

# New vision for Palo Alto housing

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# Upfront

Local news, information and analysis

## Palo Alto set to adopt new vision for housing

City's updated 'Housing Element' seeks to encourage smaller units, more housing near transit stations

by Gennady Sheyner

Smaller apartments, more mixed-use buildings and new housing developments near train stations are among the key tenets in Palo Alto's long-term housing vision, according to a new document that city planners and

commissioners have been crafting for close to four years.

The city's Housing Element, a 210-page vision statement that the Planning and Transportation Commission discussed Wednesday night, April 11, seeks to address a variety

of housing challenges and regional mandates that the city is facing or is projected to face in the coming years. It lists the city's housing inventory, identifies locations for new housing and introduces a host of programs aimed at encouraging more residential development in the largely built-out city. These include a greater emphasis on mixed-use developments, intense building near train depots and homes built on city-owned parking lots in certain com-

mercial districts.

The commission considered the document Wednesday and decided to resume its discussion on May 9.

The new document also takes aim at one of Palo Alto's most famous restrictions — the city's 50-foot height limit for buildings. A program in the Housing Element calls for the city to "explore limited exceptions to the 50-foot height limit for Housing Inventory Sites within a quarter mile of fixed rail station to

encourage higher density residential development."

The Housing Element is, in some ways, both a guide for new developments and a reflection of land-use trends that are already taking shape in Palo Alto. The City Council has enthusiastically encouraged development near Caltrain stations and is now weighing two dense projects near the downtown station — a

(continued on page 13)

### TRANSPORTATION

## One year later, questions remain about train/car collision

Conflicting accounts, secrecy and questions about traffic signals surround fatal accident at Charleston Road

by Sue Dremann

A year after Indiana resident Judith Goldblatt was killed when a train hit her rental car at the Charleston Road crossing, questions linger about the events surrounding her death and the City of Palo Alto's role, if any, in the accident.

Goldblatt, 65, and her husband, Dr. Lawrence Goldblatt of Indianapolis, were traveling east on Charleston when their Nissan Altima got struck on the tracks shortly after 5 p.m. on April 15, 2011. According to investigators, there were cars in front of the Goldblatts when the crossing-guard arms lowered, blocking the Altima from driving off the tracks.

Lawrence Goldblatt managed to escape the car before impact.

Speculation about the accident surfaced almost immediately, ranging from whether the traffic signals had malfunctioned to whether recent work at the rail crossing and roadway might have contributed to the tragedy.

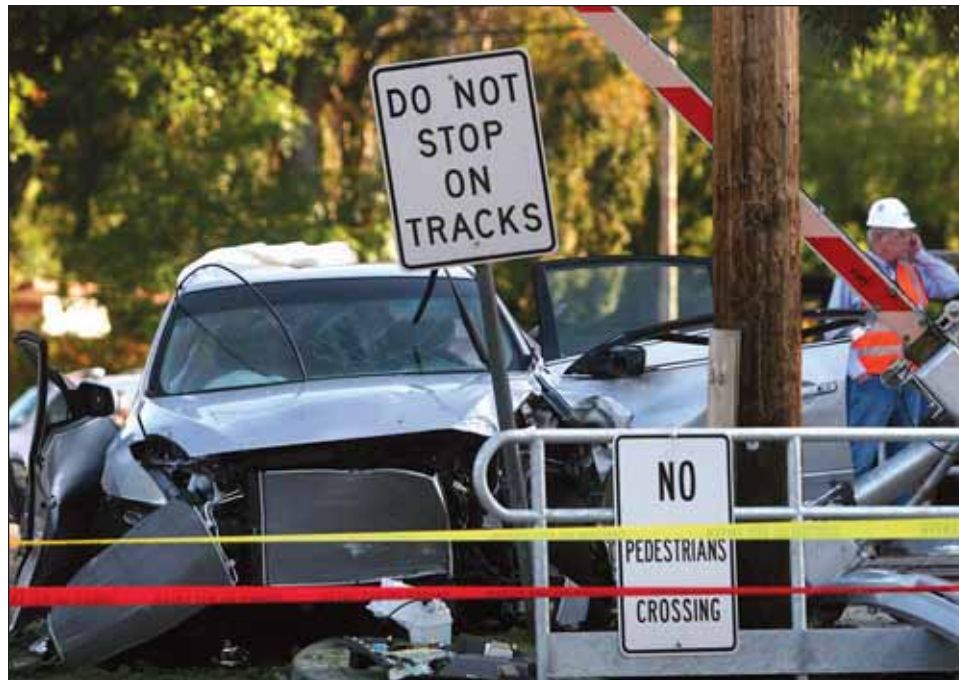
Over the past year, the Weekly has sought to learn the extent to which the City of Palo Alto and Caltrain investigated the possible role of a traffic-signal malfunction, leading to a traffic jam that contributed to the incident.

But despite numerous requests for information and documents, the Weekly has found that neither agency, it appears, investigated how the signals affected traffic on the day of the accident — in spite of irregularities with the signal timings that were discovered later and a month-long slowdown of the trains through Palo Alto while the signals were examined.

Direct inquiries to city staff as to the extent of their investigation have only elicited vague replies and accounts that conflict with the official San Mateo County Sheriff's Office Transit Police investigation. Meanwhile, Transit Police Det. Victor Lopez said he did not investigate events related to the traffic signals. The Transit Police have jurisdiction only within the Caltrain right-of-way, so any investigation into events occurring outside of the right-of-way — namely, traffic signals — falls under the jurisdiction of the city, he said.

The Weekly has learned through documents and interviews that:

- Within a week after the accident, Amtrak officials noticed a malfunction of the traffic signals at Charleston and Alma Street



A Nissan Altima driven by Judy Goldblatt of Indianapolis, Ind., was struck by a northbound Caltrain on the tracks at Charleston Road on April 15, 2011. Goldblatt died in the collision.

- City staff examined signal timings and changed them twice within three weeks of the accident to curtail longer "wait" times

- City staff also replaced the traffic-signal controller, which governs how quickly the lights respond to an indicator from an approaching train, called a "pre-emption"

- Judith Goldblatt attempted to maneuver her car at an angle and briefly got it off the tracks but ultimately it ended up back on the tracks

- Witnesses said that Goldblatt did exit the car but returned for an unknown reason

- Rail equipment was functioning properly at the time of the incident and afterward, according to the Transit Police.

The Weekly first went to the city in June regarding a Caltrain official's report that the traffic signal had malfunctioned. The city declined to comment until February of this year.

After nearly 10 months of silence, city officials now admit the signal timings were irregular, but they maintain the seconds of difference did not play a role in trapping

Goldblatt's car on the tracks and are within accepted standards.

Curtis Williams, director of planning and community environment, said in a March 28 interview that he feels the city did investigate the signal timing and that it wasn't a factor in the accident.

"I couldn't be prepared to say, 'No, nothing could ever possibly contribute,'" to the accident, he said, but he called the role of the traffic signals a long shot.

Instead, he cited the city's understanding that Goldblatt had the opportunity to drive off the tracks.

"Our recollection, and it is supported by everything we've seen and heard, is that those cars in front of her were cleared in front of the intersection," he said.

"The light turned green for her to get out of the intersection. ... She wasn't trapped between cars (when the train hit). There was no reason

(continued on page 7)

### YOUTH

## Social worker to head Project Safety Net

Llerena hopes to move from focus on 'deficits' to 'wellness' theme

by Chris Kenrick

A veteran social worker has been hired to run Project Safety Net, Palo Alto's youth mental health coalition formed in the wake of a devastating series of local student deaths by suicide in 2009 and 2010.

Christina Llerena, who started the job based at Lucie Stern Community Center this week, said she hopes to take the community collaborative "to the next level," recruiting student leadership and moving beyond the "deficits focus of suicide prevention" to encompass broader wellness themes.

Llerena has worked in social work for more than 17 years in New York City and the Bay Area, most recently as education director for the non-profit Sacred Heart Community Service in San Jose.

"The Palo Alto community has been extremely proactive and successful in bringing people to the table, creating some infrastructure around action, (suicide) prevention, education and intervention," Llerena said Wednesday.

"There's been a huge amount of groundwork laid in this collaboration."

The coalition that became Project Safety Net emerged following the second of five student deaths in what came to be considered a "suicide cluster."



Christina Llerena

(continued on page 13)



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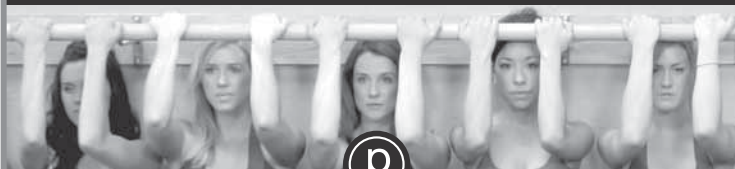
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The Palo Alto Weekly (ISSN 0199-1159) is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media, 450 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306, (650) 326-8210. Periodicals postage paid at Palo Alto, CA and additional mailing offices. Adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation for Santa Clara County. The Palo Alto Weekly is delivered free to homes in Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley, East Palo Alto, to faculty and staff households on the Stanford campus and to portions of Los Altos Hills. If you are not currently receiving the paper, you may request free delivery by calling 326-8210. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Palo Alto Weekly, P.O. Box 1610, Palo Alto, CA 94302. Copyright ©2012 by Embarcadero Media. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited. The Palo Alto Weekly is available on the Internet via Palo Alto Online at: www.PaloAltoOnline.com

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Upfront

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“

You have to figure out which  
project you're doing.

— Stuart Flashman, who is representing three  
cities in two lawsuits, on the California High-Speed  
Rail Authority's EIR and business plan inconsisten-  
cies. See story on page 5.

## Around Town

**LANE CHANGES ...** First it was tree removals. Then it was cell antennas. These days, lane changes are the grassroots scandal du jour in Palo Alto. The City Council wasn't planning on discussing traffic lanes this week, but residents and merchants had their own agenda. First, the council heard from a group of **Middlefield Road** residents who were shocked to discover late last month that their block had been re-stripped in a way that significantly shrinks a bicycle lane, creates new turning lanes, eliminates parking spots in front of several homes (thanks to a fresh coat of red paint on a curb) and prevents some residents from turning left from their driveways unless they choose to cross two sets of double-yellow lines and risk incurring a hefty traffic ticket. Next came the **California Avenue** merchants, who were upset about the city's plan to reduce lanes from four to two on the commercial strip. The merchants had already delayed the project for at least a year by filing two lawsuits against the city, thus preventing Palo Alto from getting a grant for the project. **Jack Morton**, former vice mayor and one of the leaders of the opposition, said the merchants met with staff last week to discuss a possible settlement. Morton, an accountant whose Cambridge Avenue practice is a block away from California Avenue, reiterated his position that the city is ignoring the merchants' concerns about the lane reduction. City officials had analyzed traffic conditions and determined that the plan would not cause a significant traffic impact. But Morton said the merchants aren't buying this conclusion. "None of the merchants believe that staff has their interest at heart," he said. He called for the city to conduct a trial project before the lane change becomes permanent. "If the merchants lose, they lose their business," Morton said. "If the city puts in a trial, it will just delay the project a year."

**DUCKING AND DODGING ...** As Palo Alto considers shuttering its aged but bustling animal shelter, local animal lovers are leading a drive to prevent the closure. More than 100 have signed a petition that has recently gone up online, urging the City Council not to close the East Bayshore Road facility (the petition is available at www.causes.com/causes/660185). Others cite anecdotes that demonstrate the importance of keeping

animal services local. One example occurred Wednesday night, when a lame-footed drake was found stumbling around the Piazza's parking lot. A woman was directing traffic to protect the male duck from getting run over. Police were summoned and even though it was well past 5 p.m., animal-control officer **William Warrior** arrived within 10 minutes, said **Nancy Hamilton**, who witnessed the episode. Warrior said he was monitoring the ducks near Piazza's at 11 p.m. the previous night. The ducks, he said, had been producing ducklings at this location for about three years. Warrior had determined that the drake's condition had improved since Tuesday and that despite his injury, the drake can still fly, according to Hamilton. Warrior's attention to the matter proved to Hamilton and others that the local animal-services operation is "much more than a shelter," she said.

**TALLEST TREES ...** The Tall Tree Awards were a mirthful affair this year — a feast of mingling, backslapping and congratulatory remarks exchanged between business leaders, city officials and community volunteers. While guests at the **Crown Plaza Hotel** gobbled down citrus-roasted beet salads, ribeye steaks and towers made of grilled Portobello, award winners **John Barton** ("outstanding professional"), **Alison Cormack** ("outstanding citizen") and leaders of **Foundation for a College Education** ("outstanding nonprofit") and **Whole Foods Market** ("outstanding business") took the stage to accept their awards. Barton, an architect and former member of the City Council and the school board, talked about the importance of bringing people to the table in finding solutions to pressing problems. "We cannot solve high-speed rail, education funding or climate change within the borders of Palo Alto, but we can keep inviting people to the table," Barton said. Former Councilwoman **LaDoris Cordell**, who officiated Barton's wedding, introduced Barton as "Palo Alto's pride" and catalogued his list of civic accomplishments. **Hal Mickelson**, the event's emcee, chimed in with another accolade. "And he was able to keep that going even after 732 interviews about what it's like to be **Andrew Luck's** adviser," Mickelson said, referring to the Stanford quarterback who was Barton's most famous advisee. ■

# High-speed-rail critics eye fresh legal challenges

*Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Atherton officials consider appealing rail authority's latest environmental analysis*

by Gennady Sheyner

Even as state officials prepare to approve the environmental analysis for California's planned high-speed-rail system, Peninsula cities are again gearing up to challenge the legality of the \$68 billion project, the Weekly has learned.

Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Atherton are already involved in two lawsuits against the California High-Speed Rail Authority (Palo Alto joined the first suit as a "friend of the court" and the second suit as a party), the agency charged with building the voter-approved San Francisco-to-Los Angeles system. The litigation has already forced the rail authority to twice de-certify and revise its program-level Environmental Impact Report (EIR) — a sweepingly broad document that establishes the Pacheco Pass as the rail system's preferred route to the Peninsula and that considers some of the project's environmental impacts.

The rail authority's board of directors is scheduled to re-certify the document at its April 19 meeting.

But the rail authority's approval of the newly revised EIR is unlikely to stop the wave of criticism or litigation flowing from the Peninsula. Stuart Flashman, who is representing the three cities and coalition of nonprofits in both lawsuits, said the plaintiffs are looking for broader revisions to the environmental analysis, including an analysis of the "blended" design that the rail authority has recently embraced for the Peninsula segment of the rail line. The rail authority has committed to the blended design — which was advocated by state Sen. Joe Simitian, D-Palo Alto, U.S. Rep. Anna Eshoo, D-Palo Alto, and state Assemblyman Rich Gordon, D-Menlo Park — in a new business plan that the rail authority's board of directors approved Thursday morning.

But while the authority's revised EIR mentions the blended approach,

which calls for high-speed rail and Caltrain to share two tracks on the Peninsula, it focuses its analysis on the rail authority's original and locally unpopular vision of a four-track system along the Caltrain corridor. From the perspective of the cities and rail watchdogs, that remains a major problem.

"That's a really big issue," Flashman told the Weekly. "On the one hand, you have the business plan saying we're doing the blended system. On the other hand, you have the newest EIR still talking about the four-track system. There is a real disconnect."

City officials have maintained over the past few months that the rail authority's decision to keep its program EIR focused on the four-track system constitutes a betrayal of its promise to only consider the "blended" system, which is expected to include fewer environmental impacts. Councilman Pat Burt, a member of Palo Alto's rail committee and chairman of the five-city

Peninsula Cities Consortium (which includes Menlo Park, Atherton, Belmont, Burlingame and Brisbane), has consistently called for the rail authority to revise its program EIR to reflect the rail authority's new commitment to the blended system.

But Lance Simmens, spokesman for the rail authority, said the authority has no plans to make revisions to the EIR beyond those ordered by the court. Simmens told the Weekly that analysis of the blended system will be included in the project-level EIR, a segment-specific analysis that includes more engineering and design details than the program-level document. The revised program EIR refers to the new business plan and notes that the plan "includes an emphasis on a blended system approach, early investments, and delivering early benefits to California travelers by using and leveraging investments as they are made." But Simmens said the rail authority believes the program EIR adequately covers the blended approach, which

will be further analyzed in future studies.

"We've made the revisions in the program-level EIR that we feel comply with CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) and the court," Simmens said, "And we're not going to make further changes to the program-level EIR."

This response is unlikely to satisfy cities like Palo Alto, where the City Council voted in December to adopt as the city's official stance a call for the project's termination. The council had supported the high-speed rail in 2008 but later turned against it as its price tag ballooned and as critics and independent auditors began to uncover problems with the rail authority's ridership and revenue projections. It was these problems that prompted the council to join the second lawsuit against the rail authority in October 2010.

This week, the Palo Alto council met in closed session before its Mon-

(continued on page 11)

## LAND USE

# Palo Alto eyes three new schools at Cubberley

*City, school district release new 'concept plans' for future of dilapidated community center*

by Gennady Sheyner

Palo Alto would build three new schools at Cubberley Community Center as part of a new concept that top city and school officials unveiled last week and which the City Council is scheduled to discuss Monday, April 16.

The proposal includes four concepts that a committee of top city and school officials have been considering since late last year. All four concepts include a new elementary school at 525 San Antonio Road, site of a recently closed day care center (the school district purchased the site last year).

The new plans also call for a middle school and a small high school, which would accommodate 600 and 500 students, respectively. While in the first option, the middle and high schools would stand alone, the other three options call for land swaps and shared uses between the city and the schools of gym, theater and classroom spaces.

The report from Deputy City Manager Steve Emslie aims to establish the parameters for one of the most complex ongoing discussions between the Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD), which owns 27 acres of Cubberley, and the city, which owns 8 acres. The school district leases its space to the city under an agreement that is set to expire in December 2014.

Both sides have stressed the critical importance of Cubberley, a bus-

ing but run-down center at 4000 Middlefield Road that currently includes a Foothill College campus and an eclectic mix of gyms, athletic fields, day care facilities and artist studios. Emslie's report calls it "a significant element of the City's complete infrastructure needs," while school officials see it as crucial to accommodating the district's surge in student population, particularly in south Palo Alto.

At the same time, both sides acknowledge that the center's dilapidated condition will require expensive upgrades. The report pegs the cost of ongoing maintenance and anticipated capital improvements at \$10 million over the next four years. The high costs of upgrading Cubberley were a major factor behind a recent recommendation to the city from the specially appointed Infrastructure Blue Ribbon Commission to terminate the lease.

The city and the school district are trying to reach a consensus by the end of this year about whether to renew the Cubberley lease. They plan to spend much of 2013 discussing the details of the potential lease renewal. In addition to discussing the new concept plans, the council will consider Monday approving a new advisory committee composed of stakeholders to work with the two sides on a solution.

This "Community Advisory Committee" was appointed by City Manager James Keene and includes

former mayors Lanie Wheeler and Mike Cobb, various Cubberley tenants, PTA representatives, neighborhood leaders and local commissioners. The group will advise another new committee — the "Policy Advisory Committee" — which will include members from the council and the school board. Both groups are scheduled to kick off discussions this summer.

So far, most of the discussions have occurred at the top levels of the city and school district. In the past three months, Keene, Superintendent Kevin Skelly and architects from the group Gelfand Architects have been considering the district's needs and possible ways to accommodate them. The new concept plans, which the council will look at Monday, are the first publicly released byproduct of these discussions.

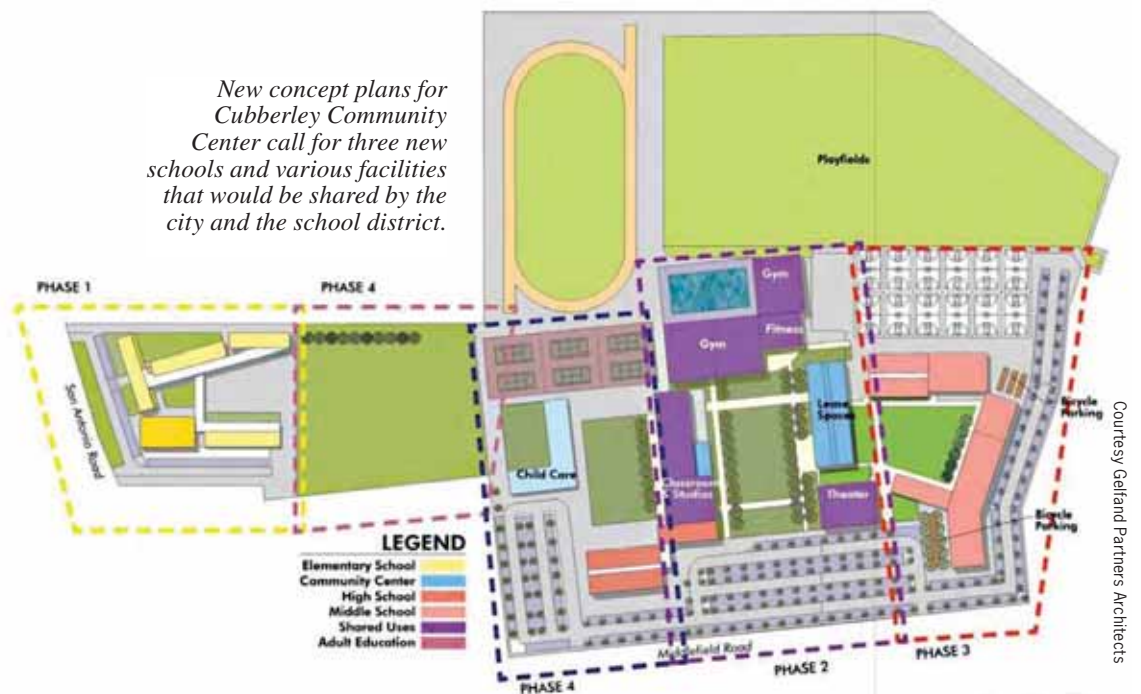
"The preliminary options devel-

oped jointly with PAUSD and their architect should be considered conceptual drafts intended to present alternatives for subsequent discussions," the report states. "The options only provide some high level detail as to a foundation and starting point for the Cubberley vision process."

The council, which began its deliberations on Cubberley this past Monday, will also consider a set of "guiding principles" relating to Cubberley. These include a commitment to transparency; an agreement for the city and the school district to equally share the planning and architectural costs; and consideration of neighborhood concerns and transportation issues in discussions.

The proposed principles also acknowledge the importance of keeping recreational facilities and community uses at Cubberley. Many

*New concept plans for Cubberley Community Center call for three new schools and various facilities that would be shared by the city and the school district.*



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

Should Cubberley be used to house three schools, thus reducing community space currently available? Share your vision for Cubberley on Town Square, the online discussion forum on [www.PaloAltoOnline.com](http://www.PaloAltoOnline.com).

of the center's users, including day care providers, artists and dancers, attended council meetings last year and urged city leaders to retain space to meet their needs.

"The types of programs offered by the City and its contractors and subtenants at Cubberley enrich the community and should be preserved and enhanced wherever possible," the proposed principles state. ■

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

## SCHOOLS

## Everyone 'sad' after unexpected removal of school tree

*Fairmeadow redwood, fenced for protection, disappears over spring break*

by Chris Kenrick

Children and parents at Fairmeadow School are wondering why a beloved tree, which had been fenced for protection during a school construction project, was cut down over spring break.

School officials, who ordered the tree removed despite construction plans directing that it be saved, say they also are "very sad the tree came down" but insist there was no other choice once the arborist reported it was unsafe.

The half-century-old double-trunk redwood tree sat at the edge of Fairmeadow's grassy play yard, next to the elementary school's border with Jane Lathrop Stanford Middle School.

Its shade and crooked, gnarly base made it a popular spot for "fairy play," said parent Ruth Gordon, whose two children went through the school.

"They created their own little world in there," she said.

Gordon, a landscape architect, sat on Fairmeadow's parent-staff committee that spent more than a year refining modernization and construction plans for the school.

Those plans include a new, eight-classroom, two-story building now being laid out in the vicinity of the tree. The new building, designed by

San Francisco architect Lisa Gelfand, is slated to be occupied by fourth- and fifth-graders in spring 2013.

Committee members discussed the tree and — both sides agree — plans called for it to be preserved and protected during construction.

"The two-story building was going to have that tree as a backdrop, and the second story would've looked into the tree," Gordon said.

"I talked to the architect about it and said it's a really nice nestling of the new building. Another benefit of the tree was it was going to screen the looming, two-story building from JLS," she said.

Gordon said kids and parents were astounded to return from spring break and find the tree gone and its stump already ground.

"I still can't believe it," she said.

