

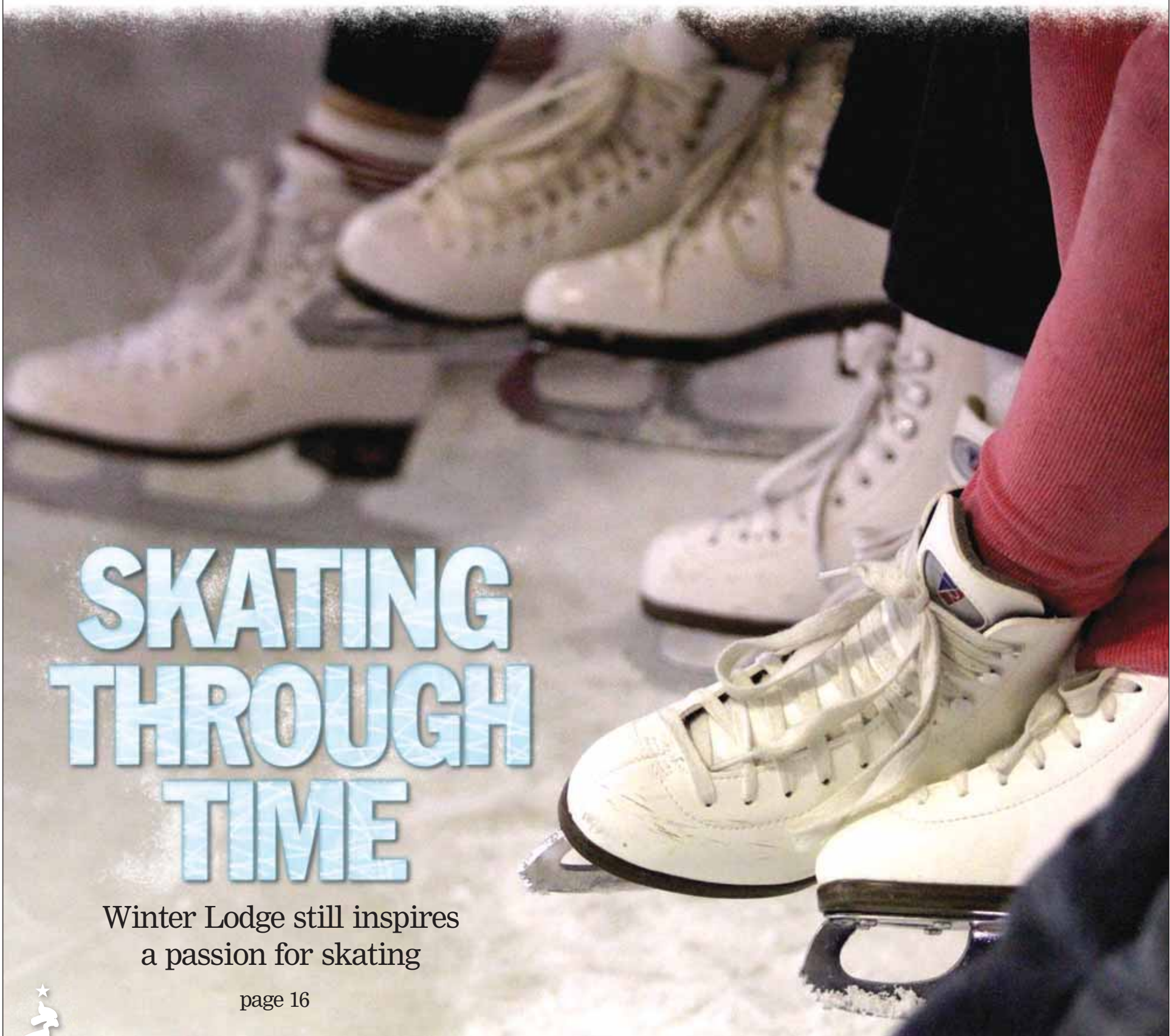
Palo Alto Weekly

Palo Alto



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INSIDE
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Summer 2012
class guide



SKATING THROUGH TIME

Winter Lodge still inspires a passion for skating

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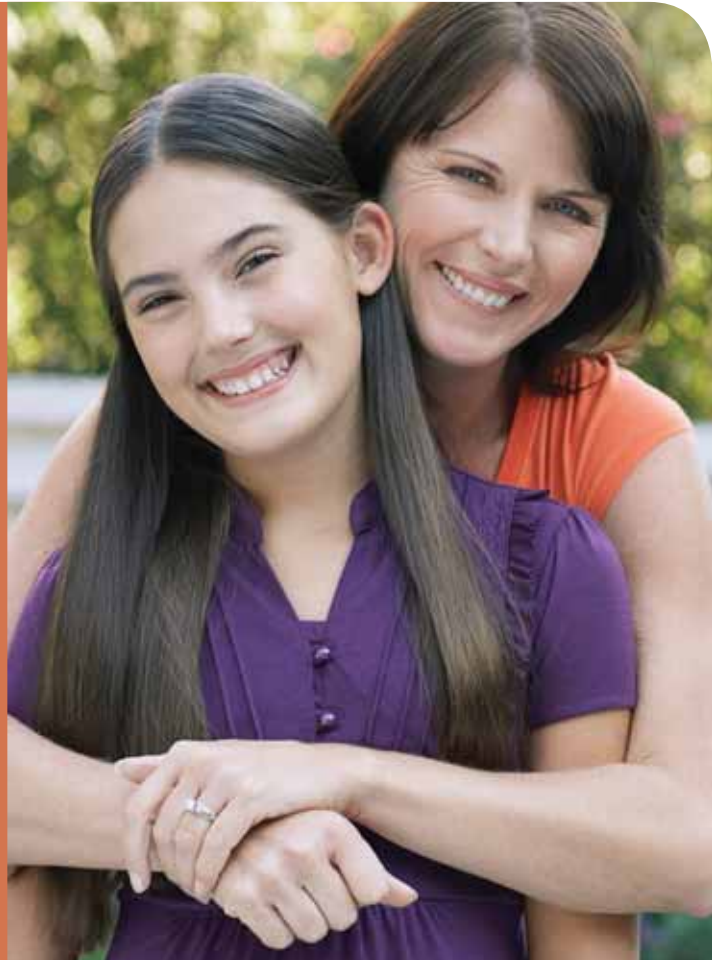
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Observes National Eating Disorders Awareness Week

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Upfront

Local news, information and analysis

Palo Alto may seek bond for new public-safety facilities

City Council to kick off discussion this week on bond measure to replace aged police building, fire stations

by Gennady Sheyner

If a major earthquake were to strike Palo Alto tomorrow, it could render the city's police headquarters at City Hall functionally useless and topple the cramped, half-century-old fire stations at Mitchell and Rinconada parks, possibly injuring or killing their

occupants.

Those were some of the findings of the Infrastructure Blue Ribbon Commission, a 17-member panel that has been assessing the city's infrastructure needs and ways to pay for these needs. The group's voluminous report, which was 13 months in

the making and released last month, surveys just about every component of the city's infrastructure, from roads and parks to big-ticket items such as the Municipal Services Center and the Cubberley Community Center. But the report strikes a particularly urgent note when it looks at the city's public-safety facilities — buildings that remain one of the city's most glaring weaknesses and top priorities.

The infrastructure commission's

report recommends that the city ask its voters to approve a bond this year that would pay for a new public-safety building and for repairs to the two fire stations. Another alternative, the report states, is issuing "certificates of participation" (COPs), debt instruments that would not require a vote but carry interest rates 15 to 20 percent higher than general-obligation bonds. The council had considered issuing these certificates in 2008 but ultimately

decided not to.

These options are expected to re-emerge Tuesday night, when the City Council holds its first discussion of the infrastructure report.

The public-safety dilemma is far from new, though it's taking on a higher profile at a time when the council lists both "emergency preparedness" and "infrastructure" as its top priorities. The police build-

(continued on page 9)



Courtesy of Kepler's

Praveen Madan, right, and his wife Christin Evans are in discussions with Clark Kepler about re-inventing the 57-year-old Kepler's Books and Magazines in Menlo Park.

BUSINESS

Reinventing Kepler's — again

In retirement letter, CEO Clark Kepler says he wants to see Menlo Park bookstore continue

by Chris Kenrick

Kepler's Transition Team has formed to "re-invent" the venerable Menlo Park independent bookstore whose CEO, Clark Kepler, announced his retirement Monday.

Kepler, who has headed the 57-year-old bookstore founded by his parents, Roy and Patricia Kepler, said he wants "to see Kepler's continue on without me."

Heading the transition team is Praveen Madan, a former business consultant, who says his current passion is finding new business models for independent bookselling.

On Thursday, the transition team e-mailed an online survey to "the Kepler's community," seeking opinions on what people want

for the store's future.

Madan and his wife, Christin Evans — also an MBA and former business consultant — bought the San Francisco bookstore The Booksmith in 2007, where they've focused on making the Haight Street venue a community gathering place.

The pair have blogged on the Huffington Post as to why they quit their "cushy corporate jobs to re-invent independent bookselling."

"The debate over e-books versus real books is way over-rated," Madan told a blogger in 2009. "Who cares if people read e-books or paper books and whether they read them on their iPads or Kindles?"

What matters, he said, is that

long-form reading — "good for concentration, opening minds and encouraging critical thinking" — continues.

In their San Francisco shop, Madan and Evans have sought to create social opportunities around books, with a crowded author calendar and so-called "bookswaps," in which customers pay admission to discuss and exchange books over food and wine.

"Amazon can't help you make friends," they said in a 2010 Huffington Post blog, arguing that "bookstores have a unique opportunity to bring people together."

Tuesday evening, a day after Kepler announced his retire-

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EDUCATION

School board wrestles with enrollment data

Projections offer only slight guide to looming building decisions, members say

by Chris Kenrick

Faced with major construction decisions, the Palo Alto Board of Education parsed new enrollment data Tuesday, only to conclude the demographic projections are hardly a foolproof guide.

Those looming decisions include where to increase classroom space for rising elementary enrollment and what to do when middle school enrollment exceeds current capacity — expected soon. Other decisions include what to do with the old Garland Elementary School campus, whose lease with a private school expires in two years.

"I don't think we can count on the data to bail us out and make us feel good," board Vice President Dana Tom said during the three-hour session with a consulting demographer. "It's more of a guess than we would like."

Board members noted that projections from the district's new demographic consultants, DecisionInsite, are not consistent with other recent projections.

The new projections — based on trend analysis from the past four years — predict a 4.4 percent decline in the next five years in enrollment in "north cluster" elementary schools: Addison, Duveneck and Walter Hays.

They predict 7.5 percent growth in the same period for the "south cluster": El Carmelo, Palo Verde and Fairmeadow.

And they predict a 17.4 percent growth in the "west cluster": Barron Park, Juana Briones, Escondido and Nixon.

But board members worried that some of the surprising "west cluster" growth reflected one-time bumps from housing developments constructed in the past four years.

And they worried that other, hard-

to-read trends were not captured in the projections.

"If aging parents start selling their homes, there could be a generational shift that could affect our assumptions going forward," Tom said.

"If there's an area of town where we have a lot of people over 75 or 80, we should know that," board member Melissa Baten Caswell said.

"Because if these houses turn over — even if they just become rentals — our history is that young families move in, and I'd hate for us to be surprised by that."

Board member Barb Mitchell said the infrastructure decisions pressing the board are on a "grander scale" than the data in the projections.

"We have important decisions to make on how we're going to use Garland, where to put the next new classrooms at the elementary level and where we're going to put that middle school," she said.

Superintendent Kevin Skelly said the district needs to make decisions soon on where to add new capacity at the elementary and middle school levels.

"There are lots of options. The two I can think of is to add a fourth middle school, or moving some sixth graders to elementary schools and building more capacity there."

Capacity in the district's three middle schools are 1,100 each for Jordan and Jane Lathrop Stanford (JLS), and 700 for Terman. Current enrollment is 1,015 at Jordan, 1,001 at JLS and 663 at Terman.

"As I look, I see more enrollment than we have capacity for at middle school, but not at this point enough to justify a fourth middle school," Skelly said.

He alluded to history as a warning for the board to proceed cautiously

(continued on page 8)

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“It’s more of a guess than we would like.”
—Dana Tom, Palo Alto school board vice president, regarding recent projections on district enrollment by consulting demographers.
See story on page 3.

Around Town

HONORING DR. KING ... Palo Alto will celebrate the life and legacy of **Martin Luther King Jr.**, Monday when it hosts a “Day of Service” event. A wealth of local nonprofits, including **Youth Community Service, Canopy** and **Break Through the Static**, are teaming up with the city for the event, which will feature activity tables, live music and open mic. “It’s a fun event but also an important chance for people to do something to help others,” City Manager **James Keene** said. The event will go from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lytton Plaza. Caltrain will also take part in Martin Luther King Jr. Day festivities by sending its annual “**Freedom Train**” from San Jose to San Francisco. The train, which is chartered by the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Association of Santa Clara, is scheduled to stop at Palo Alto’s downtown station at 9:59 a.m. to pick up passengers and arrive in San Francisco at about 10:55 a.m. Tickets to the train are available at www.svcmlr.org.

OFF-PUTTING ... A regional effort to boost flood protection around **San Francisquito Creek** could bring major changes to the **Palo Alto Municipal Golf Course** — and not everyone is happy about it. The proposal by the **San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority** (the agency charged with calming the flood-prone creek) proposes a new levee that would run through the golf course. While Palo Alto officials view the flood-control plan as an opportunity to rethink the golf course’s design and consider possible uses for the land, the **Palo Alto Women’s Golf Club** is less sanguine about the proposed changes. In a letter to the council, club members wrote that while they support changes to the course to tame the creek, they oppose the reduction of the course from 18 holes to nine, which is one of the ideas on the table. The letter, which bears 46 signatures, states that golf is “important to the community and is a sport enjoyed by all ages in all of our clubs.” It notes that golf is a “year round sport,” that the “driving range is very busy” and that the “pro shop is one of the best in the area.” “A decision to reduce the course to nine holes, and not

properly maintain it, would have serious impacts on the golfing community.”

THE INVISIBLE BRANCH ... It’s been a banner year for Palo Alto libraries, with the refurbished **Downtown Library** opening its doors and the new **Mitchell Park Library** edging toward completion this summer. But while these two branches have attracted most community attention, the city is also working on another project that the Library Advisory Commission termed the “virtual library.” The commission discussed the project Monday in a joint meeting with the City Council. The idea, said library commission Vice Chair **Tolulope Akinola**, is to “create a branch online where people can not only transact with the library in terms of having material on hold and checking things out and knowing whether you have to pay a fine or not, but also as a place where we can engage with library staff, engage with each other and really find an opportunity for the community online as well that the library can facilitate.” The commission, he said, has been working on this project for several months and is looking to prepare a staffing plan and a funding plan for the virtual branch in the coming months with the goals to “really make this come alive this year.”

ENERGIZED ... Sen. **Joe Simitian**, who this year authored a bill that raises California’s renewable-energy requirements for utilities, was recognized for his effort this week by the nonprofit **Power Association of Northern California** (PANC), which named the former Palo Alto mayor its “Person of the Year.” Simitian’s legislation, Senate Bill 2X, requires utility companies to obtain 33 percent of the electricity from renewable sources by 2020. **Jan Petter**, a board member of PANC and electric division manager of Silicon Valley Power, lauded Simitian in a statement for his significant impact on the energy industry. “For this year, it was an easy choice to select Senator Joe Simitian, to recognize his success in passing legislation to increase California’s renewable portfolio standard to 33 percent by 2020.” ■

POLITICS

Liz Kniss to run for Palo Alto City Council

Former mayor and current Santa Clara supervisor touts her policy experience, local background

by Gennady Sheyner

After a decade-long hiatus, Santa Clara County Supervisor Liz Kniss launched her quest to return to Palo Alto politics Monday (Jan. 9) when she announced that she will be running for the City Council this year.

Though she won't be running as an incumbent, Kniss won't have to worry about name recognition or steep learning curves. A veteran of both the school board and the City Council, she served as Palo Alto mayor twice, in 1994 and 2000, and already has three successful council elections under her belt.

"I'm excited to announce this and very pleased at the possibility of serving in Palo Alto again," Kniss said in an email announcing her candidacy. "I have missed the local contacts and connections that exist in our city politics."

Kniss told the Weekly that she decided to run for council late last week. She said she was weighing a run for state Senate, where former Palo Alto Mayor Joe Simitian will reach his term limit this year. But she ultimately decided that she doesn't want to move to Sacramento.

"Palo Alto is far more, frankly, interesting," Kniss said, adding that she feels she can make a greater difference on the local level than in the Capitol.

Though her latest term on the council ended in 2000, Kniss has been a familiar presence at City Hall, routinely attending council meetings to recognize community volunteers, welcome new mayors and thank outgoing elected leaders for their service. Her visits have gone beyond the ceremonial. A Caltrain board member, she hosted a meeting in Palo Alto last year to update city officials and community members about Caltrain's financial state and its electrification plans.

Her resume also includes memberships on the board of the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, Joint Venture Silicon Valley, the Association of Bay Area Governments, and the Bay Conservation and Development Commission. She has twice served as president of the Board of Supervisors, most recently in 2010, and serves on boards of both the state and national organization of county supervisors.



Liz Kniss

Kniss was first elected to the Board of Supervisors in 2000. She was re-elected in 2004 and 2008.

She has chaired health and land-use committees on the Board of Supervisors and, in August, was reappointed to chair the Health Steering Committee at the National Association of Counties. She also chairs the Health and Human Services Policy Committee at the California State Association of Counties.

With her announcement, Kniss became the first person to enter the council race. Mayor Yiaway Yeh and Councilmen Pat Burt, Sid Espinosa and Greg Schmid are all concluding their first terms on the council this year and none have indicated thus far whether they plan to run for reelection.

The council race will be one of many issues voters will be asked to decide on in November. In addition to voting for United States president, Palo

Alto residents will also consider whether Palo Alto should allow marijuana dispensaries to set up shop in the city. They may also be asked to approve a bond to pay for a new public-safety building and for major renovations to two local fire stations.

If elected, Kniss would be the second sitting council member to have two framed photos of her hanging in the Council Chambers (Larry Klein, a three-time mayor, also holds that distinction).

Kniss was also a leading driver behind 2010's Measure E, a ballot measure that moved the city's local elections from odd years to even years. The change, which voters approved by a two-to-one margin, was pitched as a move to both save the city about \$200,000 every two years and to increase the number of voters (because local elections, after the change, coincide with state and national elections).

"Voters are much more engaged, especially in a presidential year, and the buzz of running is always a bigger buzz," she told the council in June 2010.

Kniss said that if elected she would emphasize three areas: infrastructure, including a "Health and Wellness" element in the Comprehensive Plan (the city's land-use bible), and sustainability.

"An over-worked word, but a message we need to continually push for in this very aware and responsible community," Kniss said of "sustainability." ■

COMMUNITY

A King remembrance in black and white

Civil rights photographer Bob Fitch honored at Stanford for capturing the freedom movement

by Sue Dremann

The faces staring out from 10 photographs at Stanford's Tresidder Memorial Union lounge seem eternal; as alive today as they were 46 years ago when photojournalist Bob Fitch took them in 1966 during the civil rights movement.

If the images could speak, they might scream their rage and determination; whisper their hope and shout their jubilation in the silent lounge.

An angry white sheriff slaps a black minister's face; a 106-year-old man born into slavery is celebrated as he registers to vote for the first time; a 14-year-old girl leads protesters in song against a line of white police officers and Ku Klux Klansmen.

Fitch, 72, was a Bay Area-raised, 24-year-old ordained minister who took a job as a staff photographer for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, of which Martin Luther King Jr. was president. Over three years Fitch shot hundreds of memorable images of black Americans' struggles.

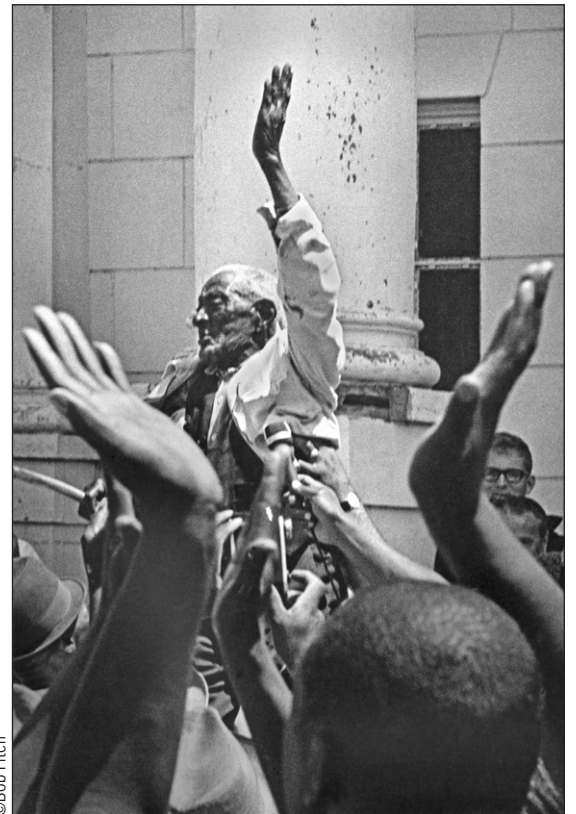
On Friday afternoon (Jan. 13) Fitch will be honored with a Call to Consciousness Award from the Martin Luther King Jr. Research and Education Institute at Stanford University. A King photograph by Fitch is the model for the new King memorial at the National Mall in Washington, D.C., which was unveiled last summer.

Clayborne Carson, institute director, worked on the memorial's design with San Francisco-based ROMA Design Group. He chose Fitch's photo, which was taken in Atlanta as King worked on one of his books, because it portrayed King not as a monumental figure but as a thoughtful leader, he said.

In the photograph, King is holding a pen and has his arms crossed as he contemplates his writing. A picture of nonviolent leader Mohandas Gandhi hangs on the wall above King's desk.

Fitch's photos and four posters with his images will remain on view through February, along with an original page from King's 1964 Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech.

Fitch found his way into the remarkable position of staff photographer after getting to know Southern civil



©Bob Fitch

El Fondren, a 106-year-old former slave, is raised on shoulders as he registers to vote for the first time in Batesville, Miss., in this 1966 photo by civil-rights photographer Bob Fitch.

rights leaders. At the time he was bringing speakers to Bay Area churches.

Photography had been an early interest that Fitch said was like "magic." As a youth he was fascinated by images that emerged on paper soaked in a chemical bath.

He arrived in the South in 1965 after the Selma-to-Montgomery March.

"Most Anglos from the north stayed two months then split. I dedicated to stay a year or two," he said.

He grew up in a college-campus environment and was not exposed to African Americans, he said. But he was introduced early to social-justice issues while growing up in Berkeley around socialist and communist progressive thought — ideas that related to the working class, immigration and minorities, he said. That interest grew while attending a Protestant seminary.

