

**Connoisseurs'
Marketplace
program**

Weekly

**DEVELOPERS,
RESIDENTS CLASH
OVER CITY VISION**



WHICH ? WAY

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TIME & PLACE

5K walk 7:00pm, 10K run 8:15pm, 5K run 8:45pm.
Race-night registration 6 to 8pm at City of Palo Alto Baylands Athletic Center, Embarcadero & Geng Roads (just east of the Embarcadero Exit off Highway 101).
Parking — go to PaloAltoOnline.com to check for specific parking locations.

COURSE

5k and 10k courses around the Palo Alto Baylands under the light of the Full Harvest Moon. Course is USAT&F certified (10k only) and flat along paved roads. Water at all stops. Course maps coming soon.

REGISTRATIONS & ENTRY FEE

Adult Registration (13 +) registration fee is \$30 per entrant by 9/13/13. Includes a long-sleeved t-shirt. Youth Registration (6 - 12) registration is \$20 per entrant by 9/13/13. Includes a long-sleeved t-shirt. Youth (5 and under) run free with an adult, but must be registered through Evenbrite with signed parental guardian waiver, or may bring/fill out a signed waiver to race-night registration. Late Registration fee is \$35 for adults, \$25 for youth from 9/14 - 9/18. Race night registration fee is \$40 for adult; \$30 for youth from 6 to 8pm. T-shirts available only while supplies last. Refunds will not be issued for no-show registrations and t-shirts will not be held.

MINORS: If not pre-registered, minors under 18 must bring signed parental/waiver form on race night.

SPORTS TEAM/CLUBS:

Online pre-registration opportunity for organizations of 10 or more runners; e-mail MoonlightRun@pawebly.com.

DIVISIONS

Age divisions: 9 & under; 10 - 12; 13 - 15; 16 - 19; 20 - 24; 25 - 29; 30 - 34; 35 - 39; 40 - 44; 45 - 49; 50 - 54; 55 - 59; 60 - 64; 65 - 69; 70 & over with separate divisions for male and female runners in each age group.
Race timing provided for 5K and 10K runs only.

COMPUTERIZED RESULTS BY A CHANGE OF PACE

Chip timing results will be posted on PaloAltoOnline.com by 11pm race night. Race organizers are not responsible for incorrect results caused by incomplete/incorrect registration forms.

AWARDS/PRIZES/ENTERTAINMENT

Top three finishers in each division. Prize giveaways and refreshments.
Pre-race warmups by Noxcuses Fitness, Palo Alto

BENEFICIARY

Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund. A holiday-giving fund to benefit Palo Alto area non-profits and charitable organizations. In April 2013, 55 organizations received a total of \$380,000 (from the 2012-2013 Holiday Fund.)

MORE INFORMATION

Call (650) 463-4920, (650) 326-8210, email MoonlightRun@pawebly.com or go to www.PaloAltoOnline.com.

For safety reasons, no dogs allowed on course for the 5K and 10K runs. They are welcome on the 5K walk only. No retractable leashes. Bring your own clean-up bag. Jogging strollers welcome in the 5K walk or at the back of either run.

CITY OF PALO ALTO
PRESENTS THE 29TH ANNUAL

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Great for kids and families

PALO ALTO WEEKLY
MOON
LIGHT
RUN & WALK

FRIDAY SEPT 20 7PM

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supporting kids and families

Presented by



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Upfront

Local news, information and analysis

Hamilton Avenue is going through office boom

Latest four-story building downtown wins approval from architecture board

by Gennady Sheyner

Palo Alto's University Avenue might get all the glory, but Hamilton Avenue is getting the growth.

A glassy new project by local architect Ken Hayes has been proposed for a corner across the street from City Hall, at Hamilton and Ramona Street. It is the latest in a

string of major developments that are expected to add vitality, mass and a whole lot of office workers to downtown's second-busiest thoroughfare.

The current building, which once housed Radio Shack, would be demolished to make way for a four-story structure, which would fea-

ture retail on the ground floor, two apartments on the fourth floor and offices everywhere else. Altogether, the 15,000-square-foot building would include 9,190 square feet of office space.

Despite its 50-foot height, the maximum allowed under city law, the new development is unlikely to stick out in this part of the city. City Hall is eight stories high, as is the Casa Olga building one block away, which is in the midst of being converted into a

hotel. In addition, developer Charles "Chop" Keenan is working on a similar project — a four-story building with retail on the ground floor and offices above — less than two blocks away, at 135 Hamilton Ave.

Another four-story building, at 100 Hamilton, made headlines last year when it was sold for a staggering \$64 million. Its tenants include the data-analysis giant, Palantir.

Because the Hayes building is consistent with the site's zoning,

it does not have to go through the extensive review that characterizes projects seeking zoning flexibility. On Thursday, July 18, it cleared one of the few procedural hurdles in its path when it received the blessing of the city's Architectural Review Board. Members of the board, which had also reviewed this project on June 6, had some suggestions relating to colors and materials to be

(continued on page 10)



Veronica Weber

Powered by the sun, and rarrrin' to go

A team of 600 Stanford University students created LuminoS, a solar-powered car, which was unveiled July 12 during a public test drive. The car will be competing in the World Solar Challenge in Australia in October. After some last-minute tweaks, the car will be shipped to Australia on July 22.

TECHNOLOGY

Game-making internship: summer fun, with a possibility of profit

Entrepreneurs enlist students to build iPhone games, with a little help

by Chris Kenrick

Carrying his laptop and lunch, 13-year-old Gautam Mittal gets a ride from his dad to his summer internship each morning.

In a sprawling, single-story house in Palo Alto's Crescent Park neighborhood, he spends his weekdays sitting at long white tables with dozens of other local teens, quietly writing code for iPhone games.

Gautam, a JLS Middle School eighth-grader, is working on a game that challenges players to match colored circles falling onto

the screen with a multi-colored ball in the center. His friend and fellow JLS eighth-grader Kevin Frans is building a survival game involving colored bullets or balls.

The middle-school students are among 100 unpaid teens this summer creating iPhone games at MakeGamesWithUs, the brainchild of 20-year-old Ashutosh Desai and 21-year-old Jeremy Rossmann.

The pair are friends from their high school days at Menlo School, where Desai, at 16, sold 50,000 cop-

ies of his "Helicopter" game in the App Store, netting \$35,000.

He recalls it as a "super-great experience."

"I got to learn more about computer science and I got to make some money as a 16-year-old," Desai said.

"But foremost was having thousands of people all around the world pay for something I created and writing positive reviews."

Last year Desai and Rossmann decided to take time off from col-

lege — UCLA and MIT respectively — to build games and make some money.

But in the hits-driven business of iPhone games they quickly realized that gathering a larger pool of game-makers would boost their odds of a big win, hence their offer to the students.

Desai and Rossmann provide interns with tutorials on game-building, help with coding questions, as-

(continued on page 11)

ECONOMY

Paying the Silicon Valley way

Coupa Café customers can use bitcoins, a digital currency, to buy a cup of coffee

by Elena Kadavy

When paying for a latté — or any menu item — at Coupa Café in downtown Palo Alto, customers have two options.

One is the usual route: Use cash or a card to pay. The second option? Pull out a smartphone and use an application to pay with bitcoins.

Bitcoins are an emerging digital currency. Generated electronically by computers, they can be exchanged freely between people without any intermediary. Without bank or government involvement, there are no chargebacks, prerequisites, fees, limits or delays.

"It's like when the Internet first started in the '90s," said Mike Landau, a Facebook software engineer who helped develop the technology that Coupa uses to accept bitcoins. He collaborated on the e-currency system with his close friend, Jean Paul Coupal, who owns Coupa Café with his mother and sister. Coupal and Landau met as undergraduates at Stanford University.

At the advent of the Internet, people understood phone-to-phone or computer-to-computer communication, but an entire decentralized network where people could connect, exchange and communicate was hard to comprehend, Landau said. The world of bitcoins is similar.

"Bitcoin does two things," Landau explained. "One is, it's a currency. But it's also a medium of transaction. You can imagine it being kind of like PayPal, but completely open source and decentralized. There's

(continued on page 12)

August Events for Active Adults

Successful Aging Celebration

Sat. Aug. 10, 9:30 am - 1:30 pm
Palo Alto Medical Foundation
701 East El Camino Real,
Mountain View
A free day of seminars, art, music,
food, prizes, a movie and more!
Call 650-934-7380 for more
information or to register.

Avenidas Fitness Camp

Aug. 20, 9 am - 3 pm
Channing House
850 Webster St., Palo Alto
Call 650-289-5436 for more
information or to register.

Family Caregiving 101

A year-long series of free workshops
Avenidas Rose Kleiner Center
270 Escuela Avenue
Mountain View

Self-Care
Thursday, Aug. 22, 7 pm
Falls Prevention
Thursday, Sept. 26, 7 pm
Stress Management
Thursday, Oct. 24, 7 pm

Call 650-289-5499 for more
information or to register.

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(650) 289-5405 | www.avenidas.org



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Please join us at Bing Concert Hall
for the inaugural season of our
newly created ensemble.

Featuring renowned soloists and
Jindong Cai, artistic director and conductor.

SUNDAY, JULY 21st

2:30pm

PROGRAM: Tchaikovsky Favorites

Violin Concerto in D, featuring Suli Xue, violin (member of LA Philharmonic)
and selections from Ballet "Sleeping Beauty" and "Swan Lake"

SUNDAY, JULY 28th

2:30pm

PROGRAM: Dvořak and Beethoven

Dvořak: Cello Concerto, featuring Christopher Constanza, cello (member
of St. Lawrence String Quartet) and Beethoven: Symphony No. 7 in A

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2nd

7:30pm

PROGRAM: The Best of the Stanford Youth Orchestra

Featuring Eric Wu, piano (winner of the Stanford Concert Competition
2013) and other Concerto Competition winners

Tickets: \$10. Available at the Stanford Ticket Office.
More information: youthorchestra.stanford.edu
1.888.423.6040



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Upfront

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“

We only make money if what
we taught you is useful.

”

— **Ashutosh Desai**, a 20-year-old entrepreneur
and founder of **MakeGamesWithUs**, on teaching
summer interns to create mobile apps.
See story on page 3.

Around Town

PEACE OUT ... Palo Alto Mayor

Greg Scharff has withdrawn from the
Mayors for Peace, an international
organization headquartered in
Hiroshima, Japan, after nearly 30 years
of Palo Alto mayoral endorsement, he
has confirmed. Late Mayor **Jim Burch**
endorsed Mayors for Peace in 1985,

after appeals by hundreds of local
citizens, according to **Paul George**
executive director of the **Peninsula
Peace and Justice Center**. Prior
to Burch's action, the City Council
approved a resolution endorsing
a freeze on nuclear weapons. But
subsequent mayors haven't passed
along the mantle. Scharff said he
first became aware of the city's
membership after receiving emails
from the organization to attend a
conference in Hiroshima. Scharff said
the council did not vote in a resolution
to join the group. He strongly believes
a city's role is to its constituents. "My
job is filling potholes," he said, referring
literally to road repairs. If the council
were to pass a resolution supporting
the membership, Scharff said he
would follow that resolution. Flying
to Hiroshima at taxpayer expense is
also a no-go, he said. But George
said the proper response "would be
a polite 'no,' not canceling Palo Alto's
membership. The bigger question
here is a familiar one: Is it appropriate
for a city council to take a stand on
issues that do not seem to be directly
related to city business? ... We live in a
representative democracy, and council
members are elected representatives.
On occasion, those whom they
represent will ask to have their voices
amplified on important issues of the
day. When something means so much
to so many local residents, it becomes
a local issue, regardless of the broader
context. We hope the mayor will
reconsider his decision," he said.

to educate more students, Hennessy
said he hopes to slowly increase
undergraduate enrollment from 6,590
to about 8,000 over 10 to 15 years.

A GROWING TERRACE ... Change
has long been the norm in Palo Alto's
College Terrace neighborhood,
whose close proximity to Stanford
University, Stanford Research Park
and the California Avenue Business
District make it particularly vulnerable
to the effects of new developments.
But the latest building project to make
its way toward College Terrace would
effectively transform and expand the
neighborhood. Under the "**Mayfield
Development Agreement**" that the
city and **Stanford University** signed
in 2005, the university is allowed to
build 180 units of housing at 1601
California Ave., which would include 68
single-family homes and two four-story
apartment buildings with 112 units.

On Thursday, the city's Architectural
Review Board discussed the project
and made some suggestions about
the architecture and road designs (it
didn't take any action). In designing the
housing, the goal was to "make this
project a natural organic extension of
the College Terrace neighborhood,"
landscape architect **Paul Laterri** of
Guzzardo Partnership told the board.

Brent Barker, president of the College
Terrace Neighborhood Association,
agreed and said he hopes the new
development is "not set up to be an
island tethered to College Terrace but
an integral part of College Terrace."

THE ORIGINAL TESLA ... To Palo Alto
resident **Dorrian Porter, Nikola Tesla**
may be the most fitting representative
for the city. It's not just because the
technology based on his inventions
represents the foundations (and
fortunes) of some of the city's greatest
innovators, including his namesake
company, **Tesla Motors**, whose cars
use an alternating-current induction
motor like the one originally invented by
Tesla. Porter, who started a successful
Kickstarter campaign to build a statue
of Tesla in Palo Alto, also wanted to
"pay respect to the person who used
his brilliance to advance society, not
for personal wealth." The project raised
\$127,260 from 722 backers, more
than \$5,000 above its target, to build a
7-foot bronze-cast statue of Tesla near
Harold Hohbach's recently approved
"Park Plaza" development at 195 Page
Mill Road. Fittingly, the statue will be
a wireless hotspot and have a time
capsule to be opened in 2043. ■

WORLD'S 'TOP CHOICE' SCHOOL?
... Stanford University hit a milestone
of sorts in 2005, when the number
of undergraduate applications
surpassed 20,000 for the first time.
That, however, is nothing by today's
standards. This year, that number
of applications was nearly double,
with 38,828 applications. Only 2,210
students were admitted. "Stanford
has become a top choice for
undergraduates worldwide," university
President **John Hennessy** told alumni
in the July/August issue of Stanford
Magazine. Recognizing a "dramatic
increase in qualified applicants" and
feeling the "responsibility and ability"

EDUCATION

Despite 'satisfactory' review, Skelly contract not extended beyond 2016

Palo Alto superintendent's salary remains the same

Palo Alto school district Superintendent Kevin Skelly received a satisfactory performance review for 2012-13, but his contract was not extended beyond the current expiration date of June 30, 2016, Board of Education President Dana Tom confirmed this week.

Skelly's 2013-14 salary will be \$287,163, the same amount he has received annually for the past two years, according to Scott Bowers,

assistant superintendent for human resources.

A salary schedule attached to his contract — contingent upon receiving an "overall rating of satisfactory" on the annual evaluation — shows salary compensation of \$248,063 in 2008-09 rising to the current level in 2011-12 with no further provision for increase.

Skelly was hired in 2007 with an original contract end date of 2012.

Each year since then, except for 2010 and 2013, the contract has been extended for an additional year.

The Board of Education met June 19 for its annual, full-day evaluation of the superintendent's performance.

The review included discussion of strengths as well as things that could have been done better and future goals, Tom said. ■

— *Palo Alto Weekly staff*

COURTS

Driver who struck bicyclist won't be charged

Misdemeanor charge of driving with a suspended license pending, deputy DA says

by Sue Dremann

A driver who had a small amount of methamphetamine in his blood when he struck and critically injured a 12-year-old Palo Alto boy will not face criminal charges in the crash, Supervising Deputy District Attorney Cindy Hendrickson said on Thursday.

Luis Felipe Hau of Sunnyvale was driving south on Park Boulevard near Sherman Avenue when he veered into the bicycle lane and struck Sebastian Lerrick on Nov. 5, 2012. Hau told police the sun was in his eyes and he did not see the boy. A blood test later determined that he had a small amount of methamphetamine in his system. He was also driving with a suspended license for not paying a fine, Hendrickson said.

Both factors did not add up to a winnable case under the law, Hendrickson said.

"When a little boy on his bike gets hit by a vehicle and grievously injured through no fault of his own,

the tragic nature and unfairness of that incident cry out for someone to be held accountable.

"But not all wrongs can be righted or even addressed by the criminal justice system. We are constrained by the law and by our ethical obligation as district attorneys to enforce the laws fairly and without regard for sympathy or bias for or against any particular party," she said.

The DA's office has studied the case since March. Deputy District Attorney Duffy Magilligan, who is in charge of the case, did an exhaustive search of all permutations of the law for any that could be applied to the case, she said. But ultimately, only a misdemeanor charge for driving with a suspended license with a prior conviction for the same charge could be applied. If convicted, Hau could face up to a year in county jail, Hendrickson said.

Lerrick was on his way to school at 7:19 a.m. when Hau's Nissan Quest

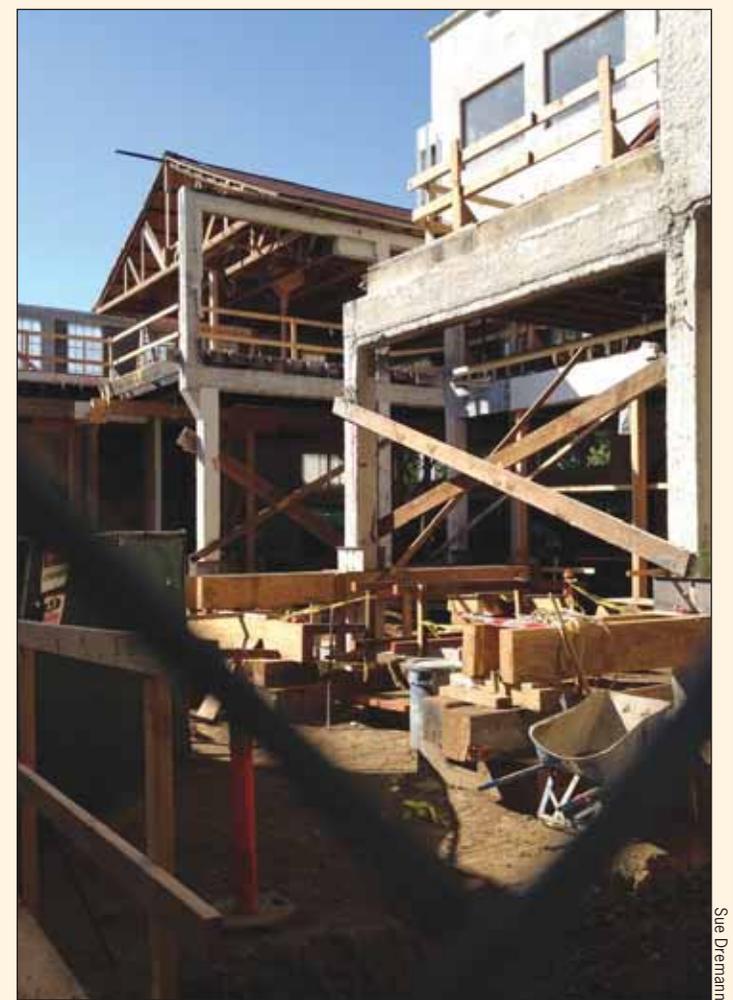
struck him from behind, breaking his bicycle frame in two and damaging the Nissan's front bumper, hood and windshield. The boy was wearing a bike helmet, but he sustained a leg and wrist fracture, a broken jaw, broken teeth and brain swelling, according to a police report. He still suffers traumatic brain injuries, resulting in physical, cognitive, psychological and emotional issues, according to a \$17 million claim the family filed against the City of Palo Alto.

Hau told police he was driving between 25 and 35 mph. The speed limit is 25 mph, Hendrickson said.

Hau's license was suspended in May 2009 for failure to pay a fine, and he was later convicted for driving with a suspended license in September 2009, Hendrickson said.

A toxicology analysis at the time of the November collision found that Hau had a trace amount of metham-

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Sue Dremann

What's happening here?

Where: Pacific Art League, 668 Ramona St., Palo Alto

What: Renovation of the historic building, adding 5,000 square feet for a total of 13,500 square feet.

When: Expected re-opening June 2014

Who: Oliver and Company, General Contractors, Berkeley

Cost: \$5.5 million, paid for by the nonprofit Pacific Art League

Impact: Access to sidewalk on Ramona adjacent to the construction site is limited; intermittent deliveries of construction materials and equipment.

Of note: The exterior will maintain its historic appearance and structure. The building will feature an elevator, comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act and be wired for Internet access. A new space for corporations developing creative-learning teams will be added. Online art classes, art courses for mobile and digital media and many traditional art programs will be offered. ■

— *Sue Dremann*

TRANSPORTATION

Bike-share system rolls into Peninsula

Palo Alto train commuters can hop a bike for the last mile

by Daniel DeBolt

Memberships went on sale Monday, July 15, for the bike-sharing system debuting in Palo Alto and the Peninsula next month. Officials are promising local users won't see the glitches that recently triggered a slew of complaints in New York.

The 700-bike system extends from key train stations on the Peninsula — San Francisco, Redwood City, Mountain View, Palo Alto and San Jose. It will be run by the Alta Bike Share, the same company responsible for New York's new system. That system made headlines when complaints poured in about the number of automated bike stalls that wouldn't release bikes or take them back, frustrat-

ing commuters and tourists and giving the system the nickname "Glitchy bike."

"Alta has assured us that they've done a software patch so that doesn't happen here," said Damian Breen of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, one of a half-dozen government agencies cooperating on the project. He added that Alta had managed to repair all of the faulty stations in New York.

What may disappoint users is finding empty racks. Officials admit there may not be enough bikes to meet demand and are quick to remind people that this is a "pilot" project. A second phase is in the works to add another 300 bikes.

"When you consider what we

were funded to do with this grant we received, we were very successful," Breen said of the system, whose planning stretches back to 2009. "What we're launching is a pilot. This system could be a building block for a larger and Bay Area-wide system. The directors from our board and a lot of our leaders in the Bay Area would like to see this system become larger."

Palo Alto will receive 100 rental bikes, with the majority located at the downtown train station and on the Stanford University campus.

Breen said corporate sponsorship of the system may help fund the system's expansion, as was done in New York, where the bikes have the name of a well-known bank painted on them.

Aiko Cuenco of the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority said bike sharing could be considered "an extension of the transit system," providing a connection from train stations, for example, to wherever someone is going in the "last mile" of their journey.

"We price it in such a way that people don't keep the bike any longer than is needed," Cuenco said. "It's not a rental system; it's an extension of the transit system."

The system encourages short rides by not charging for rides of 30 minutes or less. Hour-long rides are \$4, and every half-hour after that costs \$7. Those looking to ride for longer periods can get around the time limit by riding to another station and switching to

another bike.

The system works for anyone with a credit card and at least \$9, which is the cost of a 24-hour membership. There's also a \$22 three-day membership and an \$88 annual membership.

The system will be up and running next month, though an exact date has yet to be announced.

The pilot program is funded through local and regional grants in combination with a \$4.3 million grant from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's Climate Initiatives Grant program.

More information is available at www.bayareabikeshare.com. ■

Staff Writer Daniel DeBolt writes for the Weekly's sister paper, the Mountain View Voice.

Senior housing or not, Maybell area ripe for redevelopment

Opinions differ over whether proposed housing would make neighborhood streets safer or more hazardous

by Gennady Sheyner

When Palo Alto officials agreed last month to rezone property on Maybell and Clemo avenues to enable construction of a senior-housing development and 12 homes, they issued a warning to the angry masses opposing the zone change: Be careful what you wish for.

If the Palo Alto Housing Corporation proceeds with the approved plan, it will build 60 apartments for low-income seniors and a dozen homes to be sold at market rate. Proceeds from the market-rate homes would subsidize the senior housing.

But even if voters overturn this plan in a November referendum, the land is unlikely to remain dormant. From the city's perspective, should the referendum succeed and the zone change be reversed, the election could be a Pyrrhic victory for the residents. Effectively, it would leave the door open for a project that could bring greater traffic problems than what's being proposed by the nonprofit developer.

