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MOVIES | 24



MICHELLE LE

Books Inc. is leaving its cornerstone spot downtown for a short trek down Castro Street. It will relocate to the former home of BookBuyers, on the same block.

Books Inc. migrates to new Castro home

STORE PLANS TO TAKE OVER FORMER BOOKBUYERS SPACE NEXT DOOR

By Mark Noack

Mountain View's downtown bookstore, Books Inc., is planning to leave its Castro Street location of 15 years. But it won't be going far.

Books Inc.'s new home will be

roughly 50 feet down the street at the former home of second-hand bookstore BookBuyers.

Why is an established bookstore stepping into the old home of another Mountain View literary institution? Books Inc. manager Glen Robbe said the move is mainly due to financial

reasons. Books Inc. signed a 10-year lease to take over the 317 Castro Street location at a price that's much lower than if they stayed put, he said. Plus, the move should be a piece of cake since it's just one door

► See **BOOKS INC.**, page 12

City to hire valets for free public parking

SEEING A CAR-FREE FUTURE, COUNCIL OPTS FOR TEMPORARY MEASURES

By Mark Noack

Looking to free up some parking space downtown, Mountain View will be taking a page from the Ritz-Carlton by bringing private valets to one of the city's largest lots.

The new valet service, expected to launch sometime in spring and run for a year, is going to be tested out at the parking lot at

the corner of Franklin and Villa streets (across from the Tied House). The lot has about 80 parking spaces, and almost every one of them is occupied on any given day around dinnertime. City officials believe a well-run valet service could help squeeze in about two dozen extra vehicles. For that extra capacity, City Council members unanimously agreed it was worth hiring two

parking attendants at a cost of \$100,000.

That might seem like a high price for free parking, but it was described as a bargain compared to the cost of building new parking spaces. With every square foot of downtown already built up, the only way to add more parking would be to build a new

► See **PARKING**, page 12



**Healthy
and hip**
WEEKEND | 21

Lessons learned from failed math program?

MV WHISMAN BOARD OKS REDUCED TEACH TO ONE CONTRACT, TO ADDRESS OVERSIGHT PROBLEMS

By Kevin Forestieri

The hasty roll-out and abrupt ending of Teach to One, the controversial digital math program adopted by the Mountain View Whisman School District, has raised questions about oversight and accountability. Without the approval of the board of trustees, or a signed contract, district administrators implemented a program valued at \$478,000 this school year. When in December the Teach to One contract was finally presented for approval by the board, which has an obligation to oversee school spending, it was tucked away on the consent calendar, where non-controversial items are voted on as a group — without public discussion.

As previously reported by the *Voice*, district emails obtained through a Public Records Act request revealed a steady stream of teacher and parent complaints about Teach to One leading up to its abrupt termination in January.

In the aftermath of the program's termination, several trustees agreed that there was a significant communication breakdown between the district office and the board, a failure to properly vet the pilot program, and a sense that the Superintendent Ayinde Rudolph tried to move too quickly on a pilot math program that needed years — not months — of review prior to its roll-out.

Teach to One, a math program developed by the New York-based company New Classrooms, promised the school district a digital, personalized learning platform for students, offering a way to teach both high-performing and low-performing students at the same time. The appeal is easy to see, given that the district's achievement gap, measured using criteria based on students' family income and English fluency, is one of the largest in the country, according to a recent Stanford study on test scores.

'We saw both pros and cons, which is exactly what a pilot program does.'

BOARD PRESIDENT
JOSE GUTIERREZ

In January, district officials opted to kill Teach to One, which had replaced the math curriculum for all sixth-graders, after 180 parents signed a letter in December demanding the program be ended. Among other things, the parents said the program had an abundance of technical glitches, errors, and math content that was a mile wide and an inch deep, and that it had turned off their children to math.

According to school board president Jose Gutierrez, that's how the vetting process for the pilot program is supposed to work. Gutierrez told the *Voice* that the district tried the new math program as a trial balloon for all sixth-grade students, and the board heard loud and clear in December that a large number of families weren't happy with the program. Other

► See **MATH PROGRAM**, page 13

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Mengjun Chen and Tessa Barbour in Stanton Welch's "Indigo," part of Smuin's Dance Series 01.

SMUIN'S 'DANCE SERIES 01'

Smuin, the contemporary American ballet company, will perform its program "Dance Series 01," featuring Micheal Smuin's powerful "Stabat Matar," the regional premiere of Stanton Welch's romance "Indigo," and the premiere of the playful "Serenade for Strings" by Garrett Ammon, at the Mountain View Center for Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., March 3-4 at 8 p.m. and March 4-5 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$56-\$72. Go to smuinballet.org.

THE OKEE DOKEE BROTHERS

Americana-and-country-tinged band Okee Dokee Brothers (aka Justin Lansing and Joe Mailander) use music as a way to celebrate adventure in the great outdoors. Their latest album, the Grammy-nominated "Saddle Up," takes the brothers-in-song on a journey through the American West (past adventures have included a trip down the Mississippi). Local families can gather 'round the figurative campfire with them at their Sunday, March 5, 2:30 p.m. performance at Bing Concert Hall (327 Lasuen St., Stanford). Tickets are \$15-\$50. Go to live.stanford.edu.

'THE TEMPEST'

"Oh brave new world!" William Shakespeare's magical tale "The Tempest" will be presented by Stanford University's Department of Theater and Performance Studies (TAPS) as part of its "New Worlds" 2016-2017 season. The supernatural play,

about a sorcerer in exile, is directed by Stanford artist-in-residence and playwright Amy Freed, who was a Pulitzer Prize finalist for "Freedomland." The show, which is the culmination of an intensive undergraduate acting course, will run on weekends at 8 p.m. through March 11 at Pigott Theater (in the Memorial Auditorium complex), 551 Serra Mall. Tickets are \$5-\$15. Go to taps.stanford.edu/tempest.html.

BAY CHORAL GUILD

The Bay Choral Guild's upcoming concert program, which includes a performance at Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Ave., on Saturday, March 4 at 8 p.m., features the premiere "Songs of Isaiah," a three-movement work based on texts from the biblical Book of Isaiah, specially commissioned by the guild and to be accompanied by string orchestra and harp, written by Artistic Director Sanford Dole, among other pieces. Tickets are \$5-\$25 and a talk precedes the performance. Go to baychoralguild.org.

'PUBLIC ALCHEMY II'

Palo Alto's Cubberley Artist Studio Program (CASP) is hosting its second annual open-ended Public Alchemy exhibition, featuring a broad range of community-submitted works in a variety of media. The exhibition runs on Saturdays-only through March 18, noon to 6 p.m., at Cubberley Community Center, Art Lab U7, 4000 Middlefield Road. CASP is a city-supported program that offers affordable studio space and public engagement with the arts. Go to cityofpaloalto.org/casp.

