

Palo Alto

# Weekly

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# Upfront

Local news, information and analysis

## Prop 13: The elephant is finally in the room

Social media, reform pleas, should make taboo talks possible, leader says

by Chris Kenrick

Calling California's tax system "broken," the head of the Silicon Valley Community Foundation called this week for a re-examination of Proposition 13 and other policies governing revenue that support public

services in the state.

With the rise of social media and "significant organizations" backing the need for reform, a public dialogue on the topic long considered politically untouchable is overdue, said Emmett Carson, CEO and pres-

ident of the foundation, which manages \$2 billion in charitable assets.

"The world changed" with the recession of 2008, and declines in assessed valuations mean public services, including education, are no longer supported in the way people have come to expect, he said.

"It's not working for us anymore. If you talk to county assessors, they'll tell you it's not working anymore."

Gov. Jerry Brown last year declined a challenge from Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa to seek reform of Proposition 13, saying he preferred to focus on restoring the state to financial stability.

Brown seeks a package on this November's ballot that would impose a temporary half-cent sales-tax increase plus an income-tax surcharge on earners of more than \$250,000, with proceeds being used

to pay down past bills.

The surcharge on high earners would be 1 percent for single filers earning more than \$250,000 a year; 1.5 percent on incomes over \$300,000 and 2 percent on incomes over \$500,000. The sales-tax bump would last four years and the income-tax surcharge five years.

Carson cited an economic analy-

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Veronica Weber

Adrienne Tamayo stands in the room she shares with her mom, Carmen Prieto, at the Ronald McDonald House in Palo Alto. Adrienne, who may be undergoing treatment at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital for a year, says what she misses most are her friends back home in Reno.

### LAND USE

## Ronald McDonald House eyes major expansion

As demand spikes, residence for families with seriously ill children looks to double its space

by Gennady Sheyner

On a typical day, 11-year-old Adrienne Tamayo takes classes, plays a video game that requires her to dance like Michael Jackson, crafts Shrinky Dinks or colorful picture frames, takes 12 types of medication and undergoes a three-hour-long dialysis session at the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital.

Like thousands of other children, the Reno, Nev., native came to Palo Alto for medical care. Last August, after suffering through recurring episodes of stomach pains and nausea, she was diagnosed with microscopic polyangiitis, a disease that attacked her immune system and

forced her kidneys to shrink. Adrienne needs a new kidney, but her immune system is currently too weak to accommodate a transplant. Since October, she and her mom, Carmen Prieto, have been constantly shuttling between the hospital and the nearby Ronald McDonald House, a home for children with life-threatening illnesses and their families. She could be here for another year.

Adrienne takes her situation in stride. She knows her way around the Ronald McDonald House and has made many friends here. Polite and precocious, she can describe in graphic terms how the human digestive system works

— a lesson she learned earlier in the day at a hospital-run school. She cheerfully displays Disney-themed accessories in the second-story suite she shares with her mom and leads a tour through the house's playroom and computer room. The only time she breaks down is when she's asked about her friends back home, whom she misses terribly. Her classmates from Reno had recently created a poster for her that includes pictures of each student and a message urging her to feel better.

Extended stays like Adrienne's were once a rarity at the Ronald

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### CITY HALL

## Report: Traffic issues top Palo Altans' concerns

Survey shows residents are highly satisfied with overall quality of life in the city

by Gennady Sheyner

Palo Alto residents are generally thrilled with their city's services and quality of life but remain concerned about traffic jams and a glaring shortage of housing that is affordable, according to an annual citizen survey just released by the City Auditor's Office.

The latest National Citizens Survey, compiled by the National Research Center Inc., and the International City/County Management Association, found that 92 percent of the respondents rated the city's quality of life "good" or "excellent" and that 94 percent gave these ratings when sizing up Palo Alto as "a place to live."

The numbers are similar to the 2010 results, when 94 percent and 95 percent, respectively, rated Palo Alto as "good" or "excellent" in these categories. In addition, 93 percent of the respondents said Palo Alto was a "good" or "excellent" place to raise children, despite a perceived shortage of affordable child care (only 35 percent gave "availability of affordable quality child care" in the city the two highest ratings). The city also scored far higher than benchmark cities when it came to cleanliness and natural environment.

The survey was released in conjunction with the Services Efforts and Accomplishments Report, a comprehensive annual report from the Office of the City Auditor that tracks trends and accomplishments in each department.

Though the survey reflects a high level of overall satisfaction with the city, it also indicates that residents are less pleased when it comes to transportation issues such as traffic, bus service and parking. Only 40 percent of respondents

gave the city the highest ratings for street repairs while 46 percent ranked the city's bus or transit services as "good" or "excellent," a similar rate as in 2010 but well below the 2006 rate of 56 percent. Residents' satisfaction with the amount of public parking has also slipped, with 54 percent giving this service a high ranking (down from 60 percent in 2010).

As in previous years, affordable housing remained a glaring weakness, with only 14 percent giving the city high marks for "availability of affordable housing" and only 37 percent expressing satisfaction with its "variety of housing options." And while residents love the "overall appearance of Palo Alto" (89 percent rated it "good" or "excellent"), they are somewhat skeptical when it comes to new developments. According to the survey, 57 percent of the respondents gave the highest ratings to the overall quality of the city's newest buildings.

Residents were more generous, however, when it came to assessing the city's role as an employment center. Palo Alto scored far above benchmark cities in every category pertaining to employment opportunities.

The survey showed 89 percent of the responders rating Palo Alto a "good" or "excellent" place to work. The city's "employment opportunities" received top marks from 56 percent of residents while its "shopping opportunities" were lauded by 71 percent.

But they were far less sanguine when it came to their own economic prospects in the near term. Only 12 percent said they expect the next six months to have a "some-

(continued on page 8)

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**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

“ We thought this thing was dead. ”

—Pat Burt, Palo Alto City Councilman, on the California High-Speed Rail Authority's revival of a plan for four train tracks along the Peninsula. See story on page 10.

**Around Town**

**A BANNER YEAR ...** Residents near downtown Palo Alto have long bemoaned the intrusion of downtown employees into their streets' parking spaces. Those in Professorville have been particularly vehement in calling for the city to create a residential parking-permit program that would set a time limit for nonresidents — an idea that the city is currently exploring. In the meantime, Palo Alto's traffic division is directing its energies toward a less controversial palliative — directing drivers to downtown garages, which a recent study found to be underused. Last month, Palo Alto installed 49 banners throughout downtown. Each banner displays the city's logo and helps drivers identify parking facilities. City Manager **James Keene** said the city also plans to develop complementary signage for the banners. Another solution that the city is pursuing is encouraging more biking. To that end, Palo Alto plans to install this week four “bike corrals” downtown. The corrals, each featuring parking spaces for 10 bikes, are slated to go up in front of **Form Fitness, Sancho's Taqueria, the California Pizza Kitchen and All Saints Episcopal Church.** The city's first such corral was installed last year in front of **Coupa Café** on Ramona Street.

**A TOUCHY SUBJECT ...** Palo Alto's quest to upgrade its massage regulations is hitting a nerve among local massage therapists, who are arguing they're being unfairly targeted. The proposed ordinance, which will be discussed Tuesday by the City Council's Policy and Services Committee, would require massage therapists to get one of two types of certification — either a permit from the city or a certificate from the **California Massage Therapy Council**, an organization formed by the state Legislature to regulate the industry. Palo Alto has 195 massage therapists, according to a report from police Lt. **April Wagner.** Of those, 111 are California Massage Therapy Council certified. The number of businesses without permits is particularly high around California Avenue, which has about 24 unregulated therapists. But while the city's ordinance aims to comply with state law, some therapists claim the city is pressing too hard. At a tense meeting in April, many cried foul about a logbook that the therapists would have to keep, listing all clients. After hearing these complaints, the

city revised its proposal and specified that the logbook would only be presented to the police through a court order. The proposed ordinance also requires non-certified applicants to obtain a criminal-history check and a fingerprint check from the Department of Justice. They would also have to undergo at least 200 hours of education from schools accredited by the Bureau of Private Post Secondary Education, an arm of the Department of Consumer Affairs. But many in the massage establishment remain concerned. **David Bertlesen**, owner of **Happy Feet**, claimed that his business (which according to Wagner's report he described as “reflexology” and “foot massage”) does not meet the legal definition of “massage.” His clients are fully clothed and his employees have no verifiable education in massage technique. Bertlesen alleged that they would leave if the new requirements were enacted. But because his business offers full-body massages (albeit, to fully clothed clients), the city maintains that Happy Feet would be required to meet the certification standards. Wagner claims in her report that the new ordinance is meant to “ensure that those who offer massage services are qualified, trained, and conduct their work in a lawful and professional manner. ... Persons who choose to patronize the therapists within Palo Alto can have confidence that the therapists have successfully met standardized qualifications,” she wrote.

**HOUSE OF NATURE ...** After falling into disrepair and, to some extent, into the San Francisco Bay, the old **Sea Scout Building** has a new lease on life and will likely soon have a new name. The group **Environmental Volunteers** had spent three years going through an exhaustive planning process to rehabilitate the building, a project that required permits from 15 different agencies, according to Community Services Director **Greg Betts.** The rehabilitation of the Birge Clark-designed building kicked off 2008 and was recently completed. Now, to recognize the group's accomplishment, the city is considering renaming the building in the Baylands Nature Preserve as the “Environmental Volunteers EcoCenter.” The new nature center, according to Betts, “will complement the good works of the Lucy Evans Interpretive Center” and will offer “a new community resource for environmental education.” ■

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## EDUCATION

## School libraries embrace digital age

Even with iPads and videos, the demand for printed page remains strong

by Chris Kenrick

Students at Gunn High School recently used the “green screen” (for digital backgrounds) in the school library to make a video of themselves disguised as cells moving through a human body.

In the Palo Alto High School library, teens scrawled their remembrances of Steve Jobs on a chalkboard wall when the tech icon died four months ago.

As technology spawns a profusion of student options for researching and completing school projects, Palo Alto’s two high school libraries have remade themselves into gathering spots not just for reading and researching but for watching, playing and creating.

“There’s a trend in libraries as a place, or space, not just to read books but to do whatever you wish — from writing the great American novel to disguising yourself as a cancer cell,” Gunn librarian Meg Omainsky said.

While still managing collections of more than 10,000 physical books each, Omainsky and her Paly counterpart, Rachel Kellerman, have become purveyors and curators of technology to students, who arrive with varying degrees of sophistication.

“In Silicon Valley there’s this view that everybody’s got tablets, everybody’s got technology, and since kids are so facile they don’t need any guidance,” Kellerman said.

“But spending so much money on technology, which is just a tool, is like giving a kid a car without driving lessons. They need help to navigate.

“We want to find kids where they are, and a lot of them are online.”

Both librarians offer lessons on how to access academic databases and publications the schools subscribe to, such as the New York Times and Wall Street Journal.

Palo Alto schools were equipped for wireless coverage in 2010, but Kellerman said she sees fewer laptops on campus than she expected.

“Kids use their phones a lot, and I’ve seen more tablets. I sense when they bring computers to school there’s a security issue and a heaviness issue,” she said.

She also sees evidence that not all Palo Alto teens have the latest electronic gadget.

“We see tons of kids who don’t have a device at home, don’t have a robust computer at home,” she said.

“We see them because they come in at 7:15 in the morning to get their work done, either because they don’t have computers at home or they need a place where there are fewer distractions.”

At Gunn, Omainsky has 48 laptops and 16 Flip video cameras available to students for two-hour checkout — and laptops are taken out about 200 times a day, she said.

She goes out of her way to make exceptions to the two-hour rule.

“My main priority is to meet the needs of the student, so if a kid needs Photoshop for a project but doesn’t have it at home, they can take a laptop home for the weekend,” she said.

As for iPads, she’s experimented with checking them out but usually keeps them on a cart for teachers to use with individual classes, either in the library or in classrooms.

The schools recently launched the “PAUSD Download Library,” which allows students access to a collection of 600 books that can be downloaded on nearly any device — laptops, tablets or mobile phones.

But the printed page remains in strong demand, the librarians said.

“Since the beginning of the school year, each of our libraries have checked out 10,000 books, and that doesn’t include technol-

ogy,” Omainsky said.

At Paly, Kellerman believes younger students in particular “need a physical book,” and she makes a point of supporting the freshman and sophomore history, English and science curricula with multiple copies of printed research material.

Omainsky, having visited Stanford University’s Institute of Design (d.school), is enamored with the notion of the library as an “idea lab” — modeled after the d.school philosophy that “creativity follows context.”

She recently condensed some stacks to clear a small open space in Gunn’s library, furnishing it with round red tables of adjustable height, rolling stools and a floor-to-ceiling whiteboard, where kids can communally solve math puzzles or pen quotes from upcoming school plays.

For students who want or need absolute quiet, she equipped a side room with study carrels behind a closed door.

Paly’s giant library chalkboard was installed last fall at the suggestion of a parent who works at Google, where whiteboards are ubiquitous.

During pre-finals dead week last month, Kellerman extended library hours until 8 p.m. and served food, attracting 80 to 100 students.

At Gunn every week, Omainsky convenes “TED Tuesdays” during lunch hour, drawing as many as 180 students to the library to watch reruns of old TED videos.

“Libraries are intellectual spaces, but they’re also community spaces where kids can come together to get construction paper, a Post-it note, a textbook or enjoy a laugh together,” Kellerman said. ■

**Staff Writer Chris Kenrick can be emailed at [ckenrick@paweekly.com](mailto:ckenrick@paweekly.com).**

## EDUCATION

## High schools set policies on electronic devices

It’s a ‘whole new world’ for students, principals say

Students at Palo Alto High School are encouraged “to use and bring their (electronic) devices” to school, Principal Phil Winston said.

“There is a general policy about electronic equipment that says you can have it on campus as long as it is not distracting or interfering with learning,” Winston said.

“With the rapid pace of technology, this is a policy we are hoping to revisit and adjust to what students’ worlds are like.”

The school has roughly 100 iP-

ads available for student use, and Winston estimated that about 100 of Paly’s 1,900 students bring their own laptops or iPads to campus.

“I would say that upwards of 95 to 98 percent of students have a device that allows them to access our wireless network or cell data towers,” Winston said.

At Gunn High School, Principal Katya Villalobos said, “Students are allowed to use the laptops, etc., for educational purposes in class and can sign on to students’ wireless (network) for the day.”

Students may bring phones to school, but “they are inappropriate in the classroom,” Villalobos said. Violators have their phones confiscated and sent to the office, where students can pick them up at the end of the day, she said.

“We have many teachers that incorporate students’ devices to access the Internet and get information in class. It is a whole new world — actually it is our students’ world — (of) consuming and producing information,” Villalobos said. ■

— **Chris Kenrick**



Tyler Hanley

The Fresh Market, a European-style specialty market, will soon replace the old Lucky/Albertsons at the renewed Edgewood Plaza Shopping Center.

## BUSINESS

## The Fresh Market coming to Edgewood Plaza

Palo Alto grocery store will be company’s first on the West Coast

by Sue Dremann

The Fresh Market, a North Carolina-based, European-style specialty market will open its first West Coast store at Edgewood Plaza Shopping Center in Palo Alto, a source close to the deal told the Palo Alto Weekly last Friday, Feb. 3.

Developer John Tze of Sand Hill Property Company notified the city’s Architectural Review Board on Feb. 1 by letter that the company had signed a long-term lease with a grocer “who is highly desired by our neighbors.” The property is located at 2080 Channing Ave., near U.S. Highway 101.

“Edgewood will be their first Bay Area location before expanding throughout California,” Tze wrote. He did not name the grocer, but during previous interviews he said it came down to two companies: Fresh and Easy and The Fresh Market. He did not return a phone call asking which market had signed the lease.

Fresh and Easy has already expanded in the Bay Area and recently opened a store in Mountain View. But The Fresh Market has no stores in California.

The company has 124 markets either open or under construction in 21 states. The westernmost site it has announced is in Tulsa, Okla. However, company officials visited Edgewood Plaza last April, eyeing it as the possible launch site for its West Coast group of stores.

The Fresh Market was started by Ray and Beverly Berry in Greensboro, N.C., in 1982. The couple wanted to build a quality grocery store with the ambiance of an open European market.

The stores are service oriented and offer loose fresh produce, freshly roasted coffee, an old-style butcher shop and fish market, produce and floral stands, a delicatessen, a bakery and classical music, according to the company website.

Jordan Worrall, public-relations representative for Fresh Market, said she could not comment on the store coming to California, since

the company has not yet made an announcement.

Damon Scholl, Cornish & Carey Commercial broker for Edgewood Plaza, also said he could not comment on which store had signed the lease. And some residents who are in communication with the developer said they are sworn to secrecy.

But a source who asked to remain anonymous confirmed that The Fresh Market is the lessee. The grocer will occupy the old 20,100 square-foot Lucky Stores/Albertsons building, which is being renovated.

Lucky Store was built at the historic Eichler shopping center in 1957. The store eventually changed ownership and became an Albertsons, which closed in August 2006. Without an anchor store, the shopping center became defunct.

Crescent Park resident Susie Hwang started weekly food-truck events called “Edgewood Eats” in August 2010 to draw attention to residential enthusiasm for revitalizing the center and to help lure a potential grocer.

She said she could not comment on which company had signed the lease but said she and Sand Hill are trying to figure out what will happen to Edgewood Eats during construction.

The grocer anticipates opening by Thanksgiving, Tze wrote to the Architectural Review Board. Scholl said Tze “is talking to a handful of great tenants” to bring to Edgewood, exploring retailers from coffee and pet stores to financial services. ■

**Staff Writer Sue Dremann can be emailed at [sdremann@paweekly.com](mailto:sdremann@paweekly.com).**



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People are talking about The Fresh Market and its potential impact on Palo Alto. Join the conversation on Town Square, the online discussion forum, by going to [PaloAltoOnline.com](http://PaloAltoOnline.com) and searching for “Fresh Market.”

COMMUNITY

# Avenidas announces Lifetimes of Achievement honorees

Six local seniors honored for work in the community

by Eric Van Susteren

**P**alo Alto nonprofit organization Avenidas Inc. recognized six seniors for their community contributions by naming them Lifetimes of Achievement honorees during a private reception on Thursday, Feb. 9.

Jean Coblentz of Sunnyvale,

Bill Floyd of Portola Valley, Phyllis Moldaw of Atherton, Kenneth Sletten of Woodside, and Boyd Smith and Jill Johnson Smith of Palo Alto received recognition at the reception at Garden Court Hotel.

