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By Mark Noack

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Muilenburg was arrested and booked into Santa Clara County jail on May 13 and posted $75,000 bail. He was arraigned on June 7 and pleaded not guilty to one count of lewd acts with a child.

By Kevin Forestieri

At the table

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By Mark Noack

MayView grows to tackle growing need

CLINIC ADJUSTS TO HANDLE SPECTRUM OF PATIENT CARE

By Mark Noack

Health care can be an afterthought for the thousands of people who lack food, housing or security in Santa Clara County.

The pattern is well known to health officials: those struggling to make ends meet often ignore symptoms like a cough, a lump or a tingly arm until the situation becomes dire. That’s what leads many people to end up in the emergency room with medical conditions that could have been easily treated if they were addressed much earlier.

Every day at the MayView clinic in Mountain View, a small health care team is focused on trying to reverse this trend by delivering preventative care before chronic health problems turn critical. This year, MayView has never been so well equipped to pursue its mission, but it also hasn’t ever faced such big challenges, said Charlene Gliniecki, a registered nurse practitioner at MayView Community Health Center in Mountain View.

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While presented by city officials as a traffic safety measure,
Every kind of care for every kind of patient.

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A new hospital for more healing.
HOLIDAY EVENTS

The busy holiday season gets a whole lot busier when you factor in the many Midpeninsula events, from performances and parades to festive displays and exhibits. We’ve collected some highlights of the coming week.

Ernie’s trains
What: John Bianco is continuing his late father’s tradition of putting on a holiday model-train display.
When: Weather permitting, five tracks will run trains every evening (except Mondays) through Dec. 25 from 6:30-9 p.m.
Where: 2387 Adele Ave., Mountain View.

‘Miracle on 34th Street’
What: Los Altos Stage Company presents a radio play version of “Miracle on 34th Street” through Dec. 22.
Where: 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos.
More information: losaltosstage.org/miracle-on-34th-

‘The Christmas Ballet’
Where: Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View.
When: Nov. 29-Dec. 1, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. More information: smuinballet.org/2019-20-season/

Los Altos Festival of Lights Parade
What: Downtown Los Altos’ annual Festival of Lights Parade features floats, marching bands and more.
Where: Downtown Los Altos.
When: Dec. 1, 6-8 p.m.
More information: Downtown Los Altos will also hold a tree-lighting celebration on Dec. 6, 6-8 p.m. losaltosparade.org; downtownlosaltos.org.

‘Gypsy Soul Holiday Experience’
What: Eclectic jazz-pop duo Gypsy Soul puts its own spin on holiday music.
Where: Club Fox, 2209 Broadway St., Redwood City.
When: Dec. 1, 7 p.m.
More information: clubfoxrwc.com/e/gypsy-soul-holiday-experience-7218327313/.

—Karla Kane
Únase a la Ciudad de Mountain View en esta Reunión Comunitaria para ayudar a identificar y priorizar las necesidades de vivienda asequible, personas sin hogar y mejores para la comunidad para los próximos cinco años. ¡Queremos escuchar de usted!

¿Por qué esto es importante para ti?
La Ciudad de Mountain View recibe fondos federales para invertir en la comunidad. ¿Cómo cree usted deben gastarse estos fondos? Su aporte ayudará a los líderes de la Ciudad a crear lista de prioridades de los gasto para servicios importantes y mejoras de la comunidad.

¿Por favor únase a nosotros!
Lunes, 9 de Diciembre
2:00 a 4:00 pm
Mountain View City Library
585 Franklin Street
1er Piso Sala de Programa
Mountain View, CA 94041
Se proporcionarán refrescos.
Visite www.mountainview.gov/ para aprender más.

¿Cómo puede participar?
1. Venga a nuestra Reunión Comunitaria con muchas oportunidades para participar
2. Teme nuestra breve encuesta en línea:
   www.surveymonkey.com/r/SCC_REGIONALSURVEY
La encuesta está disponible en inglés, español, mandarín y vietnamita
City readies trio of safe parking lots for homeless

Mountain View’s safe parking program is on the cusp of a dramatic expansion, potentially adding enough space to take about 70 inhabited vehicles off the city’s streets this winter.

City officials say they are just about ready to launch three new safe parking sites, each larger than any current locations. If all goes according to plan, city staff and nonprofit partners believe the expanded safe parking program can eventually funnel homeless people off the streets and into permanent housing.

The first and largest of the new sites is a city-owned parking lot located near Shoreline Amphitheatre at the corner of Crittenden Lane. Under city guidelines, the lot is expected to hold up to 30 RVs or trailers, significantly more than city officials originally expected. The downside is the site can only be used temporarily, during the winter, and that window is closing. By March 15, city officials say the Shoreline lot must be cleared out because of the city’s contract with Live Nation for use of the parking during the amphitheater’s concert season.

Exactly when the Shoreline lot will begin taking in residents is up in the air, and neither the city nor its nonprofit partners could provide a firm launch date to the Voice. In recent days, city officials say they have canvassed all the inhabited vehicles in Mountain View to encourage occupants to sign up for the safe parking program through the Community Services Agency (CSA). A waiting list of families and individuals is ready to go as soon as the safe parking sites open, said CSA executive director Tom Myers. The nonprofit has reportedly been screening applicants to ensure their RVs or other vehicles are functional.

When a sufficient number of people are cleared to move in, the Shoreline lot will open up, said Amber Stine, director of Move MV, the nonprofit that runs Lots of Love, which offers overnight parking in RV lots.

“Right now, the lots are ready, and as soon as the tenants are ready, they’ll open up,” she said.

“Quite a few vehicles need some repairs, and we don’t want them...
How to Give
Your gift helps children and families in need
Contributions to the Holiday Fund will be matched dollar for dollar to the extent possible and will go directly to seven nonprofit agencies that serve Mountain View residents. Last year, more than 150 Voice readers and the Wakerly, Packard and Hewlett foundations contributed a total of $72,000. We are indebted to the Silicon Valley Community Foundation which handles all donations, and deducts no administrative costs from your gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law. All donations will be shared equally with the seven recipient agencies.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Community Health Awareness Council
CHAC serves Mountain View, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and seven school districts. Among the services it offers are school-based counseling and programs to protect students from high-risk behaviors.
nurse who serves as the clinic’s human resources director. The small Mountain View clinic, located right above a AAA service center on El Camino Real, has an excellent management team, a devoted medical staff and a stable funding model, she said. But its mission is also expanding, she said. Over the last year, the number of patient visits jumped by 37%, including large increases in those who were uninsured or underinsured. Of that patient base, more than one out of three lives in Mountain View. MayView never turns away any patients, regardless of their ability to pay, but as a matter of principle, the clinic doesn’t go after people for payment. To its core, MayView has a culture that stands in stark contrast to the profit-driven health care market. “We feel it’s important for people to give what they can,” Gliniecki insisted. “But we never send collectors after people. We don’t chase people down; that’s just not what we do.”

MayView is one of seven non-profit organizations serving Mountain View residents that benefit from the annual Mountain View Community Foundation Holiday Fund. Donations to the fund are divided equally among the nonprofits and are administered by the Silicon Valley Community Foundation at no cost, so 100 percent of contributions go to the recipients.

