Mountain View High loses three students to deportation

By Kevin Forestieri

Three students attending Mountain View High School were ordered to leave the U.S. midway through the fall semester. School staff say it marks the first time in recent memory that any student had to leave the district because of involuntary deportation.

Assistant Principal Daniella Quiñones confirmed to the Voice that three students enrolled in the district’s English Language Development program have left the U.S. as part of the deportation proceedings, and that some of the cases had been ongoing for over a year.

“I have never witnessed student deportations before,” Quiñones said. She said she was shocked when the first one happened. “Then the second one happened, then the third,” she said.

Despite serving some of the most affluent communities in the Bay Area, the Mountain View-Los Altos High School District is also home to high-needs students who have recently arrived in the country. The vast majority of the 50 students enrolled in remedial classes through the district’s English language development (ELD) department are recent arrivals from Central America, many of whom are seeking asylum, Quiñones said. It’s a big change that has taken place in the district over the last five years.

Teens have had mixed success trying to get legal status, but it’s only part of the challenges they face, she said. On top of trying to overcome the trauma that caused them to flee to the U.S. in the first place — including gang violence, drugs or poverty — many of the students are still dealing with unstable housing, family separation and financial hardship in Mountain View.

“The types of services these students need are beyond academic support, they need mental health support, housing support, health support, drugs or poverty — many of the students are still dealing with unstable housing, family separation and financial hardship in Mountain View.”

Margaret Abe-Koga will serve as Mountain View’s mayor in 2020, following a unanimous vote by her colleagues on the City Council.

New mayor gears up for rent control measure, RV ban referendum

Challenges ahead for Margaret Abe-Koga’s 2nd term are dramatic shift from 2009

By Mark Noack

In 2009, Margaret Abe-Koga took her first turn as mayor of Mountain View. It wasn’t as fun as it was cracked up to be, due to factors beyond her control.

The impact of the Great Recession was just beginning to sink in: home values plummeted, development froze, the city budget shrank and cutbacks became mandatory. Being mayor of a medium-sized city meant hard decisions, grim sacrifices and “a lot of lost sleep,” she said.

Now more than a decade later, Abe-Koga returns to the mayor’s seat, this time with a vastly different set of

A little-noticed new law could upend argument against rent control

SB 330 requires developers to replace all rent-controlled units they demolish

By Mark Noack

Since rent control took effect three years ago, more than 300 older apartments in Mountain View have been marked for demolition. This trend has strengthened a leading argument against rent control: by restricting prices, it’s encouraging landlords to exit the apartment business, which is forcing out the tenants least able to afford new housing.

But a little-noticed state mandate that takes effect this month may completely upend that scenario for Mountain View. In recent days, housing advocates and city officials have suddenly become very interested in SB 330, a housing bill by state Sen. Nancy Skinner that would essentially force landlords and developers to preserve rent-controlled apartments.

The bill, dubbed the Housing Crisis Act of 2019, was just one among hundreds of bills in last year’s legislative session that tried to address California’s severe housing shortage. In general, Skinner’s bill gained far less attention than other hot-button legislation like SB 50 or AB 1482, which mandated statewide rent caps. While those bills faced intense opposition, SB 330 passed under the radar, receiving support in both legislative houses and was signed into law by Gov. Gavin Newsom.

To anyone glancing at SB 330,
Please join Dr. Cornel West to discuss democracy, race, and justice. The evening will also include a question and answer session with Foothill College students.

Friday, January 17
6:30 PM
Smithwick Theatre

Purchase tickets at foothill.edu/speakers

Proceeds will benefit Foothill College service leadership and equity scholarships.
STANFORD EXHIBIT CELEBRATES ‘THE JAPANESE GARDEN’

“The Japanese Garden: A Historical Account of Japanese Culture and Tradition” is on display in the lobby of the East Asia Library, Graduate School of Business South at Stanford University, through March 1. Curated by students of the introductory seminar “Gardens and Sacred Spaces in Japan,” the exhibition explores the evolution of Japanese gardens from ancient times to the modern day. According to Stanford, the students hope the display will both represent what they have learned from the course, as well as highlight the interplay between the garden and Japan’s religious and sociopolitical history.

The free exhibition is open to the public Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. —Karla Kane

SUNFLOWERS AT VIEWPOINTS

“Sunflowers,” an exhibition of all 15 Viewpoints Gallery artists, is on view at the gallery (315 State St., Los Altos) through Jan. 25. The artists depict sunflowers in their own style and media. Regular gallery hours are Monday-Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

FREE JAZZ PERFORMANCE

Jym Marks, a jazz musician, poet, author, lecturer and owner of Markstyle Barber Shop in Menlo Park, is set to offer a jazz performance Saturday, Jan. 11, from 11 a.m. to noon at the Menlo Park Library at 800 Alma St. According to the city of Menlo Park, he once opened for Thelonious Monk at Palo Alto High School in 1967. He has also maintained a tradition of walking from his home in Fremont to his Menlo Park business, about 12 miles, on his birthday each November.

Register for the event online at is.gd/marksjazz.

—Kate Bradshaw

BENEFIT CONCERT FOR LIGHTHOUSE

Steve and Anne Gill, along with former Woodside resident Jenn Mitchell, who now sings with the San Francisco Symphony, will present “Magic to See: Broadway in the 1970s” for the 18th annual benefit concert for LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired on Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 18 and 19.

The concerts will begin at 7:30 p.m. in Menlo School’s Spieker Ballroom (50 Valparaiso Ave., Atherton).

The Gill’s will be joined by Menlo alumni, former Menlo music director Linda Jordan and Bay Area director and actor Alex Perez. They will present highlights from “Pippin,” “Godspell,” “Jesus Christ Superstar,” “Company,” “A Chorus Line” and other shows.

In 1997, shortly after Anne graduated from Los Altos High School, she was in a near-fatal car accident that left her blind and brain injured. The Gills, frustrated that many programs serve those with traumatic brain injuries, and others help the blind and visually impaired, but very few resources are designed for people with multiple disabilities, discovered that the San Francisco-based LightHouse offers a session at its Enchanted Hills Camp (EHC) in the Napa Hills for visually impaired adults with other disabilities.

The proceeds of this year’s concert will be used to help rebuild the many sections of the camp that were destroyed by the Napa wildfires of 2017.

A donation of $20 is requested, and seating is first-come, first served. For information, call 650-948-4648 or email gillnancyg@gmail.com.

—Nancy Gill

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**LOCAL NEWS**

**CRIME BRIEF**

**CAR FIRE AT AUTO REPAIR SHOP**
A car that caught on fire at an auto repair shop in Mountain View early Sunday morning caused an estimated $300,000 in damage, according to the city’s fire department.

The car fire inside a commercial building at 57 E. Evelyn Ave, just east of Highway 85, was reported through a 911 call made to the city’s communication center around 4:15 a.m. on Jan. 4, according to a press release.

Firefighters sent to the scene arrived about seven minutes later to find the vehicle fully engulfed in flames inside the shop. They extinguished the blaze “with an aggressive interior fire attack,” the press release states.

The flames didn’t extend into other parts of the building, where crews conducted overhaul work to make sure the fire was fully contained, according to the department. The all-clear order was given at 4:34 a.m.

No injuries were reported from the fire. The cause remains under investigation, according to the fire department.

—James Padojino

**POLICE LOG**

**AUTO BURGLARY**
- 1400 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 12/29
- 1400 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 12/29
- 1400 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 12/29
- 1000 block N. Rengstorff Av., 12/29
- 1000 block N. Rengstorff Av., 12/29
- 2400 block Charleston Rd., 12/29
- 1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 12/29
- 200 block Easy St., 12/30
- 2400 block Charleston Rd., 12/30
- 2400 block Charleston Rd., 12/30
- 2400 block Charleston Rd., 12/30
- 1000 block N. Rengstorff Av., 12/30
- 200 block Hope St., 12/30
- 200 block Bryant St., 12/30
- 100 block Castro St., 12/31
- 1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 12/31
- 1000 block N. Rengstorff Av., 12/31
- 2400 block Charleston Rd., 12/31
- 1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 12/31
- 2400 block Charleston Rd., 1/2
- 200 block Bryant St., 1/3
- 100 block Bryant St., 1/3
- 200 block View St., 1/3
- 2400 block Charleston Rd., 1/4
- 1400 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 1/5
- 1400 block Plymouth St., 1/5

**BATTERY**
- 600 block San Antonio Rd., 1/1

**BRANDISHING A WEAPON**
- 700 block Mercy St., 1/2
- 100 block Castro St., 1/3

**COMMERCIAL BURGLARY**
- 600 block W. Dana St., 12/30
- 800 block W. Dana St., 12/30

**DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE**
- Calderon Av. & W. Dana St., 12/29
- W. Middlefield Rd. & Moffett Blvd., 12/29
- W. Evelyn Av. & HWY 85, 1/5

**GRAND THEFT**
- 600 block Showers Dr., 1/2

**RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY**
- 500 block Ortega Av., 12/31
- 1000 block Castro St., 12/31
- 500 block San Antonio Rd., 1/4

**ROBBERY**
- 600 block Showers Dr., 12/30

**VANDALISM**
- 800 block N. Rengstorff Av., 12/30

**COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

**HILL CALLS FOR ‘OUGHTA BE A LAW... OR NOT’ SUBMISSIONS**
State Sen. Jerry Hill is calling for submissions for his 12th annual “Oughta Be a Law... or Not” contest, which allows constituents to suggest ideas for new state legislation.