Fitch was able to go where black journalists could not. Southern Christian Leadership Conference leaders said

(continued on page 8)

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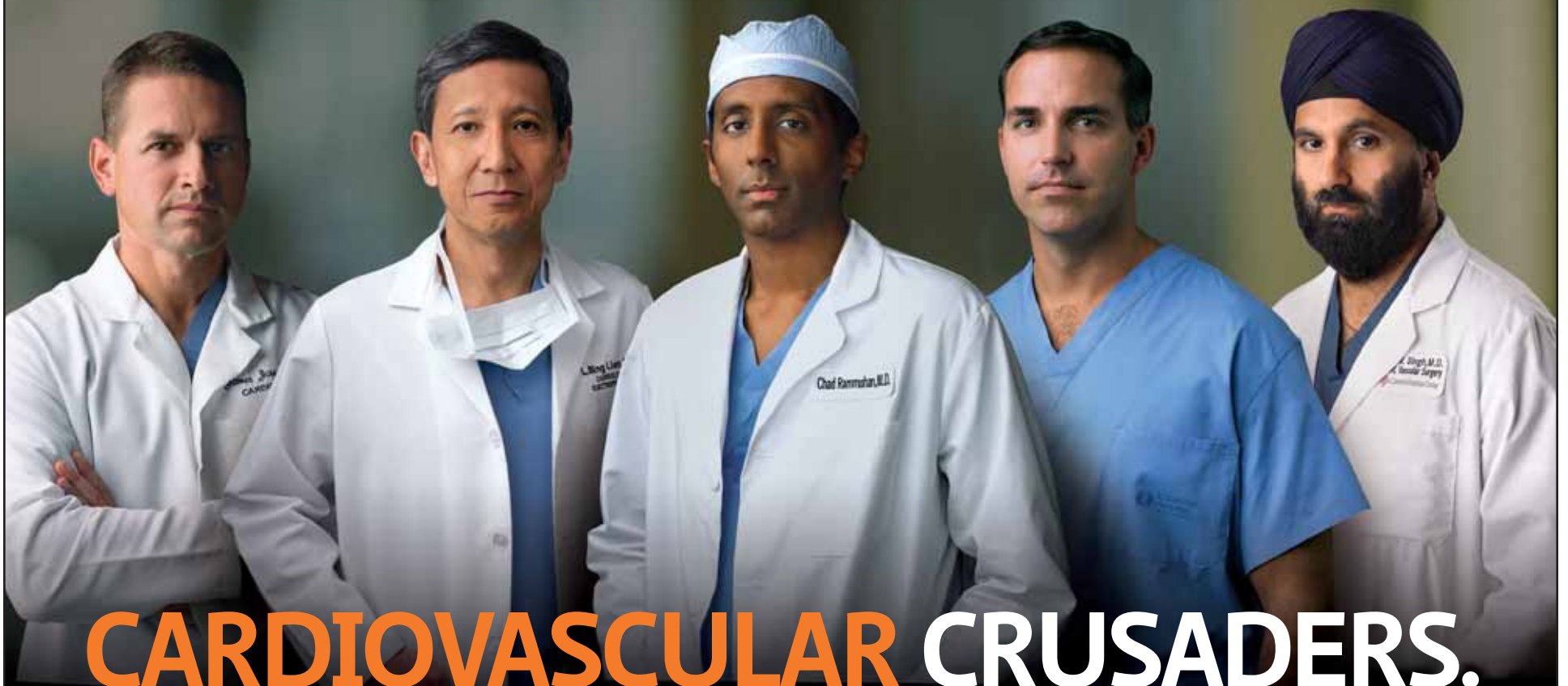
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LAND USE

Neighbors lobby for new road in research park

With major construction on the horizon, road could ease College Terrace traffic

by Sue Dremann

A new road northwest of Page Mill Road that could divert traffic from the College Terrace neighborhood will be looked at by Palo Alto staff, city planning director Curtis Williams has confirmed.

The idea for a “spine road” to take traffic from El Camino Real through the center of the north end of Stanford Research Park — two blocks between California Avenue and Page Mill Road — could play a major role when two housing developments get underway in 2014.

It’s not a new idea. Discussions of the road emerged nearly a decade ago. The road was proposed by the College Terrace Residents Association as a way to mitigate traffic impacts that have been growing steadily on California Avenue and surrounding residential streets.

In 2005, the city and Stanford University formed the Mayfield Development Agreement, which allowed 250 housing units to be built at two sites adjacent to College Terrace in exchange for a 51-year lease of land at Page Mill Road and El Camino Real for \$1 annually. Athletic playing fields have been built there.

One housing development would occupy 1.8 acres at 2450, 2470 and 2500 El Camino, between California and Page Mill. A larger development would be constructed on 17 acres on the 1400 to 1600 blocks of upper California Avenue, adjacent to the Peter Coutts housing on the Stanford cam-

pus (the former site of Facebook).

A May 2, 2005, city manager’s report recommended exploring a spine road from El Camino to Hanover Street and noted “Stanford is supportive of any future initiative by the city to study this potential circulation option.” The report also noted the need to consider options to remove traffic away from California Avenue.

An initial traffic study showed that housing would generate “significantly less traffic” than the commercial buildings it would replace. But at the same time, a new workspace model, adopted by Facebook, tripled the number of employees working in the same space. The model has been a game changer in terms of how future businesses coming into the research park could impact traffic in the surrounding area, residents have said.

With demolition of structures on the sites expected to begin in 2014, College Terrace association members have let university officials know they want the spine road to be part of the university’s construction plan. Residents met with city planning staff and Stanford real-estate personnel in June to discuss the issue.

Even before the residences are built, Stanford will have to devise a way to move out demolished buildings and move in construction materials. Most buildings in the research park are aligned to allow a road, residents said.

“We are concerned about hav-

ing California Avenue become a construction road for 17 acres of concrete and dirt coming out and 17 acres of construction materials coming in,” neighborhood association President Brent Barker said.

At the neighborhood association’s annual meeting last March, residents asked then-Mayor Sid Espinosa to initiate a study regarding the spine road. In November the city confirmed staff would look into the issue.

Williams, the city planning director, said this week that the city “is not preparing a ‘study’ as such for the spine road,” but will be meeting with the College Terrace group about the spine road concept and how to develop a sketch (or plan line) that will help planners to review future development proposals.

“This is something that would need to be implemented through future development or voluntarily by research park tenants. We expect that the future (2013) development plans for residential on the 1601 California Ave. site will be a good opportunity to initiate the concept and want to be prepared for that or other development possibilities as they arise,” he said.

A spine road could depend on research-park leaseholders agreeing to modifications to their buildings. But the city and Stanford did give the idea a nod by requiring two driveway curb cuts when a new building was planned at 2475 Hanover. The south driveway was designed for potential

Planned Stanford housing on California Avenue and proposed “spine” road



use as part of the spine road, College Terrace association members noted.

Steve Elliott, Stanford’s managing director of development, said the university has not yet been in contact with the city regarding details of a potential road.

“Regarding the Mayfield projects, it is too early in the process to know or project the construction schedule. We are still in the preliminary planning stages and will be working

with the city and the neighbors as we move forward,” he said.

Barker said that given the trend toward intensifying high-tech workspaces that increases the number of employees, a spine road makes sense that could serve as both an inner conduit for employees and as a service road. ■

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

TRANSPORTATION

Simitian seeks to postpone high-speed-rail funding

Amid calls to end \$98.5 billion project, legislator favors taking a year to rethink it

by Gennady Sheyner

Three years after California voters approved a \$9.95 billion bond to build the nation’s first high-speed-rail system, a debate over its funding has turned into a legislative game of chicken, with billions of dollars on the line.

The California High-Speed Rail Authority, which is charged with building the new system, has asked the state Legislature to release \$2.7 billion to pay for the first stretch of the rail line — a 130-mile segment in the Central Valley.

But Republicans in the state Legislature introduced a bill this week to halt state funding for the controversial project, which has seen its estimated price tag swell from less than \$40 billion in 2008 to \$98.5 billion in the latest business plan. And while Democrats have been less fixed in their stance, they too have expressed hesitation about releasing billions of dollars in state funds. State Sen. Joe Simitian, D-Palo Alto, told the Weekly this week that he is not ready to support releasing bond funds for the project and is calling for the rail

authority to slow down and give the project some more thought.

The rail authority has maintained it needs state funds to match the \$3.5 billion it has received for the project in federal grants and has argued that the Legislature’s failure to release the bond funds immediately would jeopardize the federal contribution. When a peer-review committee recommended earlier this month that legislators withhold state funds until the rail authority addresses what the committee considered flaws in its business plan, the authority issued a 10-page response to legislators blasting the group’s conclusion.

“Any delay in proceeding with the Initial Construction Segment (the Central Valley section) at this time will result in the loss of the existing \$3.5 billion in federal funding for a California high-speed rail system,” Thomas Umberg, chair of the rail authority’s board of directors, wrote in the letter.

The peer-review committee, Umberg wrote, “fails to assess the risks of not proceeding with the program

at this juncture,” including loss of federal funding, potential elimination of state funds and the impact of losing \$950 million to connect regional rail systems with high-speed rail (funds that voters approved as part of the \$9.95 billion bond).

“These risks are present and real and represent lost opportunity of enormous cost and lasting consequence,” Umberg wrote.

But Assemblywoman Diane Harkey, R-Dana Point, doesn’t believe Umberg. This week, she introduced a bill to halt state funding for high-speed rail. Harkey pointed to recent critical audits of high-speed rail from the Legislative Analyst’s Office and the rail authority’s peer-review group as evidence that the project is heading in the wrong direction and should be stopped. She also cited a recent Field Poll survey that showed more than half of state voters supporting a fresh vote on the San Francisco-to-Los Angeles rail line.

“This one project has the potential to double our state’s debt and become a huge future drain on our state’s bud-

get, while our existing rail and roadway infrastructure is in dire need of repair,” Harkey said in a statement. “California does not need a shiny new heavily subsidized toy with no confirmed ridership, when we have real shovel-ready infrastructure jobs in every community awaiting funding.”

Simitian, who chairs a budget committee that focuses on the rail project, said he prefers a third option — taking a year to rethink the project and address the myriad issues brought up in recent critical audits. These include uncertainty over future funding, planning for the next construction phase and whether the rail authority is complying with Proposition 1A, which requires that the first segment constructed be a “usable segment.”

“I’m convinced that at this point, we’re effectively presented with two choices — neither one of which is particularly appealing from my perspective,” Simitian told the Weekly. “On the one hand, we have a proposal to spend \$6.2 billion on a project in Central Valley that I’m not yet ready

to support. On the other hand, absent that, we’re told that you’d be putting an end to the debate about high-speed rail and that’s the end of that.

“I think that’s a bad set of choices.” Simitian said he is working with his staff and with state analysts and attorneys to determine what exactly the state would get for the \$6.2 billion, to ascertain that the project as described in the business plan complies with Proposition 1A, and to determine how flexible the federal-grant deadlines are. Until these questions are answered, Simitian said, he’s not ready to support the rail authority’s request.

“Sometimes, you have to go slow to go fast,” Simitian said. “To date, I have not made a believer of the High-Speed Rail Authority on that principle. They lurch from ad hoc decision to ad hoc decision.

“That’s no way to make a \$6.2 billion decision, let alone a \$100 billion decision.” ■

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

Public Agenda

A preview of Palo Alto government meetings next week

CITY COUNCIL ... The council plans to interview candidates for the Architectural Review Board and discuss the report on fixing up the city's infrastructure from the Infrastructure Blue Ribbon Commission. The interviews will begin at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 17, in the Council Conference Room at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.). The rest of the meeting will follow in the Council Chambers.

BOARD OF EDUCATION ... The board is scheduled to vote on schematic designs and a project budget for a new Performing Arts Center at Palo Alto High School. The board also will hear an update on high school guidance models, mid-year progress on the district's "focus goals" for 2011-12 and the governor's proposed budget. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 17, in the board room of school district headquarters (25 Churchill Ave.).

SCHOOL/CITY LIAISON COMMITTEE ... The committee will discuss Project Safety Net, Cubberley Community Center, budget issues and recent activities of the Board of Education and City Council. The meeting will begin at 8 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 19, in the Council Conference Room at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD ... The board plans to review 3431 Hillview Ave., a proposal by VMware for a three-story parking garage; and 3251 Hanover St., a request by DGA Architects on behalf of Stanford and Lockheed Martin for a two-story building within an existing office park. The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 19, in the Council Chambers at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

RAIL CORRIDOR STUDY TASK FORCE ... The task force plans to continue its discussion of the city's vision for the Caltrain corridor. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 19, in the Downtown Library (270 Forest Ave.).



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

Enrollment

(continued from page 3)



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www.PaloAltoOnline.com

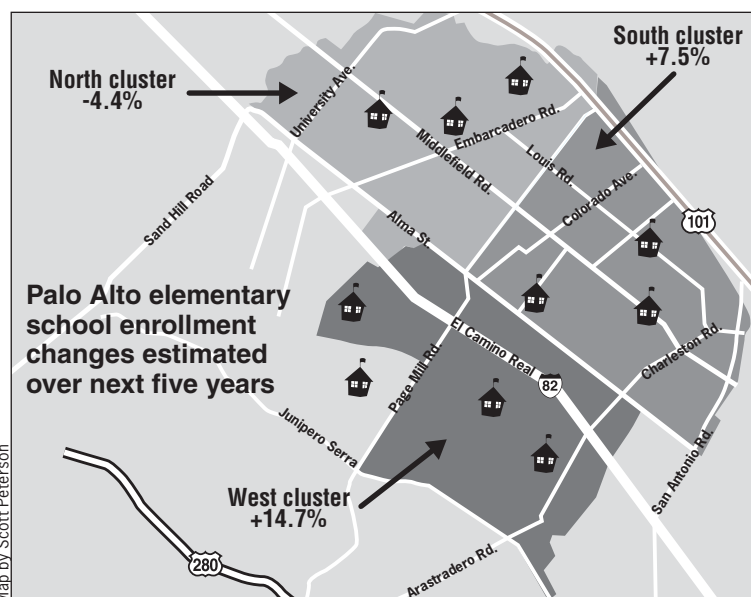
How do you think the Palo Alto Unified School District should accommodate a growing student population? Share your ideas on Town Square, the community online forum on Palo Alto Online.

and maintain maximum flexibility. He referred to a period of declining enrollment in the 1980s when former boards voted to close schools and sell the properties to housing developers.

"I think people would like us to make lots of hard decisions about things," he said.

"That's what folks did 25 years ago — in terms of 'this trend is going to go down' — and they were wrong. We could make the same assumption that the trend will go up, and we could be wrong.

"To me what we need to do is plan



Map by Scott Peterson

carefully and keep the most number of options we can."

Skelly said he will return to the board in February with options

and recommendations on how to proceed. ■

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

King

(continued from page 5)

they could not send black reporters and photographers into the field because they were beaten or killed. Fitch covered major events each week, and the images and stories were sent to a network of black-run newspapers and magazines, he said.

He discovered his lifetime heroes during the civil rights movement, he said.

"Dr. King was an enunciator for

the movement, but he was not my hero," Fitch said by phone Monday. It was the bravery of the common people, such as the Kirkseys, three black farmers in Utah, Ala., that was heroic, he said.

At great risk, the three farmers bailed Fitch out of jail. Each day, Fitch learned more about the heritage of hope, justice and liberty of black families that had been ongoing for 450 years, he said.

"I learned nonviolence not from texts; I learned nonviolence from Afro-American men and women who were enraged and for whom a stance of nonviolence was an effort. To take a stance of nonviolence in the face of that crushing oppression was a courageous act," he said.

El Fondren, the 106-year-old man in his voter-registration photo, is one such example, he said.

"He was born into slavery. He survived enormous oppression that is inconceivable to most of us," Fitch said.

The image of Fondren being lifted onto shoulders, with his hand waving in triumph with others' silhouetted in the foreground, is still prominent in his home and has special significance, he said. It was one of several times in his photographic career when, he said, he experienced a mystic vision.

"The image in the camera frame so perfectly enunciated all the feelings

I have at that time that I disappear. I'm automatically photographing, and I kind of become at one with the organic earth. All of those photos have been stunning," he said.

Hope was perhaps the feeling Fitch captured most in the Tresidder images: A woman guiding an illiterate man's hand as he learned to write in preparation for his voter registration; a portrait of a sharecropper couple in their cramped home on a white sheriff's land, for whom protest meant risking everything.

Fitch was asked by King's family to photograph the slain leader's funeral, and his image of the tear-stained faces of King's parents brings his chronicle of the movement to a close. But he continued to record social-justice movements, including the United Farmworkers Union (AFL-CIO), the Dorothy Day and the Catholic Worker Movement and the Vietnam War protests.

His photograph of Cesar Chavez was issued as a U.S. postage stamp in 2002 — albeit without the original red UFW flag.

He is still active in community-empowerment programs in Watsonville, where he lives, and manages his photo archives. Fitch plans to donate his collection to the Stanford University Library, Carson said. ■

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

Stanford's Ho Center for Buddhist Studies and Stanford Continuing Studies Present

Understanding Buddhist Art: Meaning and Materiality in Japanese Buddhist Sculpture



According to sutras, sandalwood is the ideal material from which to create a Buddhist statue, because of its aroma and ability to sustain detailed carving. However, this standard created a dilemma for those Buddhist communities outside of South Asia—most notably those spread across China, Korea, and Japan—where sandalwood did not grow locally. Consequently, the concept of "surrogate sandalwood" began to gain currency in East Asia from the early 8th century onward, and Buddhist communities began to seek approximations for sandalwood in their own local environments.

In this talk, Yukio Lippit, Professor of History of Art and Architecture at Harvard, will introduce the nature of such insights in the case of Japanese Buddhism from the 7th through 11th centuries, and thereby explore the dynamic intersection of religious studies, art history, and ecology.

Saturday, January 14

1:00 – 4:00 pm

Annenberg Auditorium, Cummings Art Building

Free and open to public

For more info: continuingstudies.stanford.edu



CityView

A round-up of Palo Alto government action this week

City Council (Jan. 9)

Libraries: The council held a joint session with the Library Advisory Commission. **Action:** None

935 Ramona St.: The council voted to remove the house at 935 Ramona St. from the city's Historic Inventory. **Yes:** Unanimous

Board of Education (Jan. 10)

Demographic projections: The board held a special meeting to discuss a new report on enrollment projections. **Action:** None

Planning and Transportation Commission (Jan. 11)

Los Trancos: The commission approved construction of a two-story home at 830 Los Trancos Road. **Yes:** Unanimous

News Digest

Mountain View woman wins \$1 million lottery prize

Mountain View resident Emily Leach had the good fortune to wake up from a tumor-induced coma two years ago, and on Friday she won \$1 million in the state lottery to pay off her medical bills.

The 30-year-old Mountain View resident found the winning \$10 ticket among 40 she had purchased from the Liquor and Tobacco store at 1040 N. Rengstorff Ave. When she scratched the winning number on the \$250 Million Cash Spectacular sweepstakes ticket, she reportedly locked herself in her car and frantically called her mother, who thought she had been in a car accident.

"I've got so many medical expenses, and all of my paychecks go to paying Kaiser and to live here and everything," she said in an ABC television interview Monday. "Just things like this just don't happen to me, you know. I don't know — it's a miracle."

Leach reportedly also won \$5,000 in the lottery just before Christmas.

"Her lottery winnings will go a long way toward paying off medical bills and helping out her family, who she says have helped her tremendously," reports the California Lottery website. "Emily also told us that she has two brothers who live out of state, so she hopes to get everyone together for a much-needed family vacation."

Leach continues to battle her tumor and says it was a miracle that she woke up from her coma. The odds of her winning the Lottery prize? One in 1.2 million. ■

— Daniel DeBolt

Enrico Fermi Award for Burton Richter

Nobel Prize winner Burton Richter, director of the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC) in Menlo Park from 1984 to 1999, and Mildred S. Dresselhaus are winners of the Enrico Fermi Award, one of the government's most prestigious awards for scientific achievement.

The presidential award carries an honorarium of \$50,000, shared equally, and a gold medal. It is administered on behalf of the White House by the U.S. Department of Energy. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu will present the Fermi award at a ceremony in Washington at a later date.

Richter's work includes development and exploitation of accelerator technologies that have resulted in several Nobel Prize-winning discoveries and his own Nobel Prize-winning discovery in experimental particle physics in 1976.

Since stepping down as SLAC director in 1999, Richter has chaired the Nuclear Energy Research Advisory Committee in the Department of Energy, where he was a principal adviser to the deputy secretary of energy on the development of the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership. He served for six years on the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board and now serves on the newly established Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Advisory Board.

Richter, a Palo Alto resident, is an emeritus professor of physical sciences at Stanford University.

Dresselhaus is a professor emerita at MIT. Her portfolio of research accomplishments includes many discoveries leading to understanding in various condensed matter systems. She is considered a premier mentor and spokesperson for women in science. ■

— Almanac staff

Ramona Street home no longer 'historic'

Christopher Pickett's Ramona Street home was built in 1895, but on Monday (Jan. 9) the Palo Alto City Council agreed with Pickett that the Queen Anne-style house isn't technically "historic" and should be erased from the city's Historic Inventory.

The council voted unanimously to remove the home at 935 Ramona St. from the inventory, making it possible for the family to remodel the home without conducting lengthy environmental reviews. In doing so, the council overturned a decision by the Historic Resources Board (HRB), which voted in September to deny Pickett's request — only the second such request that the city has received in a dozen years.

It took a city analysis, two consultant studies and two public hearings, but the council on Monday ruled that the Historic Resources Board relied on the wrong standards when it concluded that the house, despite major renovations, maintains its historical "integrity." City staff had disagreed, noting that the house had been remodeled so significantly since 1976 that it no longer qualifies as historic.

The list of modifications includes a "substantial redesign of the roof," "alteration of the entire right side facade" and replacement of almost every historic window and door with the modern variety.

Staff's conclusion was independently confirmed by the historic-architecture firm Garavaglia Architecture, which concluded that the building should not be listed as historic. Pickett then hired another architecture firm, Page & Turnbull, to review the Garavaglia study. Page & Turnbull reached the same conclusion as Garavaglia. ■

— Gennady Sheyner

Bond

(continued from page 3)

ing, as the infrastructure commission points out, began vexing city officials almost immediately after it was built in 1971. The small space at the Forest Avenue headquarters required "squeezing functions into spaces not designed for them" — a tradition that remains one of the department's chief coping mechanisms (its document-storage section looks particularly rudimentary — boxes of files stacked against a wall). But, as the commission noted, inadequate space is just one of many problems.

"Over time, legal requirements grew, building-code requirements changed, community service needs (e.g., special events, visiting dignitaries) increased, and information-technology burdens on the building leapfrogged ahead," the infrastructure report states. "What were previously annoyances became severe constraints, hampering the City's first responders in discharging their duties."

The problem has gotten worse over time as conditions "have incrementally and steadily deteriorated relative to potential threats in the form of terrorism, earthquake, pandemics, and the like."

Dennis Burns, who in his role as an interim public-safety director heads both the police and fire departments, pointed to one innocuous but irksome problem in the current police building — an insufficient number of electric outlets.

"We never anticipated we'd need so many outlets to power all our new operations," Burns said.

The council last grappled with the problem of an obsolete public-safety building six years ago, when it appointed a task force to examine the facility and the police department's needs. The task force's executive summary (which is cited in the new infrastructure report) opened with the sentence, "The Task Force recommends in the strongest possible terms that the City proceed expeditiously to build a new Public Safety Building."

Since then, other independent assessments have reached the same conclusion. Last March, a consultant assessing the city's emergency services found the city's emergency-operations center (which is housed in the public-safety section of City Hall) "seismically unsafe" and incapable of withstanding a major disaster. Other deficiencies uncovered by the Berkeley-based firm Urban Resilience Policy include "inadequate telecommunications capacity; lack of current technology needs and equipment for a fully functional center; and, a lack of resilient baseline utilities in the room itself." The report recommends moving the city's emergency operations to a "seismically safe facility with appropriate and functional amenities."