Medical practitioners describe MayView in 2019 as rebounding after some years of struggle. A couple of years ago, the clinic was overbooked and overwhelmed. A patient could easily be left waiting three months for an appointment. The clinic was hemorrhaging staff as many doctors and nurses were being poached by larger hospitals that could pay more. For a period, a smaller MayView clinic in Sunnyvale closed down due to the staffing shortage.

The clinic learned some significant lessons from those years. To this day, the clinic still hires scribes to act as executive assistants for physicians, freeing up time for doctors to see more patients. MayView’s CEO Ken Graham, the former CEO of El Camino Hospital, came out of retirement last year to help steer the clinic back on track, focusing its limited resources on obtaining new certifications, updated records systems and improved staff organization. Morale has improved, grant funding has steadily increased and a medical staff turnover has declined.

“It’s been a 180 in the way the clinic is run. It’s efficient but it still has that family feel of putting patients first,” said Alexandra Horevitz, MayView’s social worker.

Horevitz is spearheading the clinic’s integrated behavioral health program, a new initiative made possible as part of a $1.7 million grant from El Camino Healthcare District earlier this year. Under that program, MayView staffers try to take into account psychological factors like stress, depression or substance abuse as they treat patients’ medical conditions.

This presents a unique challenge, Horevitz said. Plenty of patients are living high-stress lives trying to afford to stay in this area. It’s common to hear of patients working two or three jobs and living in overcrowded apartments. Often there’s no easy fix to their situation when poverty is a factor, she said, but at the very least MayView can provide a place for isolated or depressed patients to unload their emotional baggage.

It is just one effort to meet the unique needs of its patient base. Just down the hallway, Ana Karen Marquez administers the clinic’s whole person care program, which tries to take into account each patient’s obstacles to getting care, such as transportation, income or psychological factors. In some cases, this involves calling up patients to give reminders to take their medication or attend an appointment. She describes her role as helping patients navigate their own health care.

“It’s a missing piece,” Marquez explained. “People have so much on their minds, and they’re being bounced between so many specialists that they get lost in the process.”

Email Mark Noack at mnnoack@mv-voice.com

RV BAN

RV ban was widely interpreted as a crackdown on the city’s surging homelessness population. For years, the number of homeless individuals in Mountain View has been growing, and the most visible sign of it has been several large encampments where people live out of their vehicles.

Ever since the parking ban was first proposed, advocates with the Housing Justice Coalition warned they would work to overturn it. Under city rules, ordinances approved by the City Council do not take effect for 30 days, and they can be overturned through a citizen petition process. To qualify, a referendum petition must include signatures from at least 10% of the registered voters in Mountain View, which equates to more than 3,700 individuals.

Housing Justice Coalition members have been working around the clock to collect signatures ever since the council’s decision, said Eddie Keating, an organizer with the group. About 100 volunteers with Housing Justice and the Silicon Valley Democratic Socialists of America were stationed outside supermarkets, Caltrain stops and other hot spots to solicit people to sign the petition, she said.

Earlier this week, Housing Justice members said they had only 3,300 signatures, about 400 short of what was needed to qualify. Organizers expressed optimism that they could close the gap before the deadline, but behind the scenes they were more nervous than they let on, said former Councilman Lenny Marutz.

“We just showed Mountain View and the region that we’re a community for all,” he said. “By working together we can reverse the flow of gentrification.”

With the referendum petition submitted, the City Clerk’s Office will perform an initial count to verify that it has enough signatures. If it passes muster, the petition will be sent to the county Registrar of Voters for signature verification.

Upon verification by elections officials, the City Council at its next regular meeting must either repeal the entire ordinance or bring it before Mountain View voters.

Even if the referendum fails, the city parking ban could still be challenged on legal grounds. As the council considered the ordinance, a coalition of civil rights attorneys warned that they were ready to file a lawsuit arguing the city’s restrictions are unconstitutional.

Mountain View city officials have been working to expand a safe parking program at various sites across the city where people living out of their vehicles could sleep overnight. By the numbers, these safe parking sites will not be able to accommodate the hundreds of people currently living out of their vehicles any time in the near future.

Reached for comment, Councilwoman Ellen Kamei pointed out the city has been taking extensive steps to provide safe parking sites for vehicle residents. She was one of four city council members who voted in favor of the large vehicle ban.

“I respect the public process and we will soon learn the outcome from the Registrar of Voters, she wrote in an email. “The City Council will then have to decide next steps should the petition be certified.”

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.

We’ve added lots of new benefits to the Avenidas Village membership program, including free and discounted rides. Come learn more at a free Coffee Chat. Over a cup of coffee, you’ll hear from members how Avenidas Village enriches their lives.

To register, call (650) 289-5405 or visit www.avenidasvillage.org

The Top 5 Reasons People Love Their Avenidas Village Membership!

- I feel safer because of the 24/7 assistance!
- I depend on my Avenidas Village “Med-Pal” volunteer to take notes for me at my doctors’ appointments!
- I love the transportation assistance and free rides to Avenidas!
- I appreciate the vast network of vetted vendors and the pre-negotiated discounts!
- I enjoy all the social activities!

To find out more about Avenidas Village, feel free to call, stop by or attend one of our monthly Coffee Chats.

DECEMBER: Tues. 12/3 and Tues. 12/17
JANUARY: Thurs. 1/9 and Tues. 1/21
FEBRUARY: Thurs. 2/6 and Tues. 2/25

All Coffee Chats start at 2pm.

The City of Mountain View
2019 ANNUAL FLUSHING PROGRAM

Avenidas Village
450 Bryant Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301

November 29, 2019

Continued from page 1

Continued from page 1
Foothill-De Anza board approves duo of tax measures for March 2020 ballot

TRUSTEES, STUDENTS AND FACULTY SAY A FACILITIES BOND AND PARCEL TAX ARE BOTH SOLELY NEEDED

By Kevin Forestieri

To the sound of cheers and applause, the Foothill-De Anza Community College District’s board of trustees approved two tax measures Monday that could alleviate budget woes and provide state-of-the-art facilities to both college campuses — including the possibility of student and staff housing.

The board voted 5-0 at the Nov. 25 meeting to place an $898 million facilities bond on the March 2020 ballot, the largest school bond in the county’s history, along with a $48 parcel tax measure that would generate $5.5 million annually for five years. Though both were approved separately and have different missions, a large group of students and teachers at the meeting said that both are essential at a time when housing affordability threatens the high-quality education provided by Foothill and De Anza colleges.

Generating the most excitement was the possibility that the bond measure could be used for affordable student and staff housing in addition to building and renovating classrooms. An early list of capital projects suggests that up to $200 million could be invested in residential projects, including transitional housing for students and employees who are facing homelessness.

“I really believe that you have the opportunity to do something historic, which is reimage in the 21st century the role that community college districts can play,” said Campbell resident Sergio Lopez.

Staff is expecting to update the district’s 2016 facilities master plan next year to refine how to best spend the $898 million in bond funds, but recently injected two new priorities — housing and carbon emission-cutting projects — into the existing plan. A 2018 survey that found 19% of students attending Foothill have experienced homelessness in the last year.