Entries may call for the creation of a new law or the repeal of an obsolete law to improve quality of life in San Mateo County, Santa Clara County and California overall.

The contest is open to all constituents of the 13th Senate District, which includes Mountain View, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Atherton, Portola Valley, Menlo Park, Woodside, Redwood City, East Palo Alto, Pacifica, Palo Alto, and parts of unincorporated San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

—See COMMUNITY BRIEFS, page 10

The Mountain View Voice (USPS 2560) is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media, 450 Cambridge Ave, Palo Alto CA 94306 (650) 964-6300. Periodicals Postage Paid at Palo Alto CA and additional mailing offices. The Mountain View Voice is mailed free upon request to homes and apartments in Mountain View. Subscription rate of $60 per year. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Mountain View Voice, 450 Cambridge Ave, Palo Alto CA 94306.
The Mountain View City Manager Dan Rich received a salary of $307,000, new position in March. She will serve as assistant city manager McCarthy, who currently picked for City Hall's top job. City manager until 2016, has been working theory now is that math hasn't fixed the achievement gap

More math hasn't fixed the achievement gap

LOCAL LATINO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS STILL WELL BEHIND PEERS IN TEST SCORES, COLLEGE READINESS

By Kevin Forestieri

Six years ago, Los Altos High School staff was convinced they had the silver bullet for preparing students for college. The thinking was that students who can make it through Algebra II by the time they graduate would have the tools needed to apply to four-year state universities, closing long-standing achievement gaps between ethnic groups.

But after making a successful push to shepherd all students through more rigorous math courses — irrespective of race, socioeconomic status and whether their parents went to college — gaps still remain. Nearly half of the school's Latino students aren't meeting all the requirements to apply for prestigious California universities. "We haven't seen much change over the past five years," said Los Altos principalwynne Satterwhite. "So Algebra II is not the answer, even though we were sure it was going to be."

Slow or stalled progress in narrowing all facets of the achievement gap, from state test scores to enrollment in extracurricular activities, was a common theme at the Dec. 16 Mountain View-Los Altos High School District board meeting as school staff laid out ambitious plans to ensure students from all backgrounds succeed at Mountain View and Los Altos high schools.

Though the goals were ostensively for students deemed "critical learners," including special education students and teens whose parents did not go to college, the bulk of the reports focused on Latino student achievement. State standardized test scores, GPA and performance on Advanced Placement (AP) tests all show a disparity between Latino students and their white and Asian peers across both campuses.

Los Altos staff in recent years sought to close the gap in the A-G requirements, a series of courses that are baked into the University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) admission requirements. In the 2014-15 school year, only 52% of Latino students met those requirements, compared with 83% of white and 97% of Asian students. As of the 2018-19 school year, the numbers haven't changed much — 55% of Latino students meet the requirements, compared with 82% of white and 90% of Asian students.

Although Algebra II is seen nationally as a gatekeeper for students trying to complete their A-G requirements, and the completion rates for the class haven't changed much — 55% of Latino students meet the requirements, compared with 82% of white and 90% of Asian students. Although Algebra II is seen nationally as a gatekeeper for students trying to complete their A-G requirements, and the completion rates for the class are "amazing," Satterwhite said school officials are still not seeing the change they expected. The working theory now is that math wasn't the silver bullet for students deemed "critical learners," including special education students and teens whose parents did not go to college, the bulk of the reports focused on Latino student achievement. State standardized test scores, GPA and performance on Advanced Placement (AP) tests all show a disparity between Latino students and their white and Asian peers across both campuses.

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How to Give

Your gift helps children and families in need

Contributions to the Holiday Fund will be matched dollar for dollar to the extent possible and will go directly to seven nonprofit agencies that serve Mountain View residents. Last year, more than 150 Voice readers and the Wakerly, Packard and Hewlett foundations contributed a total of $72,000. We are indebted to the Silicon Valley Community Foundation which handles all donations, and deducts no administrative costs from your gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law. All donations will be shared equally with the seven recipient agencies.

This year, the following agencies will be supported by the Holiday Fund:

MayView Community Health Center
The MayView Community Health Center in Mountain View offers primary care services to low-income and uninsured patients in northern Santa Clara County. No patient is turned away for inability to pay for services, which include prenatal and pediatric care, cancer screenings and chronic disease management.

Mentor Tutor Connection
Mentor Tutor Connection matches adult volunteers who serve either as mentors with under-served youth in high school or as tutors to students in elementary and middle schools in Mountain View and Los Altos school districts.

Community School of Music and Arts
The Community School of Music and Arts provides hands-on art and music education in the classrooms of the Mountain View Whisman School District.

Day Worker Center
The Day Worker Center of Mountain View provides a secure place for workers and employers to negotiate wages and work conditions. It serves workers with job placements, English lessons, job skills workshops and guidance.

YWCA Support Network for Domestic Violence
This group operates a 24-hour bilingual hotline and a safe shelter for women and their children. It also offers counseling and other services for families dealing with domestic violence.

Community Services Agency
CSA is the community’s safety-net providing critical support services for low-income individuals and families, the homeless and seniors in northern Santa Clara County, including Mountain View, Los Altos and Los Altos Hills.

Community Health Awareness Council
CHAC serves Mountain View, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and seven school districts. Among the services it offers are school-based counseling and programs to protect students from high-risk behaviors.
Thank you for supporting the Holiday Fund

As of January 8, 156 donors have contributed $58,983 to the Mountain View Voice Holiday Fund.

Donate online at siliconvalleycf.org/mvv-holiday-fund

SAFE PARKING

Continued from page 5

and nonprofit officials signaled they were ready to launch a trio of new sites that could provide an overnight sanctuary for about 70 inhabited vehicles. Expanding the safe parking program has been a major plank of the city’s effort to rein in the number of people living out of RVs and other vehicles parked along city streets. In tandem with the safe parking program, the Mountain View City Council passed a ban on large vehicles parking along most city streets.

However, efforts to grow the city’s safe parking program have faced a gauntlet of delays. City departments have been criticized for dragging their feet on permit approvals, and for imposing onerous requirements. People living out of their vehicles have said they were reluctant to sign up for the program because the parking sites would only be open overnight. During the daytime hours, they would be required to move their vehicles off-site, likely back onto city streets.

As of late December, only 13 individuals had signed up for the expanded safe parking program. The new problem of finding insurance for safe parking sites came as a surprise to everyone involved, Stime said. Insurance agents gave little explanation for why they were denying liability coverage, except that Move MV is a relatively new organization, she said. Move MV already provides liability coverage for two local churches that participate in the safe parking program, but Stime suspected that insuring larger parking areas for dozens of vehicles was seen as more risky.

In a comment to the Voice, city officials pledged they were working to secure new coverage for the parking sites.

“With the city maintains insurance on both parking lots, but Move MV is seeking a new carrier for the additional insurance,” said Kimberly Thomas, assistant to the city manager. “The city, county and MOVE are looking at a number of options to provide this service to our residents in need.”

Stime expressed confidence that Move MV would obtain insurance coverage within a couple weeks.

Timing is critical for the new safe parking lots because they are all only available temporarily, over the winter. The largest site, a parking lot at Shoreline Amphitheatre, must be cleared out by spring for concert season parking.
Mountain View residents!
Something BIG is coming to a block near you!

Are you interested in:
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• Reducing your environmental impact?
• Preparing for emergencies?

