

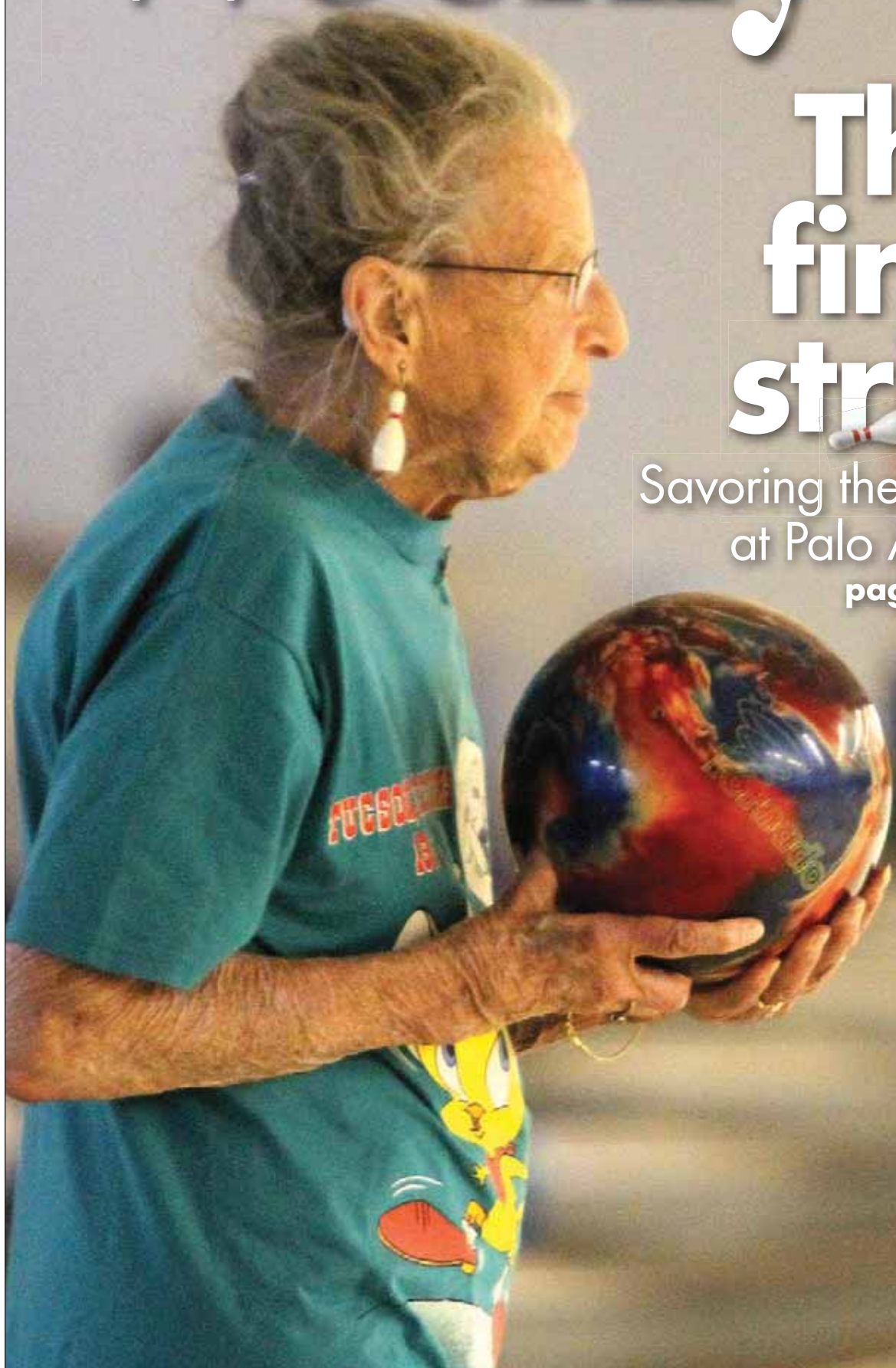
Inside this issue:
Info Palo Alto



Weekly

The final strike

Savoring the last moments
at Palo Alto Bowl
page 17



palo alto int'l film festival
PROGRAM INSIDE

SUPPORTLOCALJOURNALISM.ORG

Spectrum 14

Eating Out 27

Movies 30

- **News** Meg Whitman to head HP Page 3
- **Sports** It's a family affair in volleyball Page 32
- **Home** Art, food, fun at fall festivals Page 37

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Upfront

Local news, information and analysis

Palo Alto residents to see postal changes

With fewer mail carriers, delivery times could be affected

by Sue Dremann and Dave Boyce

With the U.S. Postal Service facing insolvency this month, Palo Alto and Menlo Park residents could soon see changes in their mail delivery and carriers, a postal service spokesman said this week.

The postal service has lost \$20 billion in revenues over the last four years — \$8.5 billion in fiscal year 2010 alone. People aren't mailing letters like they used to, due to the economic crisis and use of the Internet, spokesman Augustine Ruiz

said. Mail volume has dropped by 20 percent in four years.

Changes must be made so that the postal service can pay \$5.5 billion it owes to its retiree health-benefit program and so that it can have cash reserves, according to the President's Plan for Economic Growth and Deficit Reduction.

To cut costs, the postal service is installing machines to sort packages, which will reduce the need for carriers to sort them. With more time on

their hands, the carriers would be given longer mail-delivery routes.

One postal worker who asked to remain anonymous said he feared that Palo Alto could lose 14 or more carriers. Palo Alto employs 129 carriers and 17 relief carriers, according to the postmaster's office.

"The public is definitely going to see changes — and soon," the carrier said.

But Palo Alto Postmaster Dean Maeda did not specify how many, if

any, positions would be cut.

In Menlo Park, Portola Valley and Atherton, the consolidation of mail routes on Aug. 30 resulted in 12 fewer routes. The number of routes changed from 67 to 55, according to Menlo Park Postmaster Jeffrey D. Gaskill. The 12 postal carriers were to be reassigned to local post offices that needed them, he said.

Customers and mail carriers have

(continued on page 5)

BUSINESS

HP names Meg Whitman new CEO

Board: She has right attributes to execute company strategy

Former eBay CEO and 2010 Republican gubernatorial nominee Meg Whitman will become president and CEO of HP effective immediately, the company announced Thursday.

Whitman replaces Leo Apotheker, who departs after less than a year on the job.

In a statement, the HP board said Whitman, who herself joined the HP board eight months ago, possesses "additional attributes" to help the company execute its strategy.

"We are at a critical moment, and we need renewed leadership to successfully implement our strategy and take advantage of the market opportunities ahead," said Ray Lane, executive chairman of the board.

Whitman said she supports recent decisions on the strategic direction of the company, but intends to review them in her new capacity.

"I will take a very hard look, but from what I know now the strategy is right," she said in a conference call with analysts.

A strategic decision on the company's Aug. 18 announcement that it will sell or spin off its personal computer business, the Personal Systems Group (PSG), is a high priority, she said.

"In the end, the only way to rebuild confidence in this company is to get results, and that's what I intend to do," Whitman said.

"The best thing we can do is get to a decision on PSG as fast as possible," she said.

She also reaffirmed the company's commitment to its hardware business, including servers and networking equipment.

(continued on page 6)

(continued on page 8)



Kelsey Klentz

Welcome to The Farm

Stanford University seniors dance to 'YMCA' while greeting incoming freshmen to Florence Moore Hall on Tuesday. See stories on page 5.

LABOR

Firefighters' drive to kill ballot measure rejected

State board decides union didn't have sufficient grounds for injunction blocking Measure D

by Gennady Sheyner

An attempt by Palo Alto's firefighters union to keep a labor-reform measure off the November ballot hit a wall last week, when a state labor-relations board rejected the union's request for an

injunction.

The International Fire Fighters Association, Local 1319, was seeking an injunction that would have blocked a Palo Alto ballot measure repealing binding arbitration from the City

Charter. The city's binding-arbitration provision, which voters adopted in 1978, allows a three-member panel to settle labor disputes between the city and its public-safety unions. The City Council voted 5-4 in July to place the item on the November ballot after more than a year of debate.

In its request to block Measure D, the union argued that the city failed to consult the unions in good faith when considering a new mechanism for reviewing disputes. The firefighters union also filed an "unfair practice charge" against the city with the Public Employment Relations Board charging the City Council with depriving the union of their "meet-and-consult" rights.

City Attorney Molly Stump argued that state law does not require the city to consult the unions on the issue of binding arbitration. The board upheld the view and found that the union didn't have sufficient grounds for an injunction.

While the board has yet to rule on the unfair labor charge — the hearings are scheduled for later this month — it notified the city this week that it has rejected the union's request for an injunction.

"By direction of the Board, the request for injunctive relief in the above-entitled matter is denied without prejudice, sufficient

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The Palo Alto Weekly (ISSN 0199-1159) is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media, 450 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306, (650) 326-8210. Periodicals postage paid at Palo Alto, CA and additional mailing offices. Adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation for Santa Clara County. The Palo Alto Weekly is delivered free to homes in Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley, East Palo Alto, to faculty and staff households on the Stanford campus and to portions of Los Altos Hills. If you are not currently receiving the paper, you may request free delivery by calling 326-8210. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Palo Alto Weekly, P.O. Box 1610, Palo Alto, CA 94302. Copyright ©2011 by Embarcadero Media. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited. The Palo Alto Weekly is available on the Internet via Palo Alto Online at: www.PaloAltoOnline.com
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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“

Nobody has figured out how to email a sweater.

”

—Augustine Ruiz, U.S. Postal Service spokesman, on the silver lining to people's increasing use of email rather than sending letters. See story on page 3.

Around Town

OF OTTERS AND MEN ... The Palo Alto City Council had plenty on its plate this week, including changes to water and trash rates and the increasingly irksome topic of housing projections. But first, the sea otters. Yes, sea otters. In case you missed the Monday meeting, this week is **Sea Otter Awareness Week**. To commemorate the event, Councilwoman **Gail Price** read into the record an official resolution honoring sea otters as “a symbol of wilderness and an integral part of California's natural ecosystem.” **John Aikin**, director of the Junior Museum and Zoo, noted that sea otters don't actually live in Palo Alto, but the city's open space preserves protect the near-shore habitat and, in doing so, support the other population. “We are the nurseries that nurture that environment,” Aikin said. “Working with rest of the communities in California to protect the sea otters is a good thing to do.”

WHAT'S IN A NAME? ... If a Palo Alto police officer gets arrested, should the Police Department be required to release the person's name? That's the question that the city's independent police Auditor **Michael Gennaco** has been considering in recent months. His conclusion? Yes. The debate was triggered by a 2009 incident in which an off-duty officer rolled over his vehicle on the highway and was arrested for driving under the influence. The department had initially refused to disclose his name but confirmed his identity more than a year later (the officer, **Eric Bulatao**, paid a fine, was placed on probation and ultimately returned to the force). This week, Gennaco issued a report that recommends that the city adopt a policy for releasing names of officers who are arrested. Under his proposal, the city would be required to make “the fact of the arrest and the identity of Department members” known to the public. If the police chief, the city manager, the city attorney or the district attorney were to object to the disclosure, the “fact and reasons for the objection should be documented” under the proposed policy. If the officer were to be arrested by another law-enforcement agency and the city were to get a request to identify the person arrested, the Palo Alto police chief would inform the arresting agency of the request. “We believe the above draft policy recognizes the public's right to know when PAPD members arrest one of their own, which right should only be circum-

scribed for countervailing compelling reasons,” Gennaco wrote.

END OF AN ERA ... When Sen. **Joe Simitian**, D-Palo Alto, concludes his 12-year stint in Sacramento next year, his departure will spell an end to a decade-long tradition that turns citizens in his district into lawmakers. Simitian's “**There Oughta Be A Law**” contest, which made its debut in 2001, allows residents to pitch ideas for new legislation. So far, 18 ideas have become laws, including, most recently, a proposal by Palo Alto police officers to ban sales of certain intoxicating cough syrups to minors. On Thursday, as Simitian kicked off the final contest, he invited his constituents in the 16th District to get involved. “My district is home to some of the most well-educated and civically engaged Californians,” Simitian said in a statement. “It would be a shame not to put their good ideas to use.” Residents can contribute their entries for the final contest at www.senatorsimitian.com/oughta.

HUZZAHS FOR HUMANITARIANS ... This Saturday, three civic leaders will be honored by the nonprofit Hidden Villa of Los Altos Hills, including Palo Alto Mayor **Sid Espinosa** and **Susan Ford Dorsey**, a local leader in philanthropy. The third honoree is **Norman Mineta**, former U.S. secretary of commerce and secretary of education. Espinosa is the director of corporate citizenship at Microsoft and previously worked in the Clinton White House and at the U.S. Justice Department. He also worked as director of global philanthropy for Hewlett-Packard and oversaw the investment of hundreds of millions of dollars in nonprofit organizations and schools around the world, according to a statement from Hidden Villa. Ford Dorsey, president of Sand Hill Foundation, serves on the boards of several nonprofit organizations including Menlo School, Palo Alto Medical Foundation and Monterey Bay Aquarium. The Josephine and Frank Duveneck Humanitarian Awards recognize inspirational leaders who exemplify the organization's mission and values through their environmental, social and educational activism. Among the organization's programs are a 66-year-old multi-cultural summer camp; environmental education for children; a community-supported agriculture program; and the country's oldest continuously operating hostel. ■

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STANFORD

Rachael Flatt arrives at The Farm

Elite figure skater starts her freshman year at Stanford

by Karla Kane

On a recent morning, Rachael Flatt, like any college freshman, was anxious to meet her roommate, get her class schedule figured out and soak in the campus atmosphere. But not every incoming frosh is an Olympic veteran and figure-skating champion.

"I'm a little nervous. It's pretty exciting," said the down-to-earth Flatt, who's starting her first year at Stanford University this fall.

Flatt is used to balancing a busy course load with her athletic pursuits. As a high-school honors student she won the 2010 United States Figure Skating Championships and came in seventh in the Vancouver Olympics. She's the reigning national silver medallist. Though injury-plagued with tendonitis and a stress-fractured tibia last year, Flatt said she's back in good health and looking forward to kicking off a new season — while immersing herself in academics.

She'll leave campus before dawn each day for early-morning training in San Jose, with supplementary practices in Redwood City and Oakland. Her first major competition will be Skate Canada, at the end of October. During Stanford's Thanksgiving break she'll be off to Moscow to compete in the Cup of Russia.

Flatt came out to the Bay Area over the summer to try out local coaches, eventually choosing Justin Dillon, Lynn Smith and Sergei Ponomarenko. Conveniently, the 2012 national championships will be held on Flatt's new home turf: San Jose.

"It'll be neat. It will feel like home by then," she said. She also has her eye on another Olympic trip, in 2014, but said she tries to take a day-by-day approach to her goals. "Otherwise it becomes a bit overwhelming."

She said she's loving her new West Coast headquarters so far.



Veronica Weber

National figure-skating champion Rachael Flatt is a freshman at Stanford University this fall.

"I was driving around with family friends thinking, 'Gosh, I could live here.' I'm pretty happy."

She'll miss the good friends she made at her skating club in Colorado but said she's looking forward to meeting new classmates.

"I'll be making a lot of great friends. It's a different social scene. I'm just excited."

Flatt had a difficult time choosing between her top two picks, Princeton University and Stanford.

"I liked the quarter system; it's more conducive to taking different classes," she said, of The Farm's 10-week terms. "And academics were a huge part."

Plus, "I couldn't turn down the weather. I really missed being in California."

She's a native, having grown up in the San Diego area before relocating with her family to Colorado Springs, Colo. With her dad still working in San Diego and Flatt now back in the state for school, she said her mom is happily returning to Southern California, along with the family's beloved Old English Sheepdogs, Fred and Ethel.

Though Flatt doesn't "foresee the luxury of time" for much socializing or sight-seeing once school starts and the skating season is in full swing, she's spent some time getting acquainted with Palo Alto and the surrounding area.

"I like the vibe. I've been exploring on University Avenue, looking at all the great shops and restaurants," she said, adding that Italian and Mediterranean foods are particular favorites. She's visited San Francisco, too, taking in Fisherman's Wharf and Lombard Street.

While calling herself "an avid tennis fan," she also enjoys water sports, as befitting her San Diego roots. "Surfing, swimming, I love that."

Though her time is limited, she's been a spokesperson for the nonprofit Reading Is Fundamental since 2008 and recently visited an elementary school in San Jose where she read with students and presented them handmade gold medals, which they'd created.

"That was pretty cute," she said. Flatt also strives to be responsive to her fans, answering emails and keeping up her Facebook and Twitter pages.

"Staying connected is very important, but I have to find a good balance. I gotta keep up with those chem texts."

She plans on majoring in chemical engineering, inspired by her biochemist father, who is currently working on a renewable-energy project.

But though she may be following her father's footsteps into a career in science, her dad is a U.C. Berkeley alum, while daughter is already a full-fledged Cardinal supporter.

Joked Flatt: "I think we'll be sitting on opposite ends of the couch for the Big Game." ■

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

Hennessy welcomes Stanford freshmen to whirlwind week

Students urged to emulate Benjamin Franklin and 'catch opportunities'

by Palo Alto Weekly staff

Welcoming more than 1,700 new students to Stanford University this week, President John Hennessy told them it was their responsibility to "catch opportunities."

Dressed in academic regalia in a convocation ceremony in the quad, Hennessy urged them to emulate Benjamin Franklin's qualities of intellectual curiosity and passion for learning.

"Indeed, Franklin's entire life was an intellectual journey, just as we hope the next few years of your lives will be," he told 1,709 freshmen and four dozen transfer students, who took up residence on campus Tuesday.

The new students come from all 50 states and from 52 countries. The 1,709 freshmen are the ones who said "yes" to Stanford out of the 2,427 students admitted from an initial applicant pool of 34,348.

Thirty-nine percent of Stanford's class of 2015 graduated from high schools in California, and 16 percent of the freshmen are the first in their families to attend a four-year college. Nearly half receive financial aid from the university.

Caucasians comprise 30.6 percent of the class; Asian-Americans 22.4 percent; Hispanics 15.4 percent; African-American students 10.6 percent; Native-Americans and Hawaiians 4.7 percent, with the remainder unknown, the university said.

A quarter of the entering class members said they are primarily interested in natural sciences, followed by engineering (21 percent); pre-law and pre-medicine (18 percent); humanities (17 percent); social sciences (12 percent); earth sciences (2 percent) and "undecided" (5 percent).

Ninety-two percent of the

Class of 2015 ranked in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating classes, and 87.5 percent earned high school GPAs of 3.8 or higher.

Among 47 transfer students who also arrived Tuesday, 21 graduated from community colleges and nine are U.S. military veterans.

A 44-page "major events" calendar for new students began with the welcome from Hennessy Tuesday afternoon. The week has been packed with placement testing, library tours, advisor meetings, faculty research presentations, religious services, cultural group welcomes and parties.

On Thursday, new students were invited to a "first lecture" by celebrated author and Medical School Professor Abraham Verghese. The topic was "the purpose of a liberal education and how you will become more than your major."

Orientation wraps up Sunday with a discussion moderated by Political Science Professor Scott Sagan with the authors of three books freshmen were assigned to read over the summer: "March" by Geraldine Brooks; "The Violence of Peace" by Stephen L. Carter and "One Bullet Away" by Nathaniel Fick.

Sagan said he chose the books because he wants students to understand current global conflicts and ethical issues in war.

"I think war is too important for young people at a major university to ignore," he has said.

