

Voters to weigh in on pot clubs?

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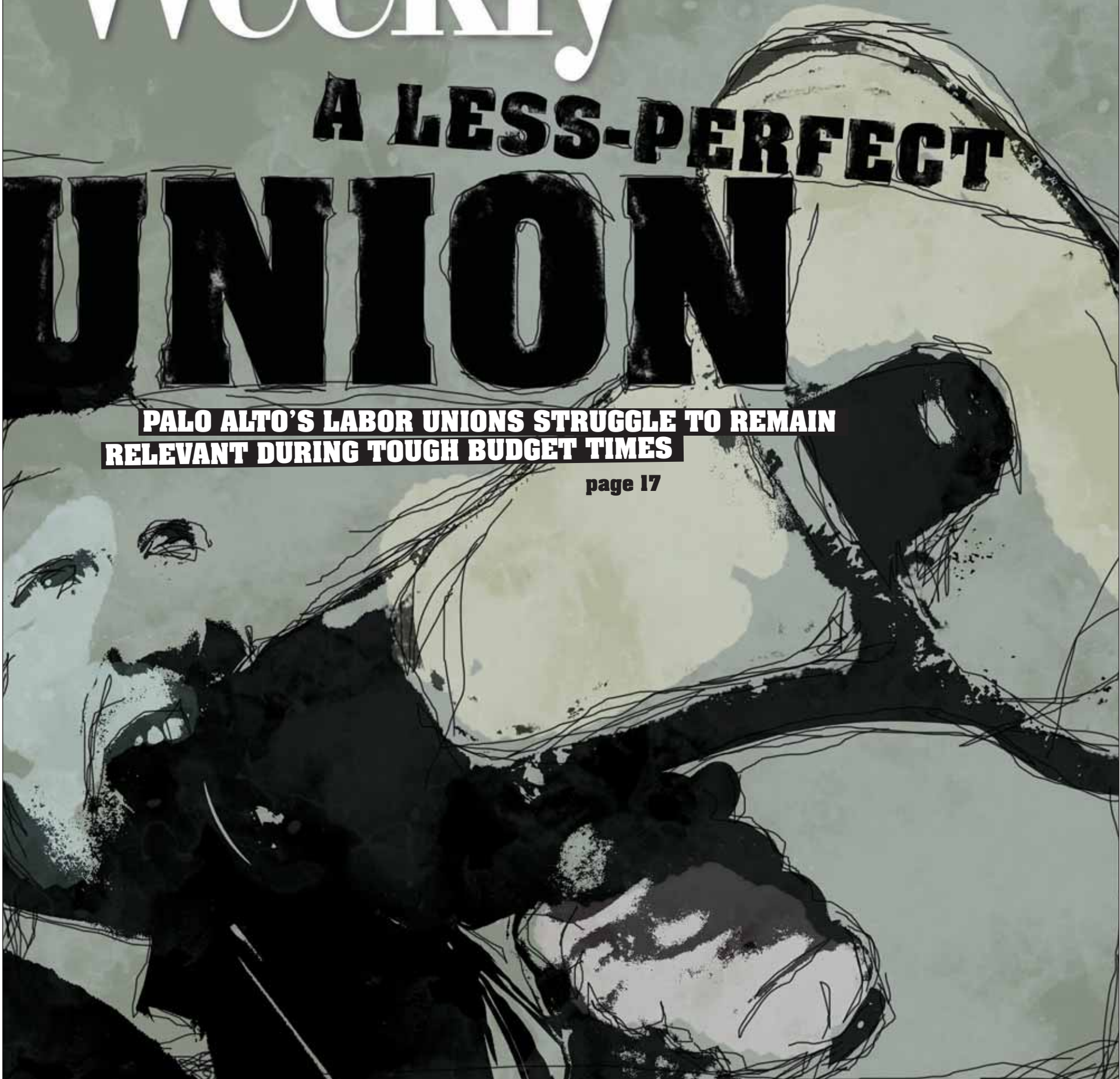
Weekly

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PALO ALTO'S LABOR UNIONS STRUGGLE TO REMAIN RELEVANT DURING TOUGH BUDGET TIMES

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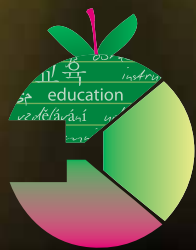
6:45 PM **Opening words by**
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(Uganda/USA)

7:40 PM **PINK SARIS**
(India)

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Upfront

Local news, information and analysis

Palo Alto mulls election to legalize marijuana shops

Reluctant council forced to revisit subject
by citizen initiative

by Gennady Sheyner

When Palo Alto's elected officials talk about "going green," they're usually discussing blue bins and bike lanes — not selling marijuana.

On Monday, however, the City Council will have to confront an is-

sue that other cities, including San Jose, Oakland, Berkeley and Vallejo, have been wrestling with for the past 15 years: Should the city allow medical marijuana dispensaries to set up shop in town?

In Palo Alto, the issue could go

directly from the elected leaders' consideration to the electorates'. In July, a group of citizens led by Thomas and Cassandra Moore, submitted a ballot initiative that would allow up to three marijuana dispensaries to operate in Palo Alto and create zoning restrictions and taxing mechanisms for these cooperatives. The initiative, which required more than 4,000 signatures to qualify, did so with about 500 to spare.

The citizen initiative means that

the council now has no choice but to confront the issue that hasn't been in the spotlight since 1996, when state voters passed Proposition 215, legalizing medical marijuana dispensaries. Dozens of cities, including Palo Alto, responded by passing bans on dispensaries in their communities. Now, the council's only options are to adopt the ordinance in the initiative outright (an action that would run against both precedent and staff recommendation), craft a similar

ordinance or place the issue on the ballot.

But pot-loving entrepreneurs shouldn't rush to the city just yet. According to a new report from City Clerk Donna Grider, the earliest ballot on which the issue could appear would be November 2012, the same election in which residents will be voting for a U.S. president and four City Council members. That's be-

(continued on page 6)

COMMUNITY

Runaway reptile returns home

Woman reunites lost tortoise,
missing for months,
with her Palo Alto family

by Karla Kane

As Menlo Park resident Holly Thompson drove up Palo Alto Avenue after a grocery-shopping trip last week, she noticed a strange shape moving on the road in front of her.

"I thought, 'Oh gosh, a tortoise!'" she said.

Fearing the creature, which she described as "about the size of a small dinner plate," would soon become road kill, Thompson pulled over, emptied her shopping bag, scooped up the reptile and brought it home. Her 9- and 6-year-old kids Laila and Conrad quickly named it "Gilbert."

Oddly, the tortoise was wearing an electronic transmitter taped to its shell.

Thompson sent out an email to her Willows neighborhood group and received a response from a couple with a 60-pound tortoise of their own. Back in June they'd noticed a "lost turtle" sign and taken a photo, which they sent to Thompson. Sure enough, the poster for the missing Russian Tortoise fit "Gilbert's" description:

"Small tortoise missing from north Palo Alto backyard near San Francisquito Creek: Seven inches across, brown with greenish tinge, very friendly; locator tag taped to shell with blue masking tape." A \$200 reward was also offered.

Thompson had removed the tape and transmitter from the tortoise's carapace but was intrigued as to its purpose. Friends jokingly suggested it might be involved in some sort of espionage ring, with Thompson wondering, "Am I in a Stieg Larsson novel here?"

She tracked the poster (and a corresponding Craigslist ad) to Stanford University professor Ursula Heise and sent her an email.

Though Heise was on a month-long trip to Sweden, she responded immediately.

"Gilbert," it was revealed, is actually a female called "Empty Fox" (named after a character in a 1960s novel) — one of three beloved pet tortoises kept by Heise. The mysterious



Veronica Weber

Ursula Heise is reunited with her tortoise, Empty Fox, Monday after the reptile had been missing for more than three months.

locator tags are used by Heise to more easily keep track of the tortoises when they're outdoors but despite her regular combing of the neighborhood with the receiver, she could not locate Empty Fox's signal after she escaped from the enclosed yard.

When contacted by Thompson, "She was over the moon," Thompson said of Heise. "After three months she'd slowly given up hope. She was thrilled."

Heise concurred. "I just cried; I was so happy," she said.

Thompson agreed to tortoise-sit Empty Fox for the week until Heise's return from abroad. On Monday, Empty Fox was reunited with Heise — and her tortoise sisters — amid much hugging and celebrating by the humans involved.

"She is such a sweet little tortoise, so tame. The kids wanted to keep her; they were shedding tears, but we already have 10 times too many pets," Thompson said. Her menagerie includes a bearded dragon, a parrot, a dog, rabbits and a bullfrog.

Plus, despite her fondness for the tortoise houseguest, she said reuniting her with Heise was the right thing to do.

"I know how I'd feel if our bearded dragon got out, as a fellow reptile lover," she said. And once her kids saw how happy Heise was, they "snapped out of their 'finders, keepers' mentality."

Though Empty Fox traveled only a few

blocks from home during her three-month absence, what she was up to during that time remains a mystery. Heise suspects she simply "dug in" — burying herself underground, something she's fond of doing at home — for most of the time. Last week's warm temperatures may have drawn her out of hiding.

"She didn't go that far considering she was gone for a little over three months. They can walk at a good clip. As opposed to the stereotype, they can walk around pretty quickly if they put their minds to it.

"She's back with the two other tortoises, and we're really, really happy to have her back," Heise said.

If Empty Fox has any thoughts on her adventures or her return, she's keeping them to herself. Granted, "It's hard to tell with a tortoise," Heise said. "Right now she's just spending a lot of time out in the sunshine and inside, under her heat lamp."

Thompson declined the offered reward so Heise is instead donating \$200 in her name to Mickaboo Companion Bird Rescue, which helps pet birds in need of adoption and fostering.

"Holly was just incredibly generous, saying, 'This is what anybody who loves animals would do,'" Heise said.

Added Thompson: "It was exciting for me to find someone's lost love and reunite them." ■

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

COMMUNITY

Girl killed on her way to school

Two deaths within two
blocks shake East Palo Alto
residents

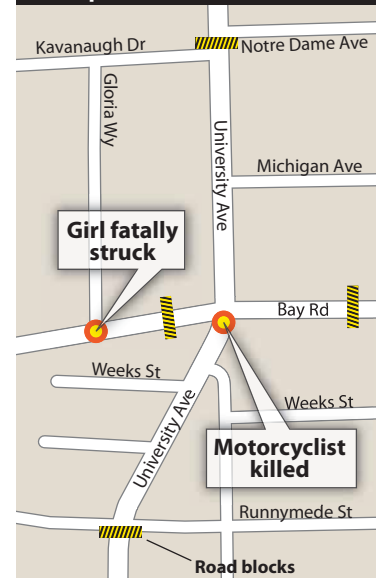
A 6-year-old girl was killed Wednesday morning (Sept. 28), the second traffic fatality in less than three hours within a two-block area in East Palo Alto.

The Green Oaks Academy second-grader, identified as Sioreli Torres Zamora, was walking to the school, which is on the Cesar Chavez campus, with her mother and two siblings when she was struck by a car in the crosswalk at Bay Road and Gloria Way, Officer Veronica Barries said.

The driver was longtime Costano Elementary School teacher and

(continued on page 6)

Fatal accidents in East Palo Alto on Sept. 28



Road blocks were erected following the first accident, involving a motorcycle, on Wednesday morning.

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Upfront

QUOTE OF THE WEEK



Am I in a Stieg Larsson novel here?



—**Holly Thompson**, who found a wayward tortoise with a tracking device taped to its shell, referring to the author of espionage thrillers. See story on page 3.

Around Town

THE PALO ALTAN AND THE PREZ

... Lucky local **Sarah Lux** was one of eight people selected to participate in a Q&A panel and meet **President Barack Obama** during his recent Town Hall meeting at the Computer History Museum, sponsored by Mountain View's **LinkedIn**. Lux, a native of Canada who says she is "living the American Dream," is the owner of **Uforia Studios** in the former A.M.E. Zion Church building on Ramona Street in downtown Palo Alto. Lux was selected after she responded to a short survey sent to her via **LinkedIn** last week. Two days later, she received a call with the news that she'd be sitting in the front row during Obama's visit. The event took careful preparation, she wrote in an email to the Weekly. "We rehearsed for hours ... it was a real bonding experience. About a third of the participants were unemployed, the other third were in manufacturing or physical labor and the other third were small-business owners." Though Lux was ultimately not able to ask Obama the question she had prepared about health insurance for small businesses, she did get to shake his hand. "It was pretty surreal; he definitely uses moisturizer; his hands were amazingly soft," she said. To read about the Town Hall meeting, and see photos, go to www.PaloAltoOnline.com and search for "Obama tackles jobs."

WHO'S ACCOUNTABLE?

... Silicon Valley Community Foundation CEO **Emmett Carson** leveled a broadside against the local system of educational organization this week. Having a total of 56 separate school districts in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties constitutes a "fundamentally flawed system" that makes accountability nearly impossible, he said this week. "It boggles the imagination that our region's public schools are not international models for using technology to teach our children," Carson told an audience at the Sharon Heights Golf & Country Club. Instead, only 39 percent of the region's high school graduates meet prerequisites for the California State University system. Carson spoke at the annual breakfast of A-LEARN, a Los Altos nonprofit that sponsors summer math pro-

grams for low-income youth.

100 YEARS YOUNG ... Margaret

Marquardt, a resident of Palo Alto for nearly six decades and former registered nurse, celebrated her 100th birthday with family, neighbors and friends on Sept. 24. She told the Weekly that her secret recipe for healthy life and longevity is a combination of "good food and working hard, never laying around." And she added that "I am always working on my legs. I like to do everything. I don't worry about a thing. No stress. I am happy all the time. I try to be nice and everybody is nice to me." Marquardt was born Sept. 23, 1911, in Montana. She ran a first-aid room at the Stanford Shopping Center for 25 years until her nursing license expired when she was 97. Congratulations on her 100th birthday came from as far away as the White House. **President Barack Obama** and **First Lady Michelle Obama** signed a letter for her centennial birthday. "She is our neighborhood grandma," said her granddaughter **Michelle Gooyer**. "Her charisma had brought people in the neighborhood together."

CLOSED FOR REMODELING ...

Call it "Extreme Makeover: Park Edition." This past Monday (Sept. 26), Palo Alto's **El Camino Park** was closed as the first step in the construction of a new underground water reservoir and well, which is a part of the Utilities Department's long-term citywide emergency water-supply plan. A popular location for organized sports, it'll be closed through summer 2013. The way **Debra Katz**, acting communications manager with the Utilities Department, describes it, the park "is about to undergo major 'internal surgery' followed by a complete head-to-toe makeover." The Emergency Water Supply and Storage Project was approved by Palo Alto voters in 2007 and will provide enough water to meet basic needs for the entire city in the event of an earthquake or other emergency that cuts off normal water supply from the Hetch-Hetchy aqueduct system. El Camino Park is located at 100 El Camino Real, across from the Stanford Shopping Center. ■



About Callie



Kindergarten Hat Parade, 2010

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Doesn't Love: Peanut butter and growling dogs

Trying: Golf and getting along with her big sister

Parents' Fervent Wish: That she keeps this smile every day

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EDUCATION

Caucasian enrollment dips below 50 percent

Palo Alto classrooms more racially diverse as Asian enrollment surpasses 36 percent

by Chris Kenrick

As Palo Alto classrooms grow more racially diverse, Caucasian enrollment for the first time has dipped below 50 percent.

This fall's ethnicity breakdown in the K-12 Palo Alto Unified School District is 49.2 percent Caucasian; 36.6 percent Asian; 10.4 percent Hispanic and 3.2 percent African-American.

Eleven years ago, the figures were 67.3 percent Caucasian; 19.5 percent Asian; 7 percent Hispanic and 4.2 percent African-American.

The ethnic shifts were especially pronounced in the fast-growing early grades, with 46.7 percent of this fall's elementary enrollment Caucasian, 37.4 percent Asian, 11.9 percent Hispanic and 3.1 percent African-American.

The local ethnicity numbers were reported by the Palo Alto school district last week as part of the district's official report for 2011-12.

The school data reflects citywide trends noted in the 2010 U.S. Census, which saw Palo Alto's Asian population grow from 17.2 percent

of the city in 2000 to 27.1 percent in 2010. Caucasian population in the same period declined from more than three-quarters of the city to less than two-thirds.

The Census also showed a growing population of kids, with 23.4 percent of local residents under 18 compared to 21.2 percent a decade earlier. Within the Asian population, 26.8 percent are under 18, compared with only 19.3 percent of the white population.

Ethnic enrollment varies considerably school-by-school.

At Hoover, a so-called "choice" elementary school emphasizing a more traditional, "direct-instruction" style of teaching, Caucasian enrollment is 13.2 percent and Asian enrollment is 79.8 percent.

At Addison, a neighborhood elementary school, Caucasian enrollment is 66.7 percent while Asian enrollment is just 20.6 percent.

The growing Asian school enrollment led the Palo Alto Council of PTAs to convene a three-part series titled "Growing up Asian in

Palo Alto," aimed at discussing the intersection of Asian culture with Palo Alto and its schools. The series, which ran from spring 2010 to spring of this year, drew hundreds of Asian and non-Asian parents.

School collection of ethnic data is required by both the U.S. Department of Education and by the California Department of Education. A number of different laws mandate reporting of the data, including the California Education Code and the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission work force reports.

Palo Alto trends bear little relationship to those in surrounding districts or to Santa Clara County as a whole (see accompanying chart).

County-wide, Caucasians represent 23.1 percent of public school enrollment; Asians make up 26.7 percent; Hispanics comprise 38.2 percent and African-Americans 2.7 percent.

Palo Alto is one of 32 school districts in Santa Clara County. ■

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

Enrollment by ethnicity, in percentages*				
Ethnicity	Caucasian	Asian	Hispanic	African-American
Palo Alto	49.2	36.6	10.4	3.2
Santa Clara County (all school districts)	23.1	26.7	38.1	2.7
Los Altos Elementary	51.7	27.6	7.5	0.4
Mountain View-Whisman Elementary	28	10	46	2.7
Mountain View-Los Altos High	50.5	19	22.4	2.6
Cupertino Union	20	71	5.4	1.1
Menlo Park Elementary	66	6.7	13.1	2.2

Source: California Department of Education

* Totals do not add up to 100 percent because the percentages of other, smaller ethnic groups are not shown.

EDUCATION

School board enthusiastic about property deal

Pending environmental tests, school district likely to approve first acquisition in decades

by Chris Kenrick

For the first time in decades, the Palo Alto Unified School District is on the verge of acquiring new property as it contends with rising enrollment, particularly in the southern part of town.

Board of Education members Tuesday night expressed enthusiasm for an \$8.5 million deal to acquire a 2.6-acre parcel at 525 San Antonio Road. The property, which housed Peninsula Day Care Center before it closed in June, backs up onto the Greendell School campus, which is contiguous with Cubberley Community Center.

Pending the results of environmental tests, the board is expected to authorize purchase of 525 San Antonio at its next meeting Oct. 11, using funds from Measure A, the \$378 million bond voters approved in 2008 for school improvements. The property is currently under contract to be sold to residential developer SummerHill San Antonio Land Holding, but SummerHill has indicated its willingness to sell the property, in turn, to the school

district, according to a staff report.

"I'm absolutely thrilled. This is the first proposed addition of public school land in over a generation, ending an old, long streak of school district sales," board member Barb Mitchell said.

She was referring to the sell-off during the 1980s of a number of Palo Alto elementary school sites as enrollment contracted in the post-Baby Boom era.

At its enrollment peak in 1968, Palo Alto had nearly 16,000 students, with three high schools, three middle schools and more than 20 elementary schools. Enrollment declined through the 1970s and '80s, reaching a low of 7,500 in 1989 before trending upward again.

Today, with 12,286 students, Palo Alto has two high schools, three middle schools and 12 elementary schools.

At Tuesday's meeting, board members parsed the nuances of this fall's enrollment data even as they asserted

the need for a 20-year long-range plan.

With elementary headcount growing at 4 percent for the past several years, members agreed on the need for new facilities.

But some noted that kindergarten enrollment was flat this fall, wondering whether that should be interpreted as "a blip or a trend."

Despite much discussion of the need for new space in the southern part of Palo Alto, the district has made no formal commitment on how it would use the prospective new property on San Antonio Road. The school board last year also voted to take back the old Garland School site on North California Avenue but has not decided when, or how, that site would come back online.

Board President Melissa Baten Caswell said there's an urgent need for more middle school space.

"We're going to hit a middle school

(continued on page 10)

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Jim Curran is a veteran of over 25 Years on Wall Street. He is President of Curran & Lewis Investment Management, Inc., in Menlo Park, a Wealth Manager Magazine top Wealth Management firm. He is Chief Portfolio Manager, and specializes in investment advice for individual investors, companies, and their officers. He is an accomplished and dynamic college and business lecturer.

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Accidents

(continued from page 3)

East Palo Alto resident Alisha Whiteparker, 49, Barries said.

Whiteparker struck the girl at 8:06 a.m. while driving southbound on Bay Road, Barries said. Sioreli had been about 5 or 6 feet into the crosswalk, according to residents living nearby. Barries said she suffered major injuries and died shortly thereafter at the scene.

Residents wept as the coroner and police investigated the scene. Family members tried to comfort Sioreli's mother.

Outside the police-tape barrier nearby, Whiteparker also wept, comforted by residents who said she had grown up in the neighborhood.

"She's a good woman," Maggie McDuffy said, adding that she heard and saw the accident just as she opened the door to her home, which is several feet from the crosswalk. Larry Arnold, who lives with McDuffy, said he came running outside.

"I heard the impact, and I saw a shoe in the street. I didn't want to see any more. It was sickening," he said.

Barries said the accident did not appear to be criminal, and Whiteparker was sent home after questioning.

The T-shaped intersection includes a stop sign on Gloria but none on Bay. There is no crossing guard assigned to the intersection, according to a spokesman for the Ravenswood City School District.

Some residents were furious, citing ongoing traffic issues on the busy arterial street. They said stop signs should be added, given that the intersection is a few blocks from the elementary school and families and mothers with small children frequently use it.

"This should be 15 mph. The kids, when they are this little can run out ahead of their parents. They don't know any better. All day long there are crazy drivers that don't care," McDuffy said.

