

Mountain View VOICE



INSIDE
THIS ISSUE

Home + Garden
Design
Winter 2020

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MOVIES | 22

Mountain View High loses three students to deportation

'HEARTBREAKING' NEWS DESPITE EFFORTS TO HELP FAMILIES
SEEKING ASYLUM, SCHOOL OFFICIALS SAY

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 school after immigration court judges ruled they had to leave the country. She said she was unaware of any students being arrested by ICE agents 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,

► See **DEPORTATION**, page 9



MAGALI GAUTHIER

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

► See **MAYOR**, page 16

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,

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AN EVENING WITH DR. CORNEL WEST

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
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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



COURTESY OF STANFORD UNIVERSITY

An exhibit at Stanford explores the history of Japanese gardens.

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 do: 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 Gills 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

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

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Fee?



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I register
my rental
property
online?



How can
I request
a Fee
exemption?

Join Rent Stabilization Program staff for an interactive workshop to learn about the 2020 Rental Housing Fee and how to use the new online portal to register your CSFRA rental property.

Thursday, January 16, 2020 | 6:30 p.m.

**2nd Floor Program Room, Mountain View Public Library
585 Franklin Street**

City of Mountain View | Rent Stabilization Program



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■ **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.

—Jamey 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
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., 1/2
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

500 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

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MAGALI GAUTHIER

Amber Stime faces a wall of donated water bottles in Move MV's Mountain View office that are intended for homeless vehicle dwellers using new safe parking sites. Efforts to open the lots were stymied last week when Move MV's insurer suddenly pulled out, said Stime, the nonprofit's director.

Safe parking sites delayed by insurance snafu

MORE DELAYS IN OPENING LOTS FOR HOMELESS LIVING IN CARS

By Mark Noack

The opening of new safe parking lots in Mountain View will likely face weeks of additional delays after insurers abruptly pulled out of talks to provide coverage at the sites.

Last week, advocates with the nonprofit Move MV said they were blindsided by news that they needed to find new liability coverage for three new safe

parking lots for homeless people living in vehicles.

Up to this point, Move MV officials say they thought their liability insurance was secure. Since around August, they said they had been told by insurance agents that getting coverage for the sites shouldn't be a problem.

But something apparently changed just before the Christmas holiday, said Move MV executive director Amber Stime. They received notice from their

insurer that the firm's underwriter could not sign off on a policy. Stime declined to name the insurance firm.

"We were given information that we would be covered, but they asked us to let them know when we were ready," Stime said. "I can't get into their thinking exactly, but now it looks like we have to find another insurer."

Since around November, city

► See **SAFE PARKING**, page 7

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 principal Wynne 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 ostensibly 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 are "amazing," Satterwhite said school officials are still not seeing the change they expected. The working theory now is that math

► See **ACHIEVEMENT**, page 15

Redwood City official tapped to be new city manager

KIMBRA MCCARTHY WAS MOUNTAIN VIEW'S DEPUTY CITY MANAGER UNTIL 2016

By Mark Noack

Mountain View's new city manager is a familiar face: Kimbra McCarthy, who served as the deputy city manager until 2016, has been picked for City Hall's top job.

McCarthy, who currently serves as assistant city manager of Redwood City, will begin her new position in March. She will receive a salary of \$307,000, roughly equivalent to what former City Manager Dan Rich earned before he retired last month.

The Mountain View City

Council is expected to approve McCarthy for the new position at its scheduled public meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 14.

Selecting the new city manager is among the most important decisions for local elected leaders, and they have screened nearly 70 candidates for the job. In recent weeks, council members met in a series of closed-door meetings to interview their top applicants.

McCarthy will enter the new position with a long resume of experience in government affairs. She started her career in 2007, working as a fiscal analyst for the Kansas Legislature, where

she stayed for just over a year. She relocated to California, taking a job for the county of Santa Barbara as a fiscal and policy analyst, and was later promoted to director of administration of the district attorney's office.