Existing zoning rules entitle the property owner to build 34 homes on the 2.4-acre site, currently occupied by a few homes and an orchard. The number could go up, however, if the developer were to offer some of these homes at below-market rates. According to city planner Tim Wong, project manager for the Maybell proposal, a developer would be allowed to increase density by 35 percent if 10 percent of the development is devoted to housing for residents at the "very low" income level or if 20 percent is built for those earning a "low" income. If a developer were to take advantage of this "density bonus," which is encoded in state law, the number of homes allowed at the site would increase to 46, Wong said at the council's June 13 meeting.

This alternative was a major consideration in the council's deeply controversial decision to approve the zone change. Even though the Maybell project would lead to greater density at the site, council members agreed that the changes to traffic would be hardly noticeable owing to the expectation that seniors drive far less frequently, if at all. The predicted traffic would be less than that of a development that is compliant with the original residential zoning.

"We know there would be 34 (homes) if not done by this applicant. Frankly, it could be closer to 46, by right, and there's nothing we can do to stop that from being built," Councilman Marc Berman said June 13.

Berman, who analyzed the traffic in the area over a series of visits to the site, brought up this factor in supporting the senior-housing plan. Even under a conservative estimate that

uses methodology from the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, traffic resulting from the Housing Corporation would be equivalent to about 31 new homes, Berman said. And when seniors drive, he noted, it's usually in off-peak hours.

Senior Assistant City Attorney Cara Silver confirmed that the city would not be able to prevent a developer from getting the density bonus, which is guaranteed by state law.

"The city cannot force a developer to build a lesser project if (the developer) is requesting something that is permitted by (legal) right," Silver told the council June 13.

An analysis by Hexagon Transportation Consultants had determined that the project would result in 16 new car trips during the morning peak-commute hour and 21 new trips during the late-afternoon peak.

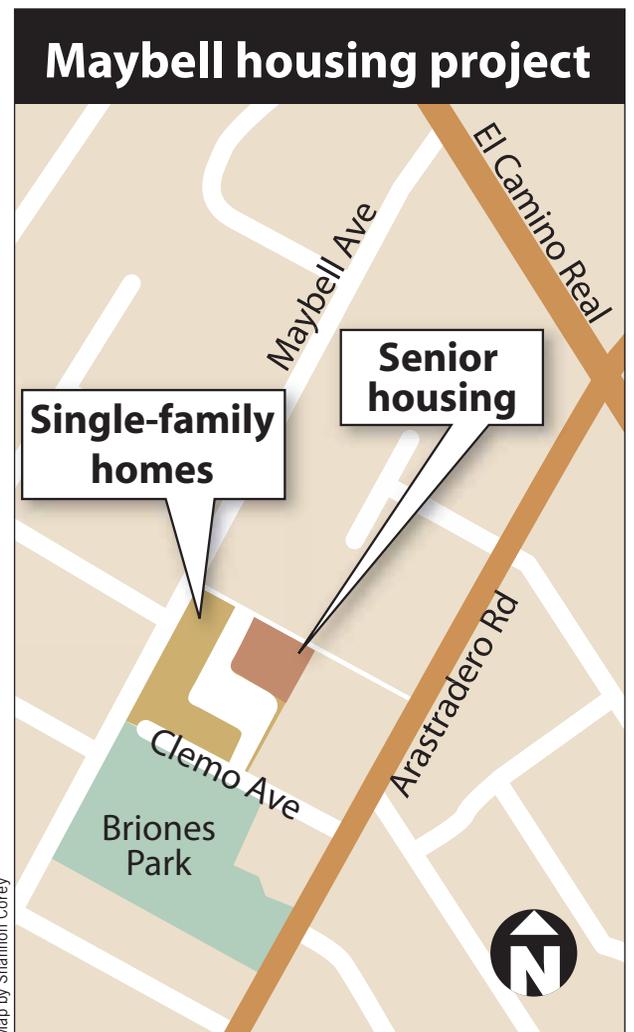
Residents around the project site have disputed these findings and argued consistently that their neighborhood is already a traffic mess, thanks in part to the recent reconfiguration of lanes on Arastradero Road. At recent hearings, some showed videos and photos of Maybell Avenue during peak hours, with traffic badly congested and cars sharing roads with herds of bicyclists heading to and from schools. Though residents had other concerns about the project as well, including the compatibility of new houses with the existing neighborhood, traffic was at the center of the debate.

"With all the congestion City Council and staff have already created, it is irresponsible to increase zoning," Barron Park resident Lydia Kou told the council June 10.

Officials for the Housing Corporation have disputed residents' warnings about future traffic problems. Jessica de Wit, project manager with the Housing Corporation, noted that the vast majority of the tenants in the organization's existing properties throughout town don't work, and many don't drive. In Arastradero Park Apartments, which are next to the Maybell site, 89 percent of the tenants don't work, she said, and 55 percent do not drive. If a development of 34 homes were built, it would produce "38 to 52 percent more peak-hour traffic than the proposed project," de Wit said.

Prior to the council's vote approving the Maybell rezoning on June 28, Councilman Larry Klein said the planned-community zone would "afford more protection to the neighborhood than the existing zoning would." ■

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



The proposed development by the Palo Alto Housing Corporation would bring 60 units of housing for low-income seniors and 12 single-family homes to a former orchard site at 567 Maybell Ave.

LAND USE

Referendum petition submitted in Palo Alto

Citizens seek to overturn City Council's approval of housing development on Maybell Avenue

The signatures are in, and Palo Alto may be heading for a November election.

If the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters confirms the petition signatures collected by Palo Alto citizens, voters will have a chance this fall to overturn a June 17 decision by the City Council to revise the city's Comprehensive Plan to accommodate a housing development on Maybell and Clemo avenues.

The controversial development, proposed by the Palo Alto Housing Corporation, includes a 60-unit housing complex for seniors and 12 single-family homes (see story above).

To reverse the council's approval, residents have been working to qualify two referendums for the November ballot: one that would specifically overturn the council's

approval of the project and another one that would reverse the change to the Comprehensive Plan.

Citizens had to get 2,298 signatures for each petition to qualify it for the ballot. The one for the Comprehensive Plan was due Wednesday, and petitioners submitted the signatures to the Office of the City Clerk at about 5 p.m., according to Assistant City Clerk Beth Minor.

Though the signatures are yet to be verified by the county registrar, the number well exceeds the required amount. City Clerk Donna Grider accepted the sheets of signatures and returned a receipt showing 3,431 signatures had been collected. Bob Moss, a Barron Park resident who is part of the campaign, said the effort has received support from all parts of Palo Alto, with people

"concerned about the scale of developments going in and the traffic impacts on city services."

"We were delighted and impressed with how many people are angry about overdevelopment in Palo Alto," Moss said.

The registrar's office has 15 days to verify the signatures.

Because the council formally approved the specific Maybell project plan on June 28 (after what's known as a "second reading") and residents have 30 days to gather signatures for a referendum, the petition for that decision isn't due until later this month.

The city's last referendum took place in 2003, when voters unsuccessfully challenged a development at 800 High St. ■

— Gennady Sheyner



VIDEO: First Person with Jim Fruchterman

Jim Fruchterman, rocket scientist-turned-social entrepreneur and founder/CEO of Benetech, a Palo Alto nonprofit, develops technology to "truly help change the world." Fruchterman talks about his current projects and his determination to help the tech community do much more to serve others in this First Person interview with Lisa Van Dusen. To watch the video, go to PaloAltoOnline.com. ■

Neighborhoods

A roundup of neighborhood news edited by Sue Dremann

AROUND THE BLOCK

UP CLOSE AND K-9 PERSONAL

... Getting close enough to a patrol car to pet a police dog is usually not advisable, but on Saturday, July 20, residents can meet **Eddie**, the newest member of the **Palo Alto Police Department's K-9 unit**. Two-year-old Eddie will make an appearance from 3 to 4 p.m. at Heritage Park, 300 Homer Ave., in the **University South** neighborhood. **Chief Dennis Burns** will speak, and Eddie's handler will give a brief presentation. Residents can watch Eddie perform obedience drills and check out his specially equipped police car.

RAMADAN CELEBRATION ...

Evergreen Park resident **Samina Sundas** is hosting an **Iftar dinner** in celebration of the Muslim holy month of **Ramadan**. The dinner will take place Sunday, July 21, from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at her home. Muslims fast during the entire month between sunrise and sunset, taking food and water only thereafter. The dinner is free and open to all who want to celebrate peace between cultures and faiths and to build community. Persons wanting to attend are asked to RSVP to Sundas at saminasundas@gmail.com.

CARING ABOUT CREEKS ...

A celebration of **Barron Park's creeks** will take place Aug. 23 from 4 to 5:30 p.m., at which time the **Barron Park Association Green Team** will add new Creeks and Watersheds signage for Barron and Matadero creeks. There will also be creek-themed activities for kids, a creek watershed talk by Barron Park Historian **Doug Graham**, snacks and free reusable shopping bags. The signs are sponsored by the **Regional Water Quality Control Plant** in cooperation with the environmental nonprofit **Acterra's** stewardship program. The event will take place at Bol Park, 3590 Laguna Ave., Palo Alto.

COOP DU JOUR ...

Palo Alto residents who have a **chicken coop** or who are interested in setting one up are invited to participate Sept. 14 in the **2013 Silicon Valley Tour de Coop** by tour organizers. Event and coop information is available at www.tourdecoop.org. ■

Send announcements of neighborhood events, meetings and news to Sue Dremann, Neighborhoods editor, at sdremann@paweekly.com. Or talk about your neighborhood news on Town Square at www.PaloAltoOnline.com.

BARRON PARK

An 'Oscar' of an idea

Barron Park rolls out the red carpet — and robots — for outdoor movie night

by Sue Dremann

Once upon a time, drive-in movies were a big family pastime, and they were part of the collective culture. But those big outdoor screens and community affairs have largely disappeared. Not so in Barron Park, where the big screen will return on Saturday, July 27, for Neighborhood Movie Night under the stars.

That's when the popular movie "Wall-E" will be projected onto a 12-foot inflatable screen at Bol Park. Real robots, built by residents, will be demonstrated, too, said event organizer Lydia Kou.

Movie night is sponsored by the Barron Park Association, with a \$1,000 grant from the City of Palo Alto's Know Your Neighbors program. And yes, there will be free popcorn — for as long as it lasts, she said.

Kou has been looking for ways to celebrate Barron Park's cultural diversity and get neighbors acquainted. She spearheaded a Chinese Lunar New Year celebration that included lion dancers and traditional foods earlier this year. This time she's going for a more universally appealing experience, and the drive-in represents American tradition, she said.

"It's a fun thing to do; it's a wholesome family event that we don't have much anymore. So I thought, 'Why not have it in the park?' Instead of driving, we can ride our bike or walk in," she said.

Residents sent her movie ideas by email.

"Shrek" received the most votes. Barron Park donkeys Miner 49er and Perry, who was the model for the donkey in "Shrek," were to be in attendance.

"I planned to have them come in on a red carpet and have a photo opportunity," she said.

But she could not obtain a movie-theater license for the film.

"Wall-E" was a close second, and it's just as fun," she said.

Real robots are welcome to attend, she added.

Trevor Nielsen, a Gunn High School junior and member of the Gunn Robotics Team, said he will bring "Omega Supreme," a waist-high, crab-like creation made of aluminum, Lexan, steel and fiberglass. About 40 students created the red-and-black robot, which can shoot Frisbees and climb



Christophe Haburisin

Rising seniors Trevor Nielsen, 17, and Catherine Nguyen, 16, make adjustments to the Gunn High School Robotics Team's Frisbee-launching robot. Nielsen will be bringing the robot to the screening of "Wall-E" on July 27 in Bol Park.

a pyramid. In March, the team won the FIRST Robotics Competition regional award in Utah for its work. They also competed in other regionals and the world championship in St. Louis, Mo., he said.

Nielsen plans to show off the robot's Frisbee-shooting capabilities as part of the July 27 event.

"I want to get middle school kids excited about it," he said.

Building the robot was "incredibly challenging." It took the

team six weeks of working every day after school until 9 p.m. and 10 hours a day on weekends, he said.

July 27 is also International Dance Day, and Kou hopes kids and their parents will teach others the dances of their cultures.

With any luck, Kou said, people will be inspired to get to know each other better and to venture out of their comfort zones.

"It's about respecting each other and everyone — being a neighbor-

hood and helping neighbors. It's about learning the other side of these people. We see one side of everybody, but there are so many private things you don't know."

Barron Park's Neighborhood Movie Night will start at 7:30 p.m. with the robot viewing and a social. The film will start at dusk. Residents are encouraged to bring their own snacks and blankets. ■

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

EDUCATION

University presidents gather in Palo Alto to ponder future of higher ed

Online-learning explosion disrupts traditional academic, financial models

by Chris Kenrick

More than a dozen presidents of colleges and universities will gather in Palo Alto this weekend to brainstorm about the future of the fast-changing world of higher education.

The presidents will ponder new academic and financial models for their institutions that are being driven by the global explosion in online learning, including the rise of massive open online courses (MOOCs). Such courses have attracted tens of thousands of students from around the world to a single class, such as Introduction to Databases offered by Stanford University computer-science Professor Jennifer Widom.

A plethora of for-profit and non-profit education startups, including local firms such as Udacity, Udemy and Coursera, are vying for students in the new global online classroom.

Researchers from the Palo Alto think tank Institute for the Future will guide the university presidents' discussions, which are set for Sunday and Monday.

College and university leaders attending run the gamut from the Ivy

League University of Pennsylvania to the upstart Western Governors University, an online institution founded by 19 governors in 1997 that now has an enrollment of more than 35,000 students.

Tiny Bates College in Maine will be represented, as well as huge state institutions like Arizona State University and the University of Wisconsin.

The president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology — one of the world's first universities to post its lectures online with its 2002 Open CourseWare initiative — is also scheduled to participate.

Locally, Foothill-De Anza Community College Chancellor Linda Thor will attend, as will San Jose State University President Mohammad H. Qayoumi.

Palo Alto's Institute for the Future, founded 45 years ago by researchers from the RAND Corporation and SRI International, works with corporate, nonprofit and government clients to analyze underlying changes that affect traditional organizations.

"What we're doing is a scenarios process, taking them through scenarios for higher education moving forward," said Devin Fidler, a technology research director at Institute for the Future.

"There are a lot of ways it could go. We want to create a space for a deliberate conversation along those lines. It's easy to be reactive ... but we're looking for innovations to get ahead of the curve."

Fidler said when his group started its work on the future of learning, "it was difficult to make the case that there was something fundamental happening that's likely to make running a university in 10 years different than it is today.

"But as Udacity and Coursera and even Khan Academy went live, people started to come to those conclusions themselves.

"The proposition for a learning institution changes when you can access all the content that any student at any elite university in the world has access to if you have an Internet connection," Fidler said.

"Universities — some more than others — will find themselves in transition. Some of their revenue comes from streams that are likely to dry up.

"The whole thing is about re-balancing the equation and exploring what that would look like."

The Washington, D.C.-based American Council on Education (ACE), whose members include 1,800 accredited, degree-granting colleges and universities, is sponsoring this weekend's "Presidential Innovation Lab," with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

"This is an opportunity for senior higher education leaders to engage in comprehensive and critical thinking about the potential of this new learning modality to boost attainment levels, particularly among older, post-traditional students, low-income young adults and other underserved students," ACE President Molly Corbett Broad said.

The group's work will guide a national dialogue about the types of academic and financial models that might grow out of the current high level of interest in MOOCs and other new technologies and learning methods, said Cathy A. Sandeen, ACE vice president for educational attainment and innovation.

Other institutions that will be represented by their presidents this weekend include Northeastern University; Rio Salado College, a community college based in Tempe, Ariz.; Tulane University, Excelsior College of Albany, N.Y.; University of Houston and Southern New Hampshire University. ■

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

News Digest

Google makes big buy in south Palo Alto

Mountain View-based Google Inc. has bought seven properties on East Meadow Circle in south Palo Alto, an area the city has envisioned for light commercial development, the company has confirmed.

A spokesperson for the Internet-search giant, which was founded in Palo Alto, stated in an email that the company bought the properties located at 1015, 1020, 1025, 1036, 1040, 1085, and 1086 East Meadow Circle, which were owned by the California Pacific Commercial Corp., according to the Santa Clara County Assessor.

Thomas Fehrenbach, economic-development manager for the City of Palo Alto, said the city hasn't seen any development applications from Google for potential uses for the property.

In 2010 the City Council passed a plan to potentially allow for greater density in the area of East Meadow Circle, in order to encourage businesses to come to the area.

Interim city planning director Aaron Akin said larger, more dense buildings would need to be located nearer U.S. Highway 101, while the buildings near single-family homes in the area would be less dense, to create a buffer between the residential area and the commercial space.

Akin said there will be neighborhood outreach about the development when a concept is proposed. ■

— Eric Van Susteren

City to prune, remove trees in downtown Palo Alto

The City of Palo Alto will remove 25 trees downtown, mainly along University Avenue, and complete pruning work on other trees to ensure vehicle, pedestrian and building clearance, according to a press release.

Crews will work Mondays through Saturdays, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. between Middlefield Road and the northeastern city limit at San Francisco Creek and will try to keep minimize traffic problems, the release stated.

Four of the trees, magnolias located along University Avenue, will be removed soon due to public-safety concerns. The magnolias have sustained decay, structural defects or long-term decline, according to the release.

There are 283 trees along University Avenue, where 23 of the 25 trees scheduled for removal are located. Most of them are magnolias.

"Tree maintenance is scheduled on a recurring cycle of approximately seven years," said Urban Forester Walter Passmore. "The fact that we have such a small percentage of tree removals that are needed indicates that our tree population as a whole in this area of the city is in good condition."

Eleven replacement trees will be planted in the fall, when the cooler, wetter weather will improve the survival of the trees. Some of the trees that are being removed will not be replaced because of underground utility lines or competition from private trees and vegetation. ■

— Eric Van Susteren

Police arrest one after early-morning burglary

Police arrested a man early Friday morning, July 12, for allegedly stealing \$8,000 in construction equipment from a Crescent Park residence under construction. A second burglar escaped the search, which included two canine units and a police perimeter around the neighborhood, according to a police press release.

Police responded to a call at 1:43 a.m. from a resident of the 1400 block of Hamilton Avenue who said he heard noises coming from a nearby home that was vacant due to construction. He told dispatchers that he witnessed two men putting objects into a van parked outside the construction site.

When police arrived at the scene, the van was unoccupied with its doors open. Construction tools were inside the van and stacked nearby, in front of a hole that had been pried in the chain-link fence that surrounded the site, according to the release. The officers heard people running inside the site and climbing fences.

After police set up a containment perimeter around the neighborhood, they found a man crawling in the bushes of a residence at 2:09 a.m. on the 500 block of Newell Road. He was arrested without incident.

Two canine units conducted a yard-by-yard search of the area but were unable to turn up the second man, whom police described as Hispanic, around 5 feet 6 inches tall with a thin build, and wearing a brown sweater and blue jeans.

Police booked 30-year-old East Palo Alto resident Ibis Gerardo Martinez-Mendoza into the Santa Clara County Main Jail for one count of burglary (a felony). The van, a green 2003 Ford, was registered to Martinez-Mendoza.

The equipment, which was in a locked shed inside the construction site, included a portable generator, table saw and assorted power tools, according to the release. ■

— Eric Van Susteren



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EAST PALO ALTO

Fire in East Palo Alto damages two homes

UPS driver warns residents of the blaze

by Rye Druzin and Karishma Mehrota

A second-alarm fire gutted one East Palo Alto home and damaged another, sending eight engines into the northern part of the city Wednesday, July 17. A UPS driver who assisted residents of one of the burning homes was sent to Stanford Hospital.

The fire started at around 1 p.m. and was extinguished by 2:30 p.m. It caused an estimated \$200,000 in damage to one house and around \$5,000 to the second, according to Menlo Park Fire Battalion Chief Ben Marra. He said that the fire in the 2700 block of Georgetown Street may have begun in a grassy, fenced-off 50-yard-wide easement behind the homes.

Witnesses said a UPS worker went into the home to warn the residents.

Soane Valnikoll, who lives at one of the Georgetown homes, said that he was playing video games and watching his nephew when he heard his smoke alarm beeping.

"A UPS guy came into the front door and warned us to get out," Valnikoll said. His sister carried his nephew outside, where they

saw embers and ash raining down from the sky.

Efrain Rueda Jr. said he saw a tractor that was cutting the grass in the easement behind the houses just



Burnt clothing and shoes were buried in mud and ash following a two-alarm fire on Georgetown Street in East Palo Alto on Wednesday.



Christophe Haubursin

A burnt-out tricycle rests at 2764 Georgetown St. after a two-alarm fire on July 17. Damages to the home are estimated at \$200,000.

before the fire started.

From eyewitness reports and evidence on the scene, flames burned most of a 15-foot tall tree, catching the roof of the home and the adjacent structure on fire. A shed in the back was completely burned, and personal belongings were strewn across the backyard. Many of the windows in the back of the house were shattered.

Rueda said that he heard four

loud explosions, making him believe that there were some propane tanks in the back that had caught fire. He said fire trucks arrived at the scene minutes after the police.

Marra said it was unlikely that the tractor was involved in the fire.

Fire investigator Jon Johnston said that the fire was unusual because it started outside of the home rather than inside.

"When you're outside, you have to look at your sources of emission and find out why something started outside," Johnston said. ■

Editorial interns Rye Druzin and Karishma Mehrota can be emailed at rdruzin@paweekly.com and kmehrota@paweekly.com. Photo Intern Christophe Haubursin can be emailed at chaubursin@paweekly.com.



Christophe Haubursin

The fire on Georgetown Street stretched into a back easement, burning surrounding grass.

CityView

A round-up of Palo Alto government action this week

City Council

The council did not meet this week.

Architectural Review Board (July 18)

240 Hamilton Ave.: The board approved the design of a proposed four-story, mixed-use building at 240 Hamilton Ave. The 15,000-square-foot development would replace an existing two-story building. **Yes:** Lew, Lippert, Malone Prichard

Absent: Alizadeh, Popp
1601 California Ave.: The board discussed but took no action on a proposal by Stanford Real Estate for demolition of 290,000 square feet of office space to be replaced with 180 housing units, including 68 detached single-family homes and 112 multi-family units, as part of the 2005 Mayfield Development agreement. **Action:** None

"I wish I could freeze this moment, right here, right now and live in it forever."

- Suzanne Collins, *Catching Fire*



Public Agenda

A preview of Palo Alto government meetings next week

CITY COUNCIL ... The council has no meetings scheduled this week.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ... The commission plans to hear updates on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the Rinconada Park Master Plan and the reconfiguration of the Palo Alto Municipal Golf Course. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, July 23, in the Council Conference Room at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).