The infrastructure commission, in its own review, called the public-safety building "unsafe and vulnerable."

"Its inadequacies in terms of capacity, operational efficiency, technology, and flexibility were

well-documented in the 2006 Blue Ribbon Task Force study and have not improved with time. Public safety should be a top priority for any city but — in terms of proper facilities — that priority has for many years been dangerously deferred in Palo Alto."

But while the problem has been often stated and exhaustively analyzed, solutions have been elusive. In 2008, the council considered lumping a new police building with the library bond only to learn that public safety is often a tough sell with the public. While residents overwhelmingly supported refurbishing the city's library system, only 57 percent of responders in a citizen survey said they would support a bond for a police building, short of the two-thirds majority needed to pass a bond.

But local history also provides some reasons for hope. In 1927, for example, voters passed a \$74,000 bond to pay for a new police building on Bryant Street. The building (which served the two departments until the late 1960s) housed the police department, a jail, fire trucks, fire-department offices, a police court and a basement with a "small pistol range" and storage space, according to Ward Winslow's centennial history of Palo Alto.

These days, Palo Alto faces another challenge — a lack of a suitable site for the new building. City officials had briefly considered two parcels on Park Boulevard, but ultimately declined to purchase the sites because of budgetary woes. Deputy City Manager Steve Emslie told the Weekly that while the city is still keeping its eyes open for potential sites, the city is not negotiating for any particular site at this time.

In the meantime, Palo Alto has been looking at other ways to cope with the small space and make its police and fire operations more efficient. Burns noted that the city's public-safety departments have been placing a greater emphasis on collaboration with neighboring communities. The city, for example, is working with Mountain View and Los Altos on a "virtual consolidation" of the three cities' dispatch services. The move will allow the three departments to easily share information and back each other up during emergencies. It could also set the stage for a real "brick-and-

mortar" consolidation of dispatch some time in the future.

In 2010, the department debuted a mobile emergency-operations center, a high-tech van that can function as a temporary dispatch and communications hub should City Hall's dispatch center be rendered non-functional.

These changes could allow the department to make the most of its limited space. But they would do little to protect the police building from a natural disaster such as a major earthquake.

"If nothing is going to change, we're just going to be that much closer to a more significant event that could paralyze the community and have detrimental outcomes for our services, especially in dispatch in the Emergency Operations Center," Burns said. "I think that hasn't changed. At some point, we need to come up with another solution because what we have now is not ideal."

The quest for the solution will begin this week and stretch through the spring and into early summer, when the council is set to finalize the possible bond package. Mayor Yiaway Yeh, who declared 2012 the year of "infrastructure," said the council would weigh the recommendations of the infrastructure commission and feedback from staff before deciding whether to place a bond measure on the November ballot.

The council will also have to decide what to include in the bond measure. To wade through the complex report, Yeh plans to hold monthly Saturday meetings that would focus specifically on items that could be included in the bond package. The infrastructure commission proposed including a public-safety building (\$65 million) and the two fire stations (\$14.2 million), for a total of \$79.2 million. That, however, may not be the package that the council ultimately ends up with.

"It's natural that as an independent commission, they would have findings and recommendations," Yeh told the Weekly. "It's also natural that staff will have its own perspective and that the conclusions and recommendations may not be in full alignment."

"That's where the meat of the discussion is going to be." ■

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

COMMUNITY MEETING



Join the community discussion
on the proposed landscape renovations to
Cogswell Plaza

Wednesday, January 18, 2012, 6:30 PM

At the Avenidas Senior Center
in the La Comida Dining Hall
450 Bryant St.
Palo Alto, CA 94301

The City of Palo Alto seeks the communities input on this
proposed landscape renovation project

Meeting hosted by
City of Palo Alto Public Works (650) 496-5916
Email pwecips@cityofpaloalto.org for more information



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Upfront

Bookstore

(continued from page 3)

ment, Madan and Evans were at The Booksmith, hosting a well-attended talk by Adam Johnson, author of "The Orphan Master's Son: A Novel of North Korea."

Madan, a devotee of Kepler's when he lived in Menlo Park — he now lives in San Francisco — said he was eager to help when Clark Kepler approached him several months ago and has been putting in long days for the past two months helping to brainstorm the Kepler's transition.

He said he hopes to keep the current Kepler's venue but declined to

answer specific questions about the bookstore's future, pleading for time to plan.

In the online survey e-mailed Thursday, the transition team described their effort as "a major project to re-imagine our future and better serve our community."

Survey-takers were asked to rate various "current and potential roles of Kepler's," to state what they most and least like about the store, to rate what kinds of events appeal to them, and even to suggest names for the "re-imagining Kepler's" project.

Names suggested by the team included "Bookstore of the 21st Century," "Kepler's 2020" and "Re-imagine Kepler's."

Besides Madan, Kepler's Tran-

sition Team members are Clark Kepler; former Menlo Park Mayor Gail Slocum; publisher Steve Pieranti; investor Robert Kyle; finance executive Mitch Slomiak; Kepler's staff representative Jean Forstner and communications consultant Patrick Corman.

In October, Kepler's had expanded its event space, charging for admission to lectures and movies, and letting other community groups use the space. Those changes allowed the store to break even, but weren't enough either.

An Evite circulated early in December by Slocum invited an undisclosed list of recipients to attend a meeting on Dec. 18 to discuss Kepler's potential future as a non-profit event space/for-profit bookstore hybrid. The effort raised about \$150,000 prior to the meeting, with a goal of \$300,000.

In his retirement letter, Clark Kepler said: "After 32 years of book-selling I have decided that it is time for me to make a change. I am retiring from Kepler's and want to see Kepler's continue on without me. We are working on a transition of management that will keep Kepler's going and enhance its position as the intellectual and cultural hub for the Peninsula."

"I realize I'm not the force to make the necessary changes," Kepler told the Almanac, one of the Weekly's sister papers.

Kepler's grew into a hub of the counterculture in the 1960s in its earlier, scruffy location on El Camino Real.

The store, along with City Lights in San Francisco and Cody's in Berkeley, became early sellers of paperbacks when other bookstores resisted.

"Kepler's was the intellectual hub for people in the Stanford area," longtime employee Nancy Wirth told the Palo Alto Weekly in May 2005, the year Kepler's turned 50.

By the 1980s, the younger Kepler was steering the store into the technology age.

"Everyone was coming to the Bay Area to get venture capital. Clark saw it as becoming a store that met the needs of Silicon Valley, a place where the affluent would shop."

Clark Kepler moved the store across El Camino to a new, 10,000-square-foot building, put the store online and developed new business models to keep up with radical changes in the book business.

Author events became the new "soul of the bookstore," Wirth said, drawing authors including Arianna Huffington, Grace Slick, former First Lady Barbara Bush and Jane Fonda.

"I share many of his views," Clark Kepler said of his father in 2005. "My goal is to have the books and authors do the talking."

But in August of that same year, Kepler's abruptly closed its doors due to financial problems, provoking a community outcry.

The store re-opened two months later, armed with \$1 million in investments from community members and a board of directors. ■

Staff Writer Chris Kenrick can be emailed at ckenrick@pawebly.com. Almanac Staff Writer Sandy Brundage contributed to this report.

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.

Hoover School principal announces retirement

Susanne Scott, principal of Herbert Hoover Elementary School for the past eight years, will retire in June, the Palo Alto school district announced Wednesday (Jan. 11). (Posted Jan. 12 at 9:21 a.m.)

Small fire at Tesla causes smoke damage

A fire at the Tesla Motors headquarters was quickly extinguished by the building's sprinkler system Wednesday morning (Jan. 11), Palo Alto Fire Department officials said. (Posted Jan. 11 at 9:38 a.m.)

Tissier named San Mateo County board president

At its first meeting of 2012, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday (Jan. 10) appointed Adrienne Tissier to serve as board president for the next 12 months. (Posted Jan. 11 at 8:38 a.m.)

Shirakawa elected County board president

The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors Tuesday (Jan. 10) elected Supervisor George Shirakawa as its new president, replacing Dave Cortese. (Posted Jan. 11 at 8:34 a.m.)

East Palo Alto takes no action on Facebook

Although the East Palo Alto City Council met in closed session on Thursday (Jan. 5) to discuss whether to sue over the environmental impact report for Facebook's planned campus expansion in Menlo Park, the meeting adjourned with no action taken. (Posted Jan. 10 at 3:25 p.m.)

Facebook has lots of friends at Menlo hearing

Facebook is good at making friends. That much was clear at a public hearing Monday night (Jan. 9) on an environmental report on Facebook's plans for its Menlo Park headquarters. (Posted Jan. 10 at 12:52 p.m.)

Alma Plaza to get new traffic signal

Seeking to make life easier for shoppers at the city's renovated Alma Plaza, Palo Alto officials are planning to install a new traffic signal near the entrance to the plaza. (Posted Jan. 9 at 9:41 a.m.)

Brown's budget ultimatum could affect Palo Alto

Palo Alto schools "have lots of skin in the game" regarding Gov. Jerry Brown's plan to cut \$4.8 billion from public education if voters fail to approve a tax increase this November. (Posted Jan. 6 at 5:51 p.m.)

Police say masseur assaulted sleeping customer

Police have arrested a man practicing massage in Mountain View for allegedly sexually assaulting a woman who fell asleep while on a massage table. (Posted Jan. 6 at 4:13 p.m.)

Palo Alto woman killed by train worked at UCSF

Jasmine Ahluwalia, the 31-year-old Palo Alto resident who died after being hit by a train in Menlo Park Monday (Jan. 2), was a post-doctoral researcher at University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), a UCSF spokesperson confirmed Friday (Jan. 6). (Posted Jan. 6 at 11:58 a.m.)

State suspends license for British Bankers Club

The landmark British Bankers Club restaurant and bar in Menlo Park has had its liquor license put on hold by the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control. (Posted Jan. 6 at 11:09 a.m.)

Transitions

Former school board president Joan Johnston dies

Joan Buckley Johnston, former president of the Palo Alto school board and a founder of the precursor to Palo Alto Partners in Education (PiE), died Christmas Eve after a 10-year battle with colon cancer. She was 76.



Johnston won a write-in campaign for school board in 1977, and won a second four-year term in 1982. She served two terms as board president.

A native of Boston, Mass., Johnston earned a degree in chemistry from Simmons College. She moved to Palo Alto in 1961 so her husband, Jim, could take a position as an assistant professor in Stanford University's Mechanical Engineering Department. They had two young daughters at the time.

In 1963 they built a home on the Stanford campus and later had three more children. Four of the five graduated from Gunn High School, and the fifth opted to finish high school at Palo Alto High School.

In the 1980s, Johnston was a founding member of the fundraising group Palo Alto Foundation for Education (PAFE), which later became part of the current Palo Alto Partners in Education (PiE). PiE last year raised \$3.4 million for Palo Alto public schools.

Over the years, Johnston was active in a variety of community groups, including Parents Nursery School and the League of Women Voters.

"The League and the coop nursery played a crucial role in my life and friends made in the League and Parents Nursery School are still friends today," she later wrote in an autobiographical description.

She was also active with the Palo

Alto Woman's Club, where she was a member of the "knit-stitch group" and served as finance chair from 2009 to 2011.

Johnston held a variety of jobs, including development director and director of alumni relations at Stanford Law School. In retirement, she was on the advisory board of the Foundation for a College Education and on the board of the California Consortium of Education Foundations.

Johnston is survived by her husband, Jim; five children, Susan Coote of Wayne, Penn., Patricia Moore of Athens, Ga., John Johnston of Redwood City, Anne Schultz of Los Altos and Thomas Johnston of Sunnyvale; 13 grandchildren; a sister, Gail Carter of Rochester, N.H.; and a brother, William of Eliot, Maine.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Foundation for a College Education (www.collegefoundation.org) of East Palo Alto. ■

— Chris Kenrick

Dr. Alan Lee Baldwin

Dr. Alan Lee Baldwin of Palo Alto, CA died at age 86 on Dec. 24, 2011. A Stanford Law graduate, Alan taught for 43 years in the Redwood City School District. He is lovingly remembered by his wife, Marcia, four children, nine grandchildren, and one great-grandson. Memorial celebration pending.



PAID OBITUARY

David K. Dawson

Oct. 10, 1929 – Dec. 23, 2011

David K. Dawson, Bay Area resident for 60 years, died of congestive heart failure at home in Palo Alto, with his family at his side. He was 82. He is survived by daughters Kathleen Dawson of Palo Alto and Jennifer Bauer of Oakley, sister Lois Hughes of Portland Oregon, three grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents Anne and Presley Dawson, son Michael Dawson, grandchild Kyle Dawson and former wives Corrine and Joyce. David was born in Illinois and grew up in Southern California. He attended Herbert Hoover HS in Glendale, Long Beach City College, and completed his BA in Journalism at UC Berkeley. He later attended Art Center School in Los Angeles to further study photography. He worked as a photographer at Moulin Studios in SF, at Philco in PA, and as editor, reporter and photographer for the Los Altos Town Crier from 1963 until 1973. David retired in 2000 from Pacific Bell as an operator and member of the CWA union. He enjoyed history, science fiction, The New Yorker, Tchaikovsky, Pink Floyd, gardening, baking bread, road trips, and rock fishing.

The family had a private memorial, and asks that any memorial donations be made to the heart research organization of your choice.

PAID OBITUARY

Denise Darcel Newson

Denise Darcel Newson, 59, a longtime former resident of East Palo Alto, died Jan. 2 in Santa Cruz, Calif., after a brief battle with cancer. She had lived in Santa Cruz for the past seven years.

She was born Nov. 15, 1953, in San Mateo, Calif., and graduated from Palo Alto High School in 1972. She briefly perused modeling in Los Angeles after high school but quickly became homesick and returned to East Palo Alto.

She is survived by her brothers, David, Keysland, Gil and Kurt Newson; sisters, Naomi Newson, Barbara Louie and Rene Cunningham; and numerous nieces, nephews and other friends and family. A funeral service will be held Friday, Jan. 13, at 11 a.m. at Crippen & Flynn Chapels, 400 Woodside Road, Redwood City.

Memorial Services

A memorial service for **Ruth Spangenberg** will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 21, at the First United Methodist Church of Palo Alto, 625 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto. The family requests memorial contributions be made to the Committee for Green Foothills (www.greenfoothills.org), California Pops Orchestra (www.calpops.org) or the Jacqueline Kennedy Endowed Scholarship at John F. Kennedy University (www.jfku.edu).

Stella Ayers

July 14, 1923-Jan. 5, 2012

While visiting family and friends in California, Stella passed away in her sleep. She lived in the Bay Area for over 40 years before retiring to Surprise, AZ. She loved to play cards, especially poker. Most people will remember her from the kitchen at Palo Alto High School. Stella was very excited to be in the audience during the taping of Wheel of Fortune. The Shows will be shown Jan 23, 24 and 25. Memorial service will be announced sometime in May. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to your local SPCA or a charity of your choice in Stella's honor.

PAID OBITUARY

Margaret Koehler Clement

Margaret Koehler Clement, known to her friends as Maggie State, passed away July 26, 2011.

She had been a Palo Alto resident since 1952 and was an original Eichler owner. She was a talented, singer, artist, gourmet chef, and all around funny person. As our friends have said, "This is the end of an era." Everything in life for Maggie was a reason to have a party or celebrate. She was sunshine in our lives.

She leaves behind her two daughters, Diane Bass and Adrienne Lee/ADDIE; and son, Rex Clement. Also her significant other of 41 years, David Butzin. Thank you all for attending her Life Celebration Party.



PAID OBITUARY

Visit

Lasting Memories

An online directory of obituaries and remembrances. Search obituaries, submit a memorial, share a photo.

Go to: www.PaloAltoOnline.com/obituaries

Anna Marion Breckenridge

August 19, 1923 – January 7, 2012

Anna Marion Breckenridge passed away on Saturday, January 7, 2012. She was 88 years old. She was born in Manteca in 1923 and as a young child she and her family moved to Palo Alto where her father, Chris Christiansen, established ownership of the Peninsula Creamery. Mrs. Breckenridge was a longtime resident of Palo Alto and the central valley. She graduated from Palo Alto High School and attended San Jose State University. Upon her retirement, Mrs. Breckenridge and her husband of 18 years, Keith, made their home in Modesto where she supported select animal welfare organizations, local and national and select veterans groups and volunteered at Memorial Hospital.

Marion was preceded in death by her husband Keith Breckenridge, parents Chris and Margaret Christiansen and Brothers Harry and Robert Christiansen. She is survived by her daughter Roberta Heryford of Modesto, step daughters Carol (Shelly) Feinberg and Beth (Richard) Heideman. Mrs. Breckenridge was loved by her family, friends and neighbors, all of whom share fond memories of her.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Franklin and Downs Funeral Homes. The graveside service will be at Alta Mesa Cemetery, 695 Arastradero Road in Palo Alto on Friday, January 13, 2012 at 1:00 PM.

Contributions may be made to Humane Society of U. S. or local animal shelter, in lieu of flowers.

PAID OBITUARY

Simone Lisette Favre-Weigert

Simone Lisette Favre-Weigert passed away on December 6, 2011. Simone was born in Moudon, Canton de Vaud, Switzerland. Simone married her late husband, Frederick H. Weigert, Ph.D., and they built their life in Manila, Philippines where their two children were born, and raised. Simone was an accomplished artist, clothing designer, devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and social worker. Simone was a lover of nature, and people, always inquisitive about the world around her, and actively involved in volunteer work the majority of her life. We are forever grateful for the gift of Simone's love and light. Simone is survived by her two children, Shirley Weigert Schall, Christopher P. Weigert, and her five grandchildren, Danielle Schall, Michael Schall, Zachary Weigert, Avery Weigert, and Quincy Weigert.

PAID OBITUARY

Palo Alto Historical Association

presents a public program



Josh Gilliland aboard USS Iowa

Sea Scout 100: Celebrating the Centennial

Speaker:
Josh Gilliland

Sunday, January 15, 2012, 2:00 p.m.

Lucie Stern Community Center, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto

Refreshments • No admission charge



Museum Quality Repairs

- Porcelain • Pottery • Marble
 - Jade • Ivory • Glass
 - Wood • Stone
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www.restorationstudio.com

Ralph Warren Whitaker, Jr. April 23, 1924 - November 15, 2011

Ralph Warren Whitaker, Jr. passed away November 15th at his home in San Luis Obispo. He was 87. The cause was complications from dementia.

Born in Beverly Hills, CA in April of 1924, he was the second child of Margaret Alberta Hanna and Ralph Warren Whitaker Sr. Ralph had fond memories of growing up in San Diego, Merced, and Pasadena. He attended Eliot Jr. High in Pasadena with his cousin, Cornelia Longley (Hull), then Lake Forest Academy in Illinois, before entering the alma mater of his father, maternal aunt, and paternal uncle, Stanford University, in 1942.

Ralph answered the call to service and left Stanford to join the Navy. He earned the rank of Lieutenant JG and served aboard the USS McCaffrey 1945-6.

Returning to Stanford in 1947, Ralph met and became engaged to the woman who would change his life, fellow student and Palo Alto native, Meredith Duncan. They married in the Stanford Memorial Chapel July 3, 1948 and established their first home locally.

In June 1949, Meredith and Ralph graduated from Stanford. Ralph's degree in Civil Engineering took the couple to Sacramento where he worked for the State of California as a dam engineer on water projects. 1950 began with the birth of daughter Janice, the first of Ralph and Meredith's four children. Preferring the written word over blueprints, Ralph joined the staff of Western Construction Magazine in San Francisco, and the family returned to the peninsula in 1952.

Ralph combined his love of language with his engineering background and pursued a career in industrial writing and editorial work. He affiliated with some of the pioneering businesses in the area including recording revolutionary Ampex, Silicon Valley computer tape maker Memorex, and transistor innovator Shockley Semiconductor. He retired in 1990 from EPRI, the Electric Power Research Institute in Palo Alto.

His happiest years were spent in Palo Alto raising his children and as an active member of the Greenmeadow neighborhood association. For many years he edited the groups' newsletter, The Meadowlark, served on the board and as president of the association, acted as head timer for the neighborhood swim team, and was an organizer of the annual 4th of July celebration.

The Whitakers lived in Palo Alto for over 40 years, retiring first to San Diego, then San Luis

Obispo in 2003 to be closer to their daughter Nancy and granddaughters, Lauren and Kelsey.

The maritime world and tall ships were a life-long passion of Ralph's. He was thrilled by opportunities to crew several sailing ships being moved from port to port on the West Coast. His docent activities on the Star of India, the world's oldest active sailing ship, moored at the San Diego Maritime Museum brought him great joy.

Throughout their lives together, Ralph and Meredith were committed to and active on issues of human rights, social justice, the environment, and peace. The Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship, Creative Initiative Foundation, Beyond War, and the Sierra Club were their partners in this work.

Ralph is survived by daughter Janice Mancuso, Portland, OR, sons David Whitaker, San Jose, and Alan Whitaker, Mountain View, and daughter Nancy Harper. Also son-in-law Dan Harper, granddaughters Lauren and Kelsey Harper of San Luis Obispo. And Alan's daughter, granddaughter Melinda Whitaker and great-grandson Tristan Ralston of Houston, TX and cousin, Mrs. Cornelia Hull of Seattle, WA.

He is preceded in death by his wife of 62 years, Meredith who passed away February 2011 and his elder sister Amy MacMullan of Reno, NV, July 2011.

A celebration of Ralph's life will be held at the Greenmeadow Community Center in Palo Alto, April 14, 2012.

The family would like to thank the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of San Luis Obispo, Hospice Partners of the Central Coast, and professional caregiver Samantha Klein for their care and support.

Memorial suggestions; The San Diego Maritime Museum's Star Of India and The Sierra Club.

A favorite quote of Ralph's;

"We are tied to the ocean.

And when we go back to the sea, whether it is to sail or to watch -

we are going back from whence we came."

John F. Kennedy



PAID OBITUARY

Kathleen Rae Hall

Sept. 25, 1948-Jan. 3, 2012

Kathleen Rae Hall died on January 3, 2012. She was born on September 25, 1948 to Andrew Craig and Thelma Aileen Stevens and grew up in Los Altos Hills. She graduated from Gunn High School and earned her Bachelors and Teaching Credential from the University of California, Davis.

Kathy was a dedicated teacher for 19 years (primarily in the Mountain View Whisman School District), a loving mother and grandmother for 34 years, and a devoted spouse for 38 years. She touched the lives of so many with love and grace.

Kathy is cherished and survived by her husband, Rodney Wayne Hall; her two children, Audrey Kathleen Conway and Trevor Wayne Hall, and their spouses, Everett Clark Conway and Laurie Cameron Hall; and her two grandsons, Carson Andrew Conway and Cameron Andrew Hall. She was predeceased by her parents, Andrew Craig and Thelma Aileen Stevens, and her brother, John Craig Stevens.

