More delays, higher costs as flood protection projects near the finish

WATER DISTRICT BOOSTS FUNDING TO $88M FOR MCKELVEY PARK, RANCHO SAN ANTONIO BASINS

By Kevin Forestieri

Construction projects aimed at providing flood protection to thousands of Mountain View properties is over budget and more than a year behind schedule.

The Santa Clara Valley Water District’s board of directors signed off on another round of funding in November for $4.7 million, aimed at offsetting cost overruns that ate through most of the project’s contingency fund. As of this month, the flood protection projects are now expected to cost $88.5 million, according to district staff.

The funding boost addresses the latest in a series of overruns that have ballooned the cost of the Permanente Creek Flood Protection Project, which includes two detention basins designed to take on floodwater and protect homes primarily located in Mountain View. The basins — located at Rancho San Antonio and McKelvey Park — would protect large swaths of the mountain's property.

Voters to decide on RV parking ban

CITY COUNCIL’S PARKING RESTRICTIONS ON RVS, OVERSIZED VEHICLES SET FOR REFERENDUM VOTE IN NOVEMBER ELECTION

By Mark Noack

The final decision on whether to prohibit oversized vehicles like RVs from parking on most city streets will be up to Mountain View voters this November.

In a unanimous vote at its Tuesday, Jan. 14, meeting, the City Council decided to bring its September parking ordinance to a popular vote following a successful referendum to overturn it.

The city’s parking ordinance, referred to as the “RV ban,” will be suspended until the election, the council decided.

It was a rare easy choice for Mountain View leaders even though it dealt with the city’s most vexing issue. Council members quickly agreed the voters should make the final decision on where large vehicles, including inhabited RV and trailers, are allowed to park in the city.

“It’s time for the voters to vote, but I don’t expect us to suspend our work with finding solutions,” said Mayor Margaret Abe-Koga.

Social justice advocates immediately blasted the ordinance as a thinly veiled attempt to push the homeless out of the city. City officials have insisted the parking restrictions were designed to improve traffic safety, particularly the visibility problems for drivers caused by rows of large vehicles lining the curbs.

So far, the city has not specified some exceptions.

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A Q&A WITH KAKI KING

Kaki King is a guitarist, composer and producer known for her virtuosic and inventive acoustic guitar compositions, showcased in her multiple albums of original music, plus scores for films (including the Golden Globe-nominated score for “Into the Wild”). King will offer a free concert at the Community School of Music and Arts (30 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View) on Saturday, Jan. 18, at 7:30 p.m.

Your music, while obviously guitar-based, involves a lot of percussive elements. How have you developed your unique style over the years?

I’ve been the only person onstage a lot of the years, so I’ve developed techniques that help fill in whatever the ear thinks is missing.

Are there any stereotypes or misconceptions you’ve had to fight against as a guitar player, composer and/or artist?

Misconceptions are a result of stereotypes and I’ve definitely had to fight that a lot. Mostly it’s when I show up with a guitar case, an acoustic guitar no less, and I’m given no respect until I start playing, and then whatever sound person or crew member I’m dealing with suddenly has my attention and takes me seriously. The problem is that I should be taken seriously no matter what. Everyone should.

Who are a few of your own musical heroes?

I like Nick Drake and PJ Harvey. Anyone who is British and inscrutable gets a check in my book. I gravitate toward Russian composers — Tchaikovsky, Prokofiev, Stravinsky, etc. These days I listen to Lizzo really really loudly and hope my kids don’t pick up too many curse words.

When composing instruments, how does the piece serve to express your thoughts and feelings, to act as your “voice,” as it were?

My songs aren’t meant to mean anything. They often come from a place of inspiration for me personally, but just as often they come from seemingly nowhere. I’m not trying to get any meaning across. I just hope that people like to listen to them and maybe the song will knock something loose in their brain that was holding them back.

What has surprised you over the course of your career thus far?

It’s a miracle that people will still pay money and drive in a car to see a music show. Just think about how many chances people have now, and just as often they come from seemingly nowhere. I’m not trying to get any meaning across. I just hope that people like to listen to them and maybe the song will knock something loose in their brain that was holding them back.

What can audiences at your Community School of Music and Arts show expect from that specific performance?

I’ll be doing a more traditional solo guitar setup. A lot of things from my catalog from over the years. Hits that date all the way back to the ‘90s! But I’m going to add some interesting effects and ways of controlling those effects to see how the guitar reacts. It will sound lovely and I hope everyone has a good time.

More information is available at kakiking.com and arts4all.org.

—Karla Kane
THE CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

CDBG and HOME Funding Available
Fiscal Year 2020-21 Capital Projects Applications

The City of Mountain View is currently accepting applications for federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnership (HOME) fund for Capital Projects, subject to City Council approval. Capital projects are “brick and mortar” type projects. The funds will be awarded around April 2020 and distributed during Fiscal Year 2020-2021 (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021).

Estimated Capital Project Funding
CDBG - $730,269
HOME - $417,359

Eligible Activities:
Affordable housing projects, and community projects benefitting low-income individuals, households, and areas.

Application Period:
December 13, 2019 –Extended to February 7, 2020

Where to Obtain an Application:
• Download it from the City’s website at https://www.mountainview.gov/depts/comdev/preservation/cdbg/default.asp

• Call the City’s Neighborhoods Division at (650) 903-6379.

Applications are due by February 7, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

NEW PLANNED PARENTHOOD CLINIC OPENS

Mountain View’s Planned Parenthood clinic, which shuttered last year to make way for a redevelopment project, has finally reopened after months of delays.

The clinic, now located at 2500 California St., reopened on Monday, Jan. 13, after shutting down its original location on San Antonio Road last year. It serves more than 8,000 patients each year and is the only Planned Parenthood center between San Jose and Redwood City.

The fate of Planned Parenthood’s Mountain View clinic hung in the balance starting in 2017, when the developer Greystar announced plans to demolish the old location on San Antonio Road and replace it with a 623-unit apartment complex. Santa Clara County officials scrambled to work with the clinic’s parent agency, Planned Parenthood Mar Monte, to find a suitable replacement site ahead of the pending closure.

Though best known for its reproductive health services, Mountain View’s Planned Parenthood clinic also provides primary care to thousands of low-income patients and members of the county’s Valley Health Plan. Advocates worried that losing the clinic would put a strain on neighboring health care providers like MayView Community Health Center, and would leave many residents with no option but the emergency room.

Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian, who spearheaded the effort to assist Planned Parenthood, said in a press release Wednesday that nonprofit clinics are particularly important in the North County area where there are no county-run health centers, leaving it up to outside agencies to fill in the gaps.

“We rely on a network of community health centers and nonprofits like Planned Parenthood to provide these essential services,” Simitian said.

Working with city staff, Planned Parenthood purchased the California Street property in March 2018 and shortly after received a permit to open a clinic at the site. The permit grants an exemption on requirements for parking, which is slightly below the 31 spaces required by city zoning.

With plenty of room to spare at the new site, Planned Parenthood...
State bill faces uphill battle to add peer support to mental health care

IN U.S., ONLY CALIFORNIA AND SOUTH DAKOTA DON’T CERTIFY SUPPORT WORKERS

By Kevin Forestieri

ew state legislation proposed last week could broaden the roster of mental health workers throughout California, but it may face an uphill battle after back-to-back vetoes by two governors.

