

# Palo Alto Weekly

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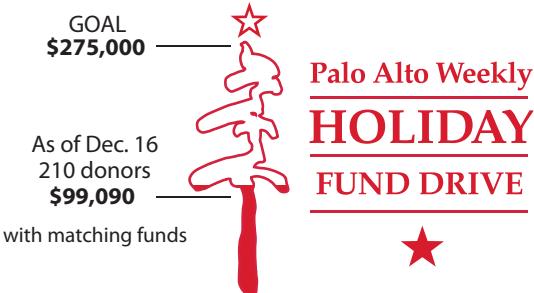


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# Upfront

Local news, information and analysis



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## Planning commissioners back private meetings

Palo Alto commission scraps policy that discouraged *ex parte* communications with developers

by Gennady Sheyner

**O**ne day after a City Council committee recommended curbing private meetings between council members and land developers, Palo Alto's planning commissioners headed in the opposite direction Wednesday night.

The Planning and Transportation

Commission voted 4-2, with Arthur Keller and Susan Fineberg dissenting and Eduardo Martinez absent, to revise a commission policy discouraging its members from holding private meetings with developers whose applications are undergoing city reviews.

The four commissioners who supported the change — Chair Samir Tuma, Vice Chair Lee Lippert, Daniel Garber and Greg Tanaka — argued that meeting with applicants allows commissioners to gather more information about the project and reach a better decision.

They also argued that permitting *ex parte* communications would bring the commission's policy on private meetings in alignment with the council's. The two decision-

making bodies were previously at the opposite ends of the spectrum, with commissioners discouraged from such communications and council members permitted to engage in them.

This week's policy changes would delay the council's ability to meet with applicants until after commissioners do so.

Garber, Lippert and Tanaka wrote a colleagues' memo in late October arguing that existing city policies,

which allow council members to speak to applicants but discourage commissioners from doing so, "short circuit" the development process. The problem, the memo stated, is that some developers ignore the commission's recommendations and appeal directly to the council, which has the final say over development projects.

"Applicants appear to have used

(continued on page 9)



Veronica Weber

Michael Russell, center, looks for a teammate to pass the ball to while surrounded by defensive players, from left, Tyler Butner, Jacob Zajac, Gregory Xie and another classmate at the Palo Alto Family YMCA. The Y's Activate Youth program received a \$5,000 grant from the Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund this past year and is one of scores of programs supported by the fund.

### HOLIDAY FUND

## Making fitness fun

YMCA program introduces kids to healthy lifestyles

by Sarah Trauben

**W**ednesdays after school at the Palo Alto Family YMCA, fifth-graders from Fairmeadow and Palo Verde elementary schools come together for Activate Youth, a program aimed at introducing kids to healthy habits.

On an afternoon in early December staff member Larry Moore managed an enthusiastic crowd of around 60 as he used the Thanksgiving holiday to check

students' knowledge of nutrition and exercise.

"So, who went where for Thanksgiving? And what active things did you do?" he surveyed the room.

Answers ranged from "Grandma's house" to New York City, Hawaii and "my bedroom, my bathroom, the living room."

Asked about the benefits of being active, students shouted out common answers — strength,

weight maintenance, happiness — to which Moore added that exercise decreases the risks for certain health conditions and helps people maintain an active lifestyle as they age.

Moore kept the healthy-habits lesson light and accessible, joking when one participant said that exercise helps him sweat: "If you go out and run after all that turkey and gravy, you'll sweat it right out — well, not actual turkey and gravy coming out of your pores!"

Activate Youth — launched in 2009 and the recipient of a \$5,000 Weekly Holiday Fund grant this past year — is a two-pronged program promoting healthy lifestyles,

including lessons on nutrition and exercise and access to the YMCA facilities. It's free to all fifth-graders at the participating schools, including non-Y members, and includes a healthy snack. The goals of the program include helping students to make healthy choices and empowering them with the 41 assets endorsed by Palo Alto Unified School District, Danny Koba,

youth sports and outreach fitness director, explained.

"The fifth-grade is a great age for this program to serve because the students are about to start

(continued on page 10)



### EDUCATION

## School to check for sneak-ins

Palo Alto board grapples with planning for enrollment growth

by Chris Kenrick

**P**alo Alto school officials plan to expand residency-verification efforts to weed out students who may be attending schools illegally.

Superintendent Kevin Skelly told the Board of Education Tuesday night he plans to extend this year's ninth-grade "residency verification" to other grades next year.

The ninth-grade program — which required every freshman this fall to submit fresh proof of residency, even if the student had been enrolled in Palo Alto since kindergarten — resulted in 30 teens being dropped from school rolls after their parents could not provide documentation.

Skelly said he intends to "have a good discussion about expanding this program to other grades, how to do it, what the best grades are, what our enforcement officer thinks."

The district for several years has employed a part-time "residency officer" who follows up on tips about suspected non-resident students, including calls to the district's Residency Tip Hotline at 650-329-3700, ext. 7385.

Skelly's remarks came during a board discussion of district-wide enrollment projections from consulting demographer Shelley Lapkoff.

Lapkoff said kindergarten and first-grade enrollment this fall were "surprisingly high," far exceeding previously reliable indicators such as data on local births and housing turnover.

Births to local residents have been relatively stable at about 600 to 700 each year, "but kindergarten enrollment has been growing substantially

(continued on page 5)

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**Upfront**

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**



Palo Alto is a very tech-savvy city. It's unrivaled in the number of smart-phone users.

— **Lane Kasselman**, AT&T spokesman, on why AT&T needs more cell towers. See cover story on page 35.

## Around Town

**WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM  
MY FRIENDS ... Facebook**

founder **Mark Zuckerberg** this week joined a pantheon that also includes **John F. Kennedy**, **Joseph Stalin** and the **Apollo 8** astronauts when **Time Magazine** declared him its "Person of the Year" for 2010. The award recognizes the individual who, for better or worse, had the most influence on the world. Zuckerberg responded on Facebook by calling Time's announcement "a real honor and recognition of how our little team is building something that hundreds of millions of people want to use to make the world more open and connected. I'm happy to be a part of that."

**HOW'S THE WEATHER? ...**

More than 400 colleagues and friends of the late Stanford University climatologist **Stephen Schneider** gathered to honor him in a combined symposium/memorial gathering Sunday. Schneider, a biology professor who died in July, was a leading voice in discussions on global warming. Former U.S. Sen. **Tim Wirth** recalled that Schneider was fond of saying **Mark Twain** had had it backward when he said, "Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it."

**WE'RE RICH! ...**

China's richest man, **Zong Qinghou**, visited **Stanford University** last week to participate in discussions on sustainable development and global competitiveness. The founder and chairman of the beverage giant **Hangzhou Wahaha Group** said it was his first time at Stanford and he hoped to make some useful connections. "We want to build a hospital in China, and Stanford is very famous in this area, so maybe they can give us some expertise," Zong said. "We have the money, you know." The remarks called to mind **Jane** and **Leland Stanford**'s famous visit with Harvard University President **Charles Eliot** some time after the Stanfords' son died in 1884. Told by Eliot that it would cost them \$5 million to endow a university, the Stanfords reportedly looked at one another and agreed that they could manage that amount.

**WHERE THE STREET HAS NO  
NAME ...** Palo Alto has streets

named after trees (Birch, Ash, Chestnut), avenues named after Victorian writers (Tennyson, Coleridge, Byron), and a downtown park named after the city's generic but illustrious "Heritage." But when it comes to **David Packard**, the legendary philanthropist and co-founder of **Hewlett-Packard**, the city's street map comes up empty. And that's how it'll stay for at least a few more months, after the City Council decided this week not to name a cul-de-sac in a new Barron Park development after Packard, as was recommended by the **Palo Alto Historical Association**. The council, led by **Larry Klein**, decided that the street is too small for such a giant name. "I find myself offended that we'd choose David Packard's name to apply to about the smallest street you can have in town," Klein said. "This is, after all, David Packard, founder of the most iconic company in our history." Instead of making the change, the council decided to re-examine the city's policies for renaming streets.

**SPLIT VERDICT ...** Palo Alto's land-use decisions have never risen to the level of national concern, but that didn't stop Planning and Transportation Commissioner **Eduardo Martinez**

from making some grand allusions to the top federal court. As commissioners deliberated Wednesday over whether they should be allowed to hold private meetings with developers, Martinez, who had to miss the meeting but voiced his opposition in a letter, referenced a comment from **Fred Balin**, a College Terrace resident who has been consistently calling for more transparency in the development process. Balin compared the commission to judges who hear testimony from both parties in an open forum and then issue an impartial decision. Martinez jokingly compared himself and his colleagues to the U.S. Supreme Court, with each commissioner defined by a certain "persona." The analogy, however, didn't stop there. "We are like the Supreme Court because our deliberations are long and wordy and no one can figure out what we decided," Martinez wrote. ■

## Sneak-ins

(continued from page 3)

over time," Lapkoff said.

Where in the past, enrollment was roughly 109 percent of births from five years before, this year it was 120 percent, she said.

"This predictive power (of local birth data) really broke down this year," she said.

An increasing number of enrolled students come from rental housing, the demographer said, explaining why enrollment continues to grow even with low housing turnover rates over the past three years.

"I analyzed the registration data to evaluate who's in rental versus owner-occupied housing, and I found big increases in the last few years of students in rental housing," Lapkoff said.

Another possible source of the added headcount, though harder to pin down, is that more families are living with grandparents, she said.

New housing developments in Palo Alto also have contributed to enrollment growth. As of this fall, 606 Palo Alto students came from housing constructed in the past 10 years. But that will increase sharply when new housing still in the pipeline is completed, she said. The estimates are that 1,051 students will be coming from new housing by 2014 and 1,452 by the fall of 2020, Lapkoff said.

School board members said they want to schedule a study session for early next year to evaluate the growth projections and try to plan for new space, possibly including a fourth middle school.

District-wide enrollment, at 12,024 this fall, has been on a steady upward trajectory since a post-Baby Boom nadir in 1989.

At its historic high in 1968 — when Palo Alto had three high schools and more than 20 elementary schools — enrollment reached 15,575. Currently there are two high schools, three middle schools and 12 elementary campuses. ■

**Staff Writer Chris Kenrick can be e-mailed at [ckenrick@paweb.com](mailto:ckenrick@paweb.com).**

## CITY HALL

# Palo Alto looks for flexibility in staffing

*City Manager James Keene proposes changing city's rules for hiring temporary help*

by Gennady Sheyner

the committee.

Keene pointed specifically to the difficulties of finding replacements for the city's managers and professionals, many of whom have retired over the past year. He said that in the existing system, when a "management specialist" retires, the city cannot assign this position's duties to another employee unless that employee agrees to change his or her job title.

Keene said Tuesday night that the city's policies for transferring employees are too bureaucratic and inefficient and asked for more flexibility in managing the diminished workforce in City Hall. Under the existing policy, the City Council has to approve every change in the city's table of organization, a list of positions in the annual budget. Keene proposed changing this policy.

The table has fluctuated in the past two years, as the council reduced worker benefits, prompting dozens of employees to retire. Recent budget woes have also prompted layoffs in City Hall, where about 40 full-time positions were eliminated in the past year.

Keene told the council's Policy and Services Committee that the current policy is not a good use of either the council's or the employees' time and said management needs to have "more flexibility than we have now."

"I think we're in an environment where the old hierarchical rules of bureaucracy are just standing in the way of being flexible and being responsive," Keene told

Keene did not propose any specific changes Tuesday but said he wants to continue the discussion in the coming months. Human Resources Director Russ Carlsen wrote in a memo that the changes under consideration are "fairly minimal" and would help the city "better address staffing challenges."

"The city's ability (to) quickly address critical staffing needs and make the best staffing decisions is currently limited by these constraints, which may result in a lack of responsiveness or unnecessary inefficiencies, both of which are incongruent with our organizational values and

mission," the memo stated.

Committee members agreed that Keene's proposed reforms should be pursued, but Nick Fraisch, a negotiator for the Service Employees International Union, Local 521, voiced some concerns. Palo Alto residents elect the council, not city management, to make the decisions about personnel levels at various departments, he said. The council, by authorizing each position, sends a message about its priorities to the community.

"While I respect Jim and Russ, I didn't elect Jim to make decisions on whether 12 FTEs (full-time-equivalent positions) in the parks should be a priority," Fraisch told the committee. "I elected you to make that decision."

Councilwoman Gail Price said she supports Keene's effort but only as long as the process remains transparent. One of the benefits of having a chart of positions listed in the budget is that it enables citizens to better understand how the city allocates its staff. She agreed with Keene that the city should strive to give its workers more opportunities for advancement within the organization.

"There has to be an understanding that this is for the well-being of the organization and it recognizes the value of employees and the opportunities for employees," Price said. ■

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THE AGENDA WITH COMPLETE TITLES INCLUDING  
LEGAL DOCUMENTATION CAN BE VIEWED  
AT THE BELOW WEBPAGE:**

[www.cityofpaloalto.org/knowzone/agendas/council.asp](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/knowzone/agendas/council.asp)

### (TENTATIVE) AGENDA

**THE REGULAR  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2010  
HAS BEEN CANCELLED**

### STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Finance Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 21, at 6:00 p.m. regarding: 1) Maze & Associates' Audit of the City of Palo Alto's Financial Statements, 2) Ordinance Authorizing the Closing of the Budget for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2010, and 3) Fiscal Year 2010 Year-End Capital Improvement Program Projects Status Report

## Upfront

### HOLIDAY

# Strolling down Christmas Tree Lane

Seventy-year tradition continues on Palo Alto's gaily decorated Fulton Street

by Sarah Trauben



Veronica Weber

Fulton Street, better known as Christmas Tree Lane, has transformed for its 70th year into a winter wonderland that some locals call "a conspiracy of good."

"When Christmas Tree Lane lights up, the holiday season has arrived," said this year's chairman Larry Christenson, who has called Fulton home since 1980.

For the two weeks before New Year's Day, residents place a row of miniature Christmas trees strung with old-fashioned colored lights on each side of Fulton and light them from 5 to 11 p.m.

Residents decided upon the yearly tradition over a bridge game in 1940, and since that year the street has been dark for the holidays only twice. The decorations have evolved over the years, and surveying the festive displays has become a Palo Alto family tradition.

The event often draws three generations of family to the street, and the slow-moving cars of children staring with their noses pressed to the windows in wonderment spread holiday cheer on the lane and beyond, residents said.

"Seeing the lights through the eyes and enthusiasm of the kids is tremendous," longtime resident Bob Harrington, who raised his own son on Fulton Street, said.

Decorative themes for individual homeowners have changed since the tradition began. Some homeowners inherit the previous owner's decorations or get longstanding decorations from another home, and others decide upon a theme and make or purchase new decorations.

Dolly Mendelson, a 58-year resident, recalled the history of her decorations, which evolved to include reindeer, lights and a team of wise men, one of whom points to a star.

She said that the atmosphere and community had changed over the years, and that the more elaborate decorations took some getting used to.

Still, Mendelson said, "it's been wonderful all along."

Mendelson's son-in-law Richard

A couple admires the holiday decorations on a fancifully decorated home on Christmas Tree Lane this week. Viewers can enjoy the view through New Year's Day.

Boll, along with wife Linda, who grew up on the street, said that an annual coffee on the day of the first lighting brings old and new neighbors together.

"The bedrock part of it ... when community is a lost concept and art, this tradition means that for many years (Christmas Tree Lane) has been and continues to be a community," Boll said.

While some long-standing decorations highlight Christian symbols, some newer decorations celebrate the season along more secular lines.

The tradition brings the community together, Kara Anderson-Reider, a resident since 2002 who grew up visiting Christmas Tree Lane, said. Her decorations include dreidel string lights, secular winter symbols and a black Santa.

"One time, I saw a girl who may have been African-American excitedly taking a picture with it, and it's nice to get people involved. Also, I've seen people coming by and saying, 'It's Obama Santa.'"

This year will be the first in a long time that Palo Alto "Best of Broadway" teacher and Realtor Paul Engel will not lead his students down the lane caroling, a yearly ritual since he and his then-wife Monica wrote "Let's Go Strolling Down Christmas Tree Lane" in 1983.

Rounding up enough students proved a challenge, but Engel recalled fond memories of the annual tradition.

"We tried to schedule it so that the

**What:** Christmas Tree Lane

**Where:** Fulton Street, between Embarcadero Road and Seale Avenue

**When:** through New Year's Day, 5 to 11 p.m.

**Info:** [www.christmastreelane.org](http://www.christmastreelane.org)

songs were appropriate to the decorations coming up," he said, remembering songs celebrating toy soldiers and reindeer.

New traditions are being incorporated into the Christmas Tree Lane festivities. The American Disaster Relief Club of Paly, headed by Fulton resident Jacob Stern and Nadav Gavrielov, will be fundraising by selling hot chocolate during the five days before Christmas.

In the past two years, their hot chocolate has enabled them to donate more than \$1,000 to organizations working in areas hit by natural disasters, Stern said.

The toy soldier draws children to the lawn down the street, which Anderson-Reider says is a particularly exciting decoration for her children on their daily walks of the Lane.

When she asked the homeowner if it was all right for her twins to touch the life-size toy soldier's case, she recalled, "the Ross family said they judge the success of the year by the number of handprints."

At least one child contributed a handprint to the case this Wednesday. Leo Brownstein, 2 and a half years old, strolled the street with his family, who had been coming to the displays for 10 years.

As he watched the gold-braid-clad toy soldier, he said with a smile, "I like doing this so much!" ■

**Editorial Intern Sarah Trauben can be e-mailed at [strauben@paweb.com](mailto:strauben@paweb.com).**

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### Correction

The name and address of AJ Tutoring, LLC, appeared incorrectly in the Class Guide, published last week. The correct address is 430 Cambridge Ave., #110. The Weekly regrets the error. To request a correction, contact Managing Editor Jocelyn Dong at 650-223-6514, [jdong@paweb.com](mailto:jdong@paweb.com) or P.O. Box 1610, Palo Alto, CA 94302.

# Neighborhoods

*A roundup of neighborhood news edited by Sue Dremann*

## AROUND THE BLOCK

**SPREADING THE WORD ...** Barron Park resident **Lisa Kelly** is seeking to fill an information gap when it comes to Gunn High School events. Her family has started an e-mail announcement list for the theater and music departments so friends and neighbors won't miss them. Residents interested in the monthly e-mail notices can sign up at [www.gunnchoir.org/subscribe.html](http://www.gunnchoir.org/subscribe.html) or [www.gunntheatre.org/subscribe.html](http://www.gunntheatre.org/subscribe.html). The spring musical, "Kiss Me, Kate," opens March 18.

**ARAISTRADERO RESTRIPPING ...** A repaving and restriping trial program on Araistradero Road that began in August is continuing with additional work. The project is a one-year trial to reduce crashes and speeding and to improve traffic flow and travel times along the corridor and to improve neighborhood access for residents of **Green Acres I and II**, **Palo Alto Orchards** and **Barron Park**. A traffic signal will be modified at Coulombe Drive to enhance left turns for eastbound Araistradero Road traffic. Two new raised-median islands will be added at Araistradero and Clemo Avenue and at Hubbard Drive. The Clemo intersection will have a pedestrian-activated beacon warning system. At Hubbard, the island will have a new sign showing vehicle speeds to encourage slower driving. Other project components include discussions with Caltrans about the El Camino Real traffic-signal operations, Alta Mesa Memorial Park intersection signage and striping improvements and Araistradero roadway marking changes between Donald Drive/Terman Drive and King Arthur Court to improve left turns onto both streets. Community meetings with the City of Palo Alto Transportation Division will take place later in winter.

**DONKEY PARADE ...** Saturday, Dec. 18, at 2:30 p.m. will kick off the holiday season with the 10th annual **Barron Park Donkey Parade** and neighborhood party. **The Gunn High School Chamber Singers** will perform carols. Festivities begin at Bol Park at the corner of Laguna and Matadero. Perry and Niner, the community's beloved donkeys, will lead the parade. A party will take place afterward at Barron Park Elementary School at 3:15 p.m., where the Gunn singers will perform. ■

*Send announcements of neighborhood events, meetings and news to Sue Dremann, Neighborhoods editor, at [sdremann@paweb.com](mailto:sdremann@paweb.com). Or talk about your neighborhood news on Town Square at [www.PaloAltoOnline.com](http://www.PaloAltoOnline.com).*

## BARRON PARK



Courtesy Alfred Pepper

At left, Alfred Pepper holds up medals awarded for his service in the U.S. Army during World War II. His honors include the Bronze Star and American Defense Service Medal. Above, Pepper was a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. The Barron Park resident is scheduled to receive the French Legion of Honor medal Friday (Dec. 17) for his participation in D-Day.

## Palo Altan Alfred Pepper receives French war decoration

by Sue Dremann

**P**alo Alto resident Alfred Pepper has been a man of few words all of his life. The 96-year-old World War II veteran spoke little about his war experiences on two continents, according to his daughter, Jan Pepper.

But if actions speak louder than words, as the adage goes, then Pepper's actions have spoken volumes. He is scheduled to receive the medal of the French Legion of Honor at his home Friday (Dec. 17) for his role in helping to liberate France.

Romain Serman, the French Consul General in San Francisco, will present the medal to him, Jan said.

"He's happy about getting the medal," she said, noting that he is unable to speak much after a recent illness.

In person, Pepper looks younger than his 96 years. His full head of hair, which is not entirely gray, is swept back from his forehead.

Showed a photo of himself in his military uniform — he cut a dashing figure — Pepper nodded his head approvingly.

The former San Leandro shoe-store manager and U.S. Army First Lieutenant was part of Big Red One, the First Infantry Division that invaded France

on D-Day, June 6, 1944. The invasion started at 6 a.m.; Pepper rolled onto Omaha Beach in an armored personnel carrier at 8 a.m. and remained pinned on the beach by the Germans until noon. The beach was then secured.

Pepper was inducted into the army in 1941 and trained in Alabama, California and Hawaii. His discharge papers note that he was in intelligence. He attended officer-candidate school in 1942 and was

dispatched to Africa in May 1943. He was part of a group that invaded Sicily and was later shipped to Liverpool, England, where he remained training until the Omaha Beach invasion.

He received numerous medals,

*Former shoe salesman, 96, honored in his home with French Legion of Honor medal*

including the Bronze Star for bravery, World War II Victory medal, American Defense service medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign medal and a European-African-Pacific Campaign medal with one Silver

Service Star and a Combat Infantry badge 1st Award.

But he "never talked about the war, and he never went camping because he said they camped a lot in the war," Jan said.

Fifteen years ago, when Pepper met with veterans while receiving

medical care at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System, he began to talk about the war. "More came to the forefront" as he began to interact with medical staff, who showed their appreciation to the veterans, she said.

Jan said she wrote to the Consul General asking about the award for her father after reading a news article about another man who received the Legion of Honor medal. She submitted his enlistment record, where he served and a list of his awards.

The French ambassador in Washington, D.C., Pierre Vimont, notified Pepper about the award Oct. 7. The letter hints at the magnitude of his service. The president of the French Republic, Nicolas Sarkozy, signed the decree on Sept. 28. Pepper is now a "Chevalier" of the Legion of Honor.

(continued on page 10)

## Group proposes new East Palo Alto charter school

*Led by Palo Alto man, Rocketship already has three schools in San Jose*

by Chris Kenrick

**A** group that runs three high-performing charter schools in San Jose is circulating a petition to open a new charter elementary school in East Palo Alto in the fall of 2012.

Rocketship Education, a 4-year-old nonprofit led by tech-entrepreneur-turned-teacher John Danner of Palo Alto, says it will apply in January for a charter with the Ravenswood City School District.

Rocketship has been scouting possible campus locations in East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park as well as soliciting support from local opinion leaders.

"We've been spending a good part of the fall talking to school board members and such," said Evan Kohn, Rocketship's manager of community support.

"We're talking to key leaders and parents who want another choice in East Palo Alto," Kohn said.

"They're certainly happy to sit down with us."

The group has been "overwhelmed with support" in a signature drive aimed at gauging parents' interest in enrolling their kids in a Rocketship school, Kohn said. The group expects to collect 400 signatures before the holidays, he said.

Rocketship said it uses a "hybrid model" — combining classroom teaching with one-on-one computer work — that has its low-income stu-

dents in San Jose achieving state test scores on par with those in the Palo Alto Unified School District.

Children spend about 25 percent of their day in a computer lab, working with software that individualizes instruction in mathematics and reading, he said.

"The programs are very good at helping children with basic skills mastery, and then teachers can spend their time introducing new concepts, helping with guided instruction and working with critical-thinking skills," Rocketship Vice President for Marketing Judith McGarry said.

Rocketship opened its San Jose campuses in 2007, 2009 and 2010. All three operate under charter agreements with the Santa Clara County Office of Education.

Students at Rocketship's Mateo Sheedy School earned a 2010 California Growth Academic Performance Index Score of 925. The group's Si Se Puede Academy had a score of 886 in its first year of testing. Data was unavailable for the newest Rocketship school, Los Suenos Academy.

The 2010 Growth API Score range for Palo Alto elementary schools was 861 to 984.

The API score for the K-8 Ravenswood City School District has moved from 633 in 2007 to a current 688.

The fast-expanding Rocketship aims to prove that its tech-assisted education model can erase the achievement gap among low-income students in a way that can be replicated efficiently across the country, McGarry said.

"We hope to say that with the exact same funding (as traditional public schools), we're able to offer kids a public-school experience that really helps them succeed academically," she said.

"Our approach is to be as collaborative as possible and to help the community understand our priorities are on the children."

Danner, a Bellarmine graduate and Stanford-trained electrical engineer, was founder and CEO of the web-advertising software company NetGravity, which he took public and sold in 1999.

He went on to become a public school teacher in Nashville, Tenn., where he got involved in the charter school movement. He was founding director of the charter middle school KIPP Academy Nashville. After returning to the Bay Area, he co-founded Rocketship with teacher and elementary school Principal Preston Smith in 2006. ■

*Staff Writer Chris Kenrick can be e-mailed at ckenrick@pawebly.com.*

## Superintendent: Charter schools hurt neighborhood schools

*De La Vega reflects on Ravenswood district's progress, problems*

by Chris Kenrick

**A**s test scores inch upward in the Ravenswood City School District, which includes East Palo Alto and east Menlo Park, a plethora of charter schools and other alternatives hurt neighborhood schools, its superintendent said.

In her five years at the helm of the K-8 district, Maria De La Vega says she is making slow but steady headway on the district's motto, "journey to excellence," boosting state performance scores for each of the past three years.

But she regularly battles a loss of students, as families abandon neighborhood schools for what they consider better options.

In the Tinsley desegregation program alone, nearly 900 students depart Ravenswood each day to attend schools in neighboring school districts, including Palo Alto.

On top of that, Ravenswood students more recently have flocked to charter alternatives, taking state funding with them that would have

gone to neighborhood schools.

Last year, for example, about a quarter of district students attended charter schools instead of their neighborhood school.

De La Vega said she lost "a whole sixth-grade class" several years ago when a Stanford University-sponsored charter operator, Stanford New Schools, opened East Palo Alto Academy Elementary School. (It has since closed.)

"Historically Ravenswood did not do well, so people see it that they're giving kids an opportunity," De La Vega said in an interview this week.

"But they don't see the consequences to the school district when so many go, and you're left with not enough students to provide a comprehensive program at each grade level."

De La Vega said she sees light at the end of the tunnel in Ravenswood's efforts to meet the terms of state and federal orders for improve-

ment, both in academic results and in services to children with special needs.

After the district has spent three years on the state's Program Improvement list, triggered by less than "adequate yearly progress" on state tests, De La Vega hopes it will be dismissed from the program when she appears next year before the State Board of Education.

The Program Improvement process means Ravenswood is visited regularly by a county intervention team to monitor the district's progress toward its improvement plan.

"The interesting thing for me was that we had a plan when the state decided to impose some of these sanctions, and we were starting to show progress," she said.

"When the intervention team came in they basically just tweaked our plan and began monitoring it. Their reports to the state have

(continued on page 10)

# News Digest

## Palo Alto officials proud of 2010 accomplishments

A year that began with a \$7.3 million budget gap, a fatal plane crash and deep anxieties over California's proposed high-speed rail concluded on a high note Monday (Dec. 13) night for members of the Palo Alto City Council, who celebrated the city's achievements during their final meeting of 2010.

"There were unprecedented challenges facing our city and cities around the world this year," City Manager James Keene told the council. "I think we can say there was progress and promise from where we began, and I think we ended the year stronger than we began."

Keene's presentation highlighted an array of 2010 accomplishments, which included closing a looming budget hole by cutting 40 city jobs, leading the Peninsula's challenge to the California High-Speed Rail Authority and keeping the city at the forefront of innovation.

Keene noted that in the past year, Hewlett-Packard decided to expand its local headquarters while companies such as Skype, Groupon, Bling Nation and Ning set up shop in Palo Alto. AOL, meanwhile, is preparing to set up "incubator space" for small new start-up companies at its Page Mill Road facility, Keene said.