McCarthy came to Mountain View in 2014 to take a job as the deputy city manager. During her two years at the city, she worked on developing the city's



Kimbra McCarthy

\$15-an-hour minimum wage ordinance, and later penned a step-by-step guide for other cities interested in adopting similar policies. She also managed the City Council goal-setting process, led an interdepartmental review of the city's purchasing protocol and helped negotiate contracts with the city's labor unions. Two years later, Redwood City recruited McCarthy to serve as assistant city manager.

Prior to entering government work, McCarthy spent much of her education focusing on a legal career. She earned a bachelor's degree in political science from

Washburn University, and a master's of law from the University of Limerick in Ireland. She later returned to Washburn to get a juris doctorate in law.

"I am honored to be selected by the City Council to be the city manager of Mountain View," McCarthy said in a statement provided by the city. "I look forward to working in partnership with the council in achieving their goals and vision for the city. I'm also looking forward to leading the team of exceptional city employees." ▀

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com



Mountain View Voice

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.

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**This year, the following
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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.

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VOICE

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Thank you for supporting the Holiday Fund

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Karl Schnaitter.....	700	Nguyen Family.....	75
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MAGALI GAUTHIER

Boxes of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors sit in Move MV's office, waiting to be distributed to people living in RVs when the safe parking lots finally open.

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.

"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 sites 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 Whisman School District

OPEN ENROLLMENT 2020-21
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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 acclimatize 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



MAGALI GAUTHIER

Sarah Block, who teaches English learners at Mountain View High School, said many of her students are working through trauma suffered in their home countries as they try to build better lives in Mountain View. The moment when the realization hits that a student has to leave school is “heartbreaking,” she said.

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.

Nowhere else to turn

The Mountain View High School families facing deportation came to school staff directly for help at various points during the fall, each with a level of desperation. They had an upcoming court date, were on the verge of being deported and needed representation, and simply didn’t know where else to turn. In all three cases, Quiñones said they were well into removal proceedings, leaving her scrambling to call every legal advocacy organization she could think of. She eventually landed on SIREN, believing it was their best shot at getting help.

Last year, the school held an immigrant resource fair with a cheat sheet of all the legal resources available in Santa Clara County, which came in handy.

“I basically reached out to everyone on that list,” she said.

Concern over immigration status and deportation, while paramount for students trying to stay in the country, is just one of many challenges facing the district’s ELD students, Quiñones said. She believes all 50 of the students classified as “ELD 1” or “ELD 2,” essentially teens with beginner and early intermediate English skills, are facing financial hardships and struggling to make ends meet. Many are feeling pressured to work to support their family on top of going to school, with some dropping out when they turn 18.

“They end up in an amazing community and a wonderful

high school that has so much to offer them, yet at a really basic level they just need the basic needs that other students have and take for granted,” Quiñones said. “Things like a family unit, a roof over their head, a stable income, or not having to work to contribute to pay the rent.”

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. ■

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California's flu season starts early, but county cases remain low

VACCINE DEEMED EFFECTIVE THIS YEAR, COVERING COMMON STRAINS OF THE VIRUS

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 victims were over the age of 65, according to data through Dec. 28 released by the California

Department of Public Health. There are more people exhibiting flu-like symptoms in an outpatient setting than expected, and hospitalizations for the flu — deemed normal as of Dec. 21 — are now unusually high as well.

The rising reported cases coincide with national data released by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) showing the prevalence of reported flu cases is similar to the 2017-18 season, largely considered one of the most deadly in decades.

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 our record is four winners in a single year,” Hill said in a press release, referring to four bills inspired by constituents that he introduced in 2016, two of which became laws.

The senator typically chooses a standout bill idea and introduces legislation based on it. The person who suggested the bill will have the opportunity to testify in Sacramento at hearings on the legislation.

Laws resulting from constituents’ ideas include Jojo’s Act. The law, Senate Bill 223, allows parents to give their severely disabled children medicinal cannabis at K-12 public school campuses.