PAID OBITUARY

Inspirations

a guide to the spiritual community



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

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Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Church School at 10:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m. This Sunday:

Easily Impressed, but Slow to Change

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*Come experience our new 5:00 p.m. service!
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Stanford Memorial Church University Public Worship

Sunday, January 15, 10:00 am

Celebrating the Memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Beloved Community

Bishop Yvette Flunder,
Founder of the City of Refuge
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All are
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Featuring music by University Organist,
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Palo Alto
Weekly

Pulse

A weekly compendium of vital statistics

POLICE CALLS

Palo Alto

Jan. 4-10

Violence related

Arson1

Battery1

Domestic violence2

Suicide1

Sex crime/misc.1

Theft related

Grand theft2

Identity theft2

Petty theft7

Residential burglaries3

Shoplifting1

Vehicle related

Abandoned bicycle1

Auto theft1

Driving w/suspended license6

Hit and run1

Misc. traffic5

Theft from auto4

Vehicle accident/minor injury10

Vehicle accident/property damage5

Vehicle tow1

Alcohol or drug related

Drunk in public5

Drunken driving3

Open alcohol container in public1

Possession of drugs3

Possession of paraphernalia1

Miscellaneous

Casualty/fall1

Disturbing the peace1

Found property2

Lost property2

Misc. penal code violation8

Other/misc.2

Outside assistance1

Psychiatric hold8

Resisting arrest1

Suspicious circumstances2

Trespassing1

Warrant/other agency6

Menlo Park

Jan. 4-10

Violence related

Battery3

Robbery1

Theft related

Forgery1

Fraud1

Petty theft6

Residential burglaries2

Vehicle related

Auto theft2

Driving w/suspended license7

Hit and run2

Misc. traffic1

Parking/driving violation1

Theft from auto1

Vehicle accident/minor injury2

Alcohol or drug related

Drug activity11

Drunk in public3

Drunken driving1

Possession of drugs1

Under influence of drugs1

Miscellaneous

Disturbance2

Display of imitation firearm1

Domestic disturbance1

Information case9

Missing person3

Outside assistance3

Property for destruction1

Psychiatric hold1

Vandalism6

Violation of court order1

Warrant arrest3

Atherton

Jan. 4-10

Theft related

Grand theft3

Petty theft1

Prowler1

Vehicle related

Hit and run2

Misc. traffic2

Suspicious vehicle2

Vehicle accident/minor injury1

Vehicle accident/property damage4

Vehicle code violation5

Alcohol or drug related

Drunken driving1

Minor in possession of alcohol1

Possession of drugs1

Possession of paraphernalia1

Miscellaneous

Animal call3

Citizen assist.2

Construction complaint1

Coroner case2

Disturbance1

Found property1

Information case1

Meet citizen1

Pedestrian check1

Suspicious circumstances1

Suspicious person3

Town ordinance violation2

Tree down1

Trespassing1

Watermain break1

Welfare check1

VIOLENT CRIMES

Palo Alto

Unlisted block El Camino Real, 1/4, 10:48 p.m.; suicide adult/misc.

Unlisted block Middlefield Road, 1/4, 12:27 p.m.; domestic violence/battery.

Unlisted block Stockton Place, 1/5, 5:15 p.m.; family violence/battery.

Unlisted block Churchill Avenue, 1/6, 1:31 p.m.; sex crime/misc.

Unlisted block Clark Way, 1/6, 9:18 p.m.; battery/simple.

1000 block Amarillo Avenue, 1/9, 12:04 a.m.; arson/trash can fire.

Menlo Park

Unlisted block Greenwood Place, 1/4, 8:45 p.m.; battery.

Unlisted block Henderson Place, 1/9, 10:11 a.m.; robbery.

1400 block Willow Road, 1/10, 12:04 p.m.; battery.

1200 block Willow Road, 1/10, 9:56 p.m.; battery.

Myrna Robinson

November 20, 1947-December 21, 2011

When Myrna Klee Robinson passed from our lives, she left behind a devoted son, and an entire community of bereaved friends. A long time resident of Menlo Park, she died at the age of 64 in her home, with her family, friends and hospice surrounding her. Shortly before her death from advanced melanoma, Myrna commented in a startled voice, "I never knew I was so beloved." And so she was. We all are blessed to have known her, and it was a comfort and a privilege to have been with her to the very end.

Born November 20, 1947 in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, only child of Edward and Sylvia Klee, Myrna lived in that area for her childhood and adolescence, and then went on to graduate from Vassar College in 1969. At that time, she took the courageous leap forward to relocate to the Bay Area, where she knew not a single person, as a way of changing her life. Once working in San Francisco, she went on to U. C. Berkeley to receive her Masters in Social Work in 1974. She married in 1981 and divorced in 1989.

She became a skilled and highly compassionate psychotherapist, with a thriving private practice in Palo Alto for forty-one years. During that time, Myrna pursued many professional interests, especially collaborative divorce counseling. She received an honorary Ph.D. from the esteemed Sanville Institute in the spring of 2011. Known for her extremely generous nature, she had many unusually long and deep friendships with numerous people from all sorts of backgrounds. To be friends with Myrna was to be treasured.

She was a tireless and passionate campaigner for the Cleo Eulau Center, an organization that she had helped to create in honor of her mentor. The center both supports educators in their daily work with the social and emotional lives of their students, as well as providing direct counseling to youth on probation, and those at risk of offending. The culmination of her work with the Center was becoming Chairperson of the Board and leading the agency to create a broader and more expansive reach with her commitment and vision. Under her ambassadorship, the center tripled in size, reaching a state wide and national audience in this past year.

Broadening her horizons, Myrna also developed her long-time love of interior design, and spent any limited free time away from her other interests in the homes of those who needed imaginative help in finding a new face, and a new love, for their residences.

Far more important than any of this, was her deep and exceptional relationship with her son, Eric Robinson, who survives her. She was an extraordinary mother. When Eric showed an early childhood interest in music, Myrna went to unusual lengths to foster his passion. He has since gone on to become a successful musician and record producer in Los Angeles. She never failed to be exceptionally supportive, giving and loving throughout his thirty years, helping her son to grow into a remarkable young man who has been stalwart, and tirelessly by her side in every conceivable way, throughout her prolonged illness.

A memorial service, open to the public, is to be held at Sharon Heights Country Club in Menlo Park, on Sunday, January 15, 2012 at 2:00 PM. The family requests that, in lieu of flowers, contributions be made in Myrna's name to the Cleo Eulau Center, 2483 Old Middlefield Way, Suite 208, Mountain View, CA 94303.

Phyllis Harriet Michel

Resident of Mountin View, California
March 2, 1949-November 23, 2011



Phyllis Harriet Michel, beloved wife of Robert Michel, passed away from the effects of metastatic breast cancer on the evening of November 23rd, 2011 at El Camino Hospital. Her husband and her brother, Stephen Karp, were with her in her last hours.

She was born Phyllis Harriet Karp in Stamford, Connecticut in 1949. Phyllis graduated from high school in Stamford and attended George Washington University in Washington DC for three years starting in 1967. In the mid-1970s she decided to move to San Francisco CA, and eventually earned a degree in Urban Planning from San Francisco State University. During this time she became very active in the science fiction community of the Bay Area, a genre she loved throughout her life.

In 1984 she obtained a position as a contract specialist for the US Geological Survey and worked there until her retirement in 2006. During this period she was active in the affairs of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto. She met her future husband in 1996 at an Earthwatch event and was a volunteer at an Earthwatch program in archeology in Arizona. She and her husband were married in August of 1997. After her retirement, she became active in local political and environmental issues and attended many city planning and Caltrain meetings. She also began working as a volunteer with the Breast Cancer Connection in Palo Alto after being diagnosed

with the disease in 2008.

She is survived by her husband, Robert, her brother Stephen, his wife Maureen, their children Marissa and Jeremy, her sister-in-law and brother-in-law Janet and Richard Rienbolt and their children Scott and Craig. She is also survived by many cousins who she maintained close contact with as family was very important to her.

A memorial service will be held for Phyllis at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto at 605 East Charleston Road, Palo Alto, at 3PM on January 15, 2012. In lieu of flowers we ask that donations be sent in Phyllis's name to Breast Cancer Connections, 390 Cambridge Ave, Palo Alto, CA 94306.

When Phyllis was first diagnosed with breast cancer, Breast Cancer Connections offered her the opportunity to discuss the issues involved with the disease with other women in a similar situation. This group offered her both emotional and technical support at a crucial time in her life. Finally, we feel that Phyllis left us much too early due to this disease. However, let us not forget the value her presence did add to our lives in the time she was here. More information on her life is available at the web site of Spangler Mortuary www.spanglermortuary.com.

PAID OBITUARY

PAID OBITUARY

Editorial

New HSR challenges

Simitian urging one-year delay, other legislators push bill to halt bond sale

Strong criticism about the financial viability of the High-Speed Rail project is making it more likely that its funding plan will either be delayed or scrapped. A broadside from a Peer Review Committee last week said flatly that the Legislature should not approve the \$2.7 billion the Rail Authority is seeking to start construction on the first segment, between Fresno and Bakersfield in the Central Valley.

And this week, state Sen. Joe Simitian began to lean more toward the “no” side, telling the Weekly that unless something changes, he cannot support the bond issue this year, which the Authority says it needs to capture \$3.5 billion in federal funds. Simitian said he is not prepared to make a decision yet that would be based on two bad choices: Either accepting the Rail Authority’s plan to spend \$6.2 billion in the Central Valley for the first segment or putting an end to the high-speed rail project if funds are not approved.

Instead, Simitian said he is trying to find exactly what the state would get for \$6.2 billion; to determine whether the project meets guidelines contained in Proposition 1A and whether the federal guidelines are flexible enough to permit a delay in making a go-ahead decision on the first segment.

Rather than rush into something that he and others cannot support, Simitian said he will urge the High-Speed Rail Authority to take another year to bring in a better proposal.

We appreciate the Senator’s position, but we believe there is plenty of information available now that adds up to overwhelming odds against releasing any funding.

Other legislators are heading that direction. Republican Assemblywoman Diane Harkey, R-Dana Point, introduced a bill this week to stop the project, based on a critical report by the state auditor as well as the Peer Review Committee’s call to stop funding. Many Republicans in the Legislature oppose the project and some Democrats are joining them. Harkey also noted that a recent Field Poll found support among voters is dwindling for high-speed rail, with a large majority saying they would like to vote again on the project.

The City of Palo Alto is already on record as a firm opponent, following the City Council’s call in late December for the Authority to terminate the project after a new business plan showed the project’s cost had more than doubled to about \$100 billion and would take until 2033 to complete, 13 years beyond the original estimate.

Then came the highly critical Peer Review report last week that shows how it might be possible to build a \$6.2 billion, 130-mile rail segment in the Central Valley that has no trains, is not high-speed and brings little, if any, efficiency to the few passengers that might use it.

Simitian said the first segment would use up 25 percent of all state funds and 100 percent of the federal funds with no further funding identified by the Rail Authority, a point echoed by the Peer Review panel.

“The fact that the funding plan fails to identify any long term funding commitments is a fundamental flaw in the program. Without committed funds, a project of this nature could be forced to halt construction for many years before additional funding could be obtained. The benefits of any independent utility proposed by the current business plan would be very limited versus the cost and the impact on state finances.”

As we have said in this space before, now is simply not the time to risk billions of dollars of state or federal money on this pie-in-the-sky project. We urge Sen. Simitian to use the remaining months of his time in the Legislature to bring this project to a halt. We see little if any hope that more funding will materialize from private or government sources anytime soon, if ever.

We worry that if the Rail Authority receives approval to spend \$6.2 billion to begin the first segment in the Central Valley, there will be tremendous pressure to keep the project going until it reaches the Caltrain corridor on its way to San Francisco. This should not be allowed to happen. Sen. Simitian and other Bay Area legislators should lead the way to end this project.

A recent Field Poll found support among voters is dwindling for high-speed rail, with a large majority saying they would like to vote again on the project.

Spectrum

Editorials, letters and opinions

Accept antenna system

Editor,

Palo Alto’s Architectural Review Board approved the application from AT&T Inc. to build a distributed antenna system to improve cell phone and wireless data service in Palo Alto. The system needs to go ahead as approved. There are parts of Old Palo Alto that are cell phone “Bermuda Triangles.” The cell phone service is marginal or non-existent in places. Forget about data service.

The objections to the system seem to have been the following:

1. It’s radiation! The radio frequency field is well below any recognized recommendations or standards. Also, it’s not ionizing radiation — the dangerous stuff.

2. It will lower the price of my house! Data show zero effect on real estate prices where distributed antenna systems are installed. Maybe the value of my house will go up if we can get decent cell phone and wireless data coverage in my neighborhood.

3. It’s ugly! I don’t know how to define aesthetics, but compared to the wires, cables, transformers, amplifiers, cable boxes, lights, etc. on our utility poles, I think it’s not bad.

Silicon Valley and the high-tech world were born in Palo Alto.

Numerous observers — such as Tom Friedman in his article in the “New York Times” on Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2012 — have noted that four things are required for a community to succeed in the 21st century: a university, an educated work force, an entrepreneurial business climate and high-speed communications.

Three out of four aren’t enough. It all began 100 years ago in Palo Alto. It would be sad to see it end here.

Joe Rolfe
Emerson Street
Palo Alto

Upset over Fiesta Bowl

Editor,

Having a difficult time getting over the upset stomach from the Fiesta Bowl. Our very successful first year coach Shaw has a cliché that he often uses: “You have to finish.” Operative word here is “finish.” — that is exactly what the person calling plays at the end of the OSU game *did* not do. We let almost a minute waste away with the safest offense in the red zone doing nothing to advance the ball, with three timeouts in our pocket. Gain 10 more yards and even Jordan’s left hooks would be good. Special team did not finish, but foremost neither did the coaches. Too bad as we had just moved so close to a No. 2 ranking. Aloha from the 50th state.

Fred Chuckovich
Mahina’ai Street
Waiialua, Hawaii

This week on Town Square

Town Square is an online discussion forum at www.PaloAltoOnline.com

Steve Levy’s Economy Blog

Posted Jan. 11 at 10:07 a.m. by Stephen Levy, a resident of the University South neighborhood:

City councils in Palo Alto and across the state are beginning to face yet another tough budget year with revenues recovering, but slowly, and retirement costs increasing despite recent success in Palo Alto and elsewhere in addressing salary and benefit costs. And Palo Alto will also face decisions this year on the recommendations of the infrastructure commission.

So it could be a year of making tough choices, but tough choices for whom?

Town Square is full of pleas for the Palo Alto council and residents to make “tough choices” but their pleas need a plain English translation because they don’t mean what “tough choices” means to me. Here is my translation.

Making tough choices

Translation: Please cut programs

I don’t like. This call often occurs in cases as the recent infrastructure commission report that raises the possibility of asking voters to fund new infrastructure projects. ...

We have to prioritize

Translation: Please cut programs I don’t like. ... Despite the fact that virtually all posters on the infrastructure threads favor public safety and infrastructure as their top priorities, not one offered to pay for their top priority. ...

We must live within our means

Translation: If the city needs to spend more, please cut programs I don’t like to make money available. Living within our means makes sense for individuals (most of the time) but for public agencies these same residents can choose to cut private spending to make room for more public spending. ...

In Palo Alto tough choices means that I favor paying my share of additional taxes for additional spending that I favor. Making tough choices does not, for me, mean asking someone else to pay but not me.

YOUR TURN

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

What do you think? Is it time to pull the plug on high-speed rail?

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

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

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@pawebly.com or 650-326-8210.



Check out Town Square!

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

Guest Opinion

Creating their own fields of dreams

Despite challenges, a proud tradition is growing among Ecuadorian villagers

by Joseph Schwartz

I woke up with a startle and a feeling like someone was slowly driving an ice pick into my neck. Very quickly I realized that I had dozed off on the plane on my way to Ecuador with son Jared. In addition to being squeezed together like sardines, I had the honor of sleeping in positions that are fit for a contortionist. Sadly, I realized that I had already maximized my ability to sleep on a plane and we had not even taken off yet.



My thoughts quickly turned to our medical service trip to Ecuador. It occurred to me that when I made a similar trip the year before, everything was different — different country, different child companion, different group on the trip, different altitude and thankfully, different insects (hopefully, none). So, I wondered, what would this trip really be like — are the social and medical issues that burden the Ecuadorian people similar to what I saw in the Dominican Republic? Are they hampered by similar prejudices and inequities or is their plight controlled by different factors? Would we be able to contribute in a meaningful way to their lives?

Upon waking on the first morning, I could barely restrain my exuberance — not a single mosquito bite to be found; in fact, not a sin-

gle mosquito anywhere in the vicinity! And no roosters crowing at 3 a.m. Unfortunately, my joy was brief and after astutely looking over at Jared and his chattering teeth, I brilliantly surmised what my body had been feeling for the last few hours — it was freezing. Well, technically about 45 degrees, but far different from the sweltering heat of my prior trips. I felt quite fortunate to be wrapped in the llama-haired blanket until I caught a quick glimpse of myself in the mirror and realized that my eyes were swollen like a raccoon and I looked like Rocky Balboa — it seems that llama hair and my body have a love/hate relationship.

We spent the next days traveling to deliver medical care by day and counting pills by night; both had their own set of challenges. I strived to develop a Zen approach to counting vitamins for two to three hours and I readily admit that I failed. I have been meaning to write a letter to the vitamin manufacturers begging them to simplify their packaging; the Notre Dame students and Jared developed truly brilliant techniques that might someday earn them a Nobel Prize, but I labored at a pathetic pace of about 20 vitamin removals an hour for the first night or two. I was quite relieved to actually start seeing patients so that I would no longer have to undergo this humiliation.

Our medical teams ventured out to small villages 30-45 minutes outside of Quito to deliver medical care. The contrast between the majestic beauty of the Andes surrounding Quito and the abject poverty within the villages was stark. Most had a bombed out

look to them — buildings with no walls and just skeletons of structure; trash filling the streets and the fields where the children played. There was very little running water or electricity. Cows, chickens and pigs wandered everywhere, using the village as their “restroom.”

Of course this description could apply to other Third World countries, but the spirit of the people is what again amazed me the most. Of the roughly 200 patients that I saw over five days, every single one was kind, respectful and dignified. Most smiled in the face of whatever adversity they were facing and they were happy with whatever we could do for them, which many times was very little.

There was one specific day that depicts the true spirit of the people that I am trying to describe. We finished seeing patients early in the afternoon in what seemed like the most remote and poor village we had visited. I had developed bronchitis and laryngitis by that point in the trip and was relieved to be stopping for a break. As we packed up, the patients that we had seen insisted on taking us on a tour of their village. I thought to myself, what is it that they actually want us to see?

We slowly walked down the dirt path, around some of the biggest pigs I had ever seen (in fact, Jared very nearly tripped and took a mud bath with one of these mammoth animals) and it was soon obvious what these villagers wanted us to see. Amidst this squalor, were some of the most beautiful gardens and personal farms that I have

ever seen — they were growing their own broccoli, coffee, squash, corn and tomatoes in neatly and adeptly irrigated small gardens. Granted, I was slightly feverish and possibly hallucinating, but this was a scene straight out of the Field of Dreams or the Garden of Eden. Earlier that day, I had seen a young girl with a severely infected ear from an ear piercing gone bad — she had a severe wound with pus and dried blood surrounding the ear and was developing early signs of a dangerous infection called mastitis. Yet, despite her condition, I remember her bright smile and the look of pride on her face as she and her mother rushed to give us a tomato from their amazing garden.

As we sat the last night and received the gracious words from some of the local officials and our leaders thanking us and praising us for coming on this trip, I couldn't help feeling perplexed. The people who deserved praise and gratitude were the ones living in these villages; they had persevered and they were the ones who made gardens out of rubble. And until I can truly understand how these people can continue to smile despite their hardship and cultivate beautiful farms without any real tools or resources, I am just going to have to keep returning on these trips. ■

Joseph Schwartz is a family medicine physician at Palo Alto Medical Clinic—Fremont Center, who has lived in Palo Alto for 17 years and has three children. In 2010 he wrote in this space about a similar trip to the Dominican Republic.

Streetwise

What Palo Alto issue should the City Council address this year?

Asked on California Avenue, Palo Alto. Interviews and photographs by Tyler Hanley, Chris Kenrick and Eric Van Susteren.



Bob Stefanski
Attorney/investor
Old Palo Alto

“Athletic fields. I'd love to see more of those, but I realize that around here, it's not easy.”



Carol Heermance
Retired teacher
N. California Avenue, Palo Alto

“The anaerobic digester. I'd like to see them look into it, make a decision, and build it — sooner rather than later.”



Kim Connolly
Stanford and San Francisco Giants fan
Ash Street, Palo Alto

“I would like to see better parking, especially on California Avenue.”



Beth Stein
Physical education teacher
Sheridan Avenue, Palo Alto

“Doing green rooftops and things like that. More solar in civic areas and schools. And I'd like to see golf stay local and affordable.”



Margie Franz
Retired emergency room nurse
Sheridan Avenue, Palo Alto

“I just moved to Palo Alto and it's a beautiful place. No complaints. I appreciate how nicely kept everything is.”

SKATING THROUGH TIME



Children and adults skate around Winter Lodge's rink during public skating hours on Dec. 29.

Palo Alto's Winter Lodge still has power to inspire a passion for skating in young and old

story by
Sue Dremann
photos
by Veronica Weber

Olympic champion Brian Boitano has skated on ice rinks throughout the world. He even skated on a glacier in 1988. But some of his fondest memories took place at Palo Alto's Winter Lodge, where Boitano and his friends held numerous parties, he said recently.

Winter Lodge has been a Middlefield Road fixture for 55 years, and while public interest in other social pastimes might have waned and given way to land-use pressures (witness the demise of the Midpeninsula's bowling alleys), the lodge — and skating — are thriving in Palo Alto.

The family-friendly experience that founder Duncan Williams envisioned in 1956 endures. It has expanded to include elementary school physical-education classes, special-ed programs for children with autism, ice hockey and "broom ball," and "date nights" that attract adults.

"It has one of the largest skating schools in the U.S.," Executive Director Linda Stebbins Jensen said, noting its 1,000 students.

Though Winter Lodge has one of the smallest skating surfaces in the country and is only open seasonally, that hasn't detracted from its charisma.

"I really miss it. I'd like to have it in my backyard," Boitano, who grew up in Sunnyvale, said.

He and training partner Yvonne Gomez now hold skating parties around Christmas in San

Francisco, where he resides, but many of their guests still reminisce about the early parties at the lodge, which was then called The Winter Club, he said.

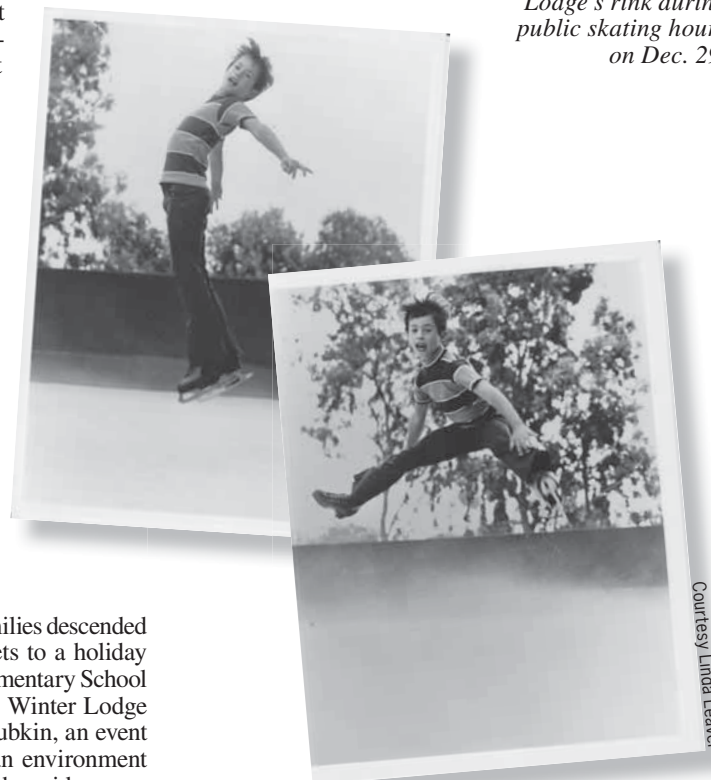
"I loved being outdoors. It's a fun rink to be festive. Winter Club made you feel like wearing a hat with a big pom-pom," he said.