"They need to fix some procedure about communication — I know they're trying. I don't point fingers at any individual mal-intent about this, but something went really wrong and needs to be addressed and not repeated."

Fairmeadow students and teachers are writing and drawing their memories of the tree on a poster hung by Gordon's daughter Elisa. It contains a hand-drawn picture of Dr. Seuss's tree-defending character

Lorax, and asks students to "speak for our tree."

"We're all very, very sad about it," said Bob Golton, a senior school district official who oversees the facilities and bond construction program.

"But we had to do it because our arborist reports said the tree wasn't safe as far as the children and the campus and the new building were concerned.

"It turned out that the new building took away more of the area around the tree than had been thought."

Spring break was the best time to remove the tree because the campus was vacant but, in hindsight, Golton said, "We wish people had been notified better."

Three redwoods will be planted at Fairmeadow to "mitigate" for the one removed last week, he said.

Gordon said her mother, Mary Gordon, also a landscape architect, received a phone call from the school district after the tree was removed proposing a meeting.

The mother and daughter have repeatedly appeared before the Board of Education to ask for greater attention to landscaping on all campuses in the school district's massive building program.

"I think the (Fairmeadow) com-



Courtesy Ruth Gordon

Children and parents at Fairmeadow School are questioning the removal of a half-century-old double-trunk redwood tree that sat at the edge of the school's grassy play yard.

munity needs to be involved in any meeting," Ruth Gordon said.

Golton said the Fairmeadow redwood was a casualty of the school district's effort to increase capacity on its 17 campuses through the \$378 million bond construction program.

"It doesn't make us happy. Now the campus is going to hold more

children — that's part of the district effort to increase capacity. But it's at the expense of things like this.

"Every time a tree gets taken down I get really sad. This is Palo Alto. This is very important," he said. ■

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

## BUSINESS



Weekly file photo

A small plane lands at the Palo Alto Airport.

## Startup seeks to take off from Palo Alto airport

*Surf Air would offer members unlimited flights — for a price*

by Eric Van Susteren

An "all-you-can-fly" airline startup looking to get its business off the ground is eyeing Palo Alto's airport as a key stop for its operation.

Santa Monica-based Surf Airlines Inc., or Surf Air, plans to offer its members unlimited flights between smaller, less congested regional airports on the west coast — in Palo Alto, Monterey, Santa Barbara and Los Angeles.

Using eight-passenger aircraft, the company would provide the service for a monthly fee of between \$800 and \$1,500, depending on the number of reservations a traveler makes,

CEO Wade Eyerly said.

The company began accepting membership to its program April 5, but service is not due to begin until it receives final approval from the Federal Aviation Administration — expected sometime in the middle of summer, Eyerly said.

Administration regulations prohibit Eyerly from disclosing the exact start date and planned number of flights per day until the final approval. He said that the company would begin by using two planes, one that visits each of the four air-

(continued on page 12)

## CITY COUNCIL

## Palo Alto to seek 'lighter' changes to massage law

*City reconsiders earlier proposal to require local massage establishments to keep client records*

by Gennady Sheyner

Palo Alto is backing away from a controversial proposal to require massage establishments to keep records of all their customers after several business owners and council members said Tuesday night, April 10, that the new rule would go too far.

The city is in the midst of revising its massage ordinance to comply with recent changes in state law, which requires massage therapists to obtain licenses and restricts cities' abilities to regulate establishments. As part of the revision, the Palo Alto Police Department had also proposed including a clause requiring businesses to keep records of all customers, including their names, ages and contact information. The proposal would have required police to obtain a court order before it could access these records.

Police Lt. April Wagner said Tuesday that the point of the record-keeping requirement is to "assist in getting to the truth of allegations." She said the department

has received about 10 complaints of criminal behavior at massage establishments over the past decade. But while these types of complaints are relatively rare, city officials are concerned that if Palo Alto doesn't adopt new laws, the city would attract seedy establishments of the sort that existed along El Camino Real in the 1970s.

Charles Cullen, the department's technical services director, told the committee that if the city doesn't revise its ordinance, it would have to repeal its existing one because the ordinance currently on the books does not comply with state law. Wagner noted that all of the cities around Palo Alto have ordinances in place requiring massage therapists to get licenses.

"If we're the one city that doesn't (have an ordinance) among a bunch of cities that do, it is sort of a green light for potentially illegitimate or improperly run businesses to do business in our town," Wagner said.

Wagner said that while sexual

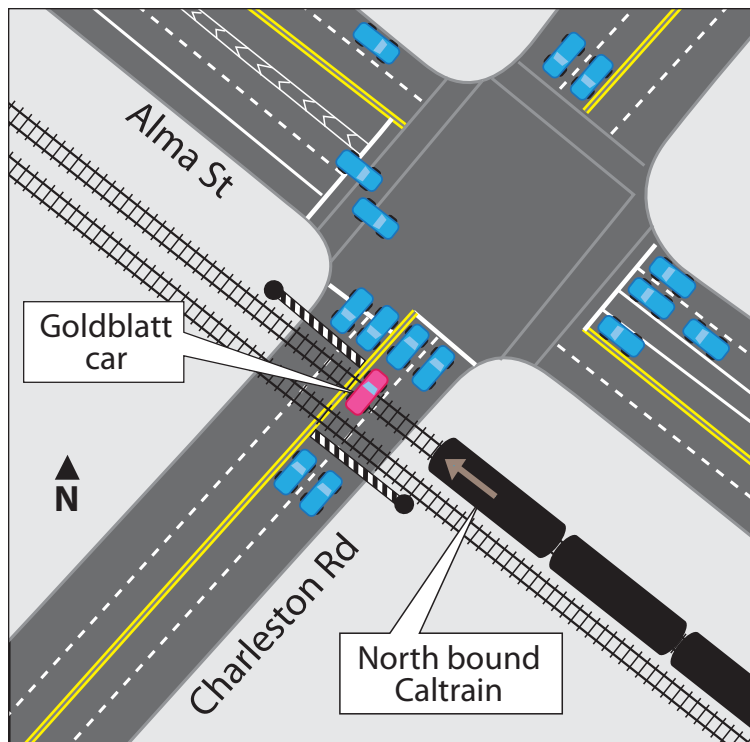
crimes are "very rare" at local massage establishments, they do happen.

But at their Tuesday meeting, members of the council's Policy and Services Committee voiced their opposition to the proposed ordinance and directed staff to go back to the drawing board and come back with a less burdensome proposal. Committee members agreed that the new ordinance should not include a record-keeping requirement and that it should contain exemptions for businesses that offer massages to fully clothed clients.

The exemption would apply to businesses like Happy Feet, which offers foot massages and body massages to fully clothed patrons. At prior meetings, David Bertelsen, owner of Happy Feet, argued that the proposed ordinance unfairly targets legitimate businesses.

"There's more opportunity for sexual assaults probably in this Chamber than there is in our busi-

(continued on page 11)



Judy Goldblatt's car became stuck on the tracks behind another vehicle when the traffic light at Alma Street and Charleston Road turned red.

## Train accident

(continued from page 3)

she couldn't have gone forward then," he said.

But Lopez refuted that claim Monday. He said witnesses reported Goldblatt's car became stuck behind traffic that stopped when the light turned red.

"The light turned yellow, and traffic slowed down and blocked her," he said, later clarifying the traffic blocked her car in from all directions.

Lopez said Goldblatt appeared to panic. She tried to maneuver her car at an angle back and forth.

"She could've gone around the edge. Originally, according to the engineer, she got out of the track line, but then went back on. I just think she panicked. It was just a tragic accident," he said.

Goldblatt exited the car, according to witnesses, Lopez said. But for some reason, she returned. Her purse was found under the seat, and perhaps she had returned to retrieve it, he said. "But we will never know," he added.

Investigators concluded the accident was ultimately Goldblatt's fault because she was on the tracks, he said.

While the city denies the traffic signals' involvement in creating a traffic jam, both city and Caltrain documents obtained by the Weekly through the California Public Records Act show that both Amtrak and the city were concerned about the signals immediately after the accident.

On April 15, Ryan Johnson, city electrician, and James R. Lynch, an Amtrak assistant division engineer, verified visually that the city's traffic controller was operating correctly, according to an April 22 email from Scott Yahne, the city's supervisor of electrical systems.

But the day after, Chief Transportation Official Jaime Rodriguez discovered the Charleston signal's green light ran two seconds too long in the east-west direction

Goldblatt was traveling, Williams said.

Although a longer time might sound favorable to clearing the tracks, it actually could have the effect of making a driver think he or she has time to dart across the rails, Williams said.

Typically, the green light allows each car four seconds to go forward. It takes about three of those seconds per car to go through the tracks, Williams said.

The Charleston signal allowed for 12 seconds of green when the traffic controller received the pre-emption message — the indicator that a train was coming. The 12-second interval is within safety parameters of up to 20 seconds, however, Williams said.

But Rodriguez determined the interval should be 10 seconds before the light turns red.

Amtrak workers also noticed a problem with the intersection's signals. On April 21 Amtrak notified the city of a different problem. Patrick Murphy, a signal maintainer for Amtrak, reported there were long track-clearance times on two different occasions, according to Yahne's email. Murphy saw the signal for traffic traveling north and south along Alma stay green for 18 seconds, Williams said.

Murphy issued a slow-order for all trains passing through the crossing. Caltrain notified the Transit Police, according to Murphy's log.

When Yahne and a team of city, Caltrain and Amtrak officials went to the scene, they watched the intersection for an hour but could not duplicate what Murphy had seen, Yahne wrote in his email. Rodriguez, City Traffic Engineer Sam Peiris, Yahne and Caltrain and Amtrak personnel returned to the city's Municipal Services Center later that morning to review downloaded data from the signal controller. They spent two hours validating the information and found no malfunction, he wrote.

Rodriguez continued to investigate. On May 4, at Rodriguez's request, Yahne built a replica of

the intersection using a spare controller. Yahne "found that there is a longer delay than normal for that intersection," according to an email by Russ Kamiyama, city Utilities Department manager of electrical operation.

The Alma traffic light had a 12-second minimum green time for cars traveling north and south before the signal would allow east- and west-bound traffic on Charleston to clear the area, he noted. The duration is three times longer than at Palo Alto's other crossings at Churchill and East Meadow, according to Kamiyama's report. Churchill and East Meadow each have a four-second delay.

Yahne also found that at Charleston "the initial pre-emption only forces out the pedestrian crossing north/south bound (does not allow traffic to clear tracks) and the total time delay is 12 seconds," Kamiyama noted.

Later that morning, Rodriguez reduced the Alma Street green time down to four seconds to match the times at East Meadow and Churchill, he noted in a May 4 email.

The 12-second interval had been in place at the time of Goldblatt's accident and had been functioning that way for several years, Williams said last month. He did not have an explanation for why it had been set differently from the other intersections.

Rodriguez also replaced the 7-year-old traffic-signal controller on May 9, which is located at the northwest corner of Alma and Charleston. Williams said the replacement was a proactive measure that gave engineers more flexibility in adjusting timing. The automatic trigger to tell the controller a train is coming takes one second now instead of four, he said. In addition, the city has added video cameras at the intersection, he said.

Although an email from Rodriguez immediately after the accident show he directed staff to gather data and other documents related to the traffic signals — and it appears the city's police department prepared a supplemental report related to the accident — the city appears not to have come to any conclusions about its role in what happened April 15.

City Manager James Keene said on Thursday that any independent Palo Alto investigation would have muddled the official query into the accident.

City Attorney Molly Stump said on Jan. 19 that it did not appear the police department was involved. Transit Police had told the Palo Alto police department that they were handling the investigation.

Stump said the police supplemental report is exempt from disclosure because it is an investigative report.

The city also declined to release papers it said are not subject to disclosure under exemptions for attorney-client privileged communications, attorney work product and preliminary drafts and notes, and it claimed one record is exempt under state evidence code "as a record acquired in confidence where the public interest in maintaining confidentiality clearly outweighs the

interest in disclosure," Stump wrote to Weekly Publisher Bill Johnson on Feb. 8.

Caltrain produced no written documents between it and the city regarding discussions about the traffic signal, and it has not answered a request to explain why it held the trains at slow speeds going through the Charleston intersection last year until May 21.

The Transit Police also declined to release the final report. Investigative reports are exempt from release to third parties under the public records act, Deputy County Counsel David Silberman wrote to the Weekly in September.

But he provided a preliminary

report from April 15, which noted "the victim was driving across the train tracks when vehicles stopped in front of her as the crossing arms came down."

Lopez said that regardless of events, it is unlawful to be on the tracks.

"People need to be careful. They need to be safe. If the light turns green, wait until the track is cleared before crossing it. Working in this unit, I would've never imagined how many vehicles have been struck by trains," he said. ■

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

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# Camp Connection

## Summer 2012

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### Athletics

#### Bald Eagle Camps

Bald Eagle Camps is the only camp Approved by the nationally recognized Positive Coaching Alliance, teaching their principles to every camper through our Certified Coaches. We offer 3 uniquely FUN Summer Camps, each of which exude our encouraging team culture: Non-Traditional Sports Camp (1st-8th), Basketball Camp (3rd-8th), and Leadership Camp (7th-8th only). Come experience our positive atmosphere, great coaching, unique structure, inspiring life message and 5-STAR service. Bald Eagle Camps is guaranteed to be a highlight of your child's summer.

[www.baldeaglecamps.com](http://www.baldeaglecamps.com)

#### Mountain View

888-505-2253

#### California Riding Academy's

##### Camp Jumps For Joy!

Join us this summer for fantastic and fun filled week with our beautiful horses and ponies! Each day Campers have riding instruction, develop horsemanship skills, create fun crafts and enjoy with our kids' jump course. In addition, campers learn beginning vaulting, visit our Full Surgical Vet Clinic, and much more! Voted the best horse camp by discerning young campers. Choose English, Western or Cowboy/Cowgirl. Ages 5-15 welcome. Convenient close-in Menlo Park location and online Registration and Payment with either PayPal or Google Checkout.

[www.CaliforniaRidingAcademy.com](http://www.CaliforniaRidingAcademy.com)

or [JumpsForJoy@CaliforniaRidingAcademy.com](http://JumpsForJoy@CaliforniaRidingAcademy.com) for more information

650-740-2261

#### Champion Tennis Camp

CTC programs provide an enjoyable way for your child to begin learning the game of tennis or to continue developing existing skills. Our approach is to create lots of fun with positive feedback and reinforcement in a nurturing tennis environment. Building self-esteem and confidence through enjoyment on the tennis court is a wonderful gift a child can keep forever! Super Juniors Camps, ages 4-6. Juniors Camps, ages 6-14.

[www.alanmargot-tennis.com](http://www.alanmargot-tennis.com)

650-400-0464

#### Earl Hansen Football Camp

No tagline, no logo, just football. Earl Hansen Football camp is a non-contact camp for participants ages 9 to 14. Develop fundamental skills with proven drills and techniques. Sessions are 9:30 to 3:00, July 30 to August 3. Save 10% with Early Bird registration through April 30. Four morning practice days and 7 on 7 games in the afternoon. Lunch provided daily. Palo Alto High School Football Field.

[www.earlhansenfootballcamp.com](http://www.earlhansenfootballcamp.com)

650-269-7793

#### Glenoaks Stables' Horse Camp

Giddy up your summer at Glenoaks Stables' horse camp. Each full day of equestrian fun includes supervised riding, horsemanship, vaulting, pony games and arts & crafts. 6 one-week sessions. All skill levels welcome, ages 6+.

[www.glenoaksequestriancenter.com/summercamps.htm](http://www.glenoaksequestriancenter.com/summercamps.htm)

650-854-4955

#### Kim Grant Tennis Academy &

##### Summer Camps

Fun and Specialized junior camps for Mini (3-5), Beginner, Intermediate 1&2, Advanced and Elite Players. Weekly programs designed by Kim Grant to improve players technique, fitness, agility, mental toughness and all around tennis game. Camps in Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Redwood City. Come make new friends and have tons of FUN!!

[www.KimGrantTennis.com](http://www.KimGrantTennis.com)

650-752-8061

#### Nike Tennis Camps

Dick Gould's 43rd Annual Stanford Tennis School offers day camps for both juniors & adults. Weekly junior overnight & extended day camps run by John Whitlinger & Lele Forood. Junior Day Camp run by Brandon Coupe & Frankie Brennan.

[www.USSportsCamps.com/tennis](http://www.USSportsCamps.com/tennis)

1-800-NIKE-CAMP  
(645-3226)

#### Oshman JCC

Exciting programs for preschool and grades K-12 include swimming, field trips, crafts and more. Enroll your child in traditional camp, or specialty camps like Pirates, Archery, Runway Project, Kid TV and over 25 others!

[www.paloaltojcc.org/camps](http://www.paloaltojcc.org/camps)

650-223-8622

#### Palo Alto Elite Volleyball Club Summer Camp

Girls Volleyball - fastest growing, non-impact sport for girls, emphasizing team work. Camp provides age appropriate fundamentals; setting, hitting, passing, serving, plus; offense vs defense strategy and learning rotations. 3rd - 12th grades (separate camps). High coach to player ratio. Email: [info@paloaltoelite.com](mailto:info@paloaltoelite.com)

[www.paloaltoelite.com](http://www.paloaltoelite.com)

#### Spartans Sports Camp

Spartans Sports Camp offers multi-sport, week-long sessions for boys and girls in grades 3-5 as well as sport-specific sessions for grades 6-9. There are also strength and conditioning camps for grades 6-12. Camps begin June 11th and run weekly through July 27th at Mountain View High School. The camp is run by MVHS coaches and student-athletes and all proceeds benefit the MVHS Athletic Department. Lunch and extended care are available for your convenience. Spartans Sports Camp is also hosting two free basketball clinics on April 21st and May 6th from 10 am - 1 pm. Register today for the camps and free clinics on our website!

[www.SpartansSportsCamp.com](http://www.SpartansSportsCamp.com)

#### Palo Alto/Menlo Park

650-479-5906

#### Spring Down

##### Equestrian Center

Spring Down camp teaches basic to advanced horsemanship skills. Ages 6-99 welcome! Daily informative lecture, riding lesson, supervised hands-on skill practice, safety around horses, tacking/untacking of own camp horse, and arts/crafts.

[www.springdown.com](http://www.springdown.com)

##### Portola Valley

650.851.1114

#### Stanford Water Polo Camps

Ages 7 and up. New to the sport or have experience, we have a camp for you. Half day or full day option for boys and girls. All the camps offer fundamental skill work, position work, scrimmages and games.

[stanfordwaterpolocamps.com](http://stanfordwaterpolocamps.com)

650-725-9016

#### Summer at Saint Francis

Sports & Activity Camp (ages 6-12): This all sports camp provides group instruction in a variety of field, water and court games. Saint Francis faculty and students staff the camp, and the focus is always on fun. The program is dedicated to teaching teamwork, sportsmanship and positive self-esteem. After camp care and swim lessons available.

[www.sfhs.com/summer](http://www.sfhs.com/summer)

650-968-1213 x650

#### Summer at Saint Francis

Advanced Sports Camps (5th-9th grades): We offer a wide selection of advanced sports camps designed to provide players with the opportunity to improve both their skill and knowledge of a specific sport. Each camp is run by a Head Varsity Coach at Saint Francis, and is staffed by members of the coaching staff.

[www.sfhs.com/summer](http://www.sfhs.com/summer)

650-968-1213 x650

#### YMCA of Silicon Valley

Say hello to summer fun at the YMCA! Choose from enriching day or overnight camps in 35 locations: arts, sports, science, travel, and more. For youth K-10th grade. Includes weekly fieldtrips, swimming and outdoor adventures. Accredited by the American Camp Association. Financial assistance available.

[www.ymcasv.org/summercamp](http://www.ymcasv.org/summercamp)

408-351-6400

### Academics

#### Galileo

##### Learning

Galileo Learning operates award-winning summer day camps at 31 Bay Area locations. Camp Galileo (pre-K - rising 5th graders): Inspires campers to bring their ideas to life through art, science and outdoor activities. Galileo Summer Quest (rising 5th - 8th graders): Campers dive into exciting majors like Chefology and Video Game Design.

[www.galileo-learning.com](http://www.galileo-learning.com)

1-800-854-3684

#### Los Altos/Palo Alto/Menlo Park/

##### Woodside/Hillsborough

## News Digest

### New day care center to open near Baylands

Seeking to accommodate a ballooning student population, Palo Alto officials swiftly and enthusiastically approved on Monday night, April 9, the establishment of a new day care center near the Baylands.

The council voted 8-0, with Vice Mayor Greg Scharff absent, to approve the conversion of a vacant building on East Bayshore Road into the city's newest day care facility, one that would accommodate 117 children. It would be operated by Mustard Seed, a day care center that has been offering bilingual education in English and Chinese to young students for the past 20 years. The center is currently based at Emerson School on West Bayshore Road, less than a mile away from the new site.

The council voted to support the new location for a day care center after hearing from about a dozen parents and students, all of whom praised Mustard Seed and stressed the need for more space. The demand is being driven by both a growing number of students in Palo Alto and the city's rising Asian population.

According to the city's draft Housing Element, the number of preschool children (aged 5 and under) in Palo Alto has jumped by 29 percent between 2000 and 2008. The number of school-age children (ages 5 to 17) went up by 17 percent during the same period.

The council's vote followed prior endorsements from the Architectural Review Board and the Planning and Transportation Commission, both of which approved the project with no dissent. City staff and traffic consultants had concluded that the project would not bring with it significant traffic impacts.

The council, in approving the project, also directed staff to address potential traffic backups by evaluating conditions and, if necessary, pursuing solutions such as staggered pickup schedules. ■

— Gennady Sheyner

### Police to hold crime-prevention, emergency events

Pledging to increase community involvement in crime prevention and disaster preparedness, two educational events will be hosted by the City of Palo Alto Office of Emergency Services and the Palo Alto Police Department in the coming weeks.

The first event, "Become a Block Preparedness Coordinator," will occur on Saturday, April 14, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Cubberley Community Center, Room I-A, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto.

In a major disaster, block preparedness coordinators — commonly called "BPCs" — serve as the point of contact for their neighborhood and the city's Emergency Operations Center.

On a day-to-day basis, they also assist with preparing residents for disasters and with crime-prevention techniques, similar to the "Neighborhood Watch" programs of the past, according to Office of Emergency Services Director Ken Dueker.

The second event, "Crime Watch and Personal Preparedness," will take place on Tuesday, May 1, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Community Room of the Lucie Stern Community Center, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Experts from the Office of Emergency Services and community leaders will teach residents about preparing family and home for all hazards, ranging from crime to earthquakes.

Both events are free and open to the public and are part of the police department's "Lock It or Lose It!" public-education campaign. The program focuses on how to best prevent burglaries, how to recognize suspicious behavior and how best to report suspicious behavior to police.

More information is available at [www.paneighborhoods.org](http://www.paneighborhoods.org).

Crime information, alerts and public-meeting information are available from the department on Twitter (@PaloAltoPolice), Facebook, Nixle and rBlock. ■

— Sue Dremann

### Leaders tackle key issues at Town Hall meeting

Education, jobs, the environment, human services — all will be discussed as city leaders will come together for a Palo Alto Town Hall meeting with Assemblyman Rich Gordon on Thursday, April 19.

Each panelist will have 10 minutes to explain an issue of concern and pose questions to Gordon on how these statewide issues impact the Palo Alto community. After the panelists make their presentations, the audience will have 25 minutes to either ask questions or offer their own opinions — all on state-related topics.

Serving on the panel are Yiaway Yeh, Palo Alto mayor; Kevin Skelly, Palo Alto Unified School District superintendent; Cynthia D'Agosta, Committee for Green Foothills executive director; Paul Wright, Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce CEO; and Leif Erickson, Youth Community Service executive director.

The panel will be moderated by Jocelyn Dong, Palo Alto Weekly editor.

The meeting will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the SDC Room of the Palo Alto Unified School District, 25 Churchill Ave., Palo Alto.

For information, call 650-691-2121. ■

— Palo Alto Weekly staff



**LET'S DISCUSS:** Read the latest local news headlines and talk about the issues at Town Square at [PaloAltoOnline.com](http://PaloAltoOnline.com)

(continued on next page)



# 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.

## Palo Alto celebrates 2012 Tall Tree Awards

Alison Cormack, John Barton, the Foundation for a College Education and Whole Foods Market were recognized as Palo Alto's 2012 Tall Tree Award recipients during an awards dinner Wednesday night, April 11, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. (Posted April 12 at 9:41 a.m.)

## Responding to a flashover fire

It's the firefighter's nightmare — a flashover, a fire involving heat so intense that everything in a room, including anyone in it, ignites at the same time. (Posted April 12 at 8:39 a.m.)

