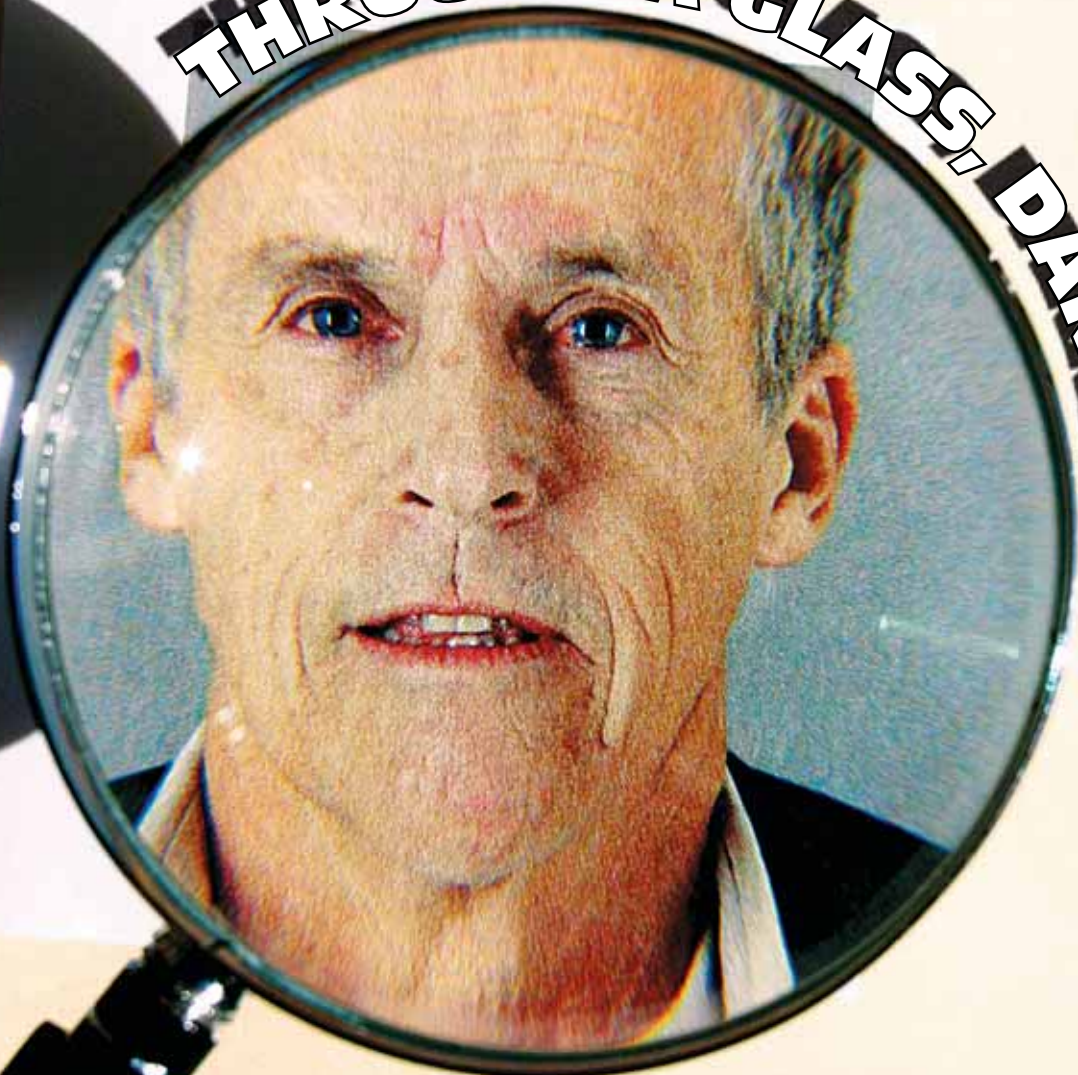


*Palo
Alto*

Weekly

www.PaloAltoOnline.com

THROUGH A GLASS, DARKLY



Giordano, William Patrick

**COURT DOCUMENTS REVEAL SHADOWY
SIDE OF "MR. G" PAGE 3**

Photo illustration: Norbert von der Groeben

Talk about the news at Town Square, www.PaloAltoOnline.com

- **Upfront** Outside investigator to explore schools strife **Page 7**
- **Health and Fitness** Body building at 61 **Page 12**
- **Sports** Sacred Heart Prep wins CCS soccer championship **Page 25**

REDEFINING QUALITY SINCE 1990

Reading between the emotional line makes the difference between finding a house and a home.



ALAIN PINEL
REALTORS



LOS ALTOS HILLS

A fabulous, architect-designed 5bd/2.5ba hacienda style home with 3000+/-sf and 1+/-acre lot with great views. An ideal property combines traditional elegance with relaxed California living and entertaining. Beautifully renovated in a setting reminiscent of a Tuscan countryside.

\$2,899,888



PALO ALTO

New on the market. Desirable Morton neighborhood. Close to Rinconada Park, art center and Duveneck Elementary School. 3bd/1ba home with remodeled kitchen with granite countertops, subzero and cherry wood cabinets. 6028+/-sf lot with generous side yard and back deck.

\$948,000



MENLO PARK

Large, sunlit 3bd/2ba 1-level unit overlooking golf course and trees beyond. Remodeled eat-in kitchen, formal dining area, very large living room with fireplace and wet bar, all centered around a lanai. Private and secure setting. Underground parking. Pool and spa.

\$1,210,000



Upfront

Local news, information and analysis

Behind the façade of a popular coach

Former Jordan teacher
Bill Giordano, sentenced last week to prison for child molestation, is depicted as 'predatory,' 'manipulative'

by Alexandria Rocha

As a well-liked physical education teacher and girls' volleyball coach, Bill Giordano mentored thousands of children in Palo Alto's public schools over the course of a 30-year career. He enjoyed their attention and liked being called "Mr. G." He also knew many of their parents and was accepted into their families.

Giordano, however, was not the person many people thought he was. Beneath his charismatic facade is a perverse sexual predator who used his power to manipulate adolescents, a psychology report revealed last week.

Giordano's secret world was shattered in August 2005 when one of his victims, now 29, decided to stop hiding the terrible secret from her husband, friends and family. She went to Menlo Park police and told her story.

On Friday, Giordano, 61, was sentenced to four years in prison for having a two-and-a-half year sexual relationship with the victim in the early 1990s, when she was 14 to 17 years old.

"For 15 years, I pretended that my

relationship with (Giordano) never took place," the victim wrote in a letter read by a Menlo Park police officer at the San Mateo County Superior Court sentencing. "I have been struggling every day to put some perspective into the lurid and distasteful events that took place in my youth at the hands" of Giordano.

In court, Giordano, dressed in slacks and a sport coat, appeared relaxed and spoke calmly.

"There's no question that what I did was wrong. I'm deeply sorry," he said. "Beyond the victim, I've hurt other people. None of them accept what I did, but they support me."

David Berke, a San Mateo-based psychologist appointed to evaluate Giordano, wrote that the former teacher is a "serious danger to society," especially young girls. In addition to Berke's report, a probation report had been submitted as part of the sentencing consideration.

Giordano is a "manipulative, personally powerful man who is adept at charming people who might be the least bit vulnerable — as adolescents are by definition," Berke wrote.

Berke also wrote that Giordano appears "predatory" and his behavior at worst is "cruel and sadistic."

Prior to his arrest last year, Giordano was investigated by school officials and police in 2003 for brushing against a girl's arms and legs, patting her back and grabbing her buttocks. Berke said Giordano did not "genuinely appreciate or take responsibility for what he did."

Giordano, in fact, denied grabbing the girl's buttocks but admitted to massaging her.

In a 2003 e-mail to an investigating police officer, Giordano wrote: "I feel like the old coach that the 'game has passed him by,' but when did backs, necks and shoulders get added to the 'private parts' list? ... I grew up understanding that that was OK. I think human touch is so much a part of being a good human being."

Berke wrote that Giordano's definition of "touch" had exceeded appropriate boundaries regarding the adolescents he works with. He seems "entitled to his behavior" and "critical of people who don't understand his desire to touch."

Berke reported that Giordano grew up in a stable, middle-class family in Santa Barbara. He has an older brother and a younger sister. His father, a marine and grocery-store owner, died of pancreatic cancer when Giordano was 17. His mother, a housewife, died three years ago at 85.

Giordano told Berke that as a child he was "one of the more popular" kids in school, taking on leadership roles and performing well academically. He said he had a "great childhood."

Giordano graduated with degrees in sociology and business from California State University, Long Beach in 1967. He later obtained a kindergarten through 12th-grade, multiple-teaching credential from San Francisco State University. He claims he "can teach any subject," according to Berke's report.

But he taught sex education first, prosecutors said.

Giordano was hired as a part-time teacher at Jordan Middle School in 1979. He bought his house in Menlo Park the next year and became a

(continued on page 5)

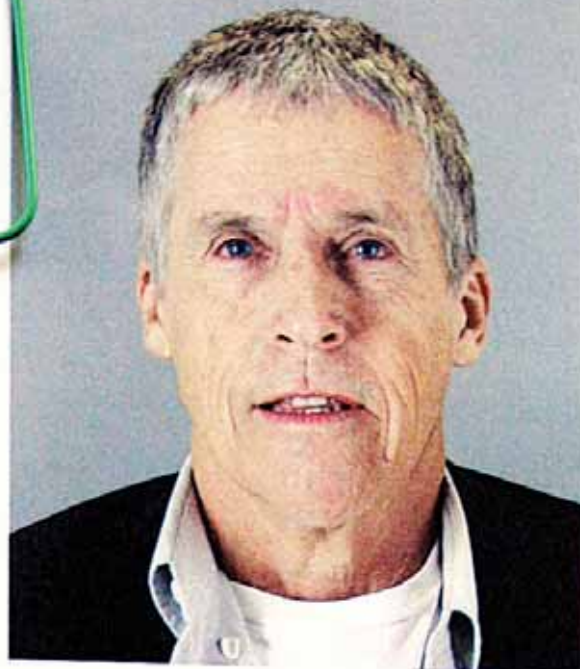


Photo courtesy of San Mateo County Sheriff's Dept. Photo illustration: Norbert von der Groeben

Who knew?

Two district employees knew about affair but said nothing, court documents report

Bill Giordano's August 2005 arrest for sexually abusing a former student in the early 1990s left the Palo Alto community stunned.

Rumors soon began flying about who knew what and when — and why no one took action to stop it.

The victim is now suing Giordano and the Palo Alto Unified School District for allegedly not properly investigating a tip that she was being sexually abused by Giordano from 1991 to 1994.

Giordano was sentenced to four years in prison last week.



Bill Giordano, in younger days

Elementary School teacher Rick Ehrhorn, who admitted that he knew

about Giordano's sexual relationship with a student.

According to court reports made available last week, Giordano had confided in two Palo Alto teachers about his relationship with the victim. In August 2005, police interviewed Ohlone

Elementary School teacher Rick Ehrhorn, who admitted that he knew

about Giordano's sexual relationship with a student.

"Ehrhorn did not seem to understand the serious consequences of a 45-year-old teacher having a sexual relationship with a 14-year-old student and stated that he did not believe that it was his place to tell anyone about the relationship," according to the probation report.

In an email, Ehrhorn stated Monday: "I've been advised to not make any more statements at this time."

Police also interviewed Escondido Elementary School Principal Gary Prehn, who denied having

any knowledge of Giordano's sexual relationship with a student.

"It's very frustrating to me and upsetting to me. I have nothing else to share," Prehn said Monday.

The victim is seeking unspecified financial damages from Giordano and the school district. Giordano is currently receiving \$4,700 a month in retirement from the district and estimates that his assets are worth more than \$700,000, according to reports. ■

—Alexandria Rocha

Discuss this story online at Town Square, www.PaloAltoOnline.com

Giordano, William Patrick

DIAMONDS
OF PALO ALTO™
Since 1988

Visit our Showroom and Take
Advantage of our Many Services:

- Engagement and Bridal Jewelry
- Jewelry Appraisal
- Loose Diamonds
- Jewelry Repair
- Custom Handmade Jewelry
- Watch Repair
- Jewelry
- Master Goldsmith and
- Colored Gemstones
- Gemologists on site

"We want to be your Jeweler for Life!"

261 Hamilton Ave., Suite 320
Palo Alto, CA 94301
650-322-1200 Hrs: Mon-Sat 10-6p.m.
www.diamondsofpaloalto.com



IN HER SHOES

All profits to benefit
Global Fund for Women

**FREE
PEDICURE**

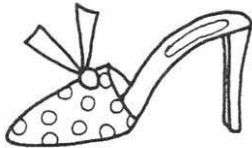
Month of November

Please call for appointment

650-326-9611 • Fax 650-326-9616

644 Emerson St., Suite 100, Palo Alto

www.inhershoespa.com • inhershoespaloalto@yahoo.com



dreams

What ~~assets~~
do you have?

Namely, what do you want to do in the years ahead? Maybe join the Peace Corps? Make your own movie? Start a new business, perhaps? Or maybe you're not even sure.

As an Ameriprise financial advisor, I am proud to exclusively offer the *Dream Book*.™ It's a guide to help you figure out what exactly you want to do in the years ahead, and it's the perfect starting point for you and me to develop a financial plan that can help get you there.



So call (408) 377-8666 today, or stop by our office for your complimentary copy of the *Dream Book*.



Barbara Madden, CPA
Financial Advisor
Suite 600
1999 South Bascom Avenue
Campbell, CA 95008
(408)371-8666, Ext: 325
Barbara.L.Madden@ampf.com
CA Lic: 0D49242
Mountain View Resident

The Personal Advisors of
Ameriprise
Financial

Ameriprise Financial cannot guarantee future financial results. Financial advisory services and investments available through Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc., Member NASD and SIPC. ©2006 Ameriprise Financial, Inc. All rights reserved.

500083Y-05 09/06

Palo Alto Weekly

703 HIGH STREET, PALO ALTO, CA 94302
(650) 326-8210

PUBLISHER
William S. Johnson

EDITORIAL
Jay Thorwaldson, Editor
Jocelyn Dong, Acting Managing Editor
Allen Clapp, Carol Blitzler, Assistant Editors
Keith Peters, Sports Editor
Rick Eyrer, Assistant Sports Editor
Rebecca Wallace, Arts & Entertainment Editor
Don Kazak, Senior Staff Writer
Alexandria Rocha, Molly Tanenbaum, Becky Trout, Staff Writers
Norbert von der Groeben, Chief Photographer
Nicholas Jensen, Staff Photographer
Veronica Weber, Photo Intern
Tyler Hanley, Assistant to the Editor & Online Editor
Sue Dremann, Staff Writer, Special Sections Editor
Cammie Farmer, Calendar Editor
Jeanne Aufmuth, Dale Bentson, Lynn Comeskey, Kit Davey, Tim Goode, Jack McKinnon, Susan Tavernetti, Robert Taylor, Contributors
Dan Shilstone, Editorial Intern
Julie Park, Arts & Entertainment Intern

DESIGN
Carol Hubenthal, Design Director
Diane Haas, Sue Peck, Senior Designers;
Royd Hatta, Dana James, Paul Llewellyn, Charmaine Mirsky, Scott Peterson, Designers

PRODUCTION
Jennifer Lindberg, Production Manager
Dorothy Hassett, Blanca Yoc, Sales & Production Coordinators

ADVERTISING
Vern Ingraham, Advertising Manager
Cathy Norfleet, Display Advertising Sales Asst.
Tony Gay, Jasbir Gill, Janice Hoogner, Sandra Valdivosera, Display Advertising Sales
Kathryn Brottem, Real Estate Advertising Sales
Joan Merritt, Real Estate Advertising Asst.
Nerissa Gaerlan, Evie Marquez, Irene Schwartz, Classified Advertising Sales
Blanca Yoc, Classified Administrative Asst.

ONLINE SERVICES
Lisa Van Dusen, Director of Palo Alto Online
Shannon White, Assistant to Webmaster

BUSINESS
Iryna Buynytska, Business Manager
Miriam Quehl, Manager of Payroll & Benefits
Paula Mulugeta, Senior Accountant
Elena Dineva, Judy Tran, Business Associates
Tina Karabats, Cathy Stringari, Doris Taylor, Business Associates

ADMINISTRATION
Amy Renalds, Assistant to the Publisher & Promotions Director;
Rachel Palmer, Promotions & Online Assistant
Janice Covolo, Receptionist; Ruben Espinoza, Jorge Vera, Couriers

EMBARCADERO PUBLISHING CO.
William S. Johnson, President
Michael I. Naar, Vice President & CFO; Walter Kupiec, Vice President, Sales & Marketing;
Frank A. Bravo, Director, Computer Operations & Webmaster
Connie Jo Cotton, Major Accounts Sales Manager; Bob Lampkin, Director, Circulation & Mailing Services; Alicia Santillan, Circulation Assistant; Chris Planessi, Joel Pratt, Chip Poedjosoedarmo, Computer System Associates

The **Palo Alto Weekly** (ISSN 0199-1159) is published every Wednesday and Friday by Embarcadero Publishing Co., 703 High St., Palo Alto, CA 94302, (650) 326-8210. Periodicals postage paid at Palo Alto, CA and additional mailing offices. Adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation for Santa Clara County. The Palo Alto Weekly is delivered free to homes in Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley, East Palo Alto, to faculty and staff households on the Stanford campus and to portions of Los Altos Hills. If you are not currently receiving the paper, you may request free delivery by calling 326-8210. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Palo Alto Weekly, P.O. Box 1610, Palo Alto, CA 94302. Copyright ©2003 by Embarcadero Publishing Co. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited. Printed by SFOP, Redwood City. The Palo Alto Weekly is available on the Internet via Palo Alto Online at: <http://www.PaloAltoOnline.com>

Our e-mail addresses are: editor@paweeekly.com, letters@paweeekly.com, ads@paweeekly.com.

Missed delivery or start/stop your paper? Call 650 326-8210, or e-mail circulation@paweeekly.com. You may also subscribe online at www.PaloAltoOnline.com. Subscriptions are \$60/yr (\$30 within our circulation area).

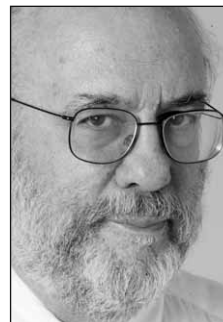
SUBSCRIBE!

Support your local newspaper by becoming a paid subscriber. \$30 per year for residents of our circulation area: \$60 for businesses and residents of other areas.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____



Our Town

by Don Kazak

Drinking and denial

Dan Ryan was the last of a half-dozen officers to arrive after the Palo Alto Police Department received a call about a loud party at 10:30 p.m. Oct. 28. Teens had spilled out of the house on Fielding Drive and were drinking in the yard and street.