Keene also lauded the council and staff for grappling with the recent financial struggles, which were caused largely by drops in sales tax and other revenue sources. The council began 2010 with a \$6.3 million budget shortfall and wrestled with a \$7.3 million structural deficit later in the year. ■

— Gennady Sheyner

## Palo Alto libraries get \$3 million in gifts

Palo Alto's voter-approved quest to reconstruct and expand the city's aged library system has received a major lift from local philanthropists and technologists — \$3 million in donations to pay for books, furniture and technology at the improved facilities.

The Palo Alto Library Foundation, a nonprofit group that is spearheading a \$6 million campaign to equip the new libraries, announced Monday (Dec. 13) night that its fundraising effort has recently reached the halfway point.

The list of donations is headlined by a \$1.5 million contribution from the Morgan Family Foundation on behalf of Becky Morgan, a longtime philanthropist who has served as a local school board member, a Santa Clara County supervisor, a California State Senator from 1984 to 1993, and former president and CEO of Joint Venture: Silicon Valley.

Alison Cormack, who is chairing the fundraising campaign, called the contribution an "extraordinary gift" and said the new children's section will be a "fitting tribute" to Morgan because of her involvement in children's education and technology.

The foundation will acknowledge the contribution by honoring Morgan at the Kids Place on the first floor of the rebuilt Mitchell Park Library — the largest of the three library branches to undergo construction.

The foundation also received more than \$500,000 from a group of more than 30 Google employees who live in Palo Alto. The group's donation will be recognized on the second floor of the Mitchell Park library in the new Ventura Technology Learning Center, which will include 22 computers including a teaching station with modern display equipment.

Another sizeable donation came from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, which contributed \$250,000 to the campaign Monday.

The Library Foundation's campaign will continue through 2012. More information is available at [www.palf.org](http://www.palf.org). ■

— Gennady Sheyner

## Palo Alto pays \$400K in bike-crash settlement

Palo Alto will pay \$400,000 to settle a claim from a 57-year-old woman who suffered brain injuries after being thrown from her bicycle in the 2100 block of Bryant Street in 2008, Interim City Attorney Don Larkin said.

Although she was wearing a helmet, Janet Pierce of Cupertino was injured after her bicycle struck a construction-related steel trench plate. Her original claim was for \$1.12 million.

Larkin called the settlement "fair," considering Pierce's injuries and the potential liability to the city should the case have gone to trial.

"We think it's a very fair settlement given the nature of the accident and seriousness of the injuries and the fact that liability is really uncertain," he said.

"The reality is, nobody knows exactly what happened and there would have been experts testifying and it would depend on which experts the jury believed."

"It's fair for us to accept some responsibility, but certainly not the full responsibility," Larkin said.

The accident has prompted the city to add safety precautions around metal plates, he said. ■

— Chris Kenrick



**LET'S DISCUSS:** Read the latest local news headlines and talk about the issues at Town Square at [www.PaloAltoOnline.com](http://www.PaloAltoOnline.com)

## Private meetings

(continued from page 3)

this loophole to gauge their need to heed or ignore the direction and action of the Planning and Transportation Commission regarding their application," the memo stated.

On Tuesday, the council's Policy and Services Committee took a major step toward closing this loophole by unanimously recommending a revision of the council rules. The proposed policy, which the full council is expected to take up next month, would "discourage" council members from speaking to project applicants until after the planning commission and the Architectural Review Board complete their own reviews.

Keller and Fineberg both argued Wednesday that council approval of the proposal would close the loophole and, in doing so, remove much of the planning commission's rationale for revising its own policy. Fineberg said the council's proposed changes make the commission's memo "very weak."

"That doesn't leave this body in a position where there is appearance of operating with ethical behavior and beyond reproach," Fineberg said.

Last year, the commission considered scrapping the policy banning *ex parte* communications but did not muster enough votes to do so. Since then, former Commissioner Karen Holman joined the City Council and was replaced by Tanaka, a supporter of the policy change. The commission reintroduced the subject with the Oct. 20 memo and discussed the memo on Nov. 10.

At that meeting, the commission agreed not to vote on the proposal until the memo's authors came up with rules for disclosing any private meetings between commissioners and developers.

The policy adopted Wednesday directs commissioners to disclose verbally their private meetings with applicants but does not require them to put the disclosures in writing or to submit any records from the meeting. Garber said he considered adding a requirement for a written disclosure after the Nov. 10 meeting but later decided that additional safeguards aren't necessary.

"The disclosure requirements we have that are already part of the memo already raise us above the bar," Garber said.

## Public Agenda

A preview of Palo Alto government meetings next week

**CITY COUNCIL ...** The City Council has no meetings scheduled for next week.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE ...** The committee plans to hear a status report on the city's capital-improvement program and consider adoption of an ordinance closing the 2010 budget. The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 21, in the Council Conference Room at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).



### TALK ABOUT IT www.PaloAltoOnline.com

Is it a breach of ethics or an act of "open access" for City Council members and planning commissioners to meet with developers whose applications are under city review? Share your opinion on Town Square, the online community forum, on Palo Alto Online.

Among the memo's stipulations is a requirement that the commissioners "disclose any information that he or she learned that may have an impact on how that commissioner decides the matter." In addition, any documents submitted by the developer in a private meeting are to be made public.

In all private meetings, commissioners are not to communicate their positions on the application, either by stating their opinions or asking questions that would reveal an opinion.

Garber was one of several commissioners who argued Wednesday that the new policy would promote openness and transparency by breaking down the wall separating the commission from the community.

"For me, the value of having open access and not having hurdles to our appointed and elected officials is the issue," Garber said.

Fineberg maintained her long-standing position that private meetings between commissioners and developers would reduce transparency and raise questions in the community about the commission's eth-

ics and conduct.

"Avoiding the *ex parte* contacts protects commissioners from unwittingly developing a bias," Fineberg said. "Furthermore it protects commissioners from the public appearance of having a bias, even if there isn't one."

Keller and Fineberg both urged the authors to revise the memo to provide a new justification for the policy change. Keller urged his colleagues not to vote on the policy.

"It would be a travesty to do so under this rationale," he said.

Martinez didn't attend the meeting but sent in a letter stating his opposition to the policy change. The commission had already rejected the policy change in 2009 and nothing has changed since that time, he said.

But the majority decided to go ahead with the change. Tuma, who co-authored the 2009 memo, denied that the commission's revised policy runs counter to the changes being considered by the council. He noted the council's change doesn't discourage *ex parte* communications with developers unless these developers have projects that are undergoing reviews by the local boards and commissions.

The commission's revised policy also specifies that the commissioners are not required to meet with applicants or members of the public. ■

*Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner can be e-mailed at gsheyner@paweb.com.*

## CityView

A round-up of Palo Alto government action this week

### City Council (Dec. 13)

**Packard Court:** The council voted not to name a small street in a new development "Packard Court" and directed its Policy and Services Committee to reconsider the city's policies for naming streets. **Yes:** Unanimous  
**Suicide prevention:** The council adopted a suicide-prevention policy and approved the 41 Development Assets framework for youth and teen well-being. **Yes:** Unanimous  
**Annual review:** The council recapped its 2010 accomplishments. **Action:** None

### Board of Education (Dec. 14)

**Teen well-being:** The board heard an update on the district's efforts toward supporting teen well-being through various initiatives, including free mental health referrals and suicide-prevention training for secondary school staff members. **Action:** None  
**Enrollment projections:** The board discussed district-wide enrollment projections presented by consulting demographers Lapkoff & Gobalet and agreed to hold a study session on the findings early next year. **Action:** None  
**Duveneck building plans:** The board heard a presentation on renovation plans that include a new two-story building that will have eight classrooms and conversion of some current classrooms to a library. **Action:** None

### Policy and Services Committee (Dec. 14)

**Council protocols:** The committee voted to revise the council's policy regarding private meetings with developers. Under the new policy, council members are discouraged from speaking with project applicants until after the projects have been considered by the Planning and Transportation Commission and the Architectural Review Board. **Yes:** Unanimous  
**Staffing flexibility:** The committee discussed a staff proposal to give the city manager more flexibility to hire temporary employees and transfer employees from one position to another. **Action:** None

### Parks and Recreation Commission (Dec. 14)

**Priorities:** The commission discussed its 2011 plans and decided to set open-space protection, community health and wellness, and Community Service Department planning their priorities for the year. **Yes:** Unanimous

### Planning & Transportation Commission (Dec. 15)

**Development applications:** The commission voted to change its policy guarding *ex parte* communications. Under the new policy, commissioners are no longer discouraged from holding private meetings with project applicants, provided they disclose these meetings. **Yes:** Garber, Lippert, Tanaka, Tuma **No:** Fineberg, Keller **Absent:** Martinez

### Architectural Review Board (Dec. 16)

**3000 Hanover St.:** The board held a preliminary review for an addition to an existing building at the Hewlett Packard campus. **Action:** None

## 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](http://www.PaloAltoOnline.com/news) or click on "News" in the left, green column.

### Report shows big drop in East Palo Alto crime

East Palo Alto — once regarded as the murder capital of the country — has seen a 56 percent decrease in violent crime since 1986, according to researchers at the University of California at Berkeley School of Law. (Posted Dec. 16 at 9:18 a.m.)

### Gordon to chair subcommittee on transportation

Newly elected state Assemblyman Rich Gordon (D-Menlo Park) has been named chairman of the Assembly budget subcommittee that oversees the California High-Speed Rail Authority. Gordon has advocated creating of a new oversight structure for the authority. (Posted Dec. 16 at 8:58 a.m.)

### Rich Cline re-elected mayor of Menlo Park

The man who put down the Menlo Park mayor's gavel last week has now picked it back up. In a unanimous 5-0 vote, and counter to tradition, the City Council elected Rich Cline to a second term as mayor Tuesday night (Dec. 14). (Posted Dec. 15 at 8:51 a.m.)

### Palo Alto approves suicide-prevention policy

Suicide prevention was once a taboo subject in Palo Alto. Now, it's a city policy. (Posted Dec. 14 at 9:36 a.m.)

### County animal shelters are heavy on dogs

In response to an increasing number of dogs ending up in Santa Clara County animal shelters recently, these shelters are asking the public to adopt or foster a homeless dog. (Posted Dec. 13 at 2:29 p.m.)

### Cal Ave oaks have a new problem: gall wasps

California Avenue's beleaguered street trees were the target of city concern late last week due to the appearance of hundreds of fuzzy tan growths on the underside of leaves of the young southern live oak trees. The growths house larvae of a harmless "gall wasp." (Posted Dec. 13 at 12:39 p.m.)

### Stanford sends early acceptances to 754 students

Stanford University has selected 754 students for early admission from a record number of early applicants for its undergraduate class of 2015, the university announced. (Posted Dec. 13 at 9:53 a.m.)

### Fire from candles displaces family at Greenhouse

A family has been displaced by a modest fire — possibly caused by candles — in a rear condominium at the Greenhouse complex on San Antonio Road Sunday morning (Dec. 12), Battalion Chief Niles Broussard reported. (Posted Dec. 13 at 1:06 a.m.)

### Palo Alto woman robbed in front of her home

A Palo Alto woman was robbed in front of her home in the 900 block of El Cajon Way shortly after 7 p.m. Saturday (Dec. 11), police reported. Police said the robbery "may or may not" be related to other recent robberies in the area but that they are actively investigating the robberies. (Posted Dec. 12 at 8:17 a.m.)

### Zumot murder trial to focus on domestic violence

In the weeks and months before firefighters found Jennifer Schipis' body in a burnt cottage on Palo Alto's Addison Avenue, the 29-year-old real estate agent repeatedly complained to friends, neighbors and police officers about how her boyfriend, Bulos Zumot, had been abusing her, court records show. (Posted Dec. 10 at 4:34 p.m.)

### Boyarsky appointed assistant to district attorney

Long-time county prosecutor Jay Boyarsky has been tapped to serve as chief assistant district attorney by Jeffrey F. Rosen, district attorney-elect for Santa Clara County. Boyarsky has served as a county prosecutor for 16 years. He ran the DA's North County offices in Palo Alto and Sunnyvale from 2001 to 2007 and is known in the state for his expertise in hate-crime prosecution. (Posted Dec. 10 at 2:34 p.m.)

### Anna Eshoo opposes Obama tax deal

Congresswoman Anna Eshoo is not happy about a White House tax proposal, crafted with Congressional Republicans, that would, contrary to President Obama's campaign promise, extend current tax breaks for individuals who earn more than \$250,000 per year. (Posted Dec. 10 at 2:27 p.m.)

**LET'S DISCUSS:** Read the latest local news headlines and talk about the issues at Town Square at [www.PaloAltoOnline.com](http://www.PaloAltoOnline.com)

# IT'S TIME FOR BASEBALL



## Palo Alto Little League 2011 Registration

SIGN-UP NOW!

### Online Registration

Register online and pay your fee online or by check.

### Walk-in Registration

Register in person on the dates below at the clubhouse (3672 Middlefield Road – near E. Meadow):

**Wed., January 5th** (7 – 9 pm.)

**Sat., January 8th** (11 am. – 2 pm.)

**Sun., January 9th** (noon – 3 pm.)



A late fee applies after January 15th.

For more information and online registration, visit:

**www.pabaseball.org**

registration@pabaseball.org

PLAY BALL!



Thanks to the Palo Alto Weekly for  
sponsoring a team. To find out more  
about sponsorship, visit:

**sponsors.pabaseball.org**

## 32<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL 2011 TALL TREE AWARDS Call for Nominations

The Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce  
and the Palo Alto Weekly

are proud to announce the 32nd

Annual Tall Tree awards, presented in  
four categories, recognizing exceptional  
civic contributions and service to the  
Palo Alto community. Current elected  
officials are not eligible.

- Outstanding Citizen/Volunteer
- Outstanding Professional
- Outstanding Business
- Outstanding Non-Profit

Nomination forms are available online at  
[www.paloaltochamber.com](http://www.paloaltochamber.com)  
or at the Palo Alto Chamber  
of Commerce  
at 400 Mitchell Lane, Palo Alto

**Nomination deadline  
January 7, 2011 at 5pm**



## Fitness

(continued from page 3)

making their own choices."

Students such as Nicole Verhulp appreciated the respect she said the YMCA shows them.

"They treat us like we're old enough to choose," she said.

The supervised freedom given to Activate Youth participants is a learning opportunity for children and adult members.

"It teaches adults how to deal with large groups of kids and teaches the kids how to behave and exercise in a respectful way," Koba said.

Kids can swim, rock-climb, play badminton or go to the gym, where staff member Scott Fukuhara supervises the many games and relays that keep 30 students active, including variations on dodgeball.

Fukuhara recently wandered in and out of speed ball and power-line, in which frozen students are freed by human chain formed by their teammates, shouting encouragement and getting in on the fun, too.

"What we do in the gym is give all of the kids a chance to stay active. They're excited to be making healthy choices," Fukuhara said.

Ben Vogel of Palo Verde said Activate Youth is fun as well as educational.

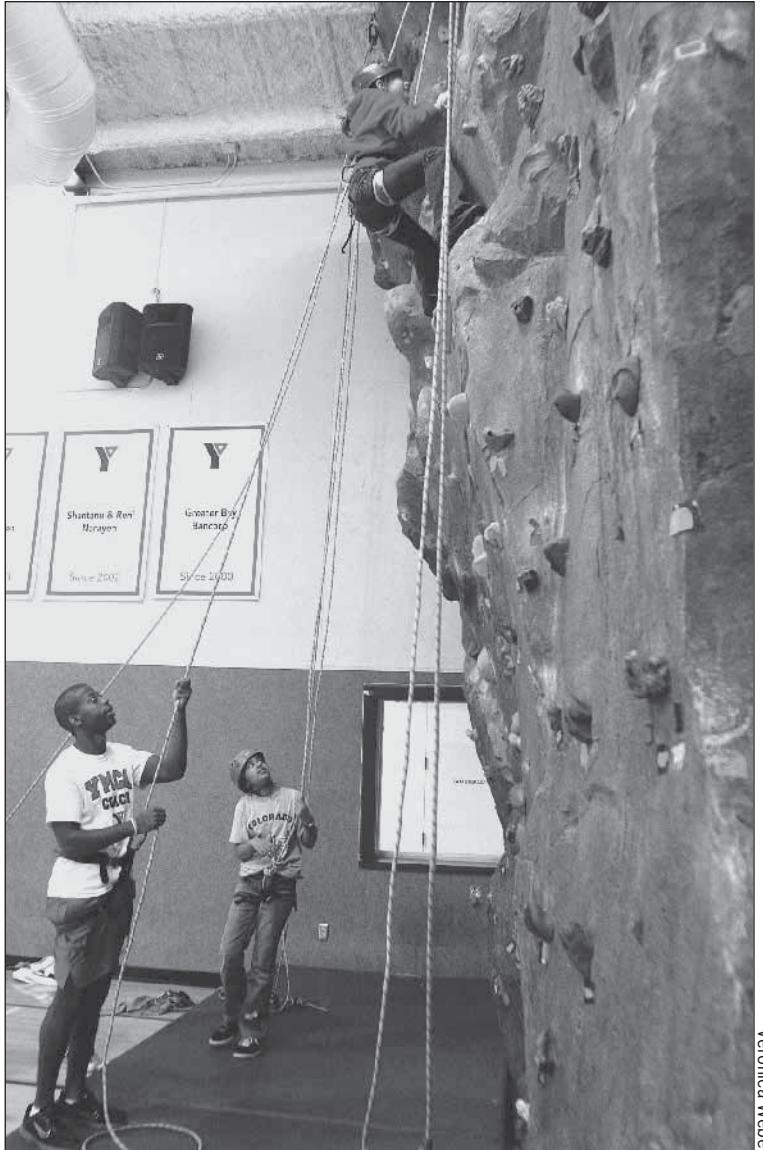
"I learned that you have to exercise to burn calories. Also, we get to exercise with people that we're going to school with next year."

Moore, belaying kids who were racing to the top of the rock-climbing wall, said the program encouraged the students to interact more.

"Last year, every game in the gym was Fairmeadow versus Palo Verde. They're getting comfortable interacting and finding common ground," he said.

The YMCA would like to add another school's fifth-graders to the program and is considering renting

## Upfront



Veronica Weber

Youth Sport Coordinator Larry Moore, left, guides Leah Sheynkman up the rock climbing wall at the Palo Alto Family YMCA in early December while Reetu Joshi, center, awaits his turn.

fields in nearby parks so that YMCA staff can accompany students outside the current facilities.

Current Activate Youth participants said they are excited to have the program.

"The staff are nice and fair. They

show us that you're able to get healthier and happier, at the same time," Audrey Jakubowski said. ■

**Editorial Intern Sarah Traubben can be reached at strauben@paloaltoweekly.com.**

came from a 1996 class action lawsuit by parents claiming children with disabilities were not getting adequate services.

Court-appointed monitor Mark Mlawer periodically flies in from Washington, D.C., to check on the district's progress and report to U.S. District Judge Thelton Henderson.

Special-education students in Ravenswood are now completely mainstreamed and the district has no "special day" classes, De La Vega said.

De La Vega's immediate worries

focus on the feared mid-year budget cuts from the state — an anticipated \$2 million to \$4 million from an operating budget of \$22 million. (Ravenswood gets another \$17 million in restricted federal funds, much of it to address problems associated with student poverty levels.)

"There are rumors about mid-year cuts, and we're just beside ourselves trying to figure out how we're going to continue to survive," she said. ■

**Staff Writer Chris Kenrick can be e-mailed at ckenrick@pawebkly.com.**

## Alfred Pepper

(continued from page 7)

The award "testifies to the President of the French Republic's high esteem for your merits and accomplishments. In particular it is a sign of France's true and unforgettable gratitude and appreciation for your personal, precious contribution to the United States' decisive role in the liberation of our country during World War II."

"The Legion of Honor was created by Napoleon in 1802 to acknowledge services rendered to France by persons of great merit. The French people will never forget your cour-

**WATCH IT ONLINE**  
[www.PaloAltoOnline.com](http://www.PaloAltoOnline.com)

See a video of Friday's award ceremony for Alfred Pepper on Palo Alto Online.

age and your devotion to the great cause of freedom."

Jan described her father as a kind, intelligent, easygoing man who was raised in Brooklyn, N.Y., and graduated from high school at age 16. He can do a lot of math in his head and took French II and III simultaneously, she said.

Pepper and his wife, Rosaline, moved to Palo Alto in 1983. He continued to work until he was 87. He took up tennis in his late 50s and

continued to play regularly until age 89. He and Rosaline were married for 62 years. She died four weeks ago but knew of the award, Jan said.

"He's someone you look up to. He's a nice, kind person and very family-oriented. He always worked very hard. He has a good sense of humor, and he was playful when we were kids. We would jump on him, and he liked it," she said.

Pepper was supportive of his son and daughter.

"He defended us. If we felt a certain way, he would back us up," she said. ■

**Staff Writer Sue Dreman can be e-mailed at sdreman@pawebkly.com.**

# Transitions

*Births, marriages and deaths*

## Celebrated architect Goodwin Steinberg, 89, dies

*Steinberg left his mark on Palo Alto and Stanford architecture and was internationally known*

Famed architect Goodwin Steinberg, who designed scores of buildings in the Palo Alto area and at Stanford University and founded an international architectural firm, died Tuesday at his Palo Alto residence following a period of declining health. He was 89.

His son, Rob, who joined Steinberg Architects as a principal, said his father's "creative talent combined with good timing helped transform the Valley of Hearts Delight into the economic engine known as Silicon Valley."



Steinberg and his wife, Geraldine, who served on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors in the 1970s, resided at Vi at Palo Alto (formerly the Classic Residence by Hyatt), a senior community that Steinberg helped design. Steinberg was diagnosed with lung cancer eight months ago.

Memorial services are planned for 12:30 p.m. Friday (Dec. 17) at the Congregation Beth Am, 26790 Arastradero Road, Los Altos Hills. Steinberg's interests went far beyond buildings. He was an advocate of regional planning and was dedicated to the concept that the hills surrounding Santa Clara Valley and above the Peninsula should be protected from urban sprawl. He also provided design advice for the winding Guadalupe River Park, which provides natural spaces in the heart of San Jose.

Steinberg was particularly noted locally for his initiative on Congregation Beth Am, where he functioned as much more than an architect in his efforts to build the temple and school.

He established Steinberg Architects in 1953, and during a 50-year career he designed thousands of buildings, including award-winning homes, corporate campuses and sacred space.

Among his other local or regional projects were restoration of the historic Santa Clara County Courthouse in downtown San Jose, The Tech Museum of Innovation and the Del Monte Hotel in Monterey.

He was a native of Chicago and the son of an architect, but he fell in love with the Bay Area in 1944 when he passed through the Golden Gate as a corporal in the United States Air Force.

He returned eight years later with his bride, Geraldine, and embarked on a career that included a wide range of friendships, from Stanford faculty members to rich and famous persons in retail, high-tech and the hotel industry.

His education included studying under the acclaimed Bauhaus architect, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe. His post-graduate studies at the Palace of Fontainebleau under Princeton University Professor Jean Labatut created an intense sensitivity to scale, spatial flow and harmonies created with light and landscape.

Steinberg also was known for his dedication to his family, which spilled into the community. When his young daughter asked if she could attend religious school with a Methodist neighbor, Steinberg set to work with a small group of Jewish community leaders in the mid-1950s to create a local Jewish religious school so his daughter could learn her own family's tradition.

He located a 10-acre property in Los Altos Hills and designed the distinctive Congregation Beth Am synagogue, which now serves about 1,600 families.

Steinberg is survived by his wife

Geraldine; his children Robert (and Alice Erber) of Palo Alto; Thomas (and Shaindel) Steinberg of New York and Jerusalem; and Joan Laurence, of Tsfat, Israel; 11 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and sisters Sylvia (and Paul) Schneider and Darlene (and Larry) Gilford of Chicago.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions to the charitable foundations Steinberg's children established: the Meor Foundation, 2 Glenbrook Ave., Monsey, NY 11952, and The New Seed Foundation, P.O. Box 61186, Palo Alto, CA 94306. ■

## Looking for something to do?

Check out the Weekly's **Community Calendar** for the Midpeninsula.

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## Bob Connelly



Robert (Bob) Connelly, 87, died on December 9, 2010 surrounded by his family. He enjoyed an especially happy marriage of 52 years with Dorothy. Their children Sue, Kelly, Rob, and Carolyn (Regan); son-in-law Rob; and their nine grandchildren will miss him greatly.

Born in Appleton, Wisconsin, he proudly served in the U.S. Navy during WWII. Bob was a loyal alumnus of the University of Notre Dame, and he recently retired from his business of life insurance and financial planning.

Bob saw the positive in everyone he met, and he

loved to get their "story" and he REMEMBERED them. He treasured his friends and really made the effort to regularly keep in touch with everyone from boyhood buddies to recent friends. Bob took special joy in making people laugh. He was a warm, loving husband and father who truly lived his Catholic faith, especially through hardships, and his trademark optimism encouraged others.

A memorial Mass will be held Saturday, December 18th at 10:00 a.m. at The Church of the Nativity in Menlo Park, CA. A Rosary will be held Thursday, December 16th at 4 p.m. at Nativity.

Those who wish may remember him through a donation to the Nativity School Endowment Fund.

O'Connors Menlo Park Funerals.

PAID OBITUARY

## Elizabeth Madeline Bowden-Smith



Elizabeth Madeline Bowden-Smith passed away Friday, December 3 at her home in Palo Alto at the age of 65.

One of four daughters, she was born to Kathryn Louise Miller Bowden and Richard William

Bowden on January 25, 1945 in Shreveport, LA. In her youth, her father's military postings took her family across the U.S. and Pacific Basin, and in 1963 she graduated from Taipei American H.S. In 1968 she received a B.S. in Microbiology from San Diego State University and later received a master's degree in Medical Technology. She received a second master's degree from the Institute of Transpersonal Psychology in 1998.

She worked as a state-licensed marriage and family therapist in Palo Alto and was an

environmental educator at Hidden Villa in Los Altos Hills for 26 years. In both, she found joy in working with children and young adults. Her environmental education work took her to classrooms across the Bay Area, and she led many thousands of these children through the Hidden Villa farm and wilderness. She was also an active member of St. Mark's church of Palo Alto where she was known for her seasonal liturgical art installations.

She is survived by her husband Randall Bruce Smith of Palo Alto, her two children, Kathryn Cornelius Máthé of Budapest, Hungary, and Roland Richard Smith of Sunnyvale, and her two grandchildren, Anna Charlotte Máthé and Julian Benjamin Máthé of Budapest, Hungary.

A memorial is planned for early January the details of which will be announced at a later date. Gifts may be made to the Elizabeth Bowden-Smith Memorial Endowment Fund at Hidden Villa.

PAID OBITUARY

## 100th Birthday

### Vida Harger

Local resident Vida Harger celebrated her 100th birthday Dec. 14 with four generations of family and friends at the home of her son, local artist Gregory Deane and his wife, Margo Deane.



### Haskins Kashima

Haskins "Chuck" Kazunori Kashima, 78, a former resident of Palo Alto, died of Alzheimer's Disease Nov. 11.

He was born in San Francisco and graduated from Palo Alto High School, where he served as student-body president, in 1951.

He earned his undergraduate degree from Stanford University and went on to Yale Medical School. He later joined the faculty at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, in

the department of head and neck surgery. He also worked in the department of oncology and specialized in research on respiratory papillomatosis.

He married his wife, Joyce, in 1961. The couple enjoyed entertaining, playing card games and tennis, and world travel.

He is survived by his wife Joyce; children Lisa Poling, Mark Kashima and Mathew Kashima; and seven grandchildren.