Each year, Avenidas, a senior-services organization, recognizes

members of the community who are older than 65 as Lifetimes of Achievement honorees for their work as philanthropists, community leaders and fundraisers.

"It is a thrill for Avenidas to shine the spotlight on this group and give them the recognition they deserve," Avenidas CEO Lisa Hendrickson stated in an announcement.

Honoree Jean Coblentz's community involvement goes back to 1953, when she co-founded the board for Stanford University's Cap and Gown Women Leaders Honors Society. Coblentz has been a volunteer and officer of the Allied Arts Guild Auxiliary in Menlo Park and raised money for what became Packard Children's Hospital.

She is chair of the Auxiliary's Development Committee and a development officer at Stanford for 27 years, where she served two terms with Associates of Stanford Libraries.

Bill Floyd's community efforts range in scale from local to statewide. He has chaired and served on many nonprofits' boards, including Lytton Gardens, Community Housing Inc., YMCA of the Mid-Peninsula, Children's Health Council and Avenidas.

He has been a member of Yosemite Conservancy Board since 1993, a UC Berkeley Foundation trustee since 1994, and chair of the Berkeley Engineering Fund Board since 1996.

Phyllis Moldaw financially supports and participates in charitable and community organizations, particularly those focusing on the underprivileged and underserved. She was a lead donor for the Moldaw-Zafaroni clubhouse of the Menlo Park Boys and Girls Club, a lead donor and board member of Moldaw Fam-



Veronica Weber

## Grand opening set for the Tree House

The Tree House apartments at 488 West Charleston Road in Palo Alto is the newest low-income facility built by the Palo Alto Housing Corporation. The grand opening is set for Wednesday, Feb. 15, from 4 to 6 p.m. Read the article online at [www.paloaltoonline.com](http://www.paloaltoonline.com).

ily Residences at Palo Alto's Taubekoret Campus for Jewish Life, and a significant supporter of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

She also participated in Communities in Schools, a national network that serves the lowest performing schools. She is a former president and current trustee of the Contemporary Jewish Museum in San Francisco.

Ken Sletten was a partner, founder and CEO of the general contracting firm Rudolph & Sletten, known for its construction of such projects as the Monterey Bay Aquarium, Lucile Packard Children's Hospital and Skywalker Ranch.

He serves on the boards of Habitat for Humanity, Stanford

Athletics, the Stanford University DAPER Investment Fund and the Palo Alto Club.

Boyd Smith and Jill Johnson Smith founded the Golden Gate Family Foundation and co-founded the California Family Foundation. At Stanford, they co-endowed the Housing Assistance Program for families (Escondido Family Fund), the Martin Luther King Jr. Centennial Professorship Chair and Martin Luther King Jr. student scholarships. They both served on the advisory board of Stanford's Center for the Study of Families, Children and Youth.

Boyd Smith has chaired the boards of the YMCA of the Mid-Peninsula, Avenidas, Silicon Valley Community Foundation and Children's Health Council. He was on the Board of Governors of Stanford Associates, currently serves on Stanford's Hoover Institution Board of Overseers, and is a member of the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Foundation board. Jill Johnson Smith has been on the board of RoadRunners at El Camino Hospital.

Avenidas will also host a garden party on Sunday, May 20, from 3 to 5 p.m. along with its community partners, the Palo Alto Weekly and Palo Alto Online. Proceeds from the garden party help fund the programs offered at Avenidas. Tickets can be purchased for \$75 by contacting Avenidas at 650-289-5445 or [www.avenidas.org](http://www.avenidas.org).

Editorial Assistant Eric Van Susteren can be emailed at [evansusteren@paweekly.com](mailto:evansusteren@paweekly.com).



### PALO ALTO CITY COUNCIL

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

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

### (TENTATIVE) AGENDA-SPECIAL MEETING

#### COUNCIL CHAMBERS

FEBRUARY 13, 2012 - 5:30 PM

1. CLOSED SESSION: Labor
2. CLOSED SESSION: High Speed Rail

#### CONSENT

3. Adoption of a Resolution Approving the Execution of Master Renewable Energy Certificates Purchase and Sale Agreement with the Thirteen Suppliers at an Annual Expenditure Not Exceeding \$1,500,000 During Calendar Years 2012 - 2016
4. Adoption of a Resolution Naming the Former Sea Scout Building at the Palo Alto Baylands Nature Preserve as the "Environmental Volunteers EcoCenter"
5. Approval of a Contract with Royston Hanamoto Alley and Abey (RHAA) in the Amount of \$208,253 for Magical Bridge Playground Design CIP- PE-12013
6. Approval of Contract with Verde Design, Inc. in the amount of \$150,000 for Rinconada Park Master Plan Project CIP PE-12003
7. Approval of Contract with One Workplace, in the amount of \$632,147.85 for Standard Furniture for the Mitchell Park Library and Community Center
8. Approval of Contract with Geodesy in the amount of \$230,692 for development and maintenance support services for the City's Geographic Information System software(IT)
9. Approval for the City Manager to Enter Into an Agreement with the Cities of Mountain View and Los Altos to Purchase Public Safety Systems Technology, Including Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD), Police Records Management (RMS), and In-Vehicle Mobile and Reporting Applications for Police and Fire

#### ACTION

10. Public Hearing: Incorporation of the Revised Draft East Meadow Circle/Fabian Way Area Concept Plan into the Draft Comprehensive Plan. Recommendation: The Planning and Transportation Commission and staff recommend that the City Council incorporate the Revised Draft East Meadow Circle/Fabian Way Area Concept Plan into the Draft Comprehensive Plan.
11. Request For Approval Of Resolutions Authorizing The Refunding Of The 2002 University Avenue Off-Street Parking Assessment District Limited Obligation Improvement Bonds
12. Public Hearing: 50 El Camino (Ronald McDonald House Expansion) Zone Change and Comp. Plan Amendment

#### STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Policy & Services Committee meeting will be held on February 14 at 6:00 PM. regarding; 1) Massage Ordinance Revision, 2) Labor Guiding Principles.

The City School Committee meeting will be held on February 16 at 8:15 AM in the Council Conference Room.

## Public Agenda

### A preview of Palo Alto government meetings next week

**CITY COUNCIL ...** The council plans to hold a closed session to discuss labor negotiations pending litigation relating to high-speed rail. The council also plans to discuss the draft concept plan for the East Meadow Circle/Fabian Way area and hold a hearing on the proposed expansion of the Ronald McDonald House. The closed session will begin at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 13. Regular meeting will follow in the Council Chambers at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

**BOARD OF EDUCATION ...** The board is expected to hear updates about homework policy and information technology. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 14, in the board room of school district headquarters (25 Churchill Ave.).

**PUBLIC ART COMMISSION ...** The commission plans to discuss a teen mural by the Gunn High School National Honors Arts Society, the Artist in Residence Program, maintenance of city collection and artwork for Hoover Park. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 14, in the Council Conference Room at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

**COUNCIL POLICY AND SERVICES COMMITTEE ...** The committee plans to discuss proposed changes to the city's massage ordinance and the city's labor-guiding principles. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 14, in the Council Conference Room at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

**HISTORIC RESOURCES BOARD ...** The board plans to discuss 509 Hale St., a request for roof fenestrations and landscape additions to a Category 2 building. The meeting will begin at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 15, in the Council Chambers at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

**ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD ...** The board plans to discuss 180 Hamilton Ave., a proposal for exterior renovation to Casa Olga and Joie de Vivre Hospitality; and 180 El Camino Real, a proposal for a "glass windscreen" sign for Yucca de Lac at Stanford Shopping Center. The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 16, in the Council Chambers at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

**RAIL CORRIDOR 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, Feb. 16, at the Palo Alto Lawn Bowls (474 Embarcadero Road).

#### Correction

A Feb. 3 story on charitable foundations stated that the Hewlett Foundation distributed \$213 million in 2011 and \$748 million in 2008. Rather, the foundation awarded — as opposed to distributed or disbursed — \$203 million and \$748 million respectively. The foundation awarded \$483 million, not \$427 million, in 2007; and \$785 million in 2008, including \$497 million, not \$481.5 million, to the Climate Works Foundation. Its peak endowment was \$9.3 billion, not \$9.2 billion, which dropped to \$6.3 billion in 2008. The article's figures had been drawn from the foundation's annual report. To request a correction, contact Editor Jocelyn Dong at 650-223-6514, [jdong@paweekly.com](mailto:jdong@paweekly.com) or P.O. Box 1610, Palo Alto, CA 94302.

## McDonald House

(continued from page 3)

McDonald House, a peach-and-blue facility on Sand Hill Road, across the street from the Stanford Shopping Center. As recently as in 2003, the average stay at the house was six nights, said Linda Lyon, the facility's development director. But recent technical advances brought about new treatment options, which means more patients and longer stays. Last year, the average stay was 24 nights, Lyon said.

"Treatment has grown by leaps and bounds," Lyon said. "We're seeing amazing advancement, but families have to be close to the hospitals to get this done."

The new treatment options have pushed the demand at the Ronald McDonald House to new heights. When the Palo Alto house was built in 1979, becoming the fifth such facility in the nation, it featured 13 rooms. The number was expanded to 24 in 1992 and to the present level of 47 in 2003. Demand is expected to further accelerate in the coming years as the Children's Hospital embarks on a major expansion — one that would raise the number of patient beds from 257 to 361.

To cope with the rising demand, the Ronald McDonald House is planning its most ambitious expansion yet — a three-story, 46,000-square-foot addition that would effectively double its space and add 68 guest rooms. Stanford University is pro-

viding land, currently a vacant, grassy plot, adjacent to the current one at 520 Sand Hill Road. The two buildings would share some services, and officials expect to achieve savings through economy of scale. Bern Beecham, a former Palo Alto mayor who volunteers at the Ronald McDonald House and serves on its board of directors, said the new facility would also draw on lessons from previous expansions when it comes to room arrangements.

"Every time we do something, we learn what works for the patients and what works for the House," Beecham said.

The City Council will get its first look at the expansion plan on Feb. 13. The city would have to rezone the property to allow the project to be built.

With 15 employees and an annual budget of \$3.2 million, the house greatly depends on volunteer support (despite its name, only 6 percent of its funding actually comes from McDonald's). More than 150 people volunteer here every week and scores of local restaurants, shops and professionals donate food, linens and services such as haircuts and massages. Volunteers at the front desk tend to be Palo Alto residents who can guide families to local attractions, Lyon said.

When they first arrived in Palo Alto, Prieto and her husband, Fernando Tamayo, had to share a small couch at the Children's Hospital for three weeks while Adrienne underwent treatment. They later stayed

at hotels in Sunnyvale and Mountain View before getting a spot at the Ronald McDonald House. One hotel, Prieto recalled, was noisy, messy and malodorous. It had no curtains and its doors had at least three locks — hardly a reassuring sign. People were constantly drinking outside and the atmosphere was "scary," Prieto said.

The family was relieved when they got the call from the Ronald McDonald House notifying them that a room was available. When they arrived at the facility, they encountered welcoming smiles at the front desk, Prieto said.

The facility offers its patients a generous menu of diversions, including playrooms with board games and video games, a library and several television rooms (patients' rooms don't have televisions). On a recent afternoon, a small squadron of friendly dogs pranced through the lobby and a man dressed as a clown and holding balloons walked out of the elevator. In the Maya Wing, several doors from Adrienne's suite, a group of children dressed in costumes giggled in an improvised photo studio while a photographer snapped away.

Occasionally, famous visitors stop by. The Dalai Lama visited the Ronald McDonald House, as did members of the San Francisco 49ers.

The facility tries to encourage socializing by holding activities immediately after dinner and by restricting televisions to communal rooms. Families get to know each other,

and parents often ask one another about status updates of children. Prieto said the social aspect makes it easier for her to deal with an otherwise stressful situation. Knowing about what other families are going through helps put her and Adrienne's experiences in perspective.

Adrienne's positive outlook also

helps, Prieto said.

"She teaches me a lot and she forces me to be strong," Prieto said. "She would say, 'Mom, I'm OK. Something is broken and I'm here to get it fixed, but I'll be fine.'" ■

Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner can be emailed at [gsheyner@paweekly.com](mailto:gsheyner@paweekly.com).

# CityView

A round-up of Palo Alto government action this week

### City Council (Feb. 6)

**Compost:** The council authorized a study to create a process and timeline for evaluation of a waste-to-energy facility in the Baylands and approved a contract for design work relating to the capping of the landfill at Byxbee Park. **Yes:** Burt, Espinosa, Holman, Klein, Scharff, Schmid, Shepherd, Yeh **Absent:** Price

### Council Finance Committee (Feb. 7)

**Feed-in tariff:** The committee recommended approval of a new feed-in tariff program for renewable energy. The program would be called Palo Alto Clean Local Energy Accessible Now (CLEAN). **Yes:** Burt, Scharff, Shepherd **Absent:** Price

### Planning and Transportation Commission (Feb. 8)

**2585 East Bayshore Road:** The commission approved a proposal to convert a research-and-development building at 2585 East Bayshore Road into a daycare center. **Yes:** Fineberg, Garber, Keller, Martinez, Michael, Tuma **Absent:** Tanaka

### Council Rail Committee (Feb. 9)

**Legislation:** The committee directed staff to draft a letter in support of Senate Bill 985, which would bar the state from spending any more bond money on high-speed rail. **Yes:** Unanimous

**Revised EIR:** The committee discussed the revised program-level Environmental Impact Report for the Bay Area-to-Central Valley segment of the rail line with its environmental consultant and Sacramento lobbyist. **Action:** None

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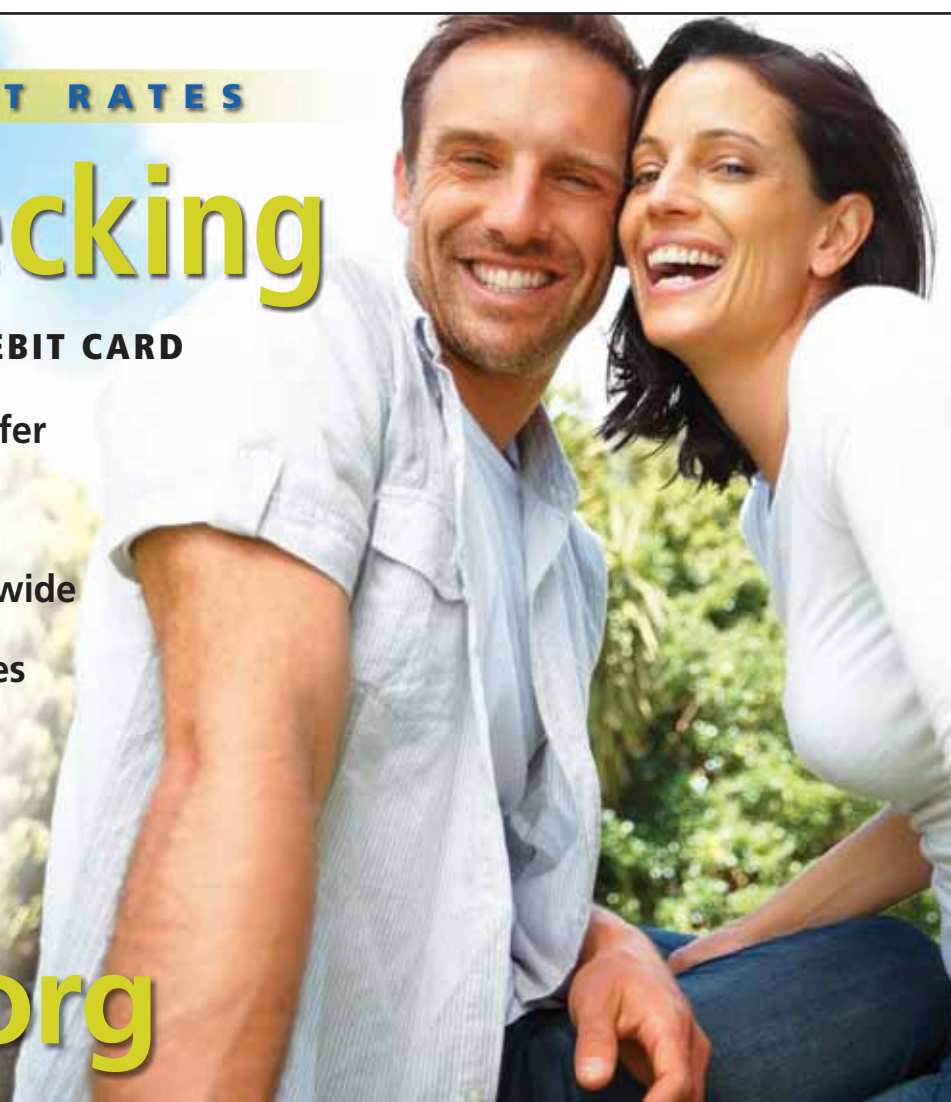
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**Report card**

(continued from page 3)

what” or “very” positive economic impact on their families, far below the percentage in benchmark jurisdictions.

Palo Alto residents also indicated in the survey that they feel extremely safe in their city, particularly during the day. The survey showed 98 percent of responders saying they feel “very” or “some-what” safe in their neighborhoods during the day (and 83 percent after dark). Downtown Palo Alto also received mostly high marks

**Percent of Palo Altans responding “excellent” or “good” when rating services provided by local, state and federal governments**

	2011	2008	2003
City of Palo Alto	83	85	87
Santa Clara County	45	54	N/A
State of California	26	34	31
United States	41	33	32

Source: The National Citizen Survey, 2011

for safety, with 91 percent saying they feel safe there during the day, although just 65 percent said they

feel safe there after dark. The survey also indicated that Palo Alto residents generally feel

they’re getting their money’s worth from the local government. Two-thirds of the respondents gave the city “good” or “excellent” marks when asked to assess the “value of services for the taxes paid to Palo Alto” and 92 percent gave high marks to the “overall image or reputation” of the city.

Furthermore, 83 percent gave the highest ratings to “services provided by City of Palo Alto.” By comparison, federal, state and county governments received high marks from only 41 percent, 26 percent and 45 percent of respondents, respectively.

The survey also identified those

services that most closely correlate to residents’ overall perception of local government. In 2011, these were: public-library services, police services, public schools, preservation of natural areas, traffic-signal timing and city parks.

