

## TODAY'S NEWSMAKERS



Brady

## TOM BRADY

The two-time Super Bowl MVP and Serra High School graduate denies ever meeting Barry Bonds' trainer Greg Anderson. Brady was looking for a place to work out when he called Bonds' personal trainer "five or six years ago," but the two never got together, the New England Patriots quarterback said Thursday. Government lawyers are investigating whether the San Francisco Giants slugger lied under oath when he told an earlier grand jury he didn't know whether his trainer gave him substances that were steroids. In a statement to federal prosecutors unsealed on Wednesday, Anderson said he had spoken to Brady on the phone. "I had only one brief conversation with Tom Brady regarding a potential future workout," Anderson said. "I never had another phone conversation with him and never discussed it with anyone."



Anderson

## NANCY PELOSI

The Democratic House minority leader will return to her home district to help celebrate the grand opening of a new \$11 million student health center building at City College of San Francisco. Paid for with Proposition A bond funds, approved by voters in November 2001, new equipment for the facility was paid for through federal funding secured for the college by Pelosi. Mayor Gavin Newsom, CCSF board of trustees President Natalie Berg and the college's chancellor, Dr. Phillip Day, will also participate in the dedication event today at 11 a.m.



Pelosi

# Habitat for Humanity to begin building homes in South City

Process of getting a home from agency difficult for some; wait can last several years

By David Smith  
Staff Writer

SO. SAN FRANCISCO — When it rains it pours for Stacy Ball-Weaver, who was faced this week with a choice between gambling on her dreams of owning a home or taking the sure thing of a space in public housing.

One of about 100 people jammed into the Magnolia Senior Center in South San Francisco on Wednesday for a meeting on a new Peninsula Habitat for Humanity project, Ball-Weaver said she found herself in a predicament. After religiously checking Peninsula Habitat for Humanity's Web site the last three years to find out when they're building in South City, she received a letter last week from the San Mateo County Housing Authority saying her two-year wait for public housing had paid off and a three-bedroom, two-bathroom townhome in Daly City was hers to rent if she wanted it.

Using volunteer help and private donations, Habitat for Humanity offers homes to low-income families for no down payment and a zero-interest rate mortgage, allowing families to own a home. In their 17 years on the Peninsula, Habitat has built 93 homes and is in the process of building seven in Brisbane. They'll begin the four homes on Commercial Avenue in South City by the end of August and have an eight-home project in Redwood City slated for early 2007.

The sticking point for Ball-Weaver is that to be eligible, applicants must have lived in South City a year. If she accepts the Daly City rental, she's out of the running for a Habitat home.

"I picked a bad time to stop smoking!" she exclaimed at Habitat's meeting. "I've been waiting so long for this. My life is here in South San Francisco but living here on the North Peninsula is hard."

A Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., native, Ball-Weaver is 33 years old with a 16-, 15-, and 10-year-old living at home in their small apartment on Antoinette Lane in South City.

Before settling out here to live near her father,



Noemi Ruelas, left, the homeowner relations manager for Peninsula Habitat for Humanity, helps Juana Murillo, her husband, Jose, and their son, Jose Jr., with documents.

— Richard Batman/Special to The Examiner

Ball-Weaver put herself through Nova Southeastern University in Miami, earning a bachelor's in business management, and she is the sole breadwinner for her household as a construction office manager.

Those at the meeting Wednesday were told there would be a number of hoops they'd have to jump through in order to be eligible for a Habitat home, such as having a good credit history, household size, income range and housing history.

"There are a lot of documents and a lot of requirements, but it's worth it," Noemi Ruelas, Habitat's homeowner relations manager, told the room.

If a family meets all the requirements and turns in all of the necessary paperwork, which includes tax returns, pay stubs and bank statements, it is still a matter of chance whether they are awarded a below-market-rate house. Those chosen are also expected to contribute "sweat-equity," volunteer labor.

"We try to make this process as objective as possible," Habitat spokeswoman Kara Smith said.

Ball-Weaver called the decision to turn down the rental home in Daly City "heartbreaking," noting that it was a gamble.