## Man uses bat, cane in Palo Alto road-rage melee

An Easter visit to Stanford Hospital turned into a violent attack in the middle of the road Sunday, April 8, when a bat-wielding man struck a woman and then hit a man with a cane in a fit of road rage. (Posted April 11 at 4:29 p.m.)

## When background checks miss the mark

How a local private school unknowingly hired a teacher with a decades-long history of child molestation allegations. (Posted April 10 at 2:39 p.m.)

## Poets, writers named Stanford Stegner Fellows

Five poets and five fiction writers have been chosen to come to Stanford University from 2012 to 2014 as Wallace Stegner Fellows. (Posted April 10 at 2:31 p.m.)

## Fire in Mountain View forces evacuation

A two-alarm fire prompted the evacuation of more than 70 apartments at a five-building complex in Mountain View early Tuesday morning, April 10, a fire department spokesman said. (Posted April 10 at 11 a.m.)

## Facebook, city to release draft development deal

Facebook and the city of Menlo Park will release this week the terms of a draft development agreement that, when approved, would allow the social-networking giant to continue adding employees at its new Menlo Park headquarters. (Posted April 10 at 9:50 a.m.)

## Pedestrian killed on Shoreline Boulevard Monday

The man who was killed when he was hit by a car while walking in Mountain View Monday night, April 9, has been identified as 26-year-old Eric Onorato of Mountain View, a police spokeswoman said. Police responded to the collision just before 9 p.m. on North Shoreline Boulevard, police spokeswoman Liz Wylie said. (Posted April 10 at 8:10 a.m.)

## Residents upset by lane changes near library

Palo Alto is scrambling to restore driving lanes around the new Mitchell Park Library and Community Center to their original configuration after an uproar from area residents who argued Monday, April 9, that recent changes to their street have made conditions unsafe and confusing for residents and commuters. (Posted April 10 at 7:57 a.m.)

## New day care center to open near Baylands

Seeking to accommodate a ballooning student population, Palo Alto officials swiftly and enthusiastically approved on Monday night, April 9, the establishment of a new day care center near the Baylands. (Posted April 9 at 10:01 p.m.)

## Cooley Landing gets \$5 million grant

East Palo Alto's Cooley Landing Park Project has received a \$5 million grant from the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation, the city announced Monday, April 9. (Posted April 9 at 12:54 p.m.)

## Gunn to screen film on women in media

Gunn High School will screen the documentary film "Miss Representation," an examination of media portrayal of women by filmmaker and activist Jennifer Siebel Newsom, on Thursday, April 19. (Posted April 9 at 4:51 p.m.)

## Mountain View police cite six in alcohol sting

After running a sting operation on nearly 50 Mountain View merchants, local police cited six local businesses for selling alcohol to a minor and one individual after he bought booze for someone he knew to be underage. (Posted April 9 at 8:52 a.m.)

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## GUIDE TO 2012 SUMMER CAMPS FOR KIDS

# Camp Connection

## Summer 2012

For more information about these camps, see our online directory of camps at <http://paloaltoonline.com/biz/summercamps/>. To advertise in a weekly directory, contact 650-326-8210

(continued from previous page)

### Academics

#### GASPA German

##### Summer School Camp

Learn German by way of Fairytale! GASPA is taking Summer Camp into the world of fairy tales and everything that comes with it...in German of course! Offering a 4 week program for children ages 3-12.

[www.gaspa-ca.org](http://www.gaspa-ca.org)

##### Menlo Park

650-520-3646

#### Harker Summer Programs

K-12 offerings taught by exceptional, experienced faculty and staff. K-6 morning academics - focusing on math, language arts and science - and full spectrum of afternoon recreation. Grades 6-12 for-credit courses and non-credit enrichment opportunities. Sports programs also offered.

[www.summer.harker.org](http://www.summer.harker.org)

##### San Jose

408-553-0537

#### iD Tech Camps -

##### Summer Tech Fun!

Take hobbies further! Ages 7-17 create iPhone apps, video games, movies, and more at weeklong, day and overnight programs held at Stanford and 60+ universities in 27 states.. Also 2-week, Teen-only programs: iD Gaming Academy, iD Programming Academy, and iD visual Arts Academy (filmmaking & photography).

[www.internalDrive.com](http://www.internalDrive.com)

1-888-709-TECH (8324)

##### Stanford

#### iD Teen Academies

Learn different aspects of video game creation, app development, filmmaking, photography, and more. 2-week programs where ages 13-18 interact with industry professionals to gain competitive edge. iD Gaming Academy, iD Programming Academy, and iD Visual Arts Academy are held at Stanford, and other universities.

[www.iDTeenAcademies.com](http://www.iDTeenAcademies.com)

1-888-709-TECH (8324)

##### Stanford

#### ISTP's Language Immersion Summer Camp

ISTP Summer Camp is designed to give participants a unique opportunity to spend their summer break having fun learning or improving in a second language. Students are grouped according to both grade level and language of proficiency. Our camp offers many immersion opportunities and consists of a combination of language classes and activities taught in the target language. Sessions are available in French, Mandarin, Chinese and English ESL and run Monday through Friday, 8am-3:30pm, with additional extending care from 3:30-5:30pm.

[www.istp.org](http://www.istp.org)

650-251-8519

#### Mid-Peninsula High School

##### Summer Program

Mid-Peninsula High School offers a series of classes and electives designed to keep students engaged in learning. Class Monday-Thursday and limited to 15 students. Every Thursday there's a BBQ lunch. The Science and Art classes will have weekly field trips.

[www.mid-pen.com](http://www.mid-pen.com)

650-321-1991 x110

##### Menlo Park

#### SuperCamp

Increases Grades, Confidence and Motivation. Academic pressure to stand out. Social pressure to fit in. It's not easy being a high school or middle school student. Straight A or struggling, kids are overwhelmed by homework, activities, and technology distractions. SuperCamp provides strategies to help kids succeed. Bobbi DePorter created SuperCamp to empower kids. Now in its 30th year with 64,000 graduates, SuperCamp builds study skills, self-esteem, and test scores. SuperCamp works. Parent Patty M. says, "We saw a jump in grades ... the things she learned about her worth are of lasting value."

[www.supercamp.com](http://www.supercamp.com)

1-800-285-3276.

##### Stanford

#### Summer at Saint Francis

Summer at Saint Francis provides a broad range of academic and athletic programs for elementary through high school students. It is the goal of every program to make summer vacation enriching and enjoyable!

[www.sfhs.com/summer](http://www.sfhs.com/summer)

650-968-1213 x446

##### Mountain View

#### Synapse School & Wizbots

Cutting-edge, imaginative, accelerated, integrated, and hands-on academic summer enrichment courses with independent in-depth, project-based morning and afternoon week-long programs for children ages 4-12. Young Explorers, Thinking Math, Leonardo da Vinci's Inventions, Nature Connections, Girls' & Soccer Robotics, and more!

[synapseschool.org/curriculum/summer](http://synapseschool.org/curriculum/summer)

##### Menlo Park

650-866-5824

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[www.indiacc.org/camps](http://www.indiacc.org/camps)

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[www.theatreworks.org/educationcommunity](http://www.theatreworks.org/educationcommunity) 650-463-7146

##### Palo Alto

EMERGENCY SERVICES

# Palo Alto to close fire station that services SLAC

*Shutdown of Station 7 will result in nine fewer Fire Department positions*

by Gennady Sheyner

**A** Palo Alto fire station that has been providing service to the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory for close to four decades will be shut down at the end of this month, the Weekly has learned.

Station 7, which includes one engine and three firefighters and which is actually located on Sand Hill Road in Menlo Park, will close later this month because of a decision by SLAC to seek fire-protection services from the Menlo Park Fire Protection District. Palo Alto has been staffing the station for about 40 years as part of its contract with Stanford University, which the city's fire department also serves.

But SLAC, which is operated by the Department of Energy, has recently decided to discontinue the long-standing arrangement, Interim Fire Chief Dennis Burns told the Weekly. The chief driver, he said, was cost savings.

"It's not because of the quality of service, and it's not because of the relationship between agencies. It's just because there's been an economic downturn, and they're re-

ceiving less and less funds for their operations," Burns said.

SLAC's new agreement with the Menlo Park district means that the laboratory will no longer have a fire station on site. According to a recent report from Harold Schapelhouman, fire chief of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District, the Department of Energy had performed a "basic-needs assessment" at the site and determined that on-site fire protection is no longer necessary and that "off-site services were more cost efficient and acceptable based upon the risk and actual call volume."

"Given the site location, its high level of life-and-fire-safety mitigation efforts, actual call activity and risk, it makes sense that surrounding fire agencies provide basic emergency response services to the site," Schapelhouman wrote in a December report.

The move also makes geographical sense. The station is based at the SLAC campus off Sand Hill. It was built in 1968 and is staffed by three firefighters, who rotate in three shifts throughout the day. The current arrangement also calls for the

station to be immediately backfilled with other personnel whenever the engine leaves the SLAC campus.

The station's closure means the Palo Alto Fire Department will lose nine positions, though Burns said that because of existing vacancies the switch would not result in any layoffs in the department. He said the city is still re-examining its existing fee structure with Stanford to determine the exact fiscal impact of the station's shutdown.

Though the shutdown of Station 7 is driven by SLAC rather than by Palo Alto, the move is taking place at a time when the city is also taking a fresh look at its fire operations. Last year, an independent analysis commissioned by the City Council offered a long list of recommendations, including more cost-sharing arrangements with surrounding jurisdictions and a possible merger of Station 2 on Hanover Street and Station 5 on Arastradero Road.

While the Palo Alto Fire Department has been pursuing some recommendations, including merging

(continued on next page)



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## High-speed rail

(continued from page 5)

day meeting to discuss its strategy on high-speed-rail litigation. At the discussion, the council authorized the city to file an appeal in the second lawsuit against the rail authority. Concurrently, the Menlo Park council decided on Monday to file an appeal in the first lawsuit. Menlo Park also released a statement expressing its concern about the program EIR that the rail authority is preparing to approve.

“The council’s main concerns are that all of the EIRs thus far have confused on a four-track system and that none of the EIR versions have adequately considered or analyzed the ‘blended’ system set forth in the new business plan,” Menlo Park Public Works Director Chip Taylor said in a statement Wednesday.

Taylor also wrote that the rail authority’s EIRs do not “address the impact of having an elevated structure along the Peninsula” and that the council is concerned that the “ridership study is inadequate.” Menlo Park officials also argued that the rail authority should make it clear that it would not seek to circumvent the California Environmental Quality Act in evaluating the impacts of the San Francisco-to-Los Angeles system.

“For the City Council to fully support the blended system, the High-Speed Rail Authority must provide certainty that the four-track system is no longer under consideration, that the ridership study will be redone, and that the project will not

be exempt from the current CEQA process,” Menlo Park Mayor Kirsten Keith said.

Atherton officials met in closed session Tuesday afternoon to discuss litigation against high-speed rail, Councilman Jerry Carlson said.

Atherton City Attorney Bill Connors told the Weekly that the council has authorized him to join the appeal, though the city was waiting to see what actions, if any, the rail authority’s board of directors would take at its meeting Thursday, April 12, before it determines whether to continue further litigation. The board was scheduled to discuss the ongoing litigation with Peninsula cities at the end of its meeting, after the Weekly’s press deadline.

“Unlike the other two cities, we have not yet made a formal decision on how to proceed and we will do so once we hear from the High-Speed Rail Authority as to what, if anything, comes out of their board meeting Thursday,” Connors said.

Fresh lawsuits from the cities could further delay a project that had already been hit with numerous legal setbacks since 2008, when voters approved a \$9.95 billion bond for high-speed rail. In November 2011, Sacramento Superior Court Judge Michael Kenny gave the Peninsula cities a limited victory when he ordered the rail authority to de-certify its program EIR and to further analyze the traffic impacts of narrowing a portion of Monterey Highway near San Jose. Kenny also told the rail authority to further analyze the project’s traffic impacts on properties

along the Caltrain corridor.

Kenny declined, however, to get involved in the disputes over ridership numbers. He also upheld the rail authority’s decision to use the Pacheco Pass alignment rather than the Altamont Pass route favored by various nonprofit coalitions that joined the suit against the rail authority. The revised analysis now includes the changes mandated by Kenny.

Rail officials have been adamant in recent months that they are now committed to the blended approach on the Peninsula, despite the fact that the program EIR continues to focus on the four-track approach. Jim Harnett, a member of the rail authority’s board of directors said at a public hearing in Mountain View that a blended approach is the agency’s “new direction for high-speed rail.” Simmens said that while the EIR will not be revised to include more analysis of the blended approach, “the implementation strategy for the two-track system is very much in play for the project.”

But for Flashman and the project’s critics on the Peninsula, that probably won’t be good enough. Flashman told the Weekly that the rail authority’s two documents, the program EIR and the business plan, currently describe two different projects, a situation that he called a “little schizophrenic.”

“You have to figure out which project you’re doing,” Flashman said. ■

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

## Massage law

(continued from page 6)

ness,” Bertelsen told the committee Tuesday. “You have strangers on both sides of you most of the time. Not only do you have most of your clothes on, but you’re covered with a towel over your abdomen and back areas.”

Bertelsen said the problems that the police are trying to prevent — prostitution and sexual crimes — occur at the type of low-end establishments that haven’t existed in Palo Alto for 15 years. Because of economic factors, such establishments are unlikely to return to Palo Alto any time soon, he said.

Barry Katz, a Happy Feet client

who lives in the Ventura neighborhood, concurred and called the proposed ordinance “a very thoughtful solution to a problem that doesn’t exist.” The proposed ordinance, he said, would “make it onerously difficult for them (businesses like Happy Feet) to continue to do something no one is objecting to.

“It’s working, and everybody likes it.”

The committee agreed. Though members accepted Wagner’s argument that the city should adopt a new massage ordinance, the ordinance should be “as light as possible,” Councilman Larry Klein said. He called the record-keeping requirement “demeaning” and said that if the city ever has the kind of problems with massage parlors that

it did in the 1970s, it could revise the law as needed.

“I think a lot of these provisions assume they’re guilty,” Klein said, referring to existing massage establishments. “I want to reverse it and make our ordinance as light as possible.”

Klein’s three colleagues on the committee, Chair Karen Holman and Councilmen Sid Espinosa and Greg Schmid, agreed. They voted to direct staff to return at a future meeting with several revisions, including removal of the record-keeping provision and exemptions for certain non-certified massage practitioners. ■

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

## Fire station

(continued from previous page)

of some administrative functions between the police and fire departments and consolidation of dispatch services with neighboring cities, it has no plans to close any stations (other than Station 7) in the near future, Burns said.

The 2011 report, from TriData Division and ICMA Center for Public Safety Excellence, indicated that Station 7 received 169 calls in 2009, far fewer than any other station except Station 8, a station in the foothills that operates only during the fire season. Burns noted that the

shutdown of Station 7 is a separate effort from the department’s broader look at making operations more efficient.

The TriData and ICMA report also states that it “does not appear that Station 7 is needed in the greater Palo Alto Fire Department deployment scheme.”

“This station simply fulfills its contracted role as first responder to all Stanford SLAC emergencies,” the report states. “Station 7 has incredibly low workload and is not in a good position to respond to anything other than as a complement unit (which it cannot really do because this station needs to be back-filled within 10 minutes).” ■



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

Please be advised the Planning and Transportation Commission (P&TC) shall conduct a **public meeting at 6:00 PM, Wednesday, April 25, 2012 in the Council Chambers, Ground Floor, Civic Center, Palo Alto, California.** Any interested persons may appear and be heard on these items.

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

#### NEW BUSINESS. Study Session:

- 1. VTA Bus Rapid Transit Plan.**  
Staff presentation on the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) – Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project, including recommended station locations, street alignments, and enhanced bus operations on 10-minute headways.

#### Public Hearing:

- 2. Draft Density Bonus Ordinance Review (SB1818)**  
Recommendation to the City Council to adopt the draft Density Bonus ordinance, including the “menu” of approved concessions as defined in Government Code Section 65915.

#### Other Business:

- 3. Update regarding Sustainable Communities Strategy Draft Preferred Scenario (SB375)**  
Report and update of the Draft Preferred Scenario developed by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) to further the objectives of SB375.

Questions. For any questions regarding the above items, please contact the Planning Department at (650) 329-2441. The files relating to these items are available for inspection weekdays between the hours of 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. This public meeting is televised live on Government Access Channel 26.

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

\*\*\*

**Curtis Williams,**  
Director of Planning and Community Environment

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of the Initiation of the Section 106 Process  
Public Participation

AT&T Mobility plans to install antennas for a Distributed Antenna System (DAS) on existing utility poles throughout Palo Alto. Poles located in AT&T Poly 1 are located along Waverly St, Lincoln Ave, Emerson St, Bryant St, Park Ave, Rinconada Ave, Arrowhead Way, Lincoln Ave & Dennis Way. The proposed activities will include extension of the poles with a pole extension and minor ground impact. Public Comments for this project should be forwarded to:

Holly Moore  
Diablo Green Consulting Inc.  
231 Market Place #186  
San Ramon, CA 94583  
holly.moore@diablogreen.com  
Telephone (925) 365-0730  
Facsimile (925) 365-0729

Written or verbal substantive comments received at the above address within the review period will be addressed.



## Palo Alto Unified School District

Notice is hereby Given that proposals will be received by the Palo Alto Unified School District for bid package:

**Contract No. DMM7-12**

**DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK:** The work includes, but is not limited to: Portable relocation and installation of seven portable classrooms including but not limited to site work, site utilities and interior fit out. Bidding documents contain the full description of the work.

There will be a **mandatory pre-bid conference** and site visit at **10:30 a.m.** on April 19, 2012 at the **Duvenek Elementary School, 705 Alester Ave. Palo Alto, California, 94303.**

**Bid Submission:** Proposals must be received at the District Facilities Office Building D, by **10:00 a.m.** on **April 30, 2012.**

**PREVAILING WAGE LAWS:** The successful Bidder must comply with all prevailing wage laws applicable to the Project, and related requirements contained in the Contract Documents.

Palo Alto Unified School District will maintain a Labor Compliance Program (LCP) for the duration of this project. In bidding this project, the contractor warrants he/she is aware and will follow the Public Works Chapter of the California Labor Code comprised of labor code sections 1720 – 1861. A copy of the Districts LCP is available for review at 25 Churchill Avenue, Building D, Palo Alto, CA 94306.

1. A pre-job conference shall be conducted with the contractor or subcontractors to discuss federal and state labor law requirements applicable to the contract.
2. Project contractors and subcontracts shall maintain and furnish to the District, at a designated time, a certified copy of each payroll with a statement of compliance signed under penalty of perjury.
3. The District shall review and, if appropriate, audit payroll records to verify compliance with the Public Works Chapter of the Labor Code.
4. The District shall withhold contract payments if payroll records are delinquent or inadequate.
5. The District shall withhold contract payments as described in the LCP, including applicable penalties when the District and Labor Commissioner establish that underpayment of other violations has occurred.

Bidders may examine Bidding Documents at Facilities Office, **Building "D"**. Bidders may purchase copies of Plans and Specifications at **ARC, 599 Fairchild Drive, Mountain View, CA 94043, Phone Number (650) 517-1895**

All questions can be addressed to:

Palo Alto Unified School District  
25 Churchill Avenue, Building D  
Palo Alto, CA 94306-1099  
Attn: Lori Alvarez  
Phone: (650) 329-3927  
Fax: (650) 327-3588

# CityView

A round-up of Palo Alto government action this week

## City Council (April 9)

**Mustard Seed:** The council approved a new day care center at a currently vacant building at 2585 East Bayshore Road. **Yes:** Burt, Espinosa, Holman, Klein, Price, Schmid, Shepherd, Yeh **Absent:** Scharff

**Cubberley:** The council discussed and proposed some changes to the proposed guiding principles for determining the future of Cubberley Community Center. The council plans to approve the guiding principles later this month. The council also voted to direct appointment of two more members from the school community to the city manager's proposed Community Advisory Group for the Cubberley process. **Yes:** Burt, Espinosa, Holman, Schmid, Shepherd, Yeh **No:** Klein, Price **Absent:** Scharff

## Council Policy and Services Committee (April 10)

**Message ordinance:** The committee recommended further revisions to the proposed message ordinance, including elimination of a requirement that message establishments keep records of their customers. **Yes:** Unanimous

## Planning and Transportation Commission (April 11)

**Housing Element:** The commission discussed the city's new Housing Element and referred the item to a subcommittee that will work with staff to further revise the document. The commission will resume its discussion on May 9. **Yes:** Unanimous



**LET'S DISCUSS:** Read the latest local news headlines and talk about the issues at Town Square at [PaloAltoOnline.com](http://PaloAltoOnline.com)

## Public Agenda

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

**CITY COUNCIL ...** The council plans to meet in closed session to discuss labor negotiations with the Service Employees International Union, Local 521, and existing litigation between the city and Curtner Homes. The council also plans to continue its discussion of the future of Cubberley Community Center, approve the retiree medical actuarial report and consider mid-year adjustments to the fiscal year 2012 budget. The closed session will begin at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, April 16. Regular meeting will follow in the Council Chambers at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

**COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE ...** The committee plans to discuss 2013 Community Development Block Grant allocations and adjustments to the city's refuse rate. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 17, in the Council Conference Room at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

**HISTORIC RESOURCES BOARD ...** The board plans to discuss 433 Melville Ave., a request by Don Horton on behalf of Richard and Mara Wallace for restoration, alteration and addition to a home in the Professorville Historic District. The meeting will begin at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, April 18, in the Council Chambers at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

**COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE ...** The committee plans to discuss adjustments to the city's water, wastewater and fiber rates and discuss the financial forecast for electric and gas utilities. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 18, in the Council Conference Room at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

**CITY-SCHOOL LIAISON COMMITTEE ...** Committee members will meet for a "special meeting," consisting of a tour of Ohlone Elementary School, which inaugurated a new, two-story classroom building last fall. The meeting will begin at 8 a.m. on Thursday, April 19, in the Ohlone Multipurpose Room (950 Amarillo Ave.).

**ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD ...** The board plans to discuss the design for the proposed "Magical Bridge" playground at Mitchell Park and proposed improvements to Cogswell Plaza. The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 19, in the Council Chambers at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

**COUNCIL REGIONAL HOUSING MANDATE COMMITTEE ...** The committee plans to review the preferred scenario for Sustainable Communities Strategy and Regional Housing Needs Assessment allocation. The meeting will begin at 4 p.m. on Thursday, April 19, in the Council Conference Room at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

**PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION ...** The commission plans to hear a presentation on "Breaking through the Static," discuss Byxbee Park and the University Avenue transit hub, and hear an update about the artist-in-residence program. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 19, in the Council Chambers at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

## Surf Air startup

(continued from page 6)

ports and one that shuttles directly between Palo Alto and an airport in Los Angeles.

"We would love to be turning a plane constantly every half hour," he said. "If it takes 74 minutes to get down (to Los Angeles) and 84 minutes to get back up, you can make an educated guess at what (the number of flights) would be."

Similar restrictions required that he not disclose which airport in Los Angeles the company would use.

Eyerly called small airports "America's most underused infrastructure," saying that half of them operate at 10 percent capacity.

In the fourth quarter of 2011, Palo Alto's airport had 500 take-offs and landings per day — just 60 percent of the airport's 30-year high, said Bob Lennox, vice president of the Palo Alto Airport Association.

"There's plenty of room for growth of operations," he said, noting that he wouldn't think congestion would be a problem even if there were 20 more "operations" — the term used to describe single take-off or a single landing.

Carl Honaker, director of airports for Santa Clara County, said operations include flight-school "touch and go's," a maneuver in which a plane lands and takes off again before stopping.

"So if a student in flight training does six touch and go's, then that's 12 operations," he said.

Palo Alto is the base of operations to only one chartered airline, Centurion Flight Services, but Honaker said many chartered flights come in and out of the airport. Those that land there must pay for the space they use, but they may also buy fuel, use airport services and potentially rent cars.

Ralph Britton, the airport association's president, said a business like Surf Air could be a boon to the airport.

"Any extra use for anyone who wants to use the Palo Alto airport for commercial use — as a way for people to get around — as opposed to those who do it for fun is a valuable thing," he said.

Eyerly called Palo Alto "the sweet spot" — a middle point between San Jose and San Francisco that's populated with the likes of attorneys, engineers and venture capitalists, all of whom he thinks would use his service.

Eyerly said Surf Air is still in the process of raising seed funding from investors. He would not disclose numbers or name investors until the funding round has closed. Eyerly said Surf Air received support from Los Angeles-based incubator Muckerlab, including \$21,000 in funding.