# Support our kids with a gift to the Holiday Fund.



## Last Year's Grant Recipients

Adolescent Counseling Services .....	\$10,000
All Saints' Episcopal Church, Palo Alto ....	\$7,500
California Family Foundation.....	\$2,500
CASSY (Counseling and Support).....	\$5,000
Cleo Eulau Center.....	\$2,500
Collective Roots.....	\$5,000
Community Legal Services in EPA .....	\$5,000
Downtown Streets Team .....	\$15,000
DreamCatchers .....	\$5,000
East Palo Alto Children's Day Committee .....	\$5,000
East Palo Alto Kids Foundation.....	\$7,500
East Palo Alto Youth Court.....	\$5,000
Environmental Volunteers .....	\$3,000
EPA.net.....	\$2,500
Foothill-De Anza Foundation .....	\$5,000
Girls To Women .....	\$2,500
Gunn High School Green Team.....	\$1,000
InnVision.....	\$5,000
Jewish Family and Children's Services .....	\$5,000
JLS Middle School PTA.....	\$3,500
Jordan Middle School PTA.....	\$3,500
Kara .....	\$5,000
Mayview Community Health Center .....	\$10,000
Music in the Schools Foundation.....	\$5,000
New Creation Home Ministries .....	\$5,000
Northern California Urban Development....	\$7,500
Nuestra Casa .....	\$5,000
Opportunity Health Center .....	\$7,500
Palo Alto Art Center Foundation.....	\$5,000
Palo Alto YMCA .....	\$5,000
Palo Alto Library Foundation .....	\$50,000
Palo Alto PTA Council Arts .....	\$2,000
Quest Learning Center of the EPA Library.....	\$5,000
Reading Partners .....	\$7,500
St. Elizabeth Seton School .....	\$5,000
St. Vincent de Paul Society.....	\$5,000
West Meadow Track Watch Patrols.....	\$5,000
Youth Community Service.....	\$5,000
Youth United for Community Action (YUCA) .....	\$2,500
<b>CHILD CARE CAPITAL GRANTS</b>	
Children's Center .....	\$3,000
Palo Alto Community Child Care.....	\$3,000
PreSchool Family .....	\$3,000
The Children's Pre-School Center.....	\$3,000

Non-profits: Grant application and guidelines at [www.PaloAltoOnline.com](http://www.PaloAltoOnline.com)  
Deadline: 1/7/11

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**E**ach 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 ranging from \$1,000 to \$25,000.

And with the generous support of matching grants from local foundations, including the Packard and Hewlett foundations and the Peery and Arrillaga family 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 \$275,000 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.

**Thank you to our 2010 Moonlight Run Corporate Sponsors: Wilson, Sonsini, Goodrich & Rosati Foundation, Hewlett Packard, Palo Alto Medical Foundation and Borel Private Bank & Trust**

**219 donors through 12/16/10 totalling \$99,090 with match \$189,090 has been raised for the Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund**

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25 Anonymous	\$12,750	Andy & Liz Coe	100	Susana Im	75	Stephen & Nancy Levy	**
Richard		Marc & Margaret Cohen	100	Robert & Joan Jack	**	Mandy Lowell	**
& Nancy Alexander	500	John & Ruth DeVries	**	Zelda Jury	**	Gwen Luce & Family	**
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Greg & Anne Avis	**	Attorney		Sue Kemp	250	John & Maureen Martin	**
Jim & Nancy Baer	**	Susan Dondershine	200	Peter & Lynn Kidder	250	Kevin Mayer	
Larry Baer		Eugene & Mabel Dong	200	Kieschnick Family	1000	& Barbara Zimmer	**
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Dave Fischer		Joe & Lynn Drake	100	Hal & Iris Korol	**	& Sheil E. Cohen MD	200
& Sue Bartolo	250	Hoda S. Epstein	**	Mark Krasnow		Drew McCalley	
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Lucy Berman	1500	John & Florine Galen	**				
Roy & Carol Blitzer	**	Gregory & Penny Gallo	500				
Steven & Linda Boxer	**	Gerry Gilchrist	25	Enclosed is a donation of \$ _____			
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Lawrence M. Breed	100	Catherine Gowen	**	Business Name _____			
Eileen Brennan	100	Harry & Diane Greenberg	500	Address _____			
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Allan & Marilyn Brown	**	Michael & Nancy Hall	1000	E-Mail _____	Phone _____		
Gloria Brown	200	Hamilton Fund	1000	<input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card (MC or VISA) _____	Expires _____		
Chet & Marcie Brown	**	Phil Hanawalt	300	Signature _____			
Steve Bugler	**	& Graciela Spivak	150	I wish to designate my contribution as follows: <input type="checkbox"/> In my name as shown above			
Richard Cabrera	**	Margaret Hanks	1000	- OR - <input type="checkbox"/> In name of business above <input type="checkbox"/> In honor of: <input type="checkbox"/> In memory of: <input type="checkbox"/> As a gift for:			
Bruce F. Campbell	**	The Havern Family	3000	_____ (Name of person)			
Barbara Carlisle	**	Walt & Kay Hays	**	<input type="checkbox"/> I wish to contribute anonymously. <input type="checkbox"/> Please withhold the amount of my contribution.			
George Cator	100	Bob & Jan Hermsen	100	The Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund is a fund of Silicon Valley Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. All donors will be published in the Palo Alto Weekly unless the coupon is marked "Anonymous." For information on making contributions of appreciated stock, contact Amy Renaldi at (650) 326-8210.			
Miriam Cespedes	25	Joe & Nancy Huber	100				
Ted & Ginny Chu	**	Marc Igler & Jennifer Cray	75				

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(continued on next page)

# Pulse

A weekly compendium of vital statistics



David & Lynn Mitchell 300

Stephen Monismith

& Lani Freeman \*\*

Les Morris 200

Richard A. Morris \*\*

Thomas & Isabel Mulcahy

200

Merrill & Lee Newman 200

Frederic & Kristin Nichols \*\*

Craig & Sally Nordlund 500

Scott & Sandra Pearson 500

Joseph's Journey Fund 200

Conney Pfeiffer 25

Jim & Alma Phillips 250

Helene Pier \*\*

Lee Pierce 200

Deborah Plumley \*\*

Joe & Marlene Prendergast \*\*

Harry Press

& Mildred Hamilton 100

Don & Dee Price \*\*

Nancy Rhea \*\*

Jerry H. Rice 100

Thomas Rindfleisch \*\*

Peter & Beth Rosenthal \*\*

Norman & Nancy Rossen 100

Don & Ann Rothblatt \*\*

Roderick Rowell 100

Dan & Lynne Russell 100

Ferrell & Page Sanders 100

John & Mary Schaefer 100

Stan Schier

& Barbara Klein 300

Ken Schroeder

& Fran Codispoti 500

Scott & Kathy Schroeder 150

Elisabeth Seaman \*\*

Martha Shirk 500

Richard & Bonnie Sibley \*\*

Jerry & Donna Silverberg 100

Alice Schaffer Smith 100

Andrea B. Smith 100

Ann J. Sonneberg \*\*

Art & Peggy Stauffer 500

Craig & Susie Thom 100

John & Susan Thomas \*\*

Tony & Carolyn Tucher

Mike & Ellen Turbow 200

Jerry & Bobbie Wagger

Roger & Joan Warnke

David R. Wells

John & Lynn Wiese 100

Douglas

& Susan Woodman \*\*

Lawrence Yang

& Jennifer Kuan 1000

George & Betsy Young \*\*

## In Memory Of

Carol Berkowitz

\*\*

Leo Breidenbach

\*\*

A.L. & L.K. Brown

\*\*

Gerard Charboneau

\*\*

Marge Collins

500

Bob Dolan

500

Bob Donald

\*\*

Fred Eyerly

\*\*

Steve Fasani

100

Linda Ferzoko

100

Mary Floyd

\*\*

Pam Grady

150

Marie Hardin

100

Al Jacobs

100

Chet Johnson

\*\*

August King

\*\*

Helene F. Klein

\*\*

Mr. Y.F. Lai

\*\*

Bill Land

\*\*

Mr. N.C. Lee

\*\*

Charles Bennett Leib

100

Robert C. Lobdell

\*\*

Emmett Lorey

\*\*

Anna Luskin

\*\*

Betty Meltzer

\*\*

Ernest J. Moore

\*\*

Fumi Murai

90

Jacques Naar

\*\*

& Wanda Root

\*\*

Aaron O'Neill

\*\*

Thomas W.

\*\*

& Louise L. Phinney

\*\*

Sonya Raymakers

\*\*

Nancy Ritchey

\*\*

Betty Rogaway

25

Sally

\*\*

Virginia Schulz

\*\*

William Settle

500

Diane Simone

\*\*

Jack Sutorius

100

Tinney Family

500

Hattie E. Tokar

\*\*

John F. Warren

\*\*

Dr. David Zlotnick

\*\*

Irma Zuanich

100

## A Gift For

Bailey & Riley Cassidy

50

The Lund Family

100

Paul & Barbara Madsen

25

## Business & Organizations

Harrell Remodeling, Inc.

\*\*

Juana Briones 2nd Graders

75

No Limit Drag Racing

\*\*

Palo Alto Weekly

Moonlight Run

40,000

## Palo Alto

Dec. 7-14

### Violence related

Attempted suicide .....

1

Battery .....

1

Domestic violence .....

3

Elder abuse/sexual .....

1

Sex crime .....

1

Strong arm robbery .....

1

### Theft related

Fraud .....

2

Grand theft .....

1

Identity theft .....

5

Petty theft .....

9

### Vehicle related

Abandoned auto. ....

2

Auto recovery .....

1

Hit and run .....

3

Misc. traffic .....

4

Suspended license .....

4

Theft from auto .....

7

Vehicle accident/minor injury .....

6

Vehicle accident/property damage .....

6

### Alcohol or drug related

Drunken in public .....

3

Drunken driving .....

2

Possession of drugs .....

4

### Miscellaneous

Found property .....

2

Lost property .....

1

Misc. penal code violation .....

3

Missing person .....</

## Editorial

# Palo Alto touts a ‘year of accomplishments’

*Administration and City Council review a time of ‘unprecedented’ challenges and solid responses — but with much left over for 2011*

We certainly agree with Palo Alto city officials that 2010 has been filled with challenges, many of them seemingly impossible to resolve a year ago.

And we agree that the city administration and City Council have done a creditable job of responding in areas of critical importance to the city’s economic, environmental and operational health.

But the “unprecedented” applied to it might be too big a term to fit the year’s challenges. The desperate year after the 1978 Proposition 13 tax-reform initiative comes to mind. And there were several rough years of stalled leadership at the council and staff level in the early part of the past decade.

Yet that quibble should not detract from a real sense of accomplishment for City Manager James Keene and his administrative team, backed by a council that has tried hard to guide the city despite a large number of relative newcomers with individual differences of opinion and style.

“I was impressed with what staff has been able to get done in an era of huge transitions and fewer resources,” Mayor Pat Burt said in assessing the year’s wrap-up discussion Tuesday night — his final meeting as mayor.

He specifically cited a turnaround of the erosion of auto dealerships — a major source of sales-tax revenue and of concern in recent years. He noted a major expansion of the Magnussen’s Toyota dealership on San Antonio Road and a new high-end hybrid-vehicle and sports-car dealer, McLaren & Fisker, moving into a former Volvo dealership on El Camino Real.

Financially, the city closed a \$6.3 million mid-year budget gap and eliminated a \$7.3 million 2011 “structural deficit” (the kind that would otherwise return year after year). It cut 40 full-time positions, adding to 20 cut in 2009.

While Palo Alto will always have critics who say the city hasn’t done enough, and we’re often among them, it might help to review the gloom-and-doom feeling at the end of 2009, which Keene enumerated in a PowerPoint presentation.

There was an “economic free fall” and city fiscal crisis, high commercial vacancies in downtown, tension with city unions, aggressive but unmet “sustainability” goals, an angry public reaction to felling 63 street trees on California Avenue and continued problems with city processing building approvals and permits.

A huge review process for the massive Stanford Medical Center rebuilding and expansion loomed over the city, now about to be wrapped up early in 2011. There were deep concerns about impacts of high-speed rail through Palo Alto, which remain.

But the city failed to tackle an estimated \$500 million in identified “infrastructure needs,” buildings and other city facilities.

Keene demonstrated decisiveness in making some personnel changes that should result in improved city operations.

The city made real progress in a new field: seeking to improve the well-being of our young people, with a collaborative, community-wide effort involving schools, organizations and individuals in a “Project Safety Net,” and youth forums.

The city made substantial progress in preparing for a major emergency or disaster, with a wake-up call when a small plane hit an incoming electrical-transmission tower and crashed into an East Palo Alto neighborhood, killing the three Tesla engineers aboard. A day without electrical power stopped Palo Alto cold.

Yet the city has failed to solve a perennial problem: delayed public information about significant police, fire or other emergency situations — an important component of an effective response to a disaster.

The city negotiated lower pension and health-care costs with employee unions, becoming a statewide leader, while generally improving labor relations.

There were internal staff-efficiency initiatives. There was unheralded behind-the-scenes work on economic health, largely through a restructured “economic development” office. Perhaps coincidentally, vacancy rates declined in downtown Palo Alto, and the Stanford Research Park — parts of which were termed a big-building “ghost town” a few years ago — currently boasts a 3 percent vacancy rate.

These successes are real, and are at least in part due to staff initiatives — a fact of which critics who scoff at the accomplishments seem to be unaware.

Yes, there are major tasks left undone and serious issues to be addressed. But this is a good season to appreciate what has been achieved and those who helped achieve it.

# Spectrum

*Editorials, letters and opinions*

## Scott Meadow

Editor,

We would like to thank the City of Palo Alto and the Midtown Residents Association for their support and effort in creating and dedicating Scott Meadow in Greer Park Dec. 11.

The Midtown Residents Association, in particular Sheri Furman and Annette Ashton, deserve accolades. MRA made the completion of Greer Park a priority and spearheaded the idea to honor Jean and Charles Scott, our parents, with Scott Meadow, a peaceful picnic area.

Jean and Charles dreamed of a regional park in their neighborhood, and worked tirelessly to create and develop Greer Park from the cracked asphalt of an old drive-in theater near Oregon Expressway.

Over the years, much of the park was completed in phases; the final phase was finished just a few days ago. After 35 years, our neighbors and friends celebrated the completion of the park and gathered to listen to Mayor Pat Burt, City Manager James Keene, Public Art Commission Chair Terry Acebo-Davis and Director of Community Services Greg Betts dedicate Scott Meadow and honor our parents and other members of the MRA for their perseverance in “keeping the dream alive.”

It was joyous celebration of what can happen when residents and city officials work together for the good of the community.

We are grateful for the participation of so many city officials, council members, friends, family and neighbors who made it such a special day. Scott Meadow is a lovely tribute to our parents. We appreciate this legacy and the support of the Palo Alto community in completing Greer Park as a vibrant recreational area.

Judy Scott, Donna Scott and Charles Scott, Jr.  
Paget Avenue  
Santa Cruz

## Green energy

Editor,

Following are the top 10 reasons to support an anaerobic digestion composting facility in Palo Alto:

- 1) Keeps Palo Alto’s composting operation and distribution local.
- 2) Enables Palo Alto to compost food waste as well as yard waste.
- 3) Allows Palo Alto to retire its sewage sludge incinerator.
- 4) Generates enough green energy to power 1,400 homes.
- 5) Energy will be available during emergency blackouts.
- 6) Reduces citywide greenhouse gas emissions by 20,000 tons per year.
- 7) Saves the city \$1 million per year.
- 8) Revenues could be used to complete 92 percent of Byxbee Park (no

funds currently exist).

9) Provides an excellent educational opportunity in local sustainability for school groups and others.

10) Serves as a model for other communities, reinforcing Palo Alto’s status as an environmental leader.

I encourage everyone to learn more about the Palo Alto Green Energy and Compost Initiative by visiting [www.pageenergy.org](http://www.pageenergy.org).

Peter Drekmeier

Fulton Street  
Palo Alto

## Israel settlements

Editor,

There is absolutely no justification for Israel’s continuing settlements, either in the West Bank or East Jerusalem.

They are clearly a deliberate effort by right-wing Israelis to take so much land as to eliminate the possibility of a Palestinian state. They are also succeeding, believing — with good reason based on most past experience — that the U.S. government, while making the usual protests, is so cowed by the Israeli lobby that it will never use its power to force an end to settlements.

Our current reaction is even more

abject, promising ever more arms to Israel in exchange for freezing settlements temporarily in the West Bank but allowing them to continue in Jerusalem.

The only exception to our futile protests was when President George H.W. Bush, advised by Secretary of State James Baker, cut off loan guarantees to Israel.

That brought down the settlement-promoting regime of Yitzhak Shamir and brought to power Yitzhak Rabin, who would have achieved a lasting peace with the Palestinians had he not been assassinated by an extremist Israeli.

Similar action by the Obama administration would most probably have the same impact on the Netanyahu coalition.

Without such forceful action, the settlers will “succeed,” leading not only to endless conflict in the Middle East but also — as noted by none less than General David Petraeus — ever-deepening Muslim hate of the U.S. as Israel’s “enabler.”

It’s time to move beyond protesting and take action.

Walter Hays  
Parkside Drive  
Palo Alto

## YOUR TURN

The Palo Alto Weekly encourages comments on our coverage or on issues of local interest.

**What do you think?** Should City Council and planning commission members meet individually with developers of projects under city review? With citizens and neighborhood leaders?

Submit letters to the editor of up to 250 words to [letters@paweb.com](mailto:letters@paweb.com). Include your name, address and daytime phone number so we can reach you. We reserve the right to edit contributions for length, objectionable content, libel and factual errors known to us. Anonymous letters will generally not be accepted.

You can also participate in our popular interactive online forum, **Town Square**, at our community website at [www.PaloAltoOnline.com](http://www.PaloAltoOnline.com). Read blogs, discuss issues, ask questions or express opinions with your neighbors any time, day or night.

Submitting a letter to the editor or guest opinion constitutes a granting of permission to the Palo Alto Weekly and Embarcadero Publishing Co. to also publish it online, including in our online archives and as a post on Town Square.

For more information contact Editor Jay Thorwaldson or Online Editor Tyler Hanley at [editor@paweb.com](mailto:editor@paweb.com) or 650-326-8210.

## HOLIDAY SNAPS



MVELLER

## Check out Town Square!

Hundreds of local topics are being discussed by local residents on Town Square, a reader forum sponsored by the Weekly on our community website at [www.PaloAltoOnline.com](http://www.PaloAltoOnline.com). Post your own comments, ask questions, read the Editor's blog or just stay up on what people are talking about around town!

## Board of Contributors

### Tidings of comfort and joy?

by Nancy McGaraghan

"Our recovery will not be a matter of days or weeks."

It was the first of December. Acute back pain had sent me to the Stanford Hospital emergency room that morning. Now my doctor was calling with the results of an MRI.

"That's impossible," I thought. "We have family arriving from England in two weeks. The Bay Area kids and grandkids will all be here. The plans are all set."

My voice cracked, this time not from the pain but from disappointment and frustration. I guess the plans were not all set, after all. Instead of visions of sugar plums I had nightmares of no presents under the tree — in fact, no tree at all. No turkey in the oven on Christmas Day. No one gathered around our table this year.

Where were the tidings of comfort and joy?

Christmas, Hanukkah and all of our winter feasts and festivals are meant to bring people together. They transform the gloominess of winter into the warmth of time spent with people we care about. We celebrate, console, affirm, eat, drink and play together. We pray together. Paige, our 2 1/2-year-old granddaughter, says, "Christmas is a day we get to eat candy."

One way or another, we feel our connections and know we are not alone, even in the darkness of winter — whatever the source of



that darkness.

Much of the year we can get so caught up in daily life that we can go for days — even weeks — without seeing friends or stopping to chat with neighbors. Gone are the days when neighbors were in and out of each other's homes and lives anytime someone needed a cup of sugar or tea, a kind word or good laugh. We felt our connections. They were our lifeline.

This is the season for rekindling such connections. It's time to light the candles, turn on the lights and open our hearts and our homes to others. Each time we do, we bring a little bit of Heaven down to earth. It is not a time to be cut off from the rituals that reinforce and celebrate that lifeline.

I could feel the weight of Joseph Marley's chains taking the merry out of Christmas. But the story doesn't end that way, as I would soon find out.

First it was my daughter-in-law. Amy arrived, Paige in tow, with homemade soup for dinner. Then my friend Mary called. She was on her way to the Soup Company. Would I like her to bring lunch over? There were more calls, visits, meals, rides to doctor appointments, flowers and cards.

It was humbling to be on the receiving end of people's generosity, especially since too often I had missed the chance to give others a hand.

I thought of the times I had so righteously criticized my 90-year-old mother for taking so many pain medications. Now I was now taking the very same ones. This ruptured disc was beginning to look like an object lesson in compassion and a doorway onto the gift of friendships and the time to enjoy them.

As we gather around each other's tables this

year some will come with their own issues and many of them will be difficult. Sickness, hurt, economic hardship or grief may well gather in our homes.

The spirit of this season calls us to be attentive to all of these, yet still offer the gift of time and caring.

My doctor and I talked daily as she guided me through the critical time.

"Hear me say, 'You will get better,'" she told me.

And, of course, I did. Am I going to push aside my kids' offer to take charge of our family's Christmas celebrations? Not on your life! This could be the best Christmas ever — for all of us.

As one friend said, "Most of the time we go along wondering, 'What is this all for?' and then something like this happens and when we help each other we feel alive again."

The Holiday Spirit shines its light on what we really want: time together with friends and family, time to mend fences, time for sharing hopes and fears, time to reflect on our place in the world around us in all of its beauty ... and craziness.

The miracle we celebrate during this season is the miracle of our shared humanity. It is what makes us feel alive.

In those initial days and weeks of my recovery I began to appreciate just how beautiful this is, how essential and how lucky we are to be part of this miracle. It is time to celebrate, to offer a helping hand to others — which also becomes a helping hand to ourselves.

The tidings of comfort and joy are all around if we only listen. ■

**Nancy McGaraghan** is a member of the Weekly's Board of Contributors. She can be e-mailed at [chezmcg@hotmail.com](mailto:chezmcg@hotmail.com).

## This week on Town Square

Posted Dec. 15 at 10:51 a.m. by Bill, a resident of Another Palo Alto neighborhood:

We hear (about a growing workload) from City Hall year after year, but there is rarely any documentation to back up the claims. Moreover, the city has rarely shown any evidence of understanding how to apply its Information Technology resources to reduce the need for increasing its personnel.

(City Manager James) Keene could help himself, and us, out by publishing some sort of list that defines the "workload" of the city's employees. In the case of reports that need to be generated, in addition to the report name, and source demanding the report be generated, how many hours the report takes to generate, and if it is done by hand, or via computer, would be available to see how much room exists for further automation of this portion of the workload.

At the moment, what goes on at City Hall is very murky. Some things are visible (like city manager's reports), but other aspects of staff loading is not so visible.

Posted Dec. 15 at 11:33 a.m. by Jon, a resident of Another Palo Alto neighborhood:

Commercial organizations use "benchmarking" to compare themselves to other organizations to see if they're using employees intelligently. Palo Alto seems to have refrained from a lot of this perhaps because comparison with nearby cities would show that in many cases there could be rather less "workload"....

## Streetwise

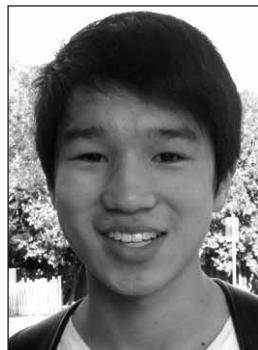
### Should Palo Alto schools hold finals before winter break?

Asked at the Palo Alto Main Library. Interviews by Sarah Trauben. Photos by Kelly Jones.



**Jacqueline Peterson**  
Retired  
Crescent Park, Palo Alto

"It'd be nice to have your winter break without worrying over the holidays."



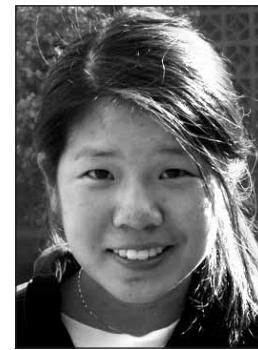
**Justin Fang**  
Student  
Crescent Park, Palo Alto

"No: As a senior in high school, I can say that we have our college apps due Jan. 1. Finals before that would be stressful, and they would not allow enough time to study."



**Gregor Horstmeyer**  
Unemployed  
Midtown, Palo Alto

"Yes: Over the winter break some kids, depending on how studious they are, spend a great deal of time worrying about finals."



**Jillian Lui**  
Student  
Leland Manor, Palo Alto

"I think they should be before the break so that students can have a real break without worrying about finals ahead."



**Keith Casillas**  
Park Ranger  
O'Keefe Street, East Palo Alto

"I like to finish up my work at work instead of bringing it home. But the Palo Alto school district is really good and it should be up to the kids."

# Arts & Entertainment

A weekly guide to music, theater, art, movies and more, edited by **Rebecca Wallace**

## COMEDY IN FATIGUES



Comedian Joel Chasnof during his time as a 24-year-old “skinny Jewish kid from Chicago” in the Israeli army. In the second photo, he’s in the back row, third from the left.

*American stand-up comedian finds humor and absurdity in his stint in the Israeli army*

by **Rebecca Wallace**

**W**hat’s funny about life in the Israeli army? To hear Joel Chasnof tell it, plenty. His military tales also include plenty of sadness, frustration, friendship and absurdity.

In his book “The 188th Crybaby Brigade: A Skinny Jewish Kid from Chicago Fights Hezbollah,” Chasnof, a stand-up comedian, looks back at his long strange year in the Israeli Defense Forces. Despite being 5 foot 8 and 130 pounds, he dreamed of being a Jewish Rambo, writing, “It wasn’t fair that we American Jews called Israel our homeland but left Israelis to defend it.” He imagined the soldiers as warriors in Ray-Bans. But in the military he found himself perplexed by the snack breaks, sing-alongs and slacker soldiers faking medical issues.

During Chasnof’s training, his love for Israel kept re-emerging through his frustration: while he was good-naturedly haggling with a market shopkeeper, for instance, or forging bonds with fellow platoon members. Fear, though, also loomed: fear of deployment to Lebanon, where he was ultimately sent for three months.

Chasnof, who now lives in New York, will bring his recollections to Palo Alto on Dec. 25. He’s the headliner at the annual Chopsticks Dinner and Comedy Show at the Oshman Family Jewish Community Center.

In a phone interview, Chasnof said he anticipates the evening will be a mix of stand-up comedy “just like you’d see Seinfeld do,” readings from his book, and more stories from his military service. “Probably more stories about Lebanon, that there weren’t room for in the book,” he said.

Interestingly, Chasnof’s first description of Lebanon — where he was sent to fight Hezbollah as a tank gunner — is one of the gentlest passages in the book. He

writes:

“I’d heard Lebanon was beautiful, but I never would have believed it if I hadn’t seen it myself. I mean, dear God, have you seen the sky in Lebanon?”

“The sky is an ocean, smooth and aquamarine. The clouds, gooey and white, stretch across the heavens like melted marshmallows pulled at either end. Have you ever seen a sky so luscious, so rich, you actually wanted to drink it?”

Far less tasty — but funnier — is Chasnof’s description of eating combat rations

with his platoon, “like Vikings”:

“We scoop tuna with our bare hands, drop it into our mouths like it’s peanuts. When we do this, tuna juice dribbles down our chins, onto our shirts. We drink corn straight from the can, and when somebody shouts, ‘Corn!’ we pass the can to whoever asked for it.

“We hold the Luf, which is ground beef crossbred with Jell-O, like an apple. We chomp off one bite each and then pass it on to the next guy. ... And if, by accident, we drop a handful of tuna in the sand, we open a canteen and rinse off the grit. Nothing is wasted.”

What does get wasted often, in Chasnof’s recollections, is time. Some soldiers continually plead fake illnesses (diarrhea is popular) to get out of duty, and sergeants often issue orders that seem counter-productive, at the very least. At one point, Chasnof recounts missing out on machine-gun training because a captain made him go pull weeds. And all the soldiers seem to spend huge amounts of time deciding whether to wear their sleeves rolled up or buttoned down.

Still, Chasnof also delves into deeper issues, talking about the relationship between American Jews and Israel, bringing up family memories, and speculating



Joel Chasnof today.

(continued on page 18)



Jon Spaints

The indie-pop trio GrooveLily plays five shows in Palo Alto this month, including a 10 p.m. New Year's Eve performance.

## Ringing in the new

*'Striking 12'* and other concerts, parties and dinners celebrate 2011

by Rebecca Wallace

Six years ago, the indie-pop trio GrooveLily brought a new kind of holiday show to Palo Alto.

Developed at TheatreWorks, "Striking 12" was part musical theater, part alternative-rock concert, telling the old chestnut "The Little Match Girl" in a new key. The band gave the tale a modern take by turning the girl into a seller of holiday lights billed as mood-boosters. Then there was this cranky office guy who just wanted to spend New Year's alone.

In a 2004 review, Weekly theater critic Jeanie K. Smith called the show "almost unclassifiable — a new breed of performance unto itself." She wrote, "Original songs combined with a dash of role-playing and at least three intertwined story levels all add up to something quite wonderful and new."

Now GrooveLily is bringing "Striking 12" back to the Lucie Stern Theatre at 1305 Middlefield Road, with five performances on Dec. 28 through Dec. 31. The closing show starts at 10 p.m., timed to conclude with a New Year's champagne toast. Tickets are \$56-\$75; go to theatreworks.org or call 650-463-1960.

"Striking 12" is one of several New Year's Eve events happening in the Palo Alto area this year. In case alternative rock isn't your cup of joe, here's a selection of the other New Year's options around:

A ballroom-dancing party is planned at the Cubberley Community Center Pavilion, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. The evening starts with beginning and intermediate waltz lessons at 8 p.m., followed by a dance party from 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. No partner or dance experience is needed, and admission is \$20. Midnight toast and dance demos included. Go to readybyte.com/fridaynightdance or call 650-856-9930.