Germaine Demecio Garner, who was biking when he heard the accident, defended Whiteparker.



Left: Passersby pay their respects at a memorial for Sioreli Torres Zamora, who was fatally struck while crossing Bay Road in East Palo Alto Wednesday morning. Right: A photo of Sioreli Torres Zamora is posted at a memorial for her on Bay Road in East Palo Alto.



Veronica Weber

"It wasn't her fault. Kids just bust out of nowhere. She's been here all her life. She was raised on this street. She's a respectful teacher. She's been at the school for years," he said.

The little girl's death was Garner's second tragedy of the day, he said.

At about 5:30 a.m., his friend Danny Lee Dixon, 50, was killed in a head-on collision just two blocks away by a driver who was fleeing police. San Mateo County coroner's officials identified Dixon as an East Palo Alto resident.

"I've lost a lot of people," but the death of the girl was too much, Garner said, his hands shaking.

Police were investigating a call in the 400 block of Runnymede Street when the early morning motorcycle fatality occurred.

A resident saw a suspicious person in their yard, and officers spotted a gray Land Rover driving with its lights off. The driver sped away as police pursued and drove eastbound about three blocks down University Avenue — the wrong way into the westbound lane, police said.

The Land Rover struck the motorcycle head-on, killing Dixon near the intersection of Bay Road. Police took the driver, East Palo Alto resident Eric Banford, 46, into custody. The East Palo Alto Police Department is conducting an administrative investigation on the officers involved in the pursuit, which is standard procedure in such incidents, Barries said.

Residents wondered if the road blocks police erected following the motorcycle accident created a chaotic situation that led to the

second accident.

Police had cordoned off part of Bay in both directions north and south of University by at least half a block, and vehicles were making U-turns on Bay when they encountered the police tape, residents said.

"To me, it had a lot to do with the first accident. They should've sent a crossing guard," Lucy Vasquez said. "They know there's a school right there. The police department should've been more involved — that's what hurts me. There were cars backing up, and kids are trying to cross."

But Barries said she had heard that some drivers were making U-turns, but other residents with whom she spoke at the scene said the traffic flow was not different from other days.

"By the driver's own admission, she didn't know the road was blocked off and was just doing her routine pattern of going to the school," Barries said.

Alcohol and speeding were not factors in Whiteparker's accident, she said. Whiteparker was possibly distracted, but that is still under investigation, she said.

Vasquez said Sioreli's death will have a direct impact on Vasquez's family.

"I have a daughter just like her. My daughter goes to the same school," she said, as tears streamed down her cheeks. "I didn't tell my daughter that her little friend got killed. It's going to be very hard." ■

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

Marijuana

(continued from page 3)

cause state law limits cities to one special election per year and Palo Alto already has an election scheduled for this November.

Staff recommends putting the issue on the ballot rather than adopting it outright.

The citizen initiative would impose a 4 percent tax on the gross receipts of the medical pot shops. Each dispensary would also have to pay a \$10,000 permit fee. The proposed ordinance also limits the hours of operation for these businesses to between 9 a.m. and 10 p.m. and specifies that they cannot operate in residential zones or near schools, libraries or day care facilities.

The petition touts legalized marijuana as both a humane palliative for terminally ill patients and as

a potential revenue source for the city. It notes that San Jose generated \$290,000 in revenues from its dispensaries in the first month of the city's ordinance.

In Palo Alto, the figure would likely be more modest. San Jose revenues came from 74 medical marijuana collectives. Four other collectives submitted their taxes for the following months early, giving the city another \$20,000. The revenue figures could change significantly next year, however. This week, San Jose put out a memo calling for the marijuana collectives to stop operating on Oct. 27 and to apply for permits, only 10 of which would be issued by the city.

In Oakland, where voters last year raised the tax rate for dispensaries from 1.8 percent to 5 percent, the figures are expected to soar. According to the ballot analysis for Measure V, the city expects an-

nual revenues from the new tax rate to reach \$1.4 million (up from \$500,518 before the rate change).

Vallejo, which was rocked by bankruptcy in 2008 and continues to struggle financially, also hopes new dispensaries would provide some relief for its chronic budget woes. Voters will have a chance in November to pass an ordinance that would establish a \$500 fee and a 10 percent tax on gross receipts for dispensaries.

Most cities, however, have been reluctant to embrace marijuana cooperatives. According to the marijuana-advocacy organization Americans for Safe Access, 168 California cities had passed ordinances banning these facilities, including East Palo Alto and Sunnyvale. Another 81, Redwood City and Mountain View among them, have moratoriums on dispensaries. And 48 cities — including San Francis-

co, Oakland, San Jose and Berkeley — currently have ordinances regulating marijuana sales.

In Palo Alto, the council has traditionally proceeded with caution on the subject. In 1996, the council responded to a request for a dispensary by swiftly passing an emergency ordinance banning such facilities. The 1996 ordinance states that "a number of regulatory issues should be carefully considered prior to allowing establishment of medical marijuana dispensaries in order to prevent crime and ensure compatibility with other uses, including residential uses and schools."

"In light of the expressed interest in establishing a medical marijuana dispensary in Palo Alto, and the time required to study and develop appropriate regulations, an urgency ordinance is necessary to provide a clear statement of existing law and to protect the public peace, health

and safety," the ordinance reads.

The current council has been reluctant to take a strong stance on the issue, one way or another. In September 2010, as the council was considering the city's position on various propositions, Councilwoman Gail Price was the only member who recommended supporting state Proposition 19, which would have legalized and regulated marijuana sales in California. Councilwoman Karen Holman said the issue warrants more vetting, but Councilman Larry Klein said the council has nothing to add to the discussion.

The council then voted to not discuss the issue any further.

"I think this is a personal choice, and I don't think the City Council should be taken this issue on," Councilman Greg Schmid said at that meeting. ■

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

HEALTH

Confusion reins over expired Stanford-Blue Cross contracts

Clients should beware of hidden costs while the hospitals and insurer negotiate, Palo Alto broker says

by Sue Dremann

How patients' medical services will be paid for during a stalemate in contract negotiations between Stanford and Lucile Packard hospitals and Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield is confusing both patients and insurance agents. And at least one local broker is warning the public to get the facts straight before having procedures done — despite assurances from the hospitals that they'll charge rates as if they were still considered "in network."

When a contract between the insurance giant and Stanford Hospitals & Clinics and Lucile Packard Children's Hospital expired Sept. 1 and negotiations over a new contract failed, the hospitals terminated their agreement.

Anthem then sent out a letter informing patients they could be at risk for thousands of dollars in out-of-network costs if they were to receive treatment at the hospitals or clinics. But the Stanford officials countered, saying that hospital patients won't be charged more than they would have if the contract were still in place.

"Our message to our patients is this: The hospitals will honor your in-network rates so that your out-of-pocket costs are no higher than they normally would be. Patients can continue to be treated at our hospitals regardless of their insurance benefit, procedure or authorization status," hospitals spokesman Gary Migdol said in an email.

"Patients will simply not pay more than they normally would if the hospitals were in-network. This applies to every patient, in all cases no matter

what the procedure is or authorization status," he said.

So what will the financial impact be on Stanford?

"We believe that the revenue impact (to Stanford) will be minimal, as most people still have out-of-network coverage for medical expenses," Migdol said. "If the patient's PPO has an out-of-network provision in their policy, they would have coverage. But if they don't, we would honor our commitment that they will only be financially responsible for the amount they would've paid at an in-network facility."

Tawnya Lancaster, a bone-marrow transplant recipient from San Jose who receives regular transfusions and has follow-up visits at Stanford, is one patient recently confused by the severed relationship between Anthem and the hospitals.

She didn't hear about the cancelled contract and only found out when she called Anthem regarding a statement she had received. The Anthem representative told her notice of the canceled contract with Stanford was only sent to Anthem members within a 15-mile radius of the hospitals, a fact confirmed by Anthem spokesman Darrel Ng.

In addition, she said, "I was not told when I was at Stanford on Sept. 7 of the changes to coverage. I went into my appointment assuming I had the same coverage I had always had," she said.

Lancaster said she learned through

(continued on page 9)

WE MAKE HOUSE CALLS

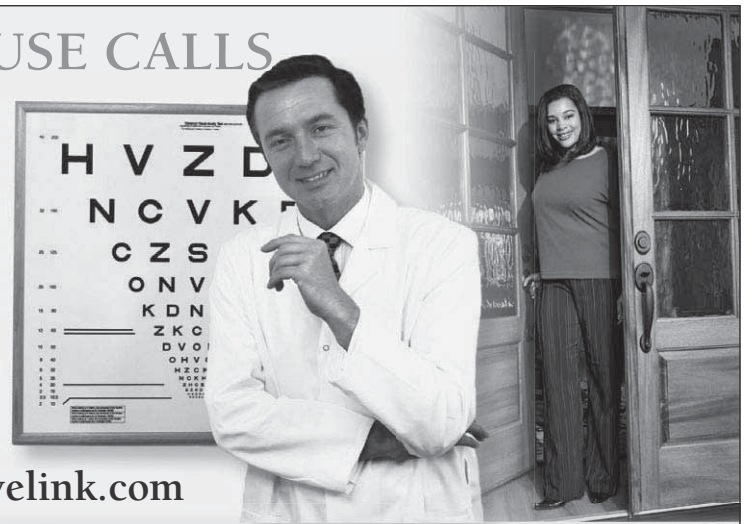
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- Monday, October 3: 7:00 – 8:30 pm

▶ HEALTHY PREGNANCY 101

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

- Monday, October 17: 7:00 – 9:00 pm

▶ STAYING HEALTHY THROUGH FOUR SEASONS OF SPORTS

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

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

▶ BRINGING BABY HOME

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

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

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Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford

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CityView

A round-up of Palo Alto government action this week

City Council

The council did not meet this week.

Board of Education (Sept. 27)

Enrollment: The board of the Palo Alto Unified School District reviewed enrollment statistics for the 2011-12 academic year. **Action:** None

525 San Antonio: The board discussed terms and funding sources for the purchase of the 2.6-acre former Peninsula Day Care property at 525 San Antonio Road. **Action:** None

Parks and Recreation Commission (Sept. 27)

El Camino Park The commission voted to recommend using up to \$1.9 million in park development impact fees for improvements to El Camino Park. **Yes:** Crommie, Dykwel, Hetterly, Lauing, Losch, Markevitch. **No:** Walsh

Other business: The commission discussed the Project Safety Net Community Coalition and heard updates on the Comprehensive Plan and on the city's capital improvement program for fiscal years 2012 and 2013. **Action:** None

City/School Liaison Committee (Sept. 29)

Teen mental health: The committee heard a report about recent activities of Project Safety Net, a coalition of community groups focused on youth well-being. **Action:** None

Public Agenda

A preview of Palo Alto government meetings next week

CITY COUNCIL ... The council plans to meet in a closed session to discuss litigation involving the group Citizens for Upholding Zoning Regulations (regarding 195 Page Mill Road); hold a joint session with the Historic Resources Board; consider a petition for three medical marijuana dispensaries in Palo Alto; and hold a public hearing on 195 Page Mill Road, a proposed mixed-use building featuring condominiums and research-and-development space. The closed session will begin at 5 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 3, in the Council Conference Room with the regular meeting to follow in Council Chambers.

CITY COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE ... The committee plans to hear a status report on Infrastructure Blue Ribbon Commission and discuss the City Auditor's work plan for fiscal year 2012. The meeting will begin at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 4.

HISTORIC RESOURCES BOARD ... The board plans to discuss proposed modifications to the Varsity Theatre building at 456 University Ave., which include removal of a central staircase, installation of a wall to create office and retail spaces and a new stairway to serve the office area on the second floor. The meeting will begin at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 5.


UTILITIES ADVISORY COMMISSION ... The commission plans to discuss the city's Renewables Procurement Strategy, the proposed PaloAltoGreen Local Energy Program and the Utilities Emerging Technology Demonstration Program. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 5.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD ... The board plans to discuss 180 El Camino Real, a proposal by Jim Ryan on behalf of Leland Stanford Junior University Board of Trustees for a new storefront and signage for The Melt at Stanford Shopping Center. The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 6.

CITY COUNCIL ... The council plans to hold a closed session to interview candidates for the City Auditor position. The meeting will begin at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 6, in the Council Conference Room at City Hall.

RAIL CORRIDOR STUDY TASK FORCE ... The task force will continue to discuss the city's vision for the Caltrain corridor. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 6, in the Lucie Stern Community Center (1305 Middlefield Road).

All meetings will be held in Council Chambers at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.) unless otherwise noted.



Chris Feudtner, MD, PhD, MPH

Hope, Emotions, and the Provision of Palliative Care



Chris Feudtner is associate professor of pediatrics and attending physician, director of research for the Pediatric Advanced Care Team and the Integrated Care Service, and co-scientific director of PolicyLab at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. In these roles, Dr. Feudtner both provides care to children with complex chronic conditions and investigates ways to improve the quality of life for these children and their families. In 2008, he assumed the responsibilities of director of the new Department of Medical Ethics at Children's Hospital and holds the Steven D. Handler Endowed Chair of Medical Ethics.

21st Annual Jonathan J. King Lectureship
Wednesday, October 5, 2011 • 5:30pm
Auditorium, 1st Floor
Lucile Packard Children's Hospital

A gifted computer scientist by profession, but a philosopher, Jonathan J. King was above all a humanist with a deep concern for the dignity of individuals. Jonathan King died of cancer on April 8, 1991, at the age of 41. This lectureship was established in his honor, to encourage the compassionate and humane care of all patients.

For more information, go to <http://bioethics.stanford.edu>, email pbailey@stanford.edu, gioia@stanford.edu or call (650) 723-5760

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Anthem

(continued from page 7)

a follow-up call to Stanford that she would not have to pay the bill, since the hospital was adhering to her policy at the same levels as for in-network.

Lancaster expressed concern for patients such as herself who fell through the communication cracks.

"If it's caused me this much stress, I can't imagine what it's like for patients who are going through treatments," she said.

There are three levels of contracts between insurers and medical providers: contracted provider, participating provider and non-contract provider, Henderson Strategic Financial Insurance Services broker Rob Henderson said. Generally speaking, patients pay a copay and/or deductible with policies where a contracted provider has an agreement with Anthem to charge the insurer only a certain amount for services. Participating providers haven't committed to only charge a certain rate to the insurer, so patients who use those providers pay an "out of network" rate that can be sizeable, depending on the policy. Non-contracting hospitals receive no reimbursement on some plans, which could place all costs on the patient, Henderson said.

Stanford is now considered "non-contract," Migdol confirmed.

The hospitals haven't said what percentage of their patients are Anthem members, but Henderson said about 40 percent of his clients are.

Henderson said if the hospitals are only charging patients copays and deductibles, the hospitals are footing a large bill.

As an example, a low-end hip replacement costs about \$75,000. If a patient on the small-group Solutions 2500 plan (the most popular Anthem plan, according to Henderson) pays a maximum of \$5,000, then Stanford might be responsible for up to \$70,000.

There are other hidden implications that are out of the hospitals' control. Patients still have their contracts with Anthem, and when they use an out-of-network provider (now Stanford and Packard), their copayments and deductibles might not be applied toward the annual maximum copayment or deductible limit, according to Anthem's PPO Solutions plan for 2009.

Anthem and the hospitals defended their communications to patients.

Ng said Anthem notified admitting physicians before and after the termination.

Migdol said the hospitals have been aggressively getting out the word about the coverage changes and of the hospitals' plans to cover in-network rates. The hospitals have notified patients through its 24/7 call center, information on hospital websites, ads in local newspapers and online, radio spots on local stations, letters sent to patients and distributed flyers throughout both hospitals.

Henderson said the bottom line to patients is to check with Anthem.

"This whole issue would be moot if Stanford and Anthem would agree to continue the existing contract while they are negotiating," he said. ■

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

Online This Week

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

Menlo Park woman busts teen burglars

Around 3 p.m. on a quiet, sunny Monday afternoon (Sept. 26), a 41-year-old Menlo Park woman noticed something peculiar in her backyard. (Posted Sept. 29 at 8:58 a.m.)

Creek project close to securing state funds

An ambitious effort by Palo Alto, East Palo Alto and Menlo Park to calm the flood-prone San Francisquito Creek could get a major boost next month when the California Department of Water Resources is expected to release \$8 million for the project. (Posted Sept. 29 at 8:12 a.m.)

Eshoo seeks auction of broadcast spectrum

Spectrum auctions and privacy protection top U.S. Rep. Anna Eshoo's list of technological priorities, though with partisanship and the economy dominating Washington, D.C., progress on Internet issues may be tough to reach during the current legislative session, the Silicon Valley lawmaker told a group of tech executives and attorneys Tuesday afternoon (Sept. 27). (Posted Sept. 27 at 5:01 p.m.)

Obama tackles jobs questions at forum

In Mountain View on Monday morning (Sept. 26), President Obama aimed to convince viewers of his town hall meeting hosted by LinkedIn that he can lead the country through its myriad economic problems. (Posted Sept. 26 at 2:40 p.m.)

Woman killed in hit-and-run crash on Highway 101

A Daly City woman was killed in a collision on southbound U.S. Highway 101 Sunday morning (Sept. 25) in Menlo Park, and the California Highway Patrol is searching for a pickup truck that fled the scene. (Posted Sept. 25 at 2:36 p.m.)

First Person: A conversation with Sal Khan

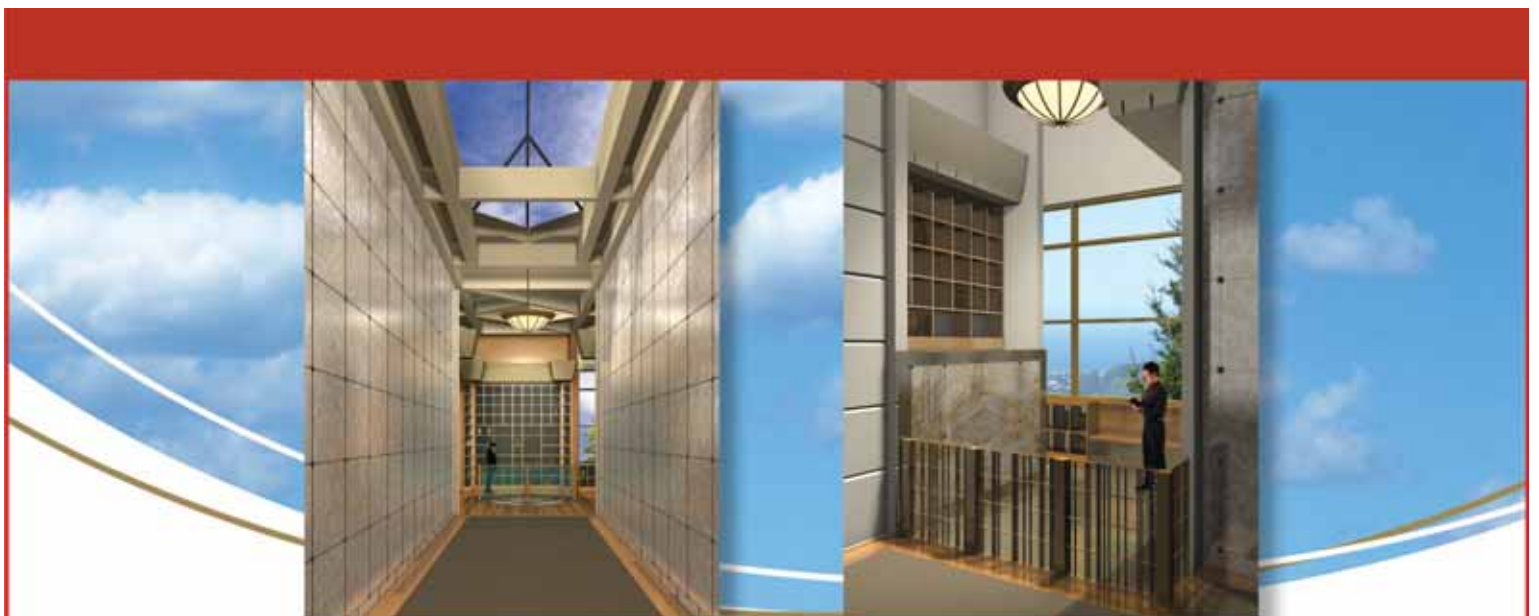
Sal Khan, founder of the Mountain View-based Khan Academy, is revolutionizing education, one 10 minute YouTube video at a time. He has produced more than 2,700 segments covering everything from first grade addition to venture capital. Khan talks to Lisa Van Dusen about his life and career in this First Person video. (Posted Sept. 25 at 2:17 p.m.)

Supervisor race pits Abe-Koga against King

Mountain View City Council member Margaret Abe-Koga declared her candidacy for county supervisor on Wednesday (Sept. 21), setting up a duel with former Saratoga mayor Kathleen King — if Joe Simitian doesn't enter the race. (Posted Sept. 23 at 9:16 a.m.)



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



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FD#1848

School board

(continued from page 5)

problem before we hit an elementary problem," she said. "We can put a few more kids in a classroom, put a portable here, add another building at (an elementary) site, but we hit maximum at our middle schools faster than that.

"Certainly within the next five years were going to need a solution."

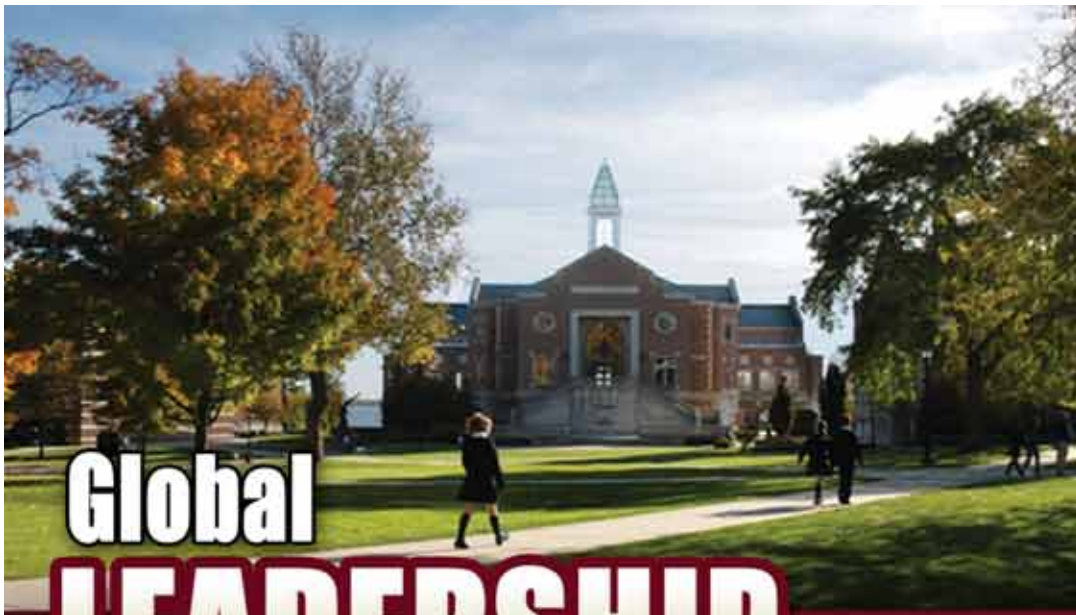
Mitchell said a decision on the use of Garland is also needed.