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

Downtown

(continued from page 3)

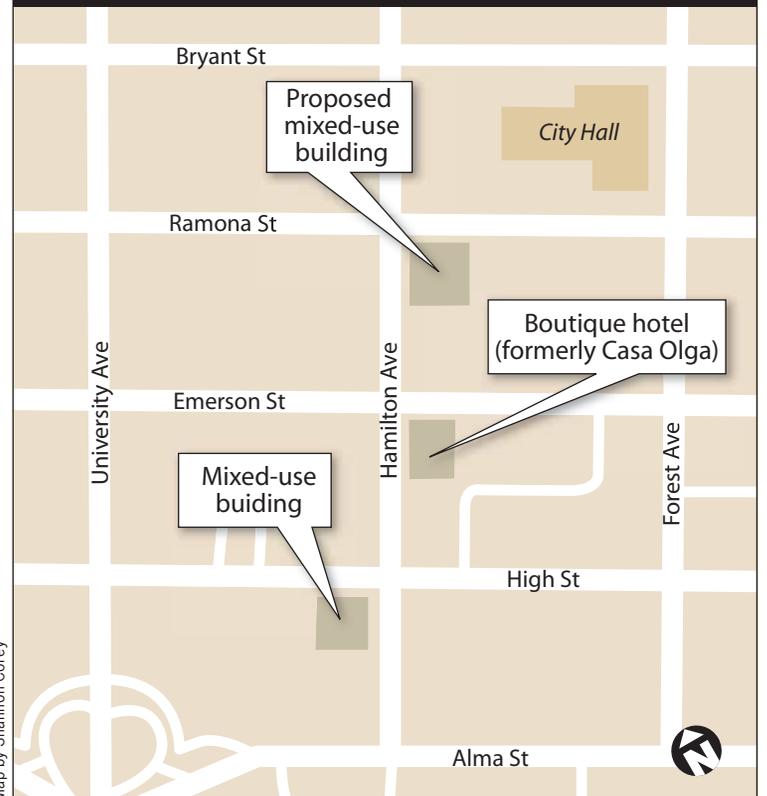
used in the new building before voting 3-0, with Randy Popp and Na-seem Alizadeh absent, in favor. But they generally had good things to say about the project, with board member Lee Lippert calling it a “hand-some building” and board member Alex Lew saying it will be a good fit on the Hamilton Avenue block.

“I think the massing is well done to integrate it in with the neighboring buildings,” Lew said.

At the same time, the Hayes building will do little to ease the anxieties of area residents over downtown’s well-documented parking shortage. In the last three years, residents throughout downtown, particularly in Professorville and Downtown North, have been calling for the city to do something about employees taking up all-day parking spots on their residential streets, a consequence of the rapid addition of office space nearby. The city has taken a multi-pronged approach to solving this problem, exploring the possibility of building new parking garages, revising its permit system for existing garages and temporarily suspending an exemption that allows developers to build without providing enough parking spaces for their tenants.

Lippert noted Thursday that the parking problem, while real, is beyond the purview of the architecture board, which is mainly concerned with the building itself.

New downtown Palo Alto development



A four-story retail/office/residential building is proposed for the corner of Hamilton Avenue and Ramona Street, across the street from Palo Alto City Hall. The building is a block from a planned eight-story boutique hotel (formerly Casa Olga) and a planned four-story mixed-use retail/office/residential building at Hamilton and High Street.

“I sympathize with what residents in the SOFA (South of Forest Avenue) area and the area further south are dealing with, but frankly our job

here is to review the standards with regard to quality and character and seeing that the buildings meet those standards,” Lippert said. ■

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Hacker

(continued from page 3)

sistance with custom art, music and packaging and publishing games. If an intern chooses to publish through them — which they're not required to do — the founders take 30 percent.

"We only make money if what we taught you is useful. If it enabled you to build a successful game, then we make money," Desai said.

After running group sessions since last summer in Palo Alto, San Francisco, and at Menlo School, UCLA and MIT, Desai said they

have shipped 17 games, declining to elaborate on whether he and Rossmann have made any money.

For students who know some programming and already love to fiddle, the internship offers an alluring way to spend the summer, with a possibility of profit.

On the front patio of the Palo Alto house last week, friends and recent Gunn High School graduates Meera Parat, David Bell and Lisa Yan sat together working on their games.

Yan heard about the internship from her Gunn computer science teacher and told Bell, who told Parat.

"It's surprisingly easy to apply," said Bell, whose game involves a

Online This Week

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

Google delays office project at NASA Ames

After the City Council refused to approve a shuttle bridge for Google over Stevens Creek, Google has announced the delay of a controversial office project that would put 3,600 employees amidst wildlife at the north end of NASA Ames Research Center. (Posted July 18, 9:25 a.m.)

Child abuse allegations against preschool teacher

A special investigative unit within the Mountain View Police Department is looking into child abuse allegations at a local preschool. Police say that there is an accusation that an employee of Little Acorn Preschool inappropriately touched a student. (Posted July 17, 3:40 p.m.)

Gunn sophomore wins grant to help African kids

Eleanor Su, a sophomore at Henry M. Gunn High School, won Amway's "Who Cares Challenge," securing a \$10,000 grant for the Schools for Africa Fund, Su's non-profit organization that builds infrastructure for schools in Sierra Leone, Africa. (Posted July 17, 2:44 p.m.)

Co-founder's home burns, 100 cats perish

The president of Stanford Cat Network narrowly escaped a house fire that gutted her home and killed nearly 100 cats in the residence. (Posted July 17, 9:54 a.m.)

Palo Alto man arrested in hit-and-run

Menlo Park police arrested and booked into county jail Friday night Michael Ford, 38, of Palo Alto on felony charges of leaving the scene of an accident after colliding with two vehicles and driving under the influence of alcohol. (Posted July 16, 1:13 p.m.)

East Palo Alto crime down, despite violence wave

Despite a spike in violence experienced earlier this year, overall crime continues to drop in East Palo Alto, police Chief Ronald Davis announced on Monday, July 15. For the first six months of this year, overall crime dropped 13 percent. (Posted July 16, 9:57 a.m.)

Union supports candidate to oppose sheriff

Unions representing deputies and correctional officers today announced members voted in a "landslide" to endorse a candidate to oppose Santa Clara County Sheriff Laurie Smith in the June 2014 election. (Posted July 16, 9:32 a.m.)

HP adds three new directors to board

Hewlett-Packard Co. today announced that it added three new members to its board of directors, increasing the size of the board from nine members to 12. (Posted July 15, 4:26 p.m.)

ACS adds service to help gay, bisexual teens

Adolescent Counseling Services, a Palo Alto-based nonprofit service agency for teens in distress, announced it has acquired Outlet, a program serving gay, bisexual and transgender youth. (Posted July 15, 9:46 a.m.)

Woodside man sentenced to life in wife's murder

A Woodside man found guilty of murdering his wife and attempting to make it look like a suicide was sentenced Friday, July 12, to life in prison without the possibility of parole, San Mateo County District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe said. (Posted July 13, 5:05 p.m.)



Veronica Weber

thief trying to sneak past security systems to steal a painting and make an escape.

"We've all made simple stuff in the computer science classes — you should definitely take computer science before you do this."

Yan's game challenges players on pop culture, asking them to identify, for example, a movie poster with the text removed.

Parat described her game as "similar to 'Dance Dance Revolution,'" but on an iPhone.

Desai said he and Rossmann recruited at high schools and colleges, accepting about 100 of 160 applicants for internships in the Palo Alto and San Francisco locations. Students are asked to stay a minimum of four weeks and commit to completing at least one game.

"Be prepared to grind, and we'll make sure you have fun while you're at it," the recruitment website promises.

Luis Garcia, a recent graduate of Eastside College Preparatory School in East Palo Alto, heard about the internship from the school's coordinator for summer programs.

"I decided to go with this because it's a fun, interactive internship," said Garcia, who's working on a game involving a chicken running and trying to evade attacks from humans.

Sixteen-year-old Stephanie Campa of Los Altos Hills, who has her learner's permit, typically drives with at least one of her parents to the internship. Campa learned about the program through her computer science class at Menlo School and is working on a game involving dragging a ball to a goal — with 50 different levels of complications.

Gautam and Kevin — whose bike ride to the internship takes him 30 to 45 minutes each way — are the youngest game makers, whose ages range from 13 to 23.

Kevin said his productivity in coding is boosted by listening to Green Day, or whatever comes up on his iTunes shuffle, while he works.

"Kevin started two weeks after me, and he's already 1,000 lines of code ahead," his friend Gautam said. ■

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

Jeremy Rossman (seated, center), co-founder of MakeGamesWithUs, assists intern Andrew Arnold, far left, and employee Gerold Monaco, with the game Arnold is creating. Simran Kashyap, far right, and fellow interns work on games in the Crescent Park home.

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Bitcoin

(continued from page 3)

no one company that's in charge." Like with PayPal, bitcoin users have an account, called a wallet (though it's a completely virtual one). Wallets are completely public but also anonymous, only connected to a user's "address," an encrypted string of letters and numbers. Users can have as many wallets as they'd like and can link them to bank accounts.

Users can buy and sell bitcoins on platforms such as Coinbase, a San Francisco-based company that allows consumers and merchants to exchange the currency. As of this week, there are more than 11 million bitcoins in circulation, a number that is steadily growing. The price of one bitcoin hovered around \$97 this week, a dramatic number compared to less than a year ago. Last August, the exchange rate fluctuated between \$9 and \$10.

Users store bitcoins in their wallet and, similar to online banking, can send payments to other bitcoin users. When a payment occurs, other users within the network, called "miners," verify it. The entire exchange is permanently stored in the network.

"When you send bitcoin to someone you need to tell the network the transaction's numbers where you received the bitcoins you're sending," Landau explained. "They check that those transaction numbers have not been completely used up. In short, they are checking that all incoming transactions to your wallet minus all outgoing transactions remains positive. If it does, they confirm the transaction."

Participating miners are given new bitcoins for verifying transactions, which has the effect of bringing new money into the market and rewarding people who help the network, Landau said.

At Coupa Café's Ramona Street location — the only one so far that accepts bitcoins — customers who want to pay with bitcoins observe the same protocol.

At the cash register, the price of an order is quoted in both dollars (in black) and bitcoins (in green), just as if it were dollars and euros, Coupal said. To the right of the register is a small laminated card with Coupa's QR code, which is a two-dimensional barcode that looks like a square black and white maze of pixels. Customers use a bitcoin app called Blockchain to scan the QR code, which automatically enters Coupa's address.

Customers type in the desired payment amount and click "send." Instantaneously, a message appears on the screen of a smartphone propped on a stand behind the register: "You have received a bitcoin." This phone's sole purpose is to provide a stream of live bitcoin transactions for Coupa employees. As soon as a payment comes in, the employee behind the register can instantly verify it and close it out as a specific tender, just like choosing cash versus credit, in the café's system.

Though as of now Blockchain only works with Android phones (Apple is still reportedly wary of bitcoins), iPhone users can go through the same process on a browser, but have to either manually type in Coupa's address or copy and paste it.

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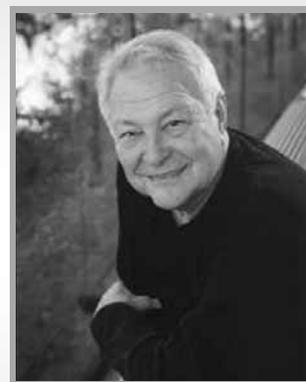
Choral Sing-Along Extravaganza: *Orff's Carmina Burana*

Under the baton of special guest, Vance George, Conductor Emeritus, San Francisco Symphony Chorus

7:30 PM

Monday, August 5, 2013

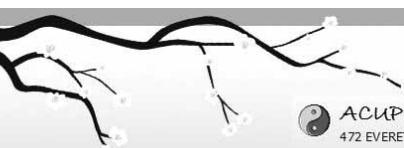
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Palo Alto Unified School District

Notice is hereby given that proposals will be received by the Palo Alto Unified School District for Gunn High School Walkway Project, Contract no: GSW-13. Description of the work is as follows:

Supply and installation of new accessible stairs and ramps, guard rails, hand rails, replacement/adjustment of existing utility vaults, and drain inlets. Grading & compaction, protection of existing finished surfaces for a complete project. Bid documents contain full scope of work.

Mandatory Job Walk: 10:00 a.m. on July 31, 2013 starting at the front of Gunn High School Administration Office, Palo Alto, CA 94306. Failure to attend or tardiness will render bid ineligible.

Bid Submission: Proposals must be received at the District Facilities Office, Building "D". Proposals are due on **August 15, 2013 10:00 a.m.** Contractor to ensure bid is received at the District Facilities Office.

Bidding Documents: Plans and specifications are available at ARC Reprographics located at 1100 Industrial Rd. Unit 13, San Carlos, CA 94070 for \$100 | Phone: (650) 517-1895 This fee is refundable if the Contract Documents are returned in clean condition back to the District Facilities Office no later than ten (10) calendar days after the date of the bid opening. Bidders may also examine Bidding Documents at Facilities Office, Building "D".

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

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

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

Bidders may examine Bidding Documents at Facilities Office, Building "D".

For more details on obtaining plans and specifications, the mandatory job walk, bid submission, or prevailing wage laws please contact:

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



CITY OF PALO ALTO NOTICE OF EXTENDED NOP COMMENT PERIOD

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) will be prepared by the City of Palo Alto Department of Planning and Community Environment for the project listed below. **The agency and public comment period for this notice has been extended from July 22, 2013 to August 1, 2013. A copy of the Notice of Preparation is available to be reviewed at the Planning and Community Environment Department, which is located on the fifth floor of City Hall at 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, CA. 94301.** If you have comments or questions regarding the preparation of the EIR, please contact Jodie Gerhardt of the Planning and Community Environment Department via email at Jodie.gerhardt@cityofpaloalto.org.

395 Page Mill Road and 3045 Park Blvd [11PLN-00374]: Request for a Planned Community zone change and Comprehensive Plan Amendment to allow redevelopment of the properties at 395 Page Mill Road (9.86 acres) and 3045 Park Boulevard (1.41 acres) in the City of Palo Alto. The project includes retention of the existing three-story office building at 395 Page Mill Road and construction of two new four-story office buildings totaling approximately 311,000 square feet. The project includes demolition of the existing one-story light industrial building at 3045 Park Boulevard and construction of a three-story Public Safety Building (about 44,500 square feet) for the City of Palo Alto, a multi-level parking structure, and future subdivision of this property. The proposed project requires amendments to the City's Comprehensive Plan and Zoning designations (from Research, Office and Limited Manufacturing (ROLM) and General Manufacturing (GM) to a Planned Community (PC)) to accommodate the proposed mix of uses, development density, and maximum building heights.

It is anticipated that the proposed project may have the following environmental effects: land use, aesthetics, air quality, greenhouse gas, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, noise and vibration, cultural resources, transportation, utilities and service systems, biological resources (e.g., trees), and public services.

The project site is part of the California-Olive-Emerson (COE) Study Area — bounded by California, Olive, and Emerson Streets — where monitoring and remediation of a chlorinated volatile organic compound (VOC) groundwater plume is on-going with oversight by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (San Francisco Bay RWQCB Case#43S0053).

AARON AKNIN, Interim Director of Planning and Community Environment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, listening assistive devices are available in the Council Chambers and Council Conference Room. Sign language interpreters will be provided upon request with 72 hours advance notice.



Veronica Weber

Mike Landau, left, a Facebook software engineer who helped develop the technology for retail bitcoin transactions, and Jean Paul Coupal, owner of Coupa Cafe, look over the digital transaction on Landau's phone.

Coupa has done more than \$200 worth in bitcoin transactions since launching the system about a month ago, a good number considering most of the purchases are typically small amounts, Coupal said.

As it's still a relatively new currency — the original software was released in 2009 after a paper on bitcoins was written in 2008 by an anonymous hacker or hackers going by the pseudonym Satoshi Nakamoto — the bitcoin exchange rate fluctuates daily. This week, a small iced tea — \$2.85 — went for 0.044 bitcoins.

Bitcoins' value is also controlled by limiting the amount that is created every day. Every 10 minutes, 25 bitcoins are produced. After a certain number of years, that number will be halved, and halved again and again until about 100 years down the line, no more bitcoins will be created. The idea: make a volatile currency predictable.

"A lot of people are debating whether that's a good idea or not," Landau said of the limited production. "So it doesn't necessarily have to flatten out to be predictable, but they wanted it to have certain properties to encourage people to save and basically to have the currency become more valuable in time, and one way to do that is through reducing the amount that's produced."

Fewer than 10 places in the nation accept bitcoins for coffee, out of 11 food establishments/restaurants total, according to bitcoin.travel, a website that tracks real-world businesses across the world that use the currency.

Coupa Café is also the only brick-and-mortar business in Palo Alto that takes bitcoins.

Though such growth is exciting for techies and libertarians, Coupal predicted that as the currency gains traction, "the system will have to overcome the hurdle of more U.S. government involvement and oversight."

In May, California's Department of Financial Institutions sent a cease and desist letter to the Bitcoin Foundation, a nonprofit that works on bitcoin software development. The letter warned that the foundation's involvement in money transmission without registration with the U.S. Treasury or the California Commissioner of Financial Institutions is a violation of state and federal law. Bitcoin users also speculate that, because bitcoins are not only a currency but a mode of

Crash

(continued from page 5)

phetamine in his blood, according to the police report.

But such a trace amount of the drug is not believed to have impaired his driving or contributed to the accident, Hendrickson said. Hau did not exhibit signs of being under the influence and thus cannot be charged under Vehicle Code Section 23153, driving under the influence causing injury.

Similarly, Hau's actions did not constitute reckless driving under the law, she said.

"We could not find a single case where similar driving was found to be 'reckless.' The evidence here supports at most a finding that the driver violated two California vehicle codes: unsafe speed for the conditions, assuming the sun impaired the driver's vision and the safe speed was therefore 0 mph; and improper driving in a bike lane.

Although driving while being blinded by the sun at any speed is

unsafe, Hendrickson pointed out that it is a common experience.

"People don't customarily stop in the middle of the road and slam on the brakes because the sun is in your eyes. ... Sometimes bad things happen, and they aren't addressed in the criminal courts," she said.

There is no evidence Hau was speeding. Cell phone records showed he placed calls only after the accident to alert relatives that he had been in an accident," she said.

In coming to its decision, the DA's office realized that not charging Hau in this case would be strongly at odds with public opinion, particularly since he had methamphetamine in his blood, Hendrickson said.

"In situations like this one where there is a disparity between public perception and the law, it can be tempting to file charges and let a jury decide. To do that in this instance would satisfy many people at least for the moment, and make the district attorney's office look strong. But to do so would be shirking our responsibility and our ethical obligation to prosecute cases only when

we can say with integrity and belief that the law has been violated and that the only reasonable interpretation of all the evidence points to a defendant's guilt. We simply cannot do that in this instance," she said.

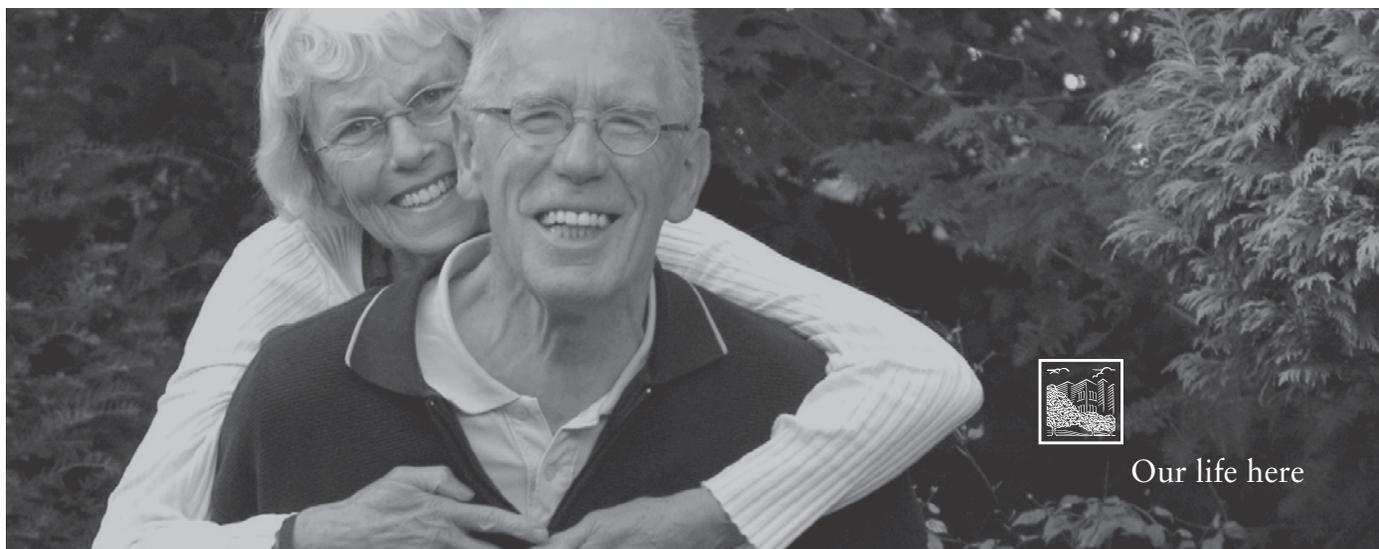
The DA's office has until Nov. 5 to file the suspended-license charge, after which the statute of limitations would kick in, she said. Out of courtesy to Lerrick's family, the DA is not immediately filing charges. Lerrick's father wants to look at options for redress regarding filing other charges. He could possibly get a state Attorney General's opinion regarding additional charges, but Hendrickson said it is unlikely the Attorney General's office would instruct any changes. Her office met with Lerrick's father on Wednesday, and he strongly disagrees with the DA's opinion, she said.

"They are dealing with a horrible tragedy," she said.

Lerrick's father could not be reached by press time. The family's claim against the City of Palo Alto alleges negligent design of the bike route on the road. ■

exchange for goods and services, the Internal Revenue Service could soon start taxing transactions. ■

Editorial Assistant Elena Kad-vany can be emailed at ekadvany@paweekly.com.



Our life here

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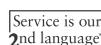
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Pulse

A weekly compendium of vital statistics

POLICE CALLS

Palo Alto

July 12-17

Violence related

Arson1

Assault w/ a deadly weapon1

Domestic violence2

Theft related

Grand theft2

Identity theft3

Residential burglaries1

Shoplifting2

Burglary attempt1

Vehicle related

Abandoned auto2

Auto theft1

Bicycle theft1

Driving w/ suspended license5

Hit and run6

Theft from auto2

Vehicle accident/minor injury3

Vehicle accident/property damage1

Vehicle impound2

Vehicle tow4

Alcohol or drug related

Drunk in public5

Drunken driving3

Possession of paraphernalia2

Drinking in public4

Miscellaneous

Found property1

Lost property3

Penal code violation3

Other/misc.1

Possession of stolen property1

Psychiatric hold2

Suspicious circumstances2

Town ordinance violation3

Warrant/other agency5

Suspicious circumstances2

Vandalism6

Warrant arrest2

Atherton

July 12-17

Theft related

Residential burglaries1

Vehicle related

Misc. traffic1

Suspicious vehicle3

Vehicle code violation6

Vehicle tow2

Miscellaneous

Disturbance1

Disturbing the peace1

Found property1

Juvenile problem1

Medical aid2

Missing person1

Outside assistance9

Psychiatric hold1

Suspicious circumstances4

Town ordinance violation5

Vandalism1

VIOLENT CRIMES

Palo Alto

University Avenue and High Street, 7/11, 9:18 a.m., assault with a deadly weapon. Katreena Avila booked for felony and outside warrant.

Ventura Avenue, 7/13, 4:21 p.m., domestic violence. No comments.

225 Hamilton Ave, 7/14, 1:34 a.m., arson. Tiffany Robinsonhayes, booked for arson and outside warrants.

California Avenue, 7/14, 8:55 p.m., domestic violence/battery. No comments.

Menlo Park

1100 block Sevier Ave., 7/12, 9:32 p.m., sexual assault. Incident occurred in 2010 and is under investigation.

H. Leroy Hill

December 12, 1917 – June 28, 2013

Leroy is survived by his loving wife of 66 years, Billie, his two daughters, Megan Mason of Yountville and husband, Randy, and Shelley Morgan of Sacramento and husband, Mark, and four grandchildren, Olivia, Van, Whitney and Gillian.

A native Californian, growing up on the peninsula and San Francisco, Lee graduated from Palo Alto High School, San Jose State College and UCLA. He spent his career years as a physical education teacher, coach and headed the Vocational Guidance program at Palo Alto Unified School District. In conjunction with his teaching in Palo Alto, Lee was also a dedicated Dale Carnegie instructor for 35 years. In 1994 he and Billie moved from Palo Alto to Yountville, where

he spent 12 years working for St. Supery Winery as a tour guide.