—Karla Kane

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■ CRIME BRIEFS

MAN ARRESTED IN CONNECTION TO STABBING

A Palo Alto man was arrested Monday night in connection to a stabbing in Mountain View that wounded one person, according to police.

Officers received reports of a stabbing on the 1100 block of Phyllis Avenue around 10 p.m. on Feb. 27, and found the victim suffering from multiple stab wounds. The victim was transported to a local hospital, police said.

Officers detained a man, identified by police as 55-year-old Paul Goldman, who was allegedly trying to leave the area. Goldman was arrested on attempted murder charges and has been booked into Santa Clara County jail without bail.

During the investigation, Phyllis Avenue was closed off between Pamela Drive and Hans Avenue for several hours. The road was reopened early Tuesday morning, Feb. 28.

Goldman and the victim knew each other, and police believe the stabbing was an isolated incident, according to police spokeswoman Katie Nelson. There's no indication that this was gang-related, Nelson said.

Information on the victim's condition is not released.

MAN SUSPECTED OF MULTIPLE BURGLARIES

The Los Altos Police Department arrested a San Jose man Monday evening after he was allegedly found in possession of several stolen bikes, including one that was reported stolen from a Waverly Park home.

The theft in Mountain View occurred sometime around 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 27, when a resident on the 1200 block of Fairbrook Avenue reported that a bike had gone missing from the home's open garage. Later that day, the Los Altos Police Department notified Mountain View police that a similar theft had occurred in Los Altos, and that they arrested a man — later identified as 22-year-old Pablo Bautista — in connection with the theft.

Officers discovered that Bautista allegedly had a storage locker that contained several stolen bicycles, including the one found missing from the Waverly Park home, police said. Both departments will be working to return the stolen property to the rightful owners, police said.

BURGLARY SUSPECT ARRESTED

A transient man who allegedly burglarized a Mountain View business earlier this month has been arrested, according to police.

Officers found the man, identified as 29-year-old Frank Braby, sleeping in the clubhouse restroom of an apartment complex on the 100 block of Calderon Avenue around 7:30 a.m. on Thursday,

► See CRIME BRIEFS, page 14

■ POLICE LOG

AUTO BURGLARY

200 block S. Whisman Rd., 2/22
800 block E. El Camino Real, 2/23
2400 block Grant Rd., 2/26
2500 block W. El Camino Real, 2/28
2600 block Terminal Blvd., 2/28

500 block Ortega Av., 2/28
2400 block Grant Rd., 2/28

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

400 block W. Evelyn Av., 2/22
1800 block Limetree Ln., 2/24
2400 block Villa Nueva Way, 2/24
1 block Mercy St., 2/24
1200 block Fairbrook Dr., 2/27

BATTERY

1500 block Nilda Av., 2/24
2900 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 2/25
600 block Clyde Av., 2/28

STOLEN VEHICLE

1000 block Crestview Dr., 2/25
2000 block Plymouth St., 2/25
2100 block W. El Camino Real, 2/27

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

1900 block Montecito Av., 2/27
300 block W. El Camino Real, 2/27
2400 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 12/6

TERRORIST THREATS

200 block Fairchild Dr., 2/25

GRAND THEFT

1300 block Montecito Av., 2/23
700 block E. El Camino Real, 2/26

VANDALISM

1900 block Latham St., 2/23
100 block E. Dana St., 2/27



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NATALIA NAZAROVA

Maria Bicker stands by the MitraClip device at El Camino Hospital on Feb. 28. Last year, she underwent a procedure using the device to treat heart problems, rather than undergo open-heart surgery.

New heart technology thrives at El Camino

HOSPITAL TAKES ON THE LATEST IN CLINICAL TRIALS

By Kevin Forestieri

For 79-year-old Milagros Bardot, heart problems were a constant threat. Chest pain would spread over to her shoulders, her heart would palpitate, and she would frequently have to drive the emergency room after work or risk having a heart attack.

Bardot was suffering from a degenerative problem with her mitral valve, where blood would backflow, or “regurgitate” back into the left atrium of her heart. Rather than try

to undergo major open-heart surgery to correct the problem, Bardot joined a small group of patients at El Camino Hospital to try out an alternative procedure — one that had her back on her feet in no time.

On Tuesday night, patients and cardiologists alike gathered at El Camino Hospital to celebrate the 100th “MitraClip” procedure, a new technology where a clip is implanted, through a catheter, to hold the mitral valve together and improve blood flow through the heart. The procedure was

approved by the Food and Drug Administration in 2013, making it the first alternative to open-heart surgery for the degenerative condition.

Dr. Frederick St. Goar, who pioneered the MitraClip device, described the mitral valve as an elegant structure where everything needs to be working on concert in order for blood to flow properly from the left atrium to the left ventricle. It’s symphonic in design, he said, meaning patients suffer heart problems as soon as any one component is out of sync. An estimated 10 percent of patients in their 70s suffer from structural problems with the valve.

“Clinically, it’s a big deal,” St. Goar said. “It’s a structural problem that needs a

► See **MITRACLIP**, page 8

School board set to adopt new harassment policies

TRUSTEES DIFFER ON THE SENSE OF URGENCY FOLLOWING CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLAINT

By Kevin Forestieri

Mountain View-Los Altos High School District officials took a close look at new harassment policies Monday night, with hopes that a clear and up-to-date policy on how the district responds to sexual harassment complaints will better inform teens and parents of their civil rights.

At a special meeting on Feb. 27, board members were expected to approve updated policies on child abuse and its prevention, discrimination, harassment and sexual harassment — all with language

pulled directly from the California School Boards Association (CSBA). All of these policies have not been revised since at least 2002, and include anemic language that does not reflect new laws and new court rulings at the state and federal level.

Among the changes, the new board policies call on all of the district schools and programs to maintain a “safe school environment” free from harassment and discrimination on campus, as well as off-campus sexual harassment and violence that has a “continuing effect on campus.” The policy also requires district

staff to inform students on what constitutes sexual harassment and sexual violence, and give potential victims a clear message that they don’t have to endure sexual harassment under any circumstances.

The revision follows news last month that there is a pending investigation by the U.S. Office for Civil Rights to determine whether a former student’s rights

were violated by the district. The student filed the complaint claiming that the district failed to investigate an alleged rape that occurred off campus, and did not provide accommodations afforded

to her under the Title IX, which protects students from gender discrimination at school.