In a June letter to freshmen, Sagan said, "Students at an American university should not forget that the United States is currently engaged in wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and

(continued on page 12)

Postal changes

(continued from page 3)

expressed sadness about the changes, Gaskill said. Some carriers have had the same route for 20 years and have seen residents' kids grow up.

Fewer carriers on the street would also mean the consolidation of some routes in Palo Alto, Ruiz said. Customers who now get mail in the morning could see their deliveries arrive in the late afternoon, or vice versa.

Ruiz said the postal service is still working out the details, but mail carriers who lose their routes could be placed in another facility if there are vacancies or might be moved off the streets and into other positions.

Ruiz said some carriers might retire, but no one would be forced to take early retirement.

Saturday delivery could also be on the chopping block.

On Sept. 19, President Barack Obama's administration backed a postal-service plan that would cut Saturday mail delivery and would allow the sale of non-postal products. If approved by Congress, the Saturday delivery could be eliminated by the end of this year or early in 2012, Ruiz said.

The postal service is also considering closure of 37,000 postal stations nationwide, but none of the stations would be in Palo Alto or Menlo Park. The postal service could also consolidate 252 mail-preparation facilities, which could

affect 30,000 to 35,000 employees, he said.

"We're doing everything we can while suffering this downturn," Ruiz said, adding the postal service has made \$12 billion in cost reductions in four years and reduced employee ranks by another 110,000.

But Ruiz said staff cuts would not be enough.

"It's the things that are out of our control that we can't change. We don't control the Internet and the economy," he said.

The postal service saw mail volume decrease from 213 billion pieces in 2006 to 171 billion through fiscal year 2010.

"The first-class letter probably won't see those volumes come back, but as more people shop in the Inter-

net, more packages will be shipped. To my knowledge, nobody has figured out how to email a sweater," he said.

At this point, package shipments and standard or advertising mail growth are stagnant, although Ruiz said both remain areas of projected growth as the economy recovers. The postal service is seeing signs of recovery now, he said.

"It takes roughly three pieces of standard mail to replace the contribution of a single piece of first-class mail. However, we have introduced a new product called Every Door Direct Mail that has proven profitable in the direct-mail business," he said. Small businesses with tight budgets can target specific areas without needing a permit or investing in a mailing list, he said.

The postal-service plan would also restructure a mandatory annual \$5.5 billion retiree health benefit payment. It would also refund nearly \$7 billion the postal service said it has overpaid into the Federal Employee Retirement System.

The postal service is also asking for a legislative change to eliminate layoff protections in its union agreements so it can eliminate jobs quickly to meet its 2015 goals. The plan or any portion of it would not take effect unless it receives a favorable vote from Congress, potentially in early 2012, Ruiz said. ■

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CityView

A round-up of Palo Alto government action this week

Public Art Commission (Sept. 15)

Elections: The commission elected Ali Richter chair and Larissa Usich vice chair.

Yes: Unanimous

Main Library: The commission approved the selection of Joe O'Connell and Blessing Hancock as artists for the Main Library and Art Center renovation project. **Yes:** Unanimous

Other business: The commission saw a video presentation on upcoming Art Center "On the Road Program" artists and heard a presentation from Susan Wildeboer on a potential collaboration with Talenhouse for a mural at 542 High St. **Action:** None

City Council (Sept. 19)

Utility rates: The council approved increases to the city's water and refuse rates.

Yes: Unanimous

Housing: The council discussed the latest regional housing projections and directed staff to work with legislators and other cities to outline the need for independent analysis of housing projections. **Yes:** Unanimous

Other business: The council also voted to start a new committee next year focused on Regional Housing Needs Assessment. **Yes:** Burt, Espinosa, Klein, Scharff, Schmid, Shepherd **No:** Holman, Price, Yeh

Council Finance Committee (Sept. 20)

Calaveras Reserve: The committee voted to change the purpose of the Calaveras Reserve and to use funds in the reserve for major new projects that would benefit electric ratepayers. **Yes:** Unanimous

Historic Resources Board (Sept. 21)

935 Ramona St.: The board voted to keep 935 Ramona St. on the city's Historical Inventory. **Yes:** Bernstein, Bunnenberg, Bower, Kohler, Makinen, Smithwick **Absent:** Di Cicco

Council Rail Committee (Sept. 22)

Lobbyists: The committee voted to issue requests for proposal for lobbying services for high-speed rail. **Yes:** Unanimous

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION ... The board will review enrollment statistics for the 2011-12 academic year, and will discuss terms and funding sources for the purchase of the 2.6-acre former Peninsula Day Care property at 525 San Antonio Road. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 27, in the board room of school district headquarters (25 Churchill Ave.).

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ... The commission plans to consider recommending use of \$2.7 million in park development impact fees for improvements to El Camino Park; discuss the Project Safety Net Community Coalition; and hear an update on the Capital Improvement Program schedule for fiscal years 2012 and 2013. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 27, in the Council Conference Room at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

CITY/SCHOOL LIAISON COMMITTEE ... The committee plans to discuss teen mental health and the process for determining the future of Cubberley Community Center. The meeting will begin at 8 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 29, in the Council Conference Room at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).



Kelsey Kenitz

St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic School in Palo Alto educates kindergartners through eighth-graders and will benefit from a nearly \$2 million bequest from the late Mary Baracchi. The bequest will be used for scholarships, as well as a new building for kindergarten and preschool.

\$2 million bequest funds Palo Alto school

Palo Alto centenarian leaves money for pre-K, scholarships at St. Elizabeth Seton

by Chris Kenrick

A Palo Alto centenarian has bequeathed nearly \$2 million to be used for scholarships — and a new building — at the St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic School on Channing Avenue.

Mary Baracchi, a 1927 graduate of Palo Alto High School who worked in real estate and never married, was seven weeks short of her 103rd birthday when she died in her Tasso Street home July 2.

Baracchi loved children and enjoyed recounting stories of the families to whom she had sold homes in Palo Alto, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside, her longtime friend the Rev. John Hester said.

The K-8 St. Elizabeth Seton School, located on the grounds of St. Albert the Great Catholic Church, educates 275 children from East Palo Alto and surrounding low-income communities. It is managed by the Daughters of Charity, a worldwide organization of Catholic sisters, serving the sick and the poor.

One million dollars of Baracchi's bequest will go to the school's scholarship fund. Another \$850,000 will be combined with other donations to construct a \$1.9 million building to house kindergartners and a new pre-K program, school officials said.

Groundbreaking is scheduled for

next spring.

"These early years are so important in the development of our children," Principal Evelyn Rosa said.

"These wonderful gifts allow us to meet our goal of accommodating 30 preschoolers and a full-day curriculum for our kindergartners."

Currently, the school offers a half-day kindergarten and no preschool. Extended day care, from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., is available to all students.

Baracchi bequeathed additional gifts of approximately \$1 million each to Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, the Children's Health Council, St. Jude Hospital, Seton Hospital and St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Palo Alto, according to Hester.

Hester, associate director of the Stanford Hospital Spiritual Care Service, said he became acquainted with Baracchi in 1989, when she called him to administer prayers for her mother as she was dying at the hospital. Several years later, Baracchi invited him to her house for a thank-you dinner, and the dinners continued on a weekly basis until Baracchi's death this past summer.

Born in Italy, Baracchi moved to Palo Alto at the age of 3, Hester said. After high school, she held jobs on the copy desk of the San Francisco Chronicle and as a translator with

the U.S. Navy before settling into a real-estate career in Palo Alto, he said.

"She was a very great Italian cook and very particular about her sauces," Hester said. In Baracchi's later years, Hester said he would bring dinners in, often from Sundance or Draeger's. She particularly liked Draeger's ravioli and meat sauce, he said.

One recent holiday season, Seton staff arranged for students to come sing to Baracchi, and later she was taken to visit the school.

"She was quite frail by that time," Hester said.

"These gifts speak to the value Mary placed on the children and the future of the school," he said.

The campus, formerly known as St. Albert the Great Catholic School, once offered K-8 education to Palo Alto children. After enrollment dwindled, the Daughters of Charity came in and repurposed the school to serve low-income students.

The Daughters provide bare-bones funding for the school's lay teachers. Resources for other programs are raised through volunteers and community donations, development coordinator Patricia Kenney said. ■

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

Measure D

(continued from page 3)

grounds therefore not having been demonstrated," the board's General Counsel Suzanne Murphy wrote in a Sept. 15 letter to the two parties.

The board's rejection of the union request paves the way for what promises to be a heated public-relations battle in the month and a half leading up to the election. The

firefighters have been equating the city's attempt to kill the binding-arbitration provision in the City Charter to recent efforts by Republican legislators in Ohio and Wisconsin to curb the collective-bargaining rights of their respective state employees.

Proponents of the ballot measure argue that the existing law keeps the council from fulfilling its budget-balancing duties.

Board officials will consider the

unfair labor charge on Sept. 26 and Sept. 30.

Measure D is one of two items city voters will be asked to consider on Nov. 8. They will also be asked to vote on Measure E, which would "undedicate" a 10-acre portion of Byxbee Park and make it eligible for a new waste-to-energy facility. ■

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

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News Digest

Water rates rise in Palo Alto

Palo Alto residents will be asked to swallow higher water rates starting next month to help pay for a colossal regional effort to repair the aged Hetch Hetchy water system.

With little discussion and few protests, the City Council unanimously approved on Monday, Sept. 19, new water rates that would add 25 percent, or about \$18.31, to the monthly bill of the average water customer. The smallest customers, meanwhile, will see a 10 percent increase, which will add about \$2.91 to the average bill.

The new rates would further increase what are already some of the highest water bills in the region. According to a report from Ipek Conolly, a senior resource planner in the Utilities Department, the city's water rates are about 14 percent higher than the average surrounding city. The lone exception is Menlo Park, where water rates are about 14 percent higher.

The main driver behind the latest increase is the \$4.6 billion project undertaken by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission to fix up the vast network of pipes, reservoirs and dams that makes up the Hetch Hetchy system. Palo Alto is one of 26 municipalities that draw its water from the Hetch Hetchy through the SFPUC.

The council agreed that the rate hike is necessary to ensure a clean and reliable water supply.

The council also voted, with few questions and no public opposition, to add a \$4.62 fee to all residential refuse bills. The city adopted the rate increase to help cover a projected \$3.7 million deficit in the refuse operation. The new fee is a stop-gap measure aimed at keeping the Refuse Fund's budget balanced while staff and consultants consider more dramatic changes to the refuse rate structure.

The new refuse rates, like the water rates, are scheduled to take effect on Oct. 1. ■

— Gennady Sheyner

Palo Alto police see spike in auto burglaries

A series of recent auto burglaries are being investigated by Palo Alto police, including at least three that were grand thefts involving cash and jewelry, police said.

Thieves struck 11 vehicles since Sept. 15, according to police reports, breaking into unlocked cars and smashing car windows.

Items taken included GPS units, laptop computers, iPods, DVD players, cash and jewelry, Agent Max Nielepko said.

Burglars stole a laptop computer and other items from a vehicle in the 400 block of Bryant Street (between University and Lytton avenues) on Sept. 15 and smashed a car window in the 400 block of Portage Avenue on Sept. 16, taking a suitcase, computer bag and other items.

On Sept. 17, a total of seven vehicle break-ins included three vehicles in the 800 block of Northampton Drive (near Barbara Drive and Seale Avenue) and one in the 1400 block of Pitman Avenue (near Center Drive and Dana Avenue), which police termed grand thefts because the losses in each incident were greater than \$950.

Nielepko said the grand thefts involves "some significant money values," but detectives are withholding details about these thefts as the investigation is ongoing.

Additional break-ins that day included two vehicles in the 900 block of Blair Court (near Elsinore Drive and Oregon Expressway) and one in the 1800 block of Mark Twain Street (at Embarcadero Road). Two other auto burglaries occurred on Sept. 19, in the 100 block of El Camino Real at the Stanford Shopping Center and the 600 block of Hansen Way near El Camino Real. In the latter incident, the thief or thieves smashed a window and stole an iPod, according to police.

"The police department recommends very strongly if at all possible not to leave valuables in vehicles. If you absolutely must store valuables in a vehicle, secure them in the trunk where they can't be seen or easily taken," Nielepko said.

"The unfortunate thing is that many of these crimes are somewhat preventable," and residents should always lock their car doors, he added. ■

— Sue Dremann

President Obama coming for town hall meeting

President Barack Obama is scheduled to hold a Town Hall meeting on the economy at Mountain View's LinkedIn on Monday, Sept. 26, the company announced.

The president plans to answer questions about job creation and the economy from LinkedIn members across the country.

"Following the Town Hall, White House Administration officials will continue to engage in the conversation with LinkedIn members about putting America back to work," according to a press release.

LinkedIn is a social-networking site for professionals to connect, look for jobs and make referrals.

Obama is also scheduled to appear at a fundraiser at a private house in Woodside on Sunday, Sept. 25. ■

— Andrea Gemmet

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EMPLOYMENT

Veterans Affairs money to add Palo Alto jobs

Disabled vets and veterans to get a portion of construction contracts

by Sue Dremann

The expansion of the VA Palo Alto Healthcare System on Miranda Avenue will add 2,500 construction and technical jobs in Palo Alto over the next few years, Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki said recently.

Shinseki, who was at the Palo Alto campus last Friday (Sept. 16) for a groundbreaking ceremony, said the VA has committed \$1.6 billion to replace Palo Alto's aging facilities, which include a new ambulatory care building, rehabilitation center, recreation therapy and research facilities.

Katelin Haver, VA Palo Alto strategic/facility planner, said a portion of the contracts will go to veterans and veterans who were disabled during their service. She did not know what percentage of jobs would go to the vets. The decisions are made on a project-by-project basis.

Palo Alto's facilities are among

the most advanced in the nation, taking in veterans with traumatic brain injuries wounded in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, Shinseki said.

VA Palo Alto runs a polytrauma rehabilitation center, spinal-cord injury center, a comprehensive rehabilitation center, a traumatic brain-injury center, the Western Blind Rehabilitation Center and other facilities that serve 85,000 enrolled veterans.

The construction projects will be added to an industry that's seen a decline in business in the Bay Area.

Along the Peninsula and in San Francisco there were 1,400 fewer construction jobs in July 2011 compared to July 2010, according to the Association of General Contractors of America.

In the East Bay, there were 2,200 fewer construction jobs during the

same period.

In August, there were 7,200 fewer construction jobs statewide, according to the California Employment Development Department. Most of the job losses were due to a decline in publicly funded projects, according to the Association of General Contractors.

Veterans compose approximately 22 percent of VA Palo Alto's 4,100-person workforce, and the medical center is working to increase that percentage, Haver said.

"These projects, along with all other development and construction opportunities with the VA Palo Alto Health Care System will be shared with the public through the Federal Business Opportunities website at www.fbo.org," she said. ■

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

EDUCATION

Foothill opens doors for fall quarter

Interest in 'transfer admission guarantee' program is up, officials say

by Chris Kenrick

Foothill College is still registering new students for fall classes, which begin Monday.

Though many core classes are full, some availability remains in math, social studies, and arts and sciences, college officials said.

Foothill anticipates a fall enrollment of 16,500, with about a quarter of those aged 19 and under and apparently coming straight from high school.

Between 13 percent and 18 percent of Gunn and Palo Alto high school graduates enter community college after graduation each year, according to figures supplied by the Foothill-De Anza Community College District.

The high schools themselves publish somewhat lower percentages. Gunn said 13.7 percent of its Class of 2010 indicated they planned to

attend two-year colleges, and Paly published a figure of 9.2 percent.

Nearly twice as many students as a year ago have expressed interest in Foothill's Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) program, officials said. The program enables students to contract with various four-year institutions for guaranteed admission, conditional on their maintaining a certain Foothill GPA.

"We are seeing very strong interest in university transfer," Foothill Associate Vice-President Kurt Hueg said.

Foothill has transfer agreements with 19 institutions, including University of California campuses at Davis, Irvine, Merced, Riverside, San Diego, Santa Barbara and Santa Cruz. Several California State University campuses also

participate in Foothill's transfer guarantee program as do several private institutions, including Santa Clara University, the University of San Francisco, University of the Pacific and the Cornell University School of Environmental Engineering.

Overall, a growing percentage of students appear to be interested in earning an associate's degree or transferring to a four-year institution, he said. Those reporting such an interest went from 47 percent last fall to 56 percent this year.

Hueg said about half of Foothill's fall enrollees have a high school diploma as their highest education but did not necessarily enroll directly from high school. ■

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

HP CEO

(continued from page 3)

HP's purchase of the British software company Autonomy will be completed by the end of the year, she said.

"Meg is a technology visionary with a proven track record of execution," Lane said.

"She is a strong communicator who is customer focused with deep leadership capabilities."

Whitman said, "I am honored and excited to lead HP. I believe HP matters — it matters to Silicon Valley, California, the country and the world."

Lane said the decision to replace Apotheker revolved around concerns about executive team co-

'I am honored and excited to lead HP. I believe HP matters — it matters to Silicon Valley, California, the country and the world.'

—Meg Whitman



Meg Whitman

hesion, execution of strategy and communication to customers and shareholders. He referenced three consecutive quarters of lower-than-expected financial performance.

Board members "very much appreciate" Apotheker's efforts since he joined the company last year, he said.

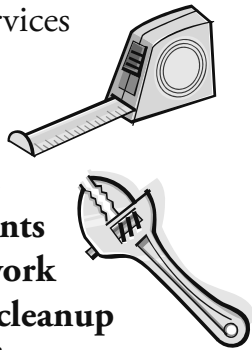
Apotheker was appointed to head HP last Sept. 30, replacing Mark Hurd. Hurd resigned in August 2010 after the company said it found discrepancies in his expense reporting and investigated sexual harassment allegations against him. ■

— Chris Kenrick

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CRESCENT PARK

Throwing tomatoes

Neighbors feud over what's planted in the front yard

by Sue Dremann

A front-yard vegetable patch in the Crescent Park neighborhood is raising eyebrows as well as corn stalks.

Three months ago Hamilton Avenue resident Catherine Bock started digging beds in her mother's front yard to plant corn, beans, chard and herbs as part of a way to build community and to please her ailing 90-

The cornstalks are now 7 feet tall and produce tasty ears of corn.

But not everyone is amused. Her next-door neighbor has expressed a strong dislike for the new look, she said. (The neighbor did not respond to the Weekly's requests for comment.)

Others also call it an eyesore. Few people, pro or con, wanted their

A resident who asked to remain anonymous said she isn't opposed to a mix of vegetables and fruit in front gardens so long as the overall look is pleasing.

"The current vegetable garden with rows of corn and other crops ... makes no attempt to blend in with the gardens of the neighborhood and screams 'farm.' As a neighbor of such I would be dismayed to have that garden next to mine after I had spent much time and money renovating and upgrading my home.

"This is not a farm community. At the very least the potential crop gardener should have been sensitive to her neighbors and inquired of them ... as to whether it would bother them to have a vegetable garden adjacent to their front yards," she said.

Bock said she did not inquire of her neighbors before starting on the garden.

Los Altos landscape designer and edible-landscaping expert Rosalind Creasy said interest in front-yard vegetable garden designs is snowballing. Every couple of weeks she receives a request for such installations, and her revised book, "Edible Landscaping," sold out in five weeks, she said.

Creasy has maintained a front-yard vegetable garden for 35 years with no complaints, she said. But she "doesn't just put in a square of vegetables and tie it up with old stockings." Interplantings with vegetables and attractive flowers can make the vegetable garden as gorgeous as anything looks in a flower garden, she said.

"My garden of strawberries, figs and tomatoes was the two-page center spread for the May issue of Better Homes and Gardens," she said.

Not all of Bock's neighbors oppose the garden.

