Every kind of care for every kind of patient.

Stanford Health Care is redefining the patient experience. We are transforming health care to be bigger than a building or the number of beds. We are designing what healing means to the whole being of a person; bringing personalized care, customized treatment plans, and the best innovation in medicine for each individual. This is your new Stanford Hospital, a place of healing that is inspired—by you. Discover more at StanfordHealthCare.org/NewStanfordHospital.

A new hospital for more healing.
Why are Negotiation Skills so important to Sellers?

“At his heart, Derk lives for the negotiation and is able to use his personable attitude and savvy negotiating skills to get the best outcome. The best way to sum him up is that he is a broker’s broker.”
- Steven and Sabrina

“Negotiation skills were at the top of my list of criteria when interviewing realtors. Derk aced ‘the test.’”
- Deborah R.

“All-around awesome -- Derk has all of the great personal qualities that you’d want in a realtor, such as intelligence, humor, and a perfect mix of pragmatism and optimism. He is also extremely generous with his time and always made us feel that we were his most important client.”
- Betty S.

Call Derk to leverage the Local Advantage
VTA’s All New Service
Starting December 28, 2019

VTA Light Rail Changes
Light Rail will now have three distinct lines, which will be color-coded, and the new Orange Line will connect Downtown Mountain View to the Milpitas Transit Center. During weekday peak hours, service will be every 15 minutes and weekend peak hours will be every 20 minutes.

Orange Line – Alum Rock to Mountain View
- Transfer at Baypointe for the Blue Line
- Transfer at Champion, Lick Mill, Great America or Old Ironsides for the Green Line

Blue Line – Santa Teresa to Baypointe

Green Line – Winchester to Old Ironsides

Other Changes to Light Rail
- The light rail segment from Chalone/Chynoweth to Oskridge will be discontinued and will now be served by Route 64a.
- I-880/Milpitas station renamed to Alder Station
- Montague Station renamed to Milpitas Station
- New Route 60 will serve SJCC, Valley Fair/Santana Row, Downtown Campbell and Milpitas Transit Center.
- Only passengers boarding from SJC will board Route 60 for free.

The Frequent Bus Network
will operate every 15 minutes or better on weekdays between 6:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. and every 15 to 30 minutes on weekends.

Rapid 500 San Jose Diridon Station to Downtown San Jose
Rapid 522 Palo Alto Transit Center to Eastridge Transit Center
Rapid 523 Lockheed Martin Transit Ctr to Berryessa Transit Ctr
Route 22 Palo Alto Transit Center to Eastridge Transit Center
Route 23 De Anza College to Alum Rock Transit Center
Route 24 De Anza College to Alum Rock Transit Center
Route 26 West Valley College to Eastridge Transit Center
Route 57 Old Ironsides Station to West Valley College
Route 60 Milpitas Transit Center to Winchester Transit Center
Route 61 Good Samaritan Hospital to Sierra & Piedmont (via King/Mabury)
Route 64 Almaden & Crown to McKee & White
Route 66 Kaiser San Jose to Milpitas/Dixon Landing Road
Route 68 Gilroy Transit Center to San Jose Diridon Station
Route 70 Eastridge Transit Center to Milpitas Transit Center
Route 72 Senior & Monterey to Downtown San Jose
Route 73 Monterey & Branham to Downtown San Jose
Route 77 Eastridge Transit Center to Milpitas Transit Center

Improved Bus Routes
Route 20 Sunnyvale Caltrain Station to Milpitas Transit Center; 15-minute frequency during commute periods and 30-minute frequency in midday.
Route 21 Stanford Shopping Center to Santa Clara Caltrain station; a merger of Routes 32 and 35 into a single route.
Route 51 Moffett Field to West Valley College; hourly service on weekdays.
Route 56 Lockheed Martin Transit Center to Tamien Station; 30-minute service on weekdays and weekends.
Route 59 Old Ironsides Station to Valley Fair Transit Center; 30-minute frequency on weekdays and hourly on weekends.

Bus Routes that have been discontinued or changed: Bus Routes that have been discontinued or changed: Routes 17, 34, 45, 58, 88; Limited Routes 304, 321, 328 and 330; Express Bus 120, 140, and 180 will be discontinued. Express Bus 181 will continue to operate until BART service opens. Contact VTA for other options.
Forecast shows city’s tax revenues on the rise

New document projects steady sales tax growth but raises questions about hotels, infrastructure

by Gennady Sheyner

Despite mounting infrastructure costs and colossal pension obligations, Palo Alto is banking on good times ahead when it comes to the city budget, according to a new economic forecast released by the city. The Long Range Financial Forecast, which covers the years 2021 to 2030, sets the stage for what portends to be a relatively calm and drama-free budget-setting season, with revenues rising in most categories. On the other hand, it puts a damper on the City Council’s infrastructure ambitions and suggests that the city’s hotel tax revenues, which have been trending upward in recent years, may be in for a rocky period.

Overall, however, the news is largely positive. The forecast, which the council’s Finance Committee discussed Tuesday night, shows the city’s revenues rising by 7%, or $9.8 million, between the current fiscal year and the next one. This is driven largely by strong growth in sales and property taxes. The forecast shows sales taxes going up from $34.35 million in fiscal year 2020 (which began on July 1) to $37.6 million in 2021.

The forecast also predicts that the trend will continue, and even accelerate, over the next decade. Sales tax receipts are expected to climb by about 4% every year and reach $51.8 million in 2030.

The sales tax revenue forecast is driven by strong personal income and spending growth and a larger share of consumer spending online,” the forecast states. “New and innovative retail formats have helped revive physical retail presence. Stores that were once strictly online are now finding physical presence within communities.”

Property taxes, which make up the general fund’s largest revenue source, are expected to show even (continued on page 11)

Brentwood, Willow Oaks schools could close

Ravenswood board to discuss mergers this Friday

by Elena Kadvany

The Ravenswood City School District has announced which of its five elementary schools have been proposed for closure next fall: Brentwood Academy in East Palo Alto and Willow Oaks Elementary School in Menlo Park. Interim Superintendent Gina Sudaria is recommending that Brentwood students move to Costano School in East Palo Alto and Willow Oaks students to Belle Haven Elementary School in Menlo Park.

On Wednesday, Sudaria notified the Board of Education, teachers and staff, and parents received a pre-recorded phone message from her in English and Spanish. The proposals are not final and are subject to approval by the school board.

Ravenswood began discussing school closures in earnest this summer, under new leadership and with a looming budget deficit. The K-8 district is aiming to cut $1.35 million from next year’s budget. Closing a single school would save Ravenswood about $400,000.

Sudaria has said that merging schools is necessary for the survival of the district, where enrollment and corresponding state funding have been steadily declining for years. All of Ravenswood’s elementary schools are operating at close to half capacity this year, and the district’s overall enrollment is just over 2,000 students.

(continued on page 8)

Palo Alto, East Palo Alto students connect through music

Youth teach music for free to younger peers who can’t afford private lessons

by Jonathan Guillen

Niki Ebrahimnejad remembers how she and the other student mentors of Palo Alto Music Connection (PAMC) used to pay for basic supplies like reeds and sheet music for their elementary and middle school mentees. “Volunteers had to often provide instrument accessories—a brand new box of 10 reeds for the clarinet; for instance, can cost at least $20—and music books themselves for one or more students,” said Ebrahimnejad, a senior at Gunn High School and president of Palo Alto Music Connection, a nonprofit organization that teaches basic music literacy skills to students in the Ravenswood City School District. “Additionally, when there was no one to drive us (to the school), the session was canceled because we couldn’t pay for paid car service unless it was out of our own pocket.”

These constraints deepened last year when the Palo Alto Unified School District cut off the program’s access to the district’s supply of instruments after Palo Alto Music Connection received its nonprofit status and could no longer be considered an on-campus club. Mentors like David Leland, who volunteers to teach his passions for music and community involvement, resorted to (continued on page 11)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council will hold a public hearing to review amendments to Chapter 8.10 “Removal of and Damage to Heritage Trees”, (Heritage Tree Ordinance) including amending the Town’s Tree Preservation Guidelines, Standards and Specifications (Tree Guidelines) in accordance with Chapter 1.01.

Description: Modifications are proposed to regulations pertaining to Heritage Trees within the Town. The Planning Commission reviewed this application on February 28, 2018 and voted 5-0 to recommend approval of amendments. Other minor textual additions.

In the project is Categorically Exempt per Section 15305 of the CEQA Guidelines. Section 15305 relates to Minor Alterations in Land Use Limitations, as the Ordinance amendments would not result in any changes to land use or density.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that modifications to the Heritage Tree Ordinance and Tree Guidelines is set for hearing by the City Council at its meeting on December 18, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. in the Jennings Pavilion at Holbrook Palmer Park, 150 Watkins Avenue in the Town of Atheron, at which time and place all persons interested may appear and show cause, if they have any, why the amendments to the Town's Heritage Tree Ordnance and/or Tree Guidelines should or should not be approved.

IF YOU CHALLENGE the modifications to the Heritage Tree Ordinance or Tree Guidelines in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City Council at, or prior to, the public hearing. For further particulars, reference is made to the project on file.

If you have any questions on the item please contact Stephanie Davis, Senior Planner, at sbentz@ci.atherton.ca.us or Sally Bentz Dalton, Town Arborist at sbentz@ci.atherton.ca.us or Stephanie Davis, City Council at, or prior to, the public hearing. For further particulars, only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing and show cause, if they have any, why the amendments to the Town's Pavilion at Holbrook Palmer Park, 150 Watkins Avenue in the Town of Alto, CA 94306. The new bridge will be prefabricated off-site and, once ready, hoisted over the highway overnight, according to the city.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

What we are looking at tonight is the unintended consequence of the state law and whether we should put a Band-Aid on it.

— Alison Cormack, Palo Alto councilwoman, on urgency law to protect renters. See story on page 7.

Around Town

What we are looking at tonight is the unintended consequence of the state law and whether we should put a Band-Aid on it. For years, Palo Alto has encouraged developers to steer away from paved parking lots and toward underground parking garages. That trend comes at a cost to local trees, the Architectural Review Board warned this week. In a joint session with the City Council, board member Alexander Lewis cited numerous instances where garages interfered with the root system of street trees, at times requiring the board to recommend revisions. That’s because the basement level often extends beyond the footprint of the building, limiting how much space roots have to spread. Lew told the council, “We really can’t save any existing trees unless you work really hard to do that.” Lew told the council, “You’re losing mature trees when you really need them to screen a large building.” The board also flagged the issue in its annual report to the council earlier this year. “While the reduction of surface parking is generally a positive forces trees... We understand that replacement of single-story buildings with multiple-story ones can “reduce the size of trees as canopies. … We understand that multiple story buildings are a positive response to urban growth, but strive to also maintain a vibrant and robust urban street canopy.”

WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE …

In what has long been an annual tradition in Palo Alto, the Benjamin Leftwich undercrossing at Adobe Creek shut down late last month for the rainy season. The tunnel typically reopens in April, but that won’t happen this time around. With the council recently approving the construction contract for the city’s new bike bridge over U.S. Highway 101, city officials are expecting an “extended closure” for the underpass. Once the bridge is completed, it will give bicyclists and pedestrians a year-round route over U.S. Highway 101 and into the Baylands. According to the city’s blog, construction of the $23.2-million bridge will begin in January 2020, with completion anticipated in June 2021. The new bridge will be prefabricated off-site and, once ready, hoisted over the highway overnight, according to the city.

ERRORS OF COMMISSION …

Palo Alto’s elected leaders tend to be circumspect when confronted with in cases which their volunteer commissioners engage in questionable behavior. Even when shown evidence that a planning commissioner has benefited from a zone change that they participated in crafting, the response has been collective silence. This week, resident Fred Balin reiterated his concerns to Planning and Transportation Commissioner Michael Alcheck’s continued presence on the commission, despite his involvement in a policy on garage designs — a policy that helped him build garages on his own properties despite the city’s 2007 development code structures are illegal. Balin, who conducted his own investigation of Alcheck’s actions and released a 110-page report earlier this year, has been calling for months for the City Council to remove Alcheck from the commission. The council’s current procedures state that concerns about an individual board or commission member should be “pursued with tact.” If a Council member has concerns with a particular board or commission member fulfilling his or her roles and responsibilities and is comfortable in talking with that individual privately, the council member should do so,” the rules state. On Monday, Dec. 9, the council will consider possible changes to its rules. According to a report from City Manager Ed Shikada, the council will consider topics such as the relationship between commissioners and the council and the role of council liaisons. One of the questions listed in Shikada’s report is: “Should expectations of board/commission members be clarified, with definitions to elements such as qualifications, term limits, recusals and disclosures, attendance, conduct and a process for removal?”
A proposal in Palo Alto to pass an “emergency law” to protect tenants facing evictions before California’s new renter-protection law kicks in faltered on Monday night despite broad political support.

Instead, the council voted — for the second consecutive meeting — to delay adopting the urgency measure, which was proposed in a memo by Councilman Tom DuBois and Councilwoman Lydia Kou. The council’s vote means that even if members approve the law on Dec. 9, it would only be in effect for about three weeks.

The ordinance was proposed as a response to Assembly Bill 1482, which was signed into law by Gov. Gavin Newsom in October. The bill, which takes effect on Jan. 1, 2020, caps rent increases at 5% plus the rate of inflation for most multifamily residences. The measure, which was introduced in response to Assembly Bill 1482, which was signed into law by Gov. Gavin Newsom in October, caps rent increases at 5% plus the rate of inflation for most multifamily residences.

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The delay on Monday was prompted by Councilman Greg Tanaka, who demanded that the city perform more outreach before adopting the urgency law. “We owe it to the community to try to be as diligent as possible so we don’t rush into something without making a mistake unnecessarily,” Tanaka said.