"The sooner we can make that decision, the longer we have as an implementation and transition period to help community members and staff

plan the implementation," she said. Board Vice President Camille Townsend said she hoped to avoid stirring up premature anxieties about school boundary changes.

"Uncertainty does unnerve people. ... In the past it was a discussion that created great uncertainty and got a lot of anger going. I want to make sure our conversations are taken as conversations, and that things are fluid until we have to make a decision. Otherwise people get positional before they need to," Townsend said. ■

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



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Transitions

Aggie Robinson

Agnes Robinson, universally known as "Aggie" during a lifetime dedicated to progressive activism, died early Tuesday, Sept. 27, at her residence at Palo Alto Commons. She would have been 93 Oct. 2.

Robinson served 10 years on the Palo Alto Board of Education during the tumultuous decade of 1963 to 1973, including two terms as board president.

But her activism took her far beyond Palo Alto issues, and her interests ranged from physics to painting and from education of minorities and the "middle child" — the non-super student — to liberal-to-radical political action for women, peace and social justice.

Following her school board service she was named to the California Postsecondary Education Commission, the Board of Governors for California Community Colleges and, in the mid-1990s, the Accreditation Commission for the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Prior to her Palo Alto school board years, Robinson served on numerous nonprofit boards, including the Palo Alto Mental Health Society, the Palo Alto Community Drug Abuse Board, Senior Day Health, the Community College Foundation and the former Leadership Palo Alto. She also served on the city's Human Relations Commission, and was a member of national organizations such as the NAACP, the Federation of American Scientists and the Sierra Club. She supported peace movements and in her last term on the school board proposed that it adopt a "Statement of Conscience" opposing the Vietnam War.

Robinson was born in 1918 in Morristown, N.J., into the family that founded the H.B. Claflin Co., the model of what became the "department store." She attended Brearley School in New York City and Radcliffe and Barnard colleges, graduating from Radcliffe with a degree in English. In 1943, she worked at the Bell Laboratories in New Jersey, while a modest inheritance allowed her to dedicate much of her life to civic service.

She was a "Bundles for Britain" volunteer, and went into a brief marriage with a physicist, which



sparked her interest in physics to the point of getting a master's degree.

She met her second husband, Albert "Robbie"

Robinson, at Bell Labs, and they settled with their family in Short Hills, N.J. They moved to Palo Alto in 1953.

"Life isn't fair," Robinson summed up in 1997. "You get some good breaks in life and some bad breaks and what you have to do is plow through the bad breaks and ride on the wave of the good breaks. I think our role, those of us with the good breaks, is to keep working for the good of other people and of the community and then of the nation. And if you have money, you share it."

Her efforts were recognized by several community-based awards, including the prestigious "Tall Tree Award" of the Chamber of Commerce in 1989 and the Mid Peninsula YWCA Helen Tao award for decades of nurturing local civic organizations. She was a founding investor in the Palo Alto Weekly in 1979.

She loved nature, art and travel, and welcomed foreign students into her homes along with members of a growing "extended family."

Robinson is survived by her sister, Theodora Heathcote, of Pennsylvania, and five sons and their families, with seven grandchildren and nine great grandchildren: Nicholas and Shelley Robinson in Sleepy Hollow, N.Y.; John and Mallow Robinson in Fox Island, Wash.; Hugh Robinson in Belmont, Mass.; James and Mary ("Appleseed") Robinson, in Sharon, Mass.; and Lewis Robinson and Nancy Struber Robinson, in Sacramento.

Memorial services are scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 12, at 11 a.m. at the Palo Alto Unitarian Church. In lieu of flowers, the family prefers gifts in Robinson's memory be sent to Palo Alto Partners in Education at P.O. Box 1557, Palo Alto, California 94302. ■

of Mountain View, died Sept. 4 in Santa Clara of cancer.

Born Oct. 10, 1954, in Oakland, he grew up in Palo Alto, graduated from Palo Alto High School in 1972, received a BA Phi Beta Kappa from UC Berkeley in 1976 and obtained his law degree from UC Davis in 1986.

During 24 years of practice as a successful immigration lawyer, he served on the Immigration and Naturalization Law Advisory Commission of the State Bar of California and was chair of the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA). He was an instructor of immigration law at the Paralegal Program of Santa Clara University. He also served on the California Service Center/AILA Liaison Committee.

Donald was a devoted father and loving husband, loved ones recalled. He enjoyed theatre, music, reading and traveling. In his youth he performed in many theater productions, including at the Palo Alto Children's Theatre.

He is survived by his wife Laura; daughters Jeanette and Kate; son Brandon; father Kenneth; sisters Jo Ann and Ellen; and brothers Andrew and Paul. A celebration of life memorial will be held Sunday, Oct. 9, at 1 p.m. at the Palo Alto Children's Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto.

Donations in his memory may be made to the Friends of the Palo Alto Children's Theatre (www.fopact.org).

Alice Richards

Alice Richards, 96, a long-time resident of the Menlo Park-Atherton area, died June. 20, 2011.

Born Alice Maxine Schoot Jan. 2, 1915, in Denver, Colo., she grew up in Santa Barbara and was a resident of the Menlo-Atherton area since 1951.

She received her bachelor's degree from UC Berkeley in psychology in 1949 and her master's degree in anthropology from Stanford University in 1965. She taught cul-

tural anthropology at the College of San Mateo from 1965 to 1971 and at Little House as an Emeritus Teacher from 1975 to 1978.

She participated in anti-war movements beginning in the early 1950s, first against the Korean War and later in the 1960s against the Vietnam War. She continued to oppose the wars in Central America, Iraq and Afghanistan until her death. She was a lifelong member of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and was also a member of the Peninsula Peace and Justice Center, Women for Peace, the ACLU, the Sierra Club, and several other organizations. She attended the first UN Conference on Women held in Mexico City as a delegate of an NGO in 1975

Together with her husband, Harvey W. Richards, she traveled to the Soviet Union, central Asia, Mongolia, Cuba, and Africa. During the 1960s and 70s, she helped him produce documentary films about the peace movement, the civil rights movement, the environment and conditions of women and children

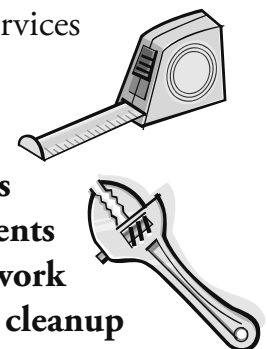
She is survived by her sons, Jonathan Meigs of San Mateo, and David Meigs of Soquel; and by her two stepsons, Steffen Richards of Berkeley, and Paul Richards of Oakland.

The memorial will be held on Saturday Oct 1, 2011, from 2-4 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto, 505 East Charleston Road, Palo Alto.

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Marion Elizabeth Suttle

1919-2011

Marion Elizabeth Suttle passed away peacefully in Atherton on September 11, 2011 at the age of 92. Known affectionately as Betty, she is survived by her husband of 70 years, Jack; her four children John (wife Mojdeh), Richard, Peter, and Susan Rojas (husband José); five grandchildren Katrina Rojas, Annie Rojas, Eileen Rojas, Jessica Suttle, and J.J. Suttle; and one great-grandchild, Alejandro Jacobs. She was preceded in death by her brother Milton Balcome and sisters Ruth Brom and Jean Murray, and her grandson Damien Suttle.

Betty attended Macalester College in St. Paul, MN, from 1937 to 1941, where she graduated with a degree in sociology. She met her loving husband Jack while working at Glacier National Park in the summer of 1939. They married in 1941, and Betty became the Chemistry librarian at Case Western Reserve while Jack finished his doctorate. Starting a family in 1944, Betty became a stay-at-home mom, a job which she continued until 1970 when she began work at the Physics library at U.C. Berkeley. In 1973, Betty and Jack moved to Taos, NM to retire. In retirement, Betty volunteered

to organize the library at the Millicent Rogers Museum in Taos, and became its first librarian. In 1982, they returned to California, and Betty helped her son John raise his three children. She also did volunteer work at Rosner House in Menlo Park and the Palo Alto Clinic.

Betty had a heart valve replacement in 1999 that forced her to curtail her volunteer work. But she remained vital and involved with her children and grandchildren until 2010 when a pacemaker was required to be installed to keep her alive. She remained gracious and loving to the end. She had a wonderful caretaker for the last three years, Mele Fine. Betty was loved by everyone who knew her and will be missed by all.

A memorial service will be held on November 13, 2011. Contact John at (415) 844-1211 or email at Suttle7232@aol.com after October 25 for details.



Deaths

Don de Lemos

Don R. de Lemos, 85, a native of Palo Alto, died Sept. 20, 2011.

He was born in Palo Alto in 1926. A graduate of Stanford University, he practiced law briefly then turned to office management for a New York City consulting firm and a San Jose law firm before working 20 years for ManPower Inc. San Jose as a controller.

He volunteered as a tax aide at Avenidas and served on the board

of directors of the Latham Foundation of Oakland.

He was preceded in death by his son Mark. He is survived by his wife, Virginia de Lemos; daughter Suzanne; and two grandchildren

A memorial service will be held at Alta Mesa Cemetery Monday, Oct. 17, at 2:30 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Latham Foundation of Oakland or Pathways Hospice of Sunnyvale.

Donald Freiberg

Donald Freiberg, 56, a resident

PAID OBITUARY

Editorial

A time for Cubberley planning

With Foothill College vacating aging complex and a looming 2014 lease expiration on the entire site, it's time for a careful school-city process to create a new vision for the site

There are endless possibilities for how the 35-acre former Cubberley High School site on Middlefield Road in south Palo Alto could be used to meet the future needs of the school district and broader community.

City Council member Gail Price started the discussion two weeks ago in an opinion piece published in the Weekly by suggesting that the city use the eight acres it owns at the complex for a new public safety building.

Price, a former member of the Palo Alto school board, said such a project could be combined with a middle or high school that increasingly appears needed as elementary school enrollment continues to rise in the school district.

Because of the location of the city-owned eight-acre parcel at Cubberley, Price's proposal to locate a new public safety building there is probably only viable if part of a major redesign of the entire facility.

But regardless of what ideas might ultimately prevail, there should be a sense of urgency by both the city and school district for addressing the future of the Cubberley site.

The school district leases the 27 acres at Cubberley that it owns to the city of Palo Alto under a complex agreement that will come up for renewal at the end of 2014, with a notification date of Dec. 31, 2013.

The 1989 lease was a financial lifeline to the school district at a desperate time. The city agreed to lease Cubberley and other surplus school sites to keep them from being sold off and to provide financial support to the schools. Voters approved a five percent utility users tax primarily to fund this lease scheme.

Annual lease payments today total a whopping \$4.48 million for the 27 acres the city owns at Cubberley plus \$1.7 million for a covenant not to develop what were then surplus school sites.

The city receives some money from subleasing space at Cubberley to community groups and organizations, but only nets about \$300,000 after expenses, not including the lease payments to the school district. So the arrangement results in a shift of about \$6 million a year from the city to the school district.

Times and circumstances have changed considerably over the last 25 years, and it is clear that the city cannot be expected to continue this lopsided arrangement given its own financial challenges.

The city's "blue ribbon" citizens commission on infrastructure courageously decided to wade into the Cubberley issue in a draft "working paper" published a month ago, and correctly concluded that the time has come for the school district to plan for a smooth transition from its dependence on these lease payments beginning in 2015.

We agree.

Under today's circumstances, it no longer makes sense for the city to provide a direct \$6 million annual subsidy to the school district. There are no longer unused school sites needing to be preserved for future use and the district's financial resources have significantly stabilized.

As Councilmember Price has suggested, that does not mean that the school district and the city should go their separate ways in addressing the Cubberley site. There is no reason to think that a win-win solution is not possible, where the school district and the city's need for facilities are met through careful planning and negotiation, and where the financial terms are within the means of both entities.

But work must begin immediately, and the school district must start by figuring out what it needs to serve the future enrollment of students. With the impending possible loss of \$6 million a year in revenue beginning in 2015, the school district should have every incentive to work with the city to develop an exciting plan for the Cubberley site serving 21st century needs of the community.

We urge the school board and the city council to form a joint committee to begin this work, and to set a firm timeline that ensures the public that a viable plan is complete by the end of 2013.

Spectrum

Editorials, letters and opinions

Barron Park Market

Editor,

Thank you for putting a human face on the usually cold economic news ("Neighborhood market faces foreclosure," Sept. 16, 2011). I was one of those who encouraged Hassan to open his market.

Go into the Barron Park Market and Florist any time — and I mean any time — between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. and Hassan will be there to greet you and help you make your choices. I am disappointed that a friendly, neighborhood market with an international flare, stamped with the owner's personality, is failing.

He's giving his all. Strange that so many of us complain about "big-box" stores when we have something unique a walk or short drive away. If Hassan has to leave our community it is a sad day indeed.

Ginny LaRiviere
Tennessee Lane
Palo Alto

Achievement gap

Editor,

Rena Davidow's letter "In poor taste" (Sept. 9, 2011) has poor taste in its own share.

The goal of closing the achievement gap is to bring up the performance of the disadvantaged; you don't discourage the higher achiever to get a lower grade so your gap can be closed.

College entrance coaching is a product of our college system and capitalism regardless of race and hardly unique to Asian community. Davidow seems to have overplayed the connection between Asian (as in "the twin advantages ... this ethnicity") and coaching (as "this edge").

Asian students in this country sometimes have to achieve more to be admitted to the same school. For that reason, I think you publishing the approach is a good choice, at least an informational one.

Wendy Mei
Carmel Drive
Palo Alto

Professorville parking

Editor,

Quoting from an editorial about parking issues (Sept. 16, 2011): "Business leaders who suggest downtown neighborhoods have a duty of sorts to absorb the employee parking generated from businesses because it is essential to maintaining the downtown's vibrancy and viability are not going to win over public support." Amen! As a Professorville resident, I don't feel that I have a duty to absorb employee parking any more than I expect a business to have a duty to absorb any of my costs of living. That's a ridiculous claim to make.

It's not even my duty to support downtown business; it is the "duty" of business to produce usable goods and services at competitive price and there are many, many wonderful businesses that do just that. Further, as Professor-

ville residents, my wife and I do support those businesses.

We are two of about 500 area residents who are tiring of nearly three years of trying to get the city to provide relief by solving this challenging problem.

Ray Dempsey
Bryant Street
Palo Alto

More parking suggestions

Editor,

This is a draft of the message I gave to City Council to get some attention to the real problems causing the downtown parking problems.

At the recent study session I believe staff may have taken away the sense that no action should be taken towards adopting a parking-permit program for Professorville. This apparent council direction was based on the hope that the traffic engineer's proposed changes in parking garage operations did anything to improve our plight — sort of like an experiment.

To be able to evaluate an experiment it is essential to control the variables, so it will be necessary for the city to stop new downtown commercial uses, applications, exceptions, building permits, and approvals for nonconform-

ing properties without parking — in affect, a temporary moratorium until the study is complete and adequate measures are in place to address this serious problem.

This 9-12 month hiatus will give everyone a chance to:

a. Refine policy and install equipment to maximize the use of existing parking facilities.

b. Modify the zoning to limit uses and/or plan for additional commercial parking needed for future growth.

c. Apply reasonable non-conforming rules and/or find ways to either limit allowed uses or provide parking for those non-conforming commercial businesses outside of the parking assessment district.

d. Adopt standards to combat the impacts of "office" uses with three, four and five times the typical number of employees traditional to office uses.

e. Evaluate the success and adequacy of TDM measures, and

f. Structure a simple Residential Permit Parking Program for the Professorville area — the only thing we have asked for up to this point.

Ken Alsmann
Ramona Street
Palo Alto

YOUR TURN

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

What do you think? Do you think California Avenue should be "improved"?

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!

On Deadline:

Why is there a "Shut-Off-Valve Gap" between the U.S. and Canada?

NTSB report loaded with details of PG&E's shortcomings in oversight of its gas pipelines

by Jay Thorwaldson

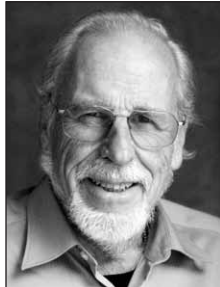
It's ironic that in the 1950s PG&E was installing a defective gas-transmission line beneath San Bruno while Canada was installing a system of large pipelines with automated shut-off valves.

In the wake of the deadly San Bruno Line 132 explosion a year ago such valves would be mandated by several proposed new state laws — which still seem decades late.

A scathing new report issued this week by the National Transportation and Safety Board (NTSB) lays the blame for the deadly San Bruno inferno directly on "a systemic problem" within PG&E and regulatory agencies that have ignored earlier signs of lax safety. (The executive summary is at www.nts.gov/investigations/summary/PAR1101.html.)

Palo Alto city officials are watching developments closely, both because Palo Alto owns its own utilities — gas, electrical, sewer — and because testing is underway of a main pipeline that runs through town.

The city is awaiting final results of a water-pressure test of the main PG&E transmission line running through town. The initial segment, known as T-29, was tested Sept. 10 — a year and a day after the San Bruno inferno. The test took about a week of preparation that included digging holes, venting the line of gas and filling it with water, then closing everything up. The tested segment comes up Middlefield Road from Mountain View, then zigzags left to Alma



Street.

Preliminary results indicate the line passed the 10-hour test, which entailed pressurizing the line to higher-than-normal pressure, according to Debra Katz, communications manager for Palo Alto utilities.

A second segment, T-30, which runs up Page Mill Road from Alma before cutting right into Menlo Park, is scheduled to be tested Oct. 15. The test was postponed because PG&E shifted the testing to a Menlo Park segment.

So Palo Altans appear to be safe, so far.

But the San Bruno blast provides both a fiery backdrop and an incentive to correct a deficiency the NTSB believes never should have existed.

Its report cites "inadequate quality assurance and quality control in 1956 during its Line 132 relocation project." PG&E installed "a substandard and poorly welded pipe section with a visible seam weld flaw that, over time grew to a critical size."

The line ruptured during "a pressure increase stemming from poorly planned electrical work at the Milpitas Terminal," the report says.

A second huge factor was an "inadequate pipeline integrity management program, which failed to detect and repair or remove the defective pipe section."

If that weren't enough, both the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and the U.S. Department of Transportation allowed exemptions from required pressure testing of existing pipelines, "which likely would have detected the installation defects."

And the PUC failed to detect the inadequacies of PG&E's "pipeline integrity" management program.

Finally, the NTSB gets to the nub: "Contributing to the severity of the accident were the lack of

either automatic shutoff valves or remote control valves on the line and PG&E's flawed emergency response procedures and delay in isolating the rupture." During the 95 horrific minutes eight people died, many more were burned, 38 houses destroyed and 70 damaged.

Now, nearly six decades later, the irony of the missing automated valves seems apparent to legislators and officials at all levels.

Such valves automatically close if there is a sudden drop in pressure, indicating a major rupture or leak in the system — shutting down both ends of the failed line.

This type of valve, given some probable technological advances, would be required under several new bills in the state Legislature.

The Canadian valves are big, covering lines from 20 to 48 inches in diameter, with a hydraulic, pressure-based closure mechanism that requires no outside power source. Crews locate the problem, fix it and reopen the valves. (Descriptions of two such valves are at: www2.emerson-process.com and www.atiaactuators.com)

One engineer who works on the Canadian system said that although shutoff time would be shortened it depends on how fast pressure drops. In any case it would be faster than finding someone with keys to a manual valve, he said.

Shawn Mindus, who now works for a pharmaceutical firm based in Palo Alto, was an engineer in a Canadian system for five years. He told the Weekly he was astounded when he learned that the San Bruno line had to be manually closed off. He acknowledged that nearly all the Canadian large transmission lines are outside urban areas, but said shutoff valves, including those near urban areas, tend to be just several kilometers apart.

The NTSB had strong praise for San Bruno

firefighters and other local public-safety personnel who responded within two or three minutes — other local responders showed up quickly.

But San Bruno is not the first failure of PG&E and regulators, and that PG&E still had no clear emergency-response plan or chain of command as of last year, the NTSB report says.

"Poor quality control and inadequate emergency response" were factors in the 2008 pipeline explosion in Rancho Cordova. Not only was an inadequate pipe installed but PG&E initially dispatched an unqualified person to the site, causing additional delay in getting a trained person there.

"Some of these deficiencies were also factors in the 1981 PG&E gas pipeline leak in San Francisco, which involved inaccurate record-keeping, the dispatch of first responders who were not trained or equipped to close valves, and unacceptable delays in shutting down the pipeline," the report says.

The NTSB investigation "concluded that PG&E's multiple, recurring deficiencies are evidence of a systemic problem."

PG&E says it is now moving quickly on multiple fronts to improve safety and oversight — and the PUC has begun proceedings to assure that happens. In early August PG&E named a new CEO and president, Anthony F. Earley, Jr. It has an extensive "frequently asked questions" section on its website, www.pg&e.com.

Current-President Chris Johns on Aug. 30 said the NTSB findings are "an important milestone" and the company "will take to heart" the findings to see that "such a terrible accident never happens again." ■

Former Weekly Editor Jay Thorwaldson can be e-mailed at jthorwaldson@paweekly.com and jaythor@well.com.

Streetwise

What is your favorite thing about fall?

Asked on California Avenue, Palo Alto. Interviews and photographs by Yichuan Cao.