De Anza student Ashley Aquino said she has been struggling with housing issues and currently lives in a trailer, which is small and difficult to work in, and that she stays on campus to do school work until it closes for the day. She said the bond could resolve those issues, while a parcel tax could bring operational funds to keep education programs alive and pay teachers enough to survive amid the housing crisis.

Another student described how he had moved seven times in two years, had a negative balance in her bank account last spring, and is among the many students who are forced to make do without any help from parents.

“With these resources we can reinvest in our community that we all love, that’s so dear to us,” she said. “Support the bond and parcel tax to reinvest and provide better resources for our students.”

School staff echoed similar struggles. De Anza teacher Daniel Solomon said he and his wife are both teachers in the district and taking on a heavy course load to stay afloat. The district provides the majority of his family’s income, and yet they cannot afford to live where they work. He said he’s currently living in a renovated barn in unincorporated San Mateo County.

With the planned closure of the Flint Center for the Performing Arts on the De Anza campus on the horizon, student advocacy groups say the large footprint left vacant could be ideal real estate for student and faculty housing. Firm plans have yet to be developed on what to do with the shuttered Flint Center and where to put student and staff housing.

The bond measure, if passed, would cost property owners $16 per $100,000 of assessed value, and would be levied on several cities encompassed by the district’s boundaries, including Palo Alto, Mountain View, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Cupertino and parts of Sunnyvale, Santa Clara and San Jose. It would also be the first bond since the passage of Measure C in 2006. A preliminary capital project list shows the district has about a $1.5 billion backlog of facility improvements. Board member Laura Casas said the bond measure and parcel tax alike would preserve the district’s sterling reputation as having some of the best community colleges in the state, recalling how a real estate agent in 2000 described Foothill as “Harvard on the hill.” Keeping that reputation means retaining faculty and helping students who are struggling to afford food and access mental health care.

“I want to portray that to voters — I don’t want to lose the Harvard on the hill,” she said.

Peter Landsberger said he supports the bond measure but wanted to temper expectations as many speakers focused sharply on student and employee housing. The scope of the bond is much larger than housing, he said, and the public shouldn’t get the impression that the district is getting into the housing business at the cost of a top-notch education.

“This is really for the ongoing ability of these institutions to provide high-quality, low-cost, up-to-date education,” Landsberger said.

Relieving a tight budget

Despite the booming economy and the district drawing tax revenue from some of the most expensive real estate in the country, Foothill-De Anza has faced deficit spending for years and is currently operating on borrowed time.

Unlike neighboring community college districts, which are fully funded through local tax revenue, Foothill-De Anza is subject to fluctuations in state funding based on enrollment. Several straight years of declining enrollment means that the district faces a growing shortfall in funding that could culminate in layoffs and discontinued programs.

Financial staff at the district told the Voice last year that, due to the unusually high number of students served by the district and the state’s funding formula, Foothill-De Anza is receiving an estimated $5,150 per student, compared with $7,500 to $8,500 per student in neighboring districts. Chalking it up to “bizarre circumstances” in the tax system, former board member Bruce Swenson said the district needs the pair of tax measures in order to partially bridge the funding gap.

“We need special help,” he said. “We need the bond and we need the parcel tax both for the facilities and the ability to attract quality employees.”

The district has been shielded so far from the worst of the budget cuts caused by enrollment declines. The state has granted community college districts a “hold-harmless” provision through the 2020-21 school year that retains funding based on previous enrollment levels, which is set to expire as the district phases into a new funding formula.

For the 2019-20 school year, that provision means the district is hanging onto $16.3 million in annual funding. But that temporary revenue will expire...
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The Marc and Laura Andreessen Adult Emergency Department at Stanford Hospital is the only Level 1 Adult and Pediatric Trauma Center between San Francisco and the South Bay. We have national designations as Comprehensive Stroke and Chest Pain Centers.
The budget outlook for the district is so precarious that its largest union, the Faculty Association (FA), has agreed to only temporary pay raises since 2017. The union won a hard-fought 5% temporary salary increase last year — rising to 6% this year — which is set to revert back starting in the 2021-22 school year. If it does, full-time instructors will be paid on a declining payroll range from $5,706 to $10,594 per month. The vast majority of FA members are paid for 10 months of work.

A FA President Tim Shively told boad members that few of his colleagues can afford to live close to where they work, and pointed to recent reports showing 51 of the most expensive zip codes in the Bay Area — 11 of which are located in Foothill-De Anza’s boundaries. He said neither the state nor rapid development in the region have been able to stem a continuous decline in school funding, making the parcel tax an important measure that trustees and community members should support.

Casas said the district doesn’t get the benefit of the parcel tax funding, and feels “schizophrenic” managing a budget that goes up, goes down and gets cut amid policy changes at the state level — sometimes late into June. Board member Patrick Ahrens made a pitch that the parcel tax funds should prioritize adjunct staff, who aren’t paid enough and have to jump between campuses to make ends meet, he said.

“There’s so much need everywhere, but in particular my heart when I think about the parcel tax, it’s with our adjuncts,” he said.

Former California Assembyman Paul Fong, who served on the Foothill-De Anza board until 2014, said the parcel tax in order to have a semblance of balance when compared to other community college districts. He pointed out that San Jose-Evergreen and West Valley-Mission community college districts have vast reserves built up because they receive far more funding per student.

“You have to do the parcel tax,” he said. “To level the playing field.”

The passing placing the parcel tax on the ballot states the money would be used to attract and retain teachers, maintain educational programs and programs for students facing food insecurity and homelessness. It also proposes using the funds to expand mental health services and the number of counselors on staff.

While the bond measure needs 55% of the vote to pass, the parcel tax requires a two-thirds majority in support at the county level. Despite being a high bar, board member Gilbert Wong said the $48 per parcel tax is a modest amount and would sunset in just five years, making it a reasonable ask.

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com
STATE SUES JUUL
California Attorney General Xavier Becerra and Los Angeles County officials sued Juul Labs Inc. in Alameda County Superior Court earlier this month, alleging that e-cigarette maker illegally sold its products to underage youth and failed to warn of health risks.

The civil lawsuit seeks a court injunction against San Francisco-based Juul and financial fines and penalties. It alleges Juul “engaged in a systematic campaign to target underage California residents.”

That campaign has been “wildly successful, with millions of teens and young adults using their product,” resulting in allegedly devastating consequences of youth addiction and health problems, the lawsuit claims.

Juul spokesman Austin Finan said the company had not yet reviewed the lawsuit, but said the company would work with public health and law enforcement officials to combat underage use and to help adult smokers stop using conventional cigarettes.

“Our customer base is the world’s 1 billion adult smokers and we do not intend to attract underage users,” Finan said in a statement.

The lawsuit includes claims of violations of a state law that prohibits sales of e-cigarettes to youth under the age of 21; unfair targeting of youth in its advertising; false and misleading statements promoting Juul as less healthy, less addictive, and more acceptable; and the company’s efforts to combat underage use, the lawsuit claims.