With Councilwoman Liz Kniss recusing because she owns a rental property, all six council members had to sign off on the urgency law for it to take effect. That’s because urgency laws require approval by a four-fifths majority of council members present, including those recused. Five council members signaled their support, with various degrees of enthusiasm.

“This is to protect people who have rented for a year or more and who are evicted without cause,” DuBois said. “These are renters in good standing who are being evicted only to avoid state law. This is disruptive to our community.”

Councilwoman Alison Cormack and Vice Mayor Adrian Fine were more cautious. Cormack noted that Palo Alto residents have not been overly supportive of rent control in the past, with 57% rejecting Proposition 10, the 2018 measure that aimed to give cities more flexibility in capping rent increases. She wondered if the council’s priorities for 2020 should focus on other issues.

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Online This Week
These and other news stories were posted on Palo Alto Online throughout the week. For longer versions, go to www.PaloAltoOnline.com/news.

Stanford professor testifies to Trump’s ‘abuse of power’
Pamela Karlan, Stanford Law School professor and co-director of the school’s Supreme Court Litigation Clinic, was one of three legal scholars who testified in front of the House Judiciary Committee on Wednesday that President Donald Trump has committed impeachable offenses in his efforts to pressure Ukraine. (Posted Dec. 5, 9:14 a.m.)

Stanford announces policy changes in response to Operation Varsity Blues
Stanford University is “moving swiftly” to tighten its policies on donations and athletic recruits, as recommended by an international law firm brought in to review university procedures in the wake of the national admissions scandal that implicated a Stanford sailing coach. (Posted Dec. 3, 9:25 p.m.)

Stanford students press administrators on sexual assault
Top Stanford University administrators faced frank questions about sexual misconduct from students at a town hall on Tuesday, including the university’s responsibility to protect and inform students about faculty members accused of sexual harassment and the root causes of campus sexual violence. (Posted Dec. 3, 9:30 p.m.)

Council holds back funds from Ventura plan
Palo Alto’s effort to develop a new vision for the Ventura area hit another unexpected obstacle on Monday night, when a routine vote to provide funding for a planning exercise failed despite support from the City Council majority. (Posted Dec. 3, 12:37 p.m.)

Schools
(continued from page 5)
Brentwood, the largest of the five elementary schools this year, with 330 students, also needs the most renovations, according to a presentation Sudaria will give to the school board at a special meeting on Friday.
In an interview Wednesday evening, Sudaria said that she and her leadership team took into consideration four priorities identified by community members and board members through an input-gathering process in recent weeks: location of schools, including keeping neighborhood schools and ensuring the three remaining schools are spread out so more students have a school nearby; minimizing the number of students impacted; considering the facility’s size and condition; and protecting special programs such as dual-immersion, arts and mental health support.
They considered 12 merger scenarios, Sudaria said, and weighed each against additional factors, such as whether each school would have enough students to be sustainable in the long term, the school’s performance and whether closing a school would disproportionately affect any specific ethnic subgroup.
“I pride ourselves on having a team of diverse perspectives and points of view that pushed and challenged each other,” Sudaria said. “There’s not going to be 100% agreement, but at least there will be consensus and understanding of how we came to the proposal to the point where I’m confident that we’ve been able to weigh all the tradeoffs. I’m able to stand behind this proposal.”
Under the recommendation, the district’s dual-immersion program would remain at Los Robles-Ronald McNair Academy (which is also the district’s most recently renovated elementary school) and Turnaround Arts would stay at Coastello School. All three of the remaining elementary schools will keep their existing makerspaces, music and art offerings and school-based mental health services.

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• 39 degrees can be earned fully online
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CLASSES START JAN. 6, 2020.

GET STARTED TODAY AT foothill.edu/apply
And while Brentwood students will have to move schools, they are already more spread throughout the district than other elementary students.

If the board approves this plan, starting next fall, current Brentwood kindergarten through fourth-grade students would attend Costaño; current Willow Oaks kindergarten through fourth-grade students would go to Belle Haven; and Los Robles-Ronald McNair, Belle Haven and Costaño students would stay at their current schools. Brentwood and Willow Oaks families would be able to choose to enroll at a different school if they wish, and students at other schools can choose to transfer after Brentwood and Willow Oaks students are accommodated. The district would provide buses if needed for students to attend their new schools.

Middle schoolers will be unaffected by the mergers.

Any students who are new to the district next fall will be able to choose which elementary school to attend.

Staff at the affected schools will generally move with students, though principals, office staff and potentially custodians will be cut, according to the proposal. Classified staff who would be affected would be notified in February.

Ravenswood doesn’t plan to lay off any teachers, Sudaria wrote in her presentation; any cuts will be covered by natural attrition.

The district plans to explore leasing out the Brentwood and Willow Oaks campuses to bring in additional revenue, Sudaria said, and to address a likely expansion request from Kipp charter school in East Palo Alto.

“In order for this district to continue to thrive and renew itself we have to be optimistic in the possibilities,” Sudaria said. “On the other side of this is going to be stronger school communities and programs for students.”

Sudaria is encouraging community members to share their feedback on the merger plan at several upcoming public meetings.

“There might be other scenarios or reasons for another scenario that we have not considered,” she said. The school board will discuss the mergers on Friday, Dec. 6, at 7:15 p.m. and at its regular meeting next Thursday, Dec. 12, both held at the district office. The board is set to make a final decision on which schools to close on Jan. 9.

There will also be informational meetings at each elementary school on the following dates: Willow Oaks: Dec. 9 at 6 p.m.; Brentwood: Dec. 10 at 6 p.m.; Los Robles-Ronald McNair: Dec. 11 at 6 p.m.; Belle Haven: Dec. 16 at 6 p.m.; Costaño: Dec. 17 at 6 p.m.

Information about the mergers and an opportunity to provide input online are available at ravenswood-schools.net/school-mergers.

Staff Writer Elena Kadvany can be emailed at ekadvany@paweekly.com.
Year’s Grant Recipients

49ers Academy ........................................ $5,000
Abode Works ........................................... $5,000
Aldo’s Cafe ............................................. $5,000
Adolescent Counseling Services ................. $7,500
Aim High for High School ........................ $5,000
All Students Matter .................................. $15,000
Art in Action ........................................... $5,000
Art of Yoga ............................................ $5,000
Bayshore Christian Ministries .................... $5,000
Big Brothers Big Sisters ............................. $5,000
Bunama Vista Homeworke Club ................ $10,000
CASY .................................................. $10,000
Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto .. $10,000
Downtown Streets Team ............................ $1,500
DreamCatchers ...................................... $2,500
East Palo Alto Academy Foundation ......... $7,500
East Palo Alto Charter School (EPACS) ...... $7,500
East Palo Alto Kids Foundation ................. $10,000
East Palo Alto Tennis & Turfing ................. $10,000
Environmental Volunteers ....................... $5,000
Family Connections ................................ $5,000
Fit Kids Foundation ................................ $5,000
Foundation for a College Education ............ $7,500
Friends of Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo ... $5,000
Get Involved Palo Alto ............................. $5,000
Hidden Villa ......................................... $5,000
Jasper Ridge Farm ................................ $5,000
Kara .................................................... $7,500
KIPP Valiant Community Prep .................. $3,000
La Cornida .......................................... $1,500
Live in Peace ....................................... $7,500
Marine Science Institute ......................... $5,000
Music in the Schools Foundation ............... $5,000
New Creation Home Ministries ................. $5,000
New Voices for Youth .............................. $3,000
Palo Alto Art Center Foundation ............... $5,000
Palo Alto Housing .................................. $5,000
Palo Alto Music Connection ..................... $5,000
Peninsula HealthCare Connection .............. $7,500
Peninsula Volunteers ............................... $5,000
Project WeHope ................................... $15,000
Ravenswood Education Foundation .......... $7,500
Rebuilding Together Peninsula ................. $5,000
Silicon Valley Urban Debate League ........ $5,000
St. Elizabeth Seton School ....................... $10,000
St. Francis of Assisi Youth Club ............... $5,000
TheatreWorks ..................................... $5,000
YMCA East Palo Alto ............................. $10,000
YMCA Ross Road ................................ $5,000
Youth Community Service ....................... $20,000
Youth Speaks Out ................................ $12,000

Child Care Facility Improvement Grants
Friends of Preschool Family ..................... $5,000
Grace Lutheran Preschool ....................... $5,000
The Learning Center .............................. $5,000
Palo Alto Community Child Care ............. $10,000
Palo Alto Friends Nursery School .......... $5,000
Parents Nursery School .......................... $5,000

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 $400,000 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 and your donation is doubled. You give to non-profit groups that work right here in our community. It’s a great way to ensure that your charitable donations are working at home.

As of December 3, 150 donors have contributed $148,661 to the Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund.

New Donors

Hal & Carol Louchheim ....................... $180
Charles S. & Anne Williams ................. $150
Ted & Ginny Chu ................................ $100
Ann & Don Rothblatt ......................... $100
Martha Shirk ..................................... 1,000
Jody Maxmin ................................... $100
Adie & Donald Langendorf ................. $200
Gwen Barry ..................................... $100
Diane Moore ..................................... $100
Richard Johnson ............................... $1,000
Phil Fernandez & Daniel Stembergh .... $250
Albert Russell .................................. $100
Catherine Crystal Foster ................. 100
Andrea Smith ................................ $100
John Pavlovich ................................ $200
Thomas Rindfleisch ......................... $100

Enclosed is a donation of $______________

Name ____________________________
Business Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________
City/State/Zip ____________________________
Email ____________________________
Phone ____________________________
Credit Card (MC, VISA, or AMEX) _______ Expires _____ / _____

Signature ____________________________

I wish to designate my contribution as follows: (select one)

☑ In my name as shown above
☑ In the name of business above

OR: [ ] In honor of: [ ] In memory of: [ ] As a gift for:

(Name of person)

Non-profits: Grant application & guidelines at www.PaloAltoOnline.com/holiday_fund
Application deadline: January 10, 2020

Support our Kids
with a gift to the Holiday Fund

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Name ____________________________
Business Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________
City/State/Zip ____________________________
Email ____________________________
Phone ____________________________
Credit Card (MC, VISA, or AMEX) _______ Expires _____ / _____

Signature ____________________________

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Phil Fernandez & Daniel Stembergh .... $250
Albert Russell .................................. $100
Catherine Crystal Foster ................. 100
Andrea Smith ................................ $100
John Pavlovich ................................ $200
Thomas Rindfleisch ......................... $100

Enclosed is a donation of $______________

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City/State/Zip ____________________________
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Credit Card (MC, VISA, or AMEX) _______ Expires _____ / _____

Signature ____________________________

I wish to designate my contribution as follows: (select one)

☑ In my name as shown above
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OR: [ ] In honor of: [ ] In memory of: [ ] As a gift for:

(Name of person)

Non-profits: Grant application & guidelines at www.PaloAltoOnline.com/holiday_fund
Application deadline: January 10, 2020

Support our Kids
with a gift to the Holiday Fund

Give to the Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund and your donation is doubled. You give to non-profit groups that work right here in our community. It’s a great way to ensure that your charitable donations are working at home.

As of December 3, 150 donors have contributed $148,661 to the Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund.

New Donors

Hal & Carol Louchheim ....................... $180
Charles S. & Anne Williams ................. $150
Ted & Ginny Chu ................................ $100
Ann & Don Rothblatt ......................... $100
Martha Shirk ..................................... 1,000
Jody Maxmin ................................... $100
Adie & Donald Langendorf ................. $200
Gwen Barry ..................................... $100
Diane Moore ..................................... $100
Richard Johnson ............................... $1,000
Phil Fernandez & Daniel Stembergh .... $250
Albert Russell .................................. $100
Catherine Crystal Foster ................. 100
Andrea Smith ................................ $100
John Pavlovich ................................ $200
Thomas Rindfleisch ......................... $100

Enclosed is a donation of $______________

Name ____________________________
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City/State/Zip ____________________________
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Phone ____________________________
Credit Card (MC, VISA, or AMEX) _______ Expires _____ / _____

Signature ____________________________

I wish to designate my contribution as follows: (select one)

☑ In my name as shown above
☑ In the name of business above

OR: [ ] In honor of: [ ] In memory of: [ ] As a gift for:

(Name of person)
using their own instruments to provide
vidoes for demonstration for mentees.
“Music Connection is an opportunity to
give students the chance to learn an
instrument,” said Ebrahimejad, who
joined the volunteer group as a freshman.
“If they never had the
opportunity to try, the students
would never know if it’s something
they are passionate about and/or
have a hidden talent in music.”

Founded in 2010, Palo Alto Mu-
sic Connection was a school club
known as Gunn Music at Costano,
operating at Costano Elementary
School and entirely led by high
school students. But when the Ra-
venswood district revealed plans in
spring 2018 to convert Costano
from K-8 to K-5, leading to lower
student enrollment in the after-
school program, the board decided
to turn Palo Alto Music Connect-
tion into a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and
shift the organization’s focus to
Ravenswood Middle School for the
2018-19 school year.

While that nonprofit status came
with limitations, like no longer being able
to borrow Palo Alto Unified revenues, it allowed
the group to apply for grants for the first time. And
through the Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund, the organization
was awarded $5,000 to purchase instruments for the program
and to operate at both Costano and
Ravenswood Middle School.

With two violins, two clarinets, one
trumpet and two flutes, the Music Connection established its
own instrument inventory. The or-
ganization also purchased essential
clothing and accessories like reeds for
the shoulder rests, which their mentees
cannot afford.

“With the grant money, we were able
to buy better instruments for our
students and let them practice and
hear quality music,” Ebrahime-
nejad said.