The report can be read online at [www.CityofPaloAlto.org](http://www.CityofPaloAlto.org) by searching for “Service Efforts and Accomplishments.” ■

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## News Digest

### Judge dismisses California Avenue challenge

Palo Alto can proceed with its ambitious plan to reduce the number of lanes on California Avenue from four to two and add a host of streetscape improvements despite opposition from several area merchants, a Santa Clara County Superior Court judge has ruled.

The plan for the commercial stretch was challenged by resident Joy Ogawa and by Terry Shuchat, owner of camera store Keeble & Shuchat on California. Ogawa and Shuchat had argued in their lawsuit that the city had violated state law by committing to the lane reduction before approving an environmental analysis for the project.

In November, Judge Patricia Lucas ruled the city had made a procedural error in approving its environmental clearance and grant application for the \$1.8 million project, which would be funded by a \$1.2 California Massage Therapy Council grant and a \$550,000 city contribution. To comply with Lucas' ruling, the City Council rescinded its earlier approvals and approved the documents again, this time in the proper order.

On Friday, Feb. 3, Lucas dismissed the case.

The legal victory could help Palo Alto overcome another, similar lawsuit to the California Avenue plan by Robert Davidson of California Paint Company. Lucas is scheduled to hear the Davidson case Thursday, Feb. 16. ■

— Gennady Sheyner

### Palo Alto ponders next steps for compost plant

A decision by Palo Alto residents in November to make a portion of Byxbee Park available for a new compost plant is forcing city officials to walk a fine line between two competing goals — respecting the will of the voters and honoring its commitment to reopen the park to the public.

In its first vote on the deeply polarizing topic since Election Day, the City Council decided Monday, Feb. 6, to tread cautiously and directed staff and consultants to create a timeline for evaluating the proposed composting facility. Measure E, which allows the city to use 10 acres of previously dedicated parkland for a such a facility, had passed with 64 percent of the vote.

The measure did not authorize construction of a compost plant, though.

The council also authorized a separate contract for work pertaining to capping of the Byxbee Park landfill and agreed to delay the capping of a 51-acre portion of the site for a year. ■

— Gennady Sheyner

### Plan for four-track rail system draws ire

A new analysis by the California High-Speed Rail Authority calling for a four-track rail system between the Bay Area and Central Valley has set off a fresh wave of criticism from officials in Palo Alto and surrounding cities, with many calling the latest document a betrayal of the rail authority's earlier promises.

The rail authority last month released a revised Environmental Impact Report (EIR) describing its vision for the Bay Area-to-Central Valley portion of the San Francisco-to-Los Angeles line. For many, the most surprising aspect of the document is its description of the line as a four-track system on the Caltrain corridor — a design that would require the adjacent Alma Street in Palo Alto to shrink by one traffic lane.

Palo Alto officials and Peninsula legislators had lobbied the rail authority to consider a "blended" system in which Caltrain and high-speed rail would share two tracks on the Peninsula. A reference to this blended approach, spearheaded by state Sen. Joe Simitian, D-Palo Alto, U.S. Rep. Anna Eshoo, D-Palo Alto, and Assemblyman Rich Gordon, D-Menlo Park, was included in the rail authority's 2011 business plan, much to the delight of the legislators and many of their constituents.

But the revised program EIR (which is broader than the segment-specific project EIR) appears to adhere to the original, highly controversial vision — a four-track system through the Pacheco Pass. Its plan, the document states, "anticipates the local Caltrain and freight trains travel predominantly on the outside two tracks and the high-speed trains and express Caltrain to travel predominantly on the two inside tracks."

"However, depending on additional operational study related to integration of the HST with existing passenger and freight services, any of these train services could potentially run on the tracks placed on the outer portion of the newly expanded right-of-way," the revised EIR states. "This would result in trains, including freight, running closer to existing homes, schools and other noise-sensitive land uses."

On Thursday, Feb. 9, the Palo Alto City Council Rail Committee also came out swinging against the document, which member Pat Burt said abandons the blended approach. Deputy City Manager Steve Emslie called the authority's new position "duplicious at best."

"We're back where we were a year ago on this, and we thought this thing was dead," Burt said.

The city plans to submit a letter opposing the four-track system. The rail committee also on Thursday endorsed proposed legislation, Senate Bill 985, that would bar further expenditure of bond proceeds for high-speed rail. ■

— Gennady Sheyner

# 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](http://www.PaloAltoOnline.com/news) or click on "News" in the left, green column.

## Stanford raises \$6.2B in 'transformative' campaign

Stanford University raised \$6.2 billion in a five-year fundraising campaign that ended in October, the university announced Wednesday, Feb. 8. (Posted Feb. 9 at 9:24 a.m.)

## Video: A conversation with Jeremy Lin

Jeremy Lin, a Palo Alto High School graduate (Class of 2006) and current point guard for the New York Knicks, reflects on his Palo Alto basketball roots and life in the NBA. Interview from December 2011, while Lin was a member of the Golden State Warriors. (Posted Feb. 9 at 9:06 a.m.)

## Atherton woman pleads no contest to DUI

A 63-year-old Atherton woman who was arrested for driving under the influence during a chaotic exit from a Menlo Park parking plaza in 2010 pleaded no contest Feb. 3 to two charges in San Mateo County Superior Court. (Posted Feb. 9 at 8:32 a.m.)

## Mountain lion reported near Portola Valley school

Someone reported seeing a mountain lion near the back fence of Corte Madera School in Portola Valley Wednesday, Feb. 8, the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office said. (Posted Feb. 9 at 8:15 a.m.)

## Two-year investigation leads to 27 arrests

Menlo Park police joined federal and local agencies in Operation Phallen Gardens, a task force investigation of drug suppliers and gangs, police announced Wednesday, Feb. 8. (Posted Feb. 9 at 8:13 a.m.)

## Woman arrested in fatal East Palo Alto stabbing

Police in East Palo Alto have arrested a woman suspected of fatally stabbing her boyfriend at their home Tuesday morning, Feb. 7, a police sergeant said. (Posted Feb. 7 at 4:07 p.m.)

## Two women attacked at Stanford early Sunday

Two women were assaulted within 15 minutes of each other on the Stanford University campus early Sunday, Feb. 5, according to Stanford police. (Posted Feb. 7 at 9:14 a.m.)

## Stanford announces commencement speakers

Cory Booker, former Stanford University football player, Rhodes scholar and current mayor of Newark, N.J., will address graduates at Stanford's 121st Commencement June 17, the university announced. (Posted Feb. 7 at 9:10 a.m.)

## Prop 13

(continued from page 3)

sis in the 2012 "Silicon Valley Index," published Tuesday, Feb. 7, by the public policy group Joint Venture Silicon Valley and Silicon Valley Community Foundation. It tracked indicators like changes in assessed values, value of new construction and assessed value in relation to consumer prices.

It concluded homeowners of similarly valued properties in California pay radically different property tax bills — sometimes quadruple the amount — depending on date of purchase in relation to the 1978 passage of Proposition 13.

A new buyer of a median-priced California home in 2007 pays more than four times the property tax of an owner from 1978, and double the property tax of owners who bought median-priced homes in the 1990s, the report said.

Proposition 13 also has led to a boost in the residential versus com-

mercial share of assessed valuation.

Residential property taxpayers in Santa Clara County, who held 50 percent of the county's assessed valuation in 1977, held more than two-thirds of it by 2007, the report said.

This is because residential properties turn over more frequently than commercial properties and, until the recession, most home sales resulted in large increases in assessed values for single-family properties.

Citing the report, Carson said, "You're going to see a demand for dialogue about what kind of struc-

ture will get us a system that's more rational for the environment we face today, and not the environment we faced 30 years ago (when Proposition 13 passed in 1978)."

The report is available online at [www.JointVenture.org](http://www.JointVenture.org). ■

Staff Writer Chris Kenrick can be emailed at [ckenrick@paweekly.com](mailto:ckenrick@paweekly.com).

**TALK ABOUT IT**  
[www.PaloAltoOnline.com](http://www.PaloAltoOnline.com)

Do you think Proposition 13 should be repealed or changed? If so, how? Talk about your ideas on Town Square, the online discussion forum, at [www.PaloAltoOnline.com](http://www.PaloAltoOnline.com).

## Meditation for Modern Life One Day Course

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



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

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

**8:00 A.M., Wednesday, February 15, 2012** Palo Alto Council Chambers, 1st Floor, Civic Center, 250 Hamilton Avenue. Go to the Development Center at 285 Hamilton Avenue to review filed documents; contact Diana Tamale for information regarding business hours at 650.329.2144.

**509 Hale Street [11PLN-00457]:** Request by Joe Gutierrez of Architectural Alliance Architects, on behalf of Louis Lange and Adrienne Macmillan, for Historic Resources Board Review and recommendation regarding roof fenestrations and landscape addition to Category 2 home in the R-1(10000) zone district. The project includes landscape changes and addition of a wood trellis on the east side yard and addition of a dormer and window changes on the north, east and west facades. Environmental Assessment: Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act per Section 15303.

Steven Turner, Advance Planning Manager

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**Monday, February 13th at 4:15 p.m.**

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For more information: [music.stanford.edu](http://music.stanford.edu)

## Nancy Kuhn Woodward

October 2, 1927-February 4, 2012

Nancy Kuhn Woodward passed away peacefully on February 4, 2012 in San Francisco after a long and graceful battle with cancer. She experienced the final days of her life with her extended family at her bedside. They can never thank her enough for the guidance, encouragement and values she instilled in them. To her family and those fortunate enough to have spent time with her, she was an effervescent presence full of life and love for those around her.

She was born in Kansas City, one of two daughters raised by Henry and Josephine Kuhn. Her father, Henry, was a senior executive at the Kansas City Power and Light Company. Her parents gave her a true appreciation for travel and adventure as they crisscrossed the West on summer vacations, spent weekends on their farm outside Kansas City, and introduced her to a variety of outdoor activities including, camping, fishing and hunting. Little did her parents know that they were really just preparing her for a life raising four rambunctious boys. In 1945, she graduated from Sunset Hill School, an all girls' day school and boarded a train for Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts.

Following graduation from Smith in 1949, she moved to New York City, lured by the excitement of the Madison Avenue advertising world. Excitement she found, once even appearing on the cover of Mademoiselle magazine, "The Girls of Smith College". On a weekend visit to Nantucket, she was briefly introduced to Dr. Sheldon "Woody" Woodward, who later would become her husband.

In 1952, Nancy took a "leave of absence" from her job with J Walter Thompson to join her sister, Jane, in San Francisco. At a party in Menlo Park that included hopping over fences and a midnight swim at the Menlo Circus club, she again reconnected with Woody, who had started his medical practice in Menlo Park. She never returned to New York. In September 1953, they married and over the course of the next 6 years had four boys.

In 1960, they settled in Portola Valley, where she and Woody would remain a fixture in the community for almost 40 years. Portola Valley in 1960 was still quite rural and many of her peers could not possibly imagine why anyone would ever want to live so far from town, "You have a vacant lot in Atherton, why don't you just build your house there?" In Portola Valley she would help her four boys oversee a menagerie of farm animals. There were goats to milk, horses to feed, and as always, sheep to shear in anticipation of the 4-H county fair in San Mateo.

Raising four boys was never easy, but she always managed to juggle a million tasks with a firm hand and rarely a sharp word. Trying to get four recalcitrant boys dressed and ready for Sunday School was a challenge and inevitably, they always sat at the back of the church. Little league baseball, soccer, braces,

and frequent visits to the emergency room for stitches, casts and crutches occupied most of her day. Somehow the family survived reasonably unscathed, which is a true testament to the balance she showed throughout her life.

Nancy loved getting people together, especially her extended family. She would host an annual weeklong dude ranch trip to Montana or Colorado for 18 or more family members. She rarely missed her daily horseback ride, even if it occasionally meant getting bucked off, which she did at the tender age of 78.

Nancy was an avid reader and traveler throughout her life. The family took summer vacations camping throughout the west and traveled in Europe. She and Woody spent a year in Santa Fe, NM, and returned often. Later in life she began to take more exotic trips including Laos, Vietnam, The Middle East, Turkey, Belize and Africa.

To her friends Nancy was always cheerful and up for a visit or activity, she had a gift of hospitality and loved to know what interested others. She cared deeply for the lives and happiness of family and friends and she was enthusiastically engaged in the pursuits of others. She had a great ability to keep track of the people, travel, events and details in her extended family and friends.

Her beloved husband, Sheldon "Woody" Woodward passed away in April 1994. She remained in Portola Valley for several years and then moved to the San Francisco Towers. Although she missed the green open spaces and many friends on the Peninsula, she remained an active resident of the San Francisco Towers until her death. She loved the ballet, symphony and culinary opportunities afforded by the City. She always had a passion for the underprivileged, and enjoyed tutoring and helping children with the San Francisco Boy's and Girl's Club and Family Services of Palo Alto.

Her four sons Victor (Woodinville, WA), David (Ketchum, ID), Chris (Atlanta, GA) and Tim (Mill Valley, CA), eleven grandchildren and one great-grandchild survive her. She also leaves behind seven nieces and nephews that will remember her fondly. A service in celebration of her life has been scheduled at the Woodside Priory in Portola Valley, California for Saturday the 11th of February at 1:00 pm. In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to the Boys and Girls Club of San Francisco, 55 Hawthorne Lane, #600, San Francisco, California 94105 or to your favorite charity.



# Transitions

*Births, marriages and deaths*

### Erma Jean Jackson

Erma Jean Jackson had a passion for education and mentoring others to succeed and strive for their best. In 2002 she received her bachelor's degree in English from San Jose State University, where she also received her master's degree. She was ready to pursue her education further to receive a Ph.D.

She was employed as a tran-

sit driver for SamTrans for many years where she later retired and furthered her education.

Jackson's memorial services will be on Wednesday, Feb. 15 at 11 a.m. at Macedonia Baptist Church, 1110 Berkeley Ave., Menlo Park.

In lieu of flowers the family is asking to please send donations for funeral expenses to Jones Mortuary at 660 Donohue St., East Palo Alto, CA. (650) 323-2481

### William R. Jasper, Jr.

William R. Jasper, Jr, age 58 passed away at Kaiser Hospital in Redwood City on Feb 4, 2012 after a long illness.

Born July 26, 1953, he moved to East Palo Alto as a small child. He graduated from Ravenswood High. William was an employee for Ford Aerospace and Stanford Hospital for many years.

Survivors include his wife of 32 years, Judy. His daughter Kristina of East Palo Alto; son Ian of East Palo Alto; and son Jamie of Stockton and grandson Nazir David of East Palo Alto; sister Valerie V. Richardson of San Jose; and several nieces and nephews.

Relatives and friends are welcome to attend a Memorial Service on Saturday February 11th from 1:00pm to 4:00pm at the family home.

PAID OBITUARY

### David L. Rosenhan

David L. Rosenhan, Professor Emeritus of Psychology and Law at Stanford University and a member of the Stanford community for more than 40 years died on Monday, Feb. 6 at Stanford University Hospital. He was 82. Born in Jersey City, New Jersey to Joseph and Nuna Lurie Rosenhan, he was a yeshiva student in his youth and completed his undergraduate work at Yeshiva College. David remained deeply committed to the Jewish community for his entire life. He completed his PhD in Psychology at Columbia University. Before coming to Stanford, he taught at Haverford College, the University of Pennsylvania, Princeton University and Swarthmore College. A former president of the American Psychology-Law Society and of the American Board of Forensic Psychology, he was a Fellow of the American Psychological Association, the American Psychological Society, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and published more than 80 books and research papers. He is best known for his groundbreaking study, "On Being Sane in Insane Places" which became one of the most heavily cited studies and influential (indeed transformative) studies in the field of psychology. His work called into question the process of clinical labeling and its consequences for individuals and groups. He was a pioneer in forging the connections between law and the social sciences. David had a beautiful voice, serving as a cantor during his early years and continuing through most of his life. He and Molly were energetic supporters of the New Israel Fund and of Stanford Hillel. David is survived by his son Jack Rosenhan of Palo Alto and his beloved granddaughters Cecily and Yael, as well as his brother Hershel of Jerusalem. He was predeceased by his beloved wife Molly Schwartz Rosenhan and his daughter Nina.

Services were held at Congregation Kol Emeth, Palo Alto February 9. In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be sent to the New Israel Fund or Stanford Hillel.

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## Memorial Fund

The friends of Robert Howard, Ana-Maria Dias and their two daughters, Samantha and Veronica, have started a memorial fund to plant a tree and provide a bench at El Carmelo Elementary School in memory of the family. They were killed in an auto accident in July 2011.

If you would like to make a donation, please make your check payable to the "El Carmelo PTA, Howard-Dias Memorial Fund." Donations can be mailed to the El Carmelo PTA, Howard Dias Memorial Fund, 3024 Bryant St., Palo Alto, CA 94306, or dropped off at the El Carmelo Elementary School Office during school hours.

Any residual funds raised over the cost of the memorial will be donated — in memory of the family — to Partners in Education (PiE) and the Pre-School Family Program in Palo Alto. For further information, please contact Michele Kasper at mekasper63@gmail.com. Please join us in honoring the memory of this wonderful family.



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## Geraldine Rose Foley-DePiero

Geraldine Rose Foley-DePiero was born, September 27th, 1929 in the city of Palo Alto. Geraldine passed peacefully in her sleep last Thursday, Feb. 2nd, 2012. She was preceded in death by her parents, Martha Tollner-Foley and Richard F. Foley Sr. and husband of over fifty two years, Roland DePiero. She is survived by her brother, Richard F. Foley Jr, sister-in-law, Margaret Foley, Nieces, Cherie Foley, Janice Foley, Peggy Bowden, Beverly Bowman and Nephews, Jeff Foley, Michael Foley and her many Great Nieces and Nephews. Geraldine graduated from Palo Alto H.S in 1947 and was a graduate of SJSU. She was a private secretary to a private and successful local businesswoman for many years, after which time she enjoyed becoming a homemaker. She was a key

member of the Palo Alto Women's Club and an avid supporter of the Catholic Church and El Camino Hospital in Mtn. View. Her favorite pastime was sewing and spending time with her family and many nieces and nephews. She was known as "Gerry" to all who knew and loved her. She will be dearly missed. Funeral services will be Friday, Feb 10th at 11:30 a.m. at Alta Mesa Funeral Home, 695 Arastradero Rd. Palo Alto, CA. 94306. The family welcomes friends of Gerry to attend.



