

# Weekly

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# Upfront

Local news, information and analysis

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More photos from graduation ceremonies at Castilleja, Gunn and Palo Alto high schools, along with lists of graduates from 14 local high schools, are posted on www.PaloAltoOnline.com.

## Gunn graduates 491 on football field

Principal cites litany of achievements, Stanford football coach advises 'never stop learning'

by Chris Kenrick

In a community pageant at times serious, sentimental and raucous, Gunn High School Wednesday awarded diplomas to 491 seniors in its 47th commencement ceremony.

To accommodate increasing crowds, this year's ceremony was held on the football field, where

some families sat in the bleachers while others, carrying balloons, posters and flowers, settled on the grass.

Graduation "cap art" was in fashion, with most students using it to signal their destination: "Cal," "Chico," "LMU," "P," "Chapman,"

"Stanford," "Texas" — and an occasional "Thank you, Mom & Dad." A few grads emblazoned Bible verses on their caps: "Romans 5:3-5," "Philippians 3:14."

The band played an extended version of "Pomp and Circumstance" as graduates filed in.

Principal Katya Villalobos recited a litany of their achievements — choir concerts, drama performances, sports championships, wins in robotics, Science Olympiad, Model

United Nations, speech and debate, recognition in the Siemens and Intel science competitions.

"The list can go on and on," Villalobos said. "We're so proud of you."

Taking inspiration from Walt Disney, she urged them to "believe, imagine, invent and innovate."

"We want you to be happy, healthy and define for yourselves what success means to you, but first you have to believe in what you want to

accomplish," Villalobos said, urging graduates to "be a doer, not a critic."

Student speakers Rachel Freeman and David Oyer pondered the significance of transitions.

"Congratulations to the Class of 2012 for making it to this 'last,'" Freeman said. "Now it's time to get ready for another 'first.'"

Oyer said: "If you squint your eyes

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Graduating seniors straighten out their caps at Palo Alto High School commencement ceremonies on Wednesday, June 6. For more pictures of graduation, see page 12.

GRADUATION 2012

## Palo Alto High School celebrates Class of 2012

Graduates recall during Wednesday ceremony the humor of teachers and life lessons learned

by Bryce Druzin

Around 3,500 family and friends watched and cheered as more than 450 green-and-white-clad seniors graduated from Palo Alto High School Wednesday evening, June 6.

"It's bittersweet for me," said English teacher Mike McNulty, who has taught for 20 years. "You're real happy to see kids you had move on, but at the same time you're sad because you may never see some of them again."

Principal Phil Winston made opening remarks, but the ceremony was dominated by student speakers and performers.

Student body president Uma

Veerappan, who received the Viking Award for outstanding student leadership, highlighted individual students for their cultural awareness, social activism and athletic achievements.

She also injected a humorous anecdote about Spanish teacher Josep Vericat.

"He once told a student who was studying for another class in our Spanish period, 'Cierra tu libro antes de que cierre tu vida,' which in ... English translates to 'Close your book before I close your life,'" she said. "Thank you, Señor Vericat, for being such a humorous disciplinarian."

Senior Emilee Osagiede, who auditioned and was chosen to speak by school staff, titled her talk, "Keep Fighting." She opened with a quote from Dr. Seuss: "Congratulations, today is your day, you're off to great places, you're off and away."

She said she turned to the author to help her with bad childhood experiences.

"I was in a dark and scary place; I was lonely and lost," she said. "I needed something; I needed anything to bring me out of that hole."

Osagiede said the quote's reference to future rather than past achievements emphasizes the values of perseverance and hard

work. She said people who have experienced child abuse, the death of a parent and living in foster care can be successful.

"If you keep pushing and you keep fighting, you can do marvelous things," she said. "Even for the girls and boys who have the odds stacked up against them."

Lindsay Black provoked a playful reaction from principal Winston when she approached the stage while he was introducing her.

"You're walking up here already, girl?" Winston said. "What

(continued on page 6)

## GRADUATION 2012 Castilleja graduates 52

Palo Alto school's 105th commencement abounds with literary, feminist exhortations

by Chris Kenrick

Lifting their red and white bouquets amid a sea of white dresses, 52 Castilleja School seniors graduated Saturday, June 2, in the Palo Alto school's 105th commencement.

Feminist and literary allusions — from Virginia Woolf to Milan Kundera to J.K. Rowling — abounded in the 90-minute ceremony.

Valedictorian Eleanor Brug evoked Kundera in a speech pondering the significance of single events, such as a graduation, and repeated events, such as the thousands of class periods experienced at Castilleja.

"I will remember that I graduated, and that there were speeches, and that we were all gorgeous with our diplomas," Brug told classmates and families assembled under a huge white tent in the Embarcadero Road school's grassy "circle."

"However, I will have stronger recollection of sprinting to classes for exercise, of adjusting navy collars and pinfeather skirts, of that moment when a convenient path opens up through a roundabout proof in calculus theory."

Graduates Lindsay Wang and Aurora Real de Asua, co-recipients of the school's annual Castilleja Award, jointly delivered a speech about transcending stereotypes and the pros and cons of belonging to a group. The Castilleja Award is given by the faculty to the senior who best exemplifies the school's "Five C's" — conscience, courtesy, character, courage and charity.

Guest speaker Carol Jenkins, founding president of the Women's Media Center, advised graduates to suspend assumptions, travel widely,

(continued on page 11)

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450 CAMBRIDGE AVE, PALO ALTO, CA 94306  
(650) 326-8210

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## Upfront

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“

The lives of others are not always what they seem.

— **Julia Maggioncalda**, Gunn High School senior, on battling depression while her peers viewed her as happy and successful. See story on page 13.

”

# Around Town

**GETTING WIRED ...** Palo Alto officials often bask in the city's worldwide reputation as a global trendsetter for new technology. But things are different inside City Hall, where employees rely on 25-year-old telephones, a voicemail system so old that the manufacturer no longer supports it and a crash-prone computer network that the city's Chief Information Officer **Jonathan Reichental** described as “expensive to maintain” and “highly risky.” Mayor **Yiaway Yeh** recalled when he first used the mayor's phone at City Hall in January. “It really looked like a prop from ‘Barney Miller,’” Yeh said, referring to the late 1970s sitcom centered around the New York Police Department. **Chuck Vondra**, CEO of the consulting firm **Communications Strategies**, surveyed the city's facilities and described the city's infrastructure as “moth-eaten” and “rat-eaten.” Vondra said the phones currently in use at City Hall have a typical life expectancy of about 10 years. “The good news is that you've been able to triple the life expectancy of the system you've been using,” Vondra told the council. The other good news is that this week the City Council approved \$1.8 million to replace phones and install a new and improved data network.

**MAKING JULES VERNE PROUD ...** **Rafael de Mestre**, a Spanish-born entrepreneur and **Tesla Roadster** owner, pulled into Tesla headquarters in Palo Alto Monday morning, part-way through what might be called an extended road trip. De Mestre is pursuing the Guinness Book of World Records title of “fastest around the world in an electric vehicle.” In a nod to literary tradition, his goal is 80 days. Moving from charge station to charge station, he hopes to catch two Frenchmen who set out to take the title two months ago. The website [1e-race.com](http://1e-race.com) may be used to track the race — or just to find out how to make it through Ukraine and Kazakhstan in an electric vehicle.

**EASING TENSION ...** Palo Alto's effort to revise its **massage ordinance** has been anything but relaxing, with critics complaining about proposals to require massage therapists to keep customer logs and to undergo more stringent training. The proposed ordinance has gone through a series of iterations in recent months, with one controversial provision after another quietly falling by the wayside. In April, the City Council's Policy and Services Committee asked the Police

Department to drop the logbook requirement and to consider less rigid requirements for **reflexologists** — practitioners who focus on tension points on clients' hands and feet and who typically don't require clients to disrobe. The newest proposal to revise the massage ordinance does just that. It also exempts reflexologists (as well as chiropractors, nurses and barbers) altogether, provided they're “engaged in the performance of the duties of their respective professions.” The council committee will consider the latest proposal Tuesday night.

**THEY YEARN FOR YARN ...** The prominent **Lytton Plaza** in downtown Palo Alto will be occupied Wednesday morning, though it won't be by grassroots protesters or Wall Street critics. Rather, it will feature members of **Deborah's Palm** Knitting Group and other needle-and-yarn enthusiasts. The knitters will be celebrating “**Knitting in Public Day**” at the University Avenue plaza between 10 a.m. and noon Wednesday.

**THE COMPLAINTS DEPARTMENT ...** City workers in Palo Alto have no shortage of options for reporting fraud, waste and abuse, including department heads, the Human Resources Department and the Office of the City Auditor. Next Tuesday, a City Council committee will discuss the newest tool for filing complaints: an anonymous hotline. Under the current proposal, the 24/7/365 hotline would be overseen by a vendor who would collect the complaints and issue incident reports. A newly formed “Hotline Review Committee,” consisting of City Manager **James Keene**, City Auditor **Jim Pelletier** and City Attorney **Molly Stump** would meet regularly to consider these reports and, if needed, commission investigations (if complaints involve a committee member, that person would not be able to participate in the discussion). But if someone wants to use the hotline to make an anonymous complaint against a member of the City Council, they're out of luck. Keene, Pelletier and Stump are all council-appointed officers. As a result, the hotline “will not accept incidents involving members of the council.” “Employees reporting these types of complaints will be referred to the California Fair Political Practices Commission, the District Attorney's Office, or other appropriate outside agency, depending upon the nature of the complaint,” the city's proposed policy for the new hotline states. ■

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- ▶ **Tuesday, June 12**  
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ELECTION 2012

## Hill, Lieber, Gordon, Yang and Simitian win local primaries

*Simitian clinches seat, others face November runoffs*

by Chris Kenrick, Renee Batti and Gennady Sheyner

In a primary election Tuesday, June 5, that saw voter turnout hover around 30 percent in both Santa Clara and San Mateo counties, four political veterans and one newcomer sewed up victories in the state Senate and Assembly and Santa Clara County supervisor races.

### Santa Clara County supervisor

State Sen. Joe Simitian (D-Palo Alto), seeking a return to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, easily prevailed in the three-way race to represent north county.

With more than 50 percent of the vote, he avoids a runoff in November.

Simitian, a Palo Alto resident, won 28,307 votes — 57 percent. His closest challenger, former Cupertino Mayor Kris Huyilan Wang, won 23 percent, followed by Cupertino City Councilman Barry Chang with 19 percent.

“From my standpoint, it’s a happy result on two counts: a 35-point margin between me and my closest competitor, and a first-round victory, which means I don’t have to go back to my supporters and ask for their help again in November,” Simitian said.

“I think they’ll be happy about that.”

This will be Simitian’s second stint on the county board, on which he served from 1997 to 2000 before moving on to the California Assembly and later the state Senate. He returns to the county level after being termed out of the Senate. He began his political career in the 1980s as a member of the Palo Alto Board of Education and also served on the Palo Alto City Council.

### State Assembly

The only question regarding the District 24 state Assembly election Tuesday was which of the three po-

litical novices in the race would run in November against first-term Assemblyman Rich Gordon (D-Menlo Park), a former San Mateo County supervisor. That person will be Republican Chengzhi “George” Yang.

Gordon garnered 56 percent of the vote. Yang finished second with 29 percent of the vote.

Because of California’s new primary rules, the top two vote-getters automatically advance to the general election in November.

Yang, 35, of Menlo Park, is a software engineer.

Asked why, as a political novice running against an incumbent, he was able to garner 29 percent of the vote, Yang said Gordon “has not been listening to the district, especially on topics such as high-speed rail. People are voting their frustration.”

Yang predicted high-speed rail would be a key distinguishing issue in the November race. He supports another vote on whether to build the rail system, now estimated to cost around \$68.4 billion, saying that much new, critical information has come out about the plan since voters first approved nearly \$10 billion of its funding in 2008.

“I really don’t think we can afford it at this point,” he said. “I believe it’s honest and democratic to give people a chance to vote, so ... they can ask, do we really want to do this?”

Gordon responded that he has “listened very closely to my constituents” and cites as an example his plan, developed in collaboration with Congresswoman Anna Eshoo and state Sen. Joe Simitian, for a “blended” rail system. The plan would essentially link the high-speed rail route from Los Angeles with an improved and electrified Caltrain system running from San Jose to San Francisco.

Gordon noted that the blended rail plan has been “fully embraced” by the state High-Speed Rail Authority as a viable method for developing the rail system in the Bay Area and

other regions of the state.

Yang said the other issues he will focus on between now and November are education, jobs, and pension reform, getting his message out in the heavily Democratic district.

Gordon said he also plans to wage an active campaign between now and the fall election, saying that campaigning is a “key part of our democracy.” The campaign, he said, allows him to spend more time with voters and “learn what they want me to do when I get back to Sacramento.”

Gordon now represents District 21, which includes Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Atherton, Woodside, Portola Valley and East Palo Alto. But because of redistricting, the same area will become part of District 24. The new district will also encompass Mountain View, Sunnyvale, and most of the San Mateo County coastside from El Granada south.

Also running were Joseph Antonelli Rosas, 22, of Sunnyvale, a network security adviser who has no party affiliation; and Geby Espinosa, 47, of Mountain View, a Democrat and a small business owner. They received about 4 percent and 10 percent of the vote, respectively.

### State Senate

Assemblyman Jerry Hill and former Assemblywoman Sally Lieber cruised to victory Tuesday and will now square off in November for a chance to represent a newly formed Senate district in the heart of the Peninsula.

The two political veterans were widely expected to advance to the next round in a four-way race that also included Mountain View teacher Christopher Chiang and John Webster, a libertarian who has run several times in the past. Hill dominated the field with 51 percent of the votes. Lieber trailed in distant second with 22 percent.

Webster and Chiang earned 16



State Sen. Joe Simitian (D-Palo Alto) took 57 percent of the vote in a three-way race for a seat on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors.

percent and 11 percent of the votes, respectively.

Hill, who has the biggest campaign chest and the longest list of supporters in the political establishment, trounced the competition largely on his strength among San Mateo County voters. Hill, who had served on the San Mateo City Council and on the county’s Board of Supervisors before representing a large portion of the county in Sacramento, won 58 percent of the vote in his home county. Lieber picked up 18 percent of the vote in San Mateo County, which makes up the majority of the new District 13.

Hill also edged Lieber on her own turf of Santa Clara County, picking up 37 percent of the votes to Lieber’s 30 percent.

District 13, formed last year during the redistricting process, includes most of San Mateo County and northern Santa Clara County, including Palo Alto and Mountain View. Most of the district is currently represented by state Sen. Joe Simitian.

Hill’s and Lieber’s victories Tuesday were all but assured given their fundraising advantages, their name recognition and the relatively low profiles of their two opponents. Each has more than \$200,000 on hand heading into November and lengthy legislative resumes.

Chiang and Webster were both running on a shoestring budget and had told the Weekly that they were planning to spend less than \$1,000 for their campaigns.

The election results pave the way for a showdown between two experienced Democrats, one from the northern portion of the district and one from the southern.

Hill currently serves in the state Assembly and represents a district that includes most of San Mateo County. He has emerged over the past two years as a leading critic of PG&E. The former San Mateo County supervisor has also been instrumental in warding off a San Francisco proposal to institute highway tolls and to restrict hiring for public-works projects to city residents.

Lieber served in the Assembly between 2002 and 2008 and earned a reputation as a scrappy defender of some of her most disadvantaged constituents, including homeless people and women in state prisons. She had authored a bill that raised the state’s minimum wage and fought to keep homeless shelters open during rainy days.

Lieber told the Weekly Tuesday her campaign has been saving most of its resources for the November election, she said.

A jubilant Hill said Tuesday he attributed the strong election results to his campaign’s grassroots effort, his long list of endorsements and the messages of his campaign, which he said are resonating beyond his political base in San Mateo County.

“This shows that what we’ve been doing for the past five to six months is paying off,” Hill told the Weekly. ■

EDUCATION

## Emails reveal internal school discussions

*Exchanges between superintendent and school trustees reflect differing views over Gunn counseling system*

by Palo Alto Weekly staff

Palo Alto school-district superintendent Kevin Skelly has made a practice of communicating with school board members via email about district issues, sometimes polling them on their views and communicating his policy preferences, according to dozens of emails obtained by the Palo Alto Weekly through a Public Records Act request.

Board of Education members re-

sponded only to Skelly with their views, avoiding a clear violation of the Brown Act, the state open-meetings law, which prohibits a majority of board members from discussing or deliberating outside a public meeting.

Legal experts are divided, and courts have not yet ruled, however, on whether participating in a process that allows a chief administrator like Skelly to assess the policy

views of the board through private email exchanges is a violation of the Act.

The emails were sent between Skelly and school board members in March and April and are only a portion of what is expected to eventually be released.

The Weekly made the request after Skelly’s practice of sending school board members a “Confidential Weekly” email was re-

vealed last month in response to a separate Public Records Act request.

The emails released this week were especially revealing on two topics: the debate over high school counseling and a proposal to expand the district’s Spanish Immersion program by adding a strand at Barron Park Elementary School.

In both cases, Skelly provided the school board with information not available to the public and sought members’ feedback or support.

The emails on high school counseling show Skelly’s desire to head off or slow down implementing a teacher advisory (TA) program at Gunn High School similar to the one at Palo Alto High School following a March 27 public

school board meeting. They also indicate board president Camille Townsend’s deep frustration about the “constant hesitation to move toward TA.”

In an April 26, 2012, email marked “Confidential” from Skelly to the five board members, Skelly describes a meeting that day with Gunn staff.

“I don’t think there is much, if any, support for being a TA or adopting the TA model at Gunn,” he wrote.

He described “real pain among the staff, a hit to morale, and a sense of defeat” over the possibility. He reiterated views against TA he had already expressed in a “Confidential Weekly” sent on

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PUBLIC SAFETY

# Palo Alto plans major revamp of Fire Department

City looks to beef up ambulance service, reduce firefighter staffing

by Gennady Sheyner

**F**irefighters are typically associated in the popular imagination with burning buildings, wildfires and disaster response.

These images, while valid, are increasingly becoming anachronistic in the Palo Alto Fire Department, where requests for medical service are now taking up more than half of all calls. Between July 2010 and June 2011, for example, the department responded to 14 residential structure fires. Over the same period, the department's paramedic staff made more than 3,000 ambulance transports, according to the city's Service Efforts and Accomplishments Report. Between July 2006 and June 2007, by contrast, the department had responded to 68 residential house fires and had made 2,527 ambulance transports, the report shows.

Faced with this trend in residents' needs, city officials are now making changes in the Fire Department, which is the only one in Santa Clara County that provides primary ambulance service. The changes include an expanded medical operation headed by a chief and a new full-time ambulance, a greater emphasis on emergency planning and six fewer firefighters of the traditional, blaze-snuffing variety.

City Manager James Keene outlined the plan in his proposed budget for fiscal year 2013, which begins July 1. The City Council is set to approve a budget on June 18.

The changes would enable the department's medical staff to respond to three calls at the same time, up from two, according to the budget.

The sweeping proposal would also raise the level of oversight and data analysis for medical response. Under

the budget proposal, the Fire Department would get a new data specialist for medical service and a geographic-information specialist. The department's Emergency Medical Services coordinator would be elevated to a newly created position — the Emergency Medical Services chief.

These major shifts in the Fire Department were prompted by a series of factors, most notably the growing number of medical calls. They are also driven by recommendations from an independent study the city commissioned last year to analyze the city's fire operations. The report by TriData and the ICMA Center for Public Safety Excellence flagged a number of shortcomings in the department's training and disaster-preparedness programs and recommended a greater emphasis on medical response. The study noted that the total number of emergency medical incidents went up from 2,742 in 2000 to 4,070 in 2009, a 48 percent increase.

The consultants specifically recommended the new medical-services positions and a greater consolidation of the administrative functions in the city's police and fire departments, which the city is also undertaking in the new budget proposal.

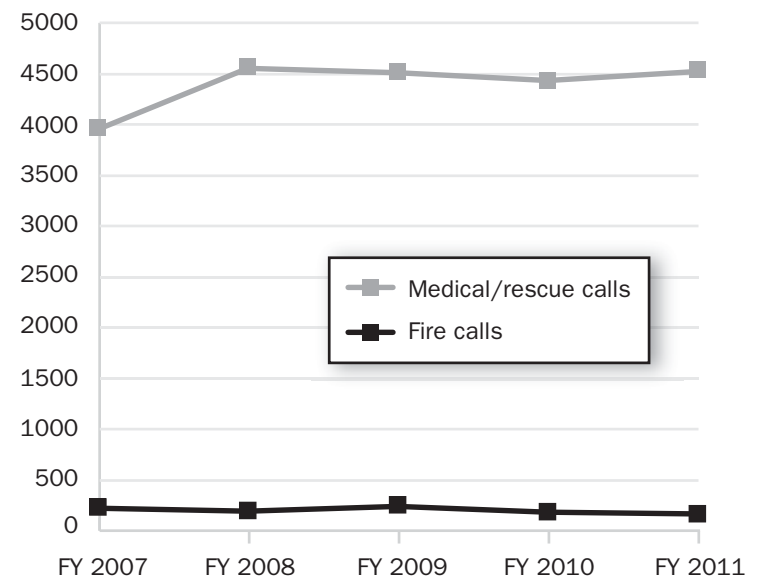
Assistant City Manager Pam Antil presented the proposed changes to the City Council's Finance Committee on May 15 and said that the goal of the shift is to place existing resources where they're needed most. The city, she said, is "really try(ing) to rethink how we deliver services in Fire." Officials studied the recommendations in the consultants' report for more than a year, she said, before formulating their

recommendations.

But while the medical-response operation will be bolstered, the city also plans to eliminate six firefighter positions out of a 102-person operations staff, a cut made possible after voters last year abolished the long-standing minimum-staffing requirement from the firefighter union's contract. The change means the city is no longer obligated to have 29 firefighters on duty at all times and has more flexibility in setting staffing levels. Now, if the number of firefighters on duty were to fall short on a given day because of unexpected absences, the city can take a fire engine out of service (before, firefighters would get paid overtime to fill in for their absent colleagues).

But the flexibility comes at a price. One of the department's proposals calls for using a fire engine at Station 2 on Hanover Street as the department's backup engine when another station's unit is taken out of service. (Station 2's engine and personnel would be deployed to the other station.)

Deputy Chief Geoffrey Blackshire told the Finance Committee that the Station 2 engine was chosen because of its central location, in the Stanford Research Park. When Engine 2 is deployed, it would be up to the rescue truck at Station 2 to respond to most of the calls in the immediate area. And while the rescue unit is equipped to extricate people from vehicles and to respond to incidents involving hazardous materials, it is not equipped with a water supply. This has led some residents in the nearby College Terrace neighborhood to raise alarms about the decrease in service at their nearest station.



## Responses by fire station in FY 2009

	Station 1 (Downtown North)	Station 2 (Stanford Research Park)	Station 3 (Rinconada)	Station 4 (Mitchell Park)	Station 5 (Arastradero)	Station 6 (Stanford)	Station 7 (SLAC - closed)	Station 8 (Foothills Park)
Ambulance	1,589	3,016	326	0	0	0	0	0
Engine	2,021	1,024	1,312	1,108	911	1,512	169	35 (brush)
Rescue	0	1,055	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truck	0	0	0	0	0	644	0	0
Total	3,610	5,095	1,638	1,108	911	2,156	169	35

## Paly

(continued from page 3)

are you doing to me?"