Join us to learn more about a new program for residents

COOL BLOCK

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MountainView.gov/CoolBlock

Learn more and RSVP for an information session:
MountainView.gov/CoolBlock

Join us to discuss SUSTAINABILITY programs in the city

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Follow projects. Provide input. Stay informed. Register now!
**DEPORTATION**

Continued from page 1

financial support,” Quiñones said. “These students are facing tremendous adversities in coming to this country.”

A fourth Mountain View High student who may have been subject to deportation this year left voluntarily due to a sick family member in his home country, according to Quiñones.

**Traumatic pasts, ‘heartbreaking’ moments**

Recent arrivals with poor English skills are among the school district’s most challenging students to teach core academic subjects, as many are still trying to acculturate to a new culture and a new language. The majority of the students have limited experience in a formal educational environment and have few—if any—transferable credits that can fulfill high school diploma requirements.

For the most part, the students are from countries including Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, with some hailing from Peru, Ecuador and Colombia, said Sarah Block, a longtime teacher and ELD instructor at Mountain View High. The students are often escaping trauma and violence in their home country and have seen “so much” at such a young age, she said. It’s clear that they want to distance themselves from that painful history and stake out a better opportunity for themselves.

“They’re here mostly voluntarily. They want to get out and improve their lives, their parents want them to have a better life, and they come to rigorous schools in our community,” Block said. “Some are ready to jump right in and others have never seen a computer before.”

Block has worked at Mountain View High since the 1990s and helped create the school’s Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program, and has been an ELD teacher for about 12 years. The recent arrivals, she said, are often coming to the school with educational gaps spanning months or even years, and may have trouble simply sitting through class for a full school day — let alone meeting the academic rigor of a high-performing school.

Block said she could not recall ever having a student being deported, much less three teenagers in the span of a few months. Seeing students when they realize they can’t stay at the school because of deportation or unstable housing is always a heartbreaking moment.

“We see such dedication on their part, trying to get an education here,” Block said. “And when students I’ve had realize that (they have to leave), you can almost see them giving up — just the weight on their shoulders, you can see it on their face and body language.”

School staff referred the students facing deportation to immigration legal support services provided by Services Immigrant Rights and Education Network (SIREN), but it’s unclear how much help they received. Pro bono legal representation is limited, Quiñones said, and families say hiring an immigration attorney can cost close to $10,000.

Priya Murthy, SIREN’s policy and advocacy director, said she couldn’t disclose whether the three Mountain View High School students and their families received legal services, citing client confidentiality. More broadly, she said the nonprofit has seen a spike in demand for all types of legal services, ranging from consultations to representation in immigration court proceedings in San Francisco, particularly an increase in the number of unaccompanied minors facing removal proceedings.

Many of those young clients are fleeing violence from their home countries in Mexico and Central America, she said, and recent changes in case law and federal immigration policies have made it increasingly difficult for them to remain in the U.S.

“There have been initiatives that the Trump administration has put in place in order to make the lives of unaccompanied minors more challenging, when it comes to trying to make sure that they are as safe and protected as possible,” Murthy said.

Every person seeking help from SIREN’s removal defense clinics can get legal consultation, but the increasingly intensive work required to manage each case is making universal representation in court an impossibility. While every case is different, she said the likelihood that teens facing deportation can stay in the country depends heavily on their age, when they left their home country and what kind of family ties they have in the U.S. that could justify staying. A family member legally residing in the area with a green card (permanent legal status) might help, she said.

**Helping vulnerable students**

The school has started initiatives aimed at alleviating some of the pressure, with the student Ambassadors Club launching what they’ve dubbed the “treasure closet,” Quiñones said. It’s stocked with donated clothing, new winter jackets, toiletries and canned goods, which are set out in an unused classroom for needy students.

An entire team of staffers at Mountain View High is devoted to support students learning English, including an ELD coordinator and a therapist, who frequently find themselves helping families “in crisis,” whether it’s an impending deportation or a family being evicted from their home with no affordable place to stay.

Quiñones recalled one instance when a family that was evicted, briefly staying in a homeless shelter before being placed into stable housing, approached the district with a conundrum — their new apartment had no beds. She said she reached out to school staff members and, with their help, managed to get three beds to the family within 24 hours.

“We had three different teachers who drove trucks to their apartment in Mountain View to donate beds to the family,” she said.

Anyone interested in assisting ELD students and their families can contact Quiñones at daniella.quinones@mvla.net. Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com
California’s flu season starts early, but county cases remain low

By Kevin Forestieri

More people are showing up at California clinics and hospitals with flu-like symptoms this year, signaling a rough start to the flu season. But Santa Clara County appears to be largely spared from the trend so far, with no deaths among people under 65 years old.

The state has recorded 54 flu deaths since Sept. 29, the start of the flu season, and two-thirds of those have been reported in Los Angeles County. In the current season, there have been no deaths so far in Santa Clara County.

“At this time, the flu season has peaked,” said Dr. Daniel Shin, an infectious disease specialist at El Camino Hospital. “Currently many organizations that prepare meals for the hungry don’t have access to permitted commercial kitchens, which enhance food safety, so we’re looking for creative ways to make sure these at-risk groups don’t have access to permits or facilities.”

Despite the worrying trend and flu deaths reported in Marin and Sonoma counties, Santa Clara County health officials say local flu activity is still “typical” for this time of year. In a Jan. 3 statement, the Santa Clara County Public Health Department reported that there have been no deaths so far in the 2019-20 flu season, and that it’s too early to say how severe it will be before it peaks in the next two months.

Dr. Daniel Shin, an infectious disease specialist at El Camino Hospital, said local hospitalizations haven’t differed much from the last flu season. As of this week, El Camino’s Mountain View campus had admitted 25 flu patients to the hospital, three of whom were placed in the intensive care unit (ICU), while the Los Gatos campus hospitalized five flu patients and placed one in the ICU. No deaths have been reported from either hospital, he said.

Shin said he is still urging people to get a flu shot, and that it’s not too late for the vaccination to be useful. Unlike past years, when the vaccine safeguards against strains that aren’t prevalent, this year seems to be a good match: the predominant strain, B Victoria, is included in this year’s flu shot.

“We’re still promoting it and asking patients to get vaccinated,” Shin said.

State health officials are also advising people to take preventive measures to stop the spread of the flu, including covering coughs and sneezes, frequently washing hands and staying home when sick. People at high risk of “serious” flu complications may be prescribed antiviral drugs to treat the illness, and those hospitalized may also be given antibiotics to prevent pneumonia, Shin said.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Continued from page 4

“I always welcome great bill ideas and if there is more than one winner, that’s terrific,” said Deborah Ryan, the district’s civil grand jury manager. “I am hopeful this new approach will move us toward that goal.”

Cortese first called for a moratorium on foster child intake at RAIC at a Nov. 19 Board of Supervisors meeting.

COUNTY SEeks CIVIL GRAND JURY APPLICANTS

The Santa Clara County Superior Court is looking for volunteers to serve on the 2020-2021 Civil Grand Jury, Presiding Judge Deborah Ryan announced Jan. 2.

The Civil Grand Jury serves as the county’s civil watchdog, authorized to inspect audit books, records and financial expenditures of county and city governments, special districts and school districts, in order to ensure accountability of public funds. Applicants must be over 18 and

Position on the jury requires a commitment of an average of 25 hours per week. The term lasts for one year and the panel begins on June 18.

“We need civic minded citizens willing to critically assess the operations of local governmental entities and to recommend improvements, as necessary, to benefit our community,” she said.

People interested can apply by obtaining an online application at scscourt.org. The deadline to apply is April 1.

COUNTY GRANTS TO HELP FEED THE HUNGRY

Local nonprofits can apply for $1,000 “mini-grants” that will help them rent permitted commercial kitchens to prepare charitable meals, county officials said Dec. 31.

The Santa Clara County Consumer and Environmental Protection Agency is accepting applications through March 18 for the $1,000 grants.

Changes in state law in recent years have prevented nonprofits from providing meals to those who need them, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors President Joe Simitian said.

“I’ve heard from too many churches, temples and local nonprofits who want to help that simply can’t,” Simitian said.

Currently many organizations that prepare meals for the hungry don’t have access to permitted commercial kitchens, which enhance food safety, Simitian said in a news release. That can result in groups operating out of compliance with state law, or spending valuable resources to redesign an existing kitchen or to rent a permitted facility, he added.

Organizations with 501(c)(3) classification may submit up to three applications for up to $1,000 each for meals to feed hungry people.

The mini-grants “should cover the costs for local nonprofits to rent a compliant kitchen and then do the good work they’re anxious to do,” Simitian said.