Jensen said the lodge's goal is just that: to create a festive, fun, no-pressure atmosphere where people of all ages can build relationships and skate. Williams built the rink for that purpose, she said.

This past holiday season, every elementary school in Palo Alto except Walter Hays held a family night at the lodge for the entire school, she said.

On a recent Friday evening, families descended on the lodge, lining up for tickets to a holiday party held by Mariano Castro Elementary School in Mountain View. The party at Winter Lodge is in its third year, said Sandy Lubkin, an event organizer. The lodge provides an environment where the kids can just be kids, she said.

Unlike other rinks, there is no competitive-skating program at Winter Lodge. Jensen said



Courtesy Linda Leaver

Olympic figure skater Brian Boitano frequented The Winter Club while growing up in Sunnyvale.



Vicki Arinaga and boyfriend Cole Souza skate together during a recent Wednesday adult-skating session at Winter Lodge.



Three-year-old Alisa Shiu skates with the help of her mom, Vanessa, during a public skate session at Winter Lodge in late December.

the lessons allow kids to progress in their own way and at their own speed. Skaters come from as far away as San Francisco, San Jose, Monterey and Sacramento to get that “real feeling of skating outdoors,” Jensen said.

Jensen thinks the outdoor ambiance and no-pressure atmosphere are part of the draw.

“It’s the only completely recreational rink that we know of in the country,” she said.

As daylight dimmed, the silvery leaves of eucalyptus trees surrounding the rink shone with a frost-like patina. A flame flickered in the outdoor brick fireplace, which was built with donations to commemorate the lodge’s 50th anniversary in 2006. Donors bought bricks, on which they wrote remembrances of happy times spent on the ice.

Dozens of late-afternoon skaters of all ages wobbled and glided around the rink in circles to the strains of “Frosty the Snowman.” Little kids wore crash helmets; older kids sported knit caps. A few donned Santa hats. A clutch of “tween” girls giggled excitedly, holding on to each other for support.

At the opening notes of “Let it Snow,” the crowd suddenly surged to a spot where an overhead snow machine spouted snowflakes from painted, cutout clouds. Heads pointed skyward with tongues and arms outstretched, trying to catch the flakes of “snow” — specialized nontoxic foam that Disneyland uses for its winter show, Jensen said.

The flurries stuck to heads and jackets. On warm days, they stick to T-shirts. That incongruity — eucalyptus trees, a Mediterranean climate and sleeveless skating — is also part of the draw. Winter Lodge is the only permanent outdoor rink in the flatlands at sea level. Most are located in higher, colder elevations, Jensen said.

As more people from northern states and colder climates have migrated to the Bay Area, they have brought their love of skating, said Marvin Lee, 86, the oldest of three generations of Winter Lodge skaters and a longtime ice-skating and ice-hockey advocate.

“When we came here, we found ice skating the perfect family sport,” said Lee, whose father-in-



A history of Winter Lodge

1954: Duncan Williams, a Wisconsin civil engineer, conceives of the idea of an outdoor rink in California at a New Year’s Eve party in Madison, Wis.

1955: Williams moves to California and leases land in Palo Alto. He builds The Winter Club. He utilized his engineering background to develop a system of refrigeration and brine to maintain an outdoor ice rink in Palo Alto’s mild weather, making the rink the first of its kind west of the Sierras.

1956: Feb. 15, The Winter Club opens as a seasonal membership club. Phil Mitchell (current hockey coach) starts skating at The Winter Club.

1956: In February almost all of the ice is lost in a huge storm.

1957: The first skating show is held.

1965: The first “little rink,” a teaching rink, is built. It has no roof or walls. It later became the indoor rink.

1981: The Icettes are formed and shows resume after being on hold for many years.

1983: Williams decides to close the rink and retire due to expiration of the lease with no option to renew.

1983: A group forms in an attempt to save The Winter Club.

1984: The Trust for Community Skating is formed and Community Skating, Inc. (CSI) becomes the management for the new nonprofit Winter Lodge (with Merre Jayne McFate as director) and puts Measures A and B on the ballot to save Winter Lodge.

1985: Measures A and B pass with 70 percent voter approval, resulting in a land swap, allowing the rink to remain in place. Land at the Palo Alto Municipal Golf Course is exchanged for the Winter Lodge site. Winter Lodge would continue to be used for ice skating as long as no city subsidy was required for its continuance other than the use of the Middlefield Road site or appropriate assistance in securing and making available an alternate site and facility.

1986: McFate retires. Linda Stebbins Jensen, a Palo Altan and former Ice Capades skater, is hired as executive director.

1986: The property is re-zoned to Public Facility. This is the final city hurdle to clear the future for outdoor ice skating in Palo Alto.

1987: Winter Lodge wins the Tall Tree Award for Outstanding Organization.

1991: The indoor, side rink is expanded to three times its original size.

1996: The Winter Lodge year-end show tops 200 skaters in its cast.

2001: Community Skating, Inc., acquires the lease for the tennis courts and surrounding property, with upgrades to be made to the courts. The tennis program is started.

2005: The outdoor fireplace is built in preparation for the Lodge’s golden anniversary. Skaters are given the opportunity to buy an engraved brick and leave their personal mark on Winter Lodge history.

2006: Outside Magazine names Winter Lodge as one of the top 10 outdoor ice skating experiences in the U.S.

2006: Winter Lodge is ranked by the Ice Skating Institute as the No. 1 largest skating school in the U.S.

2006: The Winter Club/Winter Lodge celebrates its 50th anniversary.

2009: Winter Lodge expands its “club house” to accommodate growing numbers of skaters.

2011: Founder Duncan Williams dies on April 11 at age 90.

Sources: Timeline courtesy of Winter Lodge, with additions from Palo Alto Online’s Lasting Memories obituary website and Palo Alto Weekly archives.

(continued on next page)



Figure skaters take a moment to lace up their skates for a freestyle class at Winter Lodge on Dec. 15.

(continued from previous page)

law, Howard Preble, was a hockey coach in New England.

Lee and his wife, Alison, began skating at the lodge in 1963, when it was still called The Winter Club (see side bar on page 17). A retired San Jose State University economics professor, Lee said he would skate twice a week.

"I used it to shake off the cobwebs from the day," he recalled.

He stopped skating two years ago after falling a couple of times, but his sons and grandchildren have all skated at Winter Lodge and continue to skate wherever they live, he said. One son still plays hockey twice a week, and two granddaughters, who live in Mountain View, skate competitively at San Jose's full-size rink. But they still come to Winter Lodge for the sheer joy of skating, he said.

While other venues have faded away, Winter Lodge is a metamorphosing community asset that has withstood the test of time due to community and city support, proponents said.

After World War II, shopping centers built indoor skating rinks as a way to attract families, Lee said.

"There were rinks from Santa Rosa to San Jose," he recalled. Many were comparable to Winter Lodge — odd shaped, small rinks where a number of the most successful figure skaters first blossomed: Peggy Fleming, Debbie Thomas, Brian Boitano, Rudy Galindo and Kristi Yamaguchi, he said.

But most such rinks have faded away. Successful regional shopping centers began closing the ice rinks to make way for more lucrative retail, Lee said.

"In many cases they were able to do so because they were located in new communities with community governments that didn't wish to interfere with their business operation, in spite of the fact that they would be losing a variety of essential community recreational benefits," Lee said.

Older communities organized to keep their community recreational rinks, however.

"Two efforts, one in Cupertino led by attorney Patrick R. McMahon, who had two teenage children pair skating, and the other in San Mateo's Fashion Island, were successful in requiring the shopping centers to continue operating their rinks as promised in their original approved shopping-center develop-



From left, Nick Colonnese, Tom Wedlick, Ann Majewicz, Troy Adebar and Reiko Hoyano play during an adult skating session at Winter Lodge on Dec. 14.

ment proposals," he said.

Boitano said he has seen the number of figure skaters on the ice steadily go down over the years. Some Bay Area rinks, such as the Sharks Ice at San Jose and Sharks Ice at Fremont, are managed by the San Jose Sharks hockey enterprise and appear more hockey focused, he said. Local ice rinks' websites

show pictures of hockey teams, not freestyle or figure skaters, although those classes are offered at all of the rinks.

At Redwood City's Nazareth Ice Oasis, which has been around since the late 1970s, a 2008 letter to members announced new ownership, a name change and a shift in strategy to keep the rink viable.

"Joining and maintaining membership in the U.S. Hockey League will be one of the strategies that we will pursue," management noted.

Rink manager Hanna Hanhan said he has seen a shift away from individual skating toward team sports.

"There are more girls practicing hockey and more kids in teams, such as synchronized skating," he said.



Boys chase a puck during the intermediate hockey class at Winter Lodge Dec. 12.

The San Jose Sharks rink “has a whole girls league. They didn’t have that a few years back,” he said. And this season’s synchro team at Oasis has increased from less than 10 skaters to 24, he added.

“Our Theater on Ice team is one of the best and won the bronze medal in the nationals in 2011,” he said.

But Hanhan emphasized that each rink is different. In the last year Ice Oasis has seen an increase in younger skaters, with parents bringing in 4- to-6-year-olds, he said. The rink had only figure skating through the late 1980s but then added a glass partition and hockey. It added an adult hockey league in the early 1990s that now includes all ages from 18 to 72, he said.

One reason for the increased interest is low cost, he said.

“There used to be a perception that skating is expensive, but that isn’t true anymore. The cost of skating hasn’t increased like in other sports. It still costs about the same as a movie ticket,” he said.

Jensen agreed that cost is an incentive for families to take up skating. Each year the skating school has seen a steady upward climb in class enrollment that has stabilized at about 1,000 students, she said.

“It’s double what we were 10 years ago,” she said.

Schools such as Keys, Castilleja and International School of the Peninsula also are instilling a love of the sport. The schools offer skating as a component of their physical-education programs, Jensen said.

Shermagne Gunn, lower and middle school physical-education instructor at Keys School, said the entire school, grades kindergarten through 8, participates in the winter skating program — 287 students. Middle school students skate during the month of November and lower school grades go in January, she said.

“Skating is one of those sports/activities (like skiing) that if one does not have exposure to while young and still close to the ground it is often never learned. It began as part of the PE program but has evolved into a school-wide winter tradition,” she wrote in an email.

Students in lower grades take skating lessons; older kids skate and play

broomball, a hockey-like sport in tennis shoes, using brooms, she said. Many students continue with private lessons after school or have play dates at Winter Lodge. The school has a “Family Skate Night” during which students and parents come together to share an evening of skating and show off new skills, she said.

“The kids get exposure to an activity that is both physical as well as social. Most kids are used to ‘grass or court’ sports, so when they are



Marie Therese Chahroufi practices spins during a Dec. 15 freestyle class at Winter Lodge. The facility is one of the largest skating schools in the country.

introduced to skating, some actually prefer it over the traditional team activities. For those who still prefer the ‘grass or court’ sports, they are able to see through the eyes of the classmate who struggles with a new skill. They see again how persistence and practice can lead to the success of individual accomplishments and how words of encouragement from a supportive friend can mean so much,” she said.

Sally Swank sat on a bench alongside the outdoor rink, reminiscing about her youth at Winter Lodge in the 1950s and ‘60s. A Palo Alto native, Swank was supervising a friend’s 6-year-old child during the free skate on a recent Friday afternoon.

“Skating here as a child was great.

It’s the same as I remember it. As a Paly teen, I went to skating parties here. In Palo Alto, you never see winter conditions. This is the closest thing to real winter,” she said.

Jensen said the lodge might be more corporately managed now, but it has stayed true to Duncan Williams’ ideal. Williams died at age 90 on April 11, 2011. He had retired from the lodge in 1983 after his lease expired. Jensen said she would always remember him as “like a grandpa to me. He had a way to run the business, and everyone was part of a family.” Sometimes he broke even; sometimes he put his own money into the lodge to keep it open, she said.

From 1983 to 1985, the lodge faced closure to make way for condominiums. Lee sought to join the interests of the Stanford Hockey Club and Friends of The Winter Club to rebuild the rink as an outdoor facility on public land, he said.

They formed Community Skating, Inc., a nonprofit organization, which came to the rink’s rescue. A land swap was made and the lodge now rents its land from the City of Palo Alto. Community Skating, Inc. still runs the lodge, which is “completely, 100 percent operationally funded,” and is financially stable, Jensen said.

But the threat of losing Palo Alto’s winter treasure 26 years ago still prickles some fans, and they are wary of any inkling that it might be converted for any other purpose.

“Don’t take this away,” a woman chimed in, overhearing a discussion about the lodge. “We have enough condominiums. Leave this alone.” ■

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

About the cover:
Girls sit on a ledge during a group freestyle lesson at the Winter Lodge on Dec. 12.
Photo by Veronica Weber.

TALK ABOUT IT
www.PaloAltoOnline.com
Share your memories of the Winter Lodge on Town Square, the online community discussion forum on Palo Alto Online.



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8:00 am		X	X		X	X	X
10:00 am	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4:00 pm						X	X
4:30 pm	X	X	X	X	X		
6:30 pm	X	X	X	X	X		
8:15 pm	X	X	X	X			

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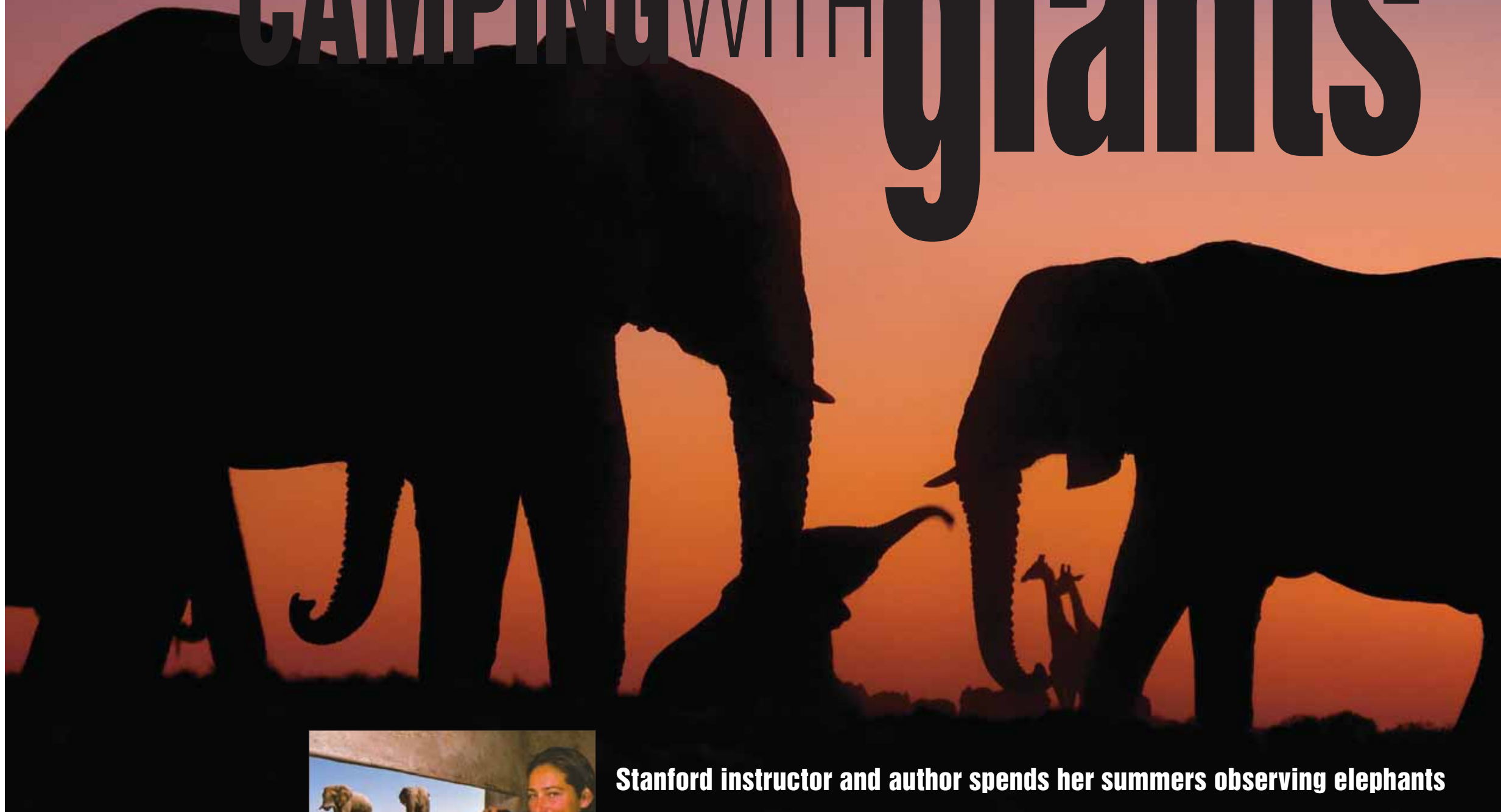
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Arts & Entertainment

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

CAMPING WITH giants



Susan McConnell

Stanford instructor and author spends her summers observing elephants

Left: Caitlin O'Connell photographing elephants behind the protection of concrete. Above: A baby elephant silhouetted with its elders. All photos with this story are from O'Connell's book "An Elephant's Life: An Intimate Portrait From Africa."

Caitlin O'Connell spends her summers sleeping under the vast open African skies, hanging out with Jack Nicholson, David Beckham and Prince Charles, and observing wildlife firsthand.

However, her experience is not the typical celebrity-studded summer vacation. O'Connell stays in a field camp inside a 30-foot-by-30-foot canvas enclosure in a national park in Namibia, Africa. Her gourmet meals consist of butternut squash prepared in every way imaginable; showers are rare; and Nicholson, Beckham and Prince Charles are actually bull elephants named for their distinctive features.

O'Connell is an instructor at the Stanford University School of Medicine's department of head and neck surgery. She's also an elephant specialist. In her newest book, "An Elephant's Life," she illustrates through her photos the complex lives of these African animals.

"If you don't mind roughing it, our field camp is a five-star experience," O'Connell writes in the book, which was published last November.

"An Elephant's Life" showcases years of O'Connell's observations of the magnificent creatures' lives, moment by moment, from a baby elephant's first steps to the declining dominance of a male leader. The collection of photographs shot by O'Connell and her husband Timothy Rodwell also depicts the serene beauty of Etosha National Park, where the research camp sits year-round.

"I thought in part to put this book together because it seemed like the obvious way to show people how an elephant grows up in society and what kind of challenges they face," O'Connell told the Weekly.

Neither O'Connell nor Rodwell were elephant specialists when they started their research about 15 years ago. O'Connell says they were both dedicated field scientists who happened to be in the right place at the right time when the opportunity arose.

At Stanford, O'Connell teaches science writing and researches different ways large mammals perceive sound. Before studying elephants, O'Connell researched vibration communication in insects in the Hawaiian Islands.

"When I was traveling in Africa, I noticed that elephants were behaving very similarly to the insects I studied in Hawaii. One thing led to another, and 10 years later I was able to show that elephants communicate in a very similar way," O'Connell said.

Her most fundamental discovery has been that elephants' vocalizations travel through the ground, and that they can detect and interpret them through their feet.

Sequences of photographs in the book capture intimate greetings between elephants, and the various ways elder elephants keep their young in check. One of the most emotional sets of photographs shows a mother and sister elephant rescuing an elephant calf after he fell into the watering hole.

"It was a really fulfilling experience to think about how you would tell the story of a life in im-

ages, rather than words," O'Connell said.

Although she has no formal photography training, O'Connell has become a seasoned nature photographer over the years spent observing and capturing elephants on camera. She says she has learned to overexpose her shots so she can capture the movement of the mammals at dusk.

"One of the trickiest parts is not being afraid to overexpose," O'Connell said. "It took many years of experimenting with exposure and learning on the job." Because elephants are such large creatures, O'Connell says that she sometimes has to sacrifice shutter speed for depth of field.

O'Connell remembers her first years when she and her husband photographed with film. "It took us years to get some of the film developed when we were living in Africa," she said. "With the advent of digital photography it was just so amazing."

The couple currently shoot with a Nikon D700 Digital SLR with an ISO of 6400 and a fast auto-focus lens.

"I feel very privileged to be living right on the dinner plate of all of these animals, including the lions," O'Connell said. "You get to see the soap

operas of all these different creatures."

O'Connell says she sees and photographs something different, unexpected and spectacular every day. "I've had some hairy moments alone when a long, wrinkly trunk has suddenly appeared ... on more than one occasion, a dripping proboscis has practically knocked over my tripod and assaulted me with heavy breathing and bad breath, like a giant worm. ..." she wrote.

She enjoys capturing the human-like characteristics of elephants, and says it shows us that humans are not as complex as we sometimes would like to think.

"When you see another social animal acting like your own species, it's a reminder that there are other special animals and maybe we shouldn't be thinking we are as special as we are," O'Connell says. "Because there are other animals out there that care for each other and make sacrifices for each other just like humans. That kind of reminder I feel privileged just to witness."

O'Connell says she has a few more books in the works. She will be looking at the long-term social

(continued on page 22)

Fearless flight



Rose Eichenbaum

Diavolo Dance Theater performs "Fearful Symmetries" in 2010.

Diavolo dancers brave physical risk and giant props to convey universal human themes

by Rebecca Wallace

About six years ago, choreographer Jacques Heim was somewhere in the middle of America. The native Parisian stood with his dance company and looked at the local performing-arts center, which was literally in a cornfield.

"I said: 'What the heck are we doing here? Nobody is going to come,'" Heim said in an interview this week, still marveling at the memory.

But the venue had a thousand seats and was surprisingly high-tech. That night, Heim's Diavolo Dance Theater sold out the house. "In this community they were hungry for the arts," Heim said.

Diavolo, a vigorous company that blends modern dance with acrobatics, hip-hop and giant props, often holds a post-show Q&A to hear what the audience made of it all. That night in the cornfield was one of Heim's career highlights.

One man stood up, a bearded farmer in suspenders who had been dragged to the theater by his wife. Telling the story, Heim attempts a small-town drawl through his French accent. "He said, 'I don't know anything about dance, but if that's what dance is, then I really love it.'"

Heim's voice is delighted at the memory. "What we do, it is dance, but a different form. The regular people who are not intellectuals, or artists, can go see dance.

"I thought, 'OK, Jacques, that's why you do what you do.'"

During its 13 years of touring, Diavolo has often attracted audience members who are not typical modern-dance buffs. That may be the case again on Jan. 28, when the company performs at Stanford University. And Heim is not your characteristic choreographer.

"My background is completely weird. I'm sort of the black sheep of dance," Heim said, laughing. "I'm completely awkward. I have skinny legs. I look like a little chicken running around."

Heim, 47, left Paris in 1983 to attend Middlebury College in Vermont. He started in the theater department, but had trouble being understood by audiences because of

his limited English, he said. Friends in the dance department urged him to join them.

"I fell in love with movement," he said. "I thought it was a great, wonderful way of theater."