SB 803, authored by state Sen. Jim Beall (D-San Jose), would create a certification program for peer support specialists in California. Described as people with life experience recovering from mental illness and addiction, in recent years peer support workers have gained acceptance across the country as a valuable part of the mental health care system.

Though lacking in clinical experience, peers are “experientially credentialed” and can help patients through the recovery process, providing a unique service that is linked to reduced hospitalizations and lower health care costs, according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Santa Clara County’s behavioral health system has budgeted for 62 such positions, 51 of which are full-time.

Yet peer support workers are left in a weird place in California. There is no statewide certification process to set standards for the job, leading to a patchwork of different training requirements set by individual counties. It also makes it difficult for providers to get reimbursed by Medicaid, which could pay for 50% of the costs. Across the entire country, only South Dakota and California lack a certification program, according to the Steinberg Institute, a mental health advocacy group.

Beall told the Voice he’s been trying to get California on board with the rest of the country, starting in 2018 with SB 906. The bill would have created a certificate program for peer workers and underscored the value of the work they do, whether in emergency departments, homeless shelters or doctor’s offices.

“The peer support specialist bill is a cornerstone of a good mental health program because we have people with lived experiences through mental health challenges, specially trained to provide services in mental health settings,” Beall said.

Former Gov. Jerry Brown vetoed the bill, calling it a “costly new program” that could shut out current peer support specialists who don’t meet the new qualifications.

Beall said he thought he’d have

Mountain View demonstrators call for ‘no war’ with Iran

Bay City News Service and Mountain View Voice staff

A bout 50 demonstrators gathered in Mountain View Thursday, Jan. 9, for a candlelight protest vigil, one of many scheduled around the Bay Area that were prompted by President Donald Trump’s decision to kill Iranian military leader Qasem Soleimani.

The president’s decision was meant to deter a war not start a war, according to White House officials on Twitter.

But Iran last Tuesday fired more than a dozen ballistic missiles at two American military bases in Iraq, prompting concern that a war might start. No injuries or deaths were reported in the attack by Iran.

In addition to protests, the military action prompted the House of Representatives to vote Jan. 9 to prevent the president from going to war with Iran.

“Today’s bipartisan 224-194 vote sends a strong message to President Trump that we will not tolerate dangerous foreign policy whims that cannot be justified as ‘imminent,’” Rep. Jackie Speier, D-San Francisco/San Mateo, said in a statement.

Additional protests were held in San Francisco, Walnut Creek, Alameda, and among other places, the North Bay and South Bay.

Zume Pizza lays off 172 workers in Mountain View

ROBOTIC-PIZZA BUSINESS PIVOTS AWAY FROM PIZZA TO PACKAGING, FOOD DELIVERY AUTOMATION

By Mark Noack

Zume Pizza, the Mountain View startup premised on pizza-baking robots, announced last week it was terminating most of its workforce as part of a companywide business pivot.

Zume, which started four years ago in a Rex Manor industrial space, announced Wednesday, Jan. 8, that it would lay off more than 250 employees, most located at its Mountain View headquarters.

Zume Pizza showed a ravenous appetite for expansion, quickly spreading across the Bay Area and blanketing cities with promotional deals. The company was particularly adept at selling itself to one important group: investors. As of just a couple of months ago, Zume Inc. was still attracting massive capital, with some investors claiming the company should be valued as high as $4 billion.

But even as Zume continued to grow, it struggled to figure out its core business. As of 2018, the company began downplaying its pizza and rebranding itself as an automation platform for other food enterprises. More recently, Zume dusted off its patents for sustainable pizza boxes, and began branching out

Zume announced that it’s getting out of the pizza business and will pivot to take-out boxes and an automation platform for other food enterprises.

Maura Wilson holds a candle at a vigil calling for a peaceful solution to escalating tensions between the U.S. and Iran, at the corner of El Camino Real and Castro Street on Jan. 9.
Holiday Fund

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.

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.

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

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Thank you for supporting the Holiday Fund

As of January 14, 159 donors have contributed $75,758 to the Mountain View Voice Holiday Fund.

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FLOOD

Continued from page 1

an “unexpected archaeological discovery,” and won’t be done until the end of 2020. Though water district officials have been tight-lipped about the nature of the discovery and, at board meetings have avoided directly stating what was found, district reports and documents indicate that contractors found Native American remains at the site.

The district has since hired Andrew Galvan — a member of the Ohlone Indian Tribe and the “most likely descendant” to oversee the recovery and treatment of the archaeological discovery. Along with approving a $3 million bump to the contingency fund for the project at the Nov. 12 meeting, water district board members voted to kick in another $250,000 for Galvan’s Native American consulting services.

The latest cost estimate for Rancho San Antonio’s flood basin is just under $26 million, due to a long list of unexpected costs and delays. Contractors for the project, the Council approved an extra $75,000 for “coordination” with the higher costs. Contractors for the project, the Council approved an extra $75,000 for “coordination” with the higher costs. Contractors for the project, the Council approved an extra $75,000 for “coordination” with the higher costs. Contractors for the project, the Council approved an extra $75,000 for “coordination” with the higher costs. Contractors for the project, the Council approved an extra $75,000 for “coordination” with the higher costs. Contractors for the project, the Council approved an extra $75,000 for “coordination” with the higher costs. Contractors for the project, the Council approved an extra $75,000 for “coordination” with the higher costs. Contractors for the project, the Council approved an extra $75,000 for “coordination” with the higher costs. Contractors for the project, the Council approved an extra $75,000 for “coordination” with the higher costs. Contractors for the project, the Council approved an extra $75,000 for “coordination” with the higher costs. Contractors for the project, the Council approved an extra $75,000 for “coordination” with the higher costs. Contractors for the project, the Council approved an extra $75,000 for “coordination” with the higher costs. Contractors for the project, the Council approved an extra $75,000 for “coordination” with the higher costs. Contractors for the project, the Council approved an extra $75,000 for “coordination” with the higher costs. Contractors for the project, the Council approved an extra $75,000 for “coordination” with the higher costs. Contractors for the project, the Council approved an extra $75,000 for “coordination” with the higher costs. Contractors for the project, the Council approved an extra $75,000 for “coordination” with the higher costs.

The big trouble spot for budget woes is Rancho San Antonio, where the flood basin faced a 16-month delay from

RV PARKING

Continued from page 1

precise boundaries for where parking would be restricted. A preliminary city map published last year indicated most residential neighborhoods would be closed off, while some industrial areas of the city would remain open for large vehicles. Public works staff previously said they were still figuring out exactly which neighborhoods would fall under the narrow streets rule.

The City Council’s action last fall prompted a swift backlash. Advocates with the Housing Justice Coalition and the Democratic Socialists of America quickly canvassed the city to collect signatures for a referendum petition. In less than a month, they delivered thousands of voter signatures, forcing the city to put the ordinance on the November ballot.

Speaking before the council on Tuesday, opponents urged the city to rescind the RV ban, saying it is not worth bringing the issue to voters.

“The fact that we so quickly gathered more than the required signatures speaks to the unpopularity of this measure,” said John Lashlee of the Democratic Socialists. “To the council who voted for this, you will be the face of evictions, and you will be defeated.”

With their hands tied by the referendum, elected leaders either had to rescind the ordinance or ask voters to decide in an upcoming election. City staff reported that it was already too late to include it in the March primary. The next round of public workshops began in late February, and stakeholders could be a special election in April, but the city council said it would have to carry nearly all the costs, estimated to be upwards of $1.3 million, according to the city clerk.