Now 10 student mentors at each
East Palo Alto school pair up with
younger students for individual,
hour-long lessons once a week.
The first semester revolves around
music terminology, learning
what each symbol means with
the goal of being able to read sheet music. To aid
the instructors, the Music Connection has developed a
curriculum that guides the lesson plans and
keeps mentors on track in terms of
guiding student progress.

The second semester focuses on
practicing with the instruments, and
for many mentees it is the first time
they get to turn to music as an
interest.

“A lot of these students have never been introduced to music be-
fore,” Leland said. “We try to make it easy for them to pick up
instruments, to build a foundation
for them to go on and join band or
another music program.”

Kimberly Guillen, an after-
school coordinator at Costano, sees
the impact the program has on stu-
dents and their excitement to learn
an instrument.

“There are musically talented
students in East Palo Alto and stu-
dents, but it’s often too expensive
for them to have private lessons,”
Cheadle said.

“Kids love it. They always
look forward to Wednesdays when
they have the lessons,” Cheadle said.

“There is definite excitement among the students.”

The Holiday Fund Grant helped
Palo Alto Music Connection real-
ize its goal of raising its efficiency
by allowing the organization to
instrument supply for participants and
covering any maintenance fees.
Ebrahimejad also said the grant
helped the organization maintain
stability, allowing them to cover
administrative expenses like regist-
ration fees and bank fees.

And that’s freed the volunteers
up to focus on their core mission:
sharing their musical knowledge
in the same way that they learned
from their mentors and instructors.

“Our program is special in that
we try to be the positive instruc-
tors we had growing up and be
role models to these kids,”
Ebrahimejad said.

More information about
the impact of the Holiday Fund, includ-
ing the recipient nonprofit
agencies and instructions for do-
ating online, can be found on
page 10 of this newspaper and at
PaloAltoOnline.com.

Editorial Intern Jonathan
Guillen can be emailed at
jguillen@pawweekly.com.

### Holiday Fund (continued from page 5)

### Tax revenue (continued from page 5)

greater growth, going from the current level of $48.6 million
to $53 million in 2021. Revenues in this category are then projected
to grow by about 5.8% annually and reach $85.7 million by the end of
the decade.

The one area the city has
some cause for concern is hotel
taxes. In the last two quarters,
the hotel occupancy rate at local
dipped. While transient-occupancy
tax revenues this year are expected
to reach $27.2 million, about 6%
higher than in fiscal year 2019, it is
about $2.1 million, or 7.2%,
below the estimate in the city budget for
fiscal year 2020.

The phenomenon isn’t limited
to Palo Alto. According to a survey
by the consulting firm CBRE Ho-
tels, hotels in northern California
had experienced an average 1.4%
decline in occupancy rate in Sep-
tember. In Palo Alto, the decrease
was 4.7%.

Even so, city leaders expect
this revenue source to recover and in-
crease in the coming years. With
two Marriott hotels slated to open
in the next year or two, the forecasted
projects that revenues from hotel
taxes will go up by $4.3 million,
or 15%, between the current fiscal
year and fiscal year 2022.

Councilwoman Alison Cormack
said the council needs to pay
attention to hotel-tax revenues,
particularly as the city considers
changing its relationship with the
San Mateo County/Silicon Valley
Convention and Visitors Bureau, a
regional organization that markets
hotels and other destination. On
Monday night, the council consid-
ered a request from nearly 20 local
hotels to barter their
arrangement fees and bank fees.

The forecast also doesn’t ac-
count for a number of infra-
structure projects that the city is
planning to pursue in the coming
years, including the redevelopment
of Cyberbowl, a neighborhood
Center and the redesign of rail crossings
so that trains and cars would no
longer cross paths.

The city is also counting on
healthy revenue growth from sales
and property taxes, it is also pre-
paring to ask voters next year to
approve a business tax that would
pay for transportation
improvements such as the rail project.

Staff and committee members
also noted that the numbers could change significantly,
whether because of a recession or labor agree-
ments that result in higher than projected
expenses.

The forecast argues that the city
“must continue to exercise dili-
genance to remain financially sustain-
able and balance the ecosystem of
resources, the cost of doing busi-
ness and service-delivery level.”

“A continued scrutiny of the ex-
isting services, the addition of
new services, and the priorities of
the community will be necessary,”
Leland said.

Another area in which the fore-
casts warn of trouble is infrastruc-
ture. When the council adopted
its infrastructure plan in 2014, it esti-
mated that the projects in the plan
would cost about $125.8 million.
Since then, costs have jumped to
$280.6 million.

The city’s economists said
that the forecast should be revised
upwards if the economy is
anticipated in the coming years,
the forecast states.

### Staff Writer Gennady Sheyn

can be emailed at gsheyn@pawweekly.com.

Donate online at
siliconvalleycf.org/paw-holiday-fund
City Council (Dec. 2)

Recused: Baltay, Hirsch, Lew, Thompson
Yes: Cormack, DuBois, Filseth, Fine, Kou
No: Tanaka

The council voted 5-1 to approve a urgency ordinance prohibiting evictions without just cause until Dec. 31. Because the ordinance required six votes to advance, it failed. The council then unanimously agreed to continue the discussion to Dec. 9.

Yes: Cormack, DuBois, Filseth, Fine, Kou
No: Tanaka

Recused: Kniss

Hotes: The council voted to remain in the San Mateo County/Silicon Valley Conventions and Visitors Bureau until at least next fall and to then reconsider the decision based on results and input from hotels.

Yes: Cormack, DuBois, Fine, Kniss, Kou
No: Filseth, Tanaka

Council Finance Committee (Dec. 3)

Finances: The committee discussed and recommended adopting the Long Range Financial Forecast for the years 2021-2030.

Yes: Cormack, Catalanotti, Filseth, Fine, Kou
No: McQuade

Utilities Advisory Commission (Dec. 4)

Rates: The commission discussed the preliminary rate projections for the utility rates for the fiscal year 2021.

Yes: Cormack, Catalanotti, Filseth, Fine, Kou
No: None

Architectural Review Board (Dec. 5)

Stanford Shopping Center: The board considered a proposal to demolish the 94,500-square-foot Macy’s Men’s building at Stanford Shopping Center and construct four retail buildings with a total of 78,500 square feet. It supported the plan but did not approve the proposed Wilkes Bashford Building, opting instead to approve a conceptual “pavilion” in the location where the building will be located and require the applicant to return with a revised design for the building.

Yes: Battat, Hirsch, Lew, Thompson
Recused: Lee

LET’S DISCUSS: Read the latest local news headlines and talk about the issues at Town Square at Pal AltoOnline.com/square

‘Urgency’ law

(continued from page 7)

concluded that the law will likely benefit a few residents but said she would support it.

“What we are looking at tonight is the unintended consequence of the state law and whether we should put it on Band-Aid on it,” Cormack said.

Fine also supported the proposed ordinance but argued that the city should be doing far more to address the root issue: a shortage of housing.

“We should be doing everything to (achieve) our goal and we aren’t,” Fine said. “It’s time to get with the program.”

The law appeared to be on its way to passing before Tanaka proposed delaying the discussion by another week. DuBois rejected his proposal, leading Tanaka to vote against the ordinance. Tanaka then joined the rest of his colleagues in a separate vote to take up the subject again at the council’s next meeting on Dec. 9.

The Monday hearing marked the second time that the council considered but failed to advance the urgency ordinance despite majority support. At the Nov. 18 meeting, with Fine absent and Kniss recused, Mayor Eric Filseth erroneously believed that there weren’t enough members present for the vote — only five, when six votes would be needed.

The draft ordinance provided to the council by the City Attorney’s Office seems to state as much, noting that municipal code section 2.04.270 “authorizes the adoption of an urgency ordinance ... by four-fifths of the council.” Four-fifths of a seven-member council is 5.6 members — or, rounded up, six.

However, the city’s code actually states that an urgency ordinance “may be introduced and adopted at one and the same meeting if passed by a vote of four-fifths of the council members present.”

With six members present on Nov. 18, the ordinance could have passed with five votes.

When Filseth at the November meeting stated his understanding was that the proposal would require approval from six council members, Czarina Kumar, director for the California Apartment Association, warned that the law could hurt “mom and pop landlords” who had launched eviction proceedings against their tenants under the old law but would now have to restart the proceedings with a just-cause requirement.

But Martin Eichner, a former mediator at Project Sentinel, a nonprofit that provides housing mediation services, argued that AB 1482 leaves some tenants vulnerable during the period before the law kicks in. AB 1482, he said, “leaves tenants in doubt forever before the law kicks in. AB 1482 leaves some tenants insecure. They have now. That means they... are not going to protect themselves.”

Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner
gsheyner@paweekly.com
Here come the Holidays

Soli Deo Gloria
Allen H Simon, Artistic Director

O What JOY!

Great Choral Works by Schubert • Charpentier Bach • Michael Haydn

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Grace Lutheran Church of Palo Alto
3149 Waverley Street
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Advance Prices: $26 General; $21 Student/Senior
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IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY CALL 911
**POLICE CALLS**

**Public Notices**

995 Fictitious Business Name Statement

NAMED FAKE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 823542-LLC

The following persons (associate) are (are) doing business as:

Faked, located at 1139 Sunnysumder Ct., San Jose, CA 95112, San Jose County.

This business is owned by: A Limited Liability Company.

The name and residence address of the registrant(s) (LLC)

6 Newell Ct.

Registration began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 09/01/2019.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on November 5, 2019.

File No.: FBN660995

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

The name and residence address of the registrant(s) (LLC)

6 Newell Ct.

Registration began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 09/01/2019.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on November 5, 2019.

File No.: FBN660995

24 HOUR FRIENDLY HOME CARE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. TIX-5426-LLC

The following persons (associate) are (are) doing business as:

24 Hour Home Care, located at 530 Shoffner, CA 95113.

This business is owned by: An Individual.

The name and residence address of the registrant(s) (LLC)

LONGONBOLO TUKITOA

Registration began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 09/01/2019.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on November 27, 2019.

File No.: FBN660995

997 All Other Legals

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF
MARY ANNE FOLEY
Case No. 19PH108704

To all creditors, coheirs, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the estate of Mary Anne Foley, a resident of Atherton, California, for about 10 years before she moved to Menlo Park, California.

Shirley Yin Chang

November 21, 1936 - March 2, 2019

Beloved wife, sister, mother, and grandmother, Shirley Yin Chang passed away in her sleep on March 2, 2019, in Menlo Park, California. She was 82 years old.

Born on November 21, 1936, in Nanking, then the capital of China, she was originally from Hupei province. Her early years were marred by war, first by the invasion of China by the Japanese, which lasted from 1937 to 1945, and second by the civil war between the Nationalists and the Communists, which lasted until 1949.

A 2-star general in the Nationalist army, her father was captured by the Communists at the end of the Civil War and sent to a laogai for over 20 years in the far western Xinjiang province. She and her younger sister Betty escaped to Taiwan in 1949 with their grandfaather, a 3-star general in the Nationalist army and National Assembly member.

After graduating from Taipei Girl's Normal School in 1957, she became an elementary school teacher. On October 10, 1959, she married a young army officer, Major Jack Nan Chang, who later became a diplomat assigned to the Republic of China on Taiwan's San Francisco, California consulate as Vice Consul and later to the Boston, Massachusetts consulate as Consul.

They started a family in Taipei, raising two boys before relocating when her husband was assigned to the consulates in the USA. Both boys earned undergraduate EECS degrees from the University of California at Berkeley, and engineering masters degrees from Stanford University, eventually working many decades in Silicon Valley.

As a Christian attending church in America and in China, she made many friends. She also enjoyed traveling the world with her husband. Friends, family and relatives will always remember her smiles, kindness and love.

A resident of Atherton, California, for about 10 years before she moved to Menlo Park in 2009, she was survived by her husband, her son Peter and Benjamin and their children, her younger sister Betty in America, and her younger brother Dixon and two other younger sisters, Zhuying and Gaolan, in China. Her last resting place is at Skylawn Memorial Park in San Mateo, California.
Transitions

Births, marriages and deaths

Bernardo Gonzalez Huerta
After battling lymphoma, Bernardo Gonzalez Huerta, a member of the East Palo Alto Public Works & Transportation Committee, died on Nov. 26. He was 55. Born Nov. 11, 1964 and raised in East Palo Alto, he was educated by the Ravenswood City School District and graduated from Woodside High School. Later, he became a professional plumber. He got involved in his East Palo Alto community by serving on several city commissions: the Public Works & Transportation Committee starting in 2001 and the Planning Commission from 2005 to 2012. Huerta also ran for city council last year, but was not elected. He is survived by his mother, Consuelo G. Huerta of East Palo Alto; brothers, Domingo G. Huerta of East Palo Alto, Jorge G. Huerta of Gilroy, Raul Huerta of Newark, Gerardo G. Huerta of San Jose and Leonardo G. Huerta of Union City, and his nieces and nephews.

A service will be held on Friday, Dec. 6 at 9:30 a.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 1425 Bay Road, East Palo Alto. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his honor to the March of Dimes or the American Cancer Society.

Marilyn Koenick Yalom
Marilyn Koenick Yalom, a prolific gender studies scholar, lecturer, author and cultural historian, passed away from multiple myeloma on Nov. 27 in her Palo Alto home. She was 87.

Born on March 10, 1922 in Chicago and raised in Washington D.C., she was the daughter of a Russian father who ran a grocery store and British mother. In 1954, she graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in French from Wellesley College and married Irvin Yalom, who is now an emeritus professor of psychiatry at Stanford University. Two years later, she earned her master’s degree in French and German from Harvard University. She further pursued her educational career by earning a doctoral degree in comparative literature from Johns Hopkins University in 1963, after a year about after she permanently settled in Palo Alto with her husband.