"I think it is a great idea. It reminds me of victory gardens during World War II that I heard about," said Marlene Prendergast, whose home on Chaucer Street had a victory garden in the front yard during the war.

(continued on page 12)



Veronica Weber

Catherine Bock points to a planting bed where lettuce is just beginning to come up in her Crescent Park front-yard vegetable garden. Behind her, the landscaping is more formal next door.

year-old mother, Trudy, she said.

Bock had moved back to her mother's home after living in Sweden for 28 years after the elder woman fell and broke her pelvis.

"I decided that the best thing for her would be if I lived with her until she passes to help her and make her life as comfortable and enjoyable as possible," she said.

Bock decided to add baby chicks to the backyard and vegetables in the front to entertain her mother.

names published, however.

"With all the beautiful homes and landscape of Palo Alto neighborhoods, particularly the Crescent Park section, having a vegetable garden as a front-yard landscape is just not aesthetically appealing for the neighborhood. We certainly wouldn't want to be the neighbors living either next to it or across from it," said a resident named Nicole, who otherwise supports the idea of people growing their own vegetables.

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.

School officials to discuss buying day care site

The Palo Alto Unified School District plans to press on with its plan to buy a 2.6 acre property near the Mountain View border despite a plan by a local developer to build 10 houses at the coveted site. (Posted Sept. 22 at 9:11 a.m.)

Arrests made in burglaries of Menlo-area schools

Atherton police last week arrested a Menlo Park man in connection with the burglaries of three local schools: Hillview, Laurel, and the German-American International School. The man and a suspected accomplice were apprehended after an alarm at Laurel School summoned police to the campus. (Posted Sept. 22 at 8:33 a.m.)

East Palo Alto seeks to halt apartment sale

Still reeling from the recent financial implosion of the city's largest landlord, East Palo Alto city officials, tenants and community activists are calling on Wells Fargo to halt its pending sale of 1,800 housing units to a single buyer — a sale that they believe could lead to displacement of thousands of low-income residents. (Posted Sept. 21 at 9:50 a.m.)

Man, 21, killed in East Palo Alto shooting

Police are investigating the fatal shooting of a man in East Palo Alto Tuesday afternoon (Sept. 20), police said. (Posted Sept. 21 at 8:16 a.m.)

Paralyzed Bay Area patient gets stem-cell therapy

The first paralyzed patient in the western United States to get an injection of embryonic stem cells underwent treatment at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center Saturday (Sept. 17), according to a statement by Stanford University School of Medicine. (Posted Sept. 20 at 11:01 a.m.)

Meg Whitman to fund Peninsula charter schools

Meg Whitman, former eBay CEO and the 2010 Republican nominee for California governor, will help fund 10 new charter high schools on the Peninsula, a charter school organization announced Tuesday (Sept. 20). (Posted Sept. 20 at 1:23 p.m.)

Mountain View man dies in Sunnyvale crash

A 55-year-old Mountain View man died in a car crash Monday morning (Sept. 19) after he hit the guardrail on state Highway 237 in Sunnyvale, California Highway Patrol officials said. (Posted Sept. 20 at 8:40 a.m.)

Rail critics prepare for debate over project's costs

As the California High-Speed Rail Authority prepares to release its long-awaited business plan next month, legislators and high-speed rail critics are gearing up for a heated debate over the rising costs of the controversial project. (Posted Sept. 19 at 5:26 p.m.)

Stanford professor named ambassador to Russia

President Obama named a Stanford University political science professor the new ambassador to Russia, the university announced Thursday (Sept. 15). Michael McFaul, a Stanford University professor and senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, was nominated by Obama to succeed John Beyrle. (Posted Sept. 19 at 8:23 a.m.)

Volunteers clean up the creek

Volunteers turned out in force at San Francisquito Creek, the local site for the state-wide Coastal Clean Up Day on Saturday (Sept. 17). (Posted Sept. 18 at 4:22 p.m.)

New veterans' hotel breaks ground

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki on Friday (Sept. 16) recalled his own hospitalization from injuries he received as a Vietnam veteran. He was sitting in the Fisher House, Palo Alto VA's lodging for families of veterans on long hospital stays. He had just participated in a groundbreaking ceremony for the Defenders Lodge, a \$12.5 million "home away from home" for veterans who must travel to the VA Palo Alto Health Care System to receive treatment. (Posted Sept. 16 at 7:53 p.m.)

Police: Child, 9, caused Midtown explosion

A 9-year old child playing in the storage unit of a Palo Alto apartment complex accidentally set off the small explosion Tuesday (Sept. 13) that caused residents to evacuate their homes, police investigators concluded Friday (Sept. 16). (Posted Sept. 16 at 4:51 p.m.)

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Garden

(continued from page 10)

"We are certainly in a movement to eat healthy organic vegetables. It seems like a better use of water for vegetables than for a thirsty lawn," she said.

Another neighbor who lives around the corner said she enjoys walking her dog past the garden.

"I think having a garden there is a wonderful example of being environmentally sensitive. So much better than just having grass that you water, fertilize and weed and just looks good — you hope. ... As long as they keep it neat and tidied up, I

don't see the problem, although they may have to deal with theft. I have a very old persimmon tree in my front yard that is accessible from the front sidewalk, and one fall morning a few years ago I awoke to find it stripped bare," she said.

Bock said she sees the garden as a gathering place, where residents and strollers stop by to take in the rural ambiance and chat.

"It's like a front-yard psychologist. They tell me about their mother who died and what's going on in their lives," she said.

Dana Avenue resident Karen Harwell has had a front-yard vegetable garden since 1971.

"I've been growing corn and to-

matoes for years. ... We turned it into Dana Meadows," a children's garden where neighborhood kids come to learn about the plants and bugs, bunnies and ducks that Harwell keeps.

The garden hasn't hurt neighborhood property values either, she said.

"A few years ago all of my neighbors got a letter from a real-estate agent. A family wanted specifically to buy a home on the block because they wanted to be near the garden. The agent said if anyone is selling to please let them know." ■

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

Stanford freshmen

(continued from page 5)

Libya, and 15 additional civil wars are raging elsewhere, and that U.S. troops are deployed in many U.N. peacekeeping missions.

"Our peaceful intellectual oasis exists in a world of conflict."

Noting that reasonable people often disagree, Sagan said he wants students "to wrestle with the ethical dilemmas involved in decisions about war and peace."

In Tuesday's welcoming ceremony, Hennessy told an apocryphal story about a conversation Benjamin Franklin had in a Philadelphia tav-

ern with a man who said the words in the Declaration of Independence "don't mean nothing at all."

The man asked, "Where's all that happiness the document says it guarantees us?"

Franklin was said to have replied, sympathetically: "My friend, the Declaration of Independence only guarantees the American people the right to pursue happiness. You have to catch it yourself."

"And so it is with your time here at Stanford," Hennessy told the freshmen. "You will have many opportunities here but it is incumbent on each of our students to catch them."

Regular classes for Stanford undergraduates begin on Monday. ■

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Pulse

A weekly compendium of vital statistics

POLICE CALLS

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| Palo Alto | |
| Sept. 14-20 | |
| Violence related | |
| Battery | 1 |
| Child abuse | 1 |
| Theft related | |
| Commercial burglaries | 1 |
| Identity theft | 3 |
| Residential burglaries attempted | 1 |
| Residential burglaries | 1 |
| Shoplifting | 4 |
| Vehicle related | |
| Abandoned bicycle | 1 |
| Auto theft | 1 |
| Bicycle theft | 4 |
| Driving w/suspended license | 6 |
| Hit and run | 1 |
| Misc. traffic | 6 |
| Theft from auto | 12 |
| Vehicle accident/major injury | 1 |
| Vehicle accident/minor injury | 9 |
| Vehicle accident/property damage | 7 |
| Vehicle impound | 6 |
| Vehicle tampering | 1 |
| Vehicle tow | 2 |
| Alcohol or drug related | |
| Drunk in public | 6 |
| Drunken driving | 4 |
| Possession of narcotics/drugs | 4 |
| Miscellaneous | |
| Bomb/explosion reported | 1 |
| Disturbing/annoying phone calls | 1 |
| Found property | 7 |
| Lost property | 1 |
| Misc municipal code violation | 5 |
| Misc. penal code violation | 2 |
| Missing juvenile | 1 |
| Missing person | 1 |
| Psychiatric hold | 3 |
| Restraining order | 1 |
| Suspicious circumstances | 1 |
| Vandalism | 1 |
| Warrant/other agency | 3 |
| Menlo Park | |
| Sept. 14-20 | |
| Violence related | |
| Battery | 2 |
| Domestic violence | 2 |
| Theft related | |
| Fraud | 2 |
| Attempted burglaries | 1 |
| Grand theft | 1 |
| Petty theft | 10 |
| Residential burglaries | 2 |
| Vehicle related | |
| Driving w/suspended license | 4 |
| Driving without license | 1 |
| Hit and run | 1 |
| Lost/stolen plates | 1 |
| Theft from auto | 4 |
| Vehicle accident/non injury | 2 |
| Vehicle accident/minor injury | 2 |
| Vehicle accident/prop. damage | 1 |
| Vehicle tow | 3 |
| Alcohol or drug related | |
| Drug activity | 2 |
| Drunk driving | 3 |
| Possession of controlled substances | 1 |
| Miscellaneous | |
| Citizen assist. | 1 |
| Information case | 3 |
| Lost property | 3 |
| Medical aid | 1 |
| Other/misc. | 5 |
| Suspicious circumstances | 1 |
| Vandalism | 1 |
| Warrant arrest | 5 |
| Atherton | |
| Sept. 14-20 | |
| Violence related | |
| Attempted suicide | 1 |
| Theft related | |
| Residential burglaries | 1 |
| Vehicle related | |
| Abandoned auto | 1 |
| Misc. traffic | 4 |
| Parking problem | 3 |
| Suspicious vehicle | 1 |
| Theft from auto | 1 |
| Traffic details | 1 |
| Vehicle accident/non injury | 3 |
| Vehicle code violation | 12 |
| Vehicle/traffic hazard | 1 |
| Alcohol or drug related | |
| Drunk driving | 1 |
| Under influence of drugs | 1 |
| Miscellaneous | |
| Animal call | 1 |
| Building/perimeter/area check | 6 |
| Citizen assist. | 5 |
| Construction | 1 |
| Juvenile problem | 1 |

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Located missing person | 1 |
| Lost property | 1 |
| Medical aid | 3 |
| Meet citizen | 1 |
| Other/misc. | 6 |
| Outside assistance | 5 |
| Suspicious circumstances | 6 |
| Suspicious person | 1 |
| Town ordinance violation | 3 |
| Tree blocking roadway | 2 |

VIOLENT CRIMES

| | |
|--|--|
| Palo Alto | |
| Unlisted block Embarcadero Road, 9/14, 12:20 p.m.; battery. | |
| Unlisted block Juniper Lane, 9/14, 12:31 p.m.; child abuse. | |
| Menlo Park | |
| 1200 block Madera Avenue, 9/17, 2:25 p.m.; battery. | |
| 800 block Roble Avenue, 9/17, 4:13 p.m.; domestic battery. | |
| 300 block Barton Way, 9/18, 6:46 p.m.; spousal abuse. | |
| 500 block Hamilton Avenue, 9/19, 1:58 p.m.; battery. | |
| Atherton | |
| Menlo-Atherton High School, Middlefield Road, 9/20, 12:28 p.m.; attempted suicide. | |

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Palo Alto Unified School District

Notice is hereby Given that proposals will be received by the Palo Alto Unified School District for RFP package:
Network Equipment & Fiber Module Purchase.

Contract Nos. 11-F-05-E-2R

DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK:

The work includes, but is not limited to: All equipment necessary to replace the existing district network infrastructure and fiber modules. No labor to be included in the bid. Bidding documents contain the full description of the work.

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference for each project on **September 20, 2011, 1:00 p.m. and 2p.m.**, at the District Business Office located at 25 Churchill Ave. Palo Alto, California 94306. Non attendance or tardiness will deem the bidder ineligible to submit a bid.

Bid Submission: Proposals must be received at the District Business Office located at 25 Churchill Ave. Palo Alto, California 94306, by **3:00 p.m. on October 14, 2011.**

Interested Bidders may examine Proposal Documents at the District Business Services office. Bidders may obtain copies of Plans and Specifications free of charge at the District Business Services office located at 25 Churchill Ave. Palo Alto, California 94306. All questions can be addressed to:

Palo Alto Unified School District
25 Churchill Avenue,
Palo Alto, CA 94306-1099
Attn: Denise Buschke
Tel: 650-329-3802
Fax: 650-329-3803

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Rose Babson

Nov. 13, 1924-Sept. 16, 2011

ROSE MACARTNEY BABSON, a resident of Palo Alto for over 50 years, died peacefully on September 16 at Stanford Hospital.

"Rosie" was born November 13, 1924, in Cloquet, Minnesota to Ralph and Farrell Macartney. As a child, she moved with her family to Klamath Falls, Oregon, where her father built and managed Weyerhaeuser Timber Company's first West Coast mill.

She attended Catlin boarding school in Portland, Oregon, and the Katherine Branson School in Marin County. She joined the class of 1946 at Stanford University, where she met and married her husband, Denis. On March 1, 2011, Rose and Denis celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary.

Rose was a quiet spirit, but a woman of many accomplishments. She was an avid horsewoman, tennis player, and skier; was fluent in French, a gourmet cook, a skilled bridge player; a voracious reader, compulsive crossword puzzle solver, and adventurous world traveler. Throughout her life, she showed an unwavering commitment to family, to home, to friendship.

She is survived by her husband and her three daughters Anne ("Punky") Talbott, Joan Moeller, and Marcia Barthelow; sons-in-law Robert and Michael; grandchildren Brian, Reno, Alena, Sarah, and Katie, and great granddaughter Madeline.

She was preceded in death by her son, Stephen (1948-1958), and her brothers Ralph and Alvin.

A private memorial gathering will be held for family and friends. Donations may be made to the Stephen D. Babson Memorial Fund, Stanford University, 2700 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

PAID OBITUARY

Meditation for Modern Life One Day Course

November 5, 2011, 9:30AM to 3:30PM
Allied Arts Guild, Menlo Park, CA



Taught by acclaimed Buddhist master Segyu Rinpoche, this course will focus on how to meditate and the benefits of meditation. We will learn and practice meditation and introduce the four building blocks of Buddhist training: Meditation, Balancing Emotions, Compassion and Wisdom. Both beginners and experienced meditators are welcome.

Cost \$125 (including lunch), or \$110 for early registration before Oct 5, 2011.

For more information and to register please visit www.juniperpath.org or call 650-299-9333.

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Editorial

Responding to student stress

Annual school district goals respond to parent concerns over emotional health, student stress and school culture

Parents worried about the health of Palo Alto teens as they navigate through the stressful middle and high school years have been sounding alarm bells in every forum they can over the last couple of years.

Some have advocated creating better support systems to identify and help teens suffering from or at risk of depression.

Others have emphasized the need to examine school practices, such as homework policies, schedules, coordination of tests and counseling systems.

And still others point to the need to engage and educate parents on their role in helping to tone down the intense competitive atmosphere that has engulfed high school life.

School board members and Superintendent Kevin Skelly have at times reacted defensively and bureaucratically to this input for much of the last year, but last week these issues were front and center in new annual goals recommended by Skelly and adopted unanimously by the board.

The goals for the coming year put the district on a firm course toward tackling ways of reducing “unnecessary” stress on students and creating a “more supportive school culture.”

School principals and others will begin to “examine the purpose and volume” of homework at all class levels and create a new district policy on homework. The scheduling of tests and school projects will be studied and recommendations developed to address avoidable “perfect-storms” when students are assigned tests or projects by multiple teachers all at the same time.

The board also placed a priority on implementing the youth-wellness framework called Developmental Assets, a system for assessing and responding to more vulnerable kids and involving parents and other community members in supporting them. (See guest opinion on the facing page and the insert in today’s paper for more information on this program.)

Finally, the goals include a study of the very different high school counseling programs currently operating at Paly and Gunn and elsewhere, determining best practices and making appropriate changes.

The adoption of the goals brought guarded praise and optimism from parents who have been pushing the board on the issue of student stress. Ken Dauber, who with his wife Michele just seven months ago had called for new leadership in the district and formed a group called “We Can Do Better,” said “The content of these goals is quite remarkable and I appreciate the progress.”

The goals also drew a promise of support from Matthew McDermott, rector of St. Mark’s Episcopal Church and a JLS parent, who said he will involve his congregation in the “slow and challenging work” of helping to implement the stress-reduction goal. After the cluster of Palo Alto student suicides that began in 2009, the St. Mark’s volunteers and those from other churches lobbied for nearly two years for the board to adopt programs that would promote “student connectedness.”

Superintendent Kevin Skelly, who acknowledged that he hopes “members of the community see their handprint on the work we have for this year,” said it will take time to implement the goals. On the homework policy, he said research could be completed this academic year and its impact on “teachers, course outlines and expectations” could be seen next fall, or possibly by the spring of 2012.

Tension is likely to persist over the district’s “site-based decision-making” philosophy, which leaves many policy and programmatic decisions in the hands of principals and their teachers and site councils.

The approach often results in different programs being developed at different schools to address the exact same need or goal, rather than the development of a “best practices” approach implemented consistently across all 17 school sites.

Skelly, reflecting the views of his principals, is a big proponent of site-based decision-making, but some school board and members of the public are questioning whether the concept is inefficient, or worse, unfair.

Skelly and the school board deserve praise and support for adopting these goals for the upcoming school year. It is evidence that they are listening and responding to the community and are prepared to make changes.

As a past critic of the district’s lack of urgency and attention to the issues of student stress and emotional health, we are encouraged that meaningful and measurable progress will be made this year, including better outreach and communication with parents.

After all, ultimately it is the parents of the community that must decide what kind of environment they wish for their kids enrolled in Palo Alto schools.

Spectrum

Editorials, letters and opinions

More Measure E

Editor,

Now that the landfill is closed, opponents of Measure E advocate the “Export Option” for dealing with our waste. That would entail trucking all our yard and food waste, plus the leftovers from the sewage treatment plant, south to San Jose and Gilroy and paying tipping fees for companies there to process them — costing over 450,000 truck miles and upward of \$2 million/year and emitting thousands of tons of greenhouse gases.

The purpose of Measure E is to explore the possibility of eliminating those costly exports and instead building a local anaerobic digestion facility to convert our wastes to valuable green energy and compost. There is no point in doing that without a suitable location, and the only possible one is on 10 out of 126 acres of the former dump next to the sewage treatment plant, which can be undedicated only by popular vote.

Opponents make extravagant claims that Measure E would be costly, risky, etc. However, the City Council wisely commissioned a feasibility study to deal with such claims, and under the most realistic assumptions in that study, local conversion would achieve significant benefits in reduced costs and emissions. Defeat of Measure E would destroy any chance of achieving those benefits. Its passage would also involve zero risk, because the measure does not commit the city to build anything and the council will not do so unless its benefits are proven out.

Vote yes on E.

Walter Hays
Parkside Drive
Palo Alto

Even more Measure E

Editor,

I write to correct statements in Alex DiGiorgio’s letter supporting Measure E (Sept. 9, 2011).

First, he states that “other Bay area communities have already demonstrated” the process. Not true. Those communities have used wet anaerobic digestion only and the process being pushed by Measure E proponents is a dry anaerobic digestion process. Completely different and a process never before used with sewage sludge anywhere in the world. The feasibility report warns that all data for the proponents’ favorite project is therefore “unreliable.” Public Works staff has told City Council that a pilot plant is needed to prove the process but Palo Alto is too small to pay for a pilot

plant. For reasonable people that would seem to eliminate Measure E from further consideration.