Instead, the City Council threw its support behind saving the ordinance for the November presidential election, which is estimated to cost about $90,000.

It was the best choice out of a bad set of options, said Coun- clinian Chris Clark, who had opposed the parking ordinance. He admonished his colleagues for overreacting, saying it only resulted in causing further delays for the city to address the actual need.

“If we had crafted an ordinance that dealt with the safety issue and that wasn’t so broad, we might not have had to go through this referendum process,” he said. “Sometimes we don’t make the right decision the first time around.”

Local News

January 17, 2020  ■  Mountain View Voice  ■  MountainViewOnline.com  ■  7
Mountain View residents!
Something BIG is coming to a block near you!

Are you interested in:
• Getting to know your neighbors?
• Reducing your environmental impact?
• Preparing for emergencies?

Join us to learn more about a NEW program for residents

COOL BLOCK

RSVP for an information session
MountainView.gov/CoolBlock

January 23
January 30
6:30pm

State Senate Candidates Debate

Wednesday, February 5
7:30 – 9 p.m. at Palo Alto Art Center Auditorium
1313 Newell Rd., Palo Alto

Featuring

Josh Becker (D)  Michael Brownrigg (D)  Alex Glew (R)  Sally Lieber (D)  Shelly Masur (D)  Annie Oliva (D)  John Webster (L)

PANEL: Jocelyn Dong, Editor, Palo Alto Weekly
Kate Bradshaw, Reporter, Embarcadero Media
Ben Christopher, Political Reporter, CalMatters

Who will fill the 13th District State Senate seat when Sen. Jerry Hill is termed out this year?

California’s open primary election is Tuesday, March 2. Voters can vote for any candidate regardless of party affiliation. The top two in the primary will face off in November unless one candidate receives more than 50%. The 13th District runs from South San Francisco to Sunnyvale.

Sponsored by Palo Alto Weekly, Palo Alto Online, Mountain View Voice, The Almanac and CalMatters
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.
Job Lopez, a vocal social justice advocate who co-founded the Mountain View Day Worker Center, died Jan. 3 from complications related to a stroke. He was 75.

Up to his final days, Lopez was an active figure at public meetings and political events in Mountain View. He was an aggressive advocate for causes he believed in, including the city’s rent control law, tenant displacement and the struggles of undocumented families. He was equally well known for sternly confronting or denouncing those with whom he disagreed, particularly elected leaders, to remind them of the human toll of their decisions.

In his later years, Lopez’s passion for political activism crossed a line. In 2018, he was infamously caught on video vandalizing and stealing campaign signs for Libertarian City Council candidate John Inks. He was later sentenced to two years of probation and 80 hours of community service, along with $1,000 in restitution.

Lopez was born in Durango, Mexico, in 1944, and he emigrated to the United States when he was about 30 years old, according to his family. Initially, he intended to stay for only six months, but he ended up settling down and making California his home. He worked at Hewlett-Packard as a computer operator and later started a gardening business that survives to this day.

In 1996, he co-founded the Day Worker Center to create a safe venue for laborers to coordinate their efforts and ensure they weren’t being exploited by employers. At the time, workers looking for temporary jobs were gathering near a nursery on El Camino Real, and they were routinely harassed by nearby business owners and police.

To launch the Day Worker Center, Lopez collaborated with Kate Wakerly, who also founded the Mountain View Voice, and Father Eugene O’Donnell, then the pastor of St. Joseph’s Church. Initially, the small worker center was housed inside the rectory at St. Joseph’s, but the group eventually raised enough funds to purchase its current site on Escuela Avenue.

Lopez served for many years on the Day Worker Center’s board of directors, and he sometimes filled in to help manage its operations. In his later years, his active role in the community only increased, said Maria Marroquin, the Day Worker Center’s executive director. He became a frequent public speaker at meetings and events, particularly on issues of immigrant rights and affordable housing.

“He had strong opinions and he was never shy to express them,” Marroquin said. “But he was a really brave community member who was always expressing concerns about the people who were being underserved.”

Less well known were the efforts Lopez made for his friends and neighbors, particularly in the Latino community, Marroquin said. Anyone who needed help could call on Lopez to serve as a translator or to get a ride to the hospital. He opened his home to people who needed housing, and he frequently used his washer and dryer to provide clean clothes for local homeless people.

Lopez is survived by his sister, Micaelina Lopez Reyes; daughters, Emily and Lilia Lopez; and two grandchildren.

Friends and family were invited to a rosary service on Thursday, Jan. 16, at St. Joseph’s Church in Mountain View, and a funeral mass is scheduled for 11 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 17, also at St. Joseph’s, 582 Hope St. Guests are asked to RSVP to jobsmemorial@gmail.com.
the frenzied world of smartphones and computer screens. And Mead has shown remarkable success in tapping this climate of tech fatigue to draw people into his shop and enjoy the slow pleasures of a round of Settlers of Catan.

“Silicon Valley is actually a mecca for hobby gaming enthusiasts, and the tech culture totally plays into it,” he said. “People are realizing this need to interact with others on a social level, we get away from their screens. And board games have become a great connection point.”

By the standard of retail operations, Game Kastle’s growth has been meteoric in recent years. Mead opened his first Game Kastle store more than 15 years ago in an out-of-the-way industrial section of Santa Clara. After years of learning the rhythm of business, he decided to expand by opening sister stores. A Fremont Game Kastle launched in 2009, and then the Mountain View store at the San Antonio shopping center opened in 2015.

The Mountain View branch was a turning point, Mead said, when “he knew he was onto something.” The store became popular almost immediately, and that’s when he believed he had found the right formula for nurturing customer loyalty that could be replicated across the country.

“We knew we had something that could be expanded on a much larger scale,” he said. “With hobbies, the sky is the limit — there’s always something new happening in this industry.”

More recently, Game Kastle has adopted a franchise model, becoming what Mead believes is the first game store to license out its brand. New owners of the independently owned Game Kastles have opened in Reno, Nevada, Austin, Texas and Des Moines, Iowa, along with three in South Carolina. Mead expects 11 branches to be open in the coming months, and he says he is getting “flooded” with calls from people interested in opening their own stores.

“This growth of a local game store is all the more remarkable at a time when the retail industry is in the doldrums. Last year was considered to be one of the worst years on record, with more than 9,300 brand stores shutting their doors across the U.S, according to the research firm Coresight.

This trend hasn’t spared entertainment retailers. Toys “R” Us, which devoted considerable shelf space to board games, closed all of its stores in 2018. Meanwhile, the video-game chain GameStop has seen its stock plummet more than 80% over the last five years, leading some market analysts to speculate that bankruptcy is imminent.

In this context, the success of Game Kastle is somewhat of a mystery. The Mountain View store is particularly unusual: It’s hidden, tucked in the back of the San Antonio shopping center, with only a small window decal to announce its existence to anyone passing by.

Once you step inside, the store opens up. At 8,000 square feet, the Mountain View store is like a large cave, filled with rows and rows of tables and chairs. On any given weekend, these seats are filled with hundreds of customers, taking turns playing on board games, Warhammer tournaments and Dungeons & Dragons campaigns.

Many players come to Game Kastle and leave without spending a dime. In fact, the business devotes only a fraction of its space to actual sales merchandise. One corner has a few aisles of board games and collectibles along with some simple snacks and drinks for sale. Otherwise, Game Kastle is entirely filled with playing space for anyone to use, mostly without charge. The store even provides a library of free loaner games to players who don’t have anyone to play with to be encouraged to join a table and meet new people.