Completed entry forms may be emailed to Senator.Hill@senate.ca.gov, faxed to his district office at 650-212-3320, or mailed to the district office at 1528 South El Camino Real, Suite 303, San Mateo, CA 94402. Entries must be received by Friday, Jan. 17.

For more information, go to sd13.senate.ca.gov/submit-bill-idea.

—Angela Swartz

CHILDREN GETTING RAPID PLACEMENT WITH FOSTER FAMILIES

Santa Clara County’s foster children are no longer being held in the county’s Receiving, Assessment and Intake Center, Supervisor Dave Cortese’s office said Monday.

After months of inundation, the county’s RAIC finished processing and transferring children into foster care placement within 24 hours of receiving them, Cortese’s office said in a news release.

A memo last Thursday from county Social Services Agency director Robert Menicocci said the last child was discharged on Wednesday from the intake facility at 2300 Enborg Lane in San Jose.

For the time being, children removed from their homes will now be taken to a few locations for short-term assessments. If a child cannot be placed within 24 hours, the county has secured a few homes where the child can be cared for until a long-term placement is identified, Menicocci said in the memo.

The Board of Supervisors will be briefed with a detailed report on further options for processing and placing foster children

during its first meeting of the year on Jan. 14.

“For the sake of the children, we need to place them within 24 hours of being removed from places where they have been traumatized,” Cortese said in a statement Monday. “We do not want to be responsible for further traumatizing these vulnerable children who we are supposed to be protecting. 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 agency, 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

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

“It is vitally important that we have a diverse group of people with different experiences, skills and abilities who are willing to assume the important task of serving on the grand jury,” Ryan said in a statement.

“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 sccgov.org.

—Bay City News Service

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Bad drivers led police to downtown meth house

MOUNTAIN VIEW POLICE NOTICED DUI SUSPECTS LEAVING CHURCH STREET HOME

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 count of operating a home for the purpose of selling or using a controlled substance, along with misdemeanor drug possession charges. Polito remains in custody with a bail set at \$15,000 and is due to appear in court next



Mark Nietert



Kathleen Polito

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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RENT CONTROL

► Continued from page 1

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 projects that razed 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. The City Council 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 figure out 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 redevelop 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 saw the tenant protections as 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." ■

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com

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 Chihuahua 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.

Sharon wore many hats! She retired from Hewlett Packard after 30+ years. Sharon will be missed by all who knew her and her fiery 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, 2020 from 1pm to 6pm at The Vacaville Moose Lodge (#1976) 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.

PAID OBITUARY

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 the age of nine. 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 daily at Japanese school (Kinmon 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 before being 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 strived 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 program's two teachers for over a 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 Aiko Takita 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

ACHIEVEMENT

► Continued from page 5

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. ▣

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com



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Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program



The Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program is a voter-approved, 15-year program to ensure uninterrupted water resources services in Santa Clara County.