In addition to building all of his family's homes – two adobes in Palo Alto and one pole house in Bear Valley, CA, he enjoyed gardening and snow skiing and he especially loved his family. A man who was always positive in life and showed great enthusiasm for all people with his big smile, he will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

A family memorial service will be held later in July to honor and celebrate his life.



PAID OBITUARY

Mona Ruth Miller

June 25, 1925 – June 25, 2013

Mona Ruth Miller (Jablow) resident of Palo Alto since 1953. Born in Chelsea, Mass. in 1925. Raised in Cambridge, Mass., she graduated from Cambridge High and Latin School in 1943. Attended Simmons College, Northeastern University, Wright Junior College, Foothill and De Anza Community College, New Mexico University, Harrogate Adult School (Yorkshire England). She loved to take classes wherever she lived.

She worked at Science Digest in Chicago, Ill. Before that she worked at the Radiation (radar) Lab at M.I.T. during the war, where she met her husband, Jack. They were married for almost 55 years before his death in 1999. She is predeceased by her parents, Sophie and Harry Jablow, sister Judith Garber, brother Dr. Norman Jablow, husband Jack Miller, and son Larry Miller.

Mona was a community worker, at first involved in her children's activities – PTA boards at Ross Road and Van Auken – as well as Boy Scout and Girl Scout activities. She took part in being inspector for the election board for many years. She worked at South Palo Alto Food Closet at its inception, and started branch of League of Women Voters in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She worked at "Connect", a local hot line in the turbulent 60's in Palo Alto, and also became a "peer counselor" for Miramonte Mental Health Care.

She was a member of Avenidas Senior Center for many years. She also helped establish Avenidas Village, an organization that assists seniors who wish to 'age in

place' in their homes - which she was able to do - and she used that service until she was 86. She also helped at La Comida, which serves lunch to those over sixty. She was a member of Friends of the Palo Alto Library – working at book sales in earlier years. She enhanced her love of Palo Alto by being a member of Palo Alto Historical Association. She was an active member at Palo Alto Unitarian Church as a member of the board as well as teaching. She was also a member of Keddem Congregation.

Mona and Jack lived in Boston, Chicago, Albuquerque, and left Palo Alto for two years to live in Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. Living there was a great adventure for them as they were able to travel in England and other parts of Europe. During her last year of life, Mona lived in Davis, CA. She passed away in Davis on her 88th birthday in peaceful hospice at the home of her son.

Mona is survived by her son Alan Miller of Davis, CA; her daughter Sharane Miller of Baltimore, MD; granddaughter Jenelle Gaultney and great-grandchildren Taegan, Evan and Kyle of Grants, NM; also many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Services will be held Saturday, July 20th at 10:30am at the Palo Alto Unitarian Church, 505 East Charleston Road.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her name to Avenidas Village of Palo Alto, Yolo Hospice of Davis, Friends of the Palo Alto Library, or Palo Alto Historical Association.



PAID OBITUARY



CITY OF PALO ALTO

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

Please be advised the Planning and Transportation Commission (P&TC) shall conduct a **Special public meeting at 5:00 PM, Wednesday, July 31, 2013 in the Council Chambers, Ground Floor, Civic Center, Palo Alto, California.** Any interested persons may appear and be heard on these items.

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

Study Session (5:00-6:00)

- Joint Study session of the Planning and Transportation Commission and Architectural Review Board to discuss sidewalk widths and how buildings address El Camino Real (and other major commercial streets)

Public Hearing

- 1875 Embarcadero Road [13PLN-00103]** – Request by the City of Palo Alto Public Works Department on behalf of the City of Palo Alto Community Services Division for a public hearing for the review of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Palo Alto Municipal Golf Course Reconfiguration and Baylands Athletic Center Expansion. This is the public's second opportunity to submit verbal Draft EIR comments at a PTC meeting. The comment period was extended through August 1, 2013. Project Zone District: PF(D). *Quasi Judicial
- 395 Page Mill Road and 3045 Park Blvd. Project Scoping Session:** This is a Second Community Scoping meeting for the EIR continued from July 10, 2013. Verbal comments from the public regarding the scope and content of the Draft EIR will be received and the Commission will provide input to staff. Project information will be provided and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process for EIRs will be described for the public's understanding. *Quasi Judicial

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

ADA. The City of Palo Alto does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities. To request an accommodation for this meeting or an alternative format for any related printed materials, please contact the City's ADA Coordinator at 650.329.2550 (voice) or by e-mailing ada@cityofpaloalto.org.

Aaron Aknin, Interim Director of Planning and Community Environment

Transitions

Births, marriages and deaths

Alfred Paul Johnson

Alfred Paul Johnson of Temecula, Calif., died on June 25.

He was born in Palo Alto on March 24, 1929. He graduated from Palo Alto High School in 1947 and received a B.A. in history from Stanford University in 1950. He also studied psychology for a time at a Catholic seminary, but received a Master's degree in history and teaching credentials from the University of San Francisco.

Although he began his career as a high school teacher, he went on to work for the American Red Cross and for various agencies of the federal government: Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America); Community Action Program; Paperwork Commission; and the Federal Railway Administration. During his time in Washington, D.C., he earned a Master of Fine Arts degree from George Mason University in 1982. After taking early retirement from the federal government he enrolled at the Unity School of Christianity in Lee Summit, Miss., and became a Unity minister in 1992. He relocated to Southern California where he served Unity congregations in Hemet, Lancaster and Temecula.

After his retirement, he remained active in the church and his community. He was stricken by a sudden illness in mid June, and was hospitalized for a short period. His situation deteriorated and he returned home under hospice care. He died later that day, on June 25, attended by his son Michael and friends from his church. Surviving him are his children: Alfred, Michael, Mark, Robert and Ann; ten grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and seven step-children. He is also survived by his wife, Dolores.

A memorial service will be held on July 27 at 11 a.m. at the Unity Church at 140 N. Buena Vista Road in Hemet, California. His ashes will be spread at the Rose Garden at Unity Village in Lee Summit, Miss. on Sept. 19.

Joyce Vincenti

Joyce Vincenti, age 95 and six-decade resident of Palo Alto and Los Altos Hills, died on July 13.

Born Joyce Hancock Weaver on Feb. 21, 1918 in San Francisco, she grew up with her mother in Southern California, attending Hollywood High School before going to Occidental College, where she majored in art. For eight years she taught grade-schoolers in the town of Rosemead, Calif., east of Los Angeles. In June of 1947, she was returning from a teaching stint in Cuba, when her westbound train was stalled in Council Bluffs, Iowa by a flood. She was perched on the steps of her railcar, she met Walter Vincenti, who was en route from an engineering conference in Washington, D.C. Later that year they married, then set up house in the Bay Area, where they raised two children and lived together for 66 years. She was a cook and taught the craft

to her nieces. As a painter in oil and acrylics of portraits, landscapes, and abstract works, she had solo exhibits and was shown at Gallery House, the Los Altos Town Hall and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. She traveled the world, was a theater- and concert-goer and volunteered at Stanford Hospital. She is survived by her husband, Walter Vincenti of Palo Alto, Calif.; her daughter, Margi Vincenti-Brown of Cornillon-Confoux, France; her son,

Marc Vincenti, of Palo Alto; grandchildren Genevieve Thueux and Juliette Harris of the United Kingdom; and two great-grandchildren.

Births

Sione and Laumanu Heimuli East Palo Alto, July 5, a boy.



CITY OF
PALO
ALTO

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT AND PUBLIC HEARING

Project Title:	Palo Alto Municipal Golf Course Reconfiguration and Baylands Athletic Center Expansion Project (SCH #2013012053)
City/County:	City of Palo Alto, Santa Clara County, California
Public Review Period:	June 3, 2013 to August 1, 2013
Public Hearing:	Planning and Transportation Commission Meeting, Wednesday, July 31, 2013, 6:00 PM Palo Alto City Hall Council Chambers, 250 Hamilton Ave, Palo Alto.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Palo Alto Municipal Golf Course Reconfiguration and Baylands Athletic Center Expansion Project in the City of Palo Alto has been extended from the original deadline of July 19, 2013 to Thursday, August 1, 2013. All comments must be received by no later than August 1, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.

Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Report: Copies of the Draft EIR are available for review at the following locations:

- City of Palo Alto, Development Center, 285 Hamilton Avenue, 1st Floor, Palo Alto, during business hours, Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., (650) 329-2496.
- City of Palo Alto, Community Services Department, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, during business hours, Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., (650) 463-4900.
- Palo Alto Main Library at Art Center Auditorium, 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto, CA, 94303, (650) 329-2436.
- Mitchell Park Library at Cubberley Community Center Auditorium, 4050 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, CA 94306.
- College Terrace Library, 2300 Wellesley Street, Palo Alto, CA 94306.
- Downtown Library, 270 Forest Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94301.
- City's website <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/planningprojects>.

Comments may be submitted at the public hearing and/or in writing to: Joe Teresi, Senior Engineer, City of Palo Alto Public Works Engineering Services, 250 Hamilton Avenue, 6th Floor, Palo Alto, California 94301, or emailed to Joe.Teresi@CityofPaloAlto.org, no later than **Thursday August 1, at 5:00 p.m.**

If any person challenges this item in court, that person may be limited to raising only those issues the person or someone else raised at the public hearings described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered at, or prior to, the public hearings. The City of Palo Alto does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities. To request an accommodation for this meeting or an alternative format for any related printed materials, please contact the City's ADA Coordinator at 650.329.2550 (voice) or by e-mailing ada@cityofpaloalto.org.

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Editorial

In city that loves to plan, Palo Alto's creates cynicism

Awash in development proposals, city's aged planning vision takes a back-seat

Palo Alto's official and legally mandated Comprehensive Plan bills itself as "the primary tool for guiding future development of the city" that "strives to build a coherent vision of the city's future from the visions of a diverse population."

These days, however, the 15-year-old, 300-page document is treated almost like a quaint historic relic of how things were for the city back in the late 1990s.

But as the Weekly's cover story this week explains, it's also a document that is still selectively used both to justify and criticize development proposals. Regardless of which "side" one may take on any given project, there are Comprehensive Plan provisions that are readily available to support that point of view.

The idea that everyone can find their viewpoint reflected in the plan if they look long enough isn't anything new. Even when the plan was fresh it presented policy goals that sounded good but that directly conflict when almost any specific project came along. And when an update to it is eventually approved sometime next year, that probably won't change.

That tension is both the beauty of the plan and its Achilles' Heel. On the one hand, the vision is broad enough to try and capture community values and retain flexibility. On the other hand, everyone can find policies in it to justify their personal views.

The idea is that a city's Comprehensive Plan should guide zoning, which creates the precise contours for what is allowed to be developed on every parcel of land in the city. With that zoning, everyone, residents and developers alike, have clear ground rules and expectations and the only friction point is supposed to be the project's design.

Enter the infamous "planned community" zone.

Seeking to encourage creativity by developers, the city long ago created an alternative path that bypassed the normal zoning. By using this "PC" process, developers are free to propose anything they wish, including projects that far exceed the zoning limits, in exchange for providing "public benefits" either on-site, such as some extra parking, public art or affordable housing, or somewhere else, such as funding a child-care center or building a public-safety building. Or, in one recent case, simply paying cash to the city was deemed a public benefit.

Developers have learned that while building under the existing zoning is simple and straightforward, the bigger financial pay-off comes from successfully negotiating a PC project, because it provides a lifetime of added value for what is generally a one-time cost for the offered public benefit.

How do developers convince the City Council that their projects deserve to violate the zoning? Often by citing specific provisions of the Comprehensive Plan that promote whatever "benefit" the developer is offering.

With virtually every significant development proposal now coming to the city as a PC application, citizens have plenty of reasons to be cynical about the noble purposes outlined in the Comprehensive Plan and to question a process that in almost every instance results in an approved project that significantly exceeds the established zoning.

We have been raising concerns about this process for many years, and one major breakthrough occurred last year when City Manager Jim Keene committed to having an independent economic analysis completed for every PC application that quantified the value to the developer and the value of the proposed public benefits. We are anxiously awaiting the first application of this new policy.

Long-needed economic analysis, however, does not solve the larger issue of resolving the trade-offs between conflicting Comprehensive Plan policies when developments are being considered.

In an interview for today's cover story, Keene made the startling admission that staff reports on proposed PC projects are not intended to identify conflicts between Comprehensive Plan policies, but are meant to provide the findings needed for the council to adopt the staff's recommendation.

That helps explain why, in the case of the staff report on the recently approved Maybell senior housing project, only policies that supported the project were cited, something that helped to fuel neighborhood belief that the outcome was predetermined by staff and council.

Keene acknowledges that the city can and should do a better job at presenting trade-offs in staff reports, and we look forward to seeing that needed change.

An important test of how the community feels about all this may come from a referendum on the Maybell project, assuming sufficient signatures submitted this week are verified.

It's not the most egregious example of the problems with the PC process, but it has catalyzed a revolt among residents who believe it symbolizes a broken planning process.

With some very large projects in the pipeline for city review, the staff and City Council would be well-advised to reconsider how they approach the public review process, or they will find that Maybell is not the last to go to the voters.

Spectrum

Editorials, letters and opinions

In support of Maybell

Editor,

As a 35-year resident of Barron Park, I strongly support the Palo Alto Housing Corporation's project to build 60 senior low-income apartments and 12 single-family homes at the Maybell-Clemons site. Many senior citizens are on waiting lists for affordable housing. Few places, if any, remain in Palo Alto to build such a project. A referendum drive is underway by neighbors opposing the project as approved by the Palo Alto City Council. Before signing, consider:

Since their first presentation, the PAHC has listened to neighborhood concerns and made important modifications:

- Reduced the number of single-family homes from 15 to 12, seven along Maybell and five on Clemons.

- Moved driveways to behind the houses to eliminate cars exiting onto Maybell.

- Homes on Maybell will be two story to better fit into the existing neighborhood.

- Increased setbacks and added space between houses.

- Committed \$200,000 for traffic improvements, including sidewalk safety for pedestrians, bicyclists and cars.

If the referendum qualifies for an election, consequences will include:

- Significant costs for an election and added interest payments.

- Impact to the chances of qualifying for tax credits, necessary to fund a large portion of the construction costs.

- Existing zoning will allow for 34-47 single-family homes to be built, generating more traffic (per staff report to the Planning and Transportation Commission).

I value diversity in our community. PAHC has a 30-year history providing affordable, well-maintained housing fitting in with the neighborhoods.

Trina Lovercheck
McGregor Way, Palo Alto

On library design

Editor,

I live in South Palo Alto and unfortunately have been able to observe the last three years of Mitchell Park Library/Community Center construction. I appreciate the fact finding and excellent article by the Weekly staff which included the architect's rendering. There have been many discussions with friends and neighbors about the blue cargo container structure on the Middlefield side of the building. I do not understand the design element nor the color choice; neither seem to fit with the rest of the

building. Please change the color and add a design element to fit with the rest of the building.

Jackie Wheeler
Nelson Court, Palo Alto

Arrillaga donation

Editor,

Let us be for real in the sense of this donation to Stanford. In reality, it is chump change from a billionaire.

Do the math. This might be one year of interest earnings. It is not significant at all in the total wealth of Americans. It is mind boggling and stupifying that such an incredible sum amounts to ZED in typical earnings.

It would have made a difference if this pittance of a donation was donated to the infrastructure of the Bay Area.

So as it goes, no change — no support for the people of the community that supported his empire.

Oh well, the math — the numbers and the people living in poverty who lay bricks and other tangible efforts don't account for anything.

Master, can I have a token of appreciation for my efforts with healthcare????

Brian Wax
Louis Road, Palo Alto

Stop the name calling

Editor,

PAHC has almost 50 years of service to the Palo Alto community and has provided housing to thousands of low- and moderate-income families in this community. I personally know two members on the board — both are solid citizens and the kind of people who help those in need. One member has volunteered for this organization for over 25 years. Here in Palo Alto, people like to debate and difference of opinions are tolerated. To call people liars and devolve into character assassination is shameful and not what our city should be about. For this issue and the many others swirling about town: Support your claims with facts and stop the name calling.

Sharon Chin
Stanford Avenue, Palo Alto

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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



Does the city's Comprehensive Plan offer a clear vision for new projects?

Submit letters to the editor of up to 250 words to letters@paweekly.com. Submit guest opinions of 1,000 words to editor@paweekly.com. Include your name, address and daytime phone number so we can reach you.

We reserve the right to edit contributions for length, objectionable content, libel and factual errors known to us. Anonymous letters will generally not be accepted. 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 Editorial Assistant Eric Van Susteren at editor@paweekly.com or 650-326-8210.



Check out Town Square!

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

Guest Opinion

A big job ahead to combat underlying causes of bullying

by Lynda Steele

The recent Palo Alto Weekly reports about the bullying of a student with disabilities have evoked many comments, opinions and emotions. Many wonder how this could have happened in Palo Alto, often described as a wonderful community with great schools.



Some parents rush to the defense of the school district explaining how their child with a disability received a great education. Other community members believe the parents of the child who was bullied just need to face reality and accept that this is how life is in today's world. It may be more productive to try and understand the challenges faced by students with disabilities and their families and view this particular incident as an opportunity to learn how to prevent this happening again to any child.

The student had the right to not be bullied and the parents had the right to file a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights when the bullying did not stop. Rights like these were not always in place. Today, people with disabilities are the largest minority group in the United States. Similar to many other minority groups, they have created a strong and effective advocacy movement to ensure that people with disabilities have the same legal and civil rights as everyone else. This civil rights movement has succeeded in closing institutions, preventing abuse and neglect, and making it possible for people

with disabilities to be active participants in community life.

Landmark legislation like the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) require access and the right to free and appropriate education in the least restrictive environment. The success of this civil rights movement is largely due to the persistence, determination and hard work of people with disabilities and their parents. Having fought so hard to gain these rights, they are very unlikely to allow any violations to go unchallenged. The current generation of young families with children with disabilities have learned well from those who went before them. They expect and believe that people with disabilities must be viewed as people first, not as the recipients of acts of charity, objects of pity or victims of exploitation or bullying. They expect their children with disabilities to be fully included in all aspects of community life.

If these laws and civil rights are in place, why then, do people with disabilities and their families still find themselves having to fight to get needed services and to have their rights upheld? Implementation of these often under-funded mandates seems key here. The implementation of ADA, IDEA and other laws by organizations, companies and individuals have varied depending on availability of resources, training and values. We all know of organizations that have ADA policies to accommodate employees with disabilities and personnel policies that contain no tolerance policies around harassment and discrimination. Policies alone and attempts to keep to the letter of the law are

markedly ineffective unless such organizations embrace the spirit of such laws. This means that everyone has to be involved in understanding how these laws and policies translate into action for them as individuals.

Organizations that have successfully implemented these laws have done so because they have had strong and decisive leadership and a willingness to allocate resources to ensure the spirit of the law is upheld. More importantly, they have created an organizational culture where each person knows what to do if they witness, hear about, or are the recipient of any violation of these laws. Within organizations that have nurtured this culture of inclusion and diversity, incidents of discrimination, harassment and bullying jar their core values and are quickly reported, investigated and stopped. There is accountability for the perpetrators.

However, when all is said and done, the responsibility to eradicate civil rights violations, harassment and bullying; and to create a community where everyone is treated with dignity and respect rests with each and every one of us. We each have to ask ourselves some hard questions about our own values and those of others. When was the last time you explained to your child that using the term "retard" can be hurtful to people with disabilities? When did you last talk to a person using a wheelchair, bending down at their eye level, rather than talking to the caregiver pushing the chair? When did you last think about someone with a disability as a person who could add value to your life? We may have to realize that people who have no experience of disability may harbor feelings of discomfort, or even

fear, about how to interact with someone with a disability. They may need help to express these not so "politically correct" concerns and learn how to overcome them. It may be easier to understand this through the experience of an eighth-grade student who was volunteering for the first time in a Palo Alto program serving people with disabilities:

"I was a little scared about being a volunteer because I had not been around people with disabilities before. I did not know what to expect or what I would do. And it was scary at first. But after I had been engaged in activities with Jane (a disabled child) and got to know her a little, things changed. I realized I was no longer scared. After a while I no longer saw the disability. I just saw Jane — and she was just like me."

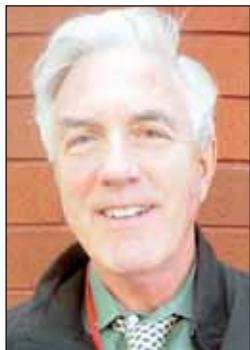
This eighth grader "got it," and we can only hope that this will result in her being a champion for people with disabilities if she ever sees them being bullied or harassed. So in the end laws can only take us so far. Maybe that eighth grader's experience is the real answer. Creating experiences where people with and without disabilities live, work and play side by side is our responsibility. Community leaders and parents have to become role models for our children because a community that excludes even one of its members is no community at all. ■

Lynda Steele has been the executive director of Abilities United in Palo Alto since 1993. Abilities United supports children and adults with disabilities, their families and the community, and champions a culture in which all members of society are included and appreciated for their distinctive contributions.

Streetwise

What is your opinion on the George Zimmerman verdict?

Photos and interviews by Rye Druzin. Asked at the Cambridge Avenue Post Office.



Henry W. Jones III
Physician
Old Palo Alto

"I found the verdict to be discouraging, especially that there was such an asymmetry in the two parties."



Susan Collins
Pet sitter
Seale Avenue, Palo Alto

"I think it is a travesty. He should have been convicted of manslaughter at least."



Dagem Mammo
Student
Escondido Village, Stanford

"Slightly frustrating. I think that I would have felt bad for him if he had been convicted because of how the racial issues may have affected the case."



Lelena Azarmsa
Handbag designer
Oxford Avenue, Palo Alto

"My gut feeling is that it was racial profiling. I don't think he needed to use his gun."



Lara Cardamone
Preschool teacher
Donohoe Street, East Palo Alto

"I think that the jury did what they were supposed to do, which was make a decision. But I'm horrified that he has not been punished in some way for murdering this young man."

Palo Alto's lost vision

If the city has a plan that nobody follows, what good is it?

by Gennady Sheyner

The crowd arrived early June 11 and quickly filled every seat in the Council Chambers of Palo Alto City Hall, including the folding chairs set up in the overflow area.

Many were armed with red "No Rezoning" buttons, petitions, videos of traffic congestion and reams of technical legal data. Hundreds had emailed the City Council prior to the meeting, urging rejection of the latest "planned community" development on its way to council approval. Dozens more chose to address the council directly, each blasting the proposed construction of an apartment complex for low-income seniors and 12 single-family homes on Maybell and Clemo avenues.

The developer, the nonprofit Palo Alto Housing Corporation, rallied its own troops as well. Nearly half the crowd, including dozens of tenants from existing Housing Corporation developments, wore green "Yes on Maybell" stickers.

The city has approved several affordable-housing proposals over the past few years, including a 50-unit housing complex for low-income families at 801 Alma St., near Homer Avenue, and the 35-unit Tree House at 488 Charleston Road. The latter was also developed by the Housing Corporation, which manages affordable-housing complexes throughout the city. While both projects encountered some criticism from nearby residents before winning approval in 2009, the opposition hadn't come anywhere close to approaching the levels of exasperation and frustration that the Maybell proposal has provoked.

Councilman Larry Klein, who had sat on the council for most of the 1980s before returning in 2005, said he had never "experienced such virulent opposition." Bob Moss, a Palo Alto resident and regular critic of large developments, called the opposition the fiercest he's seen in his four decades of watchdogging.

Proponents of the Maybell project tend to dismiss opposition as the latest flashpoint in the perennial battle between builders and NIMBYs, and it's true that opponents cite potential traffic problems and visual blight on the neighborhood as reason enough to halt the project. But this explanation is partial at best.