It’s certainly generous, but how does it work as a business model? Mead explained that when Game Kastle first started, he was laser-focused on maximizing sales space, but he eventually realized it was a losing strategy. Amazon and big-box retailers could simply run circles around small shops in terms of inventory and pricing. His advantage was to offer a better experience, giving his customers a feeling of membership in a community. Eventually he realized that creating long-term loyalty should eclipse the temptation for immediate sales.

“The retail is an afterthought for sure. That’s where we make the money, but it also comes from creating a community of loyal customers who want to support us,” Mead said. “The draw is the events that we put on and the community. As long as we can get folks to come in, we can foster a feeling of community.”

The Mountain View store echoed with silence on Monday morning, when Mead met with the Voice for an interview. Finding a seat was not a problem — there were literally hundreds of empty chairs to choose from around game tables in the store’s play area. Mead brought over his franchise manager, Seth Amsden, who he hired for spearheading the expansion strategy. The two of them were wearing matching polo shirts emblazoned with the Game Kastle logo.

Sure, the store was vacant right then, but it would be a different picture on any night of the week, Amsden explained. On weeknights and weekend afternoons, Game Kastle is packed with overlapping events and gatherings of different tribes of gamers. Chess enthusiasts could be playing next to Magic the Gathering tournament could be playing out at the same time as a role-playing club is painting figurines. It is routine for 200 people or more to attend big events like release parties or regional tournaments.

“We’ll be filling up this space almost every weekend when we have multiple groups coming in,” Mead explained. “At a certain point, it’s not about having one big event, it’s about having a lot of events all the time and creating a lot of activity.”

Some of these events can be monetized, Amsden said. Game Kastle might collect tournament entry fees and award store credit to the winner. For collectible card games, the store hosts draft events that require players to buy card packs from the store. The store has recently been experimenting with a children’s summer camp and youth program in which kids ages 10 and up learn various life skills through game playing. Each month, Google rents out the Mountain View store for a corporate board game night.

But for the most part, the store’s packed schedule of events is mainly there to bolster Game Kastle as a brand, making it the go-to place for all things gaming. As long as players stay loyal, the business side is secure.

“You can’t buy that on Amazon,” Mead said. “All we need to do is create every opportunity for our customers to support us.”

One important group that has also rallied around Game Kastle is the Bay Area’s circle of professional game designers. The store holds biweekly meetups for designers to showcase their prototype games and get feedback. An annual playtesting expo, Protospiel, has become Game Kastle’s most popular event, drawing upward of 350 attendees.

Matthew Leacock, a Sunnyvale-based games designer, said the Mountain View branch has become his regular haunt for finding new games and meeting other designers. A surprising number of former tech workers in the Bay Area are now throwing their creativity into board games, he said.

At one point, Leacock got into a conversation with a Game Kastle staffer who began talking up Pandemic, a game that has sold more than 2 million copies. Leacock tried to hide the fact that he is the game’s designer, until his wife spotted his fan.

“I was just delighted to hear other people talking about it,” he said. “It’s fun when you run into circumstances like that, but I guess you have to resist the urge to ask people what they think of your game.”

### Local News

**We’re Hiring**

The Almanac, an award-winning community newspaper and online news source that covers the towns of Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside, is looking for an enterprising full-time news reporter with a passion for local journalism.

The ideal candidate will have experience covering local government and community news, and the skills to dig up and write engaging news and feature stories for print and online. Our reporters produce monthly cover stories that highlight issues and people in our community.

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To apply, send a cover letter, resume, and three samples of your journalism work to Editor Renee Batti at editor@AlmanacNews.com.

### The Almanac

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Avenidas@450 Bryant

January 17, 2020 Mountain View Voice MountainViewOnline.com

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**KASTLE**

**Continued from page 1**

The Avenidas Door to Door transportation program uses dedicated drivers to provide rides to seniors in the community within a 12 mile radius, including:

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Avenidas@450 Bryant
better luck with Gov. Gavin Newsom, who explicitly called for peer providers to play an “expanded role” in mental health care while on the campaign trail in 2018. He authored a successor bill, SB 10, which won unanimous support in both the state Assembly and Senate last year.

“I said, ‘Hell, the governor already said he supports it. This should be a slam dunk,’” Beall said.

Newsom rejected SB 10 in October, writing in his veto message that the proposal would cost too much and would be better suited for the budget process. The governor’s proposed budget for 2020-21, released last week, doesn’t include any funds to create a certification program, Beall said.

A missing piece

Peer support has been part of the mental health treatment model for decades, in some ways mirroring Alcoholics Anonymous and other 12-step support groups, said Kelly Davis, director of peer advocacy at Mental Health America. They act as a guide through the treatment process and tag along for doctor’s appointments, listening to the patient’s story and sharing their own experiences — always with an eye toward empowerment and learning to live a life of normalcy.

While it’s a common criticism that peers are not clinical staff and lack the professional experience of a psychiatrist and psychologist, Davis said that doesn’t take away from the value they bring to patients who have to consider life beyond clinical treatment and psychiatric assessments. Patients could very well be miserable, lonely and confused while still showing improvements in depression screenings, she said.

Davis, who herself was diagnosed with bipolar disorder, believes she could have benefited from a peer supporter following her first suicide attempt and foray into mental health care at age 10. Instead, the message she was given throughout inpatient and outpatient care was to drop out of school and avoid stress, and that her “best hope” was to simply manage her illness. With little in the way of positive encouragement, she turned to support via online communities, which she credits for saving her life.

On its face, Davis said she received all the mental health care that advocates say are sorely needed in the U.S., yet it was still missing something important — peer support.

“I think for a lot of people it seems ‘fluffy’ but it’s actually extremely powerful,” she said. “People want to live a life outside of disease management, and that’s why I think it’s so important.”

‘People want to live a life outside of disease management, and that’s why I think it’s so important.’

KELLY DAVIS
OF MENTAL HEALTH AMERICA

As someone who works on national advocacy, Davis said California is a quirky outlier in the world of mental health. Places like Los Angeles, San Francisco and Sacramento are the testing grounds for some of the most ambitious mental health initiatives in the country, yet something as basic as peer support is implemented in “unbelievably” different ways from one county to the next. Qualifications to become a peer supporter, for example, can range from a speedy 48-hour training to a rigorous nine-month class.

Santa Clara County has yet to take an official position on the latest incarnation of Beall’s bill, but said in a statement that behavioral health staff believed SB 10 would have created the framework for high-quality peer and family support across the state. Like many counties, Santa Clara hasn’t waited for the state to create its own certification program, and is currently looking to hire more mental health peer support staff.

“Qualified peer support specialists can benefit clients by reducing hospitalizations, improving functioning, alleviating depression and other symptoms, and enhancing self-advocacy,” according to the statement.

El Camino Hospital also offers its own version of peer support to mental health patients in a partnership with the nonprofit National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Santa Clara County. Over 60 patients each year opt into the program and get paired with a peer support worker — trained and hand-picked by the nonprofit — who visits the hospital and shares experiences and useful advice learned along the way to recovery, said Michael Fitzgerald, the hospital’s behavioral health services director.

“Everyone talks down to (patients) — therapists and doctors saying, ‘Take your meds’ — and here you’ve got someone who really understands. They’ve been through it,” Fitzgerald said. “There’s a real value in that.”