"There was a crowd of kids out front, plus the parents," he said. He went in to clear the house and found "there were still kids drinking inside." Beer and liquor containers were evident throughout the house.

"We deal with kid parties all the time," Ryan said. "What was unusual was the parents were home."

Ryan didn't talk to the parents but they told another officer they thought it would be safer if they were there.

"I'm not saying everyone was drunk," Ryan said. "I don't know how the parents could have missed it, kids being drunk. People had vomited in the house."

Ryan found one semi-conscious girl upstairs being tended to by friends.

Officers gathered the 50 or so young people — others had bolted over a backyard fence when the first officers arrived — and said they would have to take a Beathalyzer test or call their parents to get a ride home.

"Dozens of parents had to be called," he said. "Our goal was to get them home safely and for them to have a conversation with their parents."

"There was definitely binge-drinking going on, which is not a responsible, supervised party," he added.

The parents, Palo Verde third-grade teacher Lisa Swagerty and her husband, Richard Stovel, a Stanford research engineer, were cited by police for contributing to the delinquency of minors, a misdemeanor.

The party was the subject of more than 180 often-angry postings on Palo Alto Online's Town Square forum. Some parents have been angry at the parents who hosted the party while others defended them. Kids who posted say the police and newspapers blew things out of proportion. One student said some students went to a vacant house and continued drinking. Some say don't trust the cops and don't trust the news stories.

The defensiveness of some parents about the party is part of a denial

that there was a problem that night or that there is a problem with teen drinking in Palo Alto, said Philippe

"There was definitely binge-drinking going on."

— Dan Ryan

Rey, a psychologist and executive director of Adolescent Counseling Services in Palo Alto.

His agency has a contract with the Palo Alto Unified School District to provide treatment and counseling for students found drunk at school parties or with drugs or alcohol on campus.

His agency is busy. It deals with 200 to 300 people a year, both students and parents, for alcohol and drug use of the students.

"The reaction is denial," he said. "But kids are drinking, and that's a problem."

The problem isn't just that it is illegal for anyone under 21 in California to purchase, possess or consume alcohol. The problem, Rey said, is most of the teen drinking is binge-drinking, which can be dangerous and can lead to alcohol poisoning.

The Oct. 28 party was unusual because it received public attention. But parties involving heavy drinking by teens with the parents home aren't unique in Palo Alto.

"We do hear from students about parents hosting keg parties," Rey said. "How can we discuss this and recognize there is a problem if adults feel it is OK to organize drinking parties for kids? I think it is part of the denial."

Rey believes the teen drinking and denial of a problem by parents is part of the culture of Palo Alto, where kids are driven to succeed. "The pressure on students goes back to the families, the schools, the community and its image. This community and culture is (about) perfection and success, so denial is the first defense."

"Kids feel isolated and parents don't really know what's going on until something happens," he added.

"We have a hard time convincing parents how serious this is," he said. "It would be much easier to just deal with the kids." ■

Senior Staff Writer Don Kazak can be e-mailed at dkazak@paweeekly.com.

INDEX

Pulse	16
Transitions	17
Spectrum	18
Movies	23
Sports	25
Classified	31

Giordano

(continued from page 3)

full-time teacher at Jordan in 1983.

Giordano was married in 1986 and divorced three years later, according to reports. He and his wife had a son in 1989.

In 1991, the victim whose report to police triggered Giordano's arrest last year, moved with her family from Arizona to Palo Alto for the quality schools.

She tried out for the Jordan volleyball team, of which Giordano was the coach. He paid her special attention from the beginning and made her feel as if he was the only person who cared about her, according to reports.

Giordano soon asked her to babysit his toddler son at his Menlo Park home. He began asking her to stay at his house after his wife picked up their son, reports stated.

Giordano became close to the girl's family, so much that her parents considered him a "pivotal part of her development," reports stated.

One day at his home in late 1991, Giordano kissed her "somewhat forcibly," according to reports. He told her that he loved her and the sex was "right," reports stated, and that "no one else could understand."

The girl was 14.

At school, Giordano requested the victim as his classroom aide. According to reports, they would leave school during lunch hours and drive to Giordano's house in Menlo Park, where he abused her.

In spring of 1992, reports state that Jordan school officials received a tip about Giordano's misconduct. Prosecutors say he denied all allegations in a morning interview with the principal and then convinced the girl to do the same. She was not interviewed until later that day.

During the next two years, Giordano stressed secrecy. When the victim wanted to tell her sisters, he spoke to them instead. He told them he loved the victim — their sister — and convinced them to keep quiet.

Giordano took the victim and her sisters on surfing vacations and the victim to hotels in Catalina and Santa Barbara where the sexual abuse ensued, the court reports stated. He often gave the victim alcohol.

All the while, Giordano remained popular with students at Jordan, going by the nickname "Mr. G."

According to Berke's report, Giordano said school-aged boys have "often been jealous of him" because "so many girls" have had crushes on him. Berke reported that Giordano was "delighted in his situation," which reflects "immaturity and neediness" and a slightly "perverse, even dangerous sense of his own power."

It wasn't until the victim's sophomore year in high school that she began to think she was being manipulated, the reports stated. She ended the relationship, and Giordano became "emotional and upset."

The victim, however, kept in contact with Giordano to not "set off red warning flags with her par-

ents and others around her." He also stayed in touch with her. He continued to have dinner with her family, visit her at work, send her CDs and holiday cards and wanted to meet her boyfriend. According to the court documents, Giordano told her about his other sexual "escapades" with young girls "during their time together."

He "led me to believe I was someone special. This is how he justified the sexual abuse. I took great pains to hide it from everyone. ... I felt as if I had done something wrong."

—The victim in the Giordano trial, in a letter written to the judge

The victim was too ashamed to tell her family. "She felt it was her fault," reports stated.

She finally realized she needed to come forward when her husband inquired about her relationship with Giordano.

He "led me to believe I was someone special. This is how he justified the sexual abuse," the victim wrote in a letter to the judge. "I took great pains to hide it from everyone. ... I felt as if I had done something wrong."

When Menlo Park police served a warrant at Giordano's house, they found a wall dedicated to the victim that included old cards and letters. They found a book called "Dreams of a Young Girl" and a file of e-mails between Giordano and the victim. They also found notes about his summer 2005 trips to Thailand, Singapore and Hong Kong, including descriptions of sexual encounters with young prostitutes.

Giordano also admitted to having a sexual relationship with a separate student from 1980 to 1982. That victim came forward last year as well, but prosecutors were unable to pursue charges because the incidents had occurred prior to the statute of limitations.

The girl from the 2003 incidents decided not to press charges. But according to reports, she told police that Giordano is "getting what he deserves."

"You've betrayed many people and took advantage of a position of trust and leadership," San Mateo County Superior Court Judge James Ellis told Giordano at the sentencing last week.

Giordano will have to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life. Once he is released from prison, he will also have to undergo sex-offense relapse-prevention treatment for three years. ■

Staff Writer Alexandria Rocha can be e-mailed at arocha@paweekly.com.

 **Give blood for life!**
STANFORD BLOOD CENTER

Stanford Medical School
Blood Center

Share a
part of
your life –
Give blood

1-888-723-7831

<http://BloodCenter.Stanford.edu>

Look Your Best
for the Holidays!



Photo Facial (IPL)
\$149
Reg. \$299
First Treatment only

Botox
\$9.95 per unit
20 unit minimum
Reg. \$13 per unit

Signature Facial
(with microdermabrasion)
\$89 Reg. \$150
First Treatment Only

Full Back Laser Hair Removal
\$199
First Treatment Only

Bikini Laser Hair Removal
\$99/\$130
First Treatment Only

Rejuv
anti aging clinics

1-650-559-1873

925B N. San Antonio Rd, Los Altos

www.REJUUVCLINICS.com

Other Procedures:

- Restylane
- Microdermabrasion
- Spider/Varicose Vein Treatments
- Custom Facials
- Chemical Peels
- Obagi System

Expires January 3, 2007



WWW.LOSALTOSRESIDENCEINN.COM



Residence Inn by Marriott
Palo Alto / Los Altos

ALL suites.
With all the comforts.

4460 EL CAMINO REAL ♦ LOS ALTOS, CA. 94022 ♦ TEL.: 650-559-7890

A SPARKLING JAZZ AGE COMEDY

THE LEARNED LADIES OF PARK AVENUE

By David Grimm

Translated and freely adapted from Molière's *Les Femmes savantes*

WEST COAST PREMIERE

Amidst the art deco splendor of Cole Porter's New York, Molière's brilliant farce gets a hilarious jolt of champagne wit and jazz age dazzle. In this enormously clever satire of upper-crust extravagance, who knows whether reason, greed, or true love will prevail?

"A real comic gift...delicious" *Variety*

**Theatre
Works**

November 29–December 23, 2006

Lucie Stern Theatre, Palo Alto

TREAT SOMEONE FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

ORDER EARLY FOR GREAT SEATS

650.903.6000 theatreworks.org

Palo
Alto
Weekly



Take a break. Start a conversation in



Palo Alto
online
PaloAltoOnline.com
More than 300,000 visitors monthly

TownSquare.

Palo Alto's Online Gathering Place

Discuss community issues.
Announce an event.
Report a sports score and more.
Ask for advice.
Rate a movie.
Review a restaurant.

Be a citizen journalist.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“

What I did was wrong.

”

—**Bill Giordano**, the charismatic former Jordan coach who was sentenced to four years in prison last week for child molestation. See story on page 3.

Around Town

PROPHETIC COOK-OFF? . . .

Mayor Judy Kleinberg spent Sunday sampling dishes in the first Big Cook-Off, a competition pitting young chefs at Stanford University against those at UC Berkeley, the Contra Costa Times reported. Kleinberg has split affinities: Palo Alto is her home, but Berkeley's Boalt is her alma mater. The rules? Each team had to create three dishes centered on a secret ingredient, unveiled only minutes before the cook-off's kickoff. When presented with tomatoes, the teams were off. In the end, the four judges sided with the Bears, whose three soups, chili pepper-crusted, salsa-topped chicken and a dessert of tomato-pineapple-mango-lime wonton-ravioli were just a bit tastier than the Cardinal's tofu, goat cheese, crab and tomato custard with puff pastry wedges. Could this portend a Cal win at the Big Game Dec. 2?

JUNKING GUNK . . . Props for Palo Alto residents, who are pitching in to keep hazardous waste out of the Bay. In the last fiscal year, nearly 18 percent of the city's households took their old paint, pesticides, medicines, and BBQ propane tanks to the city's monthly collection event, held the first Saturday of each month in the parking lot near the Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant. The city collected **164 tons of the gunk** last year. Residents can drop off their motor oil, antifreeze, and batteries at the Recycling Center on Embarcadero Road, which is open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

OLD AND THE NEW . . . Today, local seniors with sewing skills will create finger puppets to help low-income youth learn about reading. The puppets will go to the **Hoopoe Books Share Literacy Program**, a national group that began efforts in the Bay Area in September. The puppets will be based on the children's book *The Old Woman and the Eagle* and will support teacher training. The open session will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. at the Cubberley Community Center Auditorium at 4000 Middlefield Road.

HIGH-SPEED ACCESS . . . You can run, but you can't hide.

Wireless Internet access may be coming to a Caltrain near you within a year. The **Caltrain** board of directors on Thursday approved a \$1 million allocation toward designing and engineering the system, spokesman Jonah Weinberg said. An additional estimated \$2 million to \$3 million will be needed to fully implement the service. The agency tested wireless service on a short stretch of track between Millbrae and Palo Alto in July and hopes it can roll out wireless along all 52 miles of Caltrain track by this time next year, Weinberg said. "We've had nothing but very enthusiastic response from people who want this service now," he said. Weinberg said that ultimately the service will be available on every car in each train but that initially Caltrain is probably going to equip 25-30 cars for wireless so that a single car in each train has the facility, he said.

WIDE WORLD OF

STANFORD . . . Shakespeare may have coined the saying, "All the world's a stage," but Stanford University turned that observation into reality. At last month's "Anxious Times: Beyond a World of Perpetual Threats" roundtable discussion, hosted by Ted Koppel, the TV news veteran and seven panelists sat on a stage that was, literally, a map of the world. "No dais and talking heads for this panel," crowed the spokesperson for Da Vinci Fusion, the San Francisco-based events company contracted to produce the event at Maples Pavilion. Artists hand painted a gold, brown and blue-toned armillary-inspired map on the raised, circular stage. Red leather chairs were located around the world for the panel, which included Stanford president John L. Hennessy, GlaxoSmithKline CEO Jean-Pierre Garnier, Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy, former U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry, former U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, Director of Stanford's Beckman Center on Molecular and Genetic Medicine Dr. Lucy Shapiro, and Yahoo! Co-founder Jerry Yang. The event was broadcast on C-SPAN. ■

School district to hire outside investigator

Representatives from district's middle management and school board to form 'Organizational Development Committee'

by Becky Trout

Publicly addressing serious trust and communication gaps between the district's top and middle managers for the first time late Thursday, the Palo Alto school board voted unanimously to hire an outside facilitator.

Half of the "Organizational Development Committee" will include school board members; the other half would come from the district's management team of principals, assistant principals and other middle managers.

The committee would define the role of the outside person and screen possible applicants.

"We really want to get to the bottom of this by bringing in an independent third party," Board President Mandy Lowell said.

The proposal was outlined in an e-mail sent Oct. 25 by Assistant Superintendent Scott Bowers to the about 50 members of the district's management team.

Management-team representatives penned the now-infamous Sept. 6 document airing concerns about trust, communication and remuneration issues with Superintendent Mary Frances Callan and the three members of her senior cabinet. The

Weekly learned of the document Sept. 27.

Board member Gail Price read a statement in which she apologized for the board not acting more quickly to respond to the Sept. 6 memo.

"We really want to get to the bottom of this by bringing in an independent third party."

—Mandy Lowell,
PAUSD school board president

"It is affecting organizational effectiveness," she said. "It has had a negative impact on morale."

Some managers have responded to the proposal informally and posed questions about the process, Bowers said.

The actual formation of the "Organizational Development Committee" and hiring of an independent

professional depends on the response of the management team. The full team is scheduled to meet again on Nov. 16, Board Vice President Camille Townsend noted, but board members indicated they hoped representatives could be consulted sooner.

The board unanimously appointed members Dana Tom and Price — thought to represent opposite opinions on the board — and Bowers to the proposed committee.

"Now that we've established our two members, we're ready to roll as soon as they come back with who will join us," Tom said.

The envisioned committee would include four to six managers, the proposal states. The board said it would like to hire an independent "organizational development" professional hired in December so the person could spend January gathering information.

"This would be a confidential process that would include one-on-one interviews with the independent professional with a commitment to anonymity, so that the name of the employee is not connected (with their) comments in any way," the e-mail

(continued on page 10)

Accused Palo Verde teacher finds support

Citation following drunken house party prompts divided opinions within community

by Molly Tanenbaum

Parents of Palo Verde Elementary School students are rallying to the side of teacher Lisa Swagerty, after she and her husband were cited by police two weekends ago over the drunken teenage party at their house.

"We're all in support of her and all in agreement that she's a fantastic teacher and a human being," said Cheryl O'Connor, speaking on behalf of other Palo Verde parents.

The incident has triggered polarized opinions throughout Palo Alto, with some calling for the third-grade teacher to be fired and others saying it should not affect her job.

Swagerty and her husband, Stanford professor Richard Stovel, were cited with misdemeanors on Oct. 28 for contributing to the delinquency of minors.

At 10:30 p.m. on a Saturday night, police responded to complaints about a loud party at Swagerty's Fielding Drive home and arrived to find intoxicated teens in the yard and street, and beer and liquor "strewn throughout the home," Police Agent Dan Ryan said.

According to O'Connor, Palo Verde parents do not think this incident should reflect on Swagerty as a teacher of third graders.

"I haven't talked to one parent who has anything negative to say about her, even since the big press incident," continued O'Connor,

whose son was in Swagerty's class last year.

But because young people were involved in the incident, Swagerty could have put her job at risk, according to Mary Armstrong, general counsel for the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

"I haven't talked to one parent who has anything negative to say about her, even since the big press incident."

—Cheryl O'Connor,
Palo Verde Elementary
School parent

While "a misdemeanor doesn't automatically prevent you from being employed as a teacher," Armstrong said, "there's more of a connection to your school life when there's a minor involved."

When a teacher in California is convicted of a criminal offense, such as a misdemeanor or a felony, the commission holds an investigative hearing to determine what action to take, ranging from a private reprimand to revoking the creden-

tial, Armstrong explained.

The process can take up to a year to complete.

Some on Swagerty's side say she shouldn't be judged for the drinking party — in part because of the inevitability of teenage drinking.

"Unless you have security cameras in every room, you do not know what your teen is doing," said Joan Plastiras, whose 13-year-old son is Swagerty's former student. She also has a 19-year-old daughter.

Plastiras called Swagerty "warm, compassionate and devoted to teaching," and said the party did not change that.

"This was not a failure in her role as a teacher in the school district," she said. "This is perhaps — and we still don't know all the facts — negligence on her part as the parent of teenagers."

The party, and reports of it in several local newspapers, prompted a polarized dialogue among both parents and teens on the Palo Alto Weekly's online forum, Town Square. Some posters called for Swagerty's immediate termination while others came to her defense and to the defense of the teenagers involved.

Those calling for Swagerty to be reprimanded found the party inexcusable and contributing to inappropriate and illegal teen drinking

(continued on page 10)

In Mountain View

The Girls' Middle School

Where in three critical years, girls accelerate academically, strengthen self-confidence, and become leaders—ready to succeed in high school and beyond.

accredited
by WASC

In 2004, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges gave GMS its highest rating.



YOU'RE INVITED TO ATTEND AN ADMISSIONS OPEN HOUSE:
Sat., November 11 at 1pm or Thurs., January 4 at 7pm
650-968-8338, x115 or admissions@girlsms.org

www.girlsms.org

A CHILD. A LEGEND. A HOLIDAY TREASURE.
A picture with Santa is forever.



COME VISIT SANTA
November 9–December 24

visit stanfordshop.com for Santa Photo hours

TREE LIGHTING
November 11, 5pm–7pm

Located in front of Neiman Marcus
near the Clock Tower

Stanford Shopping Center
SIMON




Located on the corner of El Camino Real & Sand Hill Road in Palo Alto.
Shopping Line: 650.617.8200 / simon.com

PLEASE NOTE: SANTA HOURS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

PRESENTED BY GYMBOREE

PALO ALTO PLAYERS
presents



OUR TOWN
by Thornton Wilder

650.329.0891
November 3-19, 2006

Lucie Stern Theatre
Palo Alto

**Think
Globally,
Post
Locally.**



fogster.com

IF IT'S NOT IN THIS VAULT, IT'S NOT SAFE.



