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Upfront

Local news, information and analysis

Council not sold on proposed College Terrace grocer

Officials reject latest bid by developer's son to operate market at JJ&F site

by Gennady Sheyner

The developers behind the College Terrace Centre believe they have found a grocer to replace the beloved JJ&F Market, but the City Council made it clear Monday night that it's not buying the latest proposal.

For the second time in less than four months, the Palo Alto council rejected a proposal that would have placed James Smailey, a member of the development

team, in charge of the supermarket in the new development at 2180 El Camino Real. After a long discussion, council members agreed that Smailey, whose father, Patrick Smailey, headed the development team, is unlikely to offer products and service comparable to JJ&F. They also agreed to give the applicants until March to find a new grocer.

The council expressed similar concerns in August when the applicants submitted a

proposal that listed James Smailey as the market's new owner and operator and redacted the names of the grocery store's top executives. Given that Smailey has no prior experience in the grocery business and wasn't willing to divulge his purportedly experienced management team, council members turned him down and demanded more information.

Since then, the applicants have submitted more than 200 pages of information, including lease agreements between the parties involved in the grocery store and a proposal from the property owner to pay

a monthly penalty of \$11,250 if the grocery store goes out of business and is not replaced within six months. The developers also provided the resume of the man who would be doing most of the work in running the store: Uriel Chavez, whose family has run small markets throughout Northern California, including La Hacienda, Arteagas and Mi Pueblo. In the revised proposal, Chavez would be the grocery operations officer of the store that would be known as the College Terrace Market.

(continued on page 13)



Veronica Weber

Not quite singin' in the rain

A mom and son walk down a leaf-strewn University Avenue on Wednesday. Although the series of storms brought Bay Area water levels above normal — and wet weather is predicted off and on through the weekend — “California remains in the grip of a serious and protracted drought,” according to the National Weather Service.

EDUCATION

Mysterious policy proposal becomes hot potato

Unusual conflict-of-interest proposal bounces between school board and committee, despite superintendent's opposition

by Elena Kadvany

Palo Alto school board Vice President Melissa Baten Caswell is asking her colleagues to consider adopting additional conflict-of-interest policies that would prevent a school board member from participating in any district matter that involves a campaign donor of \$250 or more or an organization for which the member had previously worked as an employee or consultant.

Caswell, who suggested the policies in emails to Superintendent Max McGee on Oct. 14, said the idea came from multiple “constituents” who wondered why the limi-

tations weren't part of the current district's conflict-of-interest policies. She declined to identify the constituents or their specific concerns, but she has pushed for it to be considered in spite of McGee's advice that there is no need and that it distracts from other important work.

The proposals put forth by Caswell were drawn from a federal executive order pertaining only to individuals appointed to federal executive branch positions and from a California state law that also ap-

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HOLIDAY FUND

Learning empathy through Everytown

High schoolers learn about each other, themselves in retreats

by Elena Kadvany

Gunn High School sophomore Xander Burch has one word to describe Camp Everytown: emotional.

And it is. The four-day retreat in the Santa Cruz Mountains, organized by Bay Area nonprofit Silicon Valley FACES, is designed to get high school students out of their comfort zones and talking about difficult topics: racism, gender stereotypes, mental illness, sexual orientation and bullying.

Students say it's eye-opening. Organizers describe the camp as life-changing. The ultimate goal of Camp Everytown is to inspire a desire in students to go back to their schools or communities and create change, whether it be through a club or initiative or newly discovered empathy for their peers.

But Camp Everytown is not available to all students — those who attend are typi-

cally recommended by teachers or staff for either displaying leadership skills or, conversely, being in need of exposure to these kind of hard conversations.

A longtime partnership with Gunn High School, supported this year by the Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund, has resulted in Silicon Valley FACES bringing a condensed version of Camp Everytown to the school, called Evening in Everytown.

So on a recent Friday night, about 94 Gunn students from all grades, plus facilitators, staff members (including principal Denise Hermann) and alumni, gathered in the Gunn library. At one point, the students were split in two groups, with each standing on one side of the library. They were asked a series of revealing questions: Have you ever felt bad

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Upfront

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“

Lives of others are not always as they seem.

”

— **Julia Maggioncalda**, a Stanford University sophomore and Gunn High School graduate, on the devastating impact of her pursuit of perfection. See story on page 5.

Around Town

MIRACLE ON MIDDLEFIELD ...

Yes, Virginia, there is a **Mitchell Park Library and Community Center**. The City of Palo Alto will celebrate the grand opening of its new library at 3700 Middlefield Road, on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., starting with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. City staff and elected officials, including Santa Clara County Supervisor **Joe Simitian**, Palo Alto Mayor **Nancy Shepherd**, City Manager **James Keene**, Library Director

Monique le Conge Ziesennehenne

and Community Services Director **Greg Betts**, will make opening remarks. The day of celebration will also include free family-friendly activities, including face painting, a jump house, story times, story acting, public-art tours, sustainable and landscape tours, art-center activities, Capoeira demonstrations, Indian dance demonstrations and a Whole Foods cooking demo. There will also be several mini classes from the offerings in the Community Services Department's Enjoy Class Catalog. Several groups will perform throughout the day, including the Palo Alto High School jazz band, Gunn High School choir, Dance Connection, the Palo Alto Children's Theatre and Zohar Dance Company. The Palo Alto fire and police departments will give tours of fire engines and the city's Mobile Emergency Operations Center. Parking at the new facility will be closed off to traffic beginning at 8:30 a.m., but parking will be available at Cubberley Community Center at 4000 Middlefield Road. Shuttle service will be provided between Cubberley and Mitchell Park Library and Community Center from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

FLOWER POWER ... Nature's

Alley will host its fourth annual "Holiday Flowers for Our Veterans" event on Sunday, Dec. 14, in which community members will assemble bouquets of flowers to be delivered to hospitalized veterans. From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., volunteers will make the festive floral arrangements and holiday greeting cards at Nature's Alley, 2675 Middlefield Road, in the Midtown Shopping Center. All ages are welcome and no experience is necessary. From 1 to 3 p.m., volunteers will make bedside deliveries at the VA Palo Alto hospital along with Santa Claus. Community members can also drop off donations of home-baked or

purchased holiday cookies and greeting cards at Nature's Alley on Saturday, Dec. 13, for next-day delivery to veterans.

A NEW CHAPTER ...

After three years of program growth, **10 Books A Home** (an East Palo Alto nonprofit that provides low-income families in East Palo Alto and east Menlo Park with free, in-home literacy tutoring), is getting a new home. 10BH, which serves 100 children, 100 parents and 30 siblings with 100 volunteers and three full-time staff, has been operating out of a living room in a small apartment, but now the nonprofit is in the process of moving into a more spacious office in East Palo Alto and is looking for donations of basic furnishings. To donate equipment, including desks, chairs, bookshelves, couches, file cabinets, rugs and phones, email info@10booksahome.org.

TO BE A LAW OR NOT TO BE ...

State Sen. **Jerry Hill**, D-San Mateo, has announced the seventh annual "Oughta Be A Law ... Or Not" contest, which seeks ideas for legislation from Peninsula and Silicon Valley residents. The contest is open to all constituents of the 13th Senate District, which includes the cities of Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, Atherton, Menlo Park and Mountain View. "This is an excellent opportunity for constituents to share their ideas for state laws, participate in our democracy and learn firsthand about the legislative process," Hill said in a press release. Hill's competition, which follows in the footsteps of a contest mounted by his predecessor, Joe Simitian (now Santa Clara County supervisor), adds the option of repeals or revisions of existing nonsensical or obsolete legislation. Applications, which are available by calling Hill's district office at 650-212-3313 and from his website at tinyurl.com/cbmnaya, are due by Jan. 16, 2015. The deadline to introduce bills for the 2015 legislative session is Feb. 27, 2015. Hill will select a winner and introduce the idea as legislation. The winner will have the opportunity to testify in Sacramento at hearings on the legislation. Past winners have testified on behalf of their bill idea in Assembly or Senate committees during the legislative process, and some have also had their bill ideas signed into law. ■

Palo Alto launches downtown parking-permit program

City Council unanimously approves initiative aimed at easing parking gridlock in residential neighborhoods

by Gennady Sheyner

Marking a new era in parking policies, Palo Alto officials on Tuesday ushered in a long-debated permit program that they hope will finally provide downtown residents some relief from chronic parking congestion.

In a separate vote, the City Council also approved a broader framework that will allow other areas of the city to request similar permit programs, provided they meet thresholds for neighborhood support and parking.

Both unanimous votes followed years of complaints from downtown residents; nine months of negotiations among members of a stakeholders group; and more than two hours of line editing by council members.

In downtown, the program will require everyone who parks a car on residential streets for more than two hours to hold a permit — or else face a ticket. In the first phase, which will last six months, the permits will be free for downtown residents. Downtown employees will have to pay either \$50 or \$233, depending on their income level. Other parties that use downtown neighborhoods for free all-day parking — including Caltrain com-

muters and Stanford University students, staff and faculty — would not be allowed to obtain permits.

The council's actions marked a critical milestone in the city's effort to address parking shortages in Palo Alto's primary commercial areas, a subject that has attracted more civic attention than any other over the past two years.

The city is also in the process of forming a Transportation Management Association (a nonprofit that would manage programs to reduce traffic); expanding its shuttle program; exploring new garage technologies with the hope of steering commuters into the chronically underused parking structures; and planning to build new garages.

Jessica Sullivan, the city's parking manager, said Tuesday, "We've made great strides this year in a lot of different parking components of this program."

"RPPP (Residential Parking Permit Program) is a keystone program that helps us start to manage all these things much more effectively," Sullivan said.

Councilman Marc Berman agreed, saying, "The RPPP is the backbone for so many of the other efforts. ... So I think this is

a really, really important night for starting to address the concerns that residents have been expressing to the council for years about decreasing quality of life in their neighborhoods."

The approval of the permit program is a victory for residents of Professorville and Downtown North who have long complained

'We've made great strides this year in a lot of different parking components of this program.'

—Jessica Sullivan, parking manager, city of Palo Alto

about the deteriorating parking conditions on their neighborhood streets, which currently have no parking restrictions. Surveys by residents and city planners show that most of the blocks around downtown's commercial core are 85 percent or more parked up (in some cases, more than 100 percent) during weekday business hours.

Michael Hodos, who lives in Professorville, emphasized that

the proposed two-phase program is a delicate compromise between business and residential stakeholders. He urged the council, before its vote, not to tinker with the details too much.

"This resolution is like an arch," Hodos said. "You take away any one component and you risk having the entire structure fall apart. Please don't let this happen."

The council heeded his advice and made only minor tweaks before endorsing the stakeholders group's recommendation.

The discussion of the program actually started Monday night, when the council heard from several speakers but deferred its own discussion until a specially scheduled meeting on Tuesday night because of the late hour.

One of the speakers on Monday night was Judy Kleinberg, CEO of the Chamber of Commerce. She told the council that the Chamber generally supports having a permit program but believes that the first phase should be a true "pilot" program. The Chamber, she said, is concerned that the second phase in the program is too detailed. She also urged the council to keep employees' needs in mind.

"We want to emphasize that any

program has to meet the needs of all employees who make downtown a vital, robust center that we all enjoy," Kleinberg said. "That means really protecting the system in terms of downtown retail employees, service workers, restaurants and hospitality businesses."

Under the staff proposal, the second phase would last a year and would set a cap on permits and give them out on a block-by-block basis (an employee permit would specify which one- or two-block area the permit applies to). Employees would be allotted about 20 percent of the permits, with service employees getting priority access. Residents would get one free permit and have the option of buying up to four more at an annual cost of \$50 each.

Most of the residents who spoke on Monday and Tuesday advocated for the program's passage. Gabrielle Layton, a downtown resident who served on the stakeholders group, said on Monday it's time to act to curtail an increasingly worsening situation.

"Every other month, another street-face is being devoured by the parking monster," Layton said.

(continued on page 12)

COMMUNITY

Changes eyed for Palo Alto's animal shelter

City Council to reach out to residents, other cities in planning for facility's future

by Gennady Sheyner

Palo Alto's animal shelter is no longer in danger of closing, but city officials agreed Tuesday night that it's time to rethink how the city operates the popular but financially draining facility on East Bayshore Road.

The City Council Finance Committee briefly discussed the animal shelter's future and a recent proposal by the Palo Alto Humane Society to help the city expand it and add a host of new programs.

Carole Hyde, executive director of Palo Alto Humane Society, briefly presented a revised proposal for partnering with the city. After offering in October 2013 to help the city build a new, state-of-the-art facility, the organization revised its offer in November.

Now, the plan calls for a \$2 million to \$3 million expansion of the existing shelter. The programs the Humane Society proposes include Critters Club (a school-based club that focuses on the needs of animals), Mow Wow Animals

(a Web-based curriculum for elementary school students) and PAWS 2 PAHS (a program in which dogs visit classrooms).

"This partnership is suitable to PAHS's organizational strengths, staffing, financial depth, and current and recent programs," the new proposal states. "We believe the future of Animal Services is best served if the shelter is operated by the city and made vibrant with a community program provided by Palo Alto Humane Society."

The expanded programs would require a larger facility, under this proposal. Hyde told the Weekly that if the city agrees to partner with the Humane Society on an expanded shelter, it would "effectively turn the shelter into a community center."

"I think the Palo Alto Humane Society is clearly prepared to make a major contribution," Hyde said. "It's a discussion about partnering and whether funding can be done through partnering."

City Manager James Keene em-



Le Le, a chihuahua-terrier mix puppy, glances out from her cage at Palo Alto's animal shelter in early December.

phasized Tuesday that the shelter has been losing more money in recent years than the city has anticipated. In fiscal year 2014, the facility had a net cost of \$893,403. In the 2015 budget, the net cost is listed as \$910,941. The financial losses intensified in 2012, when Mountain View withdrew from its partnership with the facility. At that time, the city considered

shutting down the shelter and outsourcing animal services but scrapped the plan after intense backlash from community members.

Now that the city is in better financial shape, no one is talking about closing the shelter. But Keene said that it's "still hard to ignore the trend line in the report," which suggests that the

shelter isn't doing as well as the council hoped.

"At some point we have to deal with the fact that we have some deficiencies in the existing model," Keene said. "We need a facility that is more effective and more contemporary."

The finance committee agreed

(continued on page 12)

LEGAL ISSUES

Federal judge throws out Vi at Palo Alto lawsuit

Class-action lawsuit alleges CC-Palo Alto illegally transferred millions of dollars owed to its residents

by Sue Dremann

Residents of the Palo Alto senior community Vi saw their class-action lawsuit against its company dismissed by a federal judge on Tuesday, Nov. 25.

Six residents of the posh senior-living center filed a class-action lawsuit against the company, CC-Palo Alto, on Feb. 19, after discovering that more than \$190 million in refundable entrance fees had been transferred to its corporate parent, CC-Development, in Chicago. The lawsuit claimed the

transfer jeopardized the financial security of the residents.

The complaint also alleged that CC-Palo Alto overcharged the residents by improperly allocating tax assets, earthquake insurance and marketing costs to Vi as operating expenses and representing the charges as inflated monthly fees.

The lawsuit, which was filed on behalf of 500 residents, is believed to be the first of its kind in the Bay Area challenging a continuing-care retirement com-

munity's financial practices.

But Judge Edward J. Davila of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California dismissed the entire case. The plaintiffs could not show injury, which is necessary to have "standing," the court ruled.

On Sept. 9, CC-Palo Alto's attorneys asked the court to dismiss the class-action suit on grounds that the case was "not ripe" for judicial hearing. The seniors have not been harmed by the transfer of millions of dollars in entrance fees to the Chicago headquarters, attorney James McManis told the court. The contract residents signed also does not actually specify that the money should be retained at the Palo Alto community or how it should be used, he added.

To live at Vi, residents enter into a Continuing Care Residency contract, which entails an entrance fee ranging from \$745,500 to \$4,620,800, and monthly fees ranging from \$4,320 to \$9,320, depending on the type of apartment.

The entrance fees are "loans" to CC-Palo Alto, with a portion repaid to occupants' heirs or estate upon death or when occupants choose to sell their apartment.

The first occupants of the 388-unit independent-living facility are supposed to receive as much as 90 percent of the entrance fees, with subsequent occupants receiving a lesser amount on a sliding scale, according to court documents.

Since Vi opened in 2005, CC-Palo Alto has collected more than \$450 million in entrance fees. Entrance-fee refunds come from subsequent occupants' fees, according to the documents.

The seniors alleged that CC-Palo Alto transferred more than \$190 million of entrance fees to the Chicago parent without their knowledge and without obtaining security or any repayment promise. Consequently, CC-Palo Alto does not have enough money to refund the entrance fees when they become due.

Continuing-care communities are required by California law to maintain reserves as security for the entrance fees. But CC-Palo Alto now allegedly has a deficit of more than \$300 million, according to the plaintiffs' attorneys.

Sending the money to Chicago created a concrete detriment to the seniors' security interest in the entrance fees. A security interest is an interest in personal property or fixtures that secures payment or performance of an obligation, according to state law.



Veronica Weber

Last week, a federal judge dismissed a class-action lawsuit by residents of Vi at Palo Alto, located on Sand Hill Road, saying the plaintiffs could not show injury and therefore had no "standing" in the case.

California case law has recognized that lenders, such as the seniors, have a security interest in the property subject to the loan (the entrance fees) and that impairment of that security interest is a harm, the seniors' attorneys said.

CC-Palo Alto lawyers, however, claimed the entrance fees are "unsecured loans," though the contract and promissory notes simply state they are "loans." CC-Palo Alto has always been able to return the money to residents or their families, so no harm has yet occurred, company attorneys said.

In his ruling, Davila found that the residents' argument that the contract's omission of the word "unsecured" indicates the loan is secured and creates a security interest was unpersuasive. The plaintiffs did not argue that collateral was provided in exchange for the loan or that other documents taken together with the contract established a security interest.

The residents also failed to argue whether the residency contract was a type covered under state law requiring reserves — a so-called "refundable" contract — but rather they only argued that the state law was violated, Davila said.

"Even assuming that Plaintiff's entrance fee constitutes a security interest, in order to have standing, Plaintiff's security interest must have been harmed," Davila wrote.

The court would assume in this case that the plaintiffs have a legally protected security interest established by the entrance fee, he said, but there is no indication that any plaintiff has terminated their residency contract and been denied repayment, so there was no actual injury.

The state's Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that in some cases imminent harm or the threat of imminent harm could be considered an injury. But Davila did not find that to be the case at Vi.

"There is no indication that any Plaintiff has yet to resell their apartment or is in such critical health that termination is imminent. Accordingly, there is no indication that Defendants will further deprive Plaintiffs of a repayment," he wrote.

Vi residents also claimed the company artificially inflated

their monthly fees dues through three improper charges. The Santa Clara County Tax Assessor increased assessment of CC-Palo Alto's property taxes based on its "entrepreneurial profit," after the company transferred \$174 million to Chicago during its first three years of operations. The company has stated it will pass on \$12 million in back taxes to residents through higher monthly fees. Prior to the assessment, the company returned operating surplus to the residents, but since then, there have been no surplus payments, attorneys said.

CC-Palo Alto also passed on earthquake insurance premiums to residents, even though residents should not incur insurance charges for anything other than furniture, fixtures or equipment under terms of the residency contract, their attorneys said.

The company also allegedly charged residents for marketing costs, ostensibly to promote Vi, but instead the money funded the parent company's national marketing campaign, according to the complaint.

The company's attorneys argued that residents "only speculate" they will be harmed by the increased taxes, not that they have already been harmed. The residency contract provides that real estate taxes are an operating expense of the community to be paid from monthly fees. The court agreed. Davila said the contract's language was clear and unambiguous.

The court found there is no harm resulting from the suspension of credits because any credit disbursements are at the company's discretion. Insurance-policy payments are also clearly defined as part of the operating costs under the contract, the Davila noted.

The contract states that an operating cost paid from monthly fees includes "any marketing costs" and is not specific to spending the money only on marketing Vi, the judge added.

Davila did leave room for the residents to file an amended complaint within 15 days. Neither side responded to requests for comment. ■

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

CityView

A round-up of Palo Alto government action this week

City Council (Dec. 1)

College Terrace Centre: The council rejected the latest proposal for a new grocer at the College Terrace Centre development; agreed to extend the deadline for signing an agreement with a grocer until March; and directed the applicants to return with a proposal in which the market is leased directly to the grocer. **Yes:** Unanimous

City Council (Dec. 2)

Parking: The council passed an ordinance creating a framework for residential parking-permit programs and approved a proposed parking-permit district for downtown. The creation of the downtown district was passed by a 5-0 vote, with Berman, Holman, Scharff and Shepherd recusing themselves because of financial interests in the impacted area. **Yes:** Unanimous

Council Finance Committee (Dec. 2)

Animal Shelter: The committee discussed the revised proposal from the Palo Alto Humane Society for expanding the city's animal services and agreed to continue the discussion in February 2015. **Yes:** Unanimous

Finances: The committee adopted an ordinance closing the fiscal year 2014 budget and approving the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. **Yes:** Unanimous

Historic Resources Board (Dec. 3)

251 Lincoln Ave.: The board discussed a proposal to alter and relocate a 1903 residence in the Professorville Historic District. The board voted to continue the item. **Yes:** Bernstein, Bunnenberg, Kohler, Makinen **Absent:** DiCicco **Recused:** Wimmer

Planning and Transportation Commission (Dec. 3)

Build-to line: The commission approved changes to the city's build-to line requirements. **Yes:** Alcheck, Fine, Michael, Tanaka **No:** Downing, Gardias **Absent:** Rosenblum

Antenna: The commission recommended approving a conditional-use permit that would allow Verizon to install antennas at the Little League Ball Park at 3672 Middlefield Road. **Yes:** Unanimous

Architectural Review Board (Dec. 4)

3241 Hillview Ave.: The board approved the fourth phase of VMWare's campus project, which includes demolition and reconstruction of 85,733 square feet of office space and modifications to a previously approved building. **Yes:** Unanimous

4175 Manuela Ave.: The board reviewed but did not vote on a proposal by Kevin Davies on behalf of Congregation Kol Emeth to replace an existing one-story synagogue. **Action:** None



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Compost debate set to flare up again in Palo Alto

City Council to review proposals on Monday for local composting operation

by Gennady Sheyner

Palo Alto's passionate debate over the future of composting will resume Monday night, Dec. 8, when the City Council considers whether it makes more environmental and financial sense to create a local operation or continue the current practice of shipping yard trimmings to a regional facility in Gilroy.

The council will discuss four proposals the city received for a new composting operation. It will also consider two alternatives proposed by staff: Either reject all four proposals or begin negotiations with the firm Synergy to build a composting facility on a 3.8-acre site that voters "undecided" as parkland in 2011 when they passed Measure E.

The two options outlined in the new staff report reflect the polarizing debate among the city's environmentalists since Palo Alto shut down its landfill in Byxbee Park more than two years ago.

Palo Alto has been exporting its yard waste to the Z-Best facility in Gilroy, a practice that galvanized local environmentalists who would rather see the city take care of its own waste.

With that aim, a coalition of environmentalists led a successful drive in 2011 to make a 10-acre site next to the city's Regional Water Quality Control Plant available for a new composting operation. Other environmentalists, led by former council members Emily Renzel and Enid Pearson, have vehemently opposed this drive, arguing that a new operation does not belong in the baylands' Byxbee Park.

Staff's conflicting recommendations also reflect the trade-offs that the city will have to make, whichever path it chooses. The report notes that exporting would cost less than building a facility and would allow Palo Alto to utilize regional composting facilities, such as the ones in Milpitas, San Jose, Gilroy and Lathrop. It would also "help the city reach its landfill-diversion goal in the same way as a composting facility built in Palo Alto," according to the staff report.

However, building a local compost facility of the sort advocated by Measure E proponents would provide "a greater level of long-term price certainty (at least 15 years), allow for local control as needs and requirements change, provide a sustainable organics solution within Palo Alto, a local source of compost to residents and result in somewhat fewer transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions," the staff report states.

Recognizing the delicate political landscape, the report concludes that the two options in the staff recommendations "are both viable paths forward toward meet-

ing the city's zero-waste and climate action plan goals."

The clash of green values is expected to flare up Monday as the council considers Synergy's proposal along with three others that staff received.

One proposal, submitted by the firm BioMRF, has already been summarily rejected due to unsatisfactory information and the company's lack of experience in North America. The other three plans, by GreenWaste, Harvest Power and Synergy, offer to process food scraps and yard trimmings at the new compost facility.

The proposal by GreenWaste, the city's current trash hauler, demonstrated strong technical resources, experiences and environmental approach, according to staff. But its offer was far more expensive than the other two, which dragged its overall score to well below the others.

The company also provided a timeline that showed the compost operation commencing in September 2018, nine months later than called for in the city's request.

Harvest Power indicated that it could meet the city's timeline and accept the contract conditions in the request for proposals. But the company's proposal did not include a financial structure that would cover all operational parts of the compost facility, as the city had requested. As a result, staff has concerns about odor.

"While many technologies can control process odors, only a structure that covers the entire operation (like a building) can control odors that generate from moving the compost into the vessels or from process area to process area," the Public Works report states.

This leaves Synergy. Its facility, unlike Harvest Power's, would be entirely enclosed. The estimated capital cost of \$20.7 million is well below the \$31.2 million cost in GreenWaste's proposal.

Staff's main concern with Synergy is that the construction contractor and compost operator have not worked together before. The entity they formed, Synergy, "has no history of completing any projects, let alone building and operating a compost facility," the staff report states.

Though Synergy's proposal is the cheapest, it would cost ratepayers far more compared to exporting services, according to staff. The net present value (which considers 15 years of operating costs as well as 30 years of amortized capital expenses) of the GreenWaste, Harvest Power and Synergy proposals are \$59.7 million, \$41.6 million and \$39.4 million, respectively. The net present value of exporting is estimated at \$18.9 million.

The compost discussion is one component of a broader plan to revamp the city's management of organic waste. Palo Alto is already upgrading its water-treatment plant by building a "biosolids dewatering and truck haul-out facility," a step that would allow the city to retire its obsolete and polluting sludge-burning incinerators. The other major component of the plan is construction of a new anaerobic-digestion facility that would process sludge and ultimately food scraps.

Underscoring the tense nature of the compost debate is a disagreement over whether the discussion should even take place this month. The 348-page report with the request for proposals, responses and background was only released Wednesday, which has some critics from the conservationist camp crying foul about insufficient time to review the materials.

They lobbied staff to continue the discussion to Jan. 12; proponents of the new facility lobbied to proceed on Dec. 8, as initially

(continued on page 11)



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Favorite ride: The West Alpine Loop
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Karen Holman

Host: Karen Holman

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Upfront

News Digest

Managers set to get raises in Palo Alto

With the city's financial recovery in full swing, Palo Alto is set to approve on Monday raises for more than 200 managers, as well as for City Manager James Keene and City Attorney Molly Stump.

The City Council is set to sign off on 5-percent salary hikes for Keene and Stump, according to the agenda that the city released late Wednesday. Their annual salaries would go up to \$275,353 and \$246,688, respectively. Both contract adjustments are set to be approved on the council's consent calendar, which means they will not be discussed unless council members choose to pull it from the calendar.

Later in the meeting, the council also plans to approve a resolution adopting a two-year contract with its "managers and professionals group," the only labor group that is not in a union. Though details of this contract were not released Wednesday, the group's salary adjustments typically mirror those of the Service Employees International Union, Local 521. In a contract the council approved in March, the roughly 600 workers represented by the SEIU received 4.5-percent raises over a two-year period.

The SEIU contract also included salary realignments for hundreds of employees, with the goal of making them comparable to similar positions in other cities. This resulted in about 320 employees getting additional raises, which ranged from 2 to 10 percent. Managers are likely to undergo similar realignments under the contract that the council will consider on Dec. 8.

The raises come at a boom time for the local economy. Between fiscal year 2013 and 2014 (which ended July 30), the city experienced significant growth in sales-tax, hotel-tax and documentary-tax revenues. Sales taxes went up by 14.9 percent; hotel taxes jumped by 13.5 percent; documentary-transfer revenues increased by 14.7 percent; and property taxes went up by 6.4 percent.

Overall, revenues from the major categories in the general fund have jumped from \$82.8 million in 2013 to \$91.1 million in 2014. ■

— Gennady Sheyner

Man exposes himself to elderly women

Palo Alto police are looking for a man who allegedly exposed himself to two women in their 80s on Tuesday, Dec. 2, according to a police department press release.

At about 6:15 p.m., police received a 911 call from a woman who reported that at about 5 p.m. a man approached her and another woman on foot, exposed himself and invited them to look. Officers responded to the scene at the corner of Greer Road and Channing Avenue but could not locate the man.

Investigators said the women were walking eastbound on the sidewalk of the 1800 block of Channing Avenue and had stopped briefly at the intersection of Channing Avenue and Greer Road, when the man approached them. After one of the women told the man that she was going to call police, he fled.

The man, described as a fair-skinned white male in his late teens with a slight build, was reportedly last seen running eastbound on Channing Avenue. He was wearing a dark-colored, hooded jacket or sweatshirt.

Police do not believe that this incident is related to any of the three indecent exposure cases that occurred in early October.

Anyone with information pertaining to this case is asked to call the 24-hour dispatch center at 650-329-2413. Anonymous tips can be emailed to paloalto@tipnow.org or sent via text message or voicemail to 650-383-8984. ■

— Palo Alto Weekly staff

North County to receive satellite services

Santa Clara County's Social Services Agency has launched a pilot program to staff "satellite offices" at nonprofit organizations with county social workers in the northern part of the county.

The program has long been pushed for by Supervisor Joe Simitian to make access to vital services easier for more residents, especially those in communities such as Palo Alto and Mountain View since most services are located in San Jose.

In July, Simitian proposed that the county administration explore ways to send social services staff to North County and West Valley nonprofit groups for one or two days per week on a trial basis.

Starting in November, sites began hosting the social workers and Second Harvest Food Bank representatives at their offices one day a week. Clients are able to receive services from their local nonprofits and apply for medical and food aid through the county at the same time and place, Simitian said in a Dec. 1 announcement.

North County and West Valley nonprofit partners include InnVision Shelter Network in Palo Alto and Community Services Agency in Mountain View.

Mila Zelkha, spokeswoman for InnVision Shelter Network, said the organization is already seeing clients who receive or qualify for county-administered benefits such as CalFresh or CalWorks. ■

— Sue Dremann

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Friday, January 30: 7:00 – 8:30 pm

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Stanford MEDICINE

Conflict

(continued from page 5)

plies only to appointed officials. Neither deals with the right to participate of an elected official, such as a school board member.

Existing conflict-of-interest law pertaining to elected officials is based on whether the official has a financial stake in the outcome of a decision he or she is making, and the California Political Reform Act spells out a detailed set of requirements for disclosing economic interests that could create conflicts.



Camille Townsend

A 34-year old court decision has already ruled the first part of Caswell's proposal unconstitutional. Any limitations on the participation of elected officials based on campaign contributions they received was found to be a violation of the First Amendment rights of the contributor by the California Supreme Court in 1980.