Finan noted that as part of its efforts to combat underage use, the company recently stopped accepting orders for mint-flavored cartridges and suspended all broadcast, print, and digital advertising in the U.S. It previously stopped selling four other flavors popular with youths.

PROBLEMS AT COUNTY YOUTH CENTER
During its Tuesday meeting, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors was scrambling to find a solution for sheltering youth who are currently in the custody of the county’s Receiving, Assessment and Intake Center.

According to the county, children who enter the custody of the RAIC have been remaining there for weeks or months at a time, while the center was designed and opened in 2009 to hold minors for up to 24 hours before they were matched with a long-term shelter or housing option.

The children are often facing trauma and behavioral issues and can find it challenging and unsafe to be in the RAIC for longer than necessary prior to finding a living arrangement. The board has been trying to ratify an alternative plan for youth placement since it asked county staff on Nov. 5 to come up with a plan for the center.

Children had been staying at the RAIC for longer than 24 hours for several months prior to that meeting.

“We have acted with a lack of sense of urgency, and I have felt that since I got here,” said Supervisor Cindy Chavez, who first joined the board in 2013. “I think it’s systemic and I think it’s a problem.”

Chavez said she wants the county to find a solution to its RAIC problems before the end of the year.

According to the county, 672 children were removed from a caregiver and required out-of-home placement between January and September of this year.

Of those 672, 176 were placed directly with a family member or foster parent, and the other 564 were taken to the RAIC.

Dr. Jeff Smith, the county’s executive, mentioned that an interim solution, for youth needing safe shelter, other than shelter at the RAIC, could be a hotel or motel or a spare bed in a hospital.

Supervisor Dave Cortese asked county staff to return to the board with more information on solutions by the next board meeting and board president Joe Simitian echoed the need for urgency.

“What I’ve heard almost everyone say in one way, shape or form is ‘We’ve got to rethink the system,’ and that’s not going to happen, let alone get implemented on the quick, which is why if you want a better outcome for these kids right away, we can’t let that bigger-picture, longer-term thinking get in the way of an immediate resolution,” Simitian said.

Simitian added, “I think we may be at the place where if we have to have a conversation as lengthy and difficult as this one is at every board meeting in order to get this solved, so be it.”

—Bay City News Service
School board approves $259M bond measure for March 2020 ballot

By Kevin Forestieri

The Mountain View Whisman School District is asking voters to approve a $259 million bond aimed at fixing old school facilities and preparing for a surge of new students caused by rapid housing growth in Mountain View.

The measure, unanimously approved by the school board Nov. 21, will appear on the March 2020 presidential primary ballot. Though the school district would reserve broad discretion on how to spend the money, the priorities laid out at the Nov. 21 meeting made clear that more classroom space is needed at schools that are expected to grow by as many as 220 students.

The bond would cost property owners $30 per $100,000 of assessed value, and needs 55% of the vote to pass.

For years, district officials have raised alarm bells about Mountain View’s rapid residential growth and the strain it will put on schools that have neither the space nor the money to support an influx of families with children. Large swaths of the city with little or no housing, including the North Bayshore and East Whisman areas, were recently rezoned to allow up to 15,000 new housing units.

The bond measure will instead focus on a less obvious issue: Dozens of smaller residential projects that are farther along and could start impacting schools in just a few short years. The latest count shows a cumulative 6,638 housing units in the pipeline, with 1,929 already under construction and 2,854 given the go-ahead by the Mountain View City Council, according to city staff.

A Nov. 5 analysis by demographers found that, once built, these units are going to add an estimated 580 elementary school students and 309 middle school students to Mountain View Whisman, primarily at its campuses located north of El Camino Real. Theuerkauf faces a 66% increase in students from 332 today to 552, according to the report, while an additional 181 students are anticipated at Vargas Elementary and 120 more students at Landels Elementary.

Superintendent Ayinde Rudolph said some schools can handle the growth — Theuerkauf is big enough to realistically house a total of 672 students. Landels, on the other hand, is already close to capacity before enrollment jumps by an estimated 27%. The recommended fix, he said, is going to be a new two-story classroom and administrative building that will cost more than $30 million.

“This is by far the most expensive growth adjustment that has to happen," Rudolph said.

The cheaper option, which the board could consider at a later date, would be to redraw attendance boundaries to shift students from Landels to Castro Elementary School, which is already dealing with space constraints of its own. Doing so would likely mean adding portable classrooms to the campus or moving the preschool program at Castro to another site.

The school district would also prioritize $103 million in projects across all district campuses aimed at improving safety and boosting energy efficiency. For safety, the district is seeking to build what it’s calling “perimeter controls,” including fences, gates and lighting along walkways, playgrounds and parking lots.

“Are there some things you should identify in this measure as being the measure on the ballot, however, was more open-ended, including a wall of text listing everything from broken concrete and carpet replacement to new parking lots, welding shops and upgraded kitchens as permissible uses of bond funds. Resident Gary Wesley said board members should pare down the list and more clearly show how the money will be spent, arguing it goes against the spirit of state law. Under California’s Proposition 39, school districts only need 55% of the vote to pass a bond measure if they provide a specific list of projects.

For more information, see BOND MEASURE, page 14.
VTA’s All New Service
Starting December 28, 2019

VTA Light Rail Changes
Light Rail will now have three distinct lines, which will be color-coded, and the new Orange Line will connect Downtown Mountain View to the Milpitas Transit Center. During weekday peak hours, service will be every 15 minutes and weekend peak hours will be every 20 minutes.

Orange Line – Alum Rock to Mountain View
- Transfer at Baypointe for the Blue Line
- Transfer at Champion, Lick Mill, Great America or Old Ironsides for the Green Line

Blue Line – Santa Teresa to Baypointe

Green Line – Winchester to Old Ironsides

Other Changes to Light Rail
- The light rail segment from Ohlone/Chynoweth to Oakridge will be discontinued and will now be served by Route 64a.
- I-880/Milpitas station renamed to Alder Station
- Montague Station renamed to Milpitas Station
- New Route 60 will serve SJC, Valley Fair/Santana Row, Downtown Campbell and Milpitas Transit Center.
- Only passengers boarding from SJC will board Route 60 for free.

The Frequent Bus Network
will operate every 15 minutes or better on weekdays between 6:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. and every 15 to 30 minutes on weekends.