Second, he states “revenues from the bioenergy facility could subsidize restorations to the rest of the park.” Not true. The feasibility study does not show any profit from any of the cases studied. Even if there were a profit, this facility would operate as an enterprise fund, which under Palo Alto ordinances must operate at a break even level. Any operating excess goes back to the operation of the enterprise fund from which it came.

High Speed Rail was sold as a good general concept but its local application would be a disaster. Same with Measure E — good general concept but unproven, risky and being sold the same as HSR.

Tom Jordan
Churchill Avenue
Palo Alto

Mitchell Park problems

Editor,

I was dismayed to read about the problems with the Mitchell Park Library project in last week’s Palo

Alto Weekly. However, I was even more troubled by the article’s lack of coverage about the role of the government in this project. The government’s role (Federal, state, and local) is to protect individual rights — not to spend taxpayer’s money on projects that should be funded by private sources. It’s time that Americans (and Palo Altans) begin to re-learn the history of the United States and the Founding Father’s express interest in preventing the government from infringing upon individual rights. This protection includes not spending tax money on wasteful projects mis-managed by government employees.

Isn’t it obvious from this experience that the government has no business spending our money on building projects? Not only do they accept a “lowball” offer by the contractor, they also approve an architectural plan that is faulty, and finally have the nerve to unanimously approve an additional \$3.7 million in funding to cover their own mistakes.

Seavan Sternheim
Ross Road
Palo Alto

YOUR TURN

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

What do you think? What do you think of the water and refuse rate hikes?

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 Opinions

Project Safety Net is committed to student well-being

A range of strategies are in place to help the youth of our community

by Kevin Skelly, Terry Godfrey and
Becky Beacom

Our community is renowned for its dedication to helping the next generation of leaders and citizens reach their potential. This commitment to young people is demonstrated in countless, varied ways. The recent tragic deaths by suicide of Palo Alto students have been a catalyst for strengthening this commitment: Our students can be stronger emotionally and physically as they journey through the challenges of childhood and young adulthood.

The most powerful manifestation of this renewed commitment has, we believe, been the creation of Project Safety Net (PSN). Co-chaired by officials from the school district and the City of Palo Alto, PSN has brought together these representatives with the health care community, nonprofit organizations, faith community members, residents and many others.

The PSN 22 strategies have two essential pillars at either end of a spectrum.

On the one end are specific suicide prevention strategies, seeking out and supporting those most vulnerable. On the other end of the spectrum are strategies that focus on youth well-being, best described by the 41 Developmental Assets initiative. This framework has been embraced by many communities in Santa Clara County and throughout the country. Its strength is that it calls upon and gives definition to what so many Palo Altans strive to do best: support our youth.

What are the Developmental Assets? Developmental assets are the positive values, relationships and experiences that youth need to thrive. Youth with high asset levels are more likely to choose healthy activities, succeed in school and avoid risky behaviors. While parents are the first and most powerful force for creating these assets in their children, they do not have to do it alone. Schools play a large, vital and indispensable role in

youth development. Last year, our schools surveyed most of our secondary students using the Developmental Assets as a lens, and the individual school results are available through your school or online at www.pausd.org.

Thanks to the Palo Alto Weekly, you will find an insert in this week's edition that provides you with district-wide data about how asset-rich many of our young people are. It also highlights where we

fall short as a community in our children's eyes. Please take a few minutes to read through this insert and explore the data online. The insert also includes important ways that you can help build assets in all our youth — whether through your individual actions or when you join together with your neighbors. As Rob de Geus, the City of Palo Alto's Recreation Director, is fond of saying, "if you breathe, you are on the team and can make a difference as an asset builder among our young."

Our young people are not the only ones who will benefit from greater encouragement and asset-building by us adults. When you give to them, they will enrich our community tenfold with their enthusiasm and seemingly insatiable desire to grow and learn.

To quote from a Native American proverb, "You might be one person to the world, but the world to one young person." While we won't realize the extent of our influence on the next generation, the impact caring adults had on us hopefully provides inspiration. There's no better way to express our gratitude than by sharing some small piece of kindness or support with the young people in our lives. It only takes a second. ■

For more information on Project Safety Net visit www.psnpaloalto.org and www.facebook.com/psnpaloalto

For information on Developmental Assets, visit www.search-institute.org/developmental-assets



Kevin Skelly has served as superintendent of the Palo Alto Unified School District since 2007. Prior to his current post, he worked in San Diego County and was principal of Saratoga High. He has been a presenter, author, coach and Big Brother. He and his wife have four children; the two youngest are students in PAUSD.



Terry Godfrey is a local parent and volunteer. She sits on the board of Palo Alto Partners in Education, is the immediate past president of the PTA Council, is a member of Project Safety Net and chairs the Palo Alto Developmental Assets Initiative. She lives in Palo Alto with her husband and two kids.



Becky Beacom, as manager of health education for Palo Alto Medical Foundation, contributes to a variety of school and community-based health initiatives for youth and serves on the steering committee for Project Safety Net. She and her husband are long-time Palo Alto residents and have raised two children — both graduates of PAUSD.

Streetwise

What are your thoughts on Palo Alto's increasing water rates?

Asked on California Avenue, Palo Alto. Interviews and photographs by David Ruiz.



Donna Johnston-Blair
Professor
Emerson Street, Palo Alto

"I didn't know about the increase but I understand that costs have to be covered. I think 25 percent is excessive, though, and maybe those who passed the rate increase are unaware of proper fund allocation."



Anna Nazarov
Hydrologist
Arkansas Street, San Francisco

"I'm in favor of the increase. California has a fragile water system, and it needs to be properly maintained."



Pauline Lamont
Retired Pharmacist
N. Bay View Avenue, Sunnyvale

"The same thing happened in Sunnyvale, recently. I most frequently use my water for my lawn and gardening so I don't think the purity of our water is so high a priority. The rate of increase is too high."



Mike Porter
Nursing Assistant
La Selva Drive, Palo Alto

"Hetch Hetchy is about a century old, from what I know, and it needs all the repairs it can get. I don't know how they decided on such a high increase; the number seems arbitrary."



Cheryl Erber
Singer
Birch Street, Palo Alto

"I got a letter in the mail recently about the increase. I've responded by cutting back my water use and trying to conserve around the house and in the yard."

Local Deals

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Palo Alto Bowl not spared from closure

Photo essay by Veronica Weber
Story by Casey Moore

Petite, gray-haired Grace Siesbuttel, 83, shuffled forward, 15-pound bowling ball clutched in her arms. She gently swung her right wrist down, then backward, then forward, and dropped the ball, her eyes tracing its path as it rolled steadily down the worn wooden lane. Five pins crashed with a flutter and tumbled over.

Siesbuttel and fellow members of the Guys and Dolls Jubilee bowling league came for their final game Wednesday, Sept. 14, two days before the 60-year-old Palo Alto Bowl on El Camino Real shut down for good.

The closure of the Bowl — set to be replaced by 26 townhouses and a brand-name hotel — leaves Palo Alto without a local alley for the first time in decades.

(continued on page 18)



THE FINAL STRIKE



Andrew Simmons, above, sets up his shot while bowling at Palo Alto Bowl on Sept. 12. Peng Lim bowls with fellow employees from VMware during a welcome orientation for a few newcomers to the company at the alley's last day on Friday, Sept. 16.



Andrew Pattison, left, chats with Grace Siesbuttel, while Mohammed Alkhattat talks with Mike Granneman at Palo Alto Bowl in late August.



Teenagers bowl a game during dollar night — when every game is \$1 — at Palo Alto Bowl.

*I've bowled all over the Bay Area,
but I always come back here.*

— Georgia Williams, who first came to Palo Alto Bowl as a 1-year-old

(continued from page 17)

The Bowl's atmosphere was quieter than usual in the last few weeks as many savored their final moments in the alley.

"This is the only bowling alley I've ever come to," said Jeff Bradshaw, a middle-aged Palo Alto native who attended the Bowl's last \$1-game Monday night with his brother Bryan.

"I remember taking bowling lessons here as a kid," Bryan Bradshaw said wistfully.

Mountain View residents Jessica Waldbauer, 18, and Tori Waldbauer, 14, had been

coming to the Bowl for nine years. The closest alternate location, Homestead Lanes in Sunnyvale, doesn't feel quite like home.

"It might be cheap but it's not the same," Jessica said.

Among the Guys and Dolls, the mood felt bittersweet. As usual, the floor was littered with black bowling bags, the speckled fuchsia countertops decorated with opaque plastic beverage cups. But the normally boisterous brigade tempered their cheers to reflect upon their experiences.

Siesbuttel remembered bringing her five chil-

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September 29 – October 2 www.paiff.net

palo alto int'l film festival



101 independent and international films

30 talks by masters and innovators

Youth Program for ages 6–18



OPENING NIGHT: FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

FREE downtown Music and Screening of *Life in a Day*

Thursday, September 29, 2011, 5p.m. – 10p.m.

Ramona St. between University Ave and Hamilton Ave, Palo Alto

Join us at Ramona Street for an evening screening of the family-friendly movie *Life in a Day*. Listen to the musicians of Wobbly World before the film! Movie starts at 8 p.m.



THE ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS AND SCIENCES® PRESENTS:

Out of This World – The Science of Space Movies

Saturday, October 1, 2011, 6p.m., Palo Alto Square 1

In this interactive presentation, physics concepts will be used to analyze famous scenes from films including *A Trip to the Moon* (1902), *Planet of the Apes* (1968), *Apollo 13* (1995), *Event Horizon* (1997), *October Sky* (1999) and *Star Trek* (2009). Limited tickets available.



CLOSING NIGHT AT THE COMPUTER HISTORY MUSEUM

Limited tickets available for sale at www.paiff.net!

Sunday, October 2, 2011, 6p.m. – 9p.m.

Computer History Museum, 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd, Mountain View, CA 94043

Celebrate masters, innovators and their achievements with drinks, a jazz band and more! At the 2011 Sallie Gardner Awards, PAIFF will present eight awards, and two grants.



A TRIP TO THE MOON

Northern California Premiere and Digital Remastering Presentation

Saturday, October 1, 2011, 2p.m., Palo Alto Square 2

Saturday, October 1, 2011, 4p.m., Palo Alto Square 2 *VIP only

This exciting event will include both a screening of Méliès' famous 1902 film, as well as a talk about the process of restoring 13,324 severely damaged hand-colored frames. Sponsored by Technicolor.



BOMBAY BEACH

Alma Har'el | 80 min | USA

Unlike any documentary you've seen before, director Alma Har'el's film reveals three lives teetering on the brink of the American dream in the Salton Sea. This exploration of manhood at its turning points is composed of a young boy diagnosed with bipolar disorder, a black teenager who has fled Los Angeles in order to avoid the gang violence that killed his cousin and an elderly man who once worked in oil fields. Accompanying gorgeous images that feel more like poetry than documentary and choreographed dance, the film's haunting soundtrack is by Beirut and Bob Dylan.

AQUARIUS Sept 30 **Fri 4:30p**
PA SQUARE 1 Oct 2 **Sun 3:30p**



HERE

Braden King | 120 min | USA/Int'l

In a vocation called "ground-truthing," Will Shepard (played by Ben Foster of *Six Feet Under* and *X-Men: The Last Stand*) land-surveys satellite images around the world to check for accuracy. Traveling through Armenia, a land trying to discover itself, he experiences an immediate connection with a passionate photographer. Considering what it means to orient oneself in the world, the film's traditional storytelling is creatively disrupted by brief, brilliant experimental sequences.

AQUARIUS Oct 1 **Sat 6p**
AQUARIUS Oct 2 **Sun 4p**



RESURRECT DEAD: THE MYSTERY OF THE TOYNBEE TILES

Jon Foy | 85 min | USA

Tiles with this message have been found embedded in the asphalt of cities in the Americas since the 1980s. Curious about the maker and meaning of this meme, underground artist/writer/musician Justin Duerr dug into the enigma. Duerr and two other Toynbee fanatics assemble clues from an address on a Chilean tile, Stanley Kubrick's famous film, Arnold Toynbee philosophy, and a David Mamet play. Filmmaker Jon Foy documents a fascinating mystery and the sleuths determined to solve it.

PA SQUARE 2 Sept 30 **Fri 7:30p**
PA SQUARE 2 Oct 2 **Sun 4p**



CAVE OF FORGOTTEN DREAMS

Werner Herzog | 90 min | Germany

It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that visionary auteur Werner Herzog's latest film is a transcendent experience more than it is a traditional documentary. Herzog uses 3D to "capture the intentions of the painters" who worked 32,000 years ago inside the Chauvet-Pont-d'Arc cave in France. Threatened by a nuclear plant, the Chauvet caves are off-limits to the public, so this film, branded with Herzog's trademark brilliance and strangeness, may be the closest you'll ever get to these Paleolithic masterpieces.

PA SQUARE 1 Oct 1 **Sat 9:30p**
PA SQUARE 1 Oct 2 **Sun 6:30p**



MISS REPRESENTATION

Jennifer Siebel Newsom | 85 min | USA

In this documentary, writer/director Jennifer Siebel Newsom juxtaposes the stories of teenage girls alongside provocative interviews with Condoleezza Rice, Lisa Ling, Nancy Pelosi, Katie Couric, Rachel Maddow, and Gloria Steinem. A close look at contemporary media and its powerful messages reveal that yet another generation is learning that a woman's primary value lies in her youth, beauty and sexuality—and not in her capacity as a leader. This movie aims to re-energize a movement so that young women in the future do not have to have conversations about disparate treatment.

AQUARIUS Oct 1 **Sat 3p**



REVENGE OF THE ELECTRIC CAR

Chris Paine | 90 min | USA

Sometimes change has too much momentum to be stopped. Director Chris Paine (*Who Killed the Electric Car?*) follows four entrepreneurs inside the Electric Vehicle revolution over a period of three years. Tesla CEO Elon Musk invests his personal fortune. General Motors' Vice Chair Bob Lutz stakes the entire brand on the very technology it once tried to kill. Nissan's CEO, Carlos Ghosn, bets the farm on a car that almost no one believes can happen. Greg 'Gadget' Abbott, an electric car converter, refuses to wait for the big companies to create cars that meet public demand.

PA SQUARE 2 Oct 1 **Sat 6:30p**



THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL

Presented by The Film Foundation

To introduce *The Day the Earth Stood Still* (1951, directed by Robert Wise), Catherine Gourley, curriculum writer of The Film Foundation's Story of Movies program, will touch briefly upon the concept of a film as a historical/cultural document. Prior to the feature film, audiences will watch the short film *Duck and Cover*, which provides insight into the Cold War and society's fears of an atomic attack.

CHILDREN'S Oct 1 **Sat 6p**



ON THE ICE

Andrew Okpeaha MacLean | 96 min | USA

While trying to hide a murder from the authorities, two Inuit boys are forced to confront the limits of friendship and questions of blame in this tense noir narrative. The bleak snowscape of Barrow, Alaska is almost a character unto itself. Made on a shoestring budget with actors who auditioned on YouTube, director Andrew Okpeaha MacLean harnessed the power of technology to create a complex, sympathetic portrayal of a little-seen culture.

PA SQUARE 2 Sept 30 **Fri 4:30p**
AQUARIUS Oct 1 **Sat noon**



ROAD TO NOWHERE

Monte Hellman | 121 min | USA

Hitchcock's *Vertigo* and Lynch's *Mulholland Drive* both come to mind when watching legendary director Monte Hellman's first feature film in two decades. However, this romantic noir within a noir has a distinct perspective on digital art and truth. Mitchell Haven, a director making a true crime film, casts a doppelganger for 'real life' femme fatale Velma Duran (Shannyn Sossamon). Mitchell's affair with Velma's doppelganger ensnares him in a complex web of intrigue, passion and danger that straddles 'fact' and 'fiction.'

PA SQUARE 1 Sept 30 **Fri 7p**
PA SQUARE 2 Oct 1 **Sat 9:15p**



DELHI IN A DAY

Prashant Nair | 88 min | India

When the money of an idealistic British traveler disappears in a nouveau-riche Delhi home, the staff of the house are blamed and given twenty-four hours to replace it — or else they face the consequences. *Delhi In A Day* is a comedic portrayal of upper-class Delhi society that examines how the haves and the have-nots interact. Director Prashant Nair is a former social media entrepreneur turned filmmaker.

AQUARIUS Sept 30 **Fri 7p**



PAGE ONE: INSIDE THE NEW YORK TIMES

Andrew Rossi | 92 min | USA

Page One deftly gains unprecedented access to the New York Times newsroom and the inner workings of the Media Desk. With the Internet surpassing print and bankrupting newspapers all over the country, this fly-on-the-wall documentary gives us an up-close look at the vibrant cross-cubicle debates and collaborations, tenacious jockeying for on-record quotes, and skillful page-one pitching that brings the most venerable newspaper in America to fruition every day.

PA SQUARE 1 Oct 1 **Sat 11a**



SOMETHING VENTURED

Dayna Goldfine, Dan Geller | 85 min | USA

The first "venture capitalists" were a small group of men who banded together in Silicon Valley in the 1950s to partner with technology entrepreneurs. Where others saw only risk, why did these investors see the seeds of opportunity? Infused with hopefulness, but peppered with backstage drama, behind-the-scenes interviews offer insight into the visionaries who revolutionized the tech business by financing Intel, Apple, Atari, Genentech, Cisco and other companies before they became giants.

PA SQUARE 1 Sept 30 **Fri 4p**
PA SQUARE 2 Oct 2 **Sun 1p**



**TIMOTHY
C. DRAPER**

The Future of Media

Tim Draper is the Founder and a Managing Director of Draper Fisher Jurvetson. His original suggestion to use "viral marketing" in web-based e-mail to geometrically spread an Internet product to its market was instrumental to the successes of Hotmail and YahooMail. Hundreds of businesses have adopted this technique. Among Draper's many accolades: #52 on the list of the 100 most influential Harvard Alumni, #7 on the Forbes Midas List, and Always-On #1 top venture capital deal maker for 2008.

Based on the hottest ideas in circulation today, his talk at PAIFF will afford audience members the rare opportunity to see what the future of media might hold.

TALENTHOUSE Sept 30 **Fri 2p**



**ENCYCLOPEDIA
PICTURA**

Encyclopedia Pictura is the directing team of Isaiah Saxon, Daren Rabinovitch, and Sean Hellfrisch. Encyclopedia Pictura has won numerous awards for their music videos, including Video of the Year from DA&D, UK VMA, Antville and Spin Magazine. Esquire called them "The Directors of the Future". The trio will speaking about their award-winning work, augmented reality (AR), and their upcoming feature *DIY*.

TALENTHOUSE Sept 30 **Fri 7p**



**MAKING THE
STARTUP KIDS**

The Startup Kids is a documentary about young entrepreneurs who have founded web start-ups in the US and Europe. It contains interviews with the founders of Dropbox, Vimeo, SoundCloud, WordPress, Playfish, Posterous and many others.

The creators of the film Vala Halldorsdottir and Sesselja Vilhjaldsdottir will talk about making the film and how it influenced their new startup Kinwins.

TALENTHOUSE Sept 30 **Fri 3p**



**WALTER
MURCH**

Behind the Scenes of Hemingway & Gellhorn

Walter Scott Murch is an Academy Award-winning film editor and sound designer whose long list of credits includes *The Godfather Part II*, *Apocalypse Now*, *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*, *The English Patient* and *Cold Mountain*. At PAIFF 2011, Murch will talk about the integration of FileMaker database management in the post-production of Phil Kaufman's feature motion picture *Hemingway & Gellhorn*, due to be broadcast by HBO early next year.