**LOS ALTOS VAULT & SAFE
DEPOSIT CO.**

A private depository
Safe deposit boxes of all sizes
Strict and total confidentiality
Secured and ample parking
For your own sake we should have your business.
Visit our facilities and judge for yourself.
Data bank for important and confidential records.



121 First Street, Los Altos, CA 94022
Tel: 650-949-5891 www.losaltosvault.com

**Recycle
your
Palo
Alto
Weekly**



we create CUSTOMIZED SMILES

Dr. Ardy Salem, DDS
Aesthetic & Reconstructive Dentistry

Dr. Nirvana Anosheh, DDS
Family & Cosmetic Dentistry

Top Docs of Silicon Valley '04, '05 & '06
as published in San Jose Magazine

Dentist of the Year in '02, '03, '04, '05 & '06
as recognized by the editorial staff of the
Consumer Business Review

LOS ALTOS
Dentistry & Spa

925 N. San Antonio Road Los Altos Ca 94022 650.559.0000 smilegarden.com

\$100 OFF
one hour
teeth whitening

\$250 OFF
ANY MAJOR
dental procedure

\$79
new patient special
(exam, x-rays, cleaning)

Le atendemos
en Espanol
most insurance accepted
we also speak Japanese
and French

News Digest

East Palo Alto nanny ordered to pay parents

An East Palo Alto nanny has been ordered to pay restitution to the parents of a 77-day-old boy whom she abused in the family's Redwood Shores home, officials said.

A jury convicted Minerva Rojas in July of willfully causing a child to suffer pain under circumstances likely to produce great bodily injury. But the panel also found her not guilty of intentionally inflicting injury.

On Sept. 29, Rojas' 29th birthday, a San Mateo County Superior Court judge sentenced her to four years in state prison. Currently in state custody, Rojas waived her right to appear in court on Friday for a restitution hearing, according to San Mateo County Chief Deputy District Attorney Stephen Wagstaffe.

In the defendant's absence, San Mateo County Superior Court Judge Elizabeth Freeman on Friday ordered Rojas to pay \$43,277.36 in restitution to Scott and Michelle Cline, the parents of the boy, as well as related court-imposed fees, according to a report from the district-attorney's office.

The boy's prognosis following the March 16 incident remains unclear, and some experts concluded that the baby might suffer motor-skill impairment, according to the report.

Emergency responders found the baby unconscious on March 16 with two cranial fractures and internal bleeding, which led to Rojas' arrest.

Rojas had claimed that the baby rolled off a couch onto a carpeted floor while she was in the kitchen and that any injuries were accidental. Yet a subsequent police interview revealed the nanny admitted to shaking the baby for five minutes.

The Clines met Rojas at a day-care center and hired her as a nanny in January. During the trial prosecutors said that Rojas' attitude at her new job was unsatisfactory and that she had three times asked for salary advances prior to the infant's injury.

Also during Rojas' trial, other parents testified that she was an exemplary nanny and was trusted inside households. Physicians for the defense testified that the baby's injuries were consistent with an accidental fall, not from shaking. ■

— Bay City News Service

Burglary suspect nabbed after Palo Alto break-in

A 911 call to report a burglary in progress in Palo Alto's Community Center neighborhood Friday triggered a police response of six or seven cars and a police dog, resulting in the arrest of one suspect.

Brandon Walczak, 21, of East Palo Alto was charged with one count of felony burglary and booked into the Santa Clara County jail, Palo Alto police said. A juvenile accomplice has been identified by police and was still at large as of Monday evening.

Police reported recovering a video game and cash from the suspect. A resident of the house said it was a Sony PlayStation 2.

At 12:30 p.m., a resident called to report that his home had been burglarized, and the suspect was running from the scene.

Officers immediately responded to the area of the 1000 block of Guinda Avenue and set up a perimeter. Approximately 10 minutes later, Officer Melda Christmas spotted a male who matched the description of the outstanding suspect near the intersection of Melville Avenue and Middlefield Road.

The suspect was detained by Officer Christmas without incident. The male was positively identified by the victim as the suspect in the burglary.

In addition to the police cars, an onlooker reported seeing police officers wearing bulletproof vests.

Palo Alto Police are continuing the investigation for any other victims. ■

—Palo Alto Weekly staff

Open space district buys coastside land

A 183-acre parcel of land near Half Moon Bay has been sold to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District for \$2.25 million by the Menlo Park-based Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST).

The property, called Lower Purisima Creek, is located four miles south of Half Moon Bay and includes wooded valleys and grassy slopes leading up to a ridge with ocean views. It can be used to build a hiking trail link from Skyline Ridge to the Pacific Ocean.

"We are extremely pleased to transfer Lower Purisima Creek to the open space district," said Audrey Rust, POST president. "Any development would have impeded possible future hiking connections between the Bay Area Ridge Trail and the California Coastal Trail." ■

—Don Kazak



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

Baby boomers are here to stay, ready or not, Palo Alto

City report warns of increased demands that will strain community services with arrival of post-World War II generation

by Becky Trout

Aging baby boomers are going to need — and demand — a slew of services. Community Services Director Richard James told the Palo Alto City Council Monday night.

They'll shake up the definition of "old" and, with their numbers, force Palo Alto and other communities to reckon with the realities of aging.

James' findings stem from a months-long examination of the city's demographics and the plans and desires of tomorrow's seniors.

His study suggests more than 80 percent of Palo Alto's boomers plan to remain in Palo Alto, possibly pushing the 55-plus population past 35,000 in 2030, up from 17,000 in 2000. And that generation isn't just gigantic, it will also live longer than today's seniors, making the fastest growing age group — 85-plus.

"Baby boomers" is the term applied to the post-World War II baby boom and persons born up into the mid-1950s, now approaching their 60s.

"Any way you look at it, there are simply going to be many, many older adults," said Lisa Hendrickson, president and CEO of Avenidas, Palo Alto's non-profit organization that provides a variety of services for seniors.

And boomers won't be like their parents, she said.

They want to remain independent and active, James said. They might keep working or volunteering; they plan to keep learning; and they want to associate with younger people who share their interests.

And most importantly, they want to be able to get around, James said, stressing the importance of senior-friendly transportation options.

Mayor Judy Kleinberg called the findings "very, very provocative."

Council members wanted to know more about the financial sta-

tus of the newly old and whether they plan on remaining in their houses or are looking for smaller spaces still in Palo Alto.

No one knows for sure, Hendrickson said, pointing out that the boomers' fortunes today may not predict their finances in years to come.

But there is no doubt the boomers' aging will affect all aspects of life in Palo Alto, city leaders agreed.

"(We must be) willing to integrate this report into all the work we do," Councilman Larry Klein said.

One of the most direct illustrations of the city's need to get involved comes from the National Research Center. Inc., James said. It found that living in an elder-friendly community can reduce an older person's chances of being hospitalized or institutionalized.

To produce the report, city staff conducted a community forum on May 11. Surveys were returned by 323 people and community organizations. They queried Avenidas, La Comida, Palo Alto Family YMCA and the Albert J. Schultz Jewish Community Center to learn if they are prepared for the influx of seniors.

Avenidas and La Comida, a senior lunch program, would be stretched thin by additional demands, the report states. Other groups have the ability to accommodate increased demand, however.

A key recommendation of the report is the city should work toward eliminating age-based discrimination in the workplace and promote the hiring and retention of older workers.

Of critical importance, James said, is "how do we make the best use of intellectual and labor resources that will come with the aging of Palo Alto?" ■

Staff Writer Becky Trout can be e-mailed at btrout@paweekly.com.

WEST COAST GLASS



10% off materials
4020 FABIAN WAY PALO ALTO
493-1011
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
Family Owned since 1929
JOE BAXTER
Contractor License #227972
Mon. - Fri., 8:00 - 5:00
INSULATED & BROKEN WINDOWS
REPLACED, MIRRORS
HEAVY GLASS TOPS & BEVELS

Charleston Cleaners




Since 1985!
Best Quality
• Expert Alterations

10% Discount
with Coupon



424-1113
3900 Middlefield Rd, PA

LUCILE PACKARD CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL




Your Child's Health University

Lucile Packard Children's Hospital offers classes and seminars designed to foster good health and enhance the lives of parents and children.

- * **INFANT AND CHILD CPR**
The new Family and Friends Infant CPR program is a two-hour interactive class conducted by a certified instructor. The information in this class is specific for babies up to one year of age and includes presentation, video, text, practice on infant models and a certificate of completion.
- Thursday, December 7
- * **MULTIPLES BREASTFEEDING SEMINAR**
If you're expecting twins or more, this seminar can help you plan for the challenges of breastfeeding multiples. A certified lactation consultant will lead the discussion and answer questions. This seminar is only offered every 2-3 months, so sign up today!
- Thursday, December 14
- * **BECOMING GRANDPARENTS**
Designed for new and expectant grandparents, this class examines the changes in labor and delivery practices, the latest recommendations for infant care and the unique role of grandparents in today's society.
- Wednesday, December 20
- * **NEW FAMILY PROGRAM**
This series of classes is designed to help families throughout the first nine months after birth, offering something for everyone. Enrollment includes participation in Mother-Baby Mornings, Dads' Nights and Working Mothers' Groups.
- Ongoing Weekly and Monthly Sessions

Call (650) 723-4600 or visit www.lpch.org to register or obtain more information on the times, locations and fees for these and other courses.



LUCILE PACKARD CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

CALL TODAY TO SIGN UP FOR CLASSES (650) 723-4600



Diana's Back!

Watch for **Diana Diamond's** controversial columns **every other Wednesday** in the *Palo Alto Weekly* and read and comment on her **online blog** throughout the week on *Palo Alto Online*.





International School of the Peninsula

(650) 251-8504 • www.istp.org
Palo Alto, CA



**You promised to
give them the
world.**

Now you can.

**Nursery - 8th Grade
Bilingual Immersion School
French-English or Chinese-English**

**Chinese-English Information Night
November 16 at 7 P.M.** **French-English Information Night
November 9 at 7 P.M.**

Upfront

IKEA denies rumored closing

East Palo Alto officials believe gossip to be untrue

by Molly Tanenbaum

The rumors going around about IKEA closing in East Palo Alto after Christmas are simply that — rumors.

“The answer is no,” said IKEA spokesman Joseph Roth. “We own the land and we made a significant investment to the community.”

But the scuttlebutt about IKEA’s uncertain future has some meat to it. Sources say the store has been underperforming compared with other IKEA locations.

The Swedish furniture store opened its second Bay Area store three years ago in East Palo Alto after dividing the city into two camps: those who wanted IKEA and those who did not. The store narrowly gained approval in a 2002 election.

Though supporters hoped the store would bring employment and tax revenue to the city, those op-

posed did not want the blue behemoth to create traffic problems for the city.

The retailer was projected to bring in \$1.6 million in tax revenue to the city each year and create

“When you invest the amount of money they have invested in a building, you don’t abandon a project like that the next day.”

—Carlos Martinez,
head of economic redevelopment,
East Palo Alto

550 new jobs. IKEA employs 360 people, 131 of whom are East Palo Alto residents, according to store

data from earlier this year.

It is one of East Palo Alto’s top-five sales-tax generators, according to Carlos Martinez, the head of economic redevelopment in East Palo Alto.

And considering what the company put into opening up its second Bay Area location, it won’t be shutting its doors anytime soon, Martinez said.

“When you invest the amount of money they have invested in a building, you don’t abandon a project like that the next day,” he said.

“I suspect that it’s a rumor,” said East Palo Alto Mayor Ruben Abrica.

“This is election time and all types of rumors being to fly, so I assume that’s all it is.” ■

Staff Writer Molly Tanenbaum can be e-mailed mtanenbaum@paweekly.com.

Party

(continued from page 7)

behavior.

“I am appalled that the teacher involved was back at school teaching on Monday morning,” wrote Mary Gould, a Duveneck/St. Francis resident. “We as a community need to speak out about teen drinking with vigor!”

But others viewed the house party as a means of monitoring high school students while they engage in normal alcohol experimentation.

Recent Gunn High graduate Chelsea Hodge weighed in with her

perspective on the realities of widespread teen drinking in Palo Alto.

“Acknowledge the fact that older Palo Alto teens do drink and will continue to find ways to do so regardless of the law or the desires of their parents,” wrote Hodge, now a sophomore at Pomona College, who said she did not drink at Gunn but many of her friends did.

“It only makes sense for this to happen in a safe environment such as the one that Stovel and Swagerty provided,” she continued.

While nothing formal has been organized yet in Swagerty’s defense, supporters are standing by

to help with “whatever is needed, if it gets to that point,” O’Connor said.

To those who want Swagerty fired, O’Connor added, “We were all teenagers once and we all had parties at one point in time. If there’s a person out there who is 100 percent perfect and had absolutely perfect teenage years, they can criticize all they want. Otherwise, they should keep their mouths shut.” ■

Staff Writer Molly Tanenbaum can be e-mailed at mtanenbaum@paweekly.com.

District

(continued from page 7)

states.

For the first time publicly, Callan, around whom the complaints revolve, said she supports hiring an outsider to address the issues.

“I feel very strongly that we use a third party, that we have someone who can interview and allow everyone to be able to speak from their heart what they believe,” Cal-

lan said. “Having innuendo and some of the ways this has come out in the paper, in the press, is not fair to the management team.”

The specific duties of the facilitator, as well as the criteria to select the individual would be ironed out by the committee, the board agreed.

Member Barb Mitchell said she would like to know more about the managers’ complaints.

“Trust is a broad term. What I would like to know is what the

implications are on peoples’ jobs,” she said.

Lowell said she would like the facilitator to return with suggestions on how to improve communication.

The formation of the committee does not exclude continuing meetings between the board and management team representatives, the proposal states. ■

Staff Writer Becky Trout can be e-mailed at bt Trout@paweekly.com.

online coupons • transportation • non-profits • sports • restaurants • archives • class guide • open home guide • rentals • community resources • real estate • online coupons • lodging • things to do • transportation • non-profits • shopping • best of palo alto • home & garden • personals • sports • arts & entertainment

Search archived stories
Browse the classifieds
Find something to do tonight

Palo Alto Weekly

www.PaloAltoOnline.com

Give blood for life!
STANFORD BLOOD CENTER

Stanford Medical School
Blood Center

Share a part
of your life –
Give blood

1-888-723-7831

<http://BloodCenter.Stanford.edu>

PALO ALTO PHILHARMONIC • THEATREWORKS

the arts of PALO ALTO

Promoting a Community of Performing & Visual Arts

Palo Alto Players
Our Town - American Theatre Classic
November 3-19 at Lucie Stern Theatre
329-0891 www.paplayers.org

TheatreWorks
The Learned Ladies of Park Avenue Nov 29-Dec 23
Lucie Stern Theatre 903-6000 www.theatreworks.org

Palo Alto Art Center
Sept 28-Dec 22 *The First Illusion: The Transitional Object*
Kiff Slemmons: *Re-Pair & Imperfection*
Slide Presentation by Kiff Slemmons December 2
Holiday Family Day December 3
329-2366 www.city.palo-alto.ca.us/artcenter

Visual Artists at Cubberley
Exhibition at City Hall November 1-30
6th Annual Art Celebration December 2 at Cubberley
www.cubberleystudios.com

Palo Alto Children’s Theatre
Auditions: *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* Dec 12 & 13
463-4930 www.cityofpaloalto.org/community-services/theater

Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra
November 11 *Sinfonia* at Cubberley Theatre
November 19 *Debut Ensemble* at Palo Alto Art Center
856-3848 www.pacomusic.org

Zohar Dance Company & Studio
Annual Holiday Performance December 16
494-8221 www.zohardance.org

Pacific Art League
Pacific Prints October 4 - November 23
Students of Allan May & Ellen Kieffer Oct 2-31 (Studio One)
Students of Daniel Krakauer & Martha Castillo Nov 1-30
321-3891 www.pacificartleague.org

This ad is co-sponsored by The Palo Alto Weekly and The City of Palo Alto, Arts & Culture Division

PALO ALTO ART CENTER • PALO ALTO PLAYERS • PACIFIC ART LEAGUE • COUNCIL OF THE ARTS PALO ALTO • DANCEVISIONS • WEST BAY OPERA • ZOHAR DANCE COMPANY • PALO ALTO CHAMBER ORCHESTRA • VISUAL ARTS AT CUBBERLEY



28TH ANNUAL 2007 TALL TREE AWARDS

• CALL FOR NOMINATIONS •

THE PALO ALTO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE PALO ALTO WEEKLY are proud to announce the 28th annual Tall Tree awards, presented in four categories, recognizing exceptional civic contributions and service to the Palo Alto community. Current elected officials are not eligible.

- OUTSTANDING CITIZEN/VOLUNTEER
- OUTSTANDING BUSINESS
- OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL
- OUTSTANDING NON-PROFIT

Nomination Deadline is December 15, 2006 at 5pm

Nomination forms are available online at www.paloaltochamber.com or at the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce at 122 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto

2006 WINNERS



**OUTSTANDING CITIZEN/
VOLUNTEER**
BARBARA SPRENG



OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL
DR. DON BARR

OUTSTANDING BUSINESS
LOCKHEED MARTIN SPACE SYSTEMS COMPANY
ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY CENTER

OUTSTANDING NON-PROFIT
CHILDREN'S HEALTH COUNCIL



ATTENTION PALO ALTO SCHOOL DISTRICT RESIDENTS-URGENT

We believe the Palo Alto School Board has made the mistaken assumption that just because we, as a community, support our current lottery "Choice" programs, such as Ohlone, Spanish Immersion or Hoover, we want to continue adding new such programs which displace yet more neighborhood school children. However, since the Board has no way of knowing how we believe without each of our input, we urge you to read the following points, checking off any you agree with, and mail this whole sheet to the Board of Education.

Timing is urgent as a Feasibility Study concerning the implementation of a new Lottery-based Elementary School Mandarin Immersion program will be presented to the Board December 12. The School Board may vote on it January 9, 2007, for implementation of this program in a Palo Alto school in August, 2007.

As well, anyone is allowed 3 minutes of speech at Board meetings. See www.pausd.org for Board Meeting dates and procedures.

For more details, please go to www.pae.us. The group "Palo Altans for Equity in Education" has more information.