School district officials contest the claims, and say that the district worked in accordance with the law. Superintendent Jeff Harding told the *Voice* last month that the district did not open an investigation because the alleged rape happened off campus, and the two students involved attended different district campuses.

When asked whether the board updates are being made in

► See **SCHOOL BOARD**, page 6

‘I don’t want to pass a policy I can’t understand. I don’t care who wrote it for me.’

BOARD MEMBER PHIL FAILLACE

City Council seeks to solve Mountain View’s familiar challenges

“COMMUNITY PROTECTION” ADDED TO CITY’S PRIORITY LIST OF GOALS, ALONGSIDE HOUSING AND TRAFFIC

By Mark Noack

Brainstorming their list of big-ticket priorities for the coming years, Mountain View City Council members on Monday night ended up with what seemed like a carbon copy from last time. The city’s big goals for the next two years will once again grapple with the South Bay’s stubborn, yet familiar problems — the lack of affordable housing, ongoing

environmental cleanup and the worsening traffic.

But elected leaders added one new hot-button item to the list: community protection. This priority, as the council fine-tuned its language, is meant to protect the city’s vulnerable populations, especially those fearing deportation by federal law enforcement.

“There’s a palpable fear in the air and it’s coming out of Washington, D.C.” said Mayor Ken Rosenberg. “It’s incumbent on

us to find ways to make our residents feel and be more secure.”

Held every two years, goal-setting sessions have become the city’s launchpad for taking stock and laying out new programs and initiatives. As in previous years, the Feb. 27 meeting was designed to produce up to four overarching goals that would guide city staff in the coming years.

For community protection and other priorities, Assistant City Manager Audrey Seymour

Ramberg recommended keeping the conversation focused on “high level” themes. At a future meeting in April, she said, council members would be able to choose from a list of specific actions outlined by the city’s departments.

For that reason, it wasn’t immediately clear what exactly Mountain View would do to resist any new federal action on illegal immigration. Council members mulled ideas and emphasized

that the city needed to cooperate with other like-minded municipalities in the Bay Area.

Councilwoman Margaret Abekoga proposed that the city also needs to be vigilant for people exploiting the situation. Undocumented workers — now reluctant to go to law enforcement — could be susceptible to wage theft, payday lending and other abusive practices, she said.

► See **CITY COUNCIL**, page 6

CITY COUNCIL

▶ Continued from page 5

But forming a local response could also be tricky, because federal immigration policy has been a moving target that seems to change by the day. Last week, the Trump Administration put forward sweeping orders giving immigration agents wide discretion to deport non-citizens for alleged crimes or posing a risk to public safety. The orders sparked immediate fear in immigrant communities as well as a wave of false rumors of raids and round-ups in the Bay Area. It remains unclear whether U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials have actually stepped up their activity in the Bay Area. By Tuesday, Trump hinted at a change, saying he was amenable to creating a path to legal status for millions of law-abiding immigrants living in the U.S.

At the council's Monday

meeting, a line of public speakers urged city leaders to formally declare Mountain View as a "sanctuary city" as a symbolic move to reassure its undocumented residents.

"This is the time when we need to stand up for our migrant communities," said Jeremy Barousse, a community organizer with Services, Immigrant Rights & Education Network (SIREN). "The panic out there is real — Every time we hear of new enforcement coming down from the federal government, we hear about students missing from school for two to three days."

Refining other priorities

While Mountain View left its other major goals mostly unchanged, the City Council did pull out some new ideas for how to push them forward.

On housing, council members largely signaled the city had made some big strides in boosting the

number of low-income units. But the new group that needs some help is the "forgotten middle" — those earning too much money to benefit from low-income programs, but not enough to afford stability, said Councilwoman Pat Showalter.

Adding to this priority, many of the council members echoed the need to create more opportunities for residents to own homes rather than rent. Councilman John McAlister said he wanted to create incentives to encourage property owners to sell their housing rather than renting it out.

Yet some on the council also warned the city should be careful in giving free rein to housing growth. Echoing their election campaigns, McAlister and Abe-Koga both emphasized that Mountain View needed to protect "quality of life" issues for established residents, ensuring that they city has adequate parks, road capacity, parking and other amenities before adding new residents. City staff gently pushed back against this characterization, saying the balance of services was already being taken into account as part of the city's planning process.

Dusting off a suggestion he made two years ago, Councilman Lenny Siegel urged his colleagues to support regulating the

short-term rental market, particularly those managed through websites like Airbnb. Mountain View isn't currently collecting any money in transit-occupancy taxes from these rentals, he said.

On environmental sustainability, several speakers from the group Carbon Free Mountain View urged the city to adopt more rigorous standards and measurements for its greenhouse-gas benchmarks. Council members

quite fit into any of the four main categories. Into this pot went an idea from Showalter to tap the local tech talent to promote "open data" projects, as well as a second proposal to jump-start training events for the city's commissions. McAlister added a goal to look at the workload of the city's advisory committees and commissions.

Speaking for the city staff, Ramberg warned that some of

'The kind of things the city is looking at are complex and can't be accomplished within one year.'

AUDREY SEYMOUR RAMBERG, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER

happily adopted this goal.

For transportation, many council members said they wanted a comprehensive plan in place for a citywide system. No one disputed this is an ongoing problem. For the 2018 ballot, Siegel pitched the idea of a transportation tax on the city's tech corporations that would force them to pay the costs of future highway and mass transit upgrades.

Several suggestions from the council landed in the "parking lot," a pool of ideas that didn't

these goals would need to be nixed when the council reconsidered them in April. In fact, about one third of the priorities from the 2015 goal-setting session were still incomplete and being worked on by staff, she said.

"We want to be very focused on what we take on our plate," she said. "The kind of things the city is looking at are complex and can't be accomplished within one year." ■

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com

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SCHOOL BOARD

▶ Continued from page 5

light of the allegations, Harding said the district has been in the process of updating all the outdated policies, including ones related to sexual harassment, since August. The sexual harassment and discrimination policies are timely, he said, given the number of school dances in the upcoming months.

But when it came time for a vote, board member Phil Faillace said he had reservations about copying CSBA policies without explaining what any of it means to the school community at large. He argued that the district already has to uphold state and federal civil rights laws on the books — rather than via a board policy — so why bother issuing a policy update loaded with legal jargon that does little to inform students and families of their rights?

"Even after all the research I did, I still don't feel like I completely understand this new (policy)," he said. "I don't want to pass a policy I can't understand. I don't care who wrote it for me."