The Zen Lounge at 251 Castro St. in Mountain View is hosting NYE Bash 2011 starting at 7 p.m. Hip-hop, dance, rap, house and mash-ups with Dynamic D, hors d'oeuvres and a champagne toast are planned. Admission is \$35 (ages 21 and up only). Go to zenmv.com or call 650-969-4847.

Local pipe organist James Welch presents his annual New Year's Eve concert at 8 p.m. on the 4,568-pipe organ at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Ave. Titled "Big Bach" this year, the program features J.S. classics including Fantasie in G and Toccata, Adagio and Fugue in C, with works by French Baroque and Romantic composers. Admission is \$10. Go to welchorganist.com or call 650-856-9700.

Palo Alto's Club Illusions hosts a singles' party put on by groups including Your Asian Connection, from 7:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. The party features live music from the '60s through the '90s, a buffet dinner and singles' game, a raffle and champagne. Dressy attire is required. Tickets are \$25-\$60. The club is at 260 S. California Ave. in Palo Alto. Go to yourasianconnection.com or call 650-321-6464.

The city of Palo Alto presents a seniors' party from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Oshman Family Jewish Community Center, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. Tickets are \$13 in advance and \$18 at the door, and include lunch, live music, dancing and champagne. Call 650-463-4953.

Dancing in two ballrooms is the focus of the singles' dance party at the Palo Alto Sheraton at 625 El Camino Real from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. One ballroom will be playing music "preferred by young single professionals," with the other aimed at baby boomers (but anyone can

(continued on page 18)

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## Arts & Entertainment

### Joel Chasnoff

(continued from page 16)

about prospects for peace in the region.

In a review earlier this year, critic Matthew Schniper at the Colorado Springs Independent praised the book and noted that despite its humor, "the tone dips deep into tenets of Judaism, Middle East politics, discrimination, racism and more."

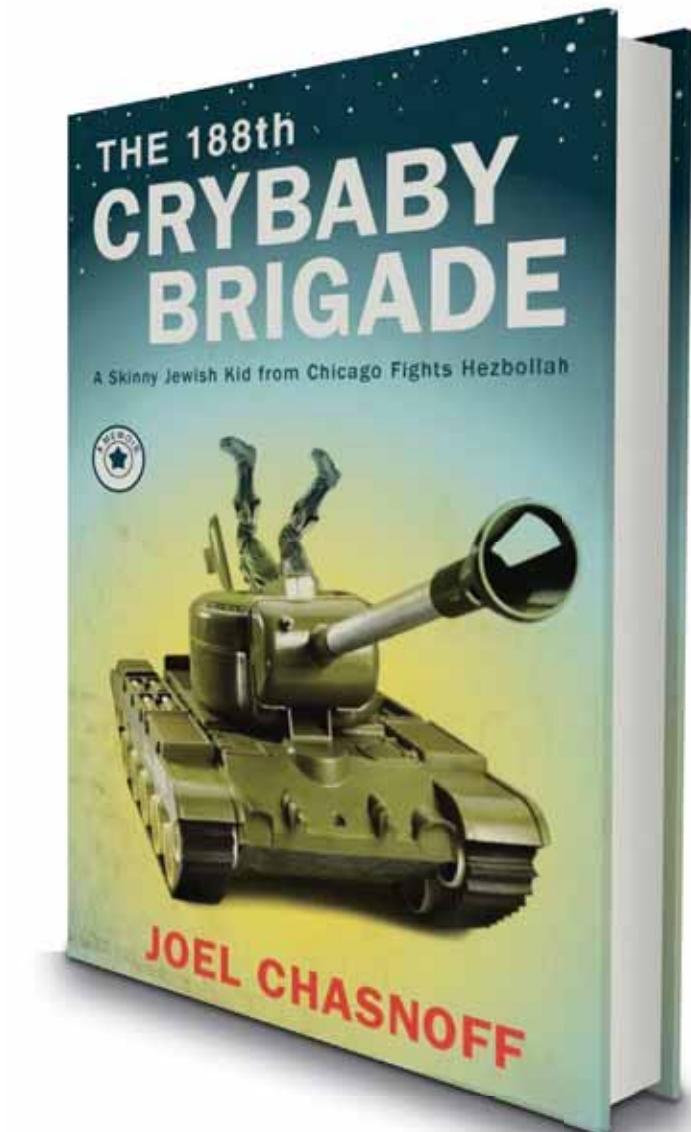
"Ultimately, the author offers a poignant account of attitudes and policies that are bound to fail the region. And sadly, it's funny as hell."

Overall, Chasnoff said, most of the reactions he's gotten to the book have been positive. "The only people who've had a problem with the book are older Jews, especially in south Florida, who can't handle hearing that Israel is anything other than perfect, that soldiers don't want to serve," he said.

These days, Chasnoff makes his living mainly as a stand-up comedian, giving some author talks but also traveling to perform his comedy at clubs, colleges and conferences. His adventures have included a U.S.O. comedy tour entertaining American troops in Japan and Korea, and opening for Jon Stewart.

Chasnoff says he never planned to write a book. He's kept a journal since high school, and in the army he continued jotting memories down. He added sketches to his journal, including images of tanks, Israel and its Middle Eastern neighbors, and a rather convoluted "Chemical-War Flowchart," all of which ultimately made it into "Crybaby Brigade."

"It was only about five or six years after getting out, in conversations with friends and looking over the old journal, that I decided to write a book," Chasnoff said. He



laughed and added wryly, "Some people thought I'd joined the army just to write a book." ■

**What:** Comedian Joel Chasnoff performs and reads from his book at the annual Chopsticks dinner and comedy show.

**Where:** Oshman Family Jewish Community Center, 3921 Fabian

Way, Palo Alto

**When:** 7:30 p.m. Dec. 25

**Cost:** Tickets are \$55 general admission and \$50 for JCC members. A 10-person table costs \$500.

**Info:** Go to [paloaltojcc.org/chopsticks](http://paloaltojcc.org/chopsticks) or call 650-223-8664. For more about Chasnoff, go to [joelchasnoff.com](http://joelchasnoff.com).

### New Year's events

(continued from page 17)

dance anywhere). Admission is \$20 in advance and \$30 at the door. The event is organized by The Society of Single Professionals and Singles Supper Club. Go to [thepartyhotline.com](http://thepartyhotline.com) or call 415-507-9962.

Various local restaurants also have special New Year's Eve menus, including Quattro at the Four Seasons at 2050 University Ave. in East Palo Alto (four courses or seven courses; call 650-566-1200). In Palo Alto, Shokolaat at 516 University Ave. has a prix fixe tasting menu with four courses, wine flights and a sparkling-wine toast; call 650-289-0719.

On New Year's Day, cellist Nathan Chan, bassist Michel Taddei and soprano Anja Strauss will be featured at the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra's free **Jan. 1 concert**. Held from 3 to 5 p.m. at St. Mark's Episcopal Church at 600 Colorado Ave. in Palo Alto, the performance includes Mozart's Symphony No. 1 and Jon Deak's "Ugly Duckling." Go to [sfchamberorchestra.org](http://sfchamberorchestra.org) or call 415-692-5297. ■

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# Worth a Look



*"Chapeaux Lanroz," a watercolor by Diane Fujimoto, is part of the holiday show at Palo Alto's Gallery House.*

## Art

### Gallery House

You might not have thought of giving your mother a sculpture, but many people find that original works of art make unusual holiday gifts. This time of year, many art galleries host special shows based on that premise, featuring works that could lend themselves well to red-and-green (or blue-and-white) wrapping.

At Gallery House in Palo Alto, the current holiday show has ornaments and cards along with other works by various artists: sculptures, ceramics, photos, prints, paintings, jewelry, mixed-media works and digital art. A new face at the gallery is Diane Fujimoto, a watercolor painter.

Gallery House is at 320 S. California Ave., and the show is up through Dec. 24. Exhibition hours are Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sundays from 11 to 3. Go to [galleryhouse2.com](http://galleryhouse2.com) or call 650-326-1668.

Other holiday shows in the area include "Small Treasures" at the Portola Art Gallery in the Allied Arts Guild, 75 Arbor Road, Menlo Park. Small paintings and fine-art photos are on display through the end of the month; hours are Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Go to [portolaartgallery.com](http://portolaartgallery.com) or call 650-321-0220.

## Family

### LEGO holiday show

The LEGO buildings and trains are back at Palo Alto's Museum of American Heritage, which is hosting its annual holiday display.

The 12-by-25-foot train layout boasts several trains chugging through a panoramic world of urban and more rural scenes, and Bay Area landmarks crafted from plastic bricks. People often line up to see it.

The display is co-hosted by the museum and by the Bay Area LEGO User Group at 351 Homer

Ave. It's up through Jan. 9, open Friday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Admission is \$2 general and free for museum and BayLUG members.

For more information, go to [moah.org](http://moah.org) or call 650-321-1004.

## Music

### Holiday concerts

The last big weekend for holiday concerts is nearly here, including two scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 18, in Palo Alto.

At 8 p.m., the 29th annual Gryphon Carolers and All-Stars holiday concert kicks off at Gunn High School, 780 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto. This 40-voice group and its backing band mix it up on the Spannberg Theatre stage, performing both traditional and contemporary holiday music in jazzy, Celtic, gospel, Latin and Appalachian styles. Some of the pieces were written by group co-founders Ed Johnson and Carol McComb.

Admission is \$15 general and \$10 for seniors and kids under 12; premium seating is \$25/\$18. Tickets can be bought at [gryphoncarollers.com](http://gryphoncarollers.com), at the door, and at Gryphon Stringed Instruments at 211 Lambert Ave. in Palo Alto (until 4 p.m. the day of the concert).

Over at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto at 305 E. Charleston Road, the Aurora Singers perform their holiday concert at 7 p.m. Saturday. Titled "A Very Cool Yule," the program includes the new work "Let's Get A Present (for Santa)" by Aurora singer Barbara Leeds, as well as Steve Allen's "Cool Yule" and other pieces.

Tickets are \$9. For more information, email [wnay@greensteinfam.com](mailto:wnay@greensteinfam.com).

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### Garbage/Recycling Holiday Schedule: Christmas & New Year Holiday Collection Schedule

GreenWaste provides regular scheduled collection service throughout the year except Christmas and New Year's Day. The following schedule applies during the months of December 2010 and January 2011:

- Since Christmas and New Year's Day are both on Saturdays, there will be no change in residential services.
- Call GreenWaste at 650-493-4894 for more information.

**After the Christmas Holiday, You Can Recycle Your Tree at the Curb.** Please place your tree curbside inside or next to your yard trimming cart. Cut your trees in 4-foot lengths and remove tree stands, all ornaments and decorations. Apartment and condominium complex managers and/or owners, please call GreenWaste at **650-493-4894** for information regarding tree collection locations for your complex. Flocked trees are not accepted.

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- Sunday, January 9: 12:00 – 4:30 pm

### ► BRINGING BABY HOME

A two-part workshop for expectant couples and new parents in their first postpartum trimester, this program designed by Drs. John and Julie Schwartz Gottman will assist you in making the transition to parenthood.

- Two Sundays, January 23 & 30: 10:00 am – 3:30 pm

### ► FETAL AND MATERNAL HEALTH

As part of the Packard Children's Anniversary Lecture Series please join us for a special free presentation by Dr. Susan Hintz, Medical Director, Packard Center for Fetal and Maternal Health, and learn more about this unique offering of comprehensive services and support.

- Tuesday, January 25: 7:00 – 8:30 pm

### ► DADS OF DAUGHTERS

Julie Metzger, RN, creator of our "Heart to Heart" program, hosts an evening for fathers who seek a better understanding and open communication with their pre-teen and teenage daughters.

- Tuesday, February 8: 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Call (650) 723-4600 or visit [www.calendar.lpch.org](http://www.calendar.lpch.org) to register or obtain more information on the times, locations and fees for these and other courses.



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# Eating Out

## RESTAURANT REVIEW



Michelle Le

Mountain View's Chalateco restaurant is the seventh in a chain.

### Tons of tasty choices

*Street foods from El Salvador, Mexico City shine at Chalateco*

by Sheila Himmel

**C**halateco still looks like the Taco Bell it used to be, if not the Una Mas it was more recently. Don't worry. Chalateco is something completely different.

On the almost-Sunnyvale side of El Camino Real in Mountain View, find a festival of cheap, plentiful Salvadoran and Mexico City street foods, made fresh to order. There are burritos, but Chalateco is more taco truck than Cal-Mex. Check out the meats, including sesos (beef brains), costillo (beef rib meat), suadero (beef, it says) and chuleta (pork chop).

Another way Chalateco stands alone: You don't pay until after you get the food. There is a certain trust built into the operation.

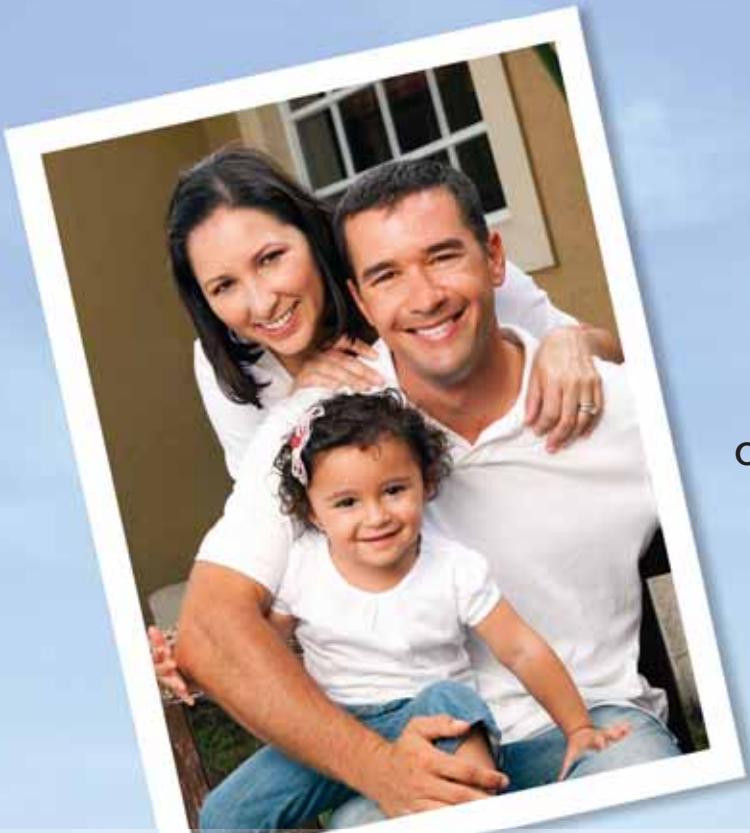
The type on the takeout menu is so small you may need reading glasses even if you don't normally wear them. The in-house menu, in contrast, offers giant, spiral-bound laminated pages with photographs of food items, described in Spanish and English. It's still confusing. I look forward to figuring out my favorites and not having to navigate either menu.

That could take a while. We made a valiant attempt, but barely dented the cornucopia.

Salvadoran tamales (\$1.99) are meltingly creamy. Yuca con chicharron — potato-like cassava with fried pork (\$5.99) — is fabulously

(continued on page 24)

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# Stanford Hospital Health Notes

A community health education series from Stanford Hospital & Clinics

## Transplants Are Never Simple: Collaboration Key to Beating Odds

Michael Moore was balanced precariously between a rock and a hard place, although in his case it was his heart and his liver. Fixing only one couldn't be done without putting both – and Moore – in high peril. Such competing interests are classic medical Catch-22s. Often, those situations have unhappy endings.

Yet, three years later, Moore's eyes twinkle with fun, his step is strong and lively and he's learning to play the guitar, something he's always wanted to do. What saved Moore was a highly unusual, two-for collaborative surgery performed by Stanford Hospital & Clinics liver transplant team, one of the best in the nation, and Stanford's cardiothoracic team, also one of the best.

"We don't take no for an answer," said Moore's physician, Stanford transplant hepatologist Tami Daugherty. "We have the physicians to be able to support high-risk patients. We have the drive to provide excellent care for everyone, even for people who can't get that care at other places. At Stanford, there's no 'I can't do it.'

Moore's journey toward Stanford and his surgery in 2007 began more than a decade ago, when he woke up one morning so swollen and bloated he knew something was very wrong. Invaded by a virus, his liver had started to lose its ability to manufacture proteins, to metabolize and store fats and carbohydrates and to rid the body of harmful toxins. Moore could still work, but he tired far more quickly.



Michael Moore, now recovered from a double surgery that gave him a new liver and fixed a year-old heart condition, is determined to give back to the place where he found the care that saved him. When he comes to Stanford to volunteer, he also returns just to say hello in the nursing unit where he spent so much time getting better.

Another health emergency sent him to a local hospital where doctors told him he would need a liver transplant.

**"We take care of the whole patient, not just the liver. Life is not static and everything affects everything else."**

—Tami Daugherty, MD, Stanford Hospital & Clinics transplant hepatologist

People who need a healthy organ of any kind face long waiting lists. This fall, more than 16,000 people in the U.S. were on the waiting list for a liver. Some may wait as long as two years.

### Not just the liver

Moore's Stanford hepatologist put him on medications that put him into a biological remission. That gave him hope that he could stay alive long enough to move up the line for a transplant. That was before the change in organ transplant lists that adjusted for medical need, putting the sickest patients first. Moore's care at Stanford included all of his body. Moore's heart was checked out by an electrocardiologist, who found something that Moore had no idea was anything dangerous. "She goes, 'What's that?' I said, 'It's this buzzing I've had all my life.' It turned out I had a hole in my aortic valve that had enlarged and weakened my heart."

Physicians used a technique called ablation, an adjustment made with electricity, to stabilize, at least tempo-

rarily, the behavior of Moore's heart. "When they did my heart," Moore said, "they said it was lucky I got in because my heart probably wouldn't have lasted a week."

The comprehensive viewpoint that sent Moore for a heart evaluation is part of what supports the Stanford liver transplant program's success rate. Since 1991, the liver transplant team has performed more than 800 adult liver

transplantations, consistently exceeding national patient survival rates at the one- and three-year marks after transplantation. The team includes five transplant surgeons, six transplant hepatologists, two transplant psychiatrists and a support staff that includes social workers, dieticians, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, pharmacists, educators, and patient and financial coordinators who specialize in transplant patient care. "We take care of the whole patient," said Daugherty, "not just the liver. Life is not static and everything affects everything else."

Once Moore's heart problem was identified, it represented a major complication. With a failing heart, Moore couldn't get a liver transplant. And

**"Not only did I have a fleet of the best doctors, but the next generation was there, also learning from the best."**

— Michael Moore, transplant patient at Stanford Hospital & Clinics

"The great thing about transplant is that we all work together well," said Daugherty. "That's what I really enjoy about it."

### More than surgery

Stanford's liver transplant programs – in fact, all its transplant programs – include a thorough evaluation process to make sure a patient will be



Norbert von der Groeben

After years of health eroded by liver disease, Michael Moore has a life he enjoys to the fullest. The journey was not easy, but the comprehensive and collaborative care he found at Stanford Hospital & Clinics made all the difference.



Norbert von der Groeben



Norbert von der Groeben

## Understanding Your Liver

The liver is the largest solid organ in the body. It filters toxins from the blood, processes fats, makes proteins, stores some vitamins and minerals, and metabolizes medications. When it fails, many body systems also falter.

### Taking care of your liver

- Avoid toxic substances, including industrial chemicals, and excessive alcohol consumption
- Maintain a healthy weight. Don't eat a high proportion of fatty foods.
- Get vaccinated against Hepatitis A and B

### Common causes of liver failure

- Cirrhosis, which transforms normal liver tissue into scar tissue
- Hepatitis A, B and C vary greatly in behavior, but all can damage the liver
- Cancer
- Autoimmune system disorders

### When to see your doctor

- skin develops a yellow tinge
- unexplained fatigue
- swelling of legs
- easy bruising

### About transplant

Not everyone who develops a liver disease needs a transplant. Many people are able to manage their disease for years as a chronic illness. When that is no longer possible, then transplant is considered. First, a prospective patient will go through an extensive evaluation to qualify to be on the waiting list. The United Network of Organ Sharing, under a federal contract, maintains that list. The list is ordered by medical need.

For more information, visit [stanfordhospital.org/livertransplant](http://stanfordhospital.org/livertransplant) or call 650.498.7878. Join us at [stanfordhospital.org/socialmedia](http://stanfordhospital.org/socialmedia), [www.facebook.com/StanfordHospital](http://www.facebook.com/StanfordHospital), [twitter.com/StanfordHosp](http://twitter.com/StanfordHosp) or [www.youtube.com/stanfordhospital](http://www.youtube.com/stanfordhospital)

home evaluations of safety risks in the homes of seniors. Moore's warm and concerned tone makes him very popular with the program's clients. He also works with the American Liver Foundation, the Alzheimer's Association and the American Cancer Foundation.

### Moving forward and giving back

Moore takes pride in having been a part of Stanford's function as a training center for physicians. "Not only did I have a fleet of the best doctors," he said, "but the next generation was there, also learning from the best." Stanford's transplant team is also actively involved in research, in particular to find ways to reduce post-transplant medication needs and to broaden transplant possibilities.

For all transplant patients, life after their life-giving surgery requires many changes. The immunosuppressant drugs that Moore and other transplant patients take to prevent rejection of their transplant can raise the risk of post-transplant diabetes. Moore did develop diabetes. He is doing everything he can to be as healthy as he can. He eats a low-fat diet of mostly fruits and vegetables. He has become even more physically active than before he became so ill: He cycles, walks and lifts weights. He loves being outdoors as a volunteer marshall and starter at the Stanford Golf Course.

He is also doing as much as he can to give back to the hospital. He volunteers hours each week working the phone for Farewell to Falls, a program that offers



Michael Moore had the support of friend Lynn, who, like so many others who volunteer to care for transplant patients, kept him going through the tough moments.

When Moore returned to work after months off for medical care before his transplant, one of those regular doctor customers asked where he'd been. "I tell him the story of my liver and he goes, 'Mike, do you know what I do? I'm the head of liver transplant at Stanford. He ended up overlooking my operation, and was cracking jokes with his colleagues that he was drumming up business at local

Stanford Hospital & Clinics is known worldwide for advanced treatment of complex disorders in areas such as cardiovascular care, cancer treatment, neurosciences, surgery, and organ transplants. Consistently ranked among the top institutions in the U.S. News & World Report annual list of "America's Best Hospitals," Stanford Hospital & Clinics is internationally recognized for translating medical breakthroughs into the care of patients. It is part of the Stanford University Medical Center, along with the Stanford University School of Medicine and Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford. For more information, visit [stanfordmedicine.org](http://stanfordmedicine.org).



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(continued from page 21)

crunchy.

If you like spice, chile verde is a feast of tender pork or chicken meat in a rich tomatillo sauce. If not, it may be too hot.

Sopas (\$4.75 with meat, \$3.25 without) sort of split the difference between taco and pupusa in thickness, the masa formed with pinched sides — the better to support a small village of meat, refried beans, salsa, iceberg lettuce and sour cream.

Cocktail-size tacos (\$1.85 each) involve two soft corn tortillas and a hefty pile of chopped meat topped with cilantro, onions and salsa.

The mixed ceviche tostada (\$4.75) wisely came in two parts: the marinated fish, shrimp and octopus, topped with slices of creamy avocado, and the crisp flat tortilla.

If you're getting takeout, make sure you get what you ordered. On one visit we were shorted two pupusas (\$1.99 each) but got plenty of curtido, the spicy fermented coleslaw and hot sauce you eat with them. The second time was the charm. These griddled cornmeal pockets, patted

into shape minutes earlier, are just greasy enough. Their midsections are combinations of meats, beans, cheese and plants, simmered into paste. The queso con loroco (a Salvadoran herb), and revueltas (beans, pork and cheese) pupusas are standard-setters.

Alambres (\$7.75) are like cheese steaks — chopped meat grilled with peppers and cheese — wrapped in soft corn tortillas. Lengua, beef tongue, makes especially wonderful alambres.

Where Chalateco does use bread, in the tortas and pambrazos, it's a gigantic, puffy, bland roll. But I can't say enough about the chicken torta and chorizo pambrazo fillings.

Breakfast items include huevos rancheros (\$6.99), eggs your way with meat (\$6.99), and breakfast burritos. And the Salvadoran breakfast: plantains, eggs, beans and sour cream (\$7.75). Among the other items we didn't try: chilaquiles, green salad, fajitas, soups, stews, oysters, grilled fish, deep-fried tilapia, steak with grilled onions and a low-carb Plato de Dieto. On weekends Chalateco serves up barbacoa and consomme.

Chalateco refers to a person from Chalatenango, a Salvadoran municipality that suffered greatly in El Salvador's 12 years of civil war, which ended in 1992.

Mountain View's Chalateco is the newest of seven. San Jose has four, Milpitas one and Alameda one. The two TV sets seem always to be on LOUD. That and the bright stripes of yellow, orange and brown paint may make takeout more appealing. ■

### Chalateco

825 E. El Camino Real,  
Mountain View  
650-969-3026  
[chalateco.com](http://chalateco.com)

**Hours:** 9 a.m.- 11 p.m. daily

### Corrections

The Dec. 3 Shop Talk column gave an incorrect address for the new business Be Yoga. It is located at 440 Kipling St. in Palo Alto. To request a correction, contact arts editor Rebecca Wallace at [rwallace@paweb.com](mailto:rwallace@paweb.com), 650-223-6517 or P.O. Box 1610, Palo Alto, CA 94302.

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## Eating Out

into shape minutes earlier, are just greasy enough. Their midsections are combinations of meats, beans, cheese and plants, simmered into paste. The queso con loroco (a Salvadoran herb), and revueltas (beans, pork and cheese) pupusas are standard-setters.

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*Jackie Schoelman is a Realtor with Alain Pinel Realtors and a Real Estate Specialist for Seniors. Call Jackie for real estate advice.*



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# Movies

## OPENINGS



Ryan Gosling in "All Good Things."

### All Good Things ★★★

(Guild) Ominous nighttime footage of a woman tossing trash bags off a bridge to the water below alternates with old home-movie images of joyous children, suggesting better times. In his feature debut, director Andrew Jarecki uses some of the same cinematic techniques with which he showed a dysfunctional family unravel in his 2003 documentary "Capturing the Friedmans." Few good things exist in the dark world of his disturbing fictional account of a true-crime saga.

The story, by screenwriters Marc Smerling and Marcus Hinchey, is modeled after the mysterious disappearance of Kathie Durst in 1982 and the subsequent investigation of her husband, Manhattan real-estate scion Robert Durst. (In the film, the pair is named Katie and David Marks.) The real-life case is still open.

"All Good Things" includes a menacing family patriarch (coldly played by Frank Langella), a family suicide, and shocking developments that include the brutal deaths of David's longtime female friend (Lily Rabe) and a rooming-house neighbor (Philip Baker Hall) in Galveston, Texas.

How could a poor little rich boy turn into a creepy person of interest in multiple homicides?

Jarecki and the actors are at their best in the slow reveal, showing seemingly normal relationships deteriorate in frightening ways. All dimples-and-smiles sweetness, Kirsten Dunst makes the perfect Katie. When her dad died, she put her aspirations of attending medical school aside. One day, a tuxedo-clad David (Ryan Gosling) shows up at the family apartment that she rents to unclog her sink. What seems like a Cinderella courtship and marriage — including their move to Vermont to open an organic health-food store called All Good Things — go very, very wrong.

Gosling can pour on the charm and then pull back. David is dismissive of his father's proclamation about Katie: "She's never going to be one of us." But he's clearly not going to be one of Katie's family, as he lurks on the periphery of Katie's modest and loving gatherings of relatives on Long Island. Like a taut rubber band, David sometimes snaps. Once he moves back to New York City to join the seedier side of his father's business — collecting rent from Times Square porn theaters and massage parlors — his demons burst forth from beneath the Gotham City sidewalks.

Playing narrative hopscotch between an aged David Durst testifying at trial and flashbacks of the past fails to illuminate the plot developments. Instead, the just-the-facts approach offers theories without a satisfying resolution. Jarecki's direction can go over the top, too, with melodramatic flourishes such as pouring rain and warning splashes of red within the mise en scene.

Dunst's face says it all: the gradual realization that she's trapped in a nightmare with no exit. And the viewer's sense of dread that the real-life Kathie Durst, still missing, may have found no safe way out either.

*Rated R for drug use, violence, language and some sexuality. 1 hour, 41 minutes.*

— Susan Tavernetti

### Tron: Legacy ★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) Twenty-eight years is a long time to wait for a sequel. Released in 1982, the original "Tron" film boasted groundbreaking graphics and established a tech-savvy fan base. But "Tron: Legacy" arrives about 15 years too late. The once-groundbreaking graphics are now standard fare, and former "Tron" enthusiasts are well past their Disney-viewing prime.

"Legacy" is also sort of a one-trick pony. After you get past the neon-glow costumes, whizzing Frisbee weapons and cyberspace backdrop, there really isn't much to get excited about.