Eyerly, a former intelligence officer and an aide to former Vice President Dick Cheney, founded the company with his brother David, a former manager at Frontier Airlines.

Possible routes for future expansion could include from Los Angeles to Las Vegas or Palo Alto to Sacramento, the Lake Tahoe area and Napa, he said. ■

**Editorial Assistant Eric Van Susteren can be emailed at [evan-susteren@paweekly.com](mailto:evan-susteren@paweekly.com).**

## Project Safety Net

(continued from page 3)

The shocking events, which began in spring 2009, prompted an outpouring of concern from all corners of the community. Over time, staff members from the school district and the city's Recreation Department organized the interested parties under an umbrella they named Project Safety Net.

The group holds monthly public meetings to exchange information on activities related to suicide prevention and youth mental health, such as events, training and outreach. It also promotes donations to Track Watch, a program that uses volunteers and paid security guards to monitor Caltrain tracks in Palo Alto, where a number of suicides have occurred.

Its stated mission is "to develop and implement an effective, comprehensive, community-based mental health plan for overall youth

well-being in Palo Alto."

Besides the city and the school district, members include the Palo Alto Medical Foundation, Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, PTA representatives and a wide array of local nonprofits.

Until now, Project Safety Net has been staffed on a part-time basis by Rob de Geus, a manager in the city's Recreation Department, and Amy Drolette, coordinator of student services for the school district.

Llerena's hiring as a full-time program director was made possible by funds Stanford University is paying the city in "public benefits" to make up for environmental impacts associated with the hospital's massive, \$5 billion expansion project, said Greg Betts, director of the city's Community Services Department.

The 1.3 million-square-foot hospital expansion will exceed Palo Alto zoning regulations, for which Stanford agreed to compensate in part by paying about \$45 million,

## Housing vision

(continued from page 3)

Lytton Gateway building featuring offices, space for nonprofits and apartments; and a proposal by philanthropist John Arrillaga for a large office building and theater at the current site of the MacArthur Park restaurant.

The Housing Element begins with a vision statement: "Our housing and neighborhoods shall enhance the livable human environment for all residents, be accessible to civic and community services and sustain our natural resources." It then lays out dozens of programs and policies that seek to strike a balance between encouraging new housing (particularly affordable housing), the city's most glaring weakness) and protecting existing neighborhoods.

The document's strategies for new housing stress smaller and more affordable units, ones that could accommodate the city's growing senior population. According to the Housing Element, the population of Palo Alto residents aged 65 and older rose by 13 percent between 2000 and 2008. The trend isn't expected to abate anytime soon. The new document notes that the city's population of residents between 45 and 65 went up by 18 percent between 2000 and 2008.

"Smaller units are generally more affordable and generate fewer impacts to many of the City's infrastructure and services, including roads, water, sewer and schools," Senior Planner Tim Wong wrote in the staff report that accompanied the Housing Element draft. "As Palo Alto's senior population continues to increase, the need for smaller senior units is important as many senior households have become 'empty nesters' and would prefer to downsize. There is also a growing demand for multifamily units near services and transit, by both seniors and young urban professionals, who are choosing to live closer to services, thus reducing traffic impacts."

Proximity to transit is another major theme of the Housing Ele-

ment, which aims to make sure any new housing is supported by amenities such as schools, transit and shopping areas. The city's goal of building housing near these types of amenities is the main driver behind the Housing Element proposals to make exceptions to the city's 50-foot height limit for projects within a quarter mile of transit stations and to consider allowing higher density for mixed-use projects within half a mile of transit stations.

Though much of the Housing Element deals with abstractions, projections and big-picture policies, the document is more than an academic exercise. The city is required by state law to submit the document to the Department of Housing and Community Development, an agency that will review it for compliance. Palo Alto is required to zone for 2,860 housing units by 2014 to meet the state's projections under the Regional Housing Needs Assessment.

The new document lays out a conceptual plan for accommodating 2,976 housing units, a number that includes 1,192 units that have either been built or are currently going through the permit process. The new Housing Element is meant to address the planning period between 2007 and 2014. If Palo Alto is unable to accommodate its allocation, the city could lose out on housing, transportation and infrastructure grants, according to Wong's report.

But aside from the legal requirements, the document is also intended to provide a framework for helping the city achieve its housing goals.

"The overall intent of the Housing Element is to enable an adequate variety of housing to be accommodated in appropriate locations and densities that ensure neighborhood compatibility," Wong wrote in his report. "An emphasis is also placed on encouraging smaller units that minimize community and school impacts and reflect the City's changing workforce and demographics." ■

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

according to the city.

According to Betts, "\$2 million (of the public benefit payment) was earmarked for youth well-being, and a portion of that money was used to be able to hire Christina.

"Part of the objective of the position is not only just coordinating Project Safety Net, but also looking at ways of grant-writing, both foundation and donation support, so the position is somewhat sustainable," Betts said.

Llerena earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Michigan and a master's degree in social work from Columbia University.

In an interview Wednesday, she said she was drawn to the job because of a "passion for community collaboratives," which she described as a relatively new phenomenon in her field.

She described a collaborative she launched in Daly City in 2001, using tobacco tax funds to create a childhood and family resource center on the campus of John F. Kennedy Elementary School, now known as Our Second Home. Llerena also worked extensively with seriously emotionally disturbed youth in New York City.

"We were really impressed with the depth of Christina's coalition-building experience and passion for

working with youth, including her dedication to youth well-being," City Manager Jim Keene said. ■

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

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## Editorial

# New massage rules still not right

*Skeptical council members continue to question need for client logs and increased regulation*

In what is becoming almost an amusing struggle between city staff and the City Council, how Palo Alto regulates massage therapists once again occupied the time and attention this week of the four-member Council Policy and Services Committee, police and city administrators and a city attorney.

It's a great example of how an issue that no member of the public or City Council had any interest in or concerns over can surface and drain time, resources and money.

A review and re-write of the city's current ordinance regulating massage therapists in Palo Alto was supposedly needed because of a state law that for the first time established a voluntary state certification process that pre-empted local regulation for any therapist or facility obtaining the state certification.

The idea behind the law was to formalize a state-level certification system so that local governments didn't need to craft their own individual regulatory schemes, as many, including Palo Alto, had done decades ago.

Since the state law went into effect in 2009, Palo Alto has simply stopped enforcing those parts of its massage ordinance that were out of compliance.

But instead of amending our local ordinance to accomplish only what was required and in as simple a way as possible, the staff opted to create a major revision that added new requirements.

Adding to the confusion is the fact that parts of the city's ordinance would not even apply to any state-certified therapists doing business in Palo Alto.

A year ago, the city staff brought the draft of a new ordinance to an informational meeting of therapists, who especially objected to a section requiring a written log of customers, including the date and hour of each service; the name, address and sex of each patron; the service provided and the technician administering the service.

Then Acting City Attorney Don Larkin and the police, hearing the concerns of both the therapists and the City Council, said that the requirement would be dropped or access limited by requiring court-issued subpoenas to access the logs. They were also asked to figure out how to carve out establishments like Happy Feet, a popular establishment that provides foot and body massage to clothed customers in an open room with other customers.

Fast-forward to Tuesday night, when the City Council's Policy and Services Committee examined a new version of the ordinance that was essentially the same as the one sent back a year ago, including the clause requiring massage businesses to keep records of all customers.

The committee's reaction was proper and swift: All four members agreed that a new ordinance should not include the record-keeping provision and they directed the staff to go back to the drawing board and try again. Councilman Larry Klein called the provision "demeaning." He added, "I think a lot of these provisions assume they're guilty," in reference to current massage operations. "I want to reverse it and make our ordinance as light as possible." The committee is chaired by Karen Holman and includes Sid Espinosa and Greg Schmid.

The problem here is that there is no problem needing to be fixed.

In the last 10 years the police department has logged only 10 complaints of criminal conduct at massage establishments, hardly enough reason to inflict the onerous record-keeping burden on today's practitioners.

Long ago Palo Alto's massage industry shed the image and problems that grew out of the seedy establishments found along El Camino Real in the 1970s.

We don't think the citizens of Palo Alto believe it is necessary for the police department to require practitioners of massage to maintain extensive records of their clients, just on the off-chance that such information might be needed to conduct an investigation.

The council committee's direction was clear and correct: A new local ordinance should be as "light" on regulation as possible and be aimed simply at making our ordinance consistent with state law.

In an era of limited government resources, knowing when to take a minimalist approach to low-priority issues is essential. City management missed their chance to demonstrate that on this one.

# Spectrum

*Editorials, letters and opinions*

## Cal Ave cooperation

Editor,

Potential funding for California Avenue creates an opportunity for essential change.

Possibilities exist for business support besides the current lane configuration. Some European cities, for example, close shopping districts during the day. Protective gates unlock during early morning hours to allow for deliveries.

Perhaps the businesses that focus on foreign imports need to reconsider priorities.

By reshaping venues to center upon locally produced goods, high fuel-use transport systems will yield less environmentally damaging ways of doing business.

The grocery store that features foreign items can easily shift to locally produced brands that also accommodate specialty tastes. Apparel shops that now center on European products could seek out local companies that create goods analogous to the foreign-produced ones. Regional economies would benefit from such changes while decreasing their reliance on fossil fuel.

These shifts might begin to reduce the need for giant trucking on California Avenue and set the stage for the emergence of more environmentally conscious ways. Ecological awareness is likely to attract additional business to the area by those wishing to support kinder means.

Rather than the current "we against them" stance that exists between businesses and city leaders that serves to generate hostilities, cooperative resolution might evolve to benefit many — both in the present and for coming generations.

Bette Kiernan  
Sherman Avenue

## Don't destroy Cal Ave

Editor,

Does anyone invite a dozen guests for dinner and then burn half their dining room chairs? This is what the City of Palo Alto intends to do. It plans to narrow California Avenue from four lanes to two. At the same time, hundreds of new homes are being built just a few blocks away.

The city claims this will make California Avenue "safer" but refuses to prove how "dangerous" the street is. The city claims this will encourage more people to bike and walk, without a single study showing that anyone will make this change. Would you bike or walk more on California Avenue if half the lanes were eliminated?

The city is desperate to solve a problem that doesn't exist. If you liked the overnight removal of all the trees on California Avenue, you'll love the loss of half its lanes, with all the resulting traffic tie-ups and increase in accidents. If you don't want California Avenue destroyed, write the City Council today.

Marty Klein  
Thorwood Drive

## Fix, don't narrow

Editor,

I don't understand why reporters for the Palo Alto Weekly continually say that residents are enthusiastic about reducing California Avenue to two lanes and only the business owners are against the project. That simply isn't true.

I attended the community meetings and an overwhelming majority of residents were against reducing the lanes to two. The business owners have filed a lawsuit because they rightly believe that two lanes will harm business. I agree. Not only will two lanes slow traffic and keep would-be shoppers and diners away, they pose a safety hazard to bicyclists.

With the east/west tunnel, the Park Boulevard north/south bike commuter route and Caltrain ridership — the California Avenue area is a major bike and pedestrian crossroads. Changing to two lanes would seriously decrease the ability to maneuver a bicycle safely through California Avenue. Proposed housing on Birch Street and Park Boulevard will bring even more traffic. This is no time to reduce the lanes!

Despite lawsuits and the residents' dismay, the city just committed \$500,000 to move forward with the planning. Geez, I thought we were

struggling with the budget. Yet there is money to throw at this unpopular project. Meanwhile California Avenue-area roads are full of dangerous potholes and big cracks in the pavement, making bicycling unpleasant at best and downright dangerous at worst.

How about just fixing the roads and abandoning the costly and hugely unpopular beautification project?

Shannon McEntee  
Sheridan Avenue

## Level crossings

Editor,

Why worry about two-track versus four-track when the major obstacle to running a fast, efficient train system on the Peninsula remains level crossings?

The fact that Caltrain has many road crossings leads to excessive noise (train whistles are not required at under- or over-crossings), accidents and long delays. More than one death per month on average and many non-fatal accidents at crossings cause delays of several hours and consequently unreliable service.

Suppose we add several more trains per hour to this system with high-speed rail — the above problems will be compounded, in ad-

(continued on page 16)

## YOUR TURN

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

**What do you think?** Is there a better way to make California Avenue a destination?

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.

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For more information contact Editor Jocelyn Dong or Online Editor Tyler Hanley at [editor@pawebly.com](mailto:editor@pawebly.com) or 650-326-8210.

## TOMORROW'S ACTION FIGURES



## 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

# Nationwide search for 'urban forester' left no leaf unturned

by Jay Thorwaldson

**A**fter an exhaustive nationwide search for someone to fill Palo Alto's new "urban forester" position, city officials have found their forester.

In mid-May, Walter Passmore — currently the urban forester in Austin, Texas — will join the city's Public Works Department staff, heading up the department's Urban Forestry Program.

There has been no public announcement of his hiring thus far, but City Manager James Keene has informed City Council members of Passmore's selection by Public Works Director Mike Sartor and a staff team.

The search for the perfect person for the position has been intense and time-consuming.

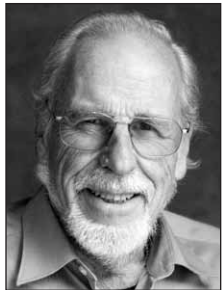
"He was selected after two interview panels consisting of outside professional and state arborists. Canopy and senior staff interviewed nine highly qualified candidates, including two internal ones," Keene wrote last week in an email to council members from his iPod.

"Mr. Passmore was one of the two top candidates of both panels."

Passmore's initial challenge — among many he will face in tree-sensitive Palo Alto — will be "bringing the Urban Forest Master Plan into fruition," Keene wrote.

For those unfamiliar with that tome, it is available on the city's website, [www.cityofpaloalto.org](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org).

Passmore, despite being in Austin, knows the Bay Area and will bring more than 20 years of



experience in the relatively young field of urban forestry. He grew up in San Francisco and is a certified arborist. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry/Natural Resource Management from California Polytechnic State University, and is currently completing a master's degree in public administration at Texas State University.

"While I typically don't take time to inform you of non-department head appointments I felt it important to tell you personally of this position that is of great community interest," Keene told the council members.

He said Sartor will be speaking personally with the two internal candidates, who were unnamed.

But a safe assumption is that at least one of the candidates would be one of the two certified arborists already on staff: Dave Dockter in the Planning Department, who in the latter 1990s spearheaded creation of the city's Tree Technical Manual, and Peter Jensen of Public Works, hired last year. Other staff members have been involved with Palo Alto's tree canopy, long known as its urban forest.

The Tree Technical Manual was a three-year effort and garnered several major national awards when it was published, and scores of other cities requested copies. It was left un-copyrighted so others could easily and freely reproduce or adapt it to specific communities.

The manual also complemented a city tree-preservation ordinance that limited removal of significant, or "heritage," trees on private property. The ordinance followed a time of wholesale removal of all trees on parcels being redeveloped in the early "McMansion" period. It was a battle to save both individual trees and Palo Alto's own forest.

I once tried to show a group of hikers in the foothills where Palo Alto was. Except for its mid-rise buildings sticking up, virtually all the houses and other structures are hidden by its trees. It quite literally looks like a forest, not a city.

The city's website also has an extensive "urban forestry" section. And there is a private website of the nonprofit organization, Canopy — the "watchdog" of the urban forest, from street trees to heritage trees on private properties.

But Canopy does much more in terms of education, participation and even an innovative "Healthy Trees, Healthy Kids!" program. It is "a multi-year initiative to plant 1,000 shade trees and fruit trees that engages children and volunteers in educational activities and the planting of hundreds of trees."

Planting sites "target school campuses and nearby open space areas in Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, Menlo Park and neighboring communities," Canopy says. "Trees create better learning environments for students, bring much-needed shade to play areas, increase energy efficiency of school buildings, break up heat islands on campuses and even provide healthy snacks" — in addition to providing an overall healthier environment.

Not everyone likes trees, or likes them all the time, of course. In the fall their leaves are expensive nuisances, requiring regular street sweeping and causing neighborhood complaints about the sound of leaf blowers. And their roots tend to push up sidewalks and driveways, causing people to trip and making wheelchair maneuvering challenging. Injury claims for sidewalk-caused falls have been a significant headache for the city.

But birds and squirrels love them, and a former mayor once proposed creating a system of rope

"SquirrelWays" when the city was beginning to put electric and phone lines underground several decades back. The ropes would enable the squirrels to get from tree to tree without encountering the hazards from cars, dogs and cats.

The new urban forester position will be in addition to the existing arborists, but the precise duties are still being worked out, or haven't been publicly announced yet. Salary details also are not immediately available.

But the real question is, "How has Palo Alto's urban forest managed to thrive all these years without this position?"

The answer lies in the thousands of residents, and earlier generations of residents, who value trees. People were planting ancestors of today's urban forest more than a century ago, supplanting or augmenting the native oaks that once dotted the grass-dominant landscape of the flatlands that became homesites, in some areas with dairy farms along the way leaving well-fertilized soil.

But it also lies in the dedication of city arborists, such as the pioneer George Hood, whom I mentioned in a column late last year.

Hood was especially known for his care of the city's "living landmark," El Palo Alto, a venerable redwood that came close to dying from neglect and pollution over the decades.

Yet he was also known widely for developing an especially colorful variety of liquidambar trees and introducing them as street trees, which other communities across the nation adopted.

Hood was followed by others who cared about and cared for trees, such as Gary Nauman and more recently Dockter.

The new urban forester will have large footprints to fill. ■

*Former Weekly Editor Jay Thorwaldson can be reached at [jthorwaldson@paweb.com](mailto:jthorwaldson@paweb.com) with a copy to [jaythor@well.com](mailto:jaythor@well.com).*

## Streetwise

**What would you think about the animal services center being moved or closed to accommodate an auto dealership?** Asked on Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Interviews and photographs by Junesung Lee and Eric Van Susteren.



**Victoria Cervantes**  
Analyst  
West Bayshore Road

"It's ridiculous. We don't need another auto dealership. The shelter provides a lot more benefit to the community than an auto dealership."



**Lynn Magill**  
Stay-at-home mom  
Midtown

"I don't like it. The animal shelter provides a valuable service to the community. Low-cost vaccinations, spay and neutering. ... I think we need a local place like that."



**Xan Owens**  
Self-employed  
East Meadow Drive

"I think that sucks. Both of my dogs are from that shelter. There isn't another shelter like it besides San Mateo or San Francisco."



**Ryan Apple**  
Student  
Middlefield Road

"If anything, move it somewhere else. It's more important than the auto mall. Animals are more important."



**Jan Curtis**  
Grandma  
Montrose Street

"In favor of the shelter for spay, neutering. Without it, what are we going to do? It's important to keep the car dealerships over there on the other side of 101."

# Why Planned Community zoning makes so much trouble

by Judith Wasserman

Nothing brings out Palo Alto citizens with the pitchforks as fast as a Planned Community application. Everybody has a different view of how, or if, a development project provides those notori-



ous public benefits. The reason lies in the ordinance itself. Here are the relevant sections of the municipal code (emphasis added):

### Specific purposes

The planned community district is intended to accommodate developments for residential, commercial, professional, research, administrative, industrial or other activities, including combinations of uses that may require flexibility under conditions not attainable under other

district designations. The planned community district is particularly intended for unified, **comprehensively planned developments which are of substantial public benefit**, and which conform with and enhance the policies and programs of the Palo Alto Comprehensive Plan.

### Required determinations

The planning commission, prior to recommending approval of any PC district application, and the city council, prior to approving an ordinance designating and regulating any PC district, shall make all of the following required findings with respect to the application, in addition to findings required by the ordinance.

(a) The site is so situated, and the use or uses proposed for the site are of such characteristics that the application of general districts or combining districts will not provide sufficient flexibility to allow the proposed development.

(b) **Development of the site under the provisions of the PC planned community district will result in public benefits not otherwise attainable** by application of the regulations of general districts or combining districts. In making the findings required by this section, the planning commission and city council, as appropriate, shall **specifically cite the public benefits expected to result** from use of the planned community district.

(c) The use or uses permitted, and the site development regulations applicable within the district shall be consistent with the Palo Alto Comprehensive Plan, and shall be compatible with existing and potential uses on adjoining sites or within the general vicinity.

Please note that the phrase "public benefit" is used in two places, with, possibly, two different meanings. No wonder no one is sure what it means. Let's look at each use in turn.

In the description of the purpose of the ordinance, it declares that the development itself should be of "substantial public benefit." What can that mean? To me, it means that the city and the citizens get something out of this project that they would not and could not get out of a

code-compliant project on the same site. An example is Channing House, which was built years ago as a PC and provides a quantity of much-needed senior housing that could not be built on that site under the standard zoning. The Opportunity Center is another such project. No one argues that these projects are not of intrinsic public benefit.

In the list of "required determinations," also called "findings," we see that the development "will result in public benefits not otherwise attainable," and that those benefits shall be "specifically cited" in the ordinance. Somehow, this has come to mean "public benefits that are in addition to the development." This was not always true. Channing House was approved as it stood; its presence was the public benefit.

The difficulty arises when buildings that are not of inherent public benefit, such as office buildings, apply for PC zoning. Since they are no different from other, code compliant, buildings, additional "public benefits" must be found and required — payments into various public funds, plazas and landscaping open to all, public art, and so on.

Since there is no description in the code as to what might qualify as a public benefit, huge arguments ensue as to whether these benefits are sufficient. Some people even add up the cost of the proffered benefits against the profits of the developer, as if it would be OK to sell zoning rights if the price were right.

In my opinion, the reason there is no list to pick from is that the ordinance never intended the public benefits to come from outside the project. If the project has no inherent public benefit, but only profits the developer, no PC — stick to the code.

Now we get to the hard parts: how to decide if a project is inherently beneficial to the public. That is particularly difficult because the public has conflicting needs. Somebody says we need more housing, especially low-cost housing. The next guy says that's the last thing we need because it puts a burden on city services. So the interpretation varies from council to council (and sometimes from day to day).

This city council asked a devel-

oper to take all the housing out of his project, leaving only offices and maybe a little retail space on the ground floor. I don't see the public benefit in that, only a large office building in the pedestrian overlay district. However, there are extra street trees and various other amenities proposed. But, you would have a hard case to make that the project, as redesigned by the council, was even eligible for the PC determination at all.

There are several possible solutions to this problem. One is to do away with Planned Communities altogether, rewrite the code to allow for more variety in the types of projects that are acceptable under the zoning, and then stick to it. This alternative is not very flexible and assumes the city has enough foresight to guess what might be beneficial in the future.

An alternative solution would be to redefine the public benefits to be outside the project, in addition to the project, and then have a list of what would be acceptable benefits, perhaps dependent on how many extra square feet were being asked for.

A third possibility would be to clarify the ordinance so that "public benefit" is clearly defined as meaning the same thing in both instances: The project itself is of intrinsic public benefit. End of story, no extras. ■

*Judith Wasserman, AIA, is chair of the city's Architectural Review Board.*

## Letters

(continued from page 14)

dition to causing excessive traffic delays at the crossings. I would love to see both Caltrain and high-speed rail succeed, but I haven't seen any proposed solutions to this seemingly intractable problem.

Gary Breitbart  
San Jude Avenue

## Brown vs. Munger

Editor,  
I am disappointed that there may be two school tax initiatives on our ballot this November. Neither is perfect, but something must be done, and each may rob the other of enough votes so that neither will pass, an outcome that would leave our schools to continue to operate without sufficient resources for improvement.

I think we can all agree that the K-12 schools need more money, but if both initiatives are on the ballot, I will vote for the Brown initiative and against the Munger.

Why? The Brown initiative puts aside at least some money for our important community colleges. Not enough, but at least some. The K-12 schools are not the only educational institutions in desperate want of funds.

It seems to me to be a fatal idea to have two initiatives on the same issue on the same ballot. I hope the Munger initiative will fail to gather sufficient signatures.

Sue Kemp  
Seale Avenue

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# Saving the squawks

## Conserving threatened species is a long, difficult road

photographs by Veronica Weber / story by Eric Van Susteren

**C**olorful mosaic art composed of broken bits of tile are scattered throughout the maze of enclosures clustered around Michele Raffin's Los Altos Hills home.

"Mosaics are made from found and broken objects," she said over the squawks and chirps of the enclosures' inhabitants. "It's symbolic of what we do with birds."

Raffin is the executive director and founder of Pandemonium Aviaries sanctuary, which breeds non-native birds, some of which are endangered or rare. "Pandemonium" refers to the word for a flock of parrots, but it could also be used to describe Raffin's schedule, which is consumed by caring for birds.

She said she spends 14 hours a day, seven days a week maintaining the sanctuary — cleaning the dozens of enclosures, feeding and talking to the birds, and en-

sure they're protected from the hawks that occasionally dive-bomb the cages.