Heim also has an interest in architecture, and he used structures in his choreography: first tables and chairs, then larger things. He thought about how human bodies and structures affect each other, how they become part of each other, how they're both vulnerable. After he earned a master's degree in choreography, he started his own dance company.

Heim wanted something different than a traditional modern-dance group, and that's what he built. In his works, his dancers interact with often-huge props to explore such themes as survival in the modern world and the absurdities of human actions. Heim believes Diavolo dance appeals to people from all walks of life because it's so visual, and visceral.

In the 1998 piece "Apex," for example, Diavolo dancers navigated spinning ladders meant to symbolize the bumps of human relationships. The 2003 work "Dreamcatcher" was based on a Native American legend, with dancers taking a "journey through faith" — and through an 18-foot spinning wheel made of aluminum and steel.

At Stanford's Memorial Auditorium on Jan. 28, Diavolo will perform pieces that Heim set to music by the Pulitzer Prize-winning Berkeley composer John Adams. A one-hour family matinee will be at 3 p.m. with four shorter Adams works; a full performance follows at 8 p.m.

The centerpiece of the evening event is "Fearful Symmetries," a 2010 Heim piece set to Adams' 1988 composition of the same name. It's part of a trilogy that the Los Angeles Philharmonic commissioned Heim to create. (The other two works, set to music by Esa-Pekka Salonen and Philip Glass, are not on the Stanford program.)

Adams has premiered many notable symphonic and operatic works

(continued on page 22)



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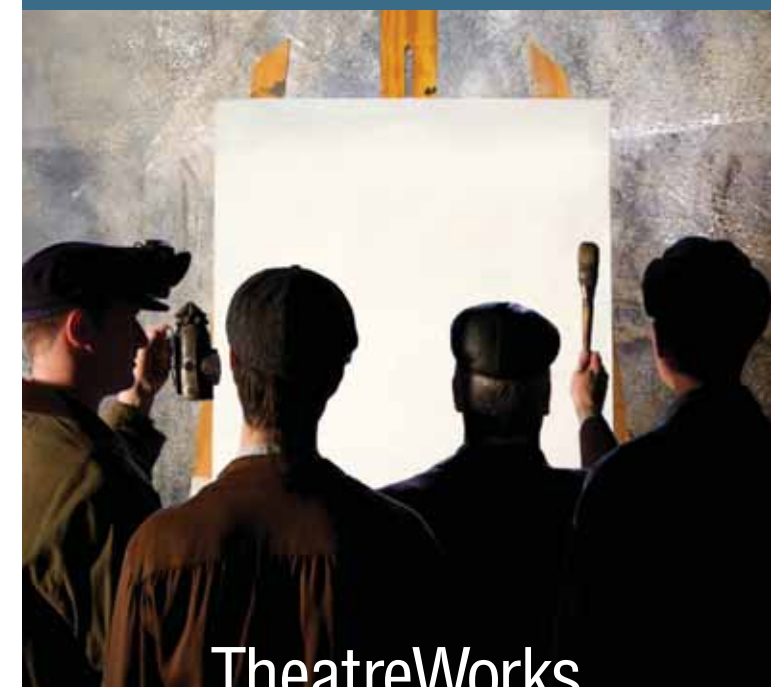
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A baby elephant giving a ritual trunk-to-mouth greeting.

Elephants

(continued from page 22)

interactions and dominance relationships particularly among younger elephants, observing how family interaction translates into adulthood.

"I'm also working on a photo book of the first year of an elephant's life as well as a biography of the 'don' elephant, a sort of timeline of his rise and fall, and all the different social dynamics surrounding it," she says.

Her previous books include "The Elephant's Secret Sense: The Hidden Life of the Wild Herds of Africa," a more prose-focused book on her study of the elephant's listening behavior. ■

Info: "An Elephant's Life" can be found at the Stanford University bookstore, where Caitlin O'Connell will sign books during parents' weekend on Feb. 24 and 25. For more about her work, go to utopiascientific.org.

Diavolo

(continued from page 21)

in San Francisco; his work has been described as minimalist and humanist. He has called "Fearful Symmetries" "seriously acrobatic."

Heim said the piece was tough for a choreographer because of its many layers. Listening to it "a couple thousand times" helped, as did a visit from Adams to the Diavolo studio in Los Angeles. The composer sat in on a run-through and helped analyze his work.

The main result was a cube. Heim's piece starts with a cube designed by Adam Davis that "is the symbol of all geometry," he said. The dancers pull and work at it as they move.

In a 2010 Los Angeles Times review, Lewis Segal wrote: "This mysterious structure held all sorts of hidden panels, apertures and crevices, but quickly opened up to evoke a whole cityscape, then divided into rectangular platforms that became everything from towers to surfboards."

While Segal wrote that he believed the dance work didn't always "embody the darkness in the music," he said the piece called to mind heroic acts, such as those that happened during 9/11. "The best moments ... showed a familiar landscape suddenly becoming dangerous and people forced by an unexpected loss of control to discover new capabilities and relationships," he wrote.

The Stanford program also includes the less cerebral work "Trajectoire."

It's set on a 14-foot-long rocking prop that looks like a modern galleon. Dancers manipulate it by moving back and forth, swaying and keeping their balance, and — when they really get going — flying into the air. One of the themes is "the ever-shifting landscape of human relations in modern society."

The dancers who fly into the air are usually caught by other dancers. But as society shifts, so does human timing.

"When we train dancers, they know that some nights if you're in the wrong place, or the catchers are in the wrong place, you can crash," Heim said.

That's why Diavolo dancers need to be a special breed. Risk-takers. People who can lift their own body weight. Preferably not afraid of heights. A rock-climbing or gymnastics background helps.

"You have to be kind of a gladiator," Heim said.

Heim says that there's never been a serious injury at Diavolo. But broken fingers and toes happen a lot, as well as stitches and knee damage.

The risks bring rewards, Heim said. "There's something unspoken and priceless about coming together on stage to do this as a team."



A cube-like structure is the center of the dance work "Fearful Symmetries."

Rose Eichenbaum

He added, "At the end they stand tall and proud when the curtain opens for the bow." ■

What: The Diavolo Dance Theater gives two local performances.

Where: Memorial Auditorium, Stanford University

When: A one-hour family program is set for 3 p.m., with a full performance at 8 p.m., on Jan. 28. A post-performance discussion with artistic director Jacques Heim follows the 8 p.m. show.

Cost: For the 3 p.m. show, tickets are \$14-\$34 for adults, \$7-\$17 for youths under 18, \$10 for Stanford students and \$15-\$29 for other students. For the 8 p.m. show, admission is \$28-\$68 general, \$14-\$34 for youths under 18, \$10 for Stanford students and \$23-\$63 for other students.

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Worth a Look

Theater

'The Pitmen Painters'

In "The Pitmen Painters," playwright Lee Hall turns from the young dancers of "Billy Elliot" to a gang of 1930s coal miners who become unlikely artists. Set in a mining town in northern England, the story centers on the miners who try to better themselves with art-appreciation classes. Turns out, they appreciate art more when the canvases are theirs.

When the show was on Broadway, the New York Times' Ben Brantley said in a review, "Written partly in response to cuts in arts endowments and education, 'Pitmen' belongs to a fine old British tradition of establishment-challenging theater."

"Pitmen" comes to the Peninsula later this month, presented by TheatreWorks. Directed by TheatreWorks casting director Leslie Martinson, the production previews at 8 p.m. Jan. 18 through Jan. 20, then opens at 8 p.m. Jan. 21.

Shows are at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts at 500 Castro St., with tickets ranging from \$19 to \$69. For more information, go to theatreworks.org or call 650-463-1960.

'Incognito'

When actor Michael Fosberg fills out a census form asking about his ethnicity, his response is far from straightforward. "I jokingly refer to myself as AAA: African-American Armenian," he said last year on National Public Radio's "All Things Considered" program.

For much of his life, though, Fosberg would have checked the "white" box without hesitation. That's before he learned — in his 30s — that his father was black. Raised by his white mother and stepfather, Fosberg had never thought that he was anything else.

Fosberg's discovery led to what he describes as "a new, more comfortable relationship with my sense



From left, standing, are Patrick Jones, James Carpenter and Dan Hiatt, with Paul Whitworth sitting. The actors are in TheatreWorks' production of "The Pitmen Painters."

of identity" and "a rich, black heritage." It also led to thoughts about how Americans perceive and think about race. And, ultimately, in 2001, it led to Fosberg's one-man autobiographical play, "Incognito."

As part of his ongoing tour, Fosberg will perform the play in Palo Alto at 8 p.m. this Saturday, Jan. 14, at the Oshman Family Jewish Community Center at 3921 Fabian Way. Admission is \$20 general and \$15 for JCC members.

For more information, go to paloaltojcc.org or call 650-223-8609.

Music

The Special Consensus



The Chicago-based bluegrass band The Special Consensus plays at the Redwood Bluegrass Associates concert series in Mountain View on Jan. 21.

A veteran bluegrass band from Chicago heads west this month to take part in the local Redwood Bluegrass Associates concert series.

The Special Consensus recently marked its 35th anniversary as a band by releasing the album "35." (Clearly, from some of the freshest-faced photos, not all the members have been in the group that long.) Mandolin, bass, banjo and guitar mingle with vocals in the group's sound. Band co-founder Greg Cahill is still an active member, picking up the banjo and singing baritone and tenor harmonies.

The Redwood series concerts are at the First Presbyterian Church of Mountain View at 1667 Miramonte Ave. (at Cuesta Drive). The Special Consensus performs Jan. 21 at 8 p.m., following a 5 p.m. jam session and the doors opening at 7. The Stockton-based trio Snap Jackson & The Knock On Wood Players will also perform.

There's always plenty to eat at these shows; folks bring pies, cookies and drinks starting at 7. Tickets are \$18

in advance and \$20 at the door.

The next scheduled concert is a performance by Red Wine, a bluegrass band from Genoa, Italy. For full season details, go to rba.org or call 650-691-9982.

Hamed Nikpay

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These experimental and Eastern



Hamed Nikpay performs world music fueled by his background in Persian classical music. He'll be on stage at Stanford University on Jan. 27.

sounds will fill the Cubberley Auditorium at Stanford's School of Education on Jan. 27, when Nikpay is scheduled to play a free concert. The show is set for 8 p.m.

For more information, go to continuingstudies.stanford.edu.

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Eating Out

FOOD FEATURE

Local catch

SirenSeaSA brings community-supported fishery to Mountain View

by Angela Johnston

Anna Larsen used to spend her Friday evenings singing opera as a mezzo-soprano in Los Angeles. Now she works late nights on the docks in Bodega Bay de-boning cod and gutting squid inside a 40-degree fish plant.

Larsen is the founder of SirenSeaSA, a community-supported fishery that strives to bring fresh and sustainable seafood to Bay Area residents. Founded last June, SirenSeaSA directly connects local fisherman to seafood-loving community members and encourages the sustainable catch and consumption of a variety of seafood.

As with a CSA (Community-Supported Agriculture) farm box that delivers fresh produce to subscribers, SirenSeaSA members receive boxes of fresh seafood, which could include oysters from Point Reyes, swordfish from Monterey and mus-

sels from Bodega Bay. In December, members found crab and black cod in their boxes.

Recipes and tips on how to prepare — and in some cases, deconstruct — each week's delivery are posted on SirenSeaSA's website, along with information about the fishermen or farmers who brought in the catch.

SirenSeaSA was developed after North Coast Fisheries Inc. hired Larsen as a quality-control manager. Her career change was part of an impulsive decision to move back to her hometown of Petaluma, where she has fond memories of the fishing culture. Her fishmongering job connected her with other Bay Area foodies and fish-lovers, and at an event for leaders in the food community, Larsen was prompted by

(continued on page 26)



Subscribers to the SirenSeaSA community-supported fishery might find locally caught black cod in their weekly boxes.

Siren Sea SA

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Recipe from Harry's Bar in Venice

Harry's Bar opened in 1931 when Giuseppe Cipriani, an enterprising bartender at the Hotel Europa in Venice, got some financial assistance from a rich, young American from Boston named Harry Pickering. According to Cipriani company history, Pickering had been a customer at the Hotel Europa for some time, suddenly stopped frequenting the hotel bar. Cipriani saw Pickering one day and asked why he no longer patronized the bar. Pickering was broke, he explained to the bartender -- his family cut him off when it was discovered he had not curtailed his recklessness and fondness for drinking. So, Cipriani loaned his patron a chunk of cash -- about 10,000 lire, or \$5,000 U.S.. Two years later, Pickering walked back into the Hotel Europa, ordered a drink at the bar, handed 10,000 lire to Giuseppe Cipriani -- he then handed Cipriani more. "Mr. Cipriani, thank you. Here's the money. And to show you my appreciation, here's 40,000 more, enough to open a bar. We will call it Harry's Bar," Located on Calle Vallaresso, close to the Piazza San Marco, the bar -- as the Cipriani's have always called it -- was first conceived as a hotel bar, serving no food, and later transformed into a restaurant. There are many imitators, but only one Harry's Bar. To honor this famous Italian culinary icon, we submit our version of one of Harry's Famous recipes...

Tagliolini with shrimp and zucchini from Harry's Bar (TAGLIOLINI CON I GAMBERI E LA ZUCCHINA DALLA HARRY'S BAR)

- 1/2 pound fresh young zucchini cut into 1-inch by 1/4 inch strips
- 1 pound (about 30) medium shrimp, shelled, deveined and cut in half
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 1/8 teaspoon dried red pepper flakes
- salt
- 1 pound dried tagliolini or fettuccine or fresh tagliatelle (egg pasta)
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened
- Splash of dry white wine
- 1/4 cup freshly grated Parmigiano Reggiano cheese plus extra to pass at the table

To cook:

Bring a large pot of water to boil before preparing the sauce. If using dry pasta salt boiling water and add pasta. Heat the oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the garlic, let it cook until golden, about 30 seconds, and discard it. Add the zucchini and cook for two minutes. Add the shrimp, the pepper flakes, and some salt, the wine and cook for three minutes, tossing constantly, until the shrimp are bright pink and firm to the touch. Reserve 1/4 cup of the mixture for garnish. Set aside. If using fresh pasta, salt the boiling water, add the pasta, and cook until "al dente" (about 2-3 minutes). Drain well in a colander. Toss the pasta with the zucchini-and-shrimp mixture, add the butter and the Parmesan, and toss well. Transfer to a heated serving platter dish and garnish with the reserved shrimp-and-zucchini mixture. Pass around a small bowl of grated Parmigiano cheese.

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Dungeness crabs await cooking.

(continued from previous page)

Bruce Cole of Edible San Francisco to start a community-supported fishery (CSF).

“Google was just beginning their CSF for employees at the time, and Bruce told me to make something like that happen,” Larsen said.

Providing fresh fish that hasn’t been overly handled, and connecting fishermen to a “very interested” market, also motivated Larsen.

“When you go to the grocery store, the fish never looks that great. Four or five people have handled it, and the fish could have been out of the water for a week. I wanted to provide people with fish that was as fresh as possible,” Lar-

Shren Seasa

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Eating Out

sen said.

Larsen's definition of sustainable is two-fold. She says sustainable fishing methods should not harm the population or the surrounding ocean environment.

What began as a trial run for 35 San Francisco residents has evolved into a program that now serves more than 120 members. Larsen currently drops fish off at five locations around the Bay Area, and Mountain View is the newest addition.

Larsen said she received interest from a lot of people in the South Bay who were wanted to have a pickup spot close by. "I sent out an email and asked if anyone wanted to volunteer their home as a pickup location and one or two people wrote back right away."

Depending on the closest pickup site, members can travel to Mountain View, Oakland, Petaluma or two locations in San Francisco to pick up their weekly serving of seafood. Currently, there are only 12 members who use the South Bay pickup. Larsen said she could potentially handle another 18.

SirenSeaSA members can select how many times a month they would like to pick up fish from SirenSeaSA (twice or four times per month) and select the portion size of the seafood. A half share of fish, which costs \$20 a week, will comfortably feed two people, Larsen said. The full share costs \$40 and feeds four people.

Bay Area residents are no strangers to the benefits of community-supported agriculture, and there are a number of programs that deliver local, fresh produce to consumers. Community-supported fishery programs, on the other hand, are not as widespread. Google is the only other company currently serving the South Bay, and its subscribers are limited to Google employees.

Larsen said that she eventually plans to partner with Google once they branch out beyond their employee customer base. "Google uses fishermen in Half Moon Bay, so I will probably try to transition my South Bay customers to Google when both of us can support it."

Other plans for 2012 include expanding SirenSeaSA's membership and the variety of fish offered.

In the future, Larsen wants to provide more of a variety of seafood, especially rockfish and groundfish. "There's only so much Dungeness crab you can take," she said.

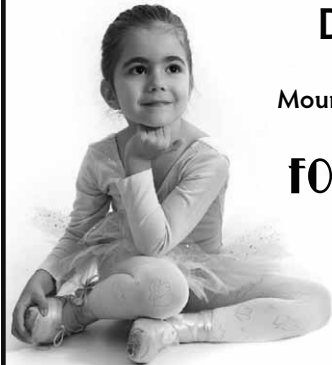
Larsen described herself as a perfectionist when it comes to fish and said she won't give customers anything less than perfect. A couple weeks were cancelled because she deemed the fish not up to par.

"I'm kind of a pest," Larsen joked. "I test the fish; I make sure I meet the fisherman and see the boat. I put a lot of thought into it and do a lot of fretting beforehand."

As a result, the fish that customers get on their dinner plates is "flawless," she said. "There may be a few bones in the fillet and you may have to gut a squid, but it will be delicious and it will be sustainable," she said. ■

Info: For more about Siren SeaSA, go to sirenseasa.com or call 707-738-5540.

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

(TENTATIVE) AGENDA – SPECIAL MEETING – COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM

JANUARY 17, 2012 - 6:00 PM

1. Interviews of the Architectural Review Board Applicants

CONSENT CALENDAR COUNCIL CHAMBERS

2. Appointment of 2012 Emergency Standby Council

ACTION ITEMS

3. Infrastructure Blue Ribbon Committee Recommendation

(TENTATIVE) AGENDA – SPECIAL MEETING – DOWNTOWN LIBRARY

JANUARY 21, 2012 - 9:00 AM

1. Council Retreat for the Purpose of Discussing Council Priorities for 2012



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January 22, 2012, 3 p.m.
Menlo-Atherton Performing Arts Center

Fauré: Ballade for Piano and Orchestra, Op. 19
Hélène Wickett - Soloist

Ravel: Concerto for the Left Hand
Hélène Wickett - Soloist

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NOTICE INVITING SEALED BIDS for WINDOW REPLACEMENT in the common areas in one 3-story building of Sheridan Apartments, 360 Sheridan Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94306.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The project is to provide all labor, tools, equipment and materials to remove and replace old windows with glass energy-efficient products in the common areas of the building.

GENERAL SCOPE OF WORK:

1. Remove 5 existing sliding windows & screens and removed 14 existing fixed windows.
2. Furnish and install 5 dual pane low-E glass sliding windows & screens and 14 dual pane low-E fixed windows.
3. Contractor to supply storage for all supplies and materials.
4. Seal and caulk installations as appropriate.
5. Furnish and install locks on all sliding windows.
6. Remove and dispose of all old material each day.
7. Clean glass and window frames.
8. All materials used must be manufactured in the USA.

Bid specifications pertaining to this project are available from (Friday, Jan 13, 2012) to (Friday, Jan 27, 2012). Please call to schedule a mandatory job walk. Bid closing date is (Wednesday, Feb 15, 2012) at 5:00 PM. Bid opening at 725 Alma Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301 on (Thursday, Feb 16, 2012) at 10:00 AM. All bids must be delivered or mailed to Palo Alto Housing Corporation to Jim Brandenburg's attention at: 725 Alma Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301

This project is funded by the City of Palo Alto Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. All federal regulations listed in the Bid Specifications will apply, including equal opportunity, non-discrimination, and Federal Labor Standards provisions (Davis-Bacon). Reference is hereby made to bid specifications for further details, which specifications and this notice shall be considered part of the contract. In the event of a labor dispute, when federal and state wage rates are in conflict, the higher of the two will prevail.

For information and bid walk-through, contact Jim Brandenburg at 650-321-9709 ext. 19.

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The Descendants

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Movies

MOVIE OPENINGS



Meryl Streep as Margaret Thatcher.

The Iron Lady ★★1/2

(Aquarius) In this film, don't expect sharp political analysis of Margaret Thatcher's 11-year reign as the first and only United Kingdom female prime minister, the ultraconservative who led with an iron will and iconic hairstyle from 1979 to 1990. Phyllida Lloyd, who directed Meryl Streep in "Mamma Mia!," offers a soft-focus look at the controversial figure — and Streep captures Maggie-the-PM and Maggie-the-frail-elderly-woman in yet another incredible performance. The two-time Oscar winner's impeccable craft makes you forget that you're watching an actor play the historical head of state, instead allowing you to suspend disbelief as soon as the biopic begins to unspool.

The opening scene fittingly places an octogenarian Thatcher, the daughter of a Grantham grocer, in a neighborhood market, purchasing a carton of milk to share with playful husband Denis (Jim Broadbent of "Iris") over a breakfast of hard-boiled eggs. Streep masters the physical transformation by taking slow, deliberate steps and bending in her shoulders — mimicking the tentative moves of an aged woman as precisely as the make-up and hair team created an uncanny likeness to the 21st-century leader. The pitch-perfect portrayal and voice introduce a sympathetic character trying to carry on with her everyday life with dignity, while time inevitably takes more from her every minute.

Revealing that Thatcher is having the first of many imaginary conversations with her late husband, Abi Morgan's ("Shame") script sensitively deals with issues of aging. We see the sense of loss, the dementia with flashes of clarity, the desire for independence and respect, and the well-intentioned acts of loved ones that rattle the very person they're trying to help. These scenes strike emotional chords and resonate on a universal level, particularly the exchanges between mother and daughter (Olivia Colman of "Hot Fuzz").

Stream-of-consciousness narrative devices enhance the intimate portrait by placing the viewer into Thatcher's mind. Snippets of the score from "The King and I" set off memories of her courtship. Touching her beloved pearls triggers flashbacks to her twins, since her husband had given the necklace to her upon their birth. "When did I lose track of everyone?" she mourns at one point. Her political ambition and commitment to public service came with a price.

But Thatcher's ability to shatter gender and class barriers all the way to 10 Downing Street counterpoints the inventive rendering of her inner life and

lends poignancy to the discrepancy between her situation then and now. Newcomer Alexandra Roach exhibits the spunk and drive of the Iron Lady as a young woman. She defies male sexist attitudes, yet always prefers the company of men. Although the drama portrays a feminist struggle, Thatcher never identifies with the feminist movement. Unwavering in her philosophy, she states, "Those who can do; they just must stand up and DO."

The "doing" will divide audiences. Archival newsreel footage presents the dramatic developments of the 1980s, including widespread protests over Thatcher's policies of financial deregulation; her disempowering the trade unions; IRA bombings; and the Falklands War. Thatcher's opposition loudly indicates that the Iron Lady is not a leader who listens. But the movie hedges, making no political judgments; the big-picture assessments are up to the viewer.

You decide if Thatcher succeeded or failed in her attempts to put the "Great" back in "Great Britain." Politics aside, "The Iron Lady" is a must-see for Streep's great performance in a story compellingly told.

Rated: PG-13 for brief nudity and some violent images. 1 hour, 45 minutes.