**ATTENTION: Ms. Mandy Lowell, Chair, Ms. Gail Price, Mr. Dana Tom, Ms. Barbara Mitchell, Ms. Camille Townsend
Board of Education, 25 Churchill Road, Palo Alto, CA 94306-1099**

I oppose the Mandarin Immersion program because *(please check any of the following points you agree with):*

- I want our elected officials to resolve our top priorities before addressing our last priority. A survey by Gene Bregman and Associates from Feb, 2006 found that our Community rated foreign language instruction in the Elementary Schools last of 11 priorities.
- I oppose any more erosion of our neighborhood schools. If Mandarin Immersion is implemented, our commuter-kids would increase to about 40%, or 2,000 of our 5,000 elementary school children. About 1,000 of these commuters are displaced AGAINST THEIR CHOICE from walking to what would be their neighborhood school. It isn't right to give choices to some at the expense of others.
- We want the District to focus on Measure A priorities. We voted in the Parcel Tax Increase (Measure A), meant to restore some of the \$6.8 million in previously cut programs. Though \$4 million was raised, \$4 million of these programs have yet to be restored. (State of the District Report, 2/28/06)
- We want programs that ALL qualifying children can attend, not more "limited access, private-type" lottery schools with public dollars. Even if this, or any new, program is cost-neutral, it would still not be available to all who want it, only to lottery winners.
- We want our District to drop further work on this program and return to our PRIORITIES. Mandarin Immersion has never been a part of the District's

Strategic Plan, though the proponents had petitioned for the program for 4 years. The reason for starting the train rolling on this program now was to take advantage of the possibility of a Federal Grant to support the program. The Grant was denied, therefore the reason for "taking advantage of the timing" is gone.

- If we have any foreign language instruction in elementary schools, all children should have access to it.
- Creating more commuters conflicts with our desire to become a "greener" District.
- I don't want more Lottery Choice programs unless our District clearly establishes that we, the taxpayers, support this path.
- I don't want new Lottery Choice programs until our District establishes clear policies for deciding which programs are priority.
- I don't want new Choice programs until there is a plan that doesn't deny children access to their neighborhood schools.

Signature _____

Address _____ Date _____

This Ad paid for by Concerned Parents for Neighborhood Schools, including but not limited to Bob Russ, Jamie Maltz, Lisa Steinback, Faith Brigel, Marc Sobel, Ilona Sockol, Lorraine Sparaco, Annet Dragavon, Andreas and Natalie Toennis, Dan Farley, Carolyn Cooper, Jenny Kiratli, Mike Holland, Rosa E. Huang, Manley Huang, Mehdi Eskandari, Zahra Ebrahim, Pauline Navarro, Jill Bibo

Health Notes

WOMAN'S EXPO . . . The Bay Area Woman's Living Expo will include health and fitness pavilions, a specialty food and wine pavilion, style house, fashion and beauty shows, demonstrations, lectures and more than 200 exhibitors offering products and ideas specifically for women, along with a 5K walk/run fundraiser. The expo takes place **Nov. 10-12**, Fri.-Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at the San Mateo County Event Center, 2495 S. Delaware St., San Mateo. Tickets are \$8; children under 8 enter free. Visit www.womenslivingexpos.com/Bay_Expo6.html.

BLACK-TIE GALA BENEFITS AUTISM . . . One in every 166 children in California may be diagnosed with autism, according to the **Pacific Autism Center for Education**, which is hosting a **black-tie auction gala** on Nov. 11 at 6 p.m., at the Crowne Plaza in Palo Alto. NBC11 Sports Anchor Raj Mathai will emcee. Auction items will include backstage passes and tickets to see Celine Dion in Las Vegas, American Idol tickets, Hawaii vacations and a luxury suite for 12 to see the Giants at AT&T Park. Tickets are \$130 and can be purchased at www.pacificautism.org, or call Karen Kennan at 408-245-3400.

TWENTY YEARS AND RUNNING . . . The **Palo Alto Run Club** will celebrate its 20th anniversary on Nov. 26. The club, which offers noncompetitive and competitive opportunities for runners of all ages, has grown from 25 members in 1989 to 300. The club is open to everyone. For information, visit www.parunclub.com.

PSYCHOLOGY 101 . . . A new bachelor's degree in psychology is being offered by the **Pacific Graduate School in Psychology**, a private school educating doctoral psychology students in Palo Alto. The new program, in partnership with De Anza College, allows PGSP professors to teach bachelor's-level work at De Anza. "Psychology, Passion & Promise" is the first program of its kind offered by PGSP. The program will allow students enrolled in the normally two-year De Anza College to complete a four-year bachelor's degree in psychology. Students will receive their degrees from Pacific Graduate School in Psychology. For more information, call 800-818-6136 or visit p3.pgsp.edu.

Health Notes is a monthly feature announcing health and fitness events and news. Send news to Health & Fitness Editor Sue Dremann at sdremann@paweekly.com.

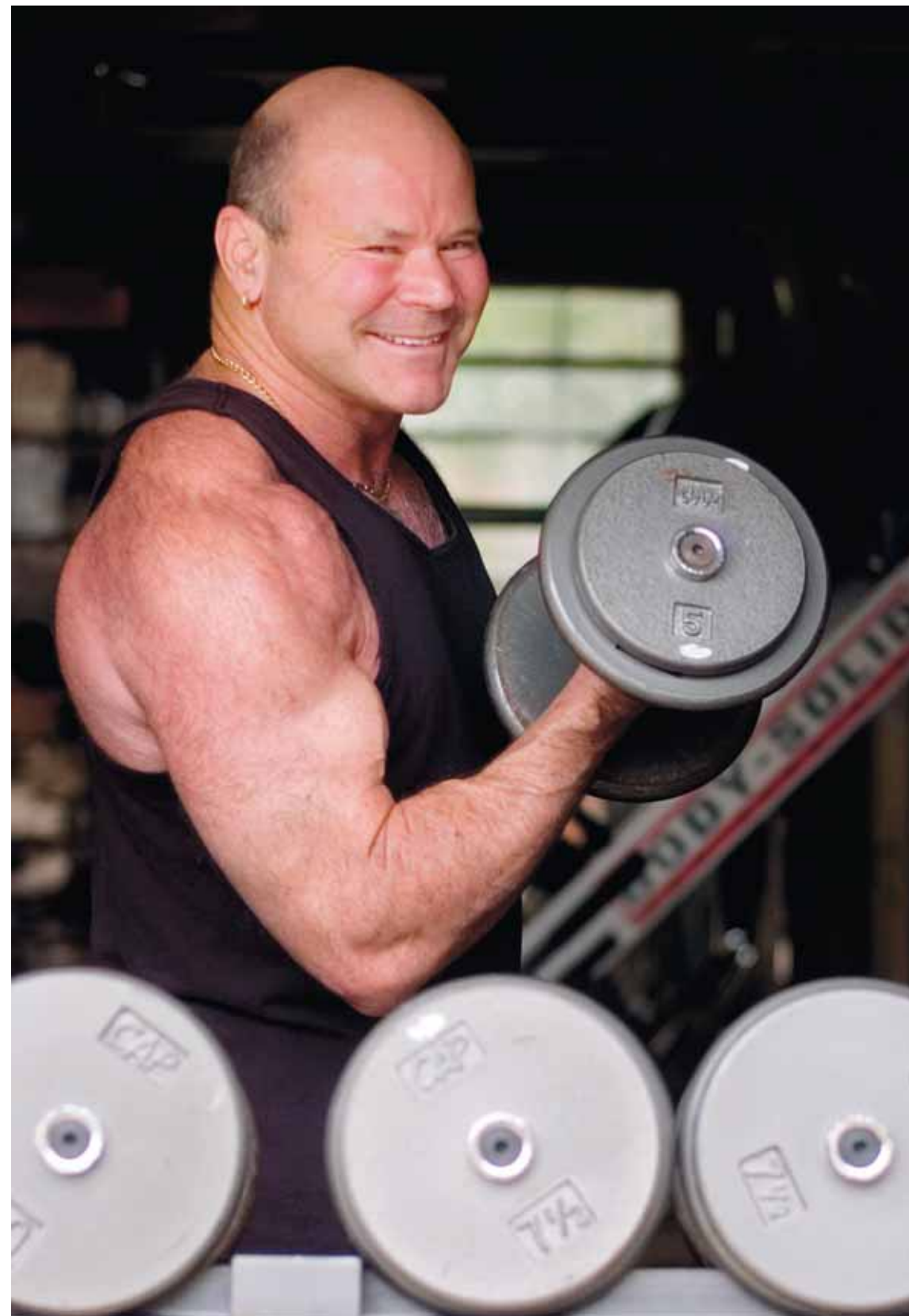
Health & Fitness

A monthly section on recreation and health, edited by Sue Dremann

BUFF AND IN STYLE AT AGE 61

Bodybuilding is hairstylist's ticket to health

by Dan Shilstone



Shawn Blackburn, 61, works out with body-building equipment in his garage.

Shawn Blackburn isn't what most people expect to find in a bodybuilder. For one thing, he's older than most. For another, he's a hairstylist. Muscles ripple inconspicuously when he lifts a lock of hair, scissors poised, in his Menlo Park hair salon.

"If I'm training in the gym and somebody strikes up a conversation with me, yeah, they're floored to find out I'm a hairstylist," he said.

Blackburn, 61, and his wife Joy own Vizons Artwear & Salon on Santa Cruz Avenue in Menlo Park. He is living proof that bodybuilding isn't an activity reserved for the young: He began competing at age 50.

"I never set out to do it. I just wanted to be fit. But the more you do, the better you feel.

"My father died in 1972. He was 53 — a smoker, never exercised — and it killed him. That just really got me. I stopped smoking and gained 15 pounds overnight, so I started running; only to discover I'd run half a block and just about croak. It took me a year of running almost every day to get to where I could run a mile without feeling sick," he said.

He never dreamed of competing until a trainer approached him at the Pacific Athletic Club.

"He asked how old I was and said, 'You could win contests.'

"I said 'no way.' I don't look like Schwarzenegger, right?"

But Blackburn entered a contest in San Jose on a whim anyway, and took second place.

"Since then, I've been in probably a dozen contests. I've got trophies all over the place. They move from the house to the garage to the attic. But this one that I have now, I think I'll keep it in my office for a little while," he said proudly of his first-place overall win in the 60s division of the NPC Masters Bodybuilding National Competition this August.

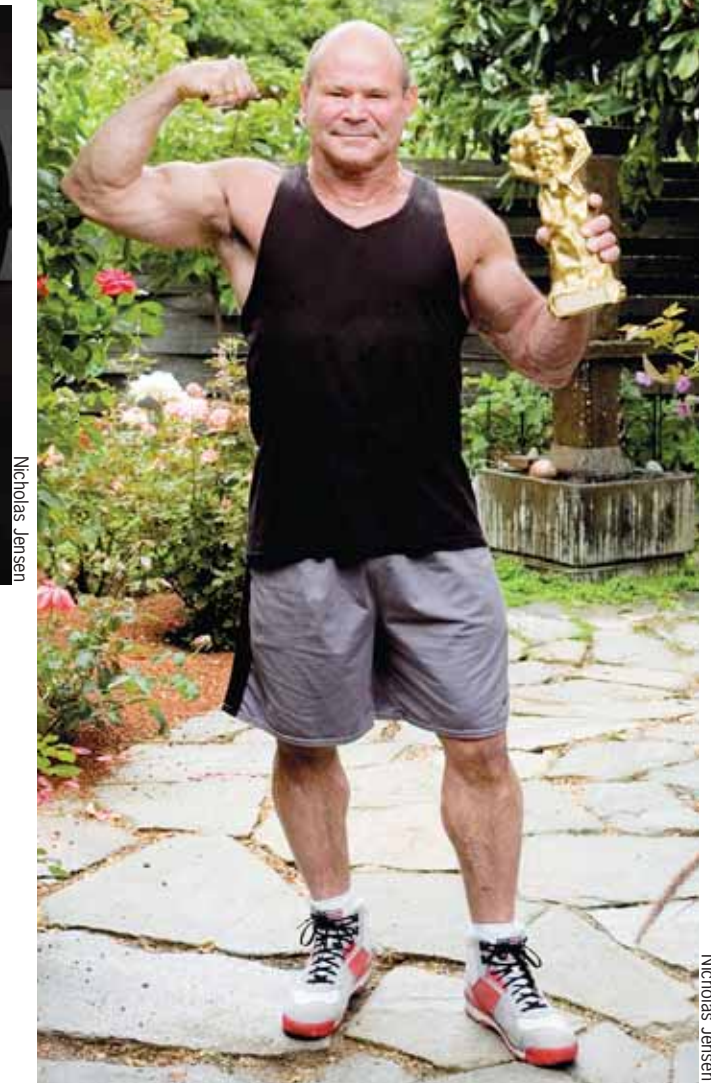
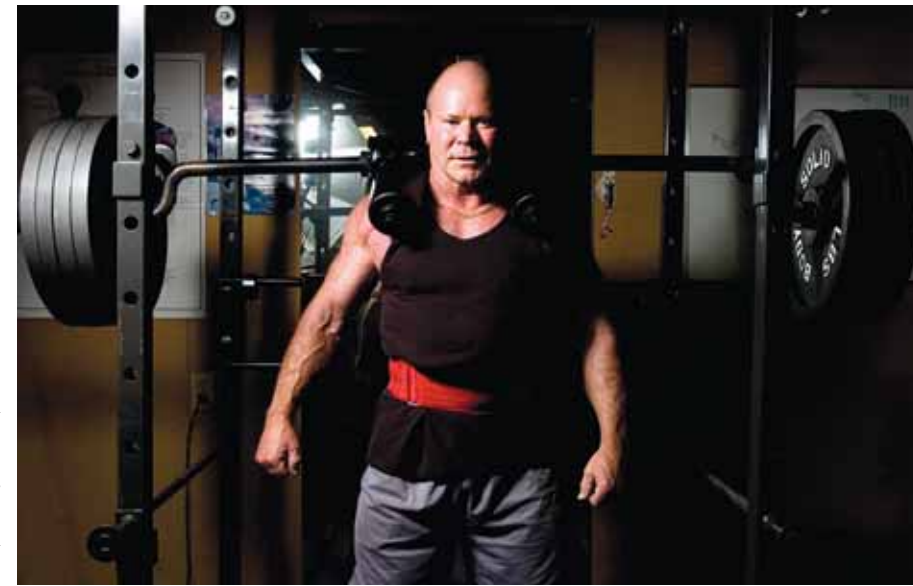
Blackburn was born in Clinton, Ind. in 1944. He moved with his parents to eastern Washington at age 5, where he worked as a logger and miner after high school.

The whole right side of his body was crushed in a logging accident, which still affects his symmetry and balance, both of which are crucial in bodybuilding, he said.

Later, he earned his living building houses, but grew weary of "doing those he-man kinds of things."

(continued on next page)

Blackburn prepares to lift weights in his garage (right). Pumping iron paid off when he won the over-60 National Amateur Body Building Competition in August (far right).



(continued from previous page)

So Blackburn moved to California and enrolled in hairstyling school. A few months later, Joy, who was his neighbor in Washington, sold her home and moved down to be with him.

Joy partners with Blackburn in the hairstyling business and supports his hobby.

"She's into it too. She goes with me to the contests and helps me. And she's got a fabulous body that she's been working on pretty hard," he said.

Blackburn advises those interest-

ed in bodybuilding to "go for it" at any age, but to start with a personal trainer. It took years for him to figure out why he kept pulling muscles because he didn't have the insight from a trainer, he said.

"But you can have the best trainer in the world, and if you go home and eat ice cream every night, it ain't gonna happen.

"Diet is probably the hardest part. Once you go to the gym, you work out. That gets to be a habit. Eating chicken breast, yams and rice day after day — that gets boring. But I

know it pays off because every time I have a physical my doctors are just amazed at what condition I'm in: My heart rate, my blood pressure, my cholesterol and all that are just phenomenal," he said.

Blackburn is considering his first professional competition this April. And he's planning for an illustrious future: One day he hopes he'll compete in the 70s division. ■

Editorial Intern Dan Shilstone can be e-mailed at dshilstone@paweekly.com.

Senior substance abuse rises

Aging boomers expected to inflate numbers

by Sue Dremann

It's hard to picture a 94-year-old woman drinking herself to sleep every night, but that image is becoming an ever-increasing reality among seniors, according to Patrick Arbore, director of the Center for Elderly Suicide Prevention at the Institute on Aging, a San Francisco nonprofit that aids seniors.

On Nov. 2, Arbore spoke about seniors' substance abuse, one of the fastest-growing health problems among people 60 and older, at Stanford's Fairchild Auditorium. Stanford Health Library and Geriatric Health Services at Stanford University Medical Center sponsored the program.

Loneliness, ageism, grief, loss of status in society, physiological changes and chronic illness are driving factors in elderly substance abuse, Arbore said. Substance abuse currently affects an estimated 17 percent of older adults. Alcohol abuse ranked highest, followed by prescription drugs such as sedatives, pain killers and anti-anxiety medications, according to a study by the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

The trajectory is likely to rise, Arbore said. Between 1990 and 1998, there was a whopping 70-percent increase in diabetes in adults ages 30 to 39, leading to increased disabilities, such as blindness and circulatory problems, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

Precipitously, an AARP study also concluded the estimated 77 million Baby Boomers will bring more addiction due to fears of aging, high expectation for immediate solutions to health issues and increased loneliness due to multiple marriages and losing touch with children.

The medical and social infrastructure is far from being prepared, Arbore said. Few treatment programs are geared to seniors, who don't do well in mixed-age rehabilitation groups.

Senior substance abuse is the elephant in the room no one wants to discuss, he said.

"People don't know how to begin the conversation. Confronting an older person is not the thing to do. You may have to create a conversation, and it may have to happen many times. You have to be prepared for denial and not throw up your hands," he said.

Families often pass down unsopken messages about older people, he added.

"How did your family talk about Aunt Tillie — how did they handle that she ended up sacked out in the

bedroom from drinking too much at Thanksgiving?"

"We often think we are doing the person a favor. Family members say 'Oh — let her drink. She's had a hard life,'" he said.

But when a senior is passing out at 2 p.m., waking up late in the evening, having fitful sleep and getting up in the middle of the night to drink again, letting him or her drink is a far cry from an act of kindness, he added.

Substance abuse leads to nutrient deficiencies, increased dementia, liver disease, cancer, cardiovascular problems and stroke, according to the American Medical Association.

The average senior over age 75 takes eight to 10 prescription medications, and alcohol can create a deadly cocktail. Wozy seniors are more prone to falls and accidents, breaking hips or arms, which leads to more drinking:

"They see it as the end of life. There is a fear of dependency, so they go home and drink," he said.

Seniors, especially people in their mid-80s, can quickly move into bereavement overload when many friends and family members die. Feelings of anger and abandonment by the life-mate who preceded them in death can become unmanageable, and a senior may turn to substance abuse to cope, he added.

Grief often extends to loss of fa-

miliar lifestyle, such as giving up a driver's license, retiring or losing status in a youth-oriented society, according to Arbore.

"One of the first things I noticed as I became older is that people look through you as if you don't exist," Arbore, 58, who sports a snow-white beard and hair, said.

"A woman once told me, 'I used to be somebody — I'm no one now' — as she sat there drinking from that bottle of wine. And she said, 'I'm thinking about killing myself.'"

More than one-third of suicides in older patients are alcohol-related, with recently bereaved elderly men having the highest rate of suicide and new alcoholism, according to a study by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse.