Caswell's Oct. 14 email asked McGee if the board's policy-review committee (BPRC) had discussed adding the provisions she referenced to the district's conflict-of-interest policy, which was on that evening's board meeting agenda for routine biennial approval.

McGee's assistant, Kathleen Ruegsegger, responded by email two hours later to Caswell stating she had called the County Counsel after receiving Caswell's inquiry and learned that "the federal and state codes apply to appointees, not elected officials," and that elected officials are covered by the Political Reform Act with regards to conflicts of interest.

But instead of dropping it, Caswell raised it anyway at the meeting that night and asked if "we could have somebody go and investigate this and maybe have BRPC talk about (it)."

Board member Camille Townsend, who chairs the BPRC, responded: "I'm aware of it, and I agree with you. We need to dive into that."

Without a vote or further discussion, board President Barb Mitchell referred the topic for further exploration to the policy committee, made up of Townsend and member Heidi Emberling.

The proposal has become somewhat of a hot potato since then, with no one wanting to explain its

purpose or origins and also no one willing to kill it except McGee.

A special meeting of the board policy committee was set for Oct. 28, just days before the election and the same day as the evening school board meeting where the routine, mandated conflict-of-interest policy was set to be approved, but the BPRC meeting was canceled due to Emberling's absence.

That night, at McGee's urging, the board approved the routine biennial policy update but then proceeded, again without discussion, to refer the idea of expanding the conflict policy to the policy committee. This time the board took the unusual action of formally voting to refer the matter to the committee, but no one offered any clarity about exactly what was being referred, proposed or for what purpose.

The policy committee met to discuss the proposal on Nov. 12 but decided only to return the item back to the full board and ask for direction.



Melissa Baten Caswell

"There were some concerns from the community that our Conflict of Interest (policy) wasn't strong enough," Townsend said in opening the meeting.

McGee recommended against any consideration of the proposal.

"I don't see a need, and I haven't seen one," McGee said. "I think it's generally a good practice not to overextend our reach, and I think our reach in our current conflict-of-interest policy is appropriate."

There was no input or analysis from district lawyers, who were not present at the meeting.

Public speakers at the policy committee meeting asked for an explanation from Townsend and Emberling of what was motivating the proposal, but neither responded.

Instead, Townsend pressed to have the issue return to the full board for guidance.

"I'm not ready to drop this unless the rest of the board wants to drop it," she said.

Emberling expressed confusion at the meeting about Caswell's intention in raising the proposal.

"It would be beneficial for me to understand more about what (Caswell) would want to add to our current conflict-of-interest code," she said.

"I'm still unclear as to what we are to consider, like is it a certain paragraph or, did this other board

member want us to develop an entire policy from scratch, do they want just to add one paragraph into our current code?"

McGee pointed out that the board had already referred it twice to the policy committee for its review and recommendation, but Townsend adjourned the meeting with the instruction to have the matter return to the full board — for a third time.



Heidi Emberling

Caswell, who is expected to be elected board president at next Tuesday's board meeting, told the Weekly Wednesday that she wanted Townsend and Emberling to study and make recommendations on the policy before it returns to the full board.

"The BPRC's purpose is to look at policy things and make a recommendation back to the board on whether it should be a policy or no policy, and they hadn't done that. The superintendent will be taking it back to BPRC for the BPRC to bring a recommendation back to the board," Caswell said.

Meanwhile, Emberling said there was a lot of confusion about why the matter was coming before the committee and that she felt it had not been fully thought out.

"Usually policy updates come from CSBA (California School Boards Association) or there is something that's been developed in house and then usually there is a sample policy, plus what we currently have," she told the Weekly. "This just seemed to come from out of left field."

Santa Clara County Counsel Orry Korb told the Weekly that he is unaware of any other school districts with conflict-of-interest policies that go beyond what is recommended by law.

"Our experience, at least here in the county with the various districts that submit their conflict-of-interest (codes) for review by the Board of Supervisors, is that they're consistent with the CSBA (California School Board Association) requirements," Korb said.

The school board association does not recommend adoption of any conflict policy other than what is set out in the Political Reform Act, but neither does it track the policies adopted by individual school districts.

The Palo Alto proposal's lack of clarity, unexplained origin and rushed timing — just before the election — has prompted specu-

lation as to its purpose. After the Nov. 12 policy committee meeting ended, City Councilman Pat Burt, who was in the audience, was heard suggesting to McGee that the proposal was aimed at Ken Dauber, who was elected to the board on Nov. 4 and who is scheduled to take his seat Dec. 9.

One of Dauber's campaign contributors who donated more than \$250, Gunn High School parent Karen Gibson, filed a complaint last year against the district with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights. The case is still being investigated. Dauber also served as a data consultant to the federal agency's Washington office as recently as 2011, earning \$5,872 that year. His consulting agreement with the federal agency was terminated in 2012.

Caswell denied the proposal was aimed at Dauber, as did Barb Mitchell. Townsend did not return repeated phone calls and emails.

"I'm not sure if it could or it couldn't (affect Dauber's par-

ticipation) but it might or it might affect somebody else. We would never have a policy that was focused on one board member," Caswell told the Weekly. She said she would expect Dauber to refuse himself from discussion or action on anything he has a conflict on, "same as anybody else."

"When I get requests from constituents to look at things, I pass those on," Caswell told the Weekly Wednesday. "That's part of my job."

For his part, Dauber said he "hadn't heard any reason that we need to make changes to our conflict-of-interest policy."

The next meeting of the BPRC is set for next Thursday, Dec. 11, at 3:30 p.m. in Room A at district headquarters, 25 Churchill Ave. McGee told the Weekly Thursday that the conflict-of-interest policy would not be included on the agenda. ■

Staff Writer Elena Kadvany can be emailed at ekadvany@paweekly.com.

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Compost

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scheduled.

Politics may also be playing a role in the squabble over dates. The three council members who are concluding their tenures this month, Larry Klein, Gail Price and Nancy Shepherd, have been largely sympathetic to building a

local composting operation.

It's not clear whether the three new council members — Eric Fils-eth, Tom DuBois and Cory Wolbach — will be as inclined to support a local composting operation.

After environmentalist Renzel complained to staff last week about insufficient time to review the materials, Assistant Public Works Director Phil Bobel responded, saying, "Proponents got the mayor/CM

(city manager) to put the compost item back on the 12/8 agenda."

Shepherd also responded to Renzel's concerns about transparency by reaffirming that the meeting will take place on Dec. 8.

"As you know, this item was deferred in April with the request it return to this council before year-end for final consideration and release to vendors," Shepherd wrote in a Dec. 1 email to Renzel. ■



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**(TENTATIVE) AGENDA-SPECIAL MEETING - COUNCIL
CHAMBERS
December 8, 2014 - 5:30 PM**

STUDY SESSION

1. Sustainability and Climate Action Plan

CONSENT CALENDAR

2. Adoption of Resolution Certifying Results of November 4, 2014 Election
3. Approval of Amendment to Contract S14153842 with Comment Ground, LLC to Extend the Term from June 30, 2015 to February 28, 2016 for a Total to Not to Exceed of \$160,000 for Social Media Support, Development and Maintenance of City's Social Media Network and Internal Training of Social Media Administrators
4. Avenidas Approval of Facility Naming Plan for Avenidas Bryant Street Center, a City-owned Facility Located at 450 Bryant Street
5. Approval of Amendment No. One to Contract C13148958 with RMC Water and Environment, Inc. To Extend the Contract Term 12 Months to December 31, 2015, With No Additional Costs
6. Approval of a \$600,000 Loan Request from Palo Alto Housing Corporation for 2811 Alma Street and a Budget Amendment Ordinance
7. Approval of the First Amendment to the Contract with Questica Inc. to Implement a Performance Management Module, Streamline the Annual Performance Report, and Provide for Long-Term Financial Infrastructure Replacement Planning by Increasing Total Compensation by \$160,400 from \$499,068 to \$659,468 including a 10% contingency in the amount of \$29,968 based on the first year contract cost"
8. Approval of a Contract Amendment to the Sierra Infosys Contract (C10135998) for Annual SAP Support in the Amount of \$120,000.00 Per Year for the Support and Maintenance of SAP Industry-Specific Solution for (CRM), Business Intelligence System (BI)
9. Approval of Amendment to City Manager Employment Contract
10. Approval of Amendment to City Attorney Employment Contract
11. Adoption of an Ordinance Extending Time Period for Commencement of Construction for the College Terrace Market located at 2180 El Camino Real
12. Approval of the Submission of an Institute of Museum and Library Services Grant Application in the Amount of \$25,000 for the Palo Alto Art Center
13. Finance Committee Recommends to the City Council to have the Development Impact Fees heard on Action at the Council Meeting on December 15, 2014

ACTION ITEMS

14. Comprehensive Plan Update: Initial Discussion of the Scope and Schedule of the Planning Process, Including Concurrent Zoning Changes (Follow up from Council meeting of November 3, 2014)
15. Approval of Staff Recommendations Concerning Responses to Palo Alto Compost Facility Request for Proposals for Yard Trimmings and Residential Food Scraps at the Measure E Site. Staff Recommends that Council Direct Staff to Pursue One of the Two Following Options. Option #1 (Low-Cost Option): Reject all Proposals Received in Response to the "Compost Facility for Yard Trimmings and Residential Food Scraps". Or Option #2 (Local Facility Option): Begin Negotiations with Synergy to Develop a Contract for Design, Construction and Operations of a Composting Facility on a 3.8-acre Section of the Measure E Site. If Staff is Unable to Negotiate a Contract with Synergy then Staff is Directed to Initiate Negotiations with a second company
16. Adoption of Resolution for Management Compensation Plan

STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Policy and Services Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at 6:00 P.M. regarding 1) Presentation of the results of the triennial peer review of the Office of the City Auditor, 2) Discussion of Process for City Council "Prescreening" of Projects Requiring Zone Changes, and 3) Discussion of Updating the Seismic Safety Chapter of the Municipal Code for Hazardous Buildings

Parking

(continued from page 7)

In the first part of Tuesday's meeting, the council spent several hours editing and ultimately approving the citywide framework for permit programs — one that would allow any neighborhood to launch a program.

Vice Mayor Liz Kniss said during this portion of the discussion that the ordinance, despite some flaws, should be given a chance and then tweaked as necessary.

"I think, if anything, what we ought to do at this point is give

RPPP a chance," Kniss said. "Let it work. There will be problems with it. We won't make it absolutely perfect tonight."

By the time council members got to discuss the specific downtown program, it was 11:30 p.m. and only about a dozen spectators remained in the Council Chambers. Only five council members participated in the latter discussion, with the other four recusing themselves because they have financial interests in the downtown area. All five — Kniss, Klein and council members Pat Burt, Gail Price and Greg Schmid — agreed that it's time to go ahead with the

downtown program.

Klein, who made the motion, praised the city's process for getting to the compromise proposal. Just about every council member and stakeholder who spoke at the two meetings also praised Sullivan for shepherding the various stakeholders to a compromise.

"This has been an extraordinary procedure and one I commend," Klein said. "I'll take the unusual position of supporting the position of the group even though I might not agree with each and every position they have taken. Because it's a compromise. I think, if anything, what we ought to do at this point is give RPPP a chance."

Burt also praised the stakeholders group's process for getting the community to agree on a program that was once extremely controversial.

Schmid agreed, saying, "It is clearly for the city our biggest and longest-lasting issue on the parking side."

He added that the program could serve as a "good model" for other local initiatives. ■

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

Michael Repka

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CITY OF PALO ALTO NOTICE OF A DIRECTOR'S HEARING

To be held at **3:00P.M., Thursday December 18, 2014**, in the Palo Alto City Council Conference Room, 1st Floor, Civic Center, 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, California. Go to the Development Center at 285 Hamilton Avenue to review filed documents; contact Alicia Spotwood for information regarding business hours at 650-617-3168.

103 Melville Avenue [14PLN-00295]: Request by Danny Raymond for Preliminary Parcel Map for a minor subdivision to establish two residential condominium units in the RM-15 zone district. Environmental Assessment: Exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) per section 15315.

Hillary E. Gitelman
Director of Planning and Community Environment

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Animal shelter

(continued from page 7)

Tuesday to have a more robust discussion in February, when staff comes back with more details about the animal-services finances, and in April, when the Office of the City Auditor completes its detailed audit of the services and more outreach to the community takes place.

Council members said it's important to hear from residents before determining the level of subsidies the shelter should continue to receive.

Councilwoman Karen Holman said the question goes beyond dollars and cents. If the community decides that it is willing to subsidize animal services, that is something the council should consider.

"Our values should determine how we spend our dollars and not the other way around," Holman said. "Is the community behind supporting a subsidy to the animal shelter? I don't have the answer, but I think it's something we should find out, and it should be part of any consideration or any decision we make."

Councilman Pat Burt said the city should also explore the potential for bringing new partners into the facility. He agreed that it's time to have a "community-values discussion."

He made a motion directing staff to bring back more information about finances and outreach in February. Committee Chair Marc Berman, Vice Mayor Liz Kniss and Holman all supported it. ■

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

Market

(continued from page 5)

According to the proposal, Chavez, “along with industry experts of his choosing, will be responsible for designing the Market, its refrigeration and display racks and other specialty features for the market.” He would also be in charge of the store’s financial operations, according to the proposal.

For the council, this didn’t go far enough. As they did in August, members expressed deep reservations about the fact that the grocer under lease for the market is the developer’s son. As in the prior meeting, the council heard from a procession of skeptical College Terrace neighborhood residents before voting to send the developer back to the drawing board.

Councilman Greg Scharff was among the leading skeptics.

“This notion of Mr. Chavez being a long time in personal services doesn’t really make sense to me,” Scharff said. “I’d really like to see a direct grocery tenant in there who has experience in the business, where it doesn’t seem like it’s just nepotism.”

“That’s just how it feels right now. The ‘experienced grocer’ appears to be a consultant earning a fee.”

The Monday debate had as much to do with Palo Alto’s development policies as it did with the viability of a particular grocery business.

When the City Council approved the blocklong College Terrace Centre in January 2010, its main objective was to keep JJ&F from leaving. The project, which includes nearly 40,000 square feet of office space, eight below-market-rate units and an 8,000-square-foot grocery store, was approved after a “Save JJ&F” campaign from project supporters, including many residents. The new grocery store, which would have given JJ&F more visibility, was seen as the prime “public benefit” for the development, which exceeded normal zoning rules.

Despite the council’s approval of College Terrace Centre, the Garcia family, which ran JJ&F, ultimately decided to close the store. Smailey’s team has been looking for a replacement ever since, so far with little luck. The approved “planned-community” zone empowers the council to approve the new grocer and specify that approval “shall not be withheld unless the city reasonably finds that such proposed grocery tenant is not likely to be comparable in quality or products and service as JJ&F as it existed and operated on Dec. 7, 2009.”

On Monday, the council agreed that the odds of an inexperienced owner running a store comparable to the popular JJ&F Market are slim. Councilman Larry Klein acknowledged that he can claim no expertise in groceries. But he is familiar with “good management,” and in this case, he said he doesn’t see it.

Klein made a motion to reject the proposal and extend the deadline on the planned-community



Rendering courtesy: Bach Construction Company

Palo Alto’s College Terrace Centre project at 2180 El Camino Real will house a grocer, offices and residences. Review firm Yelp has contracted to move into the office space.

ordinance until March (the official vote on extending the ordinance will be on the council’s consent calendar on Dec. 8).

“What we have is a lessee, a person who may be a great business man, I don’t know, but he has zero experience in running a grocery business,” Klein said. “I compare this to years and years and years of experience that the Garcias had, which was our standard in 2009.”

The council also voted 7-2, with Klein and Councilman Greg Schmid dissenting, to accept an amendment proposed by Scharff and Councilman Pat Burt that lists specific things that should be included in the next proposal.

The list includes a daily penalty of \$2,000 in the event a market goes out of business and is not replaced with another experienced grocery operator within six months (the applicants earlier indicated that such a condition would be acceptable). It also specifies that the store should be leased directly to the grocery store operator, without a middle man.

Smailey’s lack of grocery store experience wasn’t the only source of frustration for residents and council members. The project has been plagued by complaints about late submittals of application materials, concerns about transparency and general cynicism about planned-community projects.

Councilwoman Karen Holman, who as a member of the Planning and Transportation Commission voted against the project, also noted the project’s rocky history.

“I think one of the things that has happened with this project going way back when is there’s been overstatements and over-promises made,” Holman said. “That just raises concerns, raises suspicions, and look what happened.”

There are also conflicting accounts about the level of interest from other grocers. In August, the applicants’ attorney, Michael Polentz, told the council that the team hadn’t received proposals from any

grocers for the El Camino Real development other than Smailey. The team had had “real estate brokers pounding the pavement, trying to find an established grocer” who would lease the space, he said.

“To this day, we’re still looking for established grocers to come forward. No one has,” Polentz said in August. “No grocer has proposed any business terms to lease that space with the exception of J&A Family Market.”

But on Monday night, Klein and Scharff both said that they had spoken in recent weeks with grocers who said they were close to making a deal for the College Terrace market but were ultimately turned down by Smailey.

Scharff said he had spoken with Miki Werness, whose grocery store at Alma Village closed last year. He said Werness had indicated that he was “completely willing to do it” and had several meetings and was putting together a team. He was “ready to go forward,” but the deal did not happen because the applicants “were not allowing him to be the operator,” Scharff said.

Klein said he had spoken to Mark Khoury, whose family briefly ran the market at the JJ&F site after the Garcias left. According to Klein, Khoury said he had negotiated with Patrick Smailey and thought he had an agreement before the agreement was “yanked out from him.”

Klein said he was told that “at the last moment, Mr. Smailey pulled out from that and instead had negotiated the lease that we have before us tonight.”

Polentz maintained on Monday night that neither Werness’ nor Khoury’s accounts were entirely true. The deal with Werness was going to be a “joint venture” in which he would be an owner and not an operator. It was “his decision alone to pull out,” Polentz said. The Khoury family was also offered the opportunity to be operator but would not “meet the minimum requirement that would make the project economically vi-

able,” he said.

But the conflicting accounts gave some council members pause. Klein said he found it “disappointing, if not misleading” that those two parties were not mentioned before.

“In contrast, what we heard from the developer was that there was nobody who was interested in this project, to run the grocery store,” Klein said. “That’s really not the case.”

Members of the public gave the grocery proposal a mixed reception. Several vouched for Smailey and urged the council to approve the proposal. Others argued that it will not succeed and urged the council to reject it.

Doria Summa, who lives in College Terrace, said many of her neighbors are convinced that a Smailey-run grocery store has “no chance of success” and that the neighborhood will have “one more massive PC project with insufficient public benefits.”

Summa also noted that the “Vision and Values” statement pro-

vided by College Terrace Market includes passages cribbed directly from chef Alice Waters’ book, “In the Green Kitchen.” In the book, for instance, Waters writes, “Cooking creates a sense of well-being for yourself and the people you love and brings beauty and meaning to everyday life.” Later, she describes regular shopping routines as “pleasing, efficient and economical” and says there is “enormous pleasure in cooking good food simply and in sharing the cooking and the eating with friends and family.” Each of these sentences or phrases appears on the College Terrace Market values sheet.

“What you’re hearing from our residents is concern and distrust based on previous PCs that have not provided the public benefits promised to the community,” Councilman Marc Berman said near the conclusion of the long discussion. “I don’t think the applicant did himself any favors in some of the elements of the proposal that were scrutinized by some of the members of the public tonight.” ■

Public Agenda

A preview of Palo Alto government meetings next week

CITY COUNCIL ... The council plans to hold a study session to discuss the city’s sustainability initiatives and Climate Action Plan; consider the next steps in the Comprehensive Plan update; consider the city’s options for a composting facility; and adopt a new compensation plan for the management and professionals group. The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 8, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 250 Hamilton Ave.

COUNCIL POLICY AND SERVICES COMMITTEE ... The committee plans to discuss an external review of Office of the City Auditor; consider the city’s process for pre-screening projects that require zone changes; and discuss a process for seismically upgrading the city’s most vulnerable buildings. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 9, in the Council Conference Room at City Hall, 250 Hamilton Ave.

BOARD OF EDUCATION ... The board will swear in two new members and elect the vice president and president; discuss a revised design for Gunn High School’s “Central Building Project”; and hear reports on the 2013-14 California Healthy Kids Survey, Palo Alto Reality Check results, enrollment projections and an update on board goals. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 9, in the board room at district headquarters, 25 Churchill Ave.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ... The commission plans to honor Community Services Department Director Greg Betts upon his upcoming retirement after 31 years of service; have a discussion with Chief Sustainability Officer Gil Friend; and hear an update on the Parks, Trails, Open Space and Recreation Facilities Master Plan. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 9, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 250 Hamilton Ave.

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION ... The commission plans to elect its chair and vice chair; hear an update on the Downtown Development Cap study; discuss proposed bike improvements on Maybell and Churchill avenues; and have a site-and-design review for 820 Los Trancos Road. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 10, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 250 Hamilton Ave.

UTILITIES ADVISORY COMMISSION ... The commission plans to discuss the city’s Utilities Legislative Policy Guidelines; consider expanding the CLEAN program to non-solar local renewable projects; discuss the Community Solar Program; and discuss the water, gas and wastewater connection and capacity fees. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 10, in the Council Conference Room at City Hall, 250 Hamilton Ave.

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION ... The commission plans to review its work plan and hear an update on planning for the Civility Roundtables and Senior Summit. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 11, in the Council Conference Room at City Hall, 250 Hamilton Ave.

Everytown

(continued from page 5)

about your grade because somebody got a better grade than you? Have you ever been discriminated against because of your race? Do you have a mental illness that you feel like you can't talk about? And if the answer was "yes," they were asked to step to the middle of the room. (Another one: Step to the middle if you've cut class to study for another class.)

"When you see a person that you know (step forward) — you had no idea they were facing this," junior Sara Zhang said. "It just reminds people ... to be a little nicer to everybody, because you really don't know how much pain or how much struggle they're going through."

Zhang also attended Camp Everytown in October. She said she appreciated it as a space outside of school where topics that normally feel like social taboos were discussed openly. And when she

came back to school after camp, she had a whole new group of familiar faces.

"Most of us didn't know each other at all (before camp)," she said. "Now, when we see each other, it's like seeing an old friend."

Burch, a Colorado transplant new to Gunn this year, said he felt the same value in meeting new people. Burch and others who attended camp — dubbed "Camp Delegates" — also served as facilitators at Evening in Everytown, leading small group discussions at various points throughout the night. (Silicon Valley FACES staff trained them to do so; the non-profit's staff helps Gunn throughout the year, providing tailored leadership and empathy training to interested students and faculty.)

Students at the evening event also heard from a panel of five recent Gunn graduates, who were asked to reflect on their time in high school.

Julia Maggioncalda, a Stanford University sophomore who graduated from Gunn in 2012, spoke

openly about the devastating impact of her pursuit of perfection during those four years, her decision to take a gap year after graduating and lessons she's learned since leaving Gunn. (She gave a similar baccalaureate speech her senior year, which is now shown to all incoming Gunn freshmen. View it at youtube.com by searching for "Julia's baccalaureate.")

"I ended up falling into severe depression my senior year," she told the Weekly, recounting her Evening at Everytown speech. The varsity athlete and straight-A student said her classmates thought she was missing school to celebrate getting into Stanford early, when really, she was lying "on the floor incapacitated."

She, like Zhang, said the main lesson she's learned since high school is that what's going on for their peers can't necessarily be seen from the outside.

"From the start to the finish of my time at Gunn, I learned that lives of others are not always as they seem," Maggioncalda said.



Lucas Hu

A group of about 94 Gunn High School students from all grades listen to Phillip Handy, Silicon Valley FACES' associate director of education, at Evening in Everytown in the school library on Friday, Nov. 21. The event encourages students to talk about difficult topics such as racism, discrimination, stereotypes, bullying and mental health.

"Although you can't go out of your way to help every individual person overcome whatever they're going through and there's no way to know what everyone's going through, the least you can do is be kind, whether that be a smile or a wave or to pick up someone's pencil.

"Everyone's going through stuff, even if they seem like they're perfect and have everything together," she said.

She told the current high schoolers her biggest regret from that time in her life: "Getting too caught up in my future, too caught up in the stress of Gunn and living in the past or future and never quite in the present."

After Maggioncalda finished speaking that Friday night, a female student approached her and said, "I've been depressed for so long. What's one thing I can do to get better?"

Maggioncalda advised the student to seek help, talk to someone and not isolate herself from her friends. And then she asked for the microphone, and, hoping to dispel the strong stigma about seeking help for mental health, told the crowd that she's been seeing a therapist since her senior year of high school.

"And he has made a world's difference for me and my mental health," she said of her therapist.

Another student panelist, 2011 graduate Jennie Robinson, spoke that Friday night about self-

love and learning and growing through all experiences — both good and bad.

"I was so happy to learn that this was an event," she told the Weekly. "I think Gunn needs to make drastic changes in the way they address how massive academic pressure affects students' mental health, and this was a step in the right direction."

Phillip Handy, Silicon Valley FACES' associate director of education, said the panelists' speeches were the highlight of Evening in Everytown.

"You should have seen the kids' faces in the audience," he said. "I think that the students really did connect with them and start to see that, yeah, this is ... not only about how to navigate their current experience at Gunn, but thinking about the future and how often times, people do get depressed when they're thinking about the future. It can seem like it's just going to be nothing but stress. And they were letting them know that 'Yes, there will be plenty of stress, but there are going to be plenty of other things, too, that are so enjoyable and worthwhile.'"

Evening at Everytown was more focused on Gunn's culture rather than the broader societal issues that the four-day camp has time to delve into, but Handy said that regardless, students emerge looking at the world, their peers and themselves through a different lens. ■

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Online This Week

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

SEC charges man with scamming investors

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission has charged a former Palo Alto owner of several defunct investment entities with fraud for allegedly reselling nearly \$900,000 of stock shares owned by eight investors to four other people. (Posted Dec. 3, 4:20 p.m.)

Humane Society scales down plan to rebuild

The Palo Alto Humane Society (PAHS) has backed away from its earlier proposal to build a new state-of-the-art animal-services center for the city and is now offering to help expand the existing shelter to accommodate a host of new animal programs. (Posted Dec. 2, 8:55 a.m.)

County offers holiday warrant forgiveness

People who failed to appear in court and want to avoid spending the holidays in jail can get a second chance. (Posted Dec. 1, 2:52 p.m.)

Pulse

POLICE CALLS

Palo Alto
Nov. 26-Dec. 2
Violence related
Battery 1
Domestic violence 1
Strong arm robbery 1

Theft related
Commercial burglaries 3
Counterfeiting 1
Grand theft 3
Identity theft 3
Petty theft 4
Residential burglaries 1

Vehicle related
Abandoned auto 2
Bicycle theft 3
Driving with suspended license 7
Driving without license 4
Hit and run 3
Misc. traffic 1
Theft from auto 1
Vehicle accident/minor injury 4
Vehicle accident/no injury 6
Vehicle accident/property damage 6
Vehicle impound 2

Alcohol or drug related
Drinking in public 1
Driving under influence 4
Open container 2
Possession of drugs 1
Smoking in public 2
Under influence of drugs 1

Miscellaneous
Casualty/fall 1
Disturbing the peace 1
Elder abuse 1
Found property 1
Located missing person 1
Lost property 1
Missing person 1
Outside investigation 1
Psychiatric hold 1
Public nuisance 1
Resisting arrest 2
Sick and cared for 1
Suspicious circumstances 1
Terrorist threats 1
Vandalism 2
Violation of court order 3
Warrant/other agency 7

Menlo Park
Nov. 26-Dec. 2

Violence related
Assault with a deadly weapon 1
Battery 1
Domestic violence 1

Theft related
Attempted robbery 1
Burglary undefined 1
Commercial burglaries 2
Credit card fraud 2
Fraud 2
Petty theft 2
Residential burglaries 1
Stolen property received 1
Theft undefined 1

Vehicle related
Auto recovery 1
Auto theft 1
Bicycle theft 2
Driving with suspended license 6
Hit and run 1
Vehicle accident/injury 2
Vehicle accident/no injury 2
Vehicle tampering 1

Alcohol or drug related
Alcohol transport 1
Driving under influence 2
Possession of drugs 4
Possession of paraphernalia 1

Miscellaneous
APS referral 1
Brandishing 1
Disturbance 1
Gang info 1
Info case 5
Located missing person 1
Lost property 6
Probation violation 1
Psychiatric evaluation 3
Suspicious circumstances 2
Vandalism 3
Warrant arrest 8

VIOLENT CRIMES

Palo Alto
Edgewood Drive, 11/28, 2:11 p.m.; domestic violence/battery.
180 El Camino Real, 11/29, 4:21 p.m.; robbery/strong arm.
Park Boulevard, 11/30, 12:15 p.m.; battery/simple.

Menlo Park
1100 block Sevier Ave., 11/26, 3:45 p.m.; assault with a deadly weapon.
300 block Terminal Ave., 12/1, 11:10 p.m.; spousal abuse.
Willow Road and Ivy Drive, 12/2, 3:59 p.m.; battery.

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Elaine E. Dyson

May 12, 1937 – November 15, 2014

A long time Palo Alto resident, Elaine passed away peacefully, surrounded by her loving family and friends, on November 15th after a long battle with dementia and enduring a broken heart after losing the love of her life, Norman, her husband of 55 years. Norman preceded her in death by 36 days after a valiant battle with pancreatic cancer. Elaine is survived by her sons, Stephen and Matthew, daughter-in-law Lisa Alcalá Dyson, grandsons Colin, Spencer & Dylan, her family in the UK including her brother Frank, sister Sylvia, cousin Linda, and a large extended family known as The English Mob here in the United States.



Born May 12, 1937 in Manchester, England, Elaine had a lively childhood full of love and laughter, despite enduring the hardships during and after World War II. She met Norman in the early 1950s and they eventually married in 1959 so she could join him in Leeds during his graduate school. In 1962 they set off together on the adventure of a lifetime, boarding the RMS Sylvania in Liverpool and setting sail for the United States. At the time the plan was for Norman to spend a year or two doing postdoctoral research while they saw what America was really like, but it soon turned into their new home with stops in Madison, San Francisco and Boulder, before finally settling down in Palo Alto.

Elaine's greatest joy was that of family, and being a wife, mother, grandmother, mother-in-law, cousin, friend and aunt to numerous relatives and friends across the globe. Seven years in the making, Elaine cherished motherhood and was thrilled to be a mother to her two sons, Stephen and Matthew. Together, as a family, they saw America and the rest of the world with all of its treasures, laughing, making memories and taking pictures along the way. Over the years they entertained visitors from all over the world, sharing their new home country and creating many happy memories together as a couple and family.

A warm and generous hostess, Elaine opened her home to neighborhood children and family friends for art projects, fun in the swimming pool, many good meals and lots of laughter. She was always thinking of others on her travels, shopping for friends and family and stashing her gifts away for just the right occasion. She was also known for creating one-of-a-kind dishes, as she never used recipes, and we never knew if we would taste them again. Elaine loved all things beautiful and always had just the right thing to say at the perfect moment.

