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*Palo
Alto*

Weekly

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Mitchell Park
Library overruns**

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THE

CELEBRATIONS
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Upfront

Local news, information and analysis

Palo Alto tries to curb Mitchell Park Library costs

City hires consultants to analyze contractor's change orders, consider legal options

by Gennady Sheyner

Concerned about growing construction costs of the Mitchell Park Library and Community Center, Palo Alto officials have

hired engineering consultants and an attorney to examine the spike in change orders from the project's contractor.

Though the library and community-center costs remain well below the \$50 million budget, construction expenses have been rising in recent months as the city's contractor, Flintco Pacific Construction, submitted 10 change orders requesting additional funds. In September, members of the City Council were disappointed to learn about the

growing costs, with Councilman Larry Klein conceding: "We're not doing as well as we hoped on this deal."

At the September meeting, the council had grudgingly agreed to raise the contingency budget — funds used to cover unforeseen work — from 10 percent to 20 percent of the base contract.

Now, the council and Public Works staff are taking a closer look at the change orders and considering the city's legal options. Public Works officials Monday said the city has brought in three consultants to help evaluate the change orders and potential claims. The city's contract

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Veronica Weber

Rhodes Scholar Tenzin Seldon, a 22-year-old comparative race and ethnicity major at Stanford University, spent her childhood in a Tibetan refugee village. She plans to continue her work as a human rights activist while studying at Oxford this fall.

STANFORD

Tibetan refugee named Rhodes scholar

Human rights activist Tenzin Seldon one of five Stanford awardees this year

by Chris Kenrick

After a childhood spent in a Tibetan refugee village filled with monks and prayer flags, Stanford University senior Tenzin Seldon said she will "carry the moral obligation of the Tibetan people" as a Rhodes scholar at Oxford University next fall.

Seldon was among five Stanford students and alumni named 2012 Rhodes scholars Sunday — a

record number for the university chosen to represent the United States.

Seldon, who moved to the United States as a teenager and has been active in Students for a Free Tibet, said she will bring to Oxford "the sentiments and struggles of all displaced people, political refugees, economic refugees and migrant workers.

"I see myself as a human rights

activist — a facilitator and a bridge," said the 22-year-old comparative race and ethnicity studies major. When the Dalai Lama visited Stanford in October 2010, she set up a meeting for him with 150 Chinese scholars, academics and students from Stanford, San Jose State University and the University of California at Berkeley.

Seldon was born and raised in the Tibetan exile community of Dharamsala in northern India, where her parents worked for the Dalai Lama's government-in-exile. Her first language was Tibetan. She also speaks Hindi and Nepali.

When she was 3, her mother left for the United States after winning an immigration lottery. Seldon, her father and two brothers did not follow for more than a decade.

During her sophomore year at

Stanford, Seldon's Gmail account was one of several Google accounts that the company said had been hacked by the Chinese government in what Google described as "a highly sophisticated and targeted attack" on its corporate infrastructure.

Seldon said she hopes to use her education to facilitate meaningful dialogue between the Chinese government and the Tibetan government in exile.

Other Stanford students and alumni named Rhodes scholars are:

* Aysha N. Bagchi of Austin, Texas, is a 2011 graduate studying this year at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Bagchi was a member of Stanford's task force on undergraduate education, a columnist for the Stanford Daily and

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EDUCATION

ACLU lawsuit affects school field trips

Statewide case leads to strict enforcement of 'voluntary donation' policy

by Chris Kenrick

A pending lawsuit by the American Civil Liberties Union is having far-reaching effects on school field trips around California, including in Palo Alto.

The 2010 suit — alleging that the state has insufficiently enforced its "free school guarantee" by allowing districts to charge illegal fees — has sent Palo Alto school officials back to the law books to make sure they are not illegally imposing mandatory fees for educational trips to destinations both local and abroad.

"We can ask for donations, but it has to be just that," said Yancy Hawkins, fiscal-services manager for the Palo Alto school district.

Traditionally, local parents have been asked to pay a fee for school trips, with "scholarships" available from booster clubs — or from other parents who pay a little extra — for families who could not pay.

A shift to strictly voluntary contributions could make it difficult to cover costs for all students in some situations, particularly when no aid is available from booster clubs or others to pay for families who cannot or prefer not to contribute.

Hawkins has made the rounds of Palo Alto campuses, trying to explain the new rules to principals and teachers who organize school trips, from excursions to the Monterey Bay Aquarium to Sacramento to Washington, D.C., to the Netherlands to Costa Rica.

Decisions on whether a trip that's traditionally been under school sponsorship will remain so are up to the teacher or principal, Hawkins said.

At JLS, the middle school will not sponsor a Washington, D.C., trip this year, although the parent board of

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Upfront

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“

I can make it; I know that now.

”

— Bianca Trujillo, a participant in the youth program “Be the First,” on her prospects in life. See story on page 5.

Around Town

TAKE A HIKE ... Nature lovers received an early holiday gift last week when Palo Alto opened to the public a 7-acre portion of the Baylands. The site, once part of the city’s landfill, is now part of **Byxbee Park’s** gradually expanding hiking area. The city had planned to open this piece to the public in December, City Manager **James Keene** said. But in recent months it has received enough clean soil to enable an earlier-than-expected opening. Though the area still looks rather barren, it has been fertilized and seeded in recent weeks to enable the sprouting of vegetation. “While it may be muddy now, the winter rains will turn the seeds into pleasing, green native grasses,” Keene said. The new addition means that people can now hike on a total of 72 acres of the closed landfill out of the total 126 acres.

BLOWING IN THE WIND ... The autumn season in Palo Alto means a chilly breeze, colorful leaves and the roaring buzz of leaf blowers. For city officials, who banned gas-powered leaf blowers in residential neighborhoods in 2005 after a long and heated community debate, the lattermost feature of fall presents a problem. Though some residents use electric leaf blowers, which remain legal, others still prefer the more powerful — and noisier — gas-powered devices. Councilman **Pat Burt** noted Monday that over the past two weeks he witnessed two gardeners using electric leaf blowers. “That may sound like good news, but I actually saw 10 gardeners using leaf blowers,” Burt said. “I think this is an issue we need to begin to readdress.” Burt urged his colleagues to reconsider the issue at a future date.

NEW AUDIT-ION ... Palo Alto’s new City Auditor **James Pelletier** made his first public appearance in the Council Chambers this week, just seconds after the City Council unanimously approved his contract at its Monday night meeting. Pelletier said he looks forward to supporting “accountability and transparency within the city by providing effective and efficient audit services.” Councilwoman **Karen Holman**, who chaired the committee charged with appointing the new auditor, extended her welcome to Pelletier, who starts his

Palo Alto duties in January. “One of the things that really impressed us during the interviewing process is how much energy, passion and compassion you have for your profession,” Holman told him at the meeting.

FROM RUSSIA WITH QUESTIONS ... Palo Alto and neighboring cities received a special visit last week from a group of city officials seeking to learn about government accountability and best practices in legislation. The group came from Moscow and included several council members from the Moscow region, a handful of academics and an editor-in-chief of “**Yarmarka**,” a weekly newspaper in Sergiev Posad, a city in the Moscow region. The group’s ambitious itinerary included meetings with state Sen. **Joe Simitian**, D-Palo Alto, former Assemblywoman **Sally Lieber** and the Los Altos City Council. Toward the end of their journey, the group paid a visit to the **Palo Alto Weekly**. After sampling locally sold kiwis, the delegates settled down to discuss journalism. **Yekaterina Viktorovna Belyakova**, the aforementioned editor, noted that Russian newspapers are required to get special certification before they can cover elections and must follow specific guidelines regarding how much space they can devote to each candidate. Despite these bureaucratic restrictions, her newspaper apparently doesn’t pull its punches. The cover of its most recent issue lampoons the local mayor, who is depicted in the outfit of an Arab sheikh. The delegation from Moscow also included **Denis Nikolayavich Iudin**, speaker of the Kraznozavodsk City Council; **Sergey Borisovich Kryzhov**, vice speaker of the Sergiev Posad City Council; **Yelena Mikhaylovna Malyshva**, head of the Moscow Region division of the Federal Service for Registration, Cadaster and Cartography; and **Anastasya Adolfovna Korniyanko**, an international relations expert from the **Rudomino Russian State Library of Foreign Literature**. The visit was coordinated by the County of Santa Clara Moscow Sister County Commission and funded through a \$7,000 grant from the “Open World Program” that was established by the U.S. Congress in 1999 to encourage exchanges of ideas. ■

UTILITIES

PG&E plans to replace aged Palo Alto gas line

Company proposal for 1936 pipeline sparks concerns about insufficient testing

by Gennady Sheyner

The sight of PG&E workers testing mains and replacing pipes will become more commonplace on Palo Alto streets in the coming years as the company zooms in on three major gas lines stretching through the city.

Company trucks and field teams have become a visible presence over the past two months as PG&E crews conducted hydrostatic tests of Line 132, the line that was involved in a fatal San Bruno explosion in September 2010. The inspections — which uncovered a small leak in a pipe segment near Page Mill Road and Hanover Street — concluded this weekend when PG&E completed the final welding on the site and returned the pipeline to normal operations.

Such projects should become a norm in the next three years as the embattled utility company proceeds with an ambitious, state-mandated plan to test all pipelines similar to the one in San Bruno. The company also has to replace some of its oldest pipes and install automatic valves at various points in its gas-distributions system.

This will inevitably mean more road closures and construction work in Palo Alto, which has three PG&E pipelines passing under its streets.

PG&E officials gave a detailed report about the company's plans — and its early results — at last week's Palo Alto City Council meeting. Among its early projects is a plan to replace portions of Line 101 — a pipeline that roughly parallels U.S. Highway 101 and that connects with Line 132.

Todd Hogenson, director of PG&E's Pipeline Safety Enhancement Plan, said Line 101 was installed in the 1920s and that all of its segments have since been replaced. Though the stretch of Line 101 passing through the city is only 2.5 miles long, it includes no fewer

than five different pipe types, ranging from 20 inches to 36 inches in diameter. This, he said, makes it difficult for the company to run inline tests through the pipe.

"There's no tool on the market today that can go from 36-inch to 24-inch," Hogenson told the council at the Nov. 14 meeting.

Hogenson said the company plans to modify the segment of Line 101 between Palo Alto and Milpitas over the next two years and to run inline-inspection tools — generally known as "pigs" — through the line in 2014.

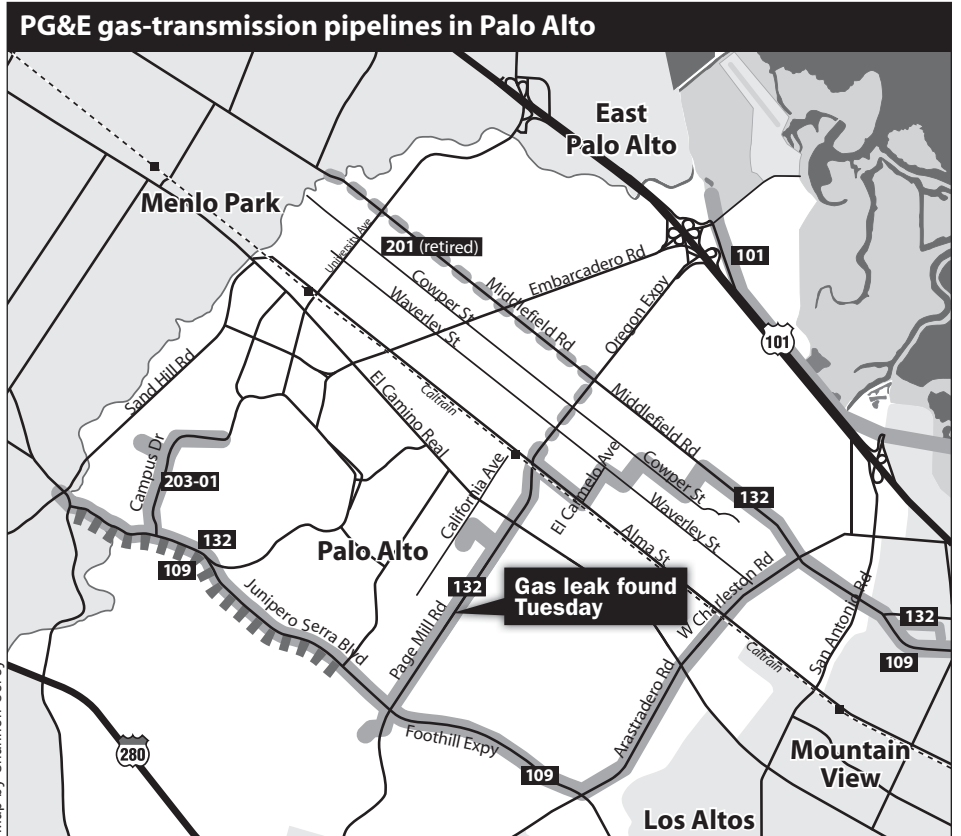
"We want to upgrade this pipeline to accommodate inline-inspection tools," Hogenson said.

The company also plans to replace portions of the aged Line 109, which runs parallel to Line 101 along Middlefield Road. Hogenson said the line was installed in 1936 and has received little or no testing since then. The company plans to replace the 4.6-mile segment of Line 109 in Palo Alto in 2013, Hogenson said.

Meanwhile, all three PG&E lines in Palo Alto will operate under reduced pressure, he said. Shortly after the San Bruno explosion, PG&E reduced the pressure to 300 pounds per square inch, far below their capacity (Lines 101 and 132 both have the capacity of 400 pounds per square inch).

"PG&E has no intention of increasing operating pressure until all 1936 pipes have been replaced," Hogenson told the council.

Palo Alto officials voiced no objections to PG&E's plan to test and replace pipelines throughout the city, though Councilman Pat Burt said he was concerned about the company's decision not to hydro-test Line 109. The 1936 pipe — unlike other local mains — was put together through a "single submerged arc weld" method, in which the pipe cylinder is welded with one seam. Others, including Line



Map by Shannon Corey

Testing on PG&E's Line 132, where a small leak was found near Page Mill Road, was completed last weekend and service returned to normal. PG&E plans to replace portions of lines 101 and 109 in the next few years.

101, use a double-seam weld in which pipes are also secured from the inside. The company also has no records of tests conducted on Line 109.

According to the Utilities Department, Line 109 runs along Middlefield from Mountain View then turns up East Charleston/Arastadero Road and goes north along Foothill Expressway. About two-thirds of the line has been replaced in recent years.

Burt urged the company to consider testing the Palo Alto segment of the 1936 line rather than wait until 2013 to replace it. The line, he said, has all the characteristics of a "high-priority" segment.

"It's an old line; it's a single weld; it's in a school zone; and you have no testing record," Burt said.

Hogenson said PG&E plans to replace

about 20 miles of the 1936 pipeline between Milpitas and San Francisco, including about 1.5 miles in Palo Alto. He said it costs PG&E more than \$1.2 million per mile to hydro-test its mains and said the money would be better spent on replacing the aged pipes, including the Palo Alto segment of Line 109.

"We think replacement is really the best solution," Hogenson said.

In the meantime, PG&E is wrapping up its two-month long process of testing at Line 132. The Utilities Department announced that the company is now conducting general clean up and restoration of all areas of activity — a process that is expected to stretch until the end of November. ■

Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner can be emailed at gsheyner@paweekly.com.

HOLIDAY FUND

East Palo Alto students gain direction, support from 'Be the First'

St. Francis of Assisi Youth Club program helps kids become first-generation graduates

by David Ruiz

Woodside High School sophomore Bianca Trujillo went from failing grades to straight As last year and is now looking forward to college. The reason for her newfound success? Her participation in "Be the First," a program run by the St. Francis of Assisi Youth Club in East Palo Alto.

"Just because I come from a place not a lot of people know about, just because I'm from East Palo Alto, that doesn't mean I'm not gonna make it. I'm gonna be somebody," she said.

Be the First seeks to help students who are the first to graduate in their family. With a focus on writing and reading skills — and

on the personal statements required for college applications — it serves students in the East Palo Alto area and is in its second year of operation.

A \$3,000 grant from the Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund helps support the program.

Marisol Alvarado, the program director, works closely with youth to give them advice and education they need. The group meets every other Saturday, and last year 12 students took part.

"We're so blessed to have them," she said.

Now the program has begun to focus on mathematics. Be the First has partnered with Khan Academy, an online educational resource that offers one-on-one math training for students. Administrators are able to monitor individual progress.

The youth had asked to study math more



Courtesy St. Francis of Assisi

The Be the First group visited the Winchester Mystery House in San Jose earlier this month to learn about the history behind the mansion.

intensely, after a focus on writing the previous year.

"They wanted to switch to something they weren't as comfortable with," Alvarado said. "We listened to them."

That kind of attention keeps the students coming back, said Trujillo, who had attended the St. Francis of Assisi Youth Club summer program before joining Be the First.

"They're always there when you need them. They're very important to me, now," she said

of her mentors.

"At first I was scared about college, about what I was going to do with my life, but (Be the First) really helped," she said. Trujillo was a "trouble-maker" and "didn't care about grades or school" in eighth grade, she said. Now, that's all changed.

"Bianca is one of our best students. She's really turned around," Alvarado said.

(continued on page 8)

BUSINESS



NOTICE OF A PUBLIC MEETING Of the City of Palo Alto Transportation Division

Public Meeting Notice

California Avenue Transit Hub Corridor
Streetscape Improvements Project -
Park Boulevard Plaza Design

DATE: Tuesday, November 29, 2011
TIME: 6:30 – 8:00 PM
PLACE: Escondido School
890 Escondido Road, Multi-Purpose
Room

This public meeting will be an opportunity for the community to provide input on preferences for the design of the Park Boulevard Plaza including landscape treatments, outdoor seating areas, streetscape furniture and bicycle parking facilities.

For further information contact:
transportation@cityofpaloalto.org
or call (650) 329-2442.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING of the City of Palo Alto Historic Resources Board [HRB]

8:00 A.M., Wednesday, December 7, 2011 Palo Alto Council Chambers, 1st Floor, Civic Center, 250 Hamilton Avenue. Go to the Development Center at 285 Hamilton Avenue to review filed documents; contact Diana Tamale for information regarding business hours at 650.329.2144.

1213 Newell Road [11PLN-00379]: Request by Palo Alto Public Works Engineering for Architectural and Historic review of a one-story 4,132 square foot expansion to the Main Library and other site and circulation improvements. Zone: PF. Historic Designation: Deemed Eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources. Environmental Assessment: The project is consistent with the Environmental Impact Report adopted June 24, 2002 and Addendum dated 11/24/2007 in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

AT&T DAS Project [11PLN-00340]: Request by AT&T for Historic Review for the co-location of wireless communications equipment (Distributed Antenna System [DAS]) on one existing utility pole located within the Professorville Historic District (sidewalk next to 1248 Waverley Street). Equipment includes antennas at the top of the pole and equipment boxes on the side of the pole. Environmental Assessment: Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act per section 15303.

363 Melville Avenue [11PLN-00323]: Request by Kristina Nisbet of Cody Andersen Wasney Architects on behalf of Scott and Lucy Littlefield for Historic Resources Board review and recommendation regarding proposed restoration, alteration and addition to a home located in the Professorville Historic District and in the R-1(10000) zone district. The project includes a new two-car garage. The project would require Individual Review and a Home Improvement Exception for building height and additional floor area. Environmental Assessment: Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act per section 15303.

Steven Turner, Advance Planning Manager



PunchTab co-founders Ranjith Kumaran, left, and Mehdi Ait Oufkir talk in the lobby of their temporary office on Industrial Way in Palo Alto. The company plans to move to the California Avenue area next month.

Merchants seek to cash in on Internet chatter

*Palo Alto start-up creates rewards program
for loyal shoppers*

by Cyrus Hedayati

For years, small businesses have been cautiously looking for ways to convert their online publicity into sales. Recently, the dominant trend among consumers has been “daily deal” websites like Groupon and LivingSocial, which offer a stream of one-time-only price promotions to lure shoppers into stores. This month, Groupon successfully made its initial public offering debut, selling \$700 million in shares.

But other entrepreneurs, such as the Palo Alto-based PunchTab, are betting on another model to help merchants leverage the Internet. Rather than seeking new customers through deals, they’re trying to ramp up the loyalty of the store’s current shoppers.

“It’s about getting someone who’s spending \$20 to spend \$30,” said Ranjith Kumaran, founder of PunchTab, “rather than getting a bunch of new shoppers to come in

and buy a bunch of stuff.”

Rewards programs are nothing new, from frequent-flier miles to “buy 10 sandwiches, get one free” cards. But a handful of start-ups, including San Mateo-based Chatterfly, CrowdTwist, Badgeville and PunchTab, are moving that model online.

“You know when you go to your favorite restaurant and they have that little fish bowl” for a drawing of customers’ business cards, Kumaran said. “We’re trying to take that and apply it online. ... It’s really the secret of reinforcing behaviors that you’re already seeing.”

PunchTab has created a mobile-phone app, called PunchTab Local, that rewards consumers for actions they take both online and off, with a focus on reaching loyal shoppers through social media. Customers can gain points for tweeting about the business, promoting it with a Facebook “like,” or through repeat purchases. The goal for the business is to amplify its promotions by encouraging customers to share them online. The goal for the customer is to earn a reward, such as a gift card, discount or product.

To get online shoppers into the stores themselves, the app awards more points, known as “entries,” for actions taken closer to the cash register. Customers earn 10 entries if they check in to the store using PunchTab Local.

The app is free for merchants to use, making it cost-effective for small businesses, unlike many of the “daily deal” sites, said Kumaran, whose company will move to its new El Camino office in December.

Groupon promotions end up los-

(continued on next page)

LAND USE

City tries to put Cal Ave. project back on track

*After being rebuffed by a Superior Court ruling, city resumes its plan
to cut lanes on commercial street*

by Gennady Sheyner

When Palo Alto officials meet next Monday to approve a plan to cut lanes and add streetscape improvements to California Avenue, the discussion will have a familiar feel.

The plan, which the City Council green-lighted in February, will have to go through another round of approvals because of a recent court decision in which a Superior Court judge concluded that the city made a sequencing error in its environmental analysis for the project. The ruling followed a lawsuit from a small opposition group whose members claim the lane-cutting proposal would create congestion at the prominent commercial district.

In her ruling, Judge Patricia Lucas wrote that the city’s decision to cut lanes on California Avenue — as described in the city’s December 2010 application for a grant from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) — was made before the city approved its environmental analysis of the lane reduction in February. As such, the application essentially committed the city to the lane reduction before the analysis

had been completed.