Leading the foray into digital delirium this go-round is Sam Flynn (Garrett Hedlund), the 20-something son of video-game guru Kevin Flynn (Jeff Bridges). When family friend Alan Bradley (Bruce Boxleitner) tells the rebellious Sam that he's received a cryptic message from Kevin — who vanished some 20 years earlier — Sam goes to visit his dad's old arcade in the hope of finding clues. Closed for two decades, the arcade is blanketed in dust and cobwebs, and the sound system blasts '80s rock tunes when Sam turns on the power.

Sam quickly discovers his dad's hidden office. After a little reckless computer use, he's transported to "the grid," a digital world where gladiatorial games and luminous attire are the norm. Sam is thrust into battle by the world's self-appointed leader, Clu: a carbon copy (albeit a younger version) of Kevin. He then escapes to a safe haven with the help of femme fighter Quorra (Olivia Wilde). There Sam comes face to face with his father, and a quest to save "the grid" and get Sam home begins.

Director Joseph Kosinski, in his directorial debut, and the rest of the filmmaking team do an admirable job maintaining the tone from the original film. A techno-music soundtrack, vibrant costumes and sharp graphics all bolster the film's computerized atmosphere. The action scenes are generally exciting and visually impressive, especially early on when Sam gets forced into a cycle-riding slugfest. But the abundance of bright imagery and ineffective 3D wears on the senses after a while.

Bridges is terrific (what else is new?) and Hedlund does well in the leading-man role. Michael Sheen (of "Frost/Nixon" and "The Queen") makes a jovial appearance as the quirky head of a grid nightclub, and even Cillian Murphy ("Inception") has an uncredited, cameo role. Clu looks a little odd, as the filmmakers used CGI to create a youthful Bridges. Although the CGI is good, it is also obvious, especially when Bridges the actor interacts with Bridges the effect.

The film is filled with backstory — about Sam's adolescence, the creation of the grid, Quorra's origin, etc. — that often slows the pacing down to a crawl. The humdrum screenplay is also rife with re-hashed dialogue and seen-it-before scenarios.

"Legacy" reminded me of the kind of thing you might see projected on the wall during a rave. It's an eye-popping experience that's fun for a while, until you start to feel dizzy and wonder if you may pass out.

*Rated PG for sequences of sci-fi action violence and brief mild language. 2 hours, 7 minutes.*

— Tyler Hanley

### The Fighter ★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) Hollywood's school Christmas pageant has arrived, and it's called "The Fighter." Everyone knows that show you attend a little out of obligation and a little out of a genuine desire to support the performers. It's not so much about art as about showing off, and you might as well roll with it, or it's going to be a long night.

Though no one plays a Christmas tree in David O. Russell's fact-based Oscar contender, Christian Bale would no doubt welcome the Method-acting challenge.

(continued on next page)

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## Movies

(continued from previous page)

Rather, Bale plays a crackhead (*Merry Christmas!*) in mid-'90s Lowell, Mass. Ex-boxer Dicky Eklund milks his status as "The Pride of Lowell" as he struts the streets, crowing, "Making my comeback!" Walking a half-step behind Dicky, younger half-brother Micky Ward (Mark Wahlberg) wears a weary smile. There's love in it, but also hard-earned resignation.

Co-dependency zig-zags through Micky's extended family as he pursues his own light welterweight boxing career. Viewed as a "stepping stone" for other boxers who fight him for an easy win, Micky hasn't been able to make his move to the big time, for reasons that are glaringly obvious to outsiders: Dicky's emotional chaos and unreliability as a trainer make him the albatross around Micky's neck, and Alice Eklund (Melissa Leo of "*Frozen River*") has proven herself to be the stage mom from hell, eager to exploit Micky and excuse Dicky, mostly keeping his Mr. Hyde in her blind spot. (One of the film's high points is a witty mother-son sing-along to the Bee Gees' "*I Started a Joke*."

Micky trusts Dicky's boxing instincts, but Micky's no fool. When a promoter dangles a deal with the condition of "no crazy-time nonsense" (meaning no Dicky and no Alice), Micky recognizes the opportunity, though it takes the moral support of new girlfriend Charlene (Amy Adams) to take a leap.

"*The Fighter*" prizes these chewy family dynamics: the sibling rivalry, the tested loyalties and the steady corrosiveness of a family that's just a little too scrappy for its own good. (Director David O. Russell indulges comic caricature by treating the seven Eklund sisters as one foul-mouthed mass of big hair.) And certainly "*The Fighter*" is nothing if not a traditionally crowd-pleasing boxing movie, with its sights set on come-from-behind victory and fight sequences that eschew visual flash in favor of impressive realism. No notions challenged here: just doggedly obvious melodrama.

But what makes the clichés palatable is a communal commitment to getting the story right: Bale thinned his hair and body and studied recordings of the real Eklund, Wahlberg trained heavily and kept Ward by his side every day, and Russell shot on location in Lowell. Screenwriters Scott Silver, Paul Tamasy and Eric Johnson thread in a documentary crew shadowing Dicky (as one did in real life), an effective device that also serves as prelude to the de rigueur tactic of placing footage of the real-life characters in the credits.

Bale swings for the rafters with his bundle-of-nerves extremity, and it's certainly impressive work, but pity Wahlberg who risks disappearing next to Bale by so quietly giving the picture everything he's got. His technical skill goes into the ring, while his emotional subtlety rings true.

*Rated R for language throughout, drug content, some violence and sexuality. One hour, 54 minutes.*

— Peter Canavese



Ewan McGregor and Jim Carrey in "*I Love You Phillip Morris*".

### NOW PLAYING

#### 127 Hours ★★★

(Aquarius, Century 20) Danny Boyle's "127 Hours" dramatizes the survivalist story of hiker Aron Ralston, as told in his book "Between a Rock and a Hard Place." In the process, James Franco positions himself for a Best Actor Oscar nomination. The title refers to the time that lone mountain climber Ralston (Franco) spends trapped in Utah's Blue John Canyon, where a boulder pins his arm to a rock wall. Rated R for language and some disturbing violent content/bloody images. One hour, 34 minutes. — P.C. (Reviewed Nov. 19, 2010)

#### Black Swan ★★★

(Century 16, Century 20) Longtime ballet ensemble player Nina Sayers (Natalie Portman) covets the leading dual role in a high-scale New York ballet production of Tchaikovsky's "Swan Lake." Though she has the attention of Balanchine-inspired artistic director Thomas Leroy (Vincent Cassel) — or is that the "attentions"? — he vocally questions her ability to play both the innocent White Swan and the sinful Black Swan. Leroy takes the leap of casting Nina, seemingly to stroke his own ego as he creates a star, and to take advantage of her gratitude. "Perfection is not just about control," he purrs. "It's also about letting go." Letting go is, of course, dangerously close to coming unhinged, as Nina steadily does over the course of the film. Rated R for strong sexual content, disturbing violent images, language and some drug use. One hour, 48 minutes. — P.C. (Reviewed Dec. 10, 2010)

#### Fair Game ★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) Beltway power couple Valerie Plame (Naomi Watts) and Joe Wilson (Sean Penn) find themselves under attack after diplomat and consultant Joe pooh-poohs what George W. Bush called "the smoking gun that could come in the form of a mushroom cloud": Saddam Hussein's purported purchase of uranium. Wilson's investigation finds no threat, but the war machine doesn't stop, leading Wilson to poison-pen the New York Times op-ed "What I Didn't Find in Africa." Somewhere in the shadows, senior Bush adviser Karl Rove decides "Wilson's wife is fair game," precipitating the outing of Plame as a CIA covert operations officer. With her operations burnt (and her contacts in danger), Plame's career implodes. And thus begins "the war at home" on two fronts: in the media and in the house of Plame and Wilson. Rated PG-13 for some language. One hour, 48 minutes. — P.C. (Reviewed Nov. 12, 2010)

#### Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 ★★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) The boy wizard who has captivated audiences since his literary introduction in 1997 is ready for his final curtain call. Harry Potter is officially a young man in this film ("Part 2" is due out in July 2011). From the onset it is clear "Hallows" is a darker, more intense offering than past installments. Harry (Daniel Radcliffe) and his best friends, Ron (Rupert Grint) and Hermione (Emma Watson), are still reeling from the death of their beloved headmaster, Albus Dumbledore. But there is little time for grief. Dark wizards led by the serpentine Lord Voldemort (Ralph Fiennes) have seized control of the wizard-

### MOVIE TIMES

Movie times for the Century 16 and 20 theaters are for Friday through Tuesday except where noted.

<b>127 Hours (R) ★★★</b>	<b>Aquarius Theatre:</b> 3, 5:15, 7:30 & 9:45 p.m. <b>Century 20:</b> 8:50 p.m.
<b>All Good Things (R) ★★★</b>	<b>Guild Theatre:</b> 2, 4:30, 7 & 9:30 p.m.
<b>Black Swan (R) ★★★</b>	<b>Century 16:</b> 10:30 & 11:30 a.m.; 1:05, 2:25, 3:45, 5:05, 7:10, 8:10 & 10:45 p.m. <b>Century 20:</b> 11:35 a.m.; 12:55, 2:15, 3:35, 5, 6:10, 7:35 & 10:15 p.m.
<b>Burlesque (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)</b>	<b>Century 16:</b> 10:05 a.m.; 3:35 & 9:10 p.m. <b>Century 20:</b> 11:40 a.m.; 2:20, 5:10, 8 & 10:40 p.m.
<b>The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (PG) (Not Reviewed)</b>	<b>Century 16:</b> 10:45 a.m.; 1:40, 4:35, 7:25 & 10:25 p.m.; In 3D Sat.-Tue. at 10:15 a.m.; 1, 3:55, 6:50 & 9:35 p.m. <b>Century 20:</b> 12:20, 3:05, 5:50 & 8:35 p.m.; In 3D at 11:05 a.m.; 1:45, 4:25, 7:10 & 9:50 p.m.
<b>Fair Game (PG-13) ★★1/2</b>	<b>Century 16:</b> 10:15 p.m. <b>Century 20:</b> 2:25 & 7:45 p.m.
<b>The Fighter (R) ★★1/2</b>	<b>Century 16:</b> 11:10 a.m.; 12:55, 1:55, 3:40, 4:40, 6:40, 7:40, 9:40 & 10:40 p.m. <b>Century 20:</b> Fri.-Thu. at 11 a.m.; 1:40, 4:30, 7:10 & 9:55 p.m.; Fri.-Tue. also at 2:35, 5:20, 8:05 & 10:45 p.m.
<b>Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 (PG-13) ★★★1/2</b>	<b>Century 16:</b> 11:50 a.m.; 3:25 & 7 p.m. <b>Century 20:</b> 12:25, 3:40, 6:55 & 10:05 p.m.
<b>How Do You Know (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)</b>	<b>Century 16:</b> 10:20 & 11:20 a.m.; 1:10, 2:10, 4:10, 5:10, 7:30, 8:30 & 10:45 p.m. <b>Century 20:</b> Fri.-Thu. at 11:15 a.m.; 2, 4:50, 7:40 & 10:30 p.m.; Fri.-Tue. also at 12:40, 3:30, 6:20 & 9:15 p.m.
<b>I Love You Phillip Morris (R) ★★★</b>	<b>Aquarius Theatre:</b> 2, 4:30, 7 & 9:15 p.m.
<b>Inside Job (PG-13) ★★1/2</b>	<b>Century 16:</b> 9:55 p.m.
<b>The King's Speech (R) ★★1/2</b>	<b>Palo Alto Square:</b> 1:30, 3, 4:20, 5:55, 7:15 & 8:45 p.m.; Fri. & Sat. also at 10 p.m.
<b>Little Fockers (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)</b>	<b>Century 20:</b> Wed. & Thu. at 11:30 a.m.; 2:10, 4:35, 7:05 & 9:35 p.m.
<b>Love &amp; Other Drugs (R) (Not Reviewed)</b>	<b>Century 20:</b> 11:45 a.m.; 5:05 & 10:20 p.m.
<b>Megamind (PG) ★★1/2</b>	<b>Century 16:</b> 10:10 a.m. <b>Century 20:</b> 11:55 a.m.
<b>The Rocky Horror Picture Show (R) (Not Reviewed)</b>	<b>Guild Theatre:</b> Sat. at midnight.
<b>The Social Network (PG-13) ★★★1/2</b>	<b>Century 16:</b> 10 p.m. <b>Century 20:</b> 9:45 p.m.
<b>Tangled (PG) ★★★</b>	<b>Century 16:</b> In 3D Sat.-Tue. at 10 a.m.; 12:30, 3:20, 6:20 & 9 p.m. <b>Century 20:</b> 11:25 a.m.; 1:55, 4:35 & 7:20 p.m.; In 3D at 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:10 & 10:35 p.m.
<b>The Tourist (PG-13) ★★1/2</b>	<b>Century 16:</b> 11:40 a.m.; 12:50, 2:20, 4:50, 6:30, 7:45 & 10:30 p.m. <b>Century 20:</b> 11:10 a.m.; 1:40, 2:55, 4:10, 6:50, 8:15 & 9:35 p.m.
<b>Tron: Legacy (PG) ★★1/2</b>	<b>Century 16:</b> 11 a.m.; 2, 5, 8 & 10:50 p.m.; In 3D at noon, 3:30, 7 & 10:20 p.m.; In 3D Fri. also at 2 & 5 p.m. <b>Century 20:</b> Fri.-Thu. at 10:45 a.m.; 1:50, 4:45, 7:50 & 10:45 p.m.; In 3D Fri.-Thu. at 1, 4, 7 & 10 p.m.; In 3D Fri.-Tue. also at 11:30 a.m.; 2:30, 5:30 & 8:30 p.m.
<b>True Grit (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)</b>	<b>Century 20:</b> Tue. at 12:01 a.m.; Wed. & Thu. at 11:10 a.m.; 1:55, 4:40, 7:25 & 10:15 p.m.
<b>Unstoppable (PG-13) ★★</b>	<b>Century 20:</b> 12:10, 5:35 & 10:40 p.m.
<b>Yogi Bear (PG) (Not Reviewed)</b>	<b>Century 16:</b> 10 a.m.; 12:10, 2:30, 4:55 & 7:20 p.m.; In 3D Sat.-Tue. at 10:50 a.m.; 1:20, 3:50, 6:35 & 8:55 p.m. <b>Century 20:</b> 11:50 a.m.; 2:10, 4:25, 6:40 & 8:55 p.m.; In 3D Fri.-Thu. at 10:55 a.m.; 1:10, 3:25, 5:40, 7:55 & 10:10 p.m.

★ Skip it ★★ Some redeeming qualities ★★★ A good bet ★★★★ Outstanding

**Aquarius:** 430 Emerson St., Palo Alto (266-9260)

**Century Cinema 16:** 1500 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View (800-326-3264)

**Century 20 Downtown:** 825 Middlefield Road, Redwood City (800-326-3264)

**CinéArts at Palo Alto Square:** 3000 El Camino Real, Palo Alto (493-3456)

ing world, casting an ominous shadow on all things magical. Rated PG-13 for some sequences of intense action and frightening images. 2 hours, 27 minutes. — T.H. (Reviewed Nov. 19, 2010)

#### I Love You Phillip Morris ★★★

(Aquarius) Jim Carrey plays real-life convicted felon Steven Russell who, on his first stint in jail, falls in love at first sight with fellow inmate Phillip Morris (Ewan McGregor). The story just gets weird as it goes along, with Russell pulling jaw-dropping legal chicanery and multiple prison escapes, all in the name of love for Morris. The narrative bite and twisted, even cruel humor suit the true-crime elements, but also balance what's at heart a story of the extremes to which people will go for all-consuming love. Rated R for sexual content including strong dialogue, and language. One hour, 34 minutes. — P.C. (Reviewed Dec. 10, 2010)

#### Inside Job ★★★1/2

(Century 16) Sometimes a good documentary is one for the history books. "Inside Job" — written, produced and directed by Charles Ferguson — may end up being that sort of film. The wounds recounted may be too fresh just now for "Inside Job" to be broadly appreciated, but it's a cogent synthesis of the factors leading to, defining and resulting from the global economic crisis of the last couple of years. Even the most casual observers of the economic crisis will have to consider much of "Inside Job" to be old news, but Ferguson delivers it doggedly and without succumbing to blatant emotional appeal. Rated PG-13 for some drug and sex-related material. One hour, 49 minutes. — P.C. (Reviewed Oct. 2010)

22, 2010)

#### The King's Speech ★★★1/2

(Palo Alto Square) Colin Firth stutters, sweats and swears his way through British history — and to a certain Oscar nomination for best actor — in director Tom Hooper's blue-blood biopic of the man who would be King George VI. Firth conveys the man's resolve and his unwavering sense of duty and service to England. Public speaking is a requirement, so he and his wife (Helena Bonham Carter) seek a stuttering cure. The heart of what could have been a too-proper period piece comes in the form of the relationship between the prickly prince and a congenial Australian commoner, the unorthodox speech therapist Lionel Logue, played to perfection by Geoffrey Rush. Rated R for some language. 1 hour, 41 minutes. — S.T. (Reviewed Dec. 10 2010)

#### Megamind ★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) Will Ferrell plays the dastardly doofus Megamind, the perpetual loser of epic matches with superhero Metro Man (Brad Pitt, amusingly channeling buddy George Clooney). Always drawn into the middle, reporter Roxanne Ritchi (Tina Fey) fills the Lois Lane role. Metro City goes topsy-turvy when Megamind appears, almost accidentally, to vanquish Metro Man. What is a supervillain without his hero? This question, at times addressed seriously in the pages of comic books, gets a comic treatment — or, rather, a "romantic comedy" treatment as Megamind attempts to win over Roxanne, for whom he's long carried a torch. The story's loose parameters of good and evil put for-

ward the ideal that everyone is capable of redemption. Rated PG for action and some language. One hour, 36 minutes. — P.C. (Reviewed Nov. 5 2010)

#### The Social Network ★★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) This riveting film about Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg defines a generation. Director David Fincher helms with a deft touch; the screenplay by Aaron Sorkin is beautifully crafted; and the acting is exceptional. In fact, the only thing missing from "The Social Network" is a likable protagonist. Zuckerberg (Jesse Eisenberg) wasn't always the world's youngest billionaire. In 2003, the computer whiz was a Harvard undergrad, more interested in dating than status updates. Harvard students (and twins) Cameron and Tyler Winklevoss (Armie Hammer and Josh Pence) and a colleague approach Zuckerberg to enlist his help with the development of Harvard Connection, a MySpace-esque site for Harvard students. Zuckerberg enlists the financial and moral support of his best friend, Eduardo Saverin (Andrew Garfield), to create his own social-networking site. Rated PG-13 for language, drug and alcohol use and sexual content. 2 hours, 1 minute. — T.H. (Reviewed Oct. 1, 2010)

#### Tangled ★★★

(Century 16, Century 20) The Disney princess formula gets a contemporary rinse and perm with this delightful adaptation of the classic fairytale "Rapunzel." Impressive CGI animation (3D in many theaters) and a company of appealing characters help make "Tangled" easily one of the year's best family films. Kidnapped as a baby by the devious Mother Gothel and isolated

## Movies

### STANFORD THEATER

The Stanford Theatre is at 221 University Ave. in Palo Alto. Go to [www.stanfordtheatre.org](http://www.stanfordtheatre.org) or call 650-324-3700.

**Charulata (1964)** The wife of an India journalist has feelings for her brother-in-law. Friday at 7:30 p.m.

**Mahanagar (1963)** A housewife from a conservative Calcutta family takes a sales job. Friday at 5 & 9:40 p.m.

**Sun Valley Serenade (1941)** Champion skater Sonja Henie plays a Norwegian refugee who stages a show with a big band. Sat.-Mon. at 7:30 p.m.; Sat. & Sun. also at 4:10 p.m.

**Andy Hardy Meets Debutante (1940)** Mickey Rooney's Andy Hardy journeys to the Big Apple. Sat.-Mon. at 5:50 & 9:10 p.m.

**The Shop Around the Corner (1940)** Two feuding shopkeepers fall in love via letters. Tue. & Wed. at 7:30 p.m.

**The Wizard of Oz (1939)** The Baum classic is back on the screen. Tue. & Wed. at 5:30 and 9:20 p.m.

from the world, Rapunzel wants nothing more than freedom when her 18th birthday dawns. Gothel hungers for the rejuvenating effects sung (literally) from the girl's magical golden hair and forbids her from trimming her ever-growing locks. The hide-and-seek games Rapunzel plays with her pet chameleon can entertain for only so long, and a desire to see beyond her walls consumes her. Fate intercedes when charming thief Flynn Rider happens upon Rapunzel's tower after escaping from the king's castle with a valuable object. Let the adventure begin. Rated PG for brief mild violence. 1 hour, 32 minutes. —T.H. (Reviewed Nov. 26, 2010)

**The Tourist ★½** (Century 16, Century 20) Depp and Jolie essentially play themselves in this hapless attempt at a romantic romp: the former a goof itching to take on new roles, and the latter an unearthly creature who makes every sidewalk her runway. Jolie puts her inaccessibility to work for the part of Elise Clifton-Ward, a person of interest to police tracking her elusive boyfriend, Alexander Pearce. As part of his plan to keep breathing, Pearce sends missives to Elise, directing her how to throw Scotland Yard and Shaw's Russian thugs off his trail. His latest scheme forces Elise to pick out a suitably built stranger and convince her observers that the stranger is Pearce. Strutting and pouting her way from train car to train car, Elise lights on Frank Tupelo (Depp). Rated PG-13 for violence and brief strong language. One hour, 44 minutes. —P.C. (Reviewed Dec. 10 2010)

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Answers to this week's puzzles, which can be found on page 52



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5	3	2	4	1	7	8	6	9
4	7	8	9	3	6	1	2	5
1	2	5	6	9	3	7	4	8
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2	5	4	1	7	8	9	3	6
8	9	1	3	6	4	2	5	7
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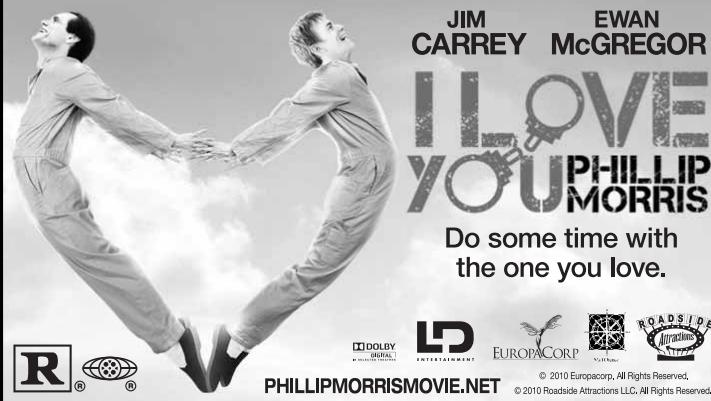
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# Sports Shorts

**PERFECTION SPOILED . . .** The Eastside Prep girls' basketball team stepped up in class and suffered its first loss of the season, a 63-51 nonleague decision to host Mitty on Wednesday night. The Division V Panthers fell to 7-1 after facing its toughest competition of the season while facing the Division II Monarchs. Mitty was able to come away with the victory, due in part, to the fact Eastside Prep point guard **Ahjalee Harvey** suffered an ankle sprain just one minute into the game. She was taken to the hospital as a precautionary measure after not scoring. Harvey scored 75 points in three tournament games last week and has been averaging 25 points a game for the Panthers. Without Harvey, senior **Ausjerae Holland** stepped up with 17 points and senior **Takara Burse** added 13. Junior center **Hashima Carothers** scored eight points and grabbed 14 rebounds. Mitty took advantage of Harvey's absence and got away quickly to a 22-9 first-quarter lead and never was threatened. The Panthers, however, battled back and actually outscored Mitty over the final three quarters, 42-41. In boys' nonleague basketball action Wednesday: Gunn got 16 points from 6-foot-6 senior **Matt Redfield** and tuned up for the annual Fremont Holiday Classic with a 47-33 win over visiting Westmont. **Taylor Perricone** and **Cody Carefoot** each added 10 points for the Titans (4-3). In girls' soccer action: Gunn wrapped up its 2010 competition with a solid 5-0 nonleague victory over visiting Cupertino on Wednesday evening. **Holly McKenna** provided what would be the winning goal, off an assist from **Haleli Moalem**. Soon after, Moalem scored off an assist from **Melissa Sun** as the Titans (4-1-1) headed off for the holidays with two shutout victories. **Laura Hayward** also tallied twice for Gunn.

## ON THE AIR

### Friday

**Prep football:** Palo Alto vs. Centennial (Corona) in CIF Division I state finals, 7:30 p.m.; Comcast Sports Net California (Cable 410)

### Saturday

**Men's basketball:** Stanford at Butler, 11 a.m., CBS (5); XTRA 860 (AM)

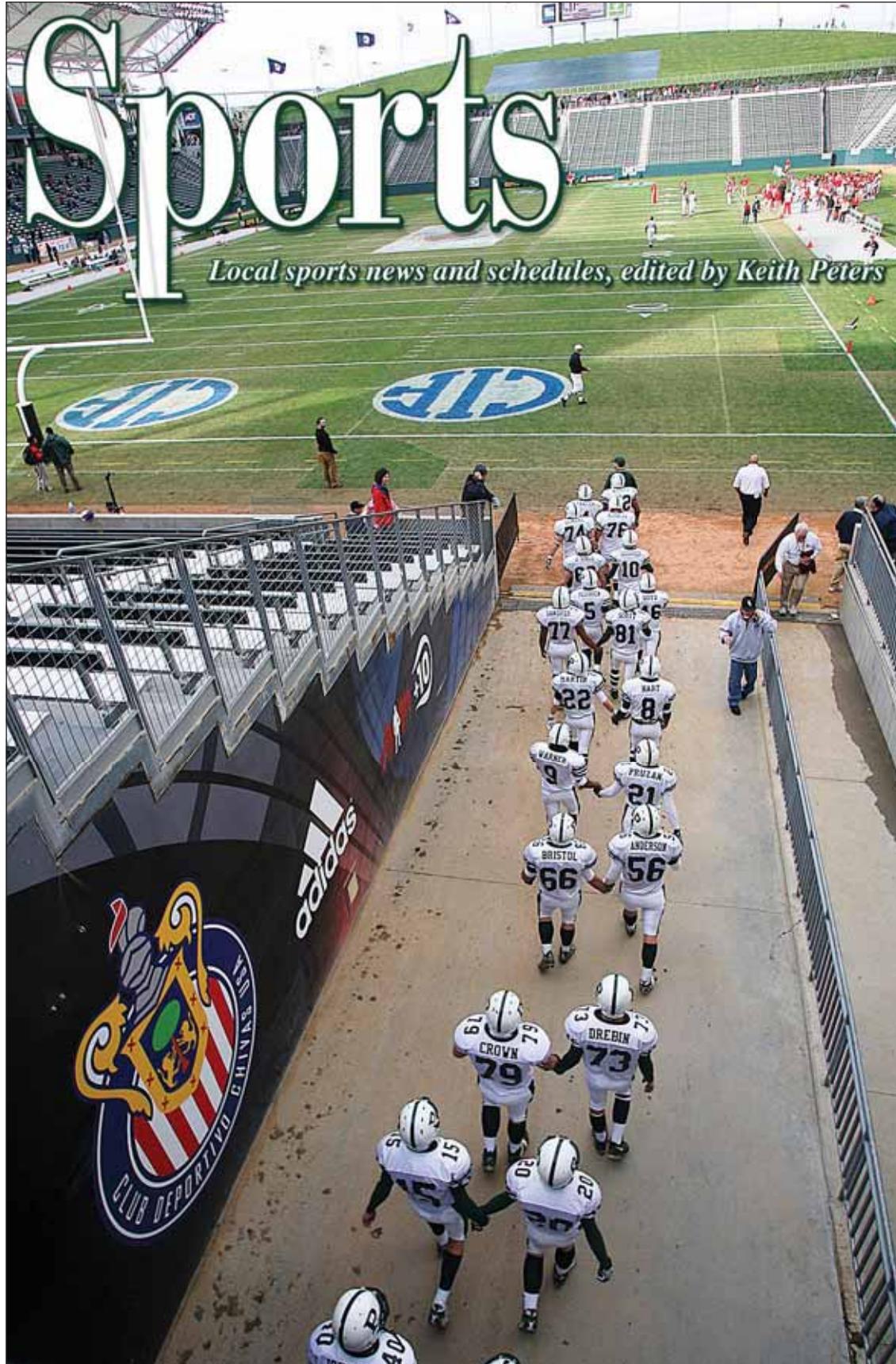
### Sunday

**Women's basketball:** Stanford at Tennessee, 4 p.m., ESPN2; KZSU (90.1 FM)



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Members of the 2006 Palo Alto High football team walked into the stadium before taking on nationally ranked Orange Lutheran. Some of those same players will return Friday to watch the 2010 Paly team play for a state crown.