After holding academic positions at the University of Hawaii at Manoa in 1961-62 and California State University, East Bay, then known as California State College at Hayward, from 1963 to 1976, she came to Stanford University in 1976 as a lecturer in the modern thought and literature program. Yalom was also a senior scholar with the Clayman Institute for Gender Research at Stanford, then known as the Center for Research on Women, and served as its director from 1984-85. There, she helped pioneer its visiting and affiliated scholars programs.

Throughout her career in academia, she published many books on her vested interests in French culture, gender and marriage, among others, including one of her most popular books, “A History of the Breast,” published in 1997, in which she sifted through 25,000 years of civilization’s perceptions of the female breast. She also received several accolades including an Alumni Achievement Award from Wellesley College in 2013 and the Officier des Palmes Académique bestowed by the French government in 1991, recognizing her as a distinguished academic figure.

Yalom is survived by her husband, Irvin Yalom of Palo Alto; four children, including Eve Yalom Breyer, Victor Yalom of Mill Valley, and Benjamin Yalom of Encinitas; her sister, Lucille Joseph of Albuquerque; and eight grandchildren.

Carla Florentine Davis
November 15, 1922 – November 13, 2019

Carla Davis, a resident of Palo Alto and Mountain View for over 60 years, died peacefully with family at her side. Her almost 97 years on this earth were full and satisfying.

Carla was born to Paul and Flora Wassersleben in Berlin, Germany, the first of two children. The family immigrated to San Francisco, California in 1926 in order to escape economic hardships and seek new opportunities.

A vivacious and often precocious child, Carla loved living among the hills of San Francisco and traveling the street cars throughout the city. She was an avid student who continued to be schooled in German and English, fluent in both for her entire life. With advent of the Great Depression, the family lived under the harsh realities of a weakened economy which shaped a frugal outlook throughout her life.

As a teen, Carla entered the prestigious Lowell High School, but she met the love of her life, James C. Davis, when his family moved next door (he went to Polytechnic High). They shared two loves, tennis and contract bridge which they played with passion as a highly competitive. In the 1940s’ World’s Fair at Treasure Island, they teamed to win the Contract Bridge Tournament Open Pair’s event.

Carla and Jim married in 1942 right before Jim was drafted into the U.S. Army for World War II. He spent three years in Hawaii with the Radio Corps while Carla moved back home with her family.

After the war, the young Davis couple began their family in San Francisco starting with Jacqueline in 1947, Janet in 1948, and James in 1949. With a growing family, they moved to Palo Alto in 1952 and had their fourth child Ronald in 1953. Carla was active in Church (a founding member of Grace Lutheran) and community, giving her children a solid foundation in their lives.

But family did not dissuade Carla and Jim from their passion, Contract Bridge. They both reached Life Master status in the 1960s, directed many Bridge games, and Carla taught Bridge well into her 80’s. Her mental acuity and love for competition lasted her entire life.

Carla was an avid letter writer and constantly provided the family connections that spread to her family in Germany. Because of her constant contact, Carla was able to visit cousins in Germany and hosted their visits at her home.

After their children became adults, Carla and Jim enjoyed worldwide travel that included Africa, Hong Kong, Bermuda, Greece, and many other places. They eventually purchased a Maui time-share in 1977 that still is part of the family today. Her later years spend in the island paradise were always the most pleasing part of the year.

Carla’s death was preceded by her husband Jim and her brother Rudy. She is survived by her daughter Jacqueline Visher, daughter Janet Gusman and husband Michael (along with two grandchildren and three great grandchildren), son James Davis, and son Ronald Davis and wife Charlene.

Craig Jurney
November 15, 1963 - November 20, 2019

Craig Jurney, 56, died unexpectedly on November 20, 2019 at Stanford Hospital surrounded by his family. He was a resident of Palo Alto, CA.

Craig graduated from Stanford University in 1987, having majored in public policy with a focus on economics. He was a scholar, an art lover, a follower of politics and culture, and a world traveler. He loved museums of all kinds, and discovered new ones whenever his wide-ranging travels for work and vacation took him.

A devoted husband, he relished date nights with his wife Erika, and together they loved carefully planning their annual family vacations. He regularly shopped for the family groceries and often cooked the family meals. When he shopped at the farmers market on Saturdays, he came home with flowers. He was a loving father who devoted many of his after work and weekend hours to coaching the boys’ soccer and baseball teams, attending every play, and every band performance. He was a fan of the San Francisco Giants and enjoyed watching games with his boys. Simply put...he was the smartest and kindest person his wife ever met.

Craig worked for 15 years at HighWire Press in Los Gatos, CA as Chief Solutions Architect and Principal Developer. In a recent interview, he described his job as: “I design many of the systems that we run at HighWire from the ground up and for those that I don’t design, I figure out how to integrate them into our overall offering or change/expand them to support our clients’ ever-changing requirements. I also travel to visit our strategic customers and meet with their technical staff.”

He and Erika have lived for almost 23 years to the love of his life, Erika. Together they parented their wonderful children, travelled, read, and thoroughly enjoyed each other’s company. There’s was a true, close partnership cut short.

Craig is survived by his wife, Erika, their boys Henry, Ed, and Charlie; his father Peter Jurney and his wife Gloria; his sister Anne-Marie Jurney; his brother Steve Jurney and his wife Marilyn Replogle; his parents-in-law Brigitte and Bliss Carnochan and Ken Fields and Nora Cain; and his sisters-in-law Sam and Jess Fields. His mother, Patricia, predeceased him. His laugh, curiosity, and far-ranging intelligence will be greatly missed by his family, friends, and colleagues.

Craig’s family would like to extend their thanks to the doctors and nurses at Stanford Hospital for their compassionate care. Information about his memorial service is available at craigjurney.com.
One of the most frightening days in Palo Alto Fire Chief Geoffrey Blackshire’s career came on a sunny, warm June afternoon in 2014. The call came at 2:13 p.m. A driver rounding a hairpin turn on a mountainous stretch of Page Mill Road had tried to avoid a deer. The car swerved and then plowed head-on into an embankment, bursting into flames.

The dry grasses and brush in the oak-wooded foothills at the Foot hills Open Space Preserve were set ablaze, and the fire was moving at a moderate speed. All of the conditions were ripe for a fire that could have blown up into a major conflagration — save for the lack of wind.

When Blackshire, who was then a battalion chief, and his crews arrived, the blaze had spread to 1.5 acres. Thankfully, firefighters were able to contain it.

For Blackshire, the fire was a cautionary tale of how the vagaries of nature can either cause a wildfire to spread uncontrollably — or spare a community from burning. Two factors contributed to the fire’s quick containment: the area was mercifully calm instead of the predicted 18 mph, and the air was calm instead of the predicted 18 mph. The city had opened Foothills Fire Station early.

“There was zero wind. All it would take is for the wind to blow and the fire would have taken off. It was in the heart of a lot of vegetation,” he said in 2014.

California’s wildfire “season” isn’t seasonal anymore. With climate change producing drier vegetation and hotter weather, it's year-round, experts said.

In an April 9 report to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, county Fire Chief Tony Bowden wrote that the last 10 fire seasons have produced seven of California’s most destructive wildland fires.

“It is clear we are seeing unprecedented fire behavior and destruction and need to take immediate action to reduce our risk and ensure Santa Clara County can respond effectively to the new normal,” he said.

Blackshire agreed.

“We’re in an era of megafires,” he said during a recent phone interview. “Fifteen to 20 of the largest fires in state history are post-2000. We have to adapt to this climate change.”

“It can happen here,” he said. “To think that it can’t would be irresponsible.”

A change in the land

The forested slopes and grasslands of the Santa Cruz Mountains haven’t experienced a big wildfire since 1912, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) data. Higher air-moisture levels, fog, cooler temperatures and close proximity of firefighting forces have helped to keep a devastating fire at bay, local experts said. But that's changing.

Land use and management practices such as suppressing natural fires, along with greater human activity in the coastal foothills and mountains, are increasing the chances that larger wildfires will occur, fire agency leaders said. Approximately 85% of wildfires are sparked by the actions of people, according to the U.S. Forest Service and the National Interagency Fire Center.

A 2016 map in the Santa Clara County Community Wildfire Protection Plan shows the risks of humans living in and near wildlands: The locations of wildfires have migrated over time, from remote areas pre-1900 toward urban centers in Santa Clara County. Dozens of fires after 2010 have occurred closer to urban areas where fires were not previously recorded in significant numbers.

Like much of the foothills and mountains west of Interstate 280, Palo Alto’s open space areas are rated an “extreme” risk, according to an assessment in the county wildfire plan. Abundant grasslands in and around Pearson-Arstrade-ro Preserve are primed for fires that would run along the ground. A sizable portion of Foothills Park has trees that could torch individually like candles, according to the county protection plan. Embers from those flaming trees can travel long distances, igniting fences, homes, businesses and sparking new wildland fires, which when joined, can burn out of control.

Findings in Palo Alto’s 2016 updated Foothills Fire Management Plan, which ran computer models of fire behavior under extreme weather conditions, are sobering.

“There is very little in the landscape that does not burn,” the report stated, noting that flames could reach 213 feet tall.

So far, the area has been lucky. But wind, combined with sparks and dry vegetation, has fire agencies and some researchers worried.

According to the 2018 California Fourth Climate Change Assessment, dry, warm air flowing to the coast is playing a key role in amplifying “fire weather” conditions. In October 2017, such wind fanned fires that led to enormous damage in Sonoma and Napa counties.

“In October, gusts of up to 30 miles per hour fed the Kincade Fire in Sonoma County, according to some weather reports.”

On the San Francisco Peninsula, the northeast wind comes across the bay into Palo Alto and up into the foothills — keeping the area safer than places like Paradise. But the wind isn’t predictable.

“It can come the other way, especially as the seasons change,” said Patty Ciesla, executive director of the Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council.

‘It can happen here. To think that it can’t would be irresponsible.’

—Geoffrey Blackshire, fire chief, city of Palo Alto

“The wind can drive the fires so hard and fast that firefighters can’t get to them without danger to themselves,” she said. “My fear is, we’ll have an alignment where the fire is able to blow with such speed and ferociously we can’t do anything about it.”

Hotter winds, regardless of their strength, also dry out vegetation. And more than a century of fire-suppression practices have provided the fuel for major conflagrations, said Bill Murphy, fire captain for Santa Clara County Fire Department.
“Land managers and fire agencies are scrambling to reduce the fuel loads in forests and grasslands that lead to large-scale fires, which won’t prevent them but might drastically reduce them, they said.

In any event, Blackshire said that it will take everyone — the public, land managers, fire departments, park rangers, cities, government agencies, utilities companies — working together to keep ahead of potential wildfires to come.

## Focusing on the best defense

The problem is so vast that land managers and fire agencies must pick their battles, they said. Their most important strategy is to create and maintain “defensible space” against fires — areas around a building or road where vegetation, debris or combustible materials are cleared to slow the spread of fire.

Local agencies are focused on several areas: around schools, power stations, hospitals and other crucial infrastructure and a roughly half-mile-wide swath between wildlands and inhabited areas.

Evacuation routes are at the top of the list for clearing. The city of Palo Alto, Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council and Cal Fire all work to reduce undergrowth and overhanging branches along critical roads.

Many routes in the Santa Cruz Mountains have only one way in or out. Roads through the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District are being crossed the canopy to both sides of a road would form a fire tunnel, preventing people from escaping and emergency responders from getting into the area, agency managers said.

As of 2016, the city of Palo Alto reported in an updated Foot hills Fire Management Plan that evacuation routes on Arstadero, Page Mill and Los Trancos roads, within and south of Foot Hills Park and west and east of Pearson–Arstadero Preserve had been cleared. Based on modeling the city did to estimate the impact of the work, under extreme dry-weather conditions with wind blowing uphill at 20 miles per hour, flames that would have been 9 feet tall would only rise 2 feet. The fire’s spread would move five times more slowly.

The Fire Safe Council has helped crews manage vegetation along Page Mill and Arstadero, cutting back vegetation 30 feet from the road edge and 10 feet from the ground, Ciesla said.

This year, the council is working with Caltrans and Santa Clara County Fire Department on a particularly dangerous part of State Route 17, clearing out the dead wood that, in a fire, might make the road impassable. The crews remove shrubs and grasses and churn the soil from the roadside edge up a steep hillside and away from utility poles. With very little vegetation left on the ground but still enough to hold the soil and prevent mudslides, “flames hopefully will not be very tall or very hot, and it will more be like being next to a fireplace,” Ciesla said.

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, Palo Alto’s Foot hills Park and Stanford University are also creating similar “defensible spaces” on their lands with a variety of tools: from shovels to graders, mowers to chainsaws, and goats that graze to controlled fires, which burn off dry vegetation.

### Even the best-laid plans

All of the agencies will require one critical thing to achieve their plan goals: funding.

The state began making investments, but it will take billions of dollars to reduce wildfire threats, fire experts said.

In 2018, former Gov. Jerry Brown signed a $1.1 billion package to clear forests of dry vegetation over the next five years.

Gov. Gavin Newsom in July signed a catastrophic wildfire and safety bill. In October, spurred by a new round of devastating wild- fires, he signed 22 bills based on recommendations from the Governor’s Strike Force Report of Wildfires.

Newsom approved another $1 billion in the state budget for preparedness and the state’s capacity to respond to emergencies. The budget included 13 new fire engines, and a $127.2 million investment to expand Cal Fire’s fleet with C-130 air tankers and modified Black Hawk helicopters for nighttime firefighting.

Newsom also signed an executive order authorizing nearly 400 seasonal firefighters to Cal Fire this year. Another $210 million from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund will help Cal Fire complete more fuel-reduction projects, among other efforts.