Though the city’s traffic study indicated that the lane reduction would create no significant impacts, the study was conducted concurrently with the grant application — a sequence that Lucas found problematic.

To correct the problem and get the project back on track, the council will once again approve the environmental review of the project and authorize a Capital Improvement Program to pay for the design costs of the California Avenue streetscape project. The council will also once again authorize a grant application to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission — an application that would be administered by the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority.

City officials are hopeful that these steps will comply with Lucas’ decree and allow it to proceed with the project, which has the support of the entire City Council and the vast majority of the speakers who addressed the council on the topic in February. Supporters of the plan say the new design will make California

Avenue safer and more attractive for pedestrian and bicyclists. It would also create 17 new parking spaces in the artsy commercial strip, raising the total number of spots to 128.

Jaime Rodriguez, the city’s chief transportation officer, noted in a report that “California Avenue experiences a very low level of vehicular traffic.

“The plan proposes a lane reduction to improve the pedestrian/bicycle experience along the street and the connection between the existing land uses and the enhanced streetscape,” Rodriguez wrote.

Critics, including the plaintiffs in the recent suit, contend that the lane reduction would create traffic backup, particularly for east-bound traffic flowing in from El Camino Real toward the Caltrain station. Terry Shuchat, owner of the California Avenue camera store Keeble & Shuchat, told the Weekly that while he supports most of the streetscape plan and hopes the city will make improvements to the neighborhood, he believes cutting

(continued on page 10)

Rhodes scholar

(continued from page 3)

a co-founder of the Stanford Immigrant Rights Project. She plans to pursue a doctorate of philosophy in politics at Oxford.

* Anand R. Habib of Houston, Texas, is a 2011 graduate currently working on community health programs at a clinic in Haiti through Medical Missionaries. At Stanford, he worked on behalf of political and medically disenfranchised people in India, Mexico and Guatemala, helping to raise more than \$100,000 to combat HIV/AIDS. He plans to

pursue a master's degree in public policy and medical anthropology at Oxford.

* Ishan Nath of Atlanta, Ga., is a Stanford senior majoring in economics and earth systems, with a minor in math. Nath, who worked as an intern in the White House Office of the Vice President, is writing a thesis on clean energy and a national cap-and-trade emissions trading system. He plans to pursue a master's degree in economics for development at Oxford.

* Katherine Niehaus of Columbia, S.C., earned a bachelor's in biomechanical engineering in 2010 and a master's in bioengineering in 2011.

She is interested in the application of biomechanics to high-technology entrepreneurship. Niehaus captained Stanford's varsity track and cross-country teams and also tutored low-income students. She plans to pursue a doctorate of philosophy in systems approaches to biomedical science at Oxford.

Rhodes scholars are selected for scholarly achievement, character, commitment to others and to the common good and for their potential for leadership in their chosen careers. ■

Staff Writer Chris Kenrick can be emailed at ckenrick@paweekly.com.

Internet chatter

(continued from previous page)

ing money for close to one-third of the small businesses that run them, according to a recent study conducted by Rice University Associate Professor of Management Utpal Dholakia. The study also found that close to 80 percent of "daily deal" users were new customers, but significantly fewer spent beyond the deal's value or returned to make a purchase at full price.

"A lot of the merchants say, 'The daily deals guys have been here, and we're not sure that applies to our model,'" said Kumaran, who also founded the digital-file delivery site YouSendIt. "But we always say that we're not trying to create some new kind of behavior in customers, we just want to amplify what they're already doing."

For their part, the "daily deals" sites are looking for ways to incorporate rewards programs into their business models to encourage customer loyalty. LevelUp, which launched this year, offers a series of increasingly better giveaways from the same merchant in an effort to turn one-time, daily-deals-shoppers into repeat customers.

"People forget that it's a young, nascent space that's going through a lot of changes," Kumaran said of his "daily deal" competitors. "Our focus from the beginning was, the user who sticks with you for years is going to be the one who creates the most value for you."

Keith Wilson, owner of the Boardroom bar and restaurant in San Francisco, has been using PunchTab Local to market his business.

His customers use the app to recommend the restaurant to their friends on Facebook, earning entries for themselves, he said.

"I'm always trying to get those eyeballs on my web page so that when people go out and they're deciding where to go, they think, 'Let's go to the Boardroom,'" he said. "You want a good base of regulars — that way there's always a few seats in the bar, and then everything else builds from there."

With PunchTab, "It's not just getting random people in to get cheap deals," he said.

In exchange for PunchTab users' loyalty to his bar, Wilson is offering the chance to win a \$20 gift certificate. ■

Freelance writer Cyrus Hedayati can be emailed at cyrus.hedayati@gmail.com.

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 or click on "News" in the left, green column.

Dry weekend expected post-Thanksgiving Day

If you plan to be one of the millions of Californians traveling this holiday weekend, get your umbrella ready and brace for delays. (Posted Nov. 22 at 1:14 p.m.)

One in six Palo Alto grads attends Foothill-De Anza

About one in six Gunn or Palo Alto high school graduates goes directly to Foothill or De Anza community college, according to the college chancellor. Linda Thor spoke at a reception in Palo Alto Sunday afternoon (Nov. 20). (Posted Nov. 22 at 9:28 a.m.)

Simitian aide arrested for drunkenness, vandalism

A senior field representative to California Sen. Joe Simitian (D-Palo Alto) was arrested for public drunkenness and vandalism on Nov. 13 after two police officers witnessed him lift a city-owned concrete cigarette receptacle and smash it on the sidewalk, according to Palo Alto police. (Posted Nov. 21 at 10:49 a.m.)

Body found in Palo Alto Baylands

A person who was found dead in the Palo Alto Baylands Preserve on Sunday morning (Nov. 20) died of an apparent suicide, police spokesman Lt. Zach Perron said Monday (Nov. 21). (Posted Nov. 21 at 9:43 a.m.)

VMware unveils plan for massive campus expansion

Palo Alto's cloud-computing giant VMware is planning to dramatically expand its Stanford Research Park property by adding six buildings and two garages to its "campus in the forest." (Posted Nov. 21 9:36 a.m.)

Clothes dryer causes Palo Alto house fire

A malfunctioning clothes dryer caused a home fire on Moreno Avenue on Friday afternoon (Nov. 18), according to the Palo Alto Fire Department. (Posted Nov. 19 at 8:28 p.m.)

Contaminated lettuce recalled

Some brands of bagged romaine lettuce salads are being recalled due to contamination with a strain of E. coli, according to state health department officials. (Posted Nov. 19 at 7:48 p.m.)

Group of men jump bicyclist in Menlo Park

Five men streamed out of a Mercedes Benz around 10 a.m. Wednesday (Nov. 16) to jump a 23-year-old man riding a Huffy mountain bike, Menlo Park police said. (Posted Nov. 18 at 4:27 p.m.)

Judge halts plan to cut lanes on Cal Ave

Palo Alto has to halt its plan to reduce lanes on California Avenue and reconsider its environmental analysis of the streetscaping plan for the business district, a Santa Clara Superior Court judge ruled earlier this month. (Posted Nov. 18 at 9:53 a.m.)

Water-board member quits his day job

A locally elected water-board member has quit his day job with an environmental organization, citing, in part, "a little more conflict than I'd anticipated." (Posted Nov. 18 at 9:56 a.m.)

Open-space district surpasses 60,000 acres

A 270-acre farm near Half Moon Bay will bump the amount of preserved open space managed by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District to 60,000 acres, district officials announced Thursday (Nov. 17). (Posted Nov. 18 at 9:18 a.m.)

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Upfront

News Digest

Downtown murderer loses his conviction appeal

A man who was convicted of first-degree murder and robbery for a downtown slaying outside Palo Alto City Hall in 2008 lost his appeal in California State Appellate Court on Tuesday (Nov. 22).

Otto Emil Koloto, a Gilroy resident, was convicted in March 2010 for the July 12, 2008, murder of Philip Lacy during a robbery, in which he had demanded Lacy's gold chain and diamond-studded crucifix. He was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole for the murder, plus five years for the robbery. The robbery sentence was stayed.

In his appeal Koloto argued a juror had engaged in misconduct and was compromised. The trial court also erroneously instructed the jury, his defense said. But the appellate judges ruled unanimously against the arguments.

Juror No. 3 admitted to the trial court that he spoke with a forensics expert witness during a recess because both were from the same country. The juror said he told the expert he was impressed that anyone could work in forensics, and they discussed neonatal and stem-cell biology and plants. The juror said the interaction had no effect on his ability to be fair and impartial. The trial judge agreed, and the juror remained on the jury.

The appeals court unanimously ruled against Koloto, saying there was no dispute that the juror committed misconduct but that the subject matter discussed did not involve information before the jury or Koloto's guilt or innocence. No presumption of prejudice arose from the conversation, the court said.

Koloto's attorneys also argued that the trial judge erred when he told jurors that although they all had to agree Koloto committed murder under one of two theories, they did not all need to agree on the same theory. Attorneys said the judge's instructions were misleading because only one theory supported first-degree murder and the other supported second-degree murder.

But the appeals court disagreed and found there was no error or likelihood that the jury misunderstood the instruction. ■

— Sue Dremann

One in six Palo Alto grads attends Foothill-De Anza

About one in six Gunn or Palo Alto high school graduates goes directly to Foothill or De Anza community college, according to Linda Thor, chancellor of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District.

Speaking at a private event Sunday, Michael Kirst, a Stanford University professor and current president of the State Board of Education, said that getting more students successfully through community colleges will be critical for the future economic success of California and the nation.

In the fall of 2009, about 18 percent of Paly and Gunn graduates entered Foothill or De Anza, and the rate over the past decade has ranged between 13 percent and 19 percent, Thor said.

According to Foothill statistics, about 80 percent of Palo Alto students meet their goals of completing preparation for transfer or successfully transferring to a four-year university.

Between 2004 and 2009, Palo Alto students attending Foothill or De Anza transferred to about 95 four-year institutions, including every University of California campus, Carnegie Mellon, Columbia, Cornell, Mount Holyoke, Northeastern, Occidental, the University of Michigan, the University of Southern California and Yale, Thor said. ■

— Chris Kenrick

Former mayor Kleinberg helps garner award

The philanthropic arm of a nonprofit foundation headed by former Palo Alto Mayor Judith Kleinberg has won a prestigious award for its grant making under her leadership.

The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation won the Silicon Valley Community Foundation Outstanding Foundation Grant Maker Award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals Silicon Valley Chapter (AFP).

Kleinberg, who served on the Palo Alto City Council between 2000 and 2007 and was mayor in 2006, is now the Knight Foundation's program director for San Jose and Silicon Valley. Since joining in June 2010, she has helped the Silicon Valley branch take a regional approach. The Knight Foundation, which is headquartered in Florida and has a branch in San Jose, has a mission of "advancing journalism in the digital age."

Kleinberg said although she was singled out at the ceremony, she sees herself as a team member. And "my predecessors were phenomenal. I stand on their shoulders," she said.

The foundation focuses on grants in the areas of arts and culture and digital and media literacy. More than \$1 million has been given for each of three years, she said.

Grant recipients have included Montalvo in Saratoga, Mexican Heritage events in San Jose, interactive and children's cultural programming, the San Jose Symphony's Random Acts of Culture and the ZERO1 Art and Technology Network. ■

— Sue Dremann

Be the First

(continued from page 5)

After only one year with the program, Trujillo has achieved a 4.0 GPA. When her grades came in the mail, it was "unbelievable," Trujillo said.

Alvarado agreed: "I showed the board of directors (at St. Francis), and I had to bring the report card because it was too amazing even for me."

This isn't the end of Trujillo's involvement in the program. She wants to stay for as long as she needs it, she said.

Alvarado said that students are encouraged to be a member for as long as they wish, but that they also push them to get outside support.

"We don't just kick them out after a year or two," she said. "Our students can go to College Track if they want to. We want to make sure they're getting what they need, even if it isn't directly from us."

College Track is an after-school college-preparatory program that offers support for students who are about to enter college but can't find the necessary resources at home or at school.

Several times throughout the year, Be the First students also take field trips — sometimes to college campuses.

"It opens our eyes," Trujillo said. "They make us see things we need for life."

Be the First students have visited U.C. Davis, San Francisco State University, Sacramento State University, Stanford University and others. This year the group is looking at visiting more vocational colleges, Alvarado said.

"I want to find a college that fits me," Trujillo said. "That's what's most important."

When participants aren't visiting nearby campuses, they engage in activities like bowling, movie nights and community-service trips. Last weekend, they went to a senior community center in Palo Alto, bringing cookies and helping seniors walk to the theater.

"The community service is good for us; we're taken places that normally we wouldn't care about but we should. They make us better people," Trujillo said.

And among Be the First leaders and peers, bonds are strong.

"They're my family now. I met a kid in the program — I didn't even know his name, but now he's my family," Trujillo said. "I look up to Marisol. I don't ever want to let her down, and all of (the students) feel the same way; we know we have to step it up. I can make it; I know that now." ■

Editorial Intern David Ruiz can be emailed at druiz@paweekly.com



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The annual Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund drive has a goal of raising and giving away \$250,000 to local nonprofits serving children and families. People may donate at www.PaloAltoOnline.com/holidayfund. One hundred percent of donations go to the selected organizations, which will be chosen in April. The campaign runs through early January 2012.

COMMUNITY

Back from the brink, Food Closet continues its quiet work

South Palo Alto pantry serves families still struggling in the down economy

by Sue Dremann

Two years ago, the South Palo Alto Food Closet faced imminent closure, after steadily providing groceries for thousands of hungry local families for more than 40 years. As with so many programs that were founded in the middle of the last century, the steadfast volunteers who ran it were aging, and new leaders had yet to step forward.

But due to the devotion of parishioners at Covenant Presbyterian Church and others in the faith community, the East Meadow Drive pantry has been revived.

The food closet provides badly needed groceries to 85 to 100 needy Palo Alto families, according to Jan Hoover, president of the board that runs the program.

"It's surprising sometimes what people are going through," Hoover said, recalling how fortunes can quickly change. Some people just need a boost to tide them over.

One family with three children had a daughter with recurring cancer. Medical expenses ate up their wages, and even with two working parents, they could not make ends meet, she said.

"I had no idea the need in the community was so great," she said.

Families with children or with a disabled adult can come once weekly to pick up milk, meat, eggs and canned goods; families of two without children can come every other week, she said. The clients, whose income mustn't exceed 150 percent of the poverty level, are referred to the pantry by churches, St. Vincent de Paul Society, schools or social workers at the Opportunity Center.

Second Harvest Food Bank of San Mateo and Santa Clara Coun-

ties provides some of the food that is distributed, but the pantry also receives contributions from individuals, school groups and Scout troops, among others. Volunteers pick up day-old bread and donations from local markets, she said.

Then, there are the "urban gleaners," who collect from stores the cartons with some smashed eggs, dented but sealed milk cartons, or other slightly bruised but edible foods that won't be sold. Volunteers pick out broken eggshells and clean up cartons, repackaging them into a full dozen that clients can take home, she said. For Thanksgiving the families received gift cards to Safeway that could go for a turkey or other holiday-meal fixings.

Eight churches and the Jewish Community Center Senior Group also routinely take part in the collection and distribution, purchasing chickens and other meats with cash donated by parishioners.

The first Sunday of each month parishioners bring canned food. Some make memorial cash donations in someone's name, according to Mary Lee Templeton, a board member and former church elder.

On Dec. 1 from 2 to 4 p.m., the Covenant church will host an alternative-giving fair, which offers gifts for sale to support artisans in other countries and will also benefit the food closet, she said.

The food closet was founded by Margaret Arnold, wife of former mayor Ed Arnold, in the 1960s, Templeton said. The lifeline almost ended in 2009.

But one Covenant church member refused to let the pantry shut down. The late Jean Scott, who was

also instrumental in creating Greer Park, was "a tireless warrior" when it came to a cause she believed in, Templeton said.

"She was one of the smallest and quietest people at the church," she recalled. But Scott did a sales

pitch to church members and local churches to revive the food closet.

Hoover said monetary donations for the holiday season, which go to purchasing fresh meat, are needed. The program has enough canned goods for now. The food bank is a

tax-deductible nonprofit organization and is located at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 670 East Meadow Drive, Palo Alto. ■

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

ACLU lawsuit

(continued from page 3)

the school's "Connections" program will sponsor a Washington trip for Connections students, he said.

A Jordan Middle School science trip to Costa Rica will continue to be school-sponsored, as will a Gunn High School Jazz Ensemble trip to the Netherlands, with help from a music boosters group, Hawkins said.

Palo Alto High School journalism trips to Sacramento and New York City will continue to be school-sponsored, he said.

A trip must be school-sponsored and freely available to all if it occurs during normal class time, when students will need excused absences from other classes.

"In terms of changing what we're doing, there hasn't been a huge impact, and a lot of that is because of the generosity of this community," Hawkins said.

"The number of people who are willing to donate money for that kind

of thing is high, and the number of people who either can't afford it or don't want to donate money is low."

But other districts, where many families cannot afford the cost, have it tougher.

"Kids weren't being excluded in Palo Alto, whereas in a lot of other districts they were, and I think that's where the lawsuit came in," Hawkins said.

The state constitution guarantees all California students a free public education, and it permits fees only for activities specifically enumerated in the Education Code.

Examples of fees that are permitted are those for voluntary tests such as the SAT, deposits for school band instruments, caps and gowns, extra copies of school records (the first two copies must be free) and entertainment-related costs such as tickets for dances, homecoming and activities not considered educational in nature. ■

Staff Writer Chris Kenrick can be emailed at ckenrick@paweekly.com.

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Cal Ave. project
 (continued from page 6)

lanes will doom California Avenue to the type of traffic congestion currently experienced along University Avenue.

Shuchat is one of four plaintiffs in the suit against the city. Resident Joy Ogawa, former Vice Mayor Jack Morton, whose accounting practice is a block from California Avenue, and Antonio's Nuthouse, a California Avenue bar, are also plaintiffs in the suit.

Curtis Williams, the city's planning director, said staff believes

the city's actions next week will be enough to comply with the court order and convince the MTC to release the \$1.2 million grant for construction (the city is contributing another \$550,000 for the design work). The agency has already listed the California Avenue project on its list of approved proposals but has been waiting for settlement of the litigation before it releases the money, Williams said.

Meanwhile, the city is proceeding with design work for the project, Williams said. In a recent discussion of the project, the council directed staff to further refine the project

and to consider new elements such as a central plaza between Ash and Birch streets and parallel parking on both sides of the street.

Planning staff will hold a community meeting Tuesday night (Nov. 29) to discuss various design options and solicit suggestions. The meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. at Escondido School, 890 Escondido Road, Stanford.

Williams told the Weekly that staff is still talking to merchants about the proposed lane reductions and is considering a possible trial in which lanes are reduced for a block or two. So far, however, staff has not found a way to design a trial with-

out making the street unattractive, he said.

Williams said staff has also held discussions with the merchants about bringing in another traffic consultant to evaluate the impacts of the lane reduction. But the city has not backed off its plan to reduce lanes — a change that city officials consider a key component of the streetscape plan.

"At this point, we're certainly not intending to look at an option of having two lanes going in each way," Williams said. ■

Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner can be emailed at gsheyner@paweeekly.com.

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Library costs

(continued from page 3)

administrator, Turner Construction, also brought in a senior-level employee to help the department manage and control the project, Interim Public Works Director Mike Sartor said.

The three consulting contracts total \$65,000, out of which \$6,700 has already been spent.

After the September council meeting, Flintco submitted two more change orders totaling about \$280,000. The contractor requested the extra money for work relating to a basketball court at the community center, foundation for an art sculpture, curb installations and various waterproofing, plumbing and electrical system alterations. The city has already approved \$1.3 million in change orders to Flintco, according to a re-

port from Public Works Assistant Director Phil Bobel. The company had requested more than \$4 million in change orders, according to Public Works data.

The 10 change orders submitted to date have raised Flintco's compensation from its base contract of \$24.4 million to \$25.7 million. This, however, remains well below the engineering estimate of \$32 million that the city received before it went out to bid on the construction contract.

Council members said Monday that they remain concerned about the unusually high number of change orders, though they took solace in the fact that the bond-funded project remains below budget. The new Mitchell Park library is by far the largest of the three library-construction projects funded by a \$76 million bond that the voters passed in 2008. The bond includes \$50 million for the

Mitchell Park Library and Community Center. The city currently estimates the new library to cost about \$41 million. The other two branches covered under the bond are Main and Downtown.

Though Klein joined his colleagues in September in approving more contingency funds for the project, he emphasized Monday that neither he nor his colleagues want to see all of these funds to be used.

"We'll be disappointed if they're all spent," Klein said. "It's a very, very large contingency."

Klein also said he wanted to correct an impression in the community that the project now exceeds its budget. For all of its recent problems, it

remains more than \$7 million below the city's engineering projections.

"We're still way under budget — that needs to be clear over and over again," Klein said. "We're demonstrating as council and staff that we really care about all of the public's money, and we'll be very, very careful to make sure it's wisely spent."

Council members also indicated that they would like to reconsider how much the city is budgeting for contingency costs. Councilwoman Nancy Shepherd proposed lowering the contingency amount from 20 percent to 15 percent of the base contract. Councilman Pat Burt agreed that the council should

consider a different contingency amount but advised against setting a specific number at this time. Lowering the contingency rate to 15 percent may create false expectations that the project costs would be contained to that amount, he said.

"I have some concern with setting expectations that can lead to disappointment," Burt said.

The council voted unanimously to accept the update on the library project and to schedule another one for January, at which time members will evaluate changing the contingency budget. ■

Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner can be emailed at gsheyner@paweekly.com.

CityView

A round-up of Palo Alto government action this week

City Council (Nov. 21)

Project Safety Net: The council heard a presentation about Project Safety Net, a community collaboration to promote youth well-being. **Action:** None
Mitchell Park: The council accepted an update report on construction of the Mitchell Park Library and Community Center. **Yes:** Unanimous

Public Agenda

A preview of Palo Alto government meetings next week

COUNCIL RAIL COMMITTEE ... The committee plans to discuss the city's high-speed-rail guiding principles, a contract for lobbyist services and the California High Speed Rail Authority's new business plan. The meeting will begin at 4 p.m. Monday, Nov. 28, in the Council Conference Room at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

CITY COUNCIL ... The council plans to discuss the proposal to build a new overpass over Highway 101 at Adobe Creek and approve an environmental analysis and a capital improvement program for the California Avenue streetscape project. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 28, in the Council Chambers at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

BOARD OF EDUCATION ... The board will discuss planned "mitigations" to address concerns about the school district's academic calendar for 2012-13. The board also will hear a progress report from the Elementary School Math Task Force and a report on the district's budget. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 29, in the board room of school district headquarters (25 Churchill Ave.).