- Rapid 500 San Jose Diridon Station to Downtown San Jose
- Rapid 522 Palo Alto Transit Center to Eastridge Transit Center
- Rapid 523 Lockheed Martin Transit Ctr to Berryessa Transit Ctr
- Route 22 Palo Alto Transit Center to Eastridge Transit Center
- Route 23 De Anza College to Alum Rock Transit Center
- Route 25 De Anza College to Alum Rock Transit Center
- Route 26 West Valley College to Eastridge Transit Center
- Route 57 Old Ironsides Station to West Valley College
- Route 60 Milpitas Transit Center to Winchester Transit Center
- Route 61 Good Samaritan Hospital to Sierra & Piedmont (via King/Mabury)
- Route 64 Almaden & Crown to McKee & White
- Route 66 Kaiser San Jose to Milpitas/Dixon Landing Fld
- Route 68 Gilroy Transit Center to San Jose Diridon Station
- Route 70 Eastridge Transit Center to Milpitas Transit Center
- Route 72 Senter & Monterey to Downtown San Jose
- Route 73 Monterey & Branham to Downtown San Jose
- Route 77 Eastridge Transit Center to Milpitas Transit Center

Improved Bus Routes
Route 20 Sunnyvale Caltrain Station to Milpitas Transit Center; 15-minute frequency during commute periods and 30-minute frequency in midday.
Route 21 Stanford Shopping Center to Santa Clara Caltrain station; a merger of Routes 32 and 35 into a single route.
Route 51 Moffett Field to West Valley College; hourly service on weekdays.
Route 56 Lockheed Martin Transit Center to Tamien Station; 30-minute service on weekdays and weekends.
Route 59 Old Ironsides Station to Valley Fair Transit Center; 30-minute frequency on weekdays and hourly on weekends.

Bus Routes that have been discontinued or changed: Bus Routes that have been discontinued or changed: Routes 17, 34, 45, 58, 88; Limited Routes 304, 321, 328 and 330; Express Bus 120, 140, and 180 will be discontinued. Express Bus 181 will continue to operate until BART service opens. Contact VTA for other options.
In an email.

Continued from page 12

BOND MEASURE

The trajectory of residential growth in the district, which is unevenly distributed and will need to consider revising its attendance boundaries again, Rudolph said. Although the last round of boundary changes took three years of contentious debate and only took effect in August, Rudolph said the district is going to need to find a more streamlined way of responding to demographic shifts.

“Do we not need to have a three-year ramp-up to change the boundaries,” he said. “It really should happen ... within one calendar year to the next.”

违Pasr on the March ballot.

The study added the caveat of losing.

Former board member Steve Nelson also spoke in favor of more rigid spending priorities baked into the language of the resolution.

Rudolph said the district’s facilities master plan, which was reviewed for the first time by the board at the same Nov. 21 meeting, lists $777 million in potential school facility upgrades and clearly delineates top-priority projects that could be financed through the upcoming bond measure. He suggested that board members take formal action to approve the prioritized list, so that it would take a supermajority of the board to retract it, which would give a sense of assurance to voters.

Funding for schools has risen to the fore as a major concern as residential projects and new and planned zoning changes are poised to increase the city’s housing stock by as many as 20,000 units, or about a 75% increase to the city’s current housing, according to city staff. Estimates vary on how much it would cost school districts to buy the land and build the school facilities needed for the thousands of students generated by the growth, but it could reach as high as $1.2 billion.

Who gets stuck with the bill has been an ongoing debate that has at times frustrated district administrators and school board members. On the books, the city has policies that say developers in North Bayshore and East Whisman must help schools house additional students, but the lack of clarity in terms of a dollar amount or land dedication has been a major stumbling block. A recent study by the city indicated that housing projects simply won’t get build if the burden of school fees is raised too high.

The upcoming bond measure is not going to give developers in North Bayshore or East Whisman a free pass. The bond would be used for the Mountain View Whisman School District’s “immediate facilities needs,” and will not be sufficient for the more significant long-term growth, district spokeswoman Shelly Hausman told the Voice in an email.

“As plans for residential developments are finalized, (the district), the city and developers need an agreed-upon consistent school strategy; one that would provide for student growth without all the burden falling on the district,” Hausman said.

In addition to long-term plans to build one or even two additional elementary schools, district officials are also considering a massive overhaul of the Critten-den and Graham middle school campuses to significantly increase their capacity. Doing so would require two-story classrooms and relocating district functions offsite, which would cost an estimated $176.3 million at Critten-den and $145.3 million at Graham — more than the entirety of the bond on the March ballot.

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Continued from page 5

VAPEING

Survey data of high school students in Santa Clara Coun-

ty shows about 27% of those who have tried an e-cigarette reported buying it from a store themselves, close to two-thirds of whom bought it from a vape shop.

The study added the caveat that strong city and coun-
ty regulations on the sale of tobacco products does have limitations, and that the rise of poorly regulated online sales gives minors an easy way to ille-
gally buy e-cigarettes and vape pens.

Adding to concerns about the recent youth vaping epidemic is a spike this year in vaping-related lung injuries that have killed dozens of people and hospitalized nearly 2,000. Data from the U.S. Centers for Dis-

ease Control (CDC) shows that more than half of those affected were under the age of 25.

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com
SAFE PARKING

Continued from page 5

breaking down in the lots.” Under city rules, anyone residing in a safe parking lot must have a working vehicle that doesn’t leak oil, sewage or other hazardous materials. Citing potential liability, city officials restricted the hours of operation of their safe parking sites to 5 p.m. to 9 a.m. During the day, safe parking residents are required to move their vehicles to some other location. This condition is the main reason that individuals have been discouraged from signing up for the program, according to CSA officials.

Up to 30 more vehicles could soon be parked at a former VTA parking lot at the now-closed Evelyn light rail station. Earlier this year, Mountain View officials signed an $11 million deal with the transit agency to lease the parking lot for 65 years. City officials intend to eventually redesign the site for affordable housing, but in the meantime they say it should serve as a temporary safe parking location.

The VTA parking lot is expected to open shortly after the Shoreline site, but again no clear date has been set. Muni MV members say the VTA site is expected to open after the Shoreline site reaches capacity.

Less clear is the fate of a third safe parking site, this one located in the Terra Bella neighborhood. The property was offered by the Palo Alto Housing Corporation as a temporary parking site before it is developed for affordable housing. Over a year ago, the City Council approved $230,000 to prepare the site to host vehicles, and later allocated an additional $65,000 after a request by city staff.

City officials have received criticism for dragging their feet on opening up the Terra Bella site. In September, city staff finalized a set of formal rules and regulations for safe parking lots as it became clear that elected leaders wanted to reduce the number of inhabited vehicles on the street. Last month, the Terra Bella site received a conditional use permit to open after being reviewed by seven separate city departments. When it opens, the Terra Bella site is expected to host eight RVs and three smaller vehicles.

Even when all the anticipated safe parking sites are opened, they won’t provide nearly enough spaces to accommodate all the inhabited vehicles in Mountain View. By city counts, about 200 inhabited vehicles have settled along city streets, and officials have acknowledged that they still need to find more locations that can host vehicles. Additionally, each of the three new safe parking sites that will open soon is only available on a temporary basis.

Two groups have taken up the job of trying to encourage property owners to participate in the safe parking program. As of this summer, the Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning launched its own task force to work on expanding safe parking. Around the same time, the Mountain View Human Relations Commission was assigned a similar job on behalf of the city. The two delegations have approached numerous private landowners, but so far none has been willing to sign up, said IdaRose Sylvester, a Human Relations commissioner.

“Everyone shares a similar set of concerns. They’re concerned about who will be living on the lot, the liability, and if there is insurance available,” she said. “There’s all these moving parts and it’s in flux. We’re all volunteers, but we’re trying to move as fast as we can.”