PAID OBITUARY

## Anne A. Scitovsky

*Health Economist*

Died at age 96 years, peacefully in her home with family members around her, on January 16, 2012. Born in Ludwigshafen, Germany in 1915, Anne, along with her family, moved to this country in 1930 when she was 15 years old. She originally planned to become a physician before switching to economics. Anne completed her Masters in Economics at Columbia University in 1941. Through the 50's and early 60's she was a homemaker and mother raising her daughter, Catherine Eliaser. Anne went back to work in 1963 when she was invited to join the staff of the Palo Alto Medical Research Foundation to develop a research program on the economics of medical care. Anne stayed with the research foundation for over 30 years, conducting various studies in the field of health economics, helping to identify major areas of medical cost increases from general medical expenses through the costs incurred during the last year of life of both the elderly and persons with Aids. She is nationally recognized for her careful patient-by-patient analysis of cost and treatment patterns, decisions points and long term trends. Anne's research has impacted both public and private health care policies. Anne was

a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, a member of the President's Commission on Ethical Problems in Medicine during the Carter administration, on the faculty of UCSF Institute for Health Policy Studies headed by Philip R. Lee, M.D. and served on many national committees on medical care costs.

Anne loved learning. She was an avid reader and conversationalist, enjoying art, music, and traveling the world. She was blessed with many wonderful friendships throughout her long life. Anne is survived by her daughter Catherine Eliaser and son-in-law Peter Eliaser of Marin Co., grandson, Nicholas Visse of Santa Clara, step-grandson, Jason Eliaser of San Diego and nephews Peter and Michael Hambro of Norway. A celebration of her life will be held in early summer of this year.



PAID OBITUARY

## William Penn Johnson

*Jan. 24, 1931-June 23, 2011*

William Johnson, better known as Bill, died June 23, 2011, of a heart attack after a long illness.

Bill attended Walter Hays Elementary School, which was built by his father, Alfred Johnson. He also attended Channing Elementary, Jordan Jr. High and Palo Alto High School.

Bill became interested in architecture and interior design which led him to San Jose State University. During a break in his studies Bill was drafted into the Army and served in an artillery unit stationed in the Great Lakes near Chicago.

After his military service Bill returned to college, first at Menlo College and then the University of California at Berkeley. After college he worked with the Alameda-Contra Costa County Park Authority to transform old anti-aircraft sites into play grounds. He also worked on a variety of architectural projects around the Bay Area including the then new Children's Wing at Stanford University Hospital.

Bill was also interested in gourmet cooking and took many classes to pursue this new passion. According to all who knew Bill, he made the greatest fruit tarts known to mankind. Bill was very devoted to the Catholic Church, and was adored by his brother's children.

He is survived by his brother, Alfred of Temecula, Calif.; four nephews, Alfred, Michael, Mark and Robert; a niece, Ann; 10 grand nephews and nieces, and their children.

Bill will be fondly remembered by all who knew him. A memorial service will be held at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 2808 Lakeshore Ave. in Oakland on Feb. 13 at 10 a.m. Interment will be at Alta Mesa Cemetery in Palo Alto following the memorial service.



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## Editorial

# Service hub needs new home

*Decision to rebuild municipal services center, animal shelter could provide creative solutions*

If Palo Alto has an Achilles Heel most city officials would say it is the handful of public buildings that easily could crumble when a major earthquake hits the region. From purely a safety standpoint, there is general agreement that the police station, two firehouses, the municipal services center and the animal services building all are in dire need of replacement.

The challenge is to find a way to pay for this infrastructure work, along with the many other needs competing for limited dollars.

But the city does have a possible ace up its sleeve, which it has been trying to play since 2006.

The Bayshore Freeway frontage now occupied by the aging municipal services center just south of the Oregon Expressway is a potentially highly valuable location for auto dealerships or other development that would benefit from such a prominent and accessible location.

One idea that has been tossed around is the city swapping its service center site for property elsewhere that could accommodate at least a portion of a new center as well as the animal services center, thus opening the current site to a new auto mall.

The recently released report from the Infrastructure Blue Ribbon Commission, which assessed all of the city's infrastructure needs for the next 25 years, recommended replacing the services center at an estimated cost of \$93 million, by far the most expensive project on the Commission's list.

This project and others, which the City Council will study during what Mayor Yiaway Yeh has called the "year of infrastructure investment and renewal," could result in decisions to replace the police headquarters and two fire stations (Rinconada and Mitchell parks) for \$79 million, and the animal services center for \$6.9 million. Financing could be by either a general obligation bond issue requiring two-thirds voter approval or more expensive certificates of participation, which do not require voter approval. And because the city-owned utilities department occupies much of the service center, utility bonds are also an option, one that does not require voter approval.

For all its anonymity among most Palo Alto residents, the aging and unsafe municipal service center should create the most worry at City Hall.

Built in the early 1960s of "tilt-up" concrete walls, numerous consultants to the city say the buildings would be a problem during an earthquake. "These are the worst buildings you can possibly have in case of an earthquake," Paul Dornell, operations manager of the center, told the Weekly in a recent interview.

Another concern is the center's location, on the east side of Highway 101, which could strand up to approximately 300 workers if the freeway was shut down by an earthquake.

"If a freeway overpass collapses, cutting off many of the city's first responders, the center's emergency plan calls for public-works crews to basically create a new road on the fly to get across 101. ... Just bulldoze right across the highway," Dornell said.

The importance of the service center is not known to most residents. It is where all city vehicles, including fire trucks, police cars and utility vehicles are maintained and repaired, and where all utility operations are based.

But if the City Council decides to pull the plug on the current service center, it first must find a replacement site. One of the best options could be to consummate a trade with the auto dealers who own the 7-acre site of the current Honda and Audi dealerships on Embarcadero Road. The properties offer enough space for at least a portion of a new maintenance center, although the location means a center built there would remain east of 101 and face the same risk of isolation as the current site.

Nevertheless, if the city can strike a trade, the Embarcadero Road sites could be designed to accommodate a good part of the maintenance function, while another space could house the rest. A second site possibility is 6.5 acres known as the Los Altos Sewage Treatment Plant, just north of San Antonio Road east of 101.

The most compelling reasons for the city to relocate the center as soon as possible are to make sure employees are safe and able to respond during a major disaster, and to potentially leverage the land to bring new tax revenues to the city.

Given the council's ongoing infrastructure discussions, we are not likely to see any major building project reach the ballot before 2013. In the meantime, with the auto industry showing signs of rebound it's a good time for the city to step up discussions with local dealers and landowners about a plan to both help them and address some of the city's most pressing infrastructure needs.

# Spectrum

*Editorials, letters and opinions*

## Stop high-speed rail

Editor,

In 2008 the people of California approved the funding of California high-speed rail. I confess that I voted for it.

In the greatest bait-and-switch in human history, the \$30 billion cost has become \$100 billion. The pledge to not start construction until all funding is identified has become "let's start immediately and figure out what to do when we run out of funds." The ridership estimate has been cut in half and is still too high by a factor of 10. The claim that no operating subsidy will be needed when the system is finished is a joke. This system will bankrupt the state and force cuts in education and local public transportation, which is where our transportation dollars should be going.

The No Train Please Act is a ballot initiative to end the high-speed rail project. It has been qualified to gather signatures to put the issue to the people on the November ballot.

850,000 signatures are needed. They must be collected by June 1. There are no wealthy people backing this, so there is no money for paid signature gatherers. Thus, qualifying the initiative will be a stretch.

You can download the petition from the No Train Please website.

David Lieberman  
Kingsley Avenue

## Track college requirements

Editor,

While a change to Gunn and Paly's graduation requirements necessarily takes years to implement, there is a change in information provided to Gunn and Paly students and parents that can be done quickly.

Unofficial high school transcripts could list progress toward UC and CSU requirements along with progress toward Palo Alto Unified School District graduation requirements.

Such a change could provide the necessary information to current and future students and parents about these requirements and whether they are being met. We might even find that listing progress toward UC and CSU requirements has the desired effect of increasing the percentage of students who meet them, without putting additional stress and hurdles for those who plan to attend colleges that don't have these admission requirements.

Let's provide individualized UC and CSU requirements status information to our high school students now. Information is power. Let's start there first.

Arthur M. Keller  
Corina Way

## Prop. 8: church and state

Editor,

Justice has been served by the

overturn of the Proposition 8 ban on gay marriage. I hope that the value of equal rights for all stands supreme.

To those who disagree, I point out that your church may not recognize gay marriage, however marriage under the eyes of the law, which carries with it many rights and privileges

under the law, must be recognized.

To set the law according to the standards of religion would be a clear violation of the separation of church and state — the Constitution doesn't just protect the rights we like. Liberty and justice for all. Period.

Timothy Gray

## This week on Town Square

*Posted Feb. 7 at 1:37 p.m. by Concerned Citizen, a resident of the Barron Park neighborhood:*

I think this lane reduction (on California Avenue) is a bad idea. There will be lots of traffic problems because of it.

The sidewalks are large enough for pedestrians to pass by and there is plenty of room for bicycles as it exists now. The city should get rid of the planting section that obscures the crosswalk in front of Starbucks. At night you can't see it.

I think the money is wasted on this project and will cost the merchants money. Better they spend it on Palo Alto infrastructure.

*Posted Feb. 8 at 5:51 p.m. by Laura, a resident of the Midtown neighborhood:*

I have lived here for 40 years and traffic on Alma has always been terrible. The Arastradero corridor is also bad. "Traffic calming" is a joke.

Too many people commute here for jobs since they cannot afford to live here (who can?). High-density housing has only added to the problem.

There is no solution so just live with it. Breathe deeply while waiting for the four-minute intersection lights to change at Embarcadero and El Camino. That's what I do.

## YOUR TURN

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

**What do you think?** What can the City do to control costs of retiree medical benefits?

Submit letters to the editor of up to 250 words to [letters@pawebly.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:editor@pawebly.com) or 650-326-8210.



## Check out Town Square!

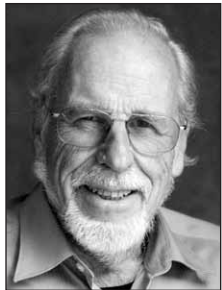
Hundreds of local topics are being discussed by local residents on Town Square, a reader forum sponsored by the Weekly on our community website at [www.PaloAltoOnline.com](http://www.PaloAltoOnline.com). Post your own comments, ask questions, read the Editor's blog or just stay up on what people are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

## On Deadline

# Silicon Valley is 'two valleys' — well-to-do vs. struggling

by Jay Thorwaldson

The main course at today's (Feb. 10) annual Joint Venture Silicon Valley "State of the Valley" conference in San Jose is a fact-filled platter with the 1978 Proposition 13 tax-limitation initiative in the center.



It is surrounded by all the trimmings of the Silicon Valley Index, the annual economic-status report laden with charts, graphs and statistics — a dry diet for the average person.

But if it were possible to translate the numbers and charts into lives of real people there would be heart-wrenching stories along with surging signs of recovery. Joint Venture President and CEO Russell Hancock says the early signs of recovery must be balanced against a disturbing trend toward "two valleys," one doing incredibly well and the other struggling to survive economically.

Hancock noted the broader Silicon Valley subregion (Santa Clara and San Mateo counties, as well as parts of several neighboring counties) was among the last areas nationally to feel the impact of the 2008 recession, and it is one of the first to show signs of recovery.

Yet there is a darker side holding back the recovery. The drags include an out-of-date property-tax system that no longer reflects the driving engines of the economy: Internet-based purchasing and the dominance of services rather than property and sales taxes on which government and schools have depended for much of the past century.

"Small businesses are clearly not out of the rough," Hancock said. "The public sector is

still in the throes of a fiscal crisis and median household income continues to fall as the gap between those succeeding and those struggling grows wider and wider.

"It's as if we're becoming two valleys."

Emmett Carson, president and CEO of the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, which has partnered with Joint Venture on the conferences since 2008, outlined concerns about the lingering side effects of Prop. 13, the 1978 tax-revolt initiative.

Both Hancock and Carson reiterated a key point: that the 2008 "Great Recession" broke the property-tax system by causing home values to plummet in most of California (Palo Alto being a notable exception).

Carson referred repeatedly to "the Great Recession" of 2008. He said there is no real hope for a quick recovery that could restore much of the pre-2008 tax base.

Hancock emphasized that the purpose of this year's special analysis of Prop. 13 is to present facts as a basis for a dialogue during the coming year.

Coincidentally, the section of the Index that includes the Prop. 13 analysis is bordered in black. Not intentional, officials said. (The Index is at [www.jointventure.org](http://www.jointventure.org) — a press release succinctly summarizes the perceived economic pluses and minuses.)

The analysis of Prop. 13 was prepared by Steven Levy of the Palo Alto-based Center for the Study of the California Economy, while the overall statistics of the Index were prepared by San Mateo-based Collaborative Economics, represented by CEO Doug Henton and Vice President Tracey Grose.

Levy, who has already taken heat from Prop. 13 defenders (as have I, from a blog posted Jan. 24 at [www.paloaltoonline.com/square/index.php?i=3&d=&t=16938](http://www.paloaltoonline.com/square/index.php?i=3&d=&t=16938)) nevertheless outlines

conditions that led to Prop. 13's appeal. The background of its 65-to-35 percent approval included a dramatic rise in home values in the 1970s. Median home prices shot from \$26,880 in 1971 to \$70,890 in 1978, a 164 percent increase (at 7 to 28 percent per year). This in turn led to property re-assessments and increased taxes, and voters "feared that more increases were on the way."

Do those prices seem like peanuts today?

Median home prices were "far outpacing the rate of overall inflation and income gains. Even though income gains were historically large and outpaced the growth in consumer prices, both measures were overshadowed by the 164 percent increase in median home prices," Levy said.

For persons on fixed incomes, "the effects of rising home prices, assessed values, and property taxes were even more of a problem" financially.

There was a final straw: "Though assessed values were surging, local governments did not respond by lowering local tax rates." Seeds of a tax revolt.

Voters easily understood the two main effects of Prop. 13: the 1 percent limit on property tax versus property value, and the 2 percent annual cap on increasing property taxes for properties that didn't change ownership (residential and business).

But Levy cites three other elements not widely analyzed during the emotional campaign.

The best known today is that Prop. 13 requires a two-thirds voter approval for future state taxes, local special-purpose taxes and local bonds.

Two other aspects were (and are) virtually unknown: Prop. 13 (1) prohibited local governments and school districts from going to voters to seek approval of property-tax increases to

maintain or increase public services, and (2) transferred the authority to allocate property taxes from local jurisdictions to the state.

Levy sums up: "Now more than 30 years later, thousands of pages of analysis have delineated the major consequences" of Prop. 13:

1) The 2 percent limit on assessed-value increases means they are now about half as large as inflation increases over the past 30 years.

2) Most local school revenues now come from the state instead of local taxpayers, "severing the connection between local taxes and quality of services."

3) Cities and counties responding to sharp declines in revenues "have introduced a wide variety of new local taxes and fees," increasing since the 2008 recession.

4) Tax measures that would have passed by majority vote have been defeated by the two-thirds-approval requirement.

5) Owners of similar-value properties "pay substantially different amounts" in taxes depending on the date of acquisition.

6) The share of property taxes paid by homeowners has increased, while the share paid by owners of non-residential properties has decreased, a significant shift.

There are complications in analyzing the effects of Prop. 13 due to state budget decisions, changes approved by voters, and the recent recession with its further plunge in revenues, Levy notes.

But the overriding message of the conference is that there are no easy fixes, just plenty for Silicon Valley — and officials and citizens statewide — to talk about in the next politics-laden year.

Or maybe for the next third of a century. ■  
*Former Weekly Editor Jay Thorwaldson can be emailed at [jthorwaldson@paweeekly.com](mailto:jthorwaldson@paweeekly.com) with a cc: to [tojaythor@well.com](mailto:tojaythor@well.com).*

# Streetwise

## What do you think should be done with the Cubberley Community Center?

Asked on Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Interviews and photographs by Cristina Wong.



**Monica Hayes**

Works with the disabled  
Middlefield Road

"Add more resources for the arts."



**Jenny Tran**

Engineer  
Middlefield Road

"They should keep it open, and make more improvements like additional dance lessons. I think it needs renovation."



**Dennis Morton**

Computer programmer  
San Antonio Road

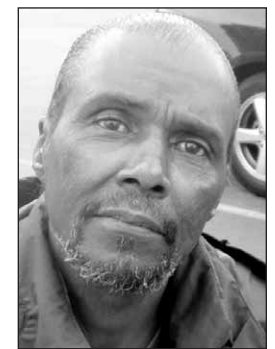
"Increase the Foothill campus there. Let them buy as much as they want, and the rest should go to the arts, theater, the culture and community events. I don't want to see it made into housing — it should stay as an education center for Palo Alto."



**Jay Jacinto**

Engineer  
Willow Road

"Update some of the facilities like Internet connectivity or campus Wi-Fi. Something that's more of an improvement to the area."



**Michael Davis**

Operation supervisor for Downtown  
Streets Team  
Lytton Avenue

"They need an activity center for everyone — gymnastics, arts, organizations that try to help homeless people, a senior citizen home. Something for everybody."

by Gennady Sheyner  
photographs by Veronica Weber

# KEEPING Palo Alto RUNNING

Palo Alto considers replacing, relocating its aged Municipal Services Center



Various city vehicles — from police, fire and public works departments — are maintained at Palo Alto's Municipal Services Center.

Palo Alto's Municipal Services Center is a sprawling maze of industrial activity — a 16-acre complex where hardhats abound and utility trucks loaded with spools of electric wire stand alongside fire engines and as-yet-uninstalled gas lines, street signs, generators, sandbags, asphalt, rock and other utilitarian necessities.

Tucked between the Baylands and U.S. Highway 101, about a mile south of Oregon Expressway, the Municipal Services Center is a collection of concrete buildings shared by five departments — Utilities, Public Works, Community Services, Police and Administrative Services. A shared warehouse is loaded with maintenance tools and supplies.

If University Avenue is the glitzy face of Palo Alto and Stanford Research Park is the city's high-tech soul, this vast compound is the city's guts. From this blue-collar base, city workers make sure that Palo Alto's potholes are repaired, its storm drains get cleared and its gas and electricity run unimpeded. This is where the city's vast fleet of vehicles is stored, fueled up and

fixed. On a recent day at the mechanics' shop, a fire engine stood alongside a Public Works truck, a golf cart and the Police Department's mobile-operations vehicle.