TALENTHOUSE Oct 1 **Sat noon**



**STEVEN
GAYDOS**

Writing Road to Nowhere

Steven Gaydos is the executive editor of the entertainment business magazine *Variety* and writer of the critically-acclaimed film *Road to Nowhere*. Long a creative partner of director Monte Hellman, Gaydos first worked with the legendary filmmaker on *Cockfighter* and later contributed to the screenplays for *Iguana* and *Better Watch Out*.

Gaydos will speak about writing *Road to Nowhere* for Hellman and the world's response to the film.

TALENTHOUSE Oct 1 **Sat 4:15a**



**JOHN
KNOLL**

Rango: The New Frontier of Visual Effects

John Knoll is an Academy Award-winning visual effects supervisor at George Lucas' Industrial Light & Magic (ILM). He is best known for his work as Visual Effects Supervisor on *Hook*, *Star Trek Generations*, *Star Trek: First Contact*, the *Star Wars* prequels, the *Pirates of the Caribbean* series, and *Avatar*. He is also the co-creator of Adobe Photoshop.

Knoll will speak about the visual effects techniques employed on his latest film *Rango*.

TALENTHOUSE Oct 1 **Sat 2p**



Visit **paiff.net**
for the full
festival guide.

FILMS

- 3
- *Cameraman: The Life and Work of Jack Cardiff*
- *Corman's World: Exploits of a Hollywood Rebel*
- Disposable Film Festival Shorts Program
- *Industrial Light and Magic: Creating the Impossible*
- *Life in a Day*
- *The Light Thief*
- Live Action Shorts Program
- *No One Will Know*
- *PressPausePlay*
- *The Real Revolutionaries*
- *Resurrect Dead: The Mystery of the Toynbee Tiles*
- *Submarino*
- *Troll Hunter*

SPEAKERS

- **Kim Aubry**, How Good Filmmakers Make Bad Filmmaking Decisions
- **Craig Barron**, From *Indiana Jones* to *Benjamin Button*: Transition to Digital
- **Richard Beggs**, Sound Design: From *Apocalypse Now* to *Twixt*
- **Britt Bensen**, On Demand Weekly
- **Stuart Bowling**, advances in Surround Sound, Dolby Laboratories
- **Tom Burton**, *A Trip To The Moon* Digital Remastering Presentation
- **Brett Crockett**, Dolby; Delivering Cinema Sound to Mobile Devices
- **Paul Debevec**, A Pioneer in Virtual Cinematography
- **John Gaeta**, Conversation with creator of "Bullet Time" (*The Matrix*)
- **Catherine Gourley**, The Film Foundation Presents *Story of Movies*
- **Jim Helman**, Hollywood in a Digital World
- **Nikhil Jakatdar**, Vuclip CEO, The Future of Mobile and Movies
- **Adam Weiner**, Out of this World: The Science of Space Movies

PANELS

- **Animate This!**
Tom Sito, and Patricia Hannaway
- **Digital Filmmaking & Distribution: Whose Tail is Wagging the Dog?**
Britt Bensen, Michael Murphy, Dale Djerassi, and John McCrea
- **Ditching the Divide: Merging Technology to Manufacture Cinema**
Matthew Meschery, Katie Gillum, Hannah Eaves, Tanya Marie Vlach
Michella Rivera-Gravage
- **Global Cinema Tomorrow**
Alesia Weston, Santhosh Daniel, Jasmina Bojic
- **How Much is Your Idea Worth?**
Saad Khan, Eric Edmeades

**JOIN US AT PALO ALTO SQUARE 1, PALO ALTO SQUARE 2,
THE AQUARIUS THEATER, THE CHILDREN'S THEATER,
AND TALENTHOUSE.**



SHORTS PROGRAM YOUTH AGES 6-8

Award winning shorts about animals and other unusual heroes take center stage in this lineup that includes *Chrysalis*, *Huhu Pole Hole*, *Clankety, Clank*, *The Lost Thing*, *Private Eyes*, *Fishing with Sam*, and *The Snowman*.

CHILDREN'S Oct 1 **Sat 10a**



SHORTS PROGRAM YOUTH AGES 9-12

This shorts program features *The Lost Thing*, *Love Bug*, *Dragonboy*, *Lost for Words*, *Marcel the Shell with Shoes On* and others. These are whimsical and funny stories with strong visual appeal, which turn the traditional narrative on its head.

CHILDREN'S Sept 30 **Fri 6p**



LOCAL STUDENT SHORTS

These local student films will play before select feature films in the main program.

PAIFF received films from Menlo-Atherton High School, Palo Alto High School, Menlo School, and others. Six films have been selected to screen.

CHECK WWW.PAIFF.NET



MOVIE MAKING WORKSHOP

Our instructors are all filmmakers and they will show young people the tricks they have learned. Attendees will receive a Disk with the material from the course. This course is primarily a demonstration of editing and advanced topics for users of iMovie and more advanced editing suites. While there are no required tools or computers (we'll provide tools to learn) if a young person has a YouTube account and experience using iMovie, the workshop will be particularly helpful.

For youth ages 6-8

CHILDREN'S Oct 1 **Sat noon**

For youth ages 9-12

CHILDREN'S Oct 1 **Sat 4p**

For youth ages 13-15

CHILDREN'S Oct 1 **Sat 2p**

CHILDREN'S Oct 2 **Sun noon**



MIA AND THE MIGOO YOUTH AGES 6-8

In search of her father who has been trapped in a landslide on a construction site on a remote tropical lake, young Mia discovers an ancient Tree of Life, protected by forest spirits (the Migoo). 500,000 hand-painted frames of animation tell the story of young Mia and the Migoo's battle against the construction site's money-driven developer to save the Tree.

CHILDREN'S Oct 2 **Sun 1p**



AURELIE LAFLAMME'S DIARY YOUTH AGES 9-12

Whenever adolescence becomes overwhelming, Aurelie Laflamme's imagination runs wild. Although amusing, each flight of fancy only gets her into more trouble. Tender moments punctuate Aurelie's attempts to navigate an absurd world in this whimsical film.

CHILDREN'S Oct 2 **Sun 10a**



ELEVATE YOUTH AGES 13-18

Four Senegalese high-schoolers are recruited to American prep schools to play basketball in this documentary about ambition, competition and cultural difference.

CHILDREN'S Oct 2 **Sun 3p**



At checkout, use code:
paloaltoiff

Passes and Tickets



Individual tickets are available for each main program film and Digital Natives films.



Choose from several Pass options!

Day Pass for the Speaker Series

Speaker Series Pass

Festival Film Pass

Festival Film and Speaker Pass

Student Film Festival and Speaker Pass

Patron Pass

Where to Buy



Visit www.paiff.net to buy passes, tickets, and to view the complete schedule.



Call us at **650-641-8947** or e-mail us at info2@paloaltoinstitute.org.



Film tickets available the day-of at each venue. Or visit the Box Office at The Garden Court Hotel on 520 Cowper Street, Palo Alto:

Thursday, September 29, 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Friday, September 30, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Saturday, October 1, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Sunday, October 2, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

palo alto int'l film festival



Sept 29 – Oct 2





Wilfredo Gonzalez sprays disinfectant into returned pairs of bowling shoes at Palo Alto Bowl.



Rental shoes, sorted by size, fill the cubby holes behind the register at Palo Alto Bowl.

dren here — three girls, two boys — starting in the 1960s. Her memories of the alley range from a high-profile shooting out front in the late '60s to a personal high score of 255, achieved while pregnant with one of her daughters.

Although her average score has dropped from a 170 to a 95 over the years, Siesbuttel is undeterred. She plans to transfer to Homestead Lanes to continue bowling.

“So long as the people I bowl with don’t mind, I don’t care,” she said smiling, her dangling bowling-pin earrings framing her face.

For Alli Kinnear, child care center director

for Google, the league connected her to her team of fellow Google employees as well as other community members.

“There’s people of all different walks of life here who just like bowling,” Kinnear said. “It’s an unusual little cross-section of our community.”

Additionally, “There are days when the best thing possible is to throw a heavy object at other heavy objects and knock ‘em down,” she said, laughing. “We’ll say, ‘The pins have faces today.’”

Nearby bowler Georgia Williams described

(continued on page 20)

There’s people of all different walks of life here who just like bowling.

— Alli Kinnear, child care center director for Google, who played with fellow Google employees

“GET UP, GET OUT AND GO PLAY”

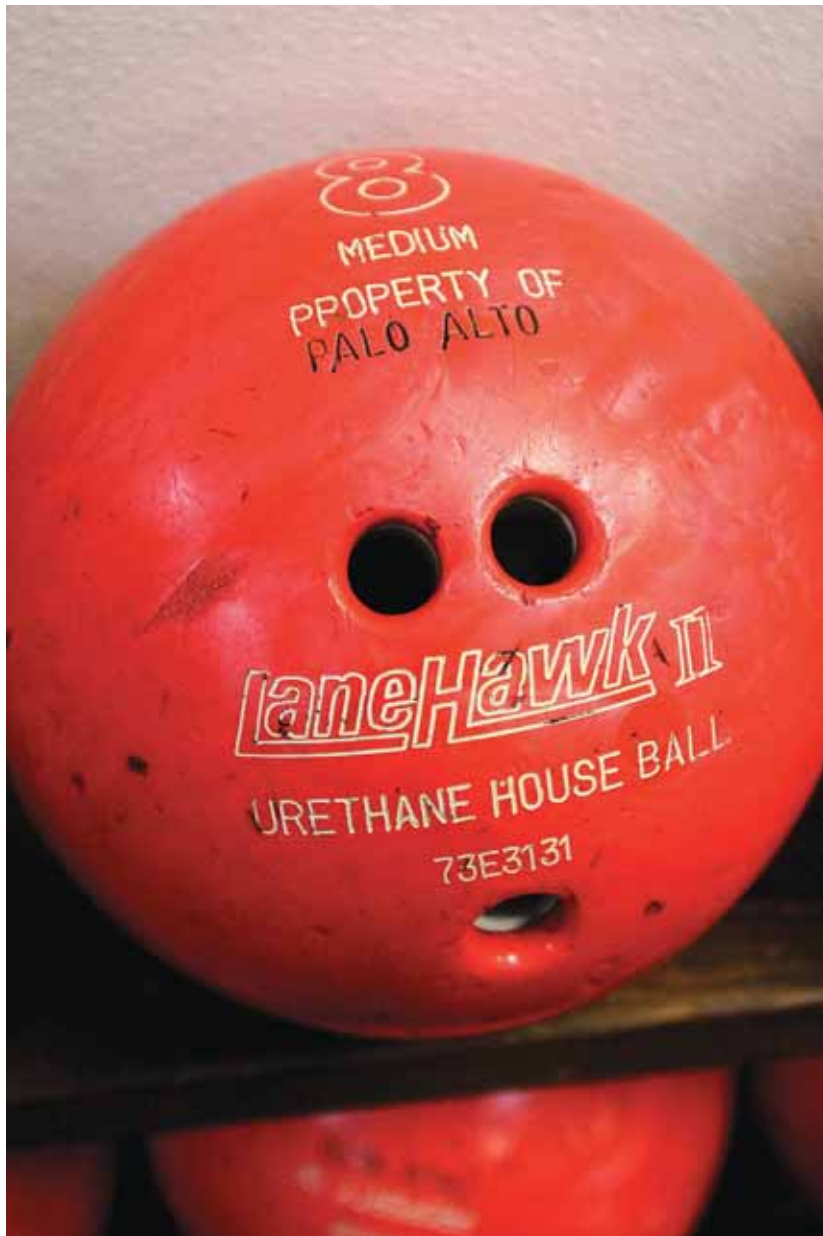


The City of Palo Alto is participating in the Worldwide Day of Play, an annual event designed to encourage kids and parents to turn off the television and play, especially outdoors.

We encourage you to join the ranks of thousands of kids worldwide on Saturday, September 24th by doing something active and fun right here in Palo Alto free of charge or at a discounted rate

HERE ARE GREAT IDEAS TO “GET UP, GET OUT AND GO PLAY:”

- * Grab your swim suit and some sunscreen and head out to Rinconada Pool. Enjoy the Children’s Wading Pool, take a dive off the diving board or just float and relax. For pool hours call 463-4914.
 - * Head out to your local park; Palo Alto has over 35 beautiful parks and open space preserves to choose from.
 - * Come canoe on Boronda Lake at Foothills Park! Canoes are available for rent on the weekends and holidays from May 1st to October 31st, weather permitting.
 - * Other fun adventures include fishing and hiking. Fishing is permitted in Boronda Lake (fishing license required). The lake is stocked with bass, catfish, and sunfish. While swimming is prohibited, you can enjoy the lake with your non-motorized and hand-launched boat.
 - * Head out to the trails. There are fifteen miles of hiking trails, which offer a variety of hiking experiences. The longest hike is the Los Trancos Trail, which is 7.5 miles.
 - * The Toyon Self-Guided Nature Trail enables you to learn about nature at your own pace.
 - * Tee up! Palo Alto Municipal Golf Course will be offering a 10% discount on your round of golf on 9/24. Please come and experience this 50 year old classic championship course designed by world renowned golf course architect William Bell.
 - * The Palo Alto Art Center is On the Road with our programs during their building renovation! Experience art in the community that you can see and touch! Check out the Patrick Dougherty willow sculpture at the corner of Newell and Embarcadero. Or the Mildred Howard glass house on the Civic Center King Plaza! For more information, please visit www.cityofpaloalto.org/artcenter
- For more information on the fun activities listed above and others, please go to www.cityofpaloalto.org/recreation. Worldwide Day of Play is sponsored by Nickelodeon, which will suspend all on air programming from 12-3pm that day.



An 8-pound ball, left, used by bowlers sits on a rack at Palo Alto Bowl. Above, Terri Baugus gets a double high-five from Phil Teschner after getting a strike at Palo Alto Bowl on Sept. 12.

(continued from page 19)

socializing at the Bowl as “a family reunion.” Williams first came to Palo Alto Bowl as a 1-year-old in 1963 with her mother, Bettie Adams. In July, she threw Adams’ 70th birthday party at the alley.

“I’ve bowled all over the Bay Area, but I always come back here,” Williams said.

The mother-daughter duo spent their last night at the Bowl laughing loudly and exchanging sarcastic jokes. But between games, Williams looked out

over the crowd somberly, tapping her teal-tipped fingernails in contemplation.

“It really is special for me,” Williams said. “I’m going to miss it.” ■


Staff Photographer Veronica Weber can be emailed at vweber@paweekly.com.



SEE MORE ONLINE
www.PaloAltoOnline.com

Watch video of the last days of Palo Alto Bowl by Veronica Weber on Palo Alto Online.


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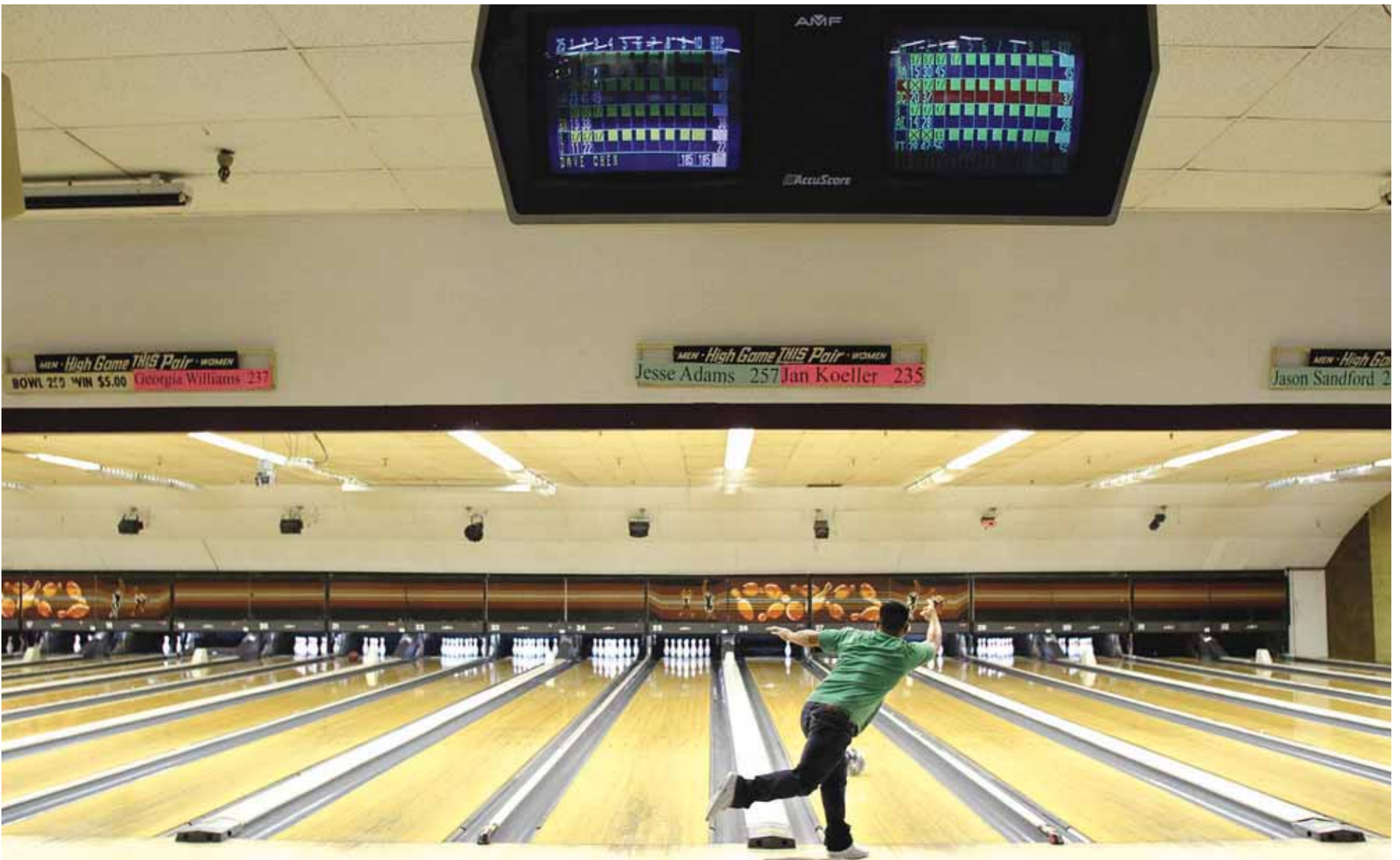
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Cover Story



Clockwise, from top: Michael Avelino of the team “Rock and Stone” in the Guys & Dolls summer league at Palo Alto Bowl aims for the last remaining pin during a game in late August; Luis Valenzuela tosses damaged bowling pins into the dumpster behind Palo Alto Bowl while the bowling alley is disassembled on Sept. 19; Anacleto Salas carries a gutter from the lanes, which will be repurposed by Bel Mateo Bowl, along with bumpers and ball returns. Other companies will reuse the old wood floors and pin-setting machines; Luis Valenzuela, head mechanic of Palo Alto Bowl, looks out at the pin-setting machines in the back of the alley on Sept. 9. He had worked there for 12 years.

On the cover: Grace Siesbuttel readies her 15-pound bowling ball during her final game on Wednesday, Sept. 14, two days before Palo Alto Bowl closed. Photograph by Veronica Weber.



