For workers with disabilities, a place to grow

Page 5

We’re making a list, checking it twice

Our guide to holiday happenings

Page 13

Donate to the HOLIDAY FUND page 4

Neighborhoods 9  Eating Out 20  Shop Talk 20  Movies 22

Books  Author compiles father’s WWI letters home  Page 24
Home  Appliances blend smart tech, style  Page 25
Sports  Menlo runner looks to get ahead of the pack  Page 33
IMAGINE IF WE CAN fix DAMAGED heart valves WITHOUT open heart surgery, what we can do for HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE.

Medical innovation isn’t just for the rarest of rare. Every day, we bring together the greatest minds to find new ways to both treat and prevent illness—no matter what state of health you’re in. See everything we offer at stanfordhealthcare.org.

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**3 BED  |  2 BATH**

Designed for homeowners aged 55+, THE HAMILTON offers all of the benefits of home ownership along with superb amenities such as high staff to resident ratio, transportation services, 24-hour security, on-site handyman and housekeeping services, concierge services, gourmet meals, heated indoor pool, fitness facilities, guest rooms and meeting rooms.

This prime, top-floor three bedroom, two bathroom unit has a private balcony facing the quiet, light filled inner courtyard. The architecture, high quality construction and professional management provide the beauty and excellence discriminating owners won’t find anywhere else on the Peninsula.

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Information deemed reliable, but not guaranteed. Buyer to verify all information to their satisfaction.
## Last Year's Grant Recipients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 Books A Home</td>
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<td>Abilities United</td>
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<td>Ada's Café</td>
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<td>Adolescent Counseling Services</td>
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<td>DreamCatchers</td>
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<td>Friends of Palo Alto Junior Museum &amp; Zoo</td>
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<td>St. Francis of Assisi Youth Club</td>
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<td>St. Vincent de Paul</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Speaks Out</td>
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### Support our Kids

Each year the Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund raises money to support programs serving families and children in the Palo Alto area. Since the Weekly and the Silicon Valley Community Foundation cover all the administrative costs, every dollar raised goes directly to support community programs through grants to non-profit organizations.

And with the generous support of matching grants from local foundations, including the Packard, Hewlett, Peery and Arrillaga foundations, your tax-deductible gift will be doubled in size. A donation of $100 turns into $200 with the foundation matching gifts.

Whether as an individual, a business or in honor of someone else, help us reach our goal of $350,000 by making a generous contribution to the Holiday Fund.

With your generosity, we can give a major boost to the programs in our community helping kids and families.

### Give to the Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund

[Donate online at siliconvalleycf.org/paw-holiday-fund](https://www.siliconvalleycf.org/paw-holiday-fund)

All donors and their gift amounts will be published in the Palo Alto Weekly unless the boxes below are checked.

- [ ] I wish to contribute anonymously.
- [ ] Please withhold the amount of my contribution.
- [ ] Please make checks payable to: Silicon Valley Community Foundation

Send coupon and check, if applicable, to:

Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund

2440 West El Camino Real, Suite 300

Mountain View, CA 94040

The Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund is a donor advised fund of Silicon Valley Community Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization. A contribution to this fund allows your donation to be tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.
New system tracks sexual misconduct, discrimination

Palo Alto Unified interim Title IX officer reflects on progress achieved, to be made
by Elena Kadvany

A new system for reporting and tracking reports of discrimination, harassment and bullying is providing these issues higher visibility across the Palo Alto school district. It’s capturing everything from the benign to the serious, and bullying is providing these system with a way to better monitor and respond.

During a game of tag, for example — to potential sex crimes. No matter the nature of the offense, cases logged in this system are being formally investigated and monitored by the district’s Title IX compliance officer. This system and other changes put in place in the wake of community uproar this spring over how the district handled a Palo Alto High School sexual-assault case are evidence of progress on issues that have been entrenched for years, said John DiPaolo, the district’s interim Title IX compliance officer.

“I think that everyone agrees there’s too much sexual misconduct (and) sexual harassment in the schools,” he said in a recent interview with the Weekly, shortly after exiting the role. “I think that the whole district is responding to the reality. I also think that the response is at this point genuine and very meaningful.”

DiPaolo, an education attorney and Obama administration appointee who worked in the U.S. Department of Education for six years, was hired in response to concerns over how the district handled the Paly case, in which a male junior reportedly forced a female freshman to perform oral sex in a campus bathroom. A law firm later found that both district and Paly administrators failed to comply with state and federal law, as well as district policy. The case revealed persistent gaps in how the district responds to not only sexual harassment but other forms of discrimination.

(continued on page 8)

CITY HALL

East Palo Alto mayor lauds ‘city on the move’
State of the City address highlights development, safety, housing and infrastructure achievements
by Sue Dremann

Celebrating East Palo Alto’s transformation on Monday night, Nov. 20, Mayor Larry Moody pointed to the city’s achievements this year, which he said have kicked open the door to a new progressive era in the once-troubled city.

“We are no longer the ‘90s,” Moody said of his transition as interim mayor for the year. “The more u grow at the cafe the more responsibility you will need to get their buzz up,” he said. “I can joke with them in a way that makes them want to come back.”

Cerf is one of the 34 people with disabilities who are finding employment through their jobs at Ada’s Cafe, a nonprofit that aims to give work opportunities to this group and to change the face of retail. They work out of a small, inviting coffee shop that opened in 2014 next to the Mitchell Park Library or in the commercial kitchen in Mountain View, where all the food is made with organic ingredients. Many of them are trained to be a jack-of-all-trades who can take orders, prepare food, deliver orders and clean up, among other duties.

“The more u grow at the cafe the more responsibility you will have and more trust in your self and more trust with people who work with u every day,” Cerf said in a follow-up email.

The workers’ disabilities include traumatic brain injuries, Down syndrome and autism spectrum disorders. Their employment is significant: National

(continued on page 10)
CITY OF PALO ALTO

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THIS IS A SUMMARY OF COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS. THE AGENDA WITH COMPLETE TITLES INCLUDING LEGAL DOCUMENTATION CAN BE VIEWED AT THE BELOW WEBPAGE:

http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/gov/agendas/default.asp

(TENTATIVE) AGENDA—SPECIAL MEETING—COUNCIL CHAMBERS

NOVEMBER 27, 2017 @ 5:00 PM

CLOSURE SESSION

1. CONFERENCE WITH CITY ATTORNEY-POTENTIAL LITIGATION
   Significant Exposure to Litigation Under Section 54956.9(g)(2)
   (One Potential Case, as Defendant) – Palo Alto-Stanford Fire Protection Agreement

STUDY SESSION

2. Study Session of the City Council and the Utilities Advisory Commission

3. SB 355–Mailing PLN-00039. Applicant Requests a Prescreening Discussion for a Possible Text Amendment That Would Allow Development Exceptions for Rooftop Decks Within the Downtown Area, Including the Subject Property, Environmental Assessment: (Continued From October 30, 2017)

CONSENT CALENDAR

5. Approval of Change Order Number 1 to Contract No. S17165567 with Monterey Mechanical Co. Adding $300,000 in Compensation for a Total Contract Amount Not-to-Exceed $550,000 for the 2016-2017 Emergency Construction Services Project funded in Wastewater Treatment Enterprise Fund Capital Improvement Program, Project WQ-04011 at the Regional Water Quality Control Plant

6. Approval of a Purchase Order With Peterson Caterpillar in the Amount of $334,857 for the Purchase of Four 2018 Caterpillar Model 420F2 HPC Backhoe Loaders

7. Approval of a Contract with Strawn Construction, Inc. in the Amount of $5,944,000 for the First Station No. 3 Replacement Project; Authorization for the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute Related Change Orders Not-to-Exceed $594,400 in Total Value; Approval of Amendment 1 to Contract C16163034 with Nova Partners, Inc. to Increase Compensation by $359,264 for Construction Management Services for Fire Station No. 3; and Approve a Budget Amendment in the Capital Improvement Fund

8. Adoption of a Resolution to Designate an Aleppo Pine at 1231 Parkinson Avenue as Heritage Tree Number 8

9. SECOND READING: Adoption of an Ordinance Establishing Speed Limit for Certain Streets Pursuant to the California Vehicle Code and Amending Palo Alto Municipal Code Chapter 10.56 (Special Speed Zones) to Establish Such Speed Limits, Including Increased Speed Limits of 40 MPH on Two Roadway Segments and Reduced Speed Limits of 20 MPH Within School Zones During School Hours. When Children Are Present (FIRST READING: November 7, 2017 PASSED: 8-0 DuBois absent)

ACTION ITEMS

10. PUBLIC HEARING—Highway 101 Pedestrian/Bicycle Overpass and Adobe Creek Reach Trail Project (17PLN-00212). Adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration, Mitigation Monitoring Plan, Park Improvement Ordinance, and Record of Land Use Action to Allow Construction of a Multi-Use Parkway and Bicycle Overpass Structure Over Highway 101 Near San Antonio Road, Connect the Adobe Creek Bridge and Adobe Creek Reach Trail, and Reconfiguration of the Adjacent Parking Lot at 3600 West Bayshore Road

STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The City Council Rail Committee Meeting will be held in the Community Meeting Room on Wednesday, November 29, 2017 at 8:00 AM for: 1) Review and Comment on Draft Agenda and Consent Calendar Study White Paper and 2) Review and Provide Direction on Draft Community Questionnaire #2

UPFRONT

ROOM TO ROOM ... Palo Alto’s dog owners, rejoice! Your faithful companion will soon have a new place to frolic without a leash. After nearly a decade of talking about the need to add dog parks, the city is getting ready to actually build one at Peers Park. On Tuesday, the Parks and Recreation Commission is set to approve a “park improvement ordinance” to create an off-leash area at the back of the park, near to the Caltrain tracks. After the council does the same, the city will solicit bids for a contractor and then construct the 0.72-acre park, which will include a vinyl-clad chain-link fence, separate enclosures for large and small dogs; picnic tables; trash receptacles; a bag dispenser; water fountains for dogs; and wind screens for the adjacent tennis courts.

RISING ABOVE ... Palo Alto’s own Vincent Zhou is a living example of bouncing back from low points: case in point — his reaction to a ninth-place finish at the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Internationaux de France on Nov. 17. The 17-year-old fell twice during the first performance to “Chasing Cars” by Snow Patrol. Despite the mishaps, he redeemed himself in his second performance to the “Moulin Rouge” soundtrack. He ended the performance with a triple Lutz single-loop-triple flip combination, according to U.S. Figure Skating. The athlete, who’s in his first season, earned 222.21 points overall last weekend. When the competition was over Vincent neatly handwritten a two-page letter to sort out his feelings and later posted the message on Twitter. “Today, I fought. I performed with all the passion and spirit I have. I amcredibly proud of all we’ve accomplished,” Zhou wrote in a statement. “Today, I fought. I performed with all the passion and spirit I have. I am incredibly proud of all we’ve accomplished.”

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“We are no longer the 90’s.” — Larry Moody, East Palo Alto mayor, on the state of the city. See story page 5.

Around Town

Jocelyn Dong (223-6514)

Spectrum Editor

Assistant Sports Editor

Home & Real Estate Editor

PUBLISHER

Rick Eymer (223-6516)

PUBLISHER

Elizabeth Lorenz (223-6534)

Spectrum Editor

Assistant Sports Editor

Home & Real Estate Editor

PUBLISHER

Jamey Padojino

PUBLISHER

Upfront

We are no longer the ’90s.

around town

Palo Alto’s dog owners, rejoice! Your faithful companion will soon have a new place to frolic without a leash. After nearly a decade of talking about the need to add dog parks, the city is getting ready to actually build one at Peers Park. On Tuesday, the Parks and Recreation Commission is set to approve a “park improvement ordinance” to create an off-leash area at the back of the park, near to the Caltrain tracks. After the council does the same, the city will solicit bids for a contractor and then construct the 0.72-acre park, which will include a vinyl-clad chain-link fence, separate enclosures for large and small dogs; picnic tables; trash receptacles; a bag dispenser; water fountains for dogs; and wind screens for the adjacent tennis courts. This project is part of the city’s broader effort to expand the city’s meager inventory of dog parks, which currently includes little green slivers at Hoover and Greer parks (each is less than 0.15 acres in area) and a larger off-leash area at Mitchell Park. (0.52 acres) near to the Caltrain tracks. A new park plans that the council adopted earlier this fall calls for these three dog parks to be expanded. It also identifies the spaces where dog owners could accommodate exercising canines: Eleanor Pardee Park, Bowden Park, Robles Park, Kingsley Island, Werry Park, Juana Briones Park and Heritage Park. In the past, city officials had encountered some resistance from neighbors of parks where they considered putting dog runs. That does not appear to be the case at Peers Park.