More information on the pilot program can be found at scgov.org.

—Bay City News Service
Bad drivers led police to downtown meth house

By Kevin Forestieri

A Christmas Eve drug bust that led to the arrest of four people at a downtown Mountain View home was the result of a monthlong investigation by police officers who suspected it was a drug den, according to recent documents filed with the Santa Clara County Superior Court.

Police reports detail how officers began watching the home — located on the 500 block of Church Street — in early December and nabbed people exiting the house on drug offenses as they were driving away. More than 18 grams of methamphetamine, 1.5 pounds of marijuana and several grams of psychedelic mushrooms were found in the drug bust that followed.

Mountain View residents Mark Nietert and Kathleen Polito, both 64, are each facing one felony and is due to appear in court next week. Nietert has been released, and has an arraignment hearing on Feb. 25. The case began on Dec. 3, when police Sgt. Wahed Magee spotted two women leaving the house and driving away, committing multiple vehicle code violations in the process. The driver, who was among the four arrested last month, appeared to be under the influence of a stimulant, according to the report, and divulged that people inside the Church Street home were doing methamphetamine.

Two small baggies and a vial filled with methamphetamine were found inside the car, along with a meth pipe concealed inside a sunglasses case. Magee stopped two more people leaving the home in a Ford van on Dec. 10, again for traffic violations, and found one of the men had methamphetamine and two meth pipes, according to one police report. The man described how he had arrived at the Church Street home that morning and took a hit of meth in the living room with Polito.

A judge signed a search warrant on Dec. 19, clearing the way for officers to search the Church Street home as well as any vehicles used by Nietert and Polito. The warrant was carried out by a total of 14 police personnel, including sergeants, officers and detectives, on Dec. 24, along with Zeus, the department’s drug-sniffing K-9. A police sergeant was able to “push open the front door” without forced entry because the front door was unlocked, according to the report.

A search revealed the home had 18.4 grams of suspected methamphetamine, 4.6 grams of psilocybin — psychedelic mushrooms — and 1.5 pounds of cannabis. Polito was charged with possession of more than an ounce of cannabis, which is still prohibited under state law. The search was initially delayed, because the home needed to be aired out due to a “heavy cloud of smoke” from recent methamphetamine use, according to a statement released by the department last week.

During the drug bust, a 61-year-old Mountain View woman — who was also the driver who was stopped by police on Dec. 3 — was arrested on suspicion of being under the influence of a controlled substance. A 45-year-old Clearlake man who was spotted entering and exiting the Church Street home at the time of the search warrant was also arrested on suspicion of being under the influence.

Though Magee was responsible for the traffic stops, he credited patrol Officer Daniel Miller for spearheading the case and leading the investigation.

“I am very proud of the hard work and perseverance by our patrol officer in this case,” Magee said in the statement last week. “His thorough investigation led to the removal of dangerous substances from the streets of Mountain View.”

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Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

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Michael Repka, Esq.
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LLM (Taxation)
NYU School of Law  DRE #01854880

Making Provisions to Buy a Home Under Market Value in 2020

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Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in the Nation.*

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RENT CONTROL

its language focuses mainly on easing development standards by prohibiting cities from using a wide variety of tricks to curb growth, such as imposing housing moratoriums, population caps, lower-density zoning or endless permit requirements.

But for Mountain View, the most consequential section of SB 330 was buried deep in the bill. The new law also prohibits cities from approving new housing developments that would raze rent-controlled or affordable housing — that is, unless an equal number of new units are rebuilt for tenants at the same price.

For tenant advocates, that requirement looks like a game-changer that could swiftly lead apartment owners to reconsider tearing down older units. Even in cases where apartments are being redeveloped into for-sale housing, developers will still be required to build new housing for all former tenants. Any displaced tenants must be given first rights to new housing units at the same price, said Nazanin Salehi, staff attorney with the Community Legal Services of East Palo Alto. These protections took effect at the start of January.

For the last few weeks, Salehi said, she has been collaborating with a statewide working group of attorneys and policy experts who are analyzing the implementation of SB 330. She admitted many tenant advocates like herself hadn’t noticed the law’s implications until very recently.

“I don’t think a lot of people were paying attention to SB 330, but this is really fantastic,” she said. “What this state legislation is saying is that this type of housing is so valuable that we need to make sure we’re preserving it. And this makes the argument for weakening rent control weak, if not moot.”

Over the course of the last year, the Mountain View City Council reluctantly signed off on a series of redevelopment project applications to allow rent-controlled apartments in order to build for-sale rowhouses. Each of those projects brought out a desperate crowd of tenants who begged the city to find some way to save their homes, but council members said they couldn’t reject projects that met the city’s development criteria.

For months, city officials had pledged to take a variety of actions to halt this trend, such as a “no net loss” policy to prohibit new developments that reduce the overall number of housing units. Last week an appeals court considered these actions at an October study session, but no formal policy changes have been brought back yet.

Exactly what SB 330 and its one-for-one replacement of rent-controlled units means for Mountain View remains uncertain. City planning officials say they are aware of the law, and they have been bringing it to the attention of any developers who submit new plans, but they could not specify any individual projects that would be affected.

“We’re taking a look at what all this means,” said Aarti Shrivastava, city planning director. “All we know right now is what this law says generally. How it applies specifically is going to depend on what status each project is at.”

Under the language of SB 330, the one-for-one requirement doesn’t affect projects deemed “complete” prior to Jan. 1. To her understanding, Shrivastava said a development is complete if the city has received all information on it, but it still might be waiting for approvals or entitlements. In general, the SB 330 requirements will only apply to newer projects, and the city is still reviewing how this would apply to individual development proposals that are under review.

Still, the new development requirements for rent-controlled apartments are being celebrated by tenants who were living under the specter of being displaced.

‘This makes the argument for weakening rent control weak, if not moot.’

ATTORNEY NAZANIN SALEHI

Dinnie McLaughlin, who has lived for 17 years at a Whitney Drive apartment complex, said she and other tenants were trying to fight to save their homes but if the new law would curtail plans submitted back in June to redevelop their homes into condominiums. At this point, she said she is “cautiously optimistic.”

“We’re still waiting to see if that’s the case. And if it is, then this is a major blessing,” she said. “I’m going to hold off on my excitement for now until I know what’s going on, but it looks like a positive sign.”

The new SB 330 law could also play a significant role in how voters respond in March to Measure D, which was drafted by city officials to soften the Mountain View’s rent control law. Up to this point, proponents on the City Council have argued that the stringent rent control restrictions that voters approved in 2016 has been leading landlords to rededuce their properties, taking rental units off the market.

As SB 330 was moving through the state Legislature last year, the bill was actively opposed by the League of California Cities, which viewed it as a threat to local control. However, the legislation did receive support from lobbyists and advocates for developers. Those interest groups argued that the tenant protections are a sacrifice worth making if the law created a boost to housing production, said Michael Lane, deputy director at the housing advocacy group SV@Home.

“The idea here is to disincentivize a business model that displaces residents. Just because it’s a hot market, we shouldn’t be demolishing affordable units,” he said. “Developers and their trade associations thought it was fair trade-off because they saw this law as creating more certainty.”

Sharon Suzanne Gregory

July 18, 1940 – November 15, 2019

Sharon Gregory passed away in her home with her family by her side. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Born to Ernest and Jewel Melvin in San Bernadino, CA. Sharon had one brother, Donald Melvin and one sister, Mary Picollo - both now deceased. Sharon had three children; John M. Davies VI (Sunnyvale, CA), Christy M. Davies (Vacaville, CA) and Scott E. Gregory (Fairfield, CA). Both Sharon’s late husband Clyde (Red) M. Gregory and son Scott passed before her, but now they’re meeting together in heaven with her beloved Chihuhua Lilyput and Yorkie Suzie Cute. Sharon lived in Santa Clara County for many years, and spent her remaining 35 years in Solano County. She is survived by her first husband John M. Davies V (AZ), Son “Jack”, Daughter Christy, Granddaughter Katrina and 4 Great Granddaughters Aliana, Anatalia, Audrina and Anyla Reyes.

Sharon attended Sunnyvale High School, and is a member of their alumni. Sharon enjoyed collecting antique glassware and other collectibles. She owned and operated, “Collector of Sorts” and “Shar Shar’s Poodle Salon” in Palo Alto. Casinos, bingo and playing lottery are things Sharon loved immensely.