It is the city's disregard, in the eyes of some residents, for the values that the city itself has proclaimed it upholds, that disturbs residents the most. On top of that, they say, the city's process for approving 567 Maybell Ave. has taken this disre-

gard and shoved it in their faces.

Long before the City Council's June vote to rezone the property, it had loaned the Housing Corporation \$5.8 million to purchase the Maybell site. The city's planning staff had also decided to count the project's 60 affordable units in the Housing Element chapter of the Comprehensive Plan, the city's chief policy-making document for land use. By the time the project came to the council for final approval, some in the community felt the game was rigged.

Art Liberman, president of the Barron Park Association, brought up the issue at the July 10 meeting of the Planning and Transportation Commission. Speaking for the association, Liberman said residents "feel they were steamrolled" during the process. Barron Park recently surveyed association members, who supported by a three-to-one margin holding a referendum on the council's decision. Nearly two-thirds supported having the association spend \$1,000 on two referendum petitions, one that would bring the council's approval to a citywide vote and another that would ask voters to undo the council's change to the Comprehensive Plan that accommodated the project.

"A palpable undercurrent of anger exists toward the city staff and this commission and the council about your actions on this project," Liberman said.

"They feel you — staff and the commission — were pushed by the PAHC to approve this project because of timelines they had set up and by investments and commitments the City Council had made. They feel you and the PAHC ignored their views. They feel that you and city's traffic department have been dismissive of their concerns about traffic and based your decisions on a traffic study that used outdated data, invalid methodology and had glaring deficiencies. They feel the only way for the city officials to listen to them is through a referendum."

The frustrations Liberman described aren't unique to the Maybell project or, for that matter, to south Palo Alto, the area that has had more than its share of residential growth in the past decade. In downtown's Professorville and Downtown North neighborhoods, residents have been urging the city for years to hit the brakes on new developments until the area's exhaustively documented parking shortage is addressed. And around California Avenue, a place of many recent and upcoming changes,

residents have called for the city to take a step back and consider cumulative impacts of these projects rather than merely considering the effects of each one (see sidebar).

But from the perspective of frustrated residents, the broader problem is the way in which the Comprehensive Plan has been used (or, many would argue, selectively ignored) by the council and planning staff. While the vision document is often described as the city's "land-use bible," intended to guide development decisions, it has largely disappeared from major discussions over development. City planners and developers still cite Comprehensive Plan programs in advocating for new developments, but these references amount to little more than footnotes in the broader decision-making process, which is increasingly characterized by zoning exemptions and quid pro quo arrangements negotiated between the developer and the

council during late-night meetings.

For land-use observers like Moss, that's a problem. Minutes before the council formally approved the Maybell project on June 28, he made a last-minute argument for why the project is inconsistent with the city's official vision. The new development, he argued, will "devastate the community" and "endanger the health and safety of the children going to and from the school."

"It's incompatible with the residential zoning in the area, which is a violation of the Comprehensive Plan, and it's a really bad idea," Moss said.

Seek and you shall find

Frustrations about the Comprehensive Plan aren't limited to the Maybell project. Just about every major proposal that the council has faced in the last three years, includ-

ing John Arrillaga's idea for an office complex and theater at 27 University Ave. and Jay Paul Co.'s application to build two large office buildings next to AOL's Silicon Valley headquarters on Page Mill Road, has faced the same criticism: The council is paying too much attention to the developer's offer and not enough to the city's vision document.

In theory, the Comprehensive Plan should inform land-use decisions rather than justify them after the fact. The 300-plus page document is described in its introduction as "the primary tool for guiding the future development of the city." The introduction states that the plan "strives to build a coherent vision of the city's future from the visions of a diverse population."

"It integrates the aspirations of the city residents, businesses, neighborhoods, and officials into a bold strategy for managing change," the plan states. The document is supposed to

be used by the council and the planning commission to "evaluate land use changes and to make funding and budget decisions" and by staff to make recommendations. It is also used "by citizens and neighborhood groups to understand the city's long-range plans and proposals for different geographical areas." Given these stated functions, it's easy to see why in the current environment, where just about every major application seeks to be an exception from the Comprehensive Plan and the zoning regulations it fosters, residents are becoming cynical.

No project illustrates the fading influence of this community vision better than 27 University Ave., which also proposes a renovation of the downtown train station and public-transit hub. When the project reached the council in September 2012 for a preliminary review, it was described in an accompanying staff report as an "unprecedented oppor-

tunity" to transform the area as part of an "extraordinary public-private partnership." The staff report alludes to the Comprehensive Plan several times and at one point cites five different sections of the Transportation Element that would be consistent with the proposal (these include Goal T-1, "Less reliance on single-occupant vehicles," and Goal T-2, "A convenient, efficient, public transit system that provides a viable alternative to driving").

The report also mentions the city's 50-foot height limit for new developments and cites the Comprehensive Plan's assertion that "only a few exceptions had been granted for architectural enhancements or seismic safety retrofits to non-complying buildings." But it doesn't dwell on the height issue. Instead, it notes that there are "many existing buildings in the adjacent downtown area" that exceed 50 feet and lists 10 examples.

Council members had met privately with developer Arrillaga in the months prior to the presentation, and most shared staff's initial excitement about the ambitious proposal. Downtown residents, for their part, saw it as a slap in the face.

In the Downtown North neighborhood, 185 people signed a petition circulated by resident Martin Sommer opposing the project. Sommer argued in the petition that the office buildings, the tallest of which was initially proposed at 163 feet tall, would destroy the neighborhood's view of the Santa Cruz Mountains.

"Stop this madness," the petition read. "Retain the Palo Alto 50-foot height limit."

Sommer's petition didn't mention the Comprehensive Plan, though it could have. The vision document includes Program L-26, which contains five "design priorities" for the site. The final bullet point, which isn't mentioned anywhere in the 27 University staff report, could hardly be clearer: "Protecting views of the foothills by guiding building heights and massing."

Nor does the staff report reference any of the Comprehensive Plan's many policies about protecting historic resources. In this case, the new office buildings would displace the Hostess House, which has been at the site since 1932 and is listed in both the city's Historic Inventory and the National Register of Historic Places. The Julia Morgan-designed building, which now houses the MacArthur Park restaurant, briefly served as the nation's first municipally owned community center before Palo Alto moved this function to a larger theater donated by Lucie Stern. The September staff report gives a brief history of the Julia Morgan building, notes that it would have to be moved and suggests El Camino Park as one of several possible new homes. But it does not delve into the broader questions of whether the relocation should happen at all. It doesn't consider whether moving the historic building would be consistent with the

The long and winding road to an updated 'land-use bible'

How the city's effort to amend its Comprehensive Plan fell so far behind schedule

by Gennady Sheyner

When Palo Alto officials decided in 2006 to revise the city's land-use bible, the Comprehensive Plan, housing was all the rage.

New housing complexes had been popping up like spring flowers, from 800 High Street in the north (a project that survived the city's last referendum, in 2003) to the Altaire and Echelon complexes in the south. For the City Council and city planners, the big challenge was protecting commercial areas from the growing residential tide and making sure that residents in the new housing developments would have adequate nearby amenities. The problem was that the Comprehensive Plan on the books, which was intended to guide the city from at least 1998 to 2010, encouraged this trend. At the time of the Plan's adoption, the city was coming off three decades of slow growth, and leaders were trying to encourage more housing. The document they approved 15 years ago cites a "limited supply" of residential zones and said that the city will "rezone commercial land to residential and strongly discourage the conversion of residential lands to commercial."

Then the housing boom happened. The venerable Hyatt Rickneys hotel on El Camino Real and Charleston Road became Arbor Real, a dense, 181-townhouse complex. The area around East Meadow Circle also saw a housing surge, with more than 500 new units of housing going up on sites that once featured industrial uses. The time was ripe, the council decided, to update the city's chief land-use policy.

The scope of work was seen as fairly manageable. The council wasn't looking for full-scale change. The goal was to add a new Sustainability Element, bringing together the city's various environmental policies and goals, and to create two "area concept plans" — one for the area around East Meadow Circle, where much of the new housing was centered, and another for the neighborhood around California Avenue. The city approved an \$850,000 contract for this work in April 2008 with the expectation that it would be completed in 2010 or, at the latest, 2011.

Five years later, the update is still in progress. Last month, the price tag passed the \$1 million mark when the council approved a \$290,000 addition to its contract with the consultant, Design Community & Environment. With scant council direction or public

awareness, the scope of the revision has changed nearly as dramatically as the city's economic and demographic conditions.

The shifting scope and expanding timeline have caught even some council members by surprise. At the June 24 council meeting, just before the council authorized the additional expenditure, Councilwoman Karen Holman raised concerns about why the Comprehensive Plan update is taking so long.

"We seem to have grown to where we're now redoing the whole Comprehensive Plan," Holman said.

Like her colleagues, Holman told the Planning and Transportation Commission at a May 20 discussion of the Comprehensive Plan that she appreciates all the work that the commission has been doing on the update. But she said she was surprised by the fact that the city appears to be "starting from scratch" with the amendment process.

"I don't know how we've had so much mission creep," Holman said. "I'm not sure how we got here."

One reason for the delay has to do with the development trends Palo Alto has seen since 2006. The residential problem that the amendment was meant to solve has been overtaken by a rapid escalation in commercial growth. In the last few years, the council gave the green light to College Terrace Centre, an office development on El Camino Real and College Avenue, and to Lytton Gateway, a four-story building at the site of a former Shell station at the intersection of Alma Street and Lytton Avenue. This trend, which began in the aftermath of the 2008 economic downturn and which continues to gather steam today, makes the land-use dilemmas of 2006 seem as stale as many of the policies in the current Comprehensive Plan.

Eduardo Martinez, who chairs the planning commission, acknowledged as much during the May 20 discussion. In a departure from the relatively narrow scope of work the council envisioned in 2006, the commission has spent the past three years revising every chapter (or "element" in planning parlance) of the 300-plus-page document and weighing each policy, program and goal. Some of the recent changes, he said, may already be due for revisions.

"I noticed from 2010, when we first began to reorganize it, until now, the circumstances have changed and some of the policies

and programs in it need to be updated already," Martinez said.

Initially, Martinez worked with past Chair Daniel Garber to review the Comprehensive Plan. Around 2010, he decided to get his colleagues involved and assigned different elements, or chapters, to each colleague or subcommittee of colleagues. In a recent interview, he called it "probably the best decision I ever made" as chair. Given all the recent changes to the city's economy and demographics, the commission felt it would be a good time to revise all the policies in the Comprehensive Plan and consider which still apply.

More recently, Martinez said, the planning commission decided to revise the governance and business elements in the Comprehensive Plan and to review every chapter to make the structure more clear and the document more "usable" and "actionable," with more direct links between the city's goals and policies that support these goals. The commission also extended the timeline for the updated document from 2020 to 2025.

The thoroughness should make the document more applicable, but it comes at a price — more delays. Martinez, who often cites the Comprehensive Plan in reviewing proposed developments, noted at the May 20 discussion that the commission began its revision of the Land Use Element "so long ago, that the members I worked with no longer work on the commission." Commissioner Arthur Keller said the same thing about the Transportation Element subcommittee, of which he is the sole remaining member.

The commission had decided to split its work into two phases. In Phase One, members made some minor word adjustments and identified issues that were ripe for further revision. In Phase Two, which is almost complete, the commission went through each element with a fine-tooth comb, rewriting vision statements and adding and deleting policies in subcommittee meetings. At a March 13 commission meeting, Advanced Planning Manager Steven Turner described the commission's decision to take a more proactive role in rewriting the plan.

"We got through Phase One, but at the start of Phase Two there was a sense by the commission that perhaps we might be able to have a more interactive discussion between commission and staff about taking a look at goals, policies and programs in each element more specifically," Turner said.

Over the past year, each subcommittee has been bringing its work to the full commission, which has been approving each element one at a time — a long process that the council will be-

(continued on page 23)



The Lytton Gateway building begins to take shape as the fourth floor and tower are installed. The building, at the corner of Alma Street and Lytton Avenue, is an example of the rapid escalation in development around Palo Alto in the wake of the recession of 2008

Veronica Weber

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Comprehensive Plan, even though the Plan addresses this issue directly with Policy L-56 — “To reinforce the scale and character of University Avenue/Downtown, promote the preservation of significant historic buildings” — or the much broader Goal L-1: “Conservation and Preservation of Palo Alto’s Historic Buildings, Sites and Districts.”

Not surprisingly, the proposal to move Hostess House faced a major backlash from the city’s Historic Resources Board. At a Dec. 5 meeting, members unanimously panned the idea, with several arguing that doing so would jeopardize its historic status. Board member Michael Makinen argued that the Arrillaga proposal would degrade the quality of life in Palo Alto. Board member David Bower said he didn’t understand how the project had gotten so far without the questions of historic compatibility being considered.

“There’s not much in Palo Alto that gets more significant than having these older buildings in their original place,” Bower said.

Though the Comprehensive Plan has been peripheral to the council’s ongoing discussion of

27 University, at least one former official has asserted it should be central in the debate. Former planning Commissioner Susan Fineberg, who during her term served as the commission’s unofficial torchbearer for the Comprehensive Plan, pointed out to the council on Dec. 3 that the “Comprehensive Plan and zoning do not in any form support the scale, size and uses of the proposed project.

“The council’s actions on the matter will demonstrate to the citizens of Palo Alto whether our Comprehensive Plan and zoning code matter,” said Fineberg, who concluded her tenure in 2012 after the council chose not to appoint her to a second term.

The Maybell debate offers another example of the Comprehensive Plan’s fading influence among policy makers. In a recent interview, Mayor Greg Scharff pointed to the Maybell project as a perfect illustration of the Comprehensive Plan’s limitations. The document, he told the Weekly, encourages the city to both support affordable housing and to protect neighborhoods.

“A lot of time the policies conflict with each other, so it’s not prescriptive, and it’s not easy to say if something is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. No matter how much we update the Comprehensive Plan, we still have that conflict right there,” Scharff said.

But even so, Maybell also showcases the way in which the document has lost authority as a roadmap, being used instead as a tool for ex post facto rationalization.



Palo Alto residents flood the City Council chambers June 10, some to protest and others to support a development that would bring 60 apartments for seniors and 12 market-rate homes to Maybell Avenue in the Barron Park neighborhood.

‘A palpable undercurrent of anger exists toward the city staff and this commission and the council about your actions on this project.’

— Art Liberman, president, Barron Park Association

Planning staff had determined that the project would be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and cited in a June 10 report 19 different policies, programs and goals (the report notes that the list

is “not exhaustive” and can be further expanded). The list included Policy L-13, “Evaluate alternative types of housing that increase density and provide more diverse housing opportunities”; Program T-36, “Make new and replacement curbs vertical where desired by neighborhood residents”; and Policy L-76, “Require trees and other landscaping within parking lots.”

The list did not, however, include Policy L-5: “Maintain the scale and character of the city. Avoid land uses that are overwhelming and unacceptable due to their size and scale.” Also missing from the staff report was any mention of Goal T-5, “A transportation system with minimal impacts on residential neighborhoods,” or Goal T-6, “A high level of safety for motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists on Palo Alto streets.” These omissions were particularly striking given that the heart of neighborhood opposition focused on potential traffic problems and the danger to children riding their bikes to school, with residents offering visual and anecdotal evidence of currently unsafe conditions in the bustling school corridor.

Scharff is correct to point out that the Maybell project includes tradeoffs: It’s consistent with some policies and inconsistent with others. Reasonable people can reasonably disagree on whether the goal of promoting affordable housing should trump the goal of protecting a residential neighborhood against additional density. The job of the council, Scharff said, is

to weigh these conflicts and make a judgment. But the conflict that Scharff mentions won’t be found in the staff report. When planners list 19 reasons for why the project is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and zero reasons why it isn’t, it’s easy to see why legions of residents in Barron Park, Green Acres, Downtown North and other parts of the city feel like developers are in charge while the neighborhoods are being ignored.

When asked about the omissions in the recent staff reports, City Manager James Keene emphasized the limitations of these reports, which he said neither attempt nor intend to represent all views and tensions inherent in a project. The city assumes, even without explicitly mentioning these policies, “that so much has happened in public discussion and public process that it’s really clear what those (tensions) are,” he told the Weekly. The findings in the staff reports tend to support the particular staff recommendation rather than represent all views, he said.

“I think it would be a mistake to infer that those (policies) not existing in reports now signify any effort to sort of just steer a discussion toward a particular decision,” Keene told the Weekly.

He acknowledged the city can do a better job identifying the tradeoffs that exist in the various development proposals and tracking the evolution of these projects. He said he plans to address this topic with Acting Planning Director Aaron Aknin for future projects.

“When we publish a final report, it’s really trying to represent findings upon which that particular recommendation is being made,” Keene said. “One of the things we should think about is how could we efficiently track and report the whole record of changes on a project going through time.”

Keene also said the city recognized that the process it was following for 27 University was not effective. The new strategy involves more community involvement and strategic planning. On June 3, the council approved a

staff recommendation to launch a “focused community input” process for the site. This process will include six to eight community meetings with the goal of coming up with a vision for the site acceptable to the community.

“We are trying really hard to be supportive and responsive to council and community intentions,” Keene said. “We can’t design a perfect process every time. We have to actually modify processes along the way based upon feedback.”

Of carts and horses

When it comes to strategic planning, the Jay Paul Co. proposal for 395 Page Mill came at an unfortunate time. For the past four years, city planners and consultants have been working with residents and business owners around California Avenue on a “concept plan,” a detailed vision document for the dynamic area that’s been called the city’s “second downtown.” Over a series of sometimes emotional meetings featuring PowerPoint presentations, breakout sessions and debates over desired amenities, the group put together a detailed analysis of each section of the eclectic, mixed-use area between Cambridge and Portage avenues, which includes the Fry’s Electronics site. The document, according to a March staff report, is supposed to “guide future land use and development activity within each area through the use of land-use designations and supporting Comprehensive policies and programs.”

At a September discussion of the Jay Paul project, resident Fred Balin urged the council to complete the area’s vision document before considering the new development, which at 311,000 square feet would bring more commercial growth into the city than the entire downtown has seen in a quarter century. Councilman Pat Burt also alluded to the timing issue, calling the council’s deliberation “putting the cart before the horse” because the



An orchard off of Clemo and Maybell avenues is the site for the proposed Maybell Housing Development. The City Council’s approval of the development caused a backlash from the public, many of whom are concerned about traffic and road safety for bicycling students.

concept plan is still in the works.

Others disagreed. Councilman Larry Klein and then-Vice Mayor Greg Scharff both urged speeding along on the Jay Paul proposal. Klein encouraged his colleagues not to “dither” and rejected the idea that the city should wait for the concept plan to be completed before making a decision on the development.

“It might be nice to have a concept plan in place, but that’s classic Palo Alto — ‘Let’s study this thing until it doesn’t have any life to it,’” Klein said.

Scharff shared Klein’s enthusiasm for the proposal, which would also include a new police headquarters, calling it “a great idea, in concept” and predicting that the giant office complex would “add a lot of vibrancy on California Avenue.”

This year, Scharff and Klein are both members of the council’s newly formed Infrastructure Committee, which is charged with coming up with a plan to finance needed infrastructure repairs, such as a new police headquarters. In April, the committee, which also includes Vice Mayor Nancy Shepherd and Councilman Marc Berman, discussed the Jay Paul proposal and tacitly approved an accelerated timeline for reviewing it. If all goes as planned, the project would go up for a council vote next year, in time for officials to decide whether to pursue a November infrastructure measure.

Even though this would be one of the largest commercial developments in the city, the Comprehensive Plan didn’t come up once during the April discussion. (Scharff said recently that such a conversation was beyond the committee’s purview and would have been premature.)

While 395 Page Mill gallops toward a vote, the area concept plan is languishing in planning purgatory. Numerous complications have arisen. These include a project to transform the California Avenue streetscape, which includes reducing the number of lanes from four to two on the commercial strip between El Camino Real and the Caltrain station. Merchants recently filed a lawsuit opposing the lane reduction, a move



Trucks haul away dirt as construction crews begin work on the site of a development at 195 Page Mill Road. The project by developer Harold Hohbach went through nearly a decade of legal wrangling and plan revisions.

Veronica Weber

that “temporarily delayed the concept plan,” according to staff.

The Jay Paul application itself delayed the concept plan’s adoption. According to the June 24 staff report, the proposal has “shifted focus away from the concept plan until a more definite 395 Page Mill Road project was prepared and submitted to the city.”

In a recent interview, Aknin characterized the city’s simultaneous weighing of a concept plan and the Jay Paul application as a difficult “balancing act.” In a “perfect world,” Aknin said, the city would have a concept plan completed before an application is submitted.

At the same time, he said the two processes can contribute to each other. The city has just launched the environmental review for the Jay Paul proposal, and the traffic analysis from this review can inform the environmental review for the Comprehensive Plan, which is set to take place next year.

Furthermore, if the Jay Paul project were to be approved, it could inform the conversation about how land elsewhere in the area should be used.

“If in the overall area plan we are looking for X amount of office square footage and the Jay Paul project does go through, you’d

have to say, ‘If a lot of office is approved here, maybe more housing is appropriate for another portion of the plan,’” Aknin said.

Finding the right balance between current and advance planning is one of the biggest challenges of being a city planner, Aknin said. But even if this balance is achieved, one thing is clear: Much like with the Maybell debate and with Arrillaga’s plan for 27 University, the community’s vision is being strongly influenced by a single developer’s proposal, rather than vice versa.

Mapping the future

As its broad name implies, the Comprehensive Plan means different things to different people. At the recent joint session with the council, planning Commissioner Carl King called it “a document that’s probably referenced more than the Bible in Palo Alto” — one that people “will point to for decades in saying that ‘The city must do such-and-such.’”

For Commissioner Arthur Keller, the Comprehensive Plan and zoning laws serve to protect neighborhood character against the exuberance of the market-

place. At a March commission meeting, he recalled the housing boom of the mid-2000s and the council’s 2006 decision to require “conditional-use permits” in certain areas before more housing could be approved. Without this restriction, Keller argued, more houses would have gone up, and “People would’ve lost their shirts trying to sell that housing in a housing downturn.”

“To some extent, part of our job is to respond to market forces, but I think part of our job is actually to reduce the response to market forces,” Keller said. “Because after all, what is built today and tomorrow is going to be here for 50 years. ... Moderating this so that the market forces don’t overwhelm is part of our job,” Keller said.

Council members Burt, Karen Holman and Greg Schmid routinely cite the document as an important foundation for weighing new policies, but they are the minority in this regard. Most council members appear content with approaching growth on a project-by-

project basis, one “planned community” application at a time.

Keene called the Comprehensive Plan “one absolutely critically important piece of the puzzle,” though he emphasized that there are many other pieces that the city has to consider in setting policy.

“The Comprehensive Plan is an important foundational document, but it can’t be looked at in isolation from other tools that the city has at its disposal,” Keene said. “It works in conjunction with the zoning ordinance. It works in conjunction with currying community opinion, involvement and voice, and in conjunction with the marketplace.”

Mayor Scharff, for one, rejects the characterization of the Comp Plan as a “land-use bible.” In an interview with the Weekly, Scharff noted that a Comprehensive Plan (or “General Plan” as documents of this sort are typically called) is legally required and “nice to have.” But its value is limited by the fact that many of its policies conflict when evaluating a particular project.

Scharff also defended “planned community” (PC) zoning, which

by definition is the exception to the rule — allowing development that exceeds zoning regulations that, theoretically, were guided by the Comp Plan. PC projects have become increasingly controversial during the hot building climate of recent years (for more on this trend, see “Balancing benefits” in the April 12 edition of the Weekly).

— Arthur Keller, planning commissioner, City of Palo Alto

The PC approval process, he noted, gives the council the power to demand things from an applicant that would make the project better, things that the applicant otherwise wouldn’t have to provide. He pointed to the four-story office building that developer Charles “Chop” Keenan plans to build at 135 Hamilton Ave. and the redevelopment of the eight-

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Palo Alto races to predict future traffic

City’s methodology outdated, but change is coming

by Gennady Sheyner

When it comes to planning for city growth, no area is more difficult to keep pace with than traffic. And within Palo Alto, California Avenue is a perfect illustration of that.