Women are at particular risk for alcohol-related problems. Many experience more loneliness and depression as they age, and have a heightened response to over-the-counter medications and prescription drugs, the study noted.

Disability and mental problems are two large issues leading to substance abuse, Arbore said. Whether depression preceded substance abuse or is the result of it is hard to distinguish. Compounding the problem, physiological changes in the elderly change metabolism of alcohol and drugs, and it takes far less to be affected, he added.

One standard drink a day, seven per week, or a maximum of two drinks on any occasion, with somewhat lower levels for women are the recommended levels of alcohol consumption for ages 60 and older, according to the Center on Substance Abuse Prevention.

Eventually, many seniors can be helped, Arbore said.

"One 98-year-old man said to his daughter, 'Quit your moaning. I quit drinking.'"

Staff Writer Sue Dremann can be e-mailed at sdremann@paweekly.com.

A standard drink is defined as a 12-ounce can of beer, or a single shot of spirits, a five-ounce glass of wine, or four ounces of sherry or aperitif. But what constitutes "standard" in the mind of alcohol-abusing seniors can differ greatly.

When someone says he or she has only had one glass of wine a day, Arbore asks to see the glass.

"They'll bring out a goblet that is the equivalent of three standard drinks," he said.

Getting an elder to own-up to substance abuse can be difficult, but Arbore said family and friends should not give up. It often takes many conversations that may initially elicit a hostile response. Arbore recalled a patient who lay splayed across a table after taking a large amount of the antidepressant Xanax:

"I notice you've taken Xanax three times since I've been here," Arbore told the patient.

"Well — now you know why," the patient responded. "It's because you are here and you annoy me, and my doctor says 'take as needed.'"

Researchers suggest family members avoid placing blame on the senior, but discuss risks and the potential for impairment, and keep responsibility squarely on the user. Speak in a nonjudgmental manner, with empathy, respect and understanding and offer optimistic empowerment.

Eventually, many seniors can be helped, Arbore said.

"One 98-year-old man said to his daughter, 'Quit your moaning. I quit drinking.'"

Staff Writer Sue Dremann can be e-mailed at sdremann@paweekly.com.

Clinical trials: To participate or not?

Informed consent is the key
by the Stanford Health Library



are widely available; they receive medical care at leading health care facilities; and they can appreciate knowing they are helping others by contributing to medical research.

On the down side, the experimental treatment may not work, and there may be unpleasant, serious or even life-threatening side effects to the treatment. The concept of informed consent, in which patients must learn and understand the facts about a clinical trial before deciding whether or not to participate, is key to successful research.

"Informed Consent: A guide to the risks and benefits of volunteering for clinical trials" by Kenneth Getz and Deborah Borfritz (Thomson Centerwatch, 2002) is a book that provides consumers with a thorough understanding of the world of clinical trials. It explains how trials work and how trials have developed historically. For those considering trial participation, there are chapters that discuss the factors to consider before participating, including questions to ask before agreeing to participate, how to find trials, how to learn about the details and how to evaluate the informed consent form.

The book addresses the significance diversity plays in clinical trials, particularly those involving women and minorities, as well as critical issues for vulnerable popula-

tions including children and seniors. There is also a chapter that helps people know what to do if things go wrong. Appendices include a glossary of clinical trial terminology, copies of regulatory documents and listings of trial sponsors.

"Informed Consent" is published by CenterWatch, a company dedicated to providing information clinical research. Their Web site, www.centerwatch.com, provides an extensive list of approved clinical trials, as well as a list of therapies newly approved by the FDA (Food and Drug Administration).

There are a number of other Web sites for those interested in clinical trials. Clinical Trials.gov (www.clinicaltrials.gov), sponsored by the National Institutes of Health, lists federally and privately supported clinical research in human volunteers. Cancer clinical trials can be found on the National Cancer Institute's Web site: (<http://cancer.gov/clinicaltrials>). These and other valuable online resources addressing clinical research can be found on the Stanford Health Library Web site: (http://healthlibrary.stanford.edu/resources/internet/therapy_trials.html#clinicaltrials).

To learn more about clinical trials taking place locally at Stanford, see <http://clinicaltrials.stanford.edu/research/>.

Cancer is a diagnosis that often leads people to seek out participation in a clinical trial. The book, "Making the Decision: a cancer patient's guide to clinical trials," by Marilyn Mulay, R.N. (Jones and Bartlett, 2001) focuses on cancer

clinical trials but actually contains information applicable to trials of all types. There are chapters explaining the lengthy process of drug development and the business of clinical research. A chapter entitled "Patient Rights" discusses the process of informed consent.

Searching for clinical trials is an imperfect science. This book does an excellent job, steering people through the complex steps of finding a trial and determining eligibility. The potential financial impact of trial participation is also considered.

The final chapter, "Making the Decision," ties it all together, guiding the patient through the steps to decide if participating in a clinical trial is appropriate. This book helps people make informed decisions about cancer treatment in general, as well as participation in clinical trials. ■

In addition to the books discussed above, other books, videos and on-line resources are available from the Stanford Health Library. For help learning more, visit, call or e-mail the Stanford Health Library. Research assistance is provided free of charge. Branches are located at the Stanford Shopping Center near Bloomingdale's; on the third floor of Stanford Hospital or on the main level of Stanford's new Cancer Center. Call the Health Library at 650-725-8400, visit our Web site at <http://healthlibrary.stanford.edu> or send an e-mail to healthlibrary@stanfordmed.org.

Advances in medical care are dependent on the results of clinical trials.

Before znew and better medical treatment becomes widely available it must go through a period of rigorous and carefully controlled research using human volunteers to verify both safety and efficacy. Sponsored by both government and industry, tens of thousands of clinical trials will be conducted in the United States this year, addressing a wide range of medical conditions.

There is an ongoing need for people willing to volunteer to become subjects in clinical trials.

Potential subjects must be aware that there are both risks and benefits to participating in clinical trials. Participants have access to new research treatments before they

whiter brighter faster

Whiten your teeth in about an hour!

take your first step to feeling good, looking great and making a memorable impression every time you smile. You owe it to yourself! Find out more about Zoom! in-office tooth whitening.

Call today!

Love Your Smile
COSMETIC DENTISTRY
David B. Love, D.D.S.

703 Welch Road, Suite E-6, Palo Alto
(near Stanford Hospital) **650-327-9340**
www.lovethe dentist.com

BridgePoint at Los Altos invites you to our Fall Harvest Wine Tasting Party

Searching for a fine bouquet of wine?

Experience world-class wines in our world-class community and see for yourself why our residents love to call BridgePoint at Los Altos home. Sample a variety of fine wines from around the world, enjoy savory light hors d'oeuvres and relax to live music. This is an event you won't want to miss.

Call for more information or to schedule your personal tour.

November 9th from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

RSVP by November 7th
(650) 948-7337

BridgePoint
AT LOS ALTOS

Independent and Assisted Living

1174 Los Altos Avenue, Los Altos, CA 94022



www.kiscoseniorliving.com • License # 435200989



COUPON SAVINGS

2 FREE KEYS MADE

Limited to single sided key
Expires 12/31/06



PALO ALTO HARDWARE

875 Alma Street (Corner of Alma & Channing)
Downtown Palo Alto
(650) 327-7222
Mon-Fri 7:30 am-8 pm, Sat & Sun 8 am-6 pm



20% OFF

any one item

- Swimsuits
- Sandals
- Shoes
- Toys

Much More!

Not valid with any other offers or discounts, one per customer, expires 12/30/06
Not valid on XOOTR Scooters or trampolines.

Palo Alto Sport Shop & TOYWORLD

526 Waverley St. • Palo Alto
650.328.8555
toyandsport.com

Also available online. Use coupon code 2020.

2 For 1 Coupon for Lunch or Dinner

DELI SPECIALS FROM \$12.95 to \$16.95

Choose any entree on the menu and get a second entree of same or lesser value.

M-F. up to \$7.50 off Lunch, up to \$11.00 off Dinner

Happy Hour 4pm to 7pm
Full Cocktail Service. Outside Patio Dining.

Arrivederci

Italian Seafood Restaurant
View Our Menu Online at: www.arrivederciandbella.com

(650) 568-0211
487 Seaport Court
Redwood City

Not Valid New Year's Eve, Valentine's Day, with banquets, or other promotions, or checks with daily specials. We happily honor all discount cards to the value of our coupon.

FREE BAGELS

Buy 8 Bagels, Get 5 Free

Offers cannot be combined. Please present coupon. Expires 11/22/06

HOUSE OF BAGELS

526 University, Downtown Palo Alto
322-5189

10% OFF ALL WAXING

MANICURE AND PEDICURE

\$25

(reg. \$37)



BodyKneads SPA+SALON

810 San Antonio Rd., Palo Alto (650) 852-0546
Open 7 days 10-10

Expires 11/22/06. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Not valid as a gift certificate.

50% Discount on all Nielsen Sectional Frame Kits with this coupon!

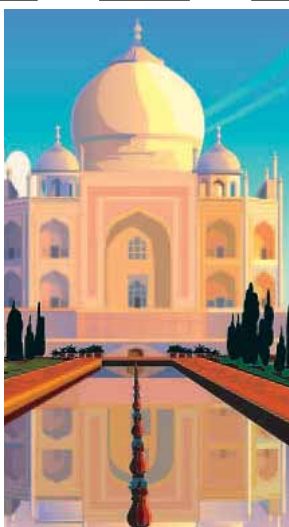
(May not be combined with any other offers or discounts! Limit one coupon per customer! Coupon must be presented at time of purchase.) Expires 12/30/2006

Wood Frame Kits in Black & Walnut
Metal Frame Kits in Silver, Gold, Black & Grey
Sizes: 5" to 40"

UNIVERSITY ART • Palo Alto

267 Hamilton Ave. • 650-328-3500

also in • San Francisco • San Jose • Sacramento
North Sacramento • www.universityart.com



FREE DINNER

Buy 1 dinner entree & receive 2nd entree of equal or lesser value FREE. Must present coupon, limit 2 coupons per table. Expires 12/13/06

Darbar FINE INDIAN CUISINE

Largest Indian Buffet in Downtown PA
Take-out & Catering Available

129 Lytton Ave., Palo Alto
650-321-6688

open 7 days

\$5 OFF ANY EX LARGE PIZZA

FREE DELIVERY
322-8100

Not valid with any other offer. Expires 11/22/06

\$4 OFF ANY LARGE PIZZA

FREE DELIVERY
322-8100

Not valid with any other offer. Expires 11/22/06



DELIVERY ONLY

PIZZAZZ
Your hot spot for local offers

Best Chinese Cuisine Since 1956
1700 Embarcadero, Palo Alto
856-7700



LUNCH SPECIAL

10% Off
(Max dis. \$15)

Includes Dim Sum
On Carts

Monday-Saturday 11am - 2:30pm;
Sunday 10:30am - 2:30pm
DINE-IN ONLY.

Must present coupon.

Cannot be combined with other offers. Black-out may apply for some special dates. Expires 11/22/06

DINNER SPECIAL

50% Off

Second Entree

of equal or lesser value
(maximum discount \$15.00)
DINE-IN ONLY.

Valid for up to 3 entrees at 50% off. Discount given to least expensive entrees. Must present coupon.

Cannot be combined with other offers. Black-out may apply for some special dates. Expires 11/22/06



COMPLETE CAR CARE SPECIALISTS

301 El Camino Real, Menlo Park
650.328.0287

Oil Change

\$19.95*
+Tax and disposal fee

*Most cars & light trucks. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Must present coupon. By appointment only.



We are a consumer assistance program
Gold Shield station



Schedule Maintenance
30/60/90K
Factory Recommended Service

- Brakes
- Mufflers
- Catalytic Converters

(1 block north of Stanford Shopping Center & 2 blocks south of Downtown Menlo Park)

Expires 12/31/06

LOOK FOR THESE SAVINGS AND MORE ON www.PaloAltoOnline.com

Watch out for mercury pollution!



Fluorescent lights save energy, but contain mercury which is a toxic pollutant. When it's time to replace the bulbs, dispose of used fluorescents properly to prevent polluted runoff into our creeks and Bay.

To find a convenient and FREE bulb drop-off location near you, call (408) 299-7300 or visit www.HHW.org



Sponsored by Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program - a coalition of local government agencies.
www.MyWatershedWatch.org

Remember: it is illegal to dispose of fluorescent bulbs in the trash or recycling bin!

Pulse

A weekly compendium of vital statistics

POLICE CALLS

Palo Alto

Oct. 30 - Nov. 5

Violence related

Battery	1
Child abuse	1
Domestic violence	2
Family violence	1
Sexual battery	1

Theft related

Commercial burglaries	11
Fraud	1
Grand theft	4
Petty theft	11
Residential burglaries	5

Vehicle related

Abandoned auto	4
Auto recovery	1
Auto theft	2
Driving w/suspended license	1
Hit and run	5
Misc. traffic	8
Theft from auto	2
Vehicle accident/minor injury	5
Vehicle accident/property damage	13
Vehicle impound	3
Vehicle tow	13

Alcohol or drug related

Drunk in public	11
Drunken driving	6
Possession of drugs	3
Possession of paraphernalia	2

Miscellaneous

Animal call	1
Found property	1
Lost property	7
Missing person	5
Noise complaint	5
Other/misc.	4
Prowler	1
Psychiatric hold	2
Suspicious circumstances	2
Trespassing	2
Vandalism	17
Warrant arrest	5

Warrant/other agency...10

Menlo Park

Oct. 30 - Nov. 5

Violence related

Battery	2
Spousal abuse	1

Theft related

Commercial burglaries	3
Fraud	2
Petty theft	7
Residential burglaries	1

Vehicle related

Abandoned auto	1
Auto recovery	3
Auto theft	1
Driving w/suspended license	3
Driving without license	3
Hit and run	3
Reckless driving	1
Theft from auto	2
Tow request	4
Vehicle accident/property damage	2

Alcohol or drug related

Drug activity	2
Drunk in public	1
Drunken driving	2
Possession of drugs	3
Under influence of drugs	1

Miscellaneous

Animal call	1
CPS referral	1
Disturbing/annoying phone calls	1
Domestic disturbance	1
Found property	3
Info. case	4
Lost property	1
Missing person	1
Property for destruction	1
Suspicious person	1
Threats	2
Tree down	1
Vandalism	4
Verbal altercation	1
Warrant arrest	5

Atherton

Nov. 1-5

Violence related

Robbery	1
---------	---

Theft related

Fraud	1
-------	---

Vehicle related

Parking problem	2
Suspicious vehicle	19
Vehicle accident/property damage	2
Vehicle code violation	2

Alcohol or drug related

Drunk in public	1
-----------------	---

Miscellaneous

911 hang-up	1
Animal call	2
Citizen assist.	1
Construction complaint	1
County road block	1
Disturbance	1
Follow up	1
Hazard	2
Info. case	2
Juvenile problem	3
Medical aid	2
Other/misc.	2
Outside assistance	2
Suspicious circumstances	3
Suspicious person	4
Town ordinance violation	7
Welfare check	1

VIOLENT CRIMES

Palo Alto

Unlisted location, 11/1, 7:19 p.m.; domestic violence.

Unlisted location, 11/2, 9:36 p.m.; family violence.

Unlisted location, 11/3, 10:45 a.m.; child abuse/neglect.

800 block San Antonio Road, 11/3, 12:50 p.m.; battery.

100 block El Camino Real, 11/4, 2:53 p.m.; sexual battery.

Unlisted location, 11/4, 9:23 p.m.; domestic violence.

Menlo Park

Unlisted location, 10/30, 10:44 a.m.; battery.

1100 block Windermere Avenue, 10/30, 4:28 p.m.; spousal abuse.

1300 block Willow Road, 11/3, 3:37 p.m.; battery.

Atherton

Unlisted block Holbrook Lane, 11/1, 11:17 a.m.; robbery.

Crime Spotlight

Unlisted block Almen-dral Avenue, Atherton, 11/2, 7:25 p.m.

A woman called police to say that when she went out in the evening her bed was made but upon returning home she noticed that the bed cover was disturbed. The woman does have two cats but she didn't think they were responsible.

200 block Greenmeadow Way, Palo Alto, 11/3, 4:59 p.m.

Police received a call that a dog had jumped on someone.

400 block Bryant Street, Palo Alto, 11/4, 12:01 a.m.

A caller reported that a briefcase was stolen from a vehicle parked on the street.



SACRED HEART SCHOOLS

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL OF THE SACRED HEART
Preschool through 8th Grade

Middle School
Open House Sunday, 11/19 at 2:00 pm
(please RSVP to admission@shschools.org)


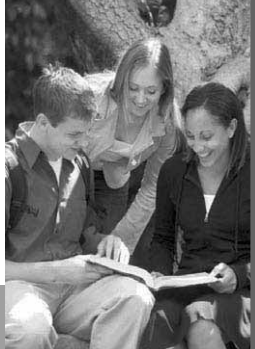
SACRED HEART PREP HIGH SCHOOL
Grades 9 through 12
Open House Sunday, 11/19 at 1:00 pm
(RSVP not required)

- Rigorous and challenging academic program
- Coeducational
- Complete athletic, fine arts and community service programs
- Beautiful 64 acre campus

Sacred Heart Schools are Roman Catholic, independent schools founded by the Religious of the Sacred Heart in 1898

SACRED HEART SCHOOLS
150 Valparaiso Avenue
Atherton, CA 94027
www.shschools.org

...educating the whole child

Got Leaves?

Come to a free Compost Workshop and learn how to turn them into next spring's healthy soil.

Tuesday, November 28


7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Call or email the Recycling Program to enroll.



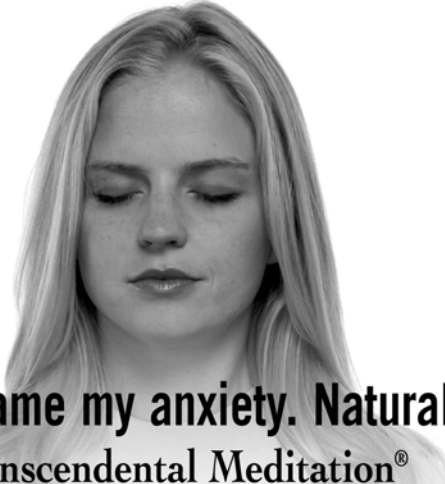
Palo Alto Recycling Program
Use less, recycle the rest.
City of Palo Alto Public Works Department

(650) 496-5910
recycling@cityofpaloalto.org



Maharishi Enlightenment Center • Palo Alto

UNFOLDING FULL HUMAN POTENTIAL



I overcame my anxiety. Naturally.

Transcendental Meditation®

TM reduces anxiety better than other forms of meditation or physical relaxation.
Journal of Clinical Psychology

INTRODUCTION TO TM® IN PALO ALTO

EVERY WEDNESDAY OR BY APPOINTMENT

Information: (650) 424-8800 info@tmpaloalto.org
or visit www.tm.org

© 2006 Maharishi Vedic Education Development Corp.