CORPORATE SHAKE-UP ...

Former California governor hopeful Meg Whitman will be stepping down as CEO of Palo Alto-based Hewlett Packard Enterprise effective Feb. 1. She will be replaced by Antonio Neeri, who will continue as the company’s president. “I am incredibly proud of all we’ve accomplished since I joined HP in 2011. Today, Hewlett Packard moves forward as four industry-leading companies that are each well positioned to win in their respective markets,” Whitman said in a press release Tuesday. “Now is the right time for Antonio and a new generation of leaders to take the reins of HPE. I have tremendous confidence that they will continue to build a great company and thrive well into the future.” Her six-year tenure is filled with many changes — notably the organization’s split from HP Inc. in 2015 and plans to take its global headquarters south to Santa Clara made public on Nov. 2; Neeri, an HP employee since 2005, was hired as a computer service engineer, has worked closely with his soon-to-be predecessor, said Pat Russo, chair and HPE’s board of directors. “HPE is in a tremendous position to win, and we remain focused on executing our strategy, driving our innovation agenda, and delivering the next wave of shareholder value,” Neeri said in a statement.

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A number of local organizations are working to make the holiday season bright for those in need, and they depend on donations and volunteers from the community to make it all possible. Read on for ways to turn your time and treasure into Christmas gifts to less fortunate children. The organization’s local chapter can use volunteers to help sort, count and prepare toys at its San Jose warehouse; pick up donation boxes throughout Santa Clara County; and help at any of the numerous Toys for Tots events. Residents can also donate new and unwrapped toys at the following locations in Palo Alto through Dec. 18:

- Nordstrom, Stanford Shopping Center, 550 Stanford Shopping Center, Palo Alto.
- SuperCuts, 2190 W. Bayshore Road, Suite 170, Palo Alto.
- Alex and Ani, 180 El Camino Real, Space #206B, Palo Alto.
- Premier Property Management, 539 Alma St., Palo Alto.
- WilmerHale, 950 Page Mill Road, Palo Alto.

Information: Toys for Tots Volunteer Coordinator, SGT. Jeremy Tapp at 669-223-1859.

If your 501(c)3 organization is in need of volunteers and donations, please email us and we would like to be listed in the online version of this article, posted at PaloAltoOnline.com, contact Associate Editor Linda Taaffe at ltaaffe@pawweekly.com.

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**Palo Alto set to approve new bike bridge**

Overpass at Adobe Creek would give residents new path to the Baylands

by Gennady Sheyner

The Palo Alto City Council will consider approving on Nov. 27 a pedestrian and bike bridge over U.S. Highway 101, to be located approximately 0.3 miles north of San Antonio Road. Construction would not begin for at least a year.

The Christmas Bureau of Palo Alto, set to approve new bike bridge

The Palo Alto City Council will consider approving on Nov. 27 a pedestrian and bike bridge over U.S. Highway 101, to be located approximately 0.3 miles north of San Antonio Road. Construction would not begin for at least a year.

Chair Michael Alcheck agreed, noting that the proposed structure is both “a recreational bridge” and “a commuter tool.” The project, he said, is not perfect but is “good enough.”

Alcheck said he had found the design competition for the bridge “thrilling” and “fun,” despite the fact that none of the designs from the contest ultimately won the council’s support.

“I think this result is very emblematic of the challenge of satisfying everyone,” Alcheck said. “When we went through

(continued on page 10

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**Ways to help during the holidays**

Midpeninsula nonprofit agencies offer plenty of opportunities to spread holiday cheer by Linda Taaffe

Information: christianbudreau@paloalto.org.

**Ecumenical Hunger Program,** East Palo Alto

Every holiday season, Ecumenical Hunger Program provides low-income families in East Palo Alto, Palo Alto, Menlo Park and surrounding communities with gifts and food through three special programs: The Family Sharing Program, which matches donors with families with special needs; The Teen Gifts Program, which provides gifts to local teens who are often overlooked; the Holiday Box Distribution program, which hands out food boxes that include nonperishable and perishable items needed to make Christmas dinner with plenty of leftovers for the following week.

Information: echpcares.org or email lakeshak@echpcares.org.

**Junior League Gift Drive for North Bay Wildfire Victims,** Palo Alto

The Junior League of Palo Alto-Mid Peninsula is teaming up with the Junior League of Napa Sonoma I for a children’s gift drive to benefit victims of the North Bay wildfires. New holiday gifts for children in kindergarten through sixth grade will be collected on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Historic Gatehouse, 555 Ravenswood Ave., Menlo Park.

Donations will benefit the 408 students of Abraham Lincoln Elementary School in Santa Rosa. Wish list items include puzzles, books, Legos and any other age-appropriate gifts. The Junior League asks donors to wrap all gifts and label them with the appropriate age range and gender, if applicable — but unwrapped gifts and gift cards also are appreciated.

Information: thejuniorleague.org.

**LifeMoves, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Redwood City**

LifeMoves combats homelessness through modern housing and intensive supportive services, including teaching comprehensive life skills. The nonprofit is running a variety of holiday programs. Through Adopt-a-Household, every client at LifeMoves will receive two holiday-gift wishes. The organization is seeking people to purchase the specific gifts asked for by a family or by just one family member. A drop-off time and location will be assigned to those who sign up. The Holiday Dinner Basket program ensures that every homeless family will be able to enjoy a holiday meal together, donations of dinner baskets are needed (drop-off dates are Dec. 18-19). Through the Holiday Meal program, people who volunteer will serve a holiday meal at a LifeMoves site.

Information: lifemoves.org or contact the volunteer coordinator at volunteer@lifemoves.org or 650-685-5880, ext. 180.

**Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund,** Palo Alto

The Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund makes an impact on thousands of people’s lives each year by raising money for programs serving families and children in need in the Palo Alto and East Palo Alto area. Over the past 25 years, the annual charitable giving campaign has distributed more than $6 million to local nonprofits, including 51 agencies this year. The fund is managed by pro bono by the Palo Alto Weekly and the Silicon Valley Community Foundation. None of the donated funds is used for overhead expenses. This year’s goal is to raise $350,000.

Information: PaloAltoOnline.com/holiday_fund.

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**Toys for Tots,** Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Mountain View

The U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program collects new, unwrapped toys to distribute as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children. The organization’s local chapter can use volunteers to help sort, count and prepare toys at its San Jose warehouse; pick up donation boxes throughout Santa Clara County; and help at any of the numerous Toy for Tots events. Residents can also donate new and unwrapped toys at the following locations in Palo Alto through Dec. 18.

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- Premier Property Management, 539 Alma St., Palo Alto.
- WilmerHale, 950 Page Mill Road, Palo Alto.

data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics showed a 0.5 percent unemployment rate for people with disabilities last year, nearly double the national average. The unemployment rate for people with disabilities is 10 times the average of a local area, Executive Director Kathleen Foley-Hughes said.

The nonprofit has also hired a Syrian refugee who immigrated to the United States and landed in the Bay Area, where he said he applied for more than 50 jobs before coming to work at the cafe.

To support the work of Ada's Cafe, the Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund gave a $5,000 grant last year, which allowed the organization to fill a shortfall between the cafe's revenues and the costs of running the operation.

“I think last year there were a lot of pressure from both our government and we don't want people to not afford to come. We try to be good about that," she said.

On-the-job training is a vital component to maintaining an efficient work environment.

“When you’re talking about working with people with disabilities, each person has a plan,” Foley-Hughes said.

John Collins, 53, of Palo Alto, is learning how to create latte art from his co-workers. Hearts and bears are pretty easy to draw, but he said he would be nice to create a yin yang symbol on foam.

“I didn’t really get to make coffee drinks before on the espresso machine,” said Collins, who has previously worked in food service.

DiPaolo said it was nice to see people who you really like … who you care about, too,” Powell Gaynor is comfortable behind the cash register and cleaning tables but now finds himself relearning food preparation and bringing in orders in a timely manner, which he said can become overwhelming.

The 21-year-old employee originated from Mount Vernon when he was hired, but now works on the weekends while he spends the weekdays in San Jose as a San Jose City College student. He aspires to become a humanitarian and to one day take part in relief efforts.

Gaynor is learning the ropes of the espresso machine by watching his fellow co-workers.

“When I observed it I was like, ‘Oh, OK, that’s not so bad.’ It’s just like a couple steps and you’re done," he said.

The job requires taking on multiple responsibilities, which fosters a sense of independence among the workers, who strive to create a place for the community to indulge in a good meal.

For this purpose, it allows everyone who might have a hard time getting a job otherwise … (be) able to work here, and they can feel like they’re a regular person,” Gaynor said.

More information on the Holiday Fund, including how to donate, can be found on page 4 and online at PaloAltoOnline.com/holiday_fund.

Digital Editor Jamey Padojino can be emailed at jpadojino@paloaltonline.com.
Neighborhoods
A roundup of neighborhood news edited by Sue Dremann

Around the Block

EDGEOUD GROCER NEARS OPENING ... Just in time for holiday festivities, The Market at Edgewood is shooting for a soft opening on Nov. 29, according to Mustafa and Emel Mutlu, owners of the family-run store. Duveneck-St. Francis and Crescent Park residents have long awaited a new market to replace The Fresh Market, which closed at the Eichler-built shopping center in March 2015 after less than two years of business there. That store was owned by an East Coast-based corporation, which decided to pull out of all of its ventures in California. Neighbors hope that a family-run operation with local roots will have more staying power. The Mutlu family, which also owns Crystal Springs Produce in San Mateo, recently sat down for an interview with neighborhood activists Carla Carvalho, Jeff Levinsky and Lenore Gymes to discuss the new grocery store. Highlights from the interview: The store will be open daily from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., with hours possibly adjusted to best serve the community. It will not be a discount market in the Trader Joe’s tradition, but it will offer high-quality at good value, the Mutlus said. The store will sell take-out meals, fresh fruits and vegetables, and some pan-Asian and pan-European products, among general grocery items. “We want to listen, listen and listen so we can shape our products and programs to what the community needs,” they said.

HAPPY (DONKEY) ANNIVERSARY ... Barron Park donkey Perry and playmate Jenny, a rescue donkey from southern California, marked their one-year anniversary this month. It’s been a year since Jenny was brought into the pasture next to Bol Park after Perry’s longtime companion, Mixer 49er, died. Now, a new donkey website is in the works, with a planned launch in December. Resident Jenny Kiratli is asking for people to send their favorite stories, memories and pictures of the animals to jkiratli@yahoo.com for publication on the website. Perry and Jenny are housed on land made available by private landowner James Witt, and the public can view and take pictures of them from outside the pasture fence or visit them Sundays, 10-11 a.m., under the supervision of donkey handlers.

Donations for the donkeys’ care and feeding can be made at barronparkdonkeys.org or directly to Acterra, 3521 East Bayshore Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303. (Indicate “Donkeys” on the donation.)

Christine Stafford stands outside of her home in Barron Park in front of the redwood tree grown from a seed flown in the space shuttle Challenger in 1985. 2017 marks the 30th anniversary of the planting of this and about 125 other space-shuttle redwood seedlings in Palo Alto.

Still standing in tribute
Redwood trees grown from seeds that traveled on the space shuttle Challenger thrive in Palo Alto
by Sue Dremann

In Palo Alto’s Peers Park stand redwood trees that as infants traveled farther than many people do in their lifetimes.