## Palo Alto's 2010 football success has the attention of 2006 team

by Keith Peters

The last time Nick Goodspeed walked into the Home Depot Center in Carson, he was wearing a white Palo Alto High football uniform. The occasion was the first-ever state championship game for the Vikings in 2006.

Goodspeed had quarterbacked Paly to a 12-1 record heading into that historic game. The Vikings averaged 35 points a game that season while allowing 16.

Palo Alto, however, faced nationally ranked Orange Lutheran — most likely Paly's most difficult matchup in school history.

Goodspeed had an outstanding

game with 18 completions in 29 attempts for 279 yards and two touchdowns. Palo Alto, however, came away with a 42-28 loss to finish off a 12-2 season.

That mark stood as a school record for most single-season victories until this year. And that's one reason why Goodspeed will be returning to the Home Depot Center on Friday night, this time as a spectator.

"My parents are still big fans," said Goodspeed, who will be traveling with his father, Wick, to the game. "Steve Bono was our quarterbacks coach then and I used to work out during the summer with Christopher. I've known a lot of the guys

(on the current team) for awhile."

Plus, Goodspeed said, "It's pretty exciting. If I'm going to be home, I might as well go."

Goodspeed attends Miami University in Ohio and will be getting up very early on Friday morning to fly into San Francisco. He and his dad then will fly to Southern California around 2 p.m., with plenty of time before Palo Alto and Centennial (Corona) kick off the Division I state finals at 7:30 p.m.

Goodspeed has been following Palo Alto's remarkable 13-0 season on a weekly basis this season.

(continued on page 31)

## STATE FOOTBALL

# It's David vs. Goliath once more

Palo Alto carries underdog role against national No. 5 Centennial

by Keith Peters

Three times in the history of Palo Alto High athletics the Vikings have run up against seemingly insurmountable odds while playing for state championships.



**Who:** Palo Alto (13-0) vs. Centennial-Corona (14-0)

**When:** Friday, 7:30 p.m.

**TV:** Comcast Sports Net California

The first came in 1993 when the Paly boys' basketball team took on SoCal power Morningside in a CIF Division III finale in Oakland. Morningside had a dozen coaches and tons of talent while the Vikings had one coach, were undersized but played as a team.

The final result? Palo Alto 79, Morningside 59.

The second came in 2006 when the boys' basketball team went up against powerful Mater Dei in the CIF Division II state finals. The Monarchs were huge and heavy favorites while the Vikings were again undersized and huge underdogs.

Nonetheless, Palo Alto won 51-47.

And just two weekends ago, the Palo Alto girls' volleyball team went up against a Long Beach Poly team that was ranked as high as No. 1 in the nation in one poll and a legitimate No. 7 in another. The Jackrabbits were heavy favorites while the Vikings carried the underdog role once again.

Against all odds, Palo Alto won.

That brings us to Friday night's CIF State Football Bowl Championship Series, where Palo Alto (13-0) will take on Centennial of Corona (14-0) for the Division I title at the Home Depot Center in Carson at 7:30 p.m.

It will be yet another David vs. Goliath matchup with the Vikings wielding the slingshot and the Huskies a cannon.

"Who gave us chance against Mater Dei in basketball?" asked Paly head football coach Earl Hansen. "They're all high school kids. Yes, they may fill out their uniforms a little more but we've played big teams before. We know what they will do. There are no surprises."

"If we do what we have to do,

(continued on page 30)

# Stanford finding its balance

*With Owens contributing again, Cardinal (6-2) looks more solid than expected*

by Rick Eymen

Johnny Dawkins continues to look for ways to balance Stanford's scoring attack as the Cardinal men's basketball team looks ahead to a pair of road games. Wednesday's 76-59 nonconference victory over visiting North Carolina A&T may have been the start of that.

Jeremy Green scored 18 points to lead Stanford (6-2) past the Aggies and just as important was Josh Owens' contribution of a season-high 15 points to go with eight rebounds.

Owens missed last season with an undisclosed medical condition. When he was able to practice, he worked on individual skills such as ball-handling and shooting.

"A lot of shooting," he said. "I'm also more aggressive."

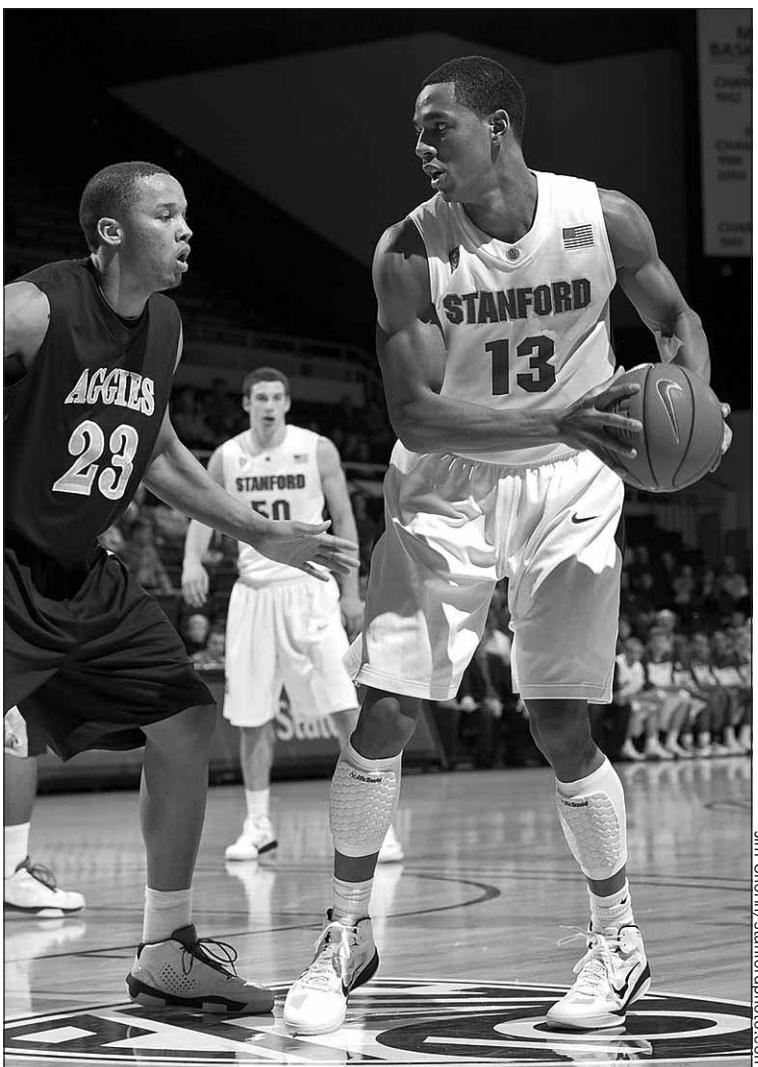
Owens reached double figures in scoring for the fifth time in his past six games and has at least eight rebounds in each of his past three.

That's a good sign as the Cardinal heads to Butler for a televised (CBS) contest Saturday at 11 a.m. (PST).

"J.O. is finding himself," Dawkins said. "Every game you see him getting better and better."

The Cardinal has won three straight and is 5-0 at home.

With nine new players to go with no seniors on the roster, Daw-



*Josh Owens (13) continues to make contributions after missing last season. He had 15 points and eight rebounds Wednesday.*

ins and his coaching staff opened training camp with an emphasis on defense. That seems to be working as Stanford has allowed just over 57 points a game, second in the Pac-10, through its first eight.

"We spent a lot of time on defense early," he said. "We've defended fairly well so far. That's been our

calling card. Offensively we're still trying to get chemistry. As they get more comfortable with the system and learn where their shots come from, it will come. We're executing a lot better than we were and I see steady improvement."

Owens return to form mirrors the team's continued growth. Stanford can only benefit by his improvement.

"When you're away from the game for a year you appreciate it a lot more," Owens said. "It's definitely a different mindset and I think that's been the biggest difference."

Stanford freshman Dwight Powell added nine points and seven rebounds in Wednesday's win.

Butler (5-4) beat Mississippi Valley State by 20 points last Saturday but has lost three of its past five games.

With the exception of one game, either Shelvin Mack or Matt Howard has led the Bulldogs in scoring and rebounding. The pair averages a combined 31.7 points and 13.5 rebounds a contest.

They were also part of Butler's improbable run to last year's NCAA championship game.

"They are a terrific team," Dawkins said. "The environment will be amazing."

Butler's Hinkle Fieldhouse, built in 1928, was used for the final game in the movie, "Hoosiers," and is one of the classic buildings in college basketball.

While the players will take a trip through history, Dawkins looks for another learning experience.

"We're still learning one another," he said. "We're eight games into the season with nine new players."

Freshman point guard Aaron Bright is one of those newcomers who has begun to make an impression on the program. ■



*Stanford 6-10 freshman Dwight Powell contributed nine points and seven rebounds in Wednesday's 76-59 victory.*

# Cardinal teams are busy as the holidays near

*Wrestling remains at home while women's basketball remains on the road with a crucial game at Tennessee on Sunday*

by Rick Eymen

There are three Stanford athletic teams in action this weekend and they are all over the map, literally. If you would kindly take a peek at a map of the United States, you're just as likely to find a Cardinal wandering the streets of Indianapolis as you would in Reno or Knoxville, Tenn.

The Cardinal (2-5) wrestling team plans a short stay on campus to host Chattanooga (4-5) at 6:30 p.m. Friday in comfy Burnham Pavilion before navigating the roads to Nevada for the Reno Tournament of Champions on Sunday.

Stanford men's basketball team plays at Butler on Saturday morning and the Cardinal women's basketball team takes on Tennessee on Sunday night.

Junior All-American Nick Amuchastegui and sophomore Ryan Mango each went undefeated at the Northeast Duals two weeks ago for the Stanford wrestlers.

Amuchastegui, wrestling at 184 pounds this year, won the Pac-10 title at 165 pounds last year and finished fourth in the NCAA championships. He owns a career 43-4 dual meet record.

Amuchastegui placed second in his weight division in last year's Reno tournament. Senior Zach Giesen, who has 91 career wins, is the defending 184-pound champion in Reno.

Mango holds down the spot at 125 pounds. He won three of five matches in Reno last year.

All three wrestlers competed at last year's NCAA championships. Also in Albany, senior Lucas Espejuela recorded a 4-3 upset victory over eighth-ranked Scott Winston of Rutgers.

Giesen, Amuchastegui and Mango are among the top-10 in their weight classes. Amuchastegui ranks fourth at 174 pounds while Giesen (197) and Mango (125) are ranked 10th.

Mocs' All-American Cody Cleveland returns to the lineup this weekend. The senior, who has won the two matches in which he's competed this year, is currently ranked No. 7 in the nation at 141 pounds.

Chattanooga sophomores Josh Condon (157) and Prescott Garner (125) are tied for the most wins on the team with 10.

The Amuchastegui brothers, Nick and Luke, are familiar with Garner, an Oregon state champion while at West Linn High. Garner is a native of nearby Mountain View.

## Women's basketball

By an interesting quirk of the schedule, and Stanford coach Tara VanDerveer's remarkable legacy of success, the current road trip has any number of interesting story lines.

The third-ranked Cardinal (6-0 entering Thursday night's game at 22nd-ranked DePaul) could enter Sunday's game against the Lady Vols with its own 800-win coach. That's anything but a sure thing,

though, as the Blue Demons won 12 of their first 13 games.

Even if VanDerveer remains at 799, there are still only four women's coaches who have recorded more wins and one of them is Tennessee's Pat Summitt. Former Texas coach Judy Conradt, Rutgers' C. Vivian Stringer and North Carolina's Sylvia Hatchell are also in front of VanDerveer.

Stanford has not fared well against the Lady Vols, whom it began playing during the 1988-89 season. Sixth-ranked Tennessee (9-1) owns a 21-6 record against the Cardinal, which includes an 11-game winning streak during one stretch.

It gets worse. Stanford has one win in 11 trips through Knoxville and that occurred Dec. 15, 1996, an 82-56 victory.

The Cardinal won last year's meeting in Maples Pavilion, 67-52, and Summit was none too happy about her team. She will likely remind them of that loss.

VanDerveer is fond of 'blaming' Stanford grad Jennifer Azzi for scheduling Tennessee in the first place. Azzi, who led the Cardinal to the first of its two national titles, is a native of Oak Ridge, Tenn., and VanDerveer likes to schedule a game in a player's hometown during their tenure on The Farm. This one stuck.

After meeting Tennessee, Stanford finishes its road trip in San Francisco against the Lady Dons on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. Azzi is in her first year as USF's coach.

The Lady Dons (2-8) have a game Monday before hosting Stanford in their annual "Pack The House" Challenge.

By the way, Sarah Boothe and Toni Kokenis are from the Chicago area, thus the series with DePaul.

## Football

A highly successful season just keeps getting better for the Stanford football team, which on Tuesday had two players honored on the Associated Press All-America team.

Stanford center Chase Beeler was named a first-team All-American by AP while quarterback Andrew Luck earned second-team honors.

Beeler is the first Stanford offensive lineman to earn first-team AP All-America honors since Eric Heitmann in 2001. Beeler also was named a first-team All-American by the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) and was a second-team Walter Camp Football Foundation selection.

Luck, who finished second in the Heisman Trophy balloting, was named to the second team behind Auburn signal caller and Heisman winner Cam Newton.

## Women's volleyball

Alix Klineman, Cassidy Lichtman and Gabi Ailes wanted to be playing one more week of volleyball. Their

(continued on page 34)

## State football

(continued from page 28)

we'll be fine."

A glut of eye-popping comparisons in favor of the Huskies, of course, says otherwise.

Centennial is ranked No. 2 in the state and No. 5 in the nation, according to MaxPreps, and is averaging a gaudy 54.8 points a game. Palo Alto is ranked No. 11 in the state and No. 72 in the nation while averaging 31.7 points an outing.

Centennial has surpassed 60 points four times this season, topped by an 82-21 victory over Corona. Palo Alto has scored 35 or more points six times this season, topped by a 49-14 win over Gunn.

No team has scored more than 23 points on Centennial in 2010 while Palo Alto allowed no more than 20 points and that was only once.

Barrinton Collins leads Centennial in rushing with 2,325 yards on 224 carries. Dre Hill paces the Vikings on the ground with 923 yards on 131 hauls.

Centennial's 6-foot-5 senior quarterback Michael Eubank has completed 155 of 225 passes (.689 percent) for 2,720 yards and 22 touchdowns. He also has rushed 120 times for 1,165 yards. Palo Alto's 6-2 senior QB Christoph Bono has completed 152 of 228 passes (.667 percent) for 2,467 yards and 28 scores. He has rushed for a minus-47 yards on 68 attempts.

Centennial has three 1,000-yard rushers, an offense similar to the one unbeaten Oregon runs and statistics that would make any NFL offensive coordinator drool.

Palo Alto, meanwhile, has to hope its talented senior tandem of wide-outs/cornerbacks Maurice Williams and Davante Adams will make a difference.

The two make up the first line of offense and the last line of defense. Both are fast and elusive, have great leaping ability and are dangerous once they get their hands on the ball. On defense, the fact Paly is allowing only 9.3 points a game pretty much says it all to what Williams and Adams (and their teammates) can do.

Neither Williams nor Adams are intimidated by Centennial's gaudy stats or scary talent.

"It doesn't matter about the team we play," Williams said. "We'll treat them like any other team. We're just as fast. I think we're really prepared for them. If our defense can slow them down a little bit, we have a chance."

Williams and Adams will play crucial roles simply because they have so many of them. They play

on both sides of the ball and can return punts and kickoffs. Williams has rushed 18 times for 202 yards (11.22 yards per carry) and caught 25 passes for 699 yards (27.96 per catch) with 10 touchdowns. Adams leads the team with 59 catches for 1,036 yards and 10 touchdowns. Williams also has two interception returns for 50 yards.

"One of us has to have a big game," said Williams. "They can't cover both of us at the same time."

Valley Christian tried to double-and triple-team Adams in the Central Coast Section Open Division finals two weeks ago. Williams responded to the single coverage with four catches for 130 yards and two touchdowns. When Milpitas tried to double and triple Williams, Adams caught seven passes for a career-high 184 yards and two TDs.

Adams, for one, is not scared off after seeing Centennial's gaudy stats.

"I'm not scared, but they do have my respect," he said. "They have an offense and we have a defense. And they're not going to stop our offense. We have people who step up in big-time situations."

It was believed that Palo Alto couldn't get past the West Catholic Athletic League triumvirate of Mitty, Bellarmine and Valley Christian and keep its unbeaten season alive. Yet, the Vikings outscored the three by 69-24 to set an all-time school record for most single-season football victories.

Palo Alto has played football for 99 years and this is the first team to go 13-0. It will take something special, however, to make it a 14-0 year. Palo Alto also goes in with a combined 599 victories for rugby and football.

"Everybody has to have their best games," Adams said. "We don't have room for error."

Hansen echoed that sentiment.

"We've got to tackle. We've got to get first downs. We can't make mistakes and give them a short field," he said.

Hansen and some of his coaches attended Centennial's 45-21 win over Vista (Murrieta) in the CIF Southern Section playoff finals.

"Vista was up 10-7 with about two minutes left in the half," Hansen said. "It was 21-10 before you knew it; 14 points in no time. They (Centennial) can do that to you."

Hansen said it will be important to keep the game close, heading into the final period. That will serve Centennial notice that Paly intends to make a game of it.

"We need to keep them off the field, the best we can," Hansen said.



Palo Alto senior quarterback Christoph Bono (13) has completed 152 of 228 passes for 2,467 yards and 28 touchdowns this season. He threw for two TDs two weeks ago in a 21-14 win to claim the CCS Open Division title.

In light of Centennial's offensive similarity to Oregon, Hansen has spoken with Stanford defensive coordinator Vic Fangio and his own son, Peter, a defensive assistant with the Cardinal who also was an assistant coach at Paly in 2006 when the Vikings played in the first-ever state playoffs.

"I got some ideas from them (on how to try stopping Centennial)," Hansen said.

Paly, in fact, runs the same 4-3 defense that Stanford ran in 2009 when the Cardinal beat Oregon in Stanford Stadium, 51-42. Stanford switched to a 3-4 defense this season and the Ducks ran off with a 52-31 win, the only blemish on Stanford's 11-1 season.

"Fangio was funny," Hansen said. "He said they didn't do anything to stop them."

Hansen has to hope his team will have a better result against the no-huddle offense, which Centennial runs. Most certainly, the Vikings can't let the Huskies approach their season scoring average unless Centennial can't stop Paly's offense.

Bono has the stats, poise and the arm to get it done but will need protection. Junior running backs B.J. Boyd (83 for 728 yards) and Hill also have proven they can do the job. And the receiving corps of Williams, Adams and T.J. Braff as good as it comes.

But, said Adams: "It's not enough to get five-yard plays. We have to make BIG plays. And we have ways to get people the ball."

Palo Alto scored early against both Bellarmine and Valley Christian, perhaps shocking both teams that were considered to be favored. The Vikings need to do the same against the Huskies, and perhaps quiet their fans.

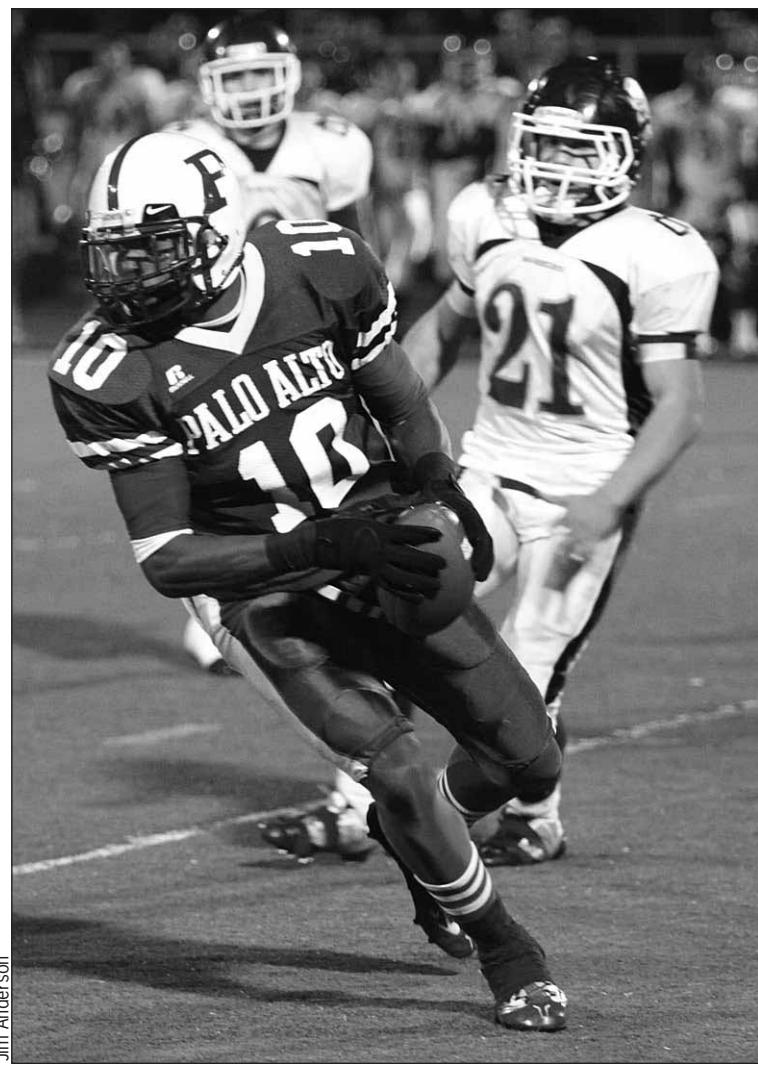
Centennial, after all, was hoping to play De La Salle in the Open Di-

vision state finale after facing the Spartans in that game the previous two seasons. Some fans have blogged that their team needs to score 80 points on Palo Alto to prove to the CIF commission that decided the matchups that a mistake had been made.

"They can say whatever they want to say," said Williams. "We'll see at the end of the game."

Yes, the Vikings are confident.

"Everyone knows a state championship is on the line," Adams said. "Being 14-0, that's the mindset going in — making history." ■



Senior wideout Davante Adams (10) is Paly's leading receiver with 59 catches for 1,036 yards and 10 touchdowns.

### CIF DIVISION I STATE FINALS

#### CENTENNIAL (14-0)

Centennial 48, Birmingham 8  
Centennial 44, Mater Dei 13  
Centennial 45, Chaparral 12  
Centennial 66, King 14  
Centennial 52, Poly 8  
Centennial 49, JW North 7  
Centennial 69, Santiago 13  
Centennial 45, Norco 0  
Centennial 82, Corona 21  
Centennial 63, Roosevelt 21  
Centennial 56, Yucaipa 14\*  
Centennial 52, Upland 23\*  
Centennial 42, Chino Hills 23\*  
Centennial 45, Vista Murrieta 21\*  
\* CIF Southern Section playoffs

#### PALO ALTO (13-0)

Palo Alto 21, Burlingame 9  
Palo Alto 20, Mitty 7  
Palo Alto 23, San Benito 6  
Palo Alto 28, Wilcox 15  
Palo Alto 49, Gunn 14  
Palo Alto 42, Los Gatos 0  
Palo Alto 35, Milpitas 0  
Palo Alto 35, Homestead 13  
Palo Alto 42, Mountain View 20  
Palo Alto 28, Saratoga 14  
Palo Alto 12, Mitty 10\*  
Palo Alto 35, Bellarmine 0\*  
Palo Alto 21, Valley Christian 14\*  
\* CIF CCS playoffs

**Goodspeed**

(continued from page 28)

"Usually, my dad keeps me posted," Goodspeed said, "but I'll go online late Friday night (despite a three-hour time difference) to find out what happened."

As the first quarterback in school history to lead the Vikings into the state playoffs, it has been easy for Goodspeed to get caught up in the excitement of this record-breaking season.

"It's pretty crazy," he said of Paly's 13-0 record. "It's unprecedented at Palo Alto."

Goodspeed recalls how exciting his senior year was, taking a 12-1 record into the state finals. And now, only four years later, another Palo Alto team is making the trip — and with a better record.

"It's pretty cool what they have accomplished," Goodspeed said.

Goodspeed doesn't know much about Centennial, other than "they're a top-five team in the country. I know they have a good quarterback. This is probably the best

team Paly has ever played."

Goodspeed remembers getting on a bus for the Oakland Airport in 2006, and flying south for the game.

"For us, going down there, it was something that was so different than taking a bus to games," he said. "It was kind of a surreal experience."

Goodspeed said he can't imagine what it will be like walking back into the Home Depot Center to experience it all over again. Sort of.

"I think it will be cool," he said. "I tried to soak it all in when I was there the first time. Now I'm going as a fan. I won't be focused like I was for an actual game. I think I'll be able to enjoy all the other things that I couldn't before."

And that could include, perhaps, watching Palo Alto make history with its first-ever state title in football.

Goodspeed won't be the only player from the 2006 team that will be in attendance on Friday. Most, in fact, went on to play college football and some are still playing.

Goodspeed played quarterback for Colorado College before the school

gave up the sport and Goodspeed transferred to Miami (Ohio). Defensive end Michael Anderson and tight end Jordan Jefferson moved on to Yale and both are still playing.

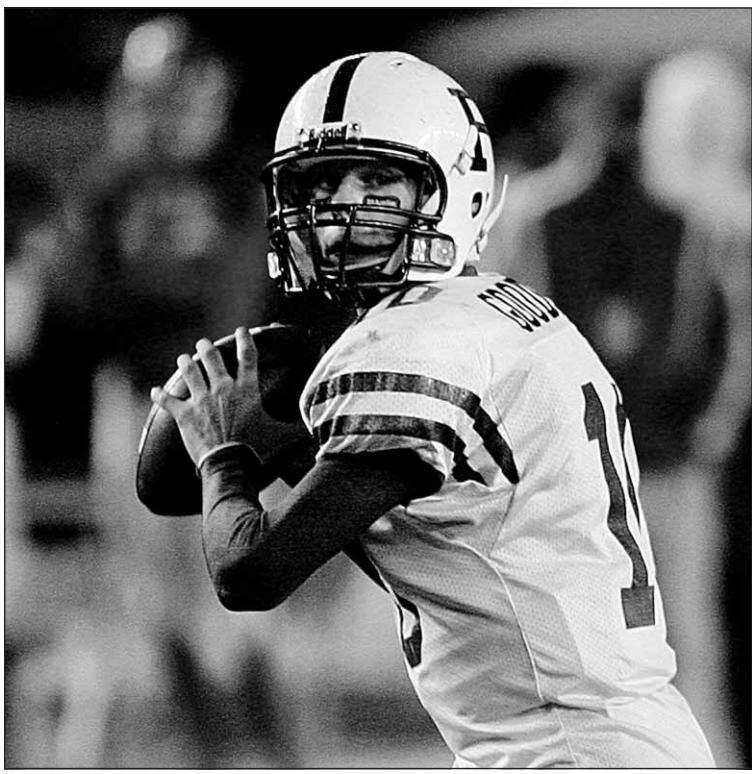
Two-way lineman Fred Koloto is still playing at San Jose State, despite an injury-filled career, while Buddy Benaderet finished up his career at Dartmouth this season. Lineman Will Elmore played for Colgate, Chris Stirrat played for Chico State and Mike Scott finished up at Foot-hill College this season while helping the Owls win the Silicon Valley Bowl.

Lineman John Hall moved on to Boston University on a wrestling scholarship.

While others from the 2006 team did not play in college, it's likely they've been paying attention to the exploits of the current team.

Earlier this season, Palo Alto surpassed 500 wins all-time in school history and a win Friday will give the school 600 wins combined for rugby and football.

And, of course, playing for a state championship is something that can stay with you the rest of your life. ■



Norbert von der Groeben

*Nick Goodspeed, the starting QB on Paly's state finalist team in 2006, will be on hand Friday to watch Paly play in the finals again.*

# Peninsula Christmas Services

## CHRISTMAS at FIRST LUTHERAN

600 Homer Avenue, Palo Alto 650-322-4669

[www.flcpa.org](http://www.flcpa.org)

Pastor Kempton Segerhammar

December 24, 5:00 p.m. - Family Worship

Holy Communion and Carols

First Lutheran children dramatize the Christmas story.

First Kids' Choir Sings.

December 24, 10:00 p.m. - Pre-service Music

Choir and orchestra present Bach's Gloria In Excelsis Deo

10:30 p.m. - Holy Communion by Candlelight

Music for choir, organ & orchestra by Bach, Nystedt & others

Katherine McKee, Director; Andrew Chislett, Organist

Both early and late worship services include congregational singing of traditional carols.