She was born many hats! She retired from Hewlett Packard after 30+ years. Sharon will be missed by all who knew her and her fiesty ways. We thank Yolo Hospice for aiding Sharon through her end of life journey. Specifically, Marie, Micah, Keysha, Nidia, Jim and Tom who gave compassionate care when she needed it. A big thanks to Violet, Miriam, Karen and Shaina for their help as well.

There will be a Celebration of life held on Saturday January 11th, from 1pm to 6pm at The Vacaville Moose Lodge (#196) 6585 Gibson Canyon Road Vacaville, CA 95688. In lieu of flowers, Sharon would appreciate it if donations would be made to the Solano County Humane Shelter or Vacaville SPCA in her memory.

Miyeko Tanabe

Miyeko passed away surrounded by her loving family, including her husband, Masato of 62 years.

Miyeko was born the daughter to Buntaro and Tsuneyo Takita in San Francisco where she lived until she was 11 years old. She moved to Japan with her family for one year and then returned to San Francisco where she attended Pacific Heights Elementary School and then Commerce High School. Miyeko also studied at Japan’s National School (Kinno Gakuen). In February 1942, like other Japanese Americans, she was evacuated to an internment camp for the remainder of the war. She and her family were evacuated to Tanforan Race Track where they lived for six months and then relocated to Topaz Relocation Center near Delta, Utah. Upon leaving camp she was not initially allowed to relocate to the west coast and enrolled in Montana State University. She subsequently enrolled at University of California, Berkeley where she earned graduate degrees in Library Sciences. She worked for the U.S. Army as a librarian at Heidelberg University and after was accepted as a Fulbright Scholar to study at Keio University in Japan. She met another Fulbright Scholar at Keio, Masato Tanabe, and they enjoyed each other’s company on sightseeing trips and Fulbright scholar activities. Miyeko and Masato were engaged before they left Japan and married in San Francisco upon their return.

Miyeko was musically gifted from an early age. She received as a gift her first toy piano at age three and started her formal music education at age six. She enjoyed listening to music and loved playing classical music. She taught piano and hosted recitals during her years in camp and continuing later in her home while she was raising her three children. In her piano teaching, she strove to hone piano technique as well as impart her passion for music. Miyeko created and launched the Japanese Language Program in the Palo Alto School District in the early 1970s and served as one of the first Fulbright teachers for a full decade. Miyeko set high standards for herself and others be it piano, Japanese language, cooking or another of her many interests. Kindness and concern for others were at the heart of her character.

Miyeko is survived by her husband Masato of Palo Alto and her sister, Yoko of Berkeley, California; her three children Robert (Sukie), Kenneth (Michele) and Michiko, and her five grandchildren Kenji, Mari, (Alireza), Kimi, Brian and Sarah. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Palo Alto Buddhist Temple.

PAID OBITUARY

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January 10, 2020

Local News

Mountain View Voice

MountainViewOnline.com

January 10, 2020
was only a part of the problem, and that more needs to be done to encourage students to sign up and complete world language courses and other classes required to get into California universities.

Similar performance gaps among Latino students are peppered throughout the reports from both schools. At Mountain View High, the number of freshmen students with a 3.0 GPA or higher is significantly lower among Latino students — 38% — than white (83%) and Asian students (91%). Outside of core classes, Los Altos High staff found only 19% of Latino students participated in cocurricular or extra-curricular activities, compared with 38% among the school’s overall population.

Graduation rates have also declined among Latino students, which had previously been close to 100%. The percentage of seniors who graduated in 2014-15 at Mountain View High was 95%, which has since decreased to 81% last year.

Both schools show more Latino students are taking AP tests each year, but the passing rate is low when compared with white and Asian students. The latest data shows the gap is more pronounced at Mountain View High, where 56% of Latino test takers had passed with a score of three or higher. The passage rate was 84% among white students and 89% among Asian students during the same year.

The sobering data, which school officials say will be improved as part of an “action plan” taking place over six years, adds substantial detail to statewide testing data that has long showed performance among low-income, minority and English learner students falls behind white and Asian students and kids from more affluent families.

The tests, administered to juniors in the spring, show that fewer than one in three Latino students who took the test last year met state standards for math, falling well below white (80.6%) and Asian (86.4%) students. Smaller gaps were present in English language arts. Despite the sizable difference, the school district is hardly alone: Santa Clara County at large reported an even bigger delta in performance among 11th grade students based on ethnicity across both English and math.

Notice of Public Hearing

What: Public Hearing on proposed modification to the Upper Llagas Creek Flood Protection Project

When: Jan. 14, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

Where: Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Boardroom, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San José, CA 95118

Modifications to the voter-approved program require a public hearing. The proposed modification is for the locally funded Key Performance Indicator of Project E6, the Upper Llagas Creek Flood Protection Project.

Project E6: Upper Llagas Creek Flood Protection

The primary objective of the project is to plan, design and construct improvements along 13.9 miles of Upper Llagas Creek from Buena Vista Avenue in Gilroy to Llagas Road in Morgan Hill, including West Little Llagas Creek in downtown Morgan Hill.

The proposed modification is for the locally funded Key Performance Indicator of the project. The modification increases the length of the project to be built with local funds from approximately 2.9 miles to 4.9 miles in addition to constructing the onsite compensatory mitigation. Besides getting the most out of the available local dollars, this approach keeps the project moving forward, shortens the construction window without inducing flooding downstream and maximizes the potential for external funding opportunities. This modification also reflects improved collaboration with regulatory permitting agencies that require early mitigation for the project impacts.

Proposed modification to the Key Performance Indicator:

With local funding only: Construct flood protection improvements along Llagas Creek from Buena Vista Avenue to Highway 101 in San Martin (Reaches 4 and 5 (portion), Monterey Road to Watsonville Road in Morgan Hill (Reach 7a), approximately W. Dunne Avenue to W. Main Avenue (portion of Reach 8), and onsite compensatory mitigation at Lake Silveira.

For more information

The board agenda memo regarding this hearing will be available on January 3, 2020 at www.valleywater.org. For more information on the public hearing, contact Meenakshi Ganjoo at mganjoo@valleywater.org or (408) 630-2295.
The issues we face now are more complex, less clear-cut in terms of solutions.

MAYOR MARGARET ABE-KOGA

But for many others, the city is still reeling from deep-seated turmoil linked to homelessness and housing inaffordability. With many people’s homes and livelihoods on the line, an undercurrent of fierce political strife has become normal on issues such as rent control, redevelopment and the city’s future vision for North Bayshore. In many ways, this time around will be more difficult, Abe-Koga said. “This is a completely different situation now, and in all frankness, I’ve had to change my perspective somewhat,” she said. “The issues we face now are more complex, less clear-cut in terms of solutions.”

At its Tuesday, Jan. 7, meeting, the Mountain View City Council voted in Abe-Koga as the city’s new mayor in a unanimous vote. Ellen Kamei was voted in as vice mayor, putting her in line to be the mayor in 2021. Outgoing Mayor Lisa Matichak welcomed her successor with a hug, and received a standing ovation for her yearlong stint wielding the gavel.

Abe-Koga, 50, takes the helm as mayor at a very tenuous time in Mountain View’s history, and she inherits a set of challenges that will be far beyond the scope of what one elected leader in one city can hope to solve. But she still says there are realistic priorities that she can work to achieve.

Among her goals, Abe-Koga would like to streamline City Council meetings to avoid grueling sessions that stretch into the early-morning hours. It’s an idea that few would oppose, but how to do it?

Abe-Koga pointed out she can’t abbreviate public comment or her colleagues’ discourse, but she does have other tools to move things along. In talks with City Hall staff, she has urged city employees to be more aggressive in making professional recommendations for elected leaders to adopt. More council decisions should be able to reach consensus quickly, especially if easy decisions can be notched off through straw votes, she said.

“I don’t think that meetings that run until 1 a.m. or 2 a.m. are good for anyone,” she said. “There’s little techniques that we can do to move things along.”

Abe-Koga’s term as mayor will also put her on point for quarter-backing the city’s controversial March ballot measure to amend local rent control. This has been a focused priority for her since last year, when she led efforts to draw up a list of rent control tweaks that were later inserted into the city’s measure.

She views these amendments as a sort of middle path between the landlord-tenant divide, allowing rent control to remain in place but tempering it to make it sustainable for apartment owners, she said. She expects to help organize a campaign to promote the measure in the near future. Politically, this job will require convincing tenants to vote against their short-term interests, while also persuading landlords to resist a more aggressive measure slated for November.

“We’re not trying to get rid of rent control, and I’d really like us to move beyond that rhetoric,” Abe-Koga said. “We need to see if we can find a happy medium so that we can put this issue to rest.”