Reading through Beall’s legislation, Fitzgerald said he supports the integration of peer support workers but was uneasy about the possibility that they could be seen as life coaches and counselors. He said he wants to avoid a situation where peers are seen as the primary caregivers.

Beall hailed organizations like El Camino Hospital and Santa Clara County for being proactive about mental health care and making it a high priority, but he said the same can’t be said of legislators in Sacramento. Finance- and policy-minded politicians and staff, he said, don’t want to deal with mental health and consider it low on the list of priorities, forcing him to try passing the same bills again and again. Much of his mental health legislation in the last six years has either been shelved, died in committee or vetoed.

“It’s certainly a real value in that, and here you’ve got someone who really understands. They’ve been through it,” Fitzgerald said. “There’s a real value in that.”
COMMUNITY BRIEFS  ▶ Continued from page 4

last year inked a lease agreement with the county to carve out a portion of the clinic space for specialty services, including pediatric dental care, cardiology, orthopedics and urology.

Though originally slated to open around the time the San Antonio clinic shuttered, the new clinic was hampered by delays through the end of last year.

—Kevin Forestieri

CHAMBER PICKS NEW CEO

The Mountain View Chamber of Commerce has selected former tech executive Peter Katz as its new CEO. Katz replaces Bruce Humphrey, who announced his departure in September.

A fourth generation Bay Area native, Katz comes with more than 30 years of experience spread between private business and nonprofits. Most recently, he worked as a consultant on strategy and social equity for the California Community Colleges. Prior to that, he was the first executive director of Genesys Works, a nonprofit that helps low-income high school seniors get into college. Katz has also held managerial positions at Xerox and Apple, along with a variety of other startups.

His education includes a history degree from the University of California at Berkeley and an MBA from Golden Gate University.

—Mark Noack

COUNTY NURSES AGREE ON NEW CONTRACT

Santa Clara County’s unionized nurses have officially voted to approve a new contract with the county, the union said Monday.

Nurses with the county’s Registered Nurses Professional Association (RNPA) voted to approve a contract they believe will address issues of pay inequity, job vacancies and lack of county support.

“Nurses were unified and together we won a contract truly worthy of our skills and experience,” RNPA president and local nurse Debbie Chang said in a statement. “By standing together we reminded county leaders the critical role nurses play in the health of our communities.”

The two parties had been negotiating since before the old contract expired Oct. 20. A new tentative agreement was reached in late December after the union threatened a labor strike, with the majority of RNPA’s members voting in favor of such action.

“Under our new contract, we look forward to building a new partnership with the county and delivering the highest quality care to our patients in a safe and dignified workplace,” Chang said.

The union said 88% of its voting membership approved the contract.

—Bay City News Service

SANDERS LEADS STATE PRIMARY POLL

Three Democratic presidential hopefuls are leading the California primary race, according to a survey released Monday, Jan. 13, by the San Francisco-based Public Policy Institute of California.

The candidate leading the way in the survey is U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, who has 27% support of likely voters, PPIC officials said. Next is former Vice President Joe Biden at 24% and U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren is at 23%.

A few other candidates collected support in the single digits among likely voters: Pete Buttigieg at 6%, Amy Klobuchar at 4% and Andrew Yang at 3%. Approximately 7% of the 530 people polled remain undecided.

This year, for the first time, California is holding its primary election on Super Tuesday, March 3, the same day as 14 other states and American Samoa.

Compared to a November 2019 survey, Sanders had gained 10 percentage points, according to the PPIC. Biden’s and Warren’s numbers didn’t substantially change.

Among younger voters, ages 18-44, Sanders has the most support at 45%. Voters 45 and over favor Biden at 32%, Warren at 22% and Sanders at 15%.

Asked which candidate had the best chance at beating President Donald Trump, 46% said Biden, 25% Sanders and 10% Warren, according to the survey.

The registration deadline for the March 3 primary is Feb. 18.

—Bay City News Service and Voice staff

PROTEST  ▶ Continued from page 5

About 25 people affiliated with various groups, including the Raging Grannies, a group which says it promotes peace, justice and equality, rallied at Willow Road and Highway 84 in Menlo Park.

The group held signs that said such things as “Jobs not War” and also sang peace songs.

“We’re fearful,” Raging Granny Ruth Robertson said.

She said today it looks as if both the U.S. and Iran are backing away from war, which makes her and others hopeful. But things can change in an instant, she said.

Robertson said she and others are “hopeful but still concerned.”

The demonstration, which was outside a Facebook office, was meant in part to give young people on “Google” buses something to think about.

In San Francisco, about 500 people called on lawmakers to avoid a war with Iran. The rally was organized by public policy advocates MoveOn and consisted of members of other groups such as CodePink and Extinction Rebellion, global environmental advocates.

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County looks to ramp up safe parking for vehicle dwellers

By Gennady Sheyner

With “safe parking” programs for vehicle dwellers rolling out throughout Santa Clara County, the Board of Supervisors agreed on Tuesday to help cities find new sites for those without permanent homes.

A day after the Palo Alto City Council voted to launch a “safe parking” program — joining the likes of Mountain View, Morgan Hill and San Jose — the board directed county staff by a 5-0 vote to move ahead with a series of initiatives relating to the programs. These include identifying sites that could be used by vehicle dwellers and stay open for 24 hours.

This would be in sharp contrast with Mountain View’s existing program, which is open to vehicles between 5 p.m. and 9 a.m., and Palo Alto’s new one, which allows vehicle dwellers to park from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. While the Palo Alto’s program is open only to congregations, with the number of vehicles limited to four per lot, Mountain View’s program also includes two city-owned sites: a lot formerly owned by the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority and a lot at Shoreline Amphitheatre, each of which can accommodate up to 30 oversized vehicles.

The county has already invested $750,000 in funding for safe parking programs, which pair participants with case managers that aim to steer them toward permanent housing. County funding helps support case management, program administration and identification of new lots, according to a news release from Supervisor Joe Simitian, who proposed increasing the county’s involvement.

According to a report from county staff, the number of county residents living in cars and recreational vehicles has increased significantly in recent years. The latest Santa Clara County census found that 18% of unhoused residents were living in vehicles, up from 8% in 2015 and 2017.

In a news release, Simitian said identifying a sufficient number of sites is the “necessary first step, and that’s been a struggle.” He said his office is hoping to spearhead a coordinated effort to identify more sites this spring in Mountain View and Palo Alto.

“Cities have faced a number of barriers to opening safe parking programs, including finding appropriate sites, the lack of insurance for nonprofit partners, and challenges in establishing 24-hour lots,” Simitian said. “We need to identify more sites, find a way to keep them open 24/7 and connect local non-profits with the insurance coverage they need to get the job done.”

Simitian said it has become increasingly clear that programs would benefit from additional support and engagement from the county. The steps approved by the board include working with nonprofits that operate safe parking sites to obtain insurance coverage; and possibly leasing parking lots at a very low cost — or even no cost. Staff was also directed to report back to the board about additional funding that would be required to make the programs “adequately scale.”