Brad Lowman
Photographer
Ferne Avenue, Palo Alto

"It's cooler and I like the changing colors."



Martina Entriken
Preschool Teacher
College Avenue, Palo Alto

"I am looking forward to Halloween and holidays. I also like the colors of the season."



Rhiannon Rodriquez
Realtor
California Street, Mountain View

"I like the weather, the colors of the leaves and when kids are back to school, the street is less crowded."



Kelli Wamveer
Artist
San Antonio Road, Palo Alto

"I like all seasons. I don't really have a preference. They are all good."



Krystel Astudillo
Product Specialist
San Mateo Drive, San Mateo

"It's the holidays and, of course, Halloween is coming."



Clifford Pham

Palo Alto SEIU members march in front of City Hall in a 2009 protest of proposed benefit cuts.

A LESS-PERFECT UNION?

Palo Alto's labor unions struggle to remain relevant during tough budget times

by Gennady Sheyner

Palo Alto and Wisconsin are thousands of miles apart — geographically and politically — but one wouldn't guess that by talking to the local labor leaders.

The high-tech hub and the cheese-loving state have seen their financial fortunes fall over the past three years. Each has responded by zeroing in on labor unions, though in drastically different ways.

Wisconsin made national headlines earlier this year when its Republican legislators passed a law curtailing the collective-bargaining rights of state employees.

In Palo Alto, the cost-cutting effort has been far less dramatic but, to union members, no less real. Since 2009, the City

Council and City Manager James Keene have made a commitment to extract concessions from each labor union, including permanent “structural” changes to pension and health care benefits. The council also voted in July to place a measure on the ballot that would eliminate binding arbitration for disputes between the city and its public-safety unions. These efforts have prompted some labor leaders to cry foul and compare the city's reform efforts to Wisconsin's.

The council's drive to slash benefits has made many City Hall employees unhappy, though, to paraphrase Leo Tolstoy, each labor group has been unhappy in its own way. The city's largest union, the Service Employees International Union (SEIU),

Local 521, initially rallied against the reforms but has been largely silent since the city imposed the new conditions on its roughly 630 members in October 2009. Last year, the union voted to extend a contract that includes a two-tiered pension plan (with newly hired employees subject to a less generous formula) and a cost-sharing arrangement for medical expenses — moves that the union had fiercely resisted in 2009.

The management-and-professionals group — the only major labor group that's not a union — began giving serious thought to becoming one. Last year, the group briefly flirted with joining the Teamsters. Meanwhile, two subgroups of

employees splintered off to become their own, more specialized unions. The Palo Alto Police Managers Association, which represents police captains and lieutenants, was born in fall 2009. The Utilities Managers Professionals Association of Palo Alto, which includes 45 members of the Utilities Department, officially sprung into existence in June. Both small unions were formed out of general frustration that their particular concerns aren't being met, members said.

Public-safety unions have also been grumbling. Two years ago, Palo Alto's largest police union, the Palo Alto Police Officers Association, offered to forego its members' negotiated raises to help the city

close its budget deficit — a gesture that reduced the city's expenditures by about \$800,000. Now, the union finds itself fighting to keep the city from chopping away at its benefits.

City Manager James Keene made it clear he would seek the same type of concessions from the officers as were imposed on the SEIU workers. The city's contract negotiations with the police union formally launched in June, but the union could lose much of its negotiating leverage in November if voters approve Measure D and repeal the binding-arbitration provision from the city's charter. Sgt. Wayne Benitez, president of the police union, said many in the union are disappointed by the council decision to place the measure on the ballot.

"What the city has done is they created an atmosphere of a lot of unhappy people," Benitez said when asked about the impact of recent negotiations. "In general, people are appreciative that they have jobs in the city. It's a nice city to work for. But, in general, most people feel very underappreciated, and they don't feel like the City Council or the city manager is truly backing them."

The most heated battle, and one with perhaps the greatest implications for both the city budget and labor relations, is the two-year jostle between management and the city's firefighters union, Palo Alto Professional Firefighters, Local 1319. Unlike other labor groups, whose complaints have generally remained behind closed doors, the firefighters' feud with the city has been public, political and litigious. The union last year sponsored a measure that would have frozen staff levels in the Fire Department and required the city to hold an election before it could reduce Fire Department staff or close a fire station. The measure lost overwhelmingly, with more than 70 percent of voters rejecting it.

The firefighters union is also the main driver behind the council's decision to place Measure D on the ballot. The Fire Department's bud-

get has risen by 37 percent between fiscal years 2006 and 2010. So far, the city's firefighters have not had to face the type of benefits cuts that the city has imposed on SEIU workers and managers.

To explain the escalating expenditures in the Fire Department, some on the council point to the city's binding-arbitration provision. The provision, which voters added to the City Charter in 1978, enables a panel of arbitrators to settle disputes between the city and its unions. Unlike most of the other employees (with some exceptions in Utilities and Public Works), police and firefighters are barred by law from striking. The provision was meant to ensure that despite this restriction, police and firefighters would have some leverage in their negotiations with the city.

The main proponents of Measure D, Councilman Greg Scharff and Councilwoman Karen Holman, have argued over the past two years that the provision restricts the council's ability to balance its budgets and creates a disparity between public-safety employees and all other city workers.

'What the city has done is they created an atmosphere of a lot of unhappy people.'

— Sgt. Wayne Benitez, president, police union

Scharff said at the July 18 meeting that the mere threat of binding arbitration prevents the council from making important budget decisions. Holman said the provision's presence has forced the City Council to "settle for something less than where we needed to be."

In fact, even though binding arbitration has been used six times and the verdicts have been split fairly evenly, the arbitration panels have consistently sided with the unions on the major issue of pension reform. In 1980, the panel rejected



Veronica Weber

Sgt. Wayne Benitez, president of the Palo Alto Police Officers Association, stands in the department's parking garage.

the city's attempt to add a second tier in the pension formula for new employees in the fire union. The panel also sided with the police union in 1983, when it ruled that the city should pay both the employer's and the employees' share of pension contribution.

For the public-safety unions, the implications of Measure D are potentially dire. If the measure were to pass, the council would have the power to impose on its police officers and firefighters the types of concessions it has extracted from the SEIU and the managers. The firefighters union responded to the council's decision to place the item on the ballot by filing an "unfair practice charge" against the city with the state's Public Employment Relations Board and by seeking an injunction that would have blocked the measure from appearing on the Nov. 8 ballot. The board rejected this request.

Tony Spitaleri, the president of the firefighters union, immediately described the council's action as "another attack on the basic rights of workers, just like the attacks on collective bargaining we have seen this year all around the country." He also predicted that city voters would reject Measure D.

"Palo Alto is no Wisconsin," Spitaleri said. "Unlike the City Council, Palo Alto voters value fairness."

Other union leaders were less blunt, but they also said they see the recent reforms in Palo Alto as part of a broader national response to the economic downturn and the populist anger against public workers that this downturn has engendered. Benitez and Lt. Ron Watson, president of the Palo Alto Police Managers Association, both said they accept the fact that the city is struggling financially and that their unions will need to contribute. But in their view, as in the view of many city workers, the cuts are also shaped in some part by the philosophical debate taking place across the nation about public workers.

"There's a national tide against workers," Watson said. "We kind

of fly under the radar in good times and then pop up in bad times."

Palo Alto is far from the only place where labor unions are seeing their fortunes decline. The economic downturn that shook the globe in 2008 continues to linger. Plummeting sales-tax revenues have taken a bite out of local and state budgets across the nation, prompting lawmakers to slash budgets and take a fresh look at employee expenditures.

In Ohio, much like in Wisconsin, a newly elected Republican governor passed a law this year severely curtailing the collective-bargaining rights of state employees. In New Jersey, Gov. Chris Christie's opposition to public unions has made him a political rock star among fiscal conservatives and Tea Party

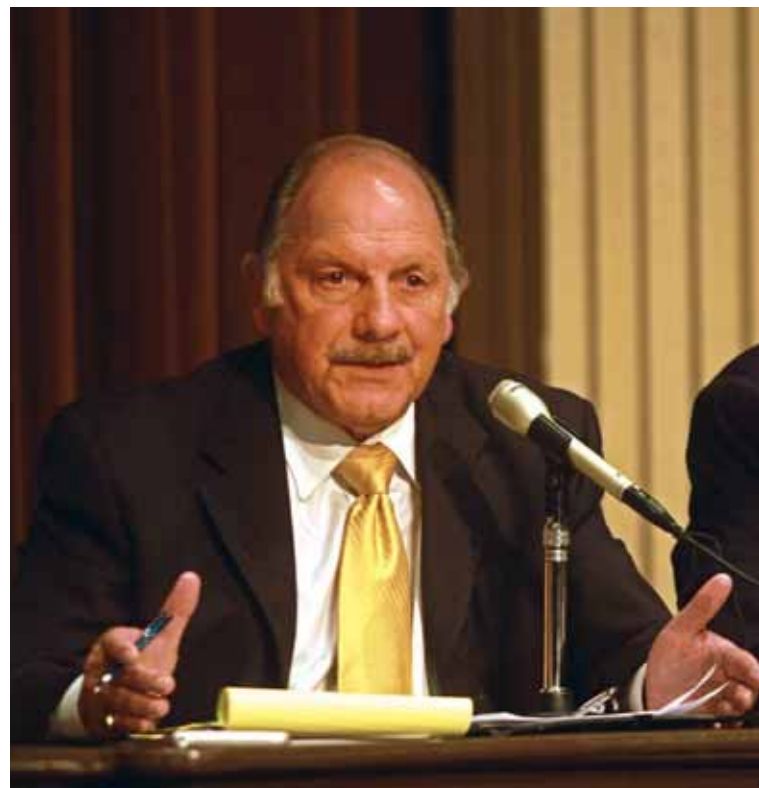
stalwarts.

Public employees have also been feeling the pinch on the local level in California. Budget woes have prompted San Jose and Oakland to whittle down their respective police forces. San Jose voters also passed a ballot measure last year that reformed the city's binding-arbitration provision, empowering a retired judge to settle disputes between the city and its public-safety workers. Voters in Vallejo, which went bankrupt in 2008 after failing to win union concessions, narrowly passed a ballot measure last year abolishing binding arbitration for police and firefighters. In August, voters in San Luis Obispo did the same thing through a mail-in ballot. More than 70 percent voted for the repeal.

But Palo Alto isn't Oakland, Vallejo or San Luis Obispo. Though the city's tax revenues have dipped as a result of the global recession, its fortunes have been slowly picking up over the past year, and officials expect revenues to increase by \$2.5 million between 2011 and 2012. Politically, the city's leadership is about as far from the Wisconsin Legislature as it is geographically. The council, while nonpartisan, leans heavily to the left. The city's elected representatives in Sacramento and Washington, D.C., are all Democrats, and 53 percent of the city's voting population are registered Democrats (compared to 17 percent who are Republicans). And unlike Govs. Christie, John Kasich and Scott Walker of New Jersey, Ohio and Wisconsin, respectively, Palo Alto officials have been careful not to frame their recent reforms as ideological stances on labor unions but as necessary steps to balance the books.

On July 18, as the council was preparing to vote on placing the repeal of binding arbitration on the ballot, several members went out of their way to point out how much they

(continued on page 18)



Vivian Moore

Palo Alto Firefighters Association leader Tony Spitaleri is a vocal opponent of Measure D.



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Unions

(continued from page 17)

value city workers. Five members said they oppose the repeal (though one of the five, Vice Mayor Yiaway Yeh, voted with the four who support the repeal to place the item on the ballot). Council members Nancy Shepherd and Gail Price stressed their support for the labor movement and for collective bargaining, while Mayor Sid Espinosa, addressing city workers, told them that the city appreciates them and values the work they do.

“This policy should not be seen as not valuing the significant contributions you make every day — putting your lives at risk to save citizens here,” Espinosa said — a comment one might find hard to imagine coming from Christie or Walker.

Despite these caveats, union officials were quick to link Palo Alto’s reforms and its drive to repeal binding arbitration to the sea change taking place nationwide. Spitaleri wasn’t the only union member to make the Wisconsin comparison. The Santa Clara County Democratic Party sounded a similar note earlier this month when it took a formal position against Measure D.

“Just like the attempts to take away the collective bargaining rights of workers in Wisconsin, Measure D aims right at the heart of working people,” party Chair Steve Preminger said in a statement.

Like other labor and party offi-

cial, the party is keeping a close eye on the Palo Alto election. Preminger said in a recent interview that while the Palo Alto council bears little similarity to Wisconsin lawmakers, both bodies have turned public workers into scapegoats during the economic downturn. Preminger, himself a former Palo Alto employee and a former SEIU representative, said he hopes the city’s leadership would sit down with the unions and reach a “mutually beneficial relationship” after the November election.

‘This policy should not be seen as not valuing the significant contributions you make every day — putting your lives at risk to save citizens here.’

— Sid Espinosa, mayor, Palo Alto

“This is significant because Palo Alto is a unique community and it’s a large community — larger than some of the other cities that have done this,” Preminger said. “I hope that the voters, when they vote for this, really understand the issue and aren’t just paying attention to folks who say we can’t afford it (binding arbitration) and that it’s bankrupting the city and all that.

“The Wisconsin comparison is really a comparison about attacks on public employees,” he added.



Veronica Weber

Members of the Palo Alto Fire Department, far right, attend a 2010 State of the City address.

When City Manager James Keene talks about the recent labor reforms, the focus is usually on the numbers, not ideology. Pension costs in Palo Alto, as elsewhere, have been going through the roof and are expected to continue their ascent over the next two years. According to the city’s Long Term Financial Forecast, pension obligations are expected

to jump from about \$19.5 million this year to about \$28.9 million in 2015.

Medical costs are also skyrocketing. Staff projects the city’s medical expenses for active employees and retirees to increase from about \$23 million in the current fiscal year to \$30 million in 2015, according to the forecast.

“What we’ve tried to do as a city

is to try to tackle these root issues to try to make systemic ongoing solutions so that we can ultimately come out of it faster and better than others,” Keene said.

It was these twin trends, along with continuing uncertainty over the economy, that have prompted the city’s recent reform movements,

(continued on page 20)

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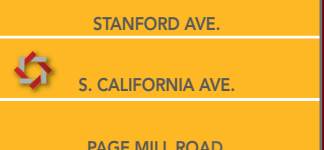
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Palo Alto firefighters extinguish a 2009 fire at Evvia, a local restaurant.

Unions

(continued from page 18)

Keene told the Weekly. He acknowledged that these changes have hit the unions hard but maintained that they are necessary to ensure the city can meet its long-term commitments.

“The things that have driven our need as a city to make systemic changes in our long-term cost structure have been extremely difficult,” Keene said. “They’ve required sacrifices by our employees, and they’ve required concessions from our labor unions. That is difficult, and it’s impossible for those sorts of changes to not have an impact on morale.”

The four council members who support the repeal of binding arbitration — Scharff, Holman, Pat Burt and Greg Schmid — have also couched their

support for Measure D largely in financial, rather than philosophical, terms. Scharff noted at several meetings that the city’s 2012 budget assumes \$4.3 million in concessions from the two major public-safety unions. Without binding arbitration, the city could’ve made the necessary cuts sooner and would not have a gaping hole in its budget, he said.

‘It’s impossible for those sorts of changes to not have an impact on morale.’

— James Keene, city manager, Palo Alto

Schmid called the city’s budget situation — namely, rising expenditures and falling revenues — the “single

most pressing issue I’ve run into consistently over four years.” The time is ripe, he said, to scrap binding arbitration.

The recent strife over salaries and benefits, and power, has taken its toll on the entire staff — not just on the union workers bearing the brunt of fiscal cuts. The city’s reforms, particularly its recent requirement that workers chip in for medical care, have prompted an exodus of employees from City Hall. The flight came in three waves roughly corresponding to the reforms and has left top management and the remaining staff in a logistical pickle. It doesn’t help that between 2009 and 2011, the city reduced the number of full-time employees supported by the city’s general fund from 652 to 580.

To deal with the smaller staff size,

the city has turned to familiar faces — its recent retirees. According to a report the Santa Clara County Grand Jury released earlier this year, Palo Alto had a higher percentage of employees who are rehired retirees — 5.8 percent — than any other city in the county. The other cities in the county averaged 1.6 percent.

Keene acknowledged that the city’s actions in bringing its finances in order had accelerated the workers’ departure and put the city “in a bit of a predicament.”

Keene said the city is currently actively recruiting for 45 positions — nearly 5 percent of the workforce. The turnover, he said, has had a major impact on City Hall, forcing staff to work much harder in both filling vacancies and in performing the day-to-day functions of keeping the streets safe and the electricity flowing. But

Keene also said the turnover is creating an opportunity to bring fresh talent into the organization.

“It’s undoubtedly a very stressful time for all of us,” Keene said. “But there are good aspects to the stress along with negative ones.”

Just about every department is feeling the pinch these days. In June, Utilities Director Valerie Fong said one of the greatest challenges Utilities is facing is retaining employees. The department is now busily training employees about how the various utility systems function and what to do if one goes down.

Police officers who are eligible for retirement are also heading for the exit, in many cases to protect their lucrative health care arrangements, Benitez said. Palo Alto officers, he said, have traditionally been among the lowest paid in the region. What made the job lucrative, he said, was the city’s benefits, particularly its willingness to pay 100 percent of employee medical costs. The prospect of losing this benefit has left many in the union disappointed and looking for other jobs, he said.

Benitez said he knows at least three people in his union who are looking for jobs out of state. He said the department expects the “floodgates to open up in law enforcement” around California in 2014. Statewide, Benitez said, about a third of the people working in law enforcement are expected to leave their jobs in the next decade.

In the small and nascent police manager’s union, the changes are particularly dramatic. The union formed in 2009, largely in response to the city management and professionals group’s effort to join the Teamsters. At that time it had seven members — two captains and five lieutenants. Watson said three of these lieutenants retired this summer. Of the four people left in the union, two are eligible for retirement and will likely leave if they deem it financially advantageous.

“Each person looks at their own financial situation and makes a decision,” Watson said. “They look at what they’d make if they retire today, based on their salary, and what they’d get for their medical benefits. Then they consider what they’d get if they retire later.”

Police officers, Watson said, expect to chip in to help the city overcome

(continued on page 22)

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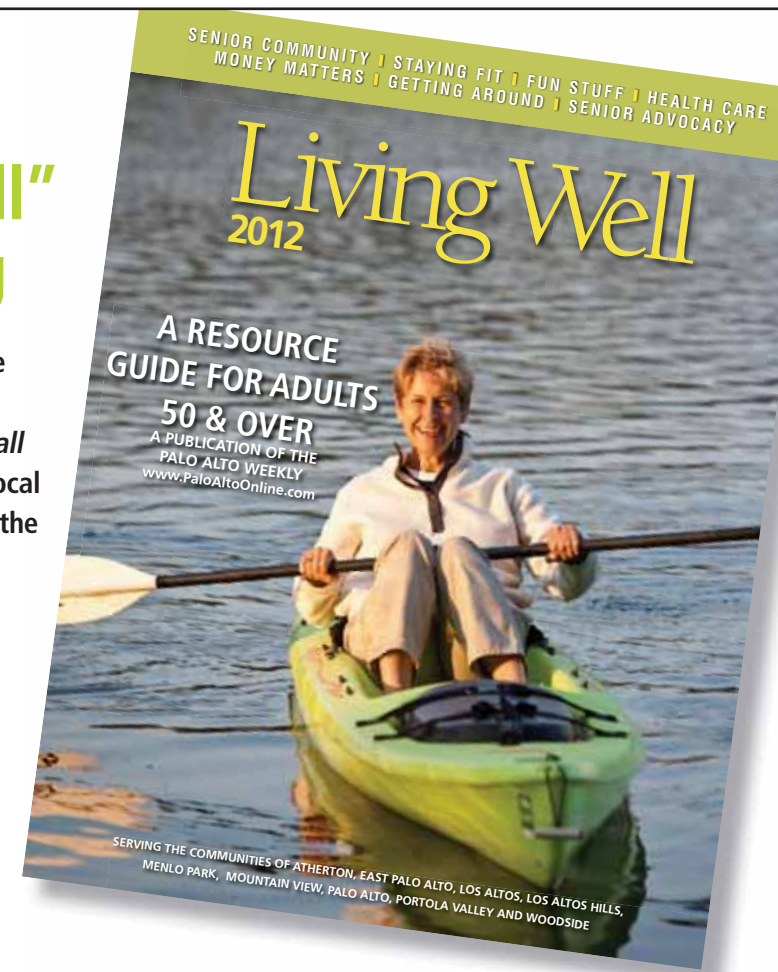
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Citywide average salary & benefits per employee

Category	Management/Professional	Fire Chiefs Association	IAFF	PAPOA	Police Mgmt Group	SEIU
Full-time equivalents	233.35	4	108	82	7	582.25
Salary	\$111,457	\$138,206	\$102,823	\$104,304	\$143,972	\$70,145
Overtime	n/a	n/a	\$20,973	\$8,958	n/a	\$4,221
Medical/Dental/Vision	\$13,154 \$1,935	\$15,362 \$1,935	\$14,584 \$1,935	\$13,874 \$1,935	\$13,180 \$1,935	\$13,059 \$1,935
Retirement**	\$22,588	\$40,787	\$34,183	\$34,025	\$43,371	\$14,468
Ability to strike	Yes*	No	No	No	No	Yes*
Binding arbitration	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

Source: City of Palo Alto Operating Budget FY 2012 *unless designated essential workers **PERS (Public Employees Retirement System)
IAFF = Palo Alto Professional Firefighters, Local 1319
PAPOA = Palo Alto Police Officers Association
Police Mgmt Group = Palo Alto Police Managers Association
SEIU = Service Employees International Union
Management/Professional = Includes utilities managers, who have since formed their own association



City Manager Jim Keene says systemic solutions are needed to fight city-budget woes.