Other bills will develop models for defensible space and standards for home hardening and construction materials to increase community fire safety and require investor-owned utilities to include information about undergrounding utility lines in their wildfire mitigation plans.

Santa Clara County’s Board of Supervisors is considering spending $1.3 million on fighting wildfires. In April, the supervisors received a work plan by the Santa Clara County Fire Marshal’s Office, which estimated a need for $1.2 million in fiscal year 2019-2020 and $1.3 million in fiscal year 2020-2021 for fire-fighting vehicles and 10 wildland fire cameras to help spot fires when they start.

Future costs could include an estimated $5.5 million for personnel and equipment for managing vegetation and curtailing fires. The work plan also adds an estimated $7 million to the program’s wishlist for a refurbished helicopter.

One wildcard in preventing wildfires, of course, is Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E). Throughout the system, the utility company has approximately 81,000 miles of underground distribution lines and approximately 26,000 miles of underground distribution lines, which transmit electricity from substations to customers. PG&E’s electric transmission system from power plants to substations is about 18,000 miles, the majority of which are overhead lines, the company noted.

Putting the utility’s overhead lines underground would cost $3 million per mile, according to a PG&E fact sheet, totaling $297 billion.

Under the California Public Utilities Commission Electric Rule 20A, the utility company is supposed to dedicate funds for undergrounding its overhead lines. An audit by PG&E published Oct. 15 found that the company has underspent commission-adopted amounts by $123 million since 2007, yet the funding for undergrounding was embedded in ratepayers’ electric bills.

With literally miles to go in the effort to make the Bay Area safe from wildfires, Blackshire said that people will have to adapt to the new reality. Already, residents and businesses are facing repeated electrical shut-offs during “red flag” weather warnings, he said. It might be necessary to have preemptive evacuations instead of waiting until fire breaks out because when the wind whips in the night, danger rises, he said.

Blackshire said many questions about wildfire prevention are still unanswered: how to allocate fire personnel and equipment to fight multiple fires at once and how to prepare for more and greater fires.

Fire crews, too, must adapt, and agencies must prepare to supply them with aid and counseling.

“The fires are taking a toll on firefighters; it takes an emotional and physical toll,” he said, noting the lingering effects of witnessing heartbroken residents standing amid the smoldering ruins of their homes.

Part of adaptation also requires acceptance that change is here and is likely to continue.

“As we adapt more, we can acknowledge there is a change,” he said.

Murphy agreed.

“We have to rethink land management. We didn’t get into the problem overnight, and we’re not going to get out of it overnight,” he said.

### About the cover

Ignited in September 2016, the Loma Fire in south Santa Clara County burned 4,474 acres, destroyed 28 structures and lasted nearly a year. More than 1,000 firefighters and 18 agencies battled the blaze. It was started by sparks from a portable generator used in illegal marijuana cultivation. Photo courtesy CalFire.
Over 4,000 traditional and contemporary rugs from Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Nepal.

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RUGS UNDER $1,000
Many colors and sizes to choose from.
Los Altos Stage Company offers a vintage-style radio performance of a Christmas classic

by Sue Dremann | Photos by Richard Mayer

It’s Dec. 22, 1947, a little over two years and three months after the end of World War II. War-weary Americans have every reason to be pessimistic about the future of humankind. But a Christmas tale is about to bring hope to millions of radio listeners: “Faith is believing when common sense tells you not to. Don’t you see? It’s not just Kris that’s on trial, it’s everything he stands for. It’s kindness and joy and love and all the other intangibles,” Fred Gailey, the attorney for Kris Kringle, aka, Santa Claus, says in “Miracle on 34th Street.”

The movie of the same name was released in the spring of 1947, and it’s become a classic. But few people know that months later it was broadcast as a radio play on Lux Radio Theater, starring some of the film’s same actors: Maureen O’Hara as the cynical Doris, John Payne as idiosyncratic Fred Gailey, Natalie Wood as Susan and Edmund Gwenn as twinkly-eyed Kris Kringle.

Now Los Altos Stage Company has re-imagined the radio play, staging a live musical version adapted from the 1947 Lux Radio broadcast that in these cynical times will have audiences believing in the value of those same “intangibles.”

Directed by Allie Bailey, with Benjamin Belew-Sakaguchi as musical director and Karen Law as assistant director and choreographer, the play follows a script by Lance Arthur Smith and original songs and arrangements by Jon Lorenz, commissioned by the San Diego Musical Theatre to create the production.

Los Altos Stage Company’s version has some solid merits and some disappointments, but it’s still worth seeing. It faithfully recreates a retro radio-broadcasting studio, right down to the sound booth, microphones and Foley instruments for realistic sound effects. An old-fashioned free-standing radio is stage left and brightly-lit, vintage “applause” signs cue the audience when to clap.

The actors — performing live from “KLASC radio” in Los Altos — sing advertising jingles from the era in between snack-binges about Lux soap, Tupperware and Camel cigarettes. The original musical numbers didn’t have any standouts and were mixed with other traditional holiday songs. That wasn’t necessarily a bad thing; the audience was clearly cheerful when the performers broke out in something familiar, but they did seem a bit incongruous in the sense that they felt like filler.

The period costumes, set and sound effects make for some of the production’s most interesting features, as do the old-fashioned jingles about Lux soap, Tupperware and Camel cigarettes. The original musical numbers didn’t have any standouts and were mixed with other traditional holiday songs. That wasn’t necessarily a bad thing; the audience was clearly cheerful when the performers broke out in something familiar, but they did seem a bit incongruous in the sense that they felt like filler.

Still, I liked “Miracle on 34th Street,” the musical. It had the right feel of a radio show and it was uplifting. In an age when many people feel we’ve lost touch with those intangibles like kindness and love and joy, it just might be a balm needed for some of the more fraught times.

Venice Ella Mayor performs the role of Susan Walker, the Santa-skeptical little girl at the heart of “Miracle on 34th Street.”
Eating Out

The Village Pub in Woodside and San Francisco’s Spruce.

Selby’s is the newest addition to The Bacchus Management Group’s empire of upscale eateries, known for novel-length wine lists and ultra-fresh fare from Bacchus’ private, organic farm in Woodside. The group’s “properties” (as Bacchus describes its restaurants on its website) include Michelin-starred restaurants like Bacchus, which is building part of its glamor-ultra-fresh fare from Bacchus’ private, organic farm in Woodside. The group’s “properties” (as Bacchus describes its restaurants on its website) include Michelin-starred

Swanky Selby’s serves steakhouse classics to the monied set

When I heard Selby’s was tout- ing “the coldest martinis on the West Coast” and prepar- ing them tableside on retro cocktail carts, I had just one question: How soon could I get a reservation?

Selby’s is the newest addition to the Bacchus Management Group’s empire of upscale eateries, known for novel-length wine lists and ultra-fresh fare from Bacchus’ private, organic farm in Woodside. The group’s “properties” (as Bacchus describes its restaurants on its website) include Michelin-starred restaurants like Bacchus, which is building part of its glamor

It’s a Wonderful Nutcracker

MENILOWE BALLETT ORCHARD 2019 SEASON

December 13–15 & 21–22
Menlo–Atherton Performing Arts Center
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Stroy by Monica Schreiber
Photo by Sammy Dallal

W

The martini I enjoyed one eve- ning at the Carrara marble-topped bar was indeed Arctic-cold and po- tent enough to knock Don Draper on his heels. The drink I received on a subsequent visit, from the much-anticipated cart, was a room- temperature travesty, prepared in slapdash fashion by a server who looked annoyed and out of her ele- ment. When I noted my drink was far from the coldest in the West, there was no offer to remedy, just a strange comment about how it was hard to keep bottles cold when the restaurant was so busy. Wait, what?

These disparate cocktail experi- ences mirrored my overall impres- sion of Selby’s: Some dishes were beautifully executed while others inspired quizzical expressions around our table. Service during one dinner was well-paced and nicely narrated. The martini travesty meal saw a number of missteps (forgotten items, awkward pacing) that might have been forgiven at a lower price point, but which were irksome when entrees average around $50.

Executive Chef Mark Sullivan’s menu is an homage to steakhouse classics, with some offerings so old school they feel fresh and fun again. To wit: the towering gruyere popovers that arrive pre-dinner, accompanied (unnecessarily, but deliciously) by a terrine of beef fat- infused butter.

Excellent starters distracted my attention from the glass of vodka impersonating a martini. The sweetbreads piccata ($24) fea- tured decadently creamy morsels of calf thymus glands, sautéed and bathed in a lemony brown butter and caper sauce. A crisp Caesar salad ($17) showcased a practiced hand with garlic and anchovies. The classic wedge salad ($16) was elevated from the old standard with peeled, candy-sweet cherry toma- toes, a pungent blue cheese and a cylindrical base of crunchy iceberg lettuce.

I shared the dry-aged roast duck crown of duck for two ($98), a complex, impressive-sounding dish, carved tableside, that looked fit for a royal banquet. Dry aging involves the evaporation of blood from the meat, which, ultimately, perhaps counter-intuitively, tender- izes the flesh as enzymes break down the connective tissue in the muscle. Dry-aged duck takes on a milder, more delicate flavor. I actu- ally enjoy duck’s gamey taste and found this beast to be bland and slightly chewy, despite its 38 North provenance (from Bassian Farms in Petaluma). That said, Calvados- glazed chestnuts and huckleberry jus, augmented by cumin, honey and lavender, made for a delicious, sweet-savory sauce.

While my tepid reaction to the duck could be attributed to person- al preference for an earthier flavor to the meat, all of us at the table agreed that the 12-ounce, dry-aged New York strip ($55) was a scratcher. Requested medium rare, the rare cut we received had little sear and no marbling. It was tough, tasteless and dry. Where dry aging should elicit a superior, nutty fla- vor and heightened levels of tender- ness, none of these qualities was in evidence. I was again left wonder- ing about the vagaries of the dry aging process.

I did find superior tenderness and flavor in the Country Cap- tain chicken ($34). This curried chicken dish is often associated with the South, but likely has An- glo-Indian roots going back to the 1800s. Selby’s version of this clas- sic — both exotic and comforting — showcases a heady swirl of in- toxicating spices, including Madras curry and paprika. Two generous pieces of chicken were served atop a bed of black rice.

Selby’s has already received its share of (well-calculated) news coverage for its Black Label burger ($50), among the most expensive hamburgers in the West, if I may riff off the restaurant’s “coldest martini” marketing.

The massive, half-pound patty contains a mixture of dry-aged hanger steak, short rib and chuck. The seared meat is topped with Eponisses, a pungent soft cow’s milk cheese from Burgundy, and the coup de grâce — 5 ounces of chopped black truffles from Australia. There are a lot of intense, savory, woody flavors going on in this burger, and if you order it the recommended medium-rare, as I did, the result is an uncouth, uma- ni experience that is a little over- whelming, but certainly more in- triguing than the similarly priced New York strip. Plus, it comes with crispy, hot shoestring fries.

Tackling Selby’s wine list would require a separate review, but suf- fice to say Bacchus is aiming for another Wine Spectator Award to place alongside those already on the shelf for The Village Pub and Spruce. The approximately 100- page list boasts more than 4,000 labels. If ordering a truffle-topped burger does not sufficiently impress your date or the VCs around the table, consider the 2015 Domaine de la Romanée-Conti Montrachet ($8,900), the most expensive bottle on the list.

Freelance writer Monica Schreiber can be emailed at monicahayde@yahoo.com.

Selby’s, 3001 El Camino Real, Redwood City; 650-545-7700
selbysrestaurant.com

Hours: 5-10 p.m. nightly

- Reservations
- Credit cards
- Parking: Valet or street
- Catering
- Takeout
- Bathroom: Excellent
- Outdoor seating
- Noise level: Moderate

Selby’s, 3001 El Camino Real, Redwood City; 650-545-7700
selbysrestaurant.com

Selby’s, 3001 El Camino Real, Redwood City; 650-545-7700
selbysrestaurant.com
“Waves” looks at the internal struggles of an upper-middle-class family from Florida.

**Time and tide**

_Sailing stormy waters, ‘Waves’ struggles to stay on course_ ★★½ (Century 20, Aquarius)

The new drama “Waves” goes out on Alabama Shakes’ “Sound and Color,” giving summative voice to writer-director Trey Edward Shults’ dramatic and stylistic intentions: “This life ain’t like it was/Sound and color/I wanna touch a human being/Sound and color/I want to go back to sleep/Sound and color/Ain’t life just awfully strange?/I wish I never gave it all away…”

“Waves” is so reliant on music that it almost plays as a stealth jukebox musical: Its needle-drops that it was/Sound and color/I wanna touch a human being/Sound and color/I wish I never gave it all away…”

“Waves” pushes simplistic drama to the tragic struggle of a family divided by circumstance — all involving teens. Two hours, 15 minutes.

— Peter Canavese

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**NOW SHOWING**


Beau Geste (1939)  Stanford Theatre: Saturday

Blondie Takes a Vacation (1939)  (Not Rated)  Stanford Theatre: Friday


Parasite (R)  Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

Queen & Slim (R)  Century 16: Fri. - Sun.

Ratatouille (G)  Century 16: Fri. - Sun.


Trajan (R)  Century 20: Fri. - Sun.