On July 29, 1985, space shuttle Challenger astronaut Loren Acton carried a package of redwood seedlings from Palo Alto’s eponymous tree, El Palo Alto, into space as a goodwill gesture for his hometown. Circling the earth for seven days, 22 hours, 45 minutes and 26 seconds at speeds up to 17,500 miles per hour, the seeds made 216 orbits, traveling 2,868,514 miles.

Not bad for the oldest living species on the planet. At the time, El Palo Alto itself was already more than 1,000 years old.

Little did Acton know at the time, but his gesture would take on added significance just six months later when the Challenger crew perished in a disastrous explosion after launch. In 1987, 20 of the space-shuttle saplings were planted in a grove at Peers Park on Park Boulevard in remembrance of the Challenger astronauts. Now, 30 years later, the grove of the surviving 10 trees towers above a slate commemorative plaque.

The rest of the 125 saplings were given away, planted in home yards throughout Palo Alto. No one has tracked how many still live, City Arborist Dave Dockter said.

Some have assumed places of stature in their neighborhoods. One tree in the 600 block of Matadero Avenue has reached a majestic height — 60 to 80 feet — dwarfing nearby 40-foot utility poles.

Homeowner Christine Stafford said she acquired the sapling after her sister, who was visiting from Boston, read about Palo Alto’s giveaway of the special plants on Arbor Day 1987. Her sister and Stafford’s then-12-year-old son, Jeremy, went to pick up the sapling, which was grown by the Saratoga Horticultural Society.

Space flight doesn’t seem to have altered the tree’s genetics in any way, Stafford said, adding that “it grew really fast.” She did not attribute its vigor to space travel, however.

Admiring the dark green, luxuriant fronds and deep russet bark, she said the tree thrived on its own because it received healthy doses of an earthly element: water. The tree showed signs of stress in the fourth year of the Bay Area’s drought, so she chose to keep water ing it rather than moving it to a new location.

Stafford has her own history with redwoods. When she was 13, her mother sent her father to purchase eucalyptus trees for their home, which is located around the corner from where she now lives. He came home with several redwoods after a nurseryman talked him into buying the trees. Those specimens are now robust 56-year-olds. She’s always had an appreciation for redwoods and for trees in general.

“We were a camping family,” she said, and they always stayed in forests and other places that cultivated her appreciation for redwood groves.

Stafford’s tree’s journey from space to her backyard happened because of Acton, who lived in Palo Alto for 29 years while working at Lockheed Palo Alto Research Lab. Acton was a payload specialist and solar astronomer who was in charge of optical scientific instruments and telescopes used for observing the sun.

“One of the telescopes on board was made right there in Lockheed Palo Alto Research Lab,” Acton, an affable man, said by phone from his Montana home.

The flight’s primary payload was Spacelab-2, according to NASA.

Acton was originally selected for space flight in 1978 but didn’t go up in orbit until 1985. He said crew members were typically permitted to take small items on board to give away after the orbits. He thought it would be nice to take something up from Palo Alto. A city official came up with the idea of taking the El Palo Alto seeds.

“They were returned to the city in a ceremony, and the Parks Department gave away the seedlings,” he recalled.

Reflecting on his journey into space, Acton said, “The most amazing thing was being part of this human effort, to be a player of this biggest adventure of our time.”

But glimpsing the earth through the space shuttle’s windows also opened his eyes to the planet’s vulnerability.

“To be able to see the earth as a whole and see how very, very thin our layer of breathable atmosphere is has caused me to appreciate the fragility of our atmosphere. It shows us how little we may think that is paper thin. When you’re down on the earth you look up and you think that it goes on forever,” he said.

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

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Bridge
(continued from page 7)
that design process we had many members of our community who suggested the very far better things to spend our money on.”

The lower ambitions have not, however, dramatically reduced the costs. Thanks to a hot construction market, the new bridge has an estimated price tag of about $16.25 million, well above the $10 million that the city had originally envisioned. Of that sum, about $6.9 million will come from city spending. The rest will come from Santa Clara County funds ($4 million), the One Bay Area Grant program administered by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission ($4.35 million) and a contributio

State
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programs, in which officers help clean up neighborhoods and take part in community fitness programs, both of which have created greater trust in the police department.

Through the 2007 parcel tax Measure C and the Transient Occupancy Tax Grant programs, the city also funded multiple nonprofit organizations such as the Boys & Girls Clubs to offer crime-fighting programs and opportunities for youth.

Employment
On the retail jobs front, Target hired 120 employees; about 50 percent of them are East Palo Alto residents, Moody said. The city also has continued its commitment to aiding youth, adults and immigrants by introducing programs such as Working Scholars, a no-cost program that helps working adults achieve a bachelor’s degree; therefore, we can greatly benefit from this program,” Moody said.

Since last month 33 people completed their first college course in personal finance, he said.

The Sobrato Organization and Amazon have also built and are staffing an employment center to help residents. In October, Amazon held an informational jobs fair. The company also opened full-time positions for warehouse, skill jobs in food and shuttle services, facilities management and security, he said.

The city also provided a $100,000 grant to the local non-profit Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center to encourage residents to become small-business entrepreneurs. The program served more than 60 families and adults, 78 percent of whom were women, he said.

Housing
Moody also pointed to efforts the city is making to combat gentrification, which has led very low-income residents and immigrants to move or become homeless. The city had a ribbon cutting last week for the new $25 million Serenity Senior Apartments, which offers 41 units of affordable and low-income housing for seniors in San Mateo County. Of those units, 20 are marked for East Palo Alto resi

Public Agenda
A preview of Palo Alto government meetings next week
CITY COUNCIL ...The council plans to meet in a closed session to discuss potential litigation regarding the Palo Alto- Stanford Fire Protection Agreement. The council will also hold a public study session with the Utilities Advisory Commission, discuss a proposal from a tenant at 285 Hamilton Ave. for a rooftop deck; and consider approving the EIR for the U.S. Highway 101 overpass at Adobe Creek. The closed session will begin at 5 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 27. Regular meeting will follow at 6 p.m. or as soon as possible thereafter in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 250 Hamilton Ave.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ...The commission plans to approve a park-improvement ordinance for a new dog park at Peers Hall, 250 Hamilton Ave.

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One proposal that is providing some hope: 965 Weeks St., where the city wants to build approximately 150 affordable housing units for low-, very-low- and extremely-low-income residents. Support for the development on the city-owned site is the $10 million Facebook Catalyst Fund. Transportation & parking
The city experiences a significant amount of cut-through commuter traffic that is not generated by residents. University Avenue has an annual average daily traffic of 22,000 vehicles, and 84 percent of these trips neither originate nor end in East Palo Alto, Moody said.

The city has submitted a Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant application to the California Department of Transportation this year to develop a comprehensive mobility study to address traffic, parking, cut-through commuter traffic and bike, pedestrian and vehicle circulation.

“We don’t expect this study to be a panacea or silver bullet, but it will be the beginning of a regional conversation to solve the regional issue of traffic congestion,” he said.

The city also approved the Bicycle Transportation Plan in October with recommendations for a citywide network of bike routes and programs. The city also has also continued on another Safe Routes to Schools project on Bay Road, and University Avenue, an important route for schoolchildren and parents.

Moody said progress in the city is the result of the collective work of the entire Council working with local and regional partners, and he praised the council and staff as the most professional the city has had. “East Palo Alto is a city moving forward,” he said. “We are East Palo Alto. We carry that brand proudly.”

State
(continued from page 5)

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“Eighty-three percent of East Palo Alto residents 25 years or older do not have a bachelor’s degree; therefore, we can greatly benefit from this program,” Moody said.

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### Donna Jean Lane

Donna Jean Lane passed away peacefully at home on Saturday November 18 surrounded by her loving family following a brief illness. Born in Lincoln, Illinois on March 28, 1930 to Arthur and Luella Gimbel, Jean, as she was known to friends, developed a deep and lasting love and appreciation for nature and had a consuming curiosity about the world and everything in it; she was indeed a person who could “see the universe in a grain of sand.”

From a young age, she walked with her parents in the Illinois woods every spring, discovering the earliest blooming wildflowers, mushrooms, salamanders, birds’ nests and all manner of living creatures. As a Girl Scout, the first badge she achieved was the Tree Finder’s Badge. Jean’s interest in rocks led her to take a course in geology during her freshman year at Northwestern University.

Jean graduated from Northwestern with a B.S. degree in 1952, majoring in art history and interior design. While working as an interior designer in Chicago, she was introduced to Bill Lane, the love of her life. Bill and Jean married in 1955 and started a lifetime partnership of raising children, protecting the environment, serving and strengthening the community and helping the less fortunate. Over the next fifty-five years, their life together included Bill’s work as Publisher of Sunset Magazine, as well as his Ambassadorships in Japan and Australia. Jean, alongside Bill, brought the taste and spirit of the American west to Australia through their legendary Sunset hospitality. Jean’s commitment to teaching others led her to develop a Teacher’s Resource Center in Science and Technology at Canberra University.

Jean’s community involvement and accomplishments are many and varied. She was a founding member of the Westridge Garden Club of Portola Valley, a member of the Board of Trustees of the National Tropical Botanical Garden, a board member of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C, a member of the Governing Board of Filoli Garden and a member of the President’s Cabinet at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, California. She was also a long-time docent and supporter of Stanford’s Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve where she loved to take people on hikes to observe the native plants and wildlife. A highlight of these hikes was a glimpse of a mountain lion, which thrilled rather than scared her.

Jean has been a long-time partner of her alma mater, Northwestern University. In 1996 the College of Arts and Sciences named the Jean Lane Humanities professorship. Music nurtured Jean’s soul. In 2005 she endowed the Jean Gimbel Lane Prize in Piano Performance at Northwestern University. In 1976, Jean’s life-long interest in music led her to form a baroque trio called The Portola Trio. The Trio’s practice sessions and performances gave her much joy.

Jean was preceded in death by her husband Bill; her sister Mary Lou and her nephew Arthur Gimbel, Jr. She is survived by her children Sharon Louise Lane of North San Juan, CA, Robert Laurence Lane of Atherton, CA, Brenda Lane Munks (Greg) of Portola Valley, CA, her brother Arthur Gimbel (Caroline) of San Mateo, CA, her grandchildren Bryan Munks, Keighley Lane, Riley Munks, Jessica Munks and Cameron Munks.

The family wishes to extend their heartfelt appreciation to Jean’s longtime Personal Assistant, Karen Hamilton, and her devoted caregivers: Karen Alfonso, Elsa Busto and Maria Manalang.

Jean’s was a deep and abiding Christian faith. Jean and Bill were members of Valley Presbyterian Church from its early days of services held at Portola Valley. She helped establish a Bible Garden with friends at the current location on Portola Road. A celebration of her life will be held at Valley Presbyterian early in the next year.

In lieu of flowers please send contributions in memory of Donna Jean Lane to National Tropical Botanical Garden, 3530 Papalina Road, Kalaloch, HI 96741.

Inside everything and everybody
Is much more than meets the eye.
Stay open to that which lies within us all,
And let charity conquer the mall!
We invite you to join us in this meaningful evening of remembrance where sharing on the themes of Love, Hope, Memory, Courage and Community come together with live music and culminate in a special candle lighting ceremony to honor loved ones who have died.

This is a non-denominational service open to the community. An opportunity to give to Kara will be presented during the evening.

Thursday, December 7th, 7:00 pm
First Presbyterian Church
1140 Cowper Street, Palo Alto

"Hope links the past through memory, carries with it the grace of love and is evidence of the very real courage of moving forward."

For more info visit www.kara-grief.org or call 650-321-5272
**MUSIC**

**Live holiday music at the mall**

What: Stanford Shopping Center is hosting a variety of free musical performances during the holiday season, including performances by Holiday Festival Strings, Dickens Carolers, Steel Pan Band, Musical Toy Soldier Guard and Merry Mariachi Band.

Where: 660 Stanford Shopping Center, Palo Alto.

When: Afternoons, Saturdays and Sundays through Christmas Eve.