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Palo Alto Weekly

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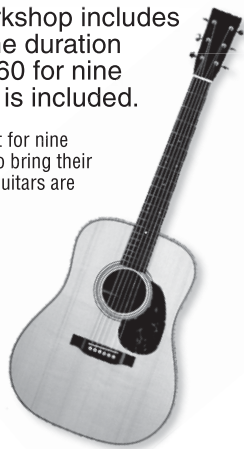
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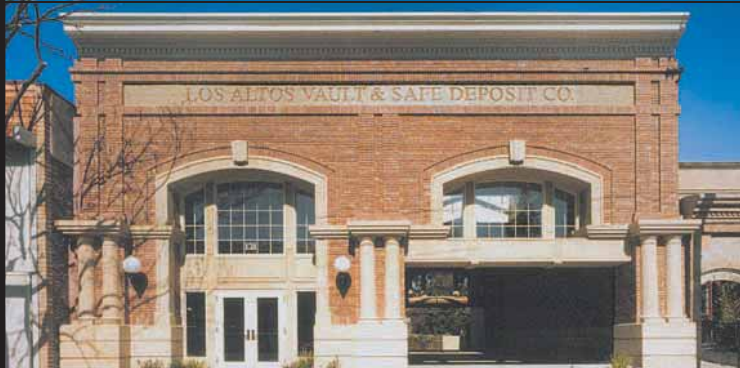


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Veronica Weber

Crews of city workers are sent around Palo Alto each day for tree pruning and telephone-line clearing.

Unions

(continued from page 21)

its recent financial struggles. What bothers them, he said, is not knowing what type of cuts the city will seek next.

"I personally don't have a problem with the 90-10 or some different versions of that," Watson said. "But it's a little hard for folks when they don't know what's going to come."

The retirements of police managers could have deep implications for the department. The city's Independent Police Auditor Michael Gennaco alluded to the anticipated retirements in his latest report, which came out last week.

"This will pose a significant challenge to the continuity and continued high quality of internal affairs and citizen-complaint investigations," Gennaco wrote, referring to the retirements. "We are hopeful that the Department gives thoughtful consideration to these issues when developing a transitional plan so that this important function is not undermined."

Most labor leaders remain somewhat hopeful that the recent union struggles, in Palo Alto and elsewhere, could reverse. But they believe that this can only happen if the economy picks up or if the national conversation shifts from cutting costs to adding revenues. Few expect this change to happen soon, particularly given the national sentiment and the Tea Party's rise. Even if the economy were to improve, it would probably take a few years before unions see any benefits, Preminger said.

But he said he remains optimistic that the conversation could shift. He pointed to President Barack Obama's recent proposals to raise taxes for high-income residents as a step in that direction.

"There's nothing like a recovering economy for problems to go by the wayside," Preminger said. "But I think there really are problems when people look for scapegoats."

Even if the economic outlook brightens, the traditional power of unions has already taking a beating. The SEIU is no longer flexing its muscles. The management group has fewer members and, as a result,

even less leverage. And if Measure D were to pass, the police and firefighter unions would no longer have a mechanism in their favor for settling disputes with the city.

Keene, for his part, said he hopes that once the city approves the new police and fire contracts, the most difficult part of the structural adjustments will have passed.

"I think the city has had to take the necessary steps for the long-term good of the city but also for the long-term good of employment in the city," he said. "We're hopeful that once we conclude this round of negotiations with public safety and we look at these pension issues, we will turn the corner for the most part, barring some new round of devastating economic news." ■

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

About the cover:
Illustration by Shannon Corey.

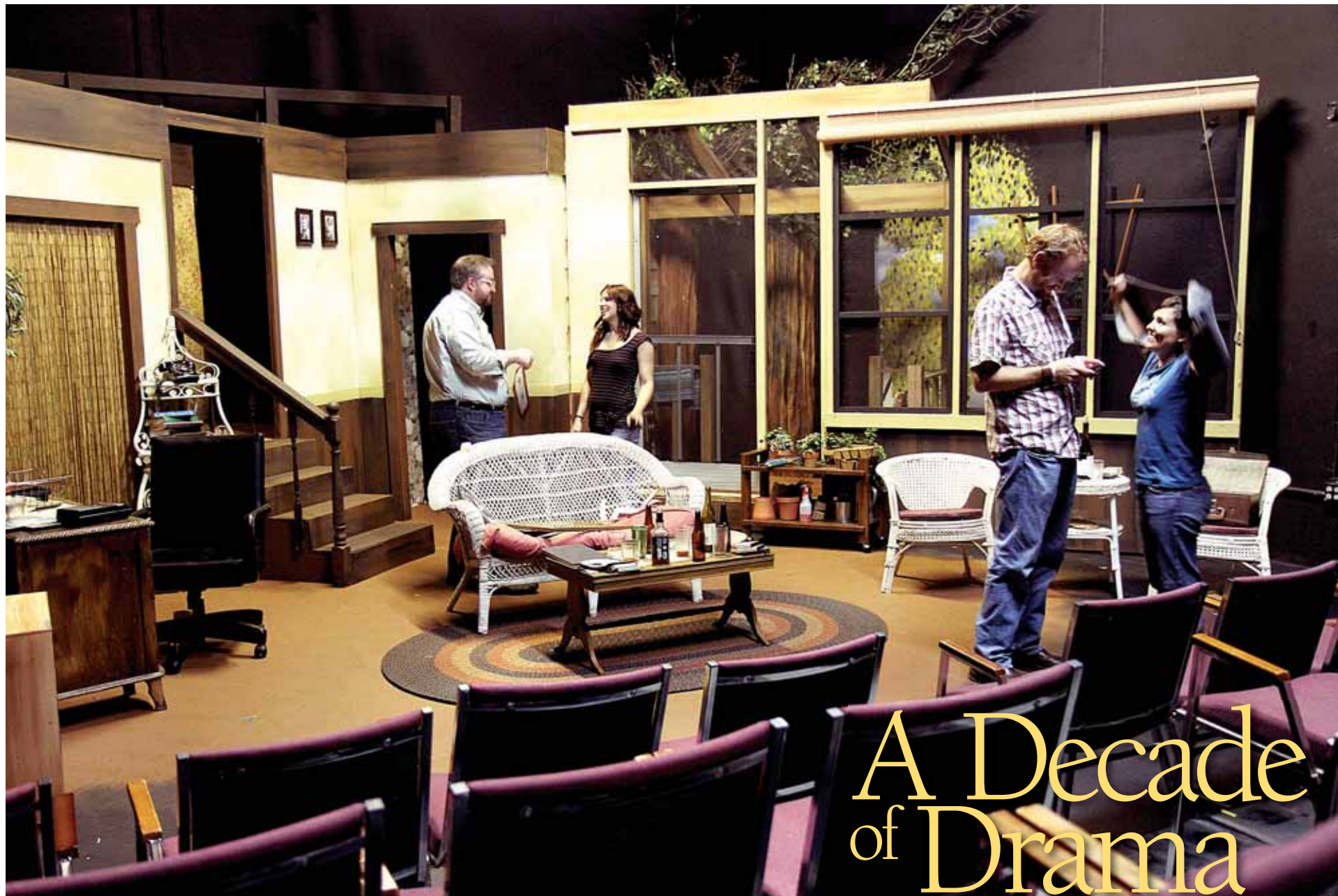


Veronica Weber

Palo Alto Police officers meet with youth enforcement explorers during a 2010 fundraising event.

Arts & Entertainment

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



A Decade of Drama

Above: Cast and crew on the set of "Fifth of July" before its Sept. 16 opening at the Pear Avenue Theatre. Right: Palo Altan Diane Tasca, who founded the theater company 10 years ago. Below: "Fifth of July" actresses Citali Pizarro, left, and Carolyn Power in the dressing room before opening.



The saying may be well worn, but Palo Alto resident Diane Tasca insists there is no better way for her to express what she loves about the stage: "Theater is alive."

The founder of the Pear Avenue Theatre, which celebrated the opening of its 10th season on Sept. 15, explains that while she loves a good TV show or film, there is something much more personal and human about a play.

"It's not only that the performers are in the moment," Tasca said. "The audience and the performers form a kind of unit that is different each night. The actors have give and take with themselves, but they also have give and take with the audience."

That give and take was easily observable on Sept. 16, as a cast of seven men and women performed Lanford Wilson's "The Fifth of July" to a small crowd of patrons at the Pear's Mountain View venue.

There isn't a bad seat in the small black-box theater. The Pear's 40 seats rise up and away from the ground-level stage, and audience members sitting in the front row can literally reach out and touch those actors who move close enough to the fourth wall.

Michael Champlin, who is playing
(continued on next page)



Audience members arrive for opening night of "Fifth of July," a Lanford Wilson play.

Palo Alto wishes a happy 10th birthday to her Pear Avenue Theatre company

by Nick Veronin
photographs by Michelle Le





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Stage manager Sara Sparks makes some checks before the play opens.

The Pear

(continued from previous page)

main character Kenneth Talley in "The Fifth of July," says he loves that the Pear allows him to be so close to the audience. "There is an immediacy to it," he said. "I've been impressed with the theater since the first show that I came to see here."

"You're right in the scene in many ways," Jerry DeRuntz, a longtime patron of local theater, said of the Pear's seating arrangement. "You can really see people's expressions."

DeRuntz has been coming to the Pear since its opening season and first became interested in theater 15 years ago when his girlfriend, Katherine Ingold, suggested that they see a play together.

He was immediately drawn to the stage. "There is a chemistry that happens," DeRuntz said. "Every night the feeling is different."

A fan of theater since 1988, Ingold agrees. She enjoys seeing the same play performed by various theater companies and on different stages. "I get more out of it each time," Ingold said.

And of all the plays she has taken in over the past two decades, and of all the stages — large and small — she has been to, Ingold maintains that many of the best works she has seen have been produced by the Pear.

Both DeRuntz and Ingold say that the players themselves are consistently talented at the Pear, and that the company doesn't shy away from challenging works. "They tackle things that we don't see elsewhere," Ingold said.

Plays produced at the Pear have included not only classics by Shakespeare, Chekhov and Shaw but works by more modern playwrights such as Tony Kushner, Theresa Rebeck, Sam Shepard and Paula Vogel. Each season, the company also presents a new version of "Pear Slices," collections of new one-act plays that are often written by local playwrights.

Palo Alto playwright Sharmon Hilfinger premiered "Tell It Slant," her play with music about Em-

ily Dickinson, here in 2009. Next March, Menlo Park writer Margy Kahn is scheduled to open her new play "Familiar Strangers" at the Pear. It's about an Iranian-American family divided by revolution, culture and the generation gap.

Ingold says the diversity the theater company covers and its high quality of performers are only sweetened by the Pear's intimacy. She takes a seat in the front row whenever she can. "I feel like I'm right in the scene," she said.

Indeed, on Sept. 16, several actors walked right up to the front row of the audience, at times pointing over someone's head at an imagined sunset off in the distance.

Tasca had always hoped her theater would draw regular subscribers, but couldn't imagine at the outset just who those subscribers might be.

Back then, Tasca and her partners were just happy to find an appropriately sized space — 1,500 square feet with a ceiling more than 20 feet high, which allows for two-story sets and plenty of breathing room — at a reasonable price.

Since opening in September 2002, The Pear Avenue Theatre has some ups and downs — particularly at the beginning of the recession, during the 2007-08 season. Google had recently purchased the building where the Pear rents its space; the thespian union, Actors' Equity, was demanding more money for performers' stipends; and ticket sales were down, Tasca says. But she adds that there was never a time when she seriously considered shutting down.

Tasca never expected the Pear Avenue Theatre would make her rich, and over the years she has found many ways of saving money here and there. Whether it is painting sets herself instead of paying a professional, printing only one set of programs and asking audiences to return them at the end of the play or reducing the size of her advertising mailers, Tasca is always thinking of ways to keep her costs down.

"I'm always impressed with how much they do with the set in such a small space," said Sara Sparks, who



is working as stage manager for several Pear shows this season. Before starting last season, Sparks was with TheatreWorks. Most shows at TheatreWorks, which is a professional company, had anywhere from 10 to 15 crew members. With the Pear she is usually the only crew person: running the lights and sound board, and helping however else she can during a show.

While there are some things Tasca would like to improve about the Pear — she would like about 30 extra seats and another bathroom for patrons — she is happy with what she has built and thrilled that her company has reached its 10th season.

"We just want to keep things as elegant and classy as we can, given our limited resources," Tasca says.

It's fans like Ingold and DeRuntz that motivate her to keep searching for grants and donations, and even infusing the theater with her own income. Tasca says she has a "sense of responsibility" to her patrons, and she is eager to "surprise and challenge them. The goal is to keep getting better and better." ■

Info: The Pear Avenue Theatre's production of "Fifth of July" runs through Oct. 9, Thursday through Sunday, at 1220 Pear Ave., Unit K, in Mountain View. Its second production of the 10th-anniversary season, "Mauritius" by Theresa Rebeck, opens Nov. 4. For details, go to thepear.org or call 650-254-1148.

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LAIONA MICHELLE & JACK KOENIG / PHOTO MARK KITAOKA

Busy Palo Alto playwright Sharmon J. Hilfinger is having her seventh full-length play produced in the Bay Area. "Hanging Georgia," a play with music about Georgia O'Keeffe that Hilfinger wrote with composer Joan McMillen, opens in San Francisco on Oct. 8. The pair premiered "Tell It Slant," a play with music about Emily Dickinson, in 2009. To read more, go to Weekly arts editor Rebecca Wallace's blog, **Ad Libs**, at adlibs.paloaltoonline.com.



James Manganaro, owner of the new Bridgepoint Music store in Menlo Park, places a tuba into a cleaning tub.

Horns aplenty

Menlo resident sets up new music shop

by Karla Kane

Should you find yourself with a stuck trombone slide, a dented oboe or a problem piccolo, have no fear. Bridgepoint Music is here.

Menlo Park's newest music store, located at 657 Oak Grove Ave., is fully equipped with a repair shop, along with a selection of orchestral instruments and an ever-expanding sheet-music collection. And though the shop has been open only since this summer, owner James Manganaro already has plans to develop and diversify.

"Right now we're in the middle of getting permits from the city for practice rooms for lessons," he said. He envisions four to five soundproof practice spaces rented out to local music teachers.

Manganaro is a longtime tuba player who found that, alas, being a professional tubist is not the most lucrative of career paths. Though he does freelance gigs and plays with some groups, he said: "I needed to find some other way to supplement that income. I knew that I wanted to do music so I decided to learn how to go into the repair business." He went to a specialized school in Washington state, worked in a music store for a while, then decided to open one of his own.

"It started off just as a repair shop, then I thought it would be a good idea to offer rentals that were in great condition," he said. Eventually he set the goal of opening a "good, full-service" retailer, offering high-quality instruments as well as repairs and custom parts.

Currently, his shop is centered mostly on band instruments, "with an emphasis on the student line," Manganaro said. "Pretty soon we're looking to bring in more pro instruments."

Because Manganaro aims to sell only trusted brands, the store at present stocks mostly woodwinds and brass instruments that Manganaro has personal experience with and can vouch for. "I'm looking for the stuff I believe in, the quality product," he said.

"We leave the guitar, drums and bass to other stores. It's a different kind of music store than that."

—James Manganaro, owner of Bridgepoint Music, which focuses on woodwind and brass instruments

He hopes to expand in a year to bring in orchestral string instruments, along with more employees who are experts in instruments he is less familiar with. But though he may eventually add a variety of miscellaneous melody-makers such as ukuleles to his stock, he said he's not interested in supplying traditional rock 'n' roll instruments at Bridgepoint.

"We leave the guitar, drums and bass to other stores. It's a different kind of music store than that. There's already a lot of that in town," he said, referring to Redwood City's nearby Gelb Music, a

mainstay of the local rock-music scene.

So far, business has been good, he said, including "a lot of fourth graders getting their first instruments." That's a demographic that Manganaro, who started his music career in middle school, can relate to.

"I was a quirky kid. I want to be different. I wanted to play the sousaphone (a type of tuba)," he said, of the instrument that stole his heart. The tuba, with its rhythmic low notes, he added, is "very beautiful."

Repair-wise, Manganaro and his associate technician can work on "anything from simple cleanings to complete overhauls; building custom parts; fixing stuck valves or stuck slides; dents; adjustments; everything and anything that needs to be done," he said. His father, Charles, helps out with bookkeeping and the rest of the business side of things.

As for the store's moniker, Manganaro said with a laugh, "I needed a name, but my name doesn't have a very good ring to it and all the really cool, awesome names had already been taken." He came up with "Bridgepoint" on a whim, "and nobody hated it. It sounded pretty good."

Manganaro said he's been pleased with the interest he's gotten so far and said he's focused on "making sure everyone in Menlo knows we're here. The repair department is going pretty strong."

He's keeping up with his own musical pursuits as well. "I'm in a couple brass bands. It's important for music stores to maintain an active relationship with the community," he said. "I'm always looking for places to play." ■

Info: Bridgepoint Music is at 657 Oak Grove Ave. in Menlo Park. Call 650-326-7600.

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It Happened in Palo Alto

When Leland and Jane Stanford laid plans for Stanford University, they were adamant that while retail businesses were needed, there should be no alcohol outlets near campus. Mayfield, a town just south of the planned campus, laid out after the Civil War, had possibly 20 saloons. After asking Mayfield to close them and getting rebuffed, Stanford began development of what is now Palo Alto. Mayfield had earned a rowdy reputation, with fights, shootings, and illegal gambling. Stanford University students looking for excitement crossed into Mayfield, had their flings, and retreated back to campus.

Some Mayfield residents considered Palo Alto snobbish and wanted to keep their town as it was. Others were embarrassed by its reputation and wanted to civilize it. Attempts to restrict or close liquor outlets, however, were frustrated, they being the town's main source of revenue. The anti-liquor faction scored a victory in July, 1903, when voters approved a measure to incorporate. An ordinance passed in late 1904 closed the saloons and restricted alcoholic beverage sales to hotels where they had to be served with food. But on the day the ordinance was to take effect, the saloons opened for business as usual. It took arrests and fines to close them, after which they moved to Menlo Park.

Mayfield took on community aspects: sidewalks, sewer and water systems, numbered houses. The town's optimism was soon tempered, however, by the condition of what is now El Camino Real and was then called just Main Street. Although it had been repaired at a cost of \$400,000 in 1912, the repairs were badly done and the street had deteriorated. Property assessments to raise additional funds were voted down. Eventually a combination of state highway commission, local businesses, Stanford University, and the county paid for street improvement, but the lengthy controversy seemed to doom Mayfield's existence as a separate community.

... To Be Concluded.



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Movies

OPENINGS

50/50 ★★★

(Century 16, Century 20) In the last 15 years or so, cancer memoirs have become de rigueur, in straight prose and even graphic-novel format (Brian Fies' "Mom's Cancer," Harvey Pekar's "Our Cancer Year"). Now the movies have gotten into the act by way of "50/50," a cancer comedy for twentysomethings.

Of course, the disease is hardly new to the big screen, but it's rarely been employed in ways that offer comfort or, indeed, respect to those living with cancer. Too often it's the plot device to sideswipe a character and prime a tragic, "weepee" ending. Though the title quotes even odds, writer Will Reiser is himself a cancer survivor; however this semi-autobiographical story may end, it at least comes with the guarantee that it knows whereof it speaks.

That's good news for millions of people touched by cancer who wouldn't mind seeing an honest reflection of their experiences. Reiser lays out a colorful spectrum of emotional reactions, from bitterness to calm to stage-four freakout to love and gratitude for a true-blue support network. Like his creator, 27-year-old Adam (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) discovers he's developed a spinal cancer, specifically a neurofibroma schwannoma (sorry, though the affliction does become the subject of wordplay, no chorus of "My Schwannoma").

Another cancer, another character sideswiped? Sure, but "50/50" isn't interested in defeatism, except



Seth Rogen and Joseph Gordon-Levitt in "50/50."

as one inevitable way station of the film's appealing emotional ramble. Gordon-Levitt excels here, partly as an amusingly deadpan straight man to Seth Rogen (playing a version of himself as Adam's best bud Kyle) and Anjelica Huston (lovable as Adam's demonstrative mother) but more importantly as an Everyman navigating his mortality.

Adam begins as an overly cautious individual (while jogging on empty streets, he slavishly obeys "WALK" signals), but as his illusions of order crumble, he allows himself to indulge his emotions and cross behavioral boundaries. His

new attitudes emerge partly from the spectacular flameout of his relationship with girlfriend Rachael (Bryce Dallas Howard); pleased-as-punch Kyle insists that cancer is a sure-fire hook for the ladies, a premise Adam reluctantly tests.

Meanwhile, our hero develops complicated feelings for the one woman who's unattainable, the 24-year-old psychotherapy grad student (Anna Kendrick's Katherine) assigned to be his counselor. It's textbook transference, but on the other hand, Katherine is pretty, endearingly earnest and emotionally accessible, if not — ethically

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL JOE MORGENSTERN
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Palo Alto Unified School District

Palo Alto Unified School District Parcel Tax – Citizens' Oversight Committee

The Palo Alto Unified School District Board of Education seeks applicants for appointment to a ten member independent, volunteer Parcel Tax Citizens' Oversight Committee. The Committee reviews and report to the public on the District's parcel tax expenditures. Applicants must reside within the Palo Alto Unified School District. An applicant may not be an employee, contractor, consultant, or vendor of the District.

The successful applicants will serve a term from the date of appointment through June 30, 2016.

The purpose of the Citizens' Oversight Committee is to advise the Board on the expenditures funded by the measure in order to help ensure that said funds are spent for the purposes approved by the voters. The Community Oversight Committee will monitor the expenditures of these funds by the District and will report on an annual basis to the Board and community on how these funds have been spent.

Application forms can be obtained by writing to: Dr. Kevin Skelly, Superintendent, Palo Alto Unified School District, 25 Churchill Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94306, or by emailing: lbaranoff@pausd.org. You can obtain information by phone by calling 650-329-3737.

Completed applications must be sent to: Dr. Kevin Skelly, Superintendent, Palo Alto Unified School District, 25 Churchill Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94306, or emailed to: lbaranoff@pausd.org. **All applications must be received by Wednesday, October 14, 2011, at 4:30 pm.**

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speaking — available.

Though real-life friends Reiser and Rogen (also a producer here) have described the project as a hard sell, it's hard to imagine why: It's a movie for anyone who's ever been afraid of death or, y'know, life. They and director Jonathan Levine ("The Wackness") may be navigating a minefield but they never act like it, retracing Reiser's path freely and mostly nimbly. The film is least credible in its romantic subplot but with actors like Gordon-Levitt and Kendrick, we're hard pressed to care.

"50/50" proves winningly humane as a carpe diem comedy designed to remind us, gently but not genteelly, that what matters most is being true to one another and ourselves.