Waves (R)  Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

Waves (R)  Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

—— Skip 1  **Some redeeming qualities  ★★★  A good bet  ★★★★  Outstanding**

_Aquarius_ 440 Emerson St, Palo Alto  (For recorded listings: 327-3241)  tinyurl.com/Aquariuspa

_Century Cinema 16_ 1500 El Camino Real, Palo Alto  Phone information: 327-3241  tinyurl.com/Century16

_Century 20 Downtown_ 2095 Mountain View Blvd., Mountain View  tinyurl.com/Century20

_Credit Card_ 3000 El Camino Real, Palo Alto  Phone: 327-3241  tinyurl.com/PasSquare

_ShowPlace Icon_ 350 El Camino Real, Palo Alto  Phone: 327-3241  tinyurl.com/ShowPlace

_Stanford Theatre_ 221 University Ave, Palo Alto  Phone: 327-3241  tinyurl.com/Stanford

Find trailers, star ratings and more on the web at PaloAltoOnline.com/movies

Answers to this week’s puzzles, which can be found on page 38.
Join us for a Community Campus Tour to learn more about our K-8 school in Palo Alto:

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9:00-10:30 am

Friday, January 10, 2020
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Friday, February 21, 2020
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BUSINESS & TECH

Career Generations
225 E. Bayshore Road, Palo Alto
650-320-1639
careergenerations.com
Career Generations offers group workshops and programs to meet the career needs of a variety of individuals, including college students looking for internships, graduates looking for employment and those re-entering the job market.

ReBoot Accelerator for Women
585 Broadway St., Redwood City
650-885-3743 / rebotaccel.com
ReBoot Accelerator for Women keeps local women current, connected and confident about re-entering the workforce through workshops taught by instructors from LinkedIn, Google, Apple and social media experts.

DANCE

Brazileadas
53 Shorebreeze Court, East Palo Alto
650-644-7343 / brazileadas.com
Brazileadas offers classes in Brazilian dance, music and martial arts for all ages and experience levels. Classes are held at several venues, including Lucie Stern Community Center, Stanford University campus and a home studio in East Palo Alto.

Dance Connection
4000 Middlefield Road, L-3, Palo Alto
650-322-7032
danceconnectionpaloalto.com
Dance Connection offers preschool combination class for preschool-age children (beginning at age 3), graded classes for youth and adults and other programs to meet dancers’ needs. Ballet, jazz, tap, hip-hop, lyrical, pilates and other instruction is available for students at various levels of ability. Registration for winter 2020 is open.

Zohar School of Dance & Company
4000 Middlefield Road, L-1, Palo Alto
650-494-8221
zohardancecompany.org
With roots going back to 1979, Zohar School of Dance holds a range of adult dance classes in jazz, contemporary, modern, ballet, musical theater and tap. Though mainly an adult studio, Zohar also welcomes younger students. View class schedules and events online.

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HEALTH & FITNESS

Studio Kicks
796 San Antonio Road A, Palo Alto
650-855-9868
studioskicks@paloalto.com
Studio Kicks is a family fitness center offering cardio kickboxing classes and training in martial arts for children and adults.

Taijiquan Tutelage of Palo Alto
4000 Middlefield Road, M-4, Palo Alto
650-327-9350 / ttopa.com
At Taijiquan Tutelage of Palo Alto, established in 1973, students learn the classical Yang Style Taijiquan Slow Form of tai chi. Basic classes start monthly.

Taotist Tai Chi Society of the USA
600 E. Meadow Drive, Palo Alto
650-386-9244
taotiachtichs.org/locations/palo-alto-mitchell-park
The Taotist Tai Chi Society of the USA, a charitable organization with nationally accredited volunteers, holds classes designed to improve balance, strength, flexibility, relaxation and health. Beginner classes are held a few days each week.

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SPECIAL NEEDS

Bay Area Friendship Circle
3921 Fubini Way, Suite A023, Palo Alto
650-658-6990 / bayareafc.org
The Bay Area Friendship Circle offers programs for children, teens and young adults with special needs ages 2 to 22 year-round as well as winter and summer camps. Trained teen volunteers provide one-on-one friendship and support.

Berlitz Palo Alto Language Center
159 Homer Ave., Palo Alto
650-617-0270
berlitz.com/language-centers/palo-alto
Berlitz provides adult and youth language instruction in Spanish, German, French, English and other languages. Private lessons, tutoring, testing services and cultural agility training for businesses are also available.

Alto International School
CIS Campus, 475 Page St., Menlo Park
650-324-9667 / gaspa-ca.org
Alto International School is a Saturday school that teaches immersive German language classes, which also cover culture and traditions. Sessions are available for all skill levels and students ages 3 to 18. No prior knowledge of German is required.

Language classes at the Palo Alto Adult School
Palo Alto High School, Tower 50, Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto
650-329-3572
pauldultschool.org/class/world-languages
Classes are offered in Spanish, French, Italian and Mandarin Chinese. The classes cover beginning and advanced skills and sometimes literature and arts.

MIND & SPIRIT

Integrated Healing Arts
4161 El Camino Way, Palo Alto
650-493-7700
integratedhealingarts.org
Integrated Healing Arts instructors teach ongoing classes on meditation,
self-development, self-realization, t'ai chi, qigong and spiritual health.

**Arts & Soul**

Webster Street Studio, 2326 Webster St., Palo Alto
650-269-0423 / artsandsoulpa.com

Art & Soul runs after-school art clubs throughout the week at Walter Hays and Ohlone elementary schools and Gideon Hausner Jewish Day School, in addition to a club on Wednesdays at its studio. Programs allow children to explore drawing, painting and sculpture techniques, as well as develop their observational skills. Art & Soul also offers Art & Wine events for private groups.

**New Mozart School of Music**

2100 El Camino Real Suite C, Palo Alto
650-324-2373

newmozartschool.com

New Mozart School of Music offers music lessons and classes year-round to students of all ages and abilities. Piano, violin, viola, cello, voice, guitar, flute and early childhood music classes are available.

**The Midpen Media Center**

900 San Antonio Road, Palo Alto
650-494-8686 / midpenmedia.org

The center offers workshops for a range of media arts, including video production, photo enhancement, studio work and more. The center suggests starting with one of its free hour-long orientation sessions.

**Pacific Art League**

688 Ramona St., Palo Alto
650-321-3891 / pacificartleague.org

The classes and workshops at the Pacific Art League are taught by qualified, experienced instructors for children and adults with varying experience. Instructors teach many mediums, including drawing, painting, watercolor, printmaking, digital art and more. Registration for winter 2020 classes is open.

**Palo Alto Art Center**

1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto
650-329-2366
cityofpaloalto.org/gov/depts/csd/artcenter

Palo Alto Art Center classes and workshops — teaching children, teens and adults — cover areas such as ceramics, painting, drawing, jewelry, sculpture, Adobe Photoshop and more.

**Sur La Table Cooking School**

Town & Country Village, 855 El Camino Real, #57, Palo Alto
650-289-0019
surlatable.com/classes

Sur La Table offers hands-on cooking classes, guiding students in making regional cuisines, themed meals and baked goods. Classes for kids, teens and adults are available.

**Silicon Valley Boychoir**

600 Homer Ave., Palo Alto
650-424-1242 / svboychoir.org

Silicon Valley Boychoir offers rehearsals, musicianship classes and performance opportunities to boys ages 7 to 18. Auditions are available by appointment.

**Amigos de Palo Alto**

1611 Stanford Ave., Palo Alto
650-493-4300
amigosdepaloalto.com

Amigos de Palo Alto is a Spanish-immersion preschool for children 2 1/2 and older. Students are a mix of native and new Spanish speakers, and the program combines reading, writing, art and play to develop a love of learning. Amigos also offers Spanish-immersion after-school programs for kindergartners with some Spanish experience.

**Stratford School**

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www.stratfordschools.com

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**New Mozart School of Music**

2100 El Camino Real Suite C, Palo Alto
650-324-2373

newmozartschool.com

New Mozart School of Music offers music lessons and classes year-round to students of all ages and abilities. Piano, violin, viola, cello, voice, guitar, flute and early childhood music classes are available.
Gideon Hausner Jewish Day School

450 San Antonio Road, Palo Alto
650-494-8200 / hausner.com

Instructing children in kindergarten through eighth grade, Gideon Hausner Jewish Day School provides strong academics, instruction in Jewish studies and the Hebrew language, enrichment opportunities and afterschool programs. Schedule a tour online.

International School of the Peninsula

151 Laurel Lane, Palo Alto
650-251-8500 / isp.org

International School of the Peninsula is an independent bilingual immersion day school with two nursery-to-fifth-grade programs in French and Mandarin Chinese, as well as an international middle and high school program. Some of the programs include media and dance; a balanced approach to academics and experience. Classes cover core subjects as well as instruction in music, physical education, drama, creative writing and more.

Sand Hill School

650 Clark Way, Palo Alto
650-688-3665 / sandhillschool.org

Located at The Children's Health Council, Sand Hill School teaches children from kindergarten through eighth grade with language-based learning differences. It assists with the attention and social difficulties that go along with them. Apply.

Peninsula School

3900 Fabian Way, Palo Alto
650-213-9600 / peninsulaalumni.org

Peninsula School is a progressive institution teaching about 250 students from nursery through eighth grade, with an emphasis on choice and experience. Classes cover core subjects as well as instruction in music, physical education, drama, creative writing and more.

Living Wisdom High School

650-646-1830
livingwisdomhighschool.org

Living Wisdom High School serves 12 to 23 months old. Play. Parent/caregiver participation and experience are placed on experiential learning. Classes cover core subjects as well as instruction in music, theater, art and dance; a balanced approach to technology; and after-school care.

Kehillah Jewish High School

3900 Fabian Way, Palo Alto
650-213-9600 / kehillah.org

This college preparatory high school (grades 9-12) features modern science and computer labs, art and music studios, a drama program, a full range of of academic courses with small class sizes, sports teams and more.

Oshman Family JCC Leslie Family Preschool

3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto
650-223-8788
paloaltojcc.org/preschool

The Oshman Family JCC’s preschool program provides one to five-days per-week options for children 18 months to 5 years old (ages 2 to Congregation Beth Am), with an emphasis placed on experiential learning, family involvement and play. Parent/caregiver participation programs are available for children 12 to 23 months old.

Living Wisdom High School of Palo Alto

4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto
650-646-1066
livingwisdomhighschool.org

Living Wisdom High School serves ninth through 12th grade, and offers a strong emphasis on personalized learning as well as project-based, experiential, in-depth study rooted in creativity, inner development, compassion, critical thinking and problem-solving. Additionally, daily yoga and meditation instruction is included, and curriculum includes a balanced approach to academics and well-being through outdoor adventures and field trips abroad.

Living Wisdom School of Palo Alto

456 College Ave., Palo Alto
650-462-8130
livingwisdomschool.org

Offering daily yoga, meditation and experiential, project-based learning, Living Wisdom School has 24 years of proven success and serves students in transitional kindergarten through eighth grade. It offers a 1:6 teacher-student ratio in kindergarten; an integrated arts program which includes music, theater, art and dance; a balanced approach to technology; and after-school care.

Lydian Academy LLC

815 El Camino Real, Menlo Park
650-321-0550 / lydianacademy.com

Lydian Academy is a middle and high school offering individualized instruction to prepare students for college. Lessons include a mix of one-on-one teaching and group sessions. It also offers tutoring and after-school programs.

Meira Academy

3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto
650-466-3589 / meiraacademy.org

Meira Academy is a traditional, all-girls Jewish high school devoted to academic excellence in general and Jewish studies, preparing its students for college, as well as seminaries in Israel.

Mustard Seed Learning Center

2585 E. Bayshore Road, Palo Alto
650-494-7389
mustardseedlearningcenter.org

The Mustard Seed Learning Center is an after-school tutoring and care program that teaches local youth to speak Mandarin Chinese, in addition to emphasizing social development and excellence in mathematics, science, arts and music.

Peninsula School

920 Peninsula Way, Menlo Park
650-325-1584 / peninsulaalumni.org

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Palo Alto Adult School

Palo Alto High School, Tower Building, 50 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto
650-329-3752 / paadultschool.org

Palo Alto Adult School offers computer, language, cooking, writing, art, outdoor and finance classes and many other courses available through the Palo Alto Adult School. Winter quarter begins Jan. 13.

Kehillah Jewish High School

3900 Fabian Way, Palo Alto
650-213-9600 / kehillah.org

Kehillah Jewish High School is a progressive institution teaching about 250 students from nursery through eighth grade, with an emphasis on choice and experience. Classes cover core subjects as well as instruction in music, physical education, drama, creative writing and more.
Despite demand, rising costs force cutbacks in meal program

Seniors in some communities put on waiting list for food

Every Monday, Anna Marie Janky loads the back of her Ford Escape with 16 hot meals and a cooler full of milk and begins her door-to-door deliveries through Menlo Park and Redwood City.

Janky, a volunteer who lives in Los Altos, is part of a vast network of drivers — some paid and some volunteer — who last year delivered 220 million meals to homebound seniors across the United States through the nonprofit Meals on Wheels. More than 750,000 of those meals went to residents of Santa Clara and San Mateo counties.

Funded by the federal Older Americans Act and other sources, the Meals on Wheels program is meant to bolster nutrition and also to combat isolation among mobility-impaired seniors who have trouble leaving their homes.

Nationally, the number of Meals on Wheels deliveries has declined by 21 million since 2005 due to rising costs, according to Meals on Wheels America, an umbrella group that tracks 5,000 independently run local programs.

“Food, transportation and other costs have increased while funding remains stagnant,” said Jenny Young, vice-president of communications for the national group.

“Also, nationally, eight out of 10 low-income, food insecure seniors are not receiving the home-delivered or congregate meals they likely need,” Young said.

Locally, the situation is mixed. Santa Clara County says it has the means to provide Meals on Wheels to all eligible applicants. But Janky’s program in San Mateo County has a growing waitlist.

“We now have almost 280 on the waitlist,” said Rebecca Mateson Nelson, director of development for the nonprofit Peninsula Volunteers, Inc., which operates Meals on Wheels for all of San Mateo County except for Pacifica and the coastside. The group last year delivered 150,000 meals to 1,100 clients.

