 10:30 p.m.
Suspicion (1941)	Stanford Theatre: Fri. at 5:40 & 9:50 p.m.
Warrior (PG-13) ***	Century 16: 12:25, 3:40, 7 & 10:05 p.m. Century 20: 12:25, 3:30, 6:40 & 10 p.m.; Fri. & Sun.-Thu. also at 1:55 & 7:30 p.m.

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

THEATER ADDRESSES

Aquarius: 430 Emerson St., Palo Alto (266-9260)
Century Cinema 16: 1500 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View (800-326-3264)
Century 20 Downtown: 825 Middlefield Road, Redwood City (800-326-3264)
CinéArts at Palo Alto Square: 3000 El Camino Real, Palo Alto (493-3456)
Guild: 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park (266-9260)
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Internet address: For show times, plot synopses, trailers and more information about films playing, go to PaloAltoOnline.com.



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