COUNCIL POLICY AND SERVICES COMMITTEE... The committee plans to discuss a proposal to establish the Utilities Emerging Technology Demonstration Program. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 29, in the Council Chambers at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION ... The commission plans to discuss a proposal to reconfigure portions of the Palo Alto Golf Course and hear an update about the One Bay Area Grant Program. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. Monday, Nov. 30, in the Council Chambers at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD ... The board plans to review 2650 Birch St., a request by Hohbach Realty Company for a new four-story mixed-use building featuring eight residential units, ground-floor office space and an underground garage. The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 1, in the Council Chambers at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

RAIL CORRIDOR STUDY TASK FORCE ... The task force plans to continue its discussion of the city's land-use vision for the Caltrain corridor. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1, in the Council Conference Room at City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

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NOV 26

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AMERICAN EXPRESS
Founding Partner



Los Angeles Times
Is a city manager
worth \$800,000?



JOY AND RELIEF: Outside City Hall, Bell residents display a banner celebrating the arrest of City Administrator Robert Rizzo. JAY L. CLARK/REUTERS (Los Angeles Times)

Learn how a team of L.A. Times reporters exposed high-flying corruption in small-town government.

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The John S. Knight Journalism Fellowships and The Pulitzer Prizes

present a conversation with



Ruben Vives



Paloma Esquivel



Jeff Gottlieb

7 - 8:30 p.m., Wed., Nov. 30, 2011
Paul Brest Hall East
Stanford University
555 Salvatierra Walk (Off Campus Drive)
in Munger Graduate Residence Building 4

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Palo Alto names new city auditor

City taps James Pelletier to head City Auditor's Office after eight-month search

by Gennady Sheyner

Palo Alto completed its search for a new city auditor last week, tapping a veteran from San Diego County for the post.

James Pelletier, who has served in the County of San Diego's Office of the City Auditor for the past four-and-a-half years (including two years as chief of audits), will assume his new position on Jan. 9, the city announced.

The City Council unanimously approved Pelletier's contract Monday night. He will receive a base salary of \$156,000.

The city auditor is one four Palo Alto positions — along with city manager, city clerk and city attorney — that is appointed by the council. The council chose Pelletier after an eight-month search that began after prior City Auditor Lynda Brouhard resigned.

Mike Edmonds has been serving as the interim city auditor.

"I know my experience and approach to auditing will make for a great fit with the City of Palo Alto," Pelletier said in a statement. "As I see it, the purpose of internal auditing is to add value and improve operations by providing independent, objective assurance and consulting services.

"I look forward to putting that perspective into practice here in the City Auditor's office."

Councilwoman Karen Holman, who chairs the Council Appointed Officers Committee, lauded Pelletier for his audit-management experience in public and private sectors. Pelletier won the 2010 National Association of Counties Achievement Award last year for his effort to improve internal controls at San Diego County. He had also spent three years in the private sector as an internal audit manager and, before that, was an auditor at California State University, Long Beach.

"His diversity of experience should serve our city's needs well, and we are excited to welcome him to the team," Holman said in a statement. ■

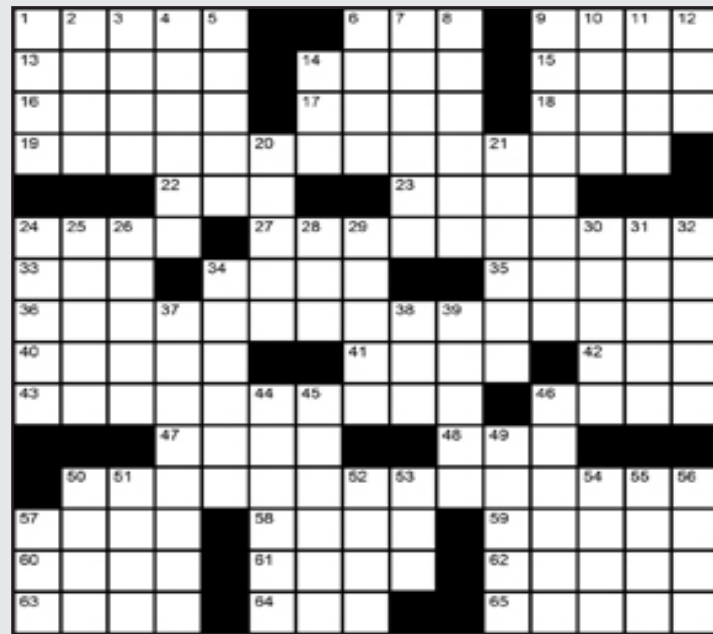
Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner can be emailed at gsheyner@paweekly.com.

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11.26.11

visit: www.facebook.com/SmallBusinessSaturday

"No Way!"—let's clean it up. by Matt Jones



Answers on page 47

©2011 Jonesin' Crosswords

Across

- 1 Summarize
- 6 Yellowfin tuna
- 9 Pinocchio's was apt to grow
- 13 North of the Iran-Contra hearings
- 14 Fanged movie creature, for short
- 15 Tree of Knowledge spot
- 16 Japanese city
- 17 "___ le roi!"
- 18 Part of a November count
- 19 They offer hyped-up sermons?
- 22 "Traffic" org.
- 23 German region with lots of coal (anagram of SARA)
- 24 Type of insurance
- 27 What paintings do, in an art gallery?
- 33 Weather vane dir.
- 34 "In the Valley of ___" (2007 Tommy Lee Jones film)
- 35 Planet featured in "Attack of the Clones"
- 36 Herbie the Love Bug, for more mature audiences?
- 40 Related to a pelvic bone
- 41 Boxing Australians
- 42 "Do the ___" (soft drink catchphrase)
- 43 Gollum-like phrase for getting a strike in bowling?
- 46 KISS frontman Simmons
- 47 "Zip___Doo-Dah"
- 48 Plant on college buildings
- 50 They've cleaned up the four theme entries above
- 57 "Switched-On Bach" synthesizer
- 58 "___ Lap" (1983 film)
- 59 Surname of the brothers behind "It's Your Thing"
- 60 Part of Julius Caesar's dying words, supposedly
- 61 Count starting word
- 62 Unit for light bulbs
- 63 Nutjob
- 64 Four Monopoly properties, for short
- 65 Defeat crushingly

Down

- 1 It may be saved for dessert
- 2 Actress Lanchester
- 3 Scottish family
- 4 Martial art meaning "the way of harmonious spirit"
- 5 What the V sign symbolizes
- 6 Two-time Indy 500 winner ___ Luyendyk
- 7 Lake ___, Ariz. (current home of the former London Bridge)
- 8 Polar covering
- 9 Worse than a has-been
- 10 Funk
- 11 Collector's collections
- 12 Carbon compound suffix
- 14 Commercial skipper, perhaps
- 20 Italian woman's name
- 21 Butthole Surfers lead singer Gibby
- 24 Anticipate
- 25 Jermaine, to Prince Michael
- 26 "Climate is what we expect, weather is what we get" author
- 28 Helmet ___ (reality show prop)
- 29 "SNL" alum Oteri
- 30 Put up with
- 31 "Two Women" actress Sophia
- 32 Lerner's "My Fair Lady" collaborator
- 34 Do a cryptographer's job
- 37 Speed trap tool
- 38 King with big hair
- 39 Calf told to "git along"
- 44 Finder:keeper:loser ___
- 45 It precedes lands, world or regions
- 46 Drywall component
- 49 Bridal covers
- 50 ___ speak
- 51 "And your little dog too!" dog
- 52 Without
- 53 Twisted, like a smile
- 54 "Being ___: A Puppeteer's Journey" (2011 documentary)
- 55 Stink up the joint
- 56 Last word of a New Year's song
- 57 "Spaceballs" director Brooks

This week's SUDOKU

8				6		3		
1						3		
		5				9		1
	3					5	1	
	6		7					8
		4		9	2			7
	1		3				7	
			5					1
		7		1				2

Answers on page 47

www.sudoku.name



NOTICE OF A PUBLIC MEETING of the City of Palo Alto Transportation Division

Public Meeting Notice Arastradero Road Re-Striping Trial Update Public Open House

DATE: Thursday, December 8, 2011
 TIME: 6:30-8:30 PM
 PLACE: Juana Briones Elementary School
 4100 Orme Street, Palo Alto, CA

This public meeting will be an opportunity for City Staff to provide an update of the Re-Striping trial and on-going data collection effort. Members of the community are encouraged to provide input on parking strategies and the current parking permit program. The meeting will provide input and Comment to City Staff.

AGENDA

- Data Collection Update
- Preliminary Data Findings
- On-going Project Feedback
- Potential Longer Term Projects
- Next steps and Questions and answers

For further information contact: transportation@cityofpaloalto.org or call (650) 329-2441.



PALO ALTO CITY COUNCIL

CIVIC CENTER, 250 HAMILTON AVENUE
 BROADCAST LIVE ON KZSU, FM 90.1

CABLECAST LIVE ON GOVERNMENT ACCESS CHANNEL 26

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

<http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/knowzone/agendas/council.asp>

(TENTATIVE) AGENDA-SPECIAL MEETING-COUNCIL CHAMBERS November 28, 2011 - 7:00 PM

CONSENT

1. Award of Oracle License and Maintenance Contract
2. From Finance: Retiree Medical Actuarial Study
3. 4301-4329 El Camino Real (Palo Alto Bowl) – Approval of Final Map for the merging the four parcels into a 3.62 acre parcel for condominium subdivision into a hotel unit and 26 residential units, located at 4301 and 4329 El Camino Real.

ACTION

4. Transmittal of the Highway 101 Pedestrian/Bicycle Over/Undercrossing Feasibility Study; Recommendation of Adobe Creek Overcrossing as Preferred Option to Further Study and Approval of Amendment with Santa Clara Valley Water District for Extended Use of Adobe Creek Undercrossing
5. Approval of Negative Declaration, Adoption of the MTC Resolution, Approval of CIP Establishment and Ratifying Contract with RBF Consulting for the California Avenue – Transit Hub Corridor Streetscape Project

STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The City Council Rail Committee Meeting will be held on Monday, November 28, at 4:00 p.m. regarding 1) Guiding Principles discussion, 2) Lobbyist services contract, and 3) California High Speed Rail Authority Business Plan discussion.

The Special Policy & Services Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 29, at 7:00 p.m. regarding 1) Utilities Advisory Commission Recommendation that the Policy and Services Committee Recommend that Council Establish the Utilities Emerging Technology Demonstration Program and 2) Economic Development Policy and Staff Action Plan (continued from 10/18/11)

Dorothy Tudor Olson

March 29, 1924-Sept. 21, 2011



Dorothy Tudor Olson passed away peacefully at the age of 87 with family members close by on Wednesday, September 21. Dorothy was a long-time resident of Palo Alto, living near family in Sacramento for just the last six years. Dorothy was wife to Francis (Frank) Joseph Olson; loving mother of Chris Olson Kleckner and Grant Joseph Olson; and dear grandmother of Catherine Kleckner, Meagan Olson and Laura Olson.

Born on March 29, 1924 in Denver, Colorado, Dorothy was Wilbur Warren and Eloise Shellabarger Tudor's second child. Dorothy and her older brother David began their lives in Moffat, CO. Father Wilbur was a real cowboy and was then Foreman at the Sangre de Cristo Ranch. Mother Eloise was Phi Beta Kappa and had traveled Europe extensively. Wanting to live in a warmer climate, the family moved to Las Cruces, NM when Dorothy was about seven years old. Dorothy attended Las Cruces Union High School and completed her college degree at North Texas State College. She later attended Stanford University and graduated a Physical Therapist. While at Stanford, she met her husband of 63 years, Frank Olson, who had just returned from WWII in 1946.

After graduating college, Dorothy worked at Mills Hospital in San Mateo. She worked with children who had polio and it was a labor of love for her. A friend who had worked with her at Mills called on Dorothy much later in 1964 to see if she would provide regular physical therapy visits for a friend who had polio and who was in an iron lung. Dorothy had the great pleasure of working with Mary Ann Huff in Burlingame for many years. Again, this was a labor of love for Dorothy and they became fast, life-long friends.

In 1969, Dorothy went to work for the F.A. Baker Registry where she worked with families to assist in placing senior citizens in board-and-care homes. She was careful to be sure her clients found comfortable, safe homes for their elderly parents. Eventually, she opened an office on her own, under the same name, in San Jose.

Dorothy & Frank were married in 1949 and raised their children in Palo Alto, California. Daughter Chris Anne Olson was born in 1952 and son Grant Joseph Olson was born in 1955. They lived in East Palo Alto until 1962, then lived on Bibbits Drive in Palo Alto for the next 43 years. Chris and Grant raised their own families in the Sacramento/Elk Grove, CA area and finally convinced Dorothy & Frank to move to Sacramento in 2005. Once in Sacramento, Dorothy's children and grandchildren visited often, and the family enjoyed three fabulous years of weekend dinners, BBQs, picnics, vacations together, plus watching many baseball games, football games and golf tournaments together in Dorothy & Frank's family room.

Fond family memories of Dorothy include tours of her Palo Alto backyard garden to see all the beautiful flowers she grew. Frank had built her a "begonia stadium" that had stair-stepped rows of bright, blooming begonias every spring. And, no one will ever cook a more delicious and "perfect in every way" Thanksgiving family dinner, including home baked pumpkin pies, than Dorothy.

Dorothy is survived by her brother David Tudor in Stockton, sister Ruth Wampler in Oceano, daughter Chris Kleckner, her husband James and daughter Catherine; and son Grant Olson, his wife Alice and daughters Meagan and Laura.

Family, friends and neighbors are invited to a memorial service and luncheon in Dorothy's memory at 11:30 am on Saturday, November 26, at 780 Westlite Circle, Sacramento, CA.

PAID OBITUARY

Pulse

A weekly compendium of vital statistics

POLICE CALLS

Palo Alto

Nov. 16-22

Violence related

Battery of peace officer1
Child abuse.....1
Elder abuse.....1
Domestic violence2
Suicide1

Theft related

Commercial burglaries2
Grand theft2
Identity theft1
Petty theft.....4
Residential burglaries3
Shoplifting.....4

Vehicle related

Abandoned bicycle.....1
Auto theft2
Driving w/ suspended license.....7
Hit and run5
Lost/stolen plates.....1
Misc. traffic.....2
Theft from auto.....2
Vehicle accident/major injury1
Vehicle accident/minor injury3
Vehicle accident/property damage.....11
Vehicle stored.....4

Alcohol or drug related

Drunk in public6
Drunken driving.....1
Possession of drugs4
Possession of paraphernalia.....1

Miscellaneous

Disturbing/annoying phone calls.....2
Found property.....3
Lost property1
Missing juvenile.....1
Other/misc.....1
Outside assistance.....2
Psychiatric subject.....1
Terrorist threat1
Trespassing2
Vandalism1
Warrant arrest.....1
Warrant/other agency.....3

Menlo Park

Nov. 16-22

Violence related

Assault1
Battery2
Rape1
Robbery1

Theft related

Burglary1
Grand theft2
Petty theft3

Residential burglaries2
Shoplifting.....1
Vehicle related
Abandoned auto.....1
Auto recovery1
Driving w/suspended license3
Driving without license1
Hit and run5
Vehicle accident/injury1
Vehicle accident/minor injury2
Vehicle accident/non injury.....1
Vehicle accident/property damage.....4
Vehicle tow1

Alcohol or drug related

Drug activity4
Drunk in public1
Drunken driving.....1

Miscellaneous

Found property.....3
Gang information case2
Illegal possession of firearm1
Information case.....2
Located missing person.....1
Meet citizen1
Mental evaluation3
Missing person2
Physical disturbance.....1
Property for destruction.....1
Suspicious circumstances1
Suspicious person1
Vandalism3
Warrant arrest.....4

Atherton

Nov. 16-21

Theft related

Fraud1
Petty theft.....2

Vehicle related

Hit and run1
Parking problem3
Road/sidewalk/other hazard.....1
Ticket sign-off.....2
Vehicle accident/minor injury1
Vehicle accident/no detail.....3
Vehicle accident/non-injury3
Vehicle code violation2
Vehicle traffic/hazard3

Alcohol or drug related

Driving under influence of drugs/alcohol 2
Narcotics offense1

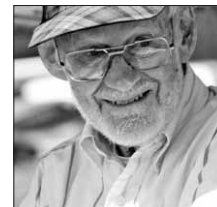
Miscellaneous

Animal call.....6
Be on the lookout1
Building/perimeter/area check3
Citizen assist.....1
Disturbance2
Fire call1
Found property.....1
Lost property2
Medical aid2
Meet citizen2
Other/misc.....5
Outside assistance.....2
Pedestrian check3
Suspicious circumstance4
Suspicious person2
Suspicious vehicle7
Welfare check.....2

(continued on next page)

Arthur Holmes Morse

Arthur Holmes Morse, a long-time Palo Alto resident, passed away at home on October 22, 2011. He was 89. He was born Feb. 18, 1922 in Cincinnati, Ohio and attended Lehigh University before leaving school to join the war effort. He learned how to pilot airplanes as a young man, which remained his life-long passion. After discharge from the Navy, he received a degree in mechanical engineering from Heald College. He settled his family in Palo Alto's Professorville neighborhood in 1959, and was active in the Palo Alto Yacht Club and the Sports Car Club of America. He is survived by his sons Stephen (Margery), Douglas and Kenneth (Susan), as well as a grandson, Griffin. There will be no service. A more complete obituary is available at www.PaloAltoOnline.com/obituaries.



PAID OBITUARY

Jane Lowy Reber

Aug. 16, 1929-Nov. 2, 2011

Jane Lowy Reber, 82, of Palo Alto, CA, passed away on November 2, 2011, while traveling in Venice, Italy. She had returned to Venice, a city she greatly admired for its history and culture, to participate in a photography workshop.

Jane was a renowned photographer, tireless world traveler, and her family's genealogist. She always looked forward to her next adventure and loved sharing her photos with her family. She had a lifelong passion for learning about the arts, foreign languages, and keeping current with technology. She lived life to its fullest by following her favorite saying, "If you rest, you rust."

A third-generation Californian, Jane was born in San Francisco on August 16, 1929 to Dr. Benno Lowy and Amy (Dinkelspiel) Lowy. She graduated from Lowell High School in San Francisco and attended University of California, Berkeley, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theater Arts. She married Joseph B. Reber, owner of Redwood City Knitting Mills, and moved to Palo Alto in 1952.

Jane is survived by her children Sheldon J. Reber, and his wife Judy Dennis, of Vacaville, CA; Rori Reber, and her husband Allan Stewart, of San Francisco, CA; and Kate Reber, and her partner Laura Mae Alpert, of San Francisco, CA; grandchildren Joel Reber, Mitchell Reber, Solomon Alpert, and Adrian Stewart; and her sister Kathryn Lowy Schorr of San Jose, CA. Jane was preceded in death by her husband Joseph B. Reber on July 23, 1982.

A celebration of Jane's life is planned for Sunday, December 4, from 2-4 p.m., at Temple Beth Am, 26790 Arastradero Road, Los Altos Hills, CA.

Memorial donations can be made to Doctors Without Borders (Tribute Donations) at www.doctorswithoutborders.org/donate/tributes/



PAID OBITUARY

Transitions

Births

Mariana Wetzler and Alvaro Erize of Stanford, a son, Aug. 25
Miranda Zhai and Carl Gonzalves of Atherton, a son, Sept. 1
Anne Marie and Alex McGraw of Palo Alto, a daughter, Sept. 19
Reiko MiuraKo and Albert Ko of Menlo Park, a son, Sept. 19
Jessica and Benjamin Galbraith of Palo Alto, a son, Sept. 21
Erin and Josh Wetsel of Menlo Park, a daughter, Oct. 6
Theresa Fox and David Brubacher of Menlo Park, a son, Oct. 12
Lisa and Daniel Bradford of Menlo Park, a son, Oct. 13
Si and Steven Wilber of Menlo Park, a son, Oct. 13
Tatiana Maratchi Legrain and Dan Azagury of Palo Alto, a

daughter, Oct. 22
Margarita Monckeberg and Rafael Cox of Stanford, a daughter, Oct. 25
Sierra and Bobby Budelli of Palo Alto, a son, Oct. 26
Jennifer Pearsall and Jordan Kobert of Palo Alto, a daughter, Nov. 1
Megan Jones and Jeffrey La Mere of Stanford, a son, Nov. 5
Nicole and Cesar Rodriguez of East Palo Alto, a son, Nov. 6
Jennifer and George Volanakis of Palo Alto, a son, Nov. 7



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Mark Laurence Hendrickson

October 2, 1981 – November 5, 2011

Resident of San Francisco, formerly of Stanford



Born in 1981 on October 2nd, the same month and day as Mahatma Ghandi and Groucho Marx, Mark Laurence Hendrickson forged his own union of their genius. He had a deep sense of justice, but was, nevertheless, named the class clown and given the Theater Award at graduation from Gunn High School in Palo Alto in 2000. His years in drama grounded his life, provided a focus for the future and helped him believe in himself. He spent a year at the seminal theater program of the University of Minnesota and the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis before deciding that the life of the mind was more appealing. He returned to his Stanford home to pursue liberal arts, first at Foothill College and then at Evergreen College in Olympia, Washington. There he became a devotee of philosophy and began burying himself in tomes by Nietzsche, Schopenhauer, Husserl, Heidegger and Foucault, awing his mother, a Ph.D. in philosophy.

But there was a darker side to Mark, a depressive quality that he fought all his life with therapy and medication.

He believed that depression and suicide should cease being the elephant in the living room and begin to be talked about directly and honestly to save those who otherwise might be lost. In the end, he lost the battle. He took his life on November 5, 2011.

Mark leaves behind his mother, Dr. Maribeth Hendrickson of Sunnyvale; his father, Dr. Michael Hendrickson of San Francisco; his beloved sister Laura of Tucson; and his adored sister Kate of Oakland. Numerous aunts, uncles and cousins, including a great aunt of 94 years, Eileen Quinn of River Forest, Illinois, also survive him.

A private memorial gathering has been held. His ashes will be scattered at sea.