City Council members have said they need to step up enforcement to restrict the rising number of large inhabited vehicles along city streets. In recent weeks, the council approved a package of measures that would limit where large RVs and trailers can park, banning them from most city streets. On Nov. 22, a citizen referendum was submitted to the city to overturn those rules (see this story in this week’s issue of the Voice). Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com

PLEA

Continued from page 1

$100,000 bail two weeks later. In a signed plea agreement dated Nov. 19, he agreed to plead no contest to one count of lewd or lascivious acts with a child under the age of 14. The second count, oral copulation with a minor, will be dismissed as part of the plea deal during sentencing in January.

Muilenburg faces a minimum sentence of probation with a condition that he serve one year in county jail, and a maximum of three years in state prison, said prosecutor O’Bryan Kenney. In addition, Muilenburg will pay restitution for a yet-to-be-determined amount, and must register as a sex offender. Kenney declined to comment on the plea deal.

Muilenburg’s attorney, Steven Clark, declined to comment on the case, citing pending court proceedings.

The police investigation originated as a missing person report after the foster parents in Sunnyvale said they heard the front door close around 1 a.m. and realized the 12-year-old had left, according to court documents. They swiftly called 911, and Sunnyvale officers searched the nearby Murphy Park and could not find her.

The victim left behind a cellphone that contained a text message exchange between her and an unknown phone number, later determined to be Muilenburg’s phone, detailing plans for Mui- lenburg to secretly pick her up at Murphy Park. Sunnyvale police called Mountain View police officers to check Muilenburg’s home for his car.

Around 2:08 a.m., Sunnyvale police reported that Muilenburg had dropped the victim off at her home, and that he was likely en route back to Mountain View. Officers arrested him outside his house. The girl was transported to Santa Clara Valley Medical Center for a sexual assault forensic exam.

The victim is a foster child who did not have permanent housing at the time of the assault. She had been placed with the Sunnyvale couple the prior year, but they were “stepping back” from the program and remained an emergency option for the child. The couple took her back in just three days before the sexual assault, and she was reportedly having a hard time adjusting to the move.

The girl had run away from another location — redacted in publicly available court records — and was the victim of sexual assault at a homeless encampment in San Jose. A case worker found her and connected her to medical care before she returned home.

The victim told police that she was texting a friend and using Facebook, where she saw an advertisement for an adult dating site. The website gave her an option to talk to someone named “Sean,” who said he would come to pick her up at her house.

The victim told a Sunnyvale officer that as Muilenburg drove her to his home in Mountain View, she said she was 12 years old. Muilenburg responded by saying, “Well, you’re really tall,” according to court records. The girl told police that Muilenburg fondled her during the car ride. Muilenburg declined to speak with officers when detained, and was transported to the Mountain View Police Department. Police say the other resident in the home, Muilenburg’s elderly father, agreed to allow officers to remain at the residence to preserve the crime scene in anticipation of a search warrant.

The sentencing hearing is scheduled for Jan. 16. Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

LEAD

Sean Muilenburg

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LEAD

Sean Muilenburg

LocalNews

November 29, 2019 Mountain View Voice MountainViewOnline.com 15

Russian translation:

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Электронная версия журнала "Mountain View Voice" от 29 ноября 2019 года

Материал подготовлен журналистами "Mountain View Voice"
I’m deep in Kurdistan right now,” Jamis MacNiven wrote back to my late summer email asking to meet him for a lunch interview. “I have to go play polo now with a dead goat. It’s a Kurdistan thing.”

It was classic MacNiven. The longtime owner of Buck’s in Woodside has a reputation for outlandish stories that make you question his footing in reality, and then, more often than not, turn out to be true. (As it turns out, MacNiven had been in Kurdistan and had played goat polo. “There’s readily available photo and video evidence on the Buck’s Instagram.”)

MacNiven opened Buck’s in 1990, creating a one-of-a-kind restaurant that draws children and families as well as titans of the tech industry, heads of state and famous actors. The dining room is a museum of the weird, and famous actors. The dining room at Buck’s is the family-style restaurant that draws a steady stream of Silicon Valley, the secret to running a successful restaurant for three decades, a new book he’s working on and why he’s so fascinated by, as he put it, the “whimsical human stuff.”

Oh, and psychedelics.

This interview has been lightly edited and condensed for clarity.

Were you actually in Kurdistan earlier? What were you doing there?

We went to Kurdistan to just see what the country’s like. I’ve been to the Middle East a lot. We hunted with golden eagles. It turns out these eagles — we didn’t see this, but you can see it online — an eagle can actually kill a wolf. (MacNiven pulls up a photo on his phone to illustrate.) They do it by going right into the shoulders with their talons and when the wolf looks around, they rip its throat out. They’re fierce. Then we tried playing goat polo. I had a picture of that, where we’re mounted trying to reach down to the ground and throw it whole. I could barely stay on course. These young guys were much better than I was doing there?

In a good way — though it’s not totally immune to food trends of the moment. The kitchen now serves the plant-based Impossible Meats and Beyond Meat burgers. The restaurant’s menu is updated quarterly with columns he writes about his travels and musings. He’s the author of three books, including his autobiography, “Breakfast at Buck’s: Tales from the Pancake Guy,” and “California From 500 Feet: A Story of the Coastline,” a history from California as seen from a 247-foot-long Zeppelin named Eureka. He’s currently working on an illustrated children’s book for his 9-year-old granddaughter.

I recently had lunch with MacNiven for the next installment of At the Table, a series of interviews with local chefs and restaurant owners over a meal at a restaurant of their choosing.

Over a tomato burrata salad at his choice, Oak + Violet in Menlo Park, in between plenty of tall tales that all checked out when I went home and Googled them, we talked about the heyday of Silicon Valley, the secret to running a successful restaurant for three decades, a new book he’s working on and why he’s so fascinated by, as he put it, the “whimsical human stuff.” Oh, and psychedelics.

Why did you open Buck’s?

We’d built a lot of restaurants and I was really tired of construction. It’s so hard to get paid ... I hated that part of it. But in the restaurant business people pay to leave the room. Plus, construction is not a real people business. It’s all about ass kicking and phone calls. The restaurant business is all about talking to people and being convivial. It’s a much more human business. I’ve been at Buck’s for 29 years and I’m addicted to the crowd. I can’t get anything done. So I try to stay home, but then I...
find myself going to work. The people are so amazing.

What is it about that connection and community that draws you in and keeps you going?

It’s like living in a really exciting, well-written movie.

It’s like all around are these magical people — not just the people you would expect me to mention, like the famous Silicon Valley people, we see Elon (Musk) — but it’s the little

kids, old people, people you’ve known for 20 or 30 years. It’s kids that come in and end up

being hosts and hostesses and then go on to college. All my kids worked there.