Faillace suggested that the board instead revise the policy by, at a minimum, adding in definitions necessary to understand what rights students are afforded under the law. Phrases

like "hostile education environment" appear in the board policy, but have a far-reaching definition to include any situation where a student's academic performance is adversely affected by an intimidating or offensive environment. What's more, he said, the policy makes no explicit mention of protecting gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students, which would be important if federal protections for LGBT students are eroded under the President Donald Trump's administration.

Board member Joe Mitchner said he wanted to pass the policy updates right away, and have sexual harassment and discrimination policies that are up-to-date — rather than 15 years old — to avoid any sort of liability. A vote to approve the updated policy failed 2-3, with board member Fiona Walter and Mitchner in favor and board members Debbie Torok, Sanjay Dave and Faillace against. The revised version of the policies are expected to come back for approval sometime in March.

The delay won't mean that the district will be flouting its job to protect students rights in the meantime, Harding said.

"We follow current California law, and if our board policy doesn't reflect the latest in the

law, we adhere to the latest mandate out of court cases and the education code," Harding said. "The policy really helps our school leaders communicate, unambiguously, what the latest laws are with our parents and students."

The changing laws regarding sexual harassment, sexual assault and the idea of "affirmative" consent could mean changes in classroom instruction as well. Trustees mulled over whether teaching health as a half-year class during sophomore year is really an adequate way to cover a field that has broadened so much over the last two decades. Complicating the law further is the ubiquitous use of technology, which has posed challenges for district schools in recent years. Last year, the Mountain View Police Department conducted a months-long investigation into teens who were accused of sharing nude photos of classmates over the file-sharing service Dropbox.

Faillace said the district really ought to start teaching students how to be safe "netizens" as soon as they hit freshman year.

"You gotta start early, like once we hand you that Chromebook in ninth grade, we have to teach you how to use that responsibly," he said. ■

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com



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County seeks injunction on 'sanctuary jurisdictions' executive order

Santa Clara County asked a federal court last week to grant a nationwide preliminary injunction blocking an executive order by President Donald Trump that would deny federal funds to sanctuary cities, counties and states.

The motion was filed Feb. 23 as part of a Feb. 3 lawsuit in which the county challenged Trump's Jan. 25 executive order.

The filing says the county last year received \$1.7 billion in federal or federal dependent funds, or 35 percent of its total revenue. It says withholding those funds would cause "immediate and devastating injury" to county residents.

Many county services rely on federal financial support that help support the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center in San Jose, the county's only safety-net hospital; food and nutrition benefits; housing; highway construction and emergency response, according to the county.

"We are defending Santa Clara County's core values and the values of so many cities and counties across the nation," county board President Dave Cortese said in a news release.

"There is no justification for withholding nearly \$1.7 billion in funds used to deliver essential

county services such as medical care for infants and children simply because our county adopted policies that reflect the welcoming, inclusive values of our community," Cortese said.

"Implementation of the President's unconstitutional order would cause significant and irreparable harm to the county and its residents," County Counsel James Williams said in a statement. "We are seeking a preliminary injunction now to protect the county from the president's willful disregard of the limits on his power imposed by the United States Constitution."

U.S. District Judge William Orrick is scheduled to hold a hearing on the motion on April 5.

The county's filing alleges that Trump's order is "patently unconstitutional."

The executive order "usurps and expands Congress's spending power in a naked effort to coerce state and local governments, including plaintiff County of Santa Clara, into enforcing the Trump Administration's immigration agenda," county lawyers wrote.

Trump's order would withhold federal funding from local governments that are deemed "sanctuary jurisdictions"

because they shield undocumented immigrants from deportation by federal authorities. The county's motion argues that only Congress has the power to determine federal funding and that the order illegally requires local governments to enforce a federal regulatory program.

The order "brazenly disregards fundamental principles of federalism and separation of powers that define our republican government," the motion says.

The U.S. Justice Department is due to file a reply to the injunction request by March 9.

—Bay City News Service

MITRACLIP

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technical solution."

Although the small med-tech company that developed the MitraClip has since been acquired by health care giant Abbott Laboratories, the procedure's humble beginnings has roots at El Camino Hospital. St. Goar, who worked at El Camino Hospital as a physician, recalled spending plenty of time in the late 1990s and early 2000s using recycled catheters from the hospital's catheter lab trying to find ways to suture the mitral valve — an idea that eventually was scrapped in favor of a clip.

After successfully pulling off the procedure for the first time in 2003 on a patient in Venezuela, St. Goar said the team returned to the United States and opted against working with the country's big academic centers in favor of doing clinical trials for the device at El Camino.

Dr. Chad Rammohan, the medical director for the hospital's catheterization lab, said he's been doing the MitraClip procedure for eight years — starting a time when it was rarely conducted in the U.S. He said El Camino's decision to pick up the new technology so early on shows that the hospital doesn't shy away from innovation, and prefers to take the long view in figuring out what's best for patients.

Rammohan recalled some of the tricky things that come with being an early adopter, trying to figure out what catheters were needed, what backup surgeons to have, and what kind of echo-tech staff was needed to guide the procedure. But once the procedure was finished, he said, it was great seeing each patient recover so rapidly and leave the hospital.

"Almost everyone goes home the next day," he said. "They don't go to the ICU, they don't have



NATALIA NAZAROVA

Dr. Chad Rammohan greets **Martin Bicker** at El Camino Hospital's celebration of its 100th MitraClip procedure on Feb. 28.

the same recovery of open-heart surgery."

Martin Bicker, who attended the event, said his 89-year-old mother Maria Bicker, underwent the procedure last year after open-heart surgery appeared to be off the table due to her advanced age. He said the recovery was fast, and it's made a world of difference for her.

"For her, it was the only solution," Bicker said. "To have something minimally invasive like this, it was a real boost for her."

Bardot recalled how she used to have a cocktail of 25 different medications to deal with her heart problems, none of which seemed to help. Now she's down to just four, she said, and the procedure has given her a "second life" since she had the MitraClip implanted in June 2015.

An innovative culture

Although the MitraClip procedure took the spotlight Tuesday night, El Camino Hospital's Heart and Vascular Institute has recently been ground zero for numerous new devices aimed at helping patients with heart and vascular diseases. As it stands today, the institute is home to 11 active clinical trials, each one taken up by a physician at the

hospitals in the region to use a new technology called the "Watchman" device, which is used to prevent strokes in patients who have an irregular heartbeat, or atrial fibrillation.

The device is a jellyfish-shaped implant designed to fit over the "left atrial appendage," a part of the heart left over from embryological development that serves no purpose. Over time, blood can pool up in the appendage, clot, break off and travel into the brain. Rammohan said the device caps off the appendage and prevents the clots from developing, giving patients an alternative to using blood-thinning drugs, which are hardly an ideal solution.