Elaine lived a good and happy life, full of love, laughter and adventure. She will never be forgotten but kept in our hearts and memories as the lovely wife, mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, friend, sister and aunt that she was.

A celebration of life will be held December 5, 2014 at 11:00 at Alta Mesa Memorial Park, Palo Alto with a reception to follow at the Palo Alto Elks Lodge. All are welcome.

In lieu of flowers the family instead suggests donations to the Alzheimer's Association (www.alz.org) or the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (www.pancan.net).

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The City of Palo Alto is looking for 8-12 Palo Alto residents to serve on the Midtown Connector Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC).

The CAC will meet up to 4 times and advise the City on The Midtown Connector Project which seeks to identify routes on and parallel to the Matadero Creek between Highway 101 and Alma Street that serve to connect community facilities for use by bicyclists and pedestrians of all ages.

CAC meetings are intended to help the project team further define overall project objectives, identify several alignment alternatives that could partially or fully achieve project objectives, and consider the criteria to be used in evaluating the alternatives.

Applications
due
Jan 13

For more
information and
the application:

www.cityofpaloalto.org/MataderoCAC

Or call
(650) 329-2442

Website: www.cityofpaloalto.org/MataderoCAC

Editorial

A solid parking plan

Downtown permit system set to begin next spring

Like most outcomes built on compromise, the journey of creating a program to begin addressing downtown Palo Alto's parking problems has been long and circuitous, with many false starts, misunderstandings and disappointments along the way.

But after years of frustration and resistance, downtown residents, businesses and city officials came together Tuesday night to adopt a phased plan that will begin bringing relief to residents without unduly disrupting employees needing places to park.

The City Council, working with only five members due to potential conflicts of the other four, who own property in the affected area, unanimously approved the recommendations carefully negotiated over much of the last year by an 11-person working group of residents and property and business owners.

As Councilman Larry Klein said in making the motion to approve the plan, it had been an extraordinary and successful process and one in which the council needed to trust the working group's compromises and resist the temptation to tweak the proposal.

In the end, the group's common desire for action overcame differences over individual elements and enabled the council and staff to notch a major accomplishment and set in motion solutions to a priority city concern as promised before the end of the year.

The plan, which will be rolled out in two phases beginning in April, establishes a permit system that will regulate day-time parking on neighborhood streets in most of the area between San Francisquito Creek and Embarcadero Road, and between Alma and Guinda. (An area south of Lincoln will not be in the permit area.)

During the first six months, the affected area will have two-hour limits on weekdays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., just as streets in the commercial district do now. Residents will receive free permits, while downtown employees will pay either \$50 or \$233 for the six months, depending on their income level.

The intent is to make parking affordable for lower-paid service workers who can't afford to buy permits in city garages and who now flood residential neighborhoods just outside of the current two-hour restricted area.

With no limits on the number of permits during this first phase, the idea is to avoid suddenly shrinking the supply of available parking spots for employee use, to impose some financial disincentives and to monitor and collect data on what happens. This addressed the concerns of business owners who worried that an outright ban on neighborhood parking without new parking alternatives would make hiring and keeping employees even more difficult than it already is.

The biggest immediate impact will be on the unknown number of people who are parking free all day in downtown neighborhoods and either commuting to jobs on Caltrain or parking and then walking, biking or catching the Marguerite shuttle to jobs or school at Stanford. These people will be stuck with no place to park and will need to find alternatives, and this will reveal the extent to which they contribute to today's parking problem.

The second phase will last a year and is more controversial because its impacts are more difficult to predict. Instead of unlimited permits good anywhere, a cap will be set on the number of permits, and employees will be allotted about 20 percent of the total. Employee permits will also be assigned on a block basis, where they are only good on specific blocks of specific streets to ensure that areas closest to the downtown commercial areas aren't disproportionately clogged with employee permit parking.

In phase two, residents will get one free permit per dwelling unit but may purchase up to four additional permits for an annual cost of \$50.

The city's parking manager, Jessica Sullivan, deserves much credit for calmly facilitating the working group's efforts during the last year and helping it find solutions and forge compromises.

The residential parking permit program is only one piece of a much broader set of initiatives, which include use of technology to guide drivers to available garage parking spots and at least one new parking garage. But it is the critical first step in solving a problem that is increasingly hurting the quality of life in our downtown.

The program won't be without problems and surprises, but it is the collaborative start we need to begin zeroing in on long-term answers to the lack of parking.

Spectrum

Editorials, letters and opinions

Charge the same rate

Editor,

The Downtown Palo Alto Residential Parking Permit Program will roll out soon, with low-income workers paying \$100 per year, other workers \$466 per year, and residents going free. Permits are non-transferable. This program:

- Offers no incentive for residents to get their cars off the street.

- Subsidizes downtown Palo Alto area property owners. Owners of multi-unit apartment buildings get the biggest subsidies.

- Subsidizes residents who own cars at the expense of those who do not.

- Subsidizes residents at the expense of workers from outside the area.

- Requires an intrusive bureaucracy which will examine leases, deeds, pay stubs, tax returns and employment records to verify that permit buyers get proper subsidies.

- Invites a black market in parking permits or supporting documentation.

- Invites bureaucratic corruption: the right paperwork is worth \$466 per year.

- Removes a \$366 tax-free subsidy if an unlucky worker gets even a small raise.

- Reduces incentives for low-income people to carpool or ride public transit.

- Creates the notion that residents have a special claim to on-street parking.

- Cheats people who no longer need their valid permit

The subsidy to downtown property owners is particularly noteworthy. Surely the reader is hard-pressed to think of a less needy class. It is particularly perverse that those who benefit most from the program get the best deal.

Let's use market pricing to efficiently allocate precious on-street parking. A \$466 annual fee — \$2 per business day — sounds about right. Permits should be offered for shorter periods (electronically or with punch cards) — but everyone should pay the same for a particular type of permit, and permits should be freely transferable. Charging everyone the same rate will resolve the current parking chaos and avoid all the problems enumerated above.

Jonathan Seder
Fulton Street, Palo Alto

Some congratulations

Editor,

The Castilleja School community of students, parents, alumnae and faculty applaud Castilleja alumna Rachel Skokowski, Class of 2011, on her selection as a 2015 Rhodes Scholar.

Rachel epitomizes Castilleja's

motto of "Women Learning, Women Leading" through her outstanding achievements in education and leadership in the short time since graduating from Castilleja. We look forward to the positive impact that Rachel will continue to have on the world through her experiences as a Rhodes Scholar and beyond.

Castilleja also extends our sincerest congratulations to Gunn High School graduate Elliot Akama-Garren for his selection as a 2015 Rhodes Scholar.

The Palo Alto community should take great pride in the fact that Castilleja and Gunn graduates are two out of a select group of 32 American men and women who will enter Oxford next year. Rachel and Elliot will join other student leaders from around the globe committed to making a difference in the world around them.

Castilleja School is proud of our 107-year history of educating women in the City of Palo Alto. We also take great pride in being a part of Palo Alto's larger edu-

cational community of public and private schools educating the next generation of bright minds.

Ursula Kinney Ringham
President, Castilleja Alumnae
Association

Laurie Avenue, San Jose

Early darkness, bikes

Editor:

Every year in December it gets dark early and I become very concerned while driving. Each time I see bikers (kids and adults) riding with dark clothes, no or woefully inadequate lights, no or ineffective reflectors. It is very difficult to see them with bright car lights, street lights, house lights and Christmas decorations all attracting drivers' attention.

These riders may be smart people but they are doing a stupid and dangerous thing. Why don't they spend a few dollars for reflective clothes, lights and reflectors to protect themselves from serious injury?

Mike Murnane
Metro Circle, Palo Alto

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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

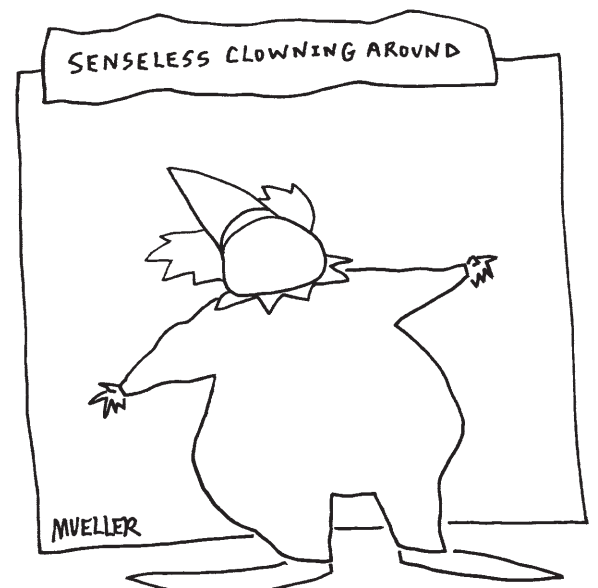


Should the city expand its animal shelter?

Submit letters to the editor of up to 300 words to letters@paweekly.com. Submit guest opinions of 1,000 words to editor@paweekly.com. Include your name, address and daytime phone number so we can reach you.

We reserve the right to edit contributions for length, objectionable content, libel and factual errors known to us. Anonymous letters will generally not be accepted. Submitting a letter to the editor or guest opinion constitutes a granting of permission to the Palo Alto Weekly and Embarcadero Media to also publish it online, including in our online archives and as a post on Town Square.

For more information contact Editor Jocelyn Dong or Editorial Assistant Sam Sciolla at editor@paweekly.com or 650-326-8210.



Check out Town Square!

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

Guest Opinion

It's time to rethink our high schools

by Cathy Kirkman

Thank you to all of the Gunn students who have spoken out recently after the suicide of your classmate. It's your courage and honesty that will help us change things for the better. I'm a Paly parent and a Paly grad. We're across town, but we understand Gunn all too well, and we have the same problems you do.



Our kids need to thrive, not just survive. We're hopeful that Dr. Max McGee can lead us out of this crisis. We have fresh faces on the school board to reinvigorate it. I say we need to broadly rethink our high schools. Piecemeal efforts won't work. Why don't we design a more elegant solution? Let's get creative and do something absolutely breathtaking.

We need to radically, explicitly, boldly and relentlessly make our schools more welcoming, humane places for our kids. Study progressive private schools; consult IDEO and the d.school at Stanford. This is a huge challenge, given our culture, so we have to use blunt instruments, not chisels.

Make sure no child is left behind socially or emotionally. Let's architect a structure built on kindness and inclusion, where every single child is accounted for and no one falls through the cracks. Make end-to-end mentoring part of school culture, so every-one stays connected.

Create small learning communities for all students. How small would a graduating class need to be to support each and every student deeply and fully? Figure out the right size and create small communities for our kids. Expand the Teacher Advisor program, hire more counselors. Research shows that student cohorts make a huge difference.

Let's double down on what we're already doing to make Gunn and Paly happy, nurturing places. Hold spirit activities year-round; make therapy dogs a persistent presence; have climate officers on student council. Make the good things from off-campus such as yoga, ping-pong and music part of daily life on campus.

Student stress is directly tied to the academic arms race. We want a college-prep environment, but not one that creates achievement robots and sacrifices mental health. We've become a training academy in the extreme fighting sport of academic excellence. We're in a Hobbesian state of nature, suffering from way too much of a good thing.

Driven by their passion for excellence, teachers are deeply invested in the prestige of their programs and how they dispense grades. Practices vary widely; by law teachers have the last word; departments operate in impenetrable black boxes. But the teachers are not to blame; that would be like blaming the bureaucrats for a bureaucracy.

How to fix this? The superintendent should provide strong leadership in the form of specific, accountable measures to improve how we teach, assess and support our students.

The grading practices and distribution in every course should be audited each semester for accountability. Grading contracts should be rationalized to create student success around mastery in weighting tests, quizzes, projects and homework. As should not be a brass ring, and kids should not live in fear of Cs. Kids know they don't want a lot of Bs on their transcripts.

For example, drop lowest scores, allow retakes and rewrites to demonstrate mastery, accept late work, have project-based grading options. Limit homework; have it help, not hurt, a student's grade. Allow extra credit. Keep content at the course level; test what's been taught. If a course is taught in a more accessible manner at one school, use this method at the other.

Limit the number of honors and AP courses a student can take at one time, with a petition system for exceptions; include the option to switch credit to a "regular" course for a letter grade higher. Add more UC-approved courses for the average student. Create an "academy" option, which for philosophical reasons does not use honors or AP designations.

Make it easy for the average student to do independent study, community college and online college courses for credit, so all students can expand their horizons and manage their load better. There are lots of ways to grow and learn: We should encourage kids to pursue off-campus experiences to develop their identity and experience success outside the campus bubble.

Finally, as the adults sending our kids on this academic juggernaut, we have to own the fact that we are either part of the prob-

lem or part of the solution. We can start changing things today, even if the schools won't, or until they do.

Visit Savethe2008.com and support "Save the 2008" at Gunn. This new grass-roots initiative was founded by Gunn sophomore Martha Cabot and former English teacher Marc Vincenti to advocate "steps to sanity" in our schools. It took me just a second to join its email list, and what the initiative is doing helps Paly families too.

Visit MyPausd.org, another grass-roots initiative to create an unofficial guide to our district. Help crowdsource a guide to the schools and curriculum, like the Harvard Q guide. Anecdotal information can become perfect information to help families navigate and drive change where it's needed.

Take the "Stay Inspired Pledge" (on MyPausd.org) together as a family to draw a line in the sand in accordance with your values. It's misguided to think your kid has to do everything. Your kid should emerge a more inspired, exceptional student if you rethink how you are doing school.

When I went to Paly, we had the same problems; they're just way worse now. So kids, we do understand, whether you're suffering in silence or making the best of it. Thank you students for speaking truth; now together let's do something about it. ■

Cathy Kirkman, a retired lawyer, graduated from Paly in 1980. She has two children (Paly 2012 and 2020). She blogs on Palo Alto Online ("Love that Pup") and together with other volunteers has started MyPausd.org, an unofficial guide to the school district. She can be reached at info@mypausd.org.

Streetwise

How easy and reliable is it to use Caltrain to get to and from Palo Alto?

Asked at the Palo Alto Caltrain Station. Interviews and photos by Sam Sciolla.



Allen Lal
Masson Avenue, San Bruno
Anesthesia technician

"I take the very first train so there shouldn't be any issue then. ... (It's) very convenient for me."



Kathleen Gabriel
Hillsdale, San Mateo
Human resources director

"Generally, it's pretty easy to use. One problem I have with them is their emergency services are limited."



Vivienne Pustell
O'Farrell Street, San Francisco
Graduate student

"As far as things that are in control of the system, I think they do a great job. ... People don't know how good they have it with Caltrain."



Andrew Lin
Berry Street, San Francisco
Entrepreneur

"Pretty reliable, but it's not that easy. The trains come every hour (during off times)."



Jennifer Fisher
Hermosa Way, Menlo Park
Landscape designer

"It's both easy and reliable, at least in our experience. My son's been taking it to school in Millbrae since August."

Peter Chmyz

1971 – 2014

Peter Chmyz passed away in Santa Cruz California on November 19, 2014. He was born in Palo Alto, and attended Walter Hays, Jordan and Palo Alto High. Upon graduation from UC San Diego, he spent a year surfing in Australia. Upon his return to San Diego, Peter started his own business, PC Connections. Peter played Little League baseball, community basketball and AYSO and CYSA soccer, and played baseball and basketball on Palo Alto High School Varsity teams.



He is survived by his mother Margene, his sister Lisa Hufnagel, her husband Mark and their four children, Jake, Max, Sam and Kate, and his brother Andy Chmyz and his wife Marcia and their three children, Julia, Teddy and Jack. In 2010 Peter was predeceased by his dad, George. A memorial website to Peter can be found at www.chmyz.com.

PAID OBITUARY

Transitions

Elizabeth Bentley

Elizabeth "Betty" Aldrin Hench Bentley, a resident of Los Altos for 65 years, died on Nov. 26, 2014. She was 92.

She was born on Sept. 21, 1922, in Prescott, Arizona, to Anders and Mabel Aldrin. Shortly after, her family moved to Los Angeles where she grew up and graduated from John Marshall High School in 1940. In 1943, she graduated from Los Angeles City College with an associate's degree in art.

Then she met Robert C. Hench, a U.S. Army Air Force pilot during WWII, and they married on June 1, 1945, in Los Angeles.

After living in various places throughout the country, she moved in 1955 to Tokyo, Japan, where her husband helped to found the airline IASCO. There she studied advanced Japanese art at Sophia University and participated in the College Women's Club of Tokyo, serving as president, and the Round Table Club of Tokyo.

The family lived there until the end of 1962 (with one year back in the U.S.), when her husband died.



They returned to the Los Altos home she and Robert built in 1948.

While her children were still in school, she started studying art history and painting at San Jose State and eventually graduated with a bachelor's degree. She went on to work at Boise Cascade Home & Land Corp. as a litigation researcher and later for Syntex Corporation in the patent office.

When her children were young, she volunteered with the PTA in Los Altos and as an assistant Girl Scout leader. She also served for decades with the Committee for Art at Stanford, binding slides and working in the museum there.

Throughout her life she attended services at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto. Her pastimes included gardening, Japanese flower arranging, holding tea parties, reading autobiographies and cooking gourmet meals.

She is survived by her second husband, Bob C. Bentley of Los Altos; her three children, Anders A. Hench of Novato, California, Colleen D. Hench of Los Altos, Carolyn L. Hench Mindell of Pacific Palisades, California; her three stepchildren, Grant Bentley, Linda Jones and Bill Bentley; two grandchildren, Cooper Colecott of Tacoma, Washington, and Dylan Hench of Novato; two great-grand-

children; and many cousins in Sweden and step-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held on Jan. 10 in Los Altos. Those interested in attending should contact colleen.hench@gmail.com.

Patrick Suppes

Patrick Colonel Suppes, a long-time professor of philosophy at Stanford University, died on Nov. 17 at his Stanford home with his family by his side. He was 92.

He was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on March 17, 1922. After studying at the University of Tulsa and University of Oklahoma, he was placed on active duty in the U.S. Army Reserve in 1943. From 1943 to 1946, he served as a meteorologist in the U.S. Army, spending time in the Solomon Islands and Guam and earning the rank of captain. After he moved to New York City and graduated from Columbia University with a Ph.D. in philosophy.

In 1950, he joined the Stanford philosophy department. Throughout his career he pushed for interdisciplinary collaboration, and he received courtesy appointments to the statistics, psychology and education departments. With many colleagues he published hundreds of papers and 32 books. He was named the Lucie Stern Professor of Philosophy Emeritus at Stanford.

Outside of Stanford, he started in 1967 the Computer Curriculum Corporation, a leading company in seeking to introduce classroom instruction on computers. He was also a member of many academic organizations, including the National Academy of Sciences. In 1990, he received the National Medal of Science from President George H. Bush.

He is survived by his wife, Michelle Nguyen; his children, Patricia Suppes of Los Altos Hills, Deborah Suppes of Woodside, John (Dee Ann) Suppes of Palo Alto, Alexandra Suppes (and husband David Franzson) of New York, and Michael Suppes (and partner Alison Hyland) of New York; and his three stepchildren, Colin Bang Nguyen of Stanford and Kenna Thi Nguyen and Parker An Nguyen of San Jose. He is also survived by his younger brother, George Biddle Suppes Jr. of Tulsa, Oklahoma; a nephew; and five grandchildren.

A memorial service was held on Nov. 21 at Spangler Mortuaries in Los Altos.

Memorial service

Alan Henderson, former mayor of Palo Alto, died on Sept. 13. He was 89.

The memorial service has been rescheduled, with a new date of Jan. 25 at 3 p.m. at Avenida, 450 Bryant St., Palo Alto.



Which is the best design concept for the Adobe Creek Pedestrian and Cyclist Bridge?

Three renowned architecture and engineering teams will submit design concepts for this new pedestrian and cyclist bridge.

The bridge will provide connectivity from residential and commercial areas in south Palo Alto to the Baylands Nature Preserve and the regional Bay Trail network of bike trails.

Community members can contribute to the dialogue by:

- 1 Attending presentations of design concepts on December 17 at 4:00 PM at Palo Alto City Hall
- 2 Viewing YouTube videos at cityofpaloalto.org (available after December 10). View the video and provide comment
- 3 Viewing designs of the bridge at Palo Alto City Hall and the Mitchell Park Library

To learn more about the competition, go to: cityofpaloalto.org/101

John C. Mackay

John C. Mackay, born in Salt Lake City on April 26, 1920, was the first child of Leah and A. Calder Mackay. His only brother, Richard Newton Mackay, soon followed and 13 years later his sister, Leah Louise, joined the family.

In 1926, John's family moved from Washington, D.C. to Beverly Hills, California where John attended Hawthorn Grammar Hills School and then Beverly Hills High. He then attended Stanford University from 1938-1942 and graduated with a Pre-Legal degree.

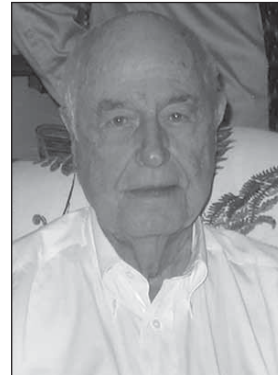
On March 22, 1942 John married the love of his life, Ellen Ann Evans at the Stanford Chapel. John and Ellen had four children, John Calder Mackay, Edward Evans Mackay, James Newton Mackay, and Ann Elizabeth Mackay.

John served in the US Navy as a Lieutenant for four years in the Pacific Theater and then attended Stanford Law School from 1946-1948. He graduated with an L.L.B. and J.D. diploma.

John build the first commercial building on Santa Cruz Ave. in Menlo Park after it was zoned and paved in 1948 and in 1950 he founded Mackay Homes. During the next 30 years he built approximately 15,000 apartment homes and office parks in the Bay Area as well as 13 other states.

In 1963 he built the Mackay family home in Woodside where he loved to ride horses. In later years he purchased a Cattle ranch in Montana and enjoyed the remaining years with his 4 children, their spouses, 11 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren.

John served on the Board of Directors for Children Health Council for many years and was a founder of the Palo Alto Medical Foundation. He is remembered for so much – a loving devoted husband, father, and friend. Private family memorial will be held at a later date.



PAID OBITUARY

Living Well

A monthly special section of news & information for seniors

From bread-baking in the morning to 'Taps' in the evening

Students in 'Life Stories' classes ponder the role of ritual in their lives

by Chris Kenrick

The rituals of morning bread-baking, Shabbat dinners and the U.S. Army's nightly "Taps" were among the many traditions discussed as members of Palo Alto-based "Life Stories" classes gathered in late November to examine the "role of ritual" in their lives.

Students were asked to share memories, both positive and negative, of rituals from their childhoods as well as traditions they've carried on, tweaked, initiated or discarded as adults.

While some reflected on holiday or religious traditions, others chose secular rituals to describe to fellow participants in "Life Stories" classes offered at Avenidas and at Grace Lutheran Church. Palo Alto resident Sheila Dunec has been teaching the classes, which meet weekly, since the late 1990s.

Retired research chemist Bill Lee evoked the sound of a U.S. Army bugler playing "Taps" as he recalled his three months as a 20-year-old G.I. in basic training in 1943 at Camp Sibert, Alabama, home of the U.S. Army Chemical Warfare Service.

Lee said he found comfort in the sound of "Taps" each evening, knowing that "many generations have listened to those bugle notes as they and I have considered life and tried to find its meaning. ... Would I be able to face combat and conquer my fears?"

"Would the war ever end? Would I ever return home? Would

I ever see my siblings and parents and girlfriend again?"

Lee concluded his reading with the lyrics from "Taps": "Day is done, Gone the sun, from the lakes, from the hills, from the sky ..." Even now at 91, he said, he thinks of "Taps," and "I still use the late evening hours to summarize my days."

In an essay read by her daughter Winnie Doty, 91-year-old Helen Lamons of Palo Alto offered a detailed recounting of the morning kitchen rituals of her mother, a farm wife who baked bread every other day for her family, which included 12 children.

Lamons' mother maintained her own yeast starter, a tradition Lamons has not continued. However, "Thanks to Mama, I've enjoyed baking bread using Fleischmann's yeast instead," she wrote.

Rotem Pearlson of Palo Alto recalled the Shabbat dinners on the Israeli kibbutz of her childhood, a weekly occasion for which families dressed up, and white tablecloths transformed the community's self-serve cafeteria into a sit-down-dinner venue for 500. Families took turns leading the ceremony, practicing their readings in advance.

"We loved the singing parts," Pearlson said. "There was a guitar player, and we'd use our silverware to tap on the glasses while we were singing."

She recalled the adults passed "large metal bowls with steam-

ing chicken soup" followed by the rest of the meal: roast chicken and potatoes, cooked vegetables and "a few fancy salads such as beet and cole slaw."

"For us kids, by the time we finished the soup we had no more space for the rest of dinner so we went outside to play while the adults continued with their dinners. ... It meant we could play longer."

"Until this day in my house we have every Friday night a Shabbat dinner with roast chicken, roast potatoes — not so much the chicken soup — with white tablecloth, candles, challah and the blessing," Pearlson said.

Palo Alto resident Ann Kay recalled going to her grandmother's house as a child for Sunday dinner with extended family. "There was a long break after grandmother died but now my son Jeff has picked up the tradition, making dinner almost every Sunday with his daughter Ana as an apprentice," Kay said.

Kay also recalled her Christmas Eve tradition of serving vegetable soup, which later changed to a cracked crab after an aunt began participating and introduced it. The aunt died in 1980.

"I think the real value of having the same dinner every year is it feels like it includes those who aren't with us, and we talk about them and it contributes to the ongoing unity of our family," she said.

(continued on page 21)



Veronica Weber

Mary Taylor displays the many figures she has made that are added to her advent calendar, one of her holiday traditions she described in Sheila Dunec's "Life Stories" class at Grace Lutheran Church. Elderid Everly, inset, reads from her handwritten memoirs during a meeting of the guided autobiography class.

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Veronica Weber

Diane Reklis, right, reads a story about hiking up Mt. Whitney as Sheila Dunec, left, and Mary Taylor listen during the "Life Stories" class.

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Palo Alto 3pm-4:30pm
"The Gift of Simplicity"

This interactive workshop will provide techniques for promoting caregiver wellness as a gift we must give ourselves.

We will help one another cultivate the gifts of patience, emotional resilience and simplicity for this special time of the year.

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A poignant documentary on the power of music in combatting memory loss.

Avenidas Rose Kleiner Center
270 Escuela Avenue in Mountain View
RSVP TO (650)289-5499



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

Living Well DECEMBER 2014 Calendar of Events

Dec 1
UNA Film Festival:
"Gypsy Caravan" 2-4 @ Avenidas. Free.

Dec 2
Avenidas closed.

Dec 3
Therapeutic nail care
appts available, 9am-2:30pm @ Avenidas. Call 650-289-5400 for details, appt & fees.

Dec 4
Advanced Health Care
Directive appts available, 9am-12pm @ Avenidas. Call 650-289-5400 for appt. \$5

Dec 5
Workshop: "Computing 101 for Technophobes"
10am-12pm @ Avenidas. Call 650-289-5400 to register. \$5/\$10.

Dec 8
16mm Film Screening: "Dead Reckoning"
2:30-4:30pm @ Avenidas. Free. Partner/Spouse Caregiver Support Group, 12-1:30pm @ Avenidas. Drop-in, free.

Dec 9
Holiday Craft Workshop
2-4:30pm @ Avenidas. Space is limited. Pre-registration required. Call 650-289-5400.

Dec 10
Parkinson's Disease Support Group
2-3:30pm @ Avenidas. Call Robin Riddle @ 650-724-6090 for more info. Free.

Dec 11
FREE Family Caregiver 101 Workshop
"The Gift of Simplicity" 3-4:30PM @Avenidas

Free screening of "Alive Inside"
a documentary on the power of music in combatting memory loss. At the Avenidas Rose Kleiner Center in Mountain View (270 Escuela Avenue in Mountain View) from 7-8:30pm. RSVP to (650)289-5499

Dec 12
Holiday Dance Party featuring NASA Ames Jazz Band
@ Avenidas. 3:30-5pm. Free.

Dec 15
Senior Adult Legal
Free appts available 10am-12pm @ Avenidas. For 60 years +, residents of Santa Clara county. Call 650-289-5400 for appt. Free.

Dec 16
Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program
appts available, 1-3pm @ Avenidas. For 60 years +, residents of Santa Clara county. Call 650-289-5400 for appt. Free.

Dec 17
Reiki
appts available @ Avenidas, 9am-12pm. Call 650-289-5400 for appt. \$30/\$35

Dec 18
Book Club: "The Good Lord Bird"
by James McBride, 3-4:30pm @ Avenidas. Free.

Dec 19
Friday Afternoon Dance Party
2:30-4:30pm, @ Avenidas. Free.

Dec 22
16mm Film Screening: "Swingtime"
2:30-4:30pm @ Avenidas. Free. Partner/Spouse Caregiver Support Group, 12-1:30pm @ Avenidas. Drop-in, free.

Dec 24
Mindfulness Meditation
2-3pm @ Avenidas. Free.

Dec 25 & 26
Avenidas closed

Dec 29
Massage
appts available, 1:30-4pm @ Avenidas. \$35/\$45

Dec 30
Avenidas Walkers
10am. Call 650-387-5256 for trailhead info or to schedule. Free.

Dec 31
Senior New Year's Eve Day Brunch
begins @ 10am @ Cubberly Community Center, 4000 Middlefield Rd. Tickets in advance available @ Avenidas \$15; \$18 @ the door.

Rituals

(continued from page 19)

Mary Taylor of Palo Alto passed around tiny objects — a Labradoodle puppy, ice skates, a snare drum, a hedgehog — all handmade. Each object represents something in Taylor's life, she explained, and belongs to the latest of many advent calendars she has crafted, this one for herself.

Portola Valley resident Margot van Vuurden described celebrating the Dec. 5 feast of St. Nicholas of her Dutch childhood, when she would leave her shoe at the bottom of the chimney and a mug of water for St. Nicholas' horse. "Without fail (the next morning) the mug would be empty, and there would be a chocolate letter 'M' in my shoe or sweets or other gifts," said van Vuurden, who continues to give chocolate letters to her grandchildren on the holiday.

Palo Alto resident Sandy Peters described the evolution of her annual "Gramma Camp" — complete with handwritten applications and T-shirts — that began when one of her children became a single parent and needed baby-sitting help over spring break. "What started out as a fun thing for me has become an important part of our children and grandchildren's lives," she said. "I always incorporate new adventures, which are necessary as they grow older."

Debbie Rosenberg shared the origins of her family's tradition of visiting Hanalei, Hawaii, each year. The year 1983 "was the year of my epiphany when I realized that life is short, and we should start on the bucket list," she said.

Rosenberg, a hospital social worker, had met with the wife of a newly retired man who was confronting a sudden, life-threatening di-



June Vilen, left, Nettie Wise, Sue Allen and Winnie Doty are amused by the stories shared in the "Life Stories" class.

agnosis. "That struck me and I went home and said to Nate, 'Let's take the kids to Hawaii.'"