**‘Christmas in Poland and the Baltics’**

What: In a departure from J.S. Bach, the California Bach Society presents a program of Christmas music from Poland and the Baltic countries.

Where: All Saints Episcopal Church, 555 Waverley St., Palo Alto.

When: Saturday, Dec. 2, at 8 p.m.


**‘Ubi Caritas: Where There is Love’**

What: Ragazzi Boys Chorus’ holiday program celebrates the concept of universal love with musical selections drawn from diverse traditions and faiths.

Where: First United Methodist Church of Palo Alto, 625 Hamilton Ave.

When: Saturday, Dec. 2, at 5 p.m.


**Festival of Lessons**

What: Stanford University’s Department of Music, Office for Religious Life will hold its annual Festival of Lessons and Carols service this holiday season. The Memorial Church Choir and Stanford Chamber Chorale will perform.

Where: Stanford Memorial Church, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford.

When: Friday, Dec. 8, 7:30-9 p.m.

More information: events.stanford.edu/events/710/71077/.

**‘Messyah’**


Where: First United Methodist Church, 625 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto.

When: Saturday, Dec. 9, at 7 p.m.


**Winter’s Warmth**

What: Ragazzi Continuo, the adult a cappella choir for graduates of the Ragazzi Boys Chorus, presents its holiday concert “Winter’s Warmth.”

Where: First Congregational Church of Palo Alto, 1985 Louis Road.

When: Saturday, Dec. 9, at 7:30 p.m.


**‘The Hot Sardines’ Holiday Stomp’**

What: The Hot Sardines present a concert of jazz versions of holiday favorites.

Where: Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford.

When: Saturday, Dec. 9, at 7:30 p.m.

The Grammy-winning Klezmatics put a Klezmer spin on Woody Guthrie’s melodies this year.

Comfort and Joy
(continued from page 13)
returns to Stanford University for its annual holiday concert.
Where: Memorial Auditorium, Stanford.
When: Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 7:30 p.m.

The Klezmatics’ ‘Happy, Joyous Hanukkah’
What: The Grammy Award-winning Klezmatics fuse Klezmer sounds with melodies by Woody Guthrie in this holiday concert.
Where: Memorial Auditorium, Stanford.
When: Thursday, Dec. 14, at 7:30 p.m.

‘Winter’s Gifts’
Where: First Presbyterian Church, 1140 Cowper St., Palo Alto.
When: Saturday, Dec. 16, 8 p.m.
Cost: General admission: $35; senior admission: $25; student/alumni: $10.
More information: choralproject.org/categories/winters-gifts/.

PACO Holiday Extravaganza with Anderson & Roe
What: The Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra will perform its annual holiday show with special guests piano duo Greg Anderson and Elizabeth Joy Roe, plus dancers from Pacific Ballet Academy.
Where: Smithwick Theater, Foothill College, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills.
When: Saturday, Dec. 16, at 3 p.m.

The Gryphon Carolers
What: The Gryphon Carolers, a 30-voice ensemble founded at Palo Alto’s Gryphon Stringed Instruments, will perform their 36th-annual holiday concert.
Where: Canada College Theater, 4200 Farm Hill Blvd., Redwood City.
When: Sunday Dec. 17, at 6:30 p.m.

Schola Cantorum’s holiday concerts
What: Schola Cantorum Silicon Valley will present two holiday concerts with sing-along opportunities: “Warmest Christmas Traditions” (a selection of favorite carols) and “51st Annual Messiah Sing.”
Where: Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St.
When: Sunday Dec. 17, at 3 p.m. (“Warmest Christmas Traditions”) and Monday, Dec. 18, at 7:30 p.m. (“Messiah Sing”).
More information: scholacantorum.org/home.

Kitka’s ‘Wintersongs’
What: Kitka, the women’s Eastern European music vocal ensemble, will perform its annual concert of winter songs, featuring selections from its new seasonal album “Evening Star.”
Where: St. Bede’s, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park; Filoli, 6 Cañada Road, Woodside.
When: Sunday, Dec. 10, at 4 p.m. (Menlo Park) and Wednesday, Dec. 21, at 5 p.m. (Woodside).

We Stock Them In The HHW Station’s Reuse Cabinets

DANCE

‘It’s a Wonderful Nutcracker’
What: The professional company Menlowe Ballet and students from its ballet school, Menlo Park Academy of Dance, are performing their third annual “It’s a Wonderful Nutcracker,” which blends Tchaikovsky’s ballet with Frank Capra’s “It’s a Wonderful Life.” New this year: some nods to today’s political climate, plus a shorter, “sensory-friendly” version on Sunday, Dec. 10, especially appropriate for children and adults with developmental disabilities.
Where: Menlo-Atherton Performing Arts Center, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton.
When: Dec. 8-10 and 15-17.

‘The Christmas Ballet’
Where: Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St.
When: Dec. 6-10.

‘Twas the Night Before Christmas’
What: Dancers Repertory Theatre is once again staging “Twas the Night Before Christmas,” a
colorful spectacle featuring a cast of 90 adults and children acting out Clement C. Moore's poem of the same name.


More ‘Nutcrackers’
What: More local dance groups offering versions of the holiday ballet include Ballet America (americanballet.com/home/perform/), HaoExpression (haoexpression.com/ballet.html), Ramon Moreno School of Ballet (ramonmorenoballet.com), Western Ballet (westernballet.org) and Peninsula Ballet Theatre with The Tribe and Pose’n (peninsulaballet.org).

Tree-lighting Ceremony
What: The City of Palo Alto's annual celebration of the lighting of its 60-foot-tall tree with bands, choirs and art activities. Hot drinks and treats available.
Where: Lytton Plaza (University Avenue at Emerson Street), downtown Palo Alto.
When: Friday, Dec. 1, 5:30 - 7 p.m.
More information: 650-463-4900; search eventbrite.com for the event details.

Holiday Train
The Caltrain Holiday Train, a festively lit locomotive that collects toys for kids (presented by the Silicon Valley Community Foundation) will be rolling into select Peninsula stations for 20-minute stops. Bring a new, unwrapped toy to donate.
Where: Various Caltrain stations (see online)
When: Dec. 2-3, station-stop times vary

‘The North Pole Review’
What: The Fratello Marionettes perform “The North Pole Review.” The 30-minute holiday variety show will feature high-kicking antics of the Russian Trepak Dancers, the graceful ice skater Crystal Chandlier and the dazzling acrobatic penguins. There also will be arts and crafts, refreshments and goody bags for children.
Where: Gamble Garden Carriage House, 1431 Waverley St., Palo Alto.
When: Sunday, Dec. 17, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
More information: Tickets available at gamblegarden.org or 650-329-1356.

(continued on page 18)
Selling your Silicon Valley home?

First, meet with Michael Repka of the DeLeon Realty team.

Unlike most real estate agents, Michael holds two law degrees, including an LL.M in taxation from NYU School of Law, and has years of experience as a real estate and tax attorney, giving his clients a unique advantage as most other brokerages do not provide an in-house attorney to help clients. In addition, the expertise and marketing available through the team at DeLeon Realty are the very best in the business. Meet with Michael to discuss any preliminary tax and legal questions about selling your home and let him tell you more about what makes DeLeon Realty’s innovative approach to real estate so successful. There is no cost or obligation for this consultation.

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“Bonne cuisine et bon vin, c’est le paradis sur terre” (Henry IV)

New Lunch Menu
Wednesday - Friday
Get a FREE House Wine or Dessert du jour with purchase of any Lunch Entrée!

415 California Avenue  1 Palo Alto
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For a holiday gift, Amie is buying her husband a fishing license for days of family fun.

Waste-free gift ideas from Palo Alto residents

Create memories, not waste.

For more waste-free gift ideas, visit www.cityofpaloalto.org/zwholiday
zerowaste@cityofpaloalto.org
(650) 496-5910

"Oy Humbug!"
What: Theatrical burlesque company Curtains Cabaret presents a saucy variety show celebrating “the winter holidays that Christmas forgot.”
Where: Dragon Theatre, 2120 Broadway St., Redwood City.
When: Sunday, Dec. 24, at 7:30 p.m.

"A Very Merry Dorktale"
What: Dorktale Storytime will present a comedic, fast-paced take on Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol” for families.
Where: Dragon Theatre, 2120 Broadway St., Redwood City.
When: Dec. 15 and 17.
More information: dragonproductions.net/activities/dorktales-storytime.html.

"The 1940's Radio Hour"
What: Los Altos Stage Company presents the musical story of a radio station preparing its holiday broadcast for overseas soldiers in 1942.
Where: 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos.
When: Nov. 30-Dec. 23.
More information: losaltosstage.org/1940s-radio-hour/.

"The Santaland Diaries"
What: TheatreWorks Silicon Valley presents the staged version of David Sedaris’ humorous essay “The Santaland Diaries,” about his short tenure as a Macy’s elf.
Where: Lohman Theatre, Foothill College, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills.
When: Dec. 5-23.

"The Millionth Production of a Christmas Carol"
What: The Pear presents James Kopp’s satirical story of a small Northern California theater company struggling to pay the bills and begrudgingly putting on a production of the Dickens Christmas classic.
Where: Pear Theatre, 1110 La Avenida St., Mountain View
When: Nov. 30 - Dec. 17.

"Selected Shorts"
What: Kirsten Vangsness leads a cast of actors, including Tate Donovan and Christina Pickles, telling holiday tales by notable writers.
Where: Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford
When: Sunday, Dec. 10, at 2:30 p.m.

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Dear Friends,

After 15 years of valued service to communities in San Mateo County, I am pleased to announce that Ravenswood Family Health Center was awarded Level Three Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) in May 2017. This is the highest level of recognition attainable from the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), which administers the nation’s most widely adopted evaluation program. The PCMH model of health care emphasizes putting patients at the forefront of care. Research has demonstrated that this model improves the quality of care administered and enhances patient experiences and satisfaction, all while reducing health care costs.

At Ravenswood, we have employed innovative methods to increase our patients’ access to care guided by the six core principles of the PCMH model, which are: Access, Practice Teams, Population Management, Care Management, Care Coordination, and Quality Improvement. Ravenswood staff have consistently gone the extra mile to ensure that patients have access to the programs, services, and support that they need to effectively achieve their own positive health trajectories.

We start off by sharing our CenteringPregnancy® program, which promotes independence among pregnant women and empowers them to achieve the best possible health outcomes during pregnancy and for their newborns. You will also read about Dr. Sharon DiPierro’s Doc Walk program developed in partnership with San Mateo County, and how this program encourages patients to become advocates in their own health journeys. Finally, we will tell you about how Family Nurse Practitioner, Michelle Buchholz, and our Health Care for the Homeless (HCH) team have successfully resurrected the mobile van clinic to care for the most underserved patients in our community.

The PCMH model is a framework that helps Ravenswood to ensure that all of our patients have access to high-quality care and positive experiences in our health center. It is one small step we have taken toward a future where health disparity is eliminated, and well-being and prosperity abound. Until then, Ravenswood hopes to continue to share in our patients’ positive health outcomes, and support each and every one in their journey toward better health.

On behalf of everyone at Ravenswood, thank you for being an integral member of our family and our success!

Luisa Buada, RN, BSN, MPH
Chief Executive Officer

Ravenswood Achieves Level 3 Medical Home Recognition
Our Mission
To improve the health of the community by providing culturally sensitive, integrated primary and preventative health care to all, regardless of ability to pay or immigration status, and collaborating with community partners to address the social determinants of health.

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CenteringPregnancy
In June 2017, Ravenswood Family Health Center launched CenteringPregnancy®, an innovative prenatal program in which women who are due in the same month come together as a group to their prenatal visits. CenteringPregnancy provides our prenatal patients the opportunity to form a strong peer support network with other women, and engage them in learning about healthy pregnancy and baby care in a safe and nurturing environment.