Rated R for language throughout, sexual content and some drug use. One hour, 40 minutes.

— Peter Canavese

What's Your Number?

★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) Print media may be facing dire challenges, but you wouldn't know it from

romantic comedies. Hollywood still treats women's magazines as works of Biblical importance to the American woman; take, for example, "What's Your Number?", in which a woman downsized from her marketing position reconceptualizes her life after flipping through a Marie Claire.

Anna Faris plays Ally Darling (awwww...), whose Boston subway ride is ruined when Marie Claire tells her the average number of lovers an American woman has in her lifetime is 10.5. Aghast at having nearly doubled that total — and shamed by her younger sister's impending marriage — Ally resolves to stop sleeping with men until she finds "the one." That's a tall order for a girl who likes a few drinks on the town (and the sex that tends to follow), but Ally decides she won't give "yes" for an answer.

Ally bonds with her womanizing across-the-hall neighbor Colin (Chris "Captain America" Evans) when they help each other ditch dates, prompting Ally to offer a trade: her apartment as a hideout from booty calls in exchange for Colin's help digging up her old flames. Perhaps, she reasons, they're worthy of a hookup for old

time's sake (after all, exes won't add to her total) or even the ultimate hookup: marriage.

Ally's old boyfriends prove mostly unavailable or unmarried, but we learn in the process that Ally has slept with modern comedy's B-list, including Andy Samberg, Chris Pratt, Thomas Lennon and Martin Freeman. Finally, Ally reconnects with prized bachelor Jake Adams (Dave Annable), and since this is a strictly boilerplate rom com, we're to pretend that, like Ally, we don't see the obvious: Her true love is the man right under her nose, the confident but surprisingly sweet Colin. Yes, with sex out of the equation, Ally and Colin get to know and love each other.

Based on Karen Bosnak's novel "20 Times a Lady," "What's Your Number?" is frothy and predictable, occasionally annoying (the persistent, pandering Facebook and Twitter jokes), but a crowd pleaser for those who don't blanch at the term "chick flick." Aimed at the young and restless by a TV-bred director and screenwriters, the picture doesn't seem much to mind that it's disposable, instead focusing on cheerily crude sex talk and getting Faris and Evans out of their clothes

at every possible opportunity (we're talking every other scene, folks).

So director Mark Mylod knows which side his bread is buttered on, and he takes as much advantage of Faris' comic chops as the script allows. It's sad that the 34-year-old Faris seems to have resorted to face-altering plastic surgery, but she remains every inch a comedienne of the Lucy school, powering scenes like the one in which she fakes her way through a bad British accent or the one in which she pounds away at a leg that's fallen asleep.

It's just that she and Evans deserve better than a string of rom-com clichés, including the surprise date in a closed sports arena. Unless you're Justin Bieber and Selena Gomez, it couldn't happen to you.

Rated R for sexual content and language. One hour, 47 minutes.

— Peter Canavese

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

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

(TENTATIVE) AGENDA - SPECIAL MEETING - COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM

October 3, 2011 - 5:00 PM

1. Closed Session--Existing Litigation
2. Study Session with Historic Resources Board
3. Study Session and Presentation by Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) Staff
4. Community Partnership Presentation by the Palo Alto Menlo Park Parents Club
5. Selection of Candidates to be Interviewed for the Parks and Recreation Commission
6. Selection of Candidates to be interviewed for the Storm Drain Oversight Committee
7. Selection of Candidates to be interviewed for the Public Art Commission
8. Approval of Minutes of July 25, 2011, August 1, 2011, September 6, 2011.
9. Adoption of a Budget Amendment Ordinance in the amount of \$205,400 to Capital Improvement Program Project PE-00104 and Approval of Contract with Del Conte's Landscaping, Inc. in the total amount of \$754,977 for San Antonio Landscaping Improvement Project-Phase II.
10. Transmittal of Final Energy/Compost Feasibility Study and Recommendation to Return to Council with Further Recommendations in November 2011.
11. Approval of an Amendment No. 1 to Contract C11136602 with Alternative Resources, Inc. in the amount of \$17,500 for a Total Not to Exceed Amount of \$215,258 for the Energy/Compost Feasibility Study
12. Approval of Annual Report of Williamson Act Contracts within the City of Palo Alto.
13. **Public Hearing:** Consideration of an Appeal of an Architectural Review Approval, a tentative Map for Condominium Purposes, and a Record of Land Use Action (1) Approving a Mitigated Negative Declaration, (2) Upholding the Director's Architectural Review Approval of a Three Story Development Consisting of 84 Residential Units within the Upper Floors, 50,467 s.f. Ground Floor Research and Development area, Subterranean and Surface Parking Facilities, and Offsite Improvements, with Two Concessions requested under State Government Code 65915 and (3) Approving a Tentative Map for Condominium Purposes on a 2.5 Acre Parcel at 195 Page Mill Road and 2865 Park Boulevard (Continued from 9/19/11)
14. City Clerk's Report Certifying Sufficiency of the Petition for Three Medical Marijuana Dispensaries in Palo Alto and Direction to Staff to Prepare Resolution Calling Election in November 2012
15. Closed Session--Litigation

STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Finance Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 4, at 5:00 P.M. regarding: 1) Study Session with the Infrastructure Blue Ribbon Commission, and 2) Office of the City Auditor's Proposed Workplan for Fiscal Year 2012.

(TENTATIVE) AGENDA - SPECIAL MEETING - COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM

October 6, 2011 - 5:00 PM

1. Closed Session: Interviews of City Auditor applicants.

MOVIE TIMES

50/50 (R) ***	Century 16: 11 a.m.; 12:20, 1:25, 3, 4, 5:30, 7:30, 8:40 & 10:10 p.m. Century 20: 11:30 a.m.; 12:45, 1:55, 3:10, 4:30, 5:35, 6:55, 8, 9:35 & 10:40 p.m.; Sat. & Sun. also at 10:20 a.m.
Abduction (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)	Century 16: 12:30, 3:40, 7:20 & 10:15 p.m. Century 20: 11:15 a.m.; 1:45, 2:55, 4:15, 5:25, 7:10, 8:05, 9:45 & 10:40 p.m.; Fri., Sat. & Mon.-Thu. also at 12:15 p.m.
Contagion (PG-13) ***	Century 16: 11:05 a.m.; 1:50, 4:25, 7:40 & 10:25 p.m. Century 20: 11:20 a.m.; 1:50, 4:20, 6:50 & 9:40 p.m.
The Debt (R) ***	Century 16: Fri.-Sun. at 3:35 & 9:55 p.m.; Mon., Tue. & Thu. at 11:50 a.m.; 3:35, 6:55 & 9:40 p.m.; Wed. at 6:55 & 9:40 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: Mon.-Thu. at 4:30 & 7:30 p.m.
Dolphin Tale (PG) (Not Reviewed)	Century 16: 11 a.m.; 4:20 & 9:50 p.m.; In 3D at 1:40 & 7:10 p.m. Century 20: 12:30, 3:10 & 8:35 p.m.; Fri.-Tue. & Thu. also at 5:55 p.m.; Wed. also at 6 p.m.; In 3D Fri.-Thu. at 11:20 a.m.; 2, 4:45, 7:30 & 10:10 p.m.
Dream House (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)	Century 16: 11:10 a.m.; 1:45, 4:30, 7:50 & 10:35 p.m. Century 20: 11:50 a.m.; 2:25, 5, 7:45 & 10:20 p.m.
Drive (R) ***1/2	Century 16: 11 a.m.; 1:30, 2:40, 4:05, 7:05 & 9:55 p.m.; Fri.-Tue. & Thu. also at 8 p.m.; Mon., Tue. & Thu. also at 5:15 & 10:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. also at 12:10 p.m. Century 20: Noon, 2:50, 5:20, 7:55 & 10:25 p.m.
The Guard (R) (Not Reviewed)	Century 16: Fri.-Sun. at 12:10, 5:15 & 10:30 p.m. Palo Alto Square: Mon.-Thu. at 2:15 & 4:40 p.m.; Mon., Tue. & Thu. also at 7:20 p.m.
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2 (PG-13) ****	Century 16: 9:35 p.m.; In 3D at 6:30 p.m.; Fri., Sat. & Mon.-Thu. also at 2:50 p.m.; In 3D Fri., Sat. & Mon.-Thu. also at 11:40 a.m.
The Help (PG-13) **	Century 16: Fri.-Sun. at 11:50 a.m. & 6:40 p.m. Century 20: 12:10, 3:35, 7:05 & 10:15 p.m. Palo Alto Square: Mon.-Thu. at 1, 4:10 & 7:15 p.m.
I Don't Know How She Does It (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)	Century 20: 12:05, 2:40, 4:55, 7:20 & 9:50 p.m.
Killer Elite (R) **	Century 16: 11:20 a.m.; 2:10, 4:55, 7:45 & 10:30 p.m. Century 20: 11:40 a.m.; 12:50, 2:20, 5:05, 7:50 & 10:35 p.m.; Fri.-Tue. & Thu. also at 3:40, 6:25 & 9:10 p.m.; Wed. also at 3:30 p.m.
The Lion King (G) (Not Reviewed)	Century 16: 11 a.m.; 1:15, 3:30, 6:10 & 8:45 p.m.; In 3D at 11:30 a.m.; 1:55, 4:15, 7 & 9:30 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 & 9:25 p.m.; In 3D Sat. & Sun. also at 10:05 a.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.; noon, 2, 3:10, 5, 7, 8:30 & 10:05 p.m. Century 20: 11:30 a.m.; 1, 2:30, 4, 5:30, 7, 8:30 & 10 p.m.
Phantom of the Opera 25th Anniversary (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed)	Century 16: Sun. at 11 a.m.; Wed. at 7:30 p.m. Century 20: Sun. at 11 a.m.; Wed 7:30 p.m. Palo Alto Square: Wed. at 7:30 p.m.
Real Steel (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)	Century 20: Thu. at 12:01 a.m.
Spy Kids: All the Time in the World (PG) (Not Reviewed)	Century 20: 11:45 a.m.; 4:35 & 9:30 p.m.; In 3D at 2:15 & 7:15 p.m.
What's Your Number? (R) ★1/2	Century 16: 11 a.m.; 1:35, 4:10, 7:35 & 10:20 p.m. Century 20: 11:35 a.m.; 2:10, 4:45, 7:20 & 9:55 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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Eating Out

RESTAURANT REVIEW



Michelle Le

Bun rieu has vermicelli noodles in broth flavored with chicken and tomato, served with fresh garnishes.

Free of frying

Family-owned Pho To Chau is haven for rich broth and tender noodles

by Sheila Himmel

Have it your way. That's the beauty of pho, the fragrant Vietnamese beef noodle soup at downtown Mountain View's venerable Pho To Chau. The other pho places are chains. Pho To Chau is family owned, one of a kind since 1996.

Is it fabulous? No. But for the price, portions are generous and as the menu boasts, pho is "The Health-Conscious Choice!" It is light, full of vitamins, free of frying.

The menu lists 21 pho varieties, including \$6.80 for a regular size, which is very hard for a normal adult to finish; and \$7.80 for large, which must be unimaginably gigantic. Embellish with side orders

of meatball (\$1.10) and round steak (\$2).

The popular No. 1 features eye of round steak, very well-done flank steak, fat brisket, soft tendon and shredded tripe. It's a textural carnival. The tripe is a little rubbery and looks more like a fluffy sea anemone than the lining of beef stomach. Tendon soaks up the flavor of the broth, with hints of star anise. The beef bits are very thinly sliced, and quickly get overcooked.

Just so you know, meat is advertised as a "topping." These soups are mainly broth and noodles. By now in the Bay Area, we know that pho is not pronounced "fo" but

(continued on next page)

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Pizzeria Venti Recipe - Chef Carlo Maeda

OSSOBUCCO

- 6 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 1 small onion chopped fine
- 2 carrots chopped fine
- 2 stalks of celery chopped fine
- 4 veal shanks cut about 3 inches thick, each tied tightly cross-wise
- flour, spread on a plate
- 3/4 cup dry white wine
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 1-1/2 cup chicken broth
- 1 cup 6 & 1 tomatoes, crushed with their juices
- freshly ground pepper to taste
- salt to taste

Preparation instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Heat 2 tablespoons of olive oil in foil pan. Add the onion, carrot and celery. Cook until the vegetables soften, about 10 minutes then drain the oil.
3. Meanwhile, heat the other 4 tablespoons of olive oil in a foil pan. Dredge the veal shanks in the flour, coating on all sides and shake off the excess flour. When the oil is hot, slip in the shanks and brown them on all sides. This should take about 6-7 minutes per side. Remove the veal shanks and place them in the first pan on top of the cooked vegetables.
4. Add the wine, butter, chicken broth, tomatoes, pepper and salt to the pot. The liquid should come at least two thirds of the way to the top of the shanks. If it does not, add more broth.
5. Cover the pan and place it in the oven. Cook for about 2 hours, turning and basting every 30 minutes, until the meat is very tender.
6. Transfer the Ossobuco to a warm plate and carefully remove the strings.

To serve place Ossobuco on a plate with Risotto Milanese, or Pastina pasta in herbed olive oil and garlic.

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Real Estate Matters

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First consider how long you might stay where you are. It doesn't make much sense to pour money into improvements if you're planning to sell in the near future. Potential buyers may not agree with your choice of improvements.

Investigate how your planned improvements will impact the value of your home against others in your neighborhood. Your home could actually take longer to sell in the future if it's in the "upper end" of choices. Buyers historically opt for the least expensive home in the most expensive neighborhood they can afford.

Of course, there are many improvements that will add to your home's resale value down the road, without pricing you out of the market. Visit the National Association of Home Builders website at nabh.org for information about the potential value of a range of improvements.

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Eating Out

(continued from previous page)

closer to "fuh."

A posted photo of an off-the-menu special looks appetizing. This bún riêu ca (\$8.50) is a deep red, spicy tomato-chicken broth with vermicelli (thin wheat-flour) noodles, shrimp and crab "paste" — that is, fish balls. It is spicier than the pho, but also light and tasty.

Decor is informal, befitting an aged storefront. But drinks are served on a small tray, as are bean sprouts (remarkably fresh, not limp), sprigs of Thai basil, slices of jalapeño peppers and lemons. These you plop into your soup to personalize it. The same with the condiments already on the table, so you can create your signature soup or have it a different way every time.

Stick with broth-focused items. The cha giò (\$6.75), four good-size deep-fried egg rolls, were hot and crunchy, but the interior ground pork, shrimp and vegetables were almost mushy. We could have had fresh greens and herbs to wrap them in, not the couple of sad pieces of lettuce.

The large menu offers char-grilled meats, seafood and vegetables on rice or vermicelli, some stews and sautes. Broth is clearly the specialty.

A sea of tables could seat 84 people. Pho To Chau is the rare kind of place where you don't feel weird being the only diners, which we were for the first ten minutes. Tables are infinitely adaptable to groups of any size and age.

Pale yellow walls feature photos of dishes — surprisingly accurate — and placid prints of river scenery and flowers. OK, it's dingy. But tables are clean, and stocked with containers of clean spoons, chopsticks, napkins. Also hoisin, chile and soy sauces. Another nice touch: Cold drinks are inserted with straws, the top of the protective covering still there.

If you wait for the check, you'll spend the night. Get up and pay at the counter, where despite the credit-card decals on the front window a sign requests cash. "It would help if you pay in cash" because of bank charges. Again, have it your way. ■

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Today's news,
sports & hot picks

Sports Shorts

OF LOCAL NOTE . . . Former Palo Alto High baseball standout **Joc Pederson** (Class of 2010), who signed with the Los Angeles Dodgers, spent a successful rookie season playing for the team's Pioneer League affiliate — the Ogden Raptors. While the Raptors lost the league championship to the Great Falls Voyagers, Pederson led the league in RBI and outfield assists. He also was fourth in the league in hitting (.353), second in hits, stolen bases and on-base percentage, and was third in runs scored and walks . . . Palo Alto High's **Skylar Dorosin**, a senior on the girls' water polo team, was one of 10 high school student-athletes from the San Francisco Bay Area and Sacramento area to win a Positive Coaching Alliance Triple-Impact Competitor Scholarships for exhibiting exemplary character in their sports and beyond. The winners earned \$2,000 college scholarships.

OAKS' REPORT . . . The Menlo College football team will be gunning for its fifth straight victory on Saturday when the Oaks hope to celebrate homecoming weekend with a victory over visiting Southern Oregon. Kickoff is at noon. Menlo improved to 4-0 as two comebacks and a big interception with less than 30 seconds to play helped the Oaks hold on to a 24-17 victory over Whitworth University last weekend in Spokane, Wash. Menlo junior defensive back **Anthony Bendana** intercepted a pass by Whitworth's Bryan Peterson in the end zone with just 28 seconds to play to seal the victory. Prior to that, Menlo quarterback **Matt Pelasasa** marched the Oaks down the field for a game-winning touchdown drive in the final minutes. A 23-yard touchdown toss to **Robert Adan** gave the Oaks a 24-17 lead with only 1:43 left.

LOCAL COLLEGIANS . . . Palo Alto High grad **Allison Whitson**, a junior outside hitter at UC Davis, has led the Aggies to a 16-1 start in women's volleyball this season. They'll take an 11-match win streak into matches this weekend at Cal Poly-SLO and UC Santa Barbara. Earlier this week, Whitson earned Big West Conference Women's Volleyball Player of the Week honors. Whitson led the Aggies in kills in each of two conference wins last week. She tallied 14 kills with a season-high .522 hitting average in a three-set sweep at Pacific on Sept. 21, then added 19 kills to go with 15 digs and five blocks in last Saturday's five-set win victory over UC Irvine.

ON THE AIR

Friday

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

Saturday

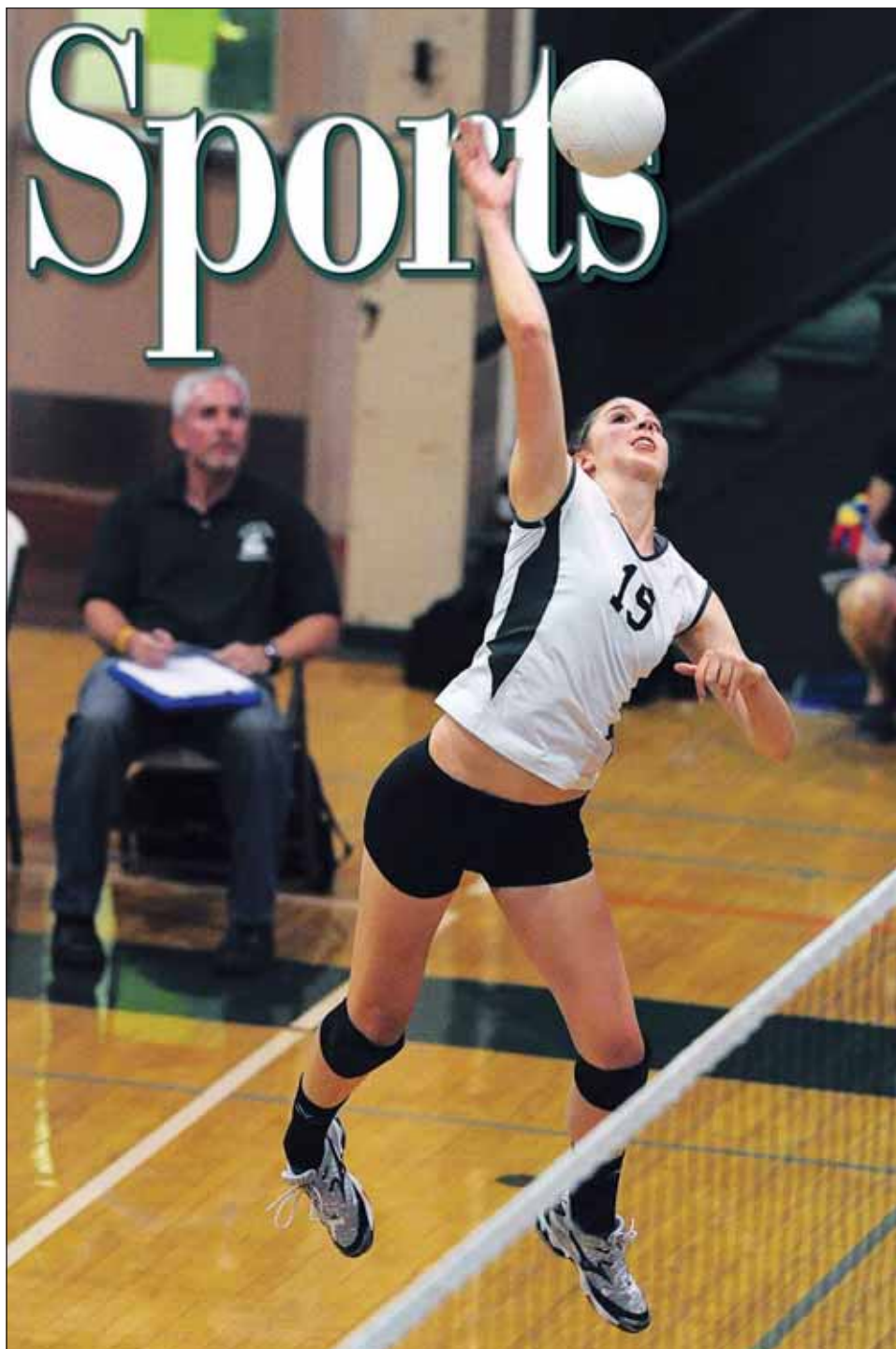
College football: UCLA at Stanford, 7:30 p.m.; Fox Sports Net; KNBR (1050 AM); KZSU (90.1 FM)

Sunday

Women's volleyball: Arizona at Stanford, 1 p.m.; KZSU (90.1 FM)

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Palo Alto coach Dave Winn watches senior Melanie Wade during Monday's five-set loss to St. Francis in a rare local showdown of defending state championship teams.

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Still a learning process for Paly's state champions

by Keith Peters

It was only a few weeks ago that the Palo Alto girls' volleyball team was undefeated, ranked No. 4 in the nation in one poll and, seemingly, on top of the world following a big victory over Presentation. My, how things have changed since then.