She has carried on the tradition, alone or with friends, even after the 2009 death of her husband Nate Rosenberg, who was a teacher at Cubberley High School and, following the 1979 closure of that school, Palo Alto High School.

Palo Alto resident Marilee Anderson described her 20-year tradition of an annual holiday-season reunion with eight sorority sisters, who first met one another as college freshmen in 1956.

"It seems that we seek reunions of friendships more as we grow older," Anderson wrote. "Maybe it's to declare that we're still here, we're alive, and to touch once again

those earlier years of our youth. With old friends you don't have to explain yourself, who you are, what you've done — they know all of that."

Jim Wong told of the yearly rituals on the Palo Alto cul-de-sac where he's lived for more than 50 years, including the block party that began in 1964 and has continued through three or more generations of young children and a huge range of nationalities. "Getting together with family and friends is the best thing going," Wong said.

"Life Stories" classes reconvene in January. For more information call Dunec at 650-565-8087. ■

Contributing writer Chris Kenrick can be emailed at ckenrick@paweekly.com.

Senior Focus

AVENIDAS EVENTS ... December is a busy month at Avenidas, with activities ranging from support programs to a day at the movies. Avenidas offers a free **Parkinson's Disease Support Group** on Wednesday, Dec. 10, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Information: Call Robin Riddle at 650-724-6090. One-to-one **computer tutoring appointments** are available on Thursday, Dec. 11. The cost is \$5 for Avenidas members, \$10 for nonmembers. Call 650-308-4252 to make an appointment. A screening of "Driving Miss Daisy" will be held Thursday, Dec. 11, from 1:30 to 4 p.m. Admission is free for Avenidas members, \$2 for nonmembers. Information: Call 650-289-5400 or visit avenidas.org. The **NASA Ames Jazz Band** will be featured in a free Holiday Dance Party on Friday, Dec. 12. Doors open at 3 p.m., with dancing from 3:30 until 5 p.m. Free **legal assistance consultations** for Santa Clara County residents age 60 and up are available Monday, Dec. 15, between 10 a.m. and noon at Avenidas. Call 650-289-5400 to make an appointment.

MUSIC AND MEMORY ... Join Avenidas for a free screening of "Alive Inside," a poignant documentary on the power of music in combating memory loss. It will be held Thursday, Dec. 11,

(continued on page 22)

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Senior Focus

(continued from page 21)

from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the **Avenidas Rose Kleiner Center**, 270 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-289-5499 to RSVP.

GIFT OF SIMPLICITY ... The holiday season for caregivers should be a time of increased joy, not an obstacle course. Join a discussion on techniques for lifting the burdens of caregiving during the holidays and in the future. Social worker **Paula Wolfson**, manager of Avenidas Care Partners, will lead a discussion on priorities, values and how to let go of that which does not serve you. Participants will help one another cultivate the gifts of patience and emotional resilience. The workshop will be held Thursday, Dec. 11, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in the La Comida room at Avenidas, 450 Bryant St., Palo Alto. Call 650-289-5400 to RSVP.

BROADWAY TO HOLLYWOOD ... Mezzo-soprano **Deborah Rosengaus**, bass-baritone **Ben Brady** and pianist **John Iosefa** present songs from the movies in "**Broadway to Hollywood and Back**," on Tuesday, Dec. 16, from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Schultz Cultural Arts Hall of the **Oshman Family Jewish Community Center**. Admission, which includes buffet lunch and concert, is \$15 or one punch on the JCC's Community Tuesday Punch Card. RSVP by Dec. 14 to Lee Strauss at 650-234-8005 or leestrauss1785@gmail.com.

HEALTH INSURANCE HELP ... Free appointments are available for a **Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program** on Tuesday, Dec. 16, between 1 and 3 p.m. The program is open to Santa Clara County residents age 60 and up. To make an appointment, call 650-289-5400.

ADIOS, 2014 ... Doors open at 10 a.m. for a **New Year's Eve Day Brunch** for seniors on Wednesday, Dec. 31. The festivities will be in the Pavilion at Cubberley Community Center, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Advance tickets are available for \$15 at Avenidas. The price is \$18 at the door.

POSTPONING RETIREMENT ... A new report from the **Employee Benefit Research Institute** finds a nearly 23-percentage-point drop in workers retiring early or close to their expected retirement age after the recession of 2008. Before the start of the recession in September 2008, 72.4 percent of workers retired either before or within one year after their expected retirement date. But that figure dropped to 49.6 percent after September 2008. "Various studies have shown that there is a trend which precedes the Great Recession that people are staying longer in the labor force," said researcher **Sudipto Banerjee**, author of the study. "But this shows that there has been a big increase in later-than-expected retirements following the recession. The Employee Benefit Research Institute is a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit that focuses on health, savings, retirement and economic security issues. ■

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

Arts & Entertainment

A weekly guide to music, theater, art, culture, books, film, and more, edited by Elizabeth Schwyzer



Labor and love Western Ballet sets a high barre

Story by Elizabeth Schwyzer. Photos by Veronica Weber

For ballet studios, December is a busy month. There are props to be dusted off, costumes to be fitted and finishing touches to be put on the choreography for the end-of-year show. At Mountain View's Western Ballet as with so many other schools around the country, preparations are in full swing for a production of the classical Christmas ballet, "The Nutcracker," which the company will stage Dec. 5 and 6 at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts.

For Alexi Zubiria, Western Ballet's artistic director, it's a magical time of year. Then again, magic seems to follow Zubiria, whose own life story is just as much a fairytale as the productions he stages.

Born in Venezuela and raised in Colombia by a single mother of seven children, Zubiria lived in a village with no electricity until he was 8 years old. His father was never really in the picture; his mother, who had a third-grade education, died when he was a teenager. At 16, while trying to support himself and finish high school, he and a friend decided to check out the local ballet school; they figured it was a good place to meet girls. What he discovered there was something even more compelling — something that kept him coming back to watch class, day after day, mesmerized by what he saw.

"I knew nothing about ballet," Zubiria recalled, standing in the quiet hallway of Western Ballet on a Friday morning, before the

day's classes began. "I had no idea there was such a thing you could do with your body."

Though Zubiria had no money and no appropriate attire, the teacher saw his interest and invited him to begin taking classes.

It was the beginning of what would become an illustrious career.

Within a year, Zubiria had landed a job with the International Ballet of Caracas, Venezuela. He began to tour as a principal dancer. Next, he entered a ballet competition in the United States — and won it. Soon, he was dancing with such esteemed European ballet companies as Deutsche Oper Berlin and Roland Petit's Ballet National de Marseille. In 1986, he joined the San Francisco Ballet, where he performed as a soloist for eight years. It was in California that he met his wife, Eileen, then a soloist at Oakland Ballet, and today an instrumental part of Western Ballet.

Now in his mid-50s, wearing a knitted vest with frayed edges, Zubiria strides the halls of his own school with evident pride. He retains the accent of his native Spanish, pronouncing the "t" of "ballet." He doesn't linger on his personal story, instead redirecting conversation to the art form that remains his passion, 40 years after he first fell in love.

As he leads me through the school's hallways, he stops now and then to point out the photographs that line the walls, all of which feature Western Ballet students in performance.

"You get them at age 4 or 5 and see them go at 18," he says. "It's a big deal in the life of a child, spending 13, 14 years here."

Western Ballet's presence in the lives of Midpeninsula dancers predates Zubiria's tenure. The school opened in Palo Alto in 1976 and moved to Mountain View in 1986. Zubiria took over as artistic director in 1997, moved the studios into a larger building on Rengstorff Avenue near U.S. Highway 101 and has steadily built enrollment and developed the curriculum. The popular school at 914 North Rengstorff now serves about 150 youth students and has approximately 1,300 adult students on the books for the open program, which offers drop-in classes for everyone

from absolute beginners to those experienced in pointe work.

Unlike many studios where a fully staged production is an annual or at best semiannual affair, Western Ballet stages three performances every year and does so without drawing attention away from the rigorous daily training of their students.

High school sophomore Jennifer Peterson has been dancing at Western Ballet since she moved to the area four years ago. Like the rest of the students in the upper-level classes, she takes ballet technique six days a week in addition to rehearsing for five hours every Saturday. Peterson credits the faculty at Western Ballet with setting the tone for disciplined training without the cutthroat environ-

ment that too often accompanies such rigor.

"They have amazing teachers who are really dedicated and stay late with you on Saturday night if you're having problems with the dance," she said, adding that competition with other students isn't an issue. "I don't even remember what level some of my friends are in."

"Everyone gets the opportunities they want. It's really like a close family."

Peterson, who attends the University of Nebraska's online high school, acknowledged that not all teenagers would choose such a laborious and time-consuming hobby but said there are great rewards, both in the process of daily

(continued on previous page)



Above, Shireen Kattamalvadi, center, dances the role of Dewdrop in the Waltz of the Flowers from Western Ballet's "The Nutcracker." Other dancers in rehearsal on Nov. 22 include (from left) Megan Ong, Melanie Garcia, Anju Loveridge, Julia Starr, Ninava Sharma and Ally Lai. Left, Western Ballet's artistic director Alexi Zubiria dances with Alison Share, artistic director assistant, during rehearsal of "The Nutcracker."



Alison Share, Western Ballet's artistic director assistant, coaches a group of young ballet students playing mice on how to look menacing during the "The Nutcracker" rehearsal.

Western Ballet

(continued from previous page)

dancing and in the product. In this year's Nutcracker, she will dance the role of the Snow Queen. By the time the curtain rises, she will have devoted hundreds of hours to preparing for that moment.

"It is a huge time commitment, but the nice thing about ballet is that the more dedicated you are, the more you see the payoff," she said.

As for what it's like to train under Zubiria's guidelines, Peterson said: "He approaches everything from an intellectual standpoint. He wants you to understand why certain things are important. He has an appreciation for the art form — how it all works — and he has a lot of experience, so it's a pleasure to be taught by him."

Peterson's observations accorded with Zubiria's presentation of his school. While touring through one of the studios, he interrupted his own dialogue about the challenges of securing a permanent home for Western Ballet (the Rengstorff building is a rental, and not an inexpensive one) to deliver a mini-lecture on the physics of ballet.

"I don't let kids walk in the hallways with slumped shoulders," he said, quite sternly. "I was a technician. I respect the physics. I respect an invisible working line. That is the singularity of the style."

A few minutes later, back in the hallway, he stopped short in front of a photograph of three young women striking a fourth-position pose, each with her right arm raised in a curving arch alongside her head.

"Which one is the right one? Which one is regal, like a queen?" Zubiria demanded of this reporter, puffing out his chest.

Realizing he wanted me to answer him, I studied their postures, then tentatively pointed to the

woman on the left, whose lifted chin and long neck seemed to fit the bill.

"No!" Zubiria cried, taking my pen from my hand in order to illustrate his lesson. "Let me show you why."

He tapped the framed photo, leaving traces of ink on the glass.

"Here, here, and here: The line is broken," he explained. "But this one" — he traced another line of ink along the next woman's inner arm —, "this one, the line is smooth." He stared intently at my face until I nodded my understanding. Satisfied, he moved on down the hall.

This curious mix of the artist in love with his art and the scientist seeking technical perfection is likely what made Zubiria such a successful dancer, and that same balance between beauty and rigor seems to pervade every aspect of the program at Western Ballet.

Alison Share, who teaches Pre-Ballet class, is one of the faculty members responsible for transmitting Zubiria's philosophy and pedagogical approach right from the beginning of a student's Western Ballet journey. A former Western Ballet student herself in the era before Zubiria took over, Share has a unique perspective on how the director's background and vision has transformed the school.

"Many schools in the area combine ballet instruction with character dance or competitions," Share noted. "We are purely a performance and artistic institution. (Zubiria) has really built his methodology, which is teaching the real classical ballet. There's a discipline, a uniformity — you can see it in the classes and the shows."

That discipline, Share said, reaches beyond technique class to the way students comport themselves in general, even outside of the studio, where they tend to be high-achieving scholars and model citizens. Whether such young people gravitate toward ballet or

the discipline fosters such behavior is debatable, but Share said Zubiria's emphasis on high standards clearly affects students.

"He wants the students to be very respectful," she said. "We train them to be respectful of ballet and of the classical art, so all of our students are very well-behaved. When guest teachers and choreographers come in, they always comment that our kids are well-behaved and very professional."

Inside the studios, Share said, cell phones must be put away, and even the teenagers respect that rule.

"There is no distraction; they have to be completely focused," she said.

For Zubiria, an orphan growing up in a politically and economically volatile country, the appeal of structure and rules was clear. Yet even in the 21st-century Silicon Valley where the majority of Western ballet students' lives are already filled with rules and expectations, there's an undeniable appeal to the rigor of classical ballet training — at least for some.

Among those who are drawn to this culture of hard work and discipline are sisters Risako and Natsuko Nozaki, who have been training at Western Ballet since they were 4 years old. They're now 14 and freshmen at Carlmont High School in Belmont; they make the daily commute to Mountain View for classes. Though they clearly love Western Ballet and feel at home there, the language they use to describe that devotion doesn't feature words like "fun."

"We have highly trained teachers who give us really accurate corrections," Risako said. "They definitely look at each of us individually. Everyone there is a hard worker and is very supportive."

Natsuko agreed and elaborated, "I choose this over hanging out with my friends because it pushes me harder and gives me the cour-



Western Ballet dancer Barrett Cahalen lifts Julia Starr as the pair rehearse the Arabian Dance from "The Nutcracker."

age to do other things."

What kind of things? "In school I used to be a very shy person, and one day in ballet I was told to look up. That told me that I needed to be more outgoing and socialize with other people."

Both Risako and Natsuko will dance multiple roles in this year's Nutcracker, which features a cast of approximately 100 dancers.

If young people are attracted to the rigor of Western Ballet, Zubiria said adult students often describe the school as "a sanctuary." He likes to think of the school, he said, as "the YMCA of ballet."

"It's a place to serve community, a place where a lot of people are happy," he said. "The adults come to get away from everything."

High school physics teacher Lea Fredrickson said she values the welcoming spirit of Western Ballet classes, as well as the quality of the instructors, many of whom dance professionally for Ballet San Jose.

"I just love being able to go in there and get some exercise and feel good about dancing," she said. "Each person is practicing their craft, trying to make themselves better."

Amazingly, given his devotion to the school, Zubiria also practices another craft: He works full-time as a biologist for Agilent Technologies. Rather than bemoaning the difficulty of maintaining a busy nonprofit on the side of his day job, he's cheerful as he walks through room after

room of carefully hung costumes and looming props.

"This is a magical place," he said, grinning. "I'm not kidding."

Like his students, Zubiria doesn't have to pause for reflection when asked why he deems this endeavor worth his time and energy.

"We need to preserve classical ballet because it sets the foundation for humanity," he said. "It sets the tone. That's the standard — not below it." ■

Arts & Entertainment Editor Elizabeth Schwyzer can be emailed at eschwyzer@paweeekly.com.

WATCH IT ONLINE
www.PaloAltoOnline.com

Western Ballet's artistic director Alexi Zubiria talks about preserving the artform of classical ballet. Watch the video by Veronica Weber on www.PaloAltoOnline.com.

What: Western Ballet's "The Nutcracker"

Where: Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St.

When: Friday, Dec. 5, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 6, at 1 and 7 p.m.

Cost: \$25-\$30

Info: For tickets, go to mvcpa.com or call 650-903-6000. To learn more, go to westernballet.org or call 650-968-4455.



Johnna Arnold Photography

New York's Pace Gallery has a temporary West Coast exhibition space in the former Tesla dealership in Menlo Park.

Testing the waters

Pace Gallery courts Silicon Valley collectors

by DeWitt Cheng

With the Silicon Valley Contemporary art fair held last April in San Jose and the Art Silicon Valley/San Francisco art fair held in San Mateo in October, it seems California may be finally earning the attention it deserves as an international arts epicenter.

The relatively short, sweet life of the temporary Pace Gallery in Menlo Park is one more sign that the art world is turning its attention to West Coast collectors.

In mid-April of this year, Pace Menlo Park opened in the old 25,000-square-foot Tesla dealership at the junction of Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Stanford, with the building's electric-car history adding indisputable high-tech cachet. (Many visitors had even purchased their cars there.)

Pace Gallery is one of the major players on the international art market. Founded in 1960, in Boston, it now has five locations for contemporary art in New York, and one each in London, Beijing and Zuoz, Switzerland, plus three subsidiary galleries specializing in prints, photos and African, Asian, Oceanic and American Indian art. Artists in the Pace stable include Alexander Calder, Willem de Kooning, David Hockney, Isamu Noguchi, Pablo Picasso and Mark Rothko, to name but a few — an extraordinarily wide and deep bench of art talent.

In an article for New York Observer, arts writer Zoë Lescaze observed: "The art collectors in the Silicon Valley area, ... [Pace president Marc] Glimcher said, tend to be new to the game. 'They travel to do their jobs; they're not traveling to go hang out at the Miami art fair.... I mean, I hope they do, but this is why it's important to take it to them.'" Pace borrowed work from a number of other top-tier galleries in this project in order to make the case to potential new collectors: "They need confidence. They need to see that... they're really being brought into the art world."

Pace Menlo Park has made a strong case, indeed, offering not

only world-class art in spacious surroundings, but also a bar and an art library housing a thousand

volumes. The first show here featured work by Alexander Calder, covering works from 1929 to 1976. The second featured artworks from the past 15 years by the MacArthur Award-winning Tara Donovan, who is based in New York but well known in the Bay Area. Donovan's obsessive assemblage sculptures exploit the natural properties of such quotidian materials as Mylar, acrylic, film, glass, buttons, toothpicks, pins, pencils and drinking straws to create surprising forms that suggest natural forces and processes.

The current show, "A Brief History of Pace," features some 60 works by heavy hitters including Chuck Close, Jean Dubuffet, Sol LeWitt, Louise Nevelson, Robert Rauschenberg and Zhang Huan. The exhibition showcases Pace's impressive stable, and — with a display of old posters and catalogs — its historic 55 years in the art business.

If most of the names are familiar, there are some surprises in

the art: chromed steel abstractions by John Chamberlain, best known for his painted, crushed cars; a 1973 monochrome Jim Dine with appended tools; acrylic paintings from the 1980s by Dubuffet; subdued pattern-painting gouaches on paper by Minimalist LeWitt; and nature-themed paintings probably based on photos by portraitist Alex Katz. A nearly seven-foot-square drawing by Donovan, composed of the 'stippling' of thousands of pins, remains from the previous show. The temporary gallery closes Dec. 13 — but not, perhaps, permanently? How this testing of the waters will go remains to be seen. Glimcher, on the new collectors in the Bay Area: "It's a fresh group of people with a great energy. They're really interested in what the artists are trying to accomplish. Conversations here are about the art, the artists, history." ■

Freelance writer DeWitt Cheng can be emailed at de-witt@stanford.edu.



Johnna Arnold Photography

"A Brief History of Pace" at the Pace Gallery in Menlo Park runs through Dec. 13.

What: "A Brief History of Pace"

Where: Pace Gallery Menlo Park, 300 El Camino Real

When: Monday-Saturday, noon-7 p.m., through Dec. 13.

Cost: Free

Info: Go to pacegallery.com/menlopark or call 650-462-1368.

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Photo: Patrick Fraser. Dancer: Eric Fesich

Worth a Look



Courtesy Stanford Live

Members of the Chinese Performing Arts of America present traditional and contemporary cultural performances.

Performance

'Sing and Play the Bing'

Multicultural appreciation takes center stage at Stanford's Bing Concert Hall Saturday, Dec. 6, in an evening of performances by three Bay Area-based groups: Peninsula Women's Chorus, Chinese Performing Arts of America and Tezkatlipoka Aztec Dance and Drum.

Palo Alto-based Peninsula Women's Chorus was founded in 1966 and features both classical and contemporary music. Live performances and recordings have garnered the group international attention, as well as the commissioning of original music.

The Chinese Performing Arts of America is committed to continually introducing Chinese culture to the area and using art as a means of promoting multiculturalism. The group presents professional performing artists and offers education in Shaolin Kung Fu, music, drama, visual art and ballroom and line dancing.

Originally created as a traditional Aztec dance circle, Tezkatlipoka Aztec Dance and Drum promotes an appreciation of pre-Columbian art forms through dance and music. The San Jose-based school of dance and drumming works to combine multiple elements of Mesoamerican performance to celebrate movement, art and life.

Tickets for the event are free and will be available on the day of the event at the Bing Concert Hall box office at 327 Lasuen St. The performances start at 7:30 p.m. For more information, visit live.stanford.edu.



Kevin Warnock

The Gallery House features "Triangulation" by artist Nance Wheeler.

Art

40 artists celebrate the holidays

Ring in the winter season cheer with a show of paintings, jewelry, ceramics, fabric and photography

by local artists at Gallery House Palo Alto, at 320 California Ave., behind Printers Cafe.

Original work by Bay Area artists offer visitors one-of-a-kind gifts this holiday season. Both year-round and special holiday-themed works are on display and for purchase, as well as a selection of handmade ornaments.

Among the 40 artists exhibited is Wendy Fitzgerald, a San Jose State University graduate who focuses on lines and geometric shapes in her compositions. Also displayed is artist Nance Wheeler, who uses collage, acrylic paints and inks to explore pre-computer technical drawings. Present chair of the gallery, Sydell Lewis, has paintings in the show including one inspired by her walks at Shoreline Park in Mountain View.

This month's extended holiday hours are 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sundays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Mondays and 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. The show is open through Dec. 24. For more information, visit www.galleryhouse2.com or call 650-326-1668.



Courtesy Redwood Bluegrass Association

Dale Ann Bradley and Steve Gully have been performing together for more than 30 years.

Music

Legends in bluegrass

From the heartland of American bluegrass culture comes two legendary artists for a special performance hosted by the Redwood Bluegrass Association Saturday, Dec. 6. Dale Ann Bradley and Steve Gully have been influential members of the bluegrass community for several decades and have been big contributors to the continuation of bluegrass music.

Bradley, a native of Kentucky, joined her first bluegrass band as a teen and has since recorded numerous albums and played countless shows. She has won the International Bluegrass Music Association Award for Female Vocalist of the Year five times. Fans admire Bradley for the genuine bluegrass quality of her music.

Born in Tennessee, Gully is the son of a founding member of the Pinnacle Boys. He grew up to become the front man for three influential bluegrass bands: Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver, Mountain Heart and Grassdowne. He has been featured on many artists tracks and co-wrote the IBMA's Song of the Year in 2008, titled "Through the Window of a Train."

The pair will perform at Los Altos' Immanuel Lutheran Church at 1715 Grant Road. The doors open at 4:30 p.m. for a jam session, and the show starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door and half price for teens and students. Admission is free for kids under 13 and music students. For reservations and information, visit www.rba.org. ■

— Jennah Feeley

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Eating Out



Michelle Le

Zola features seared tombo tuna, avocado, hearts of palm, grapefruit, lemon and chili.

Unpretentious French

Zola's high-quality cuisine a welcome addition to downtown Palo Alto

by Sheila Himmel
Menlo Park's loss is Palo Alto's gain, twice over. After closing his haute French restaurant Marche in 2011, Howard Bulka gave us Howie's Artisan Pizza in Town & Country Village. And now, Guillame Bienamé, a former executive chef of Marche, gives us Zola, the best food news in downtown Palo Alto this year.

Don't go getting all literary about the name. Bienamé chose it not because of any connection to the French author, Emile Zola, but simply because it's a

name that's easy to pronounce, write and remember.

Zola will be a comfort to local diners who still miss L'Amie Donia, a beloved French bistro formerly located just across Bryant Street. The new casual French restaurant similarly reflects one chef-owner's unpretentious version of high-quality cuisine.

Two caveats: While not overpriced for what you get, Zola is no bargain. And, depending on the crowd and the wine consumption, the 44-seat dining room can get unpleasantly loud. It is warm and

lovely to look at, with lots of bare wood, but all hard surfaces. One solution is to come with a group of six to eight people and eat at the communal table up front.

Bienamé incorporates seasonal produce into every dish on the one-page menu. Meat also is sourced as locally as possible.

Start with soup (\$7), from the menu section called Pour Commencer. It could be a hearty but not too rich blend of celery, brioche and porcini mushrooms or celery-root puree drizzled with a brown-butter coffee glaze.

Rillettes de salmon (\$9) feature moist, slightly smoky fish with a tasteful minimum of fresh dill. Mustard seeds on top act like caviar, breaking apart as you bite. Ample toast accompanies it. (Fresh bread is provided upon request.)

Ricotta gnocchi (\$13) are topped with a perfectly poached egg.

Bavette steak (\$28) was very pink for medium-rare. Choices of sauce are béarnaise and café de Paris, a red wine sauce the server recommended. It came with

(continued on next page)



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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 up to \$25,000.

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

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Non-profits: Grant application and guidelines at www.PaloAltoOnline.com/holiday_fund
 Application deadline: January 9, 2015

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Michelle Le

Zola's pork loin and belly, with apples, turnips, Brussels sprouts, maple and sage, promises to be a signature dish.

Zola

(continued from page 27)

crispy fingerling potatoes, cauliflower and kale.

Roasted pork loin and belly (\$26) promises to be a signature dish. Currently it comes with a trio of roasted apples, turnips and Brussels sprouts.

All of these vegetables are prepared differently and are available as side dishes, making it easy for vegetarians to compose a meal from the Legumes and Pour Commencer sections. Soup is always vegetarian, as are at least two of the salads.

Among the Legumes, charred brassicas (\$9) are cauliflower florets and kale, both with crispy

edges, in a French-inspired Indian masala with golden raisins. Also not to be missed: crispy fingerling potatoes (\$5) finished in smoked paprika, orange zest and fine herbs; and the Brussels sprouts (\$6) with chorizo, almonds and parsley.

Try to save room for dessert. Yvette's crème caramel (\$6) for the lighter touch, chocolate mousse (\$8) for joyful sharing. Not just another fluffy pudding, this mousse is topped with coffee gel, cocoa nibs and Chantilly cream.

As with the restaurant's name, Zola's menu wastes no words. You don't have to wade through a lot of verbiage about techniques and farms. And conveniently located on the back of the menu is a welcome selection of craft beer, kir (a French cocktail made with liqueur and white wine) and wines by the glass.

A few specials augment the daily changing menu. You shouldn't have to ask for prices, but you might. One more nit to pick: Pacing can be erratic. But Zola had been open barely two months when we visited. I will happily go back. ■



Michelle Le

Zola's chocolate mousse is topped with coffee gel, cocoa nibs and Chantilly cream.

Zola
656 Bryant St., Palo Alto
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zolapa.com

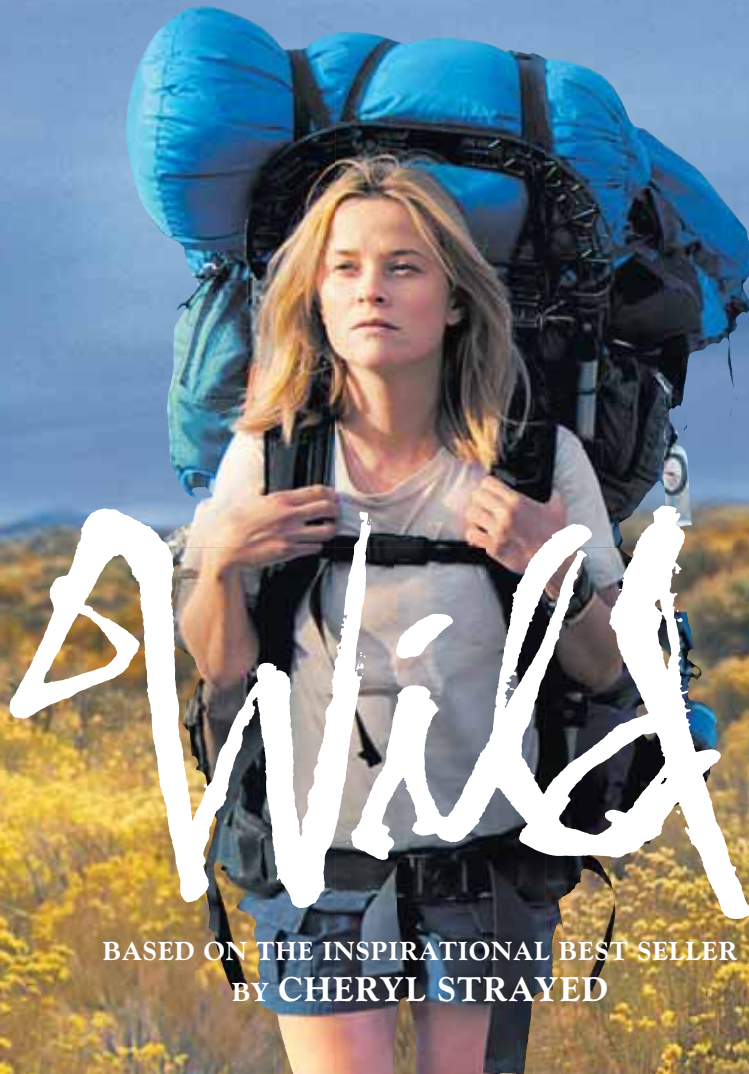
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Movies



AnneMarie Fox/Fox Searchlight Pictures

Reese Witherspoon stars in "Wild" as Cheryl Strayed, who goes on a 1,100-mile solo hike up the Pacific Crest Trail.

OPENINGS

'Wild' woman blues

Reese Witherspoon soul-searches along the beaten path in 'Wild'

★★★ (Guild)

Kübler-Ross' "Five Stages of Grief" aside, the conventional wisdom goes that everyone grieves differently, the devil being in the details. For Cheryl Strayed, author of the Oprah-approved memoir "Wild," those details included bingeing on sex and heroin before hitting rock bottom and committing to a soul-cleansing, 1,100-mile, 94-day solo hike.

Now "Wild" has gotten the Hollywood treatment, with Reese Witherspoon as Strayed, Laura Dern as her mother Bobbi, Nick Hornby ("About a Boy") penning the script, and Jean-Marc Vallée behind the camera. Given that Vallée guided his "Dallas Buyers Club" actors to Oscars last awards season, one might well look cynically upon "Wild," and its lead and supporting females, entirely apparent Oscar bait.

That's certainly true, but "Wild" improves on "Dallas Buyers Club" with Hornby's literate, thoughtfully constructed narrative, one that hews more closely to the true story on which it is based. Add rather brilliant editing by Martin Pensa and Vallée (under the pseudonym John Mac McMurphy) and expert work by Witherspoon and Dern, and you get a satisfying excursion, a secular but spiritual journey of self-discovery.

Strayed's long walk up the scenic Pacific Crest Trail (which runs from the Mexican border up to Canada) force her into dialogue with herself, though like Alvin Straight in the 1999 Oscar-nominated "The Straight Story," she gleans lessons from folks she meets along the way (call this "The Strayed Story"). Strayed needs to get her head straight after poorly navigating familial troubled waters, one a health crisis

affecting her 45-year-old mother and the other the dissolution of her seven-year marriage to Paul (Thomas Sadoski), a sympathetic victim of Strayed's sexual straying and disappearances to drug dens.