December 25, 10:30 a.m. - Worship - Holy Communion

Congregational Carol Singing; Andrew Chislett, Organist



## CHRISTMAS EVE

♦ 4:00 pm Children's Christmas Pageant & Communion

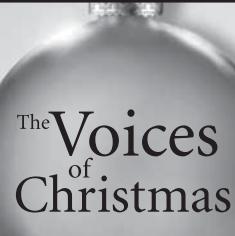
♦ 10:00 pm Festive Choral Christmas Eve Holy Communion beginning with Carols

## CHRISTMAS DAY

♦ 10:00 pm Holy Communion with Carols

600 Colorado Ave, Palo Alto (650) 326-3800

[www.saint-marks.com](http://www.saint-marks.com)



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## St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Parish, Palo Alto

Our Lady of the Rosary, 3233 Cowper Street

St. Albert the Great, 1095 Channing Avenue

St. Thomas Aquinas, 751 Waverley Street

### CHRISTMAS EVE – FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

5:00 pm Family Mass – Our Lady of the Rosary  
(*Children's Christmas Pageant during Mass*)

5:00 pm Family Mass – St. Albert the Great  
(*Children's Christmas Pageant during Mass*)

6:00 pm – St. Thomas Aquinas

7:00 pm – Our Lady of the Rosary (*Spanish*)

Midnight Mass 12:00 am – St. Thomas Aquinas (*Gregorian*)

### CHRISTMAS DAY – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

7:30am – St. Thomas Aquinas; 9:00am – St. Albert the Great; 10:30am – Our Lady of the Rosary;

10:30am – St. Thomas Aquinas; 12:00 Noon – St. Thomas Aquinas (*Gregorian*)



# Peninsula Christmas Services

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH PALO ALTO**  
305 N. California at Bryant • 327-0561 • [www.firstbaptist-paloalto.org](http://www.firstbaptist-paloalto.org)

Sunday, December 19, 10:00 AM: Family Worship,  
“Making Room for Love”  
followed by a  
“Los Posadas” Celebration and Christmas Brunch

Friday, December 24, 5:30 PM:  
Christmas Eve Family Service



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC**  
1985 Louis Road, Palo Alto • (650) 856-6662 • [www.fccpa.org](http://www.fccpa.org)

Sunday Worship and Sunday School at 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday, Dec., 12th—Christmas Pageant Sunday  
Dec., 19th—Festival Worship with Brass and Choir  
Christmas Eve, December 24th  
3:30 & 5:00 pm Family Services  
10:00 pm Candlelight Service

**Bridges**  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

**Christmas Eve Service**  
“Letters At Christmas” - 6:00PM

**Sunday, December 26th**

9:00 Praise Service  
10:45 Modern Service

625 Magdalena Ave., Los Altos 94024  
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**650-948-5698**

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December 19 • 10:30am • in the Sanctuary  
\*\*\*

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~ LESSONS & CAROLS ~**  
December 24 • 5:00pm • in the Sanctuary  
followed by a holiday reception with Christmas treats

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NEW YEAR'S EVE: 7-9:00PM  
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**All Saints' Episcopal Church**

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**Christmas Eve**

5:00 pm Family Worship with Choir & Blessing of the Crèche  
10:30 pm Musical Prelude with Choir  
11:00 pm Festive Candlelight Worship

**Christmas Day**

10:00 am Communion & Carols

Sunday Worship 8:00 am & 10:00 am  
555 Waverley Street at Hamilton, Palo Alto  
(650) 322-4528 [www.asaints.org](http://www.asaints.org)

**JOIN US ON CHRISTMAS EVE...**  
for one of several special services.

**MENLO PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
950 Santa Cruz Avenue in Menlo Park  
Thursday, December 23 @ 6:30 p.m.\* and 8 p.m.  
Friday, December 24 @ 5 p.m.\* 6:30 p.m., 8 p.m., 9:30 p.m., and 11 p.m.

**CHILD-FRIENDLY SERVICES @ THE CAFE**  
700B Santa Cruz Avenue (behind Ace Hardware)  
Friday, December 24 @ 5 p.m.\* and 7 p.m.

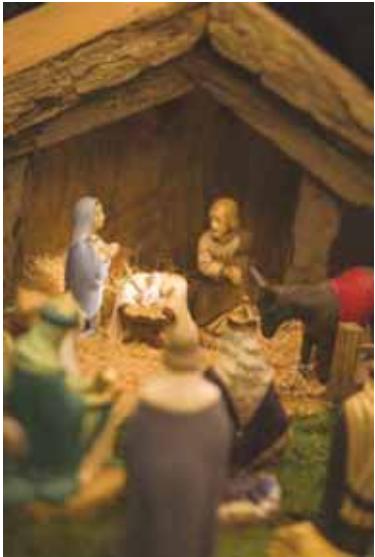
**OPEN DOOR CHURCH**  
1667 Miramonte Avenue in Mountain View  
Friday, December 24  
Child-Friendly Services @ 4 p.m.\* and 5 p.m.  
Traditional Candlelight Service @ 7 p.m.

[www.mppc.org](http://www.mppc.org) | 650.323.8600

\* child care available

*Inspirations*

A guide to religious Services in your community newspaper. For more information please email Blanca Yoc at [byoc@pawebly.com](mailto:byoc@pawebly.com) or call 650.223.6596



# Peninsula Christmas Services

**Stanford Memorial Church  
Christmas Eve & Christmas Services**



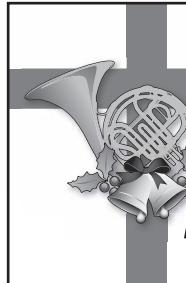
**Friday, December 24, 5:00 pm**  
**Christmas Eve Ecumenical Family Service**  
Special children's sermon by Rev. Joanne Sanders.  
Please bring new, unwrapped toys for children in need.

**Friday, December 24, 9:00 pm**  
**Christmas Festival Service with Holy Communion**  
Sermon by Dean Scotty McLennan. An elegant service glowing with candlelight and holiday music!

**Friday, December 24, Midnight**  
Catholic Christmas Mass

**Saturday, December 25, 10:30 am**  
Catholic Christmas Mass  
<http://religiouslife.stanford.edu>

**Wesley United Methodist Church**  
Church is more than Sundays, Opening Hearts, Minds, and Doors!



**12/19** Carol Sing **11:00 am**  
**12/24** Christmas Eve **7:30 pm**  
Lessons and Carols

470 Cambridge Avenue, Palo Alto (one block off California Ave.)  
650-327-2092 - [www.wesleychurchpa.org](http://www.wesleychurchpa.org)

**Grace Lutheran Church ELCA**  
living in God's amazing grace  
3149 Waverley Street • Palo Alto, CA 94306 | 650.494.1212



**Christmas Eve** Friday, December 24  
4:00 pm | 6:00 pm | 11:00 pm  
Candlelight Worship & Communion

**Christmas Day** Saturday, December 25  
10:00 am Carols & Lessons  
[www.gracepa.org](http://www.gracepa.org)



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IN MENLO PARK

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**Christmas Eve**  
**(All services will be about an hour)**

4:00 pm	Children's Communion Service with Pageant
6:00 pm	Christmas Communion Service with the Festival Choir
9:30 pm	Carol Sing
10:00 pm	Christmas Communion Service with the Festival Choir

**Christmas Day**

10:00 am	Christmas Day Communion with Hymns
----------	------------------------------------

Trinity Church In Menlo Park, An Episcopal Community  
330 Ravenswood Avenue, Menlo Park  
(Between El Camino and Middlefield)  
650-326-2083  
[www.trinitymenlopark.org](http://www.trinitymenlopark.org)



**Valley Presbyterian Church**  
in the Redwoods

945 Portola Road, Portola Valley, CA  
650-851-8282  
[www.valleypreschurch.org](http://www.valleypreschurch.org)

**Christmas Eve Worship**

5:00 pm -	Family Candlelight Service
10:00 pm -	Candlelight Service Lessons & Carols



## 2010 GIRLS' FALL ALL-LEAGUE TEAMS

### CROSS COUNTRY

#### ALL-PENINSULA ATHLETIC LEAGUE BAY DIVISION

(Based on finish at league finals)

Jessie Peterson (Carlmont) Sr.; Lauren Croshaw (Aragon) Jr.; Sarah Schreck (Carlmont) Jr.; Mei Lin Okino (Carlmont) So.; Corin Soelberg (Carlmont) So.; Chandra Anderson (Half Moon Bay) So.; Gaia Bouchard-Hall (Sequoia) So.; Nicole Novales (Westmoor) Jr.; Nikki Stokman (Aragon) So.; Maggie Colgan (Hillsdale) Jr.; Katherine Chinn (Aragon) So.; Julia Vitale (Menlo-Atherton) Sr.; Alison Lee (Hillsdale) So.; Kylie Freeburg (Half Moon Bay) Sr.; Kathleen Ocampo (Westmoor) Sr.

#### ALL-WEST BAY ATHLETIC LEAGUE

**Most Valuable Runner** -- Kat Gregory (Priory) Jr.

##### First Team

Ragini Bhattacharya (Harker); Meghan Holland (Sacred Heart Prep); Fiona Maloney-McCrystle (Castilleja); Maddy Price (Menlo School); Rachel Skokowski (Castilleja); Claudia Tischler (Harker); Elsa Vazquez (Crystal Springs)

##### Second Team

Alani Douglas (Crystal Springs); Elly Jones (Sacred Heart Prep); Kathryn Leahy (Sacred Heart Prep); Riley Perdue (Sacred Heart Prep); Courtney Schrier (Sacred Heart Prep); Annie Taylor (Menlo School); Amy Wright (King's Academy)

##### Honorable Mention

Melanie Auke (Mercy-SF); Jordan Chase (Mercy-Burlingame); Sara Delucchi (Mercy-Burlingame); Cristina Domenici (Mercy-SF); Taylor Grossman (Crystal Springs); Rachel Hutton (Crystal Springs); Amanda Kielian (Mercy-Burlingame); Annie Maslan (Crystal Springs); Adrienne Mendel (Harker); Laura Pandori (Notre Dame-SJ); Brenda Recinos (Mercy-SF); Rebecca Reid (Mercy-Burlingame); Jenny Shearer (Crystal Springs); Kaitlan Van Der Zweep (Notre Dame-SJ); Kyra Vargas (Menlo School); Anne West (Harker)

#### GOLF

#### ALL-WEST BAY ATHLETIC LEAGUE

**Most Valuable Player** -- Brenna Nelsen (Castilleja) Sr.

##### First Team

Sarah Debs (Castilleja); Rachel Henry (Sacred Heart Prep); Kennedy Shields (Sacred Heart Prep); Shelby Soltan (Sacred Heart Prep); Taylor Wilkerson (Castilleja); Miranda Wiss (Mercy-Burlingame)

##### Second Team

Caroline Debs (Castilleja); Gabby Girard (Menlo School); Patricia Huang (Harker); Michaela Hutter (Sacred Heart Prep); Kristine Lin (Harker); Chandler Wickers (Menlo School)

##### Honorable Mention

Caroline Broderick (Menlo School); Stephanie Merenbach (Castilleja); Karen Wang (Harker)

#### TENNIS

#### ALL-PENINSULA ATHLETIC LEAGUE

##### BAY DIVISION

##### First Team

Kaede Ishikawa (Mills) Fr.; Paige Keating (Menlo-Atherton) Sr.; Simone Vandroff (Half Moon Bay) Sr.; Samantha Huang (San Mateo) Sr.; Zoe Dubrow (Carlmont) Sr.; Brooke Tsu (Burlingame) So.; Polina Davidenko (Burlingame) Jr.

##### Second Team

Kyssia Mendoza (Mills) Sr.; Julia Sommer (Menlo-Atherton) Sr.; Cory Sidell (Carlmont) Fr.; Alice Liu (Aragon) Sr.; Lauren Davison (Half Moon Bay) Sr.; Alex Harrigan (Burlingame) Fr.; Lauren Sinatra (Burlingame) Fr.; Erin LaPorte (Menlo-Atherton) So.

#### ALL-WEST BAY ATHLETIC LEAGUE

##### FOOTHILL DIVISION

**Most Valuable Player** -- Giannina Ong (Menlo School) So.

##### First Team

Shwetha Bharadwaj (Harker); Jenny Chen (Harker); Christine Eliazo (Menlo School); Laura Gradiška (Menlo School); Kristy Jorgensen (Menlo School); Elysa Kohrs (Sacred Heart Prep); Ronnie Thompson (Sacred Heart Prep); Paulette Wolak (Castilleja); Emily Zhang (Pinewood)

##### Second Team

Eliza Adams (Menlo School); Kyla Adem (Pinewood); Kiki Bartel (Notre Dame-SJ); Jackie Fancher (Menlo School); Kelsey Hemm (Sacred Heart Prep); Daria Karakoulka (Harker); Aranshi Kumar (Harker); Alex Marshall (Sacred Heart Prep); Avni Nulkar (Pinewood); Saga Shermis (Menlo School)

### Honorable Mention

Divya Bhat (Castilleja); Alexa Bokman (Sacred Heart Prep); Stephanie Carlisle (Menlo School); Jaya Chandra (Harker); Katie Folzt (Notre Dame-SJ); Paulina Golikova (Menlo School); Elizabeth Knappen (Notre Dame-SJ); Michelle Lin (Pinewood); Tanya Piskun (Harker); Lauren Robinson (Menlo School); Dannie Struck (Sacred Heart Prep); Katie Wen (Pinewood); Amy Yamamura (Castilleja)

### SKYLINE DIVISION

#### (Priory players)

##### First Team

Kimberley Carlisle (Priory); Raiyah Panchal (Priory)

##### Second Team

Rachel Lazarus (Priory); Lizzie Somers (Priory)

### Honorable Mention

Emma Beriker (Priory)

### VOLLEYBALL

#### ALL-SCVAL DE ANZA DIVISION

**Most Valuable Player** -- Melanie Wade (Palo Alto)

**Outstanding Senior** -- Megan Coleman (Palo Alto)

**Outstanding Junior** -- Brittany Howard (Mountain View)

**Outstanding Sophomore** -- Rianna Brennan (Los Gatos)

**Outstanding Freshman** -- Hanna Koehler (Los Altos)

**Coach of the Year** -- Jason Trip (Mountain View)

##### First Team

Melanie Wade (Palo Alto) Jr. MB; Trina Ohms (Palo Alto) Sr. OH; Megan Coleman (Palo Alto) Sr. L; Brittany Howard (Mountain View) Jr. OH; Julie Cremona (Mountain View) Sr. OP; Meghan Cyron (Los Altos) Jr. OP; Hanna Nielsen (Saratoga) Sr. setter; Katrina Reuter (Los Gatos) Sr. MB; Emily Reed (Homestead) So. OH

##### Second Team

Kimmy Whitson (Palo Alto) Jr. setter; Katie Robinson (Mountain View) Sr. setter; Becky Slattery (Mountain View) So. MB; Alex Chiu (Monta Vista) Sr. MB; Kelsey Ayers (Los Altos) Sr. L; Hanna Koehler (Los Altos) Fr. Setter; Sarah Blegen (Saratoga) Sr. OH; Kiely Pieper (Los Gatos) Sr. L; Alana Conant (Los Gatos) Sr. OH; Katie Johnson (Los Gatos) Jr. OH

### Honorable Mention

Caroline Martin (Palo Alto) Jr. OP; Shelley Knowles (Palo Alto) So. OP; Maddie Kuppe (Palo Alto) Jr. OH; Erica Fischer-Colbie (Mountain View) Jr. OH; Jennifer Wang (Monta Vista) Sr. setter; Serena Chew (Monta Vista) So. L; Natalie Dwulet (Los Altos) So. MB; Lauren Garner (Los Gatos) Jr. setter; Tami Couchee (Los Gatos) Sr. MB; Megan Wong (Homestead) Sr. OH

#### ALL-SCVAL EL CAMINO DIVISION

**Co-Most Valuable Players** -- Julia Li (Gunn), Kelsey Polochak (Cupertino), Gabriela Fine (Lynbrook)

##### First Team

Kiana Choroski (Gunn) Sr. OH; Allison Doerpingshaus (Gunn) Jr. MB; Julia Maggioccalda (Gunn) Jr. OH; Molly McAdam (Gunn) So. MB; Adrienne Thom (Gunn) Jr. OH; Mary Grafilo (Cupertino) So. setter; Emily Hubbard (Cupertino) Sr. L; Eileen Li (Cupertino) Sr. OH; Regina Buckley (Fremont) So. setter; Tina Tran (Lynbrook) Sr. DS/L; Wai Lam Wong (Lynbrook) Sr. OH; Anita Hall (Milpitas) Sr. OP; Ipon Namahoe (Milpitas) Sr. OH; Julissa Rivera (Milpitas) Jr. L; Leila DeSilva (Santa Clara) Sr. OH; Deanna Kaul (Wilcox) Sr. setter; Jessica Lally (Wilcox) Jr. setter.

### Honorable Mention

Erica Johnston (Gunn) Fr. OH; Alyn Shen (Gunn) Jr. setter; Solphiia Yelsukova (Cupertino) Fr. MB; Samantha Castillo (Fremont) Sr. OH; Sara Dyslin (Lynbrook) Fr. OP; Kelly Zhao (Lynbrook) Jr. MB; Di-An Duong (Milpitas) Sr. DS; Janelle Hough (Milpitas) Sr. OH; Felicia Salazar (Milpitas) Sr. MB; Alyssa Shenk (Santa Clara) So. OH; Sophia Karauer (Wilcox) So. L

#### ALL-PAL BAY DIVISION

**Most Valuable Player** -- Michelle Neu-mayr (Burlingame) Sr.

##### First Team

Karen Chin (Mills) Sr.; Felicia Dito (Aragon) Sr.; Shannon Garrett (Carlmont) Sr.; Torika Ramulo (Carlmont) Jr.; Katelyn Turtletaub (San Mateo) Sr.; Stephanie Lee (San Mateo) Jr.; Danielle Contreras (Hillsdale) So.; Mia Pomi (Woodside) Sr.; Janelle Tulich (Burlingame) Sr.; Regina Mullin (Menlo-Atherton) Sr.; Diane Seely (Menlo-Atherton) Sr.

### Second Team

Kristen Chin (Mills) Sr.; Jamie Maffei (Hillsdale) Fr.; Stephanie Miller (Aragon) Jr.; Erika Brinkley (Aragon) Sr.; Shelby Vance (Carlmont) Jr.; Shelby Beloff (Carlmont) Sr.; Alexis Okasinski (San Mateo) Sr.; Karyn Jacobs (San Mateo) Jr.; Allie Sullberg (Woodside) So.; Leila Torres (Burlingame) Sr.; Nina Loew (Burlingame) Sr.; Seini Moimoi (Menlo-Atherton) Jr.; Ali Spindt (Menlo-Atherton) So.

### Honorable Mention

Alez Madarang (Mills) Sr.; Alyson Laz-zarotti (Carlmont) Sr.; Ashley Duba (Carlmont) Jr.; Jessica Navarro (Aragon) Jr.; Ariel Mangum (Aragon) Jr.; Ashley Chan (Mills) Sr.; Kelly Ghiors (San Mateo) So.; Shannon Wischer (San Mateo) Jr.; Nicolle Vil-lareal (Hillsdale) Jr.; Pari Ghazai (Hillsdale) Jr.; Lupe Kaufusi (Woodside) Jr.; Grace Hu-ilquist (Woodside) Jr.; Vanessa Neumann (Burlingame) Jr.; Laura Neumann (Burlingame) So.; Paulina King (Menlo-Atherton) Jr.; Sofi King (Menlo-Atherton) Sr.

#### ALL-WBAL FOOTHILL DIVISION

**Most Valuable Player** -- Mary Alice O'Reilly (Mercy-Burlingame) Sr.

##### First Team

Sonia Abuel-Saud (Sacred Heart Prep); Hannah Boland (Castilleja); Sarah Daschbach (Sacred Heart Prep); Jazmin Moledina (Menlo School); Nicole Richards (ND-San Jose); Veronica Smart (Mercy-Burlingame); Lindsey Wang (Castilleja)

##### Second Team

Danielle Brackett (ND-San Jose); Jesse Ebner (Sacred Heart Prep); Maddie Huber (Menlo School); Julia Lambertz (Harker); Shireen Moshkelani (Harker); Laura Rose (Castilleja); Jen Winnett (Mercy-Burlingame)

### Honorable Mention

Leslie Baumann (Mercy-Burlingame); Samantha Benz (Mercy-Burlingame); Kate Benz (Mercy-Burlingame); Olivia Bertolacci (Sacred Heart Prep); Melissa Cairo (Menlo School); Clare Dreyfus (Castilleja); Christine Chien (Harker); Hanna Elmore (Sacred Heart Prep); Aneliese Hohl (Menlo School); Roma Javier (ND-San Jose); Midori Li (Mercy-Burlingame); Cassie Lopez (ND-San Jose); Henna Mishra (Harker); Cristina Molina (Mercy-Burlingame); Natalie Roy (Menlo School); Dominique Tarrant (ND-San Jose); Lucy Tashman (Castilleja); Remy Wilder (ND-San Jose)

#### WATER POLO

#### ALL-PAL BAY DIVISION

**Most Valuable Player** -- Hailey Smith (Menlo School) Sr.

**Most Valuable Goalie** -- Emily Dorst (Menlo-Atherton) Sr.

##### First Team

Mary Jane O'Neill (Menlo-Atherton) Sr.; Emily Gran (Menlo-Atherton) Jr.; Natasha von Kaepller (Castilleja) Sr.; Barbara Peter-son (Castilleja) Sr.; Morgan Cundiff (Menlo School) Sr.; Miya Oto (Aragon) Sr.; Charlotte Pratt (Burlingame) Jr.

##### Second Team

Danielle Flanagan (Menlo-Atherton) Jr.; Sayeh Bozorghadad (Castilleja) Sr.; Ilana Crankshaw (Menlo School) Jr.; Nichole Kwee (Aragon) Sr.; Kira Tomlinson (Burlingame) So.; Sarah Beach (Sequoia) Sr.; Megan Beach (Sequoia) Sr.

### Honorable Mention

Hannah Hibbs (Aragon) Sr.; Kaila Manca (Sequoia) Sr.; Sallie Walecka (Castilleja) Sr.; Hannah Rubin (Menlo School) So.; Katie Gutierrez (Burlingame) So.; Shelby Fero (Menlo-Atherton) Sr.

#### ALL-SCVAL DE ANZA DIVISION

**Most Valuable Player** -- K.K. Sandlin (Los Altos) Sr.

**Most Valuable Goalie** -- Sam Banks (Palo Alto) Sr.

##### First Team

Carrie Beyer (Los Altos) Jr.; Katy Schaefer (Los Altos) Jr.; Olivia Santiago (Los Altos) Jr.; Nicole Larsen (Los Altos) Jr.; Barbara Spyrou (Homestead) Sr.; Skylar Dorosin (Palo Alto) Jr.; Haley Conner (Palo Alto) Sr.; Elizabeth Anderson (Gunn) Jr.; Shelby Newman (Gunn) Sr.; Emily Watkins (Gunn) Sr.; Casey Lincoln (Gunn) Jr.; Halle Nestler (Los Gatos) Jr.; Allison Larko (Los Gatos) So.; Nicolet Danese (Monta Vista) Sr.; Allison Buchanan (Saratoga) Sr.

##### Second Team

Alyssa Waln (Los Altos) Jr.; Angela Uno (Los Gatos) Sr.; Meghan Donovan (Los Gatos) Sr.; Sonika Singh (Monta Vista) Sr.; Missy Barr (Gunn) Jr.; Lauren Leyns (Gunn) So.; Allis Yao (Homestead) Jr.; Rachael Harris (Palo Alto) Sr.; Anna Glaves (Palo Alto) Sr.

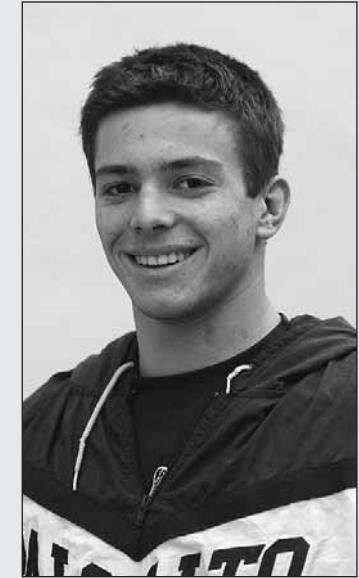
## ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



**Ahjalee Harvey**

Eastside Prep

The senior had games of 25, 24 and 26 points while finishing with 75 points (with 16 treys) and earning Most Valuable Player honors as the Panthers went 3-0 and captured the championship of the Paris Sisters basketball tourney.



**Kalen Gans**

Palo Alto High

The junior wrestler captured four matches, including one by pin over the No. 1 seed and one by major decision, on the way to winning the 160-pound division over the No. 2 seed at the Webber Lawson Memorial Invitational.

### Honorable mention

#### Hashima Carothers

Eastside Prep basketball

#### Hailie Eackles

Pinewood basketball

#### Claire Klausner

Gunn basketball

#### Jenna McLoughlin

Pinewood basketball

#### Cat Perez

Gunn basketball

#### Natasha von Kaepller

Castilleja basketball

#### Lydell Cardwell

Mid-Peninsula basketball

#### E.J. Floreal

Palo Alto basketball

#### Kyle Scherba

Sacred Heart Prep soccer

#### Nick Seyer

Mid-Peninsula basketball

#### Stefan Weidemann

Gunn wrestling

#### Brandon Willhite

Priory basketball

\* previous winner

## Stanford roundup



**Telecommunications**

**industry carriers say**

**they need more cell**

**towers, but residents**

**are concerned about**

**health effects and**

**property values**

# Ceiling out?

BY SUE DREMAN

**C**hanning Avenue resident Tru Love and her neighbors are waging a battle against the Catholic Church.

It's not over same-sex marriage, abortion or any other obvious hot-button issue.

The controversy involves a ubiquitous technology for which the church is not normally known: cell-phone towers.

In Palo Alto and throughout the Bay Area the issue is arising in cities and towns. Churches, schools and public buildings are taking advantage of the lucrative land-leasing market, adding to their bottom lines with a

little help from AT&T, Sprint Nextel, Verizon Wireless and T-Mobile.

Residents from Richmond to Cupertino are up in arms over the leases, which place the 60-plus-foot towers in residential neighborhoods, often near schools. They say that transmitter radiation poses health risks and the towers emit a hum that is disturbing. Residents also fear that towers will lower property values.

(continued on next page)

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Funeral Home FD132

## Learn the Guitar this Winter

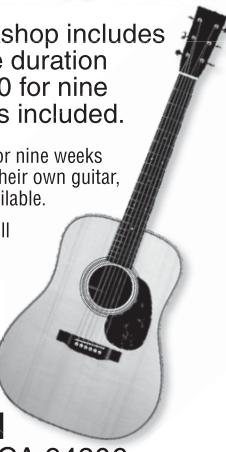
Carol McComb's "Starting to Play" workshop includes the FREE use of a Loafer Guitar for the duration of the classes.\* Regular cost is just \$160 for nine weeks of group lessons, and all music is included.

\*"Starting to Play" meets for one hour each Monday night for nine weeks beginning **January 10<sup>th</sup>**. Students are encouraged to bring their own guitar, but both nylon-string and steel-string loafer guitars are available.

Other classes at more advanced levels are also offered. A full brochure is available at Gryphon.



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## Celling out?

(continued from previous page)

But mobile-services providers say the health risks are minimal. In most cases, the radiation levels are far below Federal Communication Commission (FCC) standards, they say.

With the ever-increasing demand for data and other services that go beyond the phone call — enabling video, music, texting, image transmission, smart-home and wireless medical, business and government-management applications — providers are trying to boost their coverage and bandwidth, industry spokespersons said.

The issue is being taken on by Joint Venture: Silicon Valley Network, a San Jose nonprofit. Its Wireless Communications Initiative is working with cities, businesses, the public and the industry to promote model ordinances, help develop an area-wide infrastructure for wireless services, and assist the industry and municipalities in working together.

Companies can't accommodate the growing needs with the existing bandwidth, said Amy Storey, communications director for CTIA - The Wireless Association. CTIA (formerly the Cellular Telephone Industries Association) is an international nonprofit group representing the wireless industry in Washington, D.C.

"Watching YouTube consumes 100 times the bandwidth of a voice call. The estimated mobile-data usage of a single mobile subscriber in 2015 will be 450 times what it was in 2005," Storey said.

Storey said the Library of Congress' collections and public demand for them illustrate one example of the pressures on the existing network.

The Library's National Digital Library Program has been digitizing certain collections and archival materials since 1995. Thousands of books, pamphlets, motion pictures, manuscripts and sound recordings will be available to the public at lightning speed.

"There are 22 million books in the Library of Congress," she said. To get a sense of how much data was carried by the nation's wireless networks in the first half of 2010, it's equivalent to the entire Library of Congress being sent 1.5 times every hour, every day. "That's 161.5 billion megabytes from January to June," she said.

From July to December 2009, wireless networks carried 107.8 billion megabytes of data traffic, according to a CTIA study.