There are 10 sessions in the CenteringPregnancy program. At each session, a Ravenswood staff who is also a trained facilitator teach women how to check their own blood pressure, assess their urine stick tests, and weigh themselves. These self-assessments empower women to take ownership of their health during pregnancy. Our facilitators also engage women in interactive learning by leading discussions on a variety of important topics including prenatal nutrition, prenatal screenings, breastfeeding, and infant care. Finally, at each session facilitators play music and provide healthy snacks to create a comfortable, relaxed environment for traditional one-on-one prenatal appointments.

“CenteringPregnancy provides a better care experience for patients,” says Dr. Sonia Santana, Associate Medical Director of the Women’s Health Department at Ravenswood. Nikki Gallegos, Ravenswood’s CenteringPregnancy Coordinator, agrees with her. She adds that this program allows women to “acknowledge each other’s questions and insights, which help them normalize the pregnancy experience”. Ms. Gallegos further shares, “what is heartwarming for us is to see our participants embrace each other after the sessions”.

Currently, Ravenswood has initiated five CenteringPregnancy cohorts—two in English and three in Spanish, with around 30 women in attendance. Dr. Santana and Ms. Gallegos encourage all of their prenatal patients to participate in CenteringPregnancy. Research shows that this program has the potential to provide concrete and positive health outcomes for women and children, such as reducing preterm labor, increasing breastfeeding, and decreasing postpartum depression. “Over the next five years we will track these markers amongst our patients,” says Ms. Gallegos with enthusiasm as she prepares for the next cohort of pregnant women entering the program.

Advising for Child Wellness
As a Ravenswood Family Health Center Pediatrician, Dr. Sharon DiPierro understands the importance of developing and implementing effective solutions that will help her patients lead lives that are as healthy as possible. On an average day, Dr. DiPierro conducts well-child check-ups, treats common ailments, collaborates with families to avoid accidental injuries and illnesses to children, and connects children and families to additional resources for access to healthy foods, such as local meal programs and food pantries.

Dr. DiPierro also strives to prepare her patients for school. “Many parents do not talk to infants because infants do not say anything back,” says Dr. DiPierro. However, not interacting with children when they are infants decreases the number of words they know by the time they begin school. To encourage families to speak and read to their children, Dr. DiPierro distributes books to patients following each well-child check-up. This not only exposes her patients to written words and promotes vocal interaction between families and children, but also enables her to evaluate where her patients are at developmentally.

(continued on back)
Ravenswood Family Health Center’s Health Care for the Homeless (HCH) program, supported by San Mateo County, provides homeless individuals with access to medical care, dental care, and support services. For over 15 years, Tayischa Deldridge, Ravenswood’s HCH Manager, has provided the best possible services for our homeless patients. Working with the HCH team, Ms. Deldridge successfully connects homeless patients to care within the clinic and the community. Additional HCH team members include: Michelle Buchholz, Family Nurse Practitioner; Kassundra Dunn, Homeless Outreach Worker; Evelyn Garcia, Medical Assistant; and Carl Purvis, Van Driver.

The HCH team implemented the Shelter and Street Medicine Clinic to reduce the number of emergency calls made from the local homeless shelter, and to connect homeless individuals to health care services in a safe facility. Many members of the HCH team are either from the community or are trusted by the community, which in turn make them an invaluable resource for building rapport with our homeless patients and connecting them to the health care and support services they need.

“The whole practice of homeless medicine,” says Ms. Buchholz “is meeting the patients where they are.” The HCH team has stationed the mobile van outside of a local shopping center once a week where day laborers and homeless individuals can access medical services. Street outreach has also enabled the HCH team to offer wound care, rapid HIV testing, and glucose monitoring to individuals residing in homeless encampments.

Ramón’s Story - Access to Health Care, Anywhere!

After nine months in East Palo Alto, Ramón is at home in his new community. “I feel good here,” he shares with a smile. To Ramón, East Palo Alto offers him a tranquil place where he can live and work. Being relatively new to the community, he was unfamiliar with local medical facilities and resources. One Thursday afternoon, Ramón noticed Ravenswood Family Health Center’s mobile van clinic stationed outside a local shopping center. He decided to give their services a try.

Ramón met with Michelle Buchholz, Ravenswood’s Family Nurse Practitioner, in the mobile van clinic for care. He explained to Ms. Buchholz that he was blind in his left eye and was worried about losing vision in his right eye. Concerned that Ramón’s retina may have been damaged, Ms. Buchholz brought him that same day to Ravenswood’s Optometrist, Dr. Sonia Menchavez, for a complete vision test. Dr. Menchavez diagnosed Ramón with retinal detachment and glaucoma, and immediately referred him to a specialist at Stanford. Together, Ms. Buchholz and Dr. Menchavez worked to preserve Ramón’s limited vision and connect him to timely treatment.

Ramón was so impressed by the quick action and high-quality care he received that he became a patient at Ravenswood, where he can access comprehensive and affordable primary care. “I would recommend Ravenswood to everyone!” says Ramón. “The quality of the services that they provide is amazing, and the friendly staff treat you so well that you just want to keep coming back!”

Ramón (right) receiving a blood pressure check-up from Medical Assistant, Evelyn Garcia (left).

What We Do

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1885 Bay Road
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PRIMARY MEDICAL CARE
• Prenatal Care
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• Parenting Support
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What We Do

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• Preventive Care
• Restorative & Periodontal Care
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• Oral Surgery
• Emergency Dental Services
• Oral Health Education
• Preventive Dental Care in 40 San Mateo County Pre-schools and Other Sites

www.RavenswoodFHC.org | 3
Ravenswood invites you to welcome in the New Year with #GivingTuesday! On November 28, 2017, we ask that you consider giving the gift of health care to those in need.

For over 15 years, Ravenswood has provided crucial services to an increasing number of patients. We need your support to ensure we can continue to provide high-quality health care to all patients for years to come.

Ring in the New Year with a charitable gift to Ravenswood!

DOUBLE YOUR DONATION
Three generous donors have committed to match all donations up to $30,000 made to Ravenswood between November 28th and December 31st!

Give online at RavenswoodFHC.ORG; or
Checks postmarked by December 31st will count towards the match. Please write “2017 Annual Campaign” in the memo line, and include this remit slip.

Advocating for Child Wellness  Continued from inside

In addition to vocal interaction, physical activity is another factor that is vital to children’s health trajectories. In our community, children have limited access to safe and affordable locations for play. The closest physical activity facilities are often very expensive, and many affordable local programs have been discontinued. Parents regularly inform Dr. DiPierro that they are uncomfortable letting their children play outside due to safety concerns. To help her patients engage in exercise and play, Dr. DiPierro has worked to break down barriers to physical activity by stepping outside of our health center and collaborating with another organization.

Dr. DiPierro was awarded the Champion Provider Fellowship in spring 2017. This program has facilitated opportunities for her to implement change and increase structured physical activity at a community level. In October 2017, Dr. DiPierro in partnership with the San Mateo County Health Department launched the Doc Walk pilot program, which enabled residents and patients in our community to walk with Dr. DiPierro and her colleagues in a local park and ask them questions about health. During this time, Dr. DiPierro learned about the barriers many community members experience in their attempts to incorporate more physical activity into their daily lives, and about the interventions that might help them become more physically active.

The work that Dr. DiPierro does at Ravenswood, and through the Champion Provider Fellowship, is all for the benefit of her patients. “My patients face significant challenges in their lives that they strive to overcome,” says Dr. DiPierro. It is gratifying for her to work with her patients and their families, and to be involved in their journey towards good health.

Health Care in the Community  Continued from inside

Ms. Buchholz feels that the HCH outreach activities are changing the health trajectories of the people she serves. “Life can be chaotic,” she says. Many of the homeless patients she works with are more focused on finding places to sleep and hot meals to eat than addressing their health care needs. However, by offering health care services out in the community, and linking individuals to additional care at the health center, the HCH team is making it so that homeless patients have one less thing to worry about in their daily lives.

“We want to provide the best possible care to our patients, and we have all the resources to connect them to care,” says Ms. Buchholz. Together, the HCH team brings unique skills and services to address the needs of each patient. Ms. Buchholz recalls one homeless patient who had been connected to additional services at Ravenswood as a result of the HCH team’s collective involvement. This patient not only received medical care, but was also connected to housing assistance resources. Today, our patient is living in a permanent residence and is taking control of his health!
The Public Art Commission voted on Nov. 16 to remove the Digital DNA and Go Mama sculptures from Lytton Plaza and California Avenue, respectively.

Digital DNA, Go Mama voted out

Palo Alto Art Commission opts to remove sculptures from city’s collection

by Karla Kane

Digital DNA, the 7-foot-tall egg sculpture made of computer circuit boards and installed in Lytton Plaza, will be removed from the city’s public-art collection, the Public Art Commission voted unanimously Nov. 16, after a report from city staff made the case that the piece is damaged, made of materials unsuitable for outdoor installation and too costly to keep restoring.

Artist Adriana Varella, who’s started a crowdfunding campaign to fund restoration and possible relocation of the piece, counters that the city is actually set on getting rid of the sculpture because of the way the piece encourages reflection upon the darker side of technology.

At the commission meeting, Varella’s attorney requested that the vote be rescheduled for a time when Varella could be present, while two members of the Raging Grannies, a social-justice and activism group, spoke in favor of removing Digital DNA group. The statement was written from the point of view of the sculpture itself, and in particular accuses the commission of purposely scheduling the deaccession vote on a date when Varella was unable to attend and of censoring art for political reasons.

“The real reason there is a push to remove me is not my state, but instead my content — the political message embedded in me which talks about how our modern technology can enslave us,” the statement read. “When a Public Art Commission starts using tricks of process and bureaucracy to facilitate removal of art for political reasons, it stops being an art commission and becomes a censorship committee.”

Robertson handed out printed photos of a new piece Varella was designed to be in the heart of Palo Alto. According to the statement, “I was designed to be in the heart of Palo Alto from its conception. I inspired the Twitter egg and have become a focal point for gatherings in Lytton Plaza. Removing me from this location will rob my message of contextual meaning and be a desecration.”

The statement also accuses the city of not allowing enough time for the public to become aware of and comment about the deaccession, although Palo Alto Public Art Director Elise deMarzo noted that it had been a topic of discussion at numerous previous meetings.

“The city of Palo Alto has really tried to find a solution. I do believe the piece is deteriorating, and we aren’t able to maintain it in a good state for the public to be around it,” Commissioner Loren Gordon said.

The big egg is not the only maternity-symbol sculpture on the chopping block. Marta Thoma’s Go Mama, currently located on California Avenue, will likely soon be gone, as the commission voted to remove it as well. The piece, a figure with a doll-like head and a baby’s face in its midsection, was originally commissioned at a time when “public art didn’t have to go through so strenuous a process as it does now,” deMarzo said, noting that the piece has become unstable, structurally unsound and damaged by years of people climbing and spilling food on it, especially after the California Avenue streetscape redesign a few years ago. The city, she said, “cannot guarantee the safety of the piece.”

Deaccessioned artwork may be returned to the artist at the artist’s expense, sold or donated by the city, or destroyed.

The Public Art Commission the “Censorship Committee of Palo Alto” in this new piece.

Website: www.PaloAltoOnline.com • Palo Alto Weekly • November 24, 2017 • Page 19
Eating Out

THE INS AND OUTS OF OWNING A RESTAURANT, THROUGH THE EYES OF ROCCO SCORDELLA

by Elena Kadvany

Soon after Rocco Scordella moved from his native Italy to take a job as famed chef Mario Batali’s Del Posto in New York City in 2005, a train strike shut down his commute from Queens into Manhattan. So Scordella walked two-and-a-half hours in the snow to get to the restaurant each day. “I didn’t want to miss the job,” he said. This matter-of-fact dedication paid off, as Scordella — who spoke no English when he arrived at Del Posto — moved up through the ranks, becoming a “captain” overseeing his own section of the restaurant. Del Posto earned two Michelin stars the first year he was there. At 24 years old, he had accomplished his dream of working in a Michelin-starred restaurant.

The threads that connect Scordella’s career from then to today — his Italian roots, a philosophy that espouses simplicity and quality and a passion for the ins and outs of running a restaurant — are evidenced in his two Palo Alto restaurants, Tootsie’s and Vina Enoteca.