That Strayed comes across as an anti-heroine, a character not easy to love but rather pathetic, puts the story on solid ground for its many miles to go before redemption. Hornby and Vallée employ voiceover in the form of internal monologue, musical earworms (most notably Simon & Garfunkel's "El Condor Pasa (If I Could)"), and frequent flashbacks that qualify "Wild" as a cinematic version of what Tennessee Williams called a "memory play."

Effectively, Vallée tells Strayed's story in a series of reveries, each surfacing to consciousness in a head cleared by lonesome travel.

The result is a reasonably rich character study deftly anchored by Witherspoon, who allows Strayed to be naive and fragile in matters practical (her overstuffed pack, a symbolic, Atlas-like burden, earns the nickname "Monster") and emotional ("When I'm done ... I'll have to start living. And I'm nowhere near ready") but brave enough to, at long last, force her way into self-knowledge.

"Wild" isn't perfect: Though a more palatable version of "Eat Pray Love" (still uncomfortably privileged in its heroine's ability to take three months off to find herself), Strayed's story can still feel pat, its wisdom at times resembling that of a fortune cookie ("I'm gonna walk myself back to the woman my mother thought I was. I'm going to put myself in the way of beauty"). Two glaring examples of product placement rankle, and opinions will vary on whether Strayed's ultimate epiphany is moving or eye-rolling.

Still, "Wild," in its essence, proffers a useful message that it's wise to clear the clutter every once in a while — and especially at times of painful transition — to take stock.

The sub-theme that artful culture can play a role in self-understanding (Strayed and Hornby name-check everyone from Emily Dickinson to Stevie Ray Vaughn along the road) serves as a stealth endorsement of the film that contains it.

Rated R for sexual content, nudity, drug use and language. One hour, 55 minutes.

— Peter Canavese

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Shishapangma I, opus 599, Photo courtesy of Robert J. Lang, langorigami.com

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Movies

The following is a sampling of movies recently reviewed in the Weekly:

Foxcatcher ★★★1/2

Adapted by screenwriters E. Max Frye and Dan Futterman for director Bennett Miller, "Foxcatcher" interprets the disturbing true-crime story of millionaire John du Pont through bifocal lenses of American dreaming and sexual fantasies made accessible by wealth. The film's early scenes, set in 1987, establish Olympic gold medalist Mark Schultz (Channing Tatum) as a lonely, lost soul with an inferiority complex, feeling always in the shadow of brother and fellow gold medalist Dave (Mark Ruffalo). When eccentric chemical corporation heir du Pont (Steve Carrell) comes calling on Mark, massaging his ego and offering monetary and moral support for upcoming competitions, Mark gets past his uneasiness. Though failing to convince his brother to do the same, Mark resettles on du Pont's Foxcatcher Farm in Delaware, to train and anchor "Team Foxcatcher." Du Pont wraps himself in the flag, but his goals are purely self-serving: to win the respect of his decaying, disapproving mother (Vanessa Redgrave) and his "stable" of brawny boy toys. While stopping shy of spelling out unambiguous advances or assaults, the director and his actors accumulate details that paint du Pont as a sexual predator, who takes every advantage he can, and Schultz eventually as an emotionally shut-down victim

of abuse. As du Pont, Carrell employs a fake nose, unsettlingly flat affect, weirdly cadaverous face and druggery demeanor to disappear into his role. Tatum, too, impresses, leading with his jaw and subtly tracing the emotional journey of a sullen hulk. Miller's austere aesthetic, natural-lighting scheme and long takes together build a realistic tension that allows the story to creep up on the audience. **Rated R for some drug use and a scene of violence. Two hours, 14 minutes.** — P.C. (Reviewed Nov. 28, 2014)

Penguins of Madagascar ★★

Now thrust into the spotlight in "Penguins of Madagascar," the quartet of penguins from "Madagascar" prove that they're better in small doses. Three-time franchise director Tom McGrath returns for a fourth go-around, this time with co-director Simon J. Smith ("Bee Movie"). "Penguins of Madagascar" has energy and action in abundance, in what feels like a desperate attempt to mask its thin, familiar storyline and lack of depth. Compensations comes in the form of willful, merry senselessness and sometimes charming verbal and visual wit. The plot concerns the penguin adventurers getting themselves into jam after jam, most of which have to do with a campaign to thwart evil octopus Dr. Octavius Brine, aka Dave (John Malkovich). Brash, reckless leader Skipper (Tom McGrath, working a mock-suave voice), "brains

of the operation" Kowalski (Chris Miller), "demolition expert" Rico (Conrad Vernon) and "cute and cuddly" rookie Private (Christopher Knights) make a good if haphazard team. Dave's plot to take over the world is motivated by his jealousy of penguin popularity, but none of this coalesces enough to make

"Penguins of Madagascar" truly about anything, despite feints at making a statement about appearances not mattering. What the DreamWorks Animation picture is really about is attempting a stealth remake of "The Incredibles" with a dash of "Monsters vs. Aliens." Though disappointingly rote in many

ways, the film will probably divert kids with ease. As for their adult minders, the picture is more likely to narcotize them into holiday naps with its exhaustingly flashy CGI detail. **Rated PG for mild action and some rude humor. One hour, 32 minutes.** — P.C. (Reviewed Nov. 28, 2014)

MOVIE TIMES

All showtimes are for Friday – Sunday only unless otherwise noted. For reviews and trailers, go to PaloAltoOnline.com/movies. Movie times are subject to change. Call theaters for the latest.

Big Hero 6 (PG) Century 16: 10:15 & 11:35 a.m., 12:55, 2:25, 3:40, 5:05, 7:50 & 10:30 p.m. Century 20: 11 a.m., 1:35, 4:15, 7:10 & 9:50 p.m. In 3-D at 12:05, 2:45, 5:25, 8:05 & 10:45 p.m.

Birdman (R) ★★★ Century 16: 11:05 a.m., 1:55, 4:55, 7:45 & 10:40 p.m. Century 20: 2 p.m. Fri & Sun 7:25 p.m.

Citizenfour (R) ★★★1/2 Aquarius Theatre: 4:30, 7:20 & 10:10 p.m. Fri & Sat 1:45 p.m.

Dumb and Dumber To (PG-13) Century 16: 11:30 a.m. & 2:20 p.m. Fri & Sun 7:40 & 10:20 p.m. Century 20: 11:45 a.m., 2:35, 5:15; 7:55 & 10:40 p.m.

Foxcatcher (R) ★★★1/2 Aquarius Theatre: 12:45, 3:45, 7:05 & 9:55 p.m.

Fury (R) ★★★ Century 20: 1:50 & 7:25 p.m.

Gone Girl (R) ★★1/2 Century 20: 12:20, 3:45, 7:05 & 10:20 p.m.

Horrible Bosses 2 (R) Century 16: 10:25 & 11:45 a.m., 1:05, 2:30, 3:45, 5:15, 6:40, 7:55, 9:30 & 10:40 p.m. Century 20: 11:50 a.m., 1:05, 2:30, 3:55, 5:10, 6:40, 7:55, 9:25 & 10:40 p.m.

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1 (PG-13) ★★1/2 Century 16: 10:15, 11 & 11:40 a.m., 12:20, 1:10, 2:50, 3:30, 4:20, 5:10, 5:55, 6:35, 7:25, 9:05, 9:45 & 10:35 p.m. Sun 5:10 p.m. Century 20: 11:30 a.m., 12:15, 12:55, 2:20, 3:20, 4, 5:20, 6:15, 6:55 & 8:15 p.m. In X-D at 1:30, 4:30, 7:30 & 10:30 p.m.

Interstellar (PG-13) ★★1/2 Century 16: noon, 4, 6:20, 8 & 10 p.m. Century 20: 11:10 a.m., 2:50, 6:30 & 10:05 p.m.

Little Women (1933) Stanford Theatre: 7:30 p.m. Sat & Sun 3:40 p.m.

The Penguins of Madagascar (PG) ★★ Century 16: 11 a.m., 12:30, 1:25, 3, 3:50, 5:30, 6:20, 8, 8:50 & 10:30 p.m. In 3-D at 11:40 a.m., 2:10 4:40, 7:10 & 9:40 p.m. Century 20: 11:15 a.m., 12:35, 1:15, 2:30, 3:50, 5:05, 6:20, 7 & 8:55 p.m. Fri & Sat 8:20 p.m. Sun 10:10 p.m. In 3-D at noon, 1:45, 4:25, 5:45, 7:35, 9:35 & 10:45 p.m. In 3-D Fri & Sat 3:10 p.m.

The Pyramid (R) Century 20: 12:40, 3:15, 5:40, 8:10 & 10:40 p.m.

The Rocky Horror Picture Show (1957) (R) Guild Theatre: Sat midnight

Rosewater (R) ★★★ Century 20: 11:25 a.m. Fri & Sun 4:50 & 10:10 p.m.

The Secret Garden (1949) (Not Rated) Stanford Theatre: 5:45 & 9:35 p.m.

St. Vincent (PG-13) Century 16: 2 p.m. Fri 8:15 p.m. Sun 10:35 p.m. Century 20: 11:20 a.m., 4:55 & 10:35 p.m.

The Theory of Everything (PG-13) ★★ Century 20: 11:05 a.m., 1:55, 4:45, 7:45 & 10:35 p.m. Palo Alto Square: 1, 2:30, 4, 5:30, 7 & 8:30 p.m. Fri & Sat 10 p.m.

Wild (R) ★★★ Guild Theatre: 1:30, 4:15, 7:05 & 9:40 p.m.

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

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Illustration from 'Quest' by author Aaron Becker.

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by Debbie Duncan

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I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Dreidel

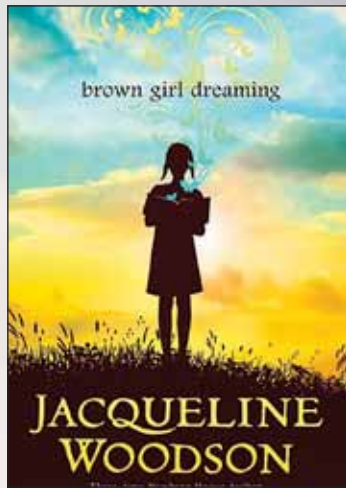
by Caryn Yacowitz, illustrated by David Slonim; \$17; Levine/Scholastic; ages 2-8.

For a humorous holiday take on a familiar rhyme, look no further than Palo Alto author Caryn Yacowitz's latest clever creation. Her old lady doesn't swallow a fly.

The fun begins when Bubbe swallows a dreidel "she thought was a bagel." Her family members, who just want to enjoy Chanukah with their Bubbe, are increasingly alarmed as she swallows larger and more complicated Chanukah-themed items, including oil, latkes, brisket and even a menorah. "Perhaps it's fatal." (But of course it isn't.)

Bubbe's resolution to her eating binge will have little

(continued on page 35-)





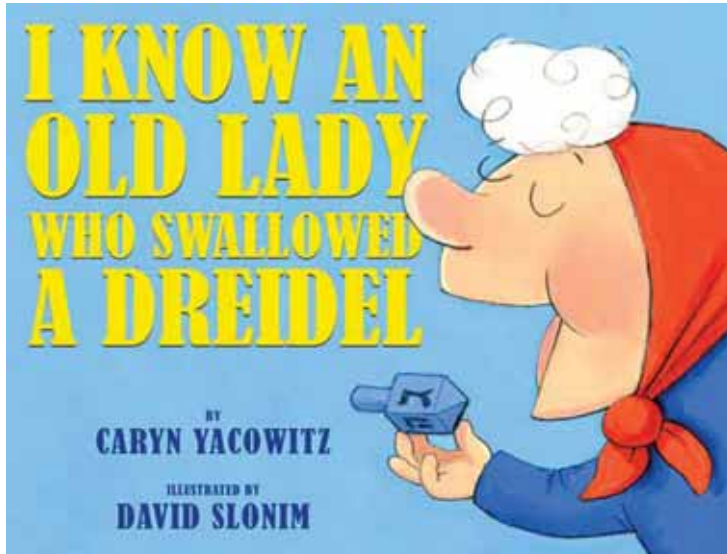
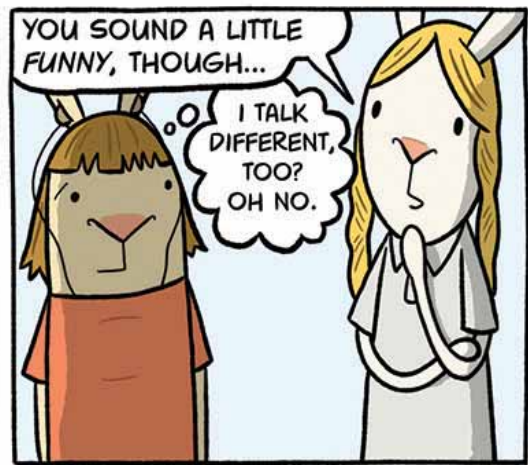
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HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Above: Illustration by Cece Bell from 'El Deafo.' Left: Palo Alto author Caryn Huberman Yacowitz's picture book, "I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Dreidel," is the latest in a string of fiction and nonfiction books for children as well as plays for both children and adults. Yacowitz is a regular judge for the Palo Alto Weekly's annual Short Story Contest. In addition to her work as an author, Caryn occasionally dons 40 pounds of Victorian clothing and a wig and appears at The Farm as Jane Lathrop Stanford.



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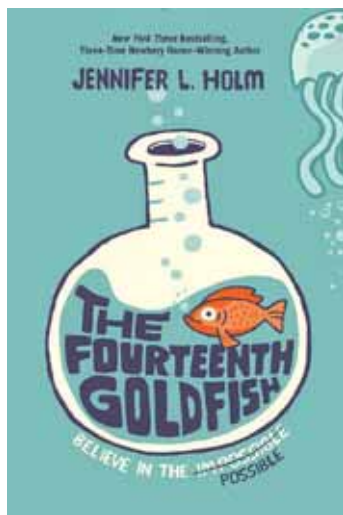
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boy's body even goes to school with Ellie.

She alternates between embarrassment (Grandpa gets detention because he "used the facilities" without a hall pass) and pride (when he encourages her to "believe in the possible"). Too, he helps her make a new friend: the goth, heavily pierced, wise and witty Raj.

But what if Ellie's grandfather's experiment has gone too far? Is old age like polio, something to be cured? Ellie and Grandpa confront these and other important questions of science and morality as they

decide what to do about his discovery, and Grandpa himself.

El Deafo
by Cece Bell; \$11 paperback; Amulet/Abrams; ages 8-12.

Some of the most affecting books for young people published in the last few years are graphic novel memoirs about growing up obviously different from other kids.

Meet El Deafo, superpower alter ego of author Cece Bell, who became profoundly deaf after a bout of meningitis at

the age of 4. Cece the character may have tall ears like all the other bunnies in the book, but in order to hear at school she needs her Phonic Ear: a box she wears around her neck with earpieces attached to wires, paired with a microphone for her teacher. It's bulky and embarrassing, but it also gives her superpowers: She can hear her teachers anywhere in the building, even the bathroom!

Sensitive Cece has friend challenges. One friend is bossy; another talks too loud. Her boy crush just likes the powers of her Phonic Ear. The girl Cece

gets along with best turns against her because she's afraid of hurting Cece and giving her another disability.

Young readers will cringe when the mean P.E. teacher drops and breaks the microphone, and they will feel for Cece as she tries to fit in with her classmates by tipping them off when their teacher is about to return to the classroom. They'll laugh at what might have been sad in a traditional novel. Most of all, they won't forget this story about a special kid.

(continued on page 36)

Holiday books

(continued from page 33)

ones laughing out loud and asking for repeat readings.

Adding to the charm of Yacowitz's poem is David Slonim's artwork, which itself is based on famous works of art, including Mona Lisa, American Gothic, The Scream and even a statue local children may know from visiting Stanford's Rodin Sculpture Garden: The Thinker.

Quest

by Aaron Becker; \$18; Candlewick; ages 2-8.

Author/illustrator Aaron Becker's 2013 wordless fantasy picture book, "Journey," won a strong following among children and adults, as well as a Caldecott Honor from the American Library Association.

Celebration of the imagination continues in "Quest" when a king, just before his capture, gives a map to two children escaping the rain. Following the map leads the boy and girl on an adventure to exotic lands, sea and sky, and the opportunity to retrieve markers in all colors of the rainbow, draw their way out of danger and rescue the king.

The Fourteenth Goldfish

by Jennifer L. Holm; \$17; Random House; ages 8-12.

This is one of those books on its way to classic, every-kid-loves-it status. (The last novel I said that about was R.J. Palacio's "Wonder," still topping the bestseller list more than two years after publication.)

"The Fourteenth Goldfish" has a unique and fun premise, a bit of magic, science and science history, touches of humor and real heart. That it's set in Silicon Valley is a bonus for local readers.

Soon after starting middle school, Ellie's best friend from forever decides volleyball is her new passion. Ellie feels lost, until one evening her scientist grandfather shows up — as a 13-year-old boy! — to live with her and her mom. He's discovered a cure for aging and demonstrated it on himself. This gruff old man in a growing

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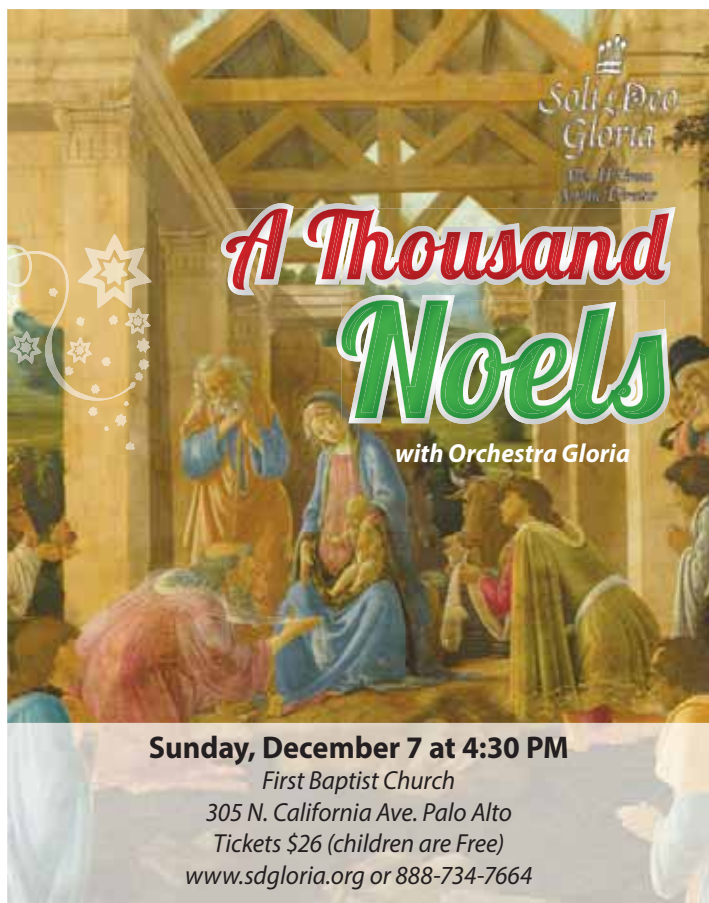
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650/473-0664 www.deborahspalm.org

❁ HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Holiday books

(continued from page 35)

Brown Girl Dreaming
by Jacqueline Woodson;
Nancy Paulsen/Penguin;
\$17; ages 10 and up.

Young Jackie Woodson grows up in the shadow of her older, brilliant sister. But oh, can Jackie tell stories.

"Brown Girl Dreaming" is her memoir-in-verse, an ode to childhood in a world that is changing during and after the Civil Rights movement. In lyrical specificity, it brings to life the midcentury segregated South and its place in American history.

Jackie lives with a blanket of love from her South Carolina grandparents, yet they also sit in the back of the bus. Jackie hears about trainings for marchers as well as those protesting at Woolworth lunch-counters. "Colored" becomes "negro" and then is "black."

When their mother leaves, Jackie and her sister and brother are pulled into their grandmother's religion, Jehovah's Witness. Later, Jackie's mother moves her children to New York. In Brooklyn, Jackie's friends, especially her "forever friend" Maria, become her anchors.

Early on Jackie recognizes the power of words. She and her siblings aren't allowed to say bad words. But stories? "Stories are like air to me," she says. Stories convince her feminist teacher that Jackie is going to be a writer, even though she has trouble reading.

"Brown Girl Dreaming" shows where and how a brilliant writer of this and other beloved books emerges from a tumultuous, important period in this country's history. Last month it was awarded the 2014 National Book Award for Young People's Literature. ■

Debbie Duncan is a Stanford writer and author who has been reviewing children's books for the Weekly since 1997.

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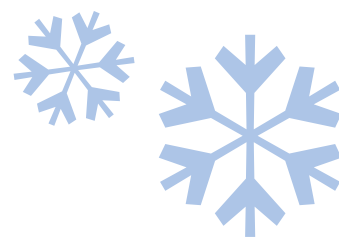


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Winter Class Guide



Don't let the winter chills trap you at home this season — keep busy with a variety of local classes and workshops. Beat the cold weather blues away by learning a new language, or dodge the rain with kickboxing, yoga and spin classes at a number of studios in the area. Adults can give cooking or backpacking a try, and fun activities for kids are all over the map. Options for any age and interest are nearby to help you stay active, inspired and warm this season.

The Class Guide is published quarterly by the Palo Alto Weekly, The Almanac and the Mountain View Voice.

Business, work and technology

CareerGenerations

2225 E. Bayshore Road, Suite 239, Palo Alto
650-320-1639
info@careergenerations.com
www.careergenerations.com

Career Generations offers group workshops and programs to meet specific career needs. Career coaches help assess skills in the context of today's marketplace, generate career options, improve resumes and social-media profiles and design a successful job-search plan. Additionally, coaches help improve networking, interviewing and negotiating skills.

For the dancer

Beaudoin's School of Dance

464 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto
650-326-2184

Beaudoin's School of Dance holds tap, ballet, ballroom and jazz dance classes, as well as preparation for wedding dances. Courses are available for adults as well as children ages 3 and up.

Brazivedas

53 Shorebreeze Court, East Palo Alto
650-644-7343
mestre-beicola@brazivedas.com
www.brazivedas.com

Brazivedas offers classes in Brazilian dance, music and martial arts for all ages and experience levels. Classes are held at several venues including Lucie Stern Community Center, Cubberley Community Center and a home studio in East Palo Alto. Class descriptions and locations are available online.



Dance Connection

Cubberley Community Center, L-5,

4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto
650-322-7032, 650-852-0418
info@danceconnectionpaloalto.com
www.danceconnectionpaloalto.com

Dance Connection offers graded classes for preschoolers to adults, with a variety of programs to meet dancers' needs. Ballet, jazz, tap, hip-hop, lyrical, Pilates and combination classes are available for students of various levels of ability.

DanceVisions

Cubberley Community Center, L-3,
4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto
650-858-2005
info@dancevisions.org
www.dancevisions.org

DanceVisions, a nonprofit community dance center, offers classes for young children (beginning at age 3) up to adults. Types of dance taught range from modern to hip-hop/jazz, lyrical, belly dancing, ballet and contact improvisation. Adults with no prior experience are welcome.

Uforia Studios

819 Ramona St., Palo Alto
650-329-8794
www.uforiastudios.com

Uforia Studios offers classes in dance, spin, Zumba, conditioning and its own version of yoga. All fitness levels and abilities are welcome.

Zohar School of Dance and Company

Cubberley Community Center,
L-4 4000 Middlefield Road,
Palo Alto
650-494-8221
zohardance@gmail.com
www.zohardancecompany.org

Founded in 1979, Zohar School of Dance holds a range of dance classes in jazz, modern, ballet, musical theater and tap for adults, as well as some classes where children can accompany their parents. Drop-ins are welcome unless otherwise noted.

The Great Outdoors

Advantage Aviation

1903 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto
650-494-7248
info@advantage-aviation.com
www.advantage-aviation.com

With many instructors, Advantage Aviation has a wide offering of classes to train new pilots as well as help more experienced ones to receive needed licenses.

Brad Lozares Pro Shop Golf Lessons

1875 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto
650-856-0881
info@bradlozaresgolfshop.com
www.bradlozaresgolfshop.com

Group clinics, semi-private and private lessons are available for juniors and adults at any level of experience. Private lessons can be

booked per session or in package deals. A team of experts are also available for scheduled golf-club fittings.

REI Outdoor School

2450 Charleston Road,
Mountain View
650-969-1938
www.rei.com/stores/mountain-view.html

Newcomers and seasoned outdoor adventurers can find a range of classes at the local REI, including everything from bike-riding lessons to GoPro video editing. Other offerings include avalanche awareness, backpacking basics and GPS navigation instruction. REI members and nonmembers are welcome to group and individual classes.

Health & Fitness

Be Yoga

440 Kipling St., Palo Alto
650-906-9016
info@be.yoga.com
www.be-yoga.com

This community yoga studio holds a range of yoga classes in vinyasa, iyengar, ashtanga, prenatal and aerial styles, as well as classes to relax and relieve tension.

Blue Iris Studio

3485 El Camino Real, Palo Alto
650-858-1440
blueirisstudiopaloalto.com/pages/home

Blue Iris studio offers classes in yoga and Pilates, as well as wellness services, for all ages and experience levels. Mats and other gear are provided, and class schedules can be found online.

Equinox

440 Portage Ave., Palo Alto
650-319-1700
www.equinox.com/clubs/paloalto

Equinox's Palo Alto location offers a variety of fitness and wellness activities including cycling, Pilates, yoga, conditioning and more. It also features Precision Run, Cross Fire and RX Series workout programs.

Kim Grant Tennis Academy

3005 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto
650-752-8061
www.kimgranttennis.com

The Kim Grant Tennis Academy organizes tennis classes for adults and children, starting at age 3, ranging in ability from beginner to advanced. Classes are also available for those with special needs.

SoulCycle

600 Stanford Shopping Center,
Palo Alto
650-784-7510
soulpaloalto@soul-cycle.com
www.soul-cycle.com

Aiming to make fitness not feel

like work, SoulCycle combines inspirational coaching and high-energy music in spin classes. Riders as young as 12 can participate in a variety of classes for any level of fitness.

Stanford Campus Recreation Association (SCRA)

875 Bowdoin St., Stanford
650-736-7272
www.stanford.edu/dept/scra

Club membership is not required for participation in the swimming, tennis and fitness programs offered at SCRA. Swim instruction includes group and private lessons for children, including classes for parents and their babies (younger than 2 years) offered January through March by instructor availability. Tennis classes and lessons are offered for adults and children ages 4 and older.



Studio Kicks

796A San Antonio Road,
Palo Alto
650-855-9868
info@studiokickspaloalto.com
www.studiokickspaloalto.com

Studio Kicks is a family fitness center offering cardio kickboxing classes and martial-arts training for kids and adults.

Taijiquan Tutelage of Palo Alto

Cubberley Community Center,
M-4, 4000 Middlefield Road,
Palo Alto
650-327-9350
mjchan@ttopa.com
www.ttopa.com

At Taijiquan Tutelage of Palo Alto, established in 1973, students learn the classical Yang Chengfu style of Taijiquan (T'ai chi ch'uan, or tai chi). Beginning classes start monthly.

Taoist Tai Chi Society of the USA

Unity Palo Alto, 3391 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto
St. Mark's Episcopal Church,
Parish Hall, 600 Colorado Ave.,
Palo Alto
650-396-9244
paloalto.ca@taoist.org
www.taoist.org/usalocations/palo-alto-mitchell-park/

The Taoist Tai Chi Society of the USA, a nonprofit organization with nationally accredited instructors, holds classes designed to improve balance, strength, flexibility, relaxation and health. Beginner classes are offered for all ages and fitness levels.

Yoga at All Saints' Episcopal Church

555 Waverley St., Palo Alto
650-322-4528
www.asaints.org/life-together/join-others/saturday-yoga

Yoga classes are offered in the church's Parish Hall room each Saturday from 8 to 9 a.m. No previous experience is necessary.

Just for seniors

Avenidas

450 Bryant St., Palo Alto
650-289-5400
www.avenidas.org

Avenidas offers a plethora of classes focusing on topics such as general health, physical fitness, languages, humanities, computing, music and writing. Membership costs, fees and class descriptions are listed on the website.

Language courses

Berlitz Learning Center

159 Homer Ave., Palo Alto
650-617-0720
www.berlitz.us/paloalto/

Berlitz offers adult and youth language instruction in Spanish, Italian, French and English as a Second Language in the mornings, afternoons and evenings. Private lessons are also available for certain languages, and they offer cultural agility training for corporations.

German Language Class

50 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto
650-329-3752
adultschool@pausd.org
www.paadultschool.org

This Palo Alto Adult School class teaches participants how to speak, read and write German, with an emphasis on conversation. Basic grammar and Germanic culture are also covered. The instructor, a college-credentialed teacher, lived and studied in Germany through Stanford University. The winter-quarter class will be held on Thursday evenings from Jan. 15 to March 5.

German-American School of Palo Alto

GAIS Campus, 275 Elliot Drive,
Menlo Park
650-520-3646
contact@gaspa-ca.org
www.gaspa-ca.org

Since the 1960s, the German-American School of Palo Alto (GASPA), a Saturday school, has offered German language classes that also touch on German culture and traditions. Classes are available for all skill levels and age groups, beginning at preschool (age 3) up to adults. No prior knowledge of German is required

(continued on page 39)

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Class Guide

(continued from page 37)

Palo Alto Chinese School

480 E. Meadow Drive, Palo Alto
contact@paloaltochinese-school.org

www.paloaltochineseschool.org

The Palo Alto Chinese School serves children ages 4 to 18 with two programs: Chinese as a second language for students with limited experience and a Mandarin program for those proficient in listening and speaking abilities.

Language Studies Institute

445 Sherman Ave., Suite Q,
Palo Alto

650-321-1867

inquiry@languagego.com

www.languagego.com

The Language Studies Institute runs 10-week courses for professionals, travelers and children at all levels in a variety of languages: Arabic, English, French, German, Hindi, Mandarin, Russian and more. Private and semi-private lessons are also available.

Mind and spirit

Ananda Palo Alto

2171 El Camino Real, Palo Alto

650-323-3363 ext. 0

inform@anandapaloalto.org

www.anandapaloalto.org

Ananda Palo Alto classes teach various topics including yoga and meditation. Register for classes online or attend a drop-in class.

Integrated Healing Arts

4153-4161 El Camino Way,
Palo Alto

650-493-7030

iha@integratedhealing.org

www.integratedhealing.org

Integrated Healing Arts instructors teach ongoing classes on meditation, self-development, self-realization, tai chi, qigong and spiritual health.

Music, arts and crafts

Alison's Music Lessons

4335 El Camino Real, Palo Alto

650-306-0332

white.alison@gmail.com

kidmusiclessons.com

Alison White is an experienced music teacher who offers guitar, piano and singing lessons to children, adults, families and people with special needs. Parents and their children are encouraged to take music classes together as a fun bonding experience. Small group guitar classes are offered for children ages 4 to 14.