The ballot box will be a theme for City Council politics in 2020 in more ways than one. Another potential measure that could come before voters is a referendum to overturn the city’s ordinance on parking on most city streets. This so-called RV ban has received harsh criticism for its impact on the city’s homeless population who live in vehicles. Among her first actions as mayor later this month, Abe-Koga must decide with her colleagues whether to place the referendum on a future ballot, or to rescind it entirely. City officials are currently investigating whether the referendum can be placed on a special April election.

“I see these restrictions as going in unison with the safe parking lot program ... I never thought that allowing RVs to park on the street could be a permanent solution,” Abe-Koga said. “My hope with the RVs is to eventually get the folks into permanent housing, so how do we work on that?”

“It’s a question that is bewildering mayors across the Bay Area as they try to grapple with a homeless crisis that cuts across city boundaries. Abe-Koga said she previously tried to persuade Google to open up the shuttered Gold’s Gym off Shoreline Boulevard as a temporary shelter, but the company declined. The city needs to keep searching for other solutions, she said.

Where Abe-Koga sees more potential to enact change is improving the culture at City Hall. For too long, city employees have been beleaguered with hefty workloads and constant grind. Maintaining the city’s quality means that Mountain View needs to be a place where life is easier for its staff, she said.

“For us to keep good people and maintain our service levels, we are going to have to do things more efficiently,” she said. “We’ve been running at an intense pace in general at City Hall, and I think we need to reexamine that.”

To that end, Abe-Koga signaled she doesn’t have any sweeping priorities that she would push city officials to embark on. The city’s list with more than 80 goals that was displayed on her yearlong term should suffice, she said. Meanwhile, the city’s template for building out about 15,000 new housing units in the coming years should serve well as a road map for developers to follow, she said.

If there’s any new priority the city needs to take up, it would be transportation, she said. Mountain View needs to put pressure on VTA to ensure the North County is represented and receives adequate funding. Meanwhile, Mountain View needs to “fill in the gaps” left by the county transit agency with the city’s local shuttle service or other systems, she said.

Mountain View’s mayor is charged with leading city meetings, just as in any other city in the area, but the position has little in the way of additional power compared to other city Council members. For the most part, the mayor’s job is ceremonial: to act as the city’s lead representative to meet with dignitaries, cut ribbons or give speeches.

While that may sound like the duties of a figurehead, the position does wield significant soft power, and pretty much anyone who has held the job can attest to its hefty workload.

Abe-Koga said what will be different from her 2009 turn as mayor, Abe-Koga emphasized the time demands of the job have dramatically increased. More than ever, the mayor is bombarded by media calls, corporate visits and constituent emails.

“People just don’t know how much of a full-time commitment the job is. Frankly, it’s hard to describe,” she said. “We’re the center of Silicon Valley now, with all the companies we have here, so I guess that’s added a spotlight onto the city.”

Email Mark Nocka at mnock@mview-voice.com

Call 650-223-6578 for assistance with your legal advertising needs.

Dated: January 10, 2020

Lisa Natusch
City Clerk, City of Mountain View

Local News

Public Notice

City of Mountain View

NOTICE OF ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Special Municipal Election will be held in the City of Mountain View on Tuesday, March 3, 2020, for the following measure:

Shall the City Charter be amended to prohibit paying Rental Housing Committee (RHC) members; clarify the RHC independently implements the Community Stabilization and Fair Rent Act and related initiatives delegated by the City Council; clarify the City Council may remove RHC members for reasons including misconduct; allow annual rent increases up to 4%; authorize additional rent increases for critically housing-improvement projects like seismic repair; clarify mobile homes are exempt; and make technical revisions?

The polls will be open between the hours of 7 a.m. and 8 p.m.

YES

NO

Dated: January 10, 2020

Lisa Natusch
City Clerk, City of Mountain View

Call 650-223-6578 for assistance with your legal advertising needs.

Before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted; if no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING: April 21, 2020, 8:45 a.m., Dept.: Probate of the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara, 191 N. First Street, San Jose, CA 95113.

A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the manner of general circulation, printed in this county:

MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE

Date: November 26, 2019

V. Julie A. Emede

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(MV) Dec. 27, 2019: Jan. 3, 10, 17, 2020

mvvoicenews.com

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Mountain View Voice

MountainViewOnline.com

January 10, 2020
Musical sisterhood and local roots

THE KELLER SISTERS AND THE JENNY KERR BAND TO PERFORM AT CLUB FOX JAN. 12

By Yoshi Kato

A s a former longtime San Mateo resident, singer/songwriter/guitarist Sheryl Keller still loves to perform on the Peninsula. And she particularly loves Club Fox, where she and sibling Kerry will open for the Jenny Kerr Band on Sunday, January 12, as The Keller Sisters.

“We love Redwood City,” she said, by phone from her home in the Contra Costa County city of Brentwood. “We go to the blues jam at (Club) Fox and check it out and hang out with our friends.”

Sisterhood, both actual and musical, is a theme that comes up frequently when conversing with the elder of The Keller Sisters. Asked about her duo’s relationship to the Jenny Kerr Band, Keller replied, “We have quite a ship to the Jenny Kerr Band, and have just a killer, soulful voice and harmonica and banjo, a wonderful songwriter and also a long history with them. Jenny is Keller had discovered the Jenny Kerr Band on Sunday, January 12, as The Keller Sisters. She and sibling Kerry will open for the Jenny Kerr Band on Sunday, Jan. 12, at 7:30 p.m. Cost: $15-$20. Info: Go to clubfoxrwc.com or call 831-334-1153.

The Keller Sisters perform at Club Fox on Jan. 12.

The Parks and Recreation Commission will review three project scope options for the Rengstorff Park Aquatic Center Replacement project on: THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2020 - 7:00 p.m. (or as soon as the item can be heard) MOUNTAIN VIEW COMMUNITY CENTER 201 S. RENGSTORFF AVE. For further information, contact David Printy of the Public Works Department at (650) 903-6145 or email david.printy@mountainview.gov. Please also visit the Project Website at www.mountainview.gov/renfgtorffpool.

Now when your kid’s nose runs, it won’t have to run very far.

Inspirations a guide to the spiritual community

LOS ALTOS LUTHERAN
Rejoice in the Word & Sent in the Spirit
10:00 AM WORSHIP
10:15-10:45 YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL
460 S. El Monte Ave. (at Cuanta)
Pastor David Bondes & Livrnia Prason Youth & Family, Bible Studies, Seasonal Devotions, Intergenerational Events!
www.losaltoslutheran.org 650.948.3012

To include your Church in Inspirations please email sales@embarradero publishing.com

Stanford pediatrics, now in your neighborhood at Altos Pediatric Associates

Stanford Children’s Health

Access to Excellence.
More than a meal
MEALS ON WHEELS IS A LIFELINE FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS

By Margaret Abe-Koga and Michele Lew

C hris Kenrick described Santa Clara County’s weekly Meals on Wheels delivery model in a recent Voice article. With proposed federal requirements to reduce the number of people eligible for food stamps, Meals on Wheels is more of a lifeline than ever.

Fortunately, Mountain View residents can access community-based Meals on Wheels programs in addition to the county-run model, including The Health Trust’s Meals on Wheels program.

The program delivers meals to individuals who are unable to purchase or prepare their own food. Embracing a “more than a meal” model, The Health Trust provides daily in-home visits, nutritious meals and safety checks.

Last year, we visited a Mountain View resident when she was enjoying her daily Meals on Wheels visit from her driver, Adela. The client has limited mobility, lives alone and was only eating one meal per day before she began receiving Meals on Wheels. She now enjoys two home-delivered meals five days per week and receives a grocery delivery once a month. She shared how much she enjoys speaking with Adela, who is trained to note unusual behavior or circumstances and call for help when needed.

As an example of the “more than a meal” value of Meals on Wheels, two years ago, a volunteer driver arrived at client Russell’s home to deliver his hot meal. Russell was unusually groggy. Smelling gas, the driver quickly opened the windows and looked for a gas leak. Russell had covered his stove with plastic to protect it from some construction repairs and had accidentally turned on a stove knob.

The driver immediately reported the incident to Meals on Wheels staff, who followed up with Russell’s emergency contact. Crisis was averted.

“Meals on Wheels is a vital part of my life,” says Russell. “I would not be able to survive without the food provided by Meals on Wheels. The drivers are important to me also — they chat with me and I visit with them. They keep me from being so lonely, as I can’t get out much.”