"Drugs like Warfarin avoid clots, but they're thinning the blood all over the body," Rammohan said. "Then patients run the risk of bleeding problems including inner cerebral hemorrhage."

The hospital was also the first in the Bay Area to use a new heart stent technology called the

"Absorb GT1," a stent designed to expand an artery before slowly dissolving over the course of three years. The device is used as an alternative to a rigid, metal stent, and has shown some promising benefits. By dissolving, the stent leaves a natural, native artery with normal vascular function, meaning it can freely dilate and constrict based on blood flow. Rammohan said the device could prove useful, particularly for younger patients who need a stent and need to take a long-term approach to coronary artery health.

At Tuesday's festivities, Rammohan hailed the strong bond between El Camino and med-tech companies for making these trials possible, and putting the Heart and Vascular Institute on the leading edge of a fast-moving industry.

"The patients win, the physicians win, industry wins," he said. "It's been a great collaborative relationship." ▣

Email **Kevin Forestieri** at kforestieri@mv-voice.com



NATALIA NAZAROVA

A demonstration model of the MitraClip device on display at El Camino Hospital.

PARIJAT (paa-ree-jaath') n

- 1.) FEMALE.
- 2.) MOTHER, PSYCHOLOGIST, WIFE.
- 3.) A WOMAN WHO REFUSES TO LET HER SON'S LIFE BE DEFINED BY THE FACT THAT HE WAS BORN FOUR MONTHS EARLY.

El Camino Hospital is redefining the role of a community hospital with a Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, where highly trained experts and the latest medical technology help premature babies gain a critical foothold on life. And, eventually, experience the joy of going for long walks with their moms. This is exceptional mother-and-baby care, delivered to Parijat and her precious son in the most personal way possible.



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PARKING

► Continued from page 1

multistory garage, said Tony Siress, CEO of the Mountain View Chamber of Commerce. The cost of a garage breaks down to about \$55,000 or more per parking space, according to city staff estimates.

“You have that cost and you also have to own the land. That’s a crucial resource, and do you really want to contribute it to parking?” Siress said. “It might not be the best investment to build a traditional parking garage when it might not be needed in the near future.”

The Feb. 28 discussion signaled how rapidly local leaders have shifted their outlook on the need for public parking in the city’s commercial core, which currently has about 1,600 off-street parking spaces. As recently as last year, new parking

was a must-have for any new downtown development, and council members were reluctant to budge on it. Downtown parking became the big sticking point over talks last year to transform two public lots into a high-end hotel and office complex. At the time, city officials insisted the new developments include more than doubling the number of parking spaces currently offered by the lots.

But on Tuesday, council members echoed a common sentiment that traditional parking needs could soon become obsolete as new technology develops, particularly with self-driving cars. At this time, building new parking garages could soon become a dead-end, said Councilman Lenny Siegel.

“We’re always struggling with what to do with parking,” he said. “But in 10 years we may have tied up space anticipating

something that we’ll no longer need.”

Council members last took a magnifying glass to the changing paradigm for parking a few months ago, when they reviewed their ambitious plans to add about 10,000 new apartments in North Bayshore. At the time, council members worried they could be going too far as traffic consultants laid out a futuristic vision of a near auto-free society. Among their suggestions, those consultants urged the city to tightly restrict parking, making it so two apartments would have to share one parking space between them.

With robo-cars still years away, Mountain View’s already bustling downtown will still need some parking options in the interim, and that’s where temporary ideas like the valet service come into play. In fact,

Mountain View is borrowing the valet idea from Google, which reportedly uses similar services to pack in extra vehicles at some of the company’s North Bayshore lots.

“Valet” is really a poor word to describe the new program, making it seem like attendants in tuxedos would be providing some high-end service on the city’s dime, Siress said. The real service being provided is inventory management, allowing more cars to be packed into the limited space, he said. Those attendants would guide drivers to where to leave their cars, sometimes double-parking in front of other vehicles. Drivers would leave their keys with the attendants so they could rearrange the vehicles as needed. Drivers would not be expected to pay or tip the attendants.

Ride-sharing incentives

The parking service was just one piece of a new parking strategy approved by the council. Members also signed off on a new agreement with Lyft and Uber to encourage more drivers to begin using ride-sharing services as a way to reduce the number of parked cars.

To that end, Mountain View is putting forward \$50,000 to pay half the cost for anyone

traveling downtown with one of the ride-sharing services. To avoid riders exploiting the program, city officials laid out some criteria. Mountain View will pay half the cost, up to \$5 for an Uber or Lyft trip, but the rides have to be based within the city boundaries, and not coming from the San Francisco airport, for example. City staff members said they were still working with the companies to figure out whether the discount would be provided through a coupon code or if it would be built into the software to automatically mark down the price.

Representatives from both ride-sharing companies thanked the council and promised they would share their aggregated data to show transportation patterns for use in future planning. The service is expected to start this spring and run for six months.

Both parking initiatives are being run as pilot programs to provide data for city officials to analyze later. The programs are being funded through the city’s Parking District fund, which draws money from parking permits and property fees.

The City Council approved the programs in a unanimous 7-0 vote. ■

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BOOKS INC.

► Continued from page 1

down, he said.

“This should be a really simple move. We should be able to just put things in carts and roll them down the sidewalk,” he said. “We’re really excited about this. I think it’s going to be a better experience for the customer.”

There’s definitely some pros and cons with the new location, Robbe said. The owner of the former BookBuyers site is upgrading the location with new lighting and divide up the large ground floor space. Losing the lucrative corner location will be unfortunate, Robbe said, but the new location should provide more room for a children’s area.

Leslie Mills, the owner of the BookBuyers’ former Castro Street building, said she plans to partition the former BookBuyers store into three separate commercial spaces. Books Inc. will be taking over about 4,000 square feet of space, roughly the same size at their current location. Meanwhile, the international bakery chain Paris Baguette recently announced plans to move in next door, so long as it can get city permits. That move

remains tentative, since city officials have been reluctant to sanction more downtown restaurant space, said landlord Leslie Mills.

The change for Books Inc. comes as bad news for its upstairs neighbor, the coffee shop Caffe Romanza. When the bookshop’s lease expires in May, Romanza owner Jay Kim said he would also need to relocate. But so far he hasn’t been able to find a new space, and he said his prospects aren’t good for finding something affordable downtown. He is mulling possibly relocating further south, perhaps even as far as San Jose.

Even as the retail industry for books has dwindled in recent years, the Bay Area chain Books Inc. has shown remarkable resilience and even some growth. The chain currently has nine neighborhood stores and two smaller shops at the SFO airport. Next year, the company plans to open its 10th store at the Pruneyard Shopping Center in Campbell.