ANNOUNCING THE TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL PALO ALTO WEEKLY

JUDGES:

ADULT/YOUNG ADULT

Tom Parker, Award winning novelist and short story writer, UC Extension and Foothill College Instructor and former Stanford Instructor

Meg Waite Clayton, is the nationally best selling author of *The Four Ms. Bradwells*, *The Wednesday Sisters*, and The Bellwether Prize finalist *The Language of Light*. She lives with her family in Palo Alto, and is at work on a fourth novel to be published by Ballantine in 2013.

Pam Gullard, Pamela Gullard's stories have appeared in the *North American Review*, *Arts and Letters*, *The Iowa Review*, *TriQuarterly* and other journals and anthologies. With co-author Nancy Lund, she has written three nonfiction books; the latest, *Under the Oaks: Two Hundred Years in Atherton*, appeared in 2009. Pamela teaches personal narrative and literature at Menlo College.

CHILDREN/TEEN

Katy Obringer, Former supervisor of Palo Alto Children's Library

Caryn Huberman Yacowitz, Playwright and Children's book author

Nancy Echemendy, Children's book author

All adult winners and first place young winners in each category will be announced in the Palo Alto Weekly in December 2011.
All winning stories will be published online at www.PaloAltoOnline.com



PRIZES

FOR ADULTS:

\$500 Cash - FIRST PLACE
\$300 Cash - SECOND PLACE
\$200 Cash - THIRD PLACE

FOR YOUNG ADULT/CHILDREN/TEEN:

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Certificates are from co-sponsoring area bookstores.

Bell's Books (*ages 15-17)

Kepler's (*ages 12-14)

Linden Tree (*ages 9-11)

*age as of entry deadline

ENTRY DEADLINE:

All Writers:

October 7, 2011 • 5:30 p.m.

CONTEST RULES

1. The contest is open to anyone who lives, works or attends school full-time in Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Atherton, Stanford, Portola Valley, Woodside, Mountain View, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, and East Palo Alto.
2. Limit of one entry per person.
3. **Stories must be typed, double-spaced. Maximum 2,500 words. Longer stories will be disqualified.**
4. \$15 entry fee, along with hard copy, for all ADULT stories; \$5 entry fee for YOUNG WRITERS under 18.
Make checks payable to "Palo Alto Weekly."
5. Entries may not have been previously published.
6. Signed entry form must accompany story. Author's name should NOT appear anywhere on pages of story.
7. All winners are required to email their story to the Palo Alto Weekly in a Microsoft Word Document as an attachment.

Mail manuscripts to: Palo Alto Weekly Short Story Contest,
P.O. Box 1610, Palo Alto, CA 94302 or deliver to 450 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto

Questions: shortstory@pawebweekly.com



ENTRY FORM

(PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY)

Category (As of October 7, 2011):

Adult 9-11 12-14 15-17

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Day Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

School or Work location: _____

Story Title: _____

Exact Word Count _____ *must be filled in to enter

*This story is my original work and I received no assistance with it. **My story is 2,500 words or less.** I understand that the Palo Alto Weekly reserves first publishing and online rights to winning entries. Judges decisions are final. Palo Alto Weekly employees and their relatives and freelancers are not eligible to enter. Stories cannot be returned.*

Authors Signature

Date

Arts & Entertainment

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

REEL INNOVATION

NEW FILM FESTIVAL SALUTES TECHNOLOGY AND RISK-TAKERS, BEHIND AND IN FRONT OF THE CAMERA



Clockwise from top: film auteur Werner Herzog in his "Cave of Forgotten Dreams"; Apple's Steve Wozniak and Steve Jobs from the film "Something Ventured"; a larger-than-life image from the Norwegian film "Troll Hunter."

by Rebecca Wallace

Can a film about wealthy Silicon Valleyites still fill a theater during a recession?

Perhaps, if it remembers them as scrappy starters facing tough odds. "It's fun to root for the underdog," said Dan Geller, who made the movie "Something Ventured" with fellow San Francisco filmmaker Dayna Goldfine.

The new 85-minute documentary profiles such Valley entrepreneurs as Intel founder Gordon Moore and Atari founder Nolan Bushnell together with early venture capitalists including Arthur Rock, Tom Perkins and Bill Draper. The film describes these "high rollers" as laying the groundwork for the United States' start-up economy as far back as the late 1950s — in the face of potential economic failure.

"I think that everyone in the film and everyone involved in making it hopes that it will inspire young would-be entrepreneurs all over the world to go out and develop new technology and start new companies, and these are the kinds of things we need in the world right now in the face of the current unemployment figures are bleak economic forecasts," Goldfine told the Weekly.

With its celebration of innovation, "Something Ventured" should fit right in at the inaugural Palo Alto International Film Festival, which is scheduled from Sept. 29 through Oct. 2.

(continued on next page)

Film festival

(continued from previous page)

Feature films and shorts will be shown at the Palo Alto Square at 3000 El Camino Real and the Aquarius Theatre at 430 Emerson St., both in Palo Alto. The movies were chosen because they are about technology, or were made with new technology, or are innovative in another way, organizers said.

Organized by the nonprofit Palo Alto Institute, which bills itself as a "creativity lab," the festival will also include speakers, discussions, workshops and screenings for kids.

A free outdoor screening of the documentary "Life in a Day" is the kickoff event, on Ramona Street between University and Hamilton avenues in downtown Palo Alto at 8 p.m. Sept. 29. The 2011 film, directed by Kevin McDonald, weaves together footage shot across the globe to give a broad picture of life on one day: July 24, 2010. It will be preceded by the 2-minute Cedric Vella film "YouTube My Facebook," which won an online-judged talent competition held by the festival.

Other scheduled films include "PressPausePlay," a documentary about the ways that a democratized culture can affect the arts. A screening is planned at the Aquarius Theatre at 10:30 p.m. Oct. 2.

Monte Hellman's romantic noir "Road to Nowhere" is at the Palo Alto Square at 7 p.m. Sept. 30, and 9:15 p.m. Oct. 1. "Drei (Three)," a



Former Cisco chair John Morgridge, left, and venture capitalist Tom Perkins in "Something Ventured."



of the film "Road to Nowhere") Steven Gaydos; and Tom Sito, a veteran of animation production.

As for the film "Something Ventured," it is set for two screenings: at 4 p.m. Sept. 30 and 1 p.m. Oct. 2 at the Palo Alto Square. Filmmakers Geller and Goldfine say they plan to attend along with Molly Davis, one of the film's executive producers.

They linked with the Palo Alto festival by meeting executive director Devyani Kamdar earlier this year at the South by Southwest (SXSW) festival in Texas, where "Something Ventured" premiered. Past documentaries by Geller and Goldfine include the acclaimed 2005 film "Ballets Russes," which featured interviews with veterans of pioneering ballet companies; and "Frosh," a 1993 portrait of life in a Stanford University dorm from move-in day to spring finals.

The filmmakers' experiences helped them better approach the big-name Silicon Valley subjects for "Something Ventured," they said. They knew to do their research in advance, reading books, interview transcripts and articles. Watching recorded interviews helped them see how a Reid Dennis or Don Valentine might be coaxed to open up.

"We first met with nearly all of the subjects in the movie without our equipment before returning some weeks later to shoot, so we had a sense of personality, energy and style," Geller said. "That let us know what they were like without the extra fuss of lights and camera around."

Both filmmakers said they found their subjects inspirational in how they ended up changing the world with Apple, Genentech, Cisco, Intel and other companies. They also found them surprisingly entertaining.

"Audiences have consistently remarked on how funny 'Something Ventured' is, and this comes directly out of the quick wit and good storytelling of the people in front of the camera," Goldfine said. ■

What: The first Palo Alto International Film Festival, with screenings, discussions, lectures and workshops

Where: Most screenings will be at the Palo Alto Square theater at 3000 El Camino Real and the Aquarius Theatre at 430 Emerson St., both in Palo Alto. Many speaker events will be at Talenhouse at 542 High St. in Palo Alto.

When: Sept. 29 through Oct. 2, with events in the morning, afternoon and evening.

Cost: Event prices vary (many screenings are \$12), with multi-event passes available. A pass to all films is \$115.

Info: For a complete festival schedule, go to paiff.net.

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Singing nuns don't fly

'Nunsense' cast and band try hard, but the show is stale

by Chad Jones

THEATER REVIEW

When a show can trace its origins to a line of greeting cards, chances are good that it may not be to everyone's taste. What's hilarious coming out of an envelope won't necessarily be gut-busting on a stage.

But you've got to hand it to Dan Goggin. His "Nunsense," which really did come from a line of greeting cards featuring a nun saying funny, nunny things, has certainly defied expectations. The original "Nunsense" opened off Broadway in 1985, and now Goggin sits atop a veritable "Nunsense" empire.

That original show, about singing nuns, dead nuns, amnesiac nuns and bawdy nuns, was followed by a sequel ("The Second Coming," naturally). Then they started coming fast and furiously as the nuns put on a jamboree, sailed on a cruise, taped a Christmas special and performed at the Hollywood Bowl (a bowling alley, not the big Bowl).

Along with the official sequels, there have also been specialty versions, including "Nunsense A-Men" in which the nuns are played by men in holy drag. Why should women have all the fun?

Now the Palo Alto Players bring us yet another spin. Their "Nunsense with a Twist" is the original show but with a hint of the specialty version. If you'd rather not know the twist, stop reading now. As the kids say, Spoiler Alert! In this production — hold on to your wimple — the Mother Superior is played by a man.

Revealing this detail isn't that big a deal because the titular twist is a non-event. Chris Blake, the actor in the habit, plays the role straight, if you will. There's no wink-wink, nudge-nudge tomfoolery. There's just Blake, along with his co-stars, trying hard to make Goggin's rather stale show funny.

And that requires a lot of work. The Palo Alto Players previously produced "Nunsense" in 1992, and I have to take it on faith that back then there was much hilarity to be found in Goggin's premise. Things at the Mount St. Helens Convent are in quite a state. The chef, Sister Julia, Child of God, served up a fatal batch of botulism, killing 52 of the Little Sisters of Hoboken. Mother Superior raised money for the burials through a line of greeting cards, but because she opted to buy a flat-screen TV (a VCR and camcorder in the original), she can't afford to bury the four remaining "blue nuns" being stored in the convent freezer.

So the Little Sisters, taking to the stage of their school (where the 8th graders are putting on a production of "Grease"), put on a benefit to raise the last of the burial money.

That's it for plot, if you don't



Charlotte Jacobs, front, with Jennifer Martinelli (front right), Jennifer Gregoire (center), Juanita Harris (back left) and Chris Blare (back right).

count the conundrum of Sister Mary Amnesia, a nun who lost her memory when a crucifix fell on her head. If the great mystery of her identity compels you, then the show's silly denouement will be a particular thrill.

Certainly Goggin never set out to win a Pulitzer Prize for drama with "Nunsense." Clearly his goal was to have a lot of silly fun at the expense of Catholic nuns in traditional black-and-white habits. The basic presumption is that nuns are inherently funny and that everyone finds them as hilarious as Goggin apparently does. Therefore, the equation of nuns plus unusual circumstances equals comedy genius.

Or not. I don't happen to find nuns particularly entertaining or enigmatic. So the notion of watching nuns tap dancing, singing show tunes, operating nun puppets, talking like teamsters, doing interpretive ballet or delivering double-entendre jokes for two hours is actually a form of torture.

By opening night, director Mark Drumm had failed to finely tune his cast enough to land jokes with regularity. In fact, after some lame jokes, you could practically hear the chorus of crickets outside the Lucie Stern Theatre doors.

There were some big laughs on opening night, but not as many as there should have been, and though the cast and band worked hard, the comic momentum never built to the level required for sublime silliness.

Each of the nuns, however, is blessed with a moment to shine. Blake's Mother Superior is at her funniest when she accidentally huffs amyl nitrates and sings "Turn Up the Spotlight." Juanita Harris as Sister Mary Hubert gets to raise the rafters with a gospel-light number called "Holier Than Thou."

Tough talking Sister Robert Anne (Charlotte Jacobs) is supposedly the understudy but

gets plenty of center-stage time, most notably in the semi-serious "Growing Up Catholic," and Sister Mary Leo (Jennifer Gregoire) gets her dance on in the "Dying Nun Ballet."

The evening's best song, "I Could've Gone to Nashville," belongs to Sister Mary Amnesia (Jennifer Martinelli), a nun with a country twang in her heart.

Though there are enjoyable elements in this production, the whole "Nunsense" premise feels stale. Perhaps the page has turned on nuns automatically being funny simply because they're the antithesis of humor.

If we look at what's hot on Broadway right now, it seems the nuns of "Sister Act" are having a hard time competing with the Mormon missionaries of that musical juggernaut known as "The Book of Mormon." Now there's a show whose ribaldry makes "Nunsense" look like, well, a 26-year-old greeting card. ■

What: "Nunsense with a Twist" by Dan Goggin, presented by Palo Alto Players

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

When: Through Oct. 2 with 8 p.m. shows Thursday through Saturday and 2:30 p.m. matinees on Sundays

Cost: Tickets are \$32 general and \$28 for seniors and students on Thursdays and Sundays.

Info: Go to paplayers.org or call 650-329-0891.



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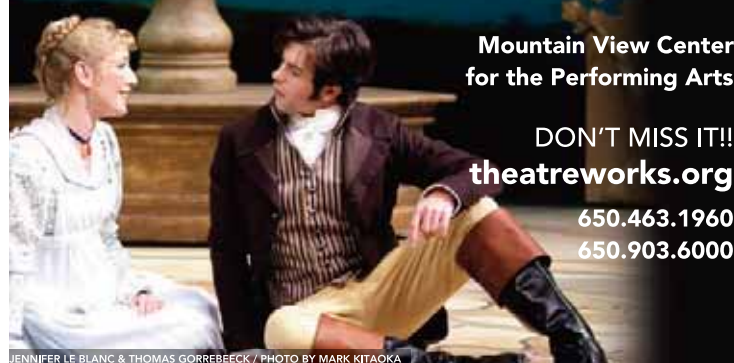
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Eating Out

FOOD FEATURE

A little Swedish comfort food

IKEA serves up fast, inexpensive fare to ease the shopping experience

By Carol Blitzter

It's 2 p.m. on a Wednesday afternoon and the football-field-sized dining area at the IKEA restaurant in East Palo Alto is relatively calm.

One couple is feeding the baby, using a high chair; a toddler shrieks — is it joy? A white-haired couple shares an afternoon snack, while a smattering of small groups quietly chat and nibble.

With 285 seats, the IKEA restaurant serves hundreds of meals a day, several hundreds on the weekends, offering a respite for folks seeking an affordable sofa or that perfect dining-room table. Attracted by the low prices and varied menu, some skip the sofa and head straight for the cafeteria line.

The restaurant caters to all ages, with everything from its signature Swedish meatballs (\$2.99 for a small plate) to kids' meal combos at \$2.49. Hal Mash, IKEA

food manager, keeps a close eye on his “just-in-time” food service, cranking out platters of Swedish meatballs in 13 minutes, which are served between 11 a.m. and 8 p.m. daily.

What separates IKEA's restaurant from others, Mash said, is its support role to the store. “It's about taking care of the customer, so they'll have a comfortable and easier experience,” he said.

It's all self-serve — much like IKEA furniture is primarily self-assemble. A large sign suggests that patrons bus their trays, but it's not required.

“It's all about the culture. We work hard to keep everything affordable, and if you do a little part of it. ... It allows us to be competitive,” Mash said.

That devotion to keeping prices down and quality up has pushed the food section's business — which features the cafeteria, a Swed-

(continued on next page)



Veronica Weber

IKEA food manager Hal Mash, photographed at the East Palo Alto IKEA restaurant, has his hands full with Swedish meatballs and smoked salmon.

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Eating Out

(continued from previous page)

ish market and a bistro by the check-out — up 11 percent this past year, Mash added.

Still, the restaurant isn't designed to be a profit center, he said. "Our goal is to sustain what we do and not

be an impact on the store. ... If the store is successful, we're successful. We want to be cost-conscious, mindful of resources."

With those goals in mind, IKEA offers weekly and occasional specials, including free breakfast every Monday morning between 9:30 and

11 a.m., and offering customers a rebate on their restaurant bill if they spend \$100 in the store (and present the receipt at check-out).

"Especially in the economy right now, people are looking for a deal," Vanessa Garcia, IKEA's local marketing specialist, added.

Mash has spent much of his adult life in the food industry, earning a degree in restaurant management from the University of Illinois. "I've done it all, from the restaurant business to quick food to nightclub type," he said.

He's been with IKEA for five years, beginning as a team leader and working his way through three assistant positions. He trained in Emeryville and spent a year in Tampa, Fla., arriving as an opening assistant. Fourteen months ago he returned to the East Palo Alto store, and soon filled his current management position.

Mash contrasts IKEA with his other food-industry experience, "the difference being that my focus is one of supporting the company and we're here to help sell home furnishings, sofas," he said.

Garcia added, "It's such a big store; we try to keep it family-friendly and family-oriented," noting that the store provides a children's play area with a flat-screen TV for watching cartoons, as well as bottle warmers in the restaurant area.

"It can be exhausting, especially if you're here with kids. ... (You can) fuel up and then go downstairs and finish your shopping or maybe come



Veronica Weber

Swedish meatballs remain the restaurant's most popular item.

back another day," she said.

All IKEA stores offer the same core menu (think Swedish meatballs and gravadlax) as well as regional specials. In East Palo Alto that might be a Latin dish, Mash said, and in Philadelphia, cheese steak, or pasta in Italy.

Although the most popular item is the meatballs, the IKEA restaurant also offers a Swedish crepe filled with spinach and cheese, a Greek salad, vegetarian and chicken wraps, pea soup and macaroni and cheese.

The core menu is enhanced by local produce grown in Northern California, Mash said, adding that the emphasis is on healthful, well prepared, hormone- and preservative-free food. "The pasta is organic, there's no MSG in the cream sauce. We really try to look at that as well,"

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he added.

And all suppliers must follow the I-way, Garcia said, which means no child or forced labor, at least minimum wage, no hazardous conditions and they must be environmentally friendly.

"We keep the price down through volume," she said. "We know people are here and hungry; we don't want them to spend \$40 to 50 on a meal for their family when they're here to buy a couch."

The Swedish market also appeals to another customer base: Swedish expats.

Ninos Chankos, commercial restaurant team leader for IKEA, grew up in Sweden. He said there's actually quite a Swedish population in Silicon Valley, especially since Ericsson has a presence in San Jose.

Swedes no longer have to shop only in specialty international markets to find such things as dryck flader (an elderflower drink), sylt lingon (lingonberry jam), prinskorv lindvalls (small sausages) or Abba fiskbullar (fishballs in lobster sauce). And they can find a whole crayfish party kit, complete with bibs, songbooks and hats — along with instructions on how to peel crayfish.

For those still hungry on the way out, the bistro offers pizza, frozen yogurt, hot dogs or cinnamon buns. Or one can pick up frozen Swedish meatballs, gravy and mashed-potato mix to prepare at home. ■

Associate Editor Carol Blitzer can be emailed at cblitzer@paweeekly.com.

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ShopTalk

REVAMPED ANN ... The newly done-up Ann Taylor has reopened at Stanford Shopping Center, redesigned by S. Russell Groves architects of New York City. Intended to look like a "modern contemporary home," the store has white-washed maple hardwood floors, crystal chandeliers and a "runway" of mannequins bisecting the shop, according to a press release. Back-lit mirrors have been installed in the dressing rooms to flatter shoppers as they twirl.