Black sang "What A Wonderful World," receiving some of the louder applause of the evening.

"I'm hoping she'll go and use her ... God-given abilities. She's a smart girl," said her grandmother Auresia Black, who noted that Lindsay is headed to Howard University. "Whatever it is, as long as it's productive."

Palo Alto Unified School District board member Dana Tom formally

accepted the class of 2012 from Winston and handed out the diplomas.

Tom's son, Skyler, was among the graduates.

"Every time I think of my son graduating, I shake my head in disbelief," Tom said. "Kids grow up in the blink of any eye."

Following tradition, male students wore green caps and gowns while female students wore white. Many adorned their caps with the logos of the universities they will be attending next year.

Adam Young plans on studying

screenwriting and hopes to transfer to San Jose State University after attending Foothill College. He told the Weekly he was surprised with how quickly high school went by.

"Freshman year I thought I'd never get out of here," he said, "but by senior year it felt like by a snap of my fingers I was done."

Mark Nishimura will be attending Stanford University and credited Ronald Pruzan with sparking his interest in chemistry. He said he discovered the types of people he likes to hang out with during his time at Paly.

"No matter how we measure intelligence, everyone here has something about them that's amazing," he said.

Rachelle Bains said she had to deal with deaths and health issues throughout high school and struggled to meet graduation requirements.

"I've gotten a lot of support from staff at Paly," she said. "They made it easier."

She said she's still waiting to hear from Loyola Marymount University, where she wants to study business management.

Mary Colbert of Petaluma came to see the graduation of a family friend and favorably compared the level of student involvement to that of her own daughter's recent graduation.

"I've been to 80,000 high school graduations in the last two years," Colbert joked. "By far this is the most stellar and inspiring and really celebratory about the students," she said. ■

*Editorial Intern Bryce Druzin can be emailed at [bdruzin@paweb.com](mailto:bdruzin@paweb.com).*

## TECHNOLOGY

# Palo Alto sees its fiber dream fizzling

City looks to abandon 15-year quest to bring fiber-based broadband service to the masses

by Gennady Sheyner

**A**fter 15 years of failed schemes and dashed hopes, Palo Alto is preparing to pull the plug on its dream of bringing ultra-high-speed Internet to every household in the city.

Instead, Utilities Department officials are now looking to wireless technology as the most promising method to bring Internet access to the masses.

Despite some reservations, the Utilities Advisory Commission voted 4-3 Wednesday night, June 6, to stop analyzing the possibility of expanding the city's existing dark-fiber-optic network to local residents, a project known as Fiber to the Premise (FTTP). If the City Council were to go along with that recommendation, it would effectively kill a project that the city has been coveting for more than a decade.

The decision by the Utilities Department staff to back away from the fiber project was prompted by a new survey and analysis showing that most residents would not be willing to pay to make the system economically feasible. The city's existing 41-mile dark-fiber ring, which serves 78 commercial customers, has been an economic success, bringing in \$2.1 million in annual revenues. But the new analyses show the cost of building the "last mile" from the ring to the city's residential neighborhoods would be extremely difficult given the market dominance by AT&T and Comcast of the local broadband market.

City officials had considered a

phased plan under which the city would build fiber-optic hub sites at nine electric substations and then connect those to 88 neighborhood nodal access points, which would then allow residential access to the fiber system. These steps would cost about \$6 million. But it would still be up to a private company to step in and provide the final connection between the nodes and the homes. That, staff concluded, is an unlikely proposition given the local market.

"Market research indicates that a third citywide terrestrial broadband network in Palo Alto, built by the City or a third party FTTP provider, or built by a third party provider in a partnership with the City, would find it extremely difficult to acquire sufficient market share to succeed — especially if the City did not want to expose itself to some financial risk beyond just licensing dark fiber to a potential FTTP system builder," Jim Fleming, a management specialist at the Utilities Department, wrote in a new report.

Fleming noted AT&T and Comcast already have an "entrenched presence" in the city and a "track record of aggressive tactics to retain their market share," factors that represent "a formidable obstacle" to any new broadband provider.

"Based on current market conditions for broadband services in Palo Alto, staff concludes there is no fiscal basis to use the fiber fund reserve to pursue implementation of the phased conceptual plan for FTTP," Fleming wrote.

The phased approach was just the latest in a series of schemes the city has been pursuing in the past decade and a half. Five years ago, the city was hoping to link up with a private consortium that would build and operate the expanded fiber network. That deal collapsed in early 2009, however, when the consortium, led by the Canadian firm Axia Netmedia Corporation, backed out of the deal to build the \$45 million system, citing "deteriorating" financial conditions. The company had requested the city contribute between \$3 million and \$5 million annually to support the system, a proposal the city rejected.

The city was also hoping to be selected for "Google Fiber," an ambitious proposal by the Mountain View-based Internet giant to bring a fiber-to-the-premise system to a chosen municipality. Despite a glut of letters, emails and a video of Palo Alto officials dancing for Google in front of City Hall, the company ultimately chose Topeka, Kansas, sending Palo Alto back to square one.

The city's proposed phased approach likewise appears to be going nowhere. The analysis by the firm Tellus Venture Associates, shows that even in a best-case scenario, an average household would have to pay \$1,000 upfront for the connection and \$75 per month to subscribe to the fiber service (the base model showed a \$3,000 upfront fee and a rate of \$100 per month). The company concluded that a user-funded fiber-to-the-premise system "is not

possible to achieve in Palo Alto."

Stephen Blum, president of Tellus, told the commission Wednesday that heavy city subsidies would be required to make a citywide fiber-system possible.

"In terms of a system being able to pay for itself completely upfront, it's not feasible," Blum said. "It's not going to happen."

Public opinion also influenced the staff recommendation. The city recently commissioned a survey to gauge residents' interest in a city-wide fiber network. The survey by the firm RKS showed that while residents are generally enthusiastic about such a system, their enthusiasm quickly sours when talk shifts to finances. For example, 61 percent of respondents said the city should create a system to compete with the incumbent providers. But when survey respondents were told the cost of bringing a municipal fiber system to all residential neighborhoods would be between \$40 million and \$60 million, support decreased to 38 percent. Another 38 percent said they were "unsure" whether they would support the system's build-out.

Faced with these numbers, staff and the Utilities Advisory Commission decided that it's time to scrap the long-held dream. Fleming wrote in the report that embarking on a fiber project would "involve an unreasonable degree of risk," even more so than at other cities that pursued municipal broadband systems. These included Alameda and Provo, Utah.

"These enterprises ultimately resulted in financial failure and either bondholder losses and lawsuits or direct, supplemental taxpayer subsidies," Fleming wrote. "Additionally, staff does not support spending the fiber reserve generated by the City's dark-fiber network on providing service to a small fraction of residents

who, according to the RKS data, are likely to be among the City's most affluent households."

Not everyone agreed that it's time to scrap the project. Commission Chair Jonathan Foster and Commissioners Asher Waldfogel and John Melton supported waiting a few months to give the city's citizen advisers a chance to evaluate the new studies and to solicit input from the City Attorney's Office about ways in which the city can spend its dark-fiber reserve, which currently stands at \$12.7 million. Bob Harrington, who advises the city on broadband issues, also urged the commission to give him and other experts a chance to vet the documents.

"I urge a little longer consideration before we drop this and go on to a wireless municipal network," Harrington told the commission.

But the rest of the commission sided with staff, whose recommendation also includes directing the Utilities Department to pursue a study that would determine what a Palo Alto wireless system could look like. The study would cost between \$25,000 and \$50,000, Fleming estimated.

Commissioner Steve Eglash was among those who supported putting an end to the city's quest for a city-wide fiber network and going with the staff proposal.

"I think the preponderance of the evidence tonight and over the years shows that we cannot support this," Eglash said. ■



Do you support the city's recommendation to forego a fiber-optic ring in favor of citywide wireless access to the Internet? Share your opinion on Town Square, the community discussion forum on Palo Alto Online.

## School

(continued from page 5)

April 20.

Skelly also included a draft of a memo to the Gunn community, ultimately sent out on May 5, that stated the teacher advisory system would not be "forced" on the Gunn community.

Townsend responded with a strongly worded email to Skelly a few hours later.

"The Gunn staff needs to be aware of what's happening at the school board level," Townsend wrote.

"Why the constant hesitation to move toward TA? I understood Noreen's (Likens, former Gunn principal) reluctance given her steeping in the more traditional counseling model. But now it feels like stubbornness coming through and not much more. Yes, folks need time to move in a direction ... but the conversation is starting to feel more obstructionist.

"It's really time to feel some movement on this," Townsend wrote.

"While patience may be a virtue and thoughtful planning, yes, that too, but this has gone far beyond that time frame ... even preceded you. I do support the TA system and it's not

clear that the Paly TA teachers have even come over to talk to Gunn teachers. If it has happened, great. If not, it really needs to start happening."

Barbara Klausner supported Skelly's desire to communicate to Gunn staff that the board had taken no action directing Gunn to adopt the TA system, but she too emphasized the need for a quicker timeline for change.

"I think it would be accurate and very useful if you clarified that the board did not direct Gunn to adopt the Paly TA system. The strongest direction we issued was that the two schools talk with each other and that the Paly TA system be included (among many other topics) in the sharing between the two schools," Klausner wrote.

"I have absolutely no desire to foist a TA system on an unwilling staff. I would, however, like to continue to impress upon staff some sense of urgency about the inadequacies of the current system and to leverage this rare possible window of opportunity to shake things up a little more dramatically than we normally do. Counseling has been an annual district goal for the last three years. This should not be drawn out," Klausner wrote.

"On the other hand, I've had some

interesting discussions and I think that it may be true that so many Gunn families have such low expectations of the guidance support offered at Gunn that they may actually place low stakes on improving a system that they have come to essentially ignore," she wrote, adding a plea that Skelly not communicate the latter to Gunn staff, whom she said are "hardworking (and) well-meaning."

The feedback from board members to Skelly did not lead to any significant changes in the message he and Gunn principal Katya Villalobos sent to the Gunn community a week later, prompting another email to Skelly from Townsend on May 7.

"They (Gunn) are being asked (by the board) to look at the TA system. As far as I know, none of the Paly TA's have been asked to come to a Gunn meeting to discuss how it operates and what they think of it. Don't you think that conversation is overdue?"

No response to Townsend from Skelly was included in the emails released this week.

On the idea of expanding the district's Spanish Immersion program, Skelly sent board members an email March 6, a week after a public study session on the subject, proposing that the staff start exploring opening

a second strand of the program at Barron Park as early as this coming school year. He outlined proposed steps, including discussions with the Barron Park community.

"I would love to hear your thoughts," Skelly wrote. "Perhaps you can call or sit down with me in the next few days."

Skelly received email replies from every board member, including a long analysis from Barbara Klausner. Each of them expressed at least some enthusiasm for the idea, although Klausner cautioned Skelly that implementing something as early as this fall raised policy concerns for her.

"Thus, so long as your exploration stays relatively in-house until we as a leadership team have an opportunity to vet it as part of a long-term vision, then I have no objection to your desire to 'EXPLORE' the possibilities," Klausner replied.

"Once, however, it goes beyond current stakeholders (e.g., district staff, BP current community) and creates expectations and a sense of anticipation from a group like SI lottery losers, then I am extremely uncomfortable with the idea of exploration," she wrote.

Skelly replied to Klausner and shared with her that other board

members had "varying degrees of enthusiasm" and that her comments were "at a far end of the board comments I have received but they are extremely helpful as the process ones, in particular, will get us in trouble. See weekly (memo) for next steps."

Last month, the Palo Alto Weekly sent a letter to the school board asserting that the school board may have violated the Brown Act through the practice of communicating privately with Skelly on issues of district policy, essentially engaging in deliberation through Skelly without the public having an opportunity to monitor and observe.

The board held a study session on the Brown Act May 31, during which each board member denied violating the Brown Act, stated their practices are common in other school districts and emphasized their commitment to transparency.

In an ironic twist, board members have been advised by their attorney not to read the emails released by the district so they do not risk violating the Brown Act by becoming aware of each other's opinions. ■

Read all the emails released so far between the superintendent and school board online at <http://pausd.org/community/PublicRecordsRequest/>

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Artist unknown, Jukun, Wurbon Daudu village, Standing Female Figure, late 19th–early 20th century. Wood. The Menil Collection, Houston. Photograph by Hickey-Robertson, Houston.



Upfront

## 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.

### Teen shot to death at grandmother’s home

A Mountain View teenager was shot and killed Monday, June 4, outside his grandmother’s home in Oregon, about 13 miles south of Portland. Adrien Wallace, the boy’s 41-year-old uncle, has confessed to killing 16-year-old St. Francis High School student Nicolas Juarez. (Posted June 7 at 8:41 a.m.)

### Menlo Park approves downtown plan

Five hours of discussion after five years of analysis on Tuesday night, June 5, led to Menlo Park’s approval of the framework for a new vision of development downtown and along El Camino Real. (Posted June 6 at 3:08 p.m.)

### Man killed by train in Mountain View

A man was struck and killed by a southbound train near the San Antonio Road train station in Mountain View Wednesday morning, June 6, according to a Caltrain spokeswoman. (Posted June 6 at 11:50 a.m.)

### Citizens sought for school bond oversight

The Palo Alto school board is seeking applicants to serve on a citizens’ committee overseeing expenditures under the school district’s \$378 million “Strong Schools” facilities bond program. (Posted June 5 at 2:16 p.m.)

### Early HP engineer Art Fong dies at 92

Arthur Fong, whose work in engineering helped grow a fledgling Hewlett-Packard Company into the world’s largest technology company, died May 17 in Palo Alto. He was 92. (Posted June 1 at 4:38 p.m.)



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

## Stanford Continuing Studies SUMMER 2012



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

**8:30 A.M., Thursday, June 21, 2012** Palo Alto Council Chambers, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Civic Center, 250 Hamilton Avenue. Go to the Development Center at 285 Hamilton Avenue to review filed documents; contact Diana Tamale for information regarding business hours at 650.329.2144.

**101 Lytton Ave [11PLN-00045]** – Request by Lund Smith on behalf of Lytton Gateway LLC for Architectural Review of a four story mixed office and retail building on the former Shell Station site. The project was previously before the ARB on November 3, 2011 and was recommended for approval as a five story mixed use building. Specific items that were required to return to the ARB for review include: landscaping at the northeast corner, signage, final resolution on the tower design, complete lighting details and bike rack selection. Environmental Assessment: A Mitigated Negative Declaration was approved by the City Council on March 12, 2012. Zone District: CD-C(P) and CD-N(P).

**1701 Page Mill Road [12PLN-00171]** - Request by Jim Inglis of Stanford on behalf of Leland Stanford Jr. University for Preliminary Architectural Review of a new two-story Research and Development building (approximately 111,335 square feet). Environmental Assessment: Preliminary Review, applications are not project to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Zone Dist: RP

**260 California Avenue 12PLN-00183:** Request by Hayes Group, on behalf of Tarob M&C Investors, LLC, for a Preliminary Architectural Review of a new three-story 27,000 sq. ft. commercial/retail building in the CC2(R)(P) Zone District. Environmental Assessment: Preliminary Review, applications are not subject to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

**Regional Bike Share Program:** Request by the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority and the City of Palo Alto, for the Architectural Review and Recommendation for approval to City Council of bicycle kiosks and docking stations to be distributed at several locations in the Downtown and California Avenue business Districts. Bicycle Share stations will also be provided at the University Avenue Caltrain Station and within Stanford University. Environmental Assessment: Categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

**Amy French**  
Manager of Current Planning



## Page Mill Road development nears finish line

City Council asks for a less 'massive' design; expects to vote on project June 25

by Gennady Sheyner

**A**fter a decade of legal wrangling and plan revisions, developer Harold Hohbach now stands at the cusp of getting Palo Alto's blessing for his proposed three-story building at 195 Page Mill Road.

The City Council signaled its support on Monday, June 4, for bringing a mixed-use development to the 2.5-acre site at Page Mill and Park Boulevard, particularly given the project's inclusion of 84 rental units. But rather than approve the project, the council directed Hohbach to return on June 25 with a revised design that people walking by the building would find more inviting.

The council's 8-0 vote, with Mayor Yiaway Yeh absent, sets the stage for another lengthy public hearing. Council members signaled Monday that if Hohbach were to make the "substantive" changes in the building's design, they would approve the project and thereby end Hohbach's long and messy journey through the city's planning process.

Most members of the council supported the project's concept — a dense, tall building a short stroll from the California Avenue Caltrain station. The council had

asked Hohbach on Oct. 3 to bring the project back under "pedestrian- and transit-oriented development" (PTOD) zoning, a move that would have shrunk the number of residences. The changed zoning would have also prompted a new round of public hearings in front of the city's Architectural Review Board and the Planning and Transportation Commission. Hohbach rejected the idea and requested a vote on the project as submitted, under the existing "general manufacturing" zoning designation.

"We concluded that it made no sense to spend additional time, money and energy to pursue a new PTOD project when we have a virtual PTOD project here on the table," Hohbach's attorney James Janz told the council Monday.

The proposal last year earned the approval of the city's Architectural Review Board, which voted 3-2 to support it. Palo Alto resident Bob Moss, who had battled Hohbach over the project in court, appealed this approval and urged the council Monday to kill the project once and for all. Moss argued, as he had in the past, that the developer hasn't done enough to ensure that the building's

residents would be adequately protected from chemical vapors emitted by a contaminated groundwater plume at the site.

But the bulk of the discussion Monday focused on the project's design, and Moss argued that the building's appearance is reason enough to reject it.

"This project fails the basic test of compliance, compatibility and looking appropriate in a residential zone," Moss said.

Councilwoman Karen Holman agreed and proposed rejecting Hohbach's project. She ultimately voted with her colleagues, but only after Councilman Pat Burt added provisions requiring the developer to come back at the end of the month with "substantive" changes, including public space that encourages people to walk by and improved visual transitions between the new development and adjacent buildings and amenities.

This wasn't the first time the council asked Hohbach to come up with a more pedestrian-friendly design. At its Oct. 3 meeting, the council directed Hohbach to make the project less "massive" and more attractive to people traveling by foot. But the

project that came before them Monday night was essentially the same one they had seen seven months ago. Councilman Sid Espinosa characterized it as a "fortress."

"For folks going down the street, it really creates a mass and a scale that's overwhelming," Espinosa said.

Holman called the proposed development "big-box housing" and said she was "offended to the point of being angry" by the direction the project has taken. She argued that the city often gets projects that are just "good enough" to get approved by the Architectural Review Board.

"This community deserves better," she said. "We absolutely do."

But the council majority agreed the city should not pass up on a chance to add 84 residential units to a neighborhood near the Caltrain station. Councilwoman Nancy Shepherd said she would be willing to support the project even without any further design changes. Vice Mayor Greg Scharff and Councilwoman Gail Price both cited the dearth of rental housing in Palo Alto in explaining their support. The 84 units in Hohbach's proposal would include 17 below-market-rate units.

Scharff said it's rare for the city to get a project with rental housing. Price agreed.

"One of the compelling points for me is the opportunity for a mixed-use project that combines R&D (research and development) and rental housing," Price said. "Rental housing is a need in our community."

If the council were to approve the development later this month, it would conclude a tortuous approval process that's spanned nearly a decade. In 2003, Hohbach had considered applying for a "planned community" zone, which would have allowed him to exceed zoning regulations in exchange for negotiated "public benefits." He ultimately decided to apply under existing zoning designation.

Hohbach received the council's blessing for the project in 2006 but was forced to revise his environmental analysis after a lawsuit by residents Moss and Tom Jordan. Hohbach then changed the residential component to condominiums before reverting to rental units in the current iteration. ■

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

## 1010 Monte Rosa Drive, Menlo Park

### Wonderful Sharon Heights Home with Endless Possibilities

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**Jason Sewald**  
cell: 650.307.8060  
[jason@jasonsewald.com](mailto:jason@jasonsewald.com)  
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CITY HALL

## Mitchell Park Library project delayed by a year

*Palo Alto officials consider legal options after contractors fail to meet deadlines*

by Gennady Sheyner

The construction of Mitchell Park Library and Community Center has fallen behind by more than a year, prompting Palo Alto officials to prepare for a legal battle against the contractors handling the major project.

The new library on Middlefield Road, which is by far the largest component of the \$76 million bond voters passed in 2008, is now expected to be completed in May 2013, more than a year later than the April 2012 deadline in the city's agreement with its general contractor, Flintco. City officials attributed the delay to the inability of Flintco and its subcontractors to waterproof the building and install the windows on time.

Though the project remains well within budget, the time delay peeved the City Council, which heard a status update on the construction Monday night, June 4. Council members have been particularly frustrated by the high number of change orders Flintco has submitted in recent months — requests that have added \$1.7 million to the project's cost, according to a new report from the Public Works Department.

The time delay has added another level of frustration. City Manager James Keene emphasized Monday that there have been "significant delays in the project, and the city has been displeased with the contractor's performance to date." To deal with the problem, the city has retained outside legal counsel. The council is scheduled to hold a closed session with attorneys later this month to consider possible legal

action. Keene suggested that sorting out who is at fault for all the delays would be a process that would stretch beyond the completion of the new library. He said he expects it will be resolved in mediation or arbitration.

Keene and Phil Bobel, assistant director of Public Works, both said that while they don't fully trust the contractor's estimate for the new completion date, the city will do ev-

**'Our confidence level in the contractor, Flintco, and its subcontractors is not high'**

—Phil Bobel, assistant director of Public Works, Palo Alto

everything it can to make sure the \$41 million project is completed as soon as possible. Bobel attributed the latest delay to the inability of a subcontractor, Fast Glass, to get windows installed on time and to Flintco's failures to enforce the deadlines.

"Our confidence level in the contractor, Flintco, and its subcontractors is not high," Bobel said. "However, we're going to work hard to try to exceed this schedule and bring it in before this date."

Council members shared staff's frustrations with the delays. Vice Mayor Greg Scharff called it "really unfortunate that the contractor is not living up to the promises they made to us on this."

The issue of weatherproofing the

building isn't the only recent snag to hit the project. A recent report from the project manager, Turner Construction Company, also refers to the contractor's failure to pass inspections, noting that city and special inspectors have had to re-inspect work several times. The progress report from Turner includes statements: "Little progress on dry-in for the last 4 months." "Work is not always ready when inspection is requested." "Work does not always pass inspection." "Window mock ups failed water leak testing."

The delay is just the latest unpleasant surprise to hit the high-profile project. Last year, the council learned that its design consultants failed to include some key details in their plans, prompting the contractors to raise the cost estimates. The council responded by hiring legal consultants to consider which, if any, contractor was at fault and by mandating regular update reports.

Councilman Larry Klein stressed on Monday the need to keep the public informed on the project's progress. The council also directed staff to include in future monthly reports a description of actions staff has taken to ensure there wouldn't be further delays, as well as milestones the city should expect to meet in the ensuing reporting period.

The Mitchell Park Library is the most ambitious of the three projects included in the 2008 bond. The city has already completed a major renovation of the Downtown Library and is scheduled to refurbish and expand Main Library once the Mitchell Park project is finished. ■

## News Digest

### Aggressive coyotes force Arastradero trail closures

Some trails on the western side of Pearson Arastradero Preserve are temporarily closed to dogs after coyotes in the area exhibited aggressive behavior toward domestic pets.

The City of Palo Alto Community Services department noted the aggression is possibly protective behavior because a den may be nearby. The closures have been in effect since May 31.