"I'm a young mother and have been doing this by myself for years," she said. "This community is everything to me."

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## Bomb threat at Millbrae BART

BURLINGAME — Police detained a person suspected of making a bomb threat Thursday afternoon, after someone reportedly claimed in a phone call to have explosives meant for the Millbrae and San Francisco International Airport BART stations.

BART police learned of the bomb threat shortly after 4:30 p.m.

Authorities evacuated Millbrae City Hall as a precaution and brought out bomb-sniffing dogs to check trains waiting at the two stations, because the caller was somewhat unclear as to where in Millbrae might be a target. Initial

investigations into the threat found no explosives, however, according to airport spokesman Mike McCarron and BART officials.

BART Police Sgt. Eugene Wong, who was the incident commander on Thursday, said he didn't know whether the suspect was a man or a woman.

The Burlingame Police Department did not return phone calls by press time.

"It appeared there was nothing to the threat. Our police checked it out and determined everything was safe," BART spokesman Jim Allison said. — Staff reports



Officer Kay Smith runs a K-9 unit through the Millbrae BART station. A bomb scare was called into the Burlingame Police Department about 4 p.m. Thursday. — Courtesy photo

### UNDERFUNDED MTC PROJECTS

#### SONOMA-MARIN RAIL:

Project cost: \$350M Unmet cost: \$222M

#### MUNI'S NEW CENTRAL SUBWAY:

Project cost: \$1.2B Unmet cost: \$339M

#### TRANSBAY TERMINAL:

Project cost: \$3.4B Unmet cost: \$1.4B

#### CALTRAIN ELECTRIFICATION:

Project cost: \$471M Unmet cost: \$94M

#### ALTAMONT COMMUTER EXPRESS:

Project Cost: \$219M Unmet cost: \$150M

Source: MTC's Regional Transit Expansion Policy — Funding Strategy report

## Multibillion-dollar shortfall plagues 19 area transit projects

By Joshua Sabatini  
Staff Writer

A \$2.3 billion shortfall in building costs hangs over the heads of a number of the 19 major transportation projects in the pipeline for the Bay Area.

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission, a planning agency for nine counties including San Francisco, has placed 19 transportation projects on a priority list that will significantly change Bay Area transportation during the next 25 years.

The fate of these projects ultimately depends on whether the financing is secured, according to James Corless, MTC senior planner.

In 2001, the commission adopted what is known as Resolution 3434, a priority list for transportation projects.

A similar resolution, adopted by the commission in 1988, resulted in the construction of BART to the San Francisco International Airport and the Third Street light-rail extension in San Francisco.

There are seven transportation projects that are underfunded for a total of \$2.3 billion. Often, projects compete against one another when federal or state money becomes available.

For example, a new federal grant will be used to help fund a \$175 million express bus service between Berkeley, Oakland and San Leandro. And this funding choice may upset those San Franciscans who advocate transit improvements along Geary Boulevard and the Van Ness corridor.

"Folks in San Francisco say, 'Hey, what about Geary? What about Van Ness?' I don't think that means that we're necessarily not going to actually advocate for that project," Corless said, adding that politics plays a role.



Workers put the finishing touches on the Third Street light rail extension.

— Cindy Chew/The Examiner

In April, the commission revised Resolution 3434 to include an increase in ferry service. The ferry service expansion includes a new South San Francisco terminal that will focus on the commuters, such as those employed at the leading biotechnology company, Genentech Inc. Service additions will also include Berkeley and Richmond.

Another project on the list is the BART extension to San Jose. This project remains uncertain with much of the construction costs in place, but not the operating costs. "I think you are going to see BART to Warm Springs. The question is how much further the classic BART will extend beyond that," Corless said.

Corless predicted that the next project to go live on the list is the Dumbarton Rail, running from Union City to Redwood City and San Jose.

"Dumbarton has its financing pretty well together," Corless said.

The financial picture is likely to change. Since 2001, construction costs have increased by 20 percent, creating the \$2.3 billion shortfall, Corless said. "The longer it takes us to build these things, the harder it is and the more expensive it is," he said.

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