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

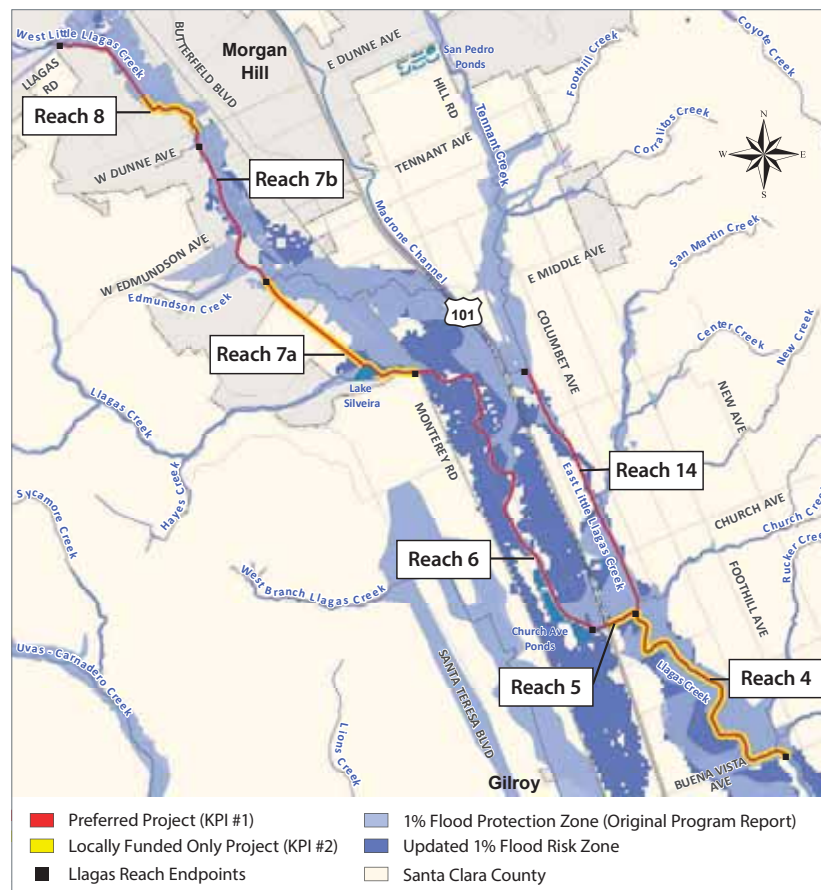
Modifications to the voter-approved program require a public hearing. The proposed modification is for the locally funded Key Performance Indicator of Project E6, the Upper Llagas Creek Flood Protection Project.

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

Project E6: Upper Llagas Map



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.

MAYOR

► Continued from page 1

circumstances. On the books, things look great: unprecedented city budget surpluses, a booming economy, and more jobs than anyone knows what to do with. Mountain View is a city where a real estate investment at San Antonio shopping center can reap a 600% return in just three years, as evidenced by the Los Altos School District's recent purchase.

'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 use to move things along."

Abe-Koga's term as mayor will



MAGALI GAUTHIER

Ellen Kamei smiles after being elected vice mayor at the Jan. 7 City Council meeting.

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 prohibiting large vehicles from 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 ordinance 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, Abe-Koga said. In either case, the referendum means the parking ban can't take effect for months, and that means the city's homeless efforts may be frozen for a while, she said.

"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 homelessness 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 also need to make life 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 drafted last year 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 and calling speakers, 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.

Asked about 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 time commitment this 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 on the city."

Email Mark Noack at mmoack@mv-voice.com

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 critical housing improvements like seismic retrofits; clarify mobile homes are exempt; and make technical revisions?	YES
	NO

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

Dated: January 10, 2020

Lisa Natusch
City Clerk, City of Mountain View

Public Notices

997 All Other Legals

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
Case No.: 19CV359097
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: BROOKE ANTONIA MOORHEAD filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
BROOKE ANTONIA MOORHEAD to BROOKE ANTONIA RIGGIO.
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.
Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days

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 following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE
Date: November 26, 2019
/s/ Julie A. Emede
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(MVV Dec. 27, 2019; Jan. 3, 10, 17, 2020)

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

Musical sisterhood and local roots

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

By Yoshi Kato

As 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 long history with them. Jenny is a wonderful songwriter and also does cover music. ... She plays guitar, dobro, harmonica and banjo, and has just a killer, soulful voice and does a really kind of swampy, rocky roots music as well as ballads,” she continued. “It’s just a real wonderful variety.”

Keller had discovered the Jenny Kerr Band online and appreciated

the quality of recordings as much as the music. When she and Kerry went to hear the group in concert, she asked Phil Milner, Kerr’s longtime guitarist and producer, if he might help them record some of her songs “so our kids will have it, that kind of thing,” she said.

“So we introduced ourselves and said, ‘We love you guys, and we love the production.’ And he said, ‘Why don’t you come up to the house, and let’s have a listen?’

“And he told us afterwards that they do this all the time, and they thought they would listen and have to say, ‘Oh, really nice. Well, we don’t really have time to fit you in to do any recording...’ But they loved the music, and we really hit it off on a personal level,” she said.