“While having enough affordable housing to house this population is the ultimate goal the County and our partners should pursue, there’s more work to be done to remove barriers for folks looking for a safe, designated place to sleep at night while seeking permanent housing,” Simitian said. Email Gennady Sheyner at gsheyner@paweekly.com

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Local News

Mountain View Voice • MountainViewOnline.com • January 17, 2020

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Los Altos district’s new Mountain View school won’t open until 2025

By Kevin Forestieri

Los Altos School District’s new Mountain View school won’t open until 2025. It’s the latest in a series of delays caused by lengthy real estate negotiations and ever-evolving plans to build a 10th school site in the center of one of the city’s fastest-growing neighborhoods.

If the school is built in 2025 — and that’s contingent on a number of things going right — it would open its doors 11 years after voters approved Measure N, a $150 million bond advertised as a way to finance new school construction. Putting that into context, children born the year Measure N passed may be too old to attend a new elementary school built with bond funds.

The district recently purchased 11.6 acres of land at the corner of California Street and Showers Drive in the San Antonio shopping center area of Mountain View, currently home to commercial tenants, with plans to raze the buildings and build a school on the site. Shortly after district officials announced the bid to buy the land from real estate giant Federal Realty in 2018, the hope was that the school could be built by fall 2021.

But the latest update, presented at the Jan. 13 Los Altos school board meeting, says designing the school and getting approval by state regulators could take until the end of 2023. The district’s complicated financing scheme for buying the land and building the school. Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in 2023 and last through 2024, with the outdoor play space available to the public by summer 2024.

School board members and the district’s top staff have long argued that delays in spending Measure N funds — now spanning more than a decade — are a testament to just how challenging it was to find a suitable site for a school in a rapidly changing and expensive real estate market. The goal of putting a school within or close to the San Antonio neighborhood of Mountain View, where enrollment is expected to surge in the coming years, only added to the difficulty.

Board president Bryan Johnson told the Voice that finding a suitable property for a new school has been more complicated and taken longer than anyone anticipated, and that only in the last three months did the site search and negotiations with property owners really begin in earnest. The district’s committee in charge of finding viable real estate for the school considered nearly every large property north of El Camino Real, including the Target on Showers Drive and the shopping center on the west side of San Antonio Road, currently home to a CVS Pharmacy and Sprouts market.

The district eventually settled on buying land at the northeast corner of the San Antonio shopping center, which includes the JoAnn fabrics store, Kohl’s, 24 Hour Fitness and several other smaller tenants. The businesses have leases that will allow them to stay until December 2022, at which point the buildings will be shuttered for demolition. Assuming none of the tenants leave early, the district will receive about $2.5 million each year in rental income.

Despite the delays, Johnson said he believes the district made the right decision in seeking to build a 10th school site in the San Antonio neighborhood, which includes the center of rapid infill development and housing growth. The area of the city is currently split between three schools that are all south of El Camino Real.

“I think the 10th site and the park are going to be the jewel of the neighborhood,” Johnson said.

Despite what appears to be a sluggish timeline, the Los Altos School District has a daunting schedule for the first half of 2020. Between January and June, trustees are expected to decide what kind of school should go on the Mountain View site, which could be a brand new elementary school, a relocated existing school or a charter school with an enrollment preference for students living in the San Antonio area.

Linked to that major decision is whether to put Bullis Charter School, which has grown beyond 1,000 students and is currently housed in portable classrooms across two school sites, Egan and Blach Intermediate schools. A pitch to move Egan Junior High to Mountain View and cede the school’s old facilities to Bullis was met with fiesty opposition in April last year, but the board has yet to formally retract the idea or propose an alternative.

A less pressing decision, but one that will affect how the future Mountain View school will be designed, is whether the school district should switch to a middle school model, shifting sixth grade students from elementary schools to Egan and Blach. Most data shows there are only 50 public junior high schools in the state, compared with nearly 1,300 middle schools, making Los Altos a rare exception in the Bay Area. Conversion to the middle school model has been discussed for years, with an eye toward purposed academic benefits for sixth grade students, but it would have far-reaching effects on enrollment across the district’s nine schools.

All of these decisions are “inter-twined” and have to be decided in the coming months if the school district sticks with the proposed 2025 timeline, Assistant Superintendent Randy Kenyon told the board at its meeting Monday. In particular, it assumes that the board makes a final decision on what kind of school should be built at the Mountain View site before the end of 2020, which kicks off the design and lengthy state approval processes, which will extend through 2022.

The hope is that, in the coming months, the school board will winnow down the options on who will attend the new school and come up with a final decision in June.

ZUME PIZZA

Continued from page 5

into selling food packaging.

In an announcement to employees last week of Zume, CEO and co-founder Alex Garden said the company was shutting down its pizza operation entirely to focus on other opportunities. He emphasized that the company would transition to work on molded-fiber food packaging and automated food production and delivery systems for other companies.

According to filings made with the state Employment Development Department, Zume is terminating a total of 172 employees who worked out of the Mountain View headquarters at 250 Polaris Ave., as well as an additional 80 workers from the company’s San Francisco office. Other media outlets reported that 80 more Zume employees were let go from its office in Seattle. The total layoffs comprise 53% of Zume’s workforce, according to the company.

These decisions were incredibly difficult as we could not reach our current success without the talents of these same people,” Garden wrote in the letter to employees. “We have done everything we reasonably can as a company to offer exit packages that will ease the transition.”
**Employment**

**Engineering**

Synopsys has the following openings in Mountain View, CA: D&D Engagement Manager – Software System Test (Req. #MGW21). Lead team of engineers engaged in implementing scalable & reliable end-to-end test of SW products & features. Member of Technical Staff (Software Engineer) (Req. #LX55S). Design, implement, & test NVRAM & DirectFlash Model device firmware. Member of Technical Staff (Software Engineer) (Req. #JLKB18). Design & develop SW for high-end enterprise apps. Member of Technical Staff (Software Engineer) (Req. #VRD37). Design & develop fault-tolerant, high-performance SW for enterprise storage systems. Mail resumes referencing Req. # to: S. Reid, 401 Castro St, 3rd Flr, Mountain View, CA 94041.

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**Don’t Be Fooled By Measure D**

When Mountain View voters passed Measure V in 2016, a key appeal to voters was that it would keep rents affordable for critically needed workers. Measure V has benefited our working families and others who struggle with high housing costs and allowed them to remain in Mountain View by limiting annual rent increases to the regional inflation rate, an average of 3.5% a year. Since 2016, landlords have been working with the California Apartment Association and allies on the City Council who have historically opposed rent control to weaken Measure V. They have crafted a new ballot proposition — Measure D, that will be brought to voters on the March ballot. Measure D is being “sold” to voters as an earthquake safety measure, when in reality it does not establish any new safety regulations. Rather, it is a way for landlords to increase annual rents up to 10% for general purposes that are typically covered by landlords.

So why should we care? Given the high costs of living, we have already lost younger family members who cannot afford to live here. Equally important, we have lost many badly needed workers — health care technicians, teachers, caregivers and service workers. Measure D will likely push some of these workers over the financial brink.

As a homeowner in Old Mountain View for 32 years, I encourage voters to be aware of how Measure D will negatively impact the very workers we need to keep most in Mountain View.

**Marilyn Winkleby**

**View Street**

**Praise for Meals on Wheels**

The piece on Meals On Wheels was excellent, and gave rightful recognition to Adela Morales, their driver representative (“Guest opinion: More to Meals On Wheels.” Jan. 10). She brings enthusiasm and high spirits of Adela, as reliant upon a wheelchair, and other human understanding sensor systems. Travel to cust/ partner locations 35%. Edu, prev empl & crim checks req. Travel to customers and others who struggle with nutritional needs of an elderly neighbor who is a bit worse for the wear, and mentioned this to Adela. Without missing a beat, she made connections so that he is now on his way to Meals On Wheels benefits.