The eclectic collection of neighborhoods and business parks has been targeted for renewal since at least 2006, when the City Council decided to develop a “concept area plan” that would identify new or continuing uses — commercial space, retail, housing — for each subsection of

the 115-acre area, which includes a business district and the Fry’s Electronics property.

Several ambitious developments are planned for the area, from Harold Hohbach’s recently approved “Park Plaza” at 195 Page Mill Road, which includes 82 apartments along with research-and-development space, to a 40-foot-tall office-and-retail building at 260 California Ave., where Illusions nightclub currently operates.

With each new development

comes new traffic, even if the majority of tenants take nearby public transit, such as Caltrain or Valley Transportation Authority buses.

But when city staff in 2010 was considering a controversial plan to reduce the number of lanes from four to two on California Avenue, between El Camino Real and the Caltrain station, these pending developments weren’t in the equation.

The plan, which is part of a broader streetscape revamp of

the commercial strip, was adopted after a traffic analysis showed that reducing the number of lanes wouldn’t result in any significant traffic problems, a finding that was disputed by area merchants.

For residents Pat Marriott and Dick Placone, vocal critics of Palo Alto’s land-use policies, the traffic analysis had a major flaw: It assumed, despite all the evidence to the contrary, that no significant new developments — or their traffic — would affect California Avenue.

To investigate the issue, the pair recently made a Public Records Act request to obtain emails between the city’s planning staff and consultants working on the

California Avenue streetscape project. The documents, which Marriott provided to the Weekly, confirmed a hunch: Palo Alto’s transportation planners made a conscious decision not to include new developments in the streetscape analysis.

An exchange between Brett Walinski of the consulting firm Hexagon and city Chief Transportation Official Jaime Rodriguez focused on this very topic. In December 2010, Walinski asked Rodriguez about potential growth in the California Avenue area and wrote that he was “concerned that if we mention

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Future traffic

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any potential growth, we will have to study it.” He also noted that the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), which governs environmental review of new developments, “requires a cumulative scenario. ...

“If we are using this doc for CEQA purposes, and there is any opposition to this project, then we need to be careful about this.”

Walinski proposed checking with an environmental consultant. In the absence of that, he wrote: “We may want to spend a bit more money and analyze a future growth.”

Rodriguez replied that he had consulted with Chief Planning Official Julie Caporgno (who has since retired) and recommended analyzing only the “existing” and “project-only conditions.” The report, he wrote, “should include a discussion that no planned projects are pending or foreseeable in the near future that would change traffic conditions beyond the current volumes.”

After Walinski responded to double-check the fact that there are “no approved or pending projects,” Rodriguez wrote back: “Yes, let’s focus on the no planned or active projects instead.”

Fittingly, Hexagon’s traffic study concluded that “there are no pending projects or planned projects in the foreseeable future. Therefore, traffic volumes on California Avenue between El Camino Real and Park

Boulevard will remain unchanged with the current land uses.”

The exchange struck Marriott and Placone as puzzling. Even though some significant projects — including the offices at 260 California; a proposed four-story office building on the busy corner of El Camino Real and Page Mill, and Jay Paul Co.’s massive office proposal for 395 Page Mill — still hadn’t materialized in 2010, the city should have known that the area would see growth, and it should have included this growth in its traffic study, they figured.

Hohbach’s proposal for 195 Page Mill, for example, was already crawling toward approval in 2010. The council had recently OK’d a smaller mixed-use development at 2650 Birch St. And plans were afoot to designate the California Avenue area the city’s sole “planned development area,” an acknowledgment that the neighborhood could accommodate more growth.

So if the city knew about these changes, why did officials proceed with the lane-reduction analysis on the assumption that there would be no projects “pending or foreseeable in the near future that would change traffic conditions beyond the current volumes?”

When Marriott and Placone brought this question to City Manager James Keene, he replied with a detailed explanation of the staff’s decision, which he said is fully compliant with state law. The city is only required to analyze “pending or foreseeable” projects, and the only

ones that would have fit this category in 2010 were 195 Page Mill, which was in litigation at the time, and the Birch Street project, which was so small that it wouldn’t generate any major traffic problems.

This explanation didn’t entirely satisfy Marriott and Placone. Even if the city and Rodriguez operated within the law, he and the city knew that the California Avenue district would see a great deal of growth in the future, Marriott wrote in a memo to the Weekly.

“Isn’t it his (Rodriguez’s) responsibility — as well as Keene’s and the Planning and Transportation Commission and the City Council’s — to do the right thing for residents and businesses?” she asked. “As chief transportation official, shouldn’t he ensure that traffic flows smoothly throughout the city?”

In a recent interview, Rodriguez told the Weekly that staff had considered the projects Marriott and Placone cited and determined that they would not have a big impact on California Avenue, despite their proximity to the commercial strip. The portion of California Avenue where the lanes will be reduced to two dead-ends at the Caltrain station, and tenants of 195 Page Mill and 260 Birch are unlikely to use those blocks for commuting.

But Rodriguez also acknowledged that the traffic model used for the analysis was not built to consider the major changes along and near California Avenue. That’s one of the things the city is looking to change as it completes its Comprehensive

Plan Amendment, Rodriguez said. In one of its final actions before the July break, the City Council approved a \$290,000 addition to its work on the Comprehensive Plan to overhaul the existing traffic model and come up with one that does a better job looking at cumulative effects of various different projects.

“The old model didn’t have a good analysis for the future. It didn’t add in every project that was approved,” Rodriguez said.

The subject of cumulative traffic has become a hot topic well beyond California Avenue. Downtown residents have long been up in arms about the city’s approval of new office buildings, some of whose tenants have collectively eaten up all the parking spaces in the neighborhoods. And residents of the Barron Park and Green Acres neighborhoods have blasted the city’s recent traffic analysis for an approved development at 567 Maybell Ave., which includes 60 units for low-income seniors and 12 single-family homes. On June 17, just before the council approved the project, Councilman Greg Schmid made the point that current traffic measures aren’t sufficient.

“There are cumulative impacts that are impacting the neighborhoods that are not being measured by ‘Let’s count the incremental change,’” Schmid said. “People look at incremental changes, none of which make a major impact, and then see traffic in their community go up on the order of 60 to 70 percent.”

The existing traffic model was created in 1995 and updated several times, most recently in 2008, when the Stanford University Medical Center was going through with its major expansion.

The new model, which uses the methodology of the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, will be updated with the latest and projected land-use developments. It will consider recent and future changes around California Avenue and the East Meadow Circle area, which are subject of the city’s “concept area plans.”

Rodriguez said it will include possible future projects such as John Arrillaga’s proposed office-and-theater development at 27 University Ave. and Jay Paul Co.’s proposed complexes at 395 Page Mill. It will also include the potential housing sites listed in the Comp Plan’s Housing Element, which the city approved last month after years of delays. It will also consider big developments in neighboring jurisdictions, including Menlo Park, Mountain View and East Palo Alto, Rodriguez said.

The new model will include 2012 as its base year and will also include traffic assumptions for 2025 and 2035, according to a June 24 staff report.

“We’re looking at true future growth — the growth we’re expecting in our own community and in the surrounding region,” Rodriguez said. ■

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Lost vision

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story Casa Olga convalescent home downtown, which will re-open as a hotel. Both projects are consistent with the zoning code, and each relies on parking exemptions in the code. Each is thus expected to exacerbate downtown's already terrible parking shortage. Yet because these projects are consistent with their zoning designations, the council can't require them to provide more parking, Scharff said.

"If it (the Casa Olga project) was a PC, I would have discretion over it," Scharff said. "I think the PC process has merit. It allows a lot of flexibility and community benefits. It allows you to control the process in a way that is positive."

Scharff also rejected the suggestion that the city is overlooking the Comprehensive Plan in discussing major projects such as 395 Page Mill Road and 27 University Ave. Neither project has been approved, he said. Each would have



The Eden Housing development at the corner of Homer Avenue and Alma Street is expected to provide affordable housing near Palo Alto's transit-friendly downtown. The approval faced fierce resistance from neighbors.

Veronica Weber

to undergo review from the planning commission and the council, which would ostensibly involve discussion about compatibility with the Comprehensive Plan. The Infrastructure Committee intentionally avoided discussion of the

Comprehensive Plan when it sped up the timeline for reviewing the Jay Paul proposal, he said.

As for Arrillaga's proposal, "It's unfair to talk about the Comp Plan with 27 University Ave.," he said. "No one has sat down and made

findings to approve it. No one said whether it's within the Comp Plan or it's not."

But deferring this conversation carries its own costs, both financial and political. If 395 Page Mill is later found to be incompatible with the Comprehensive Plan, then the city is needlessly dragging its feet on the concept plan for California Avenue. If Arrillaga's proposal is later found to be completely incompatible with the Comprehensive Plan, then the city will have spent as much as \$250,000 on design work and an initial environmental review with little to show for it.

Scharff acknowledged that some thought should be given to the Comprehensive Plan in the early stages, though he said he expects this to happen at the staff level.

"I think it would be incumbent upon staff if they thought they'd be inconsistent with the Comp Plan, to say so," Scharff said.

And while the Comprehensive Plan hasn't been a major feature of the Jay Paul discussion thus far, Scharff said he can think of several planning policies in the Comprehensive Plan that would be consistent with the proposal, including encouragement of development near transit areas.

The Comprehensive Plan, Scharff said, is a "vision document about where in the big picture you want the city to be." But at the same time, things in Palo Alto have changed greatly over the past four or five years, Scharff said. These changes, he said, justify a complete overhaul of the Plan, which the planning commission decided to do after the council launched an "amendment process" in 2006. The revision is now entering its final phase after numerous detours (*see sidebar*).

Scharff said he expects the commission to complete its review of the updated Comprehensive Plan later this summer, at which time the council will begin reviewing each section (called an "element") one meeting at a time. Scharff said he is optimistic the process will be completed next year, an estimate that may seem ambitious given that the city's last effort to adopt a Comprehensive Plan took nearly

30 meetings.

The council's adoption of the amended Comprehensive Plan promises to finally bring to the forefront the debate over the city's values and strategies for growth. For Schmid, that can't happen soon enough.

In a recent interview, he echoed Scharff's observation that the Comprehensive Plan, while an important expression of community values, sometimes has a hard time keeping up with changes on the ground. Since the city adopted the vision document in 1998, the city has undergone four "revolutions," he said — the dot-com boom in the late 1990s, the dot-com bust in the early 2000s, the influx of residential developments in the mid-2000s and the economic crash in late 2008. His list doesn't even include the last three years, which have seen the city rebound from the recession doldrums, spurring an influx of new office buildings.

A document created in 1998 can't possibly address all these changes, Schmid said.

"I think applications are very powerful, and I think there is a tradition in Palo Alto of permitting PCs, — that is, variations from planned zoning because of special benefits," Schmid said. "I think it's an indication of the Comprehensive Plan having a hard time explaining or giving guidelines to a very dynamic community in a changing world."

Schmid agreed that many policies and programs in the document are now outdated. But even so, community values have not disappeared, and the vision statements at the beginning of each chapter should be taken extremely seriously, he said.

Holman agreed. Even with the Comp Plan revision languishing and the city undergoing massive changes, the existing document has plenty of good direction to offer policy makers, she told the Weekly.

"The Comprehensive Plan does talk about not having abrupt changes in scale (of buildings). It talks about having compatible uses next to each other. I don't think we do a very good job of that," Holman said in a recent interview. "I don't think we follow that well at all, and I think (the Comp Plan) is wonderful guidance." ■

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TALK ABOUT IT
www.PaloAltoOnline.com

What role should Palo Alto's Comprehensive Plan play in guiding officials' decisions when it comes to land use? How heavily should the City Council and commissions weigh changing factors such as economy and city needs as reasons for departing from the vision document? Share your opinion on Town Square, the discussion forum on Palo Alto Online.

About the cover: Illustration by Shannon Corey.

Land-use bible

(continued from page 19)

gin to replicate later this year.

The commission's thorough approach isn't the only reason for the significant delays in upgrading the Comprehensive Plan. The city's planning staff has lost key officials during the review process, Martinez said, including Julie Caporgno, who retired as chief planning official. The council's decision to temporarily trim the budget for the amendment process after the 2008 economic crash also slowed things down somewhat.

Another reason for the major delay, according to the June 24 report, is the city's decision to revamp the model used to forecast traffic impacts of new developments. The new model will be based on the methodology used by the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority and will take into account all the latest land-use activities and planning documents. It will also consider all the major developments in neighboring cities, including East Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Mountain View. It will have 2012 as its base year and will help the city forecast traffic assumptions for 2025 and 2035.

The council also contributed to the delays by pursuing a number of smaller vision documents concurrently with the Comprehensive Plan amendment. In 2010, with high-speed rail stirring anxieties citywide, the council appointed a 17-member citizen committee to formulate a community vision for the Caltrain corridor. The resulting Rail Corridor Study, which took two years to complete, includes a long list of policies and recom-

mendations, many intended to more strongly connect the city's east and west areas (which are separated by the train tracks) and to promote safer rail intersections. The study, which was not a part of the program in 2006, will now be incorporated in the Comprehensive Plan.

Another vision document that city planners have been working on is the Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan — a roadmap geared toward making Palo Alto one of the nation's most bike-friendly cities. Like the rail vision, the bike master plan was approved last year and will now be a part of the new Comprehensive Plan package.

Finally, there's 27 University Ave., a critical area connecting Palo Alto and Stanford University, which includes Palo Alto's busy downtown Caltrain station and public-transit hub. Developer John Arrillaga proposed a giant office complex and a theater, as well as improvements to the transit area. After huge public outcry over the proposal and the city's process for handling it, however, the council voted 5-3 to seek out "focused community input" to develop a vision for that specific area. It will involve six to eight meetings. (Councilmembers Pat Burt, Holman and Greg Schmid dissented, favoring a more thorough planning process.)

The 27 University effort may further delay the adoption of an updated Comprehensive Plan. The June 24 staff report notes that the project "would establish new land uses and zoning at the site and would affect land use throughout the downtown area."

"The outcome of these studies and projects would appropriately inform the Comp Plan

Amendment," the report states.

Under the current projections, the council will begin reviewing the amended Comprehensive Plan in August, one element at a time, Mayor Greg Scharff told the Weekly. The goal is to adopt it in 2014, Scharff said. For council members and residents concerned about the recent development trend, in which large new proposals are evaluated on a case-by-case basis, this is a big deal. An updated Comprehensive Plan, Holman said, should provide guidance to council members and promote trust between the city and the greater community, effectively ensuring that all parties are on the same page when it comes to new development.

"If we don't follow our Comprehensive Plan or don't have the update in place that would be relevant, then we have a free-for-all situation," Holman said.

Schmid, an economist and the council's most vehement proponent for broad, strategic thinking (which makes him the council's most frequent dissenting vote), made a similar point in a recent interview. Schmid, who was elected to the council in 2007, said that in his term there have been "very few meetings that have addressed the Comp Plan issues themselves, as opposed to specific projects."

"It is frustrating that we're dealing with these things one (development) application at a time without a general context of what it means for the city and how it helps transform or change the city into something that is desirable," Schmid told the Weekly. ■

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

Arts & Entertainment

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



THE PROMISED LAND BY THE BAY

Documentary depicts the bright new life many European Jews found in Gold Rush San Francisco

by Rebecca Wallace



Above left: This photograph used in "American Jerusalem" shows the Haas family (descendants of Levi Strauss) on a family vacation to Bavaria in 1911. Above: A still from "The Strange Case of Wilhelm Reich," a documentary on the experimental scientist starring Klaus Maria Brandauer. Left: A still from "The Real Inglorious Bastards," which looks at the true tale that the Quentin Tarantino film was based on.

San Francisco in 1858 was truly a city on the edge. There was no transcontinental railroad yet, no easy way from East Coast to West, unless you thought that 40 days' travel by land and sea, complete with dodging alligators in the Panama jungle, sounded like fun. So on the rare days when steamer ships arrived in San Francisco Bay with supplies, the city celebrated.

In the fall of 1858, Steamer Day fell on Yom Kippur. In many cities, in many centuries, that would mean the Jews would just miss out. But San Francisco looked at the long-awaited Steamer Day and decided to postpone it. The Daily Alta California newspaper wrote, "The Jewish portion of the citizens of California constitutes a very important element of our inhabitants."

This sounds surprising, but it's there in black and white: The broadsheet page is shown in the new documentary film "American Jerusalem: Jews and the Making of San Francisco."

On screen, Stanford University historian Richard White reacts. "That is one of the most astonishing things you can ever imagine about 19th-century California. I don't know any place else in the United States where that would have taken place."

But San Francisco was special. The documentary, which will be shown in Palo Alto on Aug. 3 as part of the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival, shows that the City by the Bay

was the promised land for many 19th-century Jews. After fleeing racism and persecution in Europe, many came West and were treated like everyone else for the first time.

The Gold Rush turned San Francisco from a village into a hot spot seemingly overnight. In the early 1850s, its population shot from 800 to 36,000 in four years, according to the film. A city that grew so swiftly didn't get the chance to have a dominant faith or established social set. So the Jews blended in; they were newcomers like so many others.

"That's a unique set of circumstances that Jews benefit from," said Marc Shaffer, who wrote and directed the film. "For the first time in their experiences, they become insiders and not outsiders. They're defined as just another white group."

Interestingly, some of the limitations that had weighed on Jews in Europe now worked to their advantage. Many had been humble peddlers because of limitations on what professions they could hold. In the Gold Rush, few miners actually struck it rich hunting for gold flakes and gold dust. Others, several of them Jews, quickly realized that selling goods to the hopefuls heading for the diggings was a smarter way to earn a living.

"They started out selling goods in their backpacks, and then they opened dry-goods stores, and then they opened chains of dry-goods

stores," Frances Dinkelspiel, a journalist and descendant of California Jewish pioneers, said in the film.

The documentary profiles several of these pioneers who made it big. There's Levi Strauss, of course, and Isaias Hellman, Dinkelspiel's great-great grandfather. Hellman came to California from Bavaria and opened a dry-goods store before moving into banking. He later merged his bank with Wells Fargo.

A major focus is Adolph Sutro, a German immigrant who made a name for himself in mining in a new way, by building the Sutro Tunnel in the Comstock Lode. He also helped fuel San Francisco's growth out to the Pacific by becoming a major landowner on the western side of the city and developing public gardens and the Sutro Baths swimming complex there. He was the first Jewish mayor of a major American city, elected to lead San Francisco in 1894.

As Jews prospered, they built grand synagogues of the kind that were rarely possible in Europe. They also continued to blend in. A portion of the film deals with the more secular Judaism often practiced by people like Sutro in San Francisco, where fewer Jews went to temple and some even had Christmas trees.



Marc Shaffer

This different way of being Jewish was less religious and more cultural, but the community was still there. Even if San Francisco's Jews didn't always pray together, they shared traditional values such as charity, founding numerous aid societies. Many were active in raising money and rebuilding the city after the 1906 earthquake.

Shaffer can relate to this different way of being Jewish. A longtime documentary filmmaker whose films have aired on PBS' "Frontline" and other programs, he grew up secular in Berkeley. "We never went to temple," he said. "But we were very highly identified as Jews. ... I have embraced this question of what it means to be Jewish. From a personal standpoint, making this movie was very appealing to me. It allowed me to explore those questions."

Executive producer Jackie Krentzman also found a personal connection to the film, which surprised her, as she'd grown up in an observant home in Cleveland. But researching the movie with Shaffer proved to be a revelation.

"The story of how the San Francisco Jewish community redefined what it meant to be Jewish resonated for me," she said in a press release. "I realized that being Jewish means much more than belonging to a synagogue, talking loudly and loving kugel. ... It means that many of the values I hold are not just personal values, but Jewish values. It means I can define for myself what being Jewish means."

The film is not all rosy. It's a human story, flaws and all. In the 1800s, though many San

Can you hear me now?

'Loudest Man' signs its way to success

by Jeanie K. Smith

THEATER REVIEW

Bright, funny, surprising, engaging, smart, touching: all apt adjectives for the world-premiere play opening TheatreWorks' 44th season and heralding the New Works Festival coming in August. "The Loudest Man on Earth," by Catherine Rush, features the same four actors who performed in the play's reading and development in last year's festival, where it received much acclaim. The current production pays off in spades on that promise, delivering an entertaining and challenging new work that is bound to generate thoughtful discussion and revelations.

Rush is a hearing playwright, married to director-actor Adrian Blue, who is deaf. The play grew out of Rush's desire to portray a deaf-hearing relationship, but even more to explore human communication and connection — how we succeed or not, regardless of our native language — or perhaps because or in spite of it. The play employs several languages: American Sign Language, Visual Vernacular and spoken English, along with a spattering of peripheral tongues, dialects and forms of communication. Most of it is spoken, but a fair amount is silent as we observe signing.

Blue plays Jordan, a deaf theater director making a successful career in New York, who meets an eager, enthusiastic journalist named Haylee (Julie Fitzpatrick). Haylee knows a little ASL, and uses it to get past Jordan's domineering and irascible temperament. She manages to communicate on a basic level with Jordan, but mostly she challenges him intellectually and personally in ways others might not. And their relationship begins to blossom.

We see it unfold in a series of scenes meant to capture funny and/or ironic moments in a deaf person's experience of hearing culture, as well as the particular difficulties inher-

ent in the budding romance. Some moments generate laughter; others, groans at the obvious stupidity or ignorance of the hearing world. Some 20 or so other characters are played by just two actors, Cassidy Brown and Mia Tagano, who change costumes, wigs, accents, personalities and attitudes in a New York minute. It is really through their gaffes and painful remarks that we see our cultural blindness to the world of the differently abled.

The heart of the play is the romance between Haylee and Jordan. On the surface, it's about their trials as a deaf-hearing couple; on deeper levels, it's about how they connect, or fail to, and their encounter as human beings. In that sense, there isn't much surprise here. If the element of deafness were removed, the love story might feel mundane. Jordan's deafness creates extra hurdles, but so does his personality. How much of that personality has been shaped by his experience as a deaf person, from childhood to present, isn't fully explored; it's merely hinted at in a scene with Jordan's parents and a few references. And how common is that experience? Having been given a glimpse, I wanted to know more.

The play also has an effect on hearing audience members that may or may not have been intended. Haylee notes that even the best lip-readers catch only about 40 percent of what is said, making it a very imperfect form of communication. As Jordan signed nearly all of his performance, I began to feel like a lip-reader, struggling at times to catch his meaning. Sometimes it's crystal clear; sometimes it's incomprehensible; sometimes some of the audience members laugh and the rest are in the dark. While frustrating, this is also consciousness-raising: a

powerful immersion experience, reminding us how much we take verbal communication for granted.

In the end, the play gently prods us into awareness — the limits of words, in any language; the daunting task of communication; the navigation of the stormy waters of love; and more — sure to engender terrific post-show discussions.

Much of the play's success lies on the shoulders of its four actors, all of whom are excellent, all compelling and capable. It's fun to see Brown and Tagano switch characters with every scene, but they also bring depth and authenticity to each one. Fitzpatrick strikes just the right note, balanced between intellect and emotion, hope and resignation. Blue is superb as Jordan, conveying nuance and subtle effects with such ease. His solo flights of signing lead us softly into his world with warmth and sympathy, like a parent leading a child.

Set design by Jason Simms is a brilliant model of efficiency, with moving panels and simple set pieces to quickly effect scene changes. Paul Toben's beautiful light design complements set and mood, and Tanya Finkelstein's costuming, especially for Brown and Tagano, says volumes for each character.

See the play here, before it moves to other venues — then watch for it later on the Tonys.