Smaller bookstores have benefited in recent years from the decline of large “superstore” booksellers like Borders, according to the Northern California Independent Booksellers Association. ■

Caltrain gets 3-month extension for electrification project

Caltrain has successfully negotiated an extension of the deadline for contractors to begin construction on a massive electrification project while awaiting a decision from the Federal Transit Administration on a \$647 million grant, the transit agency announced Monday.

Transit officials said on Feb. 27 that contractors agreed to extend the deadline for four months, from March 1 to June 30, after the FTA decided to defer a final decision about the money until the Trump Administration developed its 2018 fiscal year budget.

Caltrain executive director Jim Hartnett said in a statement, "By agreeing to an extension, Caltrain's contractors have demonstrated their commitment to preserving this unique opportunity to deliver

unprecedented improvements to an aging commuter rail system that serves 65,000 riders every

day and a project that will put thousands of Americans to work throughout the country."

The project to convert the commuter train system from diesel fuel to electric power has a price tag of \$1.98 billion, with \$1.3 billion already committed from local, state and regional sources, according to Caltrain spokesman Seamus Murphy.

The final \$647 million was to be from the FTA's Core Capacity grant program and the project was already vetted and approved by the federal agency's staff after a two-year evaluation process.

According to agency officials, the extension will likely require the utilization of up to \$20 million in project

contingency funds.

The FTA's decision came on the heels of a letter critical of the funding sent to U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao by the 14 members of California's

'Caltrain is the backbone of the Silicon Valley transportation system.'

REP. JACKIE SPEIER

Republican caucus, including House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Bakersfield.

The letter, sent Jan. 24, urged Chao to reconsider the grant on the basis that it is tied up

with California's high-speed rail project, which the letter said ballooned in price from \$33 billion to over \$100 billion and is already the beneficiary of roughly \$3.55 billion in federal funds.

The letter said providing any further federal money to the project would be "an irresponsible use of taxpayer dollars" until there is "a full and complete audit of the project and its finances can be conducted."

The Caltrain project would electrify the tracks between San Francisco and San Jose for commuter trains but it would also serve as the high-speed rail corridor along the Peninsula.

The FTA, however, gave no reason for its decision to defer a final decision on the \$647 million grant.

Murphy said the Caltrain project would be the first project

to ever lose funding after making it so far down the approval process.

On Feb. 3, House Democrats from California also sent a letter to Chao, but in support of the Caltrain grant.

Earlier this month, U.S. Congresswoman Jackie Speier issued a statement urging President Trump to intervene to save the funding.

"Caltrain is the backbone of the Silicon Valley transportation system and this decision to delay would threaten to break the backbone of this economy," Speier said. "To make America great again, the president should order that this grant be made and then join us to turn dirt as 9,600 good American jobs related to this project — spread over 13 states — are created."

—Bay City News Service

MATH PROGRAM

► Continued from page 1

families, he said, approached him and said they liked Teach to One, and were excited by it.

"We saw both pros and cons, which is exactly what a pilot program does," Gutierrez said. "I'm glad we're having this conversation now, and I'm glad we're getting feedback from parents, the teachers and the district in determining whether this was a good decision."

Board member Ellen Wheeler, on the other hand, said getting negative feedback after the program has been tested for months on hundreds of sixth-grade students is not the way the district ought to be running a pilot. Comprehensive vetting needs to happen ahead of time, Wheeler told the *Voice*, so the community isn't spotting flaws and bugs in a program that's already live.

"Everyone should have been involved earlier. Teachers should have been involved, parents and board members should have been involved," she said. "If we had done a slower and more deliberate process, which is what a typical pilot process is, we would get a better result."

The board's policy on pilot adoption states that a new curriculum can be tested using a "representative sample" of classrooms over a period of time during a school year to see how well it meets the district's academic standards. The policy requires the district to seek feedback from teachers

piloting the material, which "shall be made available to the board" prior to adoption.

Steve Nelson, who served on the board during Teach to One's implementation, said in an email that he believes the district parted ways with its own policies on curriculum adoption with Teach to One, and that the responsibility lies solely with the board president and the superintendent. The

principals think of this? What did the teachers think about this? We had no idea."

Big questions linger over TTO contract

The good news is that the district won't be on the hook for the full \$478,000 in fees for Teach to One. Following a closed session meeting Tuesday, Feb. 28, the board voted 4-1, with Greg Coladonato

'I do not agree that a contract for \$478,250, presented four months after services began on a grade-wide and year-long curriculum pilot rife with problems, is of a routine nature.'

BOARD MEMBER GREG COLADONATO

policy is clear, Nelson said, and it guarantees feedback from teachers and parents, and inclusion of the board "if executed with fidelity."

Emails between district staff and the board that were obtained by the *Voice* show that board members were left in the dark about recurring problems with Teach to One, including a wave of opposition by families that came to light only when board members received the letter signed by 180 parents late last year. At a Jan. 17 study session on Teach to One, Wheeler said she felt uninformed about what people were saying about the program.

"We didn't get any feedback," Wheeler said. "What did the

opposed, to finally approve a contract with Teach to One that shaved the total bill down to \$149,000. An earlier contract that was originally supposed to be signed by the board at the Dec. 8 meeting included \$128,000 for "student licensing" costs, as well as a \$350,000 service fee. That original contract had also stipulated that Mountain View Whisman would be responsible for the program's full cost, regardless of whether the district terminated it before the end of the school year.

The \$149,000 bill doesn't represent the true cost of Teach to One, which is closer to \$275,000. Superintendent Rudolph said the program

prompted the district to hire more instructional aides, who are still working in the classrooms, as well as "copying costs" associated with the program. It's not clear whether the instructional aides will continue to work at the two middle schools, Crittenden and Graham, but anecdotal evidence shows teachers appreciate the extra help.

"The qualitative feedback we got from staff shows it's a real benefit to sixth-grade students to have those additional hands there," Rudolph said.

But both versions of the contract — the original and the revised document — came to the board after teachers had been using Teach to One in the classroom for months, which didn't sit well with some board members. Wheeler said the board's role is to review and approve contracts ahead of time, and that Teach to One has been the exception to the rule.

"We're not supposed to be rubber-stamping work that's already been done," she said.

Board member Greg Coladonato told the *Voice* in an email that it is "unacceptable" for major contracts like the one with New Classrooms, which originally cost nearly half a million dollars, to show up on the consent calendar — a part of the agenda designated for items that are "routine" in nature and not expected to generate board discussion.