The closed trails are Ohlone, Bay Laurel and Woodland Star. Parts of Juan Bautista de Anza Trail and Meadowlark Trail are also closed.

The trails will most likely be closed through December, the length of the denning season for the coyotes, said Daren Anderson, division manager of open space and parks.

The department has U.S. Fish and Wildlife personnel assessing the behaviors and has increased ranger patrols on the trails, he said.

Aggressive coyote behavior during pup season isn't unusual.

"Fish and Wildlife says they see it all the time," Anderson said.

Last year, the department closed the trails from May through December when there were similar incidents of coyote-dog encounters. Rangers tried to open the trails in November but had to re-close them after another aggressive encounter. When trails reopened in January, there were no more incidents, he said.

Any notable incidents can be reported to rangers at 650-329-2423. In an emergency, call Palo Alto Police Communications, 24 hours a day, at 650-329-2413. ■

— Sue Dremann

### Juana Briones property up for sale

The embattled property where Palo Alto pioneer rancher Juana Briones once built her home is for sale for \$5.3 million, following 13 years of lawsuits that ended in the home's demolition last year.

The property's owners, Jaim Nulman and Avelyn Welczer, put the 1.55-acre, south Palo Alto site on the market around May 21, according to various online real estate websites. The 68,389-square-foot parcel, consisting of two lots, is listed by Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Los Altos. The property is located at 4155 Old Adobe Road.

Prior to the home's demolition, the land hosted the city's oldest residence, a 166-year-old adobe building. Juana Briones de Miranda, a healer and humanitarian, ranched in the hills above what are now Foothill Expressway and Arastradero Road.

Nulman and Welczer sought to demolish the building, an amalgam of the original 1844-45 adobe and later additions by other owners. They said it was badly damaged by the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake and had unsuccessfully tried to remove two wings that previous owners had added. The couple planned to build a home.

They won a court case challenging a Palo Alto historic-preservation ordinance, which stated they could not demolish the home. The court said the regulation did not apply to their part of the city at the time an earlier property owner entered into an agreement to receive property-tax benefits in exchange for the home's preservation and scheduled public access.

In 2007, Friends of the Juana Briones House sued and won a stay against the demolition, but on appeal, Nulman and Welczer prevailed.

The home was dismantled in May 2011, and part of the original adobe wall was sold to the nonprofit group Palo Alto Stanford Heritage (PAST) for \$30,000. ■

— Sue Dremann

### Palo Alto to re-examine CPI's hazardous materials

Barron Park residents and officials at Communications and Power Industries (CPI) continue to clash over the company's safety record and its plating shop operations, but on Monday, June 4, the two sides found common ground on one issue — a decision by Palo Alto officials to pursue an independent assessment of CPI's hazardous materials.

Speakers on both sides of the debate said Monday night they support a decision by the City Council to spend \$35,000 on a consultant to study the operations of CPI's plating shop, which is located at 811 Hansen Way, immediately adjacent to several Barron Park residences.

The company, which expanded the plating shop in 2006, prompted concern in the following two years after it accidentally discharged gas containing nitric acid and spilled wastewater containing copper and nickel into Matadero Creek. While CPI has maintained that its operations are completely safe and fully compliant with all federal, state and local regulations, residents have raised alarms about the hazardous materials at the plating shop near their backyards.

Many have called for the city to phase out CPI's operations. Palo Alto already commissioned an amortization study to assess a reasonable amount of time for CPI to recoup its investment in the plating shop before it could be asked to relocate. The 2006 study concluded that 20 years is a reasonable period (14 years, counting from today).

The staff expects the consultant to take about 90 days to complete the analysis, which would then aid the council as it considers whether to ask CPI to phase out its plating-shop operations. ■

— Gennady Sheyner

# Camp Connection

## Summer 2012

For more information about these camps, see our online directory of camps at <http://paloaltoonline.com/biz/summercamps/>.

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#### Palo Alto/Menlo Park/San Carlos

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## Gunn

(continued from page 3)

just right and look back on these four years," the positive memories of high school come through.

"We became some sort of weird, extremely complicated family while we were here and we're about to go through a fairly sloppy divorce," Oyer said. "It's sometimes hard to grasp the magnitude of an occasion.

"If there's ever a time we wished we'd lived in the moment, it might as well be this one."

Going to school at Gunn, he said, "was a great chance, maybe a last chance, to forget everything once in awhile and be a kid," he said.

Guest speaker David Shaw, head football coach at Stanford University, advised graduates to "never stop learning. Activate your mind on things that are interesting to you."

Shaw cited the extraordinary motivation level of Stanford player Andrew Luck toward the end of last season's game against USC, consulting with the coach after a disastrous interception.

"We were down by seven (points) with very little time to go, and the best player in the world had every excuse not to go back out there. We stood in silence for 45 seconds, and I looked at him and said, 'Are you

ready?' And he looked at me and said, 'Oh yeah.'"

Stanford went on to win the game 56-48 in triple overtime.

Shaw told graduates to "set your standards of behavior early," motivate themselves with a positive outlook and "be mentally tough when times are hard."

Gunn English teacher Angela Dellaporta, retiring after teaching at the school since 1983, presented the Faculty Cup Award to graduates Karen Camacho and Malik Gill, chosen by the faculty as best

representing the senior class for their "confidence, creative thinking, adaptability, respect for self and others and social and ethical responsibility."

Villalobos presented the Principal's Cup Award to physics teacher Lettie Weinmann, chosen by students and staff.

"She's giving, intelligent and committed to serving us as a community," Villalobos said. ■

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

# CityView

A round-up of Palo Alto government action this week

## City Council

The council had no meetings this week.

### Council Finance Committee (June 4)

**Park Plaza:** The council voted to direct Harold Hohbach to revise the design of his proposed three-story mixed-use building at 195 Page Mill Road and to return on June 25 with a more pedestrian-friendly design. **Yes:** Burt, Espinosa, Holman, Klein, Price, Scharff, Schmid, Shepherd **Absent:** Yeh

**Hazardous materials:** The council authorized a \$35,000 study to assess CPI's plating-shop operation and prepare technical-support information related to zoning amortization and hazardous-material issues. **Yes:** Burt, Espinosa, Holman, Klein, Price, Scharff, Schmid, Shepherd **Absent:** Yeh

### Council Finance Committee (June 5)

**SAP:** The committee discussed the SAP Security audit and the city's response to the audit's findings and directed staff to return at a later date with a further update. **Yes:** Burt, Price, Shepherd **Absent:** Scharff

### Utilities Advisory Commission (June 6)

**Wireless:** The commission voted to recommend discontinuing the city's efforts to evaluate a Fiber to the Premise system and endorsed a staff proposal to study the feasibility of building a municipal wireless network. **Yes:** Cook, Eglash, Hall, Keller **No:** Foster, Melton, Waldfoegel

### Architectural Review Board (June 7)

**Stanford Shopping Center:** The board voted to approve a site plan by Simon Property Group's proposal to demolish the existing Bloomingdale's store and to build a new freestanding restaurant and five retail buildings. The board excluded from its approval the proposed building near Sand Hill Road and El Camino Real. **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 is scheduled to hold a closed session to discuss existing and potential litigation relating to the California High-Speed Rail Authority and potential litigation relating to water-service charges at the Palo Alto Hills Golf and Country Club. The council will also discuss the Fiscal Year 2013 budget and proposed changes to utility rates and hold a public hearing on California Avenue Area parking bonds. The closed session will begin at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, June 11. Regular meeting will follow in the Council Chambers at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

**BOARD OF EDUCATION ...** The board will vote on a new policy to guide homework practices in the school district, with implementation left up to principals. The board will discuss a proposed school district budget for 2012-13 and also will discuss updates from high school principals on the status of reforms to guidance counseling programs. Following a 5:30 p.m. closed session to discuss legal and personnel matters, the board will convene its public session at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 12, in the boardroom of school district headquarters (25 Churchill Ave.).

**COUNCIL POLICY AND SERVICES COMMITTEE ...** The committee plans to discuss the proposed policies for administering the new Employee Ethics Hotline and consider changes to the city's massage ordinance. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, June 12, in the Council Conference Room at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

**CITY COUNCIL ...** The council will hold a retreat to discuss the city's infrastructure needs and its plan for pursuing a new public-safety building. The meeting will begin at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, June 13, in the Downtown Library (270 Forest Ave.).

**PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION ...** The commission plans to discuss 1095 Channing Ave., a request by John Miller for a conditional use permit allowing the operation of a new pre-kindergarten program with an expanded building, and an after-school day care program. The commission also plans to discuss the Community Services and Facilities element in the city's amended Comprehensive Plan. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, June 13, in the Council Chambers at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

**REGIONAL HOUSING MANDATE COMMITTEE ...** The committee plans to review the Draft Housing Element and hear an update on the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Regional Housing Needs Assessment. The meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 14, in the Council Conference Room at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION ...** The commission plans to discuss a resolution by the Santa Clara County chapter of Move to Amend opposing the Citizens United vs. Federal Election Commission decision by the U.S. Supreme Court. The commission also plans to discuss the Human Service Needs Assessment and hear an update on World Music Day. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 12, in the Council Conference Room at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

## Castilleja

(continued from page 3)

use their voices to "record history" — and not fear making mistakes.

"Seeing the world as it is not' is pretty much the definition of erring, but it is also the essence of imagination, invention and hope," Jenkins said.

"As that suggests, our errors sometimes bear far sweeter fruits than the failure and shame we associate with them.

"This is a hard one because we often suffer severe consequences when we risk it all and fail. But here's the thing: Your space on the planet can be the safe, tiny top of a pin — or a vast rich landscape of experiences and people and places. You can't get there if you don't sign up for that 'adventure in the margin of error.'"

Head of School Nanci Kauffman discussed Harvard University psychologist Howard Gardner's recent book, "Truth, Beauty and Goodness Reframed," which asserts that goodness — moral behavior in the professional, civic and personal realms — is a cornerstone of society.

"The complicated dilemmas that await you will demand that you do what it takes to define a better path, a path to goodness, a path with just and fair outcomes," Kauffman said.

"That is a road you will have to pave for yourself, using the vast array of tools you acquired here." ■

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

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*Clockwise, from top: Palo Alto High School graduates toss their caps in celebration on June 6; faculty and staff applaud graduates after the commencement ceremony on June 2; Linnea Smiley blows bubbles during a speech at Gunn High School's commencement on June 6; Jack Kwan claps for his classmates as they receive their diplomas during Gunn High School commencement exercises.*



Michelle Le



Veronica Weber



Michelle Le



Veronica Weber

# Congratulations class of 2012

GRADUATION 2012

## 'Live now. Share deeply,' Gunn grad counsels

After battling deep depression, student shares her ordeal with classmates

by Chris Kenrick

Shortly after learning of her early admission to Stanford University, a Gunn High School senior last December spiraled into a "deep depression," crying without reason and feeling empty, lost and alone.

Wearing her graduation cap and gown Sunday, June 3, the student, Julia Maggioncalda, recounted her ordeal, and the lessons she's drawn from it, for classmates and their families at Gunn's baccalaureate ceremony in Spangenberg Auditorium.

The ceremony featured poetry, humor and musical performances by a range of senior class members, including Eddie Zhou, Jack Kwan, Alena Rott, Allison Hannah, Fiona Flynn and Jeff Neff.

Maggioncalda struck a somber note, describing her weeks of depression and "total exhaustion."

The four-sport athlete, straight-A student and homecoming queen told classmates she felt "overcome by total exhaustion and a sense of sadness that I couldn't control."

"I couldn't do my homework and I stumbled through basketball practices in a daze. I slept 14 hours a night and woke up exhausted and in tears."

She missed three weeks of school.

"I would cry and I wouldn't know why. I couldn't stop. I felt empty. I felt lost. I felt alone."

Maggioncalda said she got help from her family, her teachers, her doctor and a few friends.

When she finally returned to school, she "heard that people thought I wasn't at school because I was celebrating getting into Stanford early," she said.

"Let me tell you, the lives of others are not always what they seem."

Looking back, Maggioncalda concluded that her four-year obsession with getting accepted by a top college had caused her to miss out on the richness of high school.

"I've often felt alone during high school," she said. "How is it possible to feel so alone when constantly surrounded by classmates and teammates?"

"It's because I felt insecure and I was obsessed with my future. I didn't feel close to my friends or appreciate each moment I was living."

"I was afraid — afraid that not getting into a top school would render my past a failure and my future doomed."

Maggioncalda drew laughs and cheers from the audience when she

recalled some of the high points of her class's four years at Gunn — a hard-fought championship basketball game and this year's seniors winning the school's traditional "airbands" competition.

"Please don't get me wrong; there were definitely some great times in high school," she said.

Maggioncalda said she'll make a point of appreciating such moments "more deeply" in the future, rather than rushing on to the next thing.

She plans to take a gap year, "put my future on hold so I can enjoy the present. So I can wake up each morning looking no further than just the day ahead."



Julia Maggioncalda enjoys a moment with her grandfather Ernie Maggioncalda following her baccalaureate speech at Gunn High School on Sunday, June 3.

Courtesy Maggioncalda family

"And once I go to college I'm going to learn for enjoyment, not for the A. I'm going to make deeper connections with the people around

me and spend less time on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and whatever else gets invented in the next 12 months," she said.

Maggioncalda said she recently shared some "senior wisdom" with a group of freshmen in one of her classes.

"I told them to quit obsessing about the future and enjoy every day they have at Gunn and love the people around them," she said. "I told them I made the mistake of rushing through my four years here, thinking only about my future, and I regret that."

"We've learned a lot during our four years at Gunn ... and most of it is important and we should take it with us."

"But some of what we've learned is unhealthy and should be left behind. We should not sacrifice relationships with people for a letter on a piece of paper."

"So, people, take the good things from Gunn to your new schools next year and make the most of it. All of us will be happy at any college we go to as long as we connect with the people around us and feel like we belong."

"Live now. Share deeply," Maggioncalda said. ■



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More photos from graduation ceremonies at Castilleja, Gunn and Palo Alto high schools, along with lists of graduates from 14 local high schools, are posted on www.PaloAltoOnline.com.

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# Shirley Smith Quinby

June 22, 1924 – May 29, 2012



Shirley Smith Quinby died on May 29 at her home in Palo Alto at the age of 87. She was born in Brawley, California, on June 22, 1924 to Burton and Florence Smith. The family moved to Palo Alto six months later and Shirley grew up there, attending local schools and graduating from Palo Alto High School in 1942. She married Carter Quinby, whom she first met when they appeared together in a play at the Palo Alto Children's Theatre at the age of eleven and who was a fellow Paly Hi alum, in 1943 in Phoenix, Arizona on the eve of his graduation from Army Air Corps pilot training, and accompanied him thereafter as he was stationed at various air bases in Texas, Arizona and New Mexico. When he received his overseas orders in 1945 she returned to Palo Alto where she was employed as a receptionist at the Palo Alto Clinic until shortly before the birth of her first child in 1949, whereupon she retired to devote her life to raising the couple's four children.

Shirley is survived by her husband Carter, a retired San Francisco maritime attorney, her daughter Diana McInnis of Novato, and her sons Peter (Heather Young), of Ashland, OR, Jim (Jo Anne), of Kanab, UT and Joe (Ann Fletcher), of Irvine, four grandchildren and her sister Peggy Averell of Los Altos.

The family acknowledges the caring and attentive assistance rendered by the staff of Pathways Hospice, 585 N. Mary Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94085, and caregivers Debbie Zavala and Herminia Herrera of Older Adults Care Management. Services will be private. Those wishing to contribute in Shirley's memory may send donations to the Pathways Hospice Foundation or the Alzheimer's Association.

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# Pulse

A weekly compendium of vital statistics

## POLICE CALLS

### Palo Alto

May 30 - June 5

#### Violence related

Battery .....2

#### Theft related

Commercial burglaries .....3

Grand theft .....1

Identity theft .....3

Petty theft .....1

Residential burglaries .....1

Shoplifting .....5

#### Vehicle related

Abandoned auto .....1

Driving w/suspended license .....7

Hit and run .....1

Misc. traffic .....3

Theft from auto .....10

Vehicle accident/minor injury .....7

Vehicle accident/property damage .....7

Vehicle impound .....2

#### Alcohol or drug related

Drunk in public .....6

Drunken driving .....1

Possession of drugs .....1

Under influence of drugs .....1

Liquor law/misc. ....1

#### Miscellaneous

Firearm disposal .....1

Found property .....1

Indecent exposure .....1

Located missing person .....1

Lost property .....2

Muni. code/misc. ....1

Outside assistance .....2

Suspicious circumstances .....2

Unattended death .....1

Vandalism .....1

Warrant/other agency .....8

### Menlo Park

May 30 - June 5

#### Violence related

Battery .....2

#### Theft related

Fraud .....4

Petty theft .....6

Residential burglaries .....5

Attempted robbery .....1

#### Vehicle related

Auto theft .....1

Driving w/suspended license .....6

Hit and run .....4

Parking/driving violation .....1

Theft from auto .....2

Vehicle accident/minor injury .....2

Vehicle accident/property damage .....4

Vehicle tow .....6

#### Alcohol or drug related

Drunk in public .....1

Drunken driving .....1

Possession of drugs .....1

Under influence of drugs .....1

#### Miscellaneous

Cancelled case .....2

Coroner case .....1

Disturbance .....4

Disturbing/annoying phone calls .....1

Fire call .....2

Info. case .....1

Juvenile problem .....2

Lost property .....2

Medical aid .....1

Missing person .....1

Psychiatric hold .....2

Vandalism .....3

Warrant arrest .....7

### Atherton

May 30 - June 5

#### Theft related

Commercial burglaries .....1

Fraud .....2

Grand theft .....1

Petty theft .....1

#### Vehicle related

Abandoned auto .....1

Hit and run .....1

Parking/driving violation .....5

(continued on next page)

## George Michael Galvin Sr.

September 12, 1915-June 3, 2012

George Michael Galvin Senior, a 64-year resident of Palo Alto, died in his home on Sunday, June 3rd, at the age of 96.

Born in Seattle, Washington in 1915, Galvin spent much of his youth in the wilds outside Wrangell, Alaska, where his father had a mining company. He attended the University of Washington where he was a member of the Chi Psi fraternity. Galvin was a veteran of World War II, serving as a Captain in General George Patton's Fourth Armored Division, which landed on Utah Beach in the second wave of the invasion of Normandy. Galvin's Eighth Tank Battalion also participated in the liberation of the Buchenwald concentration camp, and his photographs of that event today hang in the Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust. Galvin was a recipient of the Bronze Star for bravery, and two Purple Hearts for wounds sustained in action.

A lifelong airline executive, first with United Airlines and later Northwest, Galvin was a gifted storyteller in the Irish oral tradition and loved nothing more than entertaining friends and family with humorous tales. He was a person of unique character who possessed the ability to wrest humor from even the most ordinary circumstances. Galvin was a longtime member of the Saint Claire Club in San Jose and an enthusiastic horseman and member of the Frontier Boys California riding group.

Galvin, himself, might say he was a man who appreciated adventuresome travel, an entertaining yarn, a spirited horse and a good Cuban cigar.

Galvin is survived by his wife of 69 years, Jean Morrill Galvin, by his children Ann Laveroni of San Carlos, Susan McLester of Berkeley and Michael Galvin of Alameda, as well as seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

PAID OBITUARY

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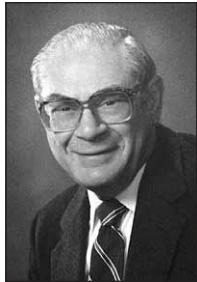
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# Transitions

## Louis Zamvil

Louis Zamvil, a longtime resident of Palo Alto, died at his home May 29. He was 89.

He was a pediatrician in Palo Alto for more than 50 years. He was a member of the clinical faculty at Stanford and taught doctors, medical students and residents. He also helped found two synagogues and was actively involved in the local Jewish community.



"His life was being a pediatrician. He lived and breathed doctoring," his daughter Linda Zamvil said. "He had a commitment to all people getting the best health coverage for whatever their needs. He loved taking care of people and worked into his early 80s."

He was born in Williamsburg, N.Y., to a Romanian Orthodox Jewish family. His parents operated a fruit and vegetable stand. He spent his early life in New York, where he met his future wife, Stella Savage. After high school, he attended the City College of New York.

During World War II, he was drafted and his life took an unexpected turn. "When he was drafted, the Army sent him to a place he'd never heard of — Stanford," Linda Zamvil said. "He actually wanted to be a chemical engineer but he was commanded by the Army to take a pre-med exam."

He was assigned to the medical school at the University of Oregon, where he graduated in 1949. He began his residency training at Stanford in pediatrics until the Korean War interrupted his education. He asked Stella to marry him when he was ordered to serve overseas. He spent 1951 through 1953 in Korea as a captain and military physician.

Upon return, he completed his internship and residency at Stanford and started his pediatric practice in Palo Alto. He was clinical professor of pediatrics at Stanford and taught students and interns until his retirement in 2003. He would frequently make house calls until 10 or 11 p.m. for sick children after his regular workday.

"He believed all people should have good health care and he was very liberal in his politics. He believed that not taking care of immigrants in hospitals was outrageous," Linda Zamvil said.

He was a Stanford sports fan and followed his Cardinal basketball, baseball and football teams. He also enjoyed fishing and driving his sports cars.

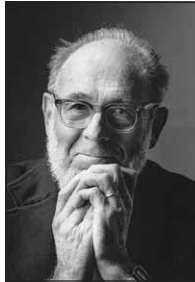
He is survived by his wife of 68 years; three children, Kenneth of Penngrove, Calif., Linda of Stowe, Vt., and Scott of Palo Alto; and eight grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

— *Junesung Lee*

## Avram Goldstein

Avram Goldstein, 92, a Stanford professor of pharmacology and one of the discoverers of endorphins in the late 1970s, died June 1.

He helped create the new Stanford Medical School, founded a journal, organized California's first major methadone program, and made discoveries in his lab about how narcotic drugs work in the brain.



He was born July 3, 1919, in New York City, to Israel and Bert Goldstein and had a younger sister, Vivian. Growing up in Manhattan, he attended the progressive Walden School. The son of a prominent rabbi and Zionist, he became an atheist in childhood and dedicated his life to science.

He was admitted to Harvard University at age 15 but deferred college for a year and worked on a kibbutz in Palestine. After graduating from Harvard (1940) and Harvard Medical School (1943), he served in the U.S. Army in Colorado during World War II, treating soldiers returning from Europe. His first wife, Naomi Friedman, died in a car accident in 1946. He married Dora (Dody) Benedict in 1948. During 63 years of marriage, they moved to Stanford and raised four children.

As a 35-year-old assistant professor at Harvard in 1955, he accepted an offer to chair Stanford's pharmacology department.

While department chair (1955-70), he studied the effects of caffeine in human subjects, founded the journal *Molecular Pharmacology* (1965), wrote *Biostatistics* (1967) and co-authored the textbook *Principles of Drug Action* (1968). In 1969, he turned to opiates such as morphine and heroin at a time when nobody understood their effects on the brain. He developed the methodology for studying how molecules bind to opiate receptors in the brain, a key step in the search for the endorphins.

In the 1970s he worked to isolate and identify the chemical structure of an endorphin receptor and then the endorphin itself. At one point his lab spent four years turning tons of pig pituitaries into two micrograms of purified endorphin. The molecule he discovered was a major endorphin, which he named dynorphin.

Along with his lab research, he worked directly with heroin addicts in San Jose, where he organized California's first major methadone clinic in the early 1970s. Over the years, he advised policymakers on drug policies.