The East Bayshore Road center is slated to only get busier in the coming years as Palo Alto embarks on what Mayor Yiaway Yeh called the "year of infrastructure investment and renewal." The effort kicked off last month, when the council received a long-awaited report from the specially appointed Infrastructure Blue Ribbon Commission — a 17-member panel that had spent more than a year delving into the infrastructure problem. The group concluded that the city has about \$41.2 million in deferred maintenance and that it has to increase its capital spending by \$2.2 million a year to keep the city's streets, parks and facilities up to par. If the council proceeds with the report's recommendations and accelerates the city's infrastructure spending, much of the workload will fall on the roughly 300 workers based at the Municipal Services Center.

But the largest and most ambitious recommendations in the



Illustration by Shannon Corey

Right: Potential options for a land swap could split functions of the Municipal Services Center between Embarcadero Road, where Audi and Honda dealerships are located, and the site of the Los Altos Sewage Treatment Plant on San Antonio Road.



Above: Bryan Burns, left, and Philip Dunne, mechanics at the Municipal Services Center, work on a John Deere tractor that is used by rangers at Foothills Park. Below: Anderson Honda, located on Embarcadero Road east of Hwy. 101, is among the auto dealerships that could be relocated to the current site of the Municipal Services Center if the city pursues the "land-swap" option.

Infrastructure Blue Ribbon Commission report focus on the Municipal Services Center itself. Constructed in the early 1960s of "tilt-up" construction, the buildings' resilience during an earthquake has been called into question by numerous consultants.

Paul Dornell, who oversees the Public Works operations at the Municipal Services Center, puts it bluntly.

"These are the worst buildings you can possibly have in case of an earthquake," he said during a recent tour of the site.

In addition, the land on which the center sits has been eyed by the city as a potential location for auto dealerships, which would bring in much-needed sales-tax revenues.

The idea of moving the Municipal Services Center also arose during the Infrastructure Blue Ribbon Commission's study, but not because of the potential sales tax. Rather, the commission noted in its report, the center houses utilities and public-works operations that would be key during an emergency — and its location to the east of 101 could pose a problem.

"In case of a major earthquake or other catastrophe that causes failure of freeway overpasses, emergency response is likely

to be impaired," the report states, citing a study that found one in five freeway overpasses in the Bay Area would become impassable in a severe earthquake. "Developing a plan for a new operations center should consider siting it west of Bayshore to mitigate this potential problem. A secondary need is to site the operations center out of the flood zone or deal with flood risks in the construction plans."

Dornell said if a highway overpass collapsed in a major disaster, many of the city's emergency responders would be cut off from the city. The city's current emergency plan calls for public-works crews to basically create a new road on the fly to get across 101.

"We would basically have to build a road through 101," Dornell said. "Just bulldoze right across the highway."

It doesn't help that the center is located both in an active seismic zone (along with the rest of Palo Alto) and in a flood zone. The San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission projects the sea level from the Bay could rise by 16 inches

In addition, the land on which the center sits has been eyed by the city as a potential location for auto dealerships, which would bring in much-needed sales-tax revenues.

(continued on next page)



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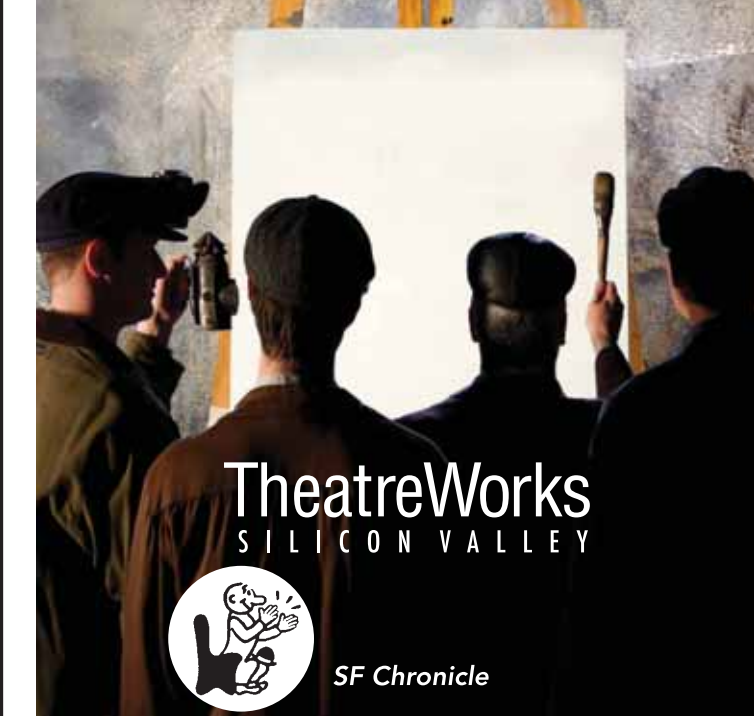
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Harvey Dondershine volunteers at the Palo Alto Animal Services Center once a week, helping to socialize animals that are up for adoption.

## Animal Services Center busy but outdated

City's options include relocating services or folding operation

by Gennady Sheyner

Just south of Palo Alto's Municipal Services Center on East Bayshore Road stands a squat building in which dogs slightly outnumber humans. The Animal Services Center houses scores of dogs and cats and has also been known to accommodate goats, rabbits and rats.

The number of feline occupants typically spikes during the summer, Animal Services Center Superintendent Sandra Stadler said, but during a recent tour most of the cages in the dog and cat rooms were filled. Though slightly cramped, with narrow corridors, the facility is well kept, having undergone a series of repairs, including new heating and ventilation systems and landscaping improvements, in 2009.

The 40,000-square-foot building was constructed in the early 1970s and has been providing animal services to Palo Alto, Mountain View, Los Altos and Los Altos Hills since 1993. Though it boasts a wide variety of services, including spaying and neutering, it has a hard time competing with larger and more modern operations such as the Silicon Valley Animal Control Authority. That regional facility, based in Sunnyvale, was built in 2006 and boasts a cage-free animal-services center.

Palo Alto's animal center has gotten progressively busier in recent years, largely because of the economic downturn, Stadler said.

"We really are seeing a lot more surrendered animals," Stadler said.

Stadler said the facility's small size has forced staff to be creative. One room has two rows of dog kennels arranged in a way that requires dogs on one side to face their counterparts on the other side. Recognizing that this positioning could aggravate the tenants, staff installed plastic visors at the bottom of the kennels to block the view.

"We've had to utilize every square inch we have," Stadler said. "We have to be very flexible."

Stadler said she is proud of the facility's quality of services. She noted that more than 65 percent of the dogs the shelter picks up find their way back home. The rate for cats is between 10 percent and 15 percent. While that figure may seem low, it soars above the national average of roughly 2 percent, Stadler said.

One resident of the Animal Services Center is Ella Mae, a geriatric Pomeranian who — having been adopted by the staff — spends her afternoons in a crate in the reception area. Stadler said

that when Ella Mae was found in downtown Palo Alto, she had no hair and was so overweight that she turned blue when flipped on her back. She also appeared to have a broken leg, though it later turned out that she was suffering from bone cancer that was eating into her nerves. She was given two months to live. That was 18 months ago.

Today, Ella Mae looks sprightly, pleased and well-groomed. She sports a black coat and is quick to protest when another dog in the reception area gets a treat.

"She is a shining example of what makes this place so wonderful," Stadler said.

But staff's efforts to make do with an outdated facility weren't enough to satisfy the City of Mountain View, which decided last year to withdraw from its 18-year partnership with the Animal Services Center, citing the building's seismic deficiencies and its long list of needed repairs. The Mountain View City Council opted to contract with the Silicon Valley Animal Control Authority once its contract with Palo Alto expires in 2014. This decision will decrease Palo Alto's annual revenues by about \$450,000 — a tough blow for an operation with an annual budget of about \$1.7 million.

Changes could be afoot for the Animal Services Center, if Palo Alto were to pursue a land swap with local car dealerships.

The city's Infrastructure Blue Ribbon Commission in December recommended moving the center to a city-owned site near the former Los Altos Sewage Treatment Plant at the end of San Antonio Road, just a short stroll south of the existing Municipal Services Center. The site, Stadler said, could potentially be a "phenomenal location" for the animal operation, though she noted that the plan is still far in the distance.

While moving the Animal Services Center to the sewage-treatment plant site is one option, another one is scrapping the operation altogether. The Infrastructure Blue Ribbon Commission report states that in light of Mountain View's recent decision to withdraw from the partnership, Palo Alto "needs to take this loss of revenue into account while also considering the option of obtaining its animal services through Santa Clara County or the Silicon Valley Animal Control Authority, as other cities do." ■

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## Municipal

(continued from previous page)

by the middle of the century and by 55 inches by the end of the century. A commission map illustrating the end-of-the-century rise shows the Municipal Services Center under water. Dornell said that because of the Municipal Services Center's critical functions during an emergency, the need to either upgrade or relocate the Municipal Services Center should be a leading priority for Palo Alto.

"The services we provide aren't as visible or as exciting as police and

fire, but police and fire wouldn't be able to do much of what they do in an emergency without what we do here," he said.

Discussions about renovating the aged facility are far from new. In 1987, Palo Alto commissioned two architecture firms to complete a master plan for the Municipal Services Center, setting guidelines for the site's future use. Even then, the consultants had deemed the Municipal Services Center facilities as "functionally obsolete."

This decision was reaffirmed a decade later by engineering firm Damies & Moore, which deemed

the buildings at risk of collapse and recommended replacing the entire facility. The city's Baylands Master Plan notes that in the event of an earthquake, the buildings at the Municipal Services Center "could be subjected to forces four times as great as they are capable of handling."

Palo Alto responded to the report in 1998 by reinforcing the buildings with seismic bracing. But despite this addition, the Infrastructure Blue Ribbon Commission points out, the buildings are not expected to be usable after major quakes. A more ambitious proposal, to replace

the half-century-old buildings, has largely languished as the city has focused on other priorities, including the need for a new public-safety building and renovated libraries.

The Infrastructure Blue Ribbon Commission report returns the Municipal Services Center's future to the fore, urging the city to take a fresh look and study other uses for the land. These include what the commission called the "static option" — upgrading the facilities but leaving existing functions intact — and the "dynamic option," which would transfer some of the Municipal Services Center functions to other parts of the city and evaluate other uses for the Baylands property.

"Indeed, because of the emergency-response and disaster-recovery implications, these projects have some degree of urgency," the Infrastructure Blue Ribbon Commission report states.

Either option is expected to carry a bulky price tag. Previous estimates peg the cost of replacing the Municipal Services Center at about \$93 million — more than the costs of building a new public-safety building and renovating two obsolete fire stations combined. Another \$6.9 million would be required to relocate the Animal Services Center, a squat facility that stands next to the Municipal Services Center (*see sidebar*). Together, the two projects would account for nearly half the cost of the major infrastructure projects identified by the commission.

Despite the hefty price tag and competing priorities, the commission wrote in the report that it believes "timely action is needed to make the necessary repairs to the Municipal Services Center and the Animal Services Center."

The prospect of city bulldozers sweeping across the highway after an earthquake isn't the only driver of the Infrastructure Blue Ribbon Commission recommendation to relocate services. Other factors include economic benefits and potential operational efficiencies for the departments, most notably the Utilities Department. The Infrastructure Blue Ribbon Commission report noted that Utilities currently works out of three different sites — City Hall, the Municipal Services Center and rented space on Elwell Court, about half a mile south of the Municipal Services Center.

"Development of a new, consolidated operations center, including a multi-story office building in addition to the shops and other operations now at the MSC, would allow for increased efficiencies in the delivery of Utilities services," the report states.

The current setup keeps the Utilities Department's engineering and operational divisions at different locations. Dornell, who worked for Utilities before moving to Public Works, said engineers and operations staff members have to communicate on a daily basis, a task that is slightly complicated by their physical separation from one another. And while the advent of iPads, iPods and other technology have narrowed the gap, city officials acknowledge that consolidating operations could make things more efficient.

Debra Katz, a spokesperson for the Utilities Department, concurred

that the idea of consolidating utilities operations sounds appealing, though she noted that there are some advantages to keeping utilities officials at sites where they can easily interact with other departments. The devil, she said, is in the details. A setup that benefits communications within the department can at the same time hinder its ties with the Public Works, Planning and Police departments. Still, certain things are best communicated face to face, Katz said.

"Engineering staff oversee a lot of projects that involve the operations crew, and you currently really don't have the synergy that comes with a situation when you can just walk down the hall," Katz said. "Certain communications don't happen if you can't quickly or easily see someone."

**A**side from earthquakes and floods, perhaps the biggest driver behind the "dynamic" option is, well, drivers. The past decade has been a bitter one for local car dealers thanks in large part to the economic downturn and pressure from manufacturers to relocate to locations that are visible from the freeway.

The possibility of car dealerships leaving Palo Alto is far from hypothetical. In 2001, the city's seven dealerships brought in \$3.1 million in sales-tax revenues. The number dipped to \$1.6 million in 2006 and to less than \$1.3 million in 2010. By 2011, Ford and Nissan departed from their El Camino Real locations and Carlsen Porsche vacated its site on Embarcadero Road. The revenues remained under \$1.3 million in fiscal year 2011, according to the city's recent Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. When McLaren-Fisker last year set up a dealership on El Camino Real and Arastradero Road, it was a rare bit of good news after a decade of dramatic decline.

Palo Alto officials have been trying to reverse the trend for years, and the Municipal Services Cen-

ter site, which practically rubs up against the freeway, has long been at the heart of discussions. Since 2006, city officials have been talking to auto dealers about a possible "land swap" that would give dealers the coveted location. Deputy City Manager Steve Emslie, who has been leading the discussions, said the dealers had mandates from manufacturers to move to freeway-visible locations — moves would have profound implications for their bottom lines (and, consequently, to the city's bottom line through sales taxes).

"If they got a site that was visible from the freeway, their sales would be expected to substantially increase — double or triple," said Mark Michael, an Infrastructure Blue Ribbon Commission member who chaired a subcommittee charged with evaluating the Municipal Services Center site.

When the recession hit in 2008, taking a bite out of auto sales, the mandates were relaxed and talks of a possible land swap were put on hold. But city officials remain concerned about the prospect of auto dealers leaving town and taking their sales-tax revenues with them. Conversations about a potential land swap are now resurfacing.

"If we can't accommodate them in Palo Alto, they can move up the road a bit and we would then lose all that benefit," Emslie said. "It's significant. It's not unusual to get \$500,000 per car dealer. A high-performing dealer, one with freeway visibility, can be \$1 million-plus."

The commission acknowledged that finding a new 16-acre site for the Municipal Services Center could prove difficult, if not impossible. Aside from financial considerations, finding alternative sites for city operations remains the most perplexing piece of the puzzle.

So the commission recommends

(continued on next page)



**CITY OF PALO ALTO  
NOTICE OF DIRECTOR'S HEARING**

To be held at **1:00 p.m., Thursday, February 16, 2012**, in the Palo Alto City Council Conference Room, 1st Floor, Civic Center, 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, California. Go to the Development Center at 285 Hamilton Avenue to review filed documents; contact Alicia Spotwood for information regarding business hours at 650-617-3168.

**3775 La Selva [11PLN-00396]** - Individual Review for the addition of a second floor side balcony with privacy screening side wall to a two-story residence and attached garage under construction in the R-1 zoning district.

**599 Lytton Avenue 11PLN-00404:** Preliminary Parcel Map to create four condominium units on a single approximately 9500 square foot parcel. Environmental Assessment: An Initial Study/ Negative Declaration was circulated and approved in October 2011 for the townhome project approved via the Architectural Review process.

**959 Addison Avenue [11PLN-00387]** - Individual Review for a new two-story, single family residence including modifications to an existing cottage, in the R-1 zoning district.

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## Municipal

(continued from previous page) examining an option in which Municipal Services Center functions are moved to multiple locations. Po-

tential properties include the 7-acre Honda and Audi sites on Embarcadero Road (as a possible land swap) and the 6.5-acre Los Altos Sewage Treatment Plant land just north of San Antonio Road, east of 101, ac-

ording to the report.

"There's not a whole lot of independent vacant land sitting around in Palo Alto," Emslie said.

But he noted that the interest from auto dealers, after waning during

the recession, remains strong.

"This is like their dream market. For them to be here — this is the dream demographic."

Palo Alto officials were eyeing major changes at the Municipal Services Center even before the infrastructure commission released its report. The council passed a capital budget last year that includes \$100,000 to study options for upgrading or relocating Municipal Services Center and Animal Services Center functions. The council also included \$100,000 to upgrade lighting, mechanical and electrical equipment at three Municipal Services Center buildings. The budget notes that the

systems "no longer support the current operation at this site."

Public Works Director Michael Sartor said that both of these capital projects are currently on hold, pending council direction.

On Jan. 17, in their first discussion of the Infrastructure Blue Ribbon Commission report, council members expressed a willingness to consider major changes to the Municipal Services Center, though their enthusiasm was tempered by skepticism about finding land in other parts of the city for the operations. Councilman Larry Klein said he couldn't think of a parcel large enough to accommodate the functions, and a new study would be unlikely to change that fact.

"I scratch my head at that and say, 'Where?'" Klein said. "Does anyone have ideas where we can have anything like the necessary space west of 101?"

Councilwoman Nancy Shepherd said she would like the city to consider the site for uses that would be "less showy" than auto dealerships — things relating to Baylands activities such as kayaking or bike rentals.

Councilwoman Karen Holman wondered about the impact of auto dealerships on the Baylands, particularly if the dealership were to install billboards. She suggested moving some of the Municipal Services Center operations to other nearby sites, such as near the fields on Geng Road. This would open up the East Bayshore land for uses that would have a low impact, such as playing fields, she said.

"While (the dealerships) are not on the Baylands, they really would have a visual impact on the Baylands and would change what we carried on as policy and character," Holman said.

Mark Michael, the Infrastructure Blue Ribbon Commission member who evaluated the Municipal Services Center site and who was recently appointed to the city's Planning and Transportation Commission, agreed that any plan to revitalize the East Bayshore property as a commercial hub must be particularly sensitive to the Baylands. But changes could actually benefit nature lovers by creating new amenities for them, he said.

"I think doing something that would (be) economically beneficial along East Bayshore wouldn't necessarily be unattractive or detract from enjoyment of nature by people," Michael said. "It might in fact bring people closer to appreciating nature."