One of my daughters, now in a top career position at Stanford, worked as an intern at Meals on Wheels as a member of the federal Jobs Corps just out of college and has nothing but praise for it.

In a low, dishonest age of fake charities, or charities with huge overheads which benefit only the parasitic staff, please keep Meals On Wheels in mind for donations and bequests. Many old folk enjoy excellent, healthy meals due to grants to Meals On Wheels.

**Lee Hopkins**

**San Antonio Circle**

**Potential April Ballot Measure**

Can it be true that a special ballot measure would cost between $1.8 million and $2.3 million? (“New mayor gears up for rent control measure, RV ban referendum.” Jan. 10)

I’ve paid taxes in Mountain View since 1975, and we can certainly wait six months to save this money. Instead, spend it on planting more than 4,000 trees, or spend it on repaving bike lanes, or how about applying for the permits to make safe parking 24/7? We will go on the ballot in November without costing us an outrageous amount of money.

Even though our current mayor says we’re flush with money, I don’t think we’re so flush with money that we should waste it on a special ballot with one line item. If Mountain View has this money, then let’s use it for bookmobiles, bike lanes, trees, supporting Green Monday, doing sustainability initiatives — why waste money on putting something on the ballot (when it) could be on a ballot six months later? Super irresponsible.

**Jane Horton**

**North Whisman Road**

**What’s on your mind?**

Tell us your thoughts on matters of interest to the community by sending your letters to letters@MV-Voice.com. Or mail them to: Mountain View Voice, P.O. Box 405, Mountain View, CA 94042.

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**What’s your view?**

All views must include a home address and contact phone number. Published letters will also appear on the web site, www.MountainViewOnline.com, and occasionally on the Town Square forum.

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Read views on Town Square at MountainViewOnline.com

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letters@MV-Voice.com. Indicate if letter is to be published.

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Change is always on the menu:
The latest openings and closings in Midpeninsula dining

By Elena Kadvany

Restaurants have been coming and going at a dizzying rate the last few weeks up and down the Midpeninsula, not to mention the news of forthcoming eateries we’re excited about (Ethel’s Fancy in Palo Alto, Tamarine going fast-casual in Mountain View, the owner of LV Mar and La Viga opening a street-food concept in Palo Alto). Catch up with our list of the latest local restaurant news.

What’s opened

Rooh: Modern Indian food is the name of the game at Rooh, the first Peninsula restaurant for owners who run several Indian restaurants in the U.S. and New Delhi. The restaurant’s calling card is a 13-foot custom wood-fired grill, smoker and tandoori oven setup that churns out charred tandoori pineapple, roasted eggplant and duck kebabs. 473 University Ave., Palo Alto; roohpaloalto.com.

Kakaroto Japanese Restaurant: Kakaroto recently replaced Niji Sushi in downtown Mountain View. Beyond sushi, there’s donburi, katsu, teriyaki and other Japanese fare. 743 W. Dana St., Mountain View.

Noodle King: Handmade biang biang noodles, Taiwanese popcorn chicken, fried leek dumplings and other Chinese dishes are on the menu at Noodle King, which took over the downtown space vacated by Sweethoney Dessert. 841 Villa St., Mountain View.

Sweet Diplomacy: The owner of this gluten-free bakery uses sweet rice, almond and tapioca flours, alternative sweeteners and coconut oil to make gluten-free cupcakes made with rice flour by Melody Hu of Sweet Diplomacy.

The Don’s Deli: Christopher Shawwa opened his third deli in Mountain View in early January, serving classic and inventive deli sandwiches, including with housemade tri-tip, pulled pork, falafel and vegan chicken. His sandwich shops (also in San Jose and Sunnyvale) double as training programs for employees who want to open their own food businesses. 2105 Middlefield Way, Mountain View; thedonsdeli.com.

Pacific Catch: Stanford Shopping Center’s newest dining option is Pacific Catch, a Bay Area seafood restaurant focused on sustainability. It replaced the longtime Max’s Opera Cafe. 711 Stanford Shopping Center, Palo Alto; pacificcatch.com.

Gluten-free cupcakes made with rice flour by Melody Hu of Sweet Diplomacy.

Melody Hu opened Sweet Diplomacy in Los Altos, after running gluten-free Petit Bakery Co. as an online business.
**OPENINGS AND CLOSINGS**

Continued from page 17

**Sushi Shin**: Jason Zhan, a native of China who trained at top sushi restaurants in New York City, opened this nine-seat omakase bar in early January. The seafood comes from Toyosu Market in Tokyo. 312 Arguello St., Redwood City; sushishinredwoodcity.com.

**What’s closed**

**Pluto’s**: Pluto’s has gone dark after more than 20 years of salads and sandwiches. A sign posted on the door says it is “temporarily closed for a refresh” but it’s not clear when or whether it will reopen. The owner did not respond to an interview request, the restaurant’s phone number is disconnected and its website is no longer operational.

**Amber Dhara**: In case you missed it, Indian restaurant Amber Dhara closed in late December to make way for Sweet Maple, a San Francisco brunch favorite, opening there this summer. 150 University Ave., Palo Alto.

**Sunny Bowl**: Korean eatery Sunny Bowl, which served customizable bibimbap bowls since 2009, is no more. 1477 Plymouth St. Suite D, Mountain View.

**Crawfish Bros**: Will 2020 be the year a concept actually sticks at 124 Castro St?

**Krug Thai**: This Thai restaurant closed for good in late 2019. Those who are missing Krung Thai’s food can visit the owners’ other restaurant, New Krung Thai Restaurant, in San Jose. 590 Showers Drive, Mountain View.

**Spice Kit**: It’s not closed yet, but get your last Spice Kit banh mi and rice bowls in soon. The fast-casual Asian street food eatery is closing in February, according to an employee. 340 California Ave., Palo Alto.

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Weekend

**MOVIE OPENINGS**

(Century 16 & 20, Icon)

Martin Lawrence and Will Smith return in “Bad Boys for Life.”

**MOVIE REVIEWS**

**1917** ★★★ 1/2

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? Almost certainly not. It’s not a bad film, but it’s not a conspicuously good film, either. Worse, with its oft-dazzling, no-expense-spared technique, it risks trivializing the often-dazzling, no-expense-spared film, but it’s not a conspicuously great film? The film to end all films? — P.C.

**Les Miserables** ★★★ 1/2

Chapman) with preventing a nearly real-time ticking clock, the friends set off on their vital mission. The devil in this story is in its thoroughly predictable details. Under the pressure of a nearly real-time ticking clock, the friends set off on their vital mission. The devil in this story is in its thoroughly predictable details. Under the pressure of a nearly real-time ticking clock, the friends set off on their vital mission. The devil in this story is in its thoroughly predictable details. Under the pressure of a nearly real-time ticking clock, the friends set off on their vital mission. The devil in this story is in its thoroughly predictable details. Under the pressure of a nearly real-time ticking clock, the friends set off on their vital mission. The devil in this story is in its thoroughly predictable details. Under the pressure of a nearly real-time ticking clock, the friends set off on their vital mission. The devil in this story is in its thoroughly predictable details. Under the pressure of a nearly real-time ticking clock, the friends set off on their vital mission. The devil in this story is in its thoroughly predictable details. Under the pressure of a nearly real-time ticking clock, the friends set off on their vital mission. The devil in this story is in its thoroughly predictable details. Under the pressure of a nearly real-time ticking clock, the friends set off on their vital mission. — P.C.