Raffin's birds aren't for sale — she hopes to establish healthy populations of birds in captivity so that one day they can be introduced into the wild. She focuses particularly on Victoria-crowned pigeon, blue-crowned pigeon, Bartlett's bleeding heart, Luzon bleeding heart and the Nicobar pigeon.

The Victoria-crowned pigeon, blue-crowned pigeon and Bartlett's bleeding heart are listed as "vulnerable" on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's "red list," which evaluates the conservation status of plant and animal species. The Luzon bleeding heart and the Nicobar pigeon are listed as "near threatened."

"The Victoria-crowned pigeon are really

(continued on next page)



Top: A family of Rainbow Lorikeets feed on the pollen of freshly picked flowers in their enclosure at Pandemonium Aviaries. Above: Michele Raffin, executive director and founder of Pandemonium Aviaries, comforts a macaw before bringing it to its outdoor enclosure. Some birds must be kept inside during the night because of the relatively mild climate at Pandemonium compared to the birds' natural habitat.



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Top: Pieces of art from local artists scatter Pandemonium Aviaries, including the mosaic statue that greets visitors before viewing the last background. Mosaics, which are made from found and broken objects, symbolize the work Raffin does at Pandemonium. Below: One of the two East African crowned cranes at the sanctuary. Bottom: A lady Gouldian finch perches on a branch in its enclosure.

## Aviary

(continued from previous page)

the modern-day dodo bird,” Raffin said. “If we let them go extinct, then we haven’t learned anything in 600 years. And I don’t think that speaks well of humans as a species.”

Raffin said she has 7 percent of the world’s under-conservation population of Victoria-crowned pigeons at Pandemonium.

Raffin also focuses on the green-naped pheasant pigeon, which has a worldwide captive population of less than 100, though it’s not named on the “red list.”

“They’re not officially listed as endangered,” she said. “However, reports from birders say they don’t hear them any longer. We treat them as endangered. As far as I’m concerned they are.”

Running the aviary is a complex endeavor. Some species will fight with other species when they’re placed in the same enclosure. Also, the relatively mild climate of the Bay Area can be too chilly for some. They require either supplemental heating or to be brought into Raffin’s house during the night, which she said can be “noisy” and puts some of her more chewable furniture in danger.

The challenges of running an aviary out of one’s house go beyond day-to-day operations. Ellen Paul, executive director of the Ornithological Council, said birds bred in small, captive flocks face serious challenges.

The first two concern genetics. Ideally, a population of any species should have a wide range of genetic variation so that there’s a better chance the population will have traits suited to a situation or environment.



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Top: Cape doves roost in their aviary. Male cape doves are discernable by the patch of black that covers their faces. Below: East African crowned cranes approach the fence of their enclosure. The cranes are not currently listed as protected species but the species is still vulnerable. Bottom: Flor Cuevas, a birdkeeper at Pandemonium Aviaries, brings breakfast to parakeets in the Millie and Paul Berg aviary.



Loss of genetic diversity means that changes in their environment are more likely to lead to their extinction. For example, if not one bird in the population is resistant to a certain disease, that disease can easily wipe out the population.

A small, closed population also tends to lead to inbreeding. Closer breeding means a higher likelihood of recessive traits, which are typically negative.

“In terms of conservation, numbers matter,” Raffin said. “You want unrelated individuals, and you want a lot of individuals. You can bring back populations from near extinction, but it’s harder than if you have more.”

Birds raised in captivity face significant challenges when they are

(continued on next page)



# Inspirations

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A Rosella parrot takes off from a nesting box in its aviary. Most of the birds are nesting this time of year.

## Aviary

(continued from previous page)

reintroduced into the wild, Paul said. Often their captive upbringing means they don't know how to behave correctly in the wild, and they constantly find themselves encountering humans.

Raffin said Pandemonium is still years away from the point at which it will begin transferring its birds to an organization that can incorporate them back into the wild. She said she's optimistic about the future, although she sees reintroduction as a serious challenge.

"We keep getting better at things," she said. "I look at all the ways our generation has messed things up, and I look at all the solutions. There are a lot of smart and motivated young people right now who will dedicate their lives to solving these problems."

Raffin credits some of her optimism to the interns that work at Pandemonium, most of whom are recent biology graduates from schools across California. She said part of her mission is to impart her knowledge to the next generation.

In 2009 Pandemonium Aviaries officially became a nonprofit organization, but Raffin said she hadn't always planned on running a bird sanctuary. Rather, her plans evolved gradually as her priorities developed.

She began taking in birds in 1996, after finding a wounded dove on the side of the road that later died.

"In the beginning 90 percent of

our birds were compromised in one way or another — ill, injured or handicapped," she said.

But that changed in 2005 when she stopped taking in peoples' unwanted birds and started taking conservation of exotic non-native birds seriously. Today, none of the birds in her aviary are native to the United States.

Raffin said she couldn't think of a more worthwhile endeavor than saving a species.

"To do nothing would be incredibly wrong," she said. "There are so many birds that have gone extinct while people sat down and did nothing. Once they're gone, they're gone." ■

**Staff Photographer Veronica Weber can be emailed at [vweber@paweekly.com](mailto:vweber@paweekly.com) and Editorial Assistant Eric Van Susteren at [evansusteren@paweekly.com](mailto:evansusteren@paweekly.com).**

**WATCH IT ONLINE**  
[www.PaloAltoOnline.com](http://www.PaloAltoOnline.com)

A video of Pandemonium Aviaries founder Michele Raffin discussing her efforts to conserve endangered bird species is posted on Palo Alto Online.

**About the cover:** *The Victoria-crowned pigeon is one of the birds that Pandemonium Aviaries focuses on conserving. Raffin, who calls them "the modern-day dodo bird," said she has 7 percent of the world's under-conservation Victoria-crowned pigeons at the sanctuary.*



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# Pulse

A weekly compendium of vital statistics

## POLICE CALLS

### Palo Alto

March 29 - April 11

#### Violence related

Assault w/a deadly weapon	2
Attempted suicide/adult	1
Battery/peace officer	1
Child abuse	3
Domestic violence	6
Family violence	2
Strong-arm robbery	1

#### Theft related

Checks forgery	1
Commercial burglaries	5
Elder abuse/financial	1
Fraud	3
Grand theft	2
Identity theft	3
Petty theft	12
Residential burglaries	7
Shoplifting	2

#### Vehicle related

Abandoned auto	3
Auto recovery	1
Bicycle theft	3
Driving w/suspended license	11
Hit and run	9
Misc. traffic	8
Theft from auto	5
Vehicle accident/minor injury	9
Vehicle accident/property damage	9
Vehicle impound	5
Vehicle tampering	1

#### Alcohol or drug related

Drunk in public	19
Drunken driving	3
Liquor law	1
Open container	2
Possession of drugs	7
Possession of paraphernalia	1
Under influence of drugs	1

#### Miscellaneous

Casualty/fall	2
Disturbing phone calls	1
Found property	5
Indecent exposure	5
Lost property	4
Misc. penal code violation	7
Missing person	1
Outside assistance	1
Prowler	1
Psychiatric hold	4
Suspicious circumstances	4
Suspicious person	1
Town ordinance violation	1
Unattended death	1
Vandalism	6
Warrant arrest	4
Warrant/other agency	5

### Menlo Park

March 29 - April 11

#### Violence related

Assault w/a deadly weapon	1
Battery	2

#### Theft related

Checks forgery	1
Fraud	9
Petty theft	8
Residential burglaries	5

#### Vehicle related

Abandoned auto	2
Auto theft	1
Driving w/suspended license	7
Hit and run	3
Theft from auto	3
Vehicle accident/major injury	1
Vehicle accident/minor injury	2
Vehicle accident/property damage	6
Vehicle tow	6

#### Alcohol or drug related

Drunk in public	5
Drunken driving	3
Possession of drugs	6

#### Miscellaneous

Disturbance	4
Felon possessing a firearm	1
Found property	7
Information case	11
Juvenile problem	2
Lost property	4
Misc. penal code violation	1

Outside assistance	2
Property for destruction	1
Psychiatric hold	4
Sex registrant	2
Suspicious circumstances	2
Suspicious person	1
Threats	1
Vandalism	5
Warrant arrest	8
Warrant/other agency	1

### Atherton

March 29 - April 11

#### Violence related

Assault	1
---------	---

#### Theft related

Fraud	2
Grand theft	1
Petty theft	1
Residential burglaries	3

#### Vehicle related

Hit and run	1
Parking/driving violation	8
Suspicious vehicle	31
Vehicle accident/property damage	2
Vehicle code violation	6

#### Miscellaneous

Animal call	5
Citizen assist	5
Disturbance	4
Disturbing the peace	1
Fire call	5
Found property	2
Hazard	5
Juvenile problem	2
Medical aid	10
Meet citizen	2
Outside assistance	6
Psychiatric hold	1
Suspicious circumstances	6
Suspicious person	5
Town ordinance violation	5
Vandalism	1
Welfare check	4

## VIOLENT CRIMES

### Palo Alto

**400 block Waverley Street**, 3/30, 1:37 a.m.; assault with a deadly weapon.

**Unlisted block Alma Street**, 3/30, 8 p.m.; family violence/misc.

**Unlisted block Edgewood Drive**, 3/31, 4 p.m.; strong-arm robbery.

**Unlisted block University Avenue**, 3/31, 7:46 p.m.; domestic violence/battery.

**Unlisted block Palo Alto Avenue**, 4/2, 3:42 a.m.; domestic violence/battery.

**Unlisted block East Charleston Road**, 4/3, 1:50 p.m.; child abuse/physical.

**Unlisted block Miranda Green Street**, 4/4, 7:48 p.m.; domestic violence/misc.

**Unlisted block Middlefield Road**, 4/5, 4:14 p.m.; domestic violence/battery.

**Unlisted block Ventura Avenue**, 4/5, 9:48 p.m.; domestic violence/violation of a court order.

**200 block University Avenue**, 4/5, 7:51 p.m.; battery/peace officer.

**Unlisted block Wilkie Way**, 4/6, 10 p.m.; child abuse/emotional.

**Unlisted block Ramona Circle**, 4/7, 3:30 p.m.; domestic violence/battery.

**Unlisted block Arastradero Road**, 4/7, 7:16 p.m.; child abuse/physical.

**Unlisted block Alma Street**, 4/8, 11:32 a.m.; family violence/battery.

**Unlisted block Quarry Road**, 4/8, 3:24 p.m.; assault with a deadly weapon.

**Unlisted block Park Boulevard**, 4/10, 9:51 p.m.; attempted suicide/adult.

### Menlo Park

**700 block Laurel Street**, 3/30, 10:40 a.m.; battery.

**1200 block Henderson Avenue**, 3/30, 7:09 p.m.; battery.

**1300 block Willow Road**, 4/1, 1:45 a.m.; assault with a deadly weapon.

### Atherton

**500 block Middlefield Road**, 4/2, 5:53 p.m.; simple assault.

## James Alfred Dingler

James Alfred Dingler, 77, passed away peacefully at his Palo Alto home on March 31, 2012 with his family by his side. Jim, son of James William Dingler and Edith Spradley was born on November 14, 1934 in High Point, NC. At age 4 he moved to Charlotte, NC where he spent his formative years. He graduated from Harding High School in 1953. Following graduation he changed his status from Reserve to Active Duty in the Navy. He spent his naval career in military transport service. His squadron flew sailors into many foreign ports; this was the beginning of a long love affair with travel.

After the Navy, he went to college on the G.I. bill and received a BS in Business Administration from Denver University. It was there in Colorado where he met his wife, Janice whom he was married to for 53 years. In 1967 he earned a MS in Banking from LSU and worked as a banker in NC, Nevada and CA. He held the title of Vice President and COO in several banks. In 1979 he developed a system for fixed asset accounting and formed his own company, Essex Systems.

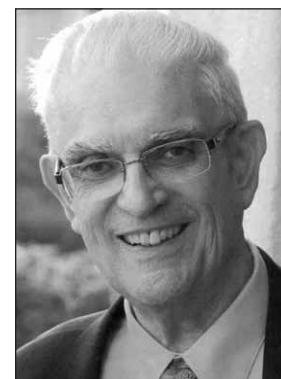
His lifelong passion was stamp collecting and he owned an extensive collection winning many awards at

Philatelic shows throughout the country. He wrote and published a highly regarded book on Brazilian Stamp Cancellation of the Empire Period. This hobby also awarded him with his dearest friendships.

Jim and Jan were worldwide travelers. They visited 30 countries gathering wonderful memories and friends. They were also ardent fans of Stanford Women's Basketball.

Jim is survived by his wife, Janice; daughters, Karen Conley, Laurie Dingler (Laurie Reynolds) and Anne Dingler; and son, Mark Dingler (Julia Dingler). He also leaves 4 granddaughters, Ellen and Julia Conley, Jillian and Catherine Reynolds and his beloved dog, Sugar.

Services will be held on Sunday, April 15th at 3:00 pm at St. Mark's Episcopal Chapel, 600 Colorado Avenue, Palo Alto, CA. Memorial contributions may be made to the Peninsula Humane Society or to the Palo Alto Junior Museum. [www.rollerhapgoodtinney.com](http://www.rollerhapgoodtinney.com).



PAID OBITUARY

## Terry Lee Burkoth PhD

Terry Lee Burkoth PhD, April 7, 1941- April 3, 2012. After completing his cherished daily bike ride, he passed away unexpectedly and peacefully in his home of thirty-four years in Palo Alto, California. Terry always lived life to its fullest. The eldest of three children born to William and Dorothy Burkoth of Chicago, Illinois, he was an intellectual with a boundless work ethic and a renaissance man who possessed a perpetual curiosity and humor for the wonders of life. With an analytical mind and an early love of books, he attended Ripon College in Ripon, Wisconsin. He then went on to complete his doctorate in organic chemistry at Stanford University, followed by a post-doctoral fellowship at Columbia University. He enjoyed a long and distinguished career in pharmaceutical development that included 42 patents, 30 publications, as well as developing products from pesticides to needleless injections. He was an influential leader at Zoecon and Alza. Prior to his retirement, he was a founding member of Powderject Pharmaceuticals and a visiting scholar at Oxford University.

Terry met the love of his life, Sharolyn

Howard, while he was in graduate school. Together they would build a marriage of 44 years and a fun-filled life centered on family and kindred friends. He was a devoted and beloved father and father-in-law who led by example and whose strength and support evolved with the lives of his children. From building pinewood-derby cars and constructing Halloween costumes, to taking his daughter for her first ear-piercing, to attending soccer games, to connecting with the interests of his son- and daughters-in-law, to babysitting his grandchildren, his spirit lives on in the fulfilling lives of those he leaves behind. He is survived by his wife Shari, his daughter Amy, his sons Tim and Bill, his children-in-law Joe, Yaya, and Jen, his five grandsons--Matt, Ben, Toby, Cameron, and Carter, and his beloved dog Kallie and grand-dog Sammy. His spirit will continue to be found running the hills at Stanford, biking Old La Honda, and walking the Baylands.



PAID OBITUARY

## Earl S. Skidmore

1925 - 2012

Long-time resident of Los Altos, California

Earl S. Skidmore was born February 4, 1925 in Salt Lake City, Utah to Dr. Earl L. Skidmore and Nora Swaner Skidmore. He attended East High School, in SLC, and started college at the University of Utah in 1942. His education and varsity basketball play was interrupted by two years of service in the U.S. Navy. Upon his return to the "U" he finished his degree in Sociology/Anthropology and continued as an active member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity. It was at the University of Utah that he met his future wife, Elies Yeates

Earl and Elies were married in 1947 and moved to Spokane, Washington where Earl worked for Phillips Petroleum and played on their elite basketball team. In 1950 the couple relocated to the Bay Area where Earl owned and operated four gas stations, "Skid's Royal Stations". In 1958 he started Pressure Vessel Service, (later named Basic Chemical Solutions) a chemical company located in Redwood City, to which he devoted over 30 years of hard work to ensure its success. He also dedicated much time to professional and community associations.

In his retirement Earl "Skid" enjoyed

vacationing in Lake Tahoe, photography, gardening, cooking and telling a good story. His unique wit and sense of humor will be missed by all who knew him.

With loving hearts and many fond memories, Earl is survived by his wife, Elies Yeates Skidmore, Los Altos, sons, Earl Skidmore, Menlo Park, James (Jim) Skidmore, Roseville, Jeffrey (Jeff) Skidmore, Menlo Park and daughter, Phoebe Clement, Los Altos, eleven grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

The family plans a private ceremony. In lieu of flowers please send donations to:

Tahoe Rim Trail Association  
948 Incline Way  
Incline Village, NV 89451

Or online at [www.tahoeremtrail.org](http://www.tahoeremtrail.org).



PAID OBITUARY

## Dave Kleinberg

Entrepreneur and Silicon Valley executive Dave Kleinberg passed away on April 5, 2012 following a brave battle with lung cancer. Dave is survived by his two children, Elliot and Alexis, his parents Robert of Albuquerque, NM and Marcia Ross of Carlsbad, CA, and his two brothers, Steve and Bruce Kleinberg of Dallas, TX.

Dave was born on May 15, 1958 in Lansing, Michigan, and grew up in Albuquerque, NM where he graduated from Highland High School. He attended Georgetown University and graduated in 1979 with a degree in English Literature and American Government, which kindled a lifelong interest in international business, politics, music and cultural affairs. He was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship upon graduation, and spent the following year at la Universidad de los Andes in Bogota, Colombia, where he studied Economics and became fluent in Spanish. Upon his return from Colombia, Dave entered the Stanford Graduate School of Business, where he graduated with an MBA in 1983. While at Stanford, Dave was instrumental in hosting a successful conference on economic development in emerging markets attended by business and political leaders from around the world.

Dave spent his early years working in sales for ROLM in Tokyo, Japan, before returning to the U.S. where his career encompassed work for several pioneering companies of Silicon Valley.

He joined Apple Computer where he headed up product marketing for the various Asian versions of the Macintosh and led the development of KanjiTalk, which dramatically accelerated Apple's growth in Japan. In 1989, Dave brought the same international acumen

to Macromedia, and led the company's Pacific Rim Sales. In 1992, Dave fulfilled a long-time dream to embark on his first entrepreneurial venture by joining NetObjects as Co-Founder and EVP of Marketing and Sales. He helped take the company public in 1999 after its successful sale to IBM in 1997. In the last ten years, Dave has been the CEO of three successful start-ups. Dave was known for his keen intellect, strategic thinking, and persistence in developing great products.

Dave was a devoted father to Elliot and Alexis (Lexi). He taught them how to read and shared his love for music with them, both in bands and casual jamming at home. He loved their family vacations and special times at the beach and in the mountains. Dave also loved cooking, eating out with friends, listening to and playing music, and spending time with his children. Dave's partner and confidante, Judy Maille, and her daughter Shayna provided Dave with much love and joy over the past five years. Dave will be missed by all those who knew him as a loving father, son, brother, partner or friend, enthusiastic cook, accomplished musician, and business leader.

The celebration of Dave's life was held Thursday April 12, 2012 at 11:00 A.M. at Alta Mesa Funeral Home 695 Arastradero Road Palo Alto, Ca. The family welcomes friends of Dave who would like to attend.



PAID OBITUARY

# Transitions

Births, marriages and deaths

## Deaths

### Mary Mills

Mary Mills, 100, a resident of Palo Alto, died March 17.

She was born in 1911 in Maine, the only daughter of Walter and Gertrude Palmer. All three were awarded scholarships to Colby College. Mary graduated in 1933 and taught school before marrying Kenneth Mills in 1938. She gave birth to her only child, Sherry Ann, in 1943.

The family moved to Palo Alto when Ken was transferred to the Hale Department Store in San Francisco. The marriage ended in divorce, but Mary continued on in her Palo Alto home for more than 40 years.

Her daughter preceded her in death in 2001. She is survived by her nephew, David Palmer (Anne) of Maine; niece, Elizabeth Palmer of Massachusetts; niece, Patricia Augustiny of Washington; son-in-law, Larry Holzman of New York; and many friends.

### Pixie Hammond

Pixie (Martha) Hammond, a longtime Palo Alto resident and local volunteer, died March 17 at a health-care facility in Los Altos. She was 89.

Born in Florida, she was the daughter of a Methodist minister and was active in the church from an early age. She received her master's degree from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary at Northwestern University in 1949 and was eventually ordained as a minister by New Thought Ministries in 1977. In the intervening years, she married Bob Hammond in 1953 and together they raised three children: Paul, Laurie and Mark. The family lived in Denver and Sacramento until Bob retired in 1978, when she moved with her husband to Palo Alto.

She was a pioneer in the field of sacred dance, a charter member of the Spiritual Frontier Fellowship and a lifelong member of the Fellowship of Reconciliation. She was especially committed to her volunteer work with the Foundation for Global Community. Always committed to making the world a more loving place, she devoted the last 45 years of her life to the activities of this organization: leading seminars, planning ceremonies, performing weddings and memorials, teaching Bible and counseling individuals.

She is survived by one brother, her children and two grandchildren. A memorial service will be held Friday, March 30, at 3 p.m. at Unity Palo Alto Community Church in Palo Alto.

### Doris Salzer

Doris Salzer, 94, died March 31. A memorial service will be held April 15 at noon at Congregation Beth Am

in Los Altos Hills. Charitable donations in her memory may be made to the Greater Worcester Community Foundation. For information, contact [atlisi@greaterworcester.org](mailto:atlisi@greaterworcester.org).

### Bonnar "Bart" Cox

Bonnar "Bart" Cox, a lifelong resident of the Palo Alto area, died April 3 from cancer. He was 88.

He came from Fresno to the Palo Alto area at the age of 3 with his father, Ross Cox, and his mother, Isabel Margaret Cox. His father had been hired to lay out roads and building plots for the areas that would become the Felton Gables part of Menlo Park.

He attended schools in Menlo Park and Palo Alto and graduated in 1948 with a degree in electrical engineering from Stanford University. His military service in World War II entailed duties in the European Theater as a member of the 336th Signal Company, U.S. Army. His decoration and citations include the European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, Good Conduct Medal and the WWII Victory Medal.

In 1951 he married Barbara Ruth Stone, whom he had met in a church young-adult group. They were married for 50 years.

He was an early employee of Stanford Research Institute. He worked for more than 40 years as an engineer and executive managing projects that changed the world. These included the first successful computer-based banking system (IRMA), early robotics, the computer mouse, advances in medical and aerospace technology and other areas that revolutionized technology.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Barbara Ruth Cox, and brother, James. He is survived by his three daughters, two sons, 10 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held May 19 at 11 a.m. at First United Methodist Church, 625 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto. Donations in his memory should be directed to the Organ Preservation Fund at the FUMC. A memorial website has been created at <http://memorialwebsites.legacy.com/bartcox>.

## Births

**Michelle and Lee Kravetz** of Palo Alto, a daughter, March 24.

**Johanna Colvin and Anthony Dyck** of Mountain View, a son, March 25.

**Susannah and Nolan Wright** of Palo Alto, a daughter, March 27.

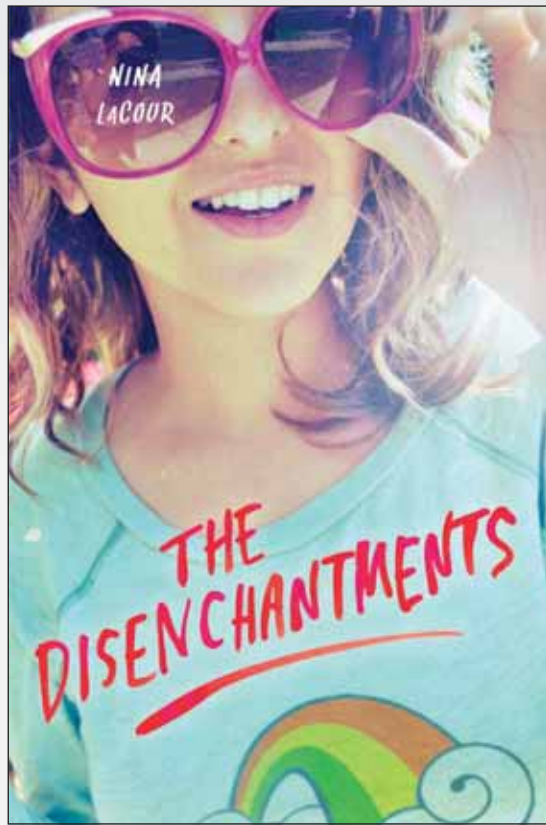
**Bobbi Jo Cannizzaro and Christopher Avery-Szalata** of Mountain View, a daughter, March 28.