Michael also said that if the city were to acquire the auto dealers' Embarcadero Road properties in a land swap — whether part of the Municipal Services Center were to relocate there are not — the city could try to attract restaurants and other establishments to the site. That, in turn, would support the city's airport and golf course, both of which are located along Embarcadero. ■

Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner can be emailed at [gsheyner@paweekly.com](mailto:gsheyner@paweekly.com).

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# Arts & Entertainment

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

## EYES

story by REBECCA WALLACE // photos by WALKER EVANS

# WIDIE OPEN

Fifty years of Walker Evans images fill new exhibition at Cantor Arts Center



Walker Evans lived his 71 years with his eyes wide open.

The revered American photographer is best known for his definitive images of families in the Great Depression: the filthy bare feet and weary eyes, the splintered floors and weathered metal bed frames. The haunting, sickly children.

His career also extended far beyond this era. Evans (1903-1975) was a photographer for five decades, shooting with pocket cameras, view cameras and Polaroids. His documentary style, whether applied to the Brooklyn Bridge in the '20s or road signs in the '70s, is still influential. A new show at Stanford's Cantor Arts Center gives visitors an unusually abundant overview of Evans' oeuvre.

Hung on plain, pale walls with only the occasional quote for company (including the one below), the works must speak for themselves. Abner Nolan, manager of the Elizabeth and Robert J. Fisher collection, which owns the photos, urges museum visitors to take their time.

People usually notice the subject of an Evans photo first, Nolan said at the exhibition opening on Feb. 1. If they look longer, he believes they'll appreciate the composition, the straightforward organization, the way that Evans seemingly always knew where to stand.

"The genius of Evans ... does not reveal itself easily," Nolan said. He later added that Evans showed viewers that "photography could operate as a kind of literary document."

"It had its own strength of conviction."

To be sure, the subject matter is often compelling. The heart of the exhibition is Evans' work during the Depression. "The 18-month stretch between 1935 and 1937 was arguably his best work," Nolan said.

Evans, who had dropped out of Williams College in Massachusetts and tried to be a writer in Paris, began working for the New Deal's Resettlement Administration in 1935, photographing the poor in the countryside. The following year, Fortune magazine sent Evans and the writer James Agee to Alabama to do a story on white tenant farmers.

This was the story of Evans' life. Though the magazine never ran the article, the photos and writing about the lives of three poverty-stricken sharecroppers and their families became the 1941 book "Let Us Now Praise Famous Men." Panned upon its release, the book gained new life

Clockwise from top: The vivid diagonals and circles of Walker Evans' "Traffic, New York City," a 1928-30 photo; "Broadway," 1930, which was probably made with several negatives; and "Alabama Tenant Farmer," a 1936 photo of Floyd Burroughs that appears in the book "Let Us Now Praise Famous Men." All photos are on loan from the Elizabeth and Robert J. Fisher collection.



*"Stare. It is the way to educate your eye, and more. Stare, pry, listen, eavesdrop. Die knowing something. You are not here long."*

— Walker Evans, 1960

(continued on page 22)

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Steve Lewis is President of Lewis & Mathews Investment Management in Menlo Park. He is a college professor, investment counselor, Value Line award winner, financial author and has appeared on national radio and television. He is a past officer of the S.C. International Association of Financial planners and served on the National Academy Advisory Board. He has written for Money magazine and Dow Jones's Barron's.



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



Debbie Peri, Vice President of Curran & Lewis, is an expert in retirement planning, portfolio analysis and investment management. She is a Certified Financial planner™ and a member of the Financial Planning Association and Financial Planning Forum. She was a Certified Public Accountant with Ernst & Young, has lectured extensively at the college level, and is a published investment author.

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## Walker Evans

(continued from page 21)

during the Civil Rights Movement and is now widely respected.

Many of the “Famous Men” photos are now at the Cantor, including the iconic portraits of Floyd Burroughs and his wife, Allie Mae. Both have narrow eyes and creases of worry between their eyebrows. Allie Mae seems completely closed off, while Floyd has a flicker in his deep eyes that makes him seem as though he might tell you his sad story if you asked the right question.

Nearby is the 1936 photo “Main Street, Selma, Alabama,” replete with shadowed, empty storefronts. In photos of families, clothes are ragged, just barely holding together. If the people don’t always seem completely at ease with the camera, they don’t appear anxious, either.

In the introduction to the 1998 edition of “Famous Men,” the journalist John Hersey wrote: “Evans ... would take his picture only when they were at ease and fully conscious of the camera eye staring



“Subway Passenger” was taken in New York in 1941. Walker Evans used a hidden camera and didn’t publish the series for 20 years.

straight at them, at home in their setting and in command of themselves. He bestowed on the objects in the families’ homes a similar tact and respect, as if things too had the right to defend themselves against the lens. The resulting photographs did not propagandize squalor; they gave full scope to the timeless dignity, beauty and pain of rounded lives.”

Other famous series by Evans are also represented in the exhibition, which was curated by Jeff L.

Rosenheim of New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art. One is Evans’ “subway series,” which he shot from 1938 through 1941 and published in the monograph “Many Are Called.”

To capture the portraits, Evans hid a camera in his coat from the anonymous passengers. They are as much a slice of the city commute as “Famous Men” is of rural poverty. Their faces show fatigue, boredom, curiosity; sometimes nothing at all.

A 1962 issue of Harper’s Bazaar displayed in the exhibition includes a quote from Evans: “These pictures were made twenty years ago and deliberately preserved from publication. As it happens, you don’t see among them the face of a judge or a senator or a bank president. What you do see is at once sobering, startling and obvious; these are the ladies and gentlemen of the jury.”

The Cantor show also includes some of Evans’ earlier photos: New York streets filled with vintage cars, men carrying a giant sign that reads “Damaged,” tiny images of the Brooklyn Bridge soaring into the sky.

In Evans’ final years, he turned to making Polaroid prints, in part because darkroom work can be grueling, Nolan said. Rarely exhibited, they line the back wall of the gallery, small squares that recall his early work in their size.

They’re nibbles of humanity, of road signs and fire hydrants. In one from the early ‘70s, red letters spell out “NO GUNING” on a wooden sign. All have the weathered, decades-old colors that people today strive for with their Hipstamatic iPhone apps.

With all of the faces that Walker Evans photographed, there’s one that viewers often don’t see: his own. In this show, one wall is devoted to a trio of self-portraits from his early life in France. In the two taken in a flat in Paris, Evans’ face is half in darkness. The other, shot in Juan-les-Pins, is unusual in that Evans has simply photographed his own shadow.

Even so, the photo is evocative, clearly capturing the silhouette of this 22-year-old in all his youth and newness: slight neck, small tuft of hair sticking up in back. A young man with so much ahead of him, so much to see. ■

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Bid specifications pertaining to this project are available from (Friday, Feb 3, 2012) to (Friday, Feb 17, 2012). Please call to schedule a mandatory job walk. Bid closing date is (Wednesday, Mar 8, 2012) at 5:00 PM. Bid opening at 725 Alma Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301 on (Thursday, Mar 9, 2012) at 10:00 AM.

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.

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

**What:** An exhibition of more than 100 photos by the American photographer Walker Evans  
**Where:** The Cantor Arts Center, Stanford University  
**When:** Through April 8. The museum is open Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Thursdays until 8 p.m.  
**Cost:** Free  
**Info:** Several free programs are planned, including a book discussion on “Let Us Now Praise Famous Men,” led by Stanford English department chair Gavin Jones at 1 p.m. Feb. 25; and an art talk on Evans’ work led by master’s candidate Adam Katseff at 2 p.m. March 9. Go to [museum.stanford.edu](http://museum.stanford.edu) or call 650-723-4177.



Before

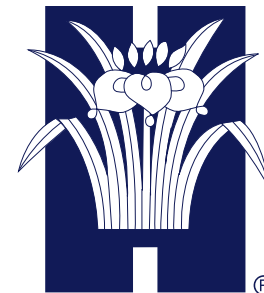


Before



After

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# Eating Out

FOOD FEATURE

## Outside the fast-food box

*Asian Box in Palo Alto offers cuisine inspired by Vietnamese street food*

by Sue Dremann

If the phrase “fast Asian food” conjures up images of soggy egg rolls and dishes glistening with oil, Asian Box executive chef Grace Nguyen aims to change that perception.

Nguyen, formerly of Charles Phan’s acclaimed Slanted Door and Out the Door restaurants in San Francisco, said she plans to pair five-star-quality cooking with fast-food service at a new restaurant in Palo Alto’s Town & Country Village. It’s set to open next week.

Inspired by Asian street-food carts, Asian Box’s stand-up food bar and take-out restaurant will combine fresh, on-the-spot cooking with sustainably raised local ingredients and traditional cooking methods and recipes, Nguyen said. And unlike at other fast-food places, each patron’s box meal will be cooked to order, controlling salt, spiciness, fats

and other dietary nuances that can affect health and taste.

Asian Box’s branding includes the trademarked question “What’s in Your Box?” It’s a fluid food concept that allows patrons to be in control of their meals, which can lead to any number of pairings and combinations, CEO Frank Klein said.

Patrons start by choosing a base, such as white or brown rice, Asian salad or noodles in savory vegetable broth. Next, they choose main ingredients such as range-raised lemongrass-marinated pork; six-spice marinated chicken; garlic and soy-glazed beef; coconut-curry tofu; or basil-lime tossed shrimp. Then comes the “pile on”: steamed or wok-spiced vegetables; then “box toppers,” such as crispy shallots, pickled vegetables, fresh herbs, pea-

(continued on next page)



Kelsey Kienitz

Grace Nguyen and Frank Klein at Town & Country Village.

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Kelsey Kientz

The soon-to-open Asian Box restaurant.

(continued from previous page)

nuts and caramel egg — hardboiled eggs braised in a caramel sauce.

There are six sauces to choose from, including “Gracie’s Sriracha,” a traditional Vietnamese condiment of dried and fresh chilies and secret ingredients; tamarind vinaigrette; peanut sauce; “Asian Box Street Dust,” a blend that includes Szechwan chilies, fennel and cinnamon; and “HotBoxIt,” a combination of Thai chilies, tamarind, vinegar and sugar, according to the website, [asianboxpaloalto.com](http://asianboxpaloalto.com). Menu prices begin at \$7.25.

“I hope it’s going to change the way Palo Alto is going to eat. With Asian food, you can get really healthy, super-fresh and clean flavors,” Nguyen said.

Klein said much of the Bay Area’s Asian cuisine is “muddled fusion that needs specificity.” The restaurant will focus on Vietnamese and Thai cuisine, both of which use ingredients with vibrant flavors.

“It’s not a cook-and-hold, like Panda Express. It’s cooked to order like at an Asian food stall,” he said.

Klein, a Palo Alto resident, owns FK Restaurants and Hospitality, a food-industry consulting firm. His clients have included Stanford University and the National Park Service.

Focusing on healthful eating, he has spoken at the White House to First Lady Michelle Obama’s “Let’s Move!” group, which works on solving childhood obesity. He created the concept for Fish & Farm Restaurant in San Francisco, which serves only organic meats and local produce sourced within 100 miles.

In conceiving Asian Box, Klein said he looked around the Bay Area and didn’t find the kind of authentic “brightness” that is part of traditional Asian cuisine, especially in the fast-casual arena. Nguyen met Klein through her husband, Chad Newton, chef at Fish & Farm. Newton, who was raised in Mountain View, is also a partner in Asian Box.

Nguyen, 34, said she had known she wanted to be a chef since she was 16. She started cooking professionally at 20. Her mother’s baking piqued Nguyen’s interest in food, but her grandmother’s traditional Vietnamese cooking sparked her passion, she said.

“Her role in the family was to care (for) and feed her 11 children and when she moved to the U.S. she assumed that same role — cooking all morning and afternoon prepar-

ing traditional Vietnamese dishes for our family. Her okra soup with crab and pickled eggplant was my favorite. I still search for okra leaves at the market so I can recreate her recipe,” she said.

Nguyen found options for authentic Asian cooking outside of home were lacking when she was growing up. “I grew up in Houston, Texas, where they didn’t even have sushi.”

When she got to San Francisco, the culinary world opened up for her. She worked for Wolfgang Puck at the acclaimed Postrio restaurant as a line cook working on a grill. “I was the only girl working with the big boys,” she recalled.

She moved on to Postrio’s Las Vegas location as a sous chef, then returned to San Francisco to accept a position as sous chef for Slanted Door, where she became chef de cuisine. She developed a following for her menu specials that celebrated her heritage, she said.

Nguyen said much of her work was in fine dining, but that working for Phan at Slanted Door opened her up to how simplicity could still translate into a sublime experience — and that she could make food that was like what she ate at home.

“Living in San Francisco, you get such amazing produce and you get to be creative,” she said.

At Asian Box, on weekends Nguyen might also serve up outside-the-box specials that only those in the know can order. Klein said he hopes to add a little intrigue to Palo Alto’s well-traveled palates by serving specialty items that can be ordered using a password, such as “Miss Jones,” Nguyen’s nickname.

The main menu also offers special items such as spiced and herbed beef “Jungle Jerky,” and drinks such as lemon-lime marmalade and Vietnamese ice coffee.

Asian Box will not have indoor seating. Klein said a stand-up counter will serve customers and 40 outside seats will offer a casual sit-down space. Catering is expected to be about 20 percent of business.

The 900-square-foot space will have an open kitchen and is constructed of all LEED-certified, reclaimed products for “a cool, organic vibe” that will include Asian pop music selected by Joel Selvin, former San Francisco Chronicle music critic.

Asian Box is at Town & Country Village, Suite 21, and is scheduled to open on Feb. 17, if it can make it through the approval process by that time, Klein said. ■

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# Movies

## OPENINGS

### The Vow ★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) If the Adam Sandler/Drew Barrymore chuckler “50 First Dates” had been recast as a romantic drama and produced by the Oprah Winfrey Network, “The Vow” might have been the result. Fortunately, leads Rachel McAdams (“Midnight in Paris”) and Channing Tatum (“Haywire”) serve up solid performances and help keep the film somewhat grounded despite its lofty proclamations about love and loyalty.

The fledgling passion-fueled marriage between young sweethearts Leo (Tatum) and Paige (McAdams) comes crashing to a halt when a truck slams into their car on an ice-covered road, sending Paige through the front windshield and into the ER. When she awakes from an induced coma, she has no memory of Leo or their time together. Paige’s most recent recollections come from well before she met Leo, while she was still on speaking terms with her judgmental socialite parents (Sam Neill and Jessica Lange).

Paige’s doctor recommends she return to her normal routine — life with Leo in their Chicago apartment — in hopes of rekindling her lost memories. While Leo desperately tries to remind Paige of her forgotten life, she retreats to the comfort of the family and friends she can recall, including her sleazy former fiancé, Jeremy (Scott Speedman of “Underworld”). Leo sets aside his responsibilities as the owner of a small recording studio and endures one awkward situation after another to win Paige back.

Tatum and McAdams have a comfortable chemistry and their relationship is mostly believable, though clearly over-romanticized. Tatum is a pleasant surprise and his character is sympathetic despite the picture’s layer of Hollywood schmaltz. Neill is smartly cast as Paige’s shady father, while Lange’s appearance seems to have been marred by cosmetic surgery, which overshadows her otherwise decent performance.

The romantic, cheesy scenarios that abound in “The Vow” range from somewhat endearing to nauseatingly saccharine. In one flashback scene, Leo uses blueberries to write “Move in?” on Paige’s breakfast plate; in another, a sick Paige opens a care package from Leo while he stands outside in the pouring rain. The picture’s costuming is questionable at best, although some viewers may not be bothered by Tatum’s several shirtless appearances (and one very gratuitous butt shot).

At times it is difficult to watch Leo and Paige struggle through such a heart-wrenching experience. Leo and Paige are generally either elated or distraught, with very little middle ground. And while the characters in Paige’s life are moderately fleshed out, including her parents and sister (Jessica McNamee), those in Leo’s

life are numbingly one-note.

While most films nowadays include 3D glasses, “The Vow” comes with the rose-colored variety.