— Susan Tavernetti

Carnage ★★★

(Palo Alto Square) In scotch veritas. Roman Polanski's play-to-film adaptation "Carnage" takes four civilized adults, sticks them in an upscale New York City apartment, serves a few rounds of drinks, and awaits the uncomfortable truths.

Yes, the liquor and the attendant fireworks come only after a round of apple-pear cobbler, but that's the joke of Yasmina Reza's play "God of Carnage": a slow disintegration of the thin veneer of social niceties, revealing the human animalism underneath. Like Reza's equally popular "Art," "God of Carnage" isn't as deep as it would have you believe, but both plays are catnip for actors. With their small casts and continuous action, Reza's plays are like exhibition cage matches, and every participant comes out looking hard.

In its filmic version, "Carnage" frames its central conflict with two nature-film dumbshows involving 11-year-olds. In a Brooklyn park, boys argue and one assaults the other, before an audience of peers. Swiftly, we're off to the apartment of the injured party, where his parents (Jodie Foster and John C. Reilly) host the assailant's parents (Kate Winslet and Christoph Waltz). The four parse some legalese and having, so to speak, agreed to terms, sit for that cobbler and a polite conversation comprising "get to know you" chat and attempted commiseration on child-rearing.

In short order we size up the characters. A pre-emptive Type A personality, Penelope Longstreet (a pitch-perfect Foster) offers that she's penning a non-fiction book on Darfur, while her path-of-least-resistance husband Michael (Reilly) — who's in the housewares-supply business — has clearly learned that it's easiest to smile and nod.

In contrast, high-powered attorney Alan Cowan (Waltz) is a take-charge type, while his wife Nancy (Winslet), an investment broker, attempts to keep the peace. Naturally, the characters resist conceding any fundamental unhappiness in their lives, existential discomfort in their marriages, or immaturity surpassing that of their children, though evidence of all three gradually escapes in word and deed.

Apart from superficial civility, Reza's prime target is bourgeois hypocrisy, redolent in nearly every gesture packed into the film's compact 80-minute running time. Penelope is a font of pop-psychology double-speak but seems to view empathy as some kind of trophy (like her out-of-print coffee-table

(continued on next page)

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book that, when damaged, triggers a freakout). At one point, with no hint of self-awareness, she yells: "Don't you tell me about Africa! I know all about suffering in Africa!" It's a cheap shot on Reza's part, but good for a laugh.

As for Alan, he'll sell out his kid in a New York minute ("Our son is a maniac"), while his amoral mantra in defending a poisonous pharmaceutical company is "Deny, deny, deny." Nancy resents the marital third wheel that is her husband's aggravatingly interruptive cell phone,

aka his "whole life" (another theatrical device, borrowed from David Mamet).

Meanwhile, Michael loses his patience with his wife's "touchy-feely" moderation. Agreeing about "this 'caring parent' crap," Alan begins to bond with his fellow man, redrawing the conflict along lines of gender.

Though the themes are obvious, Polanski keeps the pace crisp, the camera aggressively intimate, and the actors on their toes. All four nail their "types." Winslet succumbs to

overplaying a bit, but her cast mates hit just the right notes of ego and cravenness to make the characters as credible as they are cretinous.

While human nature hasn't changed, our sense of eroding privacy has put us on alert, making "Carnage" a sort of "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" in a trendier shade of repression unleashed.

Rated R for language. One hour, 20 minutes.

— Peter Canavese

MOVIE TIMES

A Dangerous Method (R) (Not Reviewed)

Guild Theatre: 3:45, 6:15 & 8:45 p.m.; Fri.-Mon. also at 1:15 p.m.

The Adventures of Tintin (PG) (Not Reviewed)

Century 16: 11 a.m.; 4:10 & 9:35 p.m.; In 3D at 1:35 & 6:50 p.m.
Century 20: 11:20 a.m.; 4:40 & 10 p.m.; In 3D at 2 & 7:25 p.m.

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) (Not Reviewed)

Century 16: 11 a.m.; 1:30, 4 & 6:40 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:05 a.m.; 1:30, 3:55, 6:10, 8:30 & 10:45 p.m.

The Artist (PG-13) ***1/2

Century 20: 11:35 a.m.; 2:10, 4:45, 7:20 & 9:55 p.m. **Palo Alto Square:** 2, 4:40 & 7:25 p.m.; Fri. & Sat. also at 9:50 p.m.

Beauty and the Beast (G) (Not Reviewed)

Century 16: 11:30 a.m.; 2 & 4:40 p.m.; In 3D at 11 a.m.; 1:30, 4:10, 7 & 9:30 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:10 a.m.; In 3D at 1:35, 4:10, 7 & 9:20 p.m.; In 3D Sat. also at 10:30 a.m.

Carnage (R) ***

Century 16: Noon, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20 & 9:40 p.m.

Casablanca (1942)

Stanford Theatre: Fri. at 5:35 & 9:20 p.m.

Contraband (R) (Not Reviewed)

Century 16: 11:20 a.m.; 12:30, 2:10, 3:50, 5, 7, 8, 9:50 & 10:35 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:05 a.m.; 12:05, 1:55, 2:45, 4:30, 5:25, 7:10, 8:05, 9:50 & 10:45 p.m.

The Descendants (R) **1/2

Aquarius Theatre: 4, 7 & 9:30 p.m.; Fri.-Mon. also at 1:15 p.m.
Century 20: 11 a.m.; 1:40, 4:20, 7:05 & 9:45 p.m.

The Devil Inside (R) (Not Reviewed)

Century 16: 11:40 a.m.; 1:50, 4:30, 7:30 & 9:55 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:10 a.m.; 12:20, 1:25, 2:30, 3:35, 4:40, 5:45, 6:50, 7:55, 9:10 & 10:10 p.m.

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo (2011) (R) ***

Century 16: 11:10 a.m.; 2:40, 6:30 & 9:55 p.m. **Century 20:** Noon, 3:30, 6:55 & 10:15 p.m.

Hugo (PG) ***1/2

Century 16: 2:30 & 9:15 p.m.; In 3D at 11:30 a.m. & 6:05 p.m.
Century 20: 11:15 a.m.; 5:05 & 10:40 p.m.; In 3D at 2:10 & 7:55 p.m.

In the Land of Blood and Honey (R) (Not Reviewed)

Century 16: Noon, 3:10, 7:10 & 10:20 p.m.

The Iron Lady (PG-13) ***1/2

Aquarius Theatre: 4:30, 7:30 & 9:55 p.m.; Fri.-Mon. also at

1:45 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:45 a.m.; 2:20, 4:50, 7:30 & 10:05 p.m.

Joyful Noise (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)

Century 16: 11 a.m.; 1:45, 4:40, 7:40 & 10:30 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:30 a.m.; 2:15, 5, 7:45 & 10:30 p.m.

Midnight (1939)

Stanford Theatre: Sat.-Thu. at 5:45 & 9:35 p.m.

Mission: Impossible -- Ghost Protocol (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)

Century 16: 11 a.m.; 2, 5, 7:30, 8:40 & 10:35 p.m. **Century 20:** 12:45, 1:55, 4, 5, 7:15, 8:15 & 10:20 p.m.

The Muppets (PG) ***

Century 20: 11:15 a.m.

New Year's Eve (PG-13) *1/2

Century 20: 11:35 a.m.; 4:35 & 9:40 p.m.

The Philadelphia Story (1940)

Stanford Theatre: Sat.-Thu. at 7:30 p.m.

Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13) ***1/2

Century 16: 12:20, 3:20, 7:05 & 10:05 p.m. **Century 20:** 1:20, 4:25, 7:35 & 10:35 p.m.

Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy (R) ***1/2

Century 20: 11:45 a.m.; 3, 6:10 & 9:05 p.m. **Palo Alto Square:** 1:15, 4:15 & 7:15 p.m.; Fri. & Sat. also at 10:10 p.m.

To Be or Not to Be (1942)

Stanford Theatre: Fri. at 7:30 p.m.

Underworld: Awakening (R) (Not Reviewed)

Century 16: In 3D Thu. at 12:01 a.m.

War Horse (PG-13) ***1/2

Century 16: 12:10, 3:30, 7 & 10:15 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:50 a.m.; 3:20, 6:55 & 10:15 p.m.

We Bought a Zoo (PG) *1/2

Century 16: 11:50 a.m.; 3, 6:20 & 9:25 p.m. **Century 20:** 11 a.m.; 1:50, 4:45, 7:40 & 10:35 p.m.

Young Adult (R) ***

Century 16: 9:20 p.m. **Century 20:** 2:20 & 7:20 p.m.

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

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

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The Artist 2:00, 4:40, 7:25

Wednesday 1/18
Tinker, Tailor, Soldier 1:15, 4:15, 7:15
The Artist 2:00

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**Public Meeting Notice
2011 Bicycle and Pedestrian
Transportation Plan
Public Open House and Call for Ideas**

DATE: Thursday, January 12, 2012
TIME: 6:30-8:30 PM
PLACE: Cubberley Community Center: Room H-1
4000 Middlefield Road Road, Palo Alto, CA

The City of Palo Alto is currently in the process of updating the existing Bicycle Transportation Plan, which will include a new Pedestrian Element. A community meeting will be held on Thursday, January 12th, 2012 at 6:30 PM at the Cubberley Community Center, Room H-1. This meeting will focus on connections between South Palo Alto to Mountain View and Los Altos. All interested parties are invited to participate in this community forum, where staff will present a summary of existing and proposed network connections. Staff would like to receive input on the connections that are most important to the community for walking and biking to and from neighboring jurisdictions.



**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, January 25, 2012 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:**

- 355 Alma Street*:** Request by Lund Smith on behalf of Lytton Gateway LLC for Planning and Transportation Commission review of a new Planned Community (PC) zone district and Comprehensive Plan land use designation amendment to allow a mixed use, five story (64-foot high) building on the 21,713 square foot former Shell station site zoned CD-C (P) and CD-N (P). Environmental Assessment: An Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration have been prepared.
- North California Avenue Traffic Calming/Safe Routes to School Project:** Presentation on the results of this trial traffic calming project for consideration of a Recommendation to the City Council for Final Approval and Project Retention. The project includes speed tables, signage and bicycle Sharrow roadway markings on North California Avenue between Middlefield and Embarcadero.

Other Items:

- Update Regarding SB375 (Sustainable Communities Strategy) pertaining to designating Planned Development Areas (PDAs), analysis of Alternative Scenarios, and next steps.

* Quasi-Judicial Items subject to Council's Disclosure Policy

Questions. For any questions regarding the above items, please contact the Planning Department at (650) 329-2441. 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**



CITY OF
PALO
ALTO

**Public Meeting Notice
Channing Avenue and Waverley Street
Traffic Signal Removal Project**

WHEN: Tuesday, January 17, 2012
6:30-7:30 PM
PLACE: Downtown Library - Community Room
270 Forest Avenue

City staff is hosting a community meeting to discuss the proposed removal of the traffic signal at the intersection of Channing Avenue and Waverley Street.

The purpose of the meeting is to present findings of the traffic study conducted for the intersection to support the traffic signal removal. The City is recommending the installation of an All Way Stop control in place of the traffic signal.

Public input and comments are sought for this project. For more information on this project, please contact: transportation@cityofpaloalto.org or (650) 329-2442.

NOTICE

NOTICE INVITING SEALED BIDS for HVAC unit replacement in the first floor community room in one 3- story building of Sheridan Apartments, 360 Sheridan Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94306.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The project is to provide all labor, tools, equipment and materials to remove and replace existing furnace and install HVAC unit in community room in one 3-story building of Sheridan Apartments, 360 Sheridan Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94306

GENERAL SCOPE OF WORK:

- Remove 5 existing 100,000 btu gas-fired up-flow furnace and remove from site.
- Furnish and install one (1) new high efficiency 100,000 btu gas-fired up-flow furnace.
- Furnish and install new A/C equipment as need for new furnace.
- Furnish and install cooling line-sets as needed for new system.
- Furnish and install condensate lines as needed and run to floor drain and exterior.
- Furnish and install equipment pad for condensation unit.
- Supply electrical service to new HVAC system as needed.
- Contractor to supply storage for all supplies and materials.
- Remove and dispose of all old material each day.
- All materials used must be manufactured in the USA.

Bid specifications pertaining to this project are available from (Friday, Jan 13, 2012) to (Friday, Jan 27, 2012). Please call to schedule a mandatory job walk. Bid closing date is (Wednesday, Feb 15, 2012) at 5:00 PM. Bid opening at 725 Alma Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301 on (Thursday, Feb 16, 2012) at 10:30 AM. All bids must be delivered or mailed to Palo Alto Housing Corporation to Jim Brandenburg's attention at :725 Alma Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301

This project is funded by the City of Palo Alto Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. All federal regulations listed in the Bid Specifications will apply, including equal opportunity, non-discrimination, and Federal Labor Standards provisions (Davis-Bacon). Reference is hereby made to bid specifications for further details, which specifications and this notice shall be considered part of the contract. In the event of a labor dispute, when Federal and State wage rates are in conflict, the higher of the two will prevail.

For information and bid walk-through, contact Jim Brandenburg at 650-321-9709 ext. 19.

Movies

NOW PLAYING

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

The Artist ★★★

(Palo Alto Square, Century 20) Any filmgoer undaunted by something different will surely walk out of this new silent film with a grin. Though this pastiche has been crafted by film nerds and largely for them, Michel Hazanavicius' feature has an emotional generosity that speaks louder than words. Opening in 1927, "The Artist" begins with a premiere of a silent film starring dashing George Valentin (Jean Dujardin). When Valentin stumbles into a photo op with a girl named Peppy Miller (Berenice Bejo), the ground for a relationship is paved. Peppy sees her star begins to rise in proportion to George's fall, precipitated by the arrival of talkies and the market crash of 1929. Writer-director Hazanavicius mostly steers clear of comparisons to the era's epics and great screen comics, instead inhabiting the more manageable territory of melodrama. The acting is inventive, and the film joyously celebrates the movies. Rated PG-13 for a disturbing image and a crude gesture. One hour, 41 minutes. — Peter Canavese (Reviewed Dec. 2, 2011)

The Descendants ★★★1/2

(Aquarius, Century 20) George Clooney plays Matt King, a lawyer and hapless father troubleshooting domestic and business concerns in a Hawaii he drily notes is not paradise. King's petulance derives mostly from his wife being in a coma due to a boating accident, and his inability to do anything about it. As a father, he's clumsy at best; by pampering 10-year-old Scottie (Amara Miller), Matt hopes to distract her from her mother's decline. No such trickery works on delinquent 17-year-old Alexandra (Shailene Woodley). Matt's business issue involves his role as trustee of his family's ancestral land: 25,000 pristine acres in Kauai that will bring the Kings a pretty penny if they can agree on a buyer. As this subplot lingers, Matt becomes obsessed with a third concern: investigating a secret about his wife. It provides the excuse for the Kings to island-hop and family-bond in search of closure. Rated PG for some mild rude humor. One hour, 38 minutes. — P.C. (Reviewed Nov. 25, 2011)

Hugo ★★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) Director Martin Scorsese's affection for all things cinema has never been more evident than in the enchanting "Hugo." Young Hugo Cabret (Asa Butterfield) lives alone in the hallowed walls of a Paris train station, orphaned following the death of his father (Jude Law). Hugo is desperate to finish repairing an old robotic figure that he and his dad had been working on, occasionally stealing parts from a toy shop. The shop's enigmatic owner (Ben Kingsley as Georges Melies) catches Hugo in the act and confiscates Hugo's journal: a booklet with his father's sketches of the automaton's inner workings. Georges' goddaughter Isabelle (Chloe Grace Moretz) agrees to help Hugo get his journal back, setting off a series of mysterious events that click and whirl with the rhythm of a finely tuned clock. Rated PG for mild thematic material, some action/peril and smoking. Two hours, 6 minutes. — T.H. (Reviewed Nov. 25, 2011)

War Horse ★★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) The vast scope required for certain films, such as this harrowing World War I epic, has never intimidated Steven Spielberg. In fact, it seems to invigorate him. Now Spielberg works his cinematic magic again. Young Albert Narracott (Jeremy Irvine) bonds with a spirited horse his father brings home to plough the harsh land outside the family farm. Albert dubs the horse Joey and gets to work on training the clever animal. But the farm's financial woes force Albert's dad to sell Joey to the British Army at the onset of World War I, thus beginning an arduous journey. His odyssey brings him in contact with a host of varied caretakers, including a noble British officer (Tom Hiddleston) and a pair of German brothers (David Kross and Leonhard Carow). The production values here are exemplary, from the breathtaking cinematography by Janusz Kaminski ("Minority Report," "Saving Private Ryan") to the stitch-perfect costume design by Joanna Johnston ("Valkyrie"). Rated PG-13 for war violence. Two hours, 26 minutes. — T.H. (Reviewed Dec. 23, 2011)

Sports Shorts

TOP RECRUIT . . . Stanford may have lost out to Oklahoma State in the Fiesta Bowl last week, but the Cardinal football team evened the score by recruiting away Oklahoma prep star **Barry J. Sanders**, son of NFL Hall of Famer **Barry Sanders**. The younger Sanders announced his decision to attend Stanford over Oklahoma State following the U.S. Army All-American Bowl on Saturday in San Antonio, Texas. Sanders' father is an Oklahoma State grad and 1988 Heisman Trophy winner. He stood near his son and other family members when Barry J. announced his decision to go to Stanford on national television. The 5-foot-11, 195-pound Sanders is the 15th-best prospect nationally, regardless of position, according to MaxPreps. He rushed for 1,343 yards (9.5 ypg) and scored 27 touchdowns this past season in leading the Heritage Hall Chargers to the Class 3A semifinals. He was rated the No. 8 running back in the country, according to the Bootleg.com. In addition to Oklahoma State, Sanders turned down Florida State and Alabama. National Signing Day is Feb. 1 and verbal commitments are not binding.

CARDINAL CORNER . . . Stanford freshman **Kristina Vaculik**, who is taking a year off school to train with the Canadian Olympic women's gymnastics team, helped Canada earn a spot in the 2012 London Games on Wednesday in an Olympic Qualifying Test Event. Canada was among eight countries competing for the final four team spots in the last-chance opportunity. Vaculik is one Canada's top gymnasts. She won four of five possible individual titles at the 2010 Canadian national championships and earned her second national all-around title, as well as gold medals on the beam, bars and vault . . . Stanford sophomore **Carly Wopat** earned first team All-American recognition from Volleyball Magazine, it was announced Wednesday. Wopat, a middle blocker, finished second in the nation, and led the Pac-12, with 1.63 blocks per set. She also finished third in the conference with a .383 hitting percentage. An AVCA All-Pacific Region and an All-Pac-12 Conference pick, Wopat was second, to **Rachel Williamson**, with 3.16 kills and 4.08 points per set for the Cardinal. Wopat earned her first career honors from Volleyball Magazine.

ON THE AIR

Saturday

Men's basketball: Colorado at Stanford, 1 p.m., Fox Sports Net; KNBR (1050 AM); KZSU (90.1 FM)

Women's basketball: Stanford at Colorado, 3 p.m., KZSU (90.1 FM)

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

Men's basketball: Stanford at Washington St., 7 p.m., KNBR (1050 AM); KZSU (90.1 FM)

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



Stanford freshman point guard Chasson Randle has lived up to his high-flying expectations this season while becoming a key member of the Cardinal's early season basketball success.

Bob Dreish/Stanfordphoto.com

MEN'S BASKETBALL

He's more than a freshman

Stanford's Chasson Randle living up to all the high expectations

by Rick Eymer

Chasson Randle arrived at Stanford last fall with all the expectations of a highly regarded basketball recruit. He earned a spot in the starting lineup and has been sharing point-guard duties with Aaron Bright all season.

Until his virtuoso performance in last Saturday's 103-101 four-overtime win over Oregon State, though, no one knew how he would perform under pressure. Randle answered with a rather emphatic effort that left little doubt he will be a key component of the Stanford men's basketball team.

Through the first 16 games, Randle has displayed the athleticism that made him one of the nation's top combo guard prospects while at Rock Island High (Ill.) and one of the most talked about Cardinal recruits in recent years.

Randle adjusted to the level of play this year while being able to lean on Bright and Jarrett Mann, who also has point-guard experience. Those two were long gone when it came to decide Saturday's historic game in Corvallis.

There was no one else there to support the freshman guard after Bright and Mann fouled out. It was suddenly his team and Stanford coach Johnny Dawkins had no other choice but to rely on him.

"It was a good opportunity to take a step back and see what is going on with the players," Dawkins said. "We believe in him and he was a good contributor."

Randle's growth as a college basketball player was on display against the Beavers and he never hesitated. Dawkins has to be feeling pretty good about the rest of the season

(continued on page 34)

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

It's double duty for Gunn two-sport standout Lee

She's wrestling and playing girls' soccer in the same season

by Keith Peters

Cadence Lee has more decisions to make than most high school athletes, especially when it comes to practice. Does she wear the wrestling headgear today or is it time for the soccer cleats.

Decisions. Decisions. That's what happens when you play two sports in the same season.

Lee, a sophomore at Gunn High, can be found in the wrestling room one day and the soccer field the next. She is an outstanding grappler at 106 pounds and a solid soccer reserve for the Gunn girls' team.

Being a two-sport athlete is one thing, but doing it in the same season is another. That makes Lee a rarity in the already busy life of a high school student.

Cory Hatton of Sacred Heart Prep is believed to be the last local high school athlete to play two sports in the same season. He was a place-kicker on the Gators' football team in 2005 in addition to playing soccer, which in those days was played in the fall before moving to the winter a few years later.

(continued on page 34)



Butch Garcia

Gunn sophomore Cadence Lee (right) is keeping busy this winter not only wrestling, but playing on the girls' soccer team.



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Each year the Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund raises money to support programs serving families and children in the Palo Alto area. Since the Weekly and the Silicon Valley Community Foundation cover all the administrative costs, every dollar raised goes directly to support community programs through grants to non-profit organizations ranging from \$1,000 to \$25,000.

And with the generous support of matching grants from local foundations, including the Packard, Hewlett, Peery and Arrillaga foundations, your tax-deductible gift will be doubled in size. A donation of \$100 turns into \$200 with the foundation matching gifts.

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Head coach Dave Winn (far left) and his top-ranked Palo Alto girls' volleyball team received the Army National Guard national ranking trophy as part of the second annual MaxPreps Tour of Champions for Girls Volleyball.

Paly girls' volleyball honored once more

The greatest two-year period in Palo Alto girls' volleyball history came to an official end in the most appropriate way on Wednesday, with the Vikings receiving another award.

Palo Alto coach Dave Winn and his players were honored between the Paly-Gunn basketball games as the Vikings received the Army

National Guard national ranking trophy as part of the second annual MaxPreps Tour of Champions for Girls Volleyball.

Palo Alto was ranked No. 1 in the nation in the Freeman computerized rankings on MaxPreps after winning its second straight CIF Division I state championship while finishing 36-3. Palo Alto was one

of just six high schools nationwide being honored on the second annual girls' volleyball MaxPreps Tour of Champions. MaxPreps ranks more than 17,000 varsity high school girls' volleyball teams.

The Vikings went 77-4 during the past two seasons and put the volleyball program on the national map with top-10 national finishes each season. ■

Randle

(continued from page 31)

and beyond after watching such a performance.

"When I first saw Chasson, I thought he was a winner," said Dawkins, a point guard at Duke and in the NBA. "He comes from a winning culture. His team was terrific, and he led them."