# Arts & Entertainment

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



Jess Rothenberg



Stephanie Perkins



Gayle Forman



Nina LaCour

Hurray  
for YA

by Karla Kane

Broken hearts, boyfriends, otherworldly bridges and bands are just some of the topics up for discussion at the Kepler's "YA Extravaganza," a celebration of young-adult literature to be held April 18 at the Menlo Park bookstore. The 7 p.m. event will feature a panel conversation with touring authors Gayle Forman, Jess Rothenberg, Nina LaCour and Stephanie Perkins.

Palo Alto writer Heidi Kling will moderate. The author of the 2010 YA novel "SEA" and a contributor to local e-book publisher Coliloquy, she said she's thrilled to be guiding the discussion among "four of the most popular contemporary YA authors around."

There will be plenty of time for questions from the audience, and "a little birdie told me there will be games," she said.

How to define YA fiction? It's very eclectic, including everything from realism to paranormal romance to dystopian sci-fi, according to Kepler's event coordinator Angela Mann, who blogs and reviews YA novels for the store at [the-bookbind.blogspot.com](http://the-bookbind.blogspot.com). But though its subject matter varies, good YA

literature has the adolescent experience at its heart.

"YA is generally written from the point of view of young people. And these days, the best of YA is insanely innovative, gorgeously written, funny, moving, terrifying," author Forman said.

The novels also often tackle controversial and provocative topics and can be extremely popular among adult readers as well, Mann said.

Writing YA fiction is appealing because of the combination of "innocence and fierce determination of youth," Kling said. "Without the adult constraints of bills, raising children, 9-5 jobs, our characters have so much freedom. As a writer, (one finds that) the YA sky is limitless."

East Bay native Nina LaCour always planned on being a writer, but it wasn't until taking a graduate class in young literature at



Mills College in Oakland that she decided to try her hand at writing for teens. She wrote her first novel, "Hold Still," as her thesis and never

looked back. LaCour also works directly with teens in her day job as a high-school English teacher, with her students giving her insights into adolescent culture and inspiring her further.

Her newest book, "The Disenchantments," centers on a group of San Francisco friends and bandmates on a bare-bones tour of the Pacific Northwest following high-school graduation.

"My first novel was very serious, dealing with a best friend's suicide, so I was ready to write something more fun," she said of the novel, which finds its main character betrayed by his best friend and struggling to decide what to do with his life post-tour.

Because YA fiction usually features protagonists on the verge of adulthood, the exhilaration of new experiences is often a common thread, she said. "There's something about road trips that encapsu-

late what it means to grow up and be independent."

Forman, the author of the tear-jerker "If I Stay" and its sequel "Where She Went," said she's always written for and about young people. Though as a former journalist (including a stint as a senior writer for Seventeen Magazine), she didn't turn to fiction until after the birth of her first child. YA was a natural fit. "Those have always been the stories that have spoken to me," she said.

Jess Rothenberg, too, has long felt a connection to teen literature.

"I never stopped loving books written for a young audience. I have so many memories tied to great books and the joy of reading," she said.

A full-time writer now, Rothenberg worked for six years as an editor of YA and middle-reader fiction, including the popular "Vampire Academy" series.

Since she began working in publishing, "I always hoped I would end up in that realm," she said, calling it a "fascinating market," with many opportunities for writers in

(continued on page 25)

# Steinbeck shines on stage

TheatreWorks' sensitive take on 'Of Mice and Men' is even better than the book

by Kevin Kirby

No one familiar with Robert Kelley's vast and impressive body of work as TheatreWorks' founder and artistic director should be surprised to learn that his current production of John Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men" is a gorgeous and affecting piece.

Backed by a team of designers that includes Tom Langguth (set), Allison Connor (costumes), Steven B. Mannhardt (lights) and Jeff Mockus (sound), Kelley has created a staging of Steinbeck's melodrama that is nearly flawless in its simplicity. The Depression-era Salinas Valley and the lives of its migrant workers are evoked with a few deft strokes: the weathered farm buildings ringed by fields of barley and the silhouettes of distant hills, the muted color palette in the workers' costumes, the half-heard fiddle tune that flits between gaiety and melancholy but never settles for long in one place.

The show is also exceptionally well cast, a tribute to TheatreWorks' longtime casting director, Leslie Martinson. The performers disap-

## THEATER REVIEW

pear into their roles, embodying Steinbeck's battered misfits physically, vocally and emotionally.

TheatreWorks' stage production is so good, in fact, that it actually outshines the book.

For those who got through high school without reading at least the CliffsNotes, "Of Mice and Men" is a 1937 novella that tells the story of two migrant laborers: the hulking, slow-witted Lennie and his companion, George, who spins tales of an independent, landed future while trying to keep Lennie out of trouble long enough to bankroll their shared dream. It is generally regarded as a classic of American literature, both for the power of its central relationship and for Steinbeck's intimate portrayal of the dispossessed workers who supported (and still support) California's agricultural industry.

But some critics, this one included, feel that the novella, with its twistless plot and blatant foreshad-



Mark Kitaoka  
Jos Viramontes portrays "George" and AJ Meijer "Lennie" in TheatreWorks performance of John Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men."

owing, reads more like a schematic than a fully fleshed tale. And the characters' naturalistic dialect, on the page, can come off as slightly cartoonish. (It may be no accident that George and Lennie live on, in popular culture, as the templates for countless cartoon duos.)

In a well-acted theatrical production, though, these prose weak-

nesses become dramatic strengths. The inexorability of the heavily telegraphed conclusion takes on the gravity of a Greek tragedy, and Steinbeck's dialogue, when delivered by strong actors with the right mix of conviction and finesse, provides an authenticity that makes the characters anything but cartoons.

Anchoring the current production are Jos Viramontes as George and AJ Meijer as Lennie. For TheatreWorks' staging, Kelley has chosen to portray the protagonists as Mexican-American. It's a nice choice that deepens the play's resonance in our current political climate, and, hearing the dialogue spoken with Viramontes' and Meijer's soft Hispanic inflections, one suddenly finds it hard to believe that Steinbeck wanted it heard any other way.

Viramontes digs into the text and emerges with a George so specific, so well considered, that we have no choice but to believe him. We understand the calculus of George and Lennie's relationship because Viramontes understands it. George's life may be endlessly complicated by Lennie's needs and limitations, but he has something that none of the other migrant laborers has: a companion. George's strength of purpose, his dedication to one small rural corner of the American dream, all stem from the need to "look after" Lennie. It's a noble path, but we see the price in Viramontes' bearing.

AJ Meijer handles the fantastically difficult role of Lennie well, never allowing his characterization to descend into caricature. He wins us over with Lennie's nervous giggle, his childish enthusiasm, his silly pride. But there is danger lurking beneath the surface, visible in Lennie's panicky confusion and the roiling asymmetry of his face.

Other outstanding performances come from Gary Martinez as Candy and Charles Branklyn as Crooks, the two most outwardly broken of the play's many broken characters. (Candy lost a hand in a farm acci-

dent, and Crooks' spine was broken by a mule.) While Martinez and Branklyn admirably physicalize the damage done to their characters' bodies, both men go considerably deeper, showing us — whether through a vulnerable quaver in the voice or a streak of acid wit — the disfigurement caused to these men's souls by a lifetime of hard labor.

The other men in the cast also give smart, textured performances: Harold Pierce as the explosive Curley, Michael Ray Wisely as Carlson, Josiah Polhemus as Whit, and Chad Deverman as the sympathetic and vaguely androgynous mule skinner Slim.

The least convincing is Lena Hart as Curley's wife, the only woman on the ranch and, consequently, the source of gossip and suspicion. Hart seems not to have decided if this is a misogynistic play or merely a play about misogynists, leaving her characterization muddled: Is Hart playing a tramp who brings trouble to otherwise good men, or is she playing a naive woman whose intentions are mistaken by the men around her? Sadly, her climactic scene with Lennie is the production's weakest, with Hart and Meijer never quite finding the rhythms that will keep their soliloquies energized and authentic.

To be fair, this last complaint may result from a flaw in Steinbeck's writing. He was still a young writer when "Of Mice and Men" was created, still experimenting with his craft. It's worth noting that he wrote the novella with the express intent that it should also serve as a theater piece. The first Broadway production was mounted the same year the story was published, with Steinbeck lifting the scene structure and dialogue, nearly unchanged, from the book to the script.

Anyone who loves Steinbeck's novella should see this production. More importantly, anyone who *doesn't* love the novella should see it as well. TheatreWorks' masterful

(continued on next page)

The Stanford Storytelling Project, Stephanie and Fred Harman, and Stanford Continuing Studies Present

## An Evening with Peter Guber



Today, all of us—whether we know it or not—are in the emotional transportation business. More and more, success is achieved by using compelling stories that move audiences—media, donors, consumers, and employees—to action. In this special event, executive, entrepreneur, and bestselling author **Peter Guber** will share what he has learned over decades in the entertainment and communications industries about finding and telling authentic stories that make deep emotional connections with audiences.

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Tuesday, April 17

7:30 pm

CEMEX Auditorium

Knight Management Center

Stanford University

Free and open to the public

For more info: [continuingstudies.stanford.edu](http://continuingstudies.stanford.edu)





## Of Mice and Men

(continued from page 24)

presentation gives this classic work a renewed vigor, suggesting that it may be better suited to the stage than to the page. ■

**What:** "Of Mice and Men," presented by TheatreWorks

**Where:** Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St.

**When:** Through April 29, with shows Tuesday and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.; Thursday and Friday at 8 p.m.; Saturday at 2 and 8 p.m.; Sunday at 2 and 7 p.m.

**Cost:** Tickets are \$19-\$69, with discounts for students and seniors.

**Info and tickets:** Go to theatreworks.org or call 650-463-1960.

## Hurray for YA

(continued from page 23)

the wake of the Harry Potter-era of YA successes with both young and adult readers.

Though she's a Brooklyn resident, Rothenberg is a big Bay Area fan. Her debut novel, "The Catastrophic History of You and Me," is even set on the Peninsula, with the Golden Gate Bridge serving as a gateway to the great beyond.

"San Francisco is one of my favorite cities in the world," she said. "I dream about living there, but my family would kill me because it's too far away."

In her book, the teen protagonist literally dies of a broken heart after her boyfriend tells her he doesn't love her. She then must navigate the world of the afterlife (with the help of a hunky guide) while observing her friends and family struggle with grief over her death.

"It's a big mix of sad and funny, light and dark, with a supernatural spin," Rothenberg said. The novel's plot was inspired partly by her own past relationship woes.

"I was in the midst of a broken heart and I started writing this to sort of write my way through those emo-

tions, those grief stages," she said.

For Rothenberg, "the coolest thing about this whole experience" has been the response from fans.

"It's been amazing getting so many emails from all over the world," she said, from readers who relate to the heartache and emotions expressed by her characters. Rothenberg said readers have written messages telling her: "I'm going through these things, too," and "I hugged your book; it helped me through."

She's currently working on a second book for teens, but said she hasn't ruled out writing other types of books in the future. "I just want to follow the story." ■

**What:** "YA Extravaganza," an author event with four authors of young-adult literature: Gayle Forman, Jess Rothenberg, Nina LaCour and Stephanie Perkins. Moderated by Palo Alto author Heidi Kling.

**Where:** Kepler's bookstore, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park

**When:** 7 p.m. April 18

**Cost:** Free

**Info:** Go to keplers.com or call 650-324-4321.



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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  
APRIL 16 2012 - 5:30 PM**

1. Closed Session: Labor
2. Conference With Legal Counsel-Existing Litigation

**SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY**

3. Proclamation Recognizing Municipal Clerks Week
4. Appointment to Public Art Commission
5. Appointment to Utilities Advisory Commission
6. Appointment to Human Relations Commission

**STUDY SESSION**

7. Overview of California's Cap-and-Trade Program to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Impacts on the Operation of Electric and Gas Utilities.
8. Update on the Climate Protection Plan - Earth Day Staff Report.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

9. Finance Committee Recommendation to Adopt a Resolution Modifying the City of Palo Alto's Utilities' Long-term Electric Acquisition Plan's Implementation Plan Relating to the Renewable Portfolio Standard Strategy.
10. Adopt a Budget Amendment Ordinance to Accept and Appropriate Three Grant Donations: (1) in the Amount of \$13,500 from the City and County of San Francisco (the designated Approval Authority for Department of Homeland Security Urban Areas Security Initiative Grants) for the purchase of a rapidly deployable shelter system, (2) in the Amount of 68,800 from the City and County of San Francisco (the designated Approval Authority for Department of Homeland Security Urban Areas Security Initiative Grants) for the purchase of a Mobile Emergency Operations Center Support Vehicle, and (3) in the Amount of \$57,000 from the Silicon Valley Community Foundation to promote widespread participation by Peninsula cities in formulating and implementing a best practices common model for neighborhood emergency response preparedness.
11. Adoption of a Resolution Approving the City of Palo Alto Annex to the Santa Clara County Annex to the 2010 Association of Bay Area Governments Local Hazard Mitigation Plan "Taming Natural Disasters".
12. Approval of an Amended and Restated Stewardship Agreement Between The City of Palo Alto and Acterra in the Amount of \$54,496 for the Initial year of Services for the Enid W. Pearson Arastradero Preserve.

**ACTION ITEMS**

13. From Finance: Retiree Medical Actuarial Report Discussion.
14. Approval of Midyear Budget.
15. Recommendation that Council Adopt the Draft Cubberley Guiding Principles, Confirm the City Managers Appointments to the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) and Review the Conceptual Site Plans Prepared Jointly by the Staff and City of Palo Alto (Cont from 4/9/12)
16. Public Hearing: Adoption of an Ordinance Approving an Amendment to the 1997 Sand Hill Road Development Agreement to Extend Lease on El Camino Park and to Remove Approximately 10.25 Acres of Land (Searsville and Fremont Roads) in Santa Clara County from Special Condition Area B.

**STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The Finance Committee meeting will be held on April 17, 2012 at 6:00 PM. regarding; 1) Recommendation on Proposed Fiscal Year 2013 Community Development Block Grant Funding Allocations and the Draft 2012/13 Annual Action Plan, 2) Adoption of a Resolution Amending Utility Rate Schedule D-1 (Storm and Surface Water Drainage) Reflecting a 2.9% CPI Rate Increase to \$11.73 Per Month Per Equivalent Residential Unit for Fiscal Year 2013, and 3) Refuse Rates Adjustment.

The Finance Committee meeting will be held on April 17, 2012 at 6:00 PM. regarding; 1) Water Rates Adjustment, 2) Wastewater Rates Adjustment, 3) Fiber Rates, 4) Gas Financial Forecast, and 5) Electric Financial Forecast.

The City/School Committee meeting will be held on April 19, 2012 at 8:15 AM at Ohlone Elementary School, Multipurpose Room, 950 Amarillo Avenue, Palo Alto.

The Regional Housing Mandate Committee meeting will be held on April 19, 2012 at 4:00 PM regarding; 1) Review of SCS Preferred Scenario Review and Direction Regarding Draft Preferred Scenario for Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) and Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) Allocation, 2) Update of One Bay Area Transportation Grant Program Criteria, and 3) Review and Direction Regarding Draft Preferred Scenario for Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) and Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) Allocation

# 2012 SPRING FIESTA

## Preschool Carnival & Silent Auction

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Please join us  
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**957 Colorado Ave** (between Louis & Greer)



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# Eating Out

## RESTAURANT REVIEW



Small plates at Chaat Paradise include saag paneer (creamed spinach with cheese), aloo partha (fried bread stuffed with mashed potatoes) and dahi bateta seve poori, which includes noodles and spiced potatoes.



The dahi bateta seve poori features spiced potatoes and Indian-style noodles with chutney and yogurt.



Andy Charan serves lunchtime diners a plate of spinach poori.

## Snack food with staying power

Chaat Paradise offers crispy, tasty vegetarian treats from North India

by Sheila Himmel

Most restaurants are lucky to last a year. Even in a vibrant area like Silicon Valley, restaurants must adapt to population shifts and changing tastes. Last month's Mr. Chau is

this month's Tony's Grill.

And yet, Chaat Paradise is still Chaat Paradise, celebrating 10 years tucked into the corner of the Mountain View Shopping Center, where Grant Road intersects El Camino Real (and West El Camino meets East El Camino).

The vegetarian cornucopia of North Indian snacks is not universally beloved, but it never was. When I reviewed Chaat Paradise back in 2006, it was popular for the cost-effectiveness of its "mini-

lunches" and maligned for gruff service. Into its second decade, Chaat Paradise's pluses and minuses demonstrate a refreshing continuity.

We found the 2012 version to be pretty good. Lots of menu items, mostly tasty, no redundant sauces, reasonable prices.

And there have been improvements. First of all: a much better ventilation system. In previous eras, a meal at Chaat Paradise meant living with the smell of cooking oil in your clothes for the rest of the day.

The menu categories reek of positive attitude: "Mouth Watering Snacks," "Vegetable Delights," "Exotic Refreshments."

Also, the menu has expanded to include Gujarati dishes, such as a curry cooked with tomatoes and chickpea flour noodles (\$6.50), and dosas (\$6.99), the gigantic South Indian rice and lentil pancakes that are crispy outside, slightly spongy inside and also gluten-free. Chaat Paradise fillings range from nothing (plain dosa) to vegetables and potatoes, to, for some reason, American cheese.

"Mouth Watering Snacks" embrace the usual crispy samosas (\$2.50) and fried pakoras (\$5.25), but also the more unusual dahi dishes (\$4.25). The dahi bateta seve poori is a perfect little appetizer, with two potato-stuffed puffballs resting in yogurt and chutney. It's a festival of crunchy, smooth, spicy and sweet. The Chaat Paradise chaat basket (\$4.99) overflows with mini tostada-type shells stuffed with potatoes and garbanzo beans laced with sweet onions and cilantro.

Baigan bhartha (\$6.50) is a rich, deep-flavored eggplant entree, baked to a smoky mash with garlic, onions and tomatoes.

Instead of providing a steam-

table buffet, Chaat Paradise offers a wealth of ironically titled "mini-lunches." They range in price from \$5.25 to \$7.25, and leave you fully nourished by a wide variety of vegetable dishes accompanied by bread or rice. With maki di roti and saag (\$7.25), you get two hefty cornmeal pancakes to dip in creamed spinach and in refreshing raita, yogurt flecked with carrots and cucumbers.

Oddly, a side order of roti (\$1), the signature bread, was limp and cool.

Should you have the capacity or desire to end on a sweet note, the choices (\$2.50) span rice pudding, ice cream and fried cheese balls.

Service tends to be a mixed bag. At lunch, one server was happy to answer questions. The other made himself scarce and seemed to resent being asked for takeout containers.

If you prefer to check out the website first, prepare for the repetitive sounds of hissing steam bubbles and string music that insists on starting over each time you click on a new page. Or turn off the sound. ■

### Chaat Paradise:

165 El Camino Real, Mountain View  
650-965-9111

Hours: 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. daily  
chaatparadise.com and  
freshroti.com

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reservations                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Banquet             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Credit cards      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Catering |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lot Parking       | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor seating     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol                      | Noise level: Medium-high                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Takeout                      | Bathroom Cleanliness: So-so                  |
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**Thursday, April 19, 2012**

Dine Out for Packard



Join us on **Thursday, April 19**, for the 4th annual Dine Out for Packard day. Participating restaurants in Palo Alto, Menlo Park, and Los Altos will donate a percentage of sales to Packard Children's Hospital. Support local restaurants and make a difference in the lives of children and families!

**[DineOutForPackard.org](http://DineOutForPackard.org)**

# Food Places to Eat



around town...

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1031 N. San Antonio Rd., Los Altos  
Range: \$5.00-13.00

**Hobee's** 856-6124  
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Also at Town & Country Village,  
Palo Alto 327-4111

## Burmese

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(Charleston Shopping Center)  
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[www.greenelephantgourmet.com](http://www.greenelephantgourmet.com)

## CHINESE

**Chef Chu's** 948-2696  
1067 N. San Antonio Road  
on the corner of El Camino, Los Altos  
2010 Best Chinese  
MV Voice & PA Weekly

**Jing Jing** 328-6885  
443 Emerson St., Palo Alto  
Authentic Szechwan, Hunan  
Food To Go, Delivery  
[www.jingjinggourmet.com](http://www.jingjinggourmet.com)

**Ming's** 856-7700  
1700 Embarcadero East, Palo Alto  
[www.mings.com](http://www.mings.com)

## CHINESE

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[www.jantaindianrestaurant.com](http://www.jantaindianrestaurant.com)

## ITALIAN

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## MEXICAN

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[www.sundancethesteakhouse.com](http://www.sundancethesteakhouse.com)

## Restaurant of the week



## Traditional Japanese Cuisine



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# Movies

MOVIE TIMES



(L-R) Chris Hemsworth, Jesse Williams, Anna Hutchison, Fran Kranz and Kristen Connolly in "The Cabin in the Woods"

## The Cabin in the Woods

★★★★

(Century 16, Century 20) Much of the pre-release hype on meta-horror movie "The Cabin in the Woods" has focused on the element of surprise, though the movie pretty much "spoils" itself in its opening minutes. But that doesn't make the flick any less than a horror geek's wet dream.

As written by Drew Goddard ("Cloverfield") and Joss Whedon ("The Avengers"), "The Cabin in the Woods" is a next-generation horror film that tongue-in-cheekily deconstructs its own genre. On that level, it's a certified hoot. If this film isn't quite as fun or as scary as "Scream," it is certainly more audacious, and that creative energy is undoubtedly the film's chief selling point.

The action takes place largely in the titular done-to-death setting, but the film begins in a top-secret facility manned by middle-aged men in shirt sleeves and dark ties (Richard Jenkins and Bradley Whitford). And the film will spend a majority of its run time in that facility, whose purpose is strongly implied by the opening title sequence.

At that cabin in the woods, in a spot "not even worthy of global positioning," an archetypically familiar crop of college students is ripe for the reaping: a "jock" (Chris "Thor" Hemsworth), a "brain" (Jesse Williams), a "slut" (Anna Hutchison), a "stoner" (Fran Kranz) and a "virgin" (Kristen Connolly). Each is more than meets the eye, as is the deathtrap they more or less innocently stumble into, so part of the story's appeal is figuring out how and why the pieces fit together.

Perhaps one of those pieces has to be pounded into place (some talk about the victims choosing their

own poison fails to cohere, and if that's the intention, it could be clarified), but Goddard and Whedon do play around here not only with genre archetypes ("monsters, magic, gods ...") but with notions about the meaning of horror cinema, which intersects with the roots of ancient tragicomic drama. Whedon's signature wit enhances the brainteasing effect; as Whitford's character says in passing, "I'll see it when I believe it."

With the help of crack cinematographer Peter Deming ("Scream"), Goddard directs this ambitious sci-fi/horror hybrid with authority, and the duo orchestrate some potent visual jokes as well. One involves a slaying that's ignored by foreground characters as it plays out in the background (a trope we also saw in "Scream"); another hilariously spoofs J-horror (Japanese horror films like "The Ring").

Horror cinema has a tendency to indict the audience, and drawing attention to that is not a new idea, but "The Cabin in the Woods" does present a fresh narrative twist on it, and it intriguingly forces the audience to wonder if they should be rooting for the slain or the slayers.

*Rated R for strong bloody horror violence and gore, language, drug use and some sexuality/nudity. One hour, 35 minutes.*

— Peter Canavese

## Damsels in Distress

★1/2

(Palo Alto Square) Arch in the extreme, Whit Stillman's "Damsels in Distress" plays like a Todd Solondz movie on Prozac. The characters are quirky outsiders, but they kind of like it that way, and they're determined to change the world, one dance at a time.

This muddled fourth feature from

writer-director Stillman ("The Last Days of Disco") tackles campus life at Seven Oaks, an East Coast college that's a hotbed of — well, nothing, really. That's part of the joke, as Stillman follows a de facto "Youth Outreach" group, made up of three co-eds, that swims against the tide of ennui and cynicism. In the film's first scene, leader-of-the-pack Violet (Greta Gerwig) picks Lily (Analeigh Tipton) out of the crowd of New Student Orientation and invites her to join Violet, Rose (Megaly Echikunwoke) and Heather (Carrie MacLemore) in their various campus campaigns.

Lily serves as an audience surrogate, looking with bemusement on these strange individuals and wondering if they're crazy or, perhaps more disconcertingly, right on the money. "You probably think we're frivolous, empty-headed, perfume-obsessed college coeds," Violet offers. "You're probably right. I often feel empty headed, but we're also trying to make a difference in people's lives." That's the film in a nutshell: Stillman cultivates an equivocal tone about these flower-dubbed anti-"Heathers" of the East.