As for The Keller Sisters’ sound, she described the eight-year-old band’s aesthetic as “everything from folk-rock to blues to sort of country-ish. The Americana roots scene, really.”

While Sheryl has been writing original material since the end of 2011, she and Kerry have been singing together for considerably longer. Their mother, Eileen Keller (stage name Eileen Christy) was a talented theatrical vocalist who was under contract at MGM

in the early ‘50s and toured with John Raitt, acclaimed guitarist/vocalist Bonnie’s father.

“So our house was filled with music from the time we can remember,” Keller reminisced. “And we would sit together in a big chair while she had her vocal coach at the house and while she was working on material. Then when we were in our early teens, she decided that we were going to do summer stock with her,” she added, with a chuckle. “So we did musicals with her. The main one we did was ‘The Sound of Music,’ and we were two of the (von Trapp) children. And we’ve been singing harmonies together since I can’t even remember when.

“Our mother toured my whole childhood,” she said. “This was in the ‘60s, and my dad worked full time. But he took care of us. He had a woman who came in and stayed with us. But it was a pretty cool thing that, in those years, my father totally supported my mother. She was out on the road, and he was holding down the fort.”

Keller’s teen years were when she also started to develop her own musical style. She started playing guitar, and those



COURTESY OF THE ARTISTS

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

harmonies that she and Kerry sang together transitioned from ones they utilized for show tunes to Beatles numbers.

She and Kerry both graduated from San Mateo High School and established roots on the Peninsula until she moved to the East Bay and her sister to South San Francisco.

No longer living nearby means that Sheryl can’t just quickly pop over to her younger sibling’s as she’s in the process of writing a song any more. There’s more commuting involved now, but the sisters are starting to establish relationships with venues out east as well as down here.

“A common thread for our

■ INFORMATION

What: The Keller Sisters, opening for Jenny Kerr Band.

Where: Club Fox, 2209 Broadway St., Redwood City.

When: Sunday, Jan. 12, at 7:30 p.m.

Cost: \$15-\$20.

Info: Go to clubfoxrwc.com or call 831-334-1153.

whole life has been music,” she said. “It just brings us joy whether we’re listening to it or performing.”

Freelance writer Yoshi Kato can be emailed at yoshiyoungblood@earthlink.net.



CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

NOTICE

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING RENGSTORFF PARK AQUATIC CENTER REPLACEMENT, PROJECT 18-38

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) 903-6162 or email david.printy@mountainview.gov. Please also visit the Project Website at www.mountainview.gov/rengstorffpool.

Para más información, por favor llame al (650) 903-6145.
С вопросами звоните по телефону (650) 903-6145.

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a guide to the spiritual community

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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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More than a meal

MEALS ON WHEELS IS A LIFELINE FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS

Guest Opinion

By Margaret Abe-Koga
and Michele Lew

Chris 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.

■ LETTERS

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

HEADCOUNT TAX

The city may not look much different after the \$6 million large company head tax, but that revenue could be transformative for Mountain View's K-8 district ("City set to launch new headcount tax," Dec. 13). Imagine pride and property values if our K-8 district was one of the region's most well-funded?

Funding has a direct correlation with a school's success. Our high school district is already the highest-paying district in California, yet Mountain View's wealth hides that funding and achievement inequalities in the K-8 Mountain View Whisman School

District. Six million dollars is about the same our K-8 school district would regularly receive if school tax funds were not redirected to the special and now outdated Shoreline business district.

The head tax was a voter measure so it is directly spoken for already, but that does not stop Mountain View from using its imagination to then give our schools their full share of the Shoreline funds. There are very few city policies that can transform students' lives overnight; this is one of those moments that could change Mountain View overnight.

*Christopher Chiang,
former MVWSD trustee
Space Park Way*

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 letters@MV-Voice.com. Or snail-mail them to: Mountain View Voice, P.O. Box 405, Mountain View, CA 94042.