What: "The Loudest Man on Earth," by Catherine Rush

Where: At the Lucie Stern Theatre at 1305 Middlefield Road in Palo Alto

When: Through Aug. 4, with 7:30 p.m. shows Tuesdays and Wednesdays; 8 p.m. shows Thursday through Saturday; 2 p.m. matinees on Saturdays and Sundays; 7 p.m. shows on Sundays.

Cost: Tickets are \$19-\$73.

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

Francisco Jews had escaped persecution elsewhere and now worked to aid the poor, they often didn't aid the city's Chinese residents, who also fell prey to racism when economic times were hard. Jews may not have joined in the anti-Chinese riots of 1877, but many were just as guilty of bigotry, the film states. Some Jews may have joined in the racism in hopes of keeping themselves from becoming the scapegoats, White said.

"These are upsetting, disturbing things that we have to face," author Fred Rosenbaum said in the film.

Many of the prominent Jews, most of whom had come from German-speaking countries, also were less than welcoming to the later waves of Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe, the film states. These new immigrants were more religious, more traditionally dressed, less interested in blending in. Often, established American Jews were embarrassed by them, though some did provide financial assistance and social programs for their brethren.

Shaffer sees this phenomenon as

something that happens across many ethnic groups, the way people can come into a new country "and shut the door behind them."

"That came as a shock, but also as a storytelling gift," he said. After all, he's a documentarian, interested in telling the truth and seeing all sides of a tale.

In that vein, Shaffer even found something positive in a 19th-century

Levi Strauss ad that boasted of its clothing being "manufactured by white labor." The ad wasn't positive, but the modern-day company's reaction was when Shaffer asked if he could use the ad in his film.

"It really speaks highly of Levi Strauss (& Co.) that they without hesitation released it to us," Shaffer said. "They said, 'We have to be transparent about our history.'" ■

INFORMATION

Now in its 33rd year, the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival brings screenings to Palo Alto from Aug. 3 through Aug. 8, showing feature films, documentaries and shorts at the Palo Alto Square theater at 3000 El Camino Real. "American Jerusalem" will be shown at 4:20 p.m. on Aug. 3, together with "Shanghai Strangers," a short about Jewish life during wartime Shanghai.

Other films include "The Strange Case of Wilhelm Reich," a documentary on the experimental scientist, shown at 8:45 p.m.

Aug. 8; "Sukkah City," about an architectural competition in New York, shown at 4:10 p.m. Aug. 5; and "The Real Inglorious Basterds," which looks at the true tale that the Quentin Tarantino film was based on, shown at 3:45 p.m. Aug. 8.

The festival will also host screenings in San Francisco, Berkeley, Oakland and San Rafael. Screening tickets are \$12, with multi-ticket packages and festival passes available. Go to sfjff.org or call 415-621-0523.

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Eating Out

FOOD FEATURE

Precisely spiced

Peninsula cook's Recipe Sacks take the guesswork out of experimenting with Indian cuisine

by Rebecca Wallace

A spoonful of sugar may have made the medicine go down for Mary Poppins, but a spoonful of cumin can sink a whole recipe. That is, if you're trying to cook an Indian dish for the first time and the smallest bag you can find of the flashy yellow spice weighs 400 grams.

Enter Savitha Rao. She buys those hefty containers so cooks don't have to, and creates recipe bags with the pre-measured amounts of spices, rices, pastas, peanuts and other ingredients needed for individual Indian dishes. Detailed cooking instructions are included. Add your perishables, such as fresh vegetables and ghee, and dinner emerges.

A longtime cook who grew up eating and creating South Indian food in her native country, Rao carefully devises each meal plan after experimentation in her Mountain View home kitchen. She can spend six months honing a single dish. "I'm not just buying and repackaging. These are my own recipes," she says.

Rao calls her business Recipe Sack. The logo is a peppy red, white and black, with a jauntily-haired woman hoisting a sack high. Through her website and at trunk shows, Rao sells nine types of sacks and two multi-recipe gift baskets.

Chitranna (lemon rice), a nostalgia-inducing favorite among South Indians, is a best-seller at \$3 a sack. Inside its linen sack are rice and peanuts, along with spices and dried coconut flakes; cooks contribute the lemon, oil, onions and salt. They can also add cilantro for garnish, and a dash of yogurt or curds. Rao calls this a good starter dish for cooks new to Indian food.



Ingredients in Savitha Rao's recipe sack for vegetable pulav are, clockwise from bottom left, cashews, garam masala, curry powder, chili powder, cumin, cloves, star anise and cinnamon.

Veronica Weber



Recipe Sacks contain various spices, rices and other non-perishables in drawstring linen bags.

Veronica Weber



Savitha Rao, founder of Recipe Sack.

Veronica Weber

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Eating Out

“My 8-year-old daughter asks for it at least once a week,” Beverly Acevedo, a regular Mountain View customer, said in an enthusiastic email.

Acevedo, whose daughter goes to school with Rao’s children, is just the type of customer Rao is trying to attract: someone who loves Indian food but has little experience cooking it at home. Acevedo bought her first Recipe Sack at a school holiday boutique and has been using

them ever since. “Most recipes call for exotic ingredients I do not already have in my pantry and making a list and purchasing all of the ingredients felt like a daunting task. ... There are a few other frozen or prepared Indian foods offered in stores, but they don’t compare to the freshness of Recipe Sack,” she said.

(continued on page 28)



Savitha Rao assembles a Recipe Sack in the San Jose commercial kitchen where she rents space.

Veronica Weber



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

8:30 A.M., Thursday, August 1, 2013 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.

405 Curtner Avenue [13PLN-00098]: Request by Salvatore Caruso on behalf of Zhen Zhen Li for Architectural Review of a new 7,425 square foot, three story building with six residential condominium units. Environmental Assessment: Exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) per CEQA Guidelines Section 15303. Zone District: RM-30.

3159 El Camino Real [13PLN-00040]: Request by FGY Architects on behalf of Portage Avenue Portfolio, LLC for Site and Design Review of a new 74,122 square foot four-story mixed use project with 48 residential units. The proposal also includes Design Enhancement Exceptions for height, and build to lines as well as a Conditional Use Permit for the parcel to exceed the 5,000 square foot limit for office space. Environmental Assessment: A Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Zone district: Service Commercial (CS).

611 Cowper Street [13PLN-00259]: Request by Ken Hayes of The Hayes Group for Architectural Review to allow the construction of one new four-story mixed used building (three floors commercial and one floor residential) with below grade parking. Zone District: CD-C(P). Environmental Assessment: Exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) per CEQA Guidelines Section 15332.

Amy French
Chief Planning Official

The City of Palo Alto does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities. To request an accommodation for this meeting or an alternative format for any related printed materials, please contact the City’s ADA Coordinator at 650.329.2550 (voice) or by e-mailing ada@cityofpaloalto.org

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(continued from page 27)

Other Recipe Sack options include vermicelli uppma (\$3), with cashews and noodles (add ginger, peas and other veggies); dosas (\$2.50); and vegetable pulav (\$3), with basmati rice and cashews.

Kichdi (\$2.50), a comfort food of lentils and rice, is Rao's husband's favorite. It's a simple porridge-like dish that can be fancied up with eggplant, potatoes, raita or stir-fried greens.

Today, Rao is putting together a sack for vegetable pulav in the shared commercial-kitchen space she rents in San Jose. Recipe experimentation may be done at home, but all assembly is reserved for the commercial space. Wearing a Recipe Sack T-shirt, with a white iPhone peeking out of her cargo-pant pocket, Rao spoons turmeric powder into a small plastic bag, following it with mild chili powder, "a pinch of cinnamon," garam masala, cumin and others. The brilliant spices gleam like a sunset. Every now and then, a refreshing blast of cold air sweeps through the warm kitchen as another cook opens a walk-in fridge.

"It's fun," Rao says, closing the bag with a plastic-film sealer. "Some days I do it as an assembly line." She places the plastic bag inside a drawstring linen sack; she's chosen the linen in hopes of being eco-friendly, and orders the biodegradable plastic bags online.

Rao opens another sack, this one containing the fixings for lemon rice. "With a side salad, it's a full meal," she says.

A full vegetarian meal, of course. Rao doesn't eat meat, and all her recipes are vegetarian, though when asked she may give advice on incorporating chicken stock into a rice dish. Her recipes are also free of cream, something she says she sees too much of in Indian restaurants. She tries to make her dishes feel less heavy.

The business could be seen as a culinary inheritance. Rao grew up enjoying her mother's recipes, and her father is a foodie who loved to take the family to favorite restaurants.

Rao came to the United States in 1997 to earn a master's degree in communications at Wayne State University in Detroit. A career as a public-relations consultant followed as she lived in various American cities (she met her husband in Cincinnati). The family came to the Bay Area in 2007. Interested in a career change, Rao decided to work in products instead of services, and her experiments in the kitchen started to seem like a potential business. She started selling the sacks at a school boutique in 2011. Now Recipe Sack is her full-time job.

Rao estimates that she has about 50 repeat customers, and that she sells about 150 sacks at each trunk show. She hasn't done much marketing, but plans to start an augmented campaign, upgrading her website and trying to get her products into stores.

In the meantime, she's back in her kitchen, experimenting away. She hopes to soon supplement her Indian offerings with African and Middle Eastern dishes. ■

Info: For more about Recipe Sack, go to recipesack.com.

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CITY OF
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**NOTICE OF HEARING
ON REPORT AND ASSESSMENT
FOR WEED ABATEMENT**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on January 14, 2013 the Fire Chief of the City of Palo Alto filed with the City Clerk of said city a report and assessment on abatement of weeds within said city, a copy of which is posted on the bulletin board at the entrance to the City Hall.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that on August 5, 2013 at the hour of seven p.m. or as soon thereafter in the Council Chambers of said City Hall, said report and assessment list will be presented to the City Council of said City for consideration and confirmation, and that any and all persons interested, having any objections to said report and assessment list, or to any matter of thing contained therein, may appear at said time and place and be heard.

DONNA J. GRIDER, MMC
City Clerk

Movies

OPENINGS

20 Feet from Stardom

★★★

(Aquarius) What would popular music sound like without the backup singers? The answer is, of course, unthinkable, as Morgan Neville's documentary "20 Feet from Stardom" reminds us.

Neville does a good job of highlighting songs that are especially characterized by backup singers, like Lou Reed's "Walk on the Wild Side," and introducing us to some of the "unsung" talent that made those hits possible. Among the vocalists highlighted in the film are Darlene Love, Merry Clayton, Lisa Fischer, the Waters Family, Claudia Lenear, Mabel John, Stevi Alexander, Jo Lawry, Táta Vega, Lynn Mabry and Judith Hill.

That nearly all of the talent is female gives the film a charge of feminist electricity, but the doc also serves as a parable of pursuing a big-time professional career in the arts. For every household name (and six testify in the film: Mick Jagger, Bruce Springsteen, Sting, Stevie Wonder, Bette Midler and Sheryl Crow), there's a breathtaking singer who never quite got the breaks or, perhaps, lacked the ambitious drive to pursue downstage stardom.

If this is a film about the art and struggle of the backup singer, the premise is undercut by the inclusion of Love, who struggled mightily to get out from under the iron fist of producer Phil Spector but nevertheless qualifies as a bona fide star (and an inductee in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame) who has mostly sung lead, headlines shows and appears annually for a featured slot on "The Late Show with David Letterman." Still, who wouldn't want to spend time with Love? She sings, reflects and admits that she nearly gave up for good, cleaning houses until she heard herself on the radio while doing so and resolved to re-

turn to her calling.

Though Love throws off the balance of the movie, its heart is with such performers as Fischer and Clayton who have sung mostly backup and who have been unable to sustain or launch solo careers. Neville celebrates their brushes with stardom — like Clayton's famously blistering solo on the Rolling Stones' "Gimme Shelter" and Fischer's only solo album, "So Intense" — but also allows the singers to ponder the limits of their commercial success.

Like any music documentary worth its salt, this one loads up on great performance footage, some of it from other music films: Lennear at "The Concert for Bangladesh," Mabry backing the Talking Heads in "Stop Making Sense," and Hill in "This Is It," working with Michael Jackson just before his death. Revisiting these musical moments with attention to the backup singers proves ear-opening, as do the sometimes thoughtful, sometimes poignant interviews.

Most of these women have come a long way, baby. Former Ikette Lennear chuckles about having posed for "Playboy" — now she's a Spanish teacher. Something tells me she may have a sabbatical in her future: If a "20 Feet from Stardom" tour isn't in the works, someone's sleeping on the job.

Rated PG-13 for language and sexual material. One hour, 31 minutes.

— Peter Canavese

Girl Most Likely

★★

(Palo Alto Square) Take the great Kristen Wiig out of the indie comedy "Girl Most Likely," and it would be unbearable. But she's here, and in every scene. The question is whether fans will want to watch her struggle to keep a film afloat

for 103 minutes.

Wiig plays Imogene Duncan, a once-promising playwright who squandered a fellowship and now finds her life unraveling. Her dreams of marriage, domestic bliss and a playwriting Tony presented by Cynthia Nixon obviously aren't in the cards. Dumped by her upscale-cad boyfriend and her magazine-editor boss, Imogene stages a cry-for-help suicide and winds up in the care of her estranged mother, Zelda (Annette Bening).

And so Imogene finds herself an unwanted house guest in the New Jersey home she's spent a lifetime trying to escape. There, she catches up with her crab-obsessed brother Ralph (Christopher Fitzgerald), who appears to be somewhere on the autism spectrum as he works to perfect "the science of physical self-preservation" with mollusk-shell-shaped body armor. Imogene discovers her room's been rented to conspicuously sexy Yale-bred song-and-dance man Lee (Darren Criss), and that her mother has taken up with the disconcerting George Bousche (Matt Dillon), who claims to be a CIA agent with the wisdom of the samurai.

Though there's a distinct indie flavor here (owing in part to directors Shari Springer Berman & Robert Pulcini, who did "American Splendor"), squint and "Girl Most Likely" could easily be mistaken for any straining studio rom-com with commitment issues when it comes to tone, characterization and themes.

To the extent that "Girl Most Likely" has anything to say, it's that the angst of family giveth and it taketh away. In the end, and not surprisingly, "there's no place like home" — thus resolving a film-long argument wittily established in the film's opening school-play flashback. Yes, Zelda's unreliable and self-centered, but she has mo-

(continued on page 30)

★★★★★ A GREAT CONSPIRACY THRILLER. —DAILY NEWS

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(continued from page 29)

ments of emotional clarity and, unlike Imogene's dad, she's around. Screenwriter Michelle Morgan isn't quite as charitable to Ocean City, New Jersey, which pretty much remains in estimation a dump to abandon for Manhattan (its hateful social graspers aside).

The film's undernourished romance never quite finds its groove (Lee's scripted to be exactly the generic nice, uncomplicated guy Imogene needs just at this moment). Berman and Pulcini's imprint is felt mostly in some surprisingly effective brother-sister poignancy, though it would be more effective if they named the brother's autism. But the

humor is scattershot, working to the limited extent that it does due to a strong cast and quirky cameos.

As a fan of Wiig — who remains likeably awkward here — I'm glad I saw "Girl Most Likely," the kind of movie you root for to get its act together. But I'm equally glad I didn't have to pay to see it. You're liable to enjoy it more if you wait to watch it on your couch.

Rated PG-13 for sexual content and language. One hour, 43 minutes.

— Peter Canavese

READ MORE ONLINE
www.PaloAltoOnline.com

To read Weekly critic Peter Canavese's review of "Turbo," go to PaloAltoOnline.com/movies. Canavese gave the kids' animated film two stars and called it "lackluster" and "generic."

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20 Feet From Stardom (PG-13) ★★★
Aquarius Theatre: 2:15, 4:30, 7, 9:30 p.m. Fri-Sun also at noon.

Adam's Rib (1949) (Not Rated)
Stanford Theatre: Sat-Sun 3:40 & 7:30 p.m.

Before Midnight (R)
Aquarius Theatre: Tue 3 : 8:30 p.m. Thu 3 : 8:30 p.m.

Born to Royalty (Not Rated)
Aquarius Theatre: Wed 7 p.m.

The Conjuring (R)
Century 16: 10:50 a.m. & 1:45, 4:50, 7:50, 10:35 p.m. Fri-Sat also at 11:45 p.m.
Century 20: 10:50 a.m. & 12:05, 1:30, 2:45, 4:10, 5:25, 6:55, 8:10, 9:40, 10:50 p.m.

Desk Set (1957) (Not Rated) **Stanford Theatre:** Sat-Sun 5:35, 9:25 p.m.

Despicable Me 2 (PG) ★★
Century 16: 9:15 & 11:45 a.m. & 2:30, 5:15, 7:55, 10:35 p.m. In 3D 10:40 a.m. & 1:30, 4:15, 7, 9:35 p.m. **Century 20:** 10:20 a.m. & 12:50, 3:15, 5:40, 8:10, 10:35 p.m. In 3D 11:35 a.m. & 2:10, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 p.m.

The Devil to Pay! (1930) (Not Rated)
Stanford Theatre: Fri 6:05 & 9 p.m.

The East (PG-13) ★★★
Palo Alto Square: 1:30, 4:15, 7:15 p.m. Fri-Sat also at 10 p.m.

Girl Most Likely (PG-13) ★★
Palo Alto Square: 2, 4:30, 7:25 p.m. Fri-Sat also at 9:55 p.m.

Grown Ups 2 (PG-13)
Century 16: 9 & 10:15 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. & 2, 3:40, 4:40, 7:25, 9:10, 10:20 p.m.
Century 20: 10:35 a.m. & noon & 2:30, 3:55, 5, 7:35, 9:15, 10:15 p.m.

The Heat (R) ★★
Century 16: 11:10 a.m. & 1:55, 4:45, 7:45, 10:40 p.m.
Century 20: 11 a.m. & 1:45, 4:25, 7:10, 10 p.m.

The Lone Ranger (PG-13) ★★★
Century 16: 9:05 a.m. & 12:25, 3:50, 7:10, 10:30 p.m. **Century 20:** 12:15, 3:30, 6:50, 10:25 p.m.

Man of Steel (PG-13) ★★★
Century 16: 11 a.m. & 5:30 p.m. **Century 20:** 7:40 p.m. In 3D 1:25 p.m.

Monsters University (G) ★★★1/2
Century 16: 9:25 a.m. & 2:25, 7:30 p.m. In 3D 11:55 a.m. & 5 & 10 p.m.
Century 20: 10:30 a.m. & 1:10, 6:25 p.m. In 3D 2:25, 8 p.m.

Much Ado About Nothing (PG-13) ★★★1/2
Aquarius Theatre: Fri-Sun 12:30 & 6 p.m.

National Lampoon's Animal House (1978) (R)
Century 20: Sun 2 p.m.

Pacific Rim (PG-13) ★★★
Century 16: 2:15 & 8:45 p.m. In 3D 9:20 a.m. & 12:30, 3:45, 7, 10:15 p.m. **Century 20:** 10:35 a.m. & 1:35, 4:35, 7:45, 10:45 p.m. In 3D 12:15, 3:15, 6:15, 9:25 p.m.

R.I.P.D. (PG-13)
Century 16: 11:50 a.m. & 5:05, 10:10 p.m. Fri-Sat also at 11:40 p.m. In 3D 9:10 a.m. & 2:20, 7:40 p.m. **Century 20:** 10:40 a.m. & 1:05, 3:35, 6:10, 8:45 p.m. In 3D 11:55 a.m. & 2:20, 4:50, 7:30, 10:05 p.m.

Red 2 (PG-13)
Century 16: 9:35 & 11:05 a.m. & 12:40, 2:10, 4:05, 5:40, 7:20, 8:55, 10:20 p.m. Fri-Sat also at 11:45 p.m. **Century 20:** 11 a.m. & 1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10 p.m. In XD 12:25, 3:10, 6, 8:50 p.m.

Springsteen and I (PG-13)
Century 20: Sun 7:30 p.m. Mon 7:30 p.m. Tue 7:30 p.m. Wed 7:30 p.m.

Star Trek: Into Darkness (PG-13) ★★★
Century 20: 4:40 p.m. In 3D 10:30 a.m., 10:50 p.m.

This Is the End (R) ★★1/2 **Century 16:** 10:05 p.m. Fri-Sat also at 4 p.m.
Century 20: 12:10, 2:45, 5:20, 8:05, 10:40 p.m.

Turbo (PG) ★★
Century 16: 9:30 a.m. & noon & 2:35, 5:10, 8, 10:25 p.m. **Century 20:** 10:25 a.m. & 12:55, 3:25, 5:55, 8:20, 10:45 p.m. In 3D 11:30 a.m. & 2, 4:30, 7, 9:30 p.m.

The Way Way Back (PG-13) ★★★1/2
Guild Theatre: 2, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55 p.m.

White House Down (PG-13) ★★1/2
Century 16: 12:45, 6:15 p.m. **Century 16:** 12:45, 6:15 p.m. **Century 20:** 1 & 6:20 p.m. **Century 20:** 1 & 6:20 p.m.

The Working Man (1933) (Not Rated)
Stanford Theatre: Fri 7:30 p.m.

World War Z (PG-13)
Century 16: 7:15 p.m. Fri-Sat also at 12:50 p.m. In 3D 9:45 a.m. **Century 20:** 3:45, 9:05 p.m. In 3D 11:40 a.m., 5:10, 10:40 p.m.

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

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Palo Alto City Council will hold a public hearing at the Council meeting on Monday, August 5, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. or as near thereafter as possible, in the Council Chambers, 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, to Consider Adoption of an Ordinance that would prohibit the human habitation of vehicles. The City Council's Policy and Services Committee recommends adoption of the ordinance.

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Sports Shorts

OAKS PERFECT . . . The Palo Alto Oaks will take a 14-0 record into this weekend's Western Baseball Association doubleheader at Baylands Athletic Center before heading to Sacramento the following week for the West Region tournament. The Oaks will face a field that includes representatives from the Sacramento Rural League, Southern California and the Western Baseball Association. Tournament play begins July 26. Palo Alto kept its perfect season alive with a doubleheader sweep of Fontanetti's 'B' team on Sunday at Baylands. In Game 1, the Oaks used the mercy rule and won 11-1 in seven innings as **Brian Fleischli** went 4-for-4 with a triple, double, and two singles. The second game was much closer with the Oaks prevailing, 6-4. Starter **CJ Hillyer** tossed the first four and gave up one run while striking out 10.

OF LOCAL NOTE . . . Sacred Heart Prep senior **Bradley Knox** of Menlo Park and Stanford-bound **Maverick McNealy** of Portola Valley will begin play Monday in the annual U.S. Junior Amateur Championships at Martis Camp in Truckee. The golf championship runs through July 27 . . . The Menlo College community was rocked last week by news of the untimely passing of senior women's basketball player **Sasha Brown**, who died on July 10. The cause has yet to be determined. Brown, who transferred to Menlo College from Sierra College as a junior in 2012, had recently completed a highly successful junior campaign for the Oaks. "Sasha had a tremendous passion for basketball and played with great energy and enthusiasm," said Menlo head coach **Shannon Osborne**. "She always gave her best effort and was a focused defender and rebounder. Sasha was really working hard on her game this summer and we were excited for her to have a great senior year, and yet, as much as we will miss her on the floor, we will miss her even more off it." . . . Palo Alto High grad **De'Antay Williams** caught a four-yard touchdown pass to help the North defeat the South, 17-6, in the annual Charlie Wedemeyer Prep All-Stars Football Game on Wednesday at San Jose City College.

NO TRACK BERTH . . . Menlo School senior **Maddy Price** saw her hopes of making the Canadian Junior Team disappear as she failed to qualify for the finals in the 200 meters on Sunday at the Canadian Junior Track and Field Championships in Sainte-Therese, Quebec. Price needed to finish first or second and run 24.20 to make the Canadian team for the Junior Pan American Championships in late August. Instead, she ran 25.20 for 12th place during qualifying. Price's best shot at making the team was in the 400, where she finished third on Saturday — missing second by .02 of a second after running 55.57.