Scordella was born in Salento Puglia in Southern Italy, but grew up in Porretta Terme, a small town in Italy, owns Tootsie’s and Vina Enoteca in Palo Alto.

Rocco Scordella, a native of Italy, owns Tootsie’s and Vina Enoteca in Palo Alto.

In 2009, Scordella opened Tootsie’s in Palo Alto. His pizza is like an American twist on the Margherita pizza and the panna cotta is “impossible: sour and sweet.” The Margherita pizza “oddly satisfies,” he said, “the point in using out-of-season, far-away ingredients. Scordella said he doesn’t consider the tomatoes.”

Impossibly, the Impossible Burger is kind of an American twist. We have to give the customer what they like, if you want to pay the bills.”

These days, Scordella is more owner than chef — he’s primarily found on the floor during lunch and dinner services, walking with customers and problem-solving with staff — but he is heavily involved in all aspects of the restaurant. He collaborates with Vina Enoteca’s new executive chef, Nadiv Geiger from Michelinstarred The Village Pub in Woodside, on menu items. He also steps in when needed; he has filled in as pastry chef, events coordinator and sommelier.

Scordella believes in being a present and responsive owner, something instilled in him during culinary school in Italy. In this day and age, that extends beyond the walls of his restaurants. The first thing he does every morning is Google Tootsie’s and Vina Enoteca. He regularly responds to negative reviews on Yelp. “Sometimes they (customers) say things that could be helpful — what you don’t see or you don’t pay attention to,” he said, “and other times, it’s just people trying to find something (wrong).”

He doesn’t shy away from calling Yelpers out on their “BS.” A recent poster wrote that she is “reconsidering” her friendship with a coworker who loves Vina Enoteca. She called the caprese salad “basic,” the Margherita pizza “oddly sour and sweet” and the panna cotta “the biggest disappointment: White gelatin with orange marmalade.” “No need to lose a friend over a panna cotta,” Scordella wrote in response. “Caprese salad is supposed to be basic, it is all about the tomatoes.”

In response to another negative review, he apologized for mistakes in service, said he would show the review to his staff and gave his email for the poster to contact him directly.

Despite running two restaurants, raising three young children and getting about five hours of sleep each night, Scordella is hungry to do more on the Peninsula. He said he plans to remodel Tootsie’s soon and expand it to more locations in the area. A pipe dream is to open a speakeasy, but he said he knows he would end up working even later than he does at the restaurants.

Staff writer Elena Kadvany can be emailed at ekadvany@pawekly.com.

Lightning round: The Weekly asked Scordella a series of and-or questions related to food, drink and more. Find out his answers below.

- Pesto or bolognese? Bolognese.
- Red or white pizza? White.
- Aperol spritz or negroni? Negroni, all the time.
- Mario Batali or Alice Waters? Alice Waters.
- Stanford or Cal? Stanford.
- In-N-Out or Impossible Burger? That’s a tough one. Impossible Burger. I love In-N-Out, but every time you go to In-N-Out, right after you’re like, “Why did I do it?”
- Butter or olive oil? Olive oil, all the way.

ShopTalk

Local food & retail happenings

HERMES OPENING SOON... Work on the exterior facade of the soon-to-be home of French luxury house Hermès of Paris is underway at Stanford Shopping Center, where the boutique is scheduled to open in early 2018. The company is adding a new parapet to the front of the 6,052-square-foot shop, according to city permit records. The shop’s opening has been highly anticipated since the company announced in October 2016 that it would be opening a new store at Stanford adjacent to Cartier. The boutique will be the first Hermes has opened in the United States in more than five years. The family-run retailer has manufactured luxury goods for six generations. The boutique will offer a collection of men’s, women’s, home and equestrian collections. — L.T.

(continued on next page)
‘MICHELIN’ RESTAURANT COMING TO CHANTILLY... The restaurant group behind local establishments Mayfield Bakery & Cafe and The Village Pub plans to open a Michelin-caliber restaurant in Redwood City. Bacchus Management Group has taken over the former Chantilly space at 3001 El Camino Real, founding partner Tim Stannard said this week. Chantilly closed in April after 43 years of business. Chantilly had long and storied history in the area, with rumors of high-profile Silicon Valley deals being made in its private rooms. Stannard said the new restaurant will be similar in concept to The Village Pub and Spruce in San Francisco, which Bacchus also owns, but with a special focus on premium steak. The restaurant will have formal wait service and a sommelier. Stannard said they hope to start construction in the next month or so, with a goal of opening in summer 2018. Staff are already in training at The Village Pub. — E.K.

WAHLBURGERS OPENS DOWNTOWN... An outpost of Wahlburgers, the national burger chain from celebrity family the Wahlburgers, is now open in downtown Palo Alto. Wahlburgers soft opened at 185 University Ave. on Nov. 12, an employee said. Wahlburgers, is now open in the Boston area in 2011. There are now locations in more than 10 states, including franchises, plus a reality show on A&E about the family-run company. The menu includes several burgers as well as sandwiches, salads and sides. Burgers range in price from $9.25 to $12.95. The site at 185 University was previously occupied by Sam’s Chowder House, whose owners sold the business to Wahlburgers last year. — E.K.

‘ROCKET’ FIZZLES... Rocket Fizz, a quirky downtown Palo Alto candy store filled with items such as bacon cotton candy and buffalo wing-flavored soda, has closed, according to a sign posted in the store’s windows at 250 University Ave. “The end of our lease is here,” the message reads. “A special thank you to all of our friends and regular customers. We had a lot of fun with you and loved being your candy store.” Rocket Fizz is a franchised chain that first started in Camarillo, California, in 2009. The Palo Alto franchisee, husband and wife Chris Dunn and Lisa Pelgrim, wrote on Facebook that they will be combining with another Rocket Fizz in Campbell, which they also own. The couple opened the Palo Alto location in 2012. — E.K.

Compiled by the Weekly staff; this week written by Elena Kadvany and Linda Taaffe. Got leads on developments? The Weekly will check them out. Email shoptalk@paweekly.com.

The Haydn Project

Take four musicians, ninety-three string quartets, and the genius of Franz Josef Haydn: Stir vigorously and applaud wildly. San Francisco Chamber Orchestra All-Stars Ben Simon (viola), Robin Sharp (violin), Julie Kim (violin), and Hannah Addario-Berry (cello) are the Haydn Project, launched in September 2013 to boldly go where few quartets have gone before—a journey of exploration into the mostly brilliant, always inventive, enormously engaging ninety-plus string quartets of “Papa” Haydn. This special event will include a short presentation about Haydn by San Francisco Chamber Orchestra director Ben Simon, and the performance of two quartets.

Saturday, December 2 • 7:30 pm
Visit continuingstudies.stanford.edu/Haydn for location
Stanford University • Free and open to the public

For more info:
continuingstudies.stanford.edu/events

Stanford Continuing Studies presents
The Haydn Project

Tens of thousands of manuscripts survived from the western medieval period, circa 500–1500. Each of these manuscripts is uniquely handwritten and decorated—a product of immense expertise and often immense expense. Medieval books were prized and venerated, sold and traded, and sometimes even held hostage. They contained religious and irreligious words and images in startling juxtaposition; and they now have a global following through their frequent use in historical documentaries, in science fiction and fantasy, and on social media.

In this lecture, Elaine Treharne will explore how contemporary audiences get access to and use these manuscripts, both in the real world and in the virtual world. These users include scholars, of course, but also those who destroy medieval manuscripts for financial gain, those who show off their collections with little idea of what they mean, and even those who try to recreate libraries and volumes that never existed.

Wednesday, November 29 • 7:30 pm
Bishop Auditorium, Lathrop Library
Stanford University • Free and open to the public

For more info:
continuingstudies.stanford.edu/events
Pixar’s ‘Coco’ shines a spotlight on Día de los Muertos

Already the highest-grossing film in Mexican cinema history, Disney-Pixar’s “Coco” will be an easy target for those accustomed to decrying Disney’s powerful cultural appropriation. Setting aside the irony of that carpetbagging Mexican haul, “Coco” takes up Mexican cultural traditions within the Pixar tradition of working with Mexican cultural traditions without decrying Disney-Pixar’s powerful cultural appropriation. Setting aside the irony of that carpetbagging Mexican haul, “Coco” takes up Mexican cultural traditions within the Pixar tradition of working hard to get it right, whatever their current “it” may be. This time, it’s Día de Muertos, or the Day of the Dead, dramatized in the story of a boy in search of himself by way of an ancestor. In the fictional Mexican village of Santa Cecilia, 12-year-old Miguel Rivera (a pitch-perfect Anthony Gonzalez) idolizes the town’s dearly departed claim-to-fame, singer-songwriter-movie star Ernesto de la Cruz (Benjamin Bratt). Miguel wants nothing more than to become a singer like his hero, but the other Riveras despise music, having been burned by a once-upon-a-time absent father who chose music over family. They promise Miguel a life working for the family’s thriving shoe-making business, but in secret, Miguel keeps his eye on the prize of musical stardom.

A bit of magical realism later, Miguel finds himself in the Land of the Dead, meeting ancestors and hunting for his idol. A chance meeting with sad singer Héctor (Gael García Bernal) leads to a deal: Héctor’s help in getting to Cruz, in exchange for Miguel bringing Héctor’s photo back to the land of the living, so his soul can be remembered before he fades to “the final death,” being forgotten by the living.

(continued on next page)
‘Coco’
(continued from previous page)

“Coco” can be a bit wearing in its plot mechanics — such as a tendency to keep contriving rules and adding obstacles — but overall, the movie drains the viewer in the best ways: the “museum fatigue” of so many wondrous sights, so much color and music, and the emotional fatigue of having been put through a sentimental wringer. Particularly in the land of the dead and despite plenty of dark scenes, the spectacle carries with it a palpable wow factor. And the music, orchestrated by Pixar stalwart Michael Giacchino, gets a songwriting boost from the featured tune “Remember Me” by Robert Lopez and Kristen Anderson-Lopez (“The Book of Mormon,” “Avenue Q”).

Director Lee Unkrich (“Toy Story 3”) and co-director/co-screenwriter Adrian Molina (also a Pixar vet) attend to a harmonious set of themes, about vocation and ambition (“Seize your moment”), the role of family (“That’s what families are supposed to do ... support you”), and the meanings of life and death. Despite similarities to Fox’s 2014 “The Book of Life,” “Coco” also takes a positive cultural step for mainstream American entertainment, with its all-Latino voice cast. As obvious American entertainment, with its cultural step for mainstream consumption, “Coco” deals with it all-Latino voice cast. As obvious American entertainment, with its thematic territory can be, “Coco” deals with it... in ways that tend to Fox’s 2014 “The Book of Life,” which similarly juxtaposes a power struggle over three mighty powerful cubes (the “Mother Boxes”), protected by our heroes and coveted by god-like alien Steppenwolf (voiced Ciaran Hinds). This very, very fake-looking computer-generated longhorn commands an army of flying monkeys — sorry, Parademons — and makes the least-compelling villain this new wave of DC films has yet offered up. Once the film gets down to its scattered, querulous, and chaotic routine, it’s likely to delight kids to no end as the adults act stupid and the kids get their due. Rated PG-13 for sequences of sci-fi violence and action. Two hours, 10 minutes. — PC.

Daddy’s Home 2 ***1/2

“Daddy’s Home 2” is a 500-yard family comedy sequel. Along with co-writer/director Sean Anders, the cast of 2015’s “Daddy’s Home” returns, now enhanced by an elder generation of stars. Co- stars Will Ferrell and Mark Wahlberg must contend with their own fathers, played by John Lithgow and Mel Gibson, respectively. The original movie, while hardly subversive, made hay from the chemistry of Ferrell and Wahlberg and located some edge in its premise of a “dad vs. stepdad” competition for two children’s love. The sequel finds that situation curdled into a passive-aggressive acceptance, misleadingly exploited by an otherwise gory and sincere granddad (Gibson’s Kurt) who can see the resentments bubbling under the surfaces of Dusty (Wahlberg) and Brad (Ferrell). Brad’s dad Lithgow has buried his own problems yet deeper, promising his cut-size, cherubic demeanor will eventually yield to a manic emotional breakdown. “Daddy’s Home 2” isn’t unearbable for adults, and it’s likely to delight kids to no end as the adults act stupid and the kids get their triumphs. Rated PG-13 for suggestive material and some language. One hour, 46 minutes. — PC.