■ RESTAURANT REVIEW



Tam Tam doubles the pleasure

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

Story by Edward Gerard Fike
Photos by Magali Gauthier

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



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-tamari 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 Ordnance 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

Weekend

TAM TAM

► Continued from page 19

exclude 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 furthers 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 ledger 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



Tam Tam opened in the space previously occupied by Opa Mediterranean restaurant, on the western end of University Avenue in Palo Alto.

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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 the intriguing corn pavlova (\$9), which combines baked egg white meringue with corn mousse and freeze-dried corn.

Tam Tam's vibe is contemporary and comfortable. A collection of yellow backlit panels dot the restaurant and cast a

tranquil glow. A long communal table — a detail cribbed from Tamarine — attracts a diverse group of diners in the center of the room. The restaurant provides ample space for the remaining tables, bucking the modern trend of squeezing guests into ridiculously tight spaces. The Vietnamese art is striking, though the stone covered walls and dark wood, holdovers from Opa, suggest an influence that's more Santorini than Saigon. Huynh says there are plans to refinish the walls for a softer look during a second phase of remodeling. Removing the block veneers would also reduce the booming noise level.

Service was sincere, attentive and cordial. Our server handled my guest's onion allergy with great care, reviewing her concerns when the order was taken

and providing reassurance once food was delivered. There was an easy flow to the dining sequence, impressive for such a young operation.

Sequels often fizzle, but Tam Tam lives up to its lofty expectations. Hartley and Huynh are already plotting the next chapter, taking their sister act to Mountain View's San Antonio Road, where they plan to roll out their revived Vietnamese fast-casual concept in spring 2020. ■

■ 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., 5-9 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



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

Marketplace

The Mountain View Voice offers advertising for Home Services, Business Services and Employment.

If you wish to learn more about these advertising options, please call 650.223.6582 or email digitalads@pawebly.com.

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CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

2019 ANNUAL FLUSHING PROGRAM

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.

MOVIE OPENINGS



George MacKay plays a British soldier in World War I tasked with preventing a deadly ambush in "1917."

A 'meh' war

'1917' TURNS WWI INTO A CINEMATIC STUNT

★★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? 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 epochal historical event.

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 "Rope"), 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 by delivering stand-down orders to a battalion that also happens to include Tom's brother (plus guest star Benedict Cumberbatch). Under the pressure of a nearly real-time ticking clock, the friends set off on their vital mission, encountering many dangers, toils and snares seasoned with amazing grace (these include encounters with a German pilot, a German sniper and, by painterly soft amber light, a French mother and child).

The devil's in the thoroughly predictable details, with Mendes attempting to thread the needle of a moving anti-war film in that narrow space between an amped-up, but arguably tasteless, transformation of war into thrill ride and the filmic wizardry that, when examined too closely, rings as hollow as a war machine rapped with a wrench. That's why Mendes' best asset isn't his crew but his cast, angels with stricken faces laboring to provide the earnestness the rest of the picture can't begin to muster. The "look at me!" form keeps undressing the picture's "Emperor's New Clothes" faux-sincere function.

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 critic ("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 that "1917" is the best picture of 2019 and, by extension, one for the ages? Let's meet back here in even a few years and see how indelible Mendes' film turned out to be. *Rated R for violence, some disturbing images, and language. One hour, 59 minutes.*

— Peter Canavese

NOW SHOWING

1917 (R) Century 16: Fri.-Sun.
Century 20: Fri.-Sun.
ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.

A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood (PG) Century 20: Fri.-Sun.

A Hidden Life (PG-13)
Aquarius Theatre: Fri.-Sun.

Bombshell (R) Century 20: Fri.-Sun.
ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.

Cats (2019) (PG) Century 16: Fri.-Sun.
Century 20: Fri.-Sun.

Darbar (Not Rated) Century 16: Fri.-Sun.

Ford V Ferrari (PG-13)
Century 16: Fri.-Sun. Century 20: Fri.-Sun.

Frozen II (PG) ★★★
Century 16: Fri.-Sun. Century 20: Fri.-Sun.