— **Rebecca Wallace**

CHEESE, PLEASE ... The Melt, a new casual restaurant specializing in the classic grilled-cheese sandwich,

is set to open in Stanford Shopping Center sometime before Thanksgiving. Created by Flip Video founder Jonathan Kaplan, The Melt is billed as a restaurant that will use fresh and all-natural ingredients and offer artfully prepared gourmet combos. Beer and wine will be offered, along with a weekly special that will be listed on the restaurant's Facebook page, according to Jim Ryan, vice president of business development for The Melt. Customers will also have the option to round up their check total and donate to charitable organizations fighting to end hunger.

— **Janelle Eastman**

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Movies

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Brad Pitt as Oakland A's general manager Billy Beane in "Moneyball."

Moneyball ★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) The unlikely tandem of Brad Pitt and Jonah Hill helps drive what is arguably the most compelling and insightful baseball-themed film since Robert Redford launched a homerun into the stadium lights in "The Natural" (1984). "Moneyball" — based on the 2003 novel by Michael Lewis about Oakland A's general manager Billy Beane (Pitt) and his unorthodox approach to fielding a winning team on the cheap — offers a captivating and often humorous look into the business side of America's pastime.

The year is 2002. The cash-strapped A's are starting a new season after losing to the heavily favored (and robustly bankrolled) New York Yankees in the 2001 American League Division Series. The A's have lost their three best players to free agency and the charismatic Beane is leaving no base unturned in trying to build a competitive team despite a bottom-of-the-barrel budget.

Beane hooks up with young economics whiz Peter Brand (Hill), an unheralded wunderkind in the value of baseball statistics

(Brand's character is based on former A's assistant general manager Paul DePodesta). Together the duo eschews standard baseball wisdom and begins revamping the team using an analytical/mathematical approach, much to the chagrin of the organization's more traditionally minded scouting department. As the A's get off to a rough start, naysayers are quickly ridiculing Beane's unconventional decisions and calling for his ouster.

To make matters worse, stodgy manager Art Howe (Philip Seymour Hoffman) refuses to make the lineup changes Beane insists upon, causing a further rift in the team dynamics. But Beane's dogged persistence and Brand's unwavering belief in the numeric approach eventually transform the team into a true contender as it rips off a historic 20-game win streak.

Pitt's firecracker portrayal and Hill's understated performance really propel "Moneyball" from standard sports fare to one of the year's best films. The acting is solid across the board, although the grumpy-to-a-fault disposition of Hoffman's character doesn't of-

fer the otherwise exceptional actor much wiggle room. The smart script by Steven Zaillian and Aaron Sorkin serves up a wealth of humorous scenarios, such as when Beane and scout Ron Washington (Brent Jennings) visit the home of first baseman Scott Hatteberg (Chris Pratt), or in roundtable team discussions involving Beane and Brand.

Flashbacks to Beane's time as a highly touted rookie whose career as a player imploded make the character that much more sympathetic, and poignant glimpses of Beane's personal struggles give the film a sense of intimacy. As Pitt ages he resembles Redford more and more. And like Redford, Pitt's undeniable charm and steadfast confidence help elevate those around him — a true natural.

Rated PG-13 for some strong language. 2 hours, 6 minutes.

— Tyler Hanley

(continued on next page)

from the director of *milk* and *good will hunting*

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"When Gus Van Sant puts out a new movie, you go."
—David Fear, TIME OUT NEW YORK

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

8:30 A.M., Thursday, October 6, 2011 Palo Alto Council Chambers, 1st Floor, Civic Center, 250 Hamilton Avenue. Go to the Development Center at 285 Hamilton Avenue to review filed documents; contact Diana Tamale for information regarding business hours at 650-329-2144. An ARB retreat will follow the Hearing item.

180 El Camino Real [11PLN-00253]: Request by Jim Ryan, on behalf of the Board of Trustees to the Leland Stanford Junior University, for Architectural Review of a new storefront, two projecting (blade) signs, window signs, and two wall signs for The Melt at the Stanford Shopping Center. Zone District CC. Environmental Assessment: Exempt from the provisions of CEQA, 15301 (Existing Facilities).

Amy French
Manager of Current Planning



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING of the City of Palo Alto Historic Resources Board [HRB]

8:00 A.M., Wednesday, October 5, 2011 Palo Alto Council Chambers, 1st Floor, Civic Center, 250 Hamilton Avenue. Go to the Development Center at 285 Hamilton Avenue to review filed documents; contact Diana Tamale for information regarding business hours at 650.329.2144.

456 University Avenue [11PLN-00319]: Request by Hayes Group Architects on behalf of Palo Alto Theater Corporation for Historic Resources Board (HRB) review of interior modifications to the building known as the "Varsity Theater", a building designated as Category 1 on the City's Historic Inventory. Interior modifications include removal of the 1997 central staircase, installation of a demising wall to create new office and retail spaces at the ground floor, installation of a glass cover at the existing second floor opening, and installation of a new stairway to serve the second floor office area. HRB review of this project is requested in that the existing interior contributes to the overall integrity of the building as a historic resource. Environmental Assessment: Exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act, Section 15301 (Existing Facilities). Zone District: CD-C(GF)(P).

Steven Turner, Advance Planning Manager


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(continued from previous page)

Killer Elite ★★

(Century 16, Century 20) You'd be forgiven for mistaking "Killer Elite" for a remake of the 1975 intriguer "The Killer Elite." Rather, the new action picture is a renamed adaptation of Sir Ranulph Fiennes' 1991 book "The Feather Men." But you can't call a Jason Statham picture "The Feather Men." It just isn't done.

Rather shakily billed as "based on a true story," "Killer Elite" concerns fallout from the 1970s Oman War. A tribal Dubai sheik seeking revenge for his lost sons holds hostage grizzled special-ops man Hunter (Robert De Niro) to force his mentee Danny (Statham) into exacting justice. To plan and execute the assassinations of the SAS operatives whom the sheik holds responsible, Danny must come out of self-imposed retirement and call in favors with old friends, including the somewhat loose can-

non Davies (Dominic Purcell).

When a clubby group of ex-SAS bankers and businessmen gets wind of what the "top-class professional assassins" are up to, they employ yet another ex-SAS "spook," Clive Owen's Spike, to put a stop to Danny. It's all doled out in oft-clunky dialogue (like the blunt summation "Omar was a dirty war. What we did there was questionable") that marks time between assorted bombs, chases, firefights and fistfights. Since those are the elements that get action junkies' butts in seats, audiences may not so much mind.

First-time feature director Gary McKendry handles the cloak-and-dagger-meet-ammo theatrics surprisingly well. The action alternates from been-there, done-that to in-your-face, eye-widening stuff, with a pinch of the absurd thrown in. What "Killer Elite" never manages is to convince us of its sociopolitical import (though not for lack of pretentious feints) or its emotional resonance (Danny's

respectively romantic and platonic loves: Yvonne Strahovski as his Aussie girlfriend, and Hunter).

De Niro fans will get a charge out of seeing the 68-year-old actor go into action, and his dialogue scenes are zestier than the rest. Primarily, though, this is Statham's show (with a nice assist from Owen, wearing a milky left eye and a perpetual state of annoyance).

Just as the film has nothing fresh to say (unless you count "Killing's easy — living with it's the hard part"), the lean, mean Statham has nothing fresh to offer, delivering the exact same benignly growly performance he always has. Those expecting John le Carré-level intrigue are right out of luck, but Statham fans can get their fix.

Rated R for strong violence, language and some sexuality/nudity. One hour, 45 minutes.

— Peter Canavese

MOVIE TIMES

| | |
|---|---|
| Abduction (PG-13) (Not Reviewed) | Century 16: Noon, 2:35, 5:15, 7:50 & 10:25 p.m. Century 20: 11:15 a.m.; 12:20, 1:45, 2:55, 4:20, 7:10, 8:05, 9:45 & 10:40 p.m.; Fri.-Mon., Wed. & Thu. also at 5:30 p.m.; Tue. also at 5:25 p.m. |
| An Affair to Remember (1957) | Stanford Theatre: Fri. at 3:30 & 7:30 p.m. |
| An Evening with Jane Goodall (PG) (Not Reviewed) | Century 16: Tue. at 8 p.m. Century 20: Tue. at 8 p.m. |
| Bringing Up Baby (1938) | Stanford Theatre: Fri. at 5:35 & 9:35 p.m. |
| Colombiana (PG-13) (Not Reviewed) | Century 20: 10:35 p.m. |
| Contagion (PG-13) ★★★ | Century 16: 11:05 a.m.; 1:45, 4:25, 7:20 & 9:55 p.m. Century 20: 11:20 a.m.; 12:15, 1:50, 2:55, 4:20, 5:25, 6:55, 8 & 9:35 p.m. |
| Crazy, Stupid, Love (PG-13) ★★1/2 | Century 16: 10:25 p.m. Century 20: 1:55 & 7:35 p.m. |
| The Debt (R) ★★★ | Century 16: 11:30 a.m.; 2:10, 4:50, 7:35 & 10:20 p.m. Century 20: 11:25 a.m.; 2, 4:40, 7:25 & 10:05 p.m. |
| Detective Dee and the Mystery of the Phantom Flame (PG-13) ★★★ | Aquarius Theatre: 2, 5 & 8:30 p.m. |
| Dolphin Tale (PG) (Not Reviewed) | Century 16: 11 a.m.; 4:20 & 9:40 p.m.; In 3D at 1:40 & 7 p.m. Century 20: 12:30, 3:10, 5:55 & 8:35 p.m.; In 3D at 11:20 a.m.; 2, 4:45, 7:30 & 10:10 p.m. |
| Drive (R) ★★★1/2 | Century 16: 11:40 a.m.; 12:40, 2:10, 3:10, 4:40, 5:40, 7:40, 9 & 10:10 p.m. Century 20: Noon, 2:50, 5:20, 7:55 & 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: 1:50 & 7:35 p.m.; In 3D at 11 a.m. & 4:45 p.m. Century 20: Sat.-Thu. at 12:30 p.m.; In 3D Fri.-Sun. & Tue.-Thu. at 6:50 p.m. |
| The Help (PG-13) ★★ | Century 16: 12:05, 3:25, 6:50 & 10:05 p.m. Century 20: 12:10, 3:35, 7:05 & 10:15 p.m. |
| I Don't Know How She Does It (PG-13) (Not Reviewed) | Century 16: 2:20, 4:35, 7:05 & 9:25 p.m. Century 20: 12:05, 2:40, 4:55, 7:20 & 9:45 p.m. |
| Killer Elite (R) ★★ | Century 16: 11:10 a.m.; 1:55, 4:50, 7:45 & 10:30 p.m. Century 20: 11:40 a.m.; 12:50, 2:25, 3:40, 5:10, 6:25, 7:45, 9:10 & 10:30 p.m. |
| The Lion King (G) (Not Reviewed) | Century 16: 12:30, 2:45, 5:10, 7:55 & 10:15 p.m.; In 3D at 11:45 a.m.; 2, 4:30, 7:10 & 9:35 p.m. Century 20: 11:10 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. |
| Midnight in Paris (PG-13) ★★1/2 | Aquarius Theatre: 3, 5:30 & 8 p.m. |
| Moneyball (Not Rated) ★★1/2 | Century 16: 11 a.m.; 12:25, 2, 3:30, 5, 7, 8:15 & 10 p.m. Century 20: 11:30 a.m.; 2:30, 4, 5:30, 7, 8:30 & 10 p.m.; Sat.-Thu. also at 1 p.m. |
| Our Idiot Brother (R) ★★1/2 | Century 20: Fri. at 9:55 p.m.; Sat., Sun. & Tue.-Thu. at 3:25 & 9:55 p.m.; Mon. at 3:25 p.m. |
| Restless (PG-13) (Not Reviewed) | Palo Alto Square: 1:45, 4:30 & 7:15 p.m.; Fri. & Sat. also at 9:55 p.m. |
| Rise of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) (Not Reviewed) | Century 16: 11:50 a.m.; 2:30, 5 & 7:40 p.m. Century 20: 11:15 a.m.; 4:45 & 10:25 p.m. |
| Spy Kids: All the Time in the World (PG) (Not Reviewed) | Century 16: 11:55 a.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: 11:15 a.m.; 1:50 & 4:55 p.m.; Fri.-Mon., Wed. & Thu. also at 7:30 & 10:05 p.m. Century 20: 11:50 a.m.; 2:25, 5:10 & 10:30 p.m.; Fri.-Mon., Wed. & Thu. also at 7:45 p.m. |
| Warrior (PG-13) ★★★ | Century 16: 10:10 p.m. Century 20: 9:30 p.m. |

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

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

Palo Alto (493-3456)

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

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

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

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

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

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Sports Shorts

OAKS' REPORT . . . The Menlo College football team will take its 3-0 record on the road this weekend to face Whitworth University on Saturday in Spokane, Wash. The Oaks are coming off a 41-17 blasting of host Occidental last weekend. Four forced turnovers and a running game that totaled 203 yards was the big difference for Menlo. Sophomore running back **Thomas Reynolds** ran for a game-high 137 yards while scoring a big second quarter touchdown to put Menlo up 17-7 after going down 7-3 early. Junior wide receiver **Robert Adan** tossed a 27 yard bomb to fellow receiver **Michael Alexander** for Menlo's first touchdown. Along with six catches for 62 yards and his fifth receiving touchdown of the season, Adan went 2 for 2 in the passing game. The explosive Oaks' offense which has now scored 97 points in the first three contests was spurred on by a brilliant defense that was the happy recipient of four turnovers, including two interceptions.

LOCAL COLLEGIANS . . . The UC Davis women's volleyball team is off to the best start in program history and Palo Alto High grad **Allison Whitson** is a big part of it.

Whitson, a junior outside hitter, was named Most Valuable Player of the Aggie Invitational last week as she helped her team down Hofstra (3-1), blank Air Force (3-0) and down Seattle (3-1). The Aggies began the week with a 3-2 win over Sacramento State. Whitson had kill-dig double-doubles against Hofstra and Seattle. The Aggies are 15-1 and are on a 10-match winning streak after sweeping host Pacific, 25-23, 25-23, 25-15 on Wednesday night in Stockton. Whitson led the way with 14 kills and hit .522 to help the Aggies open their Big West Conference season. Whitson, who entered this season with 747 career kills, has 223 through the 16 matches thus far. . . . In men's soccer, Palo Alto High grad **Jenner Fox** ('10) of Yale appeared on the Ivy League soccer Honor Roll for the second week in a row after a goal and an assist in a Yale victory over Quinnipiac University on Sept. 9. Fox also had two goals and two assists on Sept. 18 in a 7-0 drubbing of a Marist College team coming off a four-match win streak. . . . In women's volleyball, Castilleja grad **Taylor Docter** and Gunn grad **Teresa Skelly** helped Harvard go 1-2 in the Harvard Invitational last weekend. Docter had 13 digs in a 25-12, 25-22, 25-17 win over Holy Cross to open the tourney. Skelly had four blocks in a 3-1 loss to Northeastern, and Docter had nine kills and Skelly five blocks in a 25-17, 25-20, 26-16 loss to Navy as Harvard finished the weekend with a 7-3 overall record. . . . In men's water polo, freshman **John Holland-McCowan** from Menlo School scored three goals for Harvard in a 10-8 loss to Navy's B team during the North-South Tournament last weekend in Annapolis, Md.

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Castilleja's volleyball coaching staff features Hubbard family members Tracie (Meskell, the team's head coach, left), Gwen (center) and their father, Tom. The Gators are off to a 10-5 start this season.

It's a family affair

Sisters will be pitted against each other in Menlo-Castilleja volleyball showdown

by Keith Peters

It was one big happy family for the Hubbards last fall as dad and three of his four daughters coached at all levels of the Castilleja volleyball program.

Second-oldest daughter, Tracie Meskell, was head varsity coach. Second-youngest daughter, Gwen, was a varsity assistant. Youngest daughter, Atlee, was coach of the JV and freshman squads while proud papa, Tom, assisted all three while their mom, Lyndal, rooted for them all.

That one big happy family is now a family divided, if only for two matches every season.

Tracie, Gwen and Tom still make up Castilleja's coaching staff but Atlee has moved to rival Menlo School and is the Knights' varsity head coach this season.

On Tuesday, Atlee will bring her Menlo squad to Castilleja to face her family members in a West Bay Athletic League (Foothill Division) opener at 5:45 p.m. It should be an interesting affair, to say the least.

"It'll be interesting and fun," said Tom. "I'll be sad either way, unless there's a power outage."

Last year was a dream for Tom and his wife, having three of their four daughters together at Castilleja.

"Being in the gym with your three daughters, it's like one of those commercials — priceless," Tom said.



Youngest daughter, Atlee Hubbard, is the new head volleyball coach at Menlo School and has her team off to an 11-3 start.

Atlee, who played professional volleyball in Spain for two years and in Indonesia before landing at Castilleja, wanted to test herself as a head coach and thus her flight from the family nest.

"I was searching for a head coach position at the varsity level and Menlo happened to have the opening," Atlee said. "Facing my sister just adds to the excitement of coaching at Menlo."

Tracie couldn't believe it when she heard the news of Atlee landing

at Menlo.

"My first thoughts were, 'Oh great, she had to pick a team in our league!'" Tracie said. "I figured she would coach a team that we might play against, but never a team within our own league. Perhaps it is better that we are not in the same (Central Coast Section) division, although we might be moving up to D4 in a few years."

Tuesday's opening showdown will

(continued on page 35)

CROSS COUNTRY

A run of good fortune

Talented Stanford teams host the annual Stanford Invitational

by Rick Eyrer

The men's and women's cross-country teams certainly have done their share of adding to the championship legacy at Stanford. The programs have combined to bring home 24 Pac-10 championship banners.

The Cardinal also has won a combined nine NCAA titles since 1996, but none since the women took home the trophy in 2007. The men haven't won since 2003.

Stanford still fields teams worthy of championship consideration every year, and those teams will likely be on display Saturday as part of the Stanford Invitational run on the splendor that is the Stanford Golf Course.

Nearly 300 high school teams will compete in 12 divisional races, beginning at 9 a.m., with two college races running back-to-back starting at 10:50 a.m.

The Stanford men and women have consistently finished among the top 10 in the nation, and it's been no different since Jason Dunn took over four years ago.

Dunn did make one change this season and it could prove to be his best decision. Until this year he coached both genders but until this year he didn't have a coach the quality of former Stanford All-American PattiSue Plumer.

Plumer will concentrate on coaching the women's team while Dunn will take of the men's squad.

"We're fortunate to have her," Dunn said. "She can work directly with the women and we work in tandem with the whole group. We're very happy to have that arrangement."

Both coaches have a lot of talent in their midst. Dunn will use a lineup that includes seniors Chris Derrick and Jake Riley, two of the most-decorated runners in school history.

Derrick, a 10-time All-American, has finished seventh, third and fifth, respectively, at the national championships his first three years.

Riley, a six-time All-American, joins Derrick in the discussion as possible national titlists. After finishing 55th and 54th his first two years, Riley jumped to sixth at the NCAA meet last year.

"They are both great runners and great leaders," Dunn said. "They have a passion for finding out how good they can be. They look forward to running against the best. They challenge their teammates."

Also entered Saturday are juniors Ben Johnson and Riley Sullivan and sophomore twins Ryan Valdes and Tyler Valdes, plus Erik Olson.

(continued on next page)

X-Country

(continued from previous page)

Olson is a runner to watch, says Dunn. He won the U.S. Junior National championship in February. "I see good things from him," Dunn said.

Dunn also will get a look at freshmen Marco Bertolotti, Travis Edwards and Kenny Krotzer in a competitive situation.

The Cardinal has so much depth that Dunn won't run some of his top recruits. Highly touted twins Joe Rosa and Jim Rosa are scheduled to run unattached.