“The primary issue is the funding gap to meet the ever-growing need,” Nelson said. “When you are hungry, nothing else matters.”

In Santa Clara County, Meals on Wheels Director Henri Villalovoz said recent demand for the service has held steady and even slightly dropped.

“We do not have a wait list because we enroll each eligible applicant that applies,” Villalovoz said. That program last year delivered 600,531 meals to about 920 clients.

Janky is one of 100 volunteer drivers for the Peninsula Volunteers’ San Mateo County program (the program also employs 12 paid drivers).

Janky said in addition to food delivery, the group’s service model provides daily, face-to-face check-ins with recipients.

“It’s easy to tell quickly whether (a recipient) is doing okay, especially if they come to the door,” Janky said.

Because programs are independently run, the Meals on Wheels service looks substantially different in Santa Clara County.

Rather than daily visits, Santa Clara County recipients (including 68 in Palo Alto) get once-a-week deliveries of seven frozen dinners and seven breakfasts, plus bread, milk, juices and vegetables, Villalovoz said.

All food is prepared and delivered by paid employees of the national food vendor Bateman Community Living, with whom Santa Clara County contracts to provide the service for more than 900 people countywide.

On a recent Monday morning after loading her car with meals — cooked daily at Menlo Park senior services agency Little House before heading out to deliver meals to seniors living in San Mateo County, Janky studied a printout with driving directions and instructions for each stop on her route where she’d deliver that day’s hot meal — chicken, squash and beets, a slice of bread and an orange.

“Top: Anna Marie Janky, a volunteer for the nonprofit Meals on Wheels, checks insulated food bags in the kitchen at the Menlo Park senior services agency Little House before heading out to deliver meals to seniors living in San Mateo County. Above: The day’s hot meal included chicken, squash, beets, a slice of bread and an orange. Above right: Barbara Tingley is among the 1,100 seniors living in San Mateo County who receive meals through the program.”

(continued on page 30)
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Little House: We are the place adults of all ages come daily to stay physically, intellectually, socially and culturally active and connected.

Meals on Wheels: We help end senior hunger with daily hot and nutritious meals delivered to homebound older adults, keeping our seniors well-nourished and healthy.

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Senior Focus

RETIREMENT AND LONGEVITY ... Twenty-three percent of adults — and 19% of those ages 18 to 29 — believe they will have the opportunity and resources to retire before age 65. This is according to a November poll of a representative national sample of 2,197 adults conducted by the Longevity Project, a new initiative by the Stanford Center on Longevity along with corporate and government partners. The mission of the Longevity Project is to generate research and foster dialog on the impact of increased longevity. The November poll was part of a series of polls slated for 2019 and 2020 aimed at gauging public sentiment about a graying society.

INTERGENERATIONAL ENCOUNTERS ... Several groups from Palo Alto are joining together for a morning of art, animals and all kinds of encounters on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 10 a.m. to noon. In conjunction with the Palo Alto Art Center’s current exhibit, “Encounters: Honoring the Animal in Ourselves,” Avenidas, Youth Community Service and the Palo Alto Humane Society are co-sponsoring the event, which will include visits with therapy dogs, the making of blankets or toys for shelter dogs, as well as opportunities to practice animal photography, drawing or painting with visiting dogs. Supplies will be provided, but bring your own camera or phone. The Palo Alto Art Center is located at 1313 Newell Road.

CAREGIVING CONCERNS ... Social work manager Paula Wolfson will present “Caregiver Empowerment and Advocacy” on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The presentation is part of the Avenidas Care Forum, a lecture series on topics impacting caregivers. Following each lecture, participants may join in small group discussions known as the Caregiver Cafe. Avenidas Rose Kleiner Center, 270 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Free, but pre-registration is required. 650-289-5400.

AMERICAN ODYSSEY ... The United Nations Association Film Festival will screen the 2001 William Greaves documentary “Ralph Bunche: An American Odyssey.” on Monday, Dec. 9. Narrated by Sidney Poitier, the film tells the story of the African American scholar and statesman who rose to become under secretary general of the United Nations and the first person of color to win the Nobel Peace Prize. Channing House Auditorium, 850 Webster St., Palo Alto, 3-4:30 p.m. Free and open to the public.

LGBTQ PARTY ... The Avenidas LGBTQ+ Community Cafe, a monthly, intergenerational meetup for members and allies of the LGBTQ community will host a holiday dinner and white elephant gift exchange on Saturday, Dec. 14, at 6 p.m. at Avenidas@450Bryant, 450 Bryant St., Palo Alto. Food will be provided but participants are asked to bring a gift valued at $25 or less to participate in the gift exchange. RSVP to tkingery@avenidas.org or 650-289-5417.

HANUKKAH CELEBRATION ... Yiddish singer Jeanette Lewicki with clarinetist Sheldon Brown and bassist Richard Saunders will perform Yiddish songs and Klezmer dance music on Tuesday, Dec. 17, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Schulitz Cultural Arts Hall of the Oshman Family Jewish Community Center. Lunch will be served and Robert Jankes Fibiger will share his thoughts about the festival of Hanukkah, $25. The event is part of the JCC’s Community Tuesdays series. For more information, contact Michelle Rosengaus at 650-223-8616 or mrosengaus@paloaltoncc.org.

HOLIDAY PARTY ... Participants are asked to bring ukuleles, harmonicas, drums or other acoustic instruments for a music-filled “holiday jam session and party” on Thursday, Dec. 19, 2-4 p.m. at Avenidas@450Bryant, 450 Bryant St., Palo Alto. All are welcome and singers are especially needed. n

Items for Senior Focus may be emailed to Palo Alto Weekly Contributing Writer Chris Kenrick at ckenrick@paweekly.com.
Living Well

DECEMBER 2019

Calendar of Events

Dec 2
Blood Pressure Screening
10am-12pm, Avenidas@450 Bryant. Drop-in, free.

Dec 3
Collage Club
every Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am, Avenidas@450 Bryant. Bring your own project and supplies. Drop-in, free.

Avenidas Village Coffee Chat
2pm, Avenidas@450 Bryant. Space is limited. RSVP required. Call 650-289-5405. Free.

Dec 4
Mindfulness Meditation
every Wednesday, 2-3pm, Avenidas@450 Bryant. Drop-in, free.

Dec 5
Avenidas Hikers
9:30am – every Thursday. Email Susan at susan1942@gmail.com for trailhead info or to schedule. $3

Tinnitus Support Group with guest speaker Mali Mandavia: CRT/Mindfulness for Tinnitus 6:30-8:30pm. RSVP required to Ken: kmartind@gmail.com.

Dec 6
Avenidas Rose Kleiner Center Open House
10-11am, tours; 11am-12pm, caregiver support group. 270 Escuela, Mountain View. Call 650-289-5499 for more info. Free.

Dec 7
Intergenerational Encounters!
Tour the current exhibition and make blankets and toys for shelter pets with teen volunteers at the Palo Alto Art Center, 10am-12pm, 1313 Newell Road. Call 650-289-5436 for more info. Drop-in, free.

Presentation: “Caregiver Empowerment and Advocacy: Your Voice, Your Vision” by Paula Wolfson, LCSW
11am-2pm, Avenidas Rose Kleiner Center, 270 Escuela, Mountain View. RSVP required. Call 650-289-5400. Free.

Armchair Travel: Japan
part 2, 1:30-2:30pm, Avenidas@450 Bryant. Call 650-289-5400 to pre-register. Free.

UNA Film Festival: Ralph Bunche: An American Odysseys
3-4:30pm @ Channing House. Drop-in, free.

Dec 10
Avenidas Walkers
10am – every Tuesday. Call 650-387-5256 for trailhead info or to schedule. Free.

Dec 11
Current Events
1:30-3pm – every Wednesday, Avenidas@450 Bryant. Try your first meeting free! Call 650-289-5400 for more info.

Dec 12
Movie: Poms
1:30-4pm, Avenidas@450 Bryant. S/O/$2 includes popcorn. Get ticket at front desk.

Dec 13
Social Bridge
every Friday, 1-4pm, Avenidas@450 Bryant. Call 650-289-5400 for more info. Drop-in, free.

Dec 14
White Elephant Dinner Party
Avenidas LGBTQ + allies Community Café, 4-6pm, Avenidas@450 Bryant. Call 650-289-5400 to RSVP and for info. All are welcome. Free.

Dec 16
Shakespeare Club

Dec 17
Avenidas Village Coffee Chat
2pm, Avenidas@450 Bryant. Space is limited. RSVP required. Call 650-289-5405. Free.

Dec 18
Try it Free! Sit Down and Shape Up fitness class
10-11am, Avenidas@450 Bryant. Stop by the front desk to sign a waiver. Drop-in.

Dec 19
Holiday Musical Jam Session and Party!
All are welcome! Bring your uke, harmonica, guitar or percussion. You don’t have to bring an instrument to sing along! 2-4pm, Avenidas@450 Bryant. Drop-in, free.

Dec 20
Avenidas closed at 3pm.

Dec 23
Acupuncture appts available
9:30am-12pm. Call 650-289-5400 for appt. $30.

Dec 24
Avenidas closed at 3pm.

Dec 25
Avenidas closed. Merry Christmas

Dec 30
Do you have your tickets for tomorrow’s New Year’s Eve Brunch?

Dec 31
New Year’s Eve Senior Brunch
10:30am to 2pm @ Mitchell Park Community Center. Tickets in advance $15 and available @ Avenidas, Lucie Stern, and Mitchell Park. 650-329-2418 for more info.

Avenidas@450 Bryant
(650) 289-5400 www.avenidas.org

For complete schedule or info about Avenidas events, call 650-289-5400

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Assisted Living • Memory Care

www.PaloAltoOnline.com • Palo Alto Weekly • December 6, 2019 • Page 31
Sprucing up for the season

Local boutiques and classes help bring holiday cheer into your home

by Heather Zimmerman

The weather outside might be only slightly frightful (compared to colder climes), but a variety of upcoming events and classes offer plenty of incentives to stay cozy indoors, browsing for unique home decor and gifts — or learning how to make your own.

Sales and boutiques

Palo Alto Art Center Ceramics and Jewelry Studio Holiday Sale Dec. 7, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto.

Find adornments for the home — and for yourself — at the Palo Alto Art Center’s annual Ceramics and Jewelry Studio Holiday Sale, an annual event featuring the work of local artists. Browse the creations of more than a dozen jewelry artists and more than three dozen ceramic artists and pick up housewares, decorative pieces and objets d’art. The sale benefits the participating artists, the Art Center’s studios and the Palo Alto Art Center Foundation.

Admission is free. For more information, call 650-329-2366 or paaartcenter.org.

Gamble Garden Holiday Marketplace Dec. 11-13, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Gamble Garden Holiday Greens Sale Dec. 14, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Gamble Garden, 1431 Waverley St., Palo Alto.

With back-to-back events, Gamble Garden offers holiday shopping plus a chance to deck the halls. First, Wednesday through Friday, Dec. 11-13, shop for handcrafted holiday home goods, antiques and unique gifts at a marketplace of local artisans and vendors. Other items include clothing, jewelry and accessories, plus gourmet jams and other sweet treats. Featured vendors vary by day of the event. Partial proceeds from the event benefits Gamble Garden.

Then, on Saturday, Dec. 14, find the perfect fresh boughs or berries to bring the right touch of seasonal cheer home. Gamble Garden’s Greens Sale offers an array of nature’s finest for decorating: evergreen swags and wreaths, berries, holly, pine cones, potted plants and bulbs that will bloom in time for the holidays. During the sale, you also can pick up either pre-made or custom seasonal centerpieces and arrangements created by Gamble Garden’s skilled arrangers.

For more information, call 650-392-1356 or visit gamblegarden.org.

Crafts and DIY

Wreath-making class Dec. 7, 9:30 a.m. to noon Gamble Garden, 1431 Waverley St., Palo Alto.

Create your own home decor for the season at this class taught by Gamble Garden floral arranger Katherine Glazer. This class will cover how to arrange leaves, berries and other natural materials into a wreath that can be hung up or become the centerpiece of a holiday table. All materials will be provided, but participants are invited to bring something special from their own garden to customize their creations.

Cost is $109 for Gamble Garden members/$139 nonmembers. For more information, call 650-329-1356 or visit gamblegarden.org.

Eco-friendly gift wrap party Dec. 8, 11 a.m. to noon Mitchell Park Library, 3700 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto.

Keep the element of surprise, but make the presentation of your gifts kinder to the planet at this event focusing on gift wrap that generates less waste. Learn how to upcycle your own gift wrap throughout the year. Bring gifts to wrap or simply come for the ideas. Supplies will be provided, but participants can also bring their own materials. Sponsored by the Friends of the Palo Alto Library.

For more information, call 650-329-2436 or visit paloalto.bibliocommons.com/events/.

Needle-felted snowmen Dec. 14, 10 a.m. to noon Filoli, 86 Carhada Road, Woodside.

Build a snowman that’s not only much cuddlier than its frosty outdoor counterpart, but that also won’t melt away. Patty Trower of Fegani Fiber Arts leads this class in needle felting, where participants will learn to sculpt a snowman from soft wool. Give the snowmen as gifts or hang them on a tree.

$65 nonmembers (20% discount for members). Fee includes all materials. For more information or to register, visit filoli.org or call 650-364-8300.

Home & Real Estate Editor

Heather Zimmerman can be emailed at pweditor@paloaltoonline.com.
Collection drives running until December 16, 2019
reason to smile!

We would like to express sincere gratitude to our clients for their continued support throughout the year. Our warmest wishes for a holiday season filled with joy, and a new year of peace and prosperity.