The women's mission includes raising the campus' fashion consciousness (no "grunge"), eliminating distressing odors, and working at suicide prevention by offering donuts, coffee and supposedly depression-alleviating tap-dance lessons. Meanwhile, Violet's master plan to achieve personal greatness is to serve humanity by creating a new dance craze.

There are men here, too, but they're ill-equipped for rescue. Most are either fratboy dolts (Ryan Metcalf's admittedly amusing Frank) or snotty smarties (Zach Woods' Rick). Stillman holds out hope for earnest dummy Thor

(continued on next page)

ACADEMY AWARD® NOMINEE  
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"GRADE A: OUTSTANDING!"  
—Lisa Schwarzbaum, ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

FOOTNOTE  
A FILM BY JOSEPH CEDAR

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# Movies

(continued from previous page)

(Billy Magnussen) and the slippery but charming Charlie (Adam Brody) as the girls do various two-steps in search of the right partner.

Violet's subversive happiness patrol might be entertaining and even inspiring if we saw any evidence that the young women's ideas were savvy and productive ones, but Stillman keeps showing us the dimwittedness of it all. And by the time he starts giving us lame song-and-dance sequences, all we can do is throw up our hands, and not in dance-craze euphoria.

Since the halfwitty "Damsels in Distress" wants to have it both ways, its satire is about as cutting as a plastic knife through a porterhouse. Stillman establishes Violet, Rose and Heather as naïve, self-unaware characters but the ways in which he reveals their vulnerabilities suggest we oughtn't rush to judge them. As humane as that sounds, the chilly tone of the script and the performances hold viewers at arm's length and leave them much more perplexed than enlightened about human behavior, if indeed we've seen anything like it for the last hour and a half.

*Rated PG-13 for mature thematic content including some sexual material. One hour, 39 minutes.*

— Peter Canavese

## NOW PLAYING

### American Reunion ★★

(Century 16, Century 20) At least for a while, it's tempting to think of "American Reunion" — the third big-screen sequel to the 1999 sex comedy "American Pie" — as having subversive potential. The notion of randy high-schoolers looking into a cinematic crystal ball to find stale marriages, dead-end jobs and a dispiriting high school reunion may be an intriguing social experiment, but the impact is predictably mitigated by a parade of boobs, "f"-bombs and reassurances that there'll always be sexual escapades, (now over-age) drinking, law-breaking adventures, and friends and family to keep the party going. The situation comedy dreamed up for the characters has a sort of comfort-food familiarity about it: Jim's Dad remains embarrassingly frank about sex and Jim always stumbles his way into compromising situations, while Stiffler doles out outrageous embarrassments, gets his comeuppance, but somehow everyone just has to love him anyway. Predictability is the fatal flaw of any "American" sequel, and while this one comes closest in tone to the original film, that's a decidedly double-edged sword. "American Reunion" is such a loving tribute to "American Pie" that it may bring a tear to the eye of die-hard fans, an achievement that's not to be pooped on. Rated R for crude and sexual content throughout, nudity, language, brief drug use and teen drinking. One hour, 53 minutes. — P.C. (Reviewed April 6, 2012)

### The Deep Blue Sea ★★★1/2

(Guild) This exquisite realization is as vital

as can be in depicting the timeless tortures of the romantically damned. Rachel Weisz stars as Hester Collyer, who we meet in the throes of a suicide attempt in her London flat, circa 1950. Hester recently abandoned her husband, High Court judge Sir William Collyer (Simon Russell Beale) to cohabit with the dashing — and considerably younger — RAF war vet Freddie Page (Tom Hiddleston). For the most part, the story unfolds over the course of 24 hours, as Hester finds herself caught "between the devil and the deep blue sea." Director Terence Davies orchestrates the film with confident pacing and elegant mise-en-scène, Florian Hoffmeister's camera gently drifting, rising, spinning, never quite showy but fully in concert with the soundtrack's string-laden Samuel Barber. "The Deep Blue Sea" is near-thoroughly dour — as Hester puts it, "Sad perhaps, but hardly Sophocles" — but it's also captivating and likely to be remembered as one of the year's best.

Rated PG-13 for intense sequences of fantasy action and intense sequences of fantasy violence. One hour, 39 minutes — P.C. (Reviewed March 30, 2012)

### Wrath of the Titans ★★★

(Century 16, Century 20) While "Wrath of the Titans" may not be escapist fantasy entertainment at its finest, the film's strong cast and striking visuals make for a thrilling theatrical ride. A follow-up to 2010's "Clash of the Titans," "Wrath" finds the heroic Perseus (Sam Worthington) enjoying the quiet life of a humble fisherman alongside his only son, Helius (John Bell). An ominous visit from Perseus' immortal father, Zeus (Liam Neeson), forces him to toss his fisherman's net in favor of a sword. Worthington seems to have matured as an actor and is more engaging here than in previous roles. Although the visual effects are impressive, there are times when the sensory barrage overwhelms the audience. "Wrath" is a cinematic treat for fantasy enthusiasts and for those who appreciate Greek mythology. Rated PG-13 for intense sequences of fantasy action and intense sequences of fantasy violence. One hour, 39 minutes — T.H. (Reviewed March 30, 2012)

### Mirror Mirror ★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) Hollywood's disconcerting trend of updated fairy tales hits its stride with "Mirror Mirror," a cheeky retelling of "Snow White" that's both kid-friendly and surprisingly tasteful. Tarsem Singh Dhandwar brings his signature over-the-top production design to bear on a lunkheaded Prince (Armie Hammer), seven dwarfs (Danny Woodburn, Martin Klebba, Jordan Prentice, Mark Povinelli, Joe Gnoffo, Sebastian Saraceno and Ronald Lee Clark), an 18-year-old princess (Lily Collins) with snow-white features and a name to match, and a wicked Queen (Julia Roberts). By toning down his excesses for a mass audience of largely children, the self-billed Tarsem hits his sweet spot, serving up lavish sets and costumes to create a fantasy world that doesn't make us want to scratch our eyeballs out. The script — credited to Marc Klein and Jason Keller — delivers a merry kid-level corrective to Disney, and while parents will have been there and done that, the verbal wit and Tarsem's visual invention make "Mirror Mirror" entirely tolerable. Rated PG for some fantasy action and mild rude humor. One hour, 46 minutes — T.H. (Reviewed March 30, 2012)

### The Hunger Games★★★

(Century 16, Century 20) Even those totally unfamiliar with Suzanne Collins' book may find Gary Ross' film, "The Hunger Games," somewhat less than suspenseful. But if "The Hunger Games" on screen doesn't exactly catch fire, its savvy pop culture mash-up and the charge of teens in life-and-death peril remain intact. In a retro-futuristic dystopia, the 1-percenters long ago crushed the revolt of the 99-percenters. The rule of fear hinges largely on "the Hunger Games," an annual compulsory lottery that demands 12- to 18-year-old "tributes" to submit to a televised death match. Two weeks, 24 contestants, and only one victor allowed to walk away alive. Oddly, the early scenes laying this groundwork tend to be considerably more lively than the 74th Annual Games themselves, a sign of Ross' lack of experience as an action director and the film's squeamishness when it comes to depicting the story's gruesomely violent side. Straight-arrow-shooting Katniss makes a compelling feminist hero, and Lawrence's resonant performance delivers. "The Hunger Games" striking production

design goes a long way, and the story could be a conversation-starter for families about the voyeurism and willing manipulation of the American viewing public. Rated PG-13 for intense violent thematic material and disturbing images, all involving teens. One hour, 23 minutes — P.C. (Reviewed March 23, 2012)

### Footnote ★★★

(Aquarius) "Nothing is nice," says the old man at the center of the Israeli comedy-drama "Footnote." It's a statement that could summarize the troubles of a father and son dealing with the tensions of expectations in family and career. Writer-director Joseph Cedar introduces us to Talmudic scholars Eliezer Shkolnik and his son Uriel, two men in implicit competition. In his declining years and his own sense of superiority, the sour Eliezer resents the success of his son the pop academician, who has effectively supplanted the father. Eliezer has long coveted the Israel Prize in

recognition of his unjustly ignored lifelong labor. In a miraculous turn of events, Eliezer finally gets the call: He has won the Israel Prize. Shortly thereafter, a baffled Uriel gets his own call, explaining that the win was a clerical error. The Prize was meant for Uriel. "Footnote" ends not with a bang but with a whimper, a brave if dissatisfying choice that's no doubt truer to life than the emotional or farcical crescendo audiences will be craving. On the way there, there's enough whimsy and wit to earn comic credentials, and brilliant character work from Aba and Ashkenazi that's alone worth the price of admission. Rated PG for thematic elements, brief nudity, language and smoking. One hour, 43 minutes. — P.C. (Reviewed March 23, 2012)

### John Carter ★★★

(Century 20) In dire need of a cinematic sugar rush? Look no farther than Disney's blockbuster offering "John Carter," a fantasy extravaganza brimming with eye candy.

The visual effects are, literally, out of this world. Based on Edgar Rice Burroughs' groundbreaking novel "A Princess of Mars," the film follows a Civil War-era cavalryman from Virginia who is whisked away to Mars courtesy of a mystical amulet. Meanwhile, a war is brewing between Mars' more human-looking denizens. A soldier is taking the fight to the land of Helium in hopes of conquering it and marrying its battle-ready princess. The picture drags at times and at least 20 minutes could have been left on the cutting-room floor. The film relies heavily on its visual elements, so it's a boon that that portion is so stunning. "John Carter" pays a nice homage to Burroughs and honors the novel while falling neatly alongside other Disney escapades such as "Pirates of the Caribbean" and "Prince of Persia." It might not be the healthiest dose of eye candy, but it certainly satisfies. Rated PG-13 for violence and action. Two hours, 17 minutes. — T.H. (Reviewed March 9, 2012)

## MOVIE TIMES

### 21 Jump Street (R) (Not Reviewed)

**Century 16:** 11:50 a.m.; 2:25, 5, 7:35 & 10:25 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:40 a.m.; 2:15, 5:05, 7:45 & 10:30 p.m.

### American Reunion (R) ★★

**Century 16:** 11:10 a.m.; 12:10, 1:50, 2:50, 4:30, 7:40 & 10:30 p.m.; Fri.-Wed. also at 6:20 & 9:35 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:30 a.m.; 1:15, 2:15, 3:55, 5, 6:40, 7:50, 9:30 & 10:35 p.m.; Fri.-Wed. also at 12:25, 3:05, 5:50 & 8:40 p.m.

### The Artist (PG-13) ★★★1/2

**Century 16:** 6:20 & 9:10 p.m.

### Blue Like Jazz (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)

**Century 16:** 11 a.m.; 1:30, 4, 6:40 & 9:20 p.m.

### Bully (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed)

**Century 16:** 11 a.m.; 1:40, 4:20, 7 & 9:50 p.m.

### The Cabin in the Woods (R) ★★★

**Century 16:** 11:30 a.m.; 2, 4:50, 7:50 & 10:30 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:35 a.m.; 12:45, 2, 3:10, 4:25, 5:40, 7, 8:15, 9:25 & 10:45 p.m.

### Damsels in Distress (PG-13) ★1/2

**Palo Alto Square:** 2, 4:20 & 7:25 p.m.; Fri. & Sat. also at 9:45 p.m.

### The Deep Blue Sea (R) ★★★1/2

**Guild Theatre:** 3, 5:45 & 8:30 p.m.

### Dr. Seuss' The Lorax (PG) (Not Reviewed)

**Century 16:** 1:35 p.m.; In 3D at 11:20 a.m. & 3:50 p.m. **Century 20:** 1:30, 6:10 & 10:45 p.m.; In 3D at 11:15 a.m.; 3:45 & 8:30 p.m.

### Footnote (PG) ★★★

**Aquarius Theatre:** 3, 5:45 & 8:30 p.m.

### The Godfather: Part II (1974) (R) (Not Reviewed)

**Century 20:** Thu. at 2 & 7 p.m.

### Grateful Dead Meet Up 2012 (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)

**Century 16:** Thu. at 7 p.m. **Century 20:** Thu. at 7 p.m. **Palo Alto Square:** Thu. at 7 p.m.

### The Hunger Games (PG-13) ★★★

**Century 16:** 11 a.m.; noon, 2:10, 3:10, 6:10, 7, 9:25 & 10:15 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:35 a.m.; 12:20, 1, 1:55, 2:50, 3:35, 4:15, 5:15, 6:10, 7:30, 8:35 & 9:30 p.m.; Fri.-Wed. also at 6:55 & 10:20 p.m.

### Jiro Dreams of Sushi (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed)

**Aquarius Theatre:** 2:30, 4:45, 7 & 9:15 p.m.

### John Carter (PG-13) ★★★

**Century 20:** In 3D at 10:40 p.m.

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

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

### The Mark of Zorro (1920) (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed)

**Stanford Theatre:** Sun. at 7:30 p.m.

### The Mark of Zorro (1940) (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed)

**Stanford Theatre:** Fri. & Sat. at 7:30 p.m.

### The Metropolitan Opera: La Traviata (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed)

**Century 20:** Sat. at 9:55 a.m. **Palo Alto Square:** Sat. at 9:55 a.m.

### Mirror Mirror (PG) ★★1/2

**Century 16:** 11:05 a.m.; 1:45, 4:15, 7 & 9:40 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:45 a.m.; 2:20, 4:55, 7:35 & 10:10 p.m.

### Queen Christina (1933) (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed)

**Stanford Theatre:** Fri. & Sat. at 5:40 & 9:15 p.m.

### The Raid: Redemption (R) (Not Reviewed)

**Century 16:** 11:40 a.m.; 2:05, 4:30, 7:15 & 10:05 p.m. **Century 20:** 12:05, 2:35, 5:05, 7:35 & 10:15 p.m.

### Salmon Fishing in the Yemen (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)

**Century 20:** 11:20 a.m.; 2, 4:40, 7:15 & 9:50 p.m. **Palo Alto Square:** 1:50 p.m.; Fri.-Wed. also at 4:30 & 7:15 p.m.; Fri. & Sat. also at 9:50 p.m.

### The Three Stooges (PG) (Not Reviewed)

**Century 16:** 11:15 a.m.; 1:50, 4:30, 7:20 & 10:10 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:25 a.m.; 12:35, 1:50, 3, 4:15, 5:30, 6:50, 7:55, 9:15 & 10:20 p.m.

### Titanic 3D (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)

**Century 16:** Noon (standard 2D); In 3D at 11 a.m.; 3, 4:05, 7:10 & 8:10 p.m. **Century 20:** 1:30 p.m. (standard 2D); In 3D at 11:50 a.m.; 3:50, 5:35, 8 & 9:35 p.m.

### Wrath of the Titans (PG-13) ★★★

**Century 16:** 11:45 a.m.; 4:45 & 9:55 p.m.; In 3D at 2:20 & 7:25 p.m. **Century 20:** Noon & 5:10 p.m.; In 3D at 2:30, 7:40 & 10:25 p.m.

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

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# Sports Shorts

**CARDINAL & WHITE . . .** Stanford's annual Cardinal & White Spring Game will take place on Saturday at historic Kezar Stadium, located on Stanyan Street on the southeast corner of Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. Kickoff is set for 2 p.m. and admission is free. Fan Fest activities begin at noon, which includes a Food Truck Festival featuring nine gourmet food trucks, face painting, photo booths and poster creation stations. Stanford spirit groups will perform throughout the game. The Stanford Axe Committee will also host a trophy tent featuring the Orange Bowl trophy, Legend's Trophy, **Jim Plunkett's** 1970 Heisman Trophy and one of Stanford's 17 Directors' Cups. In addition, Stanford football alumni along with members the Cardinal's men's and women's basketball teams will be on hand to sign autographs beginning at 1:30 p.m. Current members of the 2012 Stanford football team will be available to sign autographs.

**COACHES MOVE ON . . .** The Louisiana State men's basketball program lost two coaches on Monday when head coach **Trent Johnson**, the former Stanford head coach, was officially named to the same position at TCU. Leaving LSU at the same time was one of Johnson's assistant coaches, former Stanford player and coach **Nick Robinson**. He was hired as the head coach at Southern Utah. Johnson will lead the Horned Frogs into the Big 12 Conference next season. Johnson's introduction Monday came a day after he resigned from LSU, where he spent the past four seasons and went 67-64. He has a 226-185 career record, having taken Stanford and Nevada to the Round of 16 in the NCAA Tournament before going to LSU. Robinson, 32, who spent this past season as Johnson's executive assistant and one year as LSU's director of basketball operations, officially was named as Southern Utah's new head coach last Thursday. Southern Utah went 14-17 this past season and will be moving from the Summit League to the Big Sky Conference.

**OF LOCAL NOTE . . .** Menlo College senior and Gunn High grad **Sam Zipperstein** has agreed to terms with the Kitsap Pumas of the Professional Development League, a professional men's soccer conference based in Bremerton, Wash.

## ON THE AIR

### Friday

**College baseball:** Oregon at Stanford, 5:30 p.m.; KZSU (90.1 FM)

### Saturday

**College baseball:** Oregon at Stanford, 1 p.m.; KZSU (90.1 FM)

### Sunday

**College baseball:** Oregon at Stanford, noon; KZSU (90.1 FM)

### Tuesday

**College baseball:** San Jose St. at Stanford, 5:30 p.m.; KZSU (90.1 FM)

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Stanford sophomore Nicole Gibbs is ranked No. 3 in the nation in Division I women's singles and will test her ranking against No. 4 USC on Friday and No. 1 UCLA on Saturday in home matches.

## STANFORD TENNIS

# A chance to move up in rankings

No. 6 Cardinal women host No. 4 USC and No. 1 UCLA

by Rick Eyster

Tennis rankings at any level are often cause for a little head-scratching, with complicated formulas dominating discussions. Most coaches say these things tend to be ignored in the big scheme of things.

The Stanford women's team, undefeated at 15-0 (6-0 in the Pac-12), are currently ranked sixth in the nation. No big deal? Well, those ITA rankings are used to help determine seeding for the NCAA team championships and that can affect where a team is placed.

The Cardinal men's team faces a different scenario. Although No. 11 Stanford (4-0, 14-5) is unbeaten in conference, traveling to Los Angeles presents a formidable challenge. Stanford goes to No. 6 UCLA for a Friday match and to top-ranked USC on Saturday. The men already have lost to both teams at home.

The Cardinal women entered the 2010 NCAA Tournament as the eighth seed, despite one loss all season (to UCLA). Stanford won



Stanford junior Mallory Burdette will put her No. 7 national ranking in singles on the line this weekend against USC and UCLA.

(continued on page 34)

## STANFORD ROUNDUP

# Flexing baseball muscles

Cardinal tunes up for Oregon series with two big wins

by Rick Eyster

Kenny Diekroeger flexed his power muscles this week, a good sign that he and the fifth-ranked Stanford baseball team are headed in the right direction entering a key Pac-12 Conference series with No. 10 Oregon this weekend at Sunken Diamond.

Diekroeger collected six hits in nine at-bats in a pair of Cardinal nonconference victories this week, a 19-6 decision at California on Monday and an 8-3 win over visiting Pacific on Wednesday.



Kenny Diekroeger

Diekroeger belted four doubles, added a home run and drove in five runs this week as Stanford (4-5, 21-7) upped its team average to .302.

He's not the only current power source, either. While Diekroeger improved to .336 on the season and recorded his team-leading 12th and 13th double of the year, he is tied with Stephen Piscotty for the team lead in extra-base hits with 15.

Eric Smith and Brian Ragira, the latter who extended his hitting streak to 13 games, each added two hits against the Tigers. Piscotty and Ragira combined to drive in 12 runs against the Golden Bears.

Smith leads the team with a .366 batting average with 34 hits and 22 RBI. Ragira is next at .363 with a team-leading 45 hits. Piscotty leads the team with 34 RBI.

The Cardinal will need its lineup to produce against the Ducks (8-4, 22-9), who are currently tied for second place with UCLA in the conference standings, a game behind Arizona.

Oregon brings the reigning conference Player of the Week (Brett Thomas) and the reigning conference Pitcher of the Week (Alex Keudell) to town.

Diekroeger hit a home run and doubled twice to support Garrett Hughes' four-hitter over five innings in Stanford's victory over Pacific.

Lonnie Kauppila added two hits and drove in two runs for the Cardinal, which has won three in a row and five of six since being swept by the Wildcats in Tucson.

The series with Oregon begins with a 5:30 p.m. game on Friday night and continues Saturday at 1 p.m. and noon Sunday, weather

(continued on next page)

## PREP ROUNDUP

# M-A's shot at tennis perfection

*Bears are closing in on a fourth straight unbeaten PAL season*

by Keith Peters

With Menlo School dominating the boys' tennis scene by winning Central Coast Section titles in four of the past five seasons and 10 times since 1998, other teams have had to make due with something else.

Fortunately for Menlo-Atherton coaches Tom Sorenson and Carlos Aguilar, their team has been able to focus on more than just a short stay in CCS during that time.

Since mid-April of 2008, the Bears have not lost a regular-season dual match in the PAL Bay Division. That streak started following a 4-3 loss to Burlingame on April 8 of that year. Since then, the Bears have won 52 straight.

The latest victory nearly came on the anniversary of that last loss as the Bears produced a 6-1 triumph over, appropriately enough, visiting Burlingame on Wednesday. M-A improved to 9-0 in the PAL and 14-2 overall.

"We just need to get the boys their undefeated season for a fourth straight year and then focus on CCS," said Aguilar.

Aguilar said, however, that there's really no focus on the streak, other than motivation.

"It's just to get the boys to understand that if they work hard in practice and do the best they can each and every match. That's all we ask of them.

"Other than the occasional mention by a player or parent, a la 'wouldn't it be cool if we went undefeated (again)', it's never mentioned. We make no assumptions and treat each year as a new beginning."

After three wins to finish the '08 season, the Bears compiled a 14-0 league mark in 2009. They followed that up with a 12-0 mark in 2010 and a 14-0 league record in '11. During this streak of good fortune, M-A has compiled an overall record of 67-12 (including this season).

M-A seniors Matt Giordano, Zeke Brown and twins Christian and Jesse Perkins have never lost a regular-season league team match during their four-year career. All four were victorious on Wednesday.

The brothers teamed for a 6-2, 6-1 victory at No. 1 doubles while Brown posted a 6-0, 6-2 win at No. 4 singles. Giordano and senior partner Jordan Sontag (who wasn't playing as a freshman) posted a 6-3, 6-2 victory at No. 2 doubles.

M-A had a rematch with Woodside on Thursday (the Bears beat the Wildcats on Monday, 6-1) and still has four league matches remaining against teams it has beaten by either 7-0 or 6-1.

An expected fourth straight PAL



Keith Peters

*Menlo-Atherton senior Zeke Brown won at No. 4 singles.*

regular-season title will earn M-A another berth into the CCS playoffs that begin in May. The Bears last won a section crown in 1985, their only such title. M-A has advanced past the opening round of the playoffs in the past three seasons, twice being eliminated in the quarterfinals by Menlo School.

In fact, the Bears have been stuck in Menlo's side of the bracket in each of the past four years. Since the Knights are heavy favorites to win a fourth consecutive CCS title on May 11 at Courtside Club in Los Gatos, the Bears need to find a way to steer clear of the champs.

Keeping the winning streak alive certainly will help.

## Baseball

Menlo-Atherton has two goals on Friday — defeat visiting Half Moon Bay as quickly as possible and then get to the prom.

The school's annual big dance forced a change in this week's schedule, sending the Bears to the coast on Wednesday so the players could be closer to home on Friday with quicker access to the dance.

The switch nearly backfired as M-A had to hold on for a 9-8 victory in PAL Bay Division action.

The Cougars got off to a 2-0 lead before the Bears rallied for four runs in the fifth. Half Moon Bay answered with three runs in the bottom of the inning to take a 5-4 lead. Menlo-Atherton scored five runs in the top of the seventh and then held on.

Nick Lange (5-0) picked up the victory for the Bears (4-1, 14-4) with 6 2/3 innings with Dylan Cook earning the save when Lange got into trouble in the bottom of the seventh as the Cougars rallied for three runs.

Alex Aguilar had two triples and three RBI for M-A with teammate Sam Falkenhagen adding a triple and two RBI.

In an opening-round game of the

(continued on next page)

## Stanford roundup

(continued from previous page)

permitting.

### Men's golf

Stanford freshman Patrick Rodgers is among the 10 semifinalists for the Ben Hogan Award, presented annually to the top player in collegiate golf. A record five freshman are on the list.

Rodgers has recorded six top-10 finishes in his eight events this season, including four top-five showings. He has one win on the season, capturing the Fighting Illini Invitational in his first collegiate event in September.