Give blood for life!

STANFORD BLOOD CENTER
Stanford Medical School Blood Center

Share a part of your life -
Give blood

1-888-723-7831
<http://BloodCenter.Stanford.edu>

Transitions

Births, marriages and deaths

Deaths

Dr. Roland H. Alden

Dr. Roland H. Alden, 92, a longtime former resident of Palo Alto, died Nov. 2 in Placerville.

Although he was born in Champaign, Ill., his father was a professor at Stanford and his childhood was spent in Palo Alto. He attended Palo Alto High School and Stanford before getting his doctorate in biology and zoology at Yale.

He arrived in Memphis, Tenn., in August 1942, set for a two-year appointment as instructor in basic anatomy at the University of Tennessee. Over the next 37 years he served as Dean of the College of Basic Medical Sciences; Dean of the Graduate School, Medical Sciences; President of the American Association of Anatomists; Chairman of the U.S. Public Health Service Anatomical Sciences Training Committee; and serve on the Commission on Graduate Education, National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges; and the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees' Academic Affairs Committee.

He was also active in civic and charitable institutions including the Rotary Club, the Red Cross, and the Society for Crippled Children and Adults. Together with his wife of 65 years, Aimee, he helped found the Les Passees Treatment Center for Cerebral Palsied Children.

In 1979 he retired from the University of Tennessee and moved back to California. He continued to hold the titles Dean Emeritus and Emeritus Professor of Anatomy while pursuing his longstanding interests in hunting, fishing, gardening and tending to the family vacation cabin at Fallen Leaf.

He is survived by two children, Patricia Alden of Canton, N.Y., and Roland Alden, Jr. of Palm Desert, Calif.; and one grandchild. His wife died in 2002. A son, Peter MacDonald Alden, who suffered from cerebral palsy, died in 1998.

Memorial services will be held at Alta Mesa Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial donations be made to Alta California Regional Center in Placerville (530-626-1353).

Sydney Griswold

Sydney Griswold, 86, a longtime resident of Palo Alto, died Oct. 24.

She was born March 3, 1920, in Newton, Mass. After the end of World War II, she and a friend drove to San Francisco. They planned to have a year of adventures before returning home, but she soon met her future husband, Willard (Bill) Griswold, and never went back.

In 1950, she and Bill moved to Palo Alto with their two children. While raising her family, she was active in many volunteer activities, working for a number of organizations, including the Retarded Children's Guild (now C.A.R.). Her volunteer ethic continued through-

out her life, most recently as a cook at Allied Arts Guild, where she was known as "the fastest knife in the West," and she continued to crochet afghans for children at the Lucille Packard Children's Hospital.

She was never happier than when she was giving a party, loved ones recall. After she moved to Channing House in 2001, she almost immediately took over as the "party planner" and loved planning and executing the events, big or small.

She is survived by her daughter, Susan Griswold of Palo Alto; her sisters, Louise Littlehale of Duxbury, Mass., and Gerry Day of Orleans, Mass.; and many friends. She was preceded in death by her husband, Bill, and her son, Russell Griswold.

A party to celebrate her life will be held Saturday, Nov. 11, at 4 p.m. at Channing House, 850 Webster St., Palo Alto. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Peninsula Habitat for Humanity, 690 Broadway St., Redwood City, CA 94063; or the Lucille Packard Foundation for Children's Health, 400 Hamilton Ave., Ste. 340, Palo Alto, CA 94301.

Marlene Krohn

Marlene Krohn, 63, a longtime resident of Palo Alto, died Oct. 20 at Stanford Hospital following a brief illness.



She grew up in Asheville, N.C., and graduated from the University of North Carolina. She lived in San Francisco before moving to

Palo Alto in 1969 to co-found Robert Krohn Shoes, where she was a partner for 20 years. For the last 15 years she was a realtor with Coldwell Banker. Recently she had been an active volunteer at the Palo Alto Animal Shelter.

She enjoyed movies, reading, playing basketball and tennis, dancing, and fostering kittens from the animal shelter.

She is survived by her son, Adam Krohn of San Francisco; her friend and ex-husband, Robert Krohn of Menlo Park; and many friends and clients whose lives she touched.

A celebration of her life will be held on Monday, Nov. 13, from 1:30 to 4 p.m., with sharing starting at 2 p.m. It will be held at the Lucie Stern Community Center ballroom, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto.

Bonnie Jean Stivers

Bonnie Jean Stivers, 92, a third-generation Californian and longtime resident of Palo Alto, died Oct. 22 after a long illness.

She was born Aug. 26, 1914, in El Monte, Calif., where she attended elementary and high school. She later moved with her parents and her four siblings to Colusa, Calif., where she finished high school at Colusa Union

High School.

In 1937 she graduated with a degree in bacteriology from the University of California at Berkeley. She then moved to Bakersfield, Calif., where she worked for the Kern County Hospital as a bacteriologist. It was there she met her husband, Theodore (Ted) Stivers.

She and Ted were married in 1941 in Bakersfield and then moved to Philadelphia and Chicago, where they were stationed during WWII. After the war, they lived in Manteca, Calif., and finally settled in Palo Alto, where they raised their four children. She enjoyed gardening, sewing, cooking and bridge. She was also a member of the AAUW and the First Congregational Church.

She and Ted became fast friends with many families in Mexico through a student-exchange program. She hosted more than a dozen students in her home and three of her children went to Mexico to live with those families and learn Spanish. She felt cultural exchanges were extremely important, so she became involved with the American Field Service, an international exchange program.

After her children were grown, she traveled the world with her husband until his death in 2000.

She is survived by her children, Paul Stivers of San Jose; Jim Stivers of Coto de Caza; Alan Stivers of Palo Alto; and Ann Pianetta of Palo Alto; eight grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services were held. The family requests that memorial donations be made: the ALS Association, the Alzheimer's Association or Rosener House in Menlo Park.

SANTA CLARA COIN, STAMP & COLLECTIBLES EXPO

November 16th-19th

Kids Treasure Hunt Sat 11-2pm

DO NOT MISS THIS EVENT!

Held at The Santa Clara Convention Center

\$1 Million Colonial Coins\$

eBay Seminars Fri & Sat 12pm

OVER 1000 OF THE NATIONS TOP DEALERS IN COINS, STAMPS, PAPER MONEY, POSTCARDS, JEWELRY, EXONUMIA, MEDALS, TOKENS, CASINO CHIPS, GOLD NUGGETS, BULLION, COIN & STAMP SUPPLIES, COLLECTIBLES & MORE...
\$6 Admission For all 4 Days

For More Info Call (805)962-9939 or Visit us on the Web at www.SantaClaraExpo.com

\$2 Off Admission with this Ad

TAKE ME TO THE RIVER!



We are looking for a **Full-time Sales Representative** with *great sales skills... you're able to land the big fish.*

We want an energetic, enthusiastic, confident, and a self-directed professional – *one who loves to cast for great sales results.* Someone who possesses strong organizational and public interaction skills. You should have the ability and demonstrated experience to make public and one-on-one presentations. You must fish well with minimum supervision.

Your responsibility is to develop and present effective marketing programs – *hook, line and sinker* – that result in sales. You will be working with a base of current and prospective customers within a geographic territory.

We value and actively seek to recruit, develop and retain people with backgrounds and experience reflecting the diversity of the communities we cover.

The **Almanac**

For immediate team consideration, **FAX your resume to:**
Neal Fine • 650-854-3650

or email: **nfine@almanacnews.com**

We offer a competitive compensation & benefits package including medical, dental, paid vacations, sicktime, and a 401(k) plan.

WALLACE VINCENT CUNNEEN JR.



Naval aviator, husband, father, grandfather, business and community leader, Wally Cunneen passed away peacefully on October 31, 2006, in Los Altos Hills California, surrounded by his family and beloved wife of 51 years, Joan. A devoted

father to Wally, Mary Lion and Jim, and loving grandfather to CJ, Moira and Ryan Lion; Laura and Courtney Cunneen; and Caitlin and Nicholas Cunneen.

Born, Sept. 18, 1922 in York Pennsylvania, he attended the U.S. Naval Academy, Class of 1945.

He began his career in sales and marketing and was a principle of the Cunneen Company of Philadelphia. Wally was a senior officer at 3 prominent architectural and engineering firms in the S. F. Bay Area for 20 yrs. He was an independent management consultant to leading corporations for 30 yrs. Chairman of

the 50th anniversary of Moffett Field; Pres. of the Navy League of Santa Clara City; finance chair for Sen. Becky Morgan; campaign leader for Rep. Tom Campbell; PTA president; Little League coach; Boy Scout Troop Chairman. He was a great public speaker and was dedicated to helping and motivating others to succeed.

Wally enjoyed activities such as running, lacrosse, barbershop quartet, sporting events, playing with his grandchildren, and spending time with the great love of his life, his wife Joan.

A Mass will be held at Saint Nicholas Catholic Church, 473 Lincoln Avenue, Los Altos, CA on Saturday November 11, 2006 beginning at 11:00 a.m. All welcome. Reception for family and friends will begin right after Mass at the Church hall. Committal will be at Gate of Heaven Catholic Cemetery, 22555 Cristo Rey Drive, Los Altos, CA at 1:30 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Los Altos Community Foundation, 183 Hillview Avenue, Los Altos, CA 94022; or the U.S. Naval Academy Foundation, P.O. Box 64740, Baltimore, MD 21264-4740.

PAID OBITUARY

Editorial

A good first step in right direction

Palo Alto school board's unanimous approval of "Organizational Development Committee" should result in process to heal or resolve divisions

Carefully choosing their words, the five members of the Palo Alto school board last Thursday agreed unanimously to hire an independent, outside "organizational development" expert or team — if the members of the district's middle management group agree to participate.

The 48-member group of principals, assistant principals, program directors and some school psychologists has scheduled a meeting for Nov. 16 to discuss the matter, presumably following informal contacts by representatives.

The school board earlier had invited the middle managers to join them in a collaborative committee setting to work out the details of what an outside inquiry should be. Management team representatives have asked several questions, including the meaning of organizational development.

But the sense of the board was that the person selected by the committee should conduct individual interviews with everyone in the management team and others in the district and prepare a report on the findings of the anonymous interviews and propose some solutions or directions.

Superintendent Mary Frances Callan — the primary target of a Sept. 6 document that alleged lack of trust, poor communication and unresolved issues — said (in her first public comment since the Weekly disclosed existence of the document in late September) that she would support very strongly the bringing in of an outside person. She said that process would help counter some of the innuendo that has appeared in the media.

Perhaps the most significant aspect of the board's action was the appointment of members Gail Price and Dana Tom, representing both sides of a split on the board relating to support of the administration versus the middle managers' position as expressed in the Sept. 6 document. Assistant Superintendent Scott Bowers, who handles human resources and who was the initial messenger between the board and management team, would also serve on the committee.

Board member Barb Mitchell, who nominated Price and Tom, said she felt the division on the board could be a positive thing in that it will ensure credibility of the board's commitment if both sides are represented.

Board President Mandy Lowell summed up: "What we want is people to feel comfortable at the end — not that they agree necessarily with every conclusion, but (feel) that it was fair and that it really did surface the concerns so that we're stronger at the end of the day and that people feel trusted and respected and we have better communication."

Tom noted the committee will be "front loaded" in that the bulk of its work will be done at the outset and that once someone is selected the committee's work will be virtually complete. The issue of whether the committee should remain in place as an oversight body was not addressed, but that should be decided before the committee begins its work in December.

We believe the committee should stay in place until the inquiry report is submitted and reviewed by the board in order to assure independence, credibility, balance and buy-in by all parties — including and especially the public.

Closing a sad chapter, with lingering questions

The sentencing of former Jordan Middle School coach Bill Giordano to four years in prison closes a sad chapter in the history of the Palo Alto Unified School District and Palo Alto itself.

But it leaves a number of haunting and discomfiting questions. Reports by a psychologist and a probation officer disclose that Giordano said he had told at least two other teachers about his having a three-year sexual relationship with a student starting when she was 14, in 1991. One teacher denied knowing but the other made the astounding admission that he knew but didn't think it was his place to report it.

If not his place, whose? Does not the district have a policy that demands as a moral/ethical imperative that teaching and other staff disclose such information — particularly if there is certainty, subject to termination for failure to do so?

Spectrum

Editorials, letters and opinions

Being responsible

Editor,

The community owes thanks to the Weekly for suing the city to force it to release information on the investigation of the utilities scandal. Without the intervention of the Weekly and insistence on full disclosure, the public would never have known just how serious the situation actually was within City Hall.

Firstly, it is a sad commentary that this newspaper had to sue the city to force disclosure. Taxpayers have a right to know how their money is spent or misspent and how their government functions or fails to function, as the case may be.

Secondly, we must ask: How can a city manager pretend to be a "manager" when so many of his people were involved in such manifestly illegal activities? The essence of good management is being aware of what's going on and maintaining an environment of openness to encourage employees to come forward to discuss matters of concern. Palo Alto's city manager clearly failed on both counts.

It is of keen concern that our city manager would countenance, indeed urge, the expenditure of city funds to promote what appears to be a cover-up, that is, to oppose an effort to make records of such scandalous performance publicly available.

One last point: It is reprehensible, indeed wrong, that the city manager allowed the director of utilities, even after he was implicated in this mess, to remain as a city employee long enough to qualify for a higher level of retirement pay. Clearly, the manager was not acting in the public interest.

Thanks again to the Weekly for its public spiritedness, for its willingness to devote the time and money necessary to pursue this issue and for allowing taxpayers to better see the deplorable situation that prevailed within City Hall.

This is precisely the role that a responsible local newspaper should play.

Tom Wyman
Washington Avenue
Palo Alto

Distracting article

Editor,

I found the Weekly's piece (Oct. 20) on the impending closure of the JJ&F Market rather distracting. The writer refers several times to alternate shopping at the relatively distant Safeway or Whole Foods stores.

Why Safeway? Anyone familiar with the area would know that the obvious alternate stores are Mollie Stone's and Country Sun on California Avenue, which are

still within walking distance of the College Terrace area. Surprising, therefore, that the writer only mentions one of these — Mollie Stone's — at the very end of the piece.

A transfer of JJ&F to Alma Plaza might be desirable. Competition with Piazza's in that part of town may pose a challenge for both independent stores. But one senses that that may be preferable to bringing in another chain store as the anchor tenant at Alma Plaza.

John Murray
Escondido Village
Palo Alto

One-sided view

Editor,

This past Wednesday (Nov. 1) the Weekly featured a front-page article about the status of the Mandarin-Immersion (MI) proposal for the Palo Alto Unified School District. As a long-time opponent of the elementary school proposal (MI for K-5) I was stunned at the lack of balance in the article. There were just a couple of brief sentences mentioning opposing

views.

This proposal is highly controversial in our community. For community members like myself with no prior background in the process, it has been a daunting task to make our voices heard. It's a slap in the face to people like us when our newspaper chooses to cover an issue on the front page with only one side represented. It's as if all of the letters to the editor and postings on Palo Alto Online's Town Square fell on deaf ears.

One theme seemed to repeat itself throughout the article, though, and that theme was the special-interest private monies being used to pay for and promote the project. I'm hoping that in the near future the Weekly will do an additional front-page feature where the other half of the debate will be presented.

Lisa Steinback
Creekside Drive
Palo Alto

(continued on page 20)

YOUR TURN

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

What do you think? How can school districts better protect young persons from sexual approaches by teachers or staff?

Submit letters to the editor of up to 250 words to letters@paweekly.com or shorter comments to readerwire@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.

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

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

For more information contact Editor Jay Thorwaldson or Assistant to the Editor Tyler Hanley at editor@paweekly.com or 650-326-8210.

THE DISCOVERY OF FIRE AND COMEDY



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 Diana Diamond's blog or just stay up on what people are talking about around town!

Guest Opinion

What I did last summer — pondered the cost of new housing

by Bern Beecham

I got into a little bit of analysis this past summer.

Everyone knows new housing "doesn't pay its way." We on the City Council have heard this many times from many people.

But I've never seen numbers describing the true impact of a new

housing unit on the city's budget. At many of our public hearings on housing, citizens remind us of the unfairness of new residents moving into our great city without paying up.

I talked with top staff in City Hall, trying to find someone who might have time to look into this question. Many were sympathetic but all had workloads that would prevent them from getting into this issue without delaying other significant work. So a memo to colleagues asking for support for such an analysis was out of the question.

Still, I wanted to know more accurately how expensive the "new resident problem" is, because we hear so much about it. So I decided to analyze it myself. I drafted a "scope of work," reviewed it with staff and two colleagues, and was off and calculating.

The common wisdom is that new residents move into this community nearly for free. It is said they reap the benefits of everything we long-term residents have bought and paid for over the years without paying for it themselves.



The first objective of my analysis was to find out how long it would take for these newbies to catch up with all the payments long-standing residents have poured into the community over the past 25 or 30 years.

I was astounded at what I found.

In the first year of ownership, a new homeowner in 2005 pays to the city more than three times as much in property-related taxes as all property taxes a long-time homeowner has paid over the past 30 years (\$14,000 versus \$4,100 in 2005 dollars). Then every year after that the 2005 homeowner pays 14 times as much property taxes as a long-term homeowner (\$1,400 versus \$102 in 2006).

We all pay much more than that in property tax but remember that for every \$1,000 you pay Palo Alto gets just \$90 — I'm using what the city receives in my calculations.

In any case, a new homeowner is still moving into a wonderful town with great parks, neighborhood libraries and other amenities that have required major investments over time.

I asked staff if they could tell me what the great City of Palo Alto has acquired with our taxpayers' money over the past 30 years.

Again, I was surprised. In the past 30 years, we've acquired only four assets with taxpayer money. A quarter century ago we bought the Terman and Ventura school sites. We lease Cubberley with funds generated by the utility users tax. And six years ago, we acquired the two-acre Heritage Park/Roth Building on the site of the former Palo Alto Medical Foundation.

We've since traded Terman back to the

school district in return for ownership of part of Cubberley. There are other assets we've acquired (such as the Enid Pearson/Arastradero Preserve) but they've been paid for mostly with grants from other sources or, like the new downtown parking garages, by assessments our businesses have voted to charge themselves.

About 78 percent of our budget is spent on residents, or nearly twice the proportion we residents pay in taxes.

But what about ongoing costs of service? Don't new residents use more services than they pay for? So I looked at where money comes from in our general budget and where it goes — or more exactly from whom it comes and to whom it goes.

The following analyses exclude user-paid revenues and services (such as building permit fees, fire service contracts and other sources, about \$20 million annually).

Most of our general fund revenue comes from business. Business taxes (including sales, hotel and property taxes) provide about 60 percent of our general fund monies. The remaining 40 percent comes from residents (property and documentary transfer taxes and some sales tax).