Art for Well Beings

2460 Park Blvd., No. 3, Palo Alto

650-776-8297

me@judyg.com

artforwellbeings.org

Art for Well Beings provides art instruction for all ages and especially welcomes people with special needs.

Art with Emily

402 El Verano Ave., Palo Alto

650-856-9571

emilyjeanyoung@gmail.com

www.artwithemily.com

Emily Young teaches small mixed-media and multicultural art classes for children privately and in small groups at her studio in Palo Alto. All materials are included in class prices.

Art Works Studio

595 Lincoln Ave., Palo Alto

650-796-1614

artworkspaloalto@gmail.com

www.artworkspaloalto.net

Art Works Studio holds a variety of fine-art classes for kids. Classes are also offered at U-Me in Menlo Park and in cooperation with Palo Alto Menlo Park Parent's Club (PAMP). The Winter/Spring 2015 session is 16 weeks long.

Lingling Yang Violin Studio

Palo Alto

650-456-7648

linglingy@gmail.com

(continued on next page)



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Sand Hill School www.sandhillschool.org

Children's Health Council www.chconline.org



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650-494-8200 ext. 104 | amitchner@hausner.com



(continued from previous page)

linglingviolin.blogspot.com

A classically trained violinist, Lingling Yang offers violin instruction year-round to children 7 and up and adults for all levels. Auditions are required for intermediate and advanced violin players.

Midpeninsula Community Media Center

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

The media center offers workshops for a range of media arts,

including video production, TV studio work and more. The center suggests starting with a free hour-long orientation class, which are held biweekly.

Opus1 Music Studio

1350 Grant Road, #5, Mountain View 4131 El Camino Real, Suite 200, Palo Alto 650-625-9955 musicopus1@gmail.com www.musicopus1.com

Opus1 Music Studio holds group music lessons in piano, violin, viola guitar, voice, flute, saxophone, cal-rine and music theory, in addition

to holding private and semi-private lessons. Registration for classes starting January 2015 is open now.



Pacific Art League

668 Ramona St., Palo Alto 650-321-3891 frontdesk@pacificartleague.org www.pacificartleague.org

The classes and workshops at the Pacific Art League are taught by qualified, experienced instructors for children and adults of various abilities. Instructors teach a variety of mediums, including drawing, painting, watercolor, collage and more.

Palo Alto Art Center

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

Classes and workshops for children and adults are held at the Palo Alto Art Center, covering such mediums as ceramics, painting, drawing, jewelry, book arts, printmaking, collage and more. Registration for Palo Alto residents begins Dec. 5, and non-resident registration begins Dec. 12.

Sur La Table Cooking School

Town & Country Village,

Suite 57, Palo Alto 800-243-0852 Cooking073@surlatable.com www.surlatable.com

Sur La Table offers hands-on classes, demonstration-only classes and classes for kids and adults. Specific courses are listed on the website: Click on "Classes" on top navigation bar and find the Palo Alto location under California.

Parent education

Children's Health Council

650 Clark Way, Palo Alto 650-617-3815 www.chconline.org

Children's Health Council holds a variety of classes monthly on addressing issues like dyslexia, anxiety and depression, and exploring topics including social-emotional learning, being a first-time parent or choosing schools. All classes are taught by the organization's experts.

The Peninsula Parents Place

200 Channing Ave., Palo Alto 650-688-3040 karenfb@jfc.org www.parentsplaceonline.org/peninsula

A resource center for parents, Parents Place on the Peninsula offers parenting workshops on subjects ranging from strategies for managing picky eaters to making the switch from diapers. Parent and child activity groups are also

organized.

School days

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

Amigos de Palo Alto is a Spanish-immersion preschool for children 2 and a half years and older. Instructors are all bilingual, and children learn Spanish naturally through play, song, art and academics. Amigos also offers Spanish-immersion after-school programs for kindergarteners with some Spanish experience.

Emerson School

2800 W. Bayshore Road, Palo Alto 650-424-1267 emersonpaloalto.com

Emerson School provides a full-day, year-round program for grades 1 to 8 teaching a personalized, Montessori curriculum. Emphasis is on building thinking skills and personal values.

Gideon Hausner Jewish Day School

450 San Antonio Road, Palo Alto 650-949-8200 www.hausner.com

Instructing children in kindergarten through eighth grade, Gideon Hausner Jewish Day School provides strong academics, a welcome environment, enrichment opportunities and after-



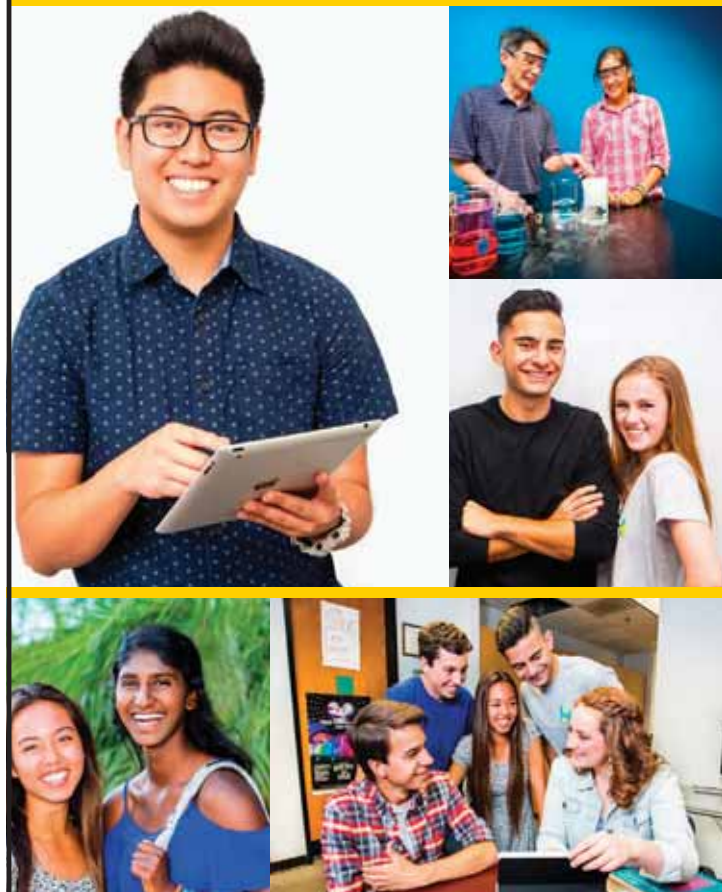
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school programs.

HeadsUp! Child Development Center
2800 W. Bayshore Road, Palo Alto
650-424-1221
headsup.org

HeadsUp! Child Development Center serves infants, toddlers and preschoolers (ages 0 to 6) with a full-day program, year-round. The Montessori curriculum focuses on building thinking skills and personal values. A bilingual Chinese-English preschool classroom is also available.

International School of the Peninsula
Cohn Campus (grades one to eight), 151 Laura Lane, Palo Alto
Cowper Campus (nursery), 3233 Cowper St., Palo Alto
650-251-8500
istp@istp.org
www.istp.org

International School of the Peninsula is an independent bilingual immersion day school with French and Mandarin nursery to 5th-grade programs, as well as a middle school program. Programs offered include foreign languages, cooking, science, dance, arts and crafts, cultural activities and after-school activities.

Kehillah Jewish High School
3900 Fabian Way, Palo Alto
650-213-9600
info@kehillah.org
www.kehillah.org

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



Lydian Academy
815 El Camino Real, Menlo Park
650-321-0550
www.lydianacademy.com

Lydian Academy is a middle and high school offering instruction that adjusts to each child's learning style, interests and strengths. The school strives to help each student achieve academic excellence and authentic success. Lydian admits new students continuously and offers a summer school program.

Meira Academy
3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto
650-485-3589
office@meiraacademy.org
meiraacademy.org

Meira Academy is a traditional, all-girls Jewish high school devoted to academic excellence in general and Jewish studies. The school also provides students with the skills and knowledge base needed for entrance to colleges and universities as well as top seminaries in Israel.

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RSVP
KJHSWelcome.Eventbrite.com
or to Marily Lerner
mlerner@kehillah.org
650.213.9600 x154

Kehillah Jewish High School
3900 Fabian Way, Palo Alto www.kehillah.org

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RSVP for a tour: www.trinity-mp.org 650-854-0288 x100

2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park www.trinity-mp.org

(continued on next page)



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Milestones Preschool
3864 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto
650-618-3325
preschool@AbilitiesUnited.org

www.milestonespreschool.org
Milestones Preschool offers a relationship-based developmental program and enrolls children ages 2 to 5. There is an early drop-off service for morning

class and extended-day service for afternoon class. Enrollment is accepted throughout the year.

Mustard Seed Learning Center
2585 E. Bayshore Road, Palo Alto
650-494-7389
info@mustardseedlearningcenter.org
www.mustardseedlearningcenter.org

The Mustard Seed Learning Center preschool program provides children from ages 2 and a half to 5 years a dual academic immersion opportunity (Mandarin and English), as well as a play-based learning experience. It also offers an after-school tutoring program.

Oshman Family Jewish Community Center Preschool
3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto
Congregation Beth Am, 26790
Arastradero Road, Los Altos Hills
650-223-8788
earlychildhood@paloaltojcc.org
paloaltojcc.org/preschool

The JCC's preschool program uses a play-based approach that develops skills and a love of learning. Two-, three- and five-day-per-week options for children 18 months to 5 years old (4 years old at Congregation Beth Am) are offered, with an emphasis placed on experiential learning, family involvement, Jewish values and fun.

Sand Hill School
650 Clark Way, Palo Alto
650-688-3605
info@sandhillschool.org
www.sandhillschool.org

Sand Hill School works with young children from kindergarten through sixth grade (expanding to eighth) with learning, attention and social challenges. The student/teacher ratio is six to one. The school is located at the Children's Health Council.

Sora International Preschool of Palo Alto
701 E. Meadow Drive, Palo Alto
650-493-7672
info@sorapreschool.com

www.sorapreschool.com
Sora International Preschool is an English-Japanese bilingual preschool for children 2 and a half to 6 years old. Sora's mission is to help families that are raising bilingual children, as well as those that want their young children to begin learning a second language.

Waldorf School of the Peninsula
Mountain View Campus (middle and high school), 180 N. Rengstorff Ave., Mountain View
Los Altos Campus (nursery through fifth grade), 11311 Mora Drive, Los Altos
650-209-9400
info@waldorfpenninsula.org
waldorfpenninsula.org


Waldorf School of the Peninsula serves children from nursery up through the end of high school. Areas of focus include critical thinking, development of ethics and fostering a love of learning. Waldorf seeks to inspire creativity, innovation, cooperation and the development of communication skills.



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www.headsup.org



AMANDA BOLSINGER


SHE GRADUATED FROM UNIVERSITY OF OREGON WITH A B.A. IN ENGLISH AND A MINOR IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND FROM PACIFIC UNIVERSITY WITH A M.A. IN SECONDARY EDUCATION.

As a humanities teacher, Amanda says her "most exciting moments as a teacher is watching students make the connection between literature, their world, and themselves. John Steinbeck wrote that 'literature allows us to know another man and once you know someone its impossible to hate them and you may even come to love them.'"

When Amanda isn't teaching, she loves to cook, hike around the Bay, go snowboarding and wakeboarding, watch Giants Baseball and Oregon Ducks Football.

Amanda hopes she helps all her students learn the skills, resiliency, and empathy to go out and work hard for the things that matter to them.

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Palo Alto Adult School, Tower Building, 50 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto
650-329-3752
adultschool@pausd.org
www.paadultschool.org

Computer, language, cooking, writing, art, birding and finance classes, and many more, are available through the Palo Alto Adult School. Hundreds of online classes are also offered in conjunction with Education to Go. Registration for the winter session begins Dec. 12.

The Class Guide is published quarterly in the Palo Alto Weekly, Mountain View Voice and The Almanac. Descriptions of classes offered in Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Stanford, Atherton, Los Altos Hills, Portola Valley, East Palo Alto and beyond are provided. Listings are free and subject to editing. Due to space constraints, classes held in the above cities are given priority.

To inquire about submitting a listing for the next Class Guide, email Editorial Assistant Sam Sciolla at ssciolla@paweb.com or call 650-223-6519. To place a paid advertisement in the Class Guide, call the display advertising department at 650-326-8210.

Advertiser Directory

Emerson School, Palo Alto
German International School of Silicon Valley, Mountain View
Gideon Hausner Jewish Day School, Palo Alto
Halstrom Academy, Cupertino
Heads Up, Palo Alto
Kehillah Jewish High School, Palo Alto
Lydian Academy, Menlo Park
Palo Alto Adult School, Palo Alto
Peninsula School, Menlo Park
Sand Hill School, Palo Alto
Trinity School, Menlo Park
Woodside Priory, Portola Valley

Home Front

HOLIDAY MARKETPLACE ...

The Garden Club of Palo Alto will hold its Holiday Marketplace 2014 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on **Saturday, Dec. 6**, at First Presbyterian Church, 1140 Cowper St., Palo Alto. A fundraiser for community horticultural projects, the marketplace will include handmade goodies, including jams and candies, decorated wreaths and trees, potted paperwhites, garden art, gift cards, stationery, jewelry and more, all made by Garden Club members. Info: gardenclubofpaloalto.org or Susan Beebe at 650-269-9011

HOLIDAY BAZAAR ...

Deborah's Palm will be offering handmade crafts, vintage items, jewelry, ornaments, books, cards, ceramics and more at its annual Holiday Bazaar from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on **Saturday, Dec. 6**, at Deborah's Palm, 555 Lytton Ave., Palo Alto. Also available will be refreshments, a complimentary coffee cart, strolling minstrels and wreath making. The event is free, but everyone is asked to bring a canned-food item. The bazaar will benefit Deborah's Palm, as well as Quilting for Mary, Achungo and the Ecumenical Hunger Program. Info: deborahspalm.org

FREE FABRIC ...

The next FabMo free fabric distribution event is **Thursday, Dec. 11**, 4:30 to 8 p.m.; **Friday, Dec. 12**, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and **Saturday, Dec. 13**, 9 a.m. to noon. Appointments are required on Thursday and Friday (but not on Saturday) to help manage the crowds. Email gather.fabrix@me.com with preferred date and time. The distribution, with a requested donation, takes place at 2423 Old Middlefield Way, Mountain View. Volunteer greeters and sorters are also needed. Info: fabmo.org

GREENS SALE ...

Gamble Garden will offer custom-made holiday greens arrangements during its annual "Holiday Greens Sale" from 9 a.m. to noon on **Saturday, Dec. 13**, in the Tea House, 1431 Waverley St., Palo Alto. Participants may drop off their own containers between 8 and 11 a.m. and 1 to 2 p.m. from **Monday, Dec. 8, through Friday, Dec. 12**. The containers will be filled and ready for pick up during the greens sale; new filled containers can also be purchased. Cost for the arrangements ranges from \$30 to \$50, with all proceeds benefiting Gamble Garden. Info: 650-329-1356 or gamblegarden.org

(continued on page 46)

Send notices of news and events related to real estate, interior design, home improvement and gardening to Home Front, Palo Alto Weekly, P.O. Box 1610, Palo Alto, CA 94302, or email cblitzer@pawebly.com. Deadline is one week before publication.

A FRESH LOOK

Alternative Christmas trees

BY KIT DAVEY

Is your home too small for a bushy Christmas tree? Do you object to cutting down a perfectly healthy tree? Well, "Ho, ho, ho!" If you want an inexpensive, environmentally friendly Yule tree, try one of these alternatives.

One year, while I was an impoverished student, I dragged in a downed tree branch that had fallen across the road during a storm. I placed it in a bucket with a bit of water and propped up the base of the branch with large stones. A string of lights and a few homemade ornaments made my Charlie Brown Christmas tree glow with cheer.

For several years I transformed a healthy ficus into a holiday focal point. I moved my houseplant to a position of honor, draped a red tablecloth around its base, tied red

ribbons on its branches and hung it with lightweight paper and straw ornaments.

Several years ago I purchased a 3-foot-tall ivy pine tree-shaped topiary at a local nursery and placed it in a clay pot, which I spray-painted in gold. I brought it indoors during Thanksgiving weekend and returned it to my garden before New Year's Day. It pleased me to know I'm sparing the life of a pine tree and that my \$25 investment saved me many hours and dollars over the years. Check out your local nursery for a rosemary or ivy "tree."

My parents don't enjoy chopping down trees, and so they substituted a large potted evergreen in hopes it could be planted in the yard at the end of the holidays. After watching the slow demise of several of these transplanted trees over the



years, my folks gave up on this idea. But if you have a green thumb and understand how to care for these trees, I highly recommend going this route.

My ever-inventive dad came up with a great solution that allows him to

display his varied ornament collection as well as save trees' lives. He designed and built a tree-like shape out of wood dowels. He cut dowels of various lengths and drilled holes into a central pole, and inserted the "branches." These arms are parallel to the ground so that the ornaments don't slide towards the "trunk." The tree is easy to assemble and when stored, takes up little space.

Several catalog companies make variations of my dad's invention. The tree could be placed on top of a piano or on a skirted table. One of the nice things about this sort of tree is that it has flexible limbs that can be folded up against the trunk for compact storage.

A naked topiary form can also stand in as a prop for lights and ornaments. This year I am using a tomato cage, which I have turned over. I gathered the three prongs into a point with a rubber band and made a little cone with a star on top to hide the cage's prongs. I spray-painted mine charreusse, but you could spray-paint it gold, red or green if you want to get fancy. The form can later be moved out into the yard.

A friend of mine who moved from Palo Alto to a small condo in Honolulu uses a surfboard as her "tree." She leans it up against the wall, wraps it with strings of lights and hangs ornaments from the wire. ■

Kit Davey is a Redwood City interior designer who redecorates using what you already own. Email her at KitDavey@aol.com, call her at 650-367-7370 or visit her website at AFreshLook.net.



A third year \$50,000 Thank You Gift to local public school education.



Juliana Lee MBA / LLB

A special ceremony will be held at
25 Churchill Avenue in Palo Alto at 1:00pm
on Monday, December 8th, 2014.

I faced many challenges when I came to the USA. I know many people here in our communities are struggling to overcome hurdles. I am pledging \$50,000 again this year to our local education foundation Partners in Education (PiE). You can double the value of your contribution through PiE's challenge grant.

A little over 30 years ago, I came alone to the United States as a student, after graduating with a degree in law from Fu Jen University in Taiwan. Expenses & restrictions on work were challenges that I had to overcome. Education (an MBA) helped provide the skills and credibility to successfully sell real estate. I believe that many of the struggling people in our communities will use education to open the doors to a better life.

Selling homes is a fiercely competitive business. Success depends upon skill, hard work & upon the thoughtful minds of the people in our communities. I'm donating \$50,000 again this year to help preserve the quality of Palo Alto schools for all students. My donation to PiE will help every student at the elementary, middle and high school level with support and enrichment opportunities offered at our public schools.

I have designated my gift to be part of PiE's Challenge Grant. The PiE Challenge Grant ended on November 24th, 2014 and my funds matched dollar for dollar. I hope everyone takes this opportunity to double the value of their gift and support our schools. And, I thank everyone who works to make our schools and community so outstanding.

Although I've sold more homes in Palo Alto over the last 10 years than any other realtor and I'm the #1 agent nationwide at Keller Williams, \$50,000 is a large amount of money to me. By helping to fund education and encourage donations to PiE, I want to help families in our wonderful community. I hope others will also take money and time from their business & add to the open hearts & open minds of our wonderful community.

You're invited to my Client Appreciation Party!



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Garden Tips

Celebrate what works, fix what doesn't

by Jack McKinnon

Gardening is a bit like chess. If you want to be good, you have to think several moves ahead. There is a strategy that needs to be developed, and if one method doesn't work, you move to the next.

Think about your garden for a minute. You know there is something that just doesn't work. And there are several things that work just fine. If most things are working fine, leave them the way they are. Just change the plan for the one thing that doesn't work. And off you go on another adventure in gardening.

Whatever you change, changes everything. Just like in chess. Every move changes all the rest of the game. And sometimes you win and sometimes you lose.

December is the time to plan for the spring. If we plan now, then March, April, May and June will be spectacular. Of course there are plenty of chores to do. And one of those is shopping for your garden. This month's garden tips will give you plenty to do both in your strategy for your garden and in the garden itself. Here are the tips:

1. Bulbs are in the nurseries now. Think about the color scheme you want, the types of bulbs you like and where you might be willing to have a little experimental change. This way, when you go to the nursery, the catalog or the big box store and buy bulbs, there is some semblance of a plan. Otherwise it can be overwhelming.



2. It is time for winter pruning. This means all deciduous plants get cleaned up (dead, dying and diseased) and then pruned for growth (roses, fruit trees, vines) and thinned for aesthetics and air flow.

3. Plan your decorations for the season. Everybody is different, and some don't do any decorating while others go bonkers. There is a whole street off of Embarcadero that has been decorating their yards for decades, and I am sure it can be seen from space at night. Planning is what makes it beautiful. Sit down and write out how many of what you want where. It will help enormously when you try to tell someone who is helping you.

4. Get help. You know you cannot do it all yourself (unless you are a landscape contractor; then you don't even want to see a landscape on your day off). Line up someone to help with the lights, the front porch decorations, the poinsettias on the table and the tree. It helps enormously if you make soup, fresh baked bread and eggnog for the helpers.

5. Clean up beds. Remove old annuals, dying perennials, bunch grasses that have passed their prime and anything that is overgrown. Plants in landscape designs almost always outgrow the space

they are given.

6. Don't hesitate to clear out or cut down the scraggly looking background plants too. They can either be replaced (if you dig out the roots and refresh the soil) or just left out so other plants can have some room to spread.

7. When you get back from the nursery, store your bulbs in a cool dark space until after the festivities. There will be time later for the spring planting. Now is the time for buying. The reason is that savvy gardeners will buy up all the good

a great delicate complement. They both come in several colors. For ornamental foliage, anything variegated is great. Variegated means the edges or the center of the leaf has a yellow accent. This is much more interesting than just plain green without bloom. Of course a new bunch grass or flax will make an interesting textural variation as well.

9. Continue adding and dividing succulents if you have a low-water yard. Look in the nurseries for color variations and different sizes and shapes of leaf patterns. Mix them up or plan them to the last inch. Both methods work. I like to recommend sculptural elements with succulents. I wouldn't go overboard, just something that makes a statement. A bird feeder is nice too.

10. Re-mulch. Mulch is the finishing touch for a good makeover in the garden. It doesn't have to be new mulch, but it needs to be on purpose. Thus, when you are stomping around pruning and digging out overgrown plants, you will inevitably kick the mulch all over the place, and it will look like a cat fight took place. Take a fine rake and do a cover-up job, making it look as natural as possible. Then, when you turn the lights on at sunset the neighbors will know you are amazing.

Good gardening. ■

Garden coach Jack McKinnon can be reached at 650-455-0687 or by email at jack.mckinnon.hmb@gmail.com. Visit his website at jackthegardencoach.com.

Whatever you change, changes everything. Just like in chess. Every move changes all the rest of the game.

bulbs, and if you are not there to get in on them, you will get the small, sickly rejects that were left behind. Whatever you do though, don't forget what you have and where you have stored them. Mark on your calendar, smartphone or computer that the month of January or February (the whole month) is bulb-planting month.

8. Plants for December are Primroses, Violas, Pansies, Ornamental Kale, Marigolds and whatever the nursery has in that is colorful. Cyclamen make nice borders or pot color while Nemesia is

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While Chuck holds a doctorate from Stanford University, Stanford Property & Finance is not owned or affiliated with Stanford University

Homefront

(continued from page 43)

KUDOS TO LOCAL REALTOR

... **Juliana Lee**, a Realtor with Keller Williams Realty in Palo Alto, will be honored at 1 p.m. on Dec. 8 for her \$50,000 donation to Palo Alto Partners in Education (PIE), a foundation that supports enrichment programs for kindergarten through grade 12. Her donation will go towards PIE's \$225,000 challenge grant, which serves to double the impact of donations. The ceremony will take place in Room A of school district headquarters, 25 Churchill Ave., Palo Alto. ■

Michael Repka

Before you select a real estate agent, meet with Michael Repka to discuss how his real estate law and tax background benefits Ken DeLeon's clients.

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OF DELEON REALTY

With Michael heading the listing division, the DeLeon team has sold more real estate than any other Realtor® or team in the Bay area this year.

Simply put, DeLeon Realty's experience, expertise, and marketing program are the best in the business. Also, unlike the vast majority of real estate offices, we do not let independent contractors use the DeLeon Realty name; from agents to interior designers to graphic artists, everyone with a DeLeon Realty business card is actually an employee of the company.

Before selecting a Realtor® to list your home, call Michael to hear about DeLeon Realty's unique approach to selling homes. You will also appreciate his background in tax and real estate law, which enables him to answer your tax and legal questions related to the sale.



650.488.7325 | www.deleonrealty.com | Michael Repka CalBRE #01854880
DeLeon Realty CalBRE #01903224

KATHLEEN PASIN



35 SKYWOOD WAY, WOODSIDE

OPEN SUNDAY



Gorgeous contemporary home in Skywood Acres. Nestled among the redwood trees with dramatic Bay and Valley views, this woody retreat offers perfect blend of elegance, nature, privacy and convenience. Easy commute access. Light and bright with floor to vaulted ceiling windows. The expansive deck is perfect for entertaining. Custom built wine rack holds 792 bottles. Serene outdoor hot-tub or spa on the back upper deck and outdoor area to shower. Wrap-around deck for relaxing and entertaining.

- 3BR
- 2 ½ BA
- +/- 2,000 SF of living Space
- +/- 44,867 SF lot
- Built in Wine Room/could be 4th bedroom
- Gourmet kitchen with professional grade appliances
- Open floor plan
- Beautiful hardwood floors throughout
- 2-car garage
- Portola Valley Schools

Offered for \$ 1,699,000



kathleenpasin@serenogroup.com | www.kathleenpasin.com | (650) 450-1912 | CaBRE # 01396779

Iconic Vallco Mall in Cupertino finally sold

*Intero Real Estate's Efi Luzon represents
Intero's largest sale since inception*

Cupertino, California (November 13, 2014) – Efi Luzon, Senior Vice President of Inter Commercial and managing director of the Luzon Team, a commercial REALTOR with Inter Real Estate Services, Inc., a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate and wholly owned subsidiary of HomeServices of America, Inc., recently represented the buyer for the purchase of Vallco Shopping Mall, Macy's, JCPenny and Sears located in Cupertino, CA. The deal took almost 2 years in the making to complete and finally sold by Mr. Luzon for \$320,000,000. This marks Inter's largest gross sale for a single agent since the company inception in 2002.

Set in the heart of Silicon Valley only blocks away from the main Apple campus in Cupertino and right across the street from the newly constructed Cupertino downtown known as Main Street, one would think Vallco was in the perfect location for a flourishing retail space, but the 37-year-old mall, with 1.2 million square feet of space including the 3 big box stores has sat half empty since the summer of 2011.

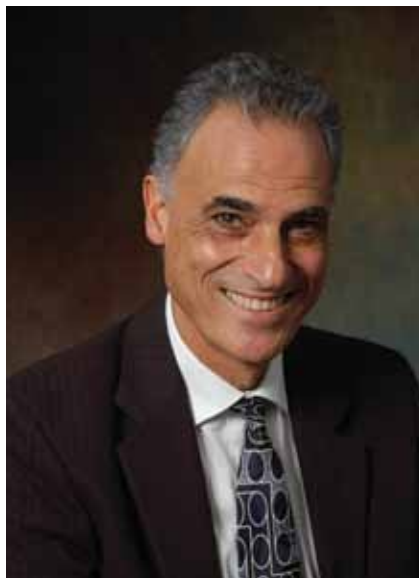
This most recent sale came about after multiple changes in ownership with the hopes of finding someone to help revitalize it. Multiple brokers took their chances at cutting through the red tape and finding a worthy buyer for years with no success.

Each of the big box stores and the mall itself had different owners requiring multiple negotiations with four different sellers. Luzon was able to unite all parties with an agreement to sell at the same time as one entity; a very rare occurrence. Eventually Sand Hill Property Company, a large international equity fund investor, took interest in the property and after two years of complicated hurdles, the sale finally closed.

"I think this sale is a great opportunity to reinvent this area into the thriving Silicon Valley community it should be. It is my job

to keep these transactions moving forward no matter how long it takes, and I'm glad we were able to close this deal in a win-win situation for all sides," says Luzon.

Based out of Inter's Los Altos office, Luzon is the leading commercial real estate agent in the greater Bay Area and U.S. He has over 26 years of real estate experience both nationally and internationally. His expertise is in selling investment real estate such as apartment buildings, hotels, shopping centers and land for development. Luzon has exclusively represented some



Efi Luzon, Senior Vice President of Inter Commercial and managing director of the Luzon Team, a commercial REALTOR with Inter Real Estate Services, Inc., a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate

www.EfiLuzon.com

of the largest commercial transactions completed in the Greater San Francisco Bay Area. Some of his most notable deals have included the sale of the Hyatt Rickey's property in Palo Alto, Downtown Sunnyvale Town & Country, and the H&M retail store in San Francisco. He also solely put together the buyer and seller for a transaction that encompassed half of the rental inventory of apartment buildings in East Palo Alto, totaling approximately



1,300 units, assembling over 80 different owners, with an aggregate sale price of over \$100 million.

Envision the replacement of the existing mall with a vibrant mixed used town center complete with retail – offices and homes – all wrapped in an architecture by the best design team money can buy. The plans are still being worked out, so far it's expected that there will be 2 million sq. ft. of office, 600,000 sq. ft. of retail, and approximately 580 residential units. The total cost could approach \$1.5 Billion.

"Being that we're headquartered just minutes from Vallco in Cupertino, I'm glad to know one of our own, Efi, was integral in closing this deal. We consider Cupertino our hometown and love that we can work on both residential and commercial transactions to help our community thrive." States John Thompson, COO of Inter Real Estate. "Mr. Luzon is the most prolific agent that I have ever met and he has closed this deal the only way he knows how; HIS WAY!"

Tom Tognoli, President and CEO of Inter Real Estate Services adds, "Once again, Efi has made the impossible possible. Being in such close proximity to Silicon Valley greats like Apple, Google and Facebook, this piece of property is unlike any other in the world. Only someone as experienced as Efi could successfully put together a deal like this and make it happen."