The other semifinalists are Auburn junior Blayne Barber, TCU freshman Julien Brun, UCLA sophomore Patrick Cantlay, Texas senior Dylan Frittelli, Clemson junior Corbin Mills, Washington freshman Cheng-Tsung Pan, Texas freshman Jordan Spieth, Alabama freshman Justin Thomas and Washington junior Chris Williams.

### Sailing

Stanford is the top qualifier for the Pacific Coast Collegiate Sailing Conference's Championships starting this weekend. The coed Cardinal moved up to No. 2 nationally in the latest poll and sits at No. 8 in the women's division. Stanford is No. 5 in the team rankings.

The championship season begins when the Cardinal hosts the conference team race at its Redwood Shores facility on Saturday and Sunday. The women travel to Hawaii for the women's championships on April 20 and 21. The coed championships are on the Central Coast April 28 and 29.

### Softball

Stanford senior shortstop Ashley Hansen was selected among the 25 finalists for USA Softball's Collegiate Player of the Year award, announced Wednesday by the Amateur Softball Association of America. Hansen, the winner of the award in 2011, is one of the 25 remaining contenders for collegiate softball's top annual honor.

Hansen, the reigning collegiate player of the year, is hitting .379 with nine doubles, six triples and four home runs this season. She is second on the squad with 32 RBI and a .664 slugging percentage. Earlier this year, she broke former Cardinal Alissa Haber's career record for doubles and is two triples away from setting a school record in that category.

Hansen and her teammates will be home this weekend to face Oregon State, starting Friday (7 p.m.) and continuing Saturday (1 p.m.) and Sunday (noon).

The 15th-ranked Cardinal is 3-9 in the Pac-12 (29-12 overall) after dropping two of three games to host UCLA this week.

The No. 16-ranked Bruins (4-5, 27-11) took the rubber game Wednesday, 5-2, after the teams split a doubleheader on Tuesday — Stanford winning the opener, 11-9,

but losing the nightcap, 12-4.

The teams combined for 13 home runs over 12 innings of softball in the doubleheader, with Stanford contributing four in the first game and two more, both by Hansen, in the second contest.

Junior Jenna Rich homered twice and drove in six runs as the Cardinal outlasted the Bruins in the opener. Senior Jenna Becerra added a two-run homer and Leah White drove in three runs on two hits, including a home run.

In Wednesday's series finale, the Bruins belted two more homers.

### Swimming and diving

Stanford swimming and diving earned three of the four Pac-12 Freshmen of the Year honors as Kristian Ipsen (men's diving), David Nolan (men's swimming) and Madly Schaefer (women's swimming) earned the top conference awards.

Ipsen closed out an impressive freshman season after winning all 12 regular-season 1- and 3-meter events by being an NCAA champion in the 3-meter and a runner-up in the 1-meter.

He was only the second Stanford diver ever to win an NCAA title and the first to do it on the 3-meter board.

Ipsen also won both the Zone 1- and 3-meter and was eighth in his first-ever platform event at the regional championships to qualify for nationals. He closed out his freshman season in 10th on the platform at NCAAs after his two top-two finishes.

Nolan closed out the meet with a school-record and NCAA runner-up finish in the 200 back, after being an NCAA runner-up in the 100 back the night before. He opened up the meet with a third-place finish in the 200 IM. He also a part of four top-16 relay teams, earning the freshman seven All-America nods.

Nolan was named the Pac-12's Swimmer of the Meet, winning three individual titles and being a part of four relay wins in East Los Angeles. He won titles in the 100 and 200 back, as well as the 200 IM.

Nolan scored 50 points at the NCAA Championships, the 10th Cardinal swimmer to do so at an individual meet. Ipsen scored 44 points.

Schaefer earned four All-America honors in her first collegiate season, earning NCAA titles in the 200 and 400 free relays. Individually, she was eighth in the 100 free and 12th in the 50 free.

Schaefer closed out her freshman year as part of the American- and school-record setting 400 free relay team. The first time she was part of the school-record 200 free relay team. She also helped win Pac-12 titles in both relays.

### Synchronized swimming

Stanford competes at the U.S. Nationals, which began Thursday at the Kino Aquatic Center in Mesa, Ariz. It marks the final competition of the season for the Cardinal.

### Men's volleyball

Stanford senior libero Erik Shoji was named the Sports Imports/AVCA Men's Division I-II National Player of the Week for his performances in three men's volleyball victories over ranked teams last week.



Erik Shoji

Shoji, a three-time first-team All-America, had consecutive performances of 17 and 16 digs. Shoji had 17 digs in a sweep of Long Beach State, tying for the second-highest total in school history for a three-set match in the rally-scoring era, and tying for the most digs in the nation this season for three sets.

The defensive effort helped transition the Stanford offense to a .381 hitting percentage.

Shoji's 16 dig-performance came in a dramatic five-set victory over Cal State Northridge on Saturday that kept the fourth-place Cardinal in the running for the MPSF regular-season title.

The Honolulu native also had seven digs against Pacific and combined for 10 assists during the week. He earned Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Player of the Week honors on Monday.

Shoji, who will be honored Saturday along with six teammates on Senior Night, now has five matches of at least 15 digs. No one else in the country has more than three.

Stanford (18-6 overall, 15-5 in the MPSF) concludes the regular-season with 7 p.m. home matches Friday against UC Santa Barbara and Saturday against No. 3 UCLA, both at Maples Pavilion.

### Women's water polo

Stanford hopes to put the finishing touches on a perfect regular season in the MPSF when the Cardinal hosts Cal in the annual Big Splash on Saturday at 4 p.m.

Stanford comes in with a 5-0 conference record and 19-1 overall mark after holding off No. 3 USC, 9-8, in overtime last weekend. At the same time, No. 5 Cal (4-2, 17-6) was upsetting No. 1 UCLA (5-1, 16-2) in Berkeley, 8-6.

Down three goals to USC and with its back to the wall late, Stanford roared back to stun the Trojans at Avery Aquatic Center. The win was the eighth in a row for Stanford, which took over sole possession of first place in the MPSF.

USC fell to 18-4 overall and completed MPSF play at 5-2.

Goalie Kate Baldoni and the Stanford defense came up huge in multiple pressure-packed moments. Baldoni made 16 saves while the field defense clamped down on the Trojans on two do-or-die occasions, the first forcing overtime and the second preserving the win.

Offensively, Kaley Dodson netted a hat trick, including the eventual game-winner scored 53 seconds into the first overtime period. Alyssa Lo scored two key second-half goals, while individual goals were scored by Jillian Garton, Ashley Grossman, Pallavi Menon and Kiley Neushul.

In Berkeley, Menlo-Atherton grad Becca Dorst scored three goals for UCLA against her sister, Cal senior Lindsay, who had eight saves in goal as the Bears snapped a 10-game win streak by the Bruins. ■



## Prep roundup

(continued from previous page)

Bishop Gorman Classic in Las Vegas, Oaks Christian of Thousand Oaks jumped out to an early lead and never looked back in defeating Menlo School, 12-2, on Wednesday morning.

The Knights (9-6) helped the Lions with six walks, two hit batters and three errors as Oaks Christian (11-4) also pounded out 11 hits in a time-limit shortened game.

At the Elite Eight Baseball Tournament at St. Francis High, Palo Alto (15-3-1) played for seventh place on Thursday night after being unable to play on Wednesday.

The Vikings were scheduled to play in a consolation game at 11 a.m., but were unable to compete due to a district rule that prevents students from getting out of school before 1 p.m.

Paly dropped an 8-1 decision to St. Mary's (Stockton) in the first round on Tuesday as the Vikings managed just one hit. St. Mary's wound up in the title game.

Also on Tuesday, Gunn returned from spring break and gave up a season-high — and nightmare-inducing — 10 walks, but came from behind three times to defeat visiting Pinewood, 12-10, in nonleague action.

The Titans improved to 11-5 with their sixth-straight victory while Pinewood fell to 5-3.

Senior southpaw reliever Charlie Smith got the win for Gunn, pushing his record to 3-1. But, it was definitely a team effort, with junior Chris Rea getting the start, with junior Kevin Sharp, senior Jon Wong, and senior Ryan Gorman also getting in some relief work and enduring a muddy, horrendous pitching mound (due to the rain).

The story was not limited to Smith getting the win, but how he did it. In the bottom of the sixth inning, with two on, he drilled his first career homer over the right-center wall, getting three RBI to retake the lead for the final time.

Senior Jake Verhulp, who is headed to Bellarmine University in Louisville, Ky., hit his second home run of the season, a three-run laser shot over the right-field wall. Both Smith and Verhulp had two hits on the day, with Verhulp also contributing a double.

### Boys' golf

Palo Alto suffered its first loss of the SCVAL De Anza Division season and fell into a tie for first place with Gunn following a 199-203 setback to Homestead on a soggy Sunnyvale Muni on Wednesday. John Knowles of Paly shared medalist honors with a 1-over-par 36 as the Vikings dropped to 7-1 in the division.

### Boys' lacrosse

Tuesday night's soggy lacrosse contest saw heavy intermittent rain as host Palo Alto earned a hard-fought 10-6 SCVAL De Anza Division victory over Burlingame. Despite the Panthers' hustle — winning the ground-ball battle 38-35 — the Vikings' superior execution enabled them to gradually distance themselves from their scrappy

## ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



**Michaela Michael**  
Menlo School

The junior attack tallied six goals in a 20-12 lacrosse triumph over St. Francis and added nine goals plus two assists in a 15-14 win over state-ranked Poway, scoring the winning goal in the final nine seconds.



**Nick Lange**

The senior had six hits and added nine RBI in addition to pitching a one-hitter (just missing a perfect game) and driving in both runs during a 4-1 week that saw the Bears finish second in the Cordova Easter Classic.

### Honorable mention

**Martha Harding**

Castilleja lacrosse

**Katherine Hobbs**

Castilleja lacrosse

**Ali Kim**

Menlo lacrosse

**Kacie Madeira**

Menlo lacrosse

**Rebecca Merenbach**

Castilleja lacrosse

**Hannah Rubin**

Menlo lacrosse

**Freddy Avis**

Menlo baseball

**George Baier**

Menlo-Atherton track and field

**B.J. Boyd**

Palo Alto baseball

**Dylan Cook**

Menlo-Atherton baseball

**Adam Greenstein**

Menlo baseball

**Ben Sneider**

Palo Alto baseball

\* previous winner

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

league rivals.

Tied 1-1 at the end of the first, Palo Alto pulled away for a 5-3 lead at the half, and a 7-4 margin at the end of the third quarter as the Vikings moved to 5-1 in league (8-3 overall) while Burlingame fell to 2-6 (4-7).

Crisp passing by the Vikings meant that eight of their 10 goals earned assists. In comparison, just one Burlingame goal was assisted. Palo Alto co-captain Kris Hohlund was high-point man for the game, with two assists and four goals (with Paly's two unassisted scores).

Junior teammate Skyler Anderson notched two goals and an assist, as did senior Matt Lam, who also captured seven face-offs. Josh Stern and co-captain Jonny Glazier also scored, with Glazier, Jordan Gans, Zach Levitan, and junior Logan Mendenhall getting assists. Mendenhall had to be carried off the field in the first half with an apparent ankle injury.

Paly split goalie duty between Andre Kouchekey, who tallied 10 saves in three quarters, and Tyler Valenti, who had four saves in the fourth.

### Girls' lacrosse

Gunn grabbed an early lead and held on for a 14-9 nonleague vic-

tory over host Menlo-Atherton on Wednesday. The Titans improved to 6-5 while the Bears fell to 4-4.

Gunn dominated the midfield and went on two four-goal runs to lead 8-5 at the half. The Titans were led by Madison Sabbag and Katie-Rose Skelly who scored five and four goals, respectively. M-A began improved its draw control in the second half, but could not come back despite four goals from Emily Carlson.

### Softball

Gunn is still in the thick of the SCVAL El Camino Division race thanks to a 12-0 victory over host Cupertino on Wednesday in a game that started on March 26 but was halted due to rain with the Titans holding a 3-0 lead while batting in the third inning.

The game resumed from that point on Wednesday with Gunn (4-1, 5-7) finishing off an eight-run inning to grab an 11-0 lead. Nat Oda, Claire Collins and Carly Fisher all had doubles in the big inning to support Klausner's pitching. She finished with a five-inning no-hitter and 12 strikeouts after the game was stopped due to the 10-run mercy rule. ■

(Tom Hohlund and Tup Fisher contributed)



## Palo Alto Unified School District

Notice is hereby Given that proposals will be received from pre-qualified General Contractors by the Palo Alto Unified School District for bid package:

### J.L. STANFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL MODERNIZATION & NEW CONSTRUCTION, Contract No. JLS-12

**DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK:** The work includes, but is not limited to: The construction of a new 18,800 s.f., two story, steel frame, stucco clad classroom building with restrooms, elevator, metal roofing, fire sprinklers & exterior sun control louvers in addition to the phased remodeling and modernization of the existing J.L. Stanford Middle School campus. Work includes the construction of small storage additions, fire sprinkler systems, window replacements, new window shades (motorized & manual), moving/relocation of furnishings and equipment to accommodate Work and HVAC, plumbing and electrical upgrades. In addition to the site and utility improvements associated with the new construction, Work includes installation of drainage improvements, pathways, pavement, landscaping, irrigation, fencing, site amenities and utility installations for complete and operational buildings. Bidding documents contain the full description of the work.

There will be a **MANDATORY** pre-bid conference and site visit for the **pre-qualified** General Contractors at **1:00 p.m. on April 17, 2012** at **J. L. Stanford (JLS) Middle School located at 480 East Meadow Drive, Palo Alto, California 94306.**

**SUBCONTRACTORS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND**

**Bid Submission:** Proposals must be received at the **District Facilities Office, Building D, Palo Alto, CA 94306** by **2:00 p.m. on May 3, 2012.**

**PREVAILING WAGE LAWS:** The successful Bidder must comply with all prevailing wage laws applicable to the Project, and related requirements contained in the Contract Documents.

Palo Alto Unified School District will maintain a Labor Compliance Program (LCP) for the duration of this project. In bidding this project, the contractor warrants he/she is aware and will follow the Public Works Chapter of the California Labor Code comprised of Labor Code Sections 1720 – 1861. A copy of the District's LCP is available for review at 25 Churchill Avenue, Building D, Palo Alto, CA 94306.

1. A pre-construction conference shall be conducted with the contractor or subcontractors to discuss federal and state labor law requirements applicable to the contract.
2. Project contractors and subcontracts shall maintain and furnish to the District, at a designated time, a certified copy of each payroll with a statement of compliance signed under penalty of perjury.
3. The District shall review and, if appropriate, audit payroll records to verify compliance with the Public Works Chapter of the Labor Code.
4. The District shall withhold contract payments if payroll records are delinquent or inadequate.
5. The District shall withhold contract payments as described in the LCP, including applicable penalties when the District and Labor Commissioner establish that underpayment of other violations has occurred.

Bidders may examine Bidding Documents at the **District Facilities Office, 25 Churchill Ave, Building "D", Palo Alto, CA 94306.** Bidders may purchase copies of Plans and Specifications at **American Reprographics Company (ARC), 1100 Industrial Road, San Carlos, CA 94070. Phone: (650) 517-1895.**

Address all questions to:

Palo Alto Unified School District  
25 Churchill Avenue, Building D  
Palo Alto, CA 94306-1099  
Attn: Heidi Rank  
Phone: (650) 329-3927 Fax: (650) 327-3588 [hrank@pausd.org](mailto:hrank@pausd.org)

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## Palo Alto Unified School District

Notice is hereby given that proposals will be received by the Palo Alto Unified School District for multiple summer work bid packages. Description of the projects/work is as follows:

- Fairmeadow Elementary School: New Relocatable Building Installation
- Palo Alto High School: Walkway Replacement, Administration Building Painting and Exterior Repair, Administration Building Window Replacement, Main Parking Lot LED Installation
- District Office: Fire Alarm Replacement

**Mandatory Job Walk:** there will be a pre-bid conference and site visit for each project.

**Bid Submission:** Proposals must be received at the District Facilities Office, Building "D".

**PREVAILING WAGE LAWS:** The successful Bidder must comply with all prevailing wage laws applicable to the Project, and related requirements contained in the Contract Documents.

Palo Alto Unified School District will maintain a Labor Compliance Program (LCP) for the duration of this project. In bidding this project, the contractor warrants he/she is aware and will follow the Public Works Chapter of the California Labor Code comprised of labor code sections 1720 – 1861. A copy of the Districts LCP is available for review at 25 Churchill Avenue, Building D, Palo Alto, CA 94306.

1. A pre-job conference shall be conducted with the contractor or subcontractors to discuss federal and state labor law requirements applicable to the contract.
2. Project contractors and subcontracts shall maintain and furnish to the District, at a designated time, a certified copy of each payroll with a statement of compliance signed under penalty of perjury.
3. The District shall review and, if appropriate, audit payroll records to verify compliance with the Public Works Chapter of the Labor Code.
4. The District shall withhold contract payments if payroll records are delinquent or inadequate.
5. The District shall withhold contract payments as described in the LCP, including applicable penalties when the District and Labor Commissioner establish that underpayment of other violations has occurred.

Bidders may examine Bidding Documents at Facilities Office, Building "D".

For more details on obtaining plans and specifications, the mandatory job walk, bid submission, prevailing wage laws, or the summer work bid packages, please contact:

Palo Alto Unified School District  
25 Churchill Avenue, Building D  
Palo Alto, CA 94306-1099  
Attn: Ron Smith  
Phone: (650) 329-3927  
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## Sports

### Tennis

(continued from page 31)

the team title.

The top-ranked Bruins (7-0, 20-0) visit Taube Family Tennis Center for a noon meeting on Saturday. UCLA certainly can make a case for being No. 1 entering the weekend, with sixth-ranked Robin Anderson, a freshman, leading the way at the top of the singles ladder.

The Bruins, who have won the doubles point in 19 of their 20 matches, won the National Indoor Team title in February, an event both Stanford and No. 2 Florida skipped to play each other, in which the Cardinal handed the Gators their only loss of the year, 5-2.

"It's because we didn't go to Team Indoors this year that we're ranked lower," said Stanford women's coach Lele Forood. "If we get some wins over the next couple of weeks, we should move up. When we're healthy, we really don't care where we're ranked."

Stanford, however, is still missing starter Kristie Ahn. She's recovering from a foot injury and will not play this weekend. Having Ahn back in the lineup will "make a major difference," Forood said.

Ahn, the reigning National Rookie of the Year, has been limited to three matches on the season.

Still, wins over No. 4 USC and No. 9 California give UCLA, off to its best start since 1987, a legitimate claim to the top spot.

The Women of Troy (7-0, 18-2) are also playing their best tennis in at least nine years. They visit Stanford at 1:30 p.m. Friday. USC's only losses have been to crosstown rival UCLA.

"USC and UCLA are both young teams, with a lot of freshmen playing, so there are some matchups we really don't know," Forood said.

"They are both tough matches. We're really excited to play these two matches because it's been since early March in Berkeley we've played the top teams in our conference."

The Cardinal can put its own stamp on the rankings this weekend, weather permitting. Playing at home should help as Stanford rarely loses on its own court, having suffered two losses there in the past 17 years and only once, to California, to a conference opponent. Stanford has won 236 of its past 238 home matches dating to a setback to Texas during the 1994-95 season.

Stanford's top player, sophomore Nicole Gibbs, is currently ranked third in the Campbell/ITA Division I rankings while USC's No. 1 player, freshman Zoë Scandalis, is ranked 20th.



Ellen Tsay

The Women of Troy have three other players ranked among the top 87, and has two doubles teams ranked in the top 51.

UCLA has one other singles player among the top 100, but two of its doubles teams are ranked among the top 11.

In addition to Gibbs, junior Mallory Burdette (No. 7), junior Stacey Tan (No. 52) and freshman Ellen Tsay (No. 57) are also among the nationally ranked players. In doubles play, two teams are ranked: Burdette-Gibbs (No. 3) and Tan-Tsay (No. 41).

Burdette (28-4) owns a 14-match winning match, while senior Veronica Li (17-6) has won 12 in a row. Gibbs (23-4) and Tsay (20-4) have each won 11 consecutive matches.

Li is the lone senior on the team. "She has been a solid player, a four-year starter who has really helped the lineup," Forood said. "She's been invaluable. She's a tal-

ented, experienced player."

Meanwhile, Burdette, undefeated in dual meet play, also leads the way with a 15-4 mark against nationally ranked opponents, while Gibbs is 13-3 in those situations.

Tan (16-5) is 11-1 in dual meets and 10-1 at the No. 3 position. Only at Stanford can it be said that last year's national runner-up is regulated to No. 3 on the singles ladder.



Bradley Klahn

Natalie Dillon and Amelia Herring have also stepped up to fill spots in the singles ladder lately. Dillon (6-5) has won five straight and all six wins have been in dual matches. Herring (3-6) has put together a two-match streak and both add depth to the Cardinal lineup.

The women's matches at Stanford this weekend are free.

On the men's side, Freshman John Morrissey (19-8) brings a 12-match winning streak into the weekend while senior Bradley Klahn (7-3) has won four straight. Freshman Robert Stineman (21-11) leads the Cardinal in overall wins.

The doubles team of Klahn and fellow senior Ryan Thacher remains undefeated on the season at 17-0. Morrissey and Stineman (8-5) have won four straight, as has Matt Kandath and Denis Lin (12-6).

Klahn was not available the last time Stanford played the two L.A. schools. The Cardinal was swept in singles play, winning only the doubles point against the Bruins.

With a healthy Klahn, Stanford hopes to make more of a statement this weekend. UCLA will be favored Friday and the Trojans, three-time defending national champions, are overwhelming favorites.

Stanford is no slouch. Four of its five losses have been to teams ranked in the top 10, and the Cardinal, 8-5 against teams in the top 50, also owns wins over then No. 7 Baylor and current No. 7 Kentucky. ■



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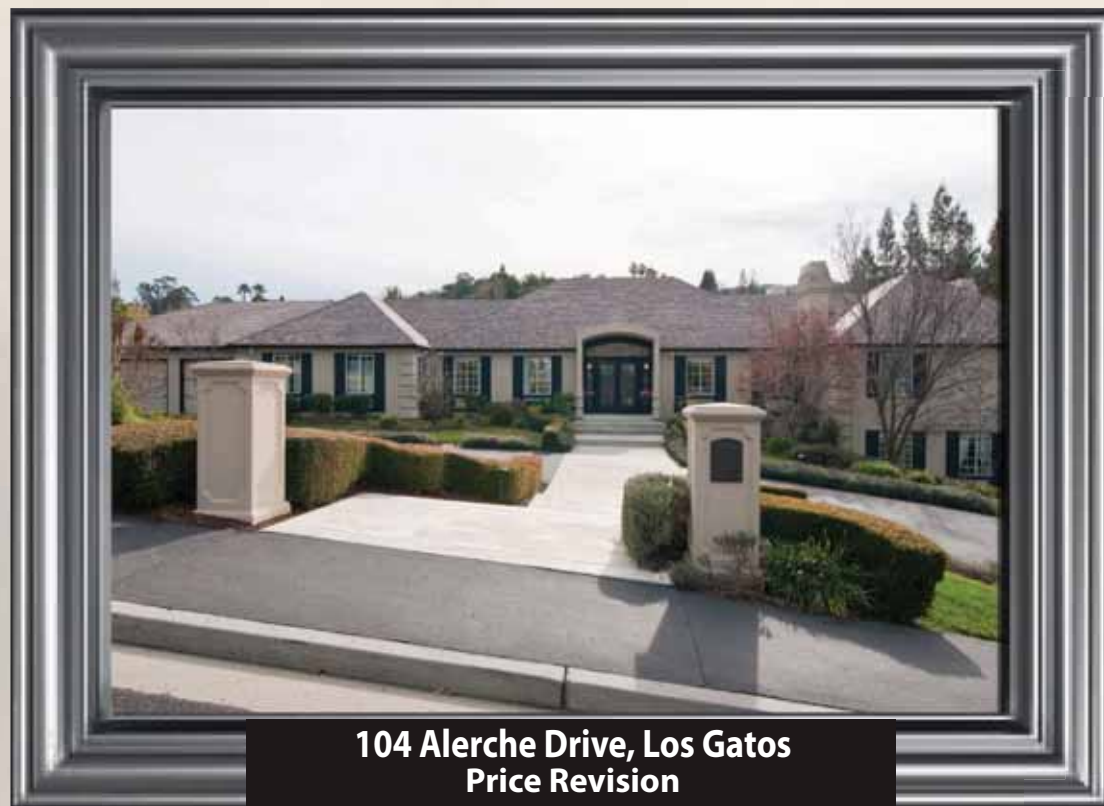
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