*Rated PG-13 for sexual content, partial nudity, language and an accident scene. One hour, 44 minutes.*

— Tyler Hanley

## NOW PLAYING

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

### Big Miracle ★★

(Century 16, Century 20) The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines “miracle” as “an extraordinary event manifesting divine intervention in human affairs” or “an extremely outstanding or unusual event, thing, or accomplishment.” OK, so imagine that, except “big.” I kid. With “Big Miracle,” the new PG “Save the Whales” drama, perhaps the title sets an expectation that Ken Kwapis’ movie can’t quite deliver. The original title was “Everybody Loves Whales,” which suggests a sitcom nobody wants to see. “Big Miracle” recounts a 1988 incident that temporarily gripped network news cycles: A family of three grey whales becomes trapped in the ice around Barrow, Alaska, sparking a debate as to how and whether to save them. Greenpeace activist Rachel Kramer (Drew Barrymore) represents for the sentimental anthropomorphizers in the audience. Rachel gets wind of the whales from her ex-boyfriend Adam Carlson (John Krasinski), who breaks the story. The local Inuit Eskimo community has a tradition of subsisting off whale meat, and they propose harvesting the whales. But the popular decision quickly becomes to expend massive amounts of money and (federal) resources to saving the whales. “Big Miracle” plays best as a passable family flick, enabled by an Eskimo lad (Ahmaogak Sweeney) shadowing Adam

### Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close ★★

(Century 16, Century 20) This Jonathan Safran Foer novel beguiled many readers but wits as an Oscar-season drama. Director Stephen Daldry (“The Hours”) and screenwriter Eric Roth (“Forrest Gump”) attempt to replicate the novel’s subjective treatment of a boy protagonist. But literalized by the camera, the story’s creakiness seems loud and close for anyone sensitive to the contrived and cloying. The story concerns 11-year-old Manhattanite Oskar Schell (Thomas Horn), reeling from the death of his father (Tom Hanks) in the Twin Towers. Though the boy’s mother (Sandra Bullock) harbors serious concerns for her son, she does not discourage him when he becomes convinced that his puzzle-loving dad has left behind one more mystery: a small key to an unknown lock somewhere in the city. Rated PG-13 for emotional material, disturbing images and language. Two hours, 10 minutes. — P.C. (Reviewed Jan. 20, 2012)

### The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo ★★

(Century 20) David Fincher’s adaptation of Stieg Larsson’s mystery novel judiciously pares down 480 pages to 158 minutes. It’s hard not to feel Fincher’s film is old news, after Larsson’s widely read “Millennium” trilogy (2005-2007) and the Swedish films starring Noomi Rapace as the punk

everywhere. That the story otherwise downplays the role of the Inuits, in favor of the interlopers played by familiar faces, is just business as usual for mainstream cinema. Rated PG for language. One hour, 47 minutes. — P.C. (Reviewed Feb. 3, 2012)

### The Grey ★★

(Century 16, Century 20) Action-horror hybrid “The Grey” pits man (Liam Neeson) versus wild (bloodthirsty wolves) in a sub-Arctic death match. Oil-pipeline grunts, whose flight to Anchorage crashes far off the beaten path, confront starvation, freezing and a pack of wolves that make it known that the men have encroached on their territory. Thankfully, “The Grey” is exponentially better than the last teaming of director and co-screenwriter Joe Carnahan and Neeson. This film’s relatively minimalist approach seems like some kind of penance for the excesses of “The A-Team.” Forced by circumstance, the abrasive group stumbles into male bonding as well as quarrels over the best plan of survival, meanings of life or lack thereof, or nothing at all, the last preferable to letting in fear. Though it does thrill with intense, close-cropped action photography, swift editing and vivid sound design, the film makes as much of an impression by being unexpectedly emotional. Rated R for violence/disturbing content including bloody images, and for pervasive language. 1 hour, 57 minutes. — P.C. (Reviewed Jan. 27, 2012)

hacker hero Lisbeth Salander. On the other hand, this is the film the novel has been waiting for: a crisp handling of the complex narrative that’s visually striking and impeccably acted. Lisbeth (Rooney Mara) is a vivid character. A superheroic sociopath in leather and piercings, Lisbeth suffers no fools, unless as a means to the fool’s end. Though the mystery cannot engross as deeply as it does on the page, Fincher’s version is intelligent, properly moody and faithful enough. Rated R for brutal violent content, strong sexuality, graphic nudity and language. Two hours, 38 minutes. — P.C. (Reviewed Dec. 23, 2011)

### Haywire ★★

(Century 20) Filmmaker Steven Soderbergh follows his whimsy in his latest cinematic lark. Seeing mixed-martial arts fighter Gina Carano on TV, Soderbergh decided she needed to be an action star. Thus, “Haywire,” scripted by Lem Dobbs (“The Limey”). Carano plays Mallory Kane, an ex-Marine sent on black ops by a private agency. Matters go “haywire” when Kane becomes inconvenient to those who hired her, which sends the operative on a

mission of revenge and self-preservation. That’s all you need to know about the story, which trafficks in the usual clichés but in a souped-up Soderbergian vehicle distinguished by its driver: Carano. Soderbergh’s pursuit of fun turns out to be fairly infectious, whether it be a subplot

(continued on page next page)

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## Movies

(continued from previous page)

that finds Kane whisking up a freaked-out innocent bystander (Michael Angarano) or a beach-set battle that evokes the classic TV spy series "The Prisoner." Rated R for violence. One hour, 33 minutes. — P.C. (Reviewed Jan. 20, 2012)

### The Iron Lady ★★★1/2

(Aquarius, Century 20) Don't expect sharp political analysis of Margaret Thatcher's

11-year reign as the 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. 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. And newcomer Alexandra Roach exhibits the spunk and drive of the Iron Lady as a young woman. You decide if Thatcher succeeded in her attempts to put the "Great" back in "Great Britain." Politics aside, the film is a must-see for Streep's great performance in a story compellingly told. Rated PG-13 for brief nudity and some violent images. One hour, 45 minutes. — S.T. (Reviewed Jan. 13, 2012)

## MOVIE TIMES

Times for the Century 16 movie theater are through Wednesday only unless noted.

### A Separation (PG-13) ★★★1/2

Guild Theatre: 2:30, 5:30 & 8:30 p.m.; Fri.-Sun. also at 11:30 a.m.

### The Adventures of Tintin (PG) (Not Reviewed)

Century 16: 4 p.m.; In 3D at 11 a.m. & 9:25 p.m.

### The Artist (PG-13) ★★★1/2

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

### Big Miracle (PG) ★★

Century 16: 11 a.m.; 1:35, 4:10, 6:50 & 9:45 p.m. Century 20: 11:15 a.m.; 1:50, 4:25, 7:05 & 9:45 p.m.

### Chronicle (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)

Century 16: 11:40 a.m.; 1:55 & 4:05 p.m.; Fri.-Mon. & Wed. also at 7:05 & 9:50 p.m.; Tue. also at 10:15 p.m. Century 20: 12:35, 2:50 & 5:05 p.m.; Fri.-Mon., Wed. & Thu. also at 7:30 & 9:50 p.m.; Tue. also at 10 p.m.

### Contraband (R) (Not Reviewed)

Century 20: 6:25 p.m.; Fri. & Sun.-Thu. also at 1:30 p.m.

### The Descendants (R) ★★1/2

Aquarius Theatre: 3:15, 6 & 8:45 p.m.; Fri.-Sun. also at 12:30 p.m.

Century 20: 11:10 a.m.; 1:50, 4:30, 7:15 & 10 p.m.

### The Devil to Pay! (1930)

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

### Employees' Entrance (1933)

Stanford Theatre: Tue.-Thu. at 6:05 & 8:55 p.m.

### Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close (PG-13) ★★

Century 16: 12:30 & 6:40 p.m. Century 20: 11:05 a.m.

### Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)

Century 20: In 3D Thu. at 12:01 & 12:02 a.m.

### The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo (2011) (R) ★★★

Century 20: 1 p.m.; Fri.-Wed. also at 6:50 p.m.

### The Grey (R) ★★★

Century 16: 12:25, 3:40, 7:10 & 10:10 p.m. Century 20: 11:30 a.m.; 2:15, 4:55, 7:40 & 10:30 p.m.

### Haywire (R) ★★1/2

Century 20: 10:25 p.m.

### Her Night of Romance (1924)

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

### Hugo (PG) ★★★1/2

Century 16: 2:40 & 9:20 p.m.; In 3D at 11:30 a.m. & 6:10 p.m. Century 20: 3:40 & 9:35 p.m.; In 3D at 12:45 & 6:40 p.m.

### The Iron Lady (PG-13) ★★★1/2

Aquarius Theatre: 4:15 & 7 p.m.; Fri., Sat. & Mon.-Thu. also at 9:45 p.m.; Fri.-Sun. also at 1:30 p.m. Century 20: 11:50 a.m.; 2:20, 5, 7:30 & 10:05 p.m.

### Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (PG) (Not Reviewed)

Century 16: Noon, 5 & 10:30 p.m.; In 3D at 11 a.m.; 1:30, 2:30, 4:20, 7, 8 & 9:40 p.m. Century 20: 4:30 & 9:30 p.m.; Sat. & Sun. also at 10:30 a.m.; In 3D at 12:10, 1:55, 2:40, 5:10, 7, 7:45 & 10:15 p.m.

### Leonardo Live (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed)

Century 20: Thu. at 7 p.m. Palo Alto Square: Thu. at 7 p.m.

### The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp (1943)

Stanford Theatre: Sat.-Mon. at 7:30 p.m.; Sun. also at 3:30 p.m.

### Man on a Ledge (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)

Century 20: 12:05, 2:55, 5:25 & 7:55 p.m.

### The Metropolitan Opera: Götterdämmerung (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed)

Century 20: Sat. at 9 a.m. Palo Alto Square: Sat. at 9 a.m.

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

Century 16: 3:30 & 9:35 p.m.

### One for the Money (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)

Century 16: 1:40 & 7 p.m. Century 20: Fri.-Wed. at 4:25 & 10:15 p.m.; Thu. at 10:20 p.m.

### Pina 3D (PG) (Not Reviewed)

Palo Alto Square: Fri.-Wed. at 4:30 & 7:15 p.m.; Fri., Sat. & Tue. also at 9:50 p.m.; Fri. & Sun.-Wed. also at 1:50 p.m.; Thu. at 1:50 p.m.

### Red Tails (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)

Century 20: 11:10 a.m.; 2, 4:50, 7:45 & 10:35 p.m.

### Safe House (R) (Not Reviewed)

Century 16: 11:10 a.m.; 12:10, 1:50, 2:50, 4:30, 6:10, 7:40, 9:20 & 10:30 p.m. Century 20: 11:45 a.m.; 1:10, 2:30, 3:55, 5:15, 6:45, 8, 9:35 & 10:45 p.m.

### Star Wars: Episode I -- The Phantom Menace 3D (PG) (Not Reviewed)

Century 16: Fri.-Wed. at 11 a.m.; noon, 2:20, 3:20, 6:10, 7:20, 9:40 & 10:30 p.m.; Thu. at noon, 3:20, 7:20 & 10:30 p.m. Century 20: 11:15 a.m.; 1:15, 2:20, 4:20, 5:25, 7:25, 8:30 & 10:30 p.m.

### This Means War (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed)

Century 16: Tue. at 7:30 p.m. Century 20: Tue. at 7:30 p.m.; Thu. at 12:01 a.m.

### Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy (R) ★★★1/2

Century 16: 11:50 a.m.; 3, 6:30 & 9:30 p.m.

### Underworld: Awakening (R) (Not Reviewed)

Century 20: Fri. & Sun.-Thu. at 11:20 a.m.; In 3D Fri. & Sun.-Thu. at 4:05 & 9 p.m.; In 3D Sat. at 9 p.m.

### The Vow (PG-13) ★★1/2

Century 16: 11:20 a.m.; 12:20, 2:10, 3:10, 4:50, 6:20, 7:50, 9:10 & 10:30 p.m. Century 20: 11:35 a.m.; 12:55, 2:10, 3:30, 4:45, 6:10, 7:20, 8:50 & 9:55 p.m.; Sat. & Sun. also at 10:25 a.m.

### The Woman in Black (PG-13) ★★1/2

Century 16: 11:20 a.m.; 2, 4:40, 7:30 & 10:20 p.m. Century 20: 12:25, 3, 5:30, 8:05 & 10:40 p.m.

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

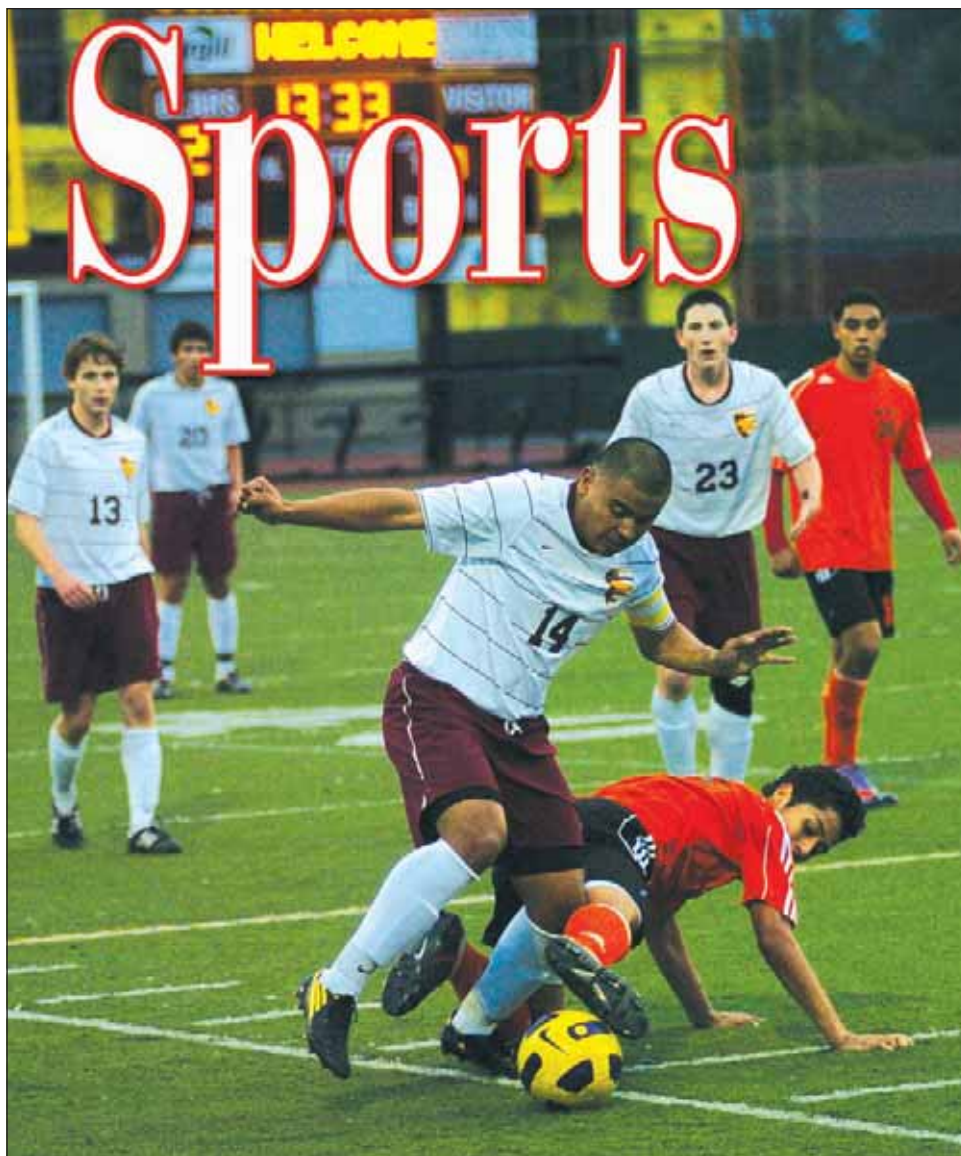
Internet address: For show times, theater addresses, plot synopses, trailers and more information about films playing, go to [PaloAltoOnline.com/movies](http://PaloAltoOnline.com/movies)

# Sports Shorts

**STARRING ROLE . . .** What a week it has been for Palo Alto High grad **Jeremy Lin**. He scored an NBA career-high 25 points on Saturday and broke that with 28 points on Monday in his first start — becoming the first NBA player to score at least 28 points and have eight assists in his first start since Isiah Thomas in 1981. Lin also secured a guarantee contract for the remainder of the season, estimated at around \$788,000. Now, if likes, he can move out of his brother **Josh's** New York City apartment. To top it all off, Lin now has his first NBA dunk. That came Wednesday night in a 107-93 victory over the host Washington Wizards. Lin scored 23 points, dished out a career-high 10 assists and committed just two turnovers. With three breakout games (76 points and 25 assists) the Harvard graduate has become the NBA's newest playmaking sensation. He's a fan favorite — home and away — and has earned more than 60,000 Twitter followers in just five days. "Like I said after the last game, I wouldn't have imagined this," said Lin, who was undrafted in 2010 and played his rookie season in Golden State. He later was claimed off waivers by the Houston Rockets and eventually found his way to New York. Lin will be back in Madison Square Garden on Friday as the Knicks play host to the Los Angeles Lakers on ESPN.

**SISTER ACT . . .** Stanford women's basketball's sibling combo of senior **Nnemekadi** and sophomore **Chiney Ogwumike** were named to the United States Basketball Writers Association's National Player of the Year Midseason Watch List on Thursday. Stanford is one of six schools with at least two candidates on the list. Notre Dame led the pack with three selections. This marks the second midseason list that the sisters have been named to this season. They were named to the John R. Wooden Award's Midseason Top 20 on Jan. 27.

**CARDINAL CORNER . . .** Heisman Trophy runner-up **Andrew Luck** is one of six Stanford football players who have been invited to the NFL scouting combine, Feb. 22-28 in Indianapolis, Ind. Joining Luck will be offensive guard **David DeCastro**, tight end **Coby Fleener**, offensive tackle **Jonathan Martin**, safety **Delano Howell** and wide receiver **Chris Owusu**.



Menlo-Atherton senior **Edgardo Molina (14)** battled a San Mateo defender on Monday in the Bears' 2-0 week. M-A won again Wednesday, 3-1, over Aragon as Molina had two assists.

## PREP SOCCER

### League titles, CCS berths are still up for grabs as season heads to a close

by Keith Peters

The high school soccer season is fast coming to a close, but the action is far from over with a handful of local teams headed to the Central Coast Section playoffs that begin February 21 and 22.

The Sacred Heart Prep and Menlo-Atherton boys are locks for the postseason while the Menlo boys are likely and Gunn a possible.

The SHP, Menlo and Priory girls are all headed to CCS while Menlo-Atherton should join them, as well.

As for league titles, the SHP boys appear a shoe-in, the M-A boys are a solid bet and the Menlo girls have the inside track.

The Sacred Heart Prep boys (10-0-2, 13-0-4)

can wrap up the West Bay Athletic League with a victory over visiting Eastside Prep on Friday 2:45 p.m. Having 35 points will be insurmountable, with Menlo (8-1-3, 11-1-5) finishing with 33 points at best. Only the top two teams will advance to the CCS Division III playoffs.

Sacred Heart Prep moved a step closer to defending its WBAL title with a 1-0 victory over last-place Pinewood on Wednesday in Atherton. Junior Brendan Spillane tallied the winner off an assist from sophomore Will Mishra in the second half. Pinewood fell to 0-10-2 (0-13-3).

Menlo, which failed to qualify for the postseason last year, vowed not to let that happen

Continued on page 30

## PREP WRESTLING

### Palo Alto hoping to pin down another league title

by Keith Peters

History was made one year ago when the Palo Alto wrestling team won its first league-meet championship in 25 years. The Vikings accomplished that after finishing second to unbeaten Los Gatos during the dual-match season.

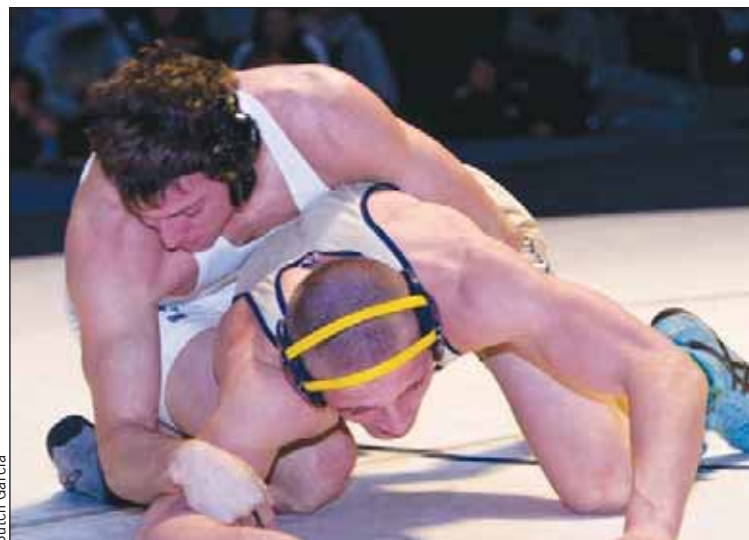
Palo Alto can add to the history book on Saturday when it goes after its second straight title in the SCVAL Championships at Homestead High, which begin at 10 a.m. The Vikings

can become the first Paly team to win back-to-back league wrestling titles since the 1960s and equal the 1986 squad that won both the dual-match and league-meet crowns.

