

## HEART OF THE PENINSULA

**HOME BUILDERS BLITZ** Judith Sim and Paul Salinger, volunteers from Oracle Corporation, help build a home in Brisbane with Habitat for Humanity on Wednesday. Habitat hoped to get frames up on five houses in four days as part of its "Home Builders Blitz 2006."

— Doug Oakley/The Examiner

Tell us who is doing positive things for the Peninsula: [peninsula@examiner.com](mailto:peninsula@examiner.com)



## WHAT'S MAKING NEWS TODAY

Drivers urged to 'Dump the Pump'

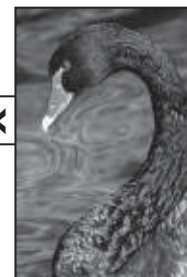
Australian bird exhibit opens at S.F. Zoo <<

Millbrae State of the City breakfast

Special Olympic torch run starts

Alameda County eyes voting machines

75th Annual California Book Awards



Black swans are native to Australia.

## BAY AREA NEWS

### OAKLAND

#### De La Fuente Jr.'s hearing in sex assault case begins

A former prostitute broke down in tears and asked for a break Wednesday after a defense lawyer aggressively cross-examined her.

The 23-year-old woman, identified in court as Jane Doe 2, testified in Alameda County Superior Court that Ignacio Rafael De La Fuente Jr., 33, propositioned her at Fruitvale Avenue and Foothill Boulevard in East Oakland around midnight Aug. 25, 2004. She said he then drove her in his pickup truck to Sixth Avenue and Embarcadero, where he struck her in the face and raped her.

### SAN JOSE

#### Mayor opposes extending BART south in phases

San Jose Mayor Ron Gonzales said Wednesday that he opposes building a 16-mile Santa Clara County Bay Area Rapid Transit extension in phases.

Despite Tuesday's defeat of the Measure A sales tax increase, which Santa Clara County transportation officials were counting on to provide additional funding for the \$4.7 billion BART extension and other transportation projects, Gonzales believes that BART will come to downtown San Jose.

### VACAVILLE

#### Mom delays entering plea to daughter's murder

A Vacaville woman delayed entering a plea Tuesday to the alleged first-degree poisoning murder of her 11-year-old daughter.

Ana Maria Corral, 44, will appear in Solano County Superior Court on June 20 to enter a plea and have an attorney appointed.

Vacaville police arrested Corral on Friday for the alleged prescription drug overdose of her daughter Jennifer on June 1.

### DUBLIN

#### City Council bans medical marijuana shops

The City Council unanimously decided to ban medical marijuana dispensaries.

But the ordinance would not affect clinics, health care facilities, residential care facilities for the elderly or for people with chronic or life-threatening illnesses, or hospices caring for dying patients.

— Wire reports

## TODAY'S TOP STORY >> TRANSIT

# Caltrain considers five-year delay for San Bruno overpass

**Ballooning costs, repairs to system blamed for setback**

By Edward Carpenter  
Staff Writer

**SAN BRUNO** — A train overpass at a dangerous intersection that prompted two years of controversy among residents before it won approval could now be delayed for up to five years, as Caltrain struggles to complete repairs to its aging system.

In July, city officials happily announced that after months of negotiations they had reached agreement on the design details of the overpass — which would divert vehicle and pedestrian traffic under a bridge for trains — and expected construction to begin in mid- to late-2006. But with construction costs having soared to nearly \$200 million since then, and Caltrain working to replace several aging bridges on the

line, the overpass, or grade separation, could now be deferred for two to five years, officials said.

The project includes a grade separation at Angus, San Bruno and San Mateo avenues and a second at S. Linden Avenue in South San Francisco. Pedestrian crossings would be added at Walnut and Sylvan avenues, as well as Scott Street.

"I'd like it done tomorrow, but give me an alternative," said Mayor Larry Franzella, who pointed out that while the city will likely contribute some funds, the grade separation is a Caltrain-led project.

"We understand Caltrain's needs, but have been assured that our grade separation is an absolute top priority because it has been identified as one of the most dangerous intersections in California," said Councilman Jim Ruane, who co-chaired the ad hoc committee that reached consensus on the overpass design.

Three people died and another was seriously injured in two separate accidents on the tracks in the



A long-awaited project to build a train overpass in San Bruno at the convergence of San Bruno and San Mateo avenues could be delayed for two to five years.

— Doug Oakley/The Examiner

vicinity of the proposed project in 2000. Grade separations have been touted as the best way to prevent traffic congestion and reduce accidental deaths on the tracks.

The design and construction costs for the project were originally estimated at between \$140 million to \$175 million, according to officials. While funding isn't the cause of the likely delay, Caltrain is looking into alternatives that would reduce the cost of the work.

With repair work under way on

as many as 25 bridges and other projects in the system, the main cause for the delay is making sure construction doesn't jeopardize on-time performance, Caltrain spokesman Jonah Weinberg said.

The Caltrain board is scheduled to make a decision on whether to delay the project in August. If the project is delayed more than one or two years, Caltrain could build interim grade crossing safety improvements, officials said.

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Yee



Nevin



Papan

# Nevin blames Papan for state Senate seat loss

**But winner Yee's consultant says 'spoiler' effect in race was unlikely**

By Edward Carpenter  
Staff Writer

In the wake of Assemblyman Leland Yee's victory in the contentious state Senate 8th District Democratic primary, opponent Mike Nevin and some political observers are attributing his win to the "spoiler" effect of candidate and former Assemblyman Lou Papan.

Yee, a former San Francisco supervisor, who would be the first Chinese-American to win election to the state Senate should he win in November, was able to walk away with the race because Papan drew votes from former Supervisor Mike Nevin in his home county of San Mateo, according to one pollster.

"[Papan's] presence in the race made it very difficult for Mike Nevin to win, whether it was intentional or unintentional," said Ben Tulchin, an independent pollster for Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research.

It is an argument Nevin has made. He has attributed Papan's candidacy in part to a long-running feud between the two of them dating back at least five years.

"[Papan] is a bitter guy, and his entry into the race changed the dynamics, because I would have been able to concentrate in San Francisco, but instead I had to spend money and time in San Mateo covering my base," Nevin said Wednesday.

"Clearly [Nevin] is upset about the outcome of the race," Papan said, denying he entered as a spoiler. "He's been making the same excuse since he started."

Indeed, if one does the math, Nevin could have edged out Yee, but would have needed nearly 100 percent of Papan's vote, according to elections figures.

Yee won the race to replace state Sen. Jackie Speier, D-San Francisco/San Mateo, for the District 8 seat — which encompasses the western half of San Francisco south to San Mateo and Belmont — with 37,637 votes or 49.7 percent, while Nevin garnered 27,704 or 36.6 percent. Papan managed 10,447, or 13.7 percent.

Yee campaign consultant Jim Stearns called the chance that Nevin would have won 100 percent of Papan's votes "illogical."

Instead, San Mateo County voters would have in all likelihood split along lines similar to Tuesday's results, with Nevin taking about 43 percent and Yee winning 36 percent, still not enough for a Nevin victory, he said.

"In the end, voters looked past endorsements to pick the candidate who had a record of accomplishment on health care, education and environment," Stearns said.

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