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage is once again an official collection site for Toys For Tots & One Warm Coat this holiday season! We will be collecting new toys and lightly used coats to make the season a little brighter for children and families this holiday. Pop by one of the Coldwell Banker offices listed below to drop off your donations Monday – Friday, 8:30am – 5:00pm now through December 16.
San Carlos | $3,000,000 | 250 Oakview Drive
3 Beds/2.5 Baths, 2490 SF, 7500 SF Lot
COMING SOON!
Like new with exquisite kitchen and great room. Light and Bright with center courtyard. Bonus putting green! Walk to Laurel Street in downtown San Carlos!

Palo Alto | $17,888,000 | 1995 Waverley Street
www.1995Waverley.com
Premier Old Palo Alto approx. 1/2 Acre
Gated Estate Custom built 2008 with steel Construction, 7 zone Radiant Heat, 3 zone FA/AC, Fiber Optics

San Carlos | $3,000,000 | 250 Oakview Drive
3 Beds/2.5 Baths, 2490 SF, 7500 SF Lot
COMING SOON!
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The Federal Housing Finance Agency has announced it is raising the national conforming loan limit for mortgages acquired by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to $580,400 on one-unit properties from 2019’s level of $484,350 effective in January 2020. The conforming limit for high cost areas like San Mateo and Santa Clara counties and most counties in the Bay Area will increase to $765,600 from $726,525.

This is the fourth consecutive year that the FHFA has increased the conforming loan limits after not increasing them for a decade from 2006 to 2016. In 2016, the FHFA increased the Fannie and Freddie conforming loan limit for the first time in 10 years. Since then, the loan limit has gone up by $93,400.

The Silicon Valley Association of REALTORS® (SILVAR) joined the national and state REALTOR® associations in applauding the FHFA’s decision. “Counties like San Mateo and Santa Clara with high median home prices have benefited from a loan limit above the national conforming loan limit,” said Alan Barbic, president of SILVAR. “Raising the conforming loan limit will greatly help homebuyers in Silicon Valley who are being greatly challenged by high home prices.”

The FHFA conforming loan limits define the maximum mortgage amounts that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac may finance or “guarantee.” The limits are important for funding home sales, especially in high cost markets like California, where median home values have generally greatly increased. Non-conforming or “jumbo loans” typically have tighter underwriting standards and sometimes carry higher mortgage interest rates than conforming loans, increasing the cost of borrowing manageable for many home buyers by making them less affordable.

C.A.R. commends the FHFA for increasing the 2020 loan limits for loans insured by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to improve housing affordability across the nation’s rising home prices and will ensure more home buyers have access to safe and affordable mortgages, said C.A.R. President Jeanne Radack. “These increases keep the cost of borrowing manageable for many California home buyers and will help improve housing affordability across the state. We hope the FHFA will continue to look for ways to increase homeownership opportunities across all housing markets, including high-cost areas.”

To view the new limit in each county, visit https://www.fhfa.gov/

Information provided in this column is presented by the Silicon Valley Association of REALTORS®, Send questions to Rose Mealy at rmaley@silvar.org.
POLL PRESENCE ... Top-ranked and No. 1 seed Stanford (19-2) is making its 33rd appearance in the NCAA Men’s Water Polo Championship at the University of Pacific this weekend. The Cardinal will face the winner of Thursday’s quarterfinal between Bucknell and USC in Saturday’s 5 p.m. semifinals. Stanford is looking for its first national title since 2002 and its 11th overall. Cardinal coach John Vargas was named Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Coach of the Year a second straight season. Redshirt junior center Ben Hallock won the 2018 Peter J. Cutino Award and was named the National Player of the Year by the Association of Water Polo Coaches. He won his second straight MPSF Player of the Year Award this season. He led the conference in goals scored with 66, goals per game at 3.330 and ranks fourth in goals per game at 3.45. The youngest member of the 2016 U.S. Olympic team in Rio, Hallock ranks eighth on Stanford’s career list for goals scored with 198. Hallock, senior attacker Bennett Williams, junior attacker Tyler Abramson and senior Andrew Chan made first team All-MPSF while sophomore Ari Rossman made the second team and sophomore Quinn Woodhead and senior Dylan Woodhead earned honorable mention.

SERVING IT UP ... The third-ranked and third-seeded Stanford women’s volleyball team opens the NCAA tournament with a match against visiting Denver at 7 p.m. Friday in a rematch of a first round contest from two years ago. Cal Poly (20-5) and Georgia (20-10) meet in another first-round match at 4:30 p.m., with the winners meeting on Saturday at 6 p.m. with a berth in the Sweet Sixteen at stake. Stanford (25-4) is one of two schools, with Penn State, to have appeared in every NCAA tournament since its inception in 1981. The Cardinal, which has never lost a first-round match, has won more NCAA titles (8), more NCAA tournament matches (125), made more Final Four appearances (22) and been in the national championship match (18) more times than any other program in the nation. Denver (23-6) is making its sixth straight post-season appearance after winning its fifth Summit League championship. In three seasons under Kevin Hambly, Stanford is 41-2 at Maples Pavilion. The Cardinal won 32 in a row at home before falling to BYU on Sept. 21. The Mustangs finished second in the Big West Conference, while the Bulldogs took fifth in the SEC and both received at-large berths into the tournament. Stanford seniors Jenna Gray and Morgan Hentz were honored a third consecutive year as Pac-12 Setter of the Year and Libero of the Year, respectively, when the All-Conference team were announced. Seniors Audrana Fitzmorris and Madeleine Gates joined their peers on the all-conference team while junior Meghan McClure earned honorable mention. Outside hitter Kendal Kipp was also honorable mention as well as being named to the Pac-12 Freshman Team.

Catarina Macario hopes to lead Stanford into Sunday’s national championship match. The junior leads the nation in goals and assists.

NCAA WOMEN’S SOCCER

Down to the final four

Stanford looks for its third national title since 2011

by Rick Eymer

Stanford women’s soccer team scores a lot of goals. The top-seeded Cardinal is at a nation’s best 98, and counting, entering Friday’s 6 p.m. national semifinal match against UCLA at San Jose’s Avaya Stadium.

North Carolina, which meets Washington State (44 goals in 23 games) in another national semifinal, ranks fourth in total goals with 67 over 25 matches. UCLA, Stanford’s opponent on Friday, has 52 goals in 23 games, tied for ninth.

Stanford’s top three scorers, Catarina Macario, Sophia Smith and Madison Haley, have combined for 57 goals. That’s more than all but seven of the 335 NCAA Division soccer teams.

Scoring goals doesn’t guarantee victory, though, as the Cardinal (22-1) found out when it couldn’t reach the back of the net in a 1-0 loss to Pepperdine earlier in the season.

Shutting down potent offensive teams figures into the equation and that’s where a team like North Carolina, with its 22 overall national titles, has the advantage.

The Tar Heels have a .760 shut-out percentage and a corresponding Goals Against Average of .394, both among the top three in the country. The Cardinal is fifth and 11th, respectively.

North Carolina (23-1-1) still has to go through Washington State (16-6-1) and Stanford needs to get past the Bruins (18-4-1) and neither is a cinch.

The Bruins learn something about playing against Stanford and have never allowed the same player to beat them, although the Cardinal has a six-game winning streak against UCLA, with five decided by one goal.

Macario, one of the best in creating her own scoring chances, has only scored in one of the four games she’s played against UCLA. Haley has never scored and Smith has one goal against the Bruins.

Macario averages a national best 1.37 goals per game (32 in 23), one of only four players to average more than a goal per games and the other three are at home.

What sets Macario, other than just plain skill, apart from others is that she also leads the nation in assists per game at 1.00 or 23. If there’s a point to be had, Macario is likely involved.

The Cardinal, on a 17-match winning streak, is making its 10th Women’s College Cup appearance and is looking for its third national title.

UCLA has won nine straight since losing to Stanford. Teagan Micah (15-3-1) owns a .660 goals-against average and a 0.780 save percentage, having played 1,086:19 minutes in this season.

Stanford owns a 2-9-3 all-time record against the Tar Heels, most recently a 2-1 overtime win in September of 2018 at Laidr Q. Cagan Stadium.

North Carolina has won 12 straight since a scoreless draw against Duke and is unbeaten in 18 games since its only loss of the season at Arkansas in September.

Stanford is 24-3-2 against the Cougars, who beat No. 3 Virginia and No. 5 South Carolina to gain their first-ever College Cup appearance.

The Cardinal has played in nine of the last 12 College Cups and makes its fourth straight appearance.

This is Stanford’s 22nd consecutive appearance in the NCAA Tournament and 29th in program history. The Cardinal has not missed the NCAA Tournament since 1997.

Cardinal coach Paul Ratcliffe enters Friday with a 51-12-4 career record in the postseason, having guided the Cardinal to the tournament in each of his 17 seasons.

Naomi Girma and Kiki Pickett have started every game on Stanford’s back line. Sam Hiatt has started 20 while Jojo Harber and Kennedy Wesley have split the duties at left back.

Kyla Pretre

MENLO CROSS COUNTRY

The senior was the fastest local runner across all divisions, helping the Knights finish in second place as a team at the CIF state Division IV championship last weekend at Woodward Park in Fresno.

Honorable mention

Elizabeth Fetter
Palo Alto cross country

Tevah Gevelber
Castilleja cross country

Alexandra McCusker
Menlo cross country

Mikayla Silverman
Gunn wrestling

Anna Smith
Menlo-Atherton wrestling

Nicolete Yeh
Menlo-Atherton basketball

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

David Ajanaku-Makun
PRIOY BASKETBALL

The junior forward scored 24 points, which included a pair of 3-pointers, and the Panthers opened their season with a 79-45 victory over Nueva, which played in the CCS Division V finals last year.

Calvin Katz
Menlo cross country

Kamran Murray*

Menlo cross country

Zach Zafran
Priory basketball

*Previous winner

HONORABLE MENTION

Dylan Bernard
Woodside soccer

Jack Hakeman
Gunn basketball

Kaden Holdbrook
Gunn basketball

www.PaloAltoOnline.com • Palo Alto Weekly • December 6, 2019 • Page 37
Menlo School opens against the Monarchs

by Glenn Reeves

The Menlo School boys basketball team opens its season with a game at Mitty on Friday. The Monarchs (18-9 last year) were the top seed in last year’s Central Coast Section Open Division.

Mitty would have been the heavy favorite to win it all this season had WCAL Player of the Year Devin Sapp not transferred to First Love Christian in Pennsylvania.

Mitty, which opened its season with a 60-58 win over Campolindo, is still roundly considered the No. 1 or No. 2-ranked team in the CCS.

“We’re going to have to grow up fast,” Menlo coach Keith Larsen said. “When (Mitty coach Tim Kennedy) called I said we’ll do our best, but we’re not used to playing WCAL teams. We’ll go in and battle and give them a fight.”

Larsen has compiled a record of 90-45 in five years at Menlo. You might see his 25-4 team from two years ago being capable of playing a non-league schedule that, in addition to Mitty, includes road games at St. Ignatius and Menlo-Atherton. Certainly not last year’s 16-10 team.

But as usual, there’s a method to Larsen’s madness. As the veteran coach was quick to point out, that team from two years ago went into the CCS Open Division playoffs after cruising through West Bay Athletic League play, rarely being challenged, and proceeded to get blown out 80-58 by Mitty and 80-48 by S.J. But then went on to play its best basketball the next two weeks, winning a pair of games in the NorCal playoffs in which it was a big underdog.

So the thinking here is something along the lines of, “If it doesn’t kill us it will make us better, make us rise up to a higher level.”

“We can start three 6-7 guys,” Larsen chortled in his characteristic enthusiastic manner, referring to Cole Kastner, Garrett Keyhani and Chris Cook. “But it’s going to be difficult to put all those big guys in at once. We just don’t have great guard play, which worries me when we play pressing teams.”

Larsen raves about Kastner, a three-year starter, who is headed to Virginia on a lacrosse scholarship.

“I could start him at point guard,” Larsen said. “He’s just a great kid. Here’s a senior and he still gets the water, still sweeps the floor.”

Larsen says the sky’s the limit for Keyhani, a sophomore who was on the varsity as a freshman last season.

“He could be as good as anybody who ever played at Menlo,” Larsen said. “Cole has to work hard in practice to get shots up against him.”

With that kind of strength on the frontline it’s pretty clear what Menlo needs to do to be successful.

“If we can just take care of the ball,” Larsen said. “We play against challenging teams.”

Camera credit: Pam McKenney/Menlo Athletics.
### Sales Volume of the Top Listing Agent or Team at Palo Alto Top Real Estate Brokerages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ranking</th>
<th>#1</th>
<th>#2</th>
<th>#3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brokerage</td>
<td>Keller Williams Palo Alto</td>
<td>Compass</td>
<td>Coldwell Banker</td>
<td>Midtown Realty</td>
<td>Golden Gate Sotheby’s International</td>
<td>Modern Homes Realty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Top Listing Agent or Team at the Brokerage</td>
<td>Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team</td>
<td>Top Agent</td>
<td>Top Agent</td>
<td>Top Agent</td>
<td>Top Agent</td>
<td>Top Team</td>
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<td>Listing Units</td>
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<tr>
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<td>$20,183,525</td>
<td>$18,150,000</td>
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<td>94.4%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>94.2%</td>
<td>99.2%</td>
<td>99.5%</td>
<td>99.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Listing Units**

- **Unit:** Property
- **Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team**
- **DeLeon Realty**

**List Volume**

- **Unit:** US Dollar
- **Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team**
- **DeLeon Realty**

**Sale Price to List Price Ratio**

- **Unit:** Percentage
- **Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team**
- **DeLeon Realty**

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**Search Criteria as compiled by BrokerMetrics® using MLS Data:** January 1st, 2019 - October 30th, 2019, Palo Alto, Residential Property: (Single Family Home, Condominium, Townhouse)
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