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Reigning Wimbledon champion Marion Bartoli of France says she's finally learning to enjoy living in the moment at tournaments and being happy with herself, instead of feeling depressed and frustrated by letting special opportunities slip by like in previous years.



Knocked out in the quarterfinals last year, Marion Bartoli hopes to win her second Bank of the West Classic title since 2009.

BANK OF THE WEST CLASSIC

Bartoli learning to enjoy herself

Wimbledon champion is finally living in the moment after years of not making the most of the occasion

by Alexandra Willis

It was around 8:30 p.m. Marion Bartoli had been escorted to press conference, interview, interview, round table, round table, round table, back-to-back-to-back, with not even a moment's respite to eat the smoked salmon and brown bread sandwich sitting somewhat forlornly on the desk in press conference room 2. She was still wearing grey tracksuit bottoms and a workout-type top, no glitz and glamour here.

You become very much in demand when you are the Wimbledon champion.

By that stage, you might well expect her to have become a little weary of answering the same questions over and over. Or at least not respond to them quite so well. But,

as we've come to discover, Marion Bartoli is unique. And she saved one of her best lines of the day for last.

"Did I dream about having a model contract? No, I'm sorry," she joked. "Did I dream about winning Wimbledon, absolutely yes."

Bartoli, the biggest name in next week's Bank of the West Classic at Stanford's Taube Family Tennis Center (July 22-28), was responding to the suggestion that she has had to work harder in life because she did not look like Maria Sharapova. And she quashed it as firmly as she delivered that final ace on match point, reminding those of us in the room that no, she is not blonde. "That's a fact," she laughed.

(continued on next page)

Stanford products lead U.S. water polo teams

by Keith Peters

The U.S. men's and women's national teams, each loaded with Stanford products, made their final preparations for the upcoming water polo competition at the FINA World Championships this weekend by compiling 2-1 records in their respective tournaments over the weekend.

The men earned victories over Canada and China before falling to Serbia in the Four Nations Tournament in Belgrade, Serbia. The USA women, meanwhile, finished second

at the Dutch Trophy tournament on Sunday in Gouda, Netherlands.

The Americans wrapped up three days of play with an 11-7 victory over Greece. Stanford's Anika Dries scored three goals, as did teammate Kelly Rulon, while goalie Betsey Armstrong stopped six shots. Stanford grad Lolo Silver and current Cardinal Kiley Neushul each added two goals.

On Day 2 of the tournament, Team USA dropped a 14-13 decision to the Netherlands. Dries scored three goals in the setback. Silver and Neushul

each scored twice while Stanford's Maggie Steffens added one goal.

The U.S. opened the tournament on Friday with a 15-8 win over Canada. Steffens and recent Stanford grad Melissa Seidemann tossed in three goals apiece with Dries adding one. The Americans were 5-of-11 on power-play goals.

Next up for Team USA will be a rematch with Greece to open the FINA World Championships on Sunday in Barcelona, Spain. Also playing for the U.S. women is Sacred Heart Prep and UCLA grad

KK Clark from Atherton.

The USA men will open play in the World Championships on Monday against Croatia.

The squad, with five current or former Stanford players, defeated Canada (11-9) and China (14-8) before losing to host Serbia (14-12) in the Four Nations Tournament.

Stanford grads Janson Wigo and Tony Azevedo along with current Cardinal Alex Bowen had solo goals against Canada. Azevedo scored

(continued on page 33)

BANK OF THE WEST CLASSIC

Burdette, Gibbs should feel right at home

Stanford All-Americans will be in the main draw along with Wimbledon champ Bartoli, but Sharapova sidelined

by Rick Eyrer

Maria Sharapova is out, but former Stanford All-American Mallory Burdette is in as the lineup for the 2013 Bank of the West Classic continues to ebb and flow as the annual tournament stop at Stanford's Taube Family Tennis Center approaches next week.

Sharapova, ranked No. 2 in the world and the tournament's biggest name along with Wimbledon champion Marion Bartoli, has been forced to withdraw due to a left hip injury suffered during Wimbledon.

"We are disappointed for our fans that Maria won't be able to attend this year's Bank of the West Classic but unfortunately injuries are a part of the sport and we understand that a player's health must always come first," said Bank of the West Classic Tournament Director Kim Hall. "We wish her a speedy recovery and hope she is able to return to the court soon."

The tournament was also was no-

tified Monday that Kirsten Flipkens of Belgium has also withdrawn. She was one of four Bank of the West entrants to reach Wimbledon's semifinals.

With those withdrawals, former world No. 4 Daniela Hantuchova and up-and-coming American Christina McHale have received berths into the main draw.

In addition, the Bank of the West Classic announced Monday that it has granted a wild card into the main draw to Burdette.

Burdette, who turned professional shortly after last year's Bank of the West Classic, reached the third round of last year's US Open and has risen quickly up the world rankings. She is currently No. 78 and will join former Cardinal teammate Nicole Gibbs next week.

The Bank of the West Classic still boasts a strong player field including reigning Wimbledon champion Bartoli, current world No. 4 Agnieszka Radwanska, 2011 US Open champion Samantha Stosur and 2010



Former Stanford All-American Mallory Burdette moved from the qualifying tournament to the main draw for the Bank of the West Classic after injuries knocked Maria Sharapova and Kirsten Flipkens from the event.

French Open champion Francesca Schiavone.

The Bank of the West Classic is the longest-running women-only professional tennis tournament in the world and is the first stop of the Emirates Airline US Open Series. Owned and operated by IMG, the

WTA Premier event features a 28-player singles draw and a 16-team doubles draw with total prize money of \$795,000.

Television coverage begins on July 25 on the Tennis Channel from 2-6 p.m., and 7-9 p.m. ESPN2 will televise singles quarterfinals live on Friday, July 26 from 8-10 p.m. Saturday's singles semifinals (7-9 p.m.) will be shown live by ESPN2, as will the singles finale on Sunday from 2-4 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased by calling the box office at 866-WTA-TIXS (866-982-8497) or by logging on to www.BankoftheWestClassic.com.

* * *

Nicole Gibbs has picked up right where she left off when she helped the Stanford women's tennis team win the NCAA championship in May.

Gibbs defeated Croatia's Ivana Lisjak, 6-1, 6-4, in the championship match of the Yakima Regional Hospital Challenger on Sunday in Washington state.

Gibbs, ranked No. 205 this week following her career best 172 last week, claimed her third career ITF singles title, but her first since turning pro after completing her junior season with the Cardinal on a successful note.

"First title as a pro player!!" she tweeted. "Excited to start all over in Portland on Weds."

nements while doing her homework in the back of the car — "that made me the person that I am right now on the court, it's coming all from that," she said almost proudly.

"When I was younger they (the French Tennis Federation coaches) tried to switch me back to a one-handed forehand, but when they saw my one-handed forehand they said 'OK that's fine, just stick with yours!'" she laughed.

"When I was watching the other players and then watching myself two meters inside the court returning a serve, I was like, 'OK, I'm a bit different.'"

But Bartoli is not someone who tries to be a certain way. She greets

Her NCAA singles championship victory over Nebraska's Mary Weatherholt, 6-2, 6-4, was her final amateur match, ending a Cardinal career that saw her win 30 of the 31 career matches she played in May. Her lone loss was to eventual 2011 champion Jana Juricova of California in the semifinal.

Gibbs' last title was in July of last year, when she beat Julie Coin in three sets in Denver. She played as an amateur. She also improved to 4-4 in ITF final matches.

Gibbs, seeded eighth, went three sets to beat Israel's No. 1 ranked woman Julia Glushko, 6-4, 2-6, 6-1, in the semifinals.

Lisjak came into the tournament with seven ITF titles, but the 26-year-old was looking for her first since October of 2010, when Gibbs was just beginning her freshman year at Stanford.

Gibbs, 91-60 as a singles player on the tour, began play Wednesday in the \$50,000 Oregon Challenger at the Tualatin Hills Tennis Center in Beaverton. She opened with a 6-3, 6-3 victory over Nicole Melichar, earning a date with No. 2 seed Masaki Doi of Japan in the next round Thursday.

Stanford sophomore Krista Hardebeck lost her opener in Oregon in straight sets.

Gibbs received a wild card into the Bank of the West Classic. ■



Stanford's Nicole Gibbs, who turned pro following her junior year, won her first pro tournament last weekend in Yakima, Wash., and is playing in the \$50,000 Oregon Challenger this week before heading to Stanford.

Bartoli

(continued from previous page)

On the contrary, Bartoli freely admits that she has not always led a charmed life.

"It was not really my tennis results, it was more my private life," she explained when asked about why she had described herself as hitting 'rock bottom' earlier this year. "And it was really hard to take, I couldn't focus when I was on the court, I couldn't even enjoy being myself. I was almost a bit depressed. But somehow the wheel turned and I had my moment."

And then she paused.

"Maybe it was meant to be like that," she said. "Maybe you have to go through those tough times to bounce back and to have this ultimate high."

Losing a Grand Slam final is not an easy experience to forget. Just ask Great Britain's Andy Murray, and for the 2013 Wimbledon women's finale, Sabine Lisicki. But it was not so much the way she played, or didn't play, in her unsuccessful Championships attempt in 2007 which stayed with Bartoli. It was not making the most of the occasion.

"It was not really painful to lose because Venus (Williams) was just way too good for me. I had absolutely no chance during that final,"

Bartoli remembered. "What was the most painful for me was not enjoying the moment, I was so overwhelmed at the whole situation.

"So I really wanted this time to enjoy every second of it, no matter what was the result, enjoy, embrace the situation, being out there, playing the final of Wimbledon, on Saturday at 2 o'clock. When I saw the packed stadium, beautiful sky, I thought gosh this is going to be a great moment. And it was."

Practicing with her father on icy, hole-ridden tennis courts late at night after school in France, the limited space on the court the reason for her quirky and quizzical style, driving hundreds of kilometers to tour-

the fabled tale of her higher-than-average IQ with a sort of embarrassment.

"I'm not calling myself a genius," she says. "I love to make fun of myself, I'm not the kind of person who is saying gosh I'm so perfect."

"I'm totally the opposite, I'm probably doing a million stupid things a day, I'm just trying not to be a pain for the people around me, just to be normal. I will definitely want to stay like that because I just don't want to change."

She's a Wimbledon champion now. She doesn't have to change a thing. ■

Alexandra Willis writes for Wimbledon.com



Stanford Water Polo Club

Head coach Matt Johnson (right) guided his Stanford 12&Under boys' water polo team to the gold medal at the US Club Championships last weekend in Southern California. The team next will compete at the Junior Olympics.

Water polo

(continued from page 31)

four times against China with Wigo adding two. Against Serbia, Wigo and Azevedo each scored twice.

* * *

When Stanford's Kiley Neushul is finished competing in Barcelona, she'll join up with the USA team for the FINA Women's Junior World Championships from Aug. 19-25 in Volos, Greece. She'll be joined by Stanford teammate Ashley Grossman. The Americans will open against Kazakhstan on Aug. 19 before facing Italy and New Zealand.

Before the women hit the pool in Greece, the USA men will compete in their FINA Junior World Championships, set for Aug. 12-18 in Szombathely, Hungary. Stanford will be represented by Adam Abdulhamid, Jackson Kimbell, Bret Bonanni and Bowen.

The Americans will open against Spain on Aug. 12 before facing Slovakia and Russia in pool play.

* * *

Local pools will be busy this weekend as the 2013 US Open of Water Polo splashes down on the Mid-Peninsula. Action begins Friday and wraps up Sunday with matches being played at Gunn, Palo Alto and Sacred Heart Prep.

Sacred Heart Prep will serve as the championship site, with the men's gold-medal match set for Sunday at 4:30 p.m. First place in the women's bracket will be decided at 3:15 p.m.

Third-place matches will be held at SHP at 12:30 p.m. (men) and 2 p.m. (women).

The Newport Water Polo Foundation will defend its men's title while the New York Athletic Club will defend its women's crown. The Stanford men's team will take part, opening on Friday against the defending champs at SHP starting at 1:20 p.m. Stanford will wrap up the first day of play at SHP by taking on Navy at 8:20 p.m.

* * *

The Stanford Boys Water Polo Club brought home two medals in four age divisions from the US Club Championships that wrapped up Sunday in Southern California.

"We had a great weekend," said Jon Barnea, whose program got a gold medal from the 12&U team and a silver from the 16&U squad.

"The US Club Championships is the most competitive tournament hosted in the U.S., and our coaching staff did an amazing job leading our teams against the best teams in the country," Barnea said.

Stanford was one of only two programs to bring home more than one medal.

The 12&U team, headed by Gunn coach Matt Johnson, went 6-0 while defeating Riverside (15-1), Northwood (10-8), SoCal (7-2), San Diego Shores (8-4), Lamorinda Water Polo (7-3) and Commerce in the championship match, 6-4.

The Stanford 16s went 3-2-1 and earned the silver, thanks to winning at the right time. After losing to SET,

14-11, Stanford beat Lamorinda WP (11-4), lost to SoCal (11-8), defeated unbeaten Foothill (9-4) and San Diego Shores (12-9), before tying SoCal, 11-11, but losing the shootout (6-4) in the finals.

SoCal went 3-0 in pool play while Stanford, Lamorinda and SET all went 1-2 in the bracket. Stanford earned the No. 2 seed by goal differential. Finishing second in the bracket earned the match with unbeaten Foothill, which hadn't lost to any 16&U team this year.

That win put Stanford into the title match. Brian Kreutzkamp, head coach at Sacred Heart Prep, guided the team's fortunes.

The Stanford 18&U team, meanwhile, finished 10th with a 3-2-1 record while the 14&U squad finished 13th with a 17-16 victory over Rose Bowl.

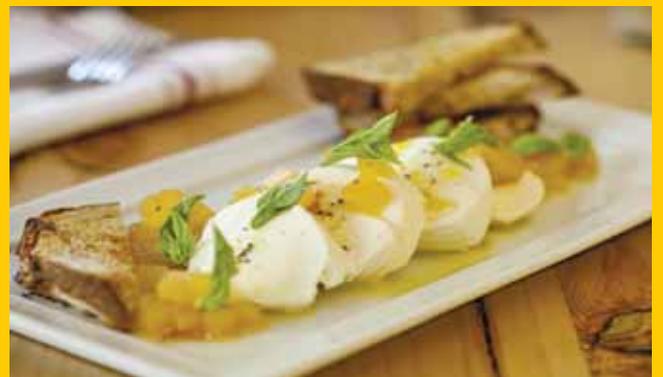
Next up for the Stanford boys will be the National Junior Olympics, July 27-30 in Orange County. The girls' Junior Olympics will run Aug. 1-4 at the same sites. ■



Stanford Water Polo Club

The Stanford 16&Under won the silver medal at the US Club Championships last weekend in Southern California.

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Stanford grad Appel adjusting well to the minor leagues

by Rick Eymer

Stanford grad Mark Appel, the No. 1 overall selection in this year's First-Year Player Draft, lived up to that billing in his Midwest League debut.

Appel, who was selected by Houston and signed quickly soon thereafter, threw four scoreless innings for Class A Quad Cities on Sunday, helping his team beat Dayton, 9-2, in 90-degree heat in Davenport,

Iowa. Appel walked one and struck out three while not gaining the decision.

"I've had a chance to meet a bunch of guys in Quad Cities now and build relationships," Appel told Curt Rallo. "I'm enjoying the time I have here now. I don't mind going around and seeing all the affiliates, versus going straight to Double-A. The goal in mind is being a Major League pitcher for as long as possible. As long as I'm working toward that goal in this short time I have for the rest of the season, I'll be happy."

After rising quickly through short-season ball, Appel said he didn't see much of a difference in his first shot at full-season competition.

"I think it's pretty similar in regards to talent," Appel told Doug Miller of MiLB.com. "In short-season, most are college guys who signed this year, compared to younger guys here in (Class A). But they're very talented. In regards to differences, it's still baseball. You still have to throw strikes — that's my focus."

Appel's command had been spotless before his Midwest debut. On Sunday, however, he walked a batter for the first time in three Minor League starts.

"I left some of my off-speed stuff up more than I wanted to, and I missed with some pitches I usually like to see strikeouts on," Appel told MiLB.com. "But considering it was my third start in about seven weeks, I'm not overly concerned about anything."

Appel, who celebrated his 22nd birthday on Monday, already has made some history by becoming a teammate of last year's No. 1 overall pick, Carlos Correa. This is the first time consecutive top selections have been on the same Minor League team.

In his three appearances in the minors (all starts), Appel has an ERA of 2.00 in nine innings, with nine strikeouts, one walk, eight hits and two earned runs.

Appel said he's using this time in the minors to "work on some things that I needed to work on" as well as acclimating himself to the Astros' organization and how it's run. He's also learning how to pitch every fifth day and "to really understanding the differences between college baseball and professional baseball."

Stanford grad and former No. 1 draft pick of the Colorado Rockies, Greg Reynolds, got the win for the International League in a 4-3 win over the Pacific Coast League in the 2013 Triple-A All-Star Game on Wednesday in Reno.

Reynolds started the game and gave up two runs, but got the win when Tony Sanchez hit a three-run homer in the second for the International League.

"It was fun," Reynolds told MiLB.com. "Obviously, it didn't go as smoothly as I was hoping for, but I have no regrets about it. It's been such a fun experience. Reno's put on quite a show and I loved every minute of it."

A sellout crowd of 10,135 turned out for the game.

Reynolds, who pitches for the Louisville Bats, the Triple-A affiliate of the Cincinnati Reds, leads the International League with a 10-2 record and a 2.54 ERA. He last pitched Friday, giving up a run on three hits over seven innings.

Reynolds last pitched in the majors in 2011, with the Rockies. He was 3-0 with a 6.19 ERA in 13 games, three starts.

He pitched for the Round Rock Express (Texas Rangers) last year, going 11-9 with a 5.30 ERA in 27 starts.

Reynolds is off to his best start as a professional, with his 79 strikeouts already a career-high.

* * *

Houston Astros catcher Jason Castro, the seventh former Stanford baseball player to take part in the MLB All-Star Game, didn't see any action Tuesday but was on the winning team as the American League prevailed, 3-0.

Castro, 26, was named as a reserve catcher by manager Jim Leyland on the American League All-Star team for the game played at the New York Mets' Citi Field.

This is a first for Castro and a first for the Astros, who represented the American League in the All-Star Game for the first time in their 51-year history. Castro is the second Astros catcher ever to make an All-Star team, joining Craig Biggio, who was an All-Star at that position in 1989 and 1991.

Castro joined Jim Lonborg (1967), Bob Boone (1976, 1978-79, 1983), Ed Sprague (1991), Jack McDowell (1991-93), Mike Mussina (1992-94, 1997-98) and Carlos Quentin (2008, 2011) as former Stanford student-athletes to appear in the Midsummer Classic.

The .248 career hitter has posted a .269 clip this season with 12 home runs and 31 RBI. After missing all of the 2011 season with a knee injury, Castro is on pace to hit more home runs than any other catcher in club history. Castro is among the American League leaders in doubles and has ranked alongside the league's top catchers in doubles, homers, slugging percentage and hits.

Chosen by the Houston Astros with the 10th overall pick of the 2008 MLB Draft, Castro finished his three-year Stanford career with a .309 average, 108 runs scored, 26 doubles, five triples, 18 home runs, 106 RBI and 11 stolen bases in 162 games (133 starts).

* * *

Palo Alto High grad Joc Pederson had a single, a walk, and scored a run to help U.S. defeat the World team, 4-2, in the annual Major League Baseball Futures Game on Sunday at Citi Field in New York. Pederson, regarded as the No. 2 minor league prospect for the Los Angeles Dodgers, plays for the Chattanooga Lookouts in the Double-A Southern League. ■

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Stanford football team has plenty of players to watch

Interest in the Stanford football team is high, even with more than a month to go before the 2013 season kicks off.

Quarterback Kevin Hogan is the latest player to be named to a pre-season watch list as he was named to the Davey O'Brien Award list on Wednesday. Hogan is one of 34 players on the list with the award given to the best quarterback in the nation.

Hogan, the Pac-12 Championship Game MVP, started and won the last five games of 2012-13 for Stanford. He won four straight games against as many ranked opponents to end regular season as well as defeating Wisconsin in the Rose Bowl Game.

Despite his limited play, Hogan was Stanford's second-leading rusher (263 yards) while quickly establishing himself as an accurate passer, completing nearly 72 percent of his attempts with nine touchdown passes against just three interceptions.

Four other Stanford players — Ben Gardner, Trent Murphy, Shayne Skov and David Yankey — also have earned mentions on two watch lists, the Butkus Award and the Rotary Lombardi Award, released this week.

Murphy and Skov headlined the day with the duo earning mention on both watch lists. Gardner and Yankey earned spots on the Lom-

bardi Award watch list.

Instituted in 1985, the Butkus Award recognizes the nation's most outstanding linebacker.

The Rotary Lombardi Award goes annually to the college football lineman — offense or defense — who, in addition to outstanding performance and ability, best exemplifies the discipline of Vince Lombardi.

The watch lists mentions are the latest in a slew of preseason recognitions for a talent-laden Stanford team.

Gardner, Murphy and Skov have all previously been named to the Bednarik Award watch list, presented to the College Defensive Player of the Year and the Bronko Nagurski Award watch list, presented to the best defensive player in college football.

Yankey has been previously named to The Maxwell Award Watch List, given to America's College Player of the Year, as well as

the Outland Trophy, presented to the nation's top interior lineman.

Men's basketball

Stanford senior Dwight Powell scored 12 points and grabbed eight rebounds to lead Canada, but it wasn't enough as Serbia won the bronze medal at the World University Games on Tuesday.

Women's basketball

Cardinal head coach Tara VanDerveer, who turned 60 last month, received a belated birthday present this week by signing a long-term contract extension with the school.

VanDerveer, just six wins shy of becoming the fifth women's basketball coach to reach the 900-win mark, had two years remaining on her old contract — through the 2014-15 season.

Since her arrival at Stanford in 1985, VanDerveer has accumulated a record of 742-152 (.830) while

her career record stands at 894-203 (.815) through 34 years of coaching. While on The Farm she has led the Cardinal to 21 Pac-10/Pac-12 titles and 10 conference tournament crowns while capturing Pac-10/Pac-12 Coach of the Year honors 13 times.

Men's golf

Stanford's Patrick Rodgers is one of five players named to 2013 USA Walker Cup Team in an announcement by the United States Golf Association.

The 44th Walker Cup Match against Great Britain and Ireland will be played Sept. 7-8 at the National Golf Links of America in Southampton, N.Y., which is hosting the Match for the first time since it hosted the inaugural Walker Cup in 1922. There will be a total of 10 players named to the team.

Rodgers is a returning USA Walker Cup Team member, having competed at the 2011 Match at Royal

Aberdeen Golf Club in Scotland. He wrapped up his 2013 sophomore season at Stanford with three intercollegiate victories and six top-10 finishes. For the second consecutive year, he was named first-team All-America.

Rowing

From outstanding, gold-medal performances on the men's side, to setting a world-best time in the women's eight, the 2013 World Rowing Cup No. 3 was a memorable one for the eight United States crews that won medals this past weekend in Lucerne, Switzerland.

Stanford grad Elle Logan won her fourth world cup medal of the 2013 series on Sunday in the women's single after finishing second.

Stanford senior Austin Hack helped the men's eight win a gold medal and, in the women's eight, Stanford grad Grace Luczak took home a gold medal as the boat set a world-best time of 5:54.16. ■

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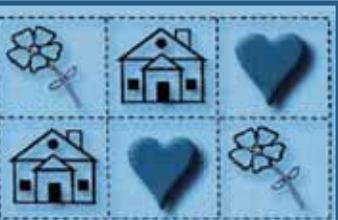
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