"I also saw a young man who was very versatile in his play, whether it's being able to knock down a shot from outside, taking the ball to the basket or creating shots for himself or his teammates," Dawkins added. "He had that innate ability to make that play."

Randle scored a season-high 24 points for Stanford (3-1, 13-3 entering play against Utah on Thursday night), including a layup with 37 seconds left in the fourth overtime that provided the winning points.

"I was just trying to help my team win the game," Randle said. "Guys found me at the right spot, got me open looks and they went down."

Stanford, which played its longest game in program history, led 100-95 after Randle scored the first five points of the fourth overtime. The Cardinal never gave up the lead again.

"He is out there looking to make his teammates better," Dawkins said. "But at the same time, he has the ability to attack and create on his own as well. I think he adds another dimension to our team, and we're excited to have an opportunity to get him going."

The Cardinal is part of a pack of

Pac-12 honors for Ogwumike

Nemkadi Ogwumike scored more than 30 points in both of Stanford's victories last week. It was certainly welcomed in a 67-60 win over Oregon State, which followed a 93-70 win over Oregon two days previous.

No wonder Ogwumike was named Pac-12 Women's Basketball Player of the Week. She averaged 32.5 points and 15.5 rebounds while shooting 50 percent from the field.

Ogwumike also reached a pair of milestones over the weekend as she earned her third Player of the

teams residing at or near the top of the Pac-12 Conference following two weeks of play. Colorado (3-0, 11-4) was the lone unbeaten heading into its game at California on Thursday. The Buffaloes visit Stanford at 1 p.m. Saturday with first place likely at stake.

The Cardinal played Utah for the first time in nearly 15 years Thursday night and there are some observers who think Randle has the same kind of mettle Brevin Knight showed during his four years at Stanford.

Knight played his final collegiate game the last time Utah and Stanford met — in the Sweet 16 of the NCAA tournament on March 20, 1997 at the San Jose Arena. At the time, it was the most successful Stanford team since the NCAA championship team of 1942.

Mike Montgomery, who recruited Knight to Stanford from New Jersey, built his team around the guard

Week nod this season. She became the fourth player in Stanford history, eighth in Pac-12 history, to reach the 2,000-point and 1,000-rebound marks while recording her fourth and fifth 30-point games.

It is Ogwumike's seventh-career Player of the Week honor and Stanford's 81st all-time.

Ranked fourth in the nation in the Associated Press poll for the sixth-straight week, the Cardinal (4-0, 13-1) visited Utah on Thursday and will play at Colorado on Saturday. ■

and Knight led the Cardinal out of the shadows of one of its worst seasons in history and into the national spotlight.

Once again Stanford looks to rebound from a series of sub-par seasons to rekindle its NCAA tournament prospects and Randle could be the final piece of the puzzle.

Randle led his high school team to its first state title and graduated as the school's all-time leading scorer and top rebounder.

Randle also had a chance to formulate a relationship with his teammates during a six-game trip to Spain in September. He led the Cardinal in scoring with an 11-point average.

"He definitely gives us depth at the point-guard position," Dawkins said. "He's a young man that answers a few of our questions with regards to how we need to compete in the Pac-12." ■

Double duty

(continued from page 31)

While soccer and football are similar, wrestling and soccer are not.

"It is rare, but Cadence is rare," said Gunn wrestling coach Chris Horpel. "The only other time I heard of this (combination) was with Jason Welch, now wrestling for Northwestern. He was the goalkeeper on his championship soccer team (at Las Lomas High in Walnut Creek in 2008) and he also won three California state titles (in wrestling). He, too, was very impressive."

Welch was the nation's top high school wrestler in 2008. Lee, of course, is not in that category but she can hold her own on the wrestling mat.

At the Central Coast Section Girls' Wrestling Championships last season, Lee won four matches by pin to win her 16-person division despite being unseeded. She advanced to the inaugural CIF State Championships for girls and finished seventh. During the regular season, she was 5-0 in dual matches (mostly against boys) while helping the Titans win the SCVAL El Camino Division dual-meet title.

In a dual match against Palo Alto last week, Lee dominated her male opponent and won, 16-1. On Saturday, she finished second in the 106-pound division at the Bianchini Memorial Tournament in Cupertino. On Monday, she scored a goal in the Titans' 3-1 nonleague soccer win over Menlo School.

"The girls' soccer team needed a player and Cadence was game to try both," Horpel said. "Wrestling remains her priority, but she is attempting to do both."

Lee joined the Gunn soccer team shortly before winter break (in December).

"Coach Damian (Cohen) knew I played soccer since I tried out last year," said Lee, a former competitive club soccer player. "And, since the team was lacking players, he offered me the opportunity to participate. I'm extremely glad to be playing both sports."

Cadence sat down with her parents before finally deciding.

"My husband and I discussed the pros and cons with Cadence, but ultimately let her make the decision," said her mother, Emmie. "I don't think there was ever any doubt in her mind, but we wanted her to be aware that taking on two simultaneous varsity sports would not only be physically taxing, and carry with it an increased risk of injury, but would require her to be more efficient with her time in terms of schoolwork and music — she plays the oboe in the Gunn wind ensemble."

"The greatest challenge of participating in both wrestling and soccer is making sure I am able to prioritize and juggle all my other activities without becoming overloaded or stressed," said Lee. "Both my coaches and I have agreed that whenever two event conflict, wrestling will always take the top priority."

Cohen said he's fine with that,

especially in such an unusual situation.

"I don't think there are that many highly skilled wrestlers that are also excellent soccer players," Cohen said. "The trade-off is that she is first and foremost a wrestler. We are able to have her for a couple of practices and a handful of games, when such works with the wrestling schedule. In other words, she is a part-time soccer player and full-time wrestler."

"As a wrestler, she is scrappy. She hustles and will give everything she has. (In soccer) she has good vision, one-touch play, and isn't afraid to hold the ball, either."

When Lee is playing soccer, she fills in at either the midfield or forward spots. In wrestling, she's the team's No. 1 entrant at 106 pounds.

While wrestling takes place on Thursday (dual matches) and some Saturdays (tournaments) and soccer is Wednesday and Friday in most cases, the two sports do overlap.

"She cannot compete in all of our matches because she needs to meet weight heading into a wrestling meet," Cohen said. "Thus, timing is a factor."

Gunn hosted Palo Alto on Wednesday night in soccer, but Lee didn't play because the Titans' wrestling team hosted Cupertino on Thursday night. Friday is free for soccer (at Los Altos) because there is no wrestling tournament on Saturday.

"Yes, unfortunately I will have to miss all the soccer games that occur directly before a wrestling event," Lee said. "The running and conditioning in a soccer game is good for keeping my weight down, but I believe that it definitely tires out my leg muscles more than is preferred."

And, for anyone who has ever wrestled, leg strength is crucial.

Aside from one sport tiring for the other, Lee believes the two sports are very compatible for staying in shape.

"Soccer and wrestling are excellent cross-training for each other," she said. "Soccer requires plenty of running and general fitness while wrestling requires adequate strength and coordination, and I think that each sport prepares me for the other."

"I think it would be wonderful if I could participate in both sports in my next couple of years, if things work out," she said. "But, it all depends on if I am needed on the soccer team."

The Gunn girls' soccer team has 16 players listed on the current roster. Palo Alto and Menlo-Atherton, for example, each have 22. Even Castilleja, the smallest school in the area in terms of enrollment, has 18 players. Once the Titans have enough able bodies, Lee's two-sport status could vanish.

Thus, Lee will continue to juggle her sports and schedules as long as possible — even though friends can't believe what she's doing.

Said Lee: "Lots of people are amazed and almost everyone asks 'How do you do it?' But, I know that my family is proud of me for attempting to work things out and compete in both my favorite sports." ■



Cadence Lee

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Sports

PREP BASKETBALL

Another showdown for Paly

Viking girls put first place on the line against division co-leader Wilcox

by Keith Peters

The Palo Alto girls' basketball team made program history a season ago when it completed the first 12-0 campaign in the SCVAL De Anza Division.

Whether the Vikings can do it again will depend on the outcome of Friday's showdown with unbeaten Wilcox on the Chargers' floor at 6:15 p.m.

While Wilcox was just another opponent for Paly last season, the Chargers (2-0, 12-0) are more formidable with addition of 6-foot-3 transfer Joeseta Fatuesi from Presentation.

Fatuesi scored 25 points in a 58-50 win over Gunn last week and will provide Palo Alto (3-0, 10-2) with a real test on Friday.

"I think Wilcox will be a good challenge as you have to game plan for Joeseta, and that creates opportunities for her teammates," said Paly coach Scott Peters. "However, I like the fact that we have a number of players who can score on any night and I think that makes us tough to guard."

Gunn discovered how tough on Wednesday as Paly rolled to a 65-49 victory to remain tied for first place in the division.

The Vikings defeated the Titans (0-2, 6-5) three times last season and now have won four straight

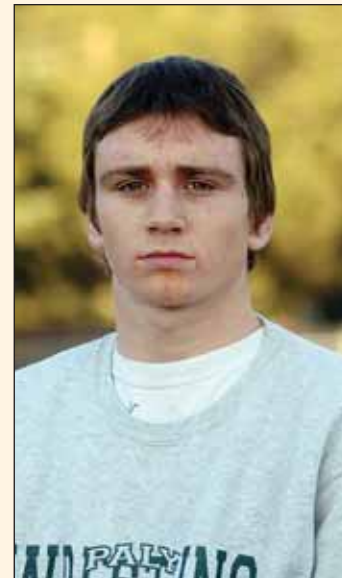
(continued on next page)

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



Lindsay Black
Palo Alto High

The senior guard scored 14 points and held Lynbrook's top scorer scoreless in the first half in a 47-42 basketball win before adding 14 points in a win over Mt. View to keep the Vikings tied for first place.



Nick Ortiz
Palo Alto High

The senior had a pin in the Vikings' 36-31 win over Gunn before winning three matches and beating the No. 1-ranked CCS wrestler for the 132-pound title at the Apple Cider Classic, earning lower-weight honors.

Honorable mention

Stephanie Allen*

Palo Alto basketball

Josie Butler

Palo Alto basketball

Drew Edelman*

Menlo basketball

Jennifer Kirst

Menlo-Atherton soccer

Lauren Lete

Menlo basketball

Tennyson Jellins

Menlo-Atherton basketball

E.J. Floreal

Palo Alto basketball

Richard Harris*

Menlo basketball

Chris Jin

Gunn wrestling

Cole McConnell

Sacred Heart Prep basketball

Isaac Polkinhorne

Sacred Heart Prep soccer

Bobby Roth

Menlo basketball

* previous winner

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

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Gunn boys' and girls' soccer teams pull off sweep of Paly

by Keith Peters

Palo Alto and Gunn played four times in two different sports on Wednesday, meeting in basketball and soccer. Thanks to the Titans' soccer squads, the two schools wound up with a split.

The Gunn boys' and girls' soccer teams evened the score with Palo Alto as the boys posted a 2-0 victory and the girls came away with a 3-1 triumph.

The Gunn boys continued Palo Alto's uncharacteristic poor season and improved to 2-0 in the SCVAL De Anza Division (5-2-2 overall) as Andriy Khrustalyoz and Mario Tepia provided the goals while Kevin Macario and David Alcazar contributed the assists as Paly fell to 0-3 (0-9-2).

At Gunn, the host Titans pasted a 3-1 defeat on the Paly girls as Ming Ming Liu scored twice and Sarah Robinson added another goal plus an assist as Gunn improved to 1-1 in league (5-5 overall) while Paly fell to 0-2-1 in league (2-4-3 overall).

Gunn's Natalie Perreault and Bella Harbert had their best games of the season on both sides of the ball while teammate Haleli Moalem added an assist on the first goal.

Lily Seedman provided Paly's goal.

Boys' soccer

Sacred Heart Prep strengthened its hold on first place in the West Bay Athletic League with a 5-0 victory over visiting Crystal Springs on Wednesday. The Gators improved to 4-0 in league (7-0-2 overall).

Juniors Willy Lamb and Brendan Spillane hooked up for the first goal with Lamb finishing. Sophomores Andrew Segre and Isaac Polkinhorne also scored in the first half, both off assists from junior Joe Callinan. Andrew Liotta made it 4-0 in the second half off an assist from Polkinhorne while senior Max Polkinhorne came out of goal to finish the scoring, thanks to an assist from his brother.

In Portola Valley, Menlo School

set the tone for a 3-0 victory over host Priory just three minutes into their WBAL match. The Knights (1-1-1, 4-1-3 overall) jumped out early with a clinical goal by junior Ryan Karle in the third minute of play off an assist from junior Max Parker. Karle and Parker connected again in similar fashion just over 30 minutes later to go into halftime up 2-0. With two minutes left to play, senior Lyall Cooper crossed to freshman Jackson Wagner, who neatly slotted home the final goal of the game.

In Redwood City, Menlo-Atherton and host Sequoia battled to a 2-2 deadlock in PAL Bay Division action. Tom Kaheli and Will Cabral tallied goals for the Bears (0-0-1, 5-0-2) with Edgardo Molina and Daniel Gil adding assists, respectively.

Girls' soccer

Priory remained unbeaten in the WBAL Foothill Division with a 4-1 victory over host Castilleja at the Mayfield Soccer Complex on Wednesday.

The Panthers (2-0 (5-2-2) got two goals from sophomore Caitlin Teoman and one each from sophomore Laura Wu and senior Darrah Shields, who also added a pair of assists. Molly Simpson also played a standout role along with Teoman.

Priory is playing without standout junior forward Mariana Galvan, who suffered a knee injury in the first match of the season and needed surgery. She also missed most of her freshman season with an injury.

In San Bruno, Sacred Heart Prep got four goals from four different contributors in a 4-0 victory over host Mercy-Burlingame in a WBAL Foothill Division match on Tuesday at Skyline College. The first, and deciding goal, came on a corner kick by the Gators' Alex Bourdillion that was knocked in by a Mercy player for an own goal in the first five minutes as SHP improved to 2-0 in league (4-2-3 overall). Sacred Heart Prep scored its first three goals in the first nine minutes of the match. ■



Gunn's Erin Robinson (6) and Paly's Lily Seedman each had goals.

Basketball

(continued from previous page)

against their rival.

"I was very happy with our energy and composure," said Peters, who said his team played its best game of the year.

Paly's defense and the inside presence of senior Emilee Osagiede proved to be the difference.

"More importantly, she showed great leadership with her energy and effort to lead the team to victory over a veteran Gunn team," Peters said.

Osagiede scored 11 of her team's 14 points in a decisive third quarter as the Vikings grabbed a 57-34 advantage that allowed Paly to coast to the finish line and have Peters get all his players some time on the court.

Osagiede also held Gunn scoring leader Cat Perez to just seven points over three quarters, including zero points in the crucial third period.

In a West Bay Athletic League (Foothill Division) opener on Tuesday, Sacred Heart Prep pulled off the shocker of the season by upsetting defending CIF State Division V champion Pinewood, 37-28. The Gators (1-0, 10-4) reportedly last beat the Panthers (0-1, 10-5) in 1997, a 55-52 victory in the Central Coast Section Division V title game.

Helen Gannon (12 points) and Meghan Holland (11) sparked the big victory with Melissa Holland adding 10 points. Kelly Doran led Pinewood with 12 points while teammate Leeana Bade pulled down 12 rebounds.

In San Jose, the one-two punch of Drew Edelman and Lauren Lete proved too much for host Notre Dame-San Jose as Menlo School posted a 67-60 overtime victory in the WBAL (Foothill Division) on Tuesday. Menlo (1-0, 10-4) outplayed Notre Dame in overtime, outscoring the Regents by 12-5.

The game was close the entire way as Notre Dame hit one three-pointer after another for a total of 14 treys. Lete finished with 20 points and six assists while Edelman had

30 points and 12 rebounds.

In Atherton, Menlo-Atherton continued its recent string of solid efforts with a 48-41 victory over Half Moon Bay in a PAL Bay Division opener. The Bears (1-0, 7-8) won their fourth straight as Tennyson Jellins tallied 14 points and grabbed 10 rebounds.

Boys' basketball

Palo Alto won its fifth straight over Gunn by running away with a 56-38 triumph in SCVAL De Anza Division action Wednesday. Senior Israel Hakim led the way with 17 points while juniors E.J. Floreal and Aubrey Dawkins combined for 22.

Palo Alto (2-1, 12-2) still trails first-place Mountain View by one game after the Spartans routed Los Gatos on Wednesday, 61-31.

In West Bay Athletic League action Tuesday, the gap between Sacred Heart Prep and Pinewood teams may be closer than most people believe after the host Panthers rallied to beat the Gators, 67-64, in a showdown that pitted defending Central Coast Section Division IV and V champions.

Defending league champ Sacred Heart Prep (2-1, 9-3) trailed after the first and second quarters, but overcome a six-point deficit with a 22-point third quarter to take a three-point lead into the final period before the Panthers (2-0, 11-1) rallied to maintain their hold on first place.

With Pinewood standout Solomon Wolfram on the bench after having fouled out with five minutes to play in the game and Pinewood down six points, the Panthers rallied behind 13 fourth-quarter points by senior Dante Fraioli, who finished with a game-high 23 points.

Pinewood will play for undisputed possession of first place on Friday against host Menlo School at 7:30 p.m.

The Knights (3-0, 10-3) set the stage for that showdown by holding off visiting Eastside Prep, 41-33, on Tuesday. Menlo fought off the Panthers' third-quarter charge as senior Jackson Dean ignited a late run for the Knights. ■



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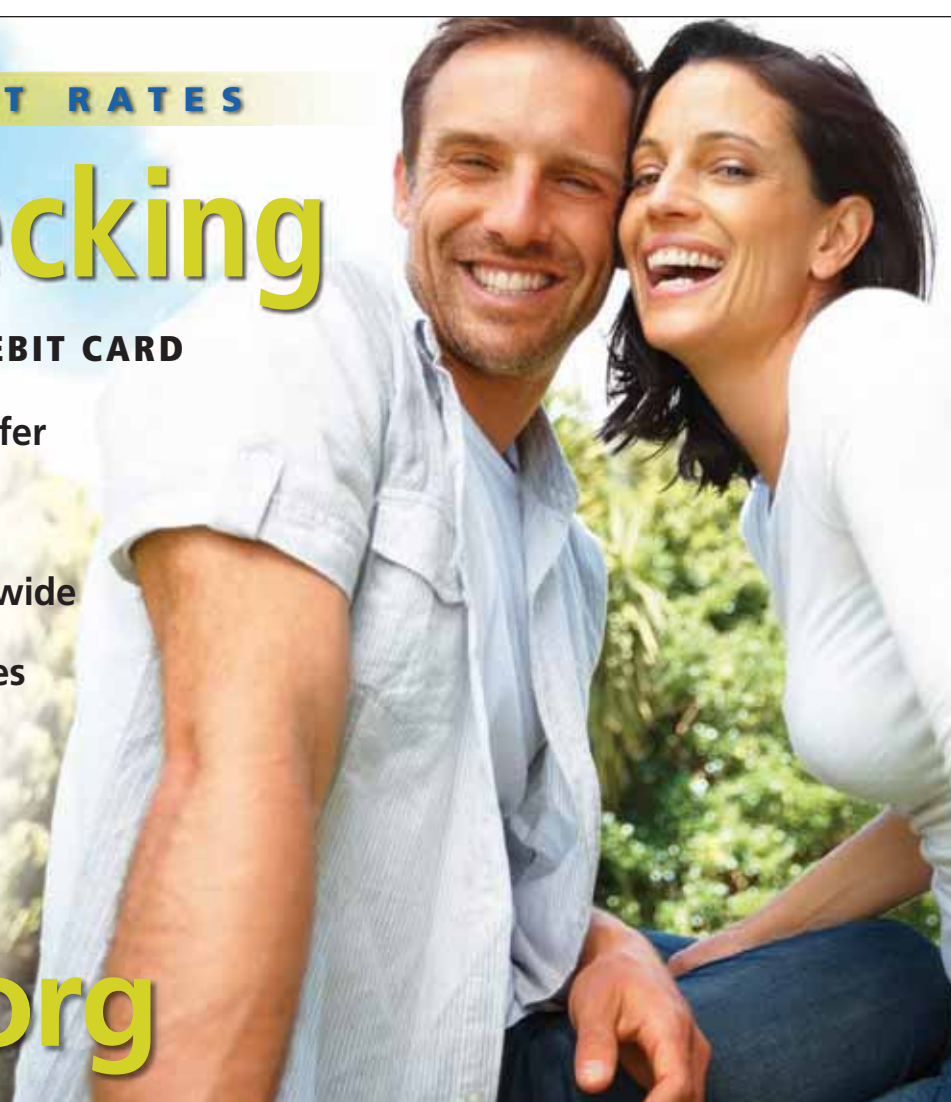
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Palo Alto's Teresa Noyola, flanked by senior teammate and runner-up Lindsay Taylor (left) and Stanford coach Paul Ratcliffe, was awarded the Hermann Trophy last week as the nation's best female college soccer player.

Joe Angeles

It's a fabulous finish for Noyola

Stanford senior and Palo Alto High grad wins Hermann Trophy as nation's top college female soccer player

by Dave Kiefer

The Stanford women's soccer team played itself into the history book in more ways than one this season, both on and off the field.

The final chapter was written last week when Stanford senior Teresa Noyola won the Missouri Athletic Club's Hermann Trophy on Friday, becoming the third Cardinal player in as many years to win college soccer's highest honor.

Noyola, a midfielder from Palo Alto High, was announced as the winner during a ceremony attended by the three finalists, including teammate Lindsay Taylor, the runner-up, and Penn State sophomore Maya Hayes. Duke forward Andrew Wenger captured the men's award.

"I had no idea what to expect," Noyola said. "I'm very proud, and L.T. was equally deserving. She's a class act - I already knew that. We were going to be happy for each other either way."

The Palo Alto native follows

former teammates Kelley O'Hara (2009) and Christen Press (2010) in creating an unprecedented achievement in the 24 years of the women's award. It marks the first time in its history that three different players from the same school have won the award in consecutive years.

Former youth teammates Noyola and Taylor, a Castilleja grad, were part of a Stanford senior class that went 95-4-4 over its four years, including 53-0-1 at home, and reached the NCAA College Cup four times, reaching three consecutive finals.

In her final match, Noyola provided the winning goal, on a far-post header in the 53rd minute, to beat Duke, 1-0, in Kennesaw, Ga., and provide Stanford with its first national championship.

Noyola has proceeded to capture an array of honors this season, earning the NSCAA Scholar-Athlete of the Year, the Honda Award, College Cup Offensive MVP, Pac-12 Scholar-Athlete of the Year, and her third NSCAA first-team All-America honor.

"It's nice to be acknowledged," Noyola said. "But it's hard to get individual awards when winning a national championship is really a team achievement."

Noyola, a math and computational science major who carried a 3.52 cumulative grade-point average into the fall quarter, becomes only the second female player to unite the Hermann and NSCAA Scholar-Athlete of the Year awards. The first was Portland's Christine Sinclair in 2005.

Noyola totaled 31 goals and 40 assists for 102 career points, placing her ninth of the school's all-time points list. She also finished one away from Press' records for assists in a career and season.

"You look at the list of players who have won this award, and it's really amazing," Noyola said of all-time greats such as Michelle Akers, Mia Hamm, and Kristine Lilly, as well as O'Hara and Press. "It's humbling to be a part of."

(Dave Kiefer is a member of the Stanford Sports Information Department)

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