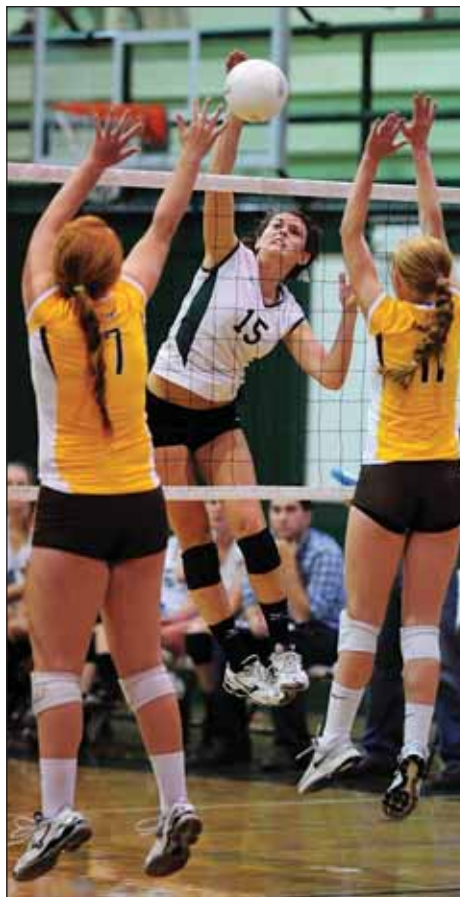
The Vikings were 15-3 by mid-week, two more losses than their entire 2010 season, and have dropped off the national radar.

On Monday, Palo Alto took on perennial nemesis St. Francis in a battle between two California state championship teams. Despite having the home court advantage, the Vikings made too many mistakes early and dropped a 25-20, 28-26, 19-25, 22-25, 15-8 decision.

Senior Maddie Kuppe had 10 kills and senior setter Kimmy Whitson added 42 assists for Paly.

It was only two weekends ago that the Lancers lost to Presentation for the second time this season and beat Mitty in the annual Mitty Invitational. The host Monarchs, meanwhile, lost

(continued on page 34)



Paly's Maddie Kuppe (15) had 10 kills against St. Francis on Monday.

PREP TENNIS

Coaches feel aced by new playoff format

Three singles, three doubles could replace current system for the section playoffs

by Keith Peters

It was less than two years ago when the Menlo School and Saratoga boys' tennis teams were locked in a battle for the 2010 Central Coast Section team title. Menlo senior Jamin Ball rallied from a first-set loss to pull out a 6-7 (6-8), 6-3, 6-1 victory over John Lambie and lift the Knights to a thrilling 4-3 victory.

That scenario may never happen again, if section athletic directors, principals and commissioners continue to push through a new postseason playoff format that falls in line with what Southern California schools are already using.

"I think it's a done deal," said Bill Shine, who coaches the Menlo boys' and girls' teams. "I don't like it."

The new format, which would be used only in the section playoffs, would involve three singles players (instead of four) plus three doubles teams. The singles players and doubles teams of opposing schools would play one set against each other instead of the normal best of three.

A group of 25-30 athletic directors from the CCS voted on the new format Tuesday and approved it. Ten league commissioners took a similar vote Thursday. An executive committee will do the same on Tuesday, with the CCS Board of Managers making a crucial vote on Oct. 19.

By that time, as Shine said, it could be a done deal.



Giannina Ong

(continued on page 33)

STANFORD FOOTBALL

Despite a bye, Cardinal will be ready for UCLA

by Rick Eymer

Stanford quarterback Andrew Luck spent last weekend on the couch, watching a lot of college football. Cardinal linebacker Max Bergen said he didn't take much time off at all.

From an offensive standpoint it would seem logical that Luck be able to spend some down time. After all, he's the Heisman Trophy candidate, Stanford's offense is among the best in the Pac-12 Conference and its defense is the best in the conference heading into Saturday's home game with UCLA.

Defensively, Bergen sees a lot about the Bruins that is worrisome, especially their running attack behind the one-two punch of Jonathan Franklin and Derrick Coleman. UCLA ranks second in the conference with 214 rushing yards a game.

"We pride ourselves on our run defense and we've been waiting for a game like this to show what we can do as a run defense," Bergen said. "We're going to have two get after them pretty hard."

Luck's beard, which has made a comeback over the bye week, is the only sign of his so-called 'bum'

(continued on next page)

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Stanford football

(continued from previous page)

weekend. There's a better-than-even chance he was doing more than watching football on television. If there's something football in front of him, he's busy analyzing.

Luck paid more attention to UCLA's victory over Oregon State last weekend than a casual fan. When the sixth-ranked Cardinal (1-0, 3-0) steadies itself for Saturday's 7:30 p.m. kickoff against the Bruins (1-0, 2-2), you can be sure Luck is prepared for whatever he saw on television.

"We shouldn't miss a beat," he said. "All the guys are geared up to play UCLA. There should be no letdown. It's always a great rivalry between the schools."

It is a fact that UCLA and Stanford are No. 1 and in NCAA team championships won. They are the only schools in the nation with more than 100 NCAA titles.

The football rivalry dates to 1925 and the Cardinal will be looking to win its third straight in the series

since winning the first five games between 1925-31. The Bruins are in control of the series, 45-33-3.

"We have a lot of guys on our team from Southern California and it's always fun for them to play UCLA," Luck said. "It is a historic rivalry and they are a better team than their record indicates."

The Bruins have lost at Houston and against Texas and they are looking for the kind of signature win that could propel them forward. Stanford fits the bill.

"If you let them run the ball the way they want to you are in a for a long day," Stanford coach David Shaw said. "And they've played well at Stanford."

UCLA's pistol offense is designed for misdirection, sleight of hand and using the backfield to its fullest capabilities. Quarterback Richard Brehaut is a key component of the offense as he is also a running threat and averages about 35 yards a game. He threw for a touchdown and ran for another in the victory over the Beavers.

"We look at this as a great opportunity," UCLA coach Rick Neuheisel said. "Last year they embarrassed us and we have to answer that. They have a great defense and much heralded for a reason. We have to play a great offensive game. We want our chance."

The Bruins are also aware of Stanford's rushing attack, ranked third in the Pac-12, and of Luck's ability to create things out of broken plays.

"I thought we covered them well," Neuheisel said. "Andrew Luck made plays with his legs. Out of the pocket he must have scrambled to keep two or three drives alive. We have to corral him and that's a tall order."

Luck said the offense wanted to be critical of itself and identify areas of concern during the bye week.

"As a quarterback group we worked on footwork and getting our timing down on some of our throws," he said.

Bergen said without leading tackler Shayne Skov, others will have to pick up the slack.

"We're looking forward to the challenge," said Bergen, who is second on the team in tackle going into Saturday's contest. "A.J. Tarpley and Jarek Lancaster have stepped it up. We just have to trust each other and we have to be disciplined."

Stanford looked at ways to help the defense without one of its key clogs. Chase Thomas should have more of an impact, even though he's third in the Pac-12 with 3 1/2 sacks and fourth with five tackles for a loss. Defensive end Ben Gardner leads the conference with 5 1/2 tackles for a loss.

Alex Debniaik and James Vaughters will also have an impact at line-backer. They have been part of the rotation all year.

Stepfan Taylor, currently on pace to gain 1,156 rushing yards, is a big reason why Stanford ranks third in rushing offense in the conference. Of course, the offensive line with returners Jonathan Martin and David DeCastro, also has been helpful.

"We started out a little sloppy but we've improved every game," said Martin, who originally committed to UCLA. "This will be a physical game." ■

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PREP WATER POLO

For SHP girls, it's business as usual

Gators continue to roll after upending St. Francis in finals of the Amanda MacDonald Invitational

by Keith Peters

Despite losing four key members of last season's team that won a fourth straight Central Coast Section championship, the Sacred Heart Prep girls' water polo team is in line for a possible fifth consecutive crown this season.

It's still very early in the season, but the young and improving Gators already are making considerable headway to that historic goal of five straight. SHP and St. Francis currently are tied for the most consecutive section crowns while Menlo School has the most won, with six.

Sacred Heart Prep and St. Francis appear once again to be the elite teams in the CCS, with the Gators holding a 2-1 advantage over the Lancers this season following the 17th annual Amanda MacDonald Invitational that concluded Saturday at Menlo School.

Pippa Temple took an entry pass from fellow senior Erin Sheridan and scored on a cross-cage backhand out of the two-meter position to provide the winning goal in Sacred Heart's 6-5 victory over St. Francis.

Temple scored 20 goals during the two-day tourney while sophomore goalie Kelly Moran had 23 saves just on Saturday while helping the Gators go 4-0 in the event.

Sacred Heart Prep improved to 9-2 on the season with a 13-4 win over visiting Valley Christian on

Wednesday. The Gators (3-0 in league) got six goals from Temple and three from Sheridan.

St. Francis, meanwhile, dunked host Menlo-Atherton, 11-2, in a nonleague showdown that was a rematch of last season's CCS Division I finale won by the Bears.

Thus, beating St. Francis on Saturday was a plus for SHP.

"We are pleased with the victory over SF in the championship game," said SHP coach Jon Burke, who has guided his team to a 107-20 record over the past four seasons, and including this year. "But, we realize it is still early in the season. SF is an experienced team that is well-coached, and you can never underestimate them."

Perhaps that was evident when the Gators fell to the Lancers in their first meeting, 13-5.

"Any time you play SF, you are going to get their best," Burke said. "They played great defense against us and made some adjustments that made it challenging for us to score. They did a nice job covering our main offensive threats (Temple and Sheridan), so the goals by Morgan McCracken (two) and Maddie Casciaro were huge for us."

"We have played them three times in the past two weeks (SF Invitational third-place match, WCAL league match, Amanda MacDonald championship match) and that has not been easy for us. Winning the



Keith Peters

Sacred Heart Prep senior Pippa Temple, who had 20 goals in the Amanda MacDonald Invitational, scored six on Wednesday.

past two matches is an accomplishment for our team, but we know that there is a good chance we will see them again this season."

The two rivals could meet again at the Davis Fall Classic on Oct. 22, the NorCal Championship Tournament at Sacred Heart Prep on Oct. 28-29, the WCAL Tournament finale on Nov. 5.

In their potential matchups the rest of the season, defense will be crucial in the outcome.

"We played good defense throughout the tournament," Burke said. "That has always been the foundation of our team, so executing it successfully against some of the best teams in CCS was outstanding."

Moran continued to improve in the cage after moving up from the JV squad. She's trying to fill the hole left by second-team All-American and CCS Most Valuable Player Catherine Donahoe.

Sacred Heart Prep's veterans have helped make Moran's job that much easier. Burke singled out defenders like seniors Clare Rudolph and Mackenzie O'Holleran for doing a nice job with their matchups, while Temple and Sheridan provided much of the offensive production during the weekend.

"Our seniors have been great leaders and they are keeping the team composed during high-pressure situations," explained Burke. "We continue to gain more experience as the season progresses and are really stressing the importance of taking it one game at a time."

"We prepare for each opponent we face and the athletes never take anything for granted. We want to continue to improve over the course of the regular season and are hoping to play our best water polo in November."

Also at the MacDonald Invitational, Leland defeated Los Altos for third, 8-6; Menlo-Atherton fin-

ished off a 2-2 performance with a 12-6 loss to St. Ignatius for fifth place; Palo Alto took seventh with an 11-9 win over Burlingame; Buchanan topped Sequoia for ninth, 9-4; and Menlo School finished 12th following a 3-2 loss to Presentation.

Gunn (4-0, 6-5) put first place in the SCVAL De Anza Division on the line against visiting Palo Alto on Thursday after dunking host Monta Vista, 20-7, on Wednesday.

Elizabeth Anderson (six goals) and sister Caroline (five) took care of the offensive production for Gunn.

Meanwhile, Palo Alto (1-2, 7-6) failed to help Gunn take over sole possession of first place as the Vikings lost to co-leader Los Altos, 9-5. Emma Wolfe and Skylar Dorosin each scored twice for Paly.

Boys' water polo

In a battle between two undefeated teams in the SCVAL De Anza Division, defending champ Los Altos held on for a 9-8 victory over host Palo Alto on Wednesday.

Bret Pinsker scored three goals for the Vikings (3-1, 7-2) with Will Conner adding two. The teams were equal throughout the match until the Eagles pulled ahead for good in the fourth quarter.

Palo Alto didn't have time to prepare for its next match as the Vikings visit Gunn on Thursday night in a showdown for second place.

The Titans (3-1 league) tuned up with an 8-5 victory over host Monta Vista on Wednesday.

In the West Catholic Athletic League, Sacred Heart Prep remained on a collision course with co-leader Bellarmine after swamping host Valley Christian, 17-7, on Wednesday in San Jose. Harrison Enright scored five goals for the Gators (3-0, 7-4) while junior goalie

Prep tennis

(continued from page 31)

The new format could be installed as early as the girls' CCS playoffs this November. The boys then would have it next May and leagues could implement the new system, as well.

Bill Scott, the girls' tennis coach at Salinas High, reportedly is behind the movement. He formerly coached in Southern California and reportedly has advocated the new format in order to eliminate stacking by coaches.

Stacking is where coaches move around players to better suit their chances of victory, instead of playing them where they belong. Ironically, this new format actually encourages stacking.

"He (Scott) says it prevents stacking," Shine said Wednesday while watching his team fall at undefeated Monta Vista, 6-1, in nonleague action. "That's an adult problem, not a kid problem. This will make it harder to coach. What can you tell them in one set?"

Monta Vista coach Gene Fortino said the new format will be "like going from NFL rules to Canadian or Arena League football rules."

The new format could be that goofy.

A No. 1 singles player, for example, would play one set and then have to wait until the opposing No. 2 player is finished. Once that match is complete, the No. 1 might have to wait again until facing the opposition's No. 3. The same goes for doubles.

Shine and Fortino both see potential nightmares in the new format, starting with the possibility of marathon matches.

While section tennis coaches were first told of a possible move toward the new playoff format at last spring's postseason meeting, they likely had no idea things would move so fast.

"How did it get to this point without the coaches voting on it," said Shine, who feels like he and others have been blindsided by how quickly the new format is moving towards approval. "It's a little strange because it usually goes through different channels."

"They're trying to get a state tournament, which is great, but . . . we've had no input in it, and that's a little disappointing."

Howard Jensen, who ran the CCS tennis playoffs for years before retiring this fall, said most sports are headed toward a state playoff. Tennis and swimming are among those still waiting.

However, Jensen said, that doesn't make it right for all sports.

"I don't think it's a good thing," Jensen said of the tennis format, "unless everyone's behind it."

Clearly, not everyone is.

Shine sees teams having to jump back and forth between the current format and the new one. Teams would use the four-singles, three-doubles format for league play, switch to 3-and-3 for CCS, back to 4-3 for NorCals and then back to 3-and-3 for state.

"It completely changes the way you coach, since you can move your



Keith Peters

Palo Alto freshman Nelson Perla-Ward scored once during the Vikings' tough 9-8 loss to first-place Los Altos on Wednesday.

(continued on page 38)

(continued on page 37)



CITY OF PALO ALTO
"MEASURE TO BE VOTED ON"

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the following measure is to be voted on at the Special Municipal Election in the City of Palo Alto on Tuesday, November 8, 2011:

CITY OF PALO ALTO INITIATIVE MEASURE "E":

Shall ten acres of existing parkland in Byxbee Park be undedicated for the exclusive purpose of building a processing facility for yard trimmings, food waste and other organic materials?

The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 8, 2011. Copies of the resolution placing this matter on the ballot is available in the City Clerk's Office, City Hall, 250 Hamilton Avenue, 7th Floor, Palo Alto, CA 94301.

DONNA J. GRIDER, MMC
 CITY CLERK

Sports



Kyle Terada/Terada Photo

Palo Alto's Caroline Martin (left) and Jackie Koenig (20) put up the block against St. Francis on Monday in a showdown between two defending state championship volleyball teams. The Lancers won in five.

Volleyball

(continued from page 31)

to Presentation. Thus, by comparing results, it could be determined that (at least hypothetically) Paly should be better than Presentation, St. Francis and Mitty.

"Volleyball is a crazy sport and the rules of transitivity definitely do not apply," Palo Alto coach Dave Winn said following Monday's loss.

If last season was all about the record (41-1) and state championship for Paly, this season is all about learning how to get back to that level of excellence. Winn put together the toughest schedule in program history, perhaps knowing that his team would take some lumps. In the long run, however, Winn figured his team would benefit.

So, despite the loss to the Lancers, there was something positive.

"I again liked the fact we were able to fight back after being two sets down," he said. "But, we have to stop putting ourselves in these situations. We were up 24-20 in the second set but squandered several opportunities to score and lost (28-26). To me, that's when we lost the match. By the time we got to the fifth set, we had lost a lot of our energy and made a lot of sloppy mistakes.

"But, it's all good learning. I'm very interested to see how we respond on Thursday."

Palo Alto hosted Los Gatos on Thursday in a SCVAL De Anza Division showdown. The Wildcats were the only team to beat the Vikings last season, ending a 26-match win streak in the process. Paly bounced back from that loss and won 15 straight, including its first-ever state title.

The Vikings need to bounce back once again. There's still a division title to defend and there's one more tournament on the schedule — Spikefest II — before Paly begins defense of its CCS Division I crown.

At this point, the Vikings have faced their toughest competition of

the season -- unless they meet Presentation, St. Francis or Mitty in the Spikefest II. Everything is pointing to a return visit to San Jose State for the state finals on Dec. 3.

The Vikings, however, need to learn from their recent struggles and improve. Winn, for one, believes his team can do just that. Paly has the talent, depth and experience and now just needs to make it all work once again.

The volleyball season continued to unfold on Tuesday night, with another interesting matchup in Palo Alto.

It was three against one as Castilleja and Menlo School met to open their West Bay Athletic League (Foothill Division) seasons. On one side was Gators' head coach Tracie (Hubbard) Meskell and her sister, Gwen, and their father, Tom. On the other side was Knights' head coach Atlee Hubbard, their sister.

Three against one are pretty good odds, and they held up as Castilleja held off Menlo, 12-25, 25-13, 25-18, 17-25, 15-13. The Gators (1-0) improved to 13-8 overall while the Knights (0-1) fell to 14-5.

"I told Atlee that her girls played a good game and that her players served really well and I gave her a hug," Meskell said of her postgame encounter with her sister.

Despite a slow start, Castilleja came on strong and got a big effort from senior Hannah Boland, who led the big win with 17 kills and four aces. Junior Lucy Tashman added 11 kills and nine digs while junior setter Hannah Hsieh contributed 38 assists.

"This match had certain games that had some of our best efforts but not the entire match," Meskell said. "As a whole, our hitters definitely had their best game so far this season."

Menlo, meanwhile, got 16 kills from junior Emma Thygesen and 14 kills with 10 digs from sophomore Maddie Huber.

"The team played some of their best volleyball this season and made great hustle plays," said Atlee Hubbard, who coached at Castilleja

last season. "Freshman setter Elisa Merten made some very exciting plays at the net, which gave the team extra energy and momentum. The match was so even that it is hard to feel like we lost it.

Overall it was a great experience for our team."

Menlo sophomore middle blocker Morgan Dressel added 10 kills and two blocks, and junior Charlotte Kohlberg contributed 10 kills. Sophomore Melissa Cairo tallied 22 digs.

In another WBAL (Foothill Division) opener on Tuesday, host Sacred Heart Prep (1-0, 11-3) got 12 kills and four blocks from Jesse Ebner in a 25-20, 25-19, 25-13 victory over visiting Mercy-Burlingame.

In the PAL Bay Division, Menlo-Atherton remained atop the standings as the Bears (3-0, 10-4) romped to a 25-5, 25-23, 25-8 victory over visiting Half Moon Bay.

In volleyball action last weekend:

Menlo School breezed through the first three rounds of the Chris Chandler Invitational before falling to Monta Vista (Cupertino) in the final on Saturday in Atherton.

The Knights defeated St. Francis-Central Coast Catholic (25-14, 25-18) in the first round, then beat Monta Vista (25-14, 25-16) in the second round. Menlo did not give up a game to The King's Academy, winning 25-9, 25-10. In the final, Monta Vista avenged its earlier loss by defeating the Knights, 28-26, 12-25, 15-11.

Huber and Cairo earned all-tournament honors.

At City College of San Francisco, Castilleja went 2-3 in the NorCal D5 Showcase on Saturday while missing starters Lindsay Wang and Jessica Norum, both out with the flu.

Castilleja's Jen DiSanto and Lucy Tashman were selected to the all-tournament team.

At the Menlo-Atherton Invitational, the Bears finished second following an 18-25, 25-23, 15-4 loss to Sacred Heart Cathedral in the title match.

The Bears went 4-1 in the tourney after beating SHC in pool play. ■



Palo Alto Unified School District

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION OF BIDDERS
PQ-11-FM
FAIRMEADOW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
MODERNIZATION & NEW CONSTRUCTION

The Palo Alto Unified School District is inviting qualification information from General Contractors to provide Construction Services for the following upcoming construction project.

Fairmeadow Elementary School: Construction of a new classroom building, addition to library, modernization to multiple existing buildings, site & landscape modernization.

Contractors who were previously prequalified for PQ 11-01 Gunn High School New Classroom Buildings A&B, PQ 11-02 Gunn High School New Gymnasium and remodeling of the existing Gym and/or PQ 11-03 Palo Alto High School New Classroom & Media Arts and/or PQ-11-MS Jordan and Terman Middle School, conducted earlier this year of 2011 only need to submit Part I – Contact Information & Part III-E –Financial Strength to provide updated financial information.

There will be a **NON-MANDATORY** prequalification conference on Tuesday, October 11, 2011 at 10:00 AM at 25 Churchill Avenue, Building "D", Palo Alto, CA. The project and the Prequalification package will be discussed.

All responses to this RFQ must be received no later than 10:00 AM Friday, October 21, 2011. Interested firms shall submit Qualifications as described in the Prequalification Package to:

Palo Alto Unified School District
Facilities Department
25 Churchill Avenue, Building "D"
Palo Alto, CA 94306 Attn: Peter Tiwana

Please direct any questions regarding this Request for Qualification (RFQ) to Peter Tiwana at ptiwana@pausd.org, or fax to (650) 327-3588.

These are not requests for bids or offers by the District to contract with any party responding to this RFQ. The District reserves the right to reject any and all responses. All materials submitted to the District in response to this RFQ shall remain property of the District and may be considered a part of public record.