"I do not agree that a contract for \$478,250, presented four months after services began on a grade-wide and year-long curriculum pilot rife

with problems, is of a routine nature," Coladonato said.

Rudolph told the *Voice* Wednesday morning that district officials are already working to address these concerns.

Going forward, the board will be deviating from its old practice of approving contracts on the consent calendar, starting as soon as the March 2 board meeting. Several contracts on that meeting's agenda are now listed as individual action items.

The meeting also includes reviewing new guidelines for pilot program adoption, which includes the creation of an "instructional materials review committee" staffed by teachers, administrators and community members. The committee will set up several aspects of the pilot program including its duration, metrics for success and the review process, and will ultimately present its recommendation to the board.

Now that Teach to One has been out of the classroom for over a month, Wheeler said she believes it's time to learn from the mistakes and move on. Even though the program ultimately failed, she said she still believes Rudolph is an "excellent" superintendent who would benefit the district by sticking around for the long run.

"I think he, and all of us, have learned a lot of lessons in this," Wheeler said. "Going forward we're all going to do better, but I also want Dr. Rudolph to stay in his position." ■

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

CRIME BRIEFS

► Continued from page 4

Feb. 23. One of the officers noticed that Braby was wearing the same outfit as a suspect who

had reportedly burglarized a business in the 400 block of Clyde Avenue the week before, according to Mountain View police.

Surveillance footage from the burglary showed a man,

who wore “distinctive clothing” identical to Braby’s outfit, stealing several items, including laptop computers, according to police. Officers later found Braby was in possession

of the business’ laptops, police said.

Braby was arrested on charges of possession of stolen property and burglary, and cited for trespassing for sleeping in the

apartment complex’s bathroom. Braby was booked into Santa Clara County jail without bail, and the laptop was returned to the business, police said.

—Kevin Forestieri



RENTAL HOUSING COMMITTEE VACANCIES

The City of Mountain View is accepting applications at the City Clerk’s Office until 4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 17, 2017 for Mountain View residents wishing to serve on the:

RENTAL HOUSING COMMITTEE

- This is a newly formed committee to implement the voter-approved Measure V.
- The City Council will appoint five committee members and one alternate member.
- No more than two members of this committee may own or manage any rental property, or be realtors or developers.
- Meeting dates and times to be established by committee.

Members of the Committee are volunteers and, per the charter amendment known as The Community Stabilization and Fair Rent Act (“CSFRA”) or Measure V, are tasked with setting rents at fair and equitable levels; establishing rules and regulations for the administration and enforcement of the CSFRA; determining the annual general rent adjustment; appointing hearing officers; adjudicating petitions and holding public hearings; establishing a budget and charging fees necessary to support that budget; administering the withdrawal process for the removal of rental units from the rental housing market; conducting studies, surveys, and investigations; reporting periodically to the City Council; publicizing the Charter Amendment and the rights and responsibilities of landlords and tenants; establishing a schedule of penalties for noncompliance; and pursuing civil remedies and intervening in litigation, subject to City Council approval. The CSFRA can be found on the City’s website and is also available upon request.

Supplemental Statement:

* Candidates are required to submit, along with their City application form, a typewritten statement to the following:

A statement under penalty of perjury setting forth the applicant’s interests and dealings in real property, including, but not limited to, ownership, trusteeship, sale, or management, and investment in and association with partnerships, corporations, joint ventures, and syndicates engaged in ownership, sale, or management of real property during the three years immediately prior to the applicant’s application. This documentation will be available to the public.

If appointed, a Statement of Economic Interests Form 700 will need to be completed annually.

Appointments are available on an equal opportunity basis.

Call the City Clerk’s Office at 650-903-6304 for further information and an application. An application can also be downloaded at:

<http://www.mountainview.gov/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=22068>

■ COMMUNITY BRIEF

APPLY TO RENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

Despite having a surplus of candidates, Mountain View is going to be launching a second round of applications for the new Rental Housing Committee.

The five-person rental committee will be the group in charge of administering the Measure V rent-control program. The city last put out a call for prospective applicants in December and 19 people applied.

But reviewing the candidates last month, some on the City Council said they were disappointed that no local landlords had applied. They asked to reopen the application period to encourage more apartment owners to serve on the committee to balance out what they saw as a renter-heavy candidate pool.

This idea is complicated by the lawsuit against Measure V filed by the California Apartment Association, which is currently blocking the rent-control program from taking effect. City officials had warned that the judge overseeing the case could allow the rent-control law to go forward as soon as March 14. For that reason, they worried that there wasn’t enough time to do another round of candidate applications and interviews.

But that timing appears to no longer be a problem. In recent days, attorneys on both sides of the case agreed to postpone the court hearing to April 4. On Tuesday, the city’s Housing Department staff updated the city’s website to include new applications for the rental-housing committee. The deadline to apply is March 17.

City Council members have already spent two lengthy meetings interviewing candidates for the committee. On Feb. 21, the council selected its six top candidates, but members made clear they were not voting to make any final committee appointments. It is not clear how council members plan to compare any new second-round applicants to the candidates they’ve already interviewed.

All Mountain View residents are allowed to apply in this second application round — not just landlords.

More information and application materials can be found at the city’s website www.mountainview.gov.

—Mark Noack



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EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

The buck stops with the school board

The school community can take some comfort in the fact that the Mountain View Whisman School District's plunge into an ill-thought-out pilot math program was only a \$149,000 fiasco, as opposed to one with a half-million-dollar price tag. Although the original contract proposed to the school board in December included the higher figure to pay for the problem-riddled Teach to One digital course, the district saw the writing on the wall, pulled the proposed contract off the agenda and negotiated a new agreement with the company that designed the program.

And in January, the district terminated the program, which was to have been in place through the school year, and returned teachers to the primary position of teaching mathematics to sixth-graders.

Calling this episode of bungling and bad choices a fiasco is not hyperbole: Teach to One was launched at the beginning of the school year with no signed contract. It involved all sixth-grade students, despite its characterization as a "pilot" — meaning a test of its merits as a tool to help students at all achievement levels learn math. Yet with all students participating, a pilot program loses the critical component that allows the pilot set of students' learning to be compared with that of students using the traditional curriculum.

The bad choices made at the beginning of the program's launch were then exacerbated with the decision to keep the increasing complaints and concerns of parents and teachers from the school board, whose members apparently weren't paying attention to the developments unfolding with a radically new math program.

Superintendent Ayinde Rudolph's decision to try to hide

increasingly troubling developments during the five months the program was in place — problems highlighted in emails the *Voice* obtained through a state Public Records Act request — was a huge blunder. It took a small army of parents to wave the red flag in the school board's collective face, and by then, confidence in district administrators and the elected officials who are supposed to be overseeing them was badly damaged.