A Berkshire Hathaway Affiliate



A Luxury Collection By Intero Real Estate Services



Holmes Ranch, Davenport

\$25,000,000

Listing Provided by: Dana Cappiello, Lic.#01343305



5 Betty Lane, Atherton

\$22,800,000

Listing Provided by: David Kelsey, Tom Dallas, Greg Goumas Lic.#01242399, 00709019, 01878208



6 Quail Meadow Drive, Woodside

Price Upon Request

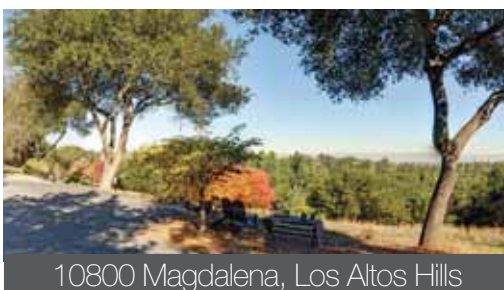
Listing Provided by: Greg Goumas and Karen Gunn Lic.#0187820, 01804568



280 Family Farm, Woodside

\$9,998,000

Listing Provided by: Dana Cappiello, Lic.#01343305



10800 Magdalena, Los Altos Hills

\$6,995,000

Listing Provided by: Cutty Smith & Melissa Lindt, Lic.#01444081, 01469863



303 Atherton Avenue, Atherton

\$6,950,000

Listing Provided by: Denise Villeneuve, Lic.#01794615



13195 Glenshire Drive, Truckee

\$6,900,000

Listing Provided by: Greg Goumas, Lic.#01878208



18630 Withey Road, Monte Sereno

\$6,500,000

Listing Provided by: Albert Garibaldi, Lic.#01321299



1730 Peregrino Way, San Jose

\$4,000,000

Listing Provided by: Dana Cappiello, Lic.#01343305



38 Hacienda Drive, Woodside

\$4,495,000

Listing Provided by: David Kelsey, Tom Dallas, Lic.#01242399, 00709019,



195 Brookwood Road, Woodside

\$3,995,000

Listing Provided by: Virginia Supnet, Lic.#01370434



5721 Arboretum Drive, Los Altos

\$3,888,888

Listing Provided by: Gail Sanders & Denise Villeneuve Lic.#01253357 & 01794615



850 Vista Hill Terrace, Fremont

\$3,299,950

Listing Provided by: Albert Garibaldi, Lic.#01321299



11650 Par Avenue, Los Altos

\$2,598,000

Listing Provided by: Pamela Blackman, Lic.#00584333



356 Santana Row #310, San Jose

\$1,888,888

Listing Provided by: Velasco DiNardi Group, Lic.#01309200



See the complete collection
www.InteroPrestigio.com



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A Berkshire Hathaway Affiliate

Minimize The Madness!

The Intero Holiday Marketing Program is designed to keep “Spirits Bright” while you sell your home over the holidays.

Holiday Marketing Program Highlights:

- All showings are by appointment and only to qualified buyers.
- No “For Sale” signs.
- No advertising identifying the home.
- No lock box.
- No feature or highlight sheets in the home.
- No inside-the-home display information.
- No home phone number in MLS information.
- No open house for either public or REALTORS.
(Unless home owner requests otherwise)

Don't wait for the new year. Enjoy your holidays and still take advantage of the buyers actively looking in your area.



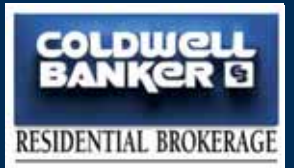
Woodside
1590 Cañada Lane
Woodside, CA 94062
650.206.6200

Menlo Park
807 Santa Cruz Avenue
Menlo Park, CA 94025
650.543.7740

Los Altos
496 First Street, Ste. 200
Los Altos, CA 94022
650.947.4700

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Coldwell Banker #1 IN CALIFORNIA



Saratoga **\$29,000,000**
12.98 acres of rolling hills, bordered by 60 acres of open space, close to downtown Saratoga 3BR/2BA
Debbie Nichols CalBRE# 00955497 650.325.6161



Atherton **\$10,500,000**
1 ac parcel offers 5 star living. Gsthse w/2BD/2BA. Resort like grounds & gorgeous gardns. 6 BR/8.5 BA
Erika Demma CalBRE #01230766 650.851.2666



Palo Alto **\$4,398,000**
2620 Marshall Dr Stunning, Brand New, Custom Built Home to fill every need. 5 bedrooms with 2 suites. 5 BR/3.5 BA
Judy Shen CalBRE #01272874 650.325.6161



Portola Park **\$3,888,000**
By Appointment Listed 2013 for \$8,000,000 Now \$3,888,000!
www.222PortolaStateParkRoad.com Hurry! 38 Acres
Jan Strohecker CalBRE# 00620365 650.325.6161



Los Altos Hills **Sat/Sun 1:30 - 4:30** **\$3,499,000**
26800 Almaden Ct Stunning Bay Views! Enjoy stunning Bay views from this gorgeous contemporary property w/excellent PA schools. 4 BR/3 BA
Hanna Shacham CalBRE #01073658 650.324.4456



Portola Valley **\$3,495,000**
Over an acre of tree-studded land with views out to Windy Hill. Attached 2-story 1BD apt. 4 BR/3.5 BA
Dean Asborno CalBRE #01274816 650.851.1961



Palo Alto **Sat/Sun 1:30 - 4:30** **\$3,095,000**
4226 Suzanne Dr www.4226SuzanneDr.com Beautiful 1 story home, 2335 sf, 6000 sf lot. Gorgeous curb appeal w/all new landscaping. 4 BR/3 BA
Hanna Shacham CalBRE #01073658 650.324.4456



Emerald Hills **\$2,395,000**
Must See! Stunning Craftsman built in 2005, the epitome of excellence in an open floor plan. 5 BR/4.5 BA
Doug Willbanks CalBRE #01458067 650.324.4456



Menlo Park **Sun 1 - 4** **\$1,795,000**
222 Morgan Lane 222morganlane.crb.com Sparkling Morgan Lane home w/loads of upgrades. Interior location w/access to gardens. 4 BR/3.5 BA
Elaine White CalBRE #01182467 650.324.4456



Redwood City **Sun 1 - 4** **\$1,295,000**
2 Eagle Hill Terrace Mt Carmel home w/ fabulous views, open floor plan, remodeled kitchen & private backyard. 3 BR/2 BA
J Hickingbotham IV CalBRE #01203333 650.323.7751



Burlingame **\$1,200,000**
Great investment opportunity! Duplex has been completely remodeled! Upgrades throughout!
Hossein Jalali CalBRE #01215831 650.323.7751



San Jose **\$919,000**
Light filled, impeccably maintained two-story unit on cul-de-sac w/ views of the valley! 3 BR/3 BA
Keri Nicholas CalBRE #01198898 650.323.7751



San Jose **Sun 1:30 - 4:30** **\$850,000**
4030 Altadena Lane Sprawling estate, soaring ceilings, gorgeous kitchen, spacious master; park like grounds. 4 BR/2.5 BA
Gordon Ferguson CalBRE #01038260 650.325.6161

Z

ZANE

ZANE MACGREGOR'S LATEST DRAFT PICK MATT SHAFAE ESQ.



IT IS ZANE MACGREGOR'S UTMOST PLEASURE TO ANNOUNCE THAT MATT HAS JOINED OUR TEAM. MATT IS A MID-PENINSULA NATIVE WITH ACADEMIC CREDENTIALS FROM UCLA AND GOLDEN GATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW. MATT'S EXPERIENCE IN TRUSTS AND ESTATES ADDS TO THE DEPTH AND QUALITY OF REAL ESTATE SERVICES OFFERED BY ZANE MACGREGOR.

YOU WILL LIKE MATT. HE IS A SHARP GUY AND HAS A SENSE OF HUMOR.

HE ALSO HAS A BASS GUITAR AND CAN BE SEEN WITH HIS BAND AT LOCAL VENUES.

650 597 0987 • MATT@ZANEMAC.COM • CALBRE # 01872436

REAL ESTATE
ADVISORS
& BROKERS

ZANE
MAC
•
COM

WELCOME HOME



PALO ALTO \$9,995,000

190 Island Drive | 5bd/4ba
A. Miglani/U. Sanchorawala | 650.323.1111
BY APPOINTMENT



WOODSIDE \$9,950,000

555 Manzanita Way | 4bd/5.5ba
Mary & Brent Gullixson | 650.462.1111
OPEN SUNDAY 1:30-4:30



LOS ALTOS HILLS \$5,498,000

26171 Moody Road | 4bd/4.5ba
Judy Bogard-Tanigami | 650.941.1111
BY APPOINTMENT



WOODSIDE \$5,295,000

203 Miramontes Road | 5bd/4ba
Rich Bassin | 650-462-1111
BY APPOINTMENT



ATHERTON \$4,998,000

87 Nora Way | 4bd/4.5ba
S. TenBroeck/J. Stricker | 650.941.1111
BY APPOINTMENT



WOODSIDE \$4,498,000

335 Woodside Drive | 3bd/4.5ba
Heidi Johnson | 650.529.1111
OPEN SUNDAY 1:30-4:30



LOS ALTOS \$4,285,000

395 S. Gordon Way | 4bd/3ba
Carol & Graham Sangster | 650.941.1111
OPEN SAT & SUN 1:00-4:00



MENLO PARK \$3,248,000

202 Pope Street | 4bd/2ba
Derk Brill | 650.323.1111
BY APPOINTMENT



PALO ALTO \$2,995,000

373 George Hood Lane | 3bd/2ba
Nadr Essabhoy | 650.323.1111
OPEN SUNDAY 1:00-4:00



See it all at
APR.COM



[/alainpinelrealtors](#)
[@alainpinelrealtors](#)



PALO ALTO WEEKLY OPEN HOMES

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, ALL TIMES ARE 1:30-4:30 PM

ATHERTON

4 Bedrooms
87 Nora Wy \$4,998,000
Sat/Sun Alain Pinel Realtors 323-1111
7 Bedrooms
303 Atherton Av \$6,950,000
Sat 1:30-4:30/Sun 1:30-4:40
Intero Real Estate Services 543-7740

LOS ALTOS

3 Bedrooms
1665 Fairway Dr \$2,775,000
Sun 2-4 Pacific Union International 314-7200

4 Bedrooms
26060 Kriste Ln \$2,875,000
Sat/Sun 2-4 Pacific Coast Realtors(408) 472-1658

LOS ALTOS HILLS

4 Bedrooms
26800 Almaden Ct \$3,499,000
Sat/Sun Coldwell Banker 324-4456

MENLO PARK

3 Bedrooms
184 Sand Hill Ci \$1,695,000
Sun Coldwell Banker 851-2666
584 Sand Hill Ci \$1,600,000
Sun 2-4 Pacific Union International 314-7200

4 Bedrooms
222 Morgan Ln \$1,795,000
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 324-4456

MOUNTAIN VIEW

3 Bedrooms
128 Fair Oaks Av \$948,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Sereno Group 947-2900

5 Bedrooms
2620 Marshall Dr \$4,398,000
Sun Coldwell Banker 325-6161

6 Bedrooms
38 Hacienda Dr \$4,495,000
Sat/Sun Intero Real Estate Services-Woodside 206-6200

PORTOLA VALLEY

2 Bedrooms
377 Wayside Rd \$1,750,000
Sun Coldwell Banker 851-2666

3 Bedrooms
445 Portola Rd \$2,300,000
Sun 1-4 Intero Real Estate Services-Woodside 206-6200

4 Bedrooms
17 Linaria Wy \$2,725,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Pacific Union International 314-7200

2 Bedrooms
3653 Jefferson Av \$1,125,000
Sun 1-4 Pacific Union International 314-7200

4 Bedrooms
515 Moore Rd \$3,475,000
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 851-2666

3 Bedrooms
560/562 California \$2,195,000
Sun 1-4 Intero Real Estate Services-Woodside 206-6200

4 Bedrooms
35 Skywood Wy \$1,699,000
Sun 1-4 Sereno Group 323-1900

2 Bedrooms
280 Family Farm Rd \$9,998,000
Sun Intero Real Estate Services-Woodside 206-6200

5 Bedrooms
83 Tum Suden Wy \$2,699,000
Sun 1-4 Intero Real Estate Services 543-7740

6 Bedrooms
38 Hacienda Dr \$4,495,000
Sat/Sun Intero Real Estate Services-Woodside 206-6200

"Sorry, Wrong Letter" --sounds like something else is happening. Matt Jones



Answers on page 59

©2014 Jonesin' Crosswords

Across	Down
1 "Gone With the Wind" star	1 Fill-up fluid
6 Festival	2 Took in a T-bone
10 Exclamation from Emeril	3 Arthur who played Maude
13 Group featuring Mr. T	4 Bad guys break them
14 Soothing plant	5 Rapper on the 2014 album "Shady XV"
15 "Victory is mine!"	6 Vampire's weapons
17 Guy in the crow's nest (originally with an I)?	7 They can be pale
19 "Looking for a New Love" singer Watley	8 Apple letters
20 Unanticipated problems	9 "Baywatch" event
21 Folds under pressure	10 Old movie theater name
23 A number of years	11 Heard the alarm clock
26 Canon model named for a goddess	12 Data-sending device
27 "Hand that Netflix list over here, will ya?" (originally with a Y)?	16 Wall St. institution
28 Tune from "The Sound of Music"	18 One who practices wu-wei
30 Burr-Hamilton battle	22 "The Queen" star Mirren
31 On	23 First U.S. vice president
32 Feng ___	24 Bothered
34 Savanna antelope	25 Become eaten away
39 Had shoppers wait too long to get oolong?(originally with a B)?	27 Cozy cover
42 Word before drum or guitar	29 Blunted fencing weapon
43 Loving	30 Dog the Bounty Hunter's first name
44 Utah vacation spot	33 Company with its HQ in Pittsburgh
45 Cornbread cake	35 Rely (on)
47 Friendly words from Francois	36 G-sharp's equivalent
49 "Way to ace that IQ test!" (originally with a G)?	37 "Pick someone else!"
53 Skeddiddle	38 Bathtub part
54 "Down for the count" number	40 First letter, to Aristotle
55 Courtroom loser's recourse	41 "Zip Drive" maker that merged with Lenovo
56 Union issue	46 Crankcase component
58 Way for Mario to exit	48 Verdi opera based on a Shakespeare play
59 Going down the street with your podmates (originally with a J)?	49 Blathers
64 Hired a litigator	50 Drug in a den
65 Actress Hathaway	51 ___ Peninsula (part of Michigan)
66 Ease	52 Mary Louise Parker show
67 Butterworth or Doubtfire	53 Chattered away
68 Demand	56 Wax counterpart
69 1936 Olympics great	57 Throw off, as results
	60 Compass pt.
	61 Suffix with Manhattan
	62 Palindromic woman
	63 Driving device

This week's SUDOKU

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

Answers on page 59

www.sudoku.name

Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

LOS GATOS PICTURE FRAMING CO.
DECORATIVE MIRRORS OF LOS GATOS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 597855
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Los Gatos Picture Framing Co., 2.) Decorative Mirrors of Los Gatos, located at 15732 Los Gatos Blvd. #418, Los Gatos, CA 95032, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: A Limited Liability Company.
The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is (are):
MODA POLICE, LLC
15732 Los Gatos Blvd. #418
Los Gatos, CA 95032
Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on October 27, 2014.
(PAW Nov. 14, 21, 28, Dec. 5, 2014)

WHITE PEACH STUDIO
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 598202
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
White Peach Studio, located at 1374 Deroche Court, Sunnyvale, CA 94087, Santa Clara County.
This business is owned by: An Individual.
The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is (are):
LUNANI YEN
1374 Deroche Ct.
Sunnyvale, CA 94087
Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on November 7, 2014.
(PAW Nov. 14, 21, 28, Dec. 5, 2014)

URBAN WILDLIFE RESEARCH PROJECT
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 598230
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Urban Wildlife Research Project, located at 530 Kendall Ave. #1, Palo Alto, California, 94306, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: A General Partnership.
The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is (are):
WILLIAM C. LEIKAM
530 Kendall Ave. #1
Palo Alto, California 94306
GREG KEREKEZ
18400 Montevina Road
Los Gatos, CA 95033
Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on November 10, 2014.
(PAW Nov. 14, 21, 28, Dec. 5, 2014)

MathGymUSA
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 598297
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: MathGymUSA, located at 328 Higdon Ave. #5, Mountain View, CA 94041, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: An Individual.
The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is (are):
FRANCO H. REYES
328 Higdon Ave., #5
Mountain View, CA 94041
Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on November 12, 2014.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on November 12, 2014.
(PAW Nov. 21, 28, Dec. 5, 12, 2014)

PALO ALTO LIMOUSINE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 598591
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Palo Alto Limousine, located at 305 Cowper St., Palo Alto, CA 94301, Santa Clara County.
This business is owned by: Married Couple.
The name and residence address of the owner(s) is (are):
DWIGHT MATHIASSEN
305 Cowper St.
Palo Alto, CA 94301
KATHRYN SHUGART
305 Cowper St.
Palo Alto, CA 94301
Registrant/Owner has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious

(continued on page 59)

Coming Soon! New Custom Home



437 Valley View Drive, Los Altos

Exquisite styling and impeccable details define this new home in Los Altos. This elegant 4,373 sq.ft. two story home features five bedrooms and an office or six bedrooms & four full bathrooms. The gourmet kitchen comes complete with custom cabinetry, granite and marble slab counters and G.E. Monogram Stainless Steel appliances. Additional features include 18,754 sq.ft. lot, a luxurious master suite complete with Marble slab counters, dual vanities and a soaking tub, security system, central vacuum, extensive crown moulding and a detached two car garage. Excellent Los Altos Schools!

Offered at: **\$4,995,000**

Kelly Gordon Development Corp
Brian J. Kelly Jr.
408-873-8774 Office | 408-690-5313 Cell
KellyGordon@AOL.Com
12241 Saratoga-Sunnyvale Rd. #C, Saratoga

B.K. Development Corp. &
Kelly Gordon Development reserve
the right to change elevations,
specifications, materials, and prices
at their discretion.

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fogster.com

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ads@fogster.com

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650.326.8216

Now you can log on to fogster.com, day or night and get your ad started immediately online. Most listings are free and include a one-line free print ad in our Peninsula newspapers with the option of photos and additional lines. Exempt are employment ads, which include a web listing charge. Home Services and Mind & Body Services require contact with a Customer Sales Representative.

So, the next time you have an item to sell, barter, give away or buy, get the perfect combination: print ads in your local newspapers, reaching more than 150,000 readers, and unlimited free web postings reaching hundreds of thousands additional people!

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Bulletin Board

115 Announcements

Pregnant? Thinking of adoption? Talk with caring agency specializing in matching Birthmothers with Families Nationwide. LIVING EXPENSES PAID. Call 24/7 Abby's One True Gift Adoptions. 866-413-6293. Void in Illinois/New Mexico/Indiana (AAN CAN)

Pregnant? Considering adoption? Call us first. Living expenses, housing, medical, and continued support afterwards. Choose adoptive family of your choice. Call 24/7. 1-877-879-4709 (CalSCAN)

Dance Expressions HolidaySpecial

Hilarious revue: Never Too Late!

Montclair Women's Big Band Live!

new Holiday music

original ringtones

Scottish Dance Party Palo Alto

Stanford music tutoring

substitute pianist available

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130 Classes & Instruction

Airbrush Makeup Artist Course for Ads - TV - Film - Fashion. 35% OFF TUITION - SPECIAL \$1990 - Train & Build Portfolio - One Week Course Details at: AwardMakeupSchool.com 818-980-2119 (AAN CAN)

Airline Careers begin here - Get trained as FAA certified Aviation Technician. Financial aid for qualified students. Job placement assistance. Call Aviation Institute of Maintenance 800-725-1563 (AAN CAN)

German Language Classes

Instruction for Hebrew Bar and Bat Mitzvah. For Affiliated and Unaffiliated. George Rubin, M.A. in Hebrew/Jewish Education 650/424-1940

133 Music Lessons

Christina Conti Private Piano Instruction (650) 493-6950

Hope Street Music Studios In downtown Mtn.View. Most Instruments voice. All ages & levels 650-961-2192
www.HopeStreetMusicStudios.com
Piano lessons in Menlo Park

135 Group Activities

Learn to Square Dance
Scottish Country Dance Palo Alto
Thanks St Jude

140 Lost & Found

Lost bracelet Lost downtown in palo alto Diamond/crystal gold and black bracelet- family gift- 650/867/4488

145 Non-Profits Needs

DONATE BOOKS/HELP PA LIBRARIES
WISH LIST FRIENDS PA LIBRARY

150 Volunteers

Become a Nature Volunteer!
Fosterers Needed for Moffet Cats
FRIENDS OF THE PALO ALTO LIBRARY
JOIN OUR ONLINE STOREFRONT TEAM

152 Research Study Volunteers

Paid study for teens with bipolar disorder

155 Pets



LOST DOG AT TOWN AND COUNTRY 11/3, 1215pm, my dog fled from my car and was said to run towards the Stanford stadium. I have not heard ANYTHING about where he is and am afraid someone has picked him up without turning him in. He is a ridge back mix and is 65 lbs, (see picture) He's non aggressive and can be timid. Microchipped (487D5C4276)/ no collar. \$500.00 reward. PLEASE help get my dog back

For Sale

201 Autos/Trucks/ Parts

Pontiac 1969 Firebird - \$3500

202 Vehicles Wanted

Cash for Cars
Any Car/Truck. Running or Not! Top Dollar Paid. We Come To You! Call For Instant Offer: 1-888-420-3808
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Donate Your Car, Truck, Boat or boat to HERITAGE FOR THE BLIND. FREE 3 Day Vacation, Tax Deductible, Free Towing, All Paperwork Taken Care of. 800-731-5042 (Cal-SCAN)

203 Bicycles

colnago bicycle - \$1500 best
Women's Terry Symmetry Bicycle - \$450 obo

210 Garage/Estate Sales

MP: 174 Spruce, 12/6, 9-2 x-El Camino. DOWNSIZING SALE. Women's clothes; shoes, toys, hsehold, decorative, tools, luggage, yardage. Much more!
RAIN CANCELS

MP: 810 College Ave., 12/6-12/7, 9-3 Estate Sale. Valuable furn., appliances, kitchenware, tools and garden tools, linens, clothing. (x-El Camino). 775/297-2047

MP: Estate Sale Japan resident 20+ years! Many Asian antiques, incl. furn., rugs, lamps, porcelain, screen and scroll paintings, PLUS vintage and designer clothing, hsehold items, etc. Fri. 12/12 and Sun. 12/14. MP address will appear in next week's papers and Craigslist (w/photos).

RWC: 1228 Douglas Ave. Fri. 12/5, 11am-2pm; Sat. 12/6, 9am-1pm END-OF-YEAR RUMMAGE SALE
Holiday items half price. Benefits Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, Stanford. (Just south of Woodside Rd., bet. Broadway and Bayshore Fwy.) **CASH ONLY** (650)497-8332 or during sale (650)568-9840

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<http://www.fogster.com>

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240 Furnishings/ Household items

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Fire Proof Safe - \$45.00

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Tiffany, MKors, Hermes, Dior, etc. watches, necklaces, bracelets, earrings, rings. Diamonds, sapphires, emeralds, pearls of all kinds, including South Sea. Sable, mink, fox furs at reduced prices. Serious buyers only. Must sell by end of the year. Screen Door - \$60

245 Miscellaneous

DirecTV!
Act Now- \$19.99/mo. Free 3-Months of HBO, Starz, SHOWTIME & CINEMAX FREE GENIE HD/DVR Upgrade! 2014 NFL Sunday Ticket included with Select Packages. New Customers Only. IV Support Holdings LLC- An authorized DirecTV Dealer. Call 1-800-259-5140. (Cal-SCAN)

DISH TV Retailer Starting at \$19.99/month (for 12 mos.) & High Speed Internet starting at \$14.95/month (where available.) SAVE! Ask About SAME DAY Installation! CALL Now! 1-800-357-0810. (Cal-SCAN)

Ugly Christmas Sweaters Also beautiful party clothes. Vintage. See all at 831 Villa St., (x-street Castro) MV. Hours 1-6pm.

250 Musical Instruments

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Razor Ripstik caster board - \$30 obo

Kid's Stuff

330 Child Care Offered

Bright Start Child Care!!!

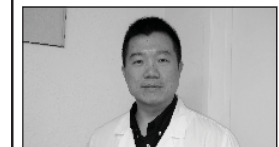
340 Child Care Wanted

Nanny/Babysitter Am looking for a good Nanny/ Babysitter, its important you include resuming when responding, kindly state the days you will be available to babysit. Applicant who do not send a resume will not be considered for the position. \$20/hr email : PatrickMark1@hotmail.com

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Mind & Body

403 Acupuncture



Treatments for Alzheimers Acupuncturist Jay Wang PhD, specialized in chronic illness for seniors. Call 650-485-3293 for a free consultation. 747 Altos Oaks Dr., Los Altos

415 Classes

Mixed-Level Belly Dance Classes

425 Health Services

Safe Step Walk-in Tub Alert for Seniors. Bathroom falls can be fatal. Approved by Arthritis Foundation. Therapeutic Jets. Less Than 4 Inch Step-In. Wide Door. Anti-Slip Floors. American Made. Installation Included. Call 800-799-4811 for \$750 Off. (Cal-SCAN)

Struggling with Drugs or alcohol? Addicted to pills? Talk to someone who cares. Call The Addiction Hope and Help Line for a free assessment. 800-978-6674 (AAN CAN)



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NO Experience necessary.Salary Commensurate, and takes little of your time. Requirements: -Should be a computer literate,must be efficient and dedicated. Please send resume to: brian.michael38@yahoo.com

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Informatica Corporation has the following full-time position in Redwood City, CA: **Professional Services Senior Consultant (RCVICH)** Ensure customers are successful in deploying Informatica data integration and analytic platforms. Position may require travel to various, unanticipated locations. Mail resumes to: Attn: Global Mobility, Informatica Corporation, 2100 Seaport Blvd., Redwood City, CA 94063. Must reference job title and code.

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624 Financial

Big Trouble with IRS? Are you in BIG trouble with the IRS? Stop wage & bank levies, liens and audits, unfiled tax returns, payroll issues, and resolve tax debt FAST. Seen on CNN. A BBB. Call 1-800-761-5395. (Cal-SCAN)

Do You Owe \$10,000 to the IRS or State in back taxes? Get tax relief now! Call BlueTax, the nation's full service tax solution firm. 800-393-6403.

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Home Services

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 landaramon@yahoo.com

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 Owner operated, 40 years exp. All phases of gardening/landscaping. Ref. Call Eric, 408/356-1350

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 Affordable, Reliable, References. Lic. CalT #191198. 650/722-6586 or 408/904-9688

771 Painting/Wallpaper

DAVID AND MARTIN PAINTING
 Quality work
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STYLE PAINTING
 Full service painting. Insured. Lic. 903303. 650/388-8577

775 Asphalt/Concrete

Roe General Engineering
 Asphalt, concrete, pavers, tiles, sealing, artificial turf. 36 yrs exp. No job too small. Lic #663703. 650/814-5572

779 Organizing Services

End the Clutter & Get Organized
 Residential Organizing by Debra Robinson (650)390-0125

789 Plaster/Stucco

Stucco
 Patch and crack repair, texture match, windows, doors. 30 years exp. Refs. avail. Small jobs only. 650/248-4205

Classified Deadlines:
NOON, WEDNESDAY

Real Estate

805 Homes for Rent

Mountain View - \$3200
 Mountain View, 3 BR/2 BA - 4000
 Palo Alto Home, 4 BR/2 BA - \$4600/month

809 Shared Housing/Rooms

All Areas: Roommates.com
 Lonely? Bored? Broke? Find the perfect roommate to complement your personality and lifestyle at Roommates.com! (AAN CAN)

820 Home Exchanges

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 144 million U.S. Adults read a Newspaper print copy each week? Discover the Power of Newspaper Advertising. For a free brochure call 916-288-6011 or email cecelia@cnpa.com (Cal-SCAN)

825 Homes/Condos for Sale

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 One of a kind CHICO Split-level w/ VIEWS! Custom Spanish-style 4 BD, 4 BA home offers terracotta floor tiles, library, butler's pantry, wet bar, indoor laundry room w/built-ins, and storage space galore! The master bedroom, office/den, light and bright kitchen, formal dining room and lovely family room offer spectacular open views of the canyon with Butte Creek below. \$590K Teresa Larson 1-530-899-5925 chiconativ@aol.com (Cal-SCAN)

Ath: Prime Central Atherton
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845 Out of Area

Income In The Redwoods
 Rstrnt/Store/Gas sta/3 homes
 Ministor pot. Hiwy 1 frontage
 Leggett

Legals

(continued from page 57)

business name(s) listed above. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on November 19, 2014. (PAW Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12, 19, 2014)

PALO ALTO RIDES
 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
 File No.: 598664

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Palo Alto Rides, located at 305 Cowper St., Palo Alto, CA 94301, Santa Clara County.

This business is owned by: Married Couple.

The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is(are): DWIGHT MATHIASSEN
 305 Cowper St.
 Palo Alto, CA 94301

KATHRYN SHUGART
 305 Cowper St.
 Palo Alto, CA 94301

Registrant/Owner has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on November 21, 2014. (PAW Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12, 19, 2014)

PALO ALTO PICTURE FRAMING CO.
 BAY AREA MOBILE FRAMING
 PALO ALTO FRAMING CO.
 DECORATIVE MIRRORS OF PALO ALTO

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
 File No.: 597856

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

1.) Palo Alto Picture Framing Co., 2.) Bay Area Mobile Framing, 3.) Palo Alto Framing Co., 4.) Decorative Mirrors of Palo Alto, located at 1150 Middlefield Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94301, Santa Clara County.

This business is owned by: A Limited Liability Company.

The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is(are): RBZ GALLERIES, LLC
 15732 Los Gatos Blvd. #418
 Los Gatos, CA 95032

Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on October 27, 2014. (PAW Nov. 14, 21, 28, Dec. 5, 2014)

County on October 27, 2014. (PAW Nov. 14, 21, 28, Dec. 5, 2014)

997 All Other Legals

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF CALLUM LOGAN
 Case No. 114PR173855

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of CALLUM LOGAN

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Jessie Harper and Donald Sinclair Logan in the Superior Court of California, County of SANTA CLARA.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Jessie Harper and Donald Sinclair Logan be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on Dec. 24, 2014 at 9:30 AM in Dept. No. 12 located at 191 N. First St., San Jose, CA 95113. IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for petitioner: STEPHEN M MAGRO ESQ
 SBN 132196
 LAW OFFICES OF STEPHEN M MAGRO
 14101 YORBA ST
 STE 101
 TUSTIN CA 92780

Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for petitioner: STEPHEN M MAGRO ESQ
 SBN 132196
 LAW OFFICES OF STEPHEN M MAGRO
 14101 YORBA ST
 STE 101
 TUSTIN CA 92780

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: Helen Schrader, also known as Helen W.

Schrader and Helen Wheatley Schrader Case No.: 1-14-PR-175522

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of Helen Schrader, also known as Helen W. Schrader, and Helen Wheatley Schrader.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by: SUSAN HUFFSTUTLER in the Superior Court of California, County of SANTA CLARA. The Petition for Probate requests that: SUSAN HUFFSTUTLER be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain

very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on January 22, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. in Dept.: 12 of the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara, located at 191 N. First St., San Jose, CA, 95113. If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1)

four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58 (b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor.