About 78 percent of our budget is spent on residents, or nearly twice the proportion we residents pay in taxes. It's been clear for a long

time that it is our retailers in town (Stanford Shopping Center, auto dealers, University Avenue stores, other businesses throughout town) that enable us to have the services we enjoy.

So business in general subsidizes residents. But many of us knew that. A remaining question is whether there's any significant difference in subsidization between long-standing residents and new.

In very broad terms, our 26,500 housing units (including rentals) pay on average about \$1,275 per unit a year to our general fund through all forms of taxes. But the city spends about \$2,500 per unit on average for net residential services (78 percent of our budget, excluding user-paid services). The difference is subsidized by business.

The typical Palo Alto homeowner (at the 50th percentile) pays about \$375 annually in property taxes to the city. The new (2005) homeowner pays \$1,000 more. While this extra \$1,000 yearly from new homeowner helps cover the \$1,225 subsidy, there is still an annual deficit per housing unit. (New homeowners probably pay a higher portion of sales and utility taxes but I did not find any reliable data for this.)

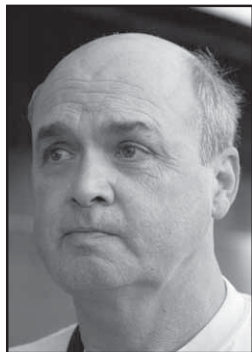
This column isn't meant to endorse or oppose more housing. Rather, I hope it simply provides a more accurate understanding of how housing, new or long-standing, affects our city's budget. ■

Former Mayor Bern Beecham has led the effort on the City Council in recent years to preserve and enhance the city's tax base, particularly in the area of sales taxes. He can be e-mailed at bern@beecham.org.

Streetwise

What do you think of allowing high-school students to drink at parties under parental supervision, because parents believe they would otherwise drink in a less-controlled environment?

Question and interviews by Dan Shilstone. Photographs by Veronica Weber. Asked at Town and Country Village.



Mike Ferguson
Retired
High Street

"There're two sides to that question. I think it is probably definitely safer, but it is still against the law, and I do support the law."



Lyn Waring
Physician
Martin Avenue

"Drinking in parties is definitely hard to control. Drinking at home is different. It's good for young people to get experience with alcohol in a safe environment, under the guidance of their own parents."



Maria Urruela
Stanford Spanish lecturer
Sandalwood Court

"I don't think I would be comfortable allowing it at a party, but it's not a bad idea at home. At a party, chances are much greater it will get out of hand."



Vijay Samalam
Executive Director of San Diego Super-computing Center
Clover Hearst Way, San Diego

"I would be opposed to that. There are certain rules that you follow, as long as the kids are under your roof. You set an example. If you set rules and you're a lush yourself, there's something wrong. But it's not a bad idea to have rules and discipline."



Cecilia Mui
Housewife
Stanford campus

"I always feel drinking is a social event. The more you suppress it, the worse it will be. I agree with the European view that it should be allowed and supervised. Try it, and the curiosity goes away."

Share a part of your life –
 Give blood

1-888-723-7831
<http://BloodCenter.Stanford.edu>

(continued from page 18)

Kerry's faux pas

Editor,

There is little doubt that John Kerry committed a faux pas which his detractors have seized with

much relish. It is a pity President Bush escaped the same media attention from his many misstatements.

Kerry's poor attempt at humor pales when compared to Bush's monumental domestic and foreign

policy blunders. Bush's failed policies have resulted in human carnage of epic proportions in Iraq and Afghanistan while rewarding U.S. war profiteers billions in no-bid contracts.

Bush should apologize to our

fighting men and women for sending them on suicide missions with no hope for a positive outcome. Bush has dishonored the memories of our fallen heroes whose coffins and injured remain hidden from the American people to avoid embarrassing our policy makers and muting public opposition to the war.

Sadly, the media has jumped on the "kill Kerry" bandwagon while remaining silent in the run-up to the Iraq War allowing Bush and his advisors to railroad the American people with a blizzard of spin and outright lies. It took the perceptive Jon Stewart on Comedy Central to remind the American people of Bush's pathetic efforts at humor when he made light of those "missing pesky WMDs" — accompanied by loud laughter from the compliant White House press corps.

In his failed blinkered vision "to stay the course," Bush praised Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld as doing a "heck of a job."

God bless America — we are certainly in great need of your help.

Jagjit Singh
 Louisa Court
 Palo Alto

One of America's Greatest Treasures

FILOLI

HOLIDAY TRADITIONS: GIFTS FROM THE WINTER GARDEN

Honoring the Beauty and Tradition of the Glass Conservatory

*Friday, November 24th THROUGH
 Saturday, December 2nd*

- Premiere Access Shopping Evening
- Evening Dinner Parties
- Daytime & Evening Holiday Shopping Boutiques
- Brunch Buffets
- Dinner in the Café
- Children's Parties

Tickets On Sale Now!

For pricing and additional information, please visit Filoli's website: www.filoli.org

86 Cañada Road, Woodside, CA 94062 650-364-8300 x508

JJ&F MARKET
 "Family Owned & Operated Since 1948"

Uncompromising Quality, Signature JJ&F Service

GROCERY

Clover Organic Milk 1/2 Gallons
 Whole Milk, 2% Reduced Fat, 1% Low Fat and Fat Free
 2 for **\$5.00**

USDA Choice New York Steak
\$9.99 lb.

Navel Oranges
\$.79 lb.

Dreyer's Premium Ice Cream
 All varieties & Assorted Flavors 1.75 qt. \$3.79

Precious Shredded Mozzarella Cheese and Shredded Mozzarella/Cheddar Blend
 8 oz. bag \$1.89

Full Circle USDA Organic Cereal
 Oat Bran Flakes, Honey Nut Toasted Oats and Toasted Oats 12.5-15 oz. box \$2.99

Musso's Ready Made Pizza Crust
 Schiacciata No Trans Fat 12 oz. Makes a Great Pizza \$1.49

Planters Dry Roasted Peanuts or Dry Roasted Unsalted Peanuts
 16 oz. 2 for \$5.00

FRESH PRODUCE

Bananas \$.49 lb
 Fuji Apples \$1.49 lb
 Tomatoes \$.99 lb

Avacados \$1.49 ea
 Green Bell Peppers \$.89 lb

MEAT
FEATURING USDA CHOICE "ALL NATURAL" HARRIS RANCH DRY AGED BEEF

MAKE PLANS FOR THE HOLIDAYS ORDER YOUR FRESH DIESTEL TURKEY TODAY (650) 857-0901

Boneless Center Cut Pork Loin Roast . . \$3.99 lb
 Extra Lean Ground Chuck \$3.99 lb
 Fresh Frying Chicken Legs \$1.59 lb

BEER & WINE SPECIALS

Corona Beer Regular or Lite, 12 pk 12 oz bottles \$11.99 + CRV
 Cynthus Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2000 750 ml \$12.99 (case \$143.50)
 Alterra Grand Me'lange 2000 Sonoma County Red Wine, 750 ml. \$14.99 (case \$179.50)
 Crémant D'Alsace Cave de Cléeborg Clerotstein Auxerrois 750 ml. \$17.99 (case \$209.50)

520 College Avenue, Palo Alto (650) 857-0901
 Prices good 11/8/06 through 11/14/06

Finger pointing

Editor,

Former council member Dick Rosenbaum recently wrote in the Weekly (Oct. 25) that current council members acted irresponsibly in recent labor negotiations. Mr. Rosenbaum seems to have a short memory when it comes to his irresponsible actions.

While under his watch as council member, city leaders ended a well-run self-insured employee health-care program where the city was the prime medical provider and instead chose to delegate CalPers to administer medical benefits, eventually costing taxpayers millions of dollars in additional insurance payments.

Mr. Rosenbaum also fails to mention that city employees who retire at 55 are only covered by city-funded health insurance until the age of 65 when they are required to switch to Medicare. Further, Mr. Rosenbaum's claim that city employees pay nothing towards their health benefits is absurd and incorrect.

As a former council member he is well aware that employees negotiate their contract as a salary and benefits package. If employees choose to negotiate a below-market cost-of-living increase those funds are then used to offset increased medical insurance costs or other benefits.

Under the current agreement city employees will now be required to pay an additional 2 percent of their yearly salary to cover retirement costs, will be required to be vested prior to receiving limited health insurance at retirement and will receive no cost-of-living salary increase in 2006.

Mr. Rosenbaum complains that CalPers payments will surely rise in the future but forgets that during his tenure payments decreased

significantly and for several years the city paid no fees to CalPers. At that time, concerned employees suggested that the City Council create an employee-benefit reserve fund with the money saved, but eventually lost out when the council chose to use the money for police-building designs, consultants, public-toilets, etc.

While Mr. Rosenbaum points his finger at others for what he perceives is a problem, he must also point to himself. Making statements without facts and dispensing misinformation will only lead to confusion and mistrust, and solve nothing.

Brian Wilson
Ramona Street
Palo Alto
Finger pointing

'Trust' suggestions

Editor,

As a parent of two Hoover Elementary School children, I've been following the "management trust" issue closely. I appreciate that the school board is working in good faith to find a resolution and, in that light, would like to offer a few suggestions.

First, I believe the board needs to take ownership of this entire process and not act as a partner with the management group and the administration. Although there's value in getting their views, the board needs to start driving the bus and telling the passengers when to get on. "If it were done when 'tis done, then 't were well it were done quickly."

Second, the subcommittee being formed to hire an outside consultant needs to determine what the work product will be. There has been some talk about having someone review the processes in place at the district. I don't think we need someone to suggest a better complaint mousetrap. We need an investigation into the actual complaints. If there is substance to the allegations of less than professional conduct, then the consultant should recommend whether this can be rectified without personnel changes or if more drastic changes are needed to restore trust.

Third, at last Thursday night's meeting, Ms. Townsend referred to a few well known organizational experts at Stanford. I realize this was meant as a preliminary view towards available resources but I think Stanford — especially the school of education — has too many ties to PAUSD for them to be considered outsiders. The subcommittee should look farther afield.

Finally, the consultant's report to the board should contain a summary which would be made public. I think most people will want to know the general findings and tone of the report while understanding certain aspects must remain confidential if we expect the management team to speak candidly.

Dave Charleson
Chimalus Drive
Palo Alto

Guest Opinion

We have people to feed, big Thanksgiving shoes to fill

by Eileen Richardson
and Owen Byrd

For 22 years, Estelle Chalfin has embodied the spirit of Thanksgiving by feeding hundreds of people — and providing a chance for many others to help.



Starting in Captain Cosmos, the sandwich shop that she ran for years on Lytton Avenue, Estelle and a few friends decided to serve a complete Thanksgiving meal to anyone who needed to eat.

After a few years, the meal outgrew her restaurant (which closed in 1998), so she teamed up with Urban Ministry of Palo Alto to serve even more people at All Saints Episcopal Church on Warvelly Street.

What began with 35 guests and food cooked in a small pizza oven



Last year, just before we opened the doors at noon to greet the guests, Estelle announced that it would be her last year of organizing the meal. After 22 years, her own health and family concerns required her attention. For this wonderful community tradition to continue, others would have to step up.

has grown into a community potluck that serves 350 meals with the help of more than 200 volunteers.

Each of us started helping Estelle a few years ago. We quickly learned that she insisted on serving excellent food in a holiday environment.

The Rev. Jim Burklo was instrumental in getting the meal program going. He was a cheerleader and support person for many of us volunteers. He handed out invitations to appropriate guests, encouraged sobriety and remained during dinner to visit and monitor.

Guests are welcomed into a room made warm with colorful table settings and a string quartet. Once seated, heaping plates of turkey, gravy, mashed potatoes, string beans, sweet potatoes and cranberry sauce are individually served to each guest by volunteers. Pumpkin pie with fresh vanilla whipped

cream completes the meal.

Before leaving, each guest is offered a sack lunch to go, along with warm donated clothing.

Real magic occurs in the big church kitchen, where volunteers who have never previously met quickly learn to work together to cook and serve the food.

We know from our own experiences that volunteers get their spirits fed as they, in turn, feed others.

Last year, just before we opened the doors at noon to greet the guests, Estelle announced that it would be her last year of organizing the meal.

After 22 years, her own health and family concerns required her attention. For this wonderful community tradition to continue, others would have to step up.

As we served the meal and saw again how the simple act of feed-

ing another served the needs of the guests and the volunteers, we knew that the dinner had to continue. Before we could become intimidated by the task or have our busy lives distract us, we committed on the spot to organize this year's meal.

With Estelle serving as our mentor and the Urban Ministry providing support, a Thanksgiving dinner infused with her spirit will once again be served.

To honor her legacy, we have asked Urban Ministry to re-name the meal the Estelle Chalfin Community Thanksgiving Dinner.

But we cannot do it by ourselves. The meal requires donations of food and time.

If you want to help, e-mail us at paloaltothanksgiving@yahoo.com or call the Urban Ministry Thanksgiving Hotline at 650 853-7066-.

While Estelle will not be at the dinner this Thanksgiving, we are confident that the meal can continue to meet the needs of all those who serve and eat it. We just need to keep her example in mind. ■

Eileen Richardson directs the Downtown Streets Team, and can be e-mailed at Eileen.Richardson@gmail.com. Owen Byrd is a local developer, a long-time community volunteer and former member of the Weekly's Board of Contributors. He can be e-mailed at obyrd@byrddev.com.

Guest Opinion

Let he without lifetime health benefits cast the first stone

by LaDoris Cordell

When is a contract excessive, and by whom shall excess be judged?

In the case at hand, seven of the nine members of the City Council voted to approve a contract with our unionized employees. Council member Larry Klein stated that this agreement was a good one, albeit, not a great one.

I agree. The complex and oftentimes tense negotiations that preceded this contract produced an agreement that the majority of the council felt struck an appropriate balance between pension benefits and health care costs.

Along comes our former Mayor Dick Rosenbaum, who expresses his disapproval of the council's vote, both at a council meeting and in a guest opinion in the Palo Alto Weekly (Oct. 25).

In decrying the Council's action, Mr. Rosenbaum writes: "Health insurance costs aren't volatile; they



The complex and oftentimes tense negotiations that preceded this contract produced an agreement that the majority of the council felt struck an appropriate balance between pension benefits and health care costs.

just go up. ... [T]his contract ... does not effectively limit increases in health care costs for active employees and exacerbates the problem of unfunded liability for retiree health costs." (Emphasis added.)

What Mr. Rosenbaum neglected to mention was that when he retired from the council on Dec. 31, 1999, he began receiving lifetime retiree health benefits, 100 percent of which are paid for by the City of Palo Alto.

He is not alone. Currently there are nine former council members who receive lifetime retiree health benefits for themselves and their spouses. From 2001 to 2006, these payments cost the City \$220,000. Five of the current council mem-

bers, including the two council members who voted against this union contract, are eligible for this lifetime benefit when they retire from the council.

Why is this?

For years, the city required only five years of full-time service in the state's PERS system before its employees could become fully vested to receive 100 percent lifetime retiree health benefits. Unbeknownst to the public until recently, this policy also applied to council members because under state law, rightly or wrongly, council members are classified as city employees — even though we are volunteers, put in as much or as little time as we choose, punch no time clocks and have no mini-

mum required hours of work for the city.

In 2003, the policy was changed. Now, all employees, including council members, who begin working for the City after Jan. 1, 2004, become eligible for this 100 percent lifetime-retiree benefit only after they have been in the PERS system for 20 years.

If those council members upon whom our fair city has bestowed the lavish gift of a 100 percent city-paid lifetime health benefit choose to accept it, so be it.

But it might, methinks, be more seemly were these folks — before criticizing the benefits earned by our hard-working city employees — take guidance from that famous biblical injunction: "Let he who is without lifetime 100 percent city-paid health benefits cast the first stone."

But in the end, of course, the real pity is not that our employees and even council members have health coverage but that so many in our city and in our country do not. ■

LaDoris Cordell is a member of the Palo Alto City Council, a Stanford University administrator and a retired Superior Court judge. She can be e-mailed at lcordell@Stanford.edu.

Weekend Preview



Tevye the milkman (Travis Leland) struggles to raise his five daughters in Peninsula Youth Theatre's production of "Fiddler on the Roof." Also pictured are, clockwise from left: Ernestine Balisi, Hanna Lauritzen, Leher Pathak, Chelsea Venuti and Anna Dailey.

and paintings. The museum is at Lomita Drive and Museum Way on the Stanford University campus; opening hours are Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Thursday from 11 to 8. Admission is free. Call 650-723-4177 or go to museum.stanford.edu.

Friday

"A Night in the Punjab" features bhangra, jhumar and gidha dance and dhol instrumentals as part of the Asian Performing Arts Series at Stanford University. The event goes from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in Cubberley Auditorium at Stanford University; tickets are \$15. Go to arc.stanford.edu.

"Peaceful Warrior," a Nick Nolte film about an Olympic hopeful's near-fatal accident and subsequent encounter with a mysterious philosopher, will be shown tonight and tomorrow at the Unity Palo Alto Community Church at 3391 Middlefield Road in Palo Alto. Many other spiritual organizations in North America are also hosting special screenings this month. Tickets to the 7 p.m. showings are \$10; call 650-494-7222.

Saturday

"Fiddler on the Roof" opens at Peninsula Youth Theatre tonight at 7:30, at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts at 500 Castro St. The popular musical about a Russian Jewish community's struggles under czarist rule runs through Nov. 19; tickets are \$18 for adults and \$15 for kids and seniors. Call 650-903-6000 or go to www.pyt.net.

The Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra's Sinfonia group performs at 8 p.m. at Cubberley Theatre,

cabin, runs through Nov. 19 at the Dragon Theatre at 535 Alma St. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for students and seniors tonight (\$15/\$10 other nights). Call 650-493-2006 or go to www.dragon-productions.net.

Painter Jill Andre exhibits her work through Nov. 29 at the ART21 gallery at 539 Alma St. in Palo Alto. In her exhibit, "A Painted Life," she explores the human body using a minimalist palette and wide brush strokes. The gallery is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call 650-566-1381 or go to www.art21.us.

"Our Town" is taking the stage at Palo Alto Players, running through Nov. 19. The Thornton Wilder play celebrates the value of ordinary moments. Show times are Wednesday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2:30., at the Lucie Stern Theatre at 1305 Middlefield Road in Palo Alto. Tickets are \$24-\$28. Call 650-329-0891 or go to www.palplayers.org.

A new Cantor Arts Center exhibit presents 19th-century works by Gustave Caillebotte, Maximilien Luce, Claude Monet, Pierre-Auguste Renoir and others. Called "The Mondavi Family Gallery Reinstalled," the exhibit includes prints, drawings, photos

Thursday

Carol Mead, a Los Altos artist, spent June painting scenes in Provence and Spain. Now her paintings are the subject of an exhibit called "Follow the Sun" at Viewpoints Gallery, 315 State St., Los Altos. Exhibit hours are Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 11 to 3, through Dec. 2. Call 650-941-5789 or go to www.viewpointsgallery.com.