Rudolph also blundered in not vetting Teach to One beforehand by bringing teachers and parents into the process, leaping headlong into a program that has little or no record of use, let alone success, in districts comparable to Mountain View Whisman.

Some board members are owning up to the fact that their oversight and their adherence to policy were inadequate. No argument there. When Rudolph was hired in summer 2015, the board acknowledged that he lacked experience in important areas, and to its credit, authorized training to help him succeed in his leadership position. But with this acknowledgment and decision to hire Rudolph, the board should also have understood that oversight of someone with little experience was more important than ever. And that includes vigilance to ensure that policies and best practices that Rudolph may not be familiar with are followed.

Board member Ellen Wheeler said she believes the district should learn from the mistakes that led to the Teach to One failure, and move on. We hope that lessons were indeed learned from this unfortunate episode and that in the future the board pays closer attention when major changes are put in place in the district's classrooms. ■

LETTERS

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

PARENT'S INSTRUCTION TO CHILD CHALLENGED

Your article on the Mountain View math program included a report that one dissatisfied parent had advised their daughter to intentionally "fail her exit ticket" to improve her understanding of the lesson.

Regardless of the intended benefit from such a step, what is

the real lesson that she learned from that parent? Is this what we want our parents to teach their children? How will they behave in the future, and how will that affect our society?

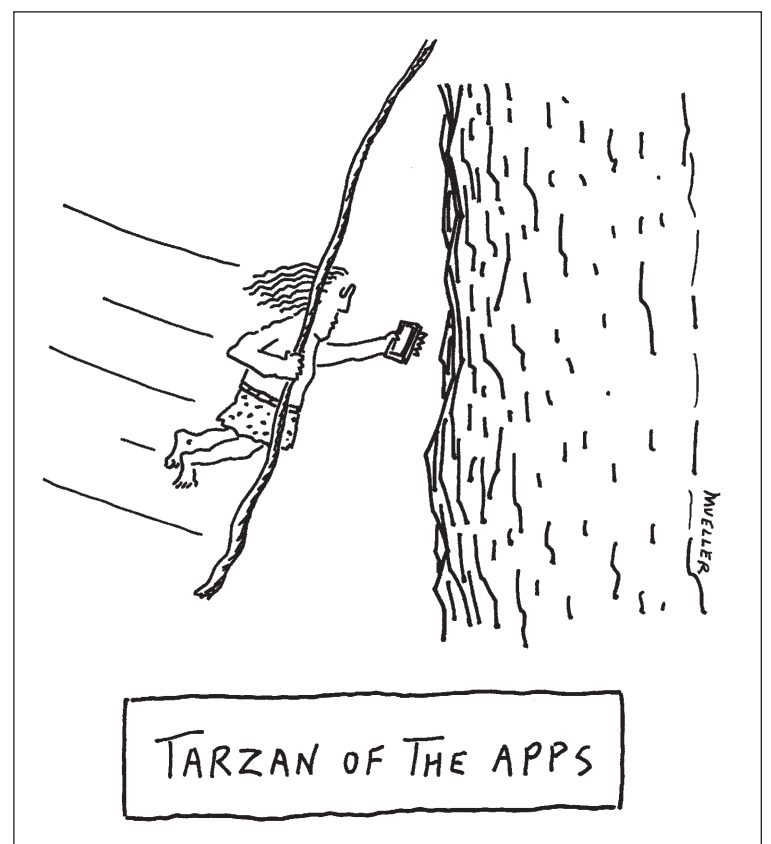
Is this how far our society has fallen in its mad chase of success?

Dave Himmelblau
West Middlefield Road

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.

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Staying silent is wrong as the government intensifies its cruel anti-immigrant actions

by Job Lopez

It is long past time for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) to speak out loud and clear against not only President's Trump travel ban of residents from seven Muslim countries, but the heartless deportation of hundreds of undocumented immigrants throughout the country in the last several days under the argument they are hard-core criminals. Hundreds, caught simply undocumented, are being deported, which is tearing entire families apart across the nation, and things are getting worst.

The silence of the USCCB is demoralizing, more yet when many of the deported and those under the threat of deportation are Catholic sons and daughters, brothers and sisters who need to hear the voices of their bishops defending them.

President Obama deported more than 2 million undocumented people, saying they were all criminals. But it has been proven that more than half of the deported were not felons, but had a simple misdemeanor that was irrelevant when taking into account their great contribution to the economy of this country as members of the labor force in the fields of agriculture, construction, health, service and food industries to name only a few. And of course, they were all taxpayers.

The Obama deportations caused the inhumane tearing apart of families across the country, leaving thousands of U.S.-born children without their fathers, without their mothers or without both. All this thanks to Obama, who while standing on

Guest Opinion

the world stage was criticizing other countries for violating the human rights of their citizens, and at the same time standing on our own home stage and grossly violating the most basic human and legal birth rights of thousands of our own American children, forcing them to leave their country of birth only because their parents had an irrelevant misdemeanor.

By acting this way, Obama become one of the biggest hypocrites on the world stage. The USCCB never had the courage to speak out against Obama's actions, and by not doing so it indirectly became his biggest accomplice.

Many in the USCCB have failed terribly to emulate their ultimate leader and pastor, Pope Francis — for example, when the need has arisen to speak up about “building bridges instead of walls” and openly showing compassion for all the immigrants who have made and are making this country a great one. They have failed to recognize that Catholic immigrants have become “solid rocks” sustaining the columns of our Catholic Church.

Now, when the situation is much worse than during the Obama administration, the USCCB remains shamefully silent. Is it because many of its members are as conservative as Trump? Is it because they do

not want to upset the many conservative Catholics who make significant financial donations to their dioceses and parishes especially now when annual diocesan capital appeals are taking place?

I am very happy to say that along these lines at least Bishop Robert McElroy of San Diego and Archbishop Cardinal Blaise Cupich of Chicago spoke on this subject at the World Meetings of Popular Movements celebrated last month in Modesto. They are among the very few within the USCCB who have had the courage to speak up clearly for social justice and to defend immigrants.

The USCCB should take the bull by the horns to defend immigrants and their human dignity as children of God. They should do it with courage as they have done regarding other issues. And when they do so they should do it by publishing with the required intrepidity pastoral letters and documents in the nation's main newspapers and by instructing all the parish pastors across the nation to speak up in moral support of their immigrant parishioners.

If the USCCB does not speak up, the California Catholic Conference should.

Job Lopez is a co-founder of the Day Worker Center in the city of Mountain View, which serves many local immigrants, and is a community volunteer in the area of social justice.

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