He won the Benjamin Franklin Medal in Life Science (1980) and major awards in pharmacology. He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences and its Institute of Medicine. He published more than 360 research articles. The Avram

Goldstein Professorship in the School of Medicine at Stanford is named for him.

He is survived by his children, Margaret Wallace of Longmont, Colo., Daniel Goldstein of Port Townsend, Wash., Joshua Goldstein of Amherst, Mass., and Michael Goldstein of San Francisco; and five grandchildren. He was pre-deceased by his sister, Vivian Olum, in 1986 and his wife, Dora B. Goldstein, last October.

## Pulse

(continued from previous page)

Suspicious vehicle	9
Theft from auto	1
Vehicle accident/property damage	2
Vehicle code violation	6
<b>Alcohol or Drug Related</b>	
Drunken driving	1
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
Animal call	1
Be on the lookout	1
Citizen assist	4
Disturbance	3
Hang up	1
Hazard	11
Juvenile problem	1
Medical aid	6
Meet citizen	1
Other/misc.	1

Outside assistance	4
Pedestrian check	1
Public works call	1
Suspicious circumstances	3
Suspicious person	1
Ticket sign-off	1
Town ordinance violation	2
Warrant arrest	1
Watermain break	1
Welfare check	3

## VIOLENT CRIMES

<b>Palo Alto</b>	
Undisclosed block University Avenue, 5/31, 10:16 p.m.; battery.	
200 block University Avenue, 6/1, 5:59 p.m.; battery.	
<b>Menlo Park</b>	
100 block Commonwealth Avenue, 5/31, 4:41 p.m.; battery.	
1300 block Willow Road, 6/2, 4:54 a.m.; battery.	

## George Griffin

May 13, 1931 – June 1, 2012

Dr. George D. Griffin, 81, a 61-year resident of Palo Alto, died June 1, 2012. He was born on May 13, 1931, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. He and his family moved around the states living in Minnesota, Washington, Oregon and Ohio.

When he was looking at colleges, he claimed to have chosen Stanford University for his undergrad studies because it was the only co-ed university at the time and he "wanted to learn more about girls." He continued at Stanford, at the School of Medicine, where he earned his medical degree in 1957. A specialist in Orthopaedics, he completed his residency at New York Hospital and a fellowship with Edinburgh University.

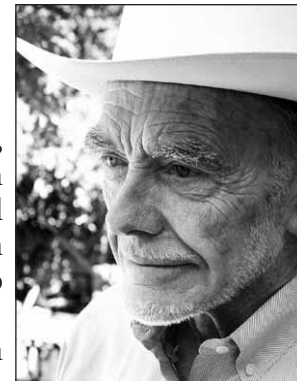
He moved back to Palo Alto and worked at the Palo Alto Medical Clinic for 28 years. He then started his private practice in San Jose and continued to work for another 14 years before he retired in 2011. In addition

to his local work, he worked with pediatric cerebral palsy patients in San Luis Obispo and Paso Robles.

He was an extraordinary doctor, a thoughtful and kind human being and he was well loved by all who knew him.

He is survived by his wife, Genie Laborde Griffin of Palo Alto, Calif.; his daughter, Kathryn Griffin of Palo Alto, Calif.; five step-children of New Orleans, La.; 17 grandchildren and one great-grandchild; his sister, Suzanne Beekley of Atherton, Calif.; and a wide community of family and friends all over the world.

A memorial service will be held at the family home on Saturday, June 9, at 2 p.m.



PAID OBITUARY

## Ann Berg Poulsen

Ann Berg Poulsen, 78, passed away peacefully on May 20th 2012. Born in Edinburgh Scotland, her free and adventurous spirit called her to travel and experience the world outside of a local or school environment.

By the late 1950's she ventured to America and fell in love with the Bay Area after experiencing the rare opportunity to travel to both Europe and South Africa. She settled in Palo Alto, married and then raised a family. She was always a positive, well meaning soul and a child at heart – rare qualities that led to a remarkable bond with children. Her warm nature and natural ability with kids made Ann a special Mom to her own children and "Nana" to the ones she cared for and/or welcomed as family during her years in the child care profession.

In 1995 she moved to Los Altos to prepare, revel and enjoy her golden years. She was

an avid walker in the local area who enjoyed her daily interaction with residents, patrons and shop owners in the downtown community. The special bond she had with children and the many local footsteps she took on her journeys are memories we will cherish for a life-time. Her two twin sons survive her: David Poulsen & Michael Poulsen and her beloved grandsons Christopher and Tyler Poulsen.

A private family service will be held. To commemorate her life, and in tribute to her spirit, we ask that you share a flower or a glass of white wine in her honor with your family or friends.



PAID OBITUARY

## Editorial

# Last chance for Hohbach project

*Frustrated council digs in for improvements to large project at Page Mill Road and Park Boulevard*

**D**eveloper Harold Hohbach's stubbornness in improving the design of his proposed mixed rental housing and research-and-development project may get him a defeat next time he returns to the City Council, if comments from council members are to be taken seriously.

Tensions and frustrations are rising over this controversial project, because Hohbach has largely ignored input from the city throughout the long approval and review process.

As things stand now, the developer has been asked one last time to make "substantive" changes to the design of the building to reduce its over-powering mass and create a more pedestrian-friendly ground floor. The project will return to the council in three weeks.

Hohbach wants to build 84 rental units (originally he proposed condominiums) and more than 50,000 square feet of research-and-development space at 195 Page Mill Road.

The rental housing, which includes 17 below-market-rate (BMR) units on 2.5 acres near the Caltrain station, has attracted the support of housing advocates and city staff, because it will help the city reduce its housing-jobs imbalance and meet our regional housing targets. It also fits nicely with the city's vision of how properties near train stations should be developed.

The saga of this property, which began in 2003, is testament to how a persistent developer who won't budge can end up in a long, drawn-out process that can be made to look like it was the city's fault.

Hohbach's first proposal for the 2.5-acre site was for 50,000-plus square feet of research-and-development space and 84 condominiums. The primary change over nine years is that the condos have been replaced with apartments.

The legal and practical problem for the city is that the land is zoned for general manufacturing, one of the least restrictive zoning designations and one that is entirely inappropriate for that site today.

Hohbach has taken advantage of that zoning, which allows him to build a facility with potential laboratory research uses combined with housing, a mix that is unprecedented in the city and that has drawn the opposition of some community members.

But since Hohbach is within the zoning, the primary approvals he needs relate to the design of the project, not its size or uses.

The council has been clear that it finds the design severely lacking, and we agree.

Council member Sid Espinosa called the project a "fortress." "For folks going down the street, it really creates a mass and a scale that's overwhelming," Espinosa said.

Karen Holman called it "big-box housing," and only voted to keep the project alive after Councilman Pat Burt included provisions in the successful motion that requires Hohbach to do "substantive" changes when he comes back for what could be final approval later this month.

The council is correct to stick to its guns. This is a large and important undeveloped parcel, and we have one chance to approve and get built something that is attractive and well-designed.

The council's suggestions are reasonable revisions that would require the project's public spaces to be more inviting to passers-by and provide a better transition between the development and adjoining properties.

Hohbach displayed his well-known stubborn streak to the council by ignoring their suggestion last October to bring back a project under "pedestrian-and-transit-oriented development (PTOD) zoning."

Hohbach and his attorney understandably said they were not interested in undergoing a new round of hearings before the Architectural and Review Board (ARB) and the Planning Commission that would have been required by such a change and asked for a vote on the plan as submitted.

In 2006, the council approved essentially the same project that was before them this week, but was forced to rescind it when Palo Alto residents and land-use watchdogs Bob Moss and Tom Jordan filed a lawsuit, claiming the project was not doing enough to protect residents from a toxic plume flowing under the property from the Stanford Research Park.

The challenge was not supported by the Regional Water Quality Control Board, which oversees issues regarding the plume. The board approved the proposed safeguards submitted by Hohbach to use a vapor barrier and a ventilation system, which Moss continues to believe are inadequate.

The council wants to support housing near transit and 195 Page Mill fills the bill. But that should not come at the expense of a lousy design. We hope Hohbach finally listens this time and brings back a design that can win council approval so that he can get his wish ... to begin the project before his 90th birthday this December.

# Spectrum

*Editorials, letters and opinions*

## Goodbye to Ginny Russell

Editor,

I read sadly about Ginny Russell's departure from Fairmeadow (Weekly, June 1, 2012). My children will always remember their time in Ginny's classroom as one of the most joyful and stimulating times of their lives. She engaged children by weaving lessons about symmetry, reading and writing skills, math and color theory into art and music projects. The children hardly knew they were learning they were having so much fun.

Some of the most beautiful art my children created in elementary school was born in her classroom. Ginny transformed her entire classroom into a butterfly habitat, immersing children in the amazing lifecycles of these creatures through art and some of the most creative hands-on learning I have seen. Her celebration of Chinese New Year lasted for weeks and involved building an elaborate and beautiful dragon, not just dancing with a commercially manufactured beast.

She also created a classroom community that carried forward for years. The friendships nurtured in that room are still dear to us. Ginny taught our children how to be thoughtful community members. She taught the art of building deep, loving and lasting friendships.

What a year that was! Now we are in high school and middle school. Our family still looks back on our time with Ginny as one our fondest elementary school memories.

Thank you, Ginny Russell.

The Ellison Family  
El Capitan Place  
Palo Alto

## Voter beware

Editor,

Contrary to my usual permanent-absentee-ballot procrastination, I actually completed and mailed off my June 5 ballot last week.

I was therefore beyond horrified to read last night that the Weekly most rightfully withdrew its endorsement of Steven Pogue for one of two judgeships. I find his past financial support of Proposition 8 a complete deal-breaker at best. A civilized society does not put the civil rights of its citizens to a popular vote.

Although I immediately emailed Barry Garner, head of Santa Clara County's Registrar of Voters, for help, my ballot has already been processed, and there is nothing he can do to help.

I write not to blame the Palo Alto Weekly for its earlier endorsement, but as a cautionary tale to other voters. Perhaps it is best that we voters do independent research on candidates regarding "deal-breaker" issues such as these.

Vera M. Shadle  
Bibbits Drive  
Palo Alto

## Touching story

Editor,

Your story about Ginny Russell really spoke to me. It was so well written and if we had teachers like Ms. Russell, I think our world would be a much better place. Yes, children need to interact, find out who they are and be accepted rather than be in constant competition. I know another Ginny Russell, she taught in many elementary schools in Illinois. She found out what the older children were studying, especially about the cultures in other lands, and she did art projects taken from that culture and "her" children responded. When she came into the classroom, the children all got up to give her hugs and their "real" teacher was delighted to see her classroom come alive. Yes, we need Ms. Russell and although I am not rich, I would love to contribute to a classroom taught by her.

Marjorie Van Anel  
Santa Cruz Avenue  
Menlo Park

## Civil discourse

Editor,

I am writing in support of civil discourse at the Palo Alto Unified

School District meetings. Susan Bailey, who spoke at the school board meeting on May 31, represented a group of parents from several schools in Palo Alto, including Gunn.

Susan is the current Paly PTSA president but she was commenting only on the need for a thoughtful and positive process: "We appreciate the Board and staff's openness and willingness to seek input from all stakeholders. However, when that external input starts to inhibit and prevent the staff and board from being able to efficiently and effectively pursue positive change and serve the students of our district we get concerned."

Although I happen to be Gunn's PTSA president, I am, like Susan Bailey, speaking as a member of the Palo Alto schools community on behalf of parents who care that the district be thoughtful and that dialogue be constructive. I urge all those who care about our schools and our kids to be constructive and thoughtful.

Karen Saxena  
Magnolia Drive  
Palo Alto

## YOUR TURN

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

**What do you think?** Do you think the city should approve the mixed-use project at 195 Page Mill Road?

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

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

Submitting a letter to the editor or guest opinion constitutes a granting of permission to the Palo Alto Weekly and Embarcadero Media to also publish it online, including in our online archives and as a post on Town Square.

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





## Check out Town Square!

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

## Guest Opinion

# Legislators need courage to end high-speed rail now

by Larry Klein

**R**eaders! Please inundate our local state legislators with calls, emails, tweets, whatever, urging them to vote **no** on high-speed rail. No hedging their bets, kicking the can down the road or face-saving compromises. Just vote **no** and end this terrible boondoggle.



In particular, the education community at all levels should be concerned that the state Legislature may pass a budget this month authorizing nearly \$3 billion of high-speed rail bonds. The money necessary to repay these bonds — up to \$700 million per year — will “crowd out” other items from the state budget, most likely education.

Recent polling shows another connection between education and high-speed rail. When first questioned those polled support the Governor's proposed tax increase on the November ballot, passage of which is necessary to avoid major cuts in education. The same polling reveals that high-speed rail has become unpopular with the electorate. When those polled are told that under the Governor's plan the money raised isn't legally committed to education but could be used for other purposes, such as high-speed rail, support plummets. These potential voters apparently had no problem in connecting the dots.

We should be hearing education leaders

speak about how high-speed rail will have a negative impact on California education but silence seems to be the rule so far.

As time has passed since the voters narrowly passed Proposition 1A in 2008 authorizing \$9.9 billion in bonds for high-speed rail, subject to legislative approval, it has become increasingly clear that this idea is deeply flawed. Indeed, there are so many things wrong with it that high-speed rail opponents have difficulty in agreeing which flaw is the worst. Here are some of the candidates, any one of which ought to sink high-speed rail:

- The estimated costs have nearly tripled since 2008. That's an extra \$30 billion to \$60 billion.

- The ridership estimates have been exposed as ridiculously high.

- The high-speed rail proposal as we now know it is not what the voters approved in 2008. Plain and simple, the voters were misled.

- There is no credible identified source of funding for the additional \$60 billion to \$75 billion that would be needed to complete the project.

- The high-speed rail authority's estimate that it can operate trains at a cost of 10 cents per passenger mile is ludicrously low. France, which has been operating high-speed trains for 30 years, appears to be the world's lowest cost leader at 20 cents per passenger mile and most other nations are around 30 cents.

Voters have picked up on these shortcomings and I hear from constituents that this project just has to be at death's door. Other local elected officials report similar dis-

*At present no Democrat has announced that he/she will vote against high-speed rail and no Republican has declared to vote for it.*

cussions. But the truth is that despite these seemingly fatal flaws and negative poll results high-speed rail is alive and well in Sacramento. Authorization for the sale of \$3 billion in bonds and even a significant loosening of environmental laws as they apply to high-speed rail are likely to pass the legislature. This amazing disconnect between Sacramento and California citizens seems traceable to the Governor's desire to leave a legacy, a belief that we ought to back anything that would increase jobs (even if the number of jobs is wildly exaggerated) and party discipline. At present no Democrat has announced that he/she will vote against high-speed rail and no Republican has declared to vote for it.

I am in my 16th year as a local elected official and like to think that I have learned something about politics and politicians during that time. Here are some things I believe: 1) Joe Simitian, Rich Gordon and Jerry Hill are excellent legislators; I have voted for all of them and expect I will again; 2) politics is usually compromise; and 3) it's hard to buck calls for party discipline.

But there are issues that are so important

that one has to stand up and be counted even at the risk of a career. I believe high-speed rail is such an issue. California can't afford to waste billions of dollars on an unrealistic vanity project.

In his book “Profiles in Courage” then Sen. John F. Kennedy wrote of eight United States Senators who, at various times in our history, took principled, lonely stands on major issues at the risk of incurring the wrath of their party. In praising their courage JFK wrote, “the senator who follows the independent course of conscience is likely to discover that he has earned the disdain not only of his colleagues in the Senate and his associates in the party but also that of the all-important contributors to his campaign fund.”

To counter that pressure our office-holders need to hear from their constituents. Let's help them achieve their Profile in Courage moment by letting them know of our support for a No vote on high-speed rail. ■

*Larry Klein is a member of the Palo Alto City Council, 1981 to 1989 and 2005 to date, and is chair of the city's Rail Committee.*

How to contact your local legislators:

**State Sen. Joe Simitian**

Senator.simitian@senate.ca.gov  
650-688 6384; 916-651-4011

**Assemblyman Rich Gordon**

assemblymember.gordon@assembly.ca.gov  
650-691-2121; 916-319-2021

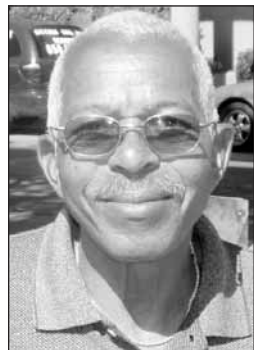
**Assemblyman Jerry Hill**

Assemblymember.hill@assembly.ca.gov  
650-349-1900; 916-319-2019

# Streetwise

## Did you vote June 5, and if so, what made you want to vote?

Asked on Middlefield Road and Cambridge Avenue in Palo Alto. Interviews and photographs by Junesung Lee.



**Tony Boglin**  
Marketing vice president  
College Terrace

“Yes, I believe it's my obligation.”



**Tatiana Van Houten**  
Retired teacher  
Midtown

“Yes, I always vote. I feel that's part of being a citizen. I have an input in our government, and I'm proud of living in a country where I can vote.”



**Lennie Stovel**  
Retired  
Midtown

“Yes, I always vote. I think it's good citizenship.”



**Edward Sprague**  
Physician  
Midtown

“I voted by absentee ballot because of Prop. 29.”



**Elisabeth Seaman**  
Mediator  
Saint Francis Drive

“I voted by absentee ballot. I think it's important for citizens to vote and participate as a member of his country.”

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Suite 190  
408.871.8890

**Danville**  
1901-F Camino Ramon  
Danville, CA 94526  
925.866.6164

**Corte Madera**  
801 Tamalpais Drive  
Corte Madera, CA 94925  
415.924.6691

## Guest Opinion

## Understanding and rehabilitating the teen brain

by Lavanya Mahadevan

It is 1:30 in the morning. A faint glow emanates from the slightly ajar door of a bedroom. The mother of a 16-year-old opens the door and flicks on the lights.



"Exactly what do you think you are doing? It is almost 2 a.m. on a school night and you are still playing videogames!" screeches the mom.

After a distinct pause, the boy retorts, "I've already finished all my homework and I have only been playing for an hour."

The mother responds sharply, "You started playing at 10 p.m., almost three hours ago. You have completely lost track of time. Do you think that this is a problem?"

The teen does not even notice his addiction and that three hours have elapsed. This common scene plays out in households across the world. Teens and adults look at the same scenario in different ways. Welcome to the world of a moody, reckless, self-absorbed teen. You might ask, "Why is there such a difference between adults and your average teen?" The answer is deeply rooted in the brain itself.

Teenagers are commonly seen as selfish and inconsiderate. While this may be true, it is not for the reasons you might think. Through no fault of their own, teens do not have the ability to think about the implications of their actions. Before you judge teenagers, you should first examine how their brains develop.

The frontal lobes of teenagers are not completely connected because they lack the thick myelin sheaths (white matter) that are found in adult brains. The function of the white matter is to improve the transmission efficiency of nerve cells and also connect the frontal lobe to the rest of the brain. Complex behavioral responses follow the development and full connection of the frontal lobes. This part of the brain controls all functions that make adults reasonable and responsible, such as impulse control, good judgment and planning ahead of time.

Since a teenager does not have "full access" to this part of the brain, he or she recruits other parts of the brain for somewhat similar functions. In a recent study, examiners asked teenagers and adults questions about their seating preferences in a movie theater. Both parties had similar answers; however teenagers tended to use their temporal sulcus instead of the pre-frontal cortex. While the temporal sulcus guides decision-making based on past actions, the prefrontal cortex factors in prior knowledge and past experiences in making these same decisions.

Relying on a developing brain may seem counter intuitive but there are advantages. The flexible nature of the maturing brain allows it to mold

and change its nature, unlike the fully developed brain. As a result, children and teens tend to learn a lot faster than their mature counterparts.

Being able to quickly learn and absorb information from your environment is a mixed blessing for the maturing brain because of its susceptibility to addiction. Studies have demonstrated that spending excessive amounts of time playing video games or using media to stimulate the brain produces dopamine (a chemical that induces happiness in the reward center of the brain). Imaging studies have shown that this increases the size of the reward center in the brain. Similar changes have been noted in heroin addicts.

"Up to 90 percent of American youngsters play video games and as many as 15 percent of them — more than 5 million kids — may be addicted, according to data cited in the AMA council's report." (Video

game addiction: a medical disorder?, Daniel Sieberg). "Symptoms" of this addiction include neglecting schoolwork, family and friends, and distraction during other activities because of gaming.

With the explosive growth of media use among teenagers, this problem has reached epidemic proportions. However, all hope is not lost and we can still reverse the ill effects of media exposure on the brain. Through research, we now know that positive and negative connections made during the brain's maturation will remain with you for the rest of your life. Frequent use of specific neural connections (or synapses) will strengthen them while the unused synapses will waste away. Our goal should be to participate in group activities, such as art and music, which enrich and regenerate the important and positive synapses in our brain. By working in small groups, we strengthen the ties

and relationships that reduce the risk for depression.

Based on this research, I think that both art and music should be a required part of the high school and middle school curriculum. By reading books or listening to audio books, our brains are forced to conjure up images whereas watching television or playing video games just gives us the images. Books of any form can also be used to reverse the unfavorable effects of media on the teen brain. Athletics are another brain-enriching activity; since "athletes, in their sport, must routinely make split-second decisions in often very complex environments (e.g., whether to pass or kick the incoming soccer ball), it would make sense to me that they would have superior skill sets in processing the fast-paced information" (How sports may focus the brain, Reynolds). Therefore, sports should also be required through every

year of high school.