You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Petitioner: /s/ Susan Huffstutler
 6030 China Hill Road
 El Dorado, CA 95623
 (530)642-2584
 (PAW Nov. 28, Dec. 5, Dec. 12, 2014)

 **A bold new approach to classifieds for the Midpeninsula**
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Answers to this week's puzzles, which can be found on page 57

G	A	B	L	E		F	A	I	R		B	A	M			
A	T	E	A	M		A	L	O	E		I	W	O	N		
S	E	A	W	I	T	N	E	S	S		J	O	D	Y		
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7	2	1	5	9	3	6	8	4
9	4	3	7	6	8	5	1	2
8	5	6	4	1	2	7	3	9
5	1	4	3	7	6	2	9	8
2	8	7	9	4	1	3	5	6
6	3	9	8	2	5	1	4	7
4	6	2	1	5	9	8	7	3
1	7	8	6	3	4	9	2	5
3	9	5	2	8	7	4	6	1

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C R O S S W O R D S

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Deadline: Noon Tuesday
 Call Alicia Santillan
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to assist you with your legal advertising needs.
 E-mail asantillan@pawekly.com



Sports Shorts

STANFORD HONORS . . . Stanford freshman **Simone Manuel** was named Pac-12 Women's Swimmer of the Month, the conference office announced this week following her sensational performances in November. Manuel, a Sugar Land, Texas, native, got her collegiate swimming career off to a hot start, setting Stanford program records in the 50-, 100- and 200-yard freestyle at the Art Adamson Invitational in her home state. All three are the nation's best times in 2014-15 and NCAA A-cut marks, while the 100 free established an American record. The newcomer's most impressive performance of the fall may have been a 45.81 100-yard freestyle split set as part of the 400-yard medley relay at the Adamson meet. It is believed to be the first sub-46 split by a woman in history . . . Senior basketball standout **Chasson Randle** has been named to the 2015 Naismith Trophy Top 50 Watch list, as announced by the Atlanta Tipoff Club's Board of Selectors. Randle is also on watch lists for the John R. Wooden Award and Bob Cousy Collegiate Point Guard of the Year Award . . . Football standout **Henry Anderson** was named to the CoSIDA Academic All-America second team, it was announced Thursday. Anderson becomes Stanford's sixth Academic All-American in the past six seasons. . . . Stanford forward **Kaylee Johnson** was named Pac-12 Freshman of the Week for her performances in the Cardinal's recent games against New Mexico, North Carolina, Hawaii and Prairie View A&M. Johnson earned the honor on her birthday after she continued her torrid start on the boards, pulling down an average of 11.8 per game in Stanford's four contests last week . . . Stanford's **Kelsey Harbin** was named one of four finalists for the 2014-15 Honda Field Hockey Sports Award, as announced by THE Collegiate Women Sports Awards on Wednesday. The Honda Sports Award is presented annually by the CWSA to the top women athletes in 12 NCAA-sanctioned sports. . . . Cardinal sophomore **Mariah Stackhouse** was named American's Amateur of the Year, the Global Golf Post announced this week. The publication also included Stanford's **Lauren Kim** and **Casey Danielson** as honorable-mention selections on its Global All-Amateur teams.

ON THE AIR

Friday

Women's soccer: Stanford vs. Florida St., 4:30 p.m.; ESPN

Women's volleyball: CSU Bakersfield at Stanford, 7 p.m.; Pac-12 Networks; KZSU (90.1 FM)

Saturday

Women's volleyball: NCAA second round at Stanford, 7 p.m.; Pac-12 Networks; KZSU (90.1 FM)

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Stanford senior Lo'eau LaBonta (right) and her teammates are heading back to the NCAA College Cup for a semifinal date with Florida State on Friday, after eliminating Florida last week.

Bob Drebin/fishphotos.com

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Heading back to the Cup

Stanford reaches NCAA semis, hoping for shot at title

By Rick Eyrer

Stanford just missed accomplishing its first goal of winning the Pac-12 women's soccer title. The third-ranked and No. 1 seeded Cardinal (20-1-3) would prefer not to miss its second objective.

Stanford finished second to UCLA in conference play and there's still a chance at the national title. The Cardinal meets fellow No. 1 seed Florida State (22-1-1) in a national semifinal match Friday at 4:30 p.m. (PT) in Boca Raton, Fla.

Should Stanford reach Sunday's final, it would play either No. 1 seed Texas A&M or No. 3 seed Virginia, who also will meet Friday. The Cavaliers knocked off the overall number one seed and defending NCAA champion Bruins last week.

"It's crazy to think there are just four teams remaining in contention," Cardinal sophomore goalie Jane Campbell said. "It's special just to make this far. It's a great feeling."

Campbell delivered the game-winning goal during last Friday's quarterfinal victory over Florida in a shootout. She saved two penalty shots by the Gators to give herself the chance to play hero.

(continued on page 63)

NCAA VOLLEBALL

Stanford women all set to make a title run

Top-ranked Cardinal hosts Bakersfield in opener

By Rick Eyrer

The Stanford women's volleyball team would like to end its record-setting season with another major accomplishment: the school's seventh NCAA championship.

The journey begins Friday when the top-ranked and top-seeded Cardinal (29-1) hosts Cal State Bakersfield (16-14) at 7 p.m. in the first round of the tournament. A match between Michigan State (18-13) and Loyola Marymount precedes it at 4:30 p.m.

Friday's winners meet Saturday, also at Maples Pavilion, for a berth in the Sweet Sixteen in Ames, Iowa.

The Roadrunners, the WAC tournament champions, are making their first foray into the post-season.

Stanford, which has never lost

in the first round of an NCAA tournament, is making its 33rd consecutive appearance.

The Cardinal knows better than to overlook any opponent, a lesson learned the hard way in previous NCAA home matches.

Stanford last won the national title in 2004. The next season, the Cardinal was upset by Santa Clara in the second round at Maples Pavilion. That the Broncos went on to the Final Four was of little solace.

Since its last appearance in the Final Four in 2008, the Cardinal has been eliminated three times by Michigan, and once each by USC and Penn State, in regional play.

Stanford enters the weekend having split its final two regular-

(continued on page 63)



Stanford junior Madi Bugg was named the Pac-12 Setter of the Year for a second straight season this week.

Hector Garcia-Molina/stanfordphoto.com

From humble to elite

SHP plays for Open Division title after just seeking some respect

by Keith Peters

Pete Lavorato didn't quite know what to expect when he took over the Sacred Heart Prep football program prior to the 2003 season. He was young, fairly inexperienced as a head coach and only a few years removed from his final season as a player in the Canadian Football League.

"I really didn't know much about the program, coming from Canada," Lavorato said. "It was just kind of take it a year at a time."

While spending time as an assistant in Hollister and then as Gilroy's head coach, a friend and mentor (Ron Leonte) provided some advice before Lavorato moved on to Sacred Heart Prep.

"He said build a program," Lavorato related. "Don't worry about the wins and losses."

So, that was Lavorato's plan.

"I was just trying to build a program to be respected," he said. "As long as we were respected on the field and off — being respected in the community — that was enough."

Lavorato's toughest job at first was finding players on campus.

"I think we had about 35 kids that first year," Lavorato remembered. "We started off all right."

The Gators went 7-3 that first season under Lavorato, playing teams like St. Bernard, St. Vincent and St. Elizabeth in the North Coast Section. Prior to the 2008 season, Lavorato decided it was time to move to the Central Coast Section.

"That really changed everything," he said. "There was no sense of rivalry in the NCS."

SHP went 11-1-1 its first season in the CCS, reaching the Small School Division title game before losing. Since 2008, the Gators' rise has been meteoric with a 75-14-1 record, three CCS Division IV titles, one NorCal crown and an appearance in last year's CIF Division III state championship game.

The mind boggles at such success over such a short period of time.

And Lavorato is quick to point out: "We don't recruit. I've never been to a Pop Warner game. We don't have athletic scholarships."

So why the success?

A good coaching staff (top assistant Matt Moran has been at SHP since the program started) good players, a smart game plan



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and three simple goals before each game.

"I tell them three things before every game," Lavorato said. "One, do your job. Two, once you do your job, play hard. And three, have fun."

Remarkably, that has translated into a 12-0 record for the Gators this season and a No. 18 spot on the Cal-Hi Sports state rankings as the top-seeded Gators head into Friday's CCS Open Division championship game against No. 7 Bellarmine (10-2) at San Jose City College. Kickoff is 7 p.m.

"I don't know if we'll beat Bellarmine," Lavorato said, "but they had better be ready to compete."

SHP is coming off a 28-21 win over No. 5 Los Gatos last weekend and a 37-13 triumph over No. 8 Oak Grove in the section opener. Those two teams are now a combined 107-56-1 all-time in CCS playoff games. The Gators are 15-3.

In the win over Los Gatos, SHP was not penalized even once. For the season, SHP junior quarterback Mason Randall has thrown only one (yes, just one) interception in 173 attempts while completing 115 for 1,886 yards and 14 touchdowns.

"That's part of my philosophy," said Lavorato, "to give the kids the best chance to succeed."

Simply, the Gators play smart and don't hurt themselves with game-killing mistakes. That's why they are on the verge of being 13-0 for the first time ever.

Perhaps remarkably, SHP played (and won) its first five games while two-way standout Ben Burr-Kirven was sidelined with an injury. Since his return, he

has rushed for 759 yards (9.6 average) and scored 17 touchdowns in just seven games. He also leads the team with 100 tackles (14.3 per game).

"It's not me, it's the whole team," he said. "Our offense has been a machine this year. The touchdowns are a credit to the O-line, they're not me at all."

Burr-Kirven scored on a pair of five-yard runs against Los Gatos, the second one coming with just 45 seconds to play to lift the Gators to victory and into the championship game. Mitch Martella returned an interception 48 yards for a touchdown and Randall snuck in from a yard out for another.

"We don't want it to end," Burr-Kirven said. "We want to win the Open Division, that's the goal."

Beyond that, there's a slight possibility of returning to a state championship game.

"Absolutely," Burr-Kirven said. "We'd love to get another shot at that. But, you can't think about that until you win the Open. If we get anything after that, it's not up to us; it's in the hands of the CIF."

Should SHP win on Friday and finish 13-0, that could be the end of this year's journey. De La Salle is ticketed to the Open Division state finals while unbeaten Folsom likely will face unbeaten Grant (Sacramento) in the Division I Regional Bowl game. That leaves SHP as the odd man out, because of a CCS rule that doesn't allow an Open Division team to drop into its natural enrollment slot.

No matter what happens, Lavorato's goal of 12 years ago has come to fruition. He wanted to build a program that was respected on and off the field. He and his coaches have done just that. ■



Pete Lavorato

Stanford is looking for a shot at title

Cardinal takes on six-time defending champ USC in the NCAA Final Four semifinals on Saturday

By Rick Eymer

Stanford has been knocking on the door of another in national title men's water polo for the past 12 years. This season, the Cardinal is ready to break it down. There's still plenty of muscle on the other side, though.

Stanford (25-3) won its first Mountain Pacific Sports Federation title in 10 years a couple weeks ago. The Cardinal last won a national title in 2002.

The top-ranked and second-seeded Cardinal opens play in the NCAA Final Four at the Canyonview Pool in La Jolla against six-time defending national champion USC (23-6) at 3 p.m. Saturday. Top-seeded UCLA (27-3) meets No. 4 UC San Diego (16-9) in the other semifinal.

The semifinal winners meet Sunday, also at 3 p.m.

The MPSF dominates the world of NCAA water polo to the extent that no team outside of California has ever won a championship. Pepperdine was a member of the MPSF when it won the title in 1997.

It's why the MPSF gets two at-large spots in the NCAA tournament and why all three conference teams are still playing this weekend. The Trojans beat Whittier, 19-6, in a play-in game last weekend.

The Cardinal beat USC in both of their meetings this year, though

it took overtime to win the first contest.

The Bruins beat Stanford in two of their three meetings. The aggregate score was 22-20.

The Cardinal, which finished third in last year's tournament, needs to beat the Trojans a third time to advance to its first title match since 2008.

"Every game is high level," Stanford coach John Vargas said. "We know we're going to get everybody's best game."

Stanford enters the weekend on an eight-game winning streak, and has won 11 of 12 overall.

Senior Alex Bowen and junior Bret Bonanni may be the best scoring duo in school history. They have combined to score 500 career goals. James Bergeson and Jody Campbell, teammates for three years between 1979-81, combined for 446 goals.

Bowen and Bonanni were named first team All-MPSF performers as Stanford placed six on the all-conference team, its most since 2007.

BJ Churnside and Drew Holland were selected to the second team and Conner Cleary and Nick Horsten were honorable mention.

The Cardinal is making back-to-back appearances for the first time since it went five straight years from 2001 to 2005. Stanford is 4-2 against the NCAA championship field (2-0 vs. USC, 1-2 vs. UCLA, 1-0 vs. UC San Diego). ■

Stanford's Steffens named the world's best again

For the second time in the past three years, Stanford junior Maggie Steffens has been named the FINA Women's Water Polo Athlete of the Year.

Steffens arrived in Doha, Qatar on Saturday to accept the prestigious honor at the third FINA World Aquatics Convention in the Qatari capital.

"So fortunate and humbled to be named 2014 FINA Water Polo Player of the Year! What an honor," Steffens tweeted.

Awarded by the Fédération Internationale de Natation (FINA) and FINA Aquatics World Magazine, voting is carried out by FINA member federations and everyone who holds a FINA position.

Steffens is the first two-time winner of the award, which was inaugurated in 2010. She was also named the FINA Women's Water Polo Athlete of the Year in 2012 before making her col-

legiate debut with the Cardinal. Filip Filipovic (SRB) won on the men's side. He also took home the honor in 2011.

Steffens delivered 12 goals, helping Team USA earn a second consecutive FINA World Cup crown this season. She was second on the team in scoring with 11 goals in a gold medal effort at the 2014 FINA World League Super Final.

Steffens earned Olympic MVP honors and led all players with 21 goals as the U.S. captured gold at the 2012 London Games. She scored five goals in that Olympic Final against Spain and matched the Olympic record with seven goals in the tournament-opening U.S. win over Hungary.

In May, Steffens helped Stanford capture its third NCAA title in four years and fourth overall. She provided one of the main punches for the Cardinal offense, sharing the team scoring crown with Kiley Neushul (51 goals). ■

PREP ROUNDUP

M-A girls just miss state trip

Bears push nationally ranked Pitman to limit in NorCal volleyball finals

by Keith Peters

It was suppose to be a birthday celebration for Menlo-Atherton senior outside hitter Devin Joos. As it turned out, it wasn't the party she was hoping for.

Instead, the CIF Northern California Division I volleyball title match for Menlo-Atherton turned out to be just a long journey on a rainy day that ended with a five-game loss to top-ranked Pitman on Tuesday night.

The No. 2-seeded Bears had traveled to Turlock with hopes of upsetting the No. 1 Pride and advance to their first-ever appearance in a state championship match. Pitman was ranked No. 13 in the nation this week in the MaxPreps Xcellent 25 National Volleyball Rankings.

That nearly happened, until Pitman (44-1) rallied from a 6-3 deficit in Game 5 and then pulled away from a 12-12 tie to win, 27-29, 25-23, 17-25, 25-23, 15-12 over the Bears, ranked No. 13 in the state by MaxPreps.

Thus, Pitman will play Redondo Union (37-2) in the Division I state finals on Saturday night at Santiago Canyon College in Southern California. And the Bears? Winter sports are already under way.

Joos, who is headed to UC Santa Barbara next fall, capped a successful senior season with 23 kills and 27 digs in her final prep match. The Peninsula Athletic League Bay Division MVP was sensational despite battling a tough blocking scheme by Pitman.

Fellow senior Ally Ostrow added 22 kills plus nine digs and sophomore setter Kirby Knapp finished with 15 digs and 67 assists, many of the latter to junior Leanna Collins, who finished with 15 kills. Senior Kaitlin Tarez finished with 18 digs and sophomore Alexa Roumeliotis contributed 21 digs. The Bears hit .240, well below their season average, with 25 errors in 182 attempts.

Boys water polo

Sacred Heart Prep seniors Michael Swart and Nelson Perla-Ward, who helped the Gators win their fourth straight CCS Division II title this season, headlining the 2014 All-CCS team, selected by the section's coaches.

Swart and Perla-Ward are joined on the first team by Menlo School seniors Andreas Katsis and Nick Bisconti. All four also earned first-team recognition on

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



Devin Joos

MENLO-ATHERTON HIGH

The senior outside hitter produced 14 kills and 20 digs in a NorCal Division I volleyball opener before adding 15 kills and 14 digs in a semifinal victory over Homestead, sending the Bears (30-3) into the title match.



Ben Burr-Kirven

SACRED HEART PREP

The senior two-way standout rushed for 84 yards and scored on two 5-yard runs, the second with 45 seconds left to carry the Gators (12-0) to a 28-21 football win over Los Gatos in the CCS Open Division semis.

Honorable mention

Sara Choy

Sacred Heart Prep tennis

Leanna Collins

Menlo-Atherton volleyball

Nicole Colonna

Pinewood cross country

Kirby Knapp*

Menlo-Atherton volleyball

Lizzie Lacy*

Menlo cross country

Gillian Meeks*

Gunn cross country

Daniel Hill

Sacred Heart Prep cross country

Cole March

Sacred Heart Prep football

Mitch Martella

Sacred Heart Prep football

Robert Miranda

Menlo cross country

Mason Randall*

Sacred Heart Prep football

John Van Sweden

Sacred Heart Prep football

* previous winner

the All-CCS Division II team, with Swart being named the Most Valuable Player. Also named to that first team was SHP sophomore Jackson Enright, Menlo junior Chris Xi and Menlo senior Spencer Witte as the first-team goalie.

SHP sophomore Finn Banks and senior Grant Harvey were named to the Division II second team along with Menlo senior Weston Avery. SHP sophomore goalie JC Marco and Menlo senior Nikhil Bhatia were honorable mention.

On the All-CCS Second Team were Menlo-Atherton senior John Knox, Gunn senior Ari Wayne and Menlo's Witte.

The Division I team included Knox, Wayne, Gunn junior Christian Znidarsic and Palo Alto junior Winston Rosati on the first team plus Menlo-Atherton junior Mostyn Fero, Gunn junior Calder Hilde-Jones, Palo Alto senior Lucas Novak and senior goalie Tony Zunino on the second team. Gunn senior Justin Cooper was honorable mention.

(For complete teams, go to www.pasportsonline.com)

Girls water polo

Gunn senior goalie Sam Acker shared MVP honors in Division I and Sacred Heart Prep junior Malaika Koshy was MVP in Division II to highlight those All-CCS teams. No overall section team was selected.

The Division I first team included Gunn senior Bianca Batista. The second team featured M-A freshman Nadia Paquin, Gunn freshman Zoe Banks and Gunn senior Nia Gardner while honorable mention went to Palo Alto junior Gigi Rojahn, Gunn senior Emily Watkins, Palo Alto junior Katie Francis and Menlo-Atherton senior goalie Francesca Gilles.

The All-CCS Division II first team included Castilleja senior Anna Yu plus SHP sophomores Maddy Johnston and Layla Waters. The second team included SHP sophomore Maddie Pendolino and senior goalie Emily Riley. Honorable mention went to Menlo senior Audrey Flower, SHP senior Meg Avery and Castilleja senior Alex Zafran.

(For complete teams, go to www.pasportsonline.com) ■

STATE CROSS COUNTRY

CCS champs find CIF finals a bit tougher

Menlo's Lacy tops area runners with a third; Pinewood's Colonna sixth and Gunn's Meeks ninth

by Keith Peters

The CIF State Cross Country Championships is regarded as one of the most competitive in the country. Menlo School senior Lizzie Lacy, Pinewood senior Nicole Colonna and Gunn junior Gillian Meeks probably would agree following their efforts on Saturday at Woodward Park in Fresno.

All three won Central Coast Section titles two weeks ago, but had to settle for less in the state finals.

Lacy, who came into the girls' Division IV race over the 3.1-mile layout as one of the favorites, held the lead after the first mile before being overtaken and settled for third place in 18:00, her fastest ever at the state meet.

"Overall, it was such a good ending to a very unexpected season for me," Lacy said. "I didn't run as strategically as I would have liked, but it was one of the best ways it could have ended."

Lacy, who was sixth last year in 18:31, held a narrow lead over favored Caroline Pietrzyk of Malibu after one mile before Pietrzyk and Morgin Coonfield of McKinleyville both passed Lacy at the two-mile mark. Pietrzyk won in 17:35 with Coonfield second in 17:51.

"Very proud of her," said Menlo coach Jorge Chen. "Both of us knew after the race that she went out too fast on the first mile (5:19). She even apologized to me, but I told her no worries. She's a champ and represented Menlo well. At state, when you're one of the top runners, it's a completely different ball game . . . I'm very proud of Lizzie and am excited to see her continue to grow as a runner in the future."

While Lacy was third in her race, she was 16th overall among all five divisions. The Central Coast Section champ also was the first CCS finisher Saturday, leading Cate Ratliff of Santa Cruz (18:23) and Niki Iyer of Harker (18:26) to the finish line.

Lacy started the season taking second at the prestigious Stanford Invitational. She had the second fastest mark all-time for a WBAL meet at Baylands and then the second fastest all-time at Toro Park after winning CCS. Last year, she ran Stanford in 19:01; this year in 17:58.

"I'm so happy that (the state meet time) ended up being a PR (for the state meet)," Lacy said. "I didn't expect to be coming out and being third or second or first

in every race. Last year, I didn't really know what I could do, and this year after Stanford, it gave me the confidence. The motivation was always there."

Lacy will put soccer on hold for a week and continue her running season this Saturday at the Foot Locker Cross Country Championships West Regional at Mt. San Antonio College in Walnut.



Lizzie Lacy

In the girls' Division V finals, Pinewood's Colonna raced to a sixth-place finish in 18:57. She finished eighth a year ago in 19:17 but improved upon her return after winning the section title this season in 18:58.

Meeks, meanwhile, competed in the most competitive race -- Division I girls -- where winner Fiona O'Keefe of Davis produced the day's fastest overall time of 16:57.

Meeks, who was the CCS champion in 17:59 over three miles, was ninth in the state finals race in 18:10.

Meeks finished 46th last year in 18:37, but has made great strides this season as she and Lacy proved to be the most consistent and successful runners in the CCS this season. Meeks' time ranked her 27th in all divisions on Saturday.

Among the other top local finishers on Saturday included Pinewood sophomore Helena Merk and Sacred Heart Prep senior Daniel Hill.

Merk was ninth in the girls' Division V race in 19:12 while running as an individual -- as did Lacy, Colonna and Meeks.

Hill was 16th in the Division IV race in 16:01 and was the No. 3 CCS finisher. The Gators, who had qualified as a team, finished 13th.

Menlo School freshman Robert Miranda was 27th in boys' Division IV in 16:12. He was the top freshman finisher in the race and the fifth-fastest frosh overall. Trailing Miranda was SHP seniors Garrett Mack (78th in 16:54) and August Howell (83rd in 16:58).

The Priority girls were 19th out of 24 teams in Division V with junior Hana Marscheck leading the way in 20:23 for 42nd.

The Palo Alto boys were 22nd in Division I with senior Lucas Matison clocking 16:05 for 53rd.

Elsewhere, Gunn senior Emily Aiken was 36th in the girls' Division I race; Priority senior Ross Corey was 75th in Division V in 17:26 and junior teammate Robert Screven was 81st in 17:31. ■

Soccer

(continued from page 60)

"This team always seems to find a way," Campbell said. "We played a tough schedule and had to beat some great teams. At the end of the day, we have one loss. I'm so proud of everybody, but mostly the backline who I work with."

The Cardinal has qualified for 17 consecutive NCAA tournaments and 24 overall. Included are 11 quarterfinal appearances, seven semifinals, and three finals.

With its penalty-kick victory over Florida in the quarterfinals, Stanford extended its home NCAA unbeaten streak to 25 matches. The Cardinal has an all-time NCAA tournament record of 44-19-6 (.681), including 33-9-3 (.767) in 12 seasons under coach Paul Ratcliffe.

"It's never going to be easy," Ratcliffe said. "We're happy to be going back. This is something everybody has been looking forward to. I'm proud of what we've done and there's another big push."

Last year, Stanford was eliminated in the third round by eventual champion UCLA and missed the Women's College Cup for the first time since 2007.

While it will be the first trip to the semifinals for half the team, the seniors were part of the Cardinal's last national championship, in 2011. Stanford beat Florida State in the semifinals that season to advance to the finals.

"It's a different team, of course, but Florida State is very organized defensively," Stanford forward Chioma Ubogagu said. "They have great talented players. They're a great team. They stick to their game plan. Records at this time of the year, in my opinion, are meaningless."

The Seminoles' lone loss this year came at the hands of the Gators. They don't give up much, averaging 0.38 goals allowed per



Stanford keeper Jane Campbell had two PK saves and made her own penalty kick to beat Florida last week.

match. Stanford is at 0.50.

"Florida State is a great team," Campbell said. "They have been dominating the tournament and winning big. It will be fun to play them in Florida."

Florida State has also played a difficult schedule and has wins over Notre Dame, Virginia and North Carolina under its belt.

The Seminoles are on a 19-match unbeaten streak and eight-match winning streak. They advanced to their fourth consecutive College Cup with a 5-0 victory over South Carolina and haven't allowed a goal in five consecutive matches, a 450:03 shutout streak.

Florida State tied the Tar Heels for the Atlantic Coast Conference regular-season title with a 9-0-

1 record and captured the ACC tournament crown, 1-0, over the Cavaliers.

The Seminoles dominated the All-ACC awards, with 23-year-old Dagny Brynjarsdottir, a member of the Iceland national team, named the Offensive Player of the Year, Kristin Grubka was Defensive Player of the Year and Mark Krikorian was Coach of the Year. Both players are Hermann Trophy semifinalists.

"It's a great program and a great coach," Ratcliffe said. "They are a talented team. That's what you expect in the Final Four: four of the best teams."

Stanford leads the all-time series, 2-0. The teams met two consecutive years in the NCAA tournament, with Stanford combining to outscore FSU, 8-0.

Ubogagu had a goal and an assist to lead the Cardinal to a 3-0 victory in 2011. In a 2010 quarterfinal match at Stanford, the Cardinal scored four second-half goals to win, 5-0, with Hermann Trophy winner Christen Press, a current member of Team USA, among the team's five goal scorers.

After failing to make it last year, Stanford simply regrouped and redefined its priorities.

"The veterans on the team want it so bad," Ubogagu said. "We all want to leave our imprint. There is no better feeling than to get to the Final Four and the younger players have done a great job of buying in."

The season started with a victory over North Carolina, a first for the Cardinal. It's been rolling ever since, with one more weekend remaining.

"Paul says we're still peaking," Ubogagu said. "To start out and beat our biggest rival when we played so well, it's crazy to see how much growth this team has done since then." ■



Stanford's Chioma Ubogagu (9) celebrated a win over Florida and a trip to the NCAA College Cup semifinals.

Volleyball

(continued from page 60)

season matches, losing to overall No. 3 seed Washington and responding with a victory over Cal, both on the road.

Stanford junior Madi Bugg earned Pac-12 Setter of the Year a second straight season and was joined on the first team all-Pac-12 by juniors Inky Ajanaku and Jordan Burgess and 6-foot-8 redshirt freshman Merete Lutz.

Seniors Morgan Boukather and Kyle Gilbert, and junior Brittany Howard were honorable -mention selections.

The junior class, which also includes Megan McGehee, came to Stanford as one of the most decorated recruiting classes ever. All five players were rated among the top 12 in the nation.

As freshmen, they presided over a 22-match winning streak and a Pac-12 championship before running into Michigan.

Last year the Cardinal won 12 in a row at one time, finished second in the conference and gave eventual national champion Penn State its best match of the NCAA tournament.

Stanford celebrated the anniversary of three previous teams during the year, including the 1984 edition, the first Cardinal team to reach the national championship match. Sophomore Kelsey Humphreys knows a little about that team; her mother, Wendi Rush, was one of the top setters in the nation at the time.

The 1994 team won the school's second national title, beating UCLA in the finals after losing to the Bruins in the regular season. Cary Wendell was the National Player of the Year.

The 2004 team featured national Player of the Year Ogonna Nnamani and All-American Kristin Richards. Stanford played its home matches in Burnham Pavilion, while Maples Pavilion was being renovated. An incredible come-from-behind victory over top-ranked Washington helped spark the championship run.

What about this year's record 28-match winning streak; the postseason accolades; the glorious history of the program? Those things hardly matter now when it's a situation where losing means packing it up for the season.

Stanford faces incredible expectations every year, though none could possibly match the expectations the team places on itself. There's only one goal at the end of every season and that is to bring home another title.

"They are very aware they are measured by getting to the Final

Four or by winning the national championship," Stanford coach John Dunning said during the season. "To improve every day as a team is my No. 1 goal."

That means working on details, working out snafus and being prepared for whatever may come your way.

"Volleyball is a strategic sport," Dunning said. "What are you going to do if they serve you every ball? Are you going to tough enough or good enough in the moment? Teams have plans to stop Inky and Merete. When they get stopped, we better have a plan."

A diversity of potential points of attack is one way to discourage opponents from focusing on any one thing.

Ajanaku leads the team with 383 kills and a hitting percentage of .446. Lutz is fourth on the team with 256 kills and a

.446 hitting percentage.

In between, Burgess (342 kills, .262) and Boukather (265, .285) help carry the load. Howard, perhaps the most underrated of the starters, is fifth with 228 kills.

"Brittany is learning from experience and improving rapidly," Dunning said. "Sometimes stats don't tell the whole story. She's become a primary passer and is an effective blocker. She never comes off the court."

In addition to her kills, Howard has 33 assists, 18 service aces and 68 total blocks. More importantly, she receives more attacks (636) than anyone else and successfully handles nearly 96 percent of them.

Burgess, either the No.1 or No. 2 recruit out of high school depending upon whom you ask, is arguably one of the most versatile, talented players in the nation. Howard could be part of that conversation.

"Our team is crazy. There are so many stars in our program,"

Burgess said earlier this year. "Brittany and I both find ways to contribute."

Burgess also receives the ball a lot, with a success rate of just over 96 percent on 616 attacks.

Senior libero Kyle Gilbert has a team-best 518 digs to go with a 94 percent success rate on 589 receptions. Freshman Sarah Benjamin is next with 88 receptions, with a percentage of .932.

Ajanaku and Lutz, the middle blockers, are the team's top blockers, but Boukather, Howard and Burgess are also in the mix.

Bugg deserves a category unto herself. Not only does she lead the nation with 12.02 assists per set, but also averages 0.52 blocks a set and 2.90 digs. She's second on the team with 21 service aces (McGehee is first with 29) and averages nearly a kill a set on a hitting percentage of .352. ■



Jordan Burgess



Inky Ajanaku

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Wonderful home in the Mt Carmel neighborhood. Fabulous views, open floor plan, remodeled kitchen, lrg living & family rms, private backyard/patio.

MOUNTAIN VIEW | COMING SOON!



SHELLY POTVIN
650.303.7501
CalBRE #01236885

2431 ALVIN ST \$1,150,000
A true Eichler located in the Monta Loma area of Mountain View. Approx 1,116 sq ft. Nice yard, 2 car garage. An opportunity to make your own!