Meals on Wheels is often the difference between remaining at home and needing to relocate to a care facility. The nutritious meal, friendly visit and safety check help residents cope with hunger, isolation and loss of independence.

Families sleep better at night and can continue their daily routines knowing that Meals on Wheels is keeping a watchful eye over their aging loved ones.

The city of Mountain View supports The Health Trust's Meals on Wheels program; last year, The Health Trust provided more than 10,000 meals in Mountain View.

To learn more about receiving Meals on Wheels, please call 408-961-9870. There is no charge for this service for qualified applicants, although donations are appreciated.

The Health Trust also employs drivers and needs volunteers to help deliver meals or provide regular friendly home visits and phone calls. Monetary donations are an essential component of Meals on Wheels too. To learn more, please visit healthtrust.org or call 408-513-8700.

Our community is healthier when everyone has access to nutritious food and support services.

Margaret Abe-Koga is the mayor of Mountain View and Michele Lew is CEO of The Health Trust, a San Jose-based foundation that works to tackle health disparities in Silicon Valley.

What’s on your mind?
From City Hall politics and the schools to transportation and other pressing issues, the Voice aims to keep readers informed about their community. But we also want to hear from you.
Tell us what’s on your mind by sending your letters to editors@MV-Voice.com. Or snail-mail them to: Mountain View Voice, P.O. Box 405, Mountain View, CA 94042.
Seventeen years have passed since the debut of Tamarine, the venerable Vietnamese fusion restaurant in downtown Palo Alto. Soon after opening its doors, Tamarine began amassing a loyal, well-heeled following and a bushel of accolades, including a Forbes Magazine listing as one of the “World’s Top Ten Power Dining Spots.”

This fall, sisters and partners Tanya Hartley and Tammy Huynh unveiled the long-awaited follow-up to Tamarine. Tam Tam is a Vietnamese concept designed to be a less formal counterpart to Tamarine’s upscale enterprise. The two restaurants bookend University Avenue, with Tam Tam perched on the western, Stanford University end of the street at the site of the former Opa Mediterranean restaurant. The gestation period for the new restaurant was short, not surprising for an operation conceived on the fly. When the sisters first discussed expansion in early 2019, they envisioned a fast-casual Vietnamese eatery. That script abruptly flipped when they were offered — and accepted — the opportunity to assume Opa’s lease in the historic building that housed Miyake for decades. Since the large layout was better suited to a full-service restaurant, they shelved their original idea and created Tam Tam from scratch in a few short weeks.

With Tamarine holding its own just down the street, Hartley and Huynh are presently focused on Tam Tam and its pan-Vietnamese cuisine. Huynh, who serves as executive chef, aims to branch out beyond South Vietnamese cooking, the style most familiar in the U.S.

“Because the large majority of immigrants come from South Vietnam, restaurants tend to

See TAM TAM, page 20

Sibling duo cooks up a splendid sequel to Vietnamese fusion favorite Tamarine

Top: Tam Tam’s seared salmon sits atop sautéed onions, bell peppers and pineapple in a garlic, lemon and tamarind sauce. Left: Rice flour and coconut milk banh xeo, or moon crepes, are filled with shrimp, pork, jicama, bean sprouts and mung beans. Right: Banh khot uni and crab cupcakes are made of a crispy coconut rice flour, topped with scallions and served with a yuzu-tamarind sauce.
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
PUBLIC MEETING AND
PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
PROPOSED PLAN FOR
SITE 9 GROUNDWATER
NAVAL INDUSTRIAL RESERVE
ORDNANCE PLANT SUNNYVALE

The U.S. Navy, in cooperation with the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), is announcing the public availability of the Proposed Plan for the Naval Industrial Reserve Ordinance Plant (NIROP), Sunnyvale, California. NIROP is located 40 miles southeast of San Francisco and 10 miles northwest of San Jose. The NIROP sanitary sewers are believed to be the primary source of groundwater contamination, along with several other potential sources. The Proposed Plan addresses cleanup of onsite and offsite groundwater contamination associated with NIROP. The Proposed Plan summarizes the evaluation of four alternatives.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
The Proposed Plan is available for public review, and the Navy will accept comments during the 30-day public comment period held from January 10, 2020 to February 8, 2020. Public comments on the Proposed Plan must be submitted in writing and postmarked or emailed no later than February 8, 2020. PLEASE SEND ALL COMMENTS TO
Michael Pound,
Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southwest
937 North Harbor Drive, 3rd Floor, Room 323,
San Diego, CA 92132-5190
or via email to: michael.pound@navy.mil

PUBLIC MEETING
The Navy will host a public meeting in open house format to discuss the Proposed Plan and to accept written public comments:

DATE
January 28, 2020

LOCATION
Sunnyvale Public Library
665 West Olive Avenue
Sunnyvale, CA 94086

TIME
6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

Cards for submitting written comments will be provided at the public meeting.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
The Proposed Plan and other information about NIROP are available for download on the NIROP Administrative Record website, https://go.usa.gov/xyCzY. A paper copy of the Proposed Plan and paper copies of selected other NIROP documents are available for viewing at:

Sunnyvale Public Library
665 West Olive Avenue
Sunnyvale, CA 94086
(408) 730-7300

The Proposed Plan for the Naval Industrial Reserve Ordnance Plant (NIROP) is available for public review. NIROP is located 40 miles southeast of San Francisco and 10 miles northwest of San Jose. The Proposed Plan addresses cleanup of onsite and offsite groundwater contamination associated with NIROP.

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TAM TAM
Continued from page 19

Tam Tam furthered Huynh’s mission by listing the region of origin for most items on the menu. Huynh hews closely to traditional preparations, though she takes creative license with the occasional dish, most notably the banh khot “cupcakes” ($13), which substitute uni and crab for the classic shrimp filling.

Hanoi-style beef pho ($17) seemed like a solid starting point for testing Tam Tam’s inclusiveness initiative. Long a standard bearer of Vietnamese restaurants, the southern-style pho we know is a heaping bowl of slurpable noodles served with bean sprouts and hot sauce. Tam Tam serves a simplified northern version, and it’s a revelation. Featuring fresh-made noodles and tender brisket slow-cooked for 24 hours, the beefy broth takes center stage. Hold the hoisin and savor every sip.

The Indian-influenced lemon- grass tofu ($22) was a vegetarian delight, melding herbal, citrus and spicy chili seasonings. Divergent flavors were also used to full effect in the seared salmon ($28). The moist, medium-cooked filet stood up nicely to bold ingredients, which included sautéed onion, bell peppers, pineapple, dill and a lovely tamarind sauce.

Steamed branzino ($29) was a more subtle entrée, leaning primarily on ginger to enhance the milky taste of the fish. The presentation — the branzino is served whole with a stuffed center cavity — was expertly executed. Though the oversized cubes of sweet potatoes and carrots in the yellow chicken curry ($22) created a dramatic visual, the vegetables dwarfed the scant portions of lemongrass-infused thigh meat. The leek soon balanced, however, when our server delivered a hearty poached chicken salad ($14), featuring shredded cabbage and copious pieces of poultry tossed in an exquisite chili-lime vinaigrette with fish sauce.

Central Vietnam, according to Huynh, is a poor section of the country prone to flooding. Flood-tolerant rice is a mainstay in the region and is cleverly incorporated into many dishes. Huynh’s menu at Tam Tam reflects this by excluding dishes from other parts of the country, she said. “There are so many great recipes from the north and central areas. I want my guests to experience these unique and exciting flavors.”

Tam Tam opened in the space previously occupied by Opa Mediterranean restaurant, on the western end of University Avenue in Palo Alto.
ingredients, including the rice flour shell used in Tam Tam's moon crepes ($13). This dish did not quite stick the landing. While I enjoyed the taste and textures of the crunchy outer layer and the soft, savory pork and shrimp filling, the crepes left an excessively oily residue.

Tam Tam offers a satisfying assortment of beer and wine. The light, crisp Saigon Export beer ($6) paired especially well with the spicier fare. Dessert options include coconut pandan crème brûlée ($9), Vietnamese coffee tiramisu ($9) and creme brûlée ($9), Vietnam-inspired coconut pandan crème brûlée, which combines baked egg white meringue with corn mousse and freeze-dried corn. While I enjoyed the taste and texture of the crunchy outer layer and the soft, savory pork filling, the crepes did not quite stick the landing.

Coconut pandan crème brûlée features pandan leaves and coconut milk and is topped with fresh berries.