"Even in those six months, there was a tremendous increase in data traffic. Towers are a very important part of our demand," she said.

AT&T has seen a 5,000 percent increase in data traffic over the past few years. The company spent \$1.1 billion on its wireless network in California in the last six months, spokesman Lane Kasselman said.

"That's significant. From 2007 to 2009, AT&T spent maybe \$2.5 billion per year annually on infrastructure," he said.

The company has applied for conditional-use permits to install a



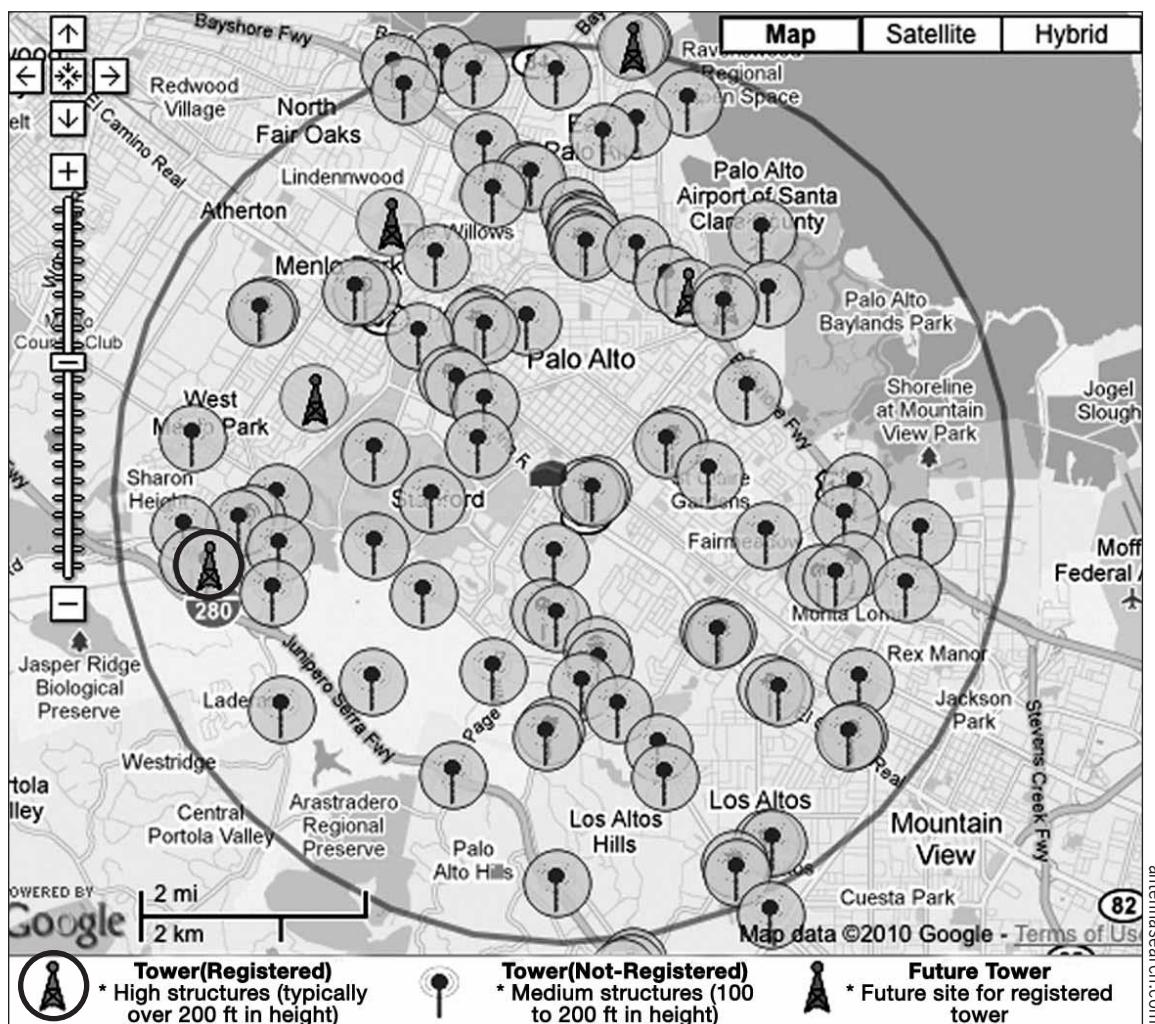
Veronica Weber



Veronica Weber

Top, what appears to be a flagpole outside the fire station on Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, is actually a cell phone tower. Below, Los Robles Avenue hosts a tower in disguise as a tree.

## Cover Story



A map generated by [www.antennasearch.com](http://www.antennasearch.com) shows the distribution of cell-phone towers from the Weekly's address at 450 Cambridge Ave. Clicking on each tower icon provides location, power output, height, ownership and other information about the tower.

number of towers in the past few years, including at least two in residential areas: a 75-foot-high tower at the Eichler Swim and Tennis Club on Louis Road and a 60-foot tower at St. Albert the Great Catholic Church on Channing Avenue.

In November, AT&T withdrew its application for the Eichler Club site following a vigorous campaign by residents, who were concerned the tower would be close to Palo Verde Elementary School. Kasselman, however, said the company decided it probably could not get the variance it needed for the higher tower, which exceeded city 65-foot height limits.

Is it even necessary to build towers in residential areas?

"Palo Alto is a very tech-savvy city. It's unrivaled in the number of smart-phone users. We're seeing a record decrease of levels of wire-phone lines. People are switching to their cell phones only," Kasselman said.

Nationally, 22.7 percent of American homes are "cell phone only," according to a 2009 U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study. Nearly half of adults ages 25 to 29 lived in households with only wireless phones.

"Folks say, 'Why don't you put the towers in commercial districts?' But that's not where people live" or need better mobile service, Kasselman said.

"The carriers have already built on the 'low-hanging fruit' — the commercial and industrial areas," Ken Schmidt, president of Steel in the Air Inc., said. His consulting firm helps people, businesses and cities negotiate leases with wireless-communications companies.

**The estimated mobile-data usage of a single mobile subscriber in 2015 will be 450 times what it was in 2005."**

—AMY STOREY,  
CTIA COMMUNICATIONS  
DIRECTOR

The benefit can be lucrative for the lessee as well as the companies.

Nationally, private landowners have netted roughly \$1.25 billion annually from leases, Schmidt estimated.

About 15 to 20 percent of Schmidt's clients are churches — "primarily because the decision makers realize that they need an outside consultant to advise them on the value of the lease rather than making that decision themselves and potentially not fulfilling their fiduciary duty to the church," he

said.

Leases can pay from \$500 to \$10,000 per month, although the higher figure is rare, he said.

At Palo Alto's Aldersgate United Methodist Church on Manuela Avenue, the church has received \$1,600 per month from AT&T since a tower disguised as a pine tree was constructed on the property about two years ago, said a church representative who declined to be named.

The tower was somewhat controversial. Residents who had poor phone coverage supported the tower, but others were opposed, he said. But no one has complained since the tower was built, he added.

Schmidt said the trend is likely to continue, as more school and park districts are approaching his company. But most times, it's the company that approaches the church or school.

Chuck Tully, business manager for St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church in Palo Alto, the parish that decided to allow a tower at St. Albert the Great, said the church "was not looking for" the lease, which he estimated would amount to between \$1,500 and \$2,500 per month.

"What's kind of nice is, it's income month after month. Every little bit helps. Is it significant to the overall budget? Probably not," he said.

Schmidt said the churches and schools are not the first choices among telecommunications carriers. The industry has historically built towers where they were easier to approve, on commercial and industrial parcels.

"The only reason a cellular provider approaches a church or a school is because they don't have a

(continued on next page)

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### january highlights

**RE-DEFINING BEAUTY:**  
STRATEGIES FOR SELF-ACCEPTANCE  
Saturday, January 22: 10 to 2:30

**NEW CLASSES:**  
LunchTime MeetUps: Free  
Weekly Wednesday Program  
Anger & Stress Management  
Career Path Workshop  
Writing and Journaling  
Weight Loss Support Group



## DEBORAH'S PALM

# Inspirations

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IMAGE: Zoumana Sane, Mami Wata, 1987. Pigment, glass. Collection of Herbert M. and Shelley Cole. Photo by Don Cole

## Cover Story

# Are the towers a health hazard?

Experts cannot agree if there has been adequate research on the effects of radio-frequency emissions

One of the greatest reasons for opposing cell-phone towers is the perception that radio-frequency (RF) emissions cause health effects, particularly cancers. But several experts said there is no consensus on whether there is sufficient research on the effects of cell-tower emissions or what the research proves.

Most studies have been done on radiation from cell phones themselves and not on the towers. Some experts and the federal government take the position that conclusions about cell phones can be extrapolated to towers. Others aren't so sure.

"Few studies have investigated general health effects in individuals exposed to RF fields from (tower) base stations. This is because of the difficulty in distinguishing possible health effects from the very low signals emitted by base stations from other higher strength RF signals in the environment. Most studies have focused on the RF exposures of mobile-phone users," a World Health Organization (WHO) investigation noted.

Base stations operate at higher power than cell phones, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which regulates cell towers with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). But the radio-frequency exposure from a base station is typically much lower than from individual cell phones because base-station antennas are mounted on towers or other building structures and are therefore substantially farther away from the public. Both cell phones and base stations are required to comply with FCC radio-frequency exposure guidelines.

Dr. Joel Moskowitz, director of the Center for Family and Community Health at University of California, Berkeley, in 2009 did an analysis of a 2004 multinational study on whether mobile-phone use increases the risk of cancer.

"There is no conclusive research either way," he said.

"The problem is the government takes the stance of 'What you don't know won't hurt you.' But no consensus was ever reached. Some said it was inconclusive. A minority said that cell phones were harmful, and more studies said that cell phones are safe. I don't want to contribute to problem inflation, but we don't want to double or triple the rate of brain tumors. We need a lot more research," he said.

Dr. Paul Fisher, Stanford School of Medicine professor of neurology and pediatrics, believes sufficient research on cell phones has been done, although he has not heard of any research done specifically on cell-phone towers.

"The bottom line is there's no known association between cell phones or towers and health effects," said Fisher, who is researching what causes brain cancers in children. "Cell phones are not on our radar."

Fisher dismissed the scare about cell-phone radiation as the predictable technology scare of this generation.

"This is the high-tension wires of our time," he said, comparing a similar debate about the health risks of high-tension wires 30 years ago.

"I'm a pediatrician. I'm a cautious person. But there's a downside of doing studies over and over, and spending colossal amounts of money," he said.

But Dr. Michael Wyde, a toxicologist for the National Institute on Health, National Toxicology Program, said current studies are conflicting because they are not related specifically to cell-phone use. "A lot of studies have been done with RF, but not at the same frequency as cell phones used in the U.S.," he said.

Wyde is currently leading studies on rats to see if there are any health effects, acute or chronic, on any part of the body, of cell-phone radiation. The study is one of the largest the agency has undertaken in 30 years and is aimed at addressing the flaws of previous studies, including incorrect frequencies of RF, he said.

"Our studies will be definitive on health effects of RF. They don't just look at exposure from the cell phone itself but towers," he said. ■

— Sally Schilling

## Celling out?

(continued from previous page)

better option. This is due to zoning requirements whereby the local municipality requires that a new tower cannot be constructed and that the cellular providers must use existing structures.

"Because steeples are the tallest structures in many small or historic small towns or even in large cities, the carriers look to the churches. It really is a last choice though for the carriers," he said.

Ian Abel, facilities manager for the Roman Catholic Diocese of San Jose, said the churches are not taking the offers lightly, despite the money.

"The first question we asked is, 'Is it legal and is it healthful?'" he said.

Tully said the church has been doing "due diligence" by researching the towers and working to have a neighborhood meeting and to be in touch with schools and parents.

## Cover Story

**B**ut some residents believe the towers aren't necessary.

They cite data gathered on websites such as [www.antennasearch.com](http://www.antennasearch.com), which show hundreds of towers and hundreds more smaller antennas already installed throughout Palo Alto.

While the accuracy of sites might be variable — there are likely towers that are not listed because the FCC does not require their registration — the sites may be the best guess as to how many towers exist. Palo Alto officials in the utilities and planning departments conceded recently they have no comprehensive way of tracking wireless facilities.

A recent search on the website of the Weekly's address at 450 Cambridge Ave. found 103 towers and 500 antennas within a four-mile radius. Three applications were in process, according to the site.

Tru Love and her husband, Stephen Stuart, found 13 towers in commercially zoned districts within one mile of the proposed St. Albert tower and they have spearheaded a campaign against its construction.

They cite peer-reviewed research

**"The only reason a cellular provider approaches a church or a school is because they don't have a better option."**

—KEN SCHMIDT,  
PRESIDENT OF  
STEEL IN THE AIR, INC.

that documents the detrimental effects of the towers on property values — up to 20 percent lower.

Eleven real estate agents have also supported their contention and petitioned against the St. Albert tower in November.

Love and Stuart want the city to request an audit from AT&T regarding its wireless-communications facilities in the city and a presentation showing why it cannot simply co-locate at any of the existing facilities used by other carriers.

Six of the 13 towers "are registered to companies acquired by AT&T and there are seven others on which AT&T may co-locate. Prove that this tower is necessary," they told city officials in a Nov. 15 letter.

Love and Stuart also want the city to develop a wireless plan.

"The City of Palo Alto has a very weak zoning ordinance for wireless communications facilities. The city's Comprehensive Plan makes no mention of wireless communication facilities whatsoever," Love said, comparing it to extensive ordinances created by the cities of Richmond and Glendale (in Southern California) a few years ago.

Curtis Williams, director of planning and community environment, said the city has a zoning ordinance regarding wireless-communications facilities that requires a conditional-use permit when the facility is to be located in a residentially zoned

parcel, is a stand-alone structure or if the height of a building-mounted antenna exceeds the height of the building.

The city encourages, but does not require, locating the towers on non-residential property and encourages screening, co-location with other facilities and architectural compatibility, such as the pine-tree towers, he said.

"The city is prohibited by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 from regulating wireless-communications facilities based on radiation emissions," he said. (*See sidebar for story on health effects.*)

Where a proposed site is of concern to neighbors, the city generally requires extensive information regarding the radius of coverage needed and an evaluation of other alternative sites, he said.

Williams said a study session next year with Joint Venture Silicon Valley will look at new technologies, such as the Distributed Antenna System (DAS), a setup of smaller antennas usually placed on utility poles, and how the city should plan for the upcoming 4G network, which is the latest system being implemented by the carriers.

The demand for new towers in residential areas caused City of Richmond officials to adopt an emergency moratorium to stop applications for wireless-communications facilities a few years ago, Lena Velasco, interim planning director, said.

City leaders formed an advisory group with carriers and residents to develop an agreed-upon policy. In 2009, a 30-page ordinance established standards for the towers and prioritized zones and required "maximum achievable setbacks" from schools, child care facilities, residences, hospitals and mixed-use areas.

The law "puts the onerous proof on the carrier" to show that a location within a residential area is the only alternative and the best site, she said.

Since the ordinance was adopted and revised, there have been few problems, she said. But recently an issue arose when the city approved a structure in a public/civic zone at a reservoir. The existing law does not require a setback in that area, but the site is adjacent to residences.

Richmond brought in outside counsel and experts when it formulated its law and looked at ordinances in Berkeley, Albany and Orinda, she said.

There are always unanticipated consequences — some things that can't be identified in advance, even with the best intentions, she said.

"It hasn't worked as completely as we anticipated. But overall, people feel better than they did two or three years ago." ■

*Staff Writer Sue Dremann can be e-mailed at [sdremann@paweb.com](mailto:sdremann@paweb.com).*

### About the cover:

*Family members Stephen, Hayden, Corwin and Dharma Stuart and Tru Love protest the placement of a cell tower across the street from their Palo Alto home.*  
*Photo by Vivian Wong.*

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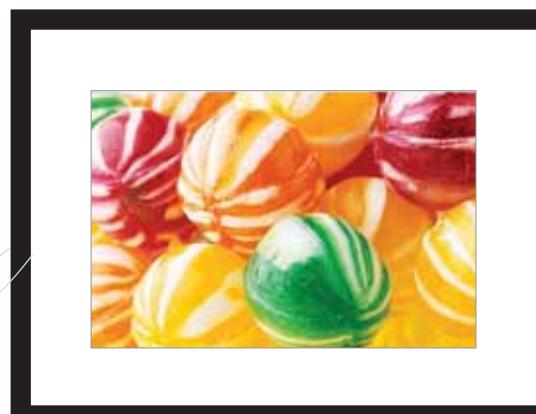
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# Happy, Healthy Holidays



by Kelly Jones

For some, the holidays can be a time of stress — or overindulgence in unhealthy goodies or activities. A gift that supports health, beauty or fitness may be just what the doctor — or Santa — ordered.

Over the holiday season, some local companies are offering discounts and gift packages for physical-fitness classes and wellness products.

For those looking to help a loved one relax or give their bodies a treat, spas offer gift certificates in a range of values and discounts on beauty products.

"We're all about giving the gift that they truly deserve. People are so busy with their lives they don't take the time to get a massage or a facial," Palo Alto's Destino Spa Director Christine Rivera said. "It's like giving them tranquility or serenity. They can work out their knots and kinks."

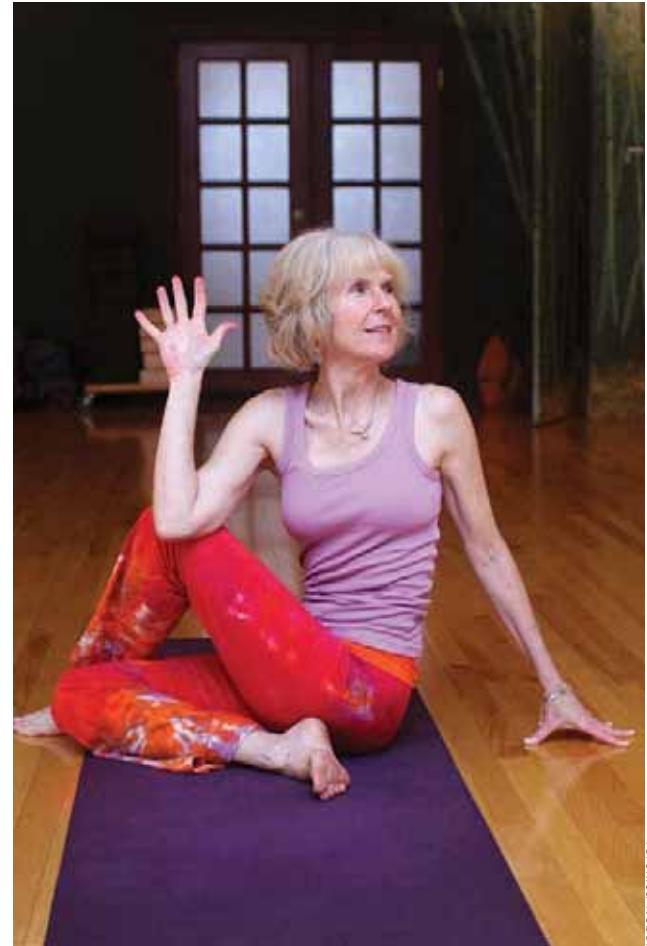
Each spa also offers its own package deals, such as Destino Spa's "Renewal Package" for \$185, which includes an aromatic steam shower, a 40-minute "Destino Journey Massage" and a custom facial.

"We see a lot of new moms here who are overwhelmed and sleep deprived. A lot of dads and husbands who come in here want to make it special for them," Rivera said.

Spas can also offer makeovers, such as the LaBelle Day Spas and Salons' "Special Event Glamour Package." For \$315, the pack includes an exfoliation treatment, brow shaping and tint, lash tint, glamour makeup, manicure and pedicure, and hair styling. LaBelle has two locations: Town & Country Village and Stanford Shopping Center.

Some people look for a more active solution to holiday stress and calorie overload, and gift certificates for fitness classes could be just what they're seeking.

A potential stocking stuffer offered by Avalon Art



Veronica Weber

*Yoga teacher Patricia Becker demonstrates a twist pose at Avalon Art & Yoga Center.*

& Yoga Center is a package of 10 or 25 classes that can be purchased and given out individually. Recipients can choose which class they would like to attend as a free session, based on level of difficulty and yoga style.

"Yoga is a well-rounded practice," said Lina Chae, Avalon manager.

"Not only is it good for physical fitness, but it helps with emotional and mental well being."

Chae recalled the time a manager came to the studio to purchase a set of classes and a yoga mat for one of her employees after learning the

**Gifts for  
beautifying the  
body, soothing  
stress**

(continued on page 41)

## Healthy holidays

(continued from page 40)

employee was going through tough times.

"It was one of the most thoughtful things I ever heard of," Chae said. Rather than just giving the employee a day off, Chae saw the manager was trying to actively help. Avalon, located on California Avenue in Palo Alto, also offers yoga mats, books, other accessories and gift cards.

For those who may be struggling with weight or nutrition, there is a holiday helper.

Greenlite Medicine is a physician-supervised weight-loss program with a location on Fairchild Drive in Mountain View. With the Greenlite "Gift of Health Holiday Special," clients receive a gift certificate for a personal nutrition/weight-loss consultation, body-composition analysis, weight-loss plan and a gift bag with a guide to getting started and helpful tips. The plan, which would normally cost \$150, is on sale for the holidays for \$50.

Another way to keep in shape over the holidays is a personal-trainer session at a local gym. Vivre Fitness on Emerson Street in Palo Alto is offering six TRX sessions for \$160. Classes usually consist of five to eight people and are held once a week for six weeks. Using suspension straps that hang from the ceiling, students use the resistance of the bands to build power, strength, flexibility, balance and mobility.

With gifts that support fitness, beauty or relaxation, recipients can start the year off feeling and looking their best.

And as Rivera put it, "It's a non-materialistic gift that people can't re-gift." ■

*Editorial Intern Kelly Jones can be e-mailed at kjones@pawebly.com.*



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**WHOLE FOODS MARKET**

by Sarah Trauban

Everyone has a friend who's incorrigibly difficult to shop for. Instead of wrapping another unnecessary tchotchke or resorting to a gag gift, why not give them the gift of a unique experience this holiday season?

Whether a friend is picky, humble or just well-funded, the old slogan about teaching a man how to fish might be of use. After all, everyone needs to eat. Instead of buying a gift basket of goodies, you could give them the gift of cooking skills.

Palo Alto Adult School offers affordable cooking classes in a variety of mouthwatering genres. Upcoming courses include seafood, Thai, sushi and cooking with spirits.

Yanette Fichou Edwards, who has taught courses at the school for years, also offers at-home sessions.

**Gift suggestions  
for the person that  
has it all**

The sky's the limit on themes, Edwards said. She has given everything from moms and daughters cooking classes to team-building sushi workshops to tutorials for students about to enroll in college.

One option is holding a holiday baking party. With a cooking instructor's help, friends can come together to learn how to make cookies and hand off the products of their labor.

"Instead of re-gifting something for your girlfriends this year, you can give a really unique gift of skills, entertainment and your time," Edwards said.

A novel gift option is provided by Joanie King, founder and "chief scribe" at the Palo Alto-based company Rhyming Tributes ([www.rhymingtributes.com](http://www.rhymingtributes.com)). For \$250 and a list of 15 facts about the intended

(continued on page 43)

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

### Shopping

(continued from previous page)

recipient, you get an epic poem, a rap or a familiar song (rewritten) about your friend.

"One of our slogans is 'we're not happy until you're crying,'" King said. "You can't get around being personal with this kind of gift."

For an additional fee, you can even buy a sung tribute.

If film is more a friend's bent, the Aquarius Theatre in Palo Alto and Guild Theatre in Menlo Park offer stylish gift cards; a covert way to grant your hard-to-buy-for friend a treat. The indie theaters show documentaries, art house and foreign films, providing a dose of culture to any evening out on the town. The Stanford Theatre, which shows double features of classics from Hollywood's golden age (complete with live pipe-organ music before and after shows), too offers gift cards for some good old-fashioned fun.

Want to add a little drama to a friend's life (in a good way)? A subscription to a local theater company might tickle the fancy of a supporter or would-be patron of the arts. Mountain View-based TheatreWorks offers a gift subscription.

For \$89, the recipient can see three shows of their choice from the TheatreWorks season.

"It's a lovely gift and experience at a time of year when people are struggling to decide which gifts to give," Director of Marketing Sean Kelly said.

One of the most kind things you might give a friend who "has it all" is the chance to help someone who could stand to have a bit more.

One way to help the community is to donate in honor of a gift recipient to InnVision ([www.innvision.org](http://www.innvision.org)), a local charity that provides housing,

(continued on next page)



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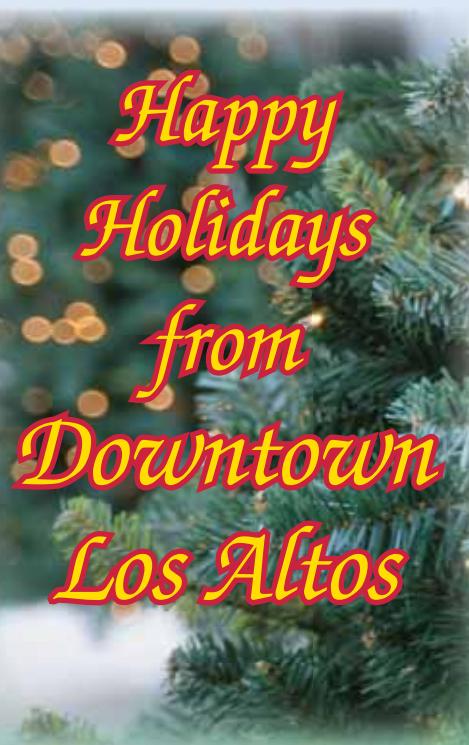
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| 12/20 | 10:30 AM | Tim Cain                            |
| 12/21 | 10:30 AM | Mary Lee Sunseri                    |
| 12/22 | 10:30 AM | Spontaneous Combustion Storytellers |
| 12/23 | 10:30 AM | Andy Z                              |



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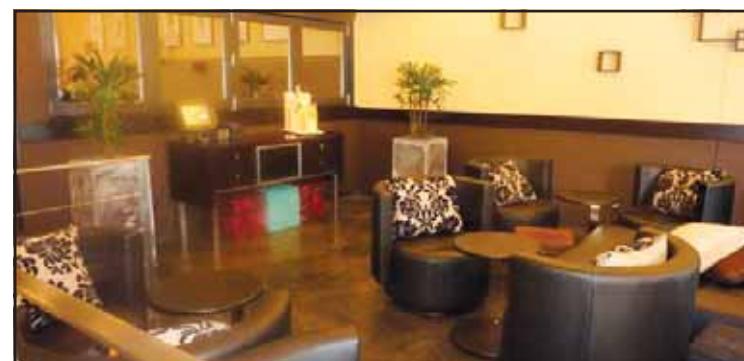


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Courtesy of InnVision

Donation to local nonprofits such as InnVision help provide holiday cheer to those in need.



donations are down for many nonprofits, but we have not closed a single program and continue to serve the needs of our population," Anne-Marie Meacham, director of development, said.

The website details the services each donation level funds, but you can direct your donation for the general fund or alternately designate it to a particular program.

Meacham said that a program in particular need is the Opportunity Services Center in Palo Alto. There, homeless and at-risk people can access a wide variety of InnVision services aimed at giving them tools to make their lives more stable.

With the help of a donation in a friend's honor, you can together improve the lives of others who call the Peninsula home.■

*Editorial Intern Sarah Traub  
en can be e-mailed at strauben@  
pawebkly.com*

## Shopping

(continued from previous page)

emergency services and tools for self-sufficiency to more than 26,000 needy Silicon Valley individuals

and families each year. Its 26 locations provide a number of supports for struggling neighbors, including shelter, food and toy drives for children, as well as a variety of social services to help those in need.

"Our resources are limited and

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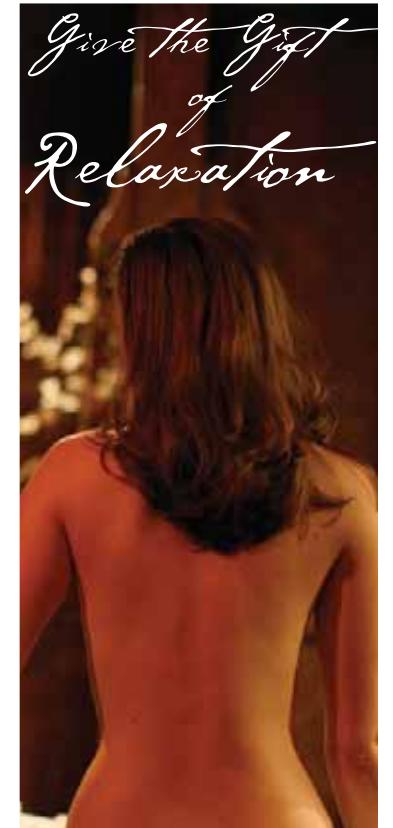
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