Paly went 5-1 in duals this season, winning the title on Monday with a 53-16 victory over host Los Altos. Gunn had a chance to finish 5-1, needing to beat Los Gatos on Thursday night, but the Titans' lone loss was to Paly.

On Saturday, both teams will be

Continued on page 31



Palo Alto's **Kalen Gans (top)** is the defending SCVAL champ at 160 pounds and is ranked No. 1 in the CCS in the division.

## COLLEGE SOFTBALL

### Stanford starts with nation's best player

Cardinal hopes Hansen and other top returnees can get team back to the College World Series this season

by Rick Eymmer

**A**shley Hansen, the reigning National College Softball Player of the Year, opened last season with a sensational showing at the Kajikawa Classic in Tempe, Ariz., which led to her emergence as the nation's top player.

The senior shortstop returns to Tempe this weekend as ninth-ranked Stanford opens its season with five scheduled games on the campus of Arizona State. No one expects Hansen to repeat her performance — 11 of 18 (.611) with two doubles, two triples, seven runs scored and five RBI — but anyone who has seen her play knows she doesn't give up an at bat or a fielding chance lightly.

Hansen, along with returning power pitcher Teagan Gerhart (yes, Toby's younger sister) and several other all-Pac-10 and all-West Region returnees give the Cardinal (42-17 last year with an appearance in the NCAA Super Regional) a championship look.

Stanford, which qualified for its 14th consecutive NCAA tournament and reached its fifth Super Regional under veteran coach John Rittman, once again will face a difficult task in the Pac-12.

A conference team has won 24 of the 30 NCAA titles contested and another 16 have lost in the title game.

There were seven Pac-12 teams in last year's NCAA tournament and six of them advanced to a Super Regional, with the Sun Devils and California reaching the Women's College World Series. Arizona State came out of the losers' bracket to win the title.

Stanford dropped two of three to host Alabama, the national No. 2 seed, in last year's Super Regional and is looking for its first WCWS appearance since 2004 this time around.

Despite its national ranking, the Cardinal was picked to finish fifth in the Pac-12. That's because Stanford is just one of seven conference teams among the ESPN/USA Softball preseason top 25.

Hansen and Gerhart are two of 11 returning lettermen, who also include first team all-conference and first team all-region picks Sarah Hassman and Jenna Rich.

"We have very high expectations for this season," said Rittman, beginning his 16th year with the program. "We have a group of seniors who have been through pretty much every postseason scenario that



Ashley Hansen

## ON THE AIR

### Sunday

**Women's basketball:** UCLA at Stanford, noon; Comcast Sports Net Bay Area; KZSU (90.1 FM)

**Men's basketball:** Stanford at USC, 4:30 p.m.; Fox Sports Net KNBR (1050 AM); KZSU (90.1 FM)

### Thursday

**Women's basketball:** Stanford at Oregon St., 7 p.m.; (90.1 FM)

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

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## Prep soccer

(continued from page 29)

this season and have made that stick thus far. The Knights won their fourth straight on Wednesday with a 3-2 decision over visiting Eastside Prep, knocking the Panthers (6-5) out of CCS.

Junior Max Parker scored twice and senior Lyall Cooper added the other goal as Menlo extended its streak of 11 straight matches without a loss. The Knights can pretty much secure second place with a win over third-place King's Academy (8-1-2) on Friday at 2:45 p.m.

The Menlo-Atherton boys, meanwhile, have an unbeaten streak of 17 in the works following a 3-1 victory over host Aragon on Wednesday. The first-place Bears (8-0-3, 13-0-4) got goals from Tom Kaheli, Esteban Pena and James Sebes and assists from Edgardo Molina (two) and fellow senior try-captain Aaron Oro. Molina and Oro scored goals Monday in a big 2-0 win over visiting San Mateo, which moved the Bears into first place.

Menlo-Atherton will close out a busy week by hosting Burlingame on Friday at 6 p.m.

In the SCVAL De Anza Division, Gunn kept its hopes alive for a section playoff berth with a 1-0 victory over visiting Milpitas on Wednesday. Senior Sam Emad-Vaez scored in the seventh minute of the first half on an assist from Stefan Jensen as the Titans improved to 5-4-1 in league (8-6-3 overall).

Gunn remains in fourth place with 16 points while trailing league champ Mountain View (28 points), Saratoga (20) and Los Altos (18).

### Girls soccer

It has been 20 years since Menlo School has won a league title. That came in 1992 when the Knights competed in the Girls Private School League. Two more victories by Menlo will end that title drought.

Menlo remained atop the West Bay Athletic League (Foothill Division) race with a 3-0 victory over host Castilleja on Tuesday at the Mayfield Soccer Complex.

The Knights improved to 9-1 in league (11-4-2 overall) and held a three-point lead over second-place Priory heading into Thursday's match against last-place Mercy-Burlingame. A victory by the Knights clinched no worse than a co-title.

Menlo will have to beat or tie visiting Sacred Heart Prep (7-2-1, 9-4-5) on Tuesday at 2:45 p.m. to claim the outright title — the Knights' first in the WBAL.

Sophomores Chandler Wickers, Jay Boissiere and Lindsay Karle provided the goals in the win over Castilleja.

Menlo's defense of senior Shannon Lacy, junior Hannah Rubin, sophomore Sienna Stritter, freshmen Alexandra Walker was rock-solid throughout the match as the Knights posted their seventh straight shutout.

In San Mateo, Priory (8-2, 11-4-2) maintained its hold on second place with a 5-0 victory over last-

place Mercy-Burlingame. Molly Simpson scored twice while Lexi Garrity, Eugenia Jernick and Darrah Shields provided the other goals. The Panthers have 24 points with two matches remaining in the regular season — both against King's Academy.

In Sunnyvale, Sacred Heart Prep remained in third place in the WBAL race with a 2-1 victory over host King's Academy. The Knights (3-6, 8-7-1) grabbed a 1-0 lead in the first half before the Gators rallied on a goal by Ali Jordan in the 23rd minute off an assist from Christine Callinan. Sacred Heart got the game-winner in the 75th minute from junior Kendall Jager off an assist from Stephanie Terpening.

In the WBAL Skyline Division, Pinewood kept its hopes alive for a playoff berth with a 4-0 victory over host Harker on Tuesday. Danielle Man provided the first and winning goal off an assist from Gabz Amos-Crosser in the 37th minute. Freshman Nicole Colonna made it 2-0 with an unassisted goal 14 minutes later. Man scored her second goal of the match in the 60th minute with Adrienne Whitlock following three minutes later with another unassisted tally as the Panthers improved to 12-1-1 in league (13-3-2 overall).

In the PAL Bay Division, Menlo-Atherton suffered its second straight 0-0 outcome, this time against host Aragon. The Bears (6-2-3, 10-4-3) still had to get satisfaction of reducing the Don's first-place lead over Carlmont to just two points. ■

## Softball

(continued from page 29)

you can go through. They are really leading this team by example and are very determined to get to the College World Series and compete for a national championship. With the infusion of a lot of young talent, that goal is within reach for us."

Hansen and Hassman are at the top of the list when it comes to seniors with experience. Maya Burns and Jenna Becerra are the other seniors and have been major contributors during their time at Stanford.

Hansen, who has played with the U.S. National Team, has all the credentials as anyone who has played the game. She never slowed down after opening last year on a tear. She led the Pac-10 with a .495 batting average, 25 doubles, 95 hits, a .558 on-base percentage and a .797 slugging percentage. She ranked seventh with 51 runs scored.

Hansen led the nation in doubles per game (0.42) and ranked third in batting average, ninth in on-base percentage and 18th in slugging percentage. She was also listed as the third-toughest player in the nation to strikeout. Hansen's batting average, slugging percentage and hit totals all set Stanford single season records.

"Ever since Ashley has been in the Stanford program she has been a special player," Rittman said. "She has been an outstanding player both offensively and defensively, and does things the right way. She's the glue on our defense that keeps everyone into the game. She controls the emotions of the team on the field and she is just an outstanding leader."

Gerhart (26-13, 1.74 last year) also has established herself in the Stanford record books. She currently ranks second all-time in ERA (1.70), sixth in strikeouts (423), sixth in shutouts (14), seventh in wins (48).

Freshman Nyree White brings her own set of credentials to Stanford. The daughter of Oregon coach Mike White, Nyree led Marist High in Eugene to a pair of state titles. She's a three-time Pitcher of the Year and a four-time first team All-State selection.

She also played with the U.S. Junior National Team, which won the International Softball Federation Junior Women's World Championship in Cape Town, South Africa. White, who appeared in six games as a pitcher and first baseman, threw a three-inning, 17-0, perfect game against Botswana. She was 5 of 8 (.625) with three RBI.

White also won a gold medal, with the Under-18 national team, at the 2010 Pan American Championships, which qualified the Americans for the world tournament.

Hassman was one of the top centerfielders in the nation last year. She led the Pac-12 with 35 stolen bases and was the team leader with 60 runs scored. She was second, behind Hansen, with a .398 batting average, 74 hits and a .496 on-base percentage.

Rich has a .316 career average and has collected 22 home runs midway through her Cardinal ca-



Rick Baile/Stanfordphoto.com

Teagan Gerhart

reer, which is the 10th-most in school history.

Becerra returns as the starting first baseman, and she can also play third base. Burns was a catcher and outfielder last year.

Kelsey Gerhart, one of the softball-playing Gerhart triplets with Teagan and Whitley, an outfielder for Cal Poly, is one of the top defensive catchers in the Pac-12.

Sophomores Corey Hanewich, Danielle Miller, Michelle Prong and Caitlyn Pura also return with plenty of experience.

Hanewich was an All-Pac-10 Conference honorable mention pick and named to the All-Pac-10 Freshman Team. Miller, also an All-Pac-10 Freshman Team selection, was third on the team with 35 RBI. Prong earned All-Pac-10 Freshman honorable mention honors while leading the team with 30 walks on the year. Pura started 23 games and appeared in 33.

White is one of eight freshmen and one of 10 rookies. Redshirt freshman Madison Hanten and redshirt sophomore Tegan Schmidt have yet to play with Stanford because of injuries.

"We have eight very talented freshmen, who have really brought a lot of competition at each position for us," said Rittman. "They are providing quality depth to our team and can provide consistency day-in and day-out. They are a good group of kids that work hard both on and off the field. They are going to bring a lot to this year's team."

In addition to White, the freshman class also consists of Erin Ashby, Lauren Donovan, Hanna Winter, Alyssa Lombardo, Cassandra Roulund, Leah White and Tylyn Wells.

Stanford will again play one of the toughest schedules in the nation, including 28 games against last year's NCAA Tournament field.

"As always, we play a pretty tough non-conference schedule," Rittman said. "We are going to three high-profile tournaments, playing quite a few teams that made the postseason last year. It is going to give us a good indication of where we're at and what we need to work on to get ready for our conference season."

Stanford opens against Cal State Northridge and Texas A&M on Friday. The Cardinal will also play Portland State, Texas Tech and UC Santa Barbara. ■

## Flags of Iwo Jima: The True Story



This photograph of the raising of the American flag on Mt. Suribachi, Iwo Jima, in the final months of WWII is arguably the most famous photo ever made. It is the most published of photos and it is an enduring icon of the American experience. The picture has inspired four motion pictures, numerous books and articles, the monument at Arlington National Cemetery, and more. Made by San Francisco photographer Joe Rosenthal of the Associated Press, the picture is that rare image that directly changed the way Americans thought and acted. It inspired the Seventh (and final) War Bond drive of WWII.

Join **Hal Buell**, veteran Associated Press photo editor and author, as he discusses the story of the photograph and traces the lifelong journey of Rosenthal and his remarkable picture. In this presentation of more than 100 photographs and video clips Buell tells the full, true story of the photo, the battle of Iwo Jima, the photo's impact on WWII, and the photo's life as a lasting, patriotic symbol.

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## Wrestling

(continued from page 29)

in the hunt for the team crown while their athletes will be gunning for top-six finishes to earn berths for the Central Coast Section Championships.

"We are looking to defend our league tournament title," said Paly coach Dave Duran. "This year, the tournament is a little more wide open. The best tournament teams in our league this year have been Cupertino, Los Gatos, Gunn and us."

"If we can have our horses repeat as they did last season, and have our younger guys qualify to the CCS tournament, we should defend our tournament title."

Palo Alto returns three individual champions — Joey Christopherson (121), Nick Ortiz (127) and Kalen Gans (162). The Vikings had 11 CCS qualifiers last year.

Gans is ranked No. 1 in the CCS at 160, Ortiz is No. 1 at 134 and Christopherson is No. 10 at 126. Paly also has Jordan Smith (No. 13 at 113), Trent Marshall (No. 11 at 138), Gary Hohbach (No. 15 at 145), Ryan Oshima (No. 5 at 154), Erik Anderson (No. 10 at 170), Christian Lonsky (No. 21 at 182) and Tanner Marshall (No. 25 at 285).

Gunn had six CCS qualifiers at last year's league meet, five of whom are back.

"If we win the league tournament, which I also think we can do, I will be a happy coach," said Gunn's Chris Horpel. "This has been one of our best seasons ever at Gunn, and I hope we can keep it going at league and CCS. I think we have at least 11 CCS-type wrestlers this year."

Gunn's CCS-ranked athletes are Cadence Lee (No. 14 at 106), Daniel Papp (No. 16 at 113), Eric Cramer (No. 7 at 126), Miko Mallari (No. 21 at 138), Chris Jin (No. 6 at 145), Julian Calderon (No. 10 at 152), Casey Jackson (No. 11 at 160), Sean Lydster (No. 5 at 195), JJ Strnad (No. 20 at 220) and Harsha Mokkarala (No. 22 at 285).

"Overall, this is a great dual-meet team," Horpel said. "I wish I had this lineup all season long, but kids had to wrestle other weight classes until later in the season."

Wrestling's postseason got under way a week ago as Gunn sophomore Cadence Lee and Menlo-Atherton senior Kendra Wiley each pinned down an individual title at the 2012 Central Coast Section Girls' Wrestling Championships last Saturday at Oak Grove High in San Jose.

The top-seeded Lee won the 103-pound title and the top-seeded Wiley took the 126-pound crown. A total of 41 schools and 166 wrestlers were represented in the two-day event, with Gunn finishing 17th. The Titans' Jessica Sun was fifth at 146 pounds.

Lee has a 21-4 overall record, mostly against boys, and now has won two straight CCS titles at 103 pounds. This is Sun's first season of wrestling. The junior is 7-2 overall this season.

Lee is the starter on the boys' wrestling team at 106 pounds and has one tournament title and two runner-up finishes this season against boys. She is also playing on the girls' varsity soccer team, which

is also a winter sport.

Lee earned 26 points by winning her three matches. After a first-round bye, she pinned Destinee Nagtalon of Cupertino in 1:36 and pinned Telma Tavares of Overfelt in 2:00. That put her in the finals, where she defeated Kayla Walker of Leigh, 9-2.

Sun scored 11 points. She also opened with a bye and then dropped a 6-4 decision to Engie Mendoza of Lincoln (San Francisco). Sun then pinned Crystal Poon of Santa Teresa in 1:59 and won by medical forfeit over Brenda Cortez of SF International. In the consolation semifinal, Sun was pinned by Alli Kretschmer of Terra Nova in 4:26, but bounced back to take fifth by pinning Vivian Rivera of Sequoia in 4:04.

Wiley continued her impressive season that includes three tournament championships, a runner-up and a record of 15-1 entering the CCS tournament. She was the top seed in her weight class and showed why throughout the event as she did not allow a point to an opponent during the preliminary rounds.

Wiley pinned each opponent before the second period ended. Under the spotlight Saturday night in the finals, she built an 11-1 lead before pinning her foe from Scotts Valley just 53 seconds into the second pe-

riod to win the title.

Wiley is just the fifth CCS wrestling champion in Menlo-Atherton history, and the first girl. This is her third year in the spot. She placed third at CCS last year and seventh at the CIF State Tournament for girls.

During her first two seasons, she was the only girl on the M-A wrestling team, which now has a second girl this year — Coral Brady — who was unable to compete at CCS due to injury.

Wiley often works with her boy teammates during practice and, according to M-A coach Peter Wright, she and the coaching staff feel that has given her an edge as she's had to wrestle to the level of the guys — both technically and physically.

"So, she comes out with a different mindset than a lot of other girl wrestlers," Wright said. "She is always looking to be the most physical wrestler, to push the pace of the match so hard that most opponents can't keep up with her. Basically, she makes it her goal to make her opponent give up. And she loves using techniques you don't see many girls using because of the strength, physicality, and technical knowledge required to work them properly."

The girls' state championships will be Feb. 24-25 in Lemoore. ■



Gunn's Cadence Lee (top) won her second girls' CCS title last week.

### ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



#### Kendra Wiley

Menlo-Atherton High

The senior pinned three straight opponents to win the 126-pound title at the CCS Girls' Wrestling Championships, the first girl in school history to win a section wrestling title, and earn a berth in the state tournament.



#### Max Parker

Menlo School

The junior scored five goals, including a hat trick against Priory, and added two assists as the Knights won three soccer matches and took over second place in the West Bay Athletic League with a 7-1-3 mark.

#### Honorable mention

##### Jaye Boissiere

Menlo soccer

##### Eugenia Jernick

Priory soccer

##### Danielle Man

Pinewood soccer

##### Cat Perez

Gunn basketball

##### Jordan Smith

Palo Alto soccer

##### Chandler Wickers\*

Menlo soccer

##### Henry Bard

Menlo soccer

##### Richard Harris\*

Menlo basketball

##### Andrew Liotta

Sacred Heart Prep soccer

##### Edgardo Molina\*

Menlo-Atherton soccer

##### Kevin Sweat

Pinewood basketball

##### Solomone Wolfram\*

Pinewood basketball

\* previous winner

To see video interviews of the Athletes of the Week, go to [www.PASportsOnline.com](http://www.PASportsOnline.com)

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