Contributions in his name may be made to the Theater Program, c/o Mr. Jim Shelby, Gunn High School, 780 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto, CA 94306.

PAID OBITUARY

Pulse

(continued from previous page)

VIOLENT CRIMES

Palo Alto
Unlisted block Murdoch Drive, 11/16, 11:33 a.m.; elder abuse.
180 block El Camino Real, 11/19, 8:05 p.m.; domestic violence.
Unlisted block Embarcadero Road, 11/20, 9:29 a.m.; suicide.
Unlisted block Homer Avenue, 11/20, 12:49 p.m.; battery.
Unlisted block Alma Street, 11/20, 3:13 p.m.; child abuse.
Unlisted block Ramona Street, 11/22, 8:05 p.m.; domestic violence.
Menlo Park
1000 block O'Brien Drive, 11/16, 10:08 a.m.; robbery.
600 block Willow Road, 11/17, 2:19 p.m.; battery.
1000 block Ringwood Avenue, 11/17, 9:26 p.m.; rape.
400 block Pope Street, 11/18, 11:10 a.m.; battery.
1000 block O'Brien Drive, 11/19, 12:02 p.m.; assault.



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STORY**
CONTEST
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ANNOUNCING THE TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL PALO ALTO WEEKLY

JUDGES:

ADULT/YOUNG ADULT

Tom Parker, Award winning novelist and short story writer, UC Extension and Foothill College Instructor and former Stanford Instructor

Meg Waite Clayton, is the nationally best selling author of *The Four Ms. Bradwells*, *The Wednesday Sisters*, and The Bellwether Prize finalist *The Language of Light*. She lives with her family in Palo Alto, and is at work on a fourth novel to be published by Ballantine in 2013.

Pam Gullard, Pamela Gullard's stories have appeared in the *North American Review*, *Arts and Letters*, *The Iowa Review*, *TriQuarterly* and other journals and anthologies. With co-author Nancy Lund, she has written three nonfiction books; the latest, *Under the Oaks: Two Hundred Years in Atherton*, appeared in 2009. Pamela teaches personal narrative and literature at Menlo College.

CHILDREN/TEEN

Katy Obringer, Former supervisor of Palo Alto Children's Library

Caryn Huberman Yacowitz, Playwright and Children's book author

Nancy Etchemendy, Children's book author



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\$500 Cash - FIRST PLACE
\$300 Cash - SECOND PLACE
\$200 Cash - THIRD PLACE

FOR YOUNG ADULT/CHILDREN/TEEN:

\$100 Gift Certificate - FIRST PLACE
\$75 Gift Certificate - SECOND PLACE
\$50 Gift Certificate - THIRD PLACE

Certificates are from co-sponsoring area bookstores.

Bell's Books (*ages 15-17)

Kepler's (*ages 12-14)

Linden Tree (*ages 9-11)

*age as of entry deadline

ENTRY DEADLINE:

All Writers:

December 2, 2011

5:30 p.m.

**DEADLINE
EXTENDED**

All adult winners and first place young winners in each category will be announced in the Palo Alto Weekly in February 2012.

All winning stories will be published online at www.PaloAltoOnline.com

CONTEST RULES

1. The contest is open to anyone who lives, works or attends school full-time in Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Atherton, Stanford, Portola Valley, Woodside, Mountain View, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, and East Palo Alto.
2. Limit of one entry per person.
3. **Stories must be typed, double-spaced. Maximum 2,500 words. Longer stories will be disqualified.**
4. \$15 entry fee, along with hard copy, for all ADULT stories; \$5 entry fee for YOUNG WRITERS under 18. Make checks payable to "Palo Alto Weekly."
5. Entries may not have been previously published.
6. Signed entry form must accompany story. Author's name should NOT appear anywhere on pages of story.
7. All winners are required to email their story to the Palo Alto Weekly in a Microsoft Word Document as an attachment.

Mail manuscripts to: Palo Alto Weekly Short Story Contest,
P.O. Box 1610, Palo Alto, CA 94302 or deliver to 450 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto

Questions: shortstory@pawebweekly.com



Category (as of December 2, 2011):

Adult 9-11 12-14 15-17

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Day Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

School or Work location: _____

Story Title: _____

Exact Word Count _____ *must be filled in to enter

ENTRY FORM

(Please print legibly)

*This story is my original work and I received no assistance with it. **My story is 2,500 words or less.** I understand that the Palo Alto Weekly reserves first publishing and online rights to winning entries. Judges decisions are final. Palo Alto Weekly employees and their relatives and freelancers are not eligible to enter. Stories cannot be returned.*

Authors Signature

Date



David Allen

The dancers of Smuin Ballet perform their "Christmas Ballet" at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts from Dec. 7 through Dec. 11.

Marking the season with artistic flair can mean many different things in the Peninsula's arts community. There are several performances of the "Nutcracker" ballet, of course, and more than one chance to let your singing voice out to play in the rippling vocal runs of the "Messiah."

For something a little different, families might check out a LEGO-brick holiday display, a latke cook-off or a performance by 20-plus harps. A list encompassing many of the options begins below.

Music

Young singers from East Palo Alto's Brentwood Academy will perform at a **tree lighting** at the Four Seasons Hotel at 2050 University Ave. in East Palo Alto from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Nov. 28. Refreshments and holiday activities are also planned at this free event. Go to siliconvalley.fourseasons.com/2011/10/tree-lighting-tradition/.

The Ragazzi Boys Chorus sings festive music from the last thousand years (chants, hymns, carols and more modern adaptations) in "**Christmas Classics: A Millennium of Song.**" The holiday show is 5 p.m. Dec. 3 at the First Congregational Church, 1985 Louis Road, Palo Alto. Tickets are \$25 reserved, \$15 general, \$12 for seniors and \$10 for students. Go to ragazzi.org or call 650-342-8785.

Selections from Handel's "**Messiah**" pair up with Mozart's "Requiem" at the Peninsula Cantare choral

group's concert at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 3. Joined by musicians from the Redwood Symphony, the group will perform at the First Baptist Church of Palo Alto, 305 N. California Ave. Tickets are \$20/\$15. Go to peninsulacantare.org or call 650-593-4287.

Spanish *villancicos* — works that combine sacred and folkloric — from the 16th to the 18th centuries are the focus of the California Bach Society's holiday concert. "**A Belén (To Bethlehem)**" will be performed with Richard Savino on Baroque guitar and Peter Maund with Renaissance drums at 8 p.m. Dec. 3 at All Saints' Episcopal Church, 555 Waverley St., Palo Alto. Tickets are \$25 general, \$18 for seniors and \$10 for students. Go to calbach.org or call 415-262-0272.

"**Christmas 3D**" means holiday music from composers including Bob Chilcott and William Hawley, sung by Soli Deo Gloria. The audience gets

to join in on carols. The concert is at 5 p.m. Dec. 3 at the First Lutheran Church, 600 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. Tickets are \$25 general, \$20 for students and seniors, and free for students up to eighth grade. Go to sdgloria.org or call 888-734-7664.

Mountain View's East West Books hosts the Celtic/medieval ensemble Broceliande for a **winter-solstice concert** at 8 p.m. Dec. 2. Traditional and early music will be sung and played on Celtic harp, recorders, mandolin, fiddle and other music-makers. Admission is \$15 through Dec. 2 and \$20 on the day of the concert, which is at 324 Castro St. Go to eastwest.com or call 650-988-9800.

The San Francisco-based Symphony Parnassus plays a **holiday concert** featuring Respighi's "Trittico Botticelliano," the Viva la Musica! Choir and cellist Amos Yang

(in Dvorak's Cello Concerto). The performance is at 3 p.m. Dec. 3, at the Menlo-Atherton Performing Arts Center, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton. Admission is \$22 premium, \$20 general and \$15 for seniors and students. Go to symphonyparnassus.org.

Classical harpist Natalie Cox joins a studio ensemble of harps in the annual concert "**20 Harps for the Holidays**" at Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Ave., Los Altos. The performance starts at 4 p.m. Dec. 3 and benefits the Harpeggio Music group. Admission is \$12/\$15; go to harpeggio.com or call 408-366-8810.

Seasonal carols and sacred works drawn from many Eastern European traditions make up "**Wintersongs**," a concert given by the Kitka women's vocal group at 4 p.m. Dec. 4. The venue is St. Bede's Episcopal Church,

2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park. Tickets are \$15-\$27 in advance and \$15-\$32 at the door (\$5 for kids under 12). Go to kitka.org or call 510-444-0323.

San Francisco Choral Artists looks at the Christmas story from an earthier point of view — that of the animals, shepherds and farmers — in Daniel Pinkham's "**Company at the Crèche.**" The group will perform the premiere work with handbells at 4 p.m. Dec. 4 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto. Tickets are \$12-\$25. Go to sfca.org or call 415-494-8149.

J.S. Bach's epic **Mass in B Minor** will fill the First United Methodist Church at 625 Hamilton Ave. in Palo Alto at 8 p.m. Dec. 6, presented by the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, the Philharmonia Chorale and four vocal soloists: soprano Sherezade Panthaki, countertenor Daniel Taylor, tenor Thomas Cooley and bari-

The local art scene marks the holidays with harps and hymns, concerts and a cook-off

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

tone Nathaniel Watson. Tickets are \$25-\$100. Go to philharmonia.org or call 415-392-4400.

"Weinachtsfest" is the name of the Bay Choral Guild's holiday program this year, featuring J.S. Bach's "Christmas Oratorio" and other works. The Jubilate Baroque Orchestra and four vocal soloists — soprano Helena Zindarsian, alto Dianne Terp, tenor John Davey-Hatcher and baritone Jeff Fields — will perform at 8 p.m. Dec. 9 at the First United Methodist Church, 625 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto. Tickets are \$25 general and \$20 for students. Go to baychoralguild.org.

Prokofiev and Loesser are among the composers to be represented at the Menlo Park Chorus' eclectic "Welcome Winter" concert. The performance starts at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 9 at St. Bede's Episcopal Church, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park, with refreshments following. Tickets are \$15 general, \$12 for seniors and students, and free for children under 12. The chorus will also perform the program as a free holiday concert at 11 a.m. Dec. 3 in the Menlo Park City Council chambers, 701 Laurel St. Go to menloparkchorus.org or call 408-314-7589.



The Friends of Music at Stanford hosts its yearly "Holiday Musicale" at 2:30 p.m. Dec. 10 in the university's Memorial Church. Featured performers include the Early Music Singers, organist Adam Detzner and harpist Alessandra Serrano. Admission is \$10 general, \$5 for students and \$9 for seniors. Go to music.stanford.edu or call 650-725-ARTS.

Stanford pipe organist Robert Huw Morgan directs the annual seasonal "Service of Lessons & Carols" at the university's Memorial Church at 8 p.m. Dec. 9 and 10. Admission is free. Go to music.stanford.edu.

A trio of "Ave Marias" (by Poulenc, Biebl and MacIntyre) is featured along with medieval and Renaissance music in the Peninsula Women's Chorus holiday program "Sweet Joy." Concert times are 4 p.m. Dec. 10 and 2:30 p.m. Dec. 17 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto; and 4 p.m. Dec. 18 at St. Patrick's Seminary, 320 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park. Tickets are \$10-\$35. Go to pwchorus.org.

Palo Alto High School's choirs present a circa-1545 "Madrigal Feaste" of song and dining at 2 p.m. on Dec. 10 and 11. The Tudor-style "banquet" is in the high school's small gym at 50 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto. Tickets are \$75 to sit at the king's table; \$40 general and \$25 for seniors and students to dine with the plain old nobility. Go to palmadrigals.com.

Irish singer-songwriter Mary Mc Laughlin brings her Irish Gaelic holiday choir to the Vallombrosa Center at 250 Oak Grove Ave. in Menlo Park for the concert "A Gaelic Christmas" at 2 p.m. Dec. 11. The program features traditional Irish carols along with other seasonal songs translated into Irish, with the singers accompanied by Celtic harp, flute and whistle and other instruments. Tickets are \$18 general and \$12 for students and seniors. Go to coraingli.com or call 831-227-6049.

"A Schola Cantorum Christmas" happens at 3 p.m. Dec. 11, with Oxford Street Brass along for the ride. The concert includes "'Twas the Night Before Christmas" and takes place at



Lisa Kohler

The vocal group Chanticleer returns to Stanford's Memorial Church for its annual holiday concert on Dec. 13.

First Congregational Church of Palo Alto, 1985 Louis Road. Adults pay \$20 to get in, and kids pay \$5. Go to scholacantorum.org or call 650-254-1700.

"A Holiday Celebration!" is a program of festive music presented by the Stanford Chamber Chorus, Bay Brass and Stanford pipe organist Robert Huw Morgan. Music includes Daniel Pinkham's "Christmas Cantata." Admission is free to the 1:30 p.m. Dec. 11 concert, held at Memorial Church.



Courtesy Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra

Countertenor Daniel Taylor is one of the soloists in the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra's performance of J.S. Bach's Mass in B Minor. The epic piece will be performed at the First United Methodist Church in Palo Alto on Dec. 6.

Schola Cantorum's Gregory Wait conducts the group's "Messiah Sing" at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 12 at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St. Loaner scores will be available. Admission is \$20 general and \$16 for seniors, students and children. Members of groups of 10 or more get in for \$12. Go to scholacantorum.org or call 650-903-6000.

The Magnificat Baroque ensemble will perform Henrich Schutz's Christmas oratorio "Weihnachtshistorie" together with the Palo Alto-based ensemble The Whole Noyse (which performs on reproductions of 16th-century instruments). The concert is 8 p.m. Dec. 16 at the First Lutheran Church, 600 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. Tickets are \$35 general, \$28 for San Francisco Early Music Society members, \$30 for seniors and \$12 for students. Go to sfems.org or call 510-528-1725.

The Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir sings gospel arrangements of tradi-

tional holiday tunes in its "Gospel Holiday Concert" at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 16. Admission is \$36 general, \$31 for seniors and students, and \$28 for children 12 and under. Go to oigc.org or call 650-903-6000.

The ebullient Stephen M. Sano is back conducting the annual "Messiah" Sing-Along/Play-Along at Stanford's Memorial Church at 8 p.m. Dec. 16. Attendees bring their instruments and/or voices, with orchestral parts provided. Tickets are \$10 general, \$9 for seniors and \$5 for students. Go to music.stanford.edu or call 650-725-ARTS.

The clear-voiced men of Chanticleer return to Stanford's Memorial Church for the annual "A Chanticleer Christmas" concert at 8 p.m. Dec. 13. Carols, gospel classics and chant are on the program. Admission is \$52 general and \$10 for Stanford students. Go to livelyarts.stanford.edu or call 650-725-ARTS.

It's a holiday homecoming for violinist Krista Bennion Feeney, who was once music director of the New Century Chamber Orchestra and now returns as a soloist for the "Celebrate the Holidays" concert at 8 p.m. Dec. 13 at the Menlo-Atherton Center for the Performing Arts, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton. She will solo in Haydn's Violin Concerto in G Major; the program also includes Corelli's "Christmas Concerto." Tickets are \$29-\$59; go to ncco.org.



Courtesy California Bach Society

Peter Maund will play Renaissance drums with the California Bach Society in a performance of Spanish music from the 16th to the 18th centuries. A Palo Alto concert is scheduled for Dec. 3, at All Saints' Episcopal Church.

Festive tunes played only on trombones — that's the plan for the Gordon Stewart Peninsula Trombone Choir's free **holiday concert**, to be held at 2 p.m. Dec. 17. Holiday music with traditional, jazzy and classical flavors will be played at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church, 4111 Alma St., Palo Alto. Call 650-493-4257.

The Congregational Oratorio Society and Orchestra, with Joe Guthrie on the pipe organ, will play holiday music by Buxtehude, Charpentier and John Rutter in a concert called **"My Soul Doth Magnify."** The performance is at 3 p.m. Dec. 18 at the First Congregational Church of Palo Alto, 1985 Louis Road, Palo Alto. Admission is \$15 general and \$10 for students and seniors. Go to fccpa.org or call 650-856-6662.

Dance

Pacific Ballet brings Clara and her dancing chums to the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts at 500 Castro St. for the annual **"Nutcracker."** Performances are Nov. 25 at 1 and 6 p.m., Nov. 26 at 1 and 6 p.m., and Nov. 27 at 12:30 and 4 p.m. Admission is \$24/\$28. Go to mvcpa.com or call 650-903-6000.

"Falling Snow," the tale of a jewelry-box ballerina who comes to life, is on the program for the Foothill College Repertory Dance Company's **"Jingle & Mingle Holiday Open Studio"** at 7 p.m. Dec. 2. Led by dance-department director Bubba Gong, the program also includes a jazz suite, a hip-hop duet and a tango tap number. The event is in the Dance Studio, Room 2504 at Foothill College, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. Admission is free, and parking is \$2. Go to foothill.edu or call 650-949-7354.

The Western Ballet Company leaps into its performances of **"The Nutcracker"** on at 7 p.m. Dec. 2, at 1 and 7 p.m. Dec. 3, and at 1 and 6:30 p.m. Dec. 4 at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St. Tickets are \$25-\$30; go to westernballet.org or call 650-903-6000.

Another **"Nutcracker"** will be presented by Dance Connection of Palo Alto at 7 p.m. Dec. 2 through Dec. 4, at Spangenberg Theatre, 780 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto. Admission is \$15-\$25. Go to danceconnection-paloalto.com or call 650-322-7032.

Smuin Ballet dancers will take the stage to gospel singer Mahalia Jackson's version of "Oh, Holy Night" as part of the company's annual **"Christmas Ballet."** The eclectic program will be performed at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts at 500 Castro St. from Dec. 7 through Dec. 11, at 8 p.m. weekdays, 2 and 8 p.m. Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$23-\$65. Go to smuinballet.org or call 650-903-6000.

The Bayer Ballet Company will perform **"A Winter Fairy Tale,"** a Russian forest tale set to music by Tchaikovsky and Rimsky-Korsakov, at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St. Performances are 5 p.m. Dec. 17 and 2 p.m. Dec. 18; tickets are \$30 general and \$25 for seniors and children 12 and under. Go to bayerballetacademy or call 650-903-6000.

Arts & crafts and exhibits

Artistic nativity scenes from a wealth of nations, incorporating such materials as bamboo, crystal, driftwood and eggshells, are on display in the 24th annual **Christmas crèche exhibit** at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-



The women of Kitka sing seasonal music from various Eastern European traditions in a Dec. 4 performance at St. Bede's Episcopal Church in Menlo Park.

Day Saints at 3865 Middlefield Road in Palo Alto. The free exhibit can be viewed noon to 9 p.m. Dec. 3 through Dec. 7. Periodic special events during that time will include choral performances and daily marionette shows. Go to christmascreche.org or call 650-856-3781.



Gallery House is holding a **holiday show** through Dec. 24, with extended holiday hours for showing and selling art beginning after Thanksgiving: 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday and Monday. The gallery is at 320 S. California Ave. in Palo Alto; go to galleryhouse2.com or call 650-326-1668.

Palo Alto's Cubberley Artists and the Palo Alto Art Center team up to hold a **family day** and **open studios** at the Cubberley Community Center, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, from 1

to 5 p.m. on Dec. 3. Artwork will be shown and sold, with artists available to answer questions, and craft activities for kids will be held. Admission is free. Go to cityofpaloalto.org/artcenter or call 650-329-2366.

Handcrafted gifts will be for sale against a background of student performances and live music at the **German Holiday Market** from 3 to 7 p.m. Dec. 3 at the German International School of Silicon Valley, 310 Easy St., Mountain View. Admission is free. Go to gissv.org or call 650-254-0748.

Peninsula School welcomes its annual **December craft fair** from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 4 at 920 Peninsula Way in Menlo Park. In the company of strolling singers, artisans will show and sell textile art, jewelry, ornaments, handmade toys, body products, ceramics, glass art and other items. Admission is free. Go to peninsulaschool.org or call 650-325-1584.

Kids and families

Hanukkah arts and crafts, carnival games and, of course, lots of prepared potatoes will abound at the **"Whole-Lotta-Latke Cook-off"** at the Oshman Family Jewish Community Center, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. Intended for families with preschool or school-age children, the event goes from 2 to 5 p.m. Dec. 4 in the Schultz Cultural Arts Hall. Admission is free; latke-tasting tickets are a quarter each. Go to paloaltojcc.org.

Kids' games, pony rides, craft tables, a petting zoo and face-painting are among the activities planned for the free **holiday barn-lighting** at Westwind Community Barn, 27210 Altamont Road, Los Altos Hills. The event goes from 1 to 4 p.m. Dec. 4 and also includes wine tasting for the parents, along with hot-cider tasting. Go to losatoshills.ca.gov or call 650-947-2518.

The trains will be rollin' again soon at Palo Alto's Museum of American Heritage. The annual **"LEGO Holiday Extravaganza"** exhibit, a huge layout featuring Bay Area landmarks done up in LEGO blocks with model trains passing through, will be open 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Dec. 9 through Jan. 15, Friday through Sunday. The museum is at 351 Homer Ave.; admission is \$2 general and free for members of the Bay Area LEGO User Group and the Bay Area LEGO Train Club. Go to moah.org or call 650-321-1004.

More trains are planned for the free holiday **model-railroad show** put on by the West Bay Model Railroad Association at 1090 Merrill St., Menlo Park. Trains in three scales will run along, with railroad memorabilia on exhibit, 7 to 10 p.m. Dec. 9, noon to 6 p.m. Dec. 10, and noon to 5 p.m. Dec. 11. Go to wbmrra.ning.com or call 650-322-0685.

For a **puppet "Nutcracker" version**, families can attend several holiday puppet shows at Gamble Garden, 1431 Waverley St., Palo Alto. The shows are intended for children ages 3 and up, with light refreshments served; performances are at 10 and 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Dec. 10. Admission is \$15 general and \$10 for members. Reservations are required; go to gamblegarden.org.

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Theater

Marley may be dead, but "A Christmas Carol" is very much alive at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts' SecondStage at 9:30 and 11 a.m. Dec. 9 and 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Dec. 10, presented by Peninsula Youth Theatre. Admission to the shows at 500 Castro St. is \$8 on Friday and \$10 on Saturday. Go

to pyt.net.org or call 650-903-6000.

In a Secret Santa drawing, protagonist Junie B. draws antagonist May's name. The drama unfolds in the kids' play "Junie B. in Jingle Bells Batman Smells," presented by the Palo Alto Children's Theatre at 1305



Middlefield Road in Palo Alto. The show runs Dec. 8 through Dec. 18 with afternoon and evening performances; tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for children. Go to cityofpaloalto.org or call 650-463-4930.