**How have you seen tech change this area over the last 10 years?** I think we can no longer

claim we’re innocent. I think that’s the biggest thing — we’re out of the garden now and the

blinders are off. I actually think artificial intelligence combined

with bad actors and access to pathogens is a serious existen-
tial threat. But here in Silicon Valley, we really held up people

— even Zuckerberg a few years ago, and certainly the Google

guys — as being international and American heroes. I’m not

so sure now. It’s not about the money because they’re all so

fabulously rich ... But they’re not working hard enough on

our behalf. And certainly Amazon isn’t. Between Amazon and

Walmart, they’re crushing America and they’re also teach-
ing people — you know what Walmart’s slogan is? It’s ‘always

low prices.’ In Germany, that kind of statement embarrasses

them. Theirs would be ‘always best quality.’ We’re about trying
to do it cheaper and crappier — the fast food and the prolifera-
tion of plastic and consumerism is a concern. And it turns

out Silicon Valley’s fueling this big time. Amazon started sell-

ing books. Now they’re selling pool toys — a lot of them, and

I know because I just bought a

See AT THE TABLE, page 18
bunch. I'm not innocent at all. But I helped end the Vietnam War so I've done my part.

**What's the secret to running a restaurant for three decades?** So many restaurants are struggling right now just to survive in Silicon Valley.

It's no real secret. You have to have good food and convivial atmosphere. You have to really see the customer for who they are and if they have a complaint, you have to just say, 'I'm sorry; I'll do better.' ... With all those hundreds of thousands, millions of moving parts, stuff doesn't always go perfectly. But it generally does. I want every complaint to come to my desk, and weeks go by — I get nothing. So I think we do OK.

We've been able to retain our staff incredibly. I have people who've been there 29 years (and) a lot of people over 20 years. The average tenure of the front of the house people is about 16 years. Nobody's got that. ... It's challenging to get people for the kitchen, but we always seem to stay open.

I have to ask you about all of the decorations in the restaurant. Where do they all come from?

People give me things, but I take very little. although recently a guy (Andy Rubin, former Google senior vice president and creator of Android software) loaned me his Apple 1, which is the No. 1 collectible in all of Silicon Valley history. (Editor's note: The Apple 1 is a 1976 desktop Apple computer designed and hand-built by Steve Wozniak.) It's probably worth a million dollars. He said, 'Well, it was just kicking around my house. I thought you should display it at Buck's.' I take it with me when I give talks about Silicon Valley.

Have you changed the Buck's menu? It seems pretty similar to when I went there as a kid. The basic menu stays almost the same, although we have the Impossible burger now and Beyond Meat, but it looks pretty much like it did 10 years ago. That's the basic menu: breakfast, lunch and dinner. We have our specials that change every two weeks. We have the dessert menu, the kids' menu and the wine list. ... if I went in there and I really worked on super innovative stuff I know I would appeal to a broader audience. It's really hard to do that because I've got so much other stuff going on.

Last night, I made a pasta primavera at home, which was really great and I'd like to introduce it at Buck's but it's one more thing to do. This was fresh fettuccine, summer squash, mushrooms, onions, avocado and garden tomatoes that are all put in the pan sequentially so they all come out without the tomatoes falling apart and the onions being done. Then Parmesan, a little blue cheese, sour cream. That is really a good dish.

**How have restaurants on the Peninsula changed since you opened Buck's?**

They have attempted, from Wolfgang Puck on out, to bring super sophisticated dining to the Bay Area — and it hasn’t happened. Is it Nobu that’s over in the hotel over there? People don’t rave about that place ... it’s a little forgettable. I hear Tim Cook lives on the top floor.

You’re clearly a storyteller staff writer Elena Kadvany can be emailed at ekadvany@paweekly.com.

**Where does that come from?**

Psychedelics. Honestly, I think that I was largely formed by one single psychedelic experience in college (with) ibogaine. Across the whole panoply, from mushrooms, LSD, psilocybin, MDMA ... ibogaine is way up there. It’s extremely rare. I’m working with it professionally now, ibogaine and the drug (that) comes from this animal (he points to a large gold ring in the shape of a toad on his finger), 5-MeO-DMT. This is a model of a Sonoran desert toad, and in this gland contains all the truth you’ll ever need to know. We’re treating in Mexico at a clinic that I’ve helped establish, suicidal Navy SEALs. We’ve taken a very troubled community — these men have been very badly damaged — and we’re giving them both these drugs over a weekend. We don’t give them their lives back. We help them see lives they’ve never had.

Next year will mark Buck’s 30th anniversary. Do you have any plans to retire? Where will Buck’s be in 10 years? Or are you not thinking about that?

I don’t even think about six o’clock. One of my kids is moving to Skyline, so probably (he’ll) take it over. .... We don’t make plans.
MOVIE OPENINGS

Family mystery

CUTTING WHODUNIT 'KNIVES OUT' MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

★★★½ (Century 16 & 20, Icon)

Conventional wisdom says that politics best be avoided at holiday dinners, lest family members begin to go at each other. Positioned as the big new release of Thanksgiving week, "Knives Out" includes a politically contentious dinner argument among family members, but the cheeky mystery has something else that these people have kept in the family: murder.

Before science-fiction hits "Looper" or "Star Wars: Episode VIII — The Last Jedi," writer-director Rian Johnson broke out with his 2005 debut "Brick," a byzantine mystery in a neo-noir vein. As such, "Knives Out" plays like a return to Johnson's roots, albeit with an all-star cast backing him up. By opening on dead leaves and fog stretching out before a foreboding, rambling mansion, Johnson establishes a Gothic setting for his Agatha Christie playlet — one that he just as swiftly undermines with merry, self-aware whimsy. This is a world where murder's most foul, everyone's a suspect, and an easily underestimated detective always gets his man or woman.

Inside that mansion lies the body of Harlan Thrombey (Christopher Plummer), patriarch of a family of natural-born backstabbers. Thrombey pens murder-mystery novels that have sold over 80 million copies; his net worth is inscrutable as real experiences, which brings us to the film "Doctor Sleep," adapted, directed and edited by Mike Flanagan as not only a film of the sequel novel but a sequel to Stanley Kubrick's 1980 film of "The Shining." Flanagan tries and largely succeeds at reconciling the work of King and Kubrick for a continuation that makes for a moody and unsettling horror fantasy. Flanagan fully mines visual and aural imagery of his Kubricks horror masterpiece, at times recreating moments from that film. Rated R for disturbing and violent content, some bloody images, language, nudity and drug use. Two hours, 33 minutes. — P.C.

PARASITE ★★★★½

Few filmmakers working today display the combination of storytelling craft, visual and editorial power and sheer narrative edge that distinguishes Bong Joon-ho. The writer-director of "The Host" returns with "Parasite," an incandescent and surprising drama that's also a tinderbox ever threatening to ignite. The screenplay by Bong and co-writer Han Jin-won begins with "Parasite," an income-inequality byzantine mystery in a neo-noir vein. As such, "Knives Out" plays like a return to Johnson's roots, albeit with an all-star cast backing him up. By opening on dead leaves and fog stretching out before a foreboding, rambling mansion, Johnson establishes a Gothic setting for his Agatha Christie playlet — one that he just as swiftly undermines with merry, self-aware whimsy. This is a world where murder's most foul, everyone's a suspect, and an easily underestimated detective always gets his man or woman.