Understanding the teen brain can help adults better understand and reset their expectations about teens. While adults (such as parents and teachers) need to set limits and monitor teens, there is a very fine balance between controlling them and giving them the room to grow and develop. I hope that adults in charge of setting school curricula will become more educated about the strengths and weaknesses of the teen brain, and make reading, art, music and sports a requirement rather than an option through all of the teen years. By doing so, teens can avoid the pitfalls of addiction and develop good habits that will last their whole lives. ■

*Lavanya Mahadevan is a student at Jordan Middle School and won honorable mention for this article in the DuPont Challenge essay contest.*



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 Best Fusion Restaurant  
 Best Indian Restaurant  
 Best Italian Restaurant  
 Best Latin American Cuisine  
 Best Meal Under \$20  
 Best Mediterranean Restaurant  
 Best Mexican Restaurant  
 Best New Restaurant  
 Best Outdoor Dining  
 Best Restaurant To Splurge  
 Best Romantic Restaurant  
 Best Solo Dining  
 Best Sports Bar  
 Best Sunday Brunch  
 Best Sushi/Japanese Restaurant  
 Best Thai Restaurant  
 Best Vegetarian/Vegan Cuisine  
 Best Wine Bar

## LANE 2

- FOOD & DRINK**  
 Best Bagels  
 Best Bakery/Desserts  
 Best Breakfast  
 Best Burgers  
 Best Burrito  
 Best Deli/Sandwiches  
 Best Grocery Store  
 Best Happy Hour  
 Best Ice Cream/Gelato  
 Best Milkshake  
 Best New Food/Drink Establishment  
 Best Pizza  
 Best Produce  
 Best Salads  
 Best Seafood  
 Best Steak  
 Best Takeout  
 Best Yogurt

## LANE 3

- SERVICE**  
 Best Auto Care  
 Best Chiropractor  
 Best Day Spa  
 Best Dentist  
 Best Dry Cleaner  
 Best Fitness Classes  
 Best Frame Shop  
 Best Gym  
 Best Hair Salon  
 Best Hotel  
 Best Manicure/Pedicure  
 Best Massage  
 Best Men's Haircut  
 Best New Service Business  
 Best Orthodontist  
 Best Personal Trainer  
 Best Plumber  
 Best Shoe Repair  
 Best Skin Care  
 Best Travel Agency  
 Best Value Hotel/Motel  
 Best Veterinarian  
 Best Yoga

## LANE 4

- RETAIL**  
 Best Beauty Supply  
 Best Bike Shop  
 Best Bookstore  
 Best Boutique  
 Best Eyewear  
 Best Flower Shop  
 Best Furniture Store  
 Best Gift Shop  
 Best Green Business  
 Best Hardware Store  
 Best Home Furnishings  
 Best Jewelry Store  
 Best Lingerie Wear  
 Best Men's Apparel  
 Best New Retail Business  
 Best Nursery/Garden Supply  
 Best Pet Store  
 Best Pharmacy  
 Best Shoe Store  
 Best Sporting Goods and Apparel  
 Best Stationery Store  
 Best Toy Store  
 Best Women's Apparel

## LANE 5

- ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**  
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 Best Live Entertainment  
 Best Nightlife Place  
 Best Wifi Hot Spot  
 Best Palo Alto Park  
 Best Place To Go For A Run  
 Best Place For A Kid's Playdate

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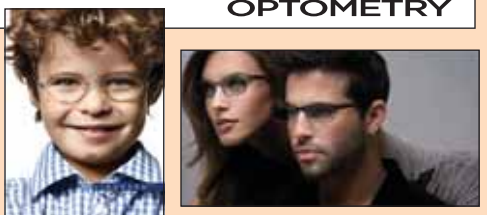
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# Looking ahead, with a glance back

*Six new high school graduates ponder their worlds*

by Chris Kenrick



**Yilin Liang: 'Explore the options, and make time'**

Yilin Liang spoke no English when, at age 6, she emigrated with her parents from Jinan, China, to Baltimore.

So it hardly fazed her to land in Palo Alto six years later to begin seventh grade at Terman Middle School.

"I'd gotten used to making friends," Liang said in her long-since-perfected American English.

"I like to talk to people. I guess I just have a more outgoing personality."

"I just remember that the academics in Palo Alto were a lot more difficult than the school I was in before."

Liang's passions at Gunn High School have been Model United Nations and French Club. She also plays cello in the school orchestra and has been an editor and writer for the school newspaper, *The Oracle*.

A highlight was a Model UN trip to Washington, D.C., this year, where Liang participated in a historical simulation as a delegate to the Weimar Republic assembly on post-World War I reconstruction.

The Model UN-ers toured the Capitol, listened in on the House of Representatives and met with interns in the office of U.S. Rep. Anna Eshoo.

"These were people who were in college or recently out of college. I'm going to be there next, and it was really interesting to hear them talk about their work," Liang said.

An enthusiastic student of

French since middle school, Liang has made crepes and helped with the French Waiter Relay Race for Gunn's French Club but has yet to travel to France.

This summer, for the first time since eighth grade, she'll go back to China — Shanghai, Beijing, Hong Kong, and a visit to her grandparents in Jinan — along with her parents and Gunn classmate Delia Gratta.

"I don't know that much Mandarin in terms of reading and writing, and Delia doesn't know any either, so I don't know if we could survive without my parents," said Liang, who speaks Mandarin at home but stopped going to Saturday Chinese school years ago.

This fall, she'll enroll at Wellesley College in Massachusetts, where she's contemplating a major in biology or possibly neuroscience.

What Liang will most miss about Gunn are the people.

"Everyone here is really accepting, and I've gotten to know them really well over four years."

She'll least miss "the campus itself — it's not the most artistically appealing."

For a newcomer, she'd advise: "Explore the options outside of academics. Do what you like in terms of extracurriculars — don't just do it to put it on your college resume."

And dealing with academic stress? "Make time to do other things, hang out with friends."

"I took Friday nights off, usually," she said, "but I definitely worked hard on Saturdays."

Nearly 1,000 students graduated from Palo Alto's public high schools this week. Ceremonies Wednesday at Gunn High School celebrated 491 graduates. Similar festivities at Palo Alto High School honored 471.

And Tuesday, more than 10 students at the Hospital School, run by the Palo Alto Unified School District at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, traded hospital gowns for graduation gowns to receive their high school diplomas. Among them was Gunn senior William Wylie-Modro, who received a heart transplant May 4.

Wylie-Modro plans to take a gap year to recover from the surgery before pursuing studies in aeronautical engineering at the University of California at San Diego.

In student profiles below, six randomly selected Palo Alto graduates reflect on the world they grew up in and what lies ahead.



**Benjamin Macias: 'We are the future'**

College football and, later, the U.S. Marine Corps are in the post-graduation plans of Palo Alto High School senior Benjamin Macias.

Macias, who said his mother moved him here because of Palo Alto's reputation for good schools, arrived in time for sixth grade at Jane Lathrop Stanford Middle School.

Football — first through Pop Warner and later through Paly — has been one of his major passions since then.

Despite four knee surgeries, he's determined to keep on playing — this fall for West Valley College in Saratoga, which he chose over Foothill College because of friends in the football program there.

Macias' most recent knee surgery — on his left ACL — was just a month ago, but he's already back on his feet and beginning a

job at Jamba Juice.

"My surgeon's very aggressive with his recovery," Macias explained. "He's a team surgeon for the Raiders and the Sharks, and those guys like to get up and get going."

Frustratingly, the injuries kept Macias sidelined his junior year, when Paly won the state championship.

"But I was on the sidelines for every game and at every practice. I just couldn't play," he said.

"It was really hard, but it was still fun."

What Macias will miss the most about Paly are football games and Spirit Week.

What he'll miss the least? "Finals, probably."

From West Valley Macias plans to transfer to a four-year school and, following graduation, join the Marines, with hopes of becoming an officer.

That plan, which he's been considering for several years, solidified after conversations with a Marine who has served in Africa, Thailand and Afghanistan.

"He said it was a good experience and, overall, changed him a lot for the better," Macias said.

Macias expects his life will be "very different" from the lives of his parents.

"My mom had me at 17, so there's a difference right there because I'm 18 and am not going to have a kid for a long time," he said.

"She's been trying to make sure I stay on the right track and everything."

Macias also expects he will be "more lenient" than his father.

As for what distinguishes his generation from that of his parents, he answers: "I don't know, to be honest. But we are the future."

## Peter Rockhold: Building on opportunities



During childhood visits to his grandfather, a retired naval officer in San Diego, Peter Rockhold loved seeing the aircraft carriers docked at Naval Base Coronado and watching the F/A-18 fighter jets buzzing around.

When it came time to apply to college, those memories prompted him to go on the Internet and figure out how to apply to the U.S. Naval Academy.

He competed through the review process to win a nomination from U.S. Rep. Anna Eschuo and, finally, admission to the academy.

Later this month, Rockhold heads to Annapolis to take his induction oath and begin his “plebe” year on June 26.

“I expect a lot of running and a lot of humidity,” he said. “Lots of push-ups, lots of detailers yelling at you — and not a lot of sleep.”

A member of Paly’s water polo and swim teams for all four years — he co-captained varsity water polo this year — Rockhold expects to play water polo for Navy.

Right now he’s trying to prepare for the rigors of plebe life by running as much as possible.

“I’m an aquatic athlete so don’t really thrive outside the water, so I’m trying to run as much as I can because I know that’s my main weakness right now,” he said.

Besides sports, Rockhold plays trombone with the Paly band, an instrument he picked

up in fifth-grade music class at Duveneck Elementary School.

And after taking Paly’s auto-shop class for the past two years, he spends time tinkering with the red ’63 Ford F100 pick-up truck that was a 16th-birthday gift from his parents.

What Rockhold says he’ll miss the most about Paly are his friends, and “the winters.”

He draws a blank when asked what he’ll miss the least.

“I loved growing up here, and I can’t think of anything I’d really change about Palo Alto, especially Paly,” he said.

Nonetheless, he does not expect his life to be much like those of his parents.

For one thing, he aspires to become a Navy pilot, a career that entails a lengthy commitment to military service and one he envisions will be nothing like his parents’ work in graphic design and finance.

As for what distinguishes his generation, Rockhold thinks he and his cohort have received more help than those in the past.

“I think my parents’ generation had to do a lot more for themselves when they were young,” he said. “I think our generation is getting a lot of extra help from everybody around them to make sure they succeed.”

“We’ve been given a lot, and we need to have the drive to take advantage of all the opportunities.”

## Karen Camacho: A long journey, with help along the way

It’s been a long journey from childhood in Jalisco, Mexico, to a spot in Stanford University’s freshman class, and Gunn senior Karen Camacho credits many who have helped her along the way.

When she arrived in Palo Alto speaking no English as a 6-year-old kindergartner, a Hispanic teacher at Barron Park Elementary School eased the transition.

She settled with her family, including two older siblings, in the trailer park behind Jamba Juice on El Camino Real.

But in first grade, Camacho’s mother recalls her coming home crying, “because I didn’t understand the teacher, and the teacher didn’t understand me.”

Intervention from the principal, as well as participation in Palo Alto’s English Language Learners Program, smoothed the way until, in fourth grade, “I was on the same level as everyone else,” Camacho said.

At Terman, Camacho’s participation in the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program, which aims to boost academic per-

formance of underserved youth, helped her along. It was her AVID teacher who tipped her off to another program, the nonprofit Council of Goodness, that she hoped would help her get into a private high school.

Though she did not get accepted at Castilleja, as she’d hoped, Camacho said her participation in the Council of Goodness has dramatically changed her life.

“We do meditation, set our goals and talk about our highs and lows of the week,” she said.

“We take vows that we will help others. Many people don’t understand the importance of just giving free help, giving up a lot of time for the good feeling of being able to make that other person feel capable and better.”

In Camacho’s case, the regular service involves teaching mothers and children to read English every Saturday at Fair Oaks Elementary School in Redwood City.

At Gunn, she has chaired the Latino Student Union, organizing lunchtime sales of tostadas

## Max Najork: Shaping — and being shaped by — technology

When Max Najork was 7, his father bought him a used computer to play around with — “and I’ve kind of been hooked on technology ever since,” the Paly senior said.

His passion for tech has kept him on Paly’s robotics team all four years, the past two years as captain.

The team recently competed in St. Louis in the FIRST Robotics Championship, which draws the top 400 of the world’s more than 4,000 robotics teams.

Using the computers and machine shop in Paly’s robotics lab, the team designed and built a basketball-playing robot capable of driving to a wall with baskets at four different heights and shooting Nerf basketballs about half the size of real basketballs.

“At the end of every round, we drive the robot onto a seesaw and try to balance it for extra points,” Najork said.

Najork’s enthusiasm for technology also landed him a job with Lockheed Martin through Paly’s Exploratory Experiences Program.

For the past year he’s worked on a geostationary lightning-mapper project sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). It involves a 500-frame-per-second satellite-mounted camera that monitors lightning activity as an early-warning system for tornadoes.

The goal is to dramatically increase the lead time and accuracy of current tornado-warning systems.



Najork hopes to continue working at Lockheed this summer, as well as take a western-states road trip with three Paly friends, before heading to the University of Michigan to pursue mechanical engineering or computer science.

He holds dual U.S. and German citizenship — his German father and Jordanian mother met as students at the University of Illinois — but eventually hopes to settle in his native Bay Area.

“I’ve learned through robotics that my passion is being given a problem that doesn’t necessarily have a given solution, and then

(continued on page 27)



(continued on page 27)



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Ravenswood City School District Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing at their regular Board meeting of June 14, 2012 at 7:30pm or as soon thereafter as practicable, regarding the District computer/website access filtering process. The hearing will take place in the Board meeting room, District Administration Building, 2120 Euclid Avenue, East Palo Alto, CA 94303. The District is required to have a filtering system that prevents students and/or staff from accessing websites that may contain information that would be determined inappropriate for academic purposes. This is an opportunity for parents to voice their concerns and provide input regarding the District's technology filtering system.

**Isha Thapa: Connected around the world**

Isha Thapa stumbled onto her first bridge class while a student at Terman Middle School, which offered an extracurricular bridge program.

She loved it. That gave her father, Mukund Thapa, the perfect excuse to rekindle his own youthful love of the card game. Daughter and father play frequently in local tournaments and have traveled to Florida, Tennessee and Washington for others.

This summer, Isha Thapa — who became a “life master” at bridge last year — heads to Beijing to represent the United States in the World Youth Team Championships.

She's the second youngest of six who are going to China to represent the women's under-26 youth team. The youngest, her partner, is a 14-year-old girl from Texas.

She has yet to meet her teammates face to face, but they've spent plenty of time playing online. For Thapa, that means at least eight hours a week devoted to bridge.

Prior to Beijing, team members will gather at the North American Bridge Championship in Philadelphia to meet and practice in person.

Even before that, Thapa will travel with her parents to India and Sri Lanka for a wedding — not neglecting daily, online practice with her bridge partner in Texas.

Outside the world of bridge, Thapa plays piano and sings alto in the Gunn Concert Choir, which recently returned from a competition in New York.

In August, she'll enroll at the University of California, Berkeley, where she's not yet sure of a major but “probably something in the math-science direction.”

Thapa, who's lived her entire life in Palo Alto, will most miss her friends and the “close-knit community” at Gunn.

She'll least miss having to get up early in the morning.

As for her generation, she said: “I think we see the world differently because of social networking.

“Everything suddenly becomes a lot more personal. You can get constant updates on people's lives without even talking to them.”



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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN That The Palo Alto City Council Will Hold A Public Hearing At The Regularly Scheduled Meeting On Monday, June 25, 2012 At 7:00 P.M. Or As Near Thereafter As Possible, In The Council Chambers, 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, To Consider Discussion and Direction Regarding City Policy for the Use of Utility Substation Sites, City Hall and Other City Property for Siting Wireless Communications Facilities.

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## Najork

(continued from page 25)

come up with creative and elegant solutions," he said.

"I like the open-ended environment here, with startups and software companies, where the biggest resources are the workers."

As he leaves Paly, Najork said he'll most miss his friends, many of whom are headed to colleges on the East Coast.

As for the academic stress, he said, he coped by compartmentalizing.

"I realized school isn't my entire life," he said.

"I worked hard and definitely studied a lot, but I didn't really let a bad test score get me down. School was school, and when I left that, I was with friends and just put it behind me."

The exponential rate at which technology is advancing guarantees that his life will be quite different from those of his parents, Najork said.

"What's in store for me and my generation in terms of technology and how people will live their lives and community with each other will vastly evolve. Every decade people will look back and say, 'Wow, I have no clue how we got here.'" ■

## Camacho

(continued from page 25)

and pan dulce, creating a library altar for Dia de los Muertos, making presentations on Latino culture and organizing visits to nearby colleges.

She also has worked as a tutor and as a volunteer at the East Palo Alto Library.

Camacho said she'll most miss the teachers and counselors at Gunn.

"I've gotten to know many of them. They're pretty friendly and helpful, not just talking about school stuff but also personal things I share with them. They just helped a lot in guiding me."

She will least miss "the stress, definitely the stress."

"It's really hard to take a lot of advanced classes and manage your time. ... I've heard at Stanford it's not like that. Classes are only for a few hours so hopefully I'll have time to do more activities."

Camacho's course load included AP French, AP Biology, AB Calculus, AP Economics, AP Psychology, AP Spanish and advanced English.

She expects her life to be "completely different" from those of her parents.

"My mom had a middle-school education, and my dad received a GED, so they were never able to help me with school work. That's why I searched for help here at Gunn," she said.

"I have a lot of friends from diverse groups, and I find myself comfortable in this community, so I think I'll be able to fit in at Stanford as well." ■

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

**About the cover:** Gunn graduate Heather Nolan. Photo by Veronica Weber.

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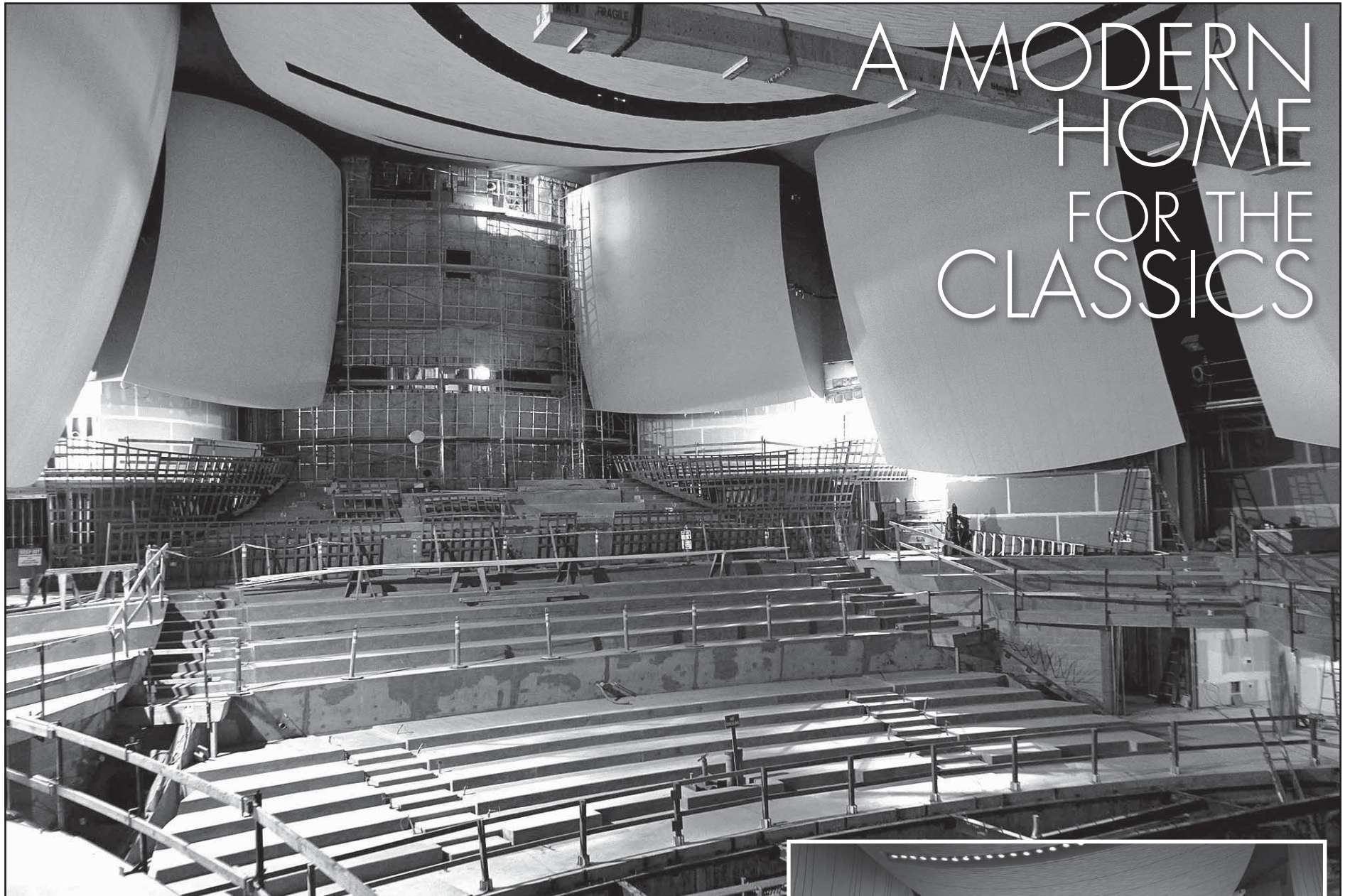
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# Arts & Entertainment

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



Top: White acoustic panels hover over the audience in the under-construction Bing Concert Hall. Above: Matt Rodriguez, director of operations and production for Stanford Live, talks about the aesthetics of the hall's lobby. Right: A design rendering by Ennead Architects.

WITH A NEW NAME AND A RISING CONCERT HALL, STANFORD LIVE PLANS A SEASON OF BEETHOVEN AND BAROQUE

story by  
**Rebecca Wallace**  
photographs by  
**Veronica Weber**

As Stanford's über-modern Bing Concert Hall takes shape, its opening season will have a decidedly classical feel. The 2013 season promises a 14-concert "Beethoven Project," a partnership with the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, and big-name classical artists Yo-Yo Ma, Emanuel Ax and the San Francisco Symphony.

In contrast to the eclectic diversity of Stanford Lively Arts offerings in recent years, this season will have very few performances of world music, dance or other arts with a visual component, like theater. Matthew Tiews, executive director of arts programs at Stanford, says the classical concentration is purposeful.

"We are for this season focusing on this space as a concert hall," he said, promising that more dance and world music would return in future seasons.



What Bing Concert Hall looks like now, as seen from its loading-dock area.

Indeed, the \$112 million, 844-seat Bing hall has been envisioned as a state-of-the-art concert space. With acoustic design by Yasuhisa Toyota of Nagata Acoustics, who handled the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, this is a venue made for music. The stage will be built of Alaskan yellow cedar, soft and resonant, with sail-like white acoustic panels above.

"The donor wanted a concert hall, first and foremost," said music professor and university Arts Initiative faculty director Stephen Hinton, referring to alumni Peter and Helen Bing. "It's not a proscenium-arch theater."

At the moment, it's a partly finished — but already dramatic — oval structure of scaffolding and steel, concrete and wood. The front entrance faces the Cantor Arts Center, its curving top looking across Palm Drive. Visitors to the site can already walk on concrete steps in the seating areas that will surround the stage, with the first row down on the same level as the performers.

As crews work to get the hall ready by the Jan. 11 opening weekend, Stanford Lively Arts has also undergone a sort of metamorphosis. The 43-year-old arts presenter is now called Stanford Live.

The rebranding coincides with the new concert hall, where most of the season will be held. The Bing opening, Tiews said, is "an opportunity to reframe and expand our arts presentation on campus."

Stanford Live will have a greater focus on collaborations with artists and campus groups, Tiews said. He cited the new partnership with the period-instrument Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, which will perform three concerts at Bing this season.

Stanford Live is also teaming up with the Stanford Symphony Orchestra and the Stanford Philharmonia Orchestra to present the "Beethoven Project" January through June. The concerts feature all nine Beethoven symphonies and his piano concerti, with the pianist Jon Nakamatsu. Music classes will focus on the composer, and students and faculty will give Beethoven concerts.

These programs come on the heels of many past collaborations at Stanford Lively Arts, which have included a year-long campus residency by the Seattle sound sculptor Trimpin, and staged readings of fiction and poetry by writers in Stanford's creative-writing program, performed by the Word for Word Performing Arts Company.



Wiley Hausam.

With the name change and the upcoming opening, the university has made some staffing changes. Wiley Hausam, a newcomer to Stanford who came from New York in February, will be the first managing director of the hall. It was recently announced that he will also be executive director of Stanford Live, a position held by Jenny Bilfield at Lively Arts since 2006. Bilfield will remain artistic director.

When asked about the reason for the change, Tiews said: "Wiley is running the operational and financial aspects of the hall, and the hall is the main venue of Stanford Live. His responsibilities include harmonizing all the revenue streams."

Bilfield will remain responsible for planning the seasons, working in collaboration with Hausam and campus partners, Tiews added.