Thor: Ragnarok ***

Marvel has successfully doubled down on the laughs in “Thor: Ragnarok” by matching as Thor, Hulk and the “Guardians of the Galaxy” sensibility for a rollicking comedy. In his third (more or less) solo outing, the god of thunder (Chris Hemsworth’s Thor) tentatively teams up with his half-brother, the god of mischief (Tom Hiddleston’s Loki), to protect their realm from their long-lost sister — uh oh — the goddess of death (Cate Blanchett’s Hela). The fast-moving plot allows for plenty of very bouncing around the universe. Douglas Adams-style. Much of the action takes place on the planet Sakaar, a sci-fi Roman Empire where a Grandmaster (Jeff Goldblum) distracts from his tyrannical elitism with gladiatorial contests, and a runaway Valkyrie (Tessa Thompson of “Dear White People”) exploits the system. Add the return of Anthony Hopkins as Asgardian ruler Odin, and you have another superhero movie bursting with riches: two Oscar winners, four Marvel superheros (two in cameos I won’t spoil), three worlds worth of eye-popping production design, and enough gags to rule them all. Thor: Ragnarok doesn’t have much to offer, but it does, like “Iron Man 2,” devote some effort to rounding of a trilogy of films while opening a door to future adventures for its lead character. Above all, Wallei runs up this vehicle for a wild ride, the sort ofildlyadventure likely to send Marvel’s giant core audience staggering out of the theater wearing a collective smile. Rated PG-13 for intense sequences of sci-fi violence and action, and brief suggestive material. Two hours, 10 minutes. — PC.

Wonderstruck ***

Todd Haynes’ “Wonderstruck” takes off from a young-adult period-piece novel by Brian Selzitzik that simultaneously tells the story of a girl’s journey in 1927 and a boy’s journey in 1977. It’s one of those stories that presents a narrative mystery: two plot threads in two disparate timelines with a connection we know will supply an emotional climax when the last piece fits into place. It’s a movie that should capture the imaginations of precocious kids up for something a little deeper than usual. The 1927 story follows young Rose (newcomer Millicent Simmonds) as she runs away from home to Manhattan for a hopeful encounter with Lillian Mayhew (Julianne Moore), a silent-film star. In 1977, young Ben (Dakota Fegley) absconds to Manhattan from his Minnesota home in the hopes of tracking down his father. These kids on the cusp (around ages 12, 13) both make their journeys without the benefit of hearing. Rose has been deaf all her life, while Ben becomes deaf as the result of a freak accident involving lightning. The film’s longeurs may try some audience’s patience, especially given the modest payoff, but “Wonderstruck” offers a breath of fresh air in a world of special-effects extravaganzas and short-attention-span CGI-animated roller coasters. Rated PG for thematic elements and smoking. One hour, 57 minutes. — PC.
A pacifist’s first-hand look at War

Palo Alto author releases her father’s letters home from WWI

Elinor Aspegren

Palo Alto resident Constance Crawford has compiled letters written by her father Pvt. Ned Crawford nearly 100 years ago that chronicle his experiences during World War I, including the days following the armistice in November 1918.

Vt. Ned Crawford never aspired to serve in the military or fight in a war. But while working as a telephone lineman and switchboard installer, he unexpectedly found himself drafted into the U.S. Army and shipped overseas to fight in World War I.

He chronicled his experiences on the battlefield through letters home, mostly addressed to his best friend and coworker, Bill Marshall, who had escaped the draft because of his age.

Now nearly 100 years after the war’s end, Crawford’s daughter, Constance Crawford, has compiled those letters in the newly released book, “My Dear People: The World War I Letters of Private Ned Crawford.”

The collection of 30 letters detail — often in an intimate and humorous way — an account of WWI through the eyes of a 31-year-old pacifist who said he only went to the war “because they’d put me in jail if I didn’t.”

Despite his abhorrence, Constance said her father’s letters have a positive tone, encouraging his “dear people” — which included his coworkers and friends, as well as Marshall’s mother — to appreciate life’s beauty and comfort.

Constance, a creative writing student at Stanford University during the 1940s who now lives at Palo Alto’s Channing House, said she first read the letters back in 1980, after Marshall’s son, Ned (named after Constance’s father), loaned them to her.

“I was just delighted that they existed,” Constance said. “I was surprised at how funny they were. My father had a good sense of humor but it was a quiet quirky sense of humor that I think was in the letters, which really delighted me.”

After seeing his words scrawled across page after page, Constance decided to compile her father’s letters into a book for the family. As the years past, she began thinking that others might enjoy reading about his experiences, and put together “My Dear People,” which includes her commentary as well as historical background about his military outfit.

The idea of writing about real feelings and writing about real events in people’s (lives) just thrilled me,” she said.

Despite the positive, intelligent tone, Ned’s letters are honest. He attempted to shatter the noble façade of war for his readers, as if he knew that others besides his “dear people” would read his accounts, Constance said.

Constance’s favorite letter, No. 15, dated Nov. 15, 1918 (four days after the armistice), exemplifies this quality as he describes climbing a ruined tower and looking out over the Belgian countryside. His relaxation and joy show in that letter, she said.

“A massive tower has been shelled till it looks like a natural pinnacle in the mountains more than a man-made affair,” Ned writes. “It is still possible to go to the very top — about 300 ft. and from there is one of the grandest views I ever saw. And peaceful. The little details of destruction are not so noticeable from that height and the country stretches out like a green checkerboard, surely as pretty a country as a person could wish.”

Constance said, “The fact that he would write about that personal, joyful moment about climbing up there for the fun of it ... I think the release of that letter really makes it my favorite.”

Ned wrote 15 letters during the war and 15 after its end, when he and his fellow soldiers shifted from camp to camp, waiting to be sent home. Despite the apparent boredom, Ned keeps on writing. Constance attributes this perseverance to his desire “to get letters back.”

“He was very hungry for contact from home,” she said.

Constance’s own commentary on each letter attempts to aid the reader in a further understanding. She notes, in her commentary of letter No. 15, that although Ned’s “ironic humor is in play,” he “admits, for the first and last time, how frightened he was under fire.” She provides a translation for his language, while still providing commentary on her opinion of her father’s writing.

Particularly noteworthy is Constance’s use of the present tense in her commentary, as if both she and the reader are with Ned in France. She said that she wrote in this style to mirror the feeling of the present.

“When you’re holding a letter that’s written on paper by a person, the marks of ink are in the present. The person is writing in the present. It’s a present happening,” she said.

Also noteworthy is the inclusion of a historical lens, written by Christopher McManus.

“I thought it would be good to have the solid military history aspect of the book so it’s not just the letters and my writing about my father but also about the history of his outfit,” Constance said.

Elinor Aspegren is a former editorial intern.
REN T AND TUR KEY DI N N E R S ... it’s always fun to look at city economic comparisons like the one apartmentlist.com recently released that compares rent to turkey dinners. According to the apartment rental marketplace, the median rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Palo Alto is $3,060, or the equivalent of buying 38.3 holiday turkey dinners. San Francisco is the most expensive rental market in the country at 38.4 turkey dinners.

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GIFTS FOR GARDENERS ... December’s Garden Design Magazine offers a range of gift ideas for gardeners. Some highlights: "The Complete Houseplant Survival Manual" by Barbara Pleasant provides advice and in-depth information on hundreds of houseplants. Another option is a weed-sounding tool called a "perforated mud shovel" by Bully Tools, which makes it easier to work in wet ground.

B Y D E S I G N

TAKING THE KITCHEN TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Appliance makers blend ‘smart’ with stylish

by Richard Morrison

If you haven’t gone shopping for appliances lately, you may be shocked by the new options available. Some of us are old enough to remember the avocado and harvest gold appliances from the ’60s, which returned to the earlier ubiquitous white, then black, and more recently, stainless steel. But colors have now re-emerged and technology is being incorporated at an astounding rate. Here are some of the latest trends in home appliances.

Connectivity. Bluetooth and Wi-Fi are being incorporated into appliances so you can control them remotely. For example, you can now preheat your oven before you get home or turn down the heat remotely so that you can check its contents from the grocery store to see whether you’re running low on milk.

Other manufacturers work with Amazon’s Alexa and use voice-activated commands. LG makes a refrigerator that has built-in Bluetooth speakers. The Samsung Family Hub refrigerator includes a large touchscreen integrated into the door with food management, video capabilities and full entertainment features.

Cooking styles. According to Evelyn Kinnaman, an appliance expert at Monark, a high-end home appliance dealer, combi-steam ovens, which have both steam and convection capabilities, are big sellers. Also popular are “speed ovens” which are sort of like microwave ovens on steroids, combining microwave and convection/boiler features.

Another budding trend is sous-vide cooking. This involves boiling food that is in a vacuum-packed plastic bag, cooking it without leaching out the nutrients. For this, Gaggenau makes an integrated built-in drawer designed to vacuum-pack the food.

Color. A veritable rainbow of colors are available for appliances these days. Kinnaman says black stainless (or “carbon” stainless) is now often replacing conventional stainless steel. This also is true in kitchen faucets as well. Viking is offering appliances in 24 different finishes. Dacor’s Preference series offers six different colors coordinated with floating glass panels. Bertazzoni makes high-end gas ranges in eight different colors, including a Ferrari-matched red, as well as a bright lemon yellow. More mainstream manufacturers like Maytag, Frigidaire, GE and Electrolux are all making washers and dryers in some very unusual colors, like forest green, teal, cobalt blue and red.

Visual integration. Another trend is to make appliances flush with the adjacent cabinets, if not invisible. Protruding doors and handles are minimized. For those looking for a very contemporary kitchen aesthetic, the current choices are abundant.


OPEN HOME GUIDE 30
Also online at PaloAltoOnline.com
## Woodside
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Price</th>
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<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$13,500,000</td>
<td>1250 Canada Road</td>
<td>Approx. 5 acres in Central Woodside, working equestrian center.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$10,995,000</td>
<td>307 Olive Hill Ln</td>
<td>Exceptional 6 BR/5 BA Woodside Prop on over 3 sun-swept acres.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$8,495,000</td>
<td>3970 Woodside Rd</td>
<td>Custom Craftsman on approx 2 acres w/ vineyard, garden, pool &amp;More</td>
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## Central Woodside
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<tr>
<td>$6,795,000</td>
<td>618 Manzanita Way</td>
<td>Exception Home, equestrian facilities + pool &amp; spa; on &gt; 2.6 magnificent</td>
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## Atherton
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<td>$5,988,000</td>
<td>157 Watkins Ave</td>
<td>Beautifully remodeled 1-level home w/ resort-like backyard.</td>
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<tr>
<td>$5,800,000</td>
<td>625 Hobart St</td>
<td>Contemporary award winning Masterpiece home. 5 bd suites.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$4,595,000</td>
<td>29 Eugenia Ln</td>
<td>Masterfully renovated &amp; expanded contemporary home, is classic Woodside</td>
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## Redwood City
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<tr>
<td>$3,395,000</td>
<td>761 Bain Pl</td>
<td>No details spared in this unique home. Grand open floorplan and tons of</td>
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## Portola Valley
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<tr>
<td>$3,495,000</td>
<td>900 Wayside Rd</td>
<td>Stunning views across SF Bay from Mt. Diablo to Black Mountain.</td>
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## Woodside Heights
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<tr>
<td>$2,850,000</td>
<td>580 Old La Honda Rd</td>
<td>Custom-built home on approximately 9.5 acres with views the Valley, Bay and beyond.</td>
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## Central Park
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$1,500,000</td>
<td>502 Lincoln Ave</td>
<td>Spacious Duplex in heart of central park. Large property with 3bd unit &amp; 2bd unit + garage</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Sun Coldwell Banker 324-4456

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Sun 1-4 Golden Gate Sotheby's International Realty 847-1141

PALO ALTO
3 Bedrooms - Condominium
555 Byron St #410 $1,850,000
Sun Alain Pinel Realtors 462-1111

6 Bedrooms
2350 Byron St $9,388,000
Sun Coldwell Banker 324-4456

REDWOOD CITY
3 Bedrooms
868 Cleveland St $12,950,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 529-1111

4 Bedrooms
658 Oak Park Way $3,195,000
Sun 1-5 Coldwell Banker 851-2666

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**Sports Shorts**

**Ivy League Honors**

Palos Altos Jack Anderson, who played and started nine of 10 football games for Dartmouth at right guard, and Menlo School grad Jack Heneghan, who became the third Dartmouth quarterback to throw for 2,000 yards in a season twice (5.196) while completing over 63 percent of his passes (185-of-293) with 17 touchdowns and just six interceptions, were both named All-Ivy League honorable mention.