STANFORD ROUNDUP

The goal is to stop loss streak

Women's volleyball hosts Arizona schools after suffering a rare sweep

by Rick Eyrer

The Stanford women's volleyball team probably planned on starting the Pac-12 Conference schedule on a more successful note. The sixth-ranked Cardinal knows it has to finish on a much better chord if it's looking to refrain as conference champion.

The remaining composition begins at home, with matches against Arizona State and Arizona. Stanford (2-3, 8-3) will look to avoid its first three-match losing streak in 12 years when the Sun Devils take their places in Maples Pavilion for a 7 p.m. match Friday night.

Cardinal coach John Dunning has never experienced such a conference start since taking over the program, in 2001. Once is quite enough, thank you very much.

Stanford dropped a 25-23, 26-24, 25-23 decision to host USC on Saturday night, losing a match in straight sets for the first time in two years.

The Cardinal lost a grueling five-set match to host UCLA the previous night and is 2-3 in conference play for the first time since 2000 and for just the second time since 1989.

All three losses were on the road to teams ranked among the top 12 in the nation and the Cardinal will face all three at home later in the season.

In the mean time the Cardinal must suffer the indignity of seventh place in the competitive Pac-12, a conference so loaded with talent that even the top-ranked team in the nation was vulnerable. California was also swept by the Los Angeles schools over the weekend, its first losses of the year.

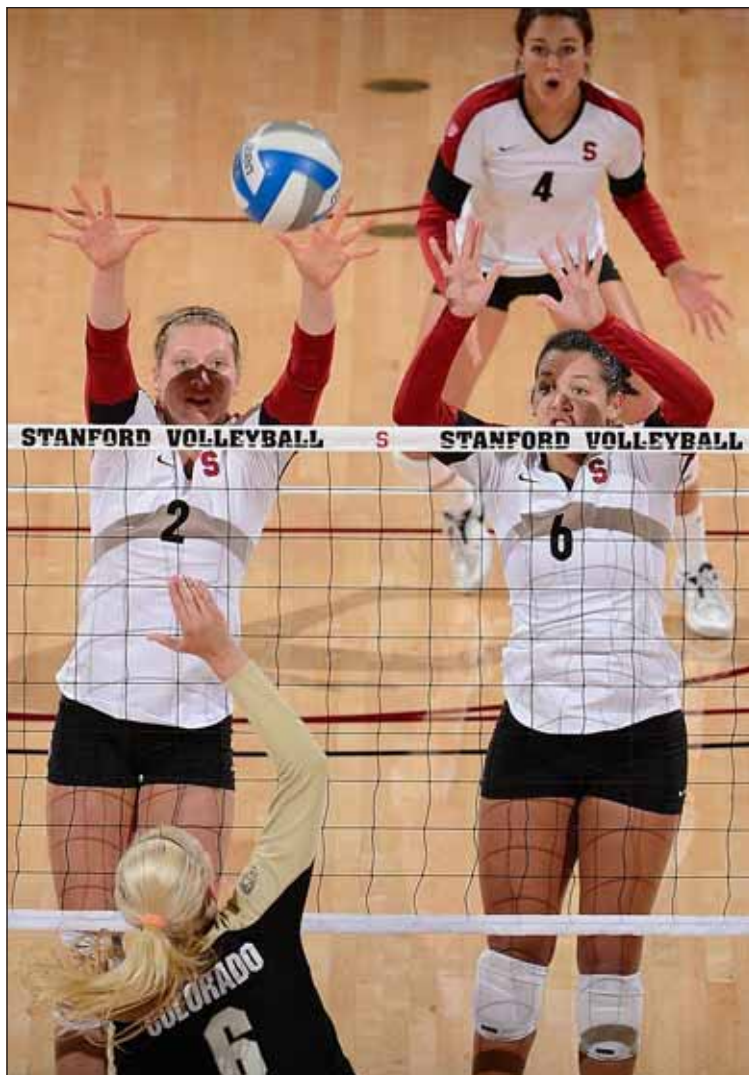
USC and UCLA, despite recent successes, are merely tied for second in conference play, behind Oregon (4-0, 11-1). Oregon State and Washington are also ahead of the Cardinal and the Beavers (3-1, 11-3) are not even nationally ranked!

The weekend proves, only as a reminder, that there is no 'normal' in the Pac-12, just as there was nothing routine in the Pac-10 for so many years.

It might be relevant to point out that last year's national champion, Penn State, lost five times during the regular season. The top eight teams in the Pac-12 have no more than three losses, at the moment, and most of them consider themselves national title contenders.

And why not? Cal was in the title match last year, USC beat Stanford to reach the Final Four and both UCLA and Washington were knocked out of the NCAA tournament by teams that reached the Final Four.

Take the top eight teams in the



Stanford sophomores Carly Wopat (left) and Rachel Williams are among the Pac-12s best in blocks and kills per set this season.

Richard C. Eisted/stanfordphoto.com

conference, put them in a bag and shake for a few weeks, and then we'll see how things shape up (or ship out).

Sophomore outside hitter Rachel Williams ranks second in the conference with 4.68 kills per set and 5.18 points. She also leads the Pac-12 (with Cardinal junior Karissa Cook) with seven double-doubles so far this year.

Sophomore middle blocker Carly Wopat leads the conference, and is second in the nation, with 1.66 blocks per set. She has recorded nine blocks in a match twice this season.

Women's soccer

Top-ranked Stanford continues Pac-12 play this weekend in the great northwest. The Cardinal (1-0, 9-0-1) visits Washington State for a 3 p.m. contest on Friday and then plays at Washington on Sunday afternoon.

It will be an interesting week for three players. Senior defender Camille Levin, senior forward Lindsay Taylor from Castilleja and sophomore goalkeeper Emily Oliver will join Stanford product Christen Press at the United States women's Under-23 national camp that gets underway Sunday in Carson and runs through next Friday, although none of the three current Cardinal players are expected to miss any matches when USC (Oct. 7) and UCLA (Oct. 9) come to town for crucial matches.

Marjani Hing-Glover scored twice for Stanford in its 7-0 victory over Arizona last Saturday night to open conference play.

Men's soccer

Stanford seems to have put things

together at just the right time. The Cardinal beat visiting Vermont, 2-1, in a nonconference contest Sunday, and now owns a two-game winning streak, a three-game unbeaten streak and have recorded points in four of its past five games.

The Cardinal (3-4-1) timed its good run for the Pac-12 Conference opener, which arrives Friday afternoon at San Diego State. Stanford also plays at No. 18 UCLA on Sunday afternoon.

Adam Jahn, who headed in the game-winning goal off a corner kick in the 42nd minute to give Stanford a 1-0 win over Harvard on Friday and added an assist Sunday, was named Pac-12 Player of the Week.

Swimming

The Stanford women's team opens its season with a home meet against San Jose State at on Friday at 2 p.m., with the men travel to UC Santa Cruz for meet Saturday.

Cardinal sophomore Maya DiRado had a successful summer season, winning a gold medal in the 400 IM at the World University Games.

Stanford senior Bobby Bollier was a national champion in the 200 fly.

Field hockey

Thanks to an impressive weekend sweep of conference opponents that was highlighted by a 3-2 statement victory over rival California, Stanford has equaled one program milestone while inching closer to another.

Stanford moved up two spots to No. 6 in this week's Kookaburra/NFHCA National Coaches poll on Tuesday. The No. 6 national ranking matches the highest in program history. ■



CITY OF PALO ALTO NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Palo Alto City Council will hold a public hearing at the regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, October 17, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. or as near thereafter as possible, in the Council Chambers, 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, to Consider Approval of a Record of Land Use Action for a Tentative Map and Mitigated Negative Declaration to subdivide a 2.64 acre site into 10 single family lots located at 525 San Antonio Avenue.

DONNA J. GRIDER, MMC
City Clerk



NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND COMPLETION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE EDGEWOOD PLAZA PROJECT (SCH#2011022030)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has been prepared to assess the environmental impacts of the following project:

EDGEWOOD PLAZA PROJECT

LEAD AGENCY: City of Palo Alto, 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94301

2080 Channing Avenue [08PLN-00157/10PLN-00198]:

Request for Planned Community zone change to allow the redevelopment of an existing shopping center on a 3.58 acre site involving the renovation of three existing retail structures for continued retail and grocery store use, the construction of 10 two-story single family homes, and the creation of an approximately 0.22 acre park and associated site improvements. The project involves the on-site relocation of one of the three retail buildings, a Tentative Map to create eleven separate parcels for the residential, commercial and park components, and the adoption of a Planned Community Ordinance detailing the site access, mix of uses, and development standards for the mixed-use project.

Edgewood Plaza (also known as Edgewood Shopping Center) was designed and built by Eichler Homes, Inc. as part of the Edgewood Tract developed in 1956-57, and appears to be a significant historic resource. The proposed project would have potentially significant effects with regard to historic resources and cumulative historic resources. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires this notice to disclose whether any listed toxic sites are present at the project location. The project location is not contained on the Cortese List of toxic sites.

The Draft EIR is on file and may be reviewed at the City of Palo Alto's Development Center, 285 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, during business hours, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM; Wednesdays 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. The EIR will also be available for review on the City's website--<http://www.cityofpaloalto.org>, and at the following public libraries: Palo Alto Main Library, 1213 Newell Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94303, and Palo Alto Downtown Library, 270 Forest Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94301.

The public review for this Draft EIR begins on September 30, 2011 and ends on November 14, 2011. If you wish to provide written comments on the EIR, please submit these to Elena Lee, Department of Planning and Community Environment, 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94301, or Elena.Lee@CityofPaloAlto.org, no later than **November 14, 2011, at 5:00 p.m.** During the public review period, the Planning and Transportation Commission will hold a public meeting to take public testimony on the Draft EIR. The public meeting is scheduled for October 26, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 1st Floor City Hall, 250 Hamilton Avenue and will not include any decision on the development project itself. All persons may appear and be heard at these meetings.

If any person challenges this item in court, that person may be limited to raising only those issues the person or someone else raised at the public hearings described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered at, or prior to, the public hearings. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring accommodation for these meetings should notify the City of Palo Alto 24 hours prior to the meetings at (650) 329-2496.

Curtis Williams,
Director of Planning and Community Environment



CITY OF PALO ALTO "MEASURE TO BE VOTED ON"

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the following measure is to be voted on at the Special Municipal Election in the City of Palo Alto on Tuesday, November 8, 2011:

CITY OF PALO ALTO MEASURE "D":

To provide the City with greater control over employee costs, staffing and services and allow the City Council to make final decisions regarding all matters related to public safety employee compensation, benefits, and working conditions, shall Article V of the Palo Alto City Charter be repealed in its entirety, eliminating the requirement that public safety employee disputes be resolved through binding interest arbitration?

The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 8, 2011. Copies of the resolution placing this matter on the ballot is available in the City Clerk's Office, City Hall, 250 Hamilton Avenue, 7th Floor, Palo Alto, CA 94301.

DONNA J. GRIDER, MMC
CITY CLERK



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

Please be advised the Planning and Transportation Commission (P&TC) shall conduct a **public meeting at 6:00 PM, Wednesday, October 12, 2011 in the Council Chambers, Ground Floor, Civic Center, Palo Alto, California.** Any interested persons may appear and be heard on these items.

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

NEW BUSINESS Public Hearing:

1. Review and recommendation to the City Council to Incorporate the revised Draft East Meadow Circle/Fabian Way Area Concept Plan into the Draft Comprehensive Plan.
2. **College Terrace Traffic Calming Project:** Review and Recommendation to the City Council to Approve the College Terrace Traffic Calming Project.

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

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

Curtis Williams, Director of Planning and Community Environment

Gunn cross-country teams are off and running with successful early efforts

The Gunn boys' and girls' cross-country teams are off and running toward successful seasons once again.

Gunn sophomore Sarah Robinson won her second race in four days by racing to victory at the Central Park Invitational on Tuesday. Robinson, who won the girls' varsity race at the Frogtown Invitational in Angels Camp on Saturday, clocked a 13:40.6 time over the 2.3-mile course in Santa Clara.

Robinson's effort helped the Titans finish third with 94 points. Lybrook won with 72 with Monta Vista second with 81. Palo Alto was 12th with 275.

In the boys' race, Gunn senior Andrew Prior finished second in 11:43.1 to help the Titans finish fourth in the team race with 112 points. Cupertino captured the title with 56 points. Palo Alto was 11th with 353.

"The kids ran pretty solidly," said Ernie Lee, who is assisting head coach Matt Tompkins. "We were shooting for a low-key effort. In fact, everyone was told to go out conservatively for at least the first mile, especially those who raced Saturday.

"If definitely showed as some kids who went on the trip (Saturday) were a little flat while almost everyone else moved up significantly throughout the race. A good sign was that a lot of kids finished strong and felt great."

On the weekend, Gunn packed up its cross-country teams and headed for the hills, Angels Camp to be exact, to compete in the Bret Harte Frogtown Invitational in El Dorado County. The lengthy trip proved to be well worth it for the Titans.

The varsity boys won their division title and sophomore Sarah Rob-



Gunn's Sarah Robinson has won back-to-back races.

inson captured individual honors in the girls' varsity race over a hilly 3.0-mile course in 90-degree heat.

The Gunn boys scored a six-point victory (86-92) over runner-up McClatchy thanks to a second-place finish by Prior in 16:46. Seniors Peter Chen (17:45) and Michael Underwood (17:51) also were among the top 20 in 13th and 15th, respectively. Shaun Yee (18:1) and Rishi Agarwal (18:47) raced home among the top 35 to factor into the scoring.

In the girls' varsity race, Robin-

son averaged 6:28 per mile while clocking 19:24 to win comfortably by more than a minute. Christine Prior, in her first season of running cross country, was a solid ninth in 21:35.

Drew Bent of Gunn was second in the shorter sophomore race in 12:19 and Gunn's Elle Ribbe was second in the girls' sophomore race in 14:59. In the freshman races, Gunn's David Heidenreich-Lee was seventh in 12:54 and Catherine Kim was 13th in 16:24.

While Gunn was running in the hills, a host of other local runners were testing the rolling terrain at the Stanford Golf Course in the annual Stanford Invitational on Saturday.

Priory senior Kat Gregory had the best finish of any local runner, boy or girl, by taking second in the girls' Division V race. Gregory clocked 18:29 over the 5,000-meter course (3.1 miles) while finishing 29th overall in all the girls' races combined. Carrie Verdon of Campolindo had the fastest overall time of 16:58.8.

In other girls' highlights, Palo Alto finished 12th out of 29 Division I teams as freshman Katie Foug led the way in 24th in 19:29 and Chika Kasahara was 42nd in 20:01. In the girls' Division V race, Castilleja junior Fiona McCarthy-McCrystle was 24th in 20:35 and freshman Nicole Colonna of Pinewood was 34th in 21:14. In the girls' Division IV race, Menlo sophomore Maddy Price was 39th in 20:14.

Menlo-Atherton senior Michael Hester helped the Bears finish 10th out of 22 teams in the Boys' Seeded Division by finishing 19th in the elite race. Hester clocked 15:57 over the 5,000-meter (3.1 miles) course with senior teammate Jack Beckwith next in 43rd in 16:25.

In other boys' highlights, Palo Alto's Nikolai Solgaard was 28th in the Division II race in 16:24; Daniel Pugliese of Menlo School was 32nd in 16:53 and Zach Kaplan of Sacred Heart Prep was 44th (17:12) in the Division IV race; and Joe Farned of Priory was 57th in 18:15 in the Division V race.

Football

Fresh from a big 45-14 romp over host Gunn in nonleague action last weekend, Palo Alto (2-1) will open defense of its SCVAL De Anza Division title by hosting Homestead on Friday night at 7:30 p.m.

Gunn (0-3), meanwhile, will open its SCVAL El Camino Division season at home against Harker at 7:30 p.m.

Menlo School (3-0) will open its PAL Ocean Division season on Friday by visiting Mills at 3:15 p.m.

Menlo-Atherton (2-2), Sacred Heart Prep (4-0) and Priory (1-3) all have byes this week.

Priory won its first game of the season as running back James McDaniel rushed for a career-high 292 yards and scored four touchdowns in a 40-36 triumph over visiting Alma Heights Christian on Saturday in eight-man action. His touchdown runs were 60, 33, 4 and 3 yards. ■

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STANFORD OUTDOOR SIREN TESTS WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12TH

Stanford University will test its outdoor emergency siren system on **Wednesday, October 12th** at approximately **12:05 p.m.** The test, which may be heard by residents of Menlo Park and Palo Alto who are near the campus, will consist of a warning tone and verbal message followed by a second tone and message.

For more information, visit <http://emergency.stanford.edu> or email preparedness@lists.stanford.edu.

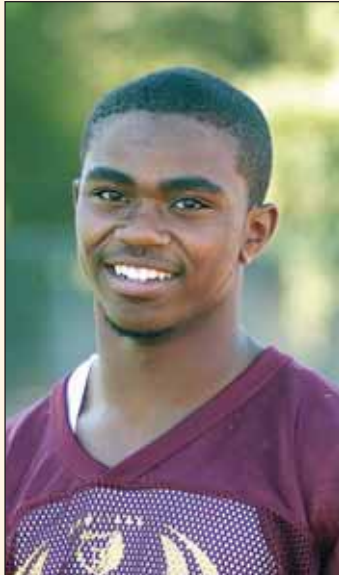
ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



Pippa Temple

Sacred Heart Prep

The senior scored 22 goals during a 5-0 week in water polo, including a 4-0 finish with 20 goals in the Amanda MacDonald Invitational as she scored the winning goal in a 6-5 win over St. Francis to claim the title.



Taylor Mashack

Menlo-Atherton High

The senior running back/defensive back rushed for a career-high 172 yards on 15 carries and scored four touchdowns in addition to returning an interception 90 yards for another TD in a 35-17 football victory.

Honorable mention

Elizabeth Anderson

Gunn water polo

Kat Gregory

Priory cross country

Caroline Nordman

Sacred Heart Prep tennis

Mackenzie O'Holleran

Sacred Heart Prep water polo

Sarah Robinson

Gunn cross country

Chloe Sales

Castilleja golf

Pat Bruni

Sacred Heart Prep football

Jack Larson

Sacred Heart Prep football

Dylan Mayer*

Menlo football

James McDaniel

Priory football

Andrew Prior

Gunn cross country

Will Runkel

Sacred Heart Prep water polo

* previous winner

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

Prep tennis

(continued from page 33)

lineup around," Shine said of the new format.

Instead of matching the best players at each position, coaches will become chess players while moving players around to where they can be most effective — in other words, stacking.

"It's just going to be different," Shine said. "Clearly, it changes the coaching."

It also could change how the best players look at high school tennis, especially if the leagues adopt the new format, as well.

"Why should they waste their afternoons," said Shine, noting that a No. 1 singles player now would have to play an inferior No. 2 and 3, likely results in non-competitive 6-0 results.

Over the years, some local high school teams have lost players due to seemingly lack of competition at this level. The best players are primed for getting college scholarships and the USTA circuit may end up providing tougher competition. This new format could make that decision easier.

Plus, a starting player on each

team will be dropped in the new format.

"Now you encourage fewer players to be on your team," Shine said. "And the drama of seeing that third set develop, seeing a Jamin Ball play a John Lambie, is gone. That's what it's all about."

"There are certain things us coaches need to know about this format and it could take a couple of years," Shine said. "This is a huge deal. But, I think it's already done."

While Shine and Fortino discussed the potential headaches of the new format, the host Matadors were making a statement of their own on the courts during a hot Wednesday afternoon as they defeated the Knights.

"The match was very close, but not the score," said Shine. "It was close, but they won all the three-set matches. They're just a little more experienced than we are."

While the Knights have the potential to be one of the school's best teams, it's also one of the youngest. Kacie Madeira is the only senior on a squad that has three starting juniors, five starting sophomores and two starting freshmen.

"I was pleased with the effort," said Shine, "(but) we've got work to do." ■

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Sports

Water polo

(continued from page 33)

Will Runkel had 12 saves. SHP will host Bellarmine next Wednesday (6 p.m.) for first place.

On Tuesday, Menlo School defeated De La Salle for the second time in two weeks as the Knights pulled out a 6-5 nonleague victory in Concord. Menlo (8-2) also beat the Spartans in the semifinals of the Scot Roche Invitational on Sept. 17.

Despite missing a starter due to illness, Menlo made the appropriate shifts in personnel and got an outstanding effort in goal by senior Connor Dillon, who blocked two penalty shots and finished with 10 saves.

Johnny Wilson tallied two goals for Menlo while Nick Hale and Brad Haaland each scored once and had three steals each. Hale also had three assists to lead the Knights.

During the weekend, Sacred Heart Prep finished fifth, Menlo School sixth and Menlo-Atherton seventh in the annual NCS/CCS Challenge

that wrapped up Saturday in the East Bay.

The Gators went 3-1 in the two-day event, losing only to De La Salle (7-5) in the second round. SHP beat Drake, 10-6, to open. On Saturday, the Gators topped Menlo-Atherton, 11-6, as junior Michael Holloway scored four goals and Enright added three while Runkel had 18 saves.

In the battle for fifth place, SHP registered a 9-6 victory over neighbor Menlo School in a rematch of last season's CCS Division II championship match (won by Menlo). Runkel had 17 saves with Holloway, Zach Churukian and Kyle Koenig all scoring twice. Hale had two goals for Menlo after scoring six in a 13-4 third-round win over Las Lomas.

Menlo-Atherton went 2-2 in the tourney, topped by an 11-6 win over Las Lomas in the seventh-place match.

At the Sequoia Invitational on Saturday, Priory went 0-3 — falling to Hillsdale (11-8), Carmont (16-6) and Sequoia (8-4). Turnquist led the Panthers with nine goals while Walden added eight. ■



DOUG GRADUATED FROM MENLO COLLEGE AND MAJORED IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION WITH A MINOR IN COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS.

He hopes his student athletes leave the Priory with a sense of appreciation for life and continue their personal growth as athletes and as lifelong learners.

When Doug isn't teaching or coaching, he loves to work on his house, play softball, and golf. He considers being a father and raising a close and loving family his greatest accomplishment.

His favorite quote is:

"Take care of the little things and the big things will take care of themselves" - Anonymous

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