Potpourri

The Filoli mansion and gardens hosts its yearly "Holiday Traditions" event from Nov. 25 through Dec. 3 at 86 Cañada Road in Woodside. Festivities include a holiday shopping boutique, and a formal dinner party on Nov. 26. Go to filoli.org or call 650-364-8300.

Holiday-bedecked homes in Atherton will be in the spotlight during the Junior League of Palo Alto/Mid Peninsula's "Finishing Touches: A Holiday Tour of Fine Homes and Boutique." Tours are planned from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 2 and 3. Tickets are \$40-\$65. Go to juniorleague-hometour.com.

The historic Rengstorff House offers up refreshments and carols during its free holiday open house from 7 to 9 p.m. Dec. 6. The house is at 3070 N. Shoreline Blvd. in Mountain View. Go to r-house.org or call 650-903-6392.

Ever since 1940, a two-block stretch of Fulton Street between Embarcadero Road and Seale Avenue has taken on a different name this time of year: Christmas Tree Lane. Festive trees, lights and other decorations will proliferate this season from Dec. 10 through New Year's Day. Drive carefully. More information is at christmastreelane.org.

Walkers will tour seven houses in Palo Alto's College Terrace neighborhood at the 24th holiday hour tour from 1 to 4 p.m. Dec. 11. The event is organized by Palo Alto Stanford Heritage and features many architectural styles. Tickets are \$25 before Dec. 1 and \$30 on the day of the tour. Go to pastheritage.org.

Local folks who don't celebrate Christmas often spend Dec. 24 at "Chopshticks," an annual comedy night. This year's event features comedian Brad Zimmerman, who has performed in New York comedy clubs and appeared on "The Sopranos." The event, which includes hors d'oeuvres and dessert, starts at 7:30 p.m. in the Schultz Cultural Arts Hall of the Oshman Family Jewish Community Center, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. Admission is \$55 general and \$50 for JCC members in advance, and \$65 at the door. Go to paloaltojcc.org or call 650-223-8609. ■

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Each year the Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund raises money to support programs serving families and children in the Palo Alto area. Since the Weekly and the Silicon Valley Community Foundation cover all the administrative costs, every dollar raised goes directly to support community programs through grants to non-profit organizations ranging from \$1,000 to \$25,000.

And with the generous support of matching grants from local foundations, including the Packard and Hewlett 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.



Last Year's Grant Recipients

Abilities United	\$5,000
Adolescent Counseling Services	\$7,500
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Art in Action	\$5,000
Baby Basics of the Peninsula, Inc.	\$2,000
Bread of Life.....	\$5,000
Breast Cancer Connections	\$7,500
California Family Foundation.....	\$3,500
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Downtown Streets Team	\$15,000
East Palo Alto Children's Day Committee	\$5,000
East Palo Alto Kids Foundation.....	\$5,000
East Palo Alto Tennis and Tutoring	\$5,000
East Palo Alto Youth Court.....	\$3,000
Environmental Volunteers	\$3,000
Foothill-De Anza Foundation.....	\$2,500
Foundation for a College Education.....	\$5,000
Friends of the Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo.....	\$5,000
InnVision.....	\$5,000
JLS Middle School PTA.....	\$3,500
Jordan Middle School PTA.....	\$3,500
Kara	\$5,000
Lytton Gardens Senior Communities	\$5,000
Music in the Schools Foundation.....	\$5,000
New Creation Home Ministries	\$5,000
Northern California Urban Development.....	\$5,000
Nuestra Casa	\$5,000
Palo Alto Art Center Foundation.....	\$5,000
Palo Alto Community Child Care.....	\$5,000
Palo Alto YMCA	\$5,000
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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 Bill Johnson at (650) 326-8210.

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Dressing up holiday tables



by David Ruiz

photos by
Veronica Weber



A table arrangement by Petals by Cary, Redwood City, features bold arrangements of red and yellow flowers with mini-pumpkins and brown-toned dining wear.



Kris Forbes of Pomegranate Events and Floral Design, Woodside, foraged for the Japanese black pine, painting the pinecones silver and gold and pairing them with glass sculptures.

Entertaining at the holidays, from Thanksgiving through New Year's, is an opportunity to introduce seasonal themes, colors and materials into one's home.

More than two dozen designers, florists and interior designers came together last month, putting their heads together to produce "tablescapes" at the Holidays on a High Note fundraiser for the Family Service Agency of San Mateo County.

A key theme this year was use of natural materials, including succulents.

"You don't need to set up a fancy

table; you just need to know how to use natural resources," Jenna Bayer, of Jenna Bayer Garden Design in Mountain View, said. Bayer's table used imported vegetation, fresh produce and trimmings from her own garden.

The best way to approach home decoration is to start indexing early, Bayer said. "Cre-

ate an inventory over the year of what grows best in your area and what you like the most. Use those plants next year for a more intimate setting."

Bayer also chose her materials based on color. The fall season works around a lot of reds, greens, yellows and browns. Many of the trees in this season are naturally going through these colors and can be used to accent the décor, she said. "A good part about these plants is that they are basically zero-care and have such magnificent color," Bayer said,

pointing to her green cascade myrtle.

Also important are the senses other than sight. "Smells, textures and even taste are important. Use fruits and vegetables whenever you can," Bayer said. Bayer purchases many of her flowers in San Francisco, but also spoke highly of Boring, Ore., the city from which she imports many of her trees. "The quality is astoundingly better," she said.

Designers offer advice to create a festive décor





Kris Forbes of Zizi Designs, Woodside, incorporated lavender and gold colors in her orchid arrangement with decorative gold pears.

moments of color can gain more prominence. "Bouquets stand out beautifully," she said. For her floral arrangements, Montoro shops at wholesale markets in San Francisco that are not typically open to the public, though she does take orders.

Besides those San Francisco markets Forbes suggested that individuals go to their local Trader Joe's or Safeway to look at their cactus selection. "They've really increased their selection this year; people seem to really like them," Forbes said.

Each designer agreed on the idea of using natural resources for decoration at home. The increased popularity in cacti and other succulents reflects the sustainable aspects of using natural resources.

"Right now you can see people either going

for a modern, sleek look or a more natural, organic one," Christine Le of Magnolia Floral Design, Palo Alto, said. Le pointed to a table with rectangular, purple vases filled with water lilies as an example of modern decoration. She hopes the flowers are home grown, she said.

"It's best to go local," Le said,

mentioning Roger Reynolds Nursery in Menlo Park as a good resource. Much like Forbes, Le said that arrangements can be switched every few weeks by using flowers that bloom naturally throughout each season.



Classic Party Rentals' dining-room table arrangement features a wood table with gold tablecloth accents, along with red and gold stemware.

Elegance and simplicity also shone brightly. "You can't enjoy anything if you have a house full of everything," Montoro said. ■

Editorial Intern David Ruiz can be emailed at druiz@paweekly.com.

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Her floral arrangement, including dahlias, barberries and pheasant feathers, was collected from cuttings of her own garden, minus the feathers. The apples used were also imported from Oregon.

A year-long inventory isn't possible for many who are expecting the holidays in a matter of weeks. Kris Forbes, event chair and designer for Pomegranate Events and Floral Design, Woodside, had a different approach, with similar ideologies.

"Always forage," she said, adding that the materials necessary for in-home design can be found from friends, family and neighbors. Forbes recalled a story in which she needed branch trimmings for an upcoming piece, and simply asked her neighbors for any materials. They were glad to help, she said, and it was entirely free of cost.

Forbes noted that, due to the fast expiration date on many floral arrangements, a good approach is to have decorations that can be switched out every few weeks around a central element. "Every few days the flowers around it will die, but you can replace it one week with mini-poinsettias, the next week with pinecones," she said.

Indelisa Montoro, of Royal Bloom in Menlo Park, focuses heavily on monochromatic decorations. Her table, a stark silver winter set complete with a 2.5-foot conical Christmas tree and assorted baubles of white and polished silver, stood out with its reliance on one color. The materials are easy to find, she said, and can be purchased at her store in the Allied Arts Guild in Menlo Park. Montoro finds some of her other materials, such as fake snow, Christmas lights and plastic cones, at Target.

"Vintage is still popular; people like those old-world touches," Montoro said, surrounded by repurposed bracelets, salvaged silver and ornaments of mercury glass hung in her shop.

Montoro said that monochromatic sets work well because small

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Arts & Entertainment

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

NICE WORK IF YOU CAN GET IT

BY REBECCA WALLACE
Photos courtesy of Stanford Lively Arts

There must be something in the water in Bay City, Mich. Something blue and rhapsodic.

Kevin Cole started perching on the piano bench there as a tot, and soon folks were remarking on his musical resemblance to George Gershwin. He's now been a working musician for 30-plus years, performing American standards and channeling the late great George.

Meanwhile, emerging dancer and vocalist Ryan VanDenBoom, fresh from New York University, is winning national dance competitions and often emulating the styles of illustrious past hoofers.


"He dances like Gene Kelly and Fred Astaire," Cole said. "Here's a new generation and he just has it."

VanDenBoom also happens to hail from Bay City, Mich.

As a longtime admirer of the Gershwin brothers — both the lyricist Ira and the composer and pianist George — Cole has a repertoire heavy on their tunes. It includes both works for piano and orchestra, such as "Rhapsody in Blue" and "Concerto in F," and familiar, enduring songs: "Love Is Here to Stay," "Fascinating Rhythm," "Let's Call the Whole Thing Off" and many others.

Now Cole is striking up the band at Stanford's Dinkelspiel Auditorium on Dec. 3 with a new multimedia tribute show, "Here to Stay: The Gershwin Concert Experience." VanDenBoom will join him to sing and tap, together with country and soul singer-songwriter Lari

Pianist and singer
Kevin Cole.



Performers
get to
devote an
evening to
two of their
musical
icons:
George
and Ira
Gershwin



Singer Lari White and dancer/vocalist Ryan VanDenBoom will perform in the Gershwin tribute show "Here to Stay" on Dec. 3 at Stanford University.



The iconic composer and pianist George Gershwin (1898-1937).

White. Her credits include the 1994 solo country album "Wishes," which went gold. She is also an actress who appeared on Broadway in 2006 in the Johnny Cash jukebox musical "Ring of Fire."

Cole is the music director of "Here to Stay," which premiered in July with the Minnesota Orchestra. The Stanford Lively Arts performance will be the premiere of the non-symphonic version. Then the show will travel on, sometimes with different performers joining Cole. Gigs include concerts with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and the Colorado Symphony.

"Here to Stay" has Cole at the helm telling stories about the Gershwins in between songs and dances. Photos, video clips and home movies of the brothers add dimension and intimacy.

"One of the things that bothered me as a kid learning about composers was that they always seemed so untouchable. They didn't seem human," Cole said in a phone interview from his home in Chicago. "It's nice to know a little back story about these people."

He added: "There will also be

moments for each of us to tell the audience how we first heard Gershwin and how it touched us. George and Ira Gershwin ... they literally changed the path of my life."

That happened early. Cole had been studying piano for a few years when he saw the 1945 biopic movie "Rhapsody in Blue" at the age of 7. "The music hit me so hard," he said.

Soon Cole was seeking out any books he could find about the Gershwins. A librarian gave him a biography written by Edward Jablonski — also from Bay City. The book made an impression. When Cole was 15, he traveled to Manhattan and looked up the Jablonskis.

"He and his wife had me over for supper, and I played a little Gershwin medley," he said. Impressed, the Jablonskis kept inviting him back over the years. He'd stay there and play for them, and the Jablonskis would invite over the Gershwins' relatives and other people from their circle. The guests, Cole said, would cry. "They couldn't believe that anyone could make the

piano sound like that. They thought it was gone."

Cole's musical path was set. Although he was classically trained, graduating from the Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan, he felt a "sympiotic connection" with George Gershwin, who also blurred the lines between classical and pop music.

Cole has been working as a professional musician since high school: as a piano soloist with orchestras, as a singer and songwriter, as a music director and vocal arranger. He's played the Hollywood Bowl, the Royal Albert Hall, the Kennedy Center.

Maybe the best venue, though, was the Jablonskis' New York home, especially when they had guests.

On one particular visit, Cole was noodling around on the piano when Edward Jablonski called from the next room, "Play a Berlin medley." So Cole launched into five or six Irving Berlin tunes, and then Jablonski said casually, "Someone would like to talk to you."

In walked Irving Berlin.

"I think he was 93 or 94 at the time," Cole said of the iconic composer, who died in 1989 at the age of 101. "He couldn't have been nicer." The animated Berlin chatted with Cole and told him stories, but by far the most memorable thing he said was the first, Cole recalled: "Christ, kid, if I could have played like that, I wouldn't have become a songwriter."

Cole clearly prizes these personal connections. Gershwin relatives are favorites, including Todd Gershwin, great-nephew of George and Ira, and a trustee of the family trusts. He's the one who initially approached Cole about creating "Here to Stay."

Cole has also met the renowned theater composer and lyricist Stephen Sondheim, who told him, "Kevin, it's really great to hear my songs played with all the right chords."

Then there were those unexpected audience members — like Muhammad Ali, who was at a reception that Cole was playing in Louisville, Ky. Ali sat on a couch and listened for a while, then got into a conversation with the pianist, Cole recalled:

"Where'd you learn to play like that?" Ali asked.

"Bay City, Michigan," Cole said.

"You mean they got piano players like you in Bay City, Michigan?"

Ali requested the theme from the movie "Exodus," then asked if he could play something.

"He sat down and played some boogie-woogie riff with his left hand. Then he smiled and said, 'That's all I know how to play,'" Cole said. "I've been so blessed with little moments like that." ■

What: "Here to Stay: The Gershwin

Concert Experience," with Kevin Cole, Ryan VanDenBoom and Lari White, presented by Stanford Lively Arts

Where: Dinkelspiel Auditorium, Stanford University

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Movies

OPENINGS



Chloë Grace Moretz and Asa Butterfield in "Hugo."



Jason Segel meets a Muppet for tooth-brushing time in "The Muppets."

Hugo ★★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) Director Martin Scorsese's well-documented affection for all things cinema has never been more evident than in the enchanting and imaginative "Hugo." Scorsese paints a rich tapestry in adapting the Brian Selznick novel "The Invention of Hugo Cabret," presenting a vibrant 1930s Paris with exceptional cinematography, costuming and set design (the quality 3D is a bonus).

The methodical pacing may lull some viewers, particularly the restless youngsters toward whom the film is partially geared. But redemption comes in an inspired cast (Ben Kingsley, Sacha Baron Cohen, Christopher Lee), a deeply textured storyline and the passionate Scorsese pulling the strings. Family films aren't often this expertly crafted.

Young Hugo Cabret (Asa Butterfield of "The Boy in the Striped Pajamas") lives alone in the hollowed walls of the city train station, orphaned following the death of his father (Jude Law). He watches the passers-by with interest and sneaks bites of food away from the gaze of the station inspector (Cohen). Hugo is desperate to finish repairing the automaton — an old robotic figure — that he and his dad had been working on, occasionally forced to steal little mechanical parts from a toy shop at the station.

The shop's enigmatic owner (Kingsley as Georges Méliès) catches Hugo in the act and confiscates Hugo's journal: a booklet with his father's sketches of the automaton's inner workings. Eager for an adventure, Georges' goddaughter Isabelle (Chloë Grace Moretz of "Kick-Ass") agrees to help Hugo get his journal back, setting off a series of mysterious events that click and whirl with the rhythm of a finely tuned clock.

Kingsley makes his case for another Oscar nod with his evocative and poignant portrayal of real-life pioneering filmmaker Méliès. Cohen of "Borat" and "Bruno" fame is perfectly cast and serves up the picture's sporadic humor with aplomb. Michael Stuhlbarg of "A Serious Man" is also especially impressive as film enthusiast Rene Tabard, and Lee sheds his "Lord

of the Rings" menace as the station's stoic librarian.

"Hugo" has far more in common with Scorsese's underappreciated "Kundun" than the gritty gangster pictures he's widely recognized for. There is an appreciation for the art of film at the heart of the storyline that seems to channel Scorsese's own reverence for the medium. Character dynamics are wonderfully drawn between Hugo and Isabelle, Georges and his wife Jeanne (Helen McCrory), the station inspector and the florist he admires (Emily Mortimer), and others. The simple yet sophisticated automaton becomes a microcosm of the station and its players, waiting for the right pieces — and right person — to finally be fixed.

Family films are all the rage in 2011, with Cameron Crowe ("We Bought a Zoo"), Steven Spielberg ("War Horse") and even the Muppets dipping their toes in the cinematic pool. And "Hugo" may be the brightest of the bunch.

Rated PG for mild thematic material, some action/peril and smoking. Two hours, 6 minutes.

— Tyler Hanley

The Muppets ★★★

(Century 16, Century 20) Muppet News Flash! Your friends in felt are back on the big screen, ready and waiting to charm a new generation of ... moppets. It's "The Muppets" show, with very special guest star/co-writer Jason Segel orchestrating a fun kiddie flick and a heart-tugging nostalgia exercise for Generation X.

Along with co-writer Nicholas Stoller ("Forgetting Sarah Marshall") and director James Bobin (who proved his creative chops with "Flight of the Conchords"), Segel winningly pays homage to the legacy of Muppet creator Jim Henson and his extended family of writers, artisans and Muppeteers. (In that last category, Dave Goelz and Steve Whitmire continue to perform.) Though Henson has passed on, his Muppet character Kermit the Frog remains; ditto for diva Miss Piggy despite the defection



Douglass Scott and Michelle Williams in "My Week with Marilyn."

of retired Muppeteer Frank Oz.

The new film concedes defeat for the Muppets in order to allow them to blaze a comeback. Fans may squirm a bit at the emphasis put on the Muppets' decline (in reality, the Muppets have been absent from the big screen since 1999's "Muppets from Space" but have been kicking around in TV movies and in viral videos). In "The Muppets," they've disbanded and the Muppet Theater has fallen into (comically) sad disrepair. The realization devastates Muppet super-fan Walter (a puppet performed by Peter Linz), who — with his brother Gary (Segel) — makes a pilgrimage to take the "Muppet Studio Tour."

When Walter overhears oil baron Tex Richman (Chris Cooper) describe his evil plan to foreclose on the Muppet Theater, demolish it and drill for crude, Walter, Gary and Gary's longtime girlfriend, Mary

(America's sweetheart Amy Adams), set out to reunite the Muppets and save the theater by putting on a "Muppet Show" telethon.

Down to a big-screen recreation of "The Muppet Show" opening sequence, the filmmakers show their pious reverence for the postmodern-vaudeville source material, and the film often plays like a direct sequel to 1979's "The Muppet Movie," complete with celebrity cameos and a reprise of Paul Williams and Kenny Ascher's Oscar-nominated song "Rainbow Connection."

The movie takes an everything-and-the-kitchen-sink approach, beginning by establishing a Pleasantville-esque Midwestern hometown for Walter, Gary and Mary, advancing to the "getting the band back together" midsection, and arriving at the "let's put on a show" third act, amusingly and a little wistfully populated with nutty novelty acts. Minor missteps (like Fozzie Bear exclaiming, "Hey look, fart shoes!") shouldn't discourage real-life Walters, who are guaranteed both to laugh and wipe away a few tears. (Yes, that's a confession.)

Four new songs by Bret McKenzie (also of "Conchords") are cute enough, but the new Kermit ballad "Pictures in My Head" (by Jeannie Lurie, Aris Archontis and Chen Neeman) brilliantly evokes the work of Williams and Ascher.

Kermit sings of the Muppets' return: "Would anybody watch, or even care? Or did something break we can't repair?" The words poignantly evoke the lingering doubt following Henson's 1990 passing, but the movie that surrounds them reassures that the Muppets can't be beat.

Rated PG for some mild rude humor. One hour, 38 minutes.

— Peter Canavese

The Descendants ★★★1/2

(Aquarius) Going down? That's the direction of the characters in the new comedy-drama "The Descendants" (get it?) and, for that matter, the characters in all of the films of Alexander Payne.

Payne's fifth feature — after "Sideways,"

“About Schmidt,” “Election” and “Citizen Ruth” — may be his least satisfying (in satirical terms, it’s relatively toothless), but it’s diverting enough and provides yet another solid star vehicle for George Clooney. In his press rounds, Payne has confessed to “growing up,” but maturity may not be where this somewhat snarky skeptic of human nature lives most comfortably.

Clooney plays Matt King, a lawyer and hapless father troubleshooting domestic and business concerns in a Hawaii he drily notes is not the “paradise” mainlanders imagine (adding that paradise can do something unprintable to itself). King’s petulance derives mostly from his wife being in a coma due to a boating accident, and his inability to do anything about it. As a father, he’s clumsy at best; by pampering 10-year-old Scottie (Amara Miller), Matt hopes to distract her from her mother’s decline. No such trickery

works on 17-year-old Alexandra (impressive newcomer Shailene Woodley), a borderline delinquent who won’t be handled.

Matt’s business issue involves his role as trustee of his family’s ancestral land: 25,000 pristine acres in Kauai that will bring the Kings a pretty penny if they can agree on a buyer. As this subplot lingers in the background, Matt becomes obsessed with a third concern: investigating a secret about his wife that surfaces early in the picture. Three guesses as to what that might be, but it provides the excuse for the Kings to island-hop and family-bond in search of closure about Mom.

Thanks in part to a supporting cast that includes Nick Krause, Matthew Lillard, Judy Greer, Robert Forster and Beau Bridges, Payne reliably delivers light amusement, and by way of balance, the material takes on weight from the convinc-

ing serio-comic work of the actors playing the Kings.

So “The Descendants” nominally functions as a family drama and as a consistent test of character for Matt (props too for the sense of place).

But it’s also fair to say that this adaptation of Kauai Hart Hemmings’ novel is supremely obvious, setting up targets and knocking them down with little in the way of surprise and a politically correct history lesson about land ownership that’s basically a non-starter.

Those moments that do qualify as surprises immediately betray their jerry-rigging. Not once, but twice Payne establishes a character as an archetype, then turns around and reveals that the guy is deeper than you think. While humanizing supporting characters is a noble goal, gently slapping the viewer on the wrist for assuming a stereotypical character is stereotypical qualifies

as disingenuous. Such scenes also emblemize the film’s ultimately failed attempt to achieve its intended delicate balance of comedy and tragedy.

If you see “The Descendants,” see it for Clooney (and Woodley), but don’t believe the hype that it’s one for the ages.