**Alumni Report**

Fresno State clinched the Mountain West Conference West Division championship Saturday with a 13-7 win in sub-freezing conditions at Wyoming. A couple of former local prep stars have made big contributions. Jordan Mims, a freshman running back from Menlo-Atherton, leads the team in rushing with 552 yards on 126 carries, despite not starting the first six games of the season. He’s averaged 4.4 yards per carry and scored five touchdowns. KeeSean Johnson, a junior wide receiver from Palo Alto High, leads the team in receiving with 58 catches for 741 yards and six touchdowns. Another former prep standout at Menlo, Maddie Huber, is a senior co-captain on the Princeton volleyball team. She had 19 digs playing libero Saturday in a 3-0 win over Yale that sends the Tigers to the NCAA Tournament for the second consecutive year.

**Getting Their Kicks**

The Stanford mens’ soccer team hosted Pacific in a shootout, 4-1, to advance to the third round of the NCAA tournament against visiting Coastal Carolina on Sunday at 2 p.m. Jordan DiBiasi scored the only goal of the game with just over 10 minutes remaining to play to lift the top-ranked and top-seeded Cardinal past visiting Florida State, 1-0, in the third round of the NCAA Mens’ Soccer Tournament on Saturday. Stanford (21-1) hosts No. 3 seed Penn State (15-4-4) at 2 p.m. Friday in the quarterfinals.

**On the Air**

**Friday**
- College men’s basketball: Gonzaga or Ohio State vs. Stanford, 6 p.m. ESPN2
- College women’s soccer: Penn State at Stanford, 2 p.m., Pac-12 Networks

**Saturday**
- College football: Notre Dame at Stanford, 5 p.m., ABC
- College women’s volleyball: Stanford at California, 7 p.m., Pac-12 Network

**Sunday**
- College men’s basketball: Stanford at PK80 Invitational, 10 a.m., ESPN2
- College men’s soccer: Coastal Carolina at Stanford, 5 p.m., Pac-12 Networks

**Prep Volleyball**

Menlo receiver David Schmaier caught a 15-yard touchdown pass against Jefferson.

Menlo receiver David Schmaier caught a 15-yard touchdown pass against Jefferson.

Menlo School hosts Scotts Valley in Division V game on Saturday

On Nov. 25, 2016 Menlo-Atherton registered its biggest win of the season, a 17-0 victory over Milpitas that gave the Bears the Central Coast Section Open Division I championship.

One day shy of a year later M-A plays Milpitas again with its season on the line in a 7 p.m. CCS semifinal matchup Friday at Milpitas High.

But this time around, roles are reversed.

“We graduated most of our team and their whole team has come back,” Menlo-Atherton coach Adhir Raviptsi said.

Milpitas is 11-0 this season, seeded No. 1 in the CCS Open Division I playoffs, and has absolutely manhandled and dominated its schedule, outscoring 11 opponents 469-58.

“They are extremely athletic and extremely physical with a lot of guys playing since they were sophomores together,” Raviptsi said.

The Bracy twins have been a formidable 1-2 combination. Tariq, a running back being recruited by the likes of Notre Dame and multiple Pac-12 schools, has rushed for 1,232 yards on just 130 carries with 17 touchdowns. Tyree, the team’s quarterback, passes sparingly. He has completed 60 of 103 passes, but with 21 touchdowns. Over one-third of his completions and over one-fifth of his attempts have gone for

M-A renew football rivalry

BY Glenn Reeves

Stanford senior cornerback Alameen Murphy records a tackle.

**Crunch time for Stanford**

Cardinal will focus on the Irish with a bit of luck for the Huskies

They won’t go so far as to wear any combination of purple and yellow under their Cardinal uniforms but Stanford football players are in agreement over which way they’d like to see the Apple Cup play out.

Interestingly enough, the Cardinal will be together for the game, though they might be a little distracted. Stanford’s 5 p.m. nonconference game with visiting Notre Dame on Saturday is scheduled to kick off at the same time as the Washington State at Washington contest.

Should the Huskies win that game, Stanford will play USC for the conference title on Friday, Dec. 1 at Levi’s Stadium. Of course, Stanford could have taken care of things and simply beaten the Cougars when it had the chance.

“There have been conversations about that,” Stanford coach David Shaw said.

“We don’t need to keep secrets from each other; everybody will have their phones and check them. I’m sure there will be an announcement or two during the game. Still, what’s important for us is what’s happening on our field and hopefully that game goes the way we want it to but that’s not going to affect the way we play Notre Dame.”

The Irish (9-2) are ranked ninth in the

(continued on page 35)

(continued on page 34)

(continued on page 34)
Volleyball
(continued from page 33)

Sacred Heart, meanwhile, had none; its legendary Gator mascot didn’t show up.

But they had Desler and Pulverari, and that was enough. Desler is part of the Gators’ Mount Rushmore: four seniors (with Haley Martella, Caroline Caruso and Celia Charlton) who, according to head coach Ali Magner, have provided the leadership to make this win possible.

“Cate has been a flawless leader,” Magner said. “We are peaking at the right time, and she’s a big part of that.

“I’m proud of all the players,” Magner said. “These girls believe in each other and play for each other, and that showed tonight.”

After two losses to the Tigers in the regular season and one in the CCS Division IV playoffs, it was their turn to get revenge, and that showed tonight.

“Notre Dame’s record was duplicated through the other two sets, as nearly every time Notre Dame looked to pull away, Desler would come through with an athletic move to save the day.

“I honestly think that we winning long rallies was a difference,” said Desler, who is hoping to play at Division III Tufts University (Boston) next season. “When you win those, you don’t feel tired. Sacred Heart fell behind 3-1 and 0-3 in the third set, but came back to tie it at 20-all on Elena Radeff’s block, and pull away from there.

The Gators won it in the fourth set when, fittingly, a spike by Pulverari ricocheted off of a Notre Dame player’s hands and sailed into the Sacred Heart rooting section.

Sadly, their mascot was not there to retrieve it. But for the Ga-
tors, everything else was just about perfect.

Stanford football
(continued from page 33)

in each other and play for each

Magner said. “These girls believe

in the right time, and she’s a big

win possible.

head coach Ali Magner, have pro-

more: four seniors (with Haley

Desler is a good job of preparing for the

Irish.

“We’re hoping Washington
pulls it out but we’re focused on
Notre Dame,” he said. “It’s a big

rivalry game, an end-of-the-year

game that we take seriously. It’s
been intense.”

Shaw also addressed safety Just-
in Reid being left off the list of
three finalists for the Joe Thorpe
Award. Needless to say, he was
not happy about it.

“I feel bad letters, it’s ridiculous,
it’s disrespectful, it’s wrong,” he
said. “Call it east coast bias, call it
Stanford bias, whatever you want to
call it; it’s ridiculous. He’s one of
the best players in America. At
the very least, one of the best play-
ers at his position.

“Guy just played both safety posi-
tions, boundary corner, field
corner, nickel and dime in one
game. It’s amazing.”

Shaw said. “Everything he’s done this year has been amazing. Tied for the lead in interceptions middle of the year and the ball has stayed away from him. Quarterbacks are smart. They’re going to throw away from him. He’s not going to get very many interceptions if he doesn’t get the opportunities. But the level of play is awesome.

“And to not be a finalist ... Minkah Fitzpatrick is phenom-
nal. He’s a great football player,”
Shaw said. “That being said, Jus-
tin belongs in that group. I know
he’s disappointed. He’s fine. He’ll
go back out and play his heart out
like he always does. I had to men-
tion that. It’s just wrong. It’s just
ridiculous.”

Reid has another year of eligi-
bility and Shaw knows he is ready
for the NFL. He even thinks he’s
a first-round draft pick.

“In my opinion and in the opin-
ion of a lot of people that matter,
yes,” he said. “He hasn’t made a
decision. He’ll turn in the paper-
work and see what the evaluation
is and make the right decision for
him and his family. But there’s not
much more on a football field
you can do than Justin has done this
year.”
Menlo runner ready for state meet

Eastside Prep boys, Menlo and Castilleja girls advance

by Glenn Reeves

Robert Miranda has a shot at winning a state Division IV cross country championship Saturday at Woodward Park in Fresno.

That’s the way his coach sees it.

“Rob should be in the top three along with Collin Ullrich of Liberty Ranch and Anthony Grover of Sierra,” Menlo coach Jorge Chen said. “It’s going to be a showdown. It should be very interesting. All three ran without competition at their section finals. It could be literally neck to neck. Rob is very motivated. He will leave everything on that course.”

Miranda, who has committed to run in college at Yale, has been working for all season. “I’ve just got to be ready to run my best race,” Miranda said. “This is why you run, what you’ve been working for all season.”

He said he doesn’t go into a race with any particular strategy. “I just try to go in with an open mind and respond,” Miranda said. “Let your body take over, be loose, be ready.”

He’s taking a similar approach toward declaring a major in college. “I have no idea,” he said. “You could put down math or computer science, but if you ask me again in four years it might be something completely different.”

Miranda will be joined by Knights’ teammate Kamran Murray, a freshman who has been improving at a rapid rate all season.

Palo Alto’s Henry Saul and Sam Craig hope to complete a solid season in boys Division I and Gunn’s Justin Chiao in boys Division II looks to finish strong.

On the girls’ side, Gunn’s Joyce Shea, who finished second at the CCS Division II and Woodside resident Anna Mokkapati, who finished second at the CCS Division IV championships, lead a strong contingent that also includes Sacred Heart Prep’s Luci Lambert in Division IV and Elysee Folkman of Kehillah Jewish in Division V.

Three local teams are also headed to the state meet: the Menlo School girls, led by Charlotte Tomkinson and Kyla Prette, in Division IV, Castilleja, with CCS Division V champion Teyah Gevelber, in girls Division V and Eastside Prep in boys Division V.

Woodside resident Isabelle Cairns will run with St. Francis in girls Division IV and Bellarmine senior Meika Beaudoin-Rousseau, who will be at Stanford next year, will be competitive in Division I. Eastside Prep is comprised of Carlos anye Nunez, Miles Conrad

M-A FOOTBALL

The senior threw for 345 yards and four touchdowns to help the Bears beat San Benito, 37-21, in the first round of the Central Coast Section Open Division II football playoffs. Conrad completed 14 of his 22 passes.

Honorable mention

Caroline Caruso
Sacred Heart Prep volleyball

Chelsea Fan
Palo Alto volleyball

Ashley Dreyer
Menlo volleyball

Charlotte Tomkinson
Woodside Prep volleyball

Stephanie Tu
Palo Alto golf

Watch video interviews of the Athletes of the Week, go to PARSportsOnline.com

Spencer Corona hopes to kickoff a victory on Friday night.

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Prep football (continued from page 33)

touchdowns. Jaw-dropping ratios. Tuni Faletau Fifita, another Division IV cross country runner, ready for state meet Eastside Prep boys, Menlo and Castilleja girls advance

Robert Miranda has a chance to finish near the top of the Division IV race.

The Eastside College Prep boys team advanced to the state meet in Division V.

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