The Grudge (2020) (R)
Century 16: Fri.-Sun. Century 20: Fri.-Sun.
ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.

Jumanji: The Next Level (PG-13) ★★★
Century 16: Fri.-Sun. Century 20: Fri.-Sun.
ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.

Just Mercy (PG-13) Century 16: Fri.-Sun.
Century 20: Fri.-Sun.
ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.

Knives Out (Not Rated)
Century 16: Fri.-Sun. Century 20: Fri.-Sun.
ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.

Like a Boss (R) Century 16: Fri.-Sun.
Century 20: Fri.-Sun.
ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.

Little Women (1933) (Not Rated)
Stanford Theatre: Fri.-Sun.

Little Women (1949) (Not Rated)
Stanford Theatre: Fri.-Sun.

Little Women (2019) (PG) ★★★1/2
Century 20: Fri.-Sun.
Palo Alto Square: Fri.-Sun.
ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.

Parasite (R) ★★★1/2
Aquarius Theatre: Fri.-Sun.

Spies in Disguise (PG)
Century 16: Fri.-Sun. Century 20: Fri.-Sun.

Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker (PG-13) ★★1/2 Century 16: Fri.-Sun.
Century 20: Fri.-Sun.
ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.

Uncut Gems (R) Century 20: Fri.-Sun.
Palo Alto Square: Fri.-Sun.
ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.

Underwater (PG-13)
Century 16: Fri.-Sun. Century 20: Fri.-Sun.
ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.

Aquarius: 430 Emerson St., Palo Alto (For recorded listings: 327-3241) tinyurl.com/Aquariuspa
Century Cinema 16: 1500 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View
tinyurl.com/Century16

Century 20 Downtown: 825 Middlefield Rd., Redwood City
tinyurl.com/Century20

CineArts at Palo Alto Square: 3000 El Camino Real, Palo Alto
(For information: 493-0128) tinyurl.com/Pasquare

ShowPlace Icon: 2575 California St. #601, Mountain View
tinyurl.com/iconMountainView

Stanford Theatre: 221 University Ave., Palo Alto
(For recorded listings: 324-3700) Stanfordtheatre.org

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

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



Welcome to 2020!

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

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

Information obtained on MLS on January 1, 2020
DOM – Days on the Market



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'JOURNEY OF THE SIMORGH'

A dance and music concert by the Simorgh Dance Collective, adapted from Farid ud-Din Attar's Persian epic, "The Conference of the Birds." Jan. 11, 7 p.m. \$35-\$50. Menlo-Atherton High School Performing Arts Center, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton. journeyofthesimorgh.bpt.me

THEATER

'The Pianist of Willesden Lane'

TheatreWorks 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 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. paplayers.org

'Dragons Love Tacos' Based on Adam Rubin's bestselling children's book, "Dragons Love Tacos" is a tale of friendship and the perfect food. Jan. 17-18; times vary. \$13. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. tickets. mvcpa.com

Manual Cinema Puppetry masters Manual Cinema perform "No Blue Memories," a work about the celebrated Chicago poet Gwendolyn Brooks. Jan. 17-18, 7:30 p.m. \$15-\$52; discounts available. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. live.stanford.edu

'Taking Steps' Director Troy Johnson and Bay Area comic actors take on Alan Ayckbourn's farce "Taking Steps," where chaos unfolds in a haunted Victorian house. Jan. 16-Feb. 9; dates

and times vary. \$20-\$35. The Pear Theatre, 1110 La Avenida St., Mountain View. thepear.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 26, 12:15-12:45 p.m. Free. All Saints Episcopal Church, 555 Waverley St., Palo Alto. asaunts.org

Capriccio Trio Cellist Dahna Rudin, pianist Dmitriy Cogan and violinist Alex Eisenberg come together for an afternoon performance of music by Latin composers. Jan. 14, noon-1:30 p.m. \$25. Oshman Family JCC, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. paloaltojcc.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

Jason Danieley Award-winning Broadway star and concert performer Jason Danieley shares stories and songs from the heart. Jan. 18, 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. \$50-\$75. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. live.stanford.edu/calendar/january-2020/jason-danieley