At a press conference this week to announce the 2013 season, both Hausam and Bilfield seemed very enthusiastic about the new venue. Hausam quoted Peter Bing in describing the hall project as "concert in every sense of the word."

"I have just found that so inspiring and poetic," said Hausam, the former executive director of the Performing Arts Center at Purchase College.

Bilfield, a veteran of the music business, said she is looking forward to the intimate seating in the new concert hall. With sections of the audience placed around the stage, some will literally get a new perspective on music, sitting behind the orchestra.

"We love that the audience faces each other," she said, adding that she hoped for "the sense of social exchange and dynamic energy in the hall."

Bilfield is also eager to see the fruits of several commissions, including a new work by the mini-

malist composer Steve Reich, to be performed by the chamber ensemble Alarm Will Sound on March 16.

Two chamber operas by Stanford faculty composer Jonathan Berger and librettist Dan O'Brien, "Theotokia" and "The War Reporter," will receive "theatricalized" concert stagings on April 12 and 13. Experimental artist Laurie Anderson will present a new evening-length work with the Kronos Quartet on April 20.

After the press conference, the group toured the hall, gazing up at the acoustic panels above. Below, a red steel frame showed where the stage would be. It was already clear that the concert hall, designed by Enead Architects of New York, would have a dramatic elliptical shape.

"There's not a square corner anywhere in here," said the hard-hatted Matt Rodriguez, director of operations and production for Stanford Live.

Leading the group through the 112,000-square-foot building, Rodriguez pointed out other spaces besides the main performance hall.

The glassy Grand Foyer will also host student programs and lectures. Spaces that are now half-finished will become dressing rooms, a recording studio, an orchestra library, a well-insulated percussion room. A rehearsal studio is the same size as the main stage, 2,635 square feet. Visiting performers will have suites with windows, and a greenroom opening into a garden.

And then there are the high-tech restrooms. With the hope of moving people through them faster at intermission, workers will install lights with sensors over the stalls. When a stall is free, its light will go on.

"Peter (Bing) was always concerned about having to wait for his wife to come out of the restroom because the lines were so long," Rodriguez said.

Outside the hall, crews will add foliage to make the hall "nestle into a really green arboretum," Bilfield said. Two self-serve ticketing kiosks will stand in front.

Once the hall is open, Stanford expects to staff it with about eight full-time employees and up to 200 part-timers and volunteers, Tiews said later. He declined to give specifics on the hall's operating budget.

Stanford students will have "quite a lot of use of the hall," Tiews said. "Music-department ensembles will have some rehearsal and performance opportunities," he added.

(continued on page 30)

## Can you protect yourself from crime? Are you prepared for an emergency?

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

7:00pm to 9:00pm

Avenidas, La Comida Room

450 Bryant Street, Palo Alto

Hear from Kenneth Dueker, City of Palo Alto Office of Emergency Services, and Palo Alto Neighborhood Emergency Service Volunteers

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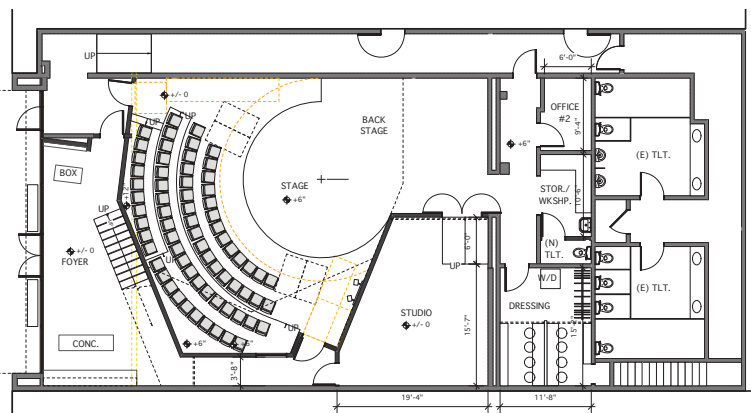
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A drawing of the new Dragon Theatre, by Chiu Lao Architecture Design.

## Dragon takes its show on the road

Theater company plans move to Redwood City

by Rebecca Wallace

**A**fter six years in downtown Palo Alto, the Dragon Theatre is moving out and up to a space twice as large in Redwood City.

The planned new home is in the downtown theater district, neighboring the historic Fox Theatre and the smaller Club Fox, as well as the Century 20 cineplex. Dragon founder and artistic director Meredith Hagedorn plans to transform a vacant 4,600-square-foot space into a 70-seat theater with a mezzanine.

While Hagedorn is still obtaining the necessary permits, she said that Redwood City officials seem very

friendly to the arts and have been exceedingly welcoming.

"Our Realtor has said, 'I feel like I'm presenting the queen,'" Hagedorn said. "It's just been so smooth."

Still, the move will be bittersweet. Hagedorn, who lives in Mountain View, said she had hoped to keep her theater company in Palo Alto. But she couldn't find a suitable, affordable space that didn't have any potential parking problems.

The parking crunch in downtown Palo Alto is one of the reasons Dragon is leaving, she said. "We schedule around parking." In addition, the the-

ater never attracted the "walk-by" traffic she had hoped for in a downtown, and many people drove by the small theater's Alma Street location without noticing it.

Hagedorn said she has a good relationship with her landlord and has been able to pay Palo Alto rent, with the added income that came from renting out the Dragon space for classes and other performances. But the lease is up at the end of 2012, and Hagedorn wasn't confident that she'd be able to pay any increases.

"We have maxed out our revenue potential with 42 seats," she said of her petite theater.

Hagedorn declined to give specifics on current and future rents, but she said the increase in the Redwood City space would be "proportional," given that the venue is larger.

"It's a leap of faith, but that's what businesses do when they want to expand," she said. "We've done lots of number-crunching."

At the moment, the new location at 2120 Broadway — at Theatre Way — is an open space with a partial mezzanine and plenty of parking. Once a travel agency, it has been vacant for several years. Dragon plans to build the other part of the mezzanine to use for VIP seating, and put in a round stage 20 feet in diameter.

The plans drawn up by Chiu Lao Architecture Design of Oakland also include: dressing rooms, a small workroom, a downstairs studio and an upstairs classroom, and an actual backstage area. The backstage space in Palo Alto also serves as the dressing

room/classroom/dance studio.

The theater will share its public restrooms with offices and a sushi restaurant, which Hagedorn doesn't seem to mind. She's looking forward to having patrons come to the area for a meal and a show. This seems increasingly possible in a spruced-up downtown that was sleepy and dingy in years past. Now the city also has a large array of free summer concerts and outdoor movies across from the Fox.

Hagedorn is looking forward to being neighbors with Broadway By the Bay, the theater company that took up residence at the Fox last year. That group has a very different niche, putting on blockbuster musicals while Dragon does quirky, often little-known plays.

To fund the move, Dragon has launched a capital campaign, aiming to bring in donations totaling \$400,000. That amount will cover the construction project and provide a buffer for a decrease in the operating budget in the near future, Hagedorn said. The company is working hard to solicit donations from supporters and subscribers.

If all goes according to plan, construction would start on July 1 and finish in the fall. Hagedorn is planning an open house on July 7. Dragon would then have two more productions in Palo Alto before starting the new season in Redwood City in January 2013. ■

**Info:** For more about Dragon Productions Theatre Company and its venue, go to [dragonproductions.net](http://dragonproductions.net).

## Bing Concert Hall

(continued from page 29)

"There will also be some opportunities for student groups to perform."

As for Stanford Live, its 2013 season will be an abbreviated one, from January to June. Subsequent seasons will mirror the academic year, Tiewis said.

Bing will officially open on Jan. 11 with performances by the San Francisco Symphony, the St. Lawrence String Quartet and members of the Stanford Symphony Orchestra, Stanford Chamber Chorale and Stanford Taiko. Actress and New York University professor Anna Deavere Smith will be emcee.

An open house will be on the afternoon of Jan. 12, with two one-hour acoustic concerts by roots rockers Los Lobos that night. The St. Lawrence String Quartet performs on Jan. 13, followed by concerts showcasing Stanford's department of music.

Artists scheduled to perform later in the season include the pianist Emanuel Ax on Jan. 22; the Mingus Big Band on Jan. 25; Yo-Yo Ma on cello and Kathryn Stott on piano on Jan. 27; South African singer Vusi Mahlasela on Jan. 30; the Choir of New College, Oxford, on April 3; and the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain on April 14. ■

**Info:** For details about Stanford Live's season, go to [live.stanford.edu](http://live.stanford.edu). For more about Bing Concert Hall, go to [binghall.stanford.edu](http://binghall.stanford.edu).



# Call for Entries

## 21st Annual Palo Alto Weekly Photo Contest

Cash and gift certificate prizes will be awarded to 1st - 3rd place winners in the following Adult and Youth categories: **Portraits, Bay Area Images, Views Beyond the Bay**

For complete rules and submissions details go to: [www.PaloAltoOnline.com/photo\\_contest](http://www.PaloAltoOnline.com/photo_contest)

Age:  Adult  Youth (17 yrs. or younger as of 7/6/12)

Category:  Bay Area Images  Views Beyond the Bay Area  Portraits

Photo Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Photo Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

If non-resident, work location or school you attend: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Entry submission implies agreement of statement below.

This photograph is my original work and was taken in the past 5 years. I understand that the Palo Alto Weekly reserves first publishing and online rights to winning entries and those chosen for exhibition. Judges will use their discretion as to whether an image needs to be recategorized. Judges decisions are final.

Photographer's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**ENTRY DEADLINE  
July 6, 2012**

Entry fees:

Adult \$25 per image

Youth \$10 per image

One entry per category

You may use this form to mail payment for entries submitted by email and/or to mail your images on a CD. **No print submissions.**

Matted prints for winning entries will be requested of the photographer for exhibition.

For questions call  
650.223.6588 or e-mail  
[photocontest@pawebly.com](mailto:photocontest@pawebly.com)



# Eating Out

## RESTAURANT REVIEW



Veronica Weber

From top: garlic and soy-glazed beef over vegetable salad; lime-basil shrimp over rice noodles; and coconut curry over jasmine rice.

## Something for everyone

*Asian Box offers fast, fresh food in endless combinations*

by Sheila Himmel

**A**sian Box is destined to be called the Asian Chipotle. There is a system, and it works.

First, pick your rice or noodle. Second, pick one of five proteins. This determines the price of your box, from coconut curry tofu (\$7.25) on up to garlic-soy-glazed beef (\$8.55).

Step Three is where it gets complicated. Here are your “add-ons,” which start with vegetables, steamed or wok-tossed. Proceed next to “box toppers,” including bean sprouts, fresh jalapeño, scallion oil, fried shallots, herbs, pickled vegetables and lime.

Part Three of Step Three, the sauces, is critical and easily flubbed. No one will remind you if you order something stupid or leave off sauce altogether, as I did on the long-grain jasmine-rice box (\$7.95) with lemongrass pork, steamed vegetables, crisp bean sprouts, excellent pickled radish and a few fresh herbs with a lime to squeeze. It was all very tasty, but needed a sauce to bring it together. The addition of a caramel egg (\$0.95) helped.

Asian vegetable salad (\$8.55) offered three good-sized and tasty shrimp, slathered in tamarind

sauce. We added fresh herbs, fried shallots, crunchy peanuts and crisp, cold bean sprouts.

Everything is made in-house, and it’s all gluten-free.

Vegetables are wok-fired or steamed. The difference is, for example, steamed carrots are diced and mushy. Wok-fired carrots are crunchy matchsticks. With broccoli, we couldn’t tell much difference between the two.

Another sauce error occurred with chilled rice noodles (\$7.65). My composition was good: chicken, wok-tossed vegetables and all the box toppers, except for the “Asian street dust” mix of dry spices instead of a liquid sauce. Cold rice noodles need sauce, not dust.

A side dish of jungle jerky (\$2.95) is sweet and fresh, not like eating a stick of wood, as packaged jerky can be.

Spring roll (\$3.50) is literally that: one small roll. Ours had been sitting in the case too long, and the

(continued on page 32)



### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING of the City of Palo Alto Historic Resources Board (HRB)

**8:00 A.M., Wednesday, June 20, 2012** Palo Alto Council Chambers, 1st Floor, Civic Center, 250 Hamilton Avenue. Go to the Development Center at 285 Hamilton Avenue to review filed documents; contact Diana Tamale for information regarding business hours at 650.329.2144.

**564 University Avenue [10PLN-00218]:** Request by Steve Schlossareck, RSR Capital, LLC, owner, for Historic Resources Board review of a proposed reconstruction, rehabilitation, and restoration of a deconstructed 1904 Colonial Revival building listed on the City’s Historic Inventory in Category 2, and review of design revisions to the previously approved new rear addition. Zone District: CD-C(P)

**Steven Turner, Advance Planning Manager**



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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 June 11, 2012 - 5:30 PM**

#### CLOSED SESSION

1. Potential Litigation (4)

#### SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY

2. Proclamation Recognizing World Music Day

#### CONSENT CALENDAR

3. Approval of Contract with Graham Contractors, Inc. in the Amount of \$847,510 for the Pavement Resealing Project, the 2nd of 6 Contracts in the 2012 Street Maintenance Program Project (CIP PE-86070)
4. Second Reading Lytton Gateway Plaza
5. Approve and Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contract Amendment No. 1 to Contract No. C10135025 with Alta Planning + Design for Preliminary Design and Environmental Assessment Services for the Pedestrian & Bicycle Overpass at Highway 101 and Feasibility Study of Adobe Creek Reach Trail Project Leading to the Overpass

#### ACTION ITEMS

6. Public Hearing: – Approval of an Ordinance Adopting the Fiscal Year 2013 Budget, including the Fiscal Year 2013 Capital Improvement Program, and Changes to the Municipal Fee Schedule; Adoption of 10 Resolutions to: 1) Adopt a Dark Fiber Utility Rate Increase and Amend Utility Rate Schedules; 2) Amend Gas Utility Rate Schedules for a Rate Decrease and Amend Utility Rules and Regulations; 3) Adopt a Wastewater Collection Utility Rate Increase and Amend Utility Rate Schedules; 4) Adopt a Water Utility Rate Increase and Amending Utility Rate Schedules; 5) Amend Storm Drain Utility Rate Schedules for a Rate Increase; 6) Amend Refuse Utility Rate Schedules for a Rate Increase; 7) Amend the 2010-2011 Compensation Plan for Management and Professional and Council Appointees; 8) Amend the 2010-2011 Compensation Plan for the Service Employees International Union (SEIU); 9) Amend the 2010-2014 Compensation Plan for the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF); and 10) Amend the 2010-2014 Compensation Plan for the Fire Chiefs’ Association (FCA)
7. Public Hearing – Assessment for California Avenue Area Parking Bonds – Plan G: FY 2012-2013; Adoption of a Resolution Confirming Engineer’s Report and Assessment Roll, California Avenue Parking Project No. 92-13 (For Fiscal Year 2012-2013)
8. Public Hearing: Approval of a Tentative Map for 382 and 384 Curtner Avenue

### **(TENTATIVE) AGENDA-SPECIAL MEETING-DOWNTOWN LIBRARY June 13, 2012 - 5:00 PM**

1. Retreat- Council Retreat #4 for further discussion of infrastructure investment and renewal. Direction to staff regarding implementation issues.

#### **STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The Policy and Services Committee meeting will be held on June 12, 2012 at 6:00 PM regarding; 1) Employee Ethics Hotline, 2) Massage Ordinance  
The Regional Housing Mandate Committee meeting will be held on June 14, 2012 at 10:30 AM regarding; 1) Draft Housing Element Update, and, 2) Update of Status of Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) and Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA)

## Looking for something to do?

Check out the Weekly’s **Community Calendar** for the Midpeninsula.

Instantly find out what events are going on in your city!

**Go to [www.PaloAltoOnline.com/calendar](http://www.PaloAltoOnline.com/calendar)**



(continued from previous page)

rice-paper wrapper went rubbery. The dipping sauce was thin and very vinegary. Peanut sauce is 75 cents extra.

You aren't in Ho Chi Minh City. Also note that there is no tip line on the receipt, which shouldn't be surprising at a place where there's no table service, but explains why prices are higher than street food. Also, the rents at Town & Country must have changed considerably since its resurrection with palm trees and all you can eat.

As I waited — less than five minutes — for my order to be ready, each newcomer was greeted, "Hi! Welcome to the Box!" Cleverly, the doors say "Welcome" in English and Vietnamese on the way in, "Come again" when you leave. It's an attractive little dining area, avocado-colored and some kind of wood that must be sustainable. Note the "bio-based" utensils from TaterWare.com. A tall table inside has seats for eight, but most of the dining here is on the sidewalk or to go.

Asian Box is the first of this concept by executive chef Grace Nyugen, who comes from San Francisco's famed Slanted Door family of restaurants. On a recent weekend, the Palo

Alto outlet was well-staffed, with a cook in the main kitchen, two people ferrying around, and two at the counter. Refreshingly, they stepped in for each other as needed.

Had I thought to ask, any one of them could have steered me in the right sauce direction. Besides tamarind vinaigrette and peanut sauce, there's no-oil fish sauce and sriracha. With tangy sweet, umami, hot and sweet, and salty, Asian Box covers all the tastebud bases. ■

**Asian Box:** Town & Country Village, 855 El Camino Real, Palo Alto 650-391-9305  
asianboxpaloalto.com

**Restaurant hours:** 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Mon.-Sat.; 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sun.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reservations                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Catering                                       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Credit cards             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Takeout  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parking: shopping center | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise level: medium                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Highchairs                          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restroom cleanliness: shopping-center restroom |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Outdoor dining           | <input type="checkbox"/> Party and banquet facilities                              |



Veronica Weber

Shrimp over rice noodles comes with a choice of toppings, including bean sprouts and lime.

**PENINSULA**

Discover the best places to eat this week!

<p><b>AMERICAN</b></p> <p><b>Armadillo Willy's</b> 941-2922 1031 N. San Antonio Road, Los Altos www.armadillowillys.com</p> <p><b>Cheese Steak Shop</b> 326-1628 2305-B El Camino Real, Palo Alto</p> <p><b>Luticken's</b> 854-0291 3535 Alameda, Menlo Park www.lutickens.com</p> <p><b>The Old Pro</b> 326-1446 541 Ramona Street, Palo Alto www.oldpro.com</p> <p><b>STEAKHOUSE</b></p> <p><b>Sundance the Steakhouse</b> 321-6798 1921 El Camino Real, Palo Alto www.sundancethesteakhouse.com</p>	<p><b>CHINESE</b></p> <p><b>Chef Chu's</b> 948-2696 1067 N. San Antonio Road www.chefchu.com</p> <p><b>Ming's</b> 856-7700 1700 Embarcadero East, Palo Alto www.mings.com</p> <p><b>New Tung Kee Noodle House</b> 947-8888 520 Showers Drive, Mountain View www.shopmountainview.com/luvnoodlemv</p> <p><b>INDIAN</b></p> <p><b>Janta Indian Restaurant</b> 462-5903 369 Lytton Ave. www.jantaindianrestaurant.com</p> <p><b>Thaiphoon</b> 323-7700 543 Emerson Ave, Palo Alto www.ThaiphoonRestaurant.com</p>
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Read and post reviews, explore restaurant menus, get hours and directions and more at [ShopPaloAlto](#), [ShopMenloPark](#) and [ShopMountainView](#)

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Written by **Wes Anderson & Roman Coppola**

PG-13

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# Movies

OPENINGS

## Moonrise Kingdom ★★★1/2

(Century 20, Century 16) For well over a decade, writer-director Wes Anderson has faced criticism of his films being fussy repetitive. Though his new film "Moonrise Kingdom" is nothing if not fussy, it's Anderson's freshest, breeziest work since the high-water mark of 1998's "Rushmore."

"Moonrise Kingdom" tells of a pair of troubled and gifted 12-year-olds who, in 1965, elope into the wild of New Penzance Island (a fictional New England setting). Orphan and "Khaki Scout" Sam Shakesby (Jared Gilman) ditches his troop and meets up with fellow runaway Suzy Bishop (Kara Hayward), who can no longer stand claustrophobic life with father (Bill Murray) and mother (Frances McDormand).

The Bishops' frayed marriage retains a certain coziness — both lawyers, they call each other "counselor" — but McDormand's Laura is carrying on with local policeman Captain Sharp (Bruce Willis). Sharp teams up with Scout Master Randy Ward (Edward Norton) to coordinate the search-and-rescue effort, complicated by a coming storm and the equally threatening promised arrival of the embodiment of Social Services (Tilda Swinton in fearful mode).

Other than Anderson's own oeuvre, "Moonrise Kingdom" best recalls "Harold and Maude" as an offbeat romance of two plain-spoken lovers against the world. (He: "I'm on your side." She: "I know.") Anderson contrasts the simplicity of young love with the adults' insistence of complicating everything. "We're in love," says Suzy. "We just want to be together. What's wrong with that?" Admittedly, the friendless children have shown violent tendencies, but they pacify each other, as long as no one's trying to keep them apart.

The script by Anderson and Roman Coppola allows none of the plot elements to spin out of control, and the director keeps it short and sweet. The '60s setting lends itself to Anderson's obsessiveness of detail (from Sam's coonskin cap and cornucopia pipe to Suzy's collection of purloined library books), and there's plenty of amusement in the movements of the well-armed Troop 55, who eventually make their way to the Regional Hullahaloo at Fort Lebanon (finding there Jason Schwartzman and Harvey Keitel). The joyless scouts and melancholy adults — in uniformly pleasing performances — learn to ditch their impassivity and embrace the life spirit of Sam and Suzy.

Anderson gets in the spirit as well. Stealing from his childhood memories, he incorporates a production of Benjamin Britten's "Noye's Fludde" to complement the film's form (fugue) and function (weathering a literal and figurative storm). The soundtrack also playfully incorporates Britten's "The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra" (stick around for the credits) as well as lonesome Hank Williams tunes to accompany the adults.

So if Anderson's carefully regulated compositions and dollhouse-styled production design send you climbing up the walls, keep your distance. But this time, the filmmaker isn't too clever by half: He's just clever enough. And the film's heartfelt search and rescue of a feel-good result provides a perfect, even musical counterpoint to its regimented summer camp.

Rated PG-13 for sexual content and smoking. One hour, 34 minutes.

— Peter Canavese

## Peace, Love, & Misunderstanding

★1/2

(Aquarius) Clichés, not characters, inhabit "Peace, Love & Misunderstanding," a condescendingly simplistic comedy-drama that plays off of tensions between generations and political viewpoints.

Manhattan attorney Diane (Catherine Keener) packs up kids Jake (Nat Wolff) and Zoe (Elizabeth



Jane Fonda revisits the '60s in "Peace, Love & Misunderstanding."

Olsen) and gets out of town, knowing she has a divorce waiting upon her return. Jake's ever-present video camera notes the sign "Woodstock 3 mi." — but it should read "Shameless Contrivances 3 mi." For no sooner do the three arrive in the wonderful world of Woodstock than they meet available love interests: hunky-sensitive progressive Jude (Jeffrey Dean Morgan) for conservative Diane, hunky-sensitive butcher Cole (Chace Crawford) for vegan Zoe, and cute-sensitive coffee-shop waitress Tara (Marissa O'Donnell) for Jake.

While Joseph Muszynski and Christina Mengert's script lays down some speed bumps for the couples, the pairings are never in doubt. The real tension comes between Diane and her mother Grace (Jane Fonda), at whose house Diane must stay. As per the tone set by the script and director Bruce Beresford ("Driving Miss Daisy"), Fonda tries much too hard to infuse her walking stereotype with comic energy. It's all so wacky: chickens in the foyer ... too much! Look, there's Jane: around that corner spinning pottery and singing "Scarborough Fair"! There's a magic bus parked nearby, and mom still protests every Saturday ("Vigilance!") when not bedding a rotation of local hippie dudes!