Rated R for language and some sexual references. One hour, 55 minutes.

— Peter Canavese

My Week with Marilyn

★★★1/2 (Guild) If you liked “Me and Orson Welles,” consider yourself the target audience for “My Week with Marilyn,” a mostly frothy glassful of awards-season nog.

I’ll confess up front that “My Week with Marilyn” — derived from Colin Clark’s diaries of sharing time with Marilyn Monroe — inhabits guilty-pleasure territory for lovers of Old Hollywood. Amid the film’s showmanship, though, director Simon Curtis proves capable of some subtle points. Plus, he has four aces in the hole: Michelle Williams as Marilyn, Kenneth

Branagh as Sir Laurence Olivier, Tony Award winner Eddie Redmayne as Clark, and Dame Judi Dench as Dame Sybil Thorndike.

In 1956, Clark actually spent a summer in Marilyn’s orbit, in his capacity as third assistant director on the 1957 comedic film “The Prince and the Showgirl,” directed by Olivier. But the week in question refers to Clark’s brief, rather chaste fling with Monroe, which the screen Clark describes, in words lifted from his kiss-and-tell memoir, as “a few days in my life when a dream came true and my only talent was not to close my eyes.” Curtis’ film lovingly dramatizes those golden moments, but also serves as a backstage farce about Olivier’s war with his leading lady.

In many ways, “My Week with Marilyn” is tough to defend. It surely exaggerates Clark’s access, making him fly-on-the-wall privy even to private squabbles between Monroe and her famous husband Arthur Miller (Dougray Scott), and Olivier and his famous wife Vivien Leigh (Julia Ormond). Screenwriter Adrian Hodges also tells when he could show and needlessly pulls some punches, filing some of the edges off of Monroe and even, in

(continued on next page)

MOVIE TIMES

Showtimes for the Century 16 and Century 20 theaters are for Friday through Monday only unless otherwise noted.

2 For 1: Moneyball (PG-13) ★★1/2 The Ides of March (R) ★★★	Century 16: 2:10 & 9:30 p.m.; Fri, Sun. & Mon. also at 4:35 & 7:25 p.m.; Fri.-Sun. also at 11:30 a.m.; Mon. also at 11:20 a.m.
A Bill of Divorcement (1932)	Stanford Theatre: Fri. at 7:30 p.m.
A Very Harold & Kumar Christmas (R) (Not Reviewed)	Century 16: Fri.-Sun. at 12:35, 5:10 & 10:20 p.m.; In 3D Fri.-Mon. at 2:50 & 7:50 p.m.; Mon. at 12:35, 5:10 & 10:05 p.m.; In 3D Fri.-Sun. also at 10:20 a.m. Century 20: In 3D at 8:20 & 10:35 p.m.
Arthur Christmas (PG) (Not Reviewed)	Century 16: Fri.-Sun. at 10:10 a.m.; 4:05 & 9:35 p.m.; In 3D Fri.-Sun. at 1:05 & 7 p.m.; Mon. at 11 a.m.; 4:05 & 9:25 p.m.; In 3D Mon. at 1:25 & 7 p.m. Century 20: 11:25 a.m. & 4:25 p.m.; In 3D at 12:45, 1:55, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15 & 10:45 p.m.; In 3D Fri.-Sun. also at 10:20 a.m.
The Bitter Tea of General Yen (1933)	Stanford Theatre: Wed. & Thu. at 5:50 & 9:30 p.m.
Bolshoi Ballet Presents Esmeralda (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed)	Century 20: Wed. at 6:30 p.m. Palo Alto Square: Wed. at 6:30 p.m.
Camille (1936)	Stanford Theatre: Sat. & Sun. at 3:30 & 7:30 p.m.
The Descendants (R) ★★1/2	Aquarius Theatre: 1:15, 1:45, 4, 4:30, 7:30 & 10 p.m.; Fri.-Wed. also at 7 & 9:30 p.m. Century 20: 11 a.m.; 1:40, 4:20, 7:10 & 9:55 p.m.
Double Indemnity (1944)	Stanford Theatre: Wed. & Thu. at 7:30 p.m.
Happy Feet Two (PG) ★★1/2	Century 16: Fri.-Sun. at 10 a.m.; 12:30, 3:30, 6:20 & 9:10 p.m.; In 3D Fri.-Sun. at 11 a.m.; 1:50, 4:25, 7:10 & 10:05 p.m.; Mon. at 11 a.m.; 1:25, 3:50, 6:20 & 8:45 p.m.; In 3D Mon. at 11:30 a.m.; 1:55, 4:25, 7:10 & 9:35 p.m. Century 20: 11:10 a.m.; 12:50, 1:40, 4:15 & 5:55 p.m.; In 3D at 11:55 a.m.; 2:30, 3:20, 5, 7:35 & 10:15 p.m.; In 3D Fri.-Sun. also at 10:25 a.m.
Hugo (PG) ★★★1/2	Century 16: Fri.-Sun. 10 a.m.; 4:10 & 10:30 p.m.; In 3D Fri.-Sun. at 12:55 & 7:30 p.m.; Mon. at 11 a.m.; 4:45 & 10:30 p.m.; In 3D Mon. at 1:55 & 7:35 p.m. Century 20: 11:15 a.m.; Fri., Sun. & Mon. also at 5:05 p.m.; In 3D Fri.-Mon. at 12:35, 2:10, 3:35, 6:40 & 9:35 p.m.
Immortals (R) (Not Reviewed)	Century 16: Fri.-Sun. at 10:50 a.m.; 4:30 & 10:25 p.m.; In 3D Fri.-Sun. at 1:25 & 7:20 p.m.; Mon. at 11 a.m.; 4:30 & 9:55 p.m.; In 3D Mon. at 1:25 & 7:20 p.m. Century 20: 1:55 & 7:30 p.m.; In 3D at 12:05, 5:05 & 10:05 p.m.
In Time (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)	Century 20: 10:40 p.m.; Fri., Sun. & Mon. also at 7:55 p.m.
J. Edgar (R) ★★	Century 16: 12:10, 3:20, 6:40 & 9:45 p.m. Century 20: 12:25, 3:50, 7:05 & 10:20 p.m.
Jack and Jill (PG) (Not Reviewed)	Century 16: 11:10 a.m.; 1:30, 4:15, 7:05 & 9:50 p.m. Century 20: 12:40, 3, 5:30, 7:50 & 10:20 p.m.
Like Crazy (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)	Palo Alto Square: 2, 3:15, 5:30 & 7:45 p.m.; Fri.-Sun. also at 4:15, 6:30 & 8:45 p.m.; Fri. & Sat. also at 10 p.m.; Mon. & Tue. also at 4:15 & 6:30 p.m.; Thu. also at 4:15 p.m.
Morning Glory (1933)	Stanford Theatre: Fri. at 6:05 & 8:50 p.m.
The Muppets (PG) ★★★	Century 16: Fri.-Sun. at 10:05 a.m.; 12:50, 3:50, 7 & 10:10 p.m.; Mon. at 11 a.m.; 1:35, 4:10, 7 & 9:35 p.m. Century 20: 11:05 a.m.; 12:20, 1:50, 3:05, 4:35, 5:50, 7:20, 8:30 & 10 p.m.
My Week With Marilyn (R) ★★1/2	Century 20: 11:30 a.m.; 2, 4:30, 7 & 9:30 p.m. Guild Theatre: 1:30, 4:15, 7 & 9:45 p.m.
National Theatre Live: Collaborators (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed)	Century 20: Thu. at 7 p.m. Palo Alto Square: Thu. at 7 p.m.
Ninotchka (1939)	Stanford Theatre: Sat. & Sun. at 5:30 & 9:30 p.m.
Puss in Boots (PG) (Not Reviewed)	Century 16: Fri.-Sun. at 12:20, 5 & 9:55 p.m.; In 3D Fri.-Sun. at 10:05 a.m.; 2:40 & 7:30 p.m.; Mon. at 12:20, 5 & 9:45 p.m.; In 3D Mon. at 2:40 & 7:30 p.m. Century 20: 11:35 a.m.; 4:55 & 10:10 p.m.; Fri.-Sun. also at 10:25 a.m.; In 3D Fri.-Mon. at 2:45 & 7:45 p.m.
Tower Heist (PG-13) ★★	Century 16: 12:40, 3:40, 6:50 & 10:15 p.m.; Fri.-Sun. also at 10:10 a.m. Century 20: 12:15, 2:55, 5:25, 8 & 10:30 p.m.
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1 (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)	Century 16: 2:20, 3, 4, 4:40, 5:20, 6:30, 7:25, 8, 8:50, 9:40 & 10:30 p.m.; Fri.-Sun. also at 10, 10:40 & 11:20 a.m.; noon, 1 & 1:40 p.m.; Mon. also at 11 & 11:30 a.m.; noon, 1 & 1:45 p.m. Century 20: 11 a.m.; noon, 12:30, 1:25, 2, 2:50, 3:25, 4:20, 4:50, 5:50, 6:20, 6:55, 7:15, 7:40, 8:10, 8:45, 9:15, 9:45, 10:10 & 10:40 p.m.; Fri.-Sun. also at 10:30 a.m.
We Bought a Zoo (PG) (Not Reviewed)	Century 16: Sat. at 7 p.m. Century 20: Sat. at 7 p.m.

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

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

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Internet address: For show times, plot synopses, trailers and more information about films playing, PaloAltoOnline.com.

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(continued from previous page)

the end, the prickly Olivier (who reportedly took his grudge against Marilyn all the way to the grave).

But Curtis' film is also a certifiable hoot and capable of scoring genuine emotional points. Williams gives a brilliant performance (more on that anon) and Branagh a technically impressive, highly amusing one, while the period recreation of a tightly budgeted British film production charms (not least in Dench's endearing turn as the generous Dame Sybil). The notion of a star living on the pill-popping edge resonates with the headline-making case regarding the involuntary manslaughter of Michael Jackson and, inevitably, the untimely death of Heath Ledger, the father of Williams' child.

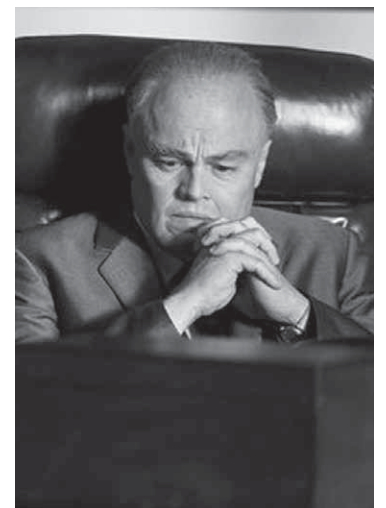
In one of the film's best scenes, Clark asks Marilyn why she doesn't walk away from her career, since it seems to make her miserable. "You could be happy," he insists.

"I am happy," she replies, all evidence to the contrary. But it's an accurate paradox, one of the many contradictions of the artist "unfortunate" enough to become a star. Much of the story's tension comes from Marilyn's sincere desire to master the "Method," represented by her personal on-set acting coach Paula Strasberg (Zoë Wanamaker). The old-school Olivier fumes while Marilyn struggles to motivate a cardboard comic character.

Williams is better than the picture, but within the screenplay's constraints, she nails every possible nuance of physical and emotional expression. It's dazzling work, and reason alone to spend 99 minutes "with Marilyn."

Rated R for some language. One hour, 39 minutes.

— Peter Canavese



Leonardo DiCaprio in "J. Edgar."

minutes. — P.C. (Reviewed Nov. 18, 2011)

J. Edgar ★★

(Century 16, Century 20) It seems like a winning formula: Unite an accomplished director (Clint Eastwood) with a gifted actor (Leonardo DiCaprio) to tell the story of a notable historical figure (J. Edgar Hoover). Sadly, Eastwood's drab and awkward "J. Edgar" steers closer to the disappointments category. DiCaprio is slightly miscast as Hoover, the first and longest-tenured director of the FBI. Eastwood endeavors to cover a lot of territory in Hoover's lengthy career, which spanned the better part of four decades. The film is interesting but not compelling, about a protagonist who is neither likable nor despicable. It's a solid character study, but one better suited for the History Channel or an HBO special. Rated R for brief strong language. Two hours, 17 minutes. — T.H. (Reviewed Nov. 11, 2011)

Tower Heist ★★

(Century 16, Century 20) Ben Stiller plays Josh Kovacs, the building manager of a deluxe apartment in the sky, called simply "The Tower." Josh's tight ship hits an iceberg when he learns that penthouse tenant Arthur Shaw (Alan Alda) — who agreed to invest the pensions of the building's staff — has committed securities fraud "of epic proportions," losing the pensions in the process. When he becomes convinced that Shaw has \$20 million in cash hidden in the apartment, Josh hatches a scheme to break in, steal the money and play Robin Hood to his devastated co-workers (fun fact: Stiller's salary for the picture was \$15 million). Rated PG-13 for language and sexual content. One hour, 45 minutes. — P.C. (Reviewed Nov. 4, 2011)

NOW PLAYING

Happy Feet Two ★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) Elijah Wood returns as the voice of Mumble, now a penguin dad fretting over the direction of his son Erik (Ava Acres). Erik fears he has two left not-so-happy feet, but he excitedly latches onto an impossible dream of flight. An airborne puffin named The Mighty Sven (Hank Azaria) passes as a penguin, causing the confusion, but more intimidating problems face "the Penguin Nation" in the form of a dangerously shifting landscape (due to climate change) and how best to get the attention of passing humans. Rated PG for some rude humor and mild peril. One hour, 40 minutes. — P.C. (Reviewed Nov. 18, 2011)

Into the Abyss ★★

(Palo Alto Square) German director Werner Herzog plops himself down smack in the middle of Texas to talk to convicted criminals serving hard time and the hardest time (on Death Row), and to their keepers, police, clergymen and victims' family members. Perhaps there's a coldness to this existential curiosity, but Herzog shows an interest in personality and the psychic toll of the strange events on which he performs a post-mortem. Rated PG-13 for mature thematic material and some disturbing images. One hour, 47

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Eating Out

RESTAURANT REVIEW



Veronica Weber

Jin-Hee Kim is like a kid in a pastry shop at Cocola.

Refueling stop

Cocola lures shoppers with tasty lunches and French-inspired pastries

by Dale F. Bentson

If you're in need of a break from holiday shopping at Stanford Shopping Center, or are returning those not-quite-right gifts after the holidays, or are taking advantage of post-holiday, mid-winter or early-spring sales, I suggest you cool your heels at Cocola, the ebullient sandwich and French patisserie that supplanted the sadly lost Oakville Grocery.

Cocola is the brainchild of mother Sue and son Amir Aliabadi, open since 2002 in San Jose and October 2010 at Stanford Shopping Center. Sue is the executive pastry chef and Amir is in charge of operations.

Sue Aliabadi learned cooking by

observation, trial and error. When she and her husband were living in pre-revolution Iran, he was a banker and a picky eater. He hired a cook to prepare meals after the couple wed, but Sue was not happy with that arrangement and determined to do it herself. She quickly learned and took over.

"Mom always had a talent," Amir said. "She picks up techniques very quickly."

Amir graduated from the University of California at Berkeley with a degree in genetics, but was drawn to the world of business. After he completed a master's degree

(continued on next page)

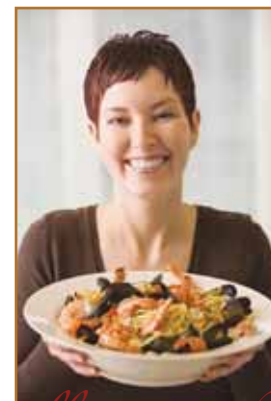
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(continued from previous page)

in business administration, his ambition was to work for a high-tech startup. Those plans evaporated with the crash of 2000.

"I quickly rethought what I wanted to do. Food seemed a natural. We

borrowed from family and started our own business," he said.

Now with five busy locations, Cocola closes only on Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.

Longtime Stanford Shopping Center devotees might remember

Alice Medrich's Cocolat. She introduced America to chocolate truffles from her original Berkeley shop in the early 1970s. By the '80s, Cocolat was a Bay Area chain including a store at Stanford Shopping Center. Medrich sold Cocolat in 1990 and

her successors soon failed the business. Cocola is not related.

The space was cramped for the Oakville Grocery operation but is near-cavernous for a sandwich and pastry shop. French-inspired tile-topped iron tables are scattered throughout with additional tables on the food-court piazza for al fresco repasting. Indoors, one corner is cozily set with leather sofa and chairs meant to inspire long philosophical coffee shop discussions — or for taking advantage of the free Wi-Fi connection.

There are a half-dozen soups du jour offered in daily rotation. The tomato tarragon (\$5.90) was a large bowl with generous chunks of tomato, minced celery, onion, carrots et al. Flavors were right and the tarragon judiciously imbued. It was plenty for lunch and came with slices of house-made baguette. I wish they had offered a smaller bowl of soup coupled with a small salad or half a sandwich. Portions were too large to order a regular size of each.

The tuna Nicoise sandwich (\$8.90) was brimming with alabaster-white albacore tuna, capers and mixed greens all dressed with a lemony vinaigrette. The toasted baguette was soft and crunchy. A flavorful celery root salad accompanied.

The roast turkey sandwich (\$8.90) featured fresh-baked tender turkey breast, cranberry sauce and slices of French brie. The brie and cranberry were surprisingly compatible and livened the crusty baguette. A carrot salad supplemented the plate.

Chicken breast salad (\$9.90) was piled with tender, room-temperature but still juicy chicken, atop a medley of baby greens, carrots, cabbage, croutons and a tomato salsa. It was dressed with a tangy lemon vinaigrette. Large tasty salad, reasonable price.

Adjacent to the ordering counter are glass display cabinets that show off a multitude of tempting French

breakfast and dessert pastries. I felt like the kid in the candy store but with a vastly more sophisticated assortment to agonize over.

The individual apple tart (\$3.90) had a sweet soft crust, not gooey soft, but easy to cut and eat. Bite-sized slices of golden delicious apples sat atop a delectable vanilla pastry cream. Sweet but not cloying, it made a satisfying ending.

The chocolate brioche (\$2.80) was flaky and studded with rich chocolate bits. It was probably intended as a breakfast pastry but was just as good with lunch. The mini hazelnut cake (\$3.10) had layers of chocolate sponge cake, coffee and hazelnut mousses.

Besides offering individual servings, Cocola has whole cakes and tarts in sizes that can accommodate everything from small family gatherings to large events. Beverages include richly brewed coffee specialties, Italian sodas, beer and wine.

Cocola is a welcome addition to the food court area of Stanford Shopping Center. The soups, salads and sandwiches are high-quality and the pastries are worth seeking out. ■

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ShopTalk

NEW OPTIONS FOR GARDENS

... Tucked away in a narrow alley next to Ivy Tutor Center on California Avenue in Palo Alto, Toscano Garden, which opened in August, offers a variety of innovative garden ornaments for decorating and landscaping. They include fountains, planters, tables, benches, statues and bird baths. According to owner Hanna Kim, Toscano Garden filled a landscaping-business gap in town. "I found there's a need for such things here," she said. "I try to find a good selection and differentiate my products from those in Home Depot." Customers choose their favorite ornaments based on the styles of their houses and landscaping. Kim gave one example of how her business is different: She promised that if customers don't have time to go to a nursery to find the ideal plant for a planter, Toscano Garden would go to the nursery and bring back samples for the customer to choose from. Kim said she is also running

gardening classes on weekends, with details on Craigslist. Toscano Garden is at 444 S. California Ave. For more information, call 650-322-2400 or email info@toscaonogarden.com.

— Yichuan Cao

KITSCH 2.0 ... A red fitted sweater dress, a snakeskin maxi, and jeggings in red and blue have been among the offerings at the Kitsch Couture boutique, which held a grand opening earlier this month at 435 University Ave. in Palo Alto. This is the second location for the purveyor of contemporary women's clothing and accessories aimed at the hip younger set; it's also in Los Gatos, owned by Salomeh Zohouri. Brands for sale include Free People, MOTO, Michael Stars and BB Dakota. For more information, go to facebook.com/kitschcouture or call 650-322-6100.

— Rebecca Wallace

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Sports Shorts

LOCAL COLLEGIANS . . . With Sacred Heart Prep grad **Ben Dearborn** playing a starring role in the cage, the 19th-ranked Princeton men's water polo team captured its second CWPA Eastern Championship in the past two seasons with a 10-7 win over Navy on Sunday afternoon in Cambridge, Mass. Princeton (22-9) never trailed in the victory as the Tigers claimed the CWPA's bid to the NCAA Championships in two weeks in Berkeley. Dearborn stymied Navy in goal with 14 saves in the game. His performance included five saves in the momentum-shifting third quarter that saw Princeton take an insurmountable four-goal lead. Drew Hoffenberg led the Tigers with three goals while Palo Alto High grad **Tim Wenzlau** added one goal and one assist. Wenzlau's goal gave Princeton a 1-0 lead with 6:11 left in the first quarter.

At the tournament's conclusion, three Tigers were selected to the Eastern All-Tournament Team. Dearborn and Hoffenberg were named to the first team while Wenzlau was a second-team selection. Princeton now advances to the NCAA Championships at Cal. It will be Princeton's fourth NCAA appearance and second in the past three seasons. Host Harvard, coached by former Castilleja coach **Ted Minnis**, finished seventh following a 13-10 win over Iona. Menlo School grad **John Holland-McCowan** scored a goal for Harvard and tallied four times in a 13-11 overtime loss to Bucknell in the semifinals. He also scored in a 20-5 first-round loss to Navy. St. Francis finished third with a win over Brown, which saw Menlo School grad **Toby Espinosa** play his final college game. Bucknell was fifth following a 15-8 win over Johns Hopkins. Sacred Heart Prep grad **Alex Whittam** of Johns Hopkins was named to the All-CWPA Southern Division Second Team.

CARDINAL CORNER . . . Former Stanford cross-country and track standout **Kate Niehaus** has been named a Rhodes Scholar. Niehaus finished her track eligibility last spring as she was pursuing her master's degree in bioengineering. She plans to pursue a doctorate of philosophy in systems approaches to biomedical science at Oxford. Niehaus was a member of the 2006 and 2007 NCAA title cross-country teams for Stanford.