DINING NOTES

Tam Tam
140 University Ave., Palo Alto
650-322-8000
tamtamrestaurant.com

Hours:
Monday-Thursday, Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., 5-10 p.m.
Friday and Saturday, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., 5-10 p.m.

Happy hour
Monday-Friday 5-6 p.m.,
bar only

Credit Cards
Reservations
Catering
Takeout
Outdoor Seating
Children
Parking
Street and garage
Alcohol
Beer and wine
Corkage
$20 per bottle
Bathroom
Excellent
Noise level
Loud

The City of Mountain View continues its annual water system flushing program. Flushing will be complete by approximately March 2020.

The City understands the importance of saving water, but flushing the system is a critical component of maintaining water quality. Water main flushing is a process used to clear water lines of sand and sediment that may have accumulated during the last year. Signs and barricades will be posted in neighborhoods the day before flushing is to take place to alert residents.

If you would like more information about the City’s water main flushing program, or have questions or concerns while City personnel are in your neighborhood flushing water mains, please contact the City’s Public Services Division at 650-903-6329, or visit our website at www.mountainview.gov.
A ‘meh’ war

‘1917’ Turns WWI

★★ 1/2 (Century 16, Century 20 and Icon)

World War I was coined the “Great War,” the war to end all wars. But is the war movie “1917,” which won “Best Drama” and “Best Director” at the Golden Globe Awards, a great film? The film to end all films? 

Ostensibly conceived by director/co-writer/co-producer Sam Mendes (“American Beauty”, “Skyfall”) as an important remembrance of things past, “1917” comes off as rather desperately self-important and awards-grubbing. Mendes’ film cannot help but evoke a WWI version of “Saving Private Ryan” with its mashup of visceral war action and a mission with an emotional “this time, it’s personal” hook. Add a self-styled auteur’s flourish — in this case, the cinematic-stunt illusion of the film’s two hours being shot in what appears to be two unbroken “takes,” or camera shots (achieved in large part by the brand of editing trickery seen in Alejandro González Iñárritu award-winning “Birdman” and as far back as Alfred Hitchcock’s “Ropec”), and you have a recipe for Hollywood hype.

The plot, for the most part, is straightforward. In the titular year, a general (guest star Colin Firth) tasks fresh-faced young soldiers William (George MacKay) and Tom (Dean-Charles Chapman) with preventing a deadly ambush in “1917.”

I grant that this opinion amounts to a minority one, with Mendes and legendary cinematographer Roger Deakins collecting plaudits from many an awards body and critics (“1917” appears on dozens of year-end “Top 10” lists). And I hasten to repeat: It’s not exactly a bad film, but is the narrative sincere function. The “look at me!” form keeps undressing the rest of the picture can’t begin to muster. The “look at me!” form keeps undressing the rest of the picture can’t begin to muster.

Welcome to 2020!

Below are the 2019 “home” sales for Mountain View and nearby communities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th># of homes sold</th>
<th>Lowest/Highest</th>
<th>Average DOM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Santa Clara</td>
<td>561</td>
<td>$775,000 / $2,450,000</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunnyvale</td>
<td>528</td>
<td>$895,000 / $4,875,000</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain View</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>$952,000 / $4,343,000</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Altos</td>
<td>308</td>
<td>$1,780,000 / $9,498,000</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Altos Hills</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>$2,461,875 / $8,798,800</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palo Alto</td>
<td>332</td>
<td>$1,000,000 / $13,000,000</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Information obtained onMLS on January 1, 2020

DOM – Days on the Market

Hosted by Tori.

Tori Ann Atwell
650.996.0123
tori.atwell@compass.com
Compass.com
DRE 0192774

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‘STAR WARS: THE RISE OF SKYWALKER’ ★★★ 1/2

Few, if any, films in cinematic history face the scrutiny of a “Star Wars” film, and one can feel the added burden of being part of that franchise-capper weighing on “Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker.” 

After launching the current trilogy with 2015’s “The Force Awakens,” director J.J. Abrams Abrams must bring recurring characters to this trilogy’s younger generation of characters. While the film includes lightsaber battles, blaster shootouts, space dogfights, whooping critters and fleetly chirping robots, die-hard fans have the best shot of actually enjoying it. This franchise-capper struggles to raise a pulse to make its audience feel or care about the specifics of its complicated plot beyond the pressure of a nearly real-time ticking clock, the pressure of a nearly real-time ticking clock, the pressure of a nearly real-time ticking clock.

‘JUMANJI: THE NEXT LEVEL’ ★★★★★

In the newly released “Jumanji: The Next Level,” Spencer, Martha, Fridge and Bethany return to the Jumanji after Spencer kicks up the broken pieces of the game and gets pulled back into the world. Reasoning that’s he’s likely to die on his own, his three friends decide to follow him back into the game. The glitchy game also takes two newcomers: Spencer’s grandfather, Eddie (Danny DeVito), and his frenemy Otis (Danny Glover), erstwhile buddies estranged after the sale of their joint restaurant venture. The sequel holds some mix-and-match surprises in store as we run into new (Awkwafina) and returning (Nick Jonas) guest stars. “The Next Level” play fast and loose, it also makes an effort to prompt viewers to reflect not only on the freedom of fantasy, but on the essential relationship of mind and body. Rated PG-13 for adventure action, suggestive content and some language. Two hours, 3 minutes. — P.C.
TEATER

'The Pianist of Willesden Lane'

TheaterWorks Silicon Valley presents "The Pianist of Willesden Lane," a true story about a young Jewish pianist escaping Nazi-occupied Austria at the outset of World War II. Concert pianist Mona Golabek recounts her mother’s poignant saga of hope and resilience to illustrate the power of music. Jan. 15-Feb. 16; dates and times vary. $25-$55; discounts available. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. theatreworks.org

'A Doll's House, Part 2'

Jeffrey Low directs Lucas Hnath’s comedic play that picks up right after the end of Henrik Ibsen’s original play, "A Doll’s House." Jan. 17-Feb. 2; dates and times vary. $22-$46; discounts available. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. palatoplayers.org

'Dragons Love Tacos'

Based on Adam Rubin’s bestselling children’s book, "Dragons Love Tacos" by Daniel Sheinkman and illustrator Ales Eisenberg, come together for an afternoon performance of music by Latin composers. Jan. 14, noon-1:30 p.m. $25. Goodman Family (3C921) Fabian Way, Palo Alto. palatopjscc.org

MUSIC

Free Organ Recital

Each weekly noon-time organ recitals at All Saints Episcopal Church includes at least one work by J.S. Bach. Tuesdays through May 28, 12-15-14-5 p.m. Free. All Saints Episcopal Church, 555 Waverley St., Palo Alto. asnts.org

Capriccio Trio

Cellist Dalma Rudin, pianist Dimitry Cogan and cellist Alex Eisenberg come together for an afternoon performance of music by Latin composers. Jan. 14, noon-1:30 p.m. $25. Goodman Family (3C921) Fabian Way, Palo Alto. palatopjscc.org

CONCERTS

Sundays with the St. Lawrence

Acclaimed St. Lawrence String Quartet performs for an afternoon of Beethoven and John Adams. Jan. 19, 2:30 p.m. $15-$68; discounts available. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. live.stanford.edu/calendar/january-2020/jason-danieley

Jason Danieley

Award-winning Broadway star and concert performer Jason Danieley shares stories and songs from his heart. Jan. 17, 6-7:30 p.m. Free. Harvard University, collection of Italian manuscript materials. Jan. 15, 1-5:30 p.m. Free. Ced. H. Green Library, Stanford University, Stanford. arts.stanford.edu

Dr. Cornel West

Harvard University professor Cornell West discusses democracy, race and justice in this evening talk. Jan. 17, 6:30 p.m. $35-$45. Smithwick Theatre, Footlight College, 7115 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. footlight.com

The Joyful Vegan

My wife and I closed our new house with David Troyer and his amazing team almost exactly a year ago, and after enjoying the year-long, monthly subscription of Harry and David fruit boxes that they gifted us afterwards, I definitely wanted to write this review.

From our very first meeting back in the fall of 2018 to the close of both transactions, David and his team were nothing short of exemplary. We worked with them on the buying side (we purchased a home first), and then on the selling side (we sold our old home second). Both processes were extremely smooth, and David and his team get superb marks for communication, organization, clarity, honesty, swiftness, and friendliness.

For example, the renovations to our old house were not only completed shockingly quickly, but on time, and under budget. I honestly don’t know what could have been done better.

— Dardy C., Mountain View