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News, announcements and events in your neighborhood

## Community news

## Los Altos Hills girl wins congressional art contest

Congress may be a battleground for politicians, but a painting by a local high-schooler might bring some peace to the proceedings.

Saloni Kalkat, a Los Altos Hills resident who will be an 11th grader at Castilleja School in Palo Alto this fall, won an annual art contest on June 4. Her painting — “Peacemaker” — will be on display in the U.S. Capitol for the next year.

“It’s so cool,” Kalkat said. “It’s honestly just a privilege to know it’s going to be there. I can’t even fathom that.”

Kalkat’s painting, which depicts a young girl holding a dove, won the annual Congressional Art Competition for the 14th Congressional District. She was named the winner at a reception hosted by U.S. Rep. Anna Eshoo, D-Palo Alto, at the Pacific Art League in Palo Alto.

Winning works from districts across the country are displayed in the tunnel between the U.S. Capitol and the Cannon House Office Building in Washington, D.C., according to the contest’s website.

“We all can appreciate the value of art and how important it is to the growth of our chil-



Saloni Kalkat, right, an incoming 11th-grader at Castilleja School, stands with U.S. Rep. Anna Eshoo at the Pacific Art League on June 4. Courtesy of the office of U.S. Rep. Anna Eshoo

dren,” Eshoo said in a written statement.

Kalkat said she originally made the painting for a student art show at her school earlier this year called the “Peacemaker Project.”

“I really thought children were the best representation of peace because they don’t have any bias or prejudice,” Kalkat said.

Kalkat also won third place with “Homage to Monet.” Eric Nels Pedersen, a Woodside resident and Half Moon Bay High School junior, won second place with a painting titled “Flight 93.”

Kalkat said she has been doodling since she

was about 5 years old, but became more serious about art a few years ago. She plans to attend an art program at the University of California, Los Angeles, this summer.

“Right now it’s honestly just a really nice outlet for me,” she said. “I do it for fun, I do it for school.”

— Diana Samuels,  
Daily News staff writer

## Calendar

## Tree walk in College Terrace

**WHAT:** Retired Stanford arborist Herb Fong will lead a tree walk in Palo Alto’s College Terrace neighborhood. According to Canopy, the walk will feature iconic species of the urban forest such as the coast redwood, Douglas fir, coast live oak and valley oak. However, there are other trees to learn about, including a fuzzy-leaved box elder, a California pepper tree native to the Peruvian Andes, a Monterey cypress, a pecan tree and a large deodar cedar.

**WHEN:** Saturday, from 10 a.m. to noon

**WHERE:** The walk will begin at the corner of College Avenue and Oberlin Street in Palo Alto

**COST:** Free

**MORE INFO:** To sign up, visit [www.canopy.org](http://www.canopy.org).

## SCHOOL MATTERS

## College prep chief endorses A-G standards

*Disclosure: I am a donor to the Foundation for College Education, so I had access to its executive director for this column. They are not the only local organization that helps students get into college — the East Palo Alto College Network has at least 10 organizations in it, from the Stanford charter school to the Cleo Eulau Center.*



PREEVA TRAMIEL

Raising high school graduation requirements was the topic of a heated debate at a Palo Alto Unified School District board meeting on May 24.

The change was proposed to help close the achievement gap between students of color and others in the district.

Many parents opposed the change, and Palo Alto High School’s math department wrote a letter to the board, asking trustees not to raise graduation requirements.

PTA Council President Louise Valente said she is concerned about the achievement gap and wonders why it exists.

“What fascinates me are the cultural differences among families, and how they affect

children’s schooling,” she said.

“Palo Alto is a two-tiered system,” said Anna Waring, executive director of the Foundation for a College Education in East Palo Alto. “We have a system where educational privilege gets reproduced.”

Waring sent the board a letter urging that the district adopt the A-G courses mandated by CSU and UC systems as minimum graduation requirements so that all students graduate with the proper coursework.

“What is set as the floor, too often becomes the ceiling,” she wrote.

Parents outside the city assume that enrolling their children in the high-performing school district through its voluntary transfer program will put them on the path to higher education, according to Waring.

“Most are surprised and disappointed to discover that a school system like (Palo Alto Unified) could graduate students who are ineligible to enroll in a California public college or university,” she wrote.

In an interview with School Matters, Waring noted that knowledgeable parents would rather get help for students struggling with a course that is key to getting into a state school than let

them drop it. Parents unfamiliar with the system often see a teacher or counselor’s signature on a drop form, trust the professional’s opinion and let their child drop the class.

“This year alone, (Foundation for a College Education) advocated on behalf of seven students whose (Palo Alto Unified) teachers and counselors were pressuring them to take less demanding classes and encouraging their parents to approve such changes,” Waring said.

The foundation’s goal is to help students from disadvantaged backgrounds get into and graduate college. Students come into the East Palo Alto office several times a week for homework help and tutoring, as well as assistance choosing a college and finding scholarship money. Between eight to 20 students graduate from the program each year.

The foundation is now looking for eighth graders who can start the program in September. To get into the program, students must answer essay questions, submit a letter of recommendation from a teacher and bring a parent for an interview.