The remainder of the lengthy roster has either competed at the season-opening USF Invitational or will likely run at the Notre Dame Invitational next weekend.

Stanford senior Brendan Gregg led the Cardinal to the team title in Golden Gate Park last weekend, finishing first. He was joined by sophomore Tyler Stutzman, senior JT Sullivan, sophomore Andrew Berberick and Kevin Havel, all of whom finished in the top 10.

"The challenge is to utilize our depth as we work toward the championship season," Dunn said. "We talk about the importance of the top 10 or 15 runners. We want to make sure everybody feels a part of what we're doing here. Anybody can push our top five runners."

Stanford likely will split its squad for two scheduled meets in mid-October before determining who competes at the Pac-12 championships on Oct. 29.

The NCAA West Regional meet will be held at Stanford on Nov. 12, nine days before the national meet in Terre Haute, Ind.

The focus remains on this weekend, though.

"It's an opportunity to showcase the team in front of local fans," Dunn said. "We get to compete and start getting a sense about our teams and how strong we can be."

Stanford returns six of the seven runners from last year's national meet and begins the season ranked No. 2 in the country.

Plumer, meanwhile, takes over a young but talented women's team and is thrilled to be back on The Farm.

"I feel really lucky to be here," Plumer said. "I wasn't in any hurry to leave (Los Altos High), but I kind of owe my life to Stanford, for what it did for me and my career."

A former NCAA champion and two-time U.S. Olympian, Plumer will draw on her vast experience as an athlete and coach.

"I've been to where they want to go," she said. "I know what it takes both physically and mentally to be a national champion."

Stanford may have its best women's team on paper since the last NCAA title in 2007. Returning is six of seven that ran at last year's NCAA meet and will be bolstered with a recruiting class that could be second to none. The Cardinal women also are the defending conference champs.

"If we can stay healthy and stay mentally fresh, then we can be successful," Plumer said.

Returning is a trio of potential

SCHEDULE

STANFORD INVITATIONAL Saturday at Stanford Golf Course

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

front-runners in Stephanie Marcy, Kathy Kroeger and Jessica Tonn. All are listed to run Saturday.

Marcy is a back for a fifth year after earning All-America status on the track in the 10,000 meters for a second consecutive season. She has been a model of consistency for the Cardinal, always coming through in the big meets. She was the team's No. 1 runner at the past two NCAA finals. This season, she will look to add her first All-America honor in cross country.

Kroeger returns for her junior season, having been the Pac-10 runner-up in cross country last season. She is a two-time All-American in the 5,000 meters during the track season and has potential to run near the front of any race she that she competes.

Tonn completed a standout freshman season, helping Stanford to the Pac-10 title by placing eighth at the conference meet. With another year of experience, Tonn should challenge for All-America honors at the NCAA meet this season.

Also returning from last year's NCAA squad are Georgia Griffin, Alex Dunne and Madeline Duhon — also slated to run Saturday.

Joining the large group of returners is a potentially program-changing group of incoming freshmen. The group is deep and talented and offers a chance at super-stardom from more than one athlete.

Aisling Cuffe headlines the class, having won the Footlocker national title last year and being named Gatorade National Cross Country Runner of the Year. Cuffe then went on to qualify for the World Junior Cross Country team, competing against several college freshmen and finishing at the top American.

Cuffe is not alone, however, as Chelsey Sveinsson is another with incredible potential. She was the Footlocker national runner-up in 2008, one spot ahead of Cuffe, and after battling injuries is back at full strength this season.

Also in the class are two of the top milers in the nation in Alli Billmeyer and Molly McNamara. They are joined by other potential standouts, Mary Kate Anselmini, Jaye Buchbinder and Aimee Trujillo.

Plumer hopes her young team won't get caught up in all first-week activities.

"It's orientation week for the freshmen," she said. "They're supposed to be out Friday until 1 a.m. Hopefully they're not out that late." ■



Chris Derrick

Replacement for injured Stanford football player likely won't be wearing a Mohawk

by Rick Eymer

Jarek Lancaster knows it will take a lot to duplicate the efforts of injured junior linebacker Shayne Skov. That's why he's not even going to try to wear a Mohawk haircut.

"I couldn't pull it off like Shayne," said the redshirt sophomore. "Maybe a little eye black, but not the Mohawk. My mom would disapprove."

Instead Lancaster hopes to contribute what he can on the field. He has an extra week to work it out as the Stanford football team enjoys its bye week after beating Arizona, 37-10, over the weekend to open the Pac-12 Conference season.

Life without Skov may not be the same, but the Stanford football team will have to put his season-ending knee injury in their respective rear view mirrors and work to keep the vehicle pointed straight ahead.

Stanford coach David Shaw has worked his entire adult life preparing for just such situations. He turned to the next couple of guys in line and handed them his trust and faith in helping lead the team toward its stated goals.

Lancaster will get most of the playing time, while redshirt freshman A.J. Tarpley will be included in the rotation.

Lancaster came on when Skov was injured Saturday late in the first half and played, if not spectacularly, steady and made all the right plays as nationally fifth-ranked Stanford (3-0) turned a six-point halftime edge into a rout of host Arizona.

Lancaster came to Stanford as a safety and was switched to linebacker "two days into freshmen camp," he said. "I guess they decided I was better as a linebacker and I trained all summer to bulk up."

Skov injured his knee in the second quarter of the Cardinal victory at Arizona on Saturday night. Wildcats receiver Juron Criner was tackled and knocked into Skov's leg on the play.

Skov spread out on the field for about a minute, then had to be helped to the sideline. He laid on a training table behind Stanford's bench with his knee heavily wrapped before he left for the locker room on a cart just before halftime.

Skov led Stanford with 84 tackles last season to go with 7 1/2 sacks. Even though he didn't play in the second half Saturday, Skov still leads the Cardinal with 19 tackles this year.

Shaw also saw his top receiver and tight end get hurt during the first half of the game with the Wildcats. Coby Fleener was cleared to practice on Sunday. Chris Owusu returned to action in Tucson.

It should be noted that despite the absence of Skov, the Cardinal, seventh in the nation in scoring defense, shut out Arizona in the second half as Andrew Luck and the Stanford offense pulled it together to secure the victory — Stanford's 11th straight dating to last year and the longest in school history since a 13-game streak ended in 1941.

There's no game this weekend, a blessing for Shaw, who can work on sharpening things in all phases of Stanford's game as the contest with visiting UCLA, set for 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 1, looms on the horizon.

"Obviously, those are huge shoes to fill," Lancaster said following Tuesday's practice. "He was our emotional leader, the most vocal. He's still in our meetings trying to help as much as he can."

Cardinal junior linebacker Chase Thomas joined Shaw in giving Lancaster his support.

"He's shown he can be accountable," Thomas said. "He has great instincts, something that can't be taught. He can find the ball and he can tackle. Shayne will still be around. He wants to spread his wisdom."

Perhaps the most notable aspect of the situation is Stanford's depth at several positions, including linebacker. Shaw said it was light "night and day" in comparison to earlier years.

"We have recruited hard and we have good players," Shaw said. "We're going to need every available body. Shayne was one heck of a player but we're not going to stop playing. A.J. is bigger and Jarek is faster and both are ball hawks who find a way to the ball and find a way to make tackles."

Skov, just days after learning he was not going to play again this year, was back with the team in meetings. In fact, he came back onto the field in support of his teammates. ■



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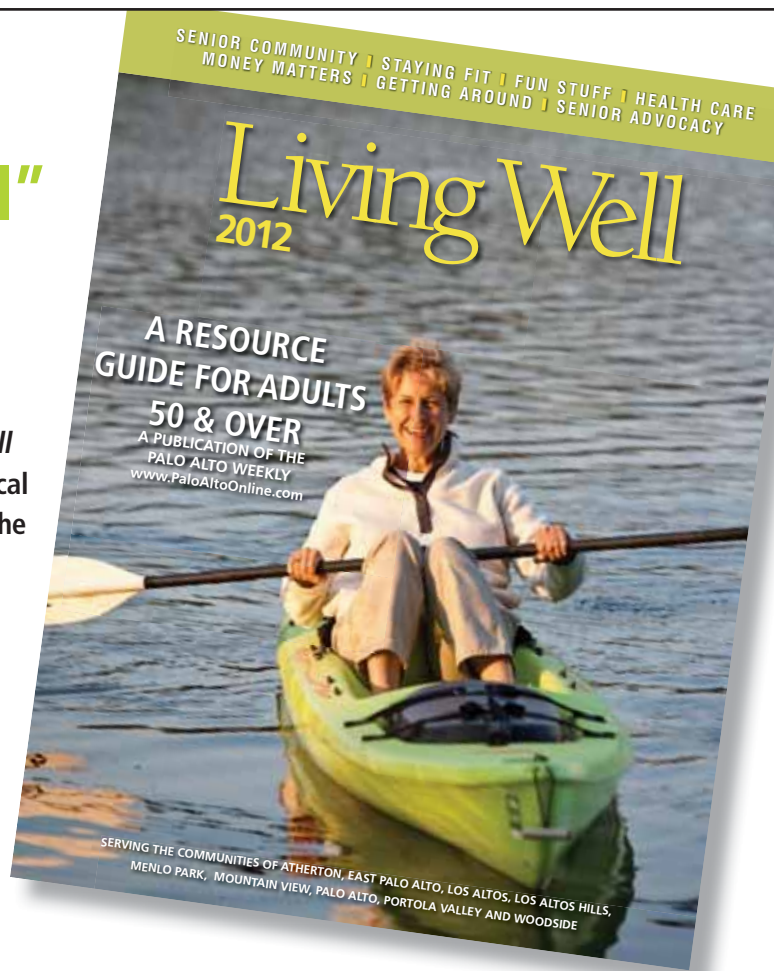
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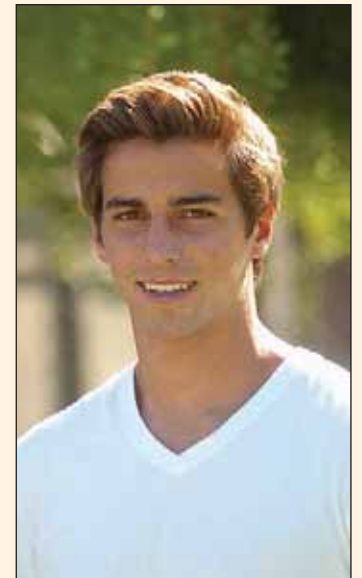
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ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



Hannah Boland
Castilleja School

The senior middle blocker had 60 kills during a 5-2 week in volleyball, including 13 kills and 11 blocks in a nonleague win plus 36 kills to help the Gators go 3-2 while taking fourth in the Westmont Tournament.



Connor Dillon
Menlo School

The senior water polo goalie allowed barely four goals a match while making 28 saves, including a career-high 13 in the championship match, as the Knights went 4-0 and captured the Scott Roche Invitational title.

Honorable mention

Sarah Daschbach

Sacred Heart Prep volleyball

Kat Gregory

Priory cross country

Marine Hall-Poirier

Priory volleyball

Hannah Hsieh

Castilleja volleyball

Caroline Nordman

Sacred Heart Prep tennis

Emma Thygesen

Menlo volleyball

Harrison Enright

Sacred Heart Prep water polo

Dante Fraioli

Pinewood football

Chris Gaertner*

Sacred Heart Prep football

Nick Hale

Menlo water polo

Michael Hester

Menlo-Atherton cross country

Will Morgan

Sacred Heart Prep football

* previous winner

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

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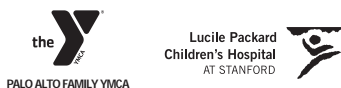
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SPORTS

Paly's state champs look to start new win streaks

Palo Alto's two defending state championship teams returned to reality as both suffered streak-ending losses last weekend. The girls' volleyball team saw its two-year, 27-match win string end in the second round of the Mitty Invitational while the Monarchs' football team ended Paly's streak of 15 straight wins at Foothill College.

The Paly volleyball team entered the prestigious Mitty tourney as the No. 1 seed. After sweeping No. 16 Santa Ynez in an opening-round match, the Vikings were upset by No. 9 Santa Barbara in five sets.

Paly headed back into the tournament on Saturday, split its two matches and finished sixth. The Vikings, ranked as high as No. 4 in the nation in one poll this season, had won seven straight tournaments over a two-year period.

The two losses knocked the Vikings out of the MaxPreps Xcellent 25 National Volleyball Rankings on

Monday.

The Vikings (1-0, 14-2), however, didn't waste any time in righting their ship as they bounced back from their first losses of the season and opened defense of their SCVAL De Anza Division title with a 25-9, 25-18, 25-16 victory over visiting Gunn on Tuesday night.

In football, Palo Alto (1-1) fell behind to a Mitty team that had lost twice to the Vikings last season. A third time certainly wasn't a charm for Paly, which battled back to tie at 21 before the Monarchs connected on the game-winning 78-yard pass play in the fourth quarter to hand the Vikings their first loss since Nov. 20, 2009 when they lost to Bel-larmine in the opening round of the CCS Open Division playoffs.

Next up for Palo Alto will be a nonleague game at Gunn on Friday at 7:30 p.m. The Titans (0-2) are coming off a 35-7 nonleague game to visiting Burlingame on Friday night. ■

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Family affair

(continued from page 32)

be one of two WBAL regular-season meetings between the teams. Atlee will host Tracie on Oct. 18. Tracie, however, is scheduled to give birth to her first child, a boy, on Oct. 15, and Gwen likely will be the interim head coach in the second family coaching reunion.

Right now, both teams have tournaments to deal with before Tuesday. Castilleja (10-5) has upwards of five matches on Saturday at the D5 NorCal Showcase at City College of San Francisco, while Menlo (11-3) plays host to the Chris Chandler Invitational the same day.

Then, it's time for the Family Feud.

"Atlee is a good coach and has a slight advantage in that she knows our players since she coached our JV team and helped out the varsity last year," Tracie said. "I just know that it will be fun to compete against her."

"Tracie has helped me a lot with the league and CCS system and rules, which I really needed to learn about so that I can have an easier transition," said Atlee. "Castilleja is a great school and there's no doubt that my family is a big part of the volleyball program there. But, they know that I have my goals for coaching and that I want to establish myself as a head varsity coach."

"The game next week against Casti is much anticipated, but I don't want it to distract me or my team from the goals we have set. I am looking forward to seeing both sides have a solid performance."

Tracie, for one, knows that facing her little sister makes Tuesday's match something less than normal.

"The match is different in that I know that Atlee will make a difference being the coach on the other side of the net," Tracie said. "My team will have to beat not only Menlo, but the coach's strategy, as well. I don't know if 'little' is the

right adjective for her any more. She is taller than all of us now!"

Atlee, however, is still the youngest. She turned 26 last week. Gwen is next at 29 followed by Tracie at 32 and Summer (Hensley) at 35. All four have played competitive volleyball and were standouts at Menlo-Atherton High, even though Gwen graduated from Los Altos High. All were multiple-sport athletes and all are still in the area — Summer helps run the Hubbards' family business at Webb Ranch on the Stanford campus, which has been in the family since 1922.

Remaining geographically close allowed Tracie, Gwen and Atlee to play together last spring on an indoor Industrial Volleyball League (IVL) team, "which was a lot of fun and included a lot of competitive, but friendly bickering," Tracie said.

"It was an experience that I think every team in the league had to share, as well," added Atlee. "We push each other and sometimes get riled up, but it always ends with laughter. We are just that competitive and I love that we all share that spirit and can be comfortable with it."

Tracie also has played against Atlee in the NCVA women's adult league.

"In either situation it is competitive and friendly," said Tracie. "Usually, we compliment each other on a good hit or dig, regardless of which side of the net we are on."

Tuesday's match could be a first for the area, with family members pitted against each other in the coaching ranks. Atlee, for one, should be used to getting picked on.

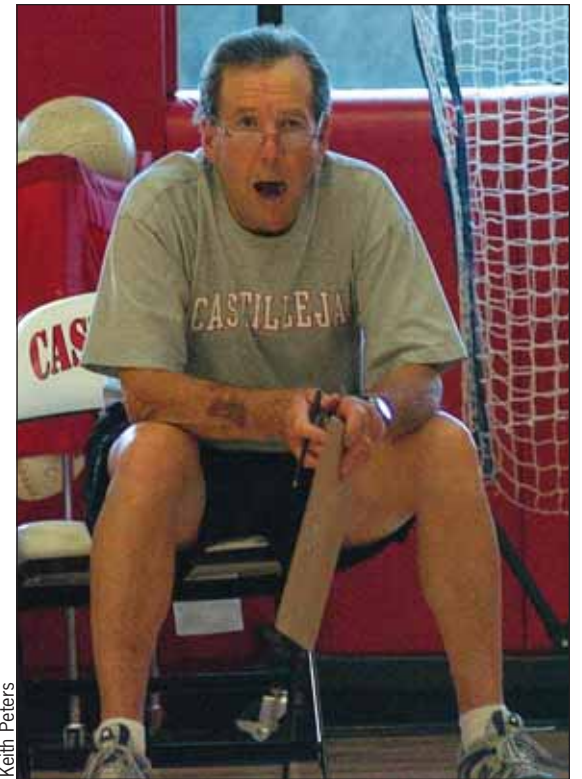
"I'm the youngest. Of course I get ganged up on!" she said. "Their coaching staff happens to be my family and that shouldn't change because we are facing each other. We are all competitive people and are very comfortable competing against each other."

"I was very excited and surprised to hear that I got the position at Menlo," Atlee continued. "When



Pam Mckenney

Menlo first-year coach Atlee Hubbard will face her family on Tuesday at Castilleja.



Keith Peters

Tom Hubbard will coach with two daughters and against one daughter on Tuesday.

I told Tracie and my family, there were congratulations and playful threats made all at once . . . although it was more about what do we do with dad!"

Ah, yes, dad. Tom Hubbard actually has been in this situation before. Prior to arriving at Castilleja to help Tracie and Gwen, Tom assisted at Menlo-Atherton. Tuesday, however, will be a little different because the battle lines are drawn.

"I've got two real daughters and like 11 step-daughters with Castilleja," he said, making it quite clear where his rooting interest will be.

And as much as she loves her younger sister, Tracie has her line clearly drawn in the sand, as well.

"My dad and sister are still on my staff and will be there next week," Tracie said. "My dad will be on the bench with the team unless he starts

getting too competitive (which he did show a tendency for when he was assisting M-A and was playing against us 5-6 years ago at a tournament). Last thing the team will need is a distraction! The Menlo game is already an intense rivalry as it is and we don't need a family battle to make it even more so. I think everyone will keep their cool.

"My mom likes to come to our games and watch, so I am sure she will be there. But, she likely won't be picking sides. She does know our team better, so I would like to think she would secretly be rooting us on. I think she, like all of us, just want a good match and not one team imploding."

Atlee agrees.

"I know Tracie and I will be focused on our teams executing our game strategies and players play-

ing well," she said. I don't think we have anything to prove to each other. I think knowing more about the Casti players should help our team, but I'm not sure if it will have a big effect or not on the outcome."

And once the outcome is decided?

"I'm looking forward to a big hug (from Atlee), win or lose," said Tom.

"If we win, I will be happy for my team and let Tracie know that she still has a chance to even the score at our gym," said Atlee. "If we lose, I will congratulate her and tell her to be ready for the next one in our gym."

"If we lose, I will likely blame her for picking on a player during serve-receive," Tracie said. "And, if we win, I will probably tell her that she should have stayed at Casti!" ■



Keith Peters

Castilleja head coach Tracie (Hubbard) Meskell (left) and her sister Gwen will team up against their sister Atlee on Tuesday.

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