"Sliding Scale" exhibits works by Gail Wight, a Stanford professor of electronic media art, at the Thomas Welton Stanford Art Gallery at 435 Lasuen Mall on campus. The show goes through Dec. 10, open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 5. Call 650-723-3404 or go to www.art.stanford.edu.

"Romeo and Juliet" comes to Palo Alto High School's Haymarket Theater at 50 Embarcadero Road tonight at 8 p.m., playing through Nov. 18. The students' production sets the Shakespeare classic in Las Vegas during the early 1960s. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for students. Call 650-329-3857.

"Brilliant Traces," a Cindy Lou Johnson play about two people thrown together in a snowbound



Los Altos artist Carol Mead is exhibiting paintings from Southern France and Spain at Viewpoints Gallery. Pictured is "Mt. Saint-Victoire."

4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. PACO concertmaster Theodore Chao will be the featured artist, performing Mozart's Violin Concerto #4 in D Major. Other pieces will include Chinese folk songs and works by Handel and Boccherini. Tickets are \$5-\$10; call 650-856-3848 or go to www.pacomusic.org.

"Venezuela Rising," a documentary film about the 2004 referendum that failed to recall Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez, will be shown at 7:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church at 305 N. California Ave. in Palo Alto. Filmmaker Catherine Murphy is scheduled to attend. The event, presented by the Peninsula Peace and Justice Center, has a \$5 to \$10 suggested donation. Call 650-326-8837.

The Palo Alto Philharmonic kicks off its chamber music series with an 8 p.m. concert in the Palo Alto Art Center auditorium at 1313 Newell Road. Cellist Thomas Shoebottom and pianist Christopher Jones will be featured, with a program including works by Beethoven, Schubert and Shostakovich. Tickets are \$16 general, \$14 for seniors and \$7 for students. Go to www.paphil.org.

Sunday

The latest **Fortnightly Music Club concert** is at 8 p.m. in the Palo Alto Art Center auditorium at 1313 Newell Road. Musicians performing will include new Fortnightly member Maria Mikheyenko, a Russian soprano; pianist Natalya Lundtvedt; and pianist Amy Chiu. Fortnightly concerts are free; call 650-522-8152.

Del Sol Express, a string quartet featuring Kate Stenberg and Rick Shinozaki on violin, Charleton Lee on viola and Hannah Addario-Berry on cello; holds children's concerts at 2 and 4 p.m. at the Community School of Music and Arts. Music will come from throughout the Americas, including Cuba, Canada and the United States. The school is at 230 San Antonio Circle, and tickets are free. The early performance is meant for younger children. Call 650-917-6800, extension 314.

For more footnotes and footlights from the theater world, go to arts editor Rebecca Wallace's blog. Head for www.PaloAltoOnline.com, and scroll down to **Ad Libs**.

COMING UP IN FRIDAY'S WEEKEND EDITION

Art

An exhibit of antique prints at the Lyons Ltd. gallery in Palo Alto explores "500 Years of Women in Art."



ON THE WEB: Comprehensive entertainment listings at www.PaloAltoOnline.com

Theater

Stanford drama students delve deep into Chekhov's classic "The Cherry Orchard," finding unexpected wells of humor and love.

Movies

Reviews of "Stranger Than Fiction," "A Good Year" and "Babel."

Pioneer
PURE VISION TOUR

You're invited!

SOUND PERFECTION invites you to join us as one of the few Pioneer Elite Dealers in the country to host an Annual Pioneer PureVision Tour. Our customers will be able to purchase some of the newest state-of-the-art Pioneer Elite products including the new **Pioneer Elite 1080p Blu-ray Disc Player**. Pioneer representatives will be on-site for demonstrations and advice.

THREE DAYS ONLY!

Friday, Saturday & Sunday - November 10-12th

Get 10% OFF

ALL PIONEER ELITE PRODUCTS

Mention this ad for a chance to
WIN a FREE Pioneer DVR recorder
and other great prizes!

Pioneer sound.vision.soul



Pioneer PureVision Tour

Sound Perfection: 700 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, CA 94025 • 650-323-1000 • www.soundperfection.com

Movies

Movie reviews by Jeanne Aufmuth, Tyler Hanley, and Susan Tavernetti

MOVIE TIMES

Note: Screenings are for Wednesday through Thursday only.

Accepted (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)	Century 20: 12:15, 2:40 & 9:45 p.m.
Borat! (R) ***1/2	Century 16: 11:40 a.m.; 1:45, 3:50, 4:50, 5:55, 7, 8, 9:10 & 10:05 p.m.; Wed. also at 12:40 & 2:45 p.m. Century 20: 11:50 a.m.; 12:40, 1:55, 2:45, 4, 5:05, 6:15, 7:20, 8:25, 9:30 & 10:30 p.m.
The Bridge (R) ***	Century 16: 11:25 a.m.; 4:15 & 10:25 p.m.
Catch a Fire (PG-13) **1/2	Century 16: 11:10 a.m.; 4 & 9 p.m. Century 12: 12:10, 1:40, 2:40, 4:10, 5:10, 6:50, 7:50, 9:20 & 10:20 p.m.
Conversations with God (PG) (Not Reviewed)	Guild: 2, 4:30, 7 & 9:30 p.m.
The Departed (R) ***1/2	Century 16: 11 a.m.; 12:20, 3:45, 6:20, 7:05 & 10:15 p.m. Century 12: 12:20, 2, 3:50, 5:30, 7:20 & 9:10 p.m.
The Devil Wears Prada (PG-13) ***	Century 20: 6:40 & 9:05 p.m.
Everyone's Hero (G) (Not Reviewed)	Century 20: 11:55 a.m.; 2:20 & 4:30 p.m.
Flags of Our Fathers (R) ***	Century 16: 1:10, 4:05, 6:55 & 9:40 p.m. Century 20: 11:45 a.m.; 12:55, 2:35, 3:50, 5:30, 6:45, 8:20 & 9:40 p.m.
Flicka (PG) (Not Reviewed)	Century 20: 11:30 a.m.; 1:50, 4:05, 6:25 & 8:45 p.m.
Flushed Away (PG) ***	Century 16: 11:30 a.m.; 12:35, 1:35, 2:40, 3:40, 4:45, 5:45, 6:50, 7:50, 8:55 & 9:50 p.m. Century 12: Noon, 12:45, 1:30, 2:30, 3:15, 4, 5, 5:45, 6:30, 7:30, 8:15, 9, 10 & 10:30 p.m.
Gridiron Gang (PG-13) ***	Century 20: 1:25, 4:10, 7:05 & 9:50 p.m.
The Grudge 2 (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)	Century 20: 12:30, 2:50, 5:20, 7:45 & 10:05 p.m.
The Guardian (PG-13) **1/2	Century 20: 11:30 a.m.; 2:30, 5:25 & 8:30 p.m.
The Illusionist (PG-13) ***	Century 20: 11:35 a.m.; 1:55, 4:20, 6:50 & 9:25 p.m.
The Last King of Scotland (R) ***1/2	Century 16: 12:55, 3:55, 6:45 & 9:30 p.m.
Little Miss Sunshine (R) ***	Century 20: 11:50 a.m.; 2:15, 4:40, 7:10 & 9:35 p.m. Aquarius: 2:10, 4:30, 7 & 9:20 p.m.
Man of the Year (PG-13) ***	Century 16: 1:50 & 7:40 p.m. Century 20: 11:40 a.m.; 2:15, 4:50, 7:35 & 10:10 p.m.
Marie Antoinette (PG-13) *1/2	Century 16: 11:20 a.m.; 2, 4:35, 7:25 & 10:10 p.m. Century 12: 12:15, 3:50, 7:10 & 10:25 p.m.
The Marine (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)	Century 12: 9:40 p.m.
Open Season (PG) (Not Reviewed)	Century 12: 11:55 a.m.; 2:15, 4:40 & 7 p.m.

The Prestige (PG-13) 1/2	Century 16: 11:05 a.m.; 1:55, 3:25, 4:45, 7:35, 9:25 & 10:30 p.m. Century 12: 12:40, 3, 4:25, 6:15, 7:40, 9:30 & 10:35 p.m.
The Queen (Not Rated) ****	Century 20: Noon, 2:25, 4:45, 7:15 & 9:35 p.m. Cinéarts at Palo Alto Square: 2, 2:45, 4:20, 5:05, 7, 7:45, 9:25 & 10:05 p.m.
Running with Scissors (R) **	Century 16: 11:15 a.m.; 2, 4:40, 7:20 & 10 p.m. Century 12: 1, 3:55, 7:15 & 10:10 p.m.
The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause (G) (Not Reviewed)	Century 16: 11:55 a.m.; 2:15, 4:30, 5:40, 7:10, 7:55, 9:35 & 10:20 p.m.; Wed. also at 1 & 3:20 p.m. Century 20: 11:35 a.m.; 12:50, 2, 3:20, 4:25, 5:50, 7, 8:15, 9:20 & 10:30 p.m.
Saw III (R) (Not Reviewed)	Century 16: 11:45 a.m.; 1:20, 2:30, 4:55, 6:30, 7:30 & 9:55 p.m. Century 20: 11:45 a.m.; 12:25, 1:05, 1:45, 2:20, 2:55, 3:40, 4:15, 4:55, 5:35, 6:15, 6:55, 7:30, 8:05, 8:50, 9:30, 10 & 10:35 p.m.
The Science of Sleep (R) (Not Reviewed)	Aquarius: 2:50 & 7:40 p.m.
Shortbus (Not Rated) **	Aquarius: 5:10 & 10 p.m.
Step Up (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)	Century 20: 5 & 7:25 p.m.

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

Internet address: For show times, plot synopses, trailers, theater addresses and more information about films playing, go to Palo Alto Online at <http://www.PaloAltoOnline.com/>



ON THE WEB: The most up-to-date movie listings at www.PaloAltoOnline.com

STANFORD THEATRE

The Stanford Theatre is at 221 University Ave. in Palo Alto. Screenings are for Wednesday and Thursday. For more information, go to www.stanfordtheatre.org.

Tobacco Road (1941) Charley Grapewin plays the lazy but lovable Jeeter Lester in John Ford's version of the play that ran eight years on Broadway. 7:30 p.m.

The Grapes of Wrath (1940) Members of a poor Midwest family are forced off their land and travel to California in the midst of the Great Depression. Starring Henry Fonda and directed by John Ford. Based on the Pulitzer Prize winning novel by John Steinbeck. 5:10 & 9:05 p.m.

CinéArts
at Palo Alto Square
Art, Independent and Specialty Films
3000 El Camino at Page Mill Road
www.centurytheatres.com
(650)493-3456 or 1-800-Fandango#914
Matinees Daily • Bargain Shows in ()
Sat/Sun/Hol - All Shows before 2pm
ALL DIGITAL • ROCKING LOVESEATS

Helen Mirren
THE QUEEN (PG-13)
Wed. & Thu. 2-2:45-4:20-5:05-7:45-9:25-10:05

Times Valid for Wednesday, 11/8 thru Thursday, 11/9 Only © 2006

Give blood for life!
STANFORD BLOOD CENTER
Stanford Medical School
Blood Center

Share a part
of your life –
Give blood

1-888-723-7831

<http://BloodCenter.Stanford.edu>

Stratford School Preschool and Elementary School in Palo Alto!

To learn more about Stratford or to schedule a tour,
please call (650) 493-1151 or email pa@stratfordschools.com.



www.stratfordschools.com





SUNNYVALE... Beautiful and spacious 1 year new condo within a short distance todowntown Sunnyvale. 3 master Bedroom suites, 3 full Baths, Granite kitchen. LR/DR.

PAUL SKRABO \$679,000



MENLO PARK...The ultimate West Menlo Park lifestyle. 4 Bedroom suites / 5 bath. A magnificent property located in a sought after location bordering Atherton, yet close to downtown. Set in a private cul-de-sac off prestigious San Mateo Drive, is this classic updated ranch home. A gracious one-level floor plan, abundant wrap around porches and sprawling lawns offer the perfect venue for indoor/outdoor living.

JAMI ARAMI \$3,270,000



MENLO PARK...Magestic Oaks and Redwoods surround this beautifully landscaped home located on one of the most desirable streets in West Menlo Park. This spacious remodeled six bedroom, four bath home combines a thoughtful floor plan with tasteful appointments and quality workmanship. Ideal for comfortable living with a serene atmosphere.

SUSAN FURSTMAN \$3,650,000



ATHERTON...A large, wrap around driveway welcomes you to this traditional ranch home located in the desirable Lindenwood location. This 5BR / 3BA home boasts a formal entry, formal dining room, and dual sided fireplace. Set on a generous & private landscaped lot w/fruit trees. Sunny, tree-lined backyard offers a deck for gatherings and entertaining.

JOHN COYLE \$3,095,000



MENLO PARK...Stunning 3bd/2.5ba rebuilt home. Large gourmet kitchen opens to great room, separate dining/living room and den. Home features gorgeous finishes throughout, HWD floors, impressive moldings and natural stone. Private back yard complete with beautiful landscaping and patio.

JAMI ARAMI \$1,349,000



LOS ALTOS... Charming cottage style with modern comforts set on a secluded street. Beautifully remodeled kitchen open to dining and living rooms. Magnificent Master suite with high ceilings, French doors to the garden, and a well appointed marble bath. Wonderful backyard. Top rated Los Altos Schools.

JAMI ARAMI \$1,395,000

ATHERTON

This prime West Atherton flag lot boasts of level, sunny and private land. The lot is cleared and ready to build your dream house! Menlo Park Schools.

Skip Cashin \$3,799,000

Las Lomitas School District. Price reduced! Outstanding W. Atherton value. Tucked behind a berm & private gate is this stunning contemp. 5 bd/3.5ba home w/gorgeous views. 1bd/1ba guesthouse, 1bd/1ba au pair unit, on a large flat, private & very quiet lot! Landscape boasts spectacular gardens, pool, gazebo, sauna, ponds, and waterfalls.

Suzanne Scott \$3,250,000

Stunning Atherton property with views and a charming 3 bedroom, 2 bath home. Remodel or build this property has a pool and priced to sell quickly.

Steve Gray \$2,750,000

EAST PALO ALTO

Very charming 1BD/1BA, updated, new carpet, just painted, new window coverings. Corner unit w/large patio, extra storage.

Gordana Wolfman \$269,000

3BD/2BA plus small office. New pergo flooring throughout. New porch, patio in backyard.

Gordana Wolfman \$135,000

Clean and cozy, just painted inside and out. New carpet and blinds.

Gordana Wolfman \$99,000

LA HONDA

Charming, remodeled, cottage-style home with expansive views. Custom computer center, gourmet kitchen. Stained glass inserts & open floor plan. Hardwood floors, tiled roof, Andersen windows.

Janet Lawson \$499,000

LOS ALTOS

A very elegant and rare 4BR/2.5BA Colonial on a serene tree-lined street. Very large corner lot, fantastic floor plan w/upgrades. Huge Mstr Ste w/sitting Rm. Frml Entry, eat-in kitchen, Frplc in LR, Hdwd flrs, Laundry inside, Utility rm, Patio and 2 car garage.

Victor Platonoff \$1,495,000

MENLO PARK

This exceptional new home with 5BD and 4.5BA is located in highly desirable Menlo Oaks. The two-story open floor-plan includes a chef's kitchen with travertine floors and a balcony overlooking the spacious family room. The many mature trees and lush garden, viewed from the master suites on both floors, create tranquility and peace of mind.

Brian Castile \$2,695,000

Charm and more charm in this perfectly updated home. Highest of quality materials throughout. 2BR/1BA house. Light and bright with hardwood floors, gleaming hardwood floors, crown molding, and 2 car garage. Los Lomitas School District.

Alexandra von der Groeben \$900,000



HOLLISTER... Truly sophisticated 5+ BR / 4+ BA country home on level and lush acreage with 3 stall barn. Spacious and exceptionally well built with total privacy. Generous 2 BR guest house complete with kitchen. Exclusive gated community. Located midway between The Peninsula and Carmel. www.plansandtours.com/658

ALEXANDRA VON DER GROEBEN \$2,650,000

Dramatically remodeled townhouse in Park Forest. New Kitchen, Baths, Cherry hardwood floors, limestone surfaces. Common gardens and pool.

Tom Boeddiker \$1,350,000

Large farmhouse style home with a flexible floor plan. Great potential to upgrade. All bedrooms have adjoining baths. Could create two family living areas or possibility of an extra lot.

Maureen Love \$895,000

Lovely W. Menlo condo residents 55+ only. Spac. 1BD/1BA. Recently Georgous landscaped grnds w/pool. Secured bldg. & parking. Menlo Cmns. Develop.

Helen Gonja \$369,000

MOUNTAIN VIEW

Lovely new 4BR/2.5BA home in unique loc near dwntwn, library, park, Bubb Elem & more! Offers upscale finishes including high ceil, grnt cntrs, hrwd flrs thru-out 1st flr, Indry rm inside, 2 ovens, milgaurd dbl pane windows, frplc in LR.

Dory Marhamat \$1,055,000

Lovely condo in Questa Park area, ready to move in. This second floor beauty was just painted, has new carpet and tile floors. Huge balcony!

Barbara Klem \$379,999

PALO ALTO

Prime Old Palo Alto! Charm abounds in this 4BD/2BA property. Remodeled Gourmet Kitchen, Built ins, Sun porch off LR, 3rd BD w/fireplace. New landscaping and top Palo Alto Schools.

Camille Eder \$2,575,000

PORTOLA VALLEY

This wonderful 3BD/2BA home is located in the Ladera area of Portola Valley. Gourmet kit, updated baths, open living/dining area & patio. Close to schools, transportation and freeways.

Jean Tsui \$1,299,999

SAN JOSE

Investment property located in rapidly transforming neighborhood with new development. Ten units that are being updated while property is on the market. New units available for previewing.

Susan Furstman \$1,495,000

WOODSIDE

Dramatic tree top view lot on lower Patrol Rd. Plans for a large house are in process, design review complete. Survey, soils, geotech done. Build your dream home!

Matt Shanks \$1,395,000

CASHIN

Selling
Northern
California's

Finest
Properties



www.cashin.com

400 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto (650) 853-7100 • 3130 Alpine Road, Portola Valley (650) 529-2900
1377 El Camino Real, Menlo Park (650) 614-3500 • 2989 Woodside Road, Woodside (650) 529-1000
496 First Street, Suite 100, Los Altos (650) 948-8050 • 300 El Camino Real, San Carlos (650) 598-4900
430 N. El Camino Real, San Mateo (650) 343-3700 • 1412 Chapin Avenue, Burlingame (650) 340-9688