A parent or a caring adult must come into the office with the student at least once a month.

For more information about the foundation, visit [www.collegefoundation.org](http://www.collegefoundation.org).

## SAN MATEO COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

## Board prepares to put KCSM-TV up for possible sale

BY NEIL GONZALES  
Bay Area News Group

KCSM-TV, the public-broadcasting fixture housed at College of San Mateo, is headed for a potential sale.

Concerned about the station’s projected \$800,000 structural deficit, the San Mateo County Community College District board directed staff to prepare putting KCSM-TV on the market.

## KCSM-TV FOR SALE

**Annual deficit:** \$800,000

**Expected price:** \$5 million

**Debut date:** 1964 at College of San Mateo

Source: San Mateo County Community College District

“The station has been a legacy to the college. It’ll be a great loss to the community.”

The district owns the license to the KCSM public TV and radio stations, which debuted in 1964 at the college.

“As much as we would like to have the TV station, it seems peripheral to our mission as a higher-education, career-training institution,” board President Richard Holober said. “We can’t continue to carry it as a costly item.”

Lawrence will request proposals from potential buyers. Those proposals could come before the board within a couple months, Lawrence said. The board would then consider whether to approve a



Dan Honda / Bay Area News Group

Broadcast engineer John Hall edits a locally produced painting show at the KCSM-TV facilities at the College of San Mateo in San Mateo on Thursday. KCSM-TV, a longtime Bay Area public broadcasting institution, is headed for a potential sale.

sale, which would require a green light from the Federal Communications Commission.

The television station already has drawn interest from four possible buyers and could fetch about

\$5 million, Lawrence said. She noted by way of comparison that public broadcaster WMFE in Orlando, Fla., is being sold to a religious group for more than \$3 million.

A nonprofit or private group could take over KCSM-TV, she said, but under FCC rules the station would have to remain a noncommercial operation. Still, the diverse mix of programming that viewers have come to expect from the station for nearly half a century would likely be gone, she said.

Lawrence said she doesn’t think getting a buyer will be difficult. The hard part will be the public outcry likely to arise against a sale. That happened earlier this year when the University of San Francisco announced a deal to sell its popular radio station, KUSF.

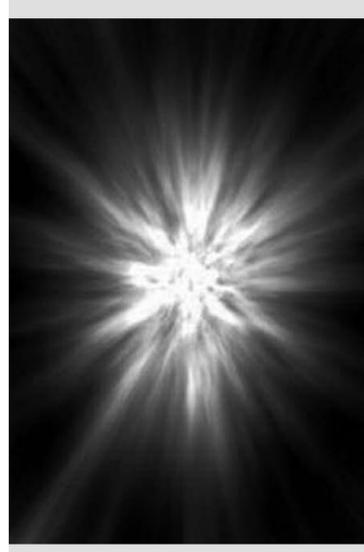
KCSM-TV broadcasts 24 hours a day, delivering shows on travel, health, cooking and various other topics. Its 500,000-watt signal covers all nine Bay Area counties. The station also is carried on about 60 cable systems in the region, with nearly a half-million viewers tuning in each week.

The possibility of a sale has loomed over the station the past couple of years as it has struggled to keep its costs in line. Cutting the station’s budget, leasing a digital stream to an outside programmer, fundraising and other measures have reduced the deficit from about \$1.5 million in the 2009-10 fiscal year to \$800,000, according to Lawrence.

But that hasn’t been enough, trustees said, although they applauded Lawrence’s effort in tackling the deficit. The station continues to be a drain on the district’s general fund, which covers daily operating expenses, they said. The \$800,000 deficit is the equivalent of about 160 class sections that the district can’t offer, board Vice President Dave Mandelkern said.

Stanford Continuing Studies Presents

## Sticky Time: Crowded Fire Theater Workshop Reading



Please join us for a script-in-hand workshop of a new play by Marilee Talkington. *Sticky Time* is a rich, experimental, cross-disciplinary theatrical look at the birth, life, and possible death of time. When twins are created from a Big Bang, they seek to discover their origins before being pulled back into the black hole of “un-time.”

Through the use of fugue-like language and beautiful unconventional movement, we witness the twins concurrently living in the present, past, and future, each attached to Time’s wild fractured narrative.

Participating actors—all Crowded Fire Resident Artists—will include Michele Leavy, Rami Margron, Lawrence Radecker, and Mollena Williams.

Tuesday, June 14 - 7:30 pm  
Pigott Hall (Building 260), Room 113  
FREE; Open to public



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

## Are You Worried About Outliving Your Money?

### Will you ever be able to retire?

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#### YOU WILL LEARN...

- What the top five financial challenges are that you face during your retirement and how you can overcome them!
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or call (650) 325-1695

Thursday, June 23, 2011  
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Cubberley Community Center, Room A-2  
4000 Middlefield Road  
Palo Alto, CA 94303



Presented by Leslie Gross, RFC, CRPC, the founder and president of North Star Retirement Solutions and Planning Services, LLC.



This event is for the general public only. No Financial Advisors, Brokers or Agents Please. Seating is limited to the first 35 responders, so make your reservation now!

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