Très embarrassant for Diane, who despite being born into this life (according to mom, baby Diane emerged at the famed Woodstock concert, during Hendrix's "Star-Spangled Banner"), repudiated it 20 years earlier, cutting off contact with Grace. As such, Grace determines to make up for lost time and get her family making love, not war. She goads the grumpy, combative Diane to get her groove back (check) and the kids to cut loose with a smattering of sex, drugs and rock and roll (check, check and check).

To be fair, "Peace, Love & Misunderstanding" has its moments, and its strength (though wasted) is its credible casting of three generations of women. Keener fares best. Incapable of a false note, she elevates lousy material, but even she seems as embarrassed as her character when Diane is compelled to warble "The Weight" with Jude at a local music festival (Levon Helm RIP).

By the time we return to Manhattan to watch the "film" Jake has made of the Woodstock trip and entered into a youth festival (yet another cliché), the plot has long since worn out its welcome. Beresford's picture is for blissed-out Fonda fans who'll be tickled pink to see her as a kooky earth mother in tie-dyed dresses, busting out crystals and referred to as queen of the hippies ("They say Dylan had a thing for her"). But my advice when it comes to this one: Make tracks, not love.

Rated R for drug content and sexual references. One hour, 36 minutes.

— Peter Canavese

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## Palo Alto Unified School District

### Strong Schools Bond – Citizens' Oversight Committee

The Palo Alto Unified School District Board of Education seeks three applicants for appointment to the independent, volunteer Strong Schools Bond Citizens' Oversight Committee. The Committee reviews and report to the public on the District's bond expenditures. Applicants must reside within the Palo Alto Unified School District. An applicant may not be an employee, contractor, consultant, or vendor of the District.

The successful applicants will serve a two-year term that will extend from the date of appointment to August 22, 2014.

The purpose of the Citizens' Oversight Committee (COC) is to inform the public concerning the expenditure of bond revenues. The COC is required by state law to actively review and report on the proper expenditure of taxpayers' money for school construction.

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

Completed applications must be sent to: Dr. Kevin Skelly, Superintendent, Palo Alto Unified School District, 25 Churchill Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94306, or emailed to: [lbaranoff@pausd.org](mailto:lbaranoff@pausd.org). **All applications must be received by Friday, June 15, 2012 at 4:30 pm.**



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**MOVIE TIMES**

- Bernie (PG-13) ★★★**  
Century 20: Fri.-Tue. & Thu. at 7:25 & 9:55 p.m. **Guild Theatre:** 4:15, 7 & 9:45 p.m.; Fri.-Sun. also at 1:30 p.m.
- The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (PG-13) ★★1/2**  
Century 20: 10:30 a.m.; 1:15, 4:10, 7:05 & 10:05 p.m. **Palo Alto Square:** 1:15, 2:30, 4:15 & 7:15 p.m.; Fri.-Tue. also at 5:30 p.m.; Fri.-Sun. also at 8:30 p.m.; Fri. & Sat. also at 10:15 p.m.
- The Big Sky (1952) (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed)**  
**Stanford Theatre:** Fri.-Sun. at 5:15 & 9:25 p.m.
- Citizen Kane (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed)**  
Century 16: Wed. at 2 & 7 p.m. **Century 20:** Wed. at 2 & 7 p.m.
- Crooked Arrows (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed)**  
Century 16: Fri.-Sun. at 10:50 a.m.; Mon.-Thu. at 11 a.m.
- Dark Shadows (PG-13) ★★**  
Century 20: 10:20 p.m.
- The Dictator (R) ★★1/2**  
Century 16: 11:20 a.m.; 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8 & 10:15 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:10 a.m.; 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:55 & 10:25 p.m.
- El Dorado (1966) (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed)**  
**Stanford Theatre:** Wed. & Thu. at 7:30 p.m.
- First Position (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed)**  
**Aquarius Theatre:** 6 p.m.; Fri.-Sun. also at 1 p.m.
- For Greater Glory (R) (Not Reviewed)**  
Century 16: 11:50 a.m. & 3:10 p.m.; Fri.-Tue. & Thu. also at 6:40 & 9:55 p.m.
- Hysteria (R) ★★**  
**Aquarius Theatre:** 3:30 & 8:30 p.m.
- I Was a Male War Bride (1949) (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed)**  
**Stanford Theatre:** Fri.-Sun. at 7:30 p.m.; Sun. also at 3:20 p.m.
- Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (PG) (Not Reviewed)**  
Century 16: Fri.-Sun. at 10 & 10:30 a.m.; 1, 3, 4, 7, 8:55 & 9:30 p.m.; Mon.-Thu. at 11 a.m.; 1:20, 3, 4, 7, 8:40 & 9:30 p.m.; In 3D Fri.-Sun. at 11 a.m.; 12:30, 1:50, 4:40, 6:10, 7:30 & 10:10 p.m.; In 3D Mon.-Thu. at 11:30 a.m.; 12:30, 1:50, 4:40, 6:10, 7:30 & 10:10 p.m.  
Century 20: 10:30 & 11:35 a.m.; 12:55, 2, 3:20, 4:25, 5:45, 6:50, 8:10, 9:20 & 10:35 p.m.; In 3D at 11 a.m.; 12:05, 1:25, 2:35, 3:50, 5, 6:15, 7:25, 8:40 & 9:50 p.m.
- Marvel's The Avengers (PG-13) ★★★★★**  
Century 16: Fri.-Sun. at 12:10, 3:30, 7:10 & 10:30 p.m.; Mon.-Thu. at 12:10, 3:30, 7:10 & 10:20 p.m.; In 3D Fri.-Sun. at 1:40, 4:50 & 8:20 p.m.; In 3D Mon., Tue. & Thu. at 1:40, 4:50 & 8:10 p.m.; In 3D Wed. at 9:50 p.m. **Century 20:** 12:40, 4:05 & 7:20 p.m.; In 3D at 11:05 a.m. & 2:20 p.m.; In 3D Fri.-Wed. also at 5:35 & 8:55 p.m.
- Men in Black 3 (PG-13) ★★★**  
Century 16: Fri.-Sun. at 10:40 a.m.; 1:20, 4:10, 7 & 10:05 p.m.; Mon.-Thu. at 11 a.m.; 1:30, 4:10, 7 & 9:50 p.m.; In 3D Fri.-Thu. at 11:40 a.m.; 2:30, 5:30 & 8:30 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:10 a.m.; 1:50, 4:30, 7:10 & 9:45 p.m.; In 3D at 12:10, 2:55, 5:30, 8:05 & 10:40 p.m.
- The Metropolitan Opera: Anna Bolena (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed)**  
Century 16: Wed. at 6:30 p.m. **Century 20:** Wed. at 6:30 p.m. **Palo Alto Square:** Wed. at 6:30 p.m.
- Moonrise Kingdom (PG-13) ★★1/2**  
Century 16: 11:30 a.m.; 12:30, 1:50, 3:10, 4:30, 7:30 & 10:20 p.m.; Fri.-Sun. also at 10 a.m.; 6:20 & 9:10 p.m.; Mon.-Thu. also at 6:10 & 8:30 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:50 a.m.; 2:45, 5:10, 7:45 & 10:10 p.m.
- Peace, Love & Misunderstanding (R) ★1/2**  
**Aquarius Theatre:** 4:30, 7 & 9:30 p.m.; Fri.-Sun. also at 2 p.m.
- The Pirates! Band of Misfits (PG) ★★★**  
Century 20: 10:40 a.m. & 3 p.m.; In 3D at 12:50 p.m.; In 3D Fri.-Tue. & Thu. also at 5:10 p.m.
- Prometheus (R) (Not Reviewed)**  
Century 16: Fri. at noon, 3, 6:20 & 9:50 p.m.; Sat. & Sun. at 10 a.m.; 1, 4:20, 7:40 & 10:50 p.m.; Mon.-Thu. at 12:40, 3:50, 7:20 & 10:30 p.m.; In 3D Fri. at 10 & 11 a.m.; 1, 4:20, 5:20, 7:40, 8:50 & 10:50 p.m.; In 3D Sat. & Sun. at 11 a.m.; noon, 2, 3, 5:20, 6:20, 8:50 & 9:50 p.m.; In 3D Mon.-Thu. at 11 a.m.; noon, 2, 3, 5:20, 6:20, 8:40 & 9:40 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:25 a.m.; 2:25, 4, 8:20 & 10 p.m.; Fri.-Wed. also at 5:20 p.m.; Thu. also at 5:30 p.m.; In 3D Fri.-Thu. at 10:45 a.m.; 12:15, 1:05, 1:40, 3:10, 4:35, 6:10, 7, 7:35, 9:10 & 10:35 p.m.
- Rio Lobo (1970) (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed)**  
**Stanford Theatre:** Wed. & Thu. at 5:25 & 9:50 p.m.
- Snow White and the Huntsman (PG-13) ★★1/2**  
Century 16: Fri.-Sun. at 10 & 11:10 a.m.; 12:55, 2:10, 3:50, 5:10, 7:20, 8:30 & 10:30 p.m.; Mon.-Thu. at 11:10 a.m.; 12:30, 2:10, 3:50, 5:10, 7:20, 8:20 & 10:30 p.m. **Century 20:** 10:35 & 11:15 a.m.; noon, 1:30, 2:15, 3, 4:30, 5:15, 6, 7:30, 8:25, 9, 9:45 & 10:30 p.m.; Fri.-Tue. & Thu. also at 12:45, 3:45 & 6:45 p.m.
- The Tempest (2012) (PG) (Not Reviewed)** | **Century 20:** Thu. at 7 p.m.  
**Palo Alto Square:** Thu. at 7 p.m.

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# Sports Shorts

**U.S. OPEN GOLF.** . . The Stanford men's golf team saw its season end at last week's NCAA Championships, but Cardinal sophomore **Cameron Wilson** appears far from being done for the season. Wilson is headed to the U.S. Open next week at the Olympic Club in San Francisco after making it through sectional qualifying on Monday at the Canoe Brook Country Club in Summit, N.J. Wilson shot a 36-hole score of 136 with rounds of 71 and 65 to earn medalist and low amateur honors. More importantly, he gained one of four spots out of the field of 73 for the U.S. Open, which begins June 14. Nearly 1,000 players nationwide were competing for 58 spots (from 11 sectional sites around the nation) for the 156-player field. Wilson wasn't the only golfer with Stanford connections to make it through sectional qualifying as **Casey Martin**, 40, shot a 36-hole score of 138 at Emerald Valley Country Club in Creswell, Ore., and earned a trip to San Francisco.

**CARDINAL CORNER** . . . Considered one of the most iconic and inspirational players in Stanford men's basketball history, **Mark Madsen** is returning to The Farm as an assistant coach. Cardinal head coach **Johnny Dawkins** made the announcement on Tuesday. Madsen replaces **Dick Davey**, who announced his retirement in March after serving the past four years as the program's associate head coach. Madsen will work primarily with the team's post players . . . Stanford senior **Katerina Stefanidi** set a meet record to win the women's pole vault Wednesday at the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championship at Drake Stadium in Des Moines, Iowa. The victory elevated the Cardinal women into first place, after three events, on the opening day. Stefanidi who had been the NCAA runner-up a year ago, cleared 14-7 1/4 on her first try and became the first Stanford woman to win an NCAA title in the pole vault. Stanford freshman **Brianna Bain** finished second in the women's javelin with a school record of 180-2. Teammate **Justine Fedronic** set a school record of 2:03.54 in the women's 800 semifinals, but failed to advance. In the men's competition, Stanford senior **Chris Derrick** completed a distinguished college career with a third-place finish of 28:17.28 in the 10,000 meters.

## ON THE AIR

### Friday

**NCAA baseball:** Stanford at Florida St. in Super Regional, 4 p.m.; ESPN2; KZSU (90.1 FM)

### Saturday

**NCAA baseball:** Stanford at Florida St. in Super Regional, 3 p.m.; ESPN2; KZSU (90.1 FM)

### Sunday

**NCAA baseball:** Stanford at Florida St. in Super Regional (if necessary), 4 p.m.; ESPN2; KZSU (90.1 FM)

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Stanford junior relief pitcher A.J. Vanegas delivers during a 5-4 victory over Pepperdine on Saturday in the second game of the Stanford Regional. His relief effort helped nail down the triumph and propel the Cardinal into the championship game, which Stanford won, 8-7.

## Stanford is well-armed for Super Regional

*Vanegas leads a standout Cardinal bullpen against Florida State, with CWS berth at stake*

by Rick Eyrer

**A**lbert James (A.J.) Vanegas met one of his future Stanford teammates at a high school baseball. Nothing formal, just a casual meeting at second base.

Vanegas, who played for Redwood Christian, pulled into second after hitting a double. The opposing second baseman came up to

him and asked, "So, you're going to Stanford?"

It was Menlo School's Danny Diekroeger, who was also headed to Stanford that fall to join older brother Kenny Diekroeger.

"I remember facing Danny," Vanegas said. "I remember him being a scrappy hitter, always fouling off good pitches. He was a tough out

every time."

Vanegas, who has grabbed the closer's role with the Cardinal this season, usually didn't have many problems in high school. He was considered a potential high pick in the Major League Baseball draft two years ago. He already had made the decision to attend college, though the San Diego Padres made

him their seventh-round pick.

He appeared in eight games, four starts, for Yarmouth-Dennis in last summer's Cape Cod League and was 0-1 with a 4.13 ERA over 24 innings. Vanegas has also played for the U.S. junior national team program.

(continued on page 38)

## MLB DRAFT

### Paly's Boyd gets his team and dream with A's

by Keith Peters

**P**alo Alto High senior B.J. Boyd was waiting at the school's quad during graduation practice when he received a couple of phone calls on his cell on Tuesday morning. The first was from the Milwaukee Brewers and the second was from the Seattle Mariners. The message from both was: "Stay near your phone."

A short while later, Boyd received the call he had been waiting for.

"It was from Jermaine Clark, an (Oakland) A's scout," Boyd said. "He said, 'you're one of our guys.'"

That was all Boyd needed to hear. "I got excited," he said. "I got my team and I got my dream."

Boyd was selected by the A's in the fourth round (139th player overall) in the Major

(continued on page 37)



Palo Alto's E.J. Floreal takes a handoff from Morris Gates-Mouton in the 400 relay at the state finals.

(continued on next page)

## TRACK & FIELD

### State meet opens basketball doors for Paly's Floreal

by Keith Peters

**P**alo Alto High junior E.J. Floreal won two medals and helped the Vikings' 400 relay team reach the finals at the CIF State Track and Field Championships last weekend at Veterans Memorial Stadium on the campus of Buchanan High in Clovis.

Floreal knows he can do better with a few improvements, the kind he could work on at the Golden West Invitational or the Arizona Sprint Showcase, two summer meets he has been invited to attend.

While both would add to his experience in the sport, Floreal says no thanks. Track and field will have to wait until next spring.

The 6-foot-4 Floreal will be heading to Knoxville, Tenn., in a few weeks for an elite basketball camp run by the University of Tennessee. After that, he'll compete in an

# Wimberly's exit from coaching not what she envisioned

by Keith Peters

It could have been an ending to any other school year for Pam Wimberly, who handed out some diplomas at Menlo-Atherton's graduation ceremony on Thursday and looked ahead to teaching summer school.

When Wimberly returns to school in the fall to resume her PE teaching duties, however, things will be very different.

For one, Wimberly will not be standing on the basketball court for the first day of practice on November 1. After 42 years of coaching the girls' hoop team at M-A (she started in 1968-69 but missed two seasons), Wimberly will be a spectator for the first time.

That decision was made on June 1 when M-A Principal Matthew Zito informed Wimberly that her coaching career at the school was over.

"I will go on and teach my classes, and enjoy more things in life," she said. "I'm coming to grips with what happened."

What happened was, after two losing seasons, co-Athletic Directors Paul Snow and Steven Kryger, along with Zito, decided that Wimberly evidently had seen better days. Forget the fact she had compiled a won-loss record of 663-340 in her 42 years while becoming the third-winningest girls' hoop coach in California. Forget the fact she had won four Central Coast Section titles

(1984, 1991, 1992 and 1993) or been runner-up six times. And forget that she missed the CCS playoffs only 10 times in 36 years since the section postseason began in 1977.

In 2001, Wimberly was named Girls' Basketball Coach of the Year by the California Coaches Association and was selected as one of 13 coaches honored with the Model Coach Award by the California Interscholastic Federation.

While no one wanted to state the obvious, going 10-16 this past season and 7-18 in 2010-11 while missing the CCS playoffs both times reportedly did not enamor Wimberly with a group of M-A parents who evidently wanted more. It was a clash of style over substance and the supposed weight of parental pressure won out.

A statement released by Kryger said: "Pam accomplished many great feats over the course of her career and the M-A community is grateful for all that she did for hundreds of student-athletes. We feel this is the time to make the transition to a new head varsity coach for our girls' basketball program."

Somehow, that rings hollow. Coaches at public schools are removed from their position for verbal or physical abuse, lack of effort or causing more headaches than it's worth. Wimberly, however, was a role model with an exemplary career. It was never about the wins and losses for her.

"Six hundred wins wasn't a goal," she said. "I just started coaching the kids. It was never about the records. I know I fell short of 700 (wins), but that's not a big deal."

Wimberly had a tough day on Wednesday, as phone calls and e-mails flooded in.

"It was a tumultuous day," she said. "I got teary-eyed from what people said. There's been a lot of out-pouring of support."

One e-mail of support was sent to the entire staff at M-A by Dr. Jerry Brodkey, another veteran staff member and a fan of women's basketball from his days of growing up in Iowa, when they played 6-on-6.

Wrote Dr. Brodkey: "Last night a friend sent me an email stating that Pam Wimberly had been relieved of her coaching duties at Menlo-Atherton. There was an article in today's Mercury confirming the news. It was hard to believe; Pam has been here long before even I arrived 30 years ago. Pam is not just another coach who works here a few years and then moves on. She has been a pillar of our community. I had some trouble sleeping pondering

the news and thought I'd take a few minutes to express some thoughts. It is a busy time — graduation, finals, all of us scattering for the summer. With all of this going on, I don't want this to go unnoticed.

"I am not sure why Pam was relieved of her coaching responsibilities, or how it was done. Perhaps these questions can be addressed in appropriate settings at a future time. Pam Wimberly is a record-setting, legendary basketball coach, but she has been so much more than that here at MA. I have watched her coach for so many years, sometimes with championship teams, sometimes with poor teams. At all times, she was a model of professionalism. I don't believe I ever saw her get a technical, never saw her lose her composure. She was a role model, not just for her players, but for other coaches, for parents, for fans. I would watch Pam during games, watching her as a teacher. Even in moments of great stress and tension she was positive, patient, and caring. I watched her and learned from her each time I saw her coach.

"At times, some of my students

were on her teams. It didn't matter if they were students in my AP classes, or if they were students struggling in my most remedial math classes. She treated each student with respect. She would mold her players into a team, blending their individual skills and talents. I am not a basketball expert, but I was always impressed how these diverse individuals would come together under her tutelage. She taught her players how to win, how to lose, and how to be a family together. Pam was a critical mentor for so many young people through the years.

"Pam has been valued colleague. I have never envied the PE teachers with their giant classes and huge challenges. Year after year, she did her job. When my students would tell me they had Wimberly for PE, I knew they would be fine.

"Over the years I didn't get to see Pam as much as I would have liked. I was in the D-wing, she was in the gym. Each time I saw her or thought of her, I had the same thought: There goes a teacher's teacher, a coach's coach. Pam Wimberly, a true member of any Hall of Fame." ■

## Floreal

(continued from previous page)

elite camp at Santa Clara University and then part part in another camp at St. Mary's College with his AAU team. Then, Floreal and his teammates will head to Las Vegas for the summer's big event, the Fab 48 tournament.

"All the best teams (in the nation) will be there," Floreal said.

While Floreal had a breakthrough season in track and field, his first full one without any injuries, basketball is No. 1 in his life.

"Track is sort of a hobby . . . I never saw myself as a track athlete," Floreal said.

The idea of running track was to help Floreal with his speed and confidence for basketball.

Floreal, however, was just another basketball player until this track season.

"It kind of changed everything when I blew up," he explained. "A lot of basketball coaches are paying attention to me now . . . here's a tall kid with speed."

The University of Washington sees Floreal playing hoops and perhaps running track while UCLA is interested in him as a football/track guy, even though Floreal hasn't played football since the eighth grade and isn't planning on doing so again.

"There is absolutely no way I am going to play football for Palo Alto next year," Floreal promised.

He'll be too busy with basketball, track and recruiters.

While hoops has his attention now, Floreal is looking forward to next spring when he'll have an opportunity to improve upon this past record-breaking season when he set school records in the 100 meters (10.52), 200 (21.16) and 400 relay (41.56).

Had he equaled those 100 and 200

times in last Saturday's finals at the CIF State Meet, Floreal would have tied for first in the former and gotten second in the latter. Instead, he ran 10.70 in the 100 and got fourth and clocked 21.38 in the 200 for third. In the 400 relay, he anchored the Vikings to a 41.72 time, good for seventh and missing a medal by one place.

Palo Alto finished in a four-way tie for sixth place with 13 points in the team standings.

Floreal, meanwhile, became the first Paly athlete to medal in the 100 and 200 since the inaugural CIF State Meet in 1915. The 400 relay finish also was the best in school history. The only sprinter from the City of Palo Alto to finish higher in either of those events at the State Meet was the late Bill Green of Cubberley High in 1979, when he won the 100-yard dash.

Floreal also would like to be a state champion but knows there are obstacles ahead. One will be Khal-fani Muhammad of Notre Dame (Sherman Oaks), who won the 100 in 10.52 and took the 200 in 21.15 last weekend. He also anchored his school's 400 team to victory while almost single-handedly winning the state championship by himself as his team scored 36 points. And, he's only a junior.

"I can beat him," Floreal said.

At least Floreal will be better prepared to do so next season. Last weekend was a real eye-opener, for sure.

"It's completely different running against some of the fastest runners in the nation and state," Floreal said. "I've never done that before. It was interesting to see how much higher the stakes got each time."

This was Floreal's first state meet. He suffered an injury after last year's league meet and missed the rest of the season. Thus, he experienced his first SCVAL Qualifier, CCS semifinals and CCS finals

only this season.

When he got to the state meet, it was a whole different ball game.

"Some of the other guys had been here before, but I hadn't," Floreal said. "They (his competitors) just have more experience in that situation. This is my first full year. I was stressing just to get to the finals. Next year, I won't be stressing as much."

He'll also be more comfortable running on back-to-back days.

"That was very painful," Floreal said of Friday's prelims and Saturday's finals, a total of six races in two days. "On Friday, it was about 100 degrees (He ran 10.64 and 21.24). On Saturday, in the 200, I had nothing left. But, I'll get used to it."

Palo Alto coach Jason Fung already has gone on the record regarding contending for a state title next season.

"One can hope," said Fung. "Plan big to win big."

Fung will have to replace seniors Morris Gates-Mouton and Tremaine Kirkman on the 400 relay, but has Matt Tolbert and Jonathan Alee waiting in the wings to help the Vikings return to the finals. Floreal then will have to find a way to beat Muhammad in the 100 and 200 — should both return to the finals, as well.