ON THE AIR

Friday

Women's basketball: Stanford at Xavier, 10 a.m., KZSU (90.1 FM)

Women's volleyball: Cal at Stanford, 7 p.m., Fox Sports Net; KZSU (90.1 FM)

Saturday

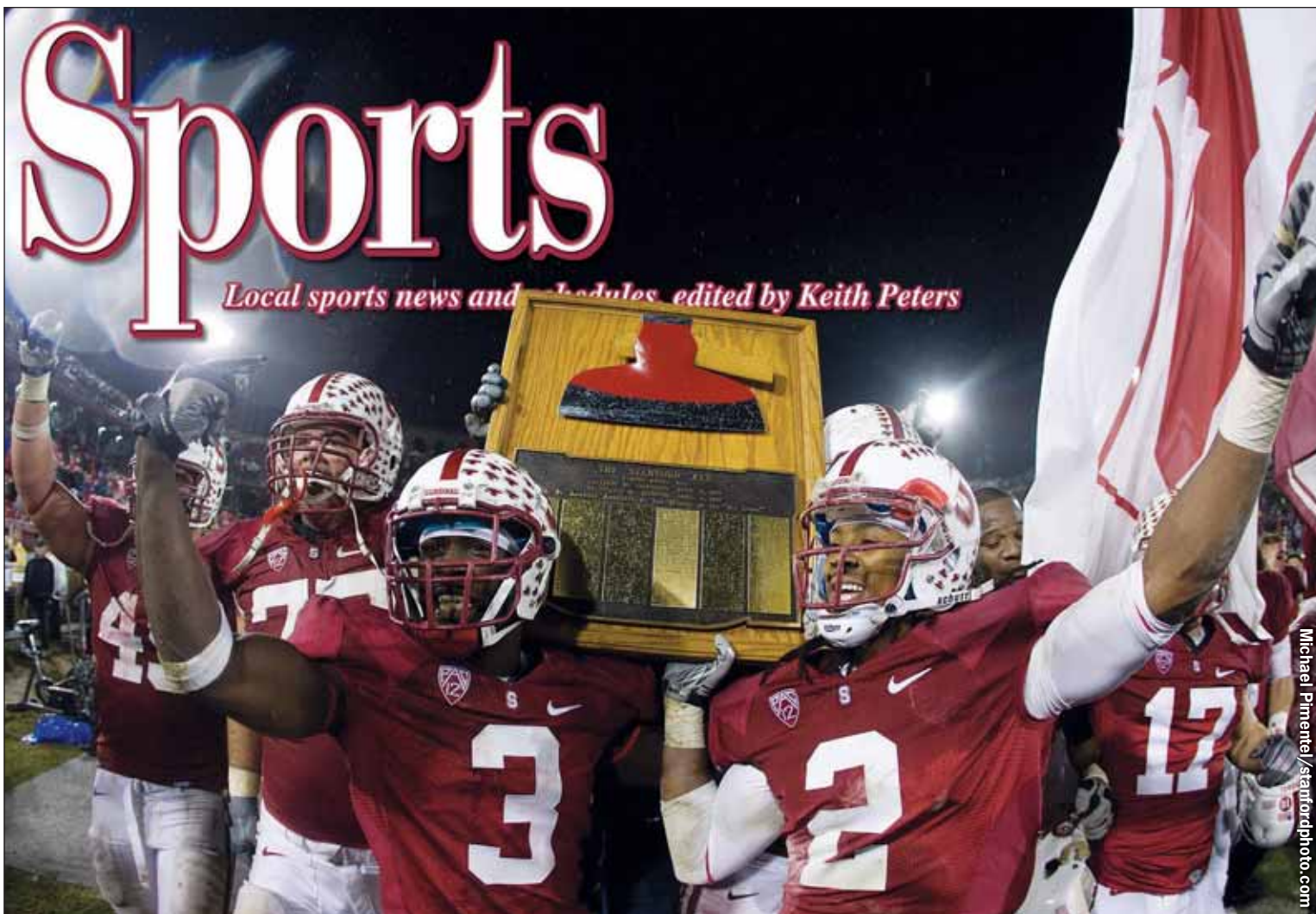
College football: Notre Dame at Stanford, 5 p.m., ABC; KNBR (1050 AM); KZSU (90.1 FM)

Monday

Men's basketball: Pacific at Stanford, 7 p.m.; KNBR (1050 AM); KZSU (90.1 FM)

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Members of the Stanford football team who celebrated last weekend's victory over Cal in the 114th annual Big Game have another big game awaiting on Saturday against visiting Notre Dame. Stanford (10-1) needs a victory to have any chance of playing for a possible national championship.

Stanford best dressed for its next test

Cardinal will be wearing new high-tech uniforms for Saturday's important showdown with Notre Dame in yet another big game

by Rick Eyrer

Stanford will be wearing brand new uniforms come Saturday when the fourth-ranked Cardinal (10-1) takes on visiting No. 23 Notre Dame (8-3) in the regular season finale at Stanford Stadium, with a scheduled kickoff of 5:12 p.m.

The one-time Nike-sponsored uniform switch comes complete with snazzy looking helmets and pants too.

Having new helmets will be good for Stanford players, since there doesn't seem to be much room for additional 'axe' stickers on their current helmets after beating California, 31-28, last weekend.

Those stickers are like gold stars and are awarded based on performance. No one seems to quite understand the criteria for them.

"I have no idea how we earn stickers," Stanford right guard David De-Castro said. "They just show up on

the helmet. I don't know where they come from."

Quarterback Andrew Luck tried to define the parameters, but wasn't quite sure of the exact qualifications. He did joke that if he were to return to Stanford (there's not a chance he will stay) he would insist on more stickers.

Chase Thomas was at least aware that there is a different system in place for offense and defense.

"I have no idea what the point sys-

tem is," Thomas said. "All I know is when I have one of my better games, I get a lot more stickers."

Delano Howell guessed Luck had the most stickers. The equipment staff is likely the leading authority on that. Position coaches generally assign quantity.

The latest uniform, designed for maximum exposure on national television, has received overwhelm-

(continued on page 36)

NCAA WOMEN'S SOCCER

Versatile Levin leads No. 1 Stanford into the Elite Eight

by Rick Eyrer

Stanford senior Camille Levin seems to pop up on the soccer field at all the right places and at all the right times and that's not an accident.

The 5-foot-3 defender-midfielder-forward had made it a habit of moving around the field and coming up big when her team needed some kind of spark.

"She's such a complete player," Stanford women's soccer coach Paul Ratcliffe said. "She's a difference-maker at outside back, she makes a huge difference at center midfield and she makes a difference in the front. It doesn't matter where you put her, she makes a difference."

Ratcliffe hopes she will be in the right place at the right time again Friday when top-ranked and top-seeded Stanford (22-0-1) takes on visiting Oklahoma State (22-1-2) at 7 p.m. in the Elite Eight of the NCAA tournament.

Levin scored the game-winning goal in Stanford's

(continued on page 36)



SHP junior Courtney Schrier was hit by a car in July, but is back running.

PREP CROSS COUNTRY

SHP junior as chance to run in state meet after horrible accident

by Keith Peters

By the time Courtney Schrier had crossed the finish line at the 2011 Central Coast Section cross-country championships, two of her Sacred Heart Prep teammates and 22 other runners were ahead of her.

No matter.

Schrier, a junior, finished 25th overall (20th for team scoring purposes) in 20:40 over the hilly 2.95-mile Crystal Springs course in Belmont. In only her third race of the season, it was her third-slowest time.

No matter.

The fact that Schrier was even running, and helping her SHP team finish fourth to qualify for this Saturday's CIF State Meet in Fresno, was a remarkable achievement. Who says youth is wasted on the young?

Being young and fit likely allowed Schrier to be

(continued on page 35)

Paly girls are ready to defend

State champs are three victories away from doing it all again

by Keith Peters

In his six years as head coach, Dave Winn has taken his Palo Alto girls' volleyball team to the CIF NorCal playoff semifinals three times. Each season the team has gained more experience.

The first trip was in 2009 when the Vikings got to the semifinals before falling to St. Francis (Sacramento), thus ending a fine 36-5 season. It was the most single-season victories in program history until 2010.

Last season, the Vikings once again reach the NorCal semifinals. They avenged the previous year's loss by beating St. Francis and advancing to the program's first NorCal title match since 2000 — and only the second in school history.

Palo Alto defeated St. Mary's (Stockton), advanced to the CIF Division I state final and won it to finish 41-1.

So, here we are again. Paly is 33-3 heading into Saturday's NorCal Division I semifinal. While the record isn't as glossy as the previous seasons, the Vikings have been battle-tested like never before.

"We are a far more experienced and mature team this year than last year, heading into NorCals," said Winn. "Last year was all about 'what if' and 'could we.' This year is all about 'how we will' and 'we can.' The girls are working really hard to make sure they leave nothing to chance."

Palo Alto has been almost methodical in its approach this season. Winn knew the only way his team could improve and get back to the state finals was to play a tougher



The Palo Alto girls' volleyball team celebrated its second straight Central Coast Section Division I title on Saturday following a sweep of Menlo-Atherton, but now sets its collective sights on defending its NorCal championship beginning Saturday at home against San Ramon Valley at 3:30 p.m.

schedule. That resulted in three losses, including one to defending Division II state champ St. Francis (Mountain View).

Since that loss to the Lancers, Palo Alto has won 18 straight — the last victory coming against Menlo-Atherton in the Central Coast Section Division I finals last Saturday at Independence High in San Jose. The Vikings' 25-19, 25-19, 25-14 victory was solid and complete, earning Paly its first-ever No. 1 seed for the NorCal playoffs.

Palo Alto received an unusual first-round bye because the Oakland section champ, Balboa, is a Division III team.

"We're taking advantage of the bye to do some preparation on line-ups and defensive sets, to match up well with our potential opponents

for the next two rounds," Winn explained. "I'm very happy with our situation."

Palo Alto will open defense of its NorCal title by hosting No. 4 seed San Ramon Valley (35-8) on Saturday at 3:30 p.m. The match originally was scheduled for 7 p.m., but changed so not to conflict with Paly's CCS Open Division football semifinal against St. Francis at San Jose City College at that time.

San Ramon Valley advanced with a 25-9, 25-6, 25-14 win over No. 5 Skyline (Oakland) in the first round. Should Palo Alto win on Saturday, it will host the NorCal title match for the first time ever on Tuesday at 7 p.m.

The Vikings would face either No. 2 St. Francis (Sacramento) or No. 3 Menlo-Atherton. Paly has victories

over both teams already this season. The Vikings take a No. 21 national ranking in the MaxPreps Xcellent 25 list into the semifinals.

While Palo Alto enjoyed its bye, four other local girls' teams took the floor on Tuesday in the opening round of the NorCal playoffs. Only three of those squads, however, will be playing in the semifinals on Saturday as Menlo-Atherton, Sacred Heart Prep and Priory all advanced while Castilleja did not.

Menlo-Atherton improved upon last season's first-round exit in the playoffs by holding off No. 6 seed St. Mary's of Stockton (27-10) in a 25-22, 21-25, 25-15, 20-25, 15-9 opening-round Division I marathon on Tuesday night in Atherton.

Versatile junior Ali Spindt led the Bears with 18 kills and 17 digs. Sophomore Pauli King contributed 12 kills and nine digs while senior Sarah Collins had 37 assists, 13 digs and three aces in her final home match.

The No. 3-seeded Bears (30-6) next will visit No. 2 seed St. Francis-Sacramento (38-5) in the semifinals on Saturday at 7 p.m.

While Menlo-Atherton hosted its opener, both Sacred Heart Prep and Priory had to play on the road and came up with successful efforts.

Sacred Heart Prep bounced back from falling to Soquel in the CCS Division IV title match and took its first step toward defending its NorCal Division IV title by sweeping host Willows, 25-15, 25-11, 25-15 on Tuesday night near Chico. Senior Sarah Daschbach led the Gators with 13 kills and three aces while junior Ellie Shannon and senior Jesse Ebner each added six kills apiece.

The No. 5-seeded Gators (24-7) will remain on the road for Saturday's semifinals, taking on No. 1 Union Mine (30-5) in El Dorado County. The winner will play the Marin Catholic-Soquel winner for the NorCal championship on Tues-

day. Sacred Heart would be on the road against either team.

Just two days after suffering a defeat in the Central Coast Section Division V finals, Priory bounced back in a big way and kept its season alive with a 14-25, 25-17, 25-14, 25-23 victory over No. 4 Ripon Christian (27-11) in a Division V opening-round match in the Central Valley near Manteca.

None of the Panthers had played in a NorCal match before and thus the score of the first match. Junior Brianna Willhite sparked Priory in the second set and the Panthers just rolled after that. Sophomore outside hitter Marine Hall-Poirier had 10 kills, 11 digs and two aces to lead Priory with junior Clara Johnson adding 11 digs, eight kills and three aces.

The No. 4-seeded Panthers (26-5) next will visit No. 1 Branson (37-1) in the semifinals on Saturday in Ross. The winner will play in the NorCal finals on Tuesday, with a berth in the state title match at stake.

Coming off arguably its biggest win of the season in the CCS Division V title match against Priory on Saturday, Castilleja suffered perhaps its toughest loss in a 25-21, 25-23, 25-18 setback to No. 6 San Francisco University in the opening round of the NorCal playoffs on Tuesday in Palo Alto. The No. 3 Gators finished their season 20-15.

Serving errors plagued the Gators in the first set and 15 straight points in the second set doomed Castilleja before University went on a 6-1 run to close out the match in the final set. Senior Hannah Bolland had 10 kills in her final match with junior Lucy Tashman contributing seven. Seniors Lindsey Wang, Camille Stroe and Zara Saraon also suited up for the final time. The Gators went 82-59 during the past four years, which included a state title in the senior's first season in 2008. ■



Castilleja celebrated its first Central Coast Section Division V title since 2006 on Saturday, but couldn't keep the momentum going and dropped a NorCal Division V opener on Tuesday night.

Courtesy: Castilleja Volleyball

NCAA CROSS COUNTRY

Stanford's Derrick caps career with second-place finish

Cardinal men fifth and women 10th with bright futures for both squads after solid efforts at national championships

by Rick Eyrer

Despite the loss of three talented runners, the Stanford men's cross country team should be in good shape to compete for a national title next year.

The fifth-ranked Cardinal had plenty of depth this year, which included two of the top recruits in the nation, one of whom is eligible to redshirt.

The Cardinal earned its fourth-straight top-10 finish under head coach Jason Dunn and its third top-five finish in four years.

"I thought we ran pretty well," Dunn said. "I can't remember a race that so closely followed the rankings. I think that just shows how good all the top teams were this season. It hurts to miss the podium by such a small margin, but all of the teams ahead of us ran really well."

The 13th-ranked Cardinal women's team also will lose top talent, but the underclassmen-dominated squad is certainly on the rise.

Senior Chris Derrick completed his college cross-country career with a second-place finish at the NCAA Championships on Monday at the Gibson Course in Terre Haute, Ind.

Derrick raced the 10,000-meter

course in 28:57.5 to match the best-ever finish by a Stanford runner. The Cardinal was fifth as a team with 207 points. Wisconsin won the team title with 97 points.

"I am really proud of Chris," said Dunn. "He ran a great race and finished up an amazing career in cross country. He is one of just six to finish in the top-10 all four years, which is an incredible accomplishment."

Ryan Hall, in 2003, and Neftalem Araia, in 2006, also finished second at the NCAA championship for Stanford.

Stanford finished third, 10th, fourth and fifth during Derrick's career. He earned his fourth cross-country All-American honor and 11th overall.

Sophomore Andrew Berberick, who placed 55th, was a pleasant surprise for Stanford. He did not run the regional meet and was a late addition to the national squad. Berberick ran the best race of his young career to finish as Stanford's No. 3 runner. He crossed the line at 30:25.1 and was the 10th-best underclassmen in the race. Jake Riley, who finished 18th in 29:45, also earned All-American honors.

Stanford listed 10 freshmen and



Richard C. Eisted/stanfordphoto.com

Chris Derrick

five sophomores on its roster this season

The Stanford women finished 10th with 332 points. Georgetown won the team championship with 162 points. The Cardinal finished 13th last season and were in 13th place halfway through Monday's race.

Junior Kathy Kroeger and fifth-year senior Stephanie Marcy earned All-America honors to pace the Cardinal women.

The Cardinal women earned its first top 10 finish since 2008.

Kroeger completed a sensational season with her 21st-place finish. ■

He wasn't expecting me to run at all this cross-country season."

That was not what Schrier wanted to hear.

Schrier eventually got a second opinion, had some x-rays taken and was cleared to run only two months after her accident and two weeks after beginning physical therapy.

Just two weeks later, Schrier was back training with her Sacred Heart Prep teammates.

"I thought maybe she could do track," said SHP coach Marisa Beck. "I never imagined she's be ready for cross country. She didn't start running until mid-October. . . The first day she came out, she ran with the varsity athletes. It helps to be a 16-year-old."

Schrier began her comeback training two days a week and is now up to four days, plus one day on an elliptical trainer. On Saturday, she'll run in her first state meet.

Schrier only began running her freshman year, but progressed quickly. Last season, she had personal records in all her cross-country meets while helping the Gators win their first West Bay Athletic League crown.

Her 2011 season began at the final Center Meet of the year at Crystal Springs, where Schrier ran in the JV race and won it as her teammates cheered her on. The following week, she clocked a personal best of 20:29.9 at Crystal Springs while finishing 12th overall and helping the Gators defend their WBAL crown.

At CCS, she was the team's No. 3 scorer for the second straight meet as freshman Gillian Belton finished seventh overall and junior Kathryn

Leahy was 21st. Sophomore Megan Holland (36th) and junior Brooke Neider (53rd) finished high enough to give the Gators the final state meet berth in Division IV.

"I was not so sure about running cross country," Schrier said. "Now, I really appreciate being able to run. After you lose something, you realize how much you love it."

While her hip still isn't that strong, Schrier is definitely looking forward to Saturday's season-ending race.

"State is definitely going to be the high point," Schrier said of her limited season. "I'm just going to have a good time, go out there and see what we can do."

Meanwhile, Schrier has done her best to put the accident behind her. Still, there are constant reminders.

"I have to drive past the crosswalk every day to get to school," said Schrier, who lives only two blocks from where the accident occurred. "I think from now on I'm going to drive to my (training) runs."

The Sacred Heart Prep girls are one of five local teams to reach the state meet. The Gunn girls will run in Division I, the Castilleja and Priory girls will compete in Division V and the Priory boys also will run in Division V.

Individually, Gunn sophomore Sarah Robinson and Priory senior Kat Gregory have the best chances to finish among the top 10 and bring home a medal.

Robinson ran a personal best of 17:12 at the CCS finals while Gregory won her third straight section title while winning comfortably in 18:23. Her PR at Crystal is 18:12 from earlier in the season. ■

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January 6, 2012, 5 pm**

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Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce
400 Mitchell Lane, Palo Alto
650.324.3121

Schrier

(continued from page 32)

running on that overcast day on Nov. 12. Otherwise, she might not have taken a single step this cross-country season.

Schrier was hit by a car on July 26 as she was walking across El Camino Real at Alejandra Avenue in Atherton. She had just finished a training run and was just moments from her home when she was struck.

Schrier was thrown into the air before hitting the ground and losing consciousness.

"I remember waking up in the ambulance," Schrier said last week as she prepared for Saturday's state finals at Woodward Park. "And I remember waking up in the (Stanford) hospital, and seeing my dad. He was crying."

Schrier had a crack in her pelvis, hip and tailbone in addition to suffering a concussion. Despite her medical problems, the fact Schrier was so fit from training for the San Francisco Half-Marathon (which she missed), perhaps allowed her to leave the hospital after only three days despite not being able to walk right away.

"I was so tied for a couple of weeks," Schrier recalled. "There were definitely phases when I was pretty bummed."

She returned to see her doctor four weeks later.

"He said come back and see me in another eight weeks and we'll talk about doing a little activity," Schrier said. "He was really conservative.

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Palo Alto
Weekly

NCAA soccer

(continued from page 32)

2-0 victory over Boston College on Sunday. Oklahoma State nudged Maryland, 1-0.

Levin and fellow seniors Lindsay Taylor, Teresa Noyola and Kristy Zurmuhlen are on the verge of a pair of major accomplishments. Should Stanford somehow get by the second-seeded and third-ranked Cowgirls, it would mean the seniors would have gone undefeated on their home turf (it's at 49 straight, and the unbeaten streak is 53) for their careers. It would also mean a fourth straight trip to the Women's College Cup after the school went 15 years between Final Four appearances.

The Cardinal also won its third straight conference title for the first time in program history and completed its third consecutive unbeaten regular-season.

There's only one other program in the country who can claim longer unbeaten streaks and North Carolina has 20 national championship banners hanging somewhere on campus to show for it.

The Tar Heels were eliminated in the Sweet Sixteen on penalty kicks.

Defending champion Notre Dame is also gone, losing to Illinois in the first round. Perennial Final Four participants UCLA was sent home, also on penalty kicks, in the second round.

No matter what happens the rest of the way, a first-time champion will be crowned, just the eighth since the beginning of the NCAA tournament in 1982.

Of the remaining eight teams, Stanford, Florida State, Duke and Central Florida have all been national runner-ups.

"We don't think too much about the winning streak particularly," Levin said. "It's amazing and it's great not to have lost a game here, but ultimately it's about this next game."

Ratcliffe wasn't aware of the winning streak until this season and doesn't give it much thought either. He's more interested in getting his team ready to face the Cowgirls, who advanced to their second straight Elite Eight.

"To do what we've done with the streak is incredible just because of the parity in women's soccer," Ratcliffe said. "To get to this level you have to have experience to be successful. Great players emerge in big games. The senior leadership has been incredible. I can't say enough about what they've done for Stanford soccer."

The Oklahoma State athletic department has been through an emotional roller coaster recently, with the deaths of two women's basketball coaches in a plane crash. The Cowgirls soccer team nearly had their NCAA tournament game last weekend postponed but decided it would affect too many other teams and played.

Oklahoma State is looking for its first ever trip to the Final Four in its sixth straight trip to the postseason.

The Cowgirl seniors own the fourth-best record in the nation at 75-13-10. Stanford has the best mark at 89-4-4.

With its 42-5-4 record, Oklahoma State has the second-most wins in the nation over the last two seasons. The Cowgirls' win total trails only Stanford, which is 45-1-3 over the same span.

Levin will likely play an important role in the game no matter where she plays.

"I just like to be on the field," said Levin, who has played every position with the exception of goalie during her playing career. "I played all over the place growing up in club, but mostly at outside back. I'm used to be thrown forward. There's a little bit of difference in the positions, maybe coming at it from different angles, but I don't really think about it. I'm out there trying to do my best." ■

Stanford football

(continued from page 32)

ing praise.