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. Tateuchi Hall, Community School of Music and Arts, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. arts4all.org

Master Sinfonia Chamber Orchestra The Master Sinfonia Chamber Orchestra

performs pieces by Respighi, Holst and Mozart. Jan. 11, 7:30 p.m. \$15-\$25; discount for seniors and students. Palo Alto High School Performing Arts Center, 50 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto. mastersinfonia.org

Kronos Quartet Kronos Quartet performs music from the '60s, "the years that changed America." Jan. 15, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$15-\$60; discounts available. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. events.stanford.edu

TALKS & LECTURES

California Senate District 13 Climate and Environment Forum All six candidates for California Senate District 13 discuss climate crisis and key environmental issues facing this region. Jan. 15, 7-9:30 p.m. Free. Menlo-Atherton Performing Arts Center, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton. eventbrite.com

Burke Collection Symposium Stanford Text Technologies and the Stanford Libraries host a public symposium exploring the art of manuscript illuminators with a world-class collection of Italian manuscript materials. Jan. 15, 1-5:30 p.m. Free. Cecil H. Green Library, Stanford University, 557 Escondido Mall, Stanford. arts.stanford.edu

Dr. Cornel West Harvard University professor Cornel West discusses democracy, race and justice in this evening talk. Jan. 17, 6:30 p.m. \$35-\$45. Smithwick Theatre, Foothill College, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. foothill.edu

The Joyful Vegan Vegan advocate and author Colleen Patrick-Goudreau joins GreenTown for a talk on plant-based eating and its benefits. Jan. 14, 6:30-9 p.m. Free.

Los Altos Library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. scl.evanced.info/signup/eventdetails?eventid=123311&lib=5

MUSEUMS & EXHIBITS

Big Shaker Ride the world's largest mobile earthquake simulator and experience what an 8.0 magnitude earthquake feels like. Jan. 11, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. Los Altos History Museum, 51 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. losaltoshistory.org/events/be-prepared-for-the-big-one/

LESSONS & CLASSES

Become a Super Searcher with Dan Russell Dan Russell, author of "The Joy of Search" and a senior search scientist at Google, leads a search workshop to make the most of online searches. Jan. 15, 6:30-8 p.m. Free. Mountain View Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. mountainview.libcal.com

Kindness Workshop Mentor and coach Priya Kasturi teaches how to bring a community together and practice kindness and connection. Jan. 11, 1-2:15 p.m. Free. Mountain View Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. mountainview.libcal.com

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Hands-only CPR and AED course Learn how to perform compression on an adult and child and use an automatic external defibrillator to aid a choking person. Jan. 15, 6-7:30 p.m. Free. Los Altos Hills Town Hall, 26379 Fremont Road, Los Altos Hills. eventbrite.com

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Baylands King Tide Guided Walk Volunteers guide a tour of the baylands

during the highest tides of the year. Jan. 11, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Free. EcoCenter, 2560 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto. evols.org

SPORTS

Library 2 Library Bicycle Loop Tour The 2020 Library 2 Library Bicycle Loop Tour stops by the Mountain 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. mountainview.libcal.com

VOLUNTEERS

Mentor Tutor Connection Volunteer Information Session Learn about volunteer opportunities for mentoring high school students and tutoring K-8 Mountain View and Los Altos students. Jan. 15, noon-1 p.m. Free. El Camino YMCA, 2400 Grant Road, Mountain View. losaltoschamber.org

AUTHOR EVENTS

Kiersten White's 'Chosen' New York Times bestselling author Kiersten White sets her second novel, "Chosen," in the world of "Buffy the Vampire Slayer." Jan. 11, 3-4 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. keplers.org

'Imperfect Union' In "Imperfect Union," NPR's Steve Inskeep unearths the life stories of one of America's earliest power couples: John and Jessie Frémont. Jan. 14, 7:30-8:30 p.m. \$15-\$45; discount for students. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. keplers.org



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“ 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

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