Paly also lost senior Nikolai Solgaard, who finished 17th in the 800 prelims despite running a personal best of 1:54.36. Solgaard also ran on the Vikings' 1600 relay that failed to reach the finals, despite setting a school record of 3:20.69 on Friday.

Returning with Floreal — he finished the season ranked No. 5 (tie) in the 100 and No. 4 in the 200 — will be junior Jayshawn Gates-Mouton, Alee (1600 relay) and sophomore Nick Sullivan (1600 relay).

It's certainly a good start for next season but, as they say, it's all about the finish. ■



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### NOTICE OF A PUBLIC MEETING Of the City of Palo Alto Transportation Division

#### Public Meeting Notice Arastradero Road Re-Striping Trial Update Public Open House

DATE: Tuesday, June 12, 2012  
TIME: 6:30-8:30 PM  
PLACE: Juana Briones Elementary School  
4100 Orme Street, Palo Alto, CA

This public meeting will be an opportunity for City Staff to provide an update of the Re-Striping trial and on-going data collection effort. Members of the community are encouraged to provide input on parking strategies and the current parking permit program. The meeting will provide input and Comment to City Staff.

#### AGENDA

- Data Collection Update
- On-going Project Feedback
- Potential Longer Term Projects
- Next steps and Questions and answers

For further information contact:  
transportation@cityofpaloalto.org or call (650) 329-2441.

# MLB Draft offers Gaffney an interesting decision

by Rick Eyrer

Outfielder Tyler Gaffney faces an interesting decision over the next couple of months -- sign a professional baseball contract or return to Stanford to play football in the fall.

There's really no wrong decision, as Gaffney became the seventh Cardinal drafted in Major League Baseball's First-Year Player Draft, going to the Pittsburgh Pirates in the 24th round on Wednesday. He was preceded by catcher Eric Smith, who was picked by the Los Angeles Dodgers in the 18th round.

Mark Appel, the Pirates' first-

round pick, and Stephen Piscotty, who went to the St. Louis Cardinals, were chosen on Monday, the first day of the draft.

Brett Mooneyham (third round, Washington Nationals), Kenny Diekroeger (fourth round, Kansas City Royals) and Jake Stewart (ninth round, Detroit Tigers) were drafted Tuesday.

Smith and Gaffney learned of their draft status on a stop-over in Amarillo, Texas, as the Cardinal headed for its Super Regional series with Florida State. Smith grew lose to Dodger Stadium. Gaffney, who could make himself part of a pack-

age deal with Appel, was raised in San Diego.

Smith, in his first year as a starting catcher, leads the Cardinal in hitting at .330. A converted infielder, Smith started 48 games behind the plate. He joins the likes of former Cardinal catchers Donny Lucy, A.J. Hinch, Ryan Garko, Jason Castro and John Hester who have been drafted over the past 20 years.

Gaffney, who scored seven of his 12 career touchdowns last year for the Fiesta Bowl-bound Cardinal at running back, is a career .300 hitter in 159 games with 132 runs and 76 RBI. He was a two-time hon-

orable mention pick the past two years, batting .326 heading into the year. He is hitting .240 with 48 runs in 2012.

In related news, Stanford third baseman Alex Blandino was named a freshman All-American by Collegiate Baseball on Wednesday.

The Palo Alto native, who did not start for the team until after the finals break in late March, enters the Super Regional at Florida State with a .295 average in 41 games this season.

Blandino has nine doubles, one triple and eight home runs for a team-best .534 slugging percent-

age. He ranks fourth on the team in RBI.

Appel, meanwhile, was named one of three finalists for the Golden Spikes Award, given to college baseball's top player. He is the 11th Stanford player to be a finalist for the award and first since current San Diego Padre Carlos Quentin in 2003.

Appel is 10-1 with a 2.27 ERA over 15 starts this year. He led the Pac-12 with 127 strikeouts over 119.0 innings this season. He has struck out 10 or more in eight starts, including four times against top-10 opponents. ■

## Boyd

(continued from page 35)

League Baseball First-Year Player Draft on Tuesday.

"I wanted the A's to draft me," said Boyd, who grew up listening to stories about the exploits of Reggie Jackson and Ricky Henderson. He even wore the A's yellow and green colors while playing for Hengehold in Palo Alto Little League. "I've always been an A's fan. I'm going to sign."

Boyd is believed to be the highest Paly player selected in the first-year draft. Jamal Harrison was picked by the Minnesota Twins in the 11th round in 1995 and Joc Pederson was taken by the Los Angeles Dodgers in the 11th round in 2010. He's currently playing for the Dodgers' Rancho Cucamonga team in the California League.

Boyd, meanwhile, worked out for the A's on Sunday at the Oakland Coliseum. During batting practice, he parked one over the XFINITY sign in right-center field.

"I got their attention," Boyd said.

Since Boyd's high school baseball career ended on May 23 in a Central Coast Section semifinal loss to eventual Division I champion Valley Christian, Boyd has been flown to Seattle to work out for the Mariners and to Phoenix to do the same for the Kansas City Royals. He also made a stop in San Francisco for the Giants.

The MLB scouting report on Boyd said:

"Boyd possesses great athleticism and speed in the outfield and has shown good instincts on the base paths. He has an average arm, but it should become better with more work and better mechanics. He should be able to hit for a decent average and could hit for some power with his very muscular frame. Boyd has always split time between baseball and football, so when he starts to focus on just baseball, he could develop into a very good player."

The 5-foot-10 Boyd hits left but throws right. He led the Vikings in hitting this season with a .507 average, getting 36 hits in 71 at-bats. He also led the team in on base percentage (.628) and slugging (.704) while walking 19 times and swiping 25 bases as Paly finished 27-7 under third-year head coach Erick Raich, who was happy to hear the news about Boyd.



B.J. Boyd

"Yes, I saw that and I'm so happy for BJ," Raich said. "Definitely wasn't surprised BJ got taken in the fourth round. He definitely has the ability to make it to MLB, it's just going to be a matter of how hard he works his way through the A's farm system. He has game-changing speed and I think once he gets on a complete weight training program, along with some minor mechanical adjustments in his swing, he could hit for big time power."

Boyd certainly is a dangerous runner with the kind of speed that allowed him to return seven kick-offs for touchdowns during the football season. While he stood out in football, playing on Palo Alto's CIF Division I state championship team in 2010, baseball has been his sport since an early age.

The dream of playing Major League Baseball started when veteran youth coach Mike Piha picked Boyd for his In2Change pitching machine and coach-pitching league. Boyd said he was 5 or 6 at the time. Boyd graduated to Palo Alto Little League, played on the Palo Alto Babe Ruth 14-year-old all-star team that competed in the World Series, and later helped Paly's baseball team win its first-ever Central Coast Section title, in 2011.

Boyd graduated Wednesday evening. And after that?

"I'm just waiting until they tell me to report," said Boyd, who has no idea which A's team he could wind up with.

No matter where he may be headed, B.J. Boyd can't wait to get started. ■

## National awards for Gibbs and Neushul

Cardinal women claim Honda Award in tennis, Cutino Award in water polo

by Rick Eyrer

Stanford Nicole Gibbs and Kiley Neushul each earned national honors this week to cap sensational seasons.

Gibbs, a sophomore, earned the Honda Sports Award for tennis. The honor, bestowed by the Collegiate Women Sports Awards program, recognizes Gibbs as the country's top female player.

Neushul, a freshman, was named the 2012 Peter J. Cutino Award winner, the Olympic Club announced, making her the second straight Stanford recipient of the honor given annually to the top male and female collegiate water polo players in the nation.

Gibbs completed a historic sweep in the NCAA singles and doubles tournament, winning both titles to earn All-America status in each. She joined Stanford's Linda Gates (1985) and UCLA's Keri Phebus (1995) as the only female players in NCAA history to capture both NCAA titles in the same season.

Gibbs defeated Cardinal teammate and doubles partner Mallory Burdette, 2-6, 7-6 (7-5), 6-3, in the first all-Stanford singles final since 2001 and won the 15th collegiate singles crown (13 NCAA, 2 AIAW) in school history.

An hour later, Gibbs and Burdette shook off physical and emotional fatigue to claim the doubles championship with a 6-2, 6-4 victory over host Georgia's Nadja Gilchrist and Chelsey Gullickson.

The Pac-12 Player of the Year, Gibbs finished the year 41-5 overall (21-2 in duals) while playing all her matches at the No. 1 spot. Gibbs won the final 17 matches she played, while also winning two other singles titles: the ITA Northwest Regional Championships in October and the Pac-12 Championships in April.

As a Honda prize recipient, Gibbs becomes a finalist for the Collegiate Woman Athlete of the Year and the prestigious Honda Cup.

Neushul, from Goleta, became the fourth Stanford player overall to

earn the Cutino Award, following last year's winner, Annika Dries, as well as Jackie Frank (2003) and Brenda Villa (2002).

"Kiley had a tremendous season, as did our entire team," said Stanford women's water polo head coach John Tanner. "It was great seeing her honored in front of a room full of water polo legends."

UCLA's Caitlin Dement and teammate KK Clark from Sacred Heart Prep rounded out the three finalists for the award.

Neushul scored a team-best 58 goals as Stanford captured its second straight NCAA title, and third overall, in 2012. At the National Collegiate Championship in San Diego in mid-May, Neushul scored three goals, including a goal in the Cardinal's 6-4 title-game win over USC.

The freshman driver recorded 11 hat tricks and 17 multi-goal games as the Cardinal went 26-2 overall, including a perfect 7-0 record in MPSF regular-season play. ■

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# Stanford pitching in spotlight during regional title

Cardinal does what needs to earn a berth in an NCAA Super Regional after sweeping through its own regional with three straight wins

by Rick Eyrer

The Stanford baseball team did just enough, twice, to earn the title of the Stanford Regional last weekend and a trip to the Super Regional in Tallahassee this weekend to take on Florida State, the national third seed.

Mark Appel set the stage with his complete-game effort in the Cardinal first game Friday night and Sahil Bloom wrapped it up Sunday night.

Inbetween, Brian Ragira, Alex Blandino and a cast of dozens, did everything necessary to give Stanford (41-16) a chance to play for a berth in the College World Series.

Appel made very few mistakes in throwing a four-hit complete game in Stanford's 9-1 victory over Fresno State in the first round of the NCAA regional Friday night.

Appel avenged his lone loss of the year and even took a measure

of satisfaction of holding his main nemesis hitless.

"It's pretty rare you get to face the team that beat you earlier in the season in the first game of the playoffs," Appel said. "We were watching the selection show and when Fresno State was put in our region and seeded fourth, I thought 'Alright, this will be pretty fun.'"

Appel had all the fun against the Bulldogs and center fielder Aaron Judge, who blasted a pair of home runs off him in the earlier game, a 7-4 loss. Judge went 0 for 3, striking out twice and drawing a walk.

"I have been getting a lot of grief from my teammates about letting The Judge come in and do that," Appel said. "I've even heard it from Fresno State fans. He hit two home runs off me. I didn't want to throw that pitch again."

Austin Wilson drove in three runs and Kenny Diekroeger drove in two

in support of Appel's effort. Danny Diekroeger and Eric Smith each had two hits and drove in a run for the Cardinal.

"Kenny has been swinging the bat a lot better lately," Marquess said. "He's been struggling offensively the past couple of weeks but he had a great sacrifice bunt that helped us today too. More importantly for us is he's playing great defense."

Wilson drove in the game's first two runs, fighting off a 2-out, 2-strike pitch and driving it up the middle to score Stephen Piscotty, who also had two hits, and Ragira, who also drove in a run.

As Kenny Diekroeger was pulling into second base following his dramatic hit in Saturday's 5-4 win over Pepperdine, there were so many thoughts and emotions swirling through his head that he became tongue-tied trying to explain it all. The Menlo School grad simply let

the scoreboard do the talking for him.

Diekroeger doubled sharply down the third-base line to drive in the go-ahead run as Stanford rallied to beat Pepperdine.

"All I know was that I was screaming real loud; it's hard to put into words something like that," said Diekroeger, who was drafted in the second round of the 2009 First-Year Player Draft by the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. "This is why we came to Stanford: to play in front of a packed house (attendance was announced at 2,277) with a lot of electricity."

There were moments early in the game when it appeared Stanford's season was slowly slipping away, but Ragira pulled the Cardinal away from the edge of disaster and, given a second chance, Stanford was not going to allow any more misfortune.

Much of the credit goes to Dean

McArdle and A.J. Vanegas, who combined on 6 2/3 innings of shut-out relief pitching. They allowed three hits, walked three and struck out 10. Vanegas (4-0) earned the win with an overpowering performance, which included eight strikeouts, against a tough lineup.

"That was an unbelievable job by A.J.," Cardinal coach Mark Marquess said. "He was fantastic. He had big strikeouts."

Vanegas struck out the final four batters he faced and got Pepperdine's big slugger Joe Sever, who hails from nearby Bellarmine Prep in San Jose, twice on strikes.

"Once I get to two strikes I want to throw a careful pitch," Vanegas said. "It's either a strikeout or a bad ball. That's how I approached it. I try not to worry about velocity but just to attack the zone. I might have

(continued on next page)

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## Bullpen

(continued from page 35)

These days he's become the face of the Cardinal bullpen. He earned all-region honors after striking out eight over 3 2/3 innings of last Saturday's game against Pepperdine.

"Before the regional we were watching ESPN and they started talking about how after Mark (Appel) and Brett (Mooneyham), Stanford didn't have anybody to back them up. They said it was not a deep pitching staff," Vanegas said. "We took that as motivation and we wanted to answer that."

All the Stanford bullpen did — with Vanegas, Dean McArdle and Sahil Bloom — was to combine for 9 1/3 scoreless innings, a win and a save. The trio allowed four hits, walked four and struck out 11 to help the Cardinal close the regional on the right foot.

That group hopes to keep it going this weekend when Stanford (41-16) opens a best-of-3 series with host Florida State in an Super Regional in Tallahassee.

"Our bullpen is deep," Vanegas said. "(David) Schmidt has been the closer, Garrett (Hughes) has had a good year. AJ Talt, a submariner, just gets outs. (John) Hochstatter and (Spenser) Linney are a couple of good lefthanders, too."

Vanegas (4-0, 2.24) has thrown just over 60 innings on the year and has made five starts in addition to owning five saves. He has recorded 47 strikeouts.

Vanegas started the year as the No. 3 starter, but was regulated to the bullpen after a couple of so-so outings.

"It felt like a demotion because I had to face some adversity there,"

Vanegas said. "But coach (Rusty) Filter never stopped believing in us and as it happened, the closer/reliever role fit me."

It seemed as though someone was always stepping forward when Stanford needed a stopper and Vanegas has filled that role a number of times this year.

"I like starting. It's cool to go six innings," Vanegas said. "But I also enjoy coming into those big situations, which are just as important."

Stanford will bring a staff ERA of 3.22 into the Super Regional, along with a team batting average of .290. The Seminoles (46-15)† have a team ERA of 3.52 and batting average of .290. Oh yeah, they are also 31-5 at home.

"They just win," Stanford coach Mark Marquess said. "They are used to winning, especially at home. They may not be as talented as they have been, but they expect to win."

Vanegas said the experience of playing at North Carolina last year will help when the team travels to another Super Regional away from home.

"Last year showed us just how valuable it is to have a home crowd," he said. "The momentum would swing to North Carolina any time they did something good and it was difficult to stay on any kind of a roll because of it. You just can't get too hyped up. You have to maintain focus."

Appel (10-1, 2.27) said there were several road series last season that have given Stanford valuable experience, including trips to Texas and Vanderbilt.

"We lost a lot of close games and now we know what it takes," he said. "Any team we play is deserving and is capable of beating any other team in the country." ■



A.J. Vanegas celebrates.



Dave Bouvier

Alex Blandino (second from right) celebrates his three-run homer with teammates (L-R) Eric Smith, Austin Wilson and Brian Ragira.

(continued from previous page)

been a little more pumped up in attacking the zone. I don't remember striking out that many in such a big situation."

Blandino drove in four runs, three on a home run during the decisive rally in the fourth, to help Stanford beat Pepperdine, 8-7, in the championship game on Sunday night.

"Alex has had a great season for us," Marquess said. "He's playing a new position defensively and really solidified third base. He doesn't get down. I'm on him all the time and he's come through a lot. He's matured as a player."

Stanford already had taken a 5-4 lead a batter early, when Austin Wilson singled home two runs. Blandino then delivered the big blow.

"The key was to try and not get caught up in the moment," said Blandino, who dropped a foul ball that led to three Pepperdine runs in the first. "Obviously, the dropped foul ball cost us a couple of runs. I knew I was going to get something

to hit there and wanted to put a good swing on it."

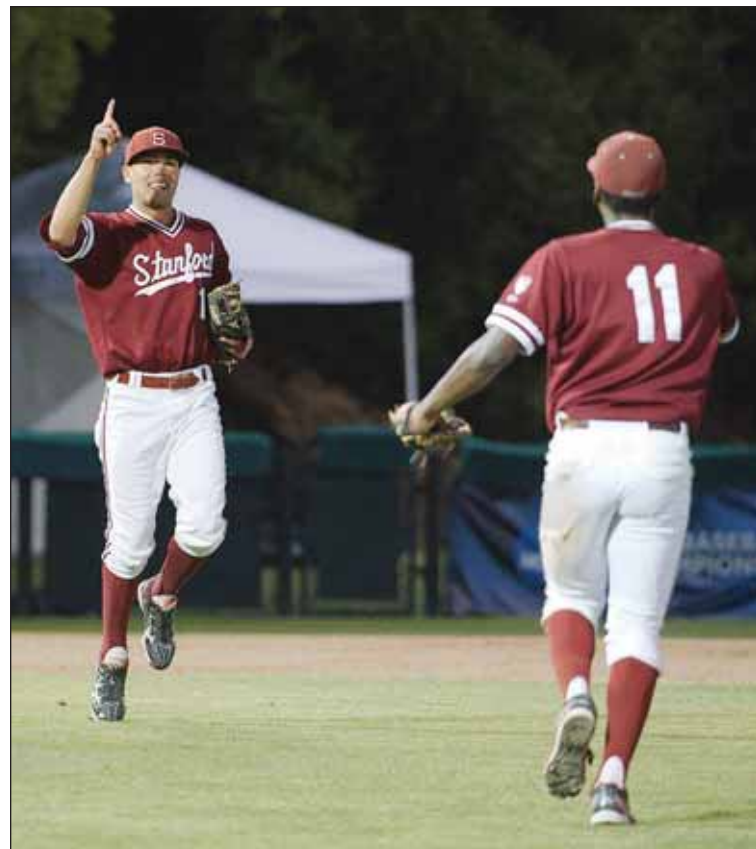
Appel was named the tournament Most Valuable Player. He was joined on the all-tournament team by Kenny Diekroeger, Danny Diekroeger, Eric Smith, Ragira and Vanegas.

Stephen Piscotty had two hits, drove in a run and pitched into the seventh inning.

"He hits third in our lineup, he's our RBI leader and he's won four straight as a starter," Marquess said. "He's a fantastic competitor and a fantastic player. I just don't want him thinking he's a pitcher first."

Piscotty (5-2) pitched 6 1/3 innings for the win. He gave up seven runs, four earned, on 11 hits, walking one and striking out two. Sahil Bloom went the final 2 2/3 innings for his first save.

Ragira reached base in 11 of his 14 plate appearances over the weekend. It was out of respect for his offensive power that Pepperdine walked him intentionally ahead of Wilson, who made the Waves pay with his two-run single. ■



Dave Bouvier

Alex Blandino (left) and Brian Ragira celebrate Stanford's 8-7 victory over Pepperdine in the NCAA Stanford Regional finals.



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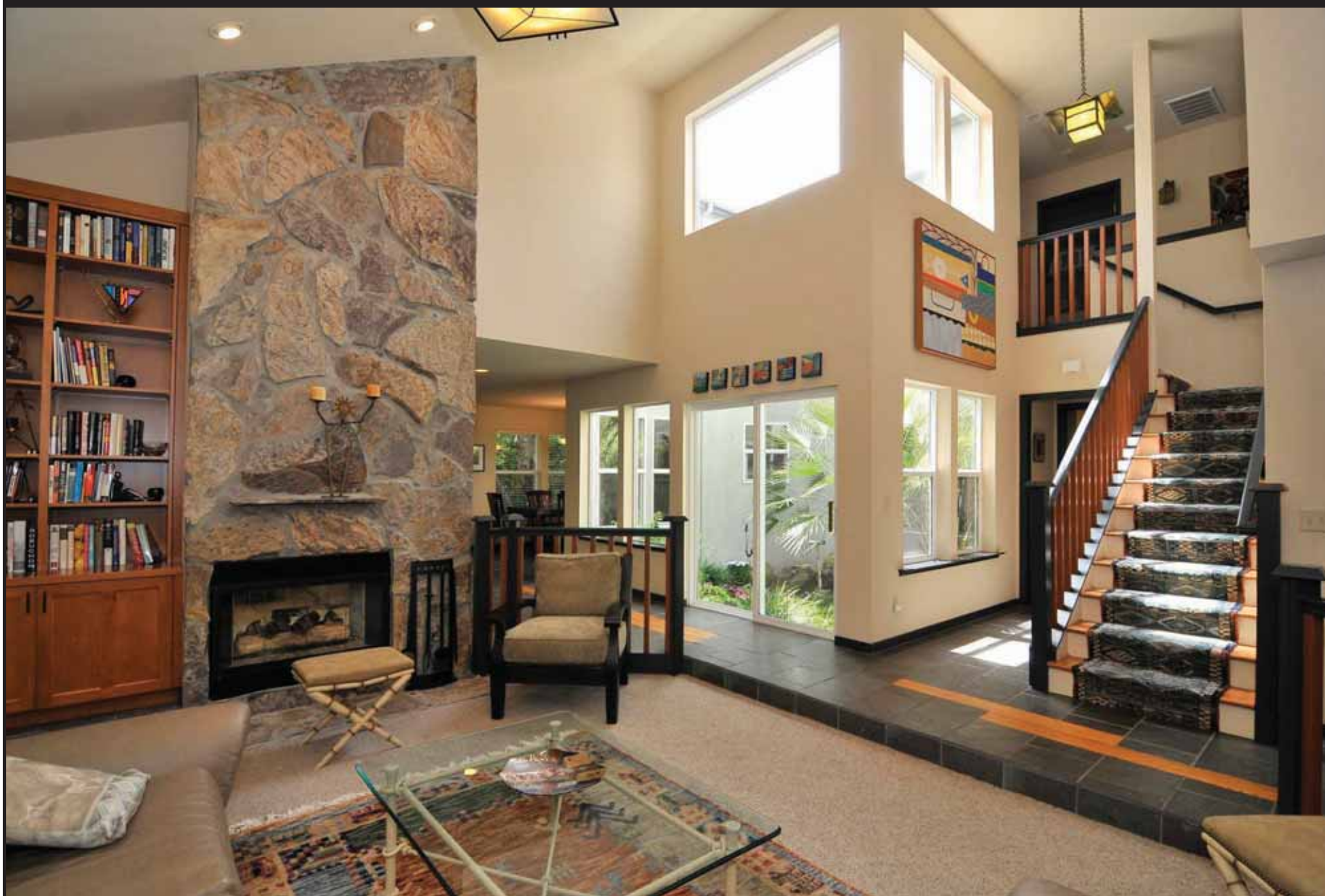


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