**Les Miserables** (Not Rated)

For show times, plot synopses, trailers and more movie info, visit www.mv-voice.com and click on movies.

**Ala Vaikunthapurramuloo**

Over the decades for the stage, radio, television and film. The eight-feature-film adaptation of “Little Women” includes three-time Oscar nominee Saoirse Ronan following in the footsteps of Katharine Hepburn and Winona Ryder as Jo, Writer-director Greta Gerwig (“Lady Bird”) is thinking what you’re thinking — what can this “Little Women” offer that the others — including a modern-day adaptation as recently as last year — haven’t already? She has answers. Aside from her own comic and dramatic sensibilities and a stellar cast, Gerwig’s “Little Women” adopts a bold narrative approach to retelling Alcott’s two-volume story.

**MOVIE REVIEWS**

**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 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 satisfying closure to this trilogy’s younger generation of characters. While the film includes light saber battles, blaster shootouts, space dogfights, whopping critters and fleetly chirping robots, die-hard fans have the best shot of actually enjoying it. This franchise-capper struggles to get a pulse to make its audience feel or care about the specifics of its complicated plot beyond pre-existing goodwill for “Star Wars” itself and the saga’s first female protagonist. Rated PG-13 for sci-fi violence and action.

**Little Women** ★★★★ 1/2

“Little Women” has been adapted over the decades for the stage, radio, television and film. The eight-feature-film adaptation of “Little Women” includes three-time Oscar nominee Saoirse Ronan following in the footsteps of Katharine Hepburn and Winona Ryder as Jo, Writer-director Greta Gerwig (“Lady Bird”) is thinking what you’re thinking — what can this “Little Women” offer that the others — including a modern-day adaptation as recently as last year — haven’t already? She has answers. Aside from her own comic and dramatic sensibilities and a stellar cast, Gerwig’s “Little Women” adopts a bold narrative approach to retelling Alcott’s two-volume story.

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**January 17, 2020**

**Mountain View Voice**

**MountainViewOnline.com**
THEATER
'A Doll’s House, Part 2' Jeffrey Lo 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. palyabouts.org

"The Snow Queen" Playhouse Productions takes on the timeless fairy tale “The Snow Queen” for a kid-friendly performance. Jan. 25-26, 10 a.m. and noon. $12-$14; discount for children. Palo Alto Children's Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. cityofpaloalto.org

"Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type" Palo Alto Children's Theatre presents "Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type," a comedic musical based on Doreen Cronin's beloved children's book. Jan. 23-Feb. 16; dates and times vary. $15-$25; discount for seniors and students. Lucie Stern Community School of Music and Arts, 230 San Antonio Circle, Palo Alto. thepear.org

CONCERTS
'The Pianist of Willesden Lane' Concert pianist Mona Golabek recreates her mother’s poignant saga of hope and resilience, underscored with music from Bach, Beethoven and many more. Jan. 17-Feb. 16, times vary; $25-$100. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. theatreworks.org

Sundays with the St. Lawrence Quartet Acclaimed St. Lawrence String Quartet perform an afternoon of Beethoven and John Adams. Jan. 19, 2-3 p.m. $15-$18; discounts available. Bing Concert Hall, 127 Lusen St., Stanford. live.stanford.edu

Andrew York Composer and classical guitarist Andrew York is a Grammy Award-winning artist who blends styles of ancient eras with modern musical directions. Jan. 25, 7 p.m. $15-$25; discount for seniors and students. First Lutheran Church, 600 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. peninsulaflagucer.org

The Goat Hill Girls The Goat Hill Girls perform an afternoon set of bluegrass, vintage country, Irish music and original compositions. They are also joined by Mountain View Library's adult services librarian Kylene Hurl on the harmonica and melodica. Jan. 25, 1-2 p.m. Free. Mountain View Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. mountainviewlibrary.libcal.com

James Reese Europe and the Absence of RUIN Composer and pianist Jason Moran, artistic director of the Kennedy Center Jazz program and a MacArthur fellow, presents a meditation on the life, combat service and legacy of American music legend and jazz composer James Reece Europe. Jan. 12, 7-2 p.m. $15-$60; discounts available. Bing Concert Hall, 127 Lusen St., Stanford. live.stanford.edu

Jason Danieley Award-winning Broadway star and concert performer Jason Danieley shares stories and songs from his heart. Jan. 18, 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. $50-$75. Bing Concert Hall, 127 Lusen St., Stanford. live.stanford.edu

Kaki King Brooklyn-based composer, guitarist and Golden Globe Award nominee Kaki King presents an evening of her own compositions. Jan. 18, 7:30 p.m. Free. Tacheh Hall, Community School of Music and Arts, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. artsv4all.org

TALKS & LECTURES
Cornell West Harvard University professor Cornell West discusses democracy, race and justice in this evening talk. Jan. 17, 6:30 p.m. $10-$30. Smithwick Theatre, Foothill College, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. foothill.edu

What Does a Black Hole Look Like? UC Berkeley astrophysics theorist Eliot Quataert gives a free, illustrated, nontechnical talk on how scientists were able to take the first ever image of a black hole. Jan. 22, 7 p.m. Free. Smithwick Theatre, Foothill College, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. foothill.edu

47th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade Taylor Stanton, family planning specialist, discusses current threats to women's access to health care, including the current case pending before the Supreme Court, and gives an update on ways to avoid unplanned pregnancies that can't be legislated away. Jan. 22, 2-4 p.m. $5. Los Altos Youth Center, 1 N. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. lacy-cwa.aauw.net

AUTHOR EVENTS
Stepner Fellow Reading First year Stegner Fellows in fiction and poetry, Lydia Cornhill and Sofia Elhillo, provide a reading of their works. Jan. 22, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Stanford Humanities Center, Stanford University, 424 Santa Teresa St., Stanford. events.stanford.edu

Viet Thanh Nguyen, Thi Bui, and Their Sons, Ellison and Hien Pulitzer Prize winner Viet Thanh Nguyen and Caldwell Prize winner Thi Bui bring their works to Mt. View Library for snacks, crafts and an extended bike clinic session with professional bike mechanic Ryan Murphy. Jan. 18, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. Mountain View Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. mountainviewlibrary.libcal.com

SPORTS
Bay Area Games Day Active since 1998, Bay Area Games Day invites everyone to try a new board game or play classics like Catan or Pandemic. Jan. 18, 10 a.m.-11 p.m. Free. Los Altos Library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. scl.am/engaged.info

FILM
"Screenagers: Next Chapter" "Screenagers: Next Chapter" follows filmmaker and physician Delaney Ruston as she finds herself at a loss on how to help her own teens as they struggle with their emotional well-being. Jan. 23, 6:30-8 p.m. Free. Spangenberg Auditorium, Gunn High School, 280 Azacstradero Road, Palo Alto. eventbrite.com

COMMUNITY GROUPS
Bay Area Games Day Active since 1998, Bay Area Games Day invites everyone to try a new board game or play classics like Catan or Pandemic. Jan. 18, 10 a.m.-11 p.m. Free. Los Altos Library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. scl.am/engaged.info

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Presented by the DeLeon Team

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Adobe Room
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Ken DeLeon
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