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DOCTOR SLEEP ★★★

Memories, like ghosts, have a way of haunting people with their psychic energy. It's a notion that powers Stephen King's 2013 novel "Doctor Sleep," a story of reckoning with the long-ago trauma depicted in his 1976 novel "The Shining." Cinematic memories can be almost as sad as disrupting family relations. It's not a huge surprise when he's found, throat slit, the morning after his 85th birthday party. Everyone present that night seems to have had a motive for the murder, revealed in a cheery series of police interviews that launch the story. There's Harlan's tough-as-nails eldest daughter Linda (Jamie Lee Curtis), her philandering husband, Richard (Don Johnson), and their ner-do-well son, "Ransom" (Chris Evans); Harlan's son Walt (Michael Shannon), his wife, Donna (Riki Lindhome), and their "alt-right-troll" teen son Walt (Michael Shannon), his wife, Donna (Riki Lindhome), and their "alt-right-troll" teen son, Jacob (Jaeden Martell); Harlan's lifestyle guru daughter-in-law, Joni (Toni Collette), and her daughter, Meg (Katherine Langford); not to mention Harlan's nominally elderly mother (K. Callan).

Into this den of vipers comes a couple of cops (Lakeith Stanfield and Noah Segan) escorting "private detective of great renown" Benoit Blanc (Daniel Craig doing a southern-fried dialect). Also described as "the last of the gentleman sleuths," Blanc prefers to present himself as "a respectful, quiet, passive observer of the truth." He belongs to that line of Sherlock Holmes, Hercule Poirot, Sam Spade, and Columbo, encompassing the shrewd and the eclectic. An anonymous benefactor foots the bill for Blanc's presence, adding to the mystery. Blanc appoints Harlan's nurse and trusted companion Marta (Ana de Armas) as his "Watson" — her inability to tell a lie without vomiting signals her morality — and the game is afoot.

"Knives Out" cannot help but be a fun crafted, particularly for murder-mystery fans. As with "Brick," Johnson plays fair with his plotting while evoking ominous mystery by tying the story in knots that must be satisfactorily untwisted. Johnson adds ballast to what would otherwise be a lightweight tale by suggesting sociopolitical allegory: a hardworking immigrant pitted against a wealthy family of natural-born backstabbers. The tart dialogue and clever plot get assists from delightful production design, art direction and set decoration (David Crank, Jeremy Woodward, and David Schlesinger, respectively) and an overqualified ensemble (the film's one disappointment: not finding yet more ways to exploit the actors). This Thanksgiving, nothing says treachery like family, but don't worry, Johnson's only kidding. Rated R for language, some strong language, sexual references, and drug material. Two hours, 10 minutes. — Peter Canavan

MOVIE REVIEWS

"FROZEN II"★★★★

The day has come for the followup to Disney's box-office hit "Frozen." In the newly released sequel, Elsa (Idina Menzel) her sister, Anna (Kristen Bell), Anna's boyfriend, Kristoff (Jonathan Groff), Kristoff's reindeer, Sven, and sentient snowman Olaf (Josh Gad) set out on a risky mission to find the origin of Elsa's wintery snowman Olaf (Josh Gad) set out on a risky mission to find the origin of Elsa's wintery powers in "Frozen II." In the newly released sequel, Elsa (Idina Menzel) her sister, Anna (Kristen Bell), Anna's boyfriend, Kristoff (Jonathan Groff), Kristoff's reindeer, Sven, and sentient snowman Olaf (Josh Gad) set out on a risky mission to find the origin of Elsa's wintery powers in "Frozen II." The new thriller "The Good Liar," would be neither well-made nor well-crafted plot than its predecessor. But if "Frozen II" delivers seven new songs, again by the two-time Oscar-winning team of Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez. In most respects, "Frozen II" has a more considered and less piecemeal plot than its predecessor. But if "Frozen II" didn't always make story sense or character sense, it felt right to audiences, and the makers of "Frozen II" chose that feeling by putting an emphasis on broadly drawn characters and animated dazzle. Add plenty of goofy gag comedy that goes into overdrive whenever Olaf is around, and "Frozen II" amounts to a crowd-pleasing sequel that knows not to mess with a winning formula. Rated PG for action/park and some thematic elements. One hour, 43 minutes. — P.C.

THE GOOD LIAR★★★

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Few filmmakers working today display the combination of storytelling craft, visual and editorial power and sheer narrative edge that distinguishes Bong Joon-ho. The writer-director of "The Host" returns with "Parasite," an incandescent and surprising drama that's also a tinderbox ever threatening to ignite. The screenplay by Bong and co-writer Han Jin-won begins by introducing the Kims, a family living hand to mouth in a South Korean slum. Although their is a constantly trying existence, the Kims have each other. The family catches a break when a friend of Ki-woo Kim, a university student about to study abroad, more or less hands off his job of tutoring rich girl Park Da-hye. After Blanc appoints Harlan's nurse and trusted companion Marta (Ana de Armas) as his "Watson" — her inability to tell a lie without vomiting signals her morality — and the game is afoot.

"Knives Out" cannot help but be a fun crafted, particularly for murder-mystery fans. As with "Brick," Johnson plays fair with his plotting while evoking ominous mystery by tying the story in knots that must be satisfactorily untwisted. Johnson adds ballast to what would otherwise be a lightweight tale by suggesting sociopolitical allegory: a hardworking immigrant pitted against a wealthy family of natural-born backstabbers. The tart dialogue and clever plot get assists from delightful production design, art direction and set decoration (David Crank, Jeremy Woodward, and David Schlesinger, respectively) and an overqualified ensemble (the film's one disappointment: not finding yet more ways to exploit the actors). This Thanksgiving, nothing says treachery like family, but don't worry, Johnson's only kidding. Rated R for language, some strong language, sexual references, and drug material. Two hours, 10 minutes. — Peter Canavan

CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING — CITY COUNCIL

Mountain View Transit Center Grade Separation and Access Project — Mitigated Negative Declaration Certification

The Mountain View City Council will hold a public hearing to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Mountain View Transit Center Grade Separation and Access Project that consists of three main components: (1) Castro Street Grade Separation (under crossings for pedestrians and cyclists from Castro Street to Moffett Boulevard and closure of Castro Street, vehicle ramp from W Evelyn Avenue to Shoreline Boulevard), (2) Caltrain Station Improvements, and (3) Other Supportive Pedestrian and Bicycle Facility Improvements.

DATE & TIME: Dec. 10, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard

PLACE: Council Chambers at City Hall, 500 Castro Street

Interested parties may appear and be heard. Written statements may be submitted to the City Clerk, P.O. Box 7540, Mountain View, California, 94039-7540. More information and plans on this item may be reviewed at the Public Works Department, 500 Castro Street, or call 650-903-6211. Legal challenges may be limited to those issues or objections raised at the public hearing orally or in written correspondence delivered to the City Clerk at, or prior to, the public hearing.

Dated: Nov. 27, 2019
Here for Good

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HAPPY Thanksgiving

It’s the season of thanks, and here at DeLeon Realty, we’re thankful for our amazing clients and the wonderful communities we are proud to serve. Wishing you and your loved ones a happy, festive holiday!
Wherever You Gather This Year...

Happy Thanksgiving!

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