"It's a pleasure to be give uniforms to play in for a game," said Howell, whose injured right hand is still wrapped but feeling better. "I just hope we get to keep them."

Thomas said it's always nice to receive interesting new things.

"The players love it and I'm sure the recruits do too," Thomas said. "I'm happy to put on new stuff."

Stanford coach David Shaw said the design of the 'Limited Engagement Pro Nike Gear' was done in cooperation with the athletic department and had to be acceptable "not to detract but to add to the game," he said. "The players are excited. We'll see how everybody else feels."

Stickers and uniforms aside, Stanford will honor its fourth- and fifth-year seniors before Saturday's game.

"It goes by so fast," said DeCastro, who learned earlier in the week he was a finalist for the Outland Trophy, given the nation's top offensive lineman. "I've had a lot of fun, met a lot of people who will remain friends for a lifetime and I wouldn't want to do it with any other group of guys. We've shared a lot of experiences that have brought us close."

Howell, who began his career at Stanford as a running back and will end it as a defensive back, said it's one more opportunity to make an impression.

"It's been awesome," Howell said. "I have a lot of respect for this group of guys. I want to give it everything I have for them."

The seniors represent the first class of recruits to come in under Jim Harbaugh and helped turn a one-win season into consecutive 10-win seasons. They've been bowl eligible three straight years and could be playing in their second successive BCS bowl game.

"These guys are special," Shaw



Andrew Luck (12) guided Stanford to a 31-28 Big Game win over Cal last weekend, but needs another big win Saturday over Notre Dame.

said. "They believed in the vision of being an outstanding academic school and having an outstanding football team. They made the rarity of being a Top 5 program realistic by putting in a lot of hard work."

Stanford faces a Notre Dame team that is also on the rise. After opening the season 0-2, the Irish have won eight of their last nine games (with the lone loss to USC) and will

be looking to beat their second nationally-ranked team of the season.

"They can attack you in all phases of the game," Thomas said. "It's always great to play a team like Notre Dame. You want to end on a high note."

The Irish have a 1,000-yard receiver in Michael Floyd, a 1,000-yard rusher in Cierre Wood and a top tight end in Tyler Eifert. Sophomore quarterback Tommy Rees has completed 66 percent of his passes and Manti Te'o is one of the top linebackers in the nation.

"You have to be aware of him," Luck said. "He's a game-changer. He does an unbelievable job of making plays."

"He's one of the best," DeCastro said. "He makes plays, he's fast and he moves well."

Stanford has won its past two meetings, its first winning streak of any kind in the series, between the teams after losing seven in a row. Notre Dame owns the overall series lead, 17-8. The teams first met in the 1925 Rose Bowl.

NOTES: TE Zach Ertz practiced Monday, his first time on the field since missing the last three games with a right knee injury. He is probable for Saturday. "He looked good," Luck said. "I'm sure he's in some pain. He's a tough kid; hopefully he will continue to improve." . . . WR Chris Owusu will miss his third straight game while he recovers from a series of concussions. Whether he plays in the bowl game has not been decided, Shaw said. . . . Placekicker Jordan Williamson (leg injury) will also resume kicking duties, though he will not kick-off. ■



NOTICE OF A PUBLIC MEETING of the City of Palo Alto Architectural Review Board (ARB)

10:30 A.M., Thursday, December 8, 2011 Palo Alto Council Chambers, 1st Floor, Civic Center, 250 Hamilton Avenue. Go to the Development Center at 285 Hamilton Avenue to review filed documents; contact Diana Tamale for information regarding business hours at 650.329.2144.

AT&T DAS Project [11PLN- 00340]: Request by AT&T for Architectural Review of the co-location of wireless communications equipment (Distributed Antenna System [DAS]) on 19 existing utility poles located within City rights-of-way at various locations within the City: 179 Lincoln - 1851 Bryant - 1401 Emerson - 1880 Park Blvd - 134 Park Ave - 109 Coleridge- 1345 Webster - 2101 Waverley - 2326 Webster - 968 Dennis - 370 Lowell (Waverley side) - opposite of 1248 Waverley - 105 Rinconada - 1720 Webster - 2704 Louis - 464 Churchill - 255 N. California - 1085 Arrowhead - 595 Lincoln; and on one utility pole within County right of way: Oregon Expressway near Ross. Proposed equipment would include two antennas at the top of each pole and two equipment boxes on the side of each pole. Environmental Assessment: Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act per section 15303 New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures.

Amy French
Manager of Current Planning



CITY OF PALO ALTO NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN That The Palo Alto City Council Will Hold A Public Hearing At The Regularly Scheduled Meeting On Monday, December 12, 2011 At 7:00 P.M. Or As Near Thereafter As Possible, In The Council Chambers, 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, To Consider An Appeal Of An Architectural Review Approval And A Record Of Land Use Action (1) Approving A Mitigated Negative Declaration, And (2) Upholding The Director's Architectural Review Approval Of A Three Story Development Consisting Of 84 Rental Residential Units In 104,971 Square Feet Within The Upper Floors, 50,467 Square Feet Ground Floor Research And Development Area, Subterranean And Surface Parking Facilities, And Offsite Improvements, With Two Concessions Under State Housing Density Bonus Law (SB1818) On A 2.5 Acre Parcel At 195 Page Mill Road And 2865 Park Boulevard. Note: Tentative Map application for condominiums has been withdrawn.

DONNA J. GRIDER, MMC
CITY CLERK

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



Pippa Temple

Sacred Heart Prep

The senior scored seven goals in a semifinal victory and added a match-high five in an 11-4 victory over Los Altos to lead the No. 1 Gators' water polo team to a record fifth straight CCS Division II title.



Will Runkel

Sacred Heart Prep

The junior goalie had 10 saves in a semifinal victory, despite being sick, and came back with 17 saves in a 7-4 victory over Los Altos as the Gators won the CCS Division II water polo title for a fifth time.

Honorable mention

Hannah Boland*

Castilleja volleyball

Hannah Hsieh*

Castilleja volleyball

Maddie Kuppe*

Palo Alto volleyball

Kelly Moran

Sacred Heart Prep water polo

Melanie Wade

Palo Alto volleyball

Kimmy Whitson*

Palo Alto volleyball

B.J. Boyd*

Palo Alto football

Dre Hill*

Palo Alto football

Michael Holloway

Sacred Heart Prep water polo

Jack Larson*

Sacred Heart Prep football

Cameron Moody

Menlo-Atherton football

Daver Refioglu

Sacred Heart Prep football

* previous winner

To see video interviews of the Athletes of the Week, go to www.PASportsOnline.com

CCS FOOTBALL

Paly, Lancers meet for the first time

Vikings need to win Open Division semifinal to defend their title

by Keith Peters

The Palo Alto football team has played 33 games in the Central Coast Section playoffs and, perhaps surprisingly, holds a winning record against the West Catholic Athletic League.

The Vikings have played Mitty three times, Bellarmine and Valley Christian twice each and has a 4-3 mark in those contests.

One WCAL team that Paly has never played in the postseason is St. Francis. That, however, will change this weekend when the Vikings and Lancers meet up in the CCS Open Division semifinals on Saturday at San Jose City College at 7 p.m.

The game is so big that the state champion Palo Alto girls' volleyball team switched its NorCal semifinal on Saturday from 7 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. so not to conflict.

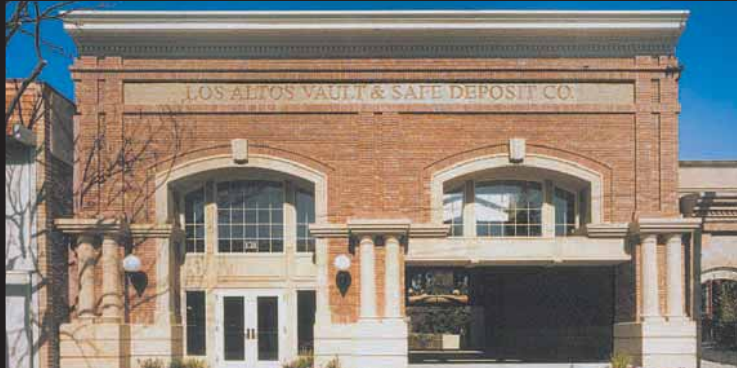
Fourth-seeded Palo Alto (9-2) brings a 21-12 all-time postseason record into the showdown while the No. 8 Lancers (6-5) are 72-18-1 CCS games. St. Francis, in fact, is the winningest team in section playoff history.

The Lancers continued that mastery with a 20-17 upset of top-seeded Oak Grove last weekend to open the playoffs. That certainly opened Paly's door a little wider to the division championship game on Dec. 2 at San Jose CC at 8 p.m.

The Vikings, of course, must beat

(continued on page 39)

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She loves to teach, act as a guide to the world of science and critical thinking, and is heartened to see students grow and become enthusiastic learners.

She is a voracious reader and says, "No vacation can truly begin until I've consumed two or three novels."

When asked about awards and accomplishments, she says, "My daughters are the greatest gift or award I could ever receive."

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GIRLS' WATER POLO

SHP's latest CCS title one for history books

Top-seeded Gators have a familiar finish as they win a fifth consecutive section championship, 11-4 over Los Altos

by Keith Peters

It was only a year ago that Sacred Heart Prep juniors Pippa Temple and Erin Sheridan helped make program history by leading the Gators win a fourth straight Central Coast Section Division II title, tying St. Francis (2000-03) for the most consecutive crowns.

For an encore in their senior year, Temple and Sheridan provided another historic footnote to cap their prep careers as the top-seeded Gators defeated No. 2-seeded Los Altos (19-8) to capture a fifth straight CCS Division II championship on Saturday at Independence High in San Jose.

"We lost an amazing group of seniors last year, including an All-American goalie," said Sacred Heart Prep coach Jon Burke, "but we filled those shoes and made a little history in the process."

Winning a fifth straight CCS title was the unstated goal this season.

"The girls knew about it, but we never talked about it," Burke said. "We always say we want to be the last team playing the Saturday before Thanksgiving."

That has been the case in all six years that Burke has been coaching,

starting with a runner-up finish in 2006 followed by five straight titles. The Gators are 148-27 during that time, including a 24-5 mark this season.

It's a remarkable achievement, given the turnover of athletes each season. Losing goalie Catherine Donahoe to graduation last season, for example, thrust untested sophomore Kelly Moran into a position previously held by an All-American. Temple, Sheridan and fellow senior Clare Rudolph all returned, but other spots needed to be filled.

"Each year we have faced big losses to graduation — including the graduation of CCS MVP's like Pallavi Menon ('07), Vee Dunlevie ('08), Heather Smith ('09) and Catherine Donahoe ('10)," said Burke. "Despite this, we

have remained a competitive program year in and out. I credit this to the athletes' dedication, strong work ethic and their ability to play as a team."

That certainly was the case this season as the Gators overcame two losses early in the season in the St. Francis Autumn Invitational and single losses in the Davis and NorCal tournaments, plus a loss to St.



SHP's senior captains celebrate title.



Sacred Heart Prep coach Jon Burke hits the water while his players aren't far behind following the Gators' 11-4 victory over Los Altos in the CCS Division II championship match last Saturday in San Jose.

Francis in the WCAL playoff finale.

"We suffered some losses in October, but that helped us regroup," Burke said.

Just facing a high level of competition during the tournaments more than prepared the Gators for CCS, where they outscored the opposition in three matches by 46-12.

While the offense was solid once again Saturday as Temple

scored five goals and sophomore Morgan McCracken added two, it was the Gators' defense that really shined.

"I can't emphasize the defensive job we did," Burke said. "Kelly Moran (with 13 saves) played great."

As did her teammates as Los Altos scoring leader Katy Schaefer was held scoreless, perhaps for the first time this season, while No. 2 scorer Olivia Santiago was limited to a pair

of goals, one a 5-meter penalty shot with the match already decided in the final moments.

"It was our most spectacular defense of the season and it couldn't have come at a better time," Burke said.

This was the Eagles' first-ever appearance in the CCS finals while the Gators were making their seventh.

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Sacred Heart Prep coach Brian Kreutzkamp is just about to make a splash after his Gators held off Los Altos, 7-4, to capture the CCS Division II championship last weekend in San Jose.

BOYS' WATER POLO

It was a healthy finish for SHP in CCS finals

Gators overcome earlier illnesses and a tough Los Altos team to win their fifth section championship, fourth in five years

by Keith Peters

Brian Kreutzkamp had been battling illness the past week, along with a handful of his players on the Sacred Heart Prep boys' water polo team. The last thing Kreutzkamp needed to do on a cold day was jump into a swimming pool.

But, that comes with the job when your team wins a Central Coast Section Division II championship, which is exactly what the Gators did last Saturday with a 7-4 victory over Los Altos at Independence High in San Jose.

The title for the top-seeded Gators (19-10) was the fifth in program history and the team's fourth in the past five years. Sacred Heart has now appeared in nine straight championship games since winning its first title in 2003.

Third-seeded Los Altos (20-6), meanwhile, was making its fourth appearance ever in the title match and the first since 2001. The Eagles

are 0-4 in finales.

Los Altos, which eliminated defending champion Menlo School in the semifinals, appeared to have a decent shot at upending Sacred Heart Prep — given the Gators' recent illnesses and semifinal results.

"It's been quite a week," said Kreutzkamp. "Against Soquel (in the semifinals), it was our worst defensive game of the year as we gave up the most goals (13) of the season. Today, we played our best defensive game of the year, giving up the fewest goals of the year."

A big reason for the standout defensive effort by SHP was 6-foot-5 junior goalie Will Runkel, who was credited with 17 saves.

"When he (Runkel) plays that well, we're hard to stop," Kreutzkamp said. "When he plays like that and gets in a zone it allows us to take some chances offensively . . . you can get away with some mis-

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the Lancers to earn a date with the Mitty-Bellarmine winner. They play in the semifinals on Friday, also at SJCC.

St. Francis is led by quarterback Colin Johnson (77 for 122 for 1,213 yards) and running back Durrell Crooks (189 carries for 1,269 yards). If the Vikings can stop either of these two and not turn the ball over like they did last week in a 20-6 first-round win over Leland, Paly could find itself playing for a second straight Open Division title.

Palo Alto overcame some sloppiness on a rainy night last week as senior wideout B.J. Boyd caught two touchdown passes from sophomore quarterback Keller Chryst to lead the Vikings. Dre Hill added a one-yard TD run in the fourth quarter and finished with 127 yards on 25 carries.

Chryst overcame four interceptions in the first half while dealing with a slippery ball. He was more solid in the second half with his two TD passes, winding up with 169 passing yards while the Paly defense did a standout job by blanking a Leland offense that had been averaging nearly 38 points a game.

CCS girls

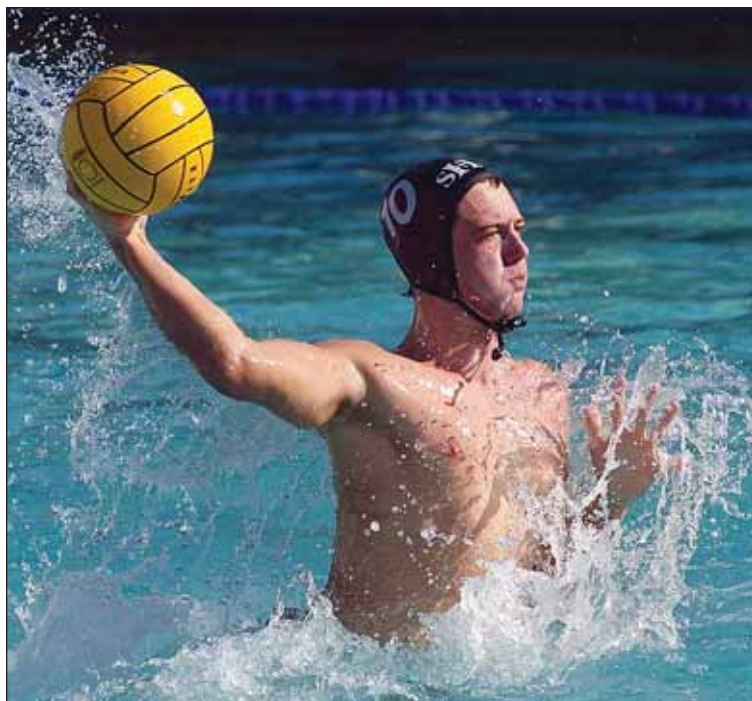
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Sacred Heart's familiarity of being in the finals once again showed as the Gators controlled the game's tempo.

"Today," Burke said, "we arguably played our best game of the year, and you can't time it any better than that."

And for that, Temple and her fellow seniors are thankful.

"There are no words to describe just how proud I am of our class," said the Princeton-bound Temple, whose class went 95-22 in four seasons. "There have been so many ups and downs and we've always been able to end every season with a win. And that's just incredible." ■



Keith Peters

Sacred Heart Prep junior Michael Holloway scored three goals in the Gators' 7-4 CCS title-clinching win over Los Altos.

CCS boys

(continued from previous page)

takes."

Runkel set the tone early after SHP junior Michael Holloway scored the first of his game-high three goals and senior Kyle Koenig added another for a 2-0 lead. Runkel blocked a shot during a Los Altos 6-on-5 situation, blocked a shot during a one-on-one and then blocked a point-blank shot. Runkel made six stops in the first quarter alone.

When Holloway scored again on a 6-on-5, the Gators held a 3-0 first-quarter lead. The Eagles battled back to tie at 3 on goals by Adam Warmoth, Ian McColl and the first of two by Kevin Stangl.

SHP sophomore Harrison Enright made it a 4-3 game on another 6-on-5 goal with 1:22 left in the third quarter. When Los Altos lost its big 2-meter man, Matt Orton, to his third exclusion foul early in the fourth quarter, the Gators took advantage of the 6-on-5 with Holloway scoring for a 5-3 lead.

"That changed everything," Kreutzkamp said.

SHP junior Bret Hinrichs scored a pair of fourth-quarter goals to hold off the Eagles, who got only one goal combined from its top scoring tandem of Warmoth and Orton.

Kreutzkamp said the difference between giving up 13 goals to Soquel and four to Los Altos was returning to its normal style of play.

"Against Soquel, we were leaving too early (on a counter-attack) and not staying true to our game," said Kreutzkamp, whose team played more conservatively on Saturday. "At halftime, I got a feeling for the game and realized it was going to be a defensive battle," Kreutzkamp said.

Neither team allowed the other to break away on the counter, thus the match turned into a halfcourt type of game with each squad trying to earn kickouts and 6-on-5 advantages. The Gators wound up scoring five goals on man-up advantages.

"I'm comfortable with that," Kreutzkamp said of playing a half court game. "I knew we could get six to eight goals if we slowed it down. If we get out and counter-attack, we can get 10 or more."

While the Gators finished with 10 losses this season, their most while reaching a CCS final, Kreutzkamp was more than pleased with how the season turned out.

"We started two seniors," he said of Koenig and Max McKelvy. "They exceeded my expectations. Our goal was to get through league and get to this game."

The championship? It was just icing on the cake. ■

Menlo-Atherton will get the CCS semifinals off to an early start when the No. 2-seeded Bears (8-3) play host to No. 6 Salinas (7-4) in Division I action Friday at 1 p.m.

Menlo-Atherton romped past No. 7 Santa Clara (8-3) by a 40-22 count last week while Salinas edged Homestead, 27-26.

Senior running backs Cameron Moody and Taylor Mashack ran for a combined 156 yards and four touchdowns to lead the Bears. Moody carried the offense as he ran for 121 yards and two touchdowns. In the third quarter he ran for a 34-yard touchdown to seal the win.

M-A senior quarterback Willy Fonua was effective in the air as he threw for 152 yards on 7 of 11 passes.

Menlo-Atherton took advantage of six Santa Clara turnovers — two being interceptions by M-A safety Austin Clarence, who also had four tackles to lead a quality defense.

In a Division IV opener last Saturday, injury-riddled Sacred Heart Prep survived to play another day as the No. 4-seeded Gators held off No. 5 Scotts Valley, 27-20, in Atherton.

The Gators (8-3) will face No. 1 Palma (9-1-1) on Friday night at the Salinas Sports Complex at 7 p.m. Scotts Valley, which was beaten by the Gators earlier this season but was averaging 53.1 points a game over its past three outings, finished

8-3.

SHP senior quarterback Jack Larson, who had missed the two previous games due to injury, connected with senior Pat Brunni on a 16-yard touchdown pass with 10.5 seconds left to break a 20-20 tie and give the Gators the dramatic victory.



Keller Chryst

Sacred Heart Prep rallied from a 17-0 second-quarter deficit and got to within 20-14 entering the fourth quarter. Larson and Duke Moran hooked up on a 13-yard TD pass to deadlock the game at 20 as SHP's point-after attempt was blocked. Daver Rafioglou had 114 yards on 15 carries for the Gators while Larson threw for three touchdowns, including a 10-yarder to

Ryan Gaertner.

Also in Division IV, Menlo School saw its season end in a big loss to unbeaten Carmel (11-0) in the opening round last Friday at Pacific Grove High. The No. 7-seeded Knights (7-4) gave up 225 rushing yards to Carmel's Devin Pearson, who also threw for 114 more. Menlo sophomore Jack Heneghan threw for 210 yards on 16-of-36 completions and one touchdown, 22 yards to Chris Reed. Connor Statsny had seven catches for 90 yards for Menlo, which fell behind by 34-0. ■

(Andrew Preimesberger contributed)

Real Estate Matters

BRIDGING THE GAP

Like the question of the chicken and the egg, homeowners planning to buy a new home must ask, "Which comes first?" Do you sell first, and then look frantically for the new home, or buy first and risk financing two properties?

There's more risk than just two mortgages. If you're rushed to sell your home to purchase a new one, you might be forced to list at, or accept, a lower price than expected. If you're pressed to buy a new home, you may be forced into paying an unexpectedly higher price.

What is one to do? Build a bridge. Yes, there is a financing

option called a "bridge loan," so named because it "spans the gap" between your sale and your purchase.

One type of "bridge" lets you simultaneously pay off your existing mortgage and make a down-payment on the new one. You make payments only on the new loan, and pay off the bridge loan when your old home sells.

Another kind of "bridge" allows you to borrow against the equity in your old home to make the down-payment on the new home. Both "bridges" still mean two loans, but the costs may be offset as a result of having more time to get top dollar for the sale of your existing home. See you on the other side.

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