

# Mountain View VOICE

MAY 3, 2019 VOLUME 27, NO. 15

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MOVIES | 24



Nothing  
to be blu  
about

WEEKEND | 21



COURTESY OF THE CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

The Mountain View City Council approved **Palo Alto Housing's** project at 950 W. El Camino Real to build 70 affordable studio apartments in Mountain View.

## The high price of affordable housing

COUNCIL BALKS AT INCREASINGLY STEEP PRICE OF PROJECTS

By Mark Noack

In some ways, it was a perfect deal — a new development by nonprofit Palo Alto Housing to build 70 affordable studio apartments came before the Mountain View City

Council with a ready source for nearly all its funding.

But the subsidized housing project at 950 W. El Camino Real still faced a skeptical audience at the City Council's April 30 meeting. While council members all agreed the housing

was sorely needed, some members balked at its immense cost: \$49 million, or just under \$700,000 per studio. Of that sum, nearly half would be paid by the city.

► See **HOUSING**, page 15

## LASD board approves partial deal with Bullis Charter School

SHORT-TERM AGREEMENT ALLOWS BCS TO GROW, PUTS OFF DECISION ON EGAN CAMPUS

By Kevin Forestieri

To delayed but hearty applause, the Los Altos School District board of trustees voted 5-0 Monday night to approve an agreement with Bullis Charter School, without relocating Egan Junior High School and give its campus to the charter school.

The unanimous vote would allow Bullis to increase its enrollment to 1,111 students, all of whom would be housed within the charter school's existing

footprint on the edge of Egan and Blach Intermediate schools for the next two years. The board's vote postpones critical decisions on where to put the charter school after June 2021, and what kind of school will be housed at the yet-to-be-built campus planned in the San Antonio area of Mountain View.

Seeking to end a lengthy and litigious dispute over facilities spanning more than a decade, board members from both Bullis Charter School and Los Altos School District hammered out a

10-year peace agreement, which was unveiled to the public on April 3. Under the terms of the proposed deal, Bullis would be granted the majority of the Egan site — 16 acres in total — while Egan students would move to the future Mountain View school. The agreement states Bullis will remain in its configuration at Egan and Blach until the new school is built, expected to be no sooner than 2023.

The 10-year agreement won

► See **LASD**, page 12

## Trail attack suspect faces kidnapping, assault charges

WOMAN ON STEVENS CREEK TRAIL SAYS SHE FOUGHT BACK, BIT ATTACKER'S HAND

By Kevin Forestieri

A 29-year-old man accused of brutally attacking a woman on Stevens Creek Trail in late February is facing four felony charges including kidnapping and assault with intent to rape, according to court documents. He remains in custody without bail.

Michael Wendy Adonis is accused of attacking a Boston woman who was visiting Mountain View on Stevens Creek Trail near Creekside Park in the Whisman neighborhood on Feb. 25. She reported being struck multiple times in the face, suffering cuts to both sides of her face, her nose, eyes and mouth, and her attacker allegedly attempted to pull down her pants.



Michael Wendy Adonis

Adonis, described by police as a French national who resides in a home on Santa Clara Avenue in Mountain View, was arrested four days later during a separate domestic violence incident involving his female roommate. Along with his physical appearance matching that of the suspect in the attack, officers found he had injuries on his hands closely resembling bite marks left by the victim during the attack.

The victim told police that she was in the area on a work-related trip, and traveled to downtown Mountain View for dinner and yoga on Feb. 25 before heading home on foot. An unspecified Google app had directed her to travel north on Castro Street across Central Expressway before heading north on Santa Rosa Avenue, Central Avenue and

eventually east onto Stevens Creek Trail, she told police.

While walking, the victim said she repeatedly felt as though she was being followed, and at one point pretended to make a phone call to dissuade a potential stalker, according to court documents. Despite feeling uneasy about the poor lighting on the creek trail and considering calling for a ride, she saw others using the trail and felt it would be safe.

Surveillance footage from a home security camera facing Santa Rosa Avenue shows the victim traveling quickly and looking back, followed by a possible suspect behind her about 20 seconds later, police said in an investigative report.

The victim said she spotted Adonis following her about 10 feet away on the creek trail near the Highway 85 overpass. He asked whether the victim had a boyfriend and if they could be "friends," shortly before he grabbed her and dragged her behind a nearby utility box. Adonis allegedly wrestled the phone from the victim's hand as she attempted to call 911, repeatedly punched her in the face and tried to muffle her screams with his hands. She told police she fought back and bit the suspect's left finger "down to the bone" during the altercation.

Adonis allegedly ceased his attack when two people on the trail shouted at him, and reportedly left the area heading south. A police search of the area didn't find the suspect.

The attacker's bitten hand was a critical piece of information in finding a suspect, court documents show. After releasing information about the attack and

► See **TRAIL ATTACK**, page 13

INSIDE

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\*Buyer to verify



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# Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked in downtown Mountain View. Photos and interviews by Ray Levy-Uyeda

## Should the city government provide housing for low-income people?



“The income gap here is so huge, they definitely deserve some help.”

**Chloe Loh**, Sunnyvale



“If not provide housing, at least give them some assistance. Housing has become so out of reach for average people in the Bay Area. We’ve got to do something. It’s not right that only those who make huge salaries can afford to live here.”

**Jenny Mart**, Mountain View



“I think so. Because they’re human beings.”

**Irma Van Leeuwen**, Sunnyvale



“I think yes, with qualifications. Somebody’s gotta pay; usually that means taxes. Who’s gonna do it? Then the question is, who is low income? How low is low?”

**John Farley**, East San Jose



“I think we should. It’s a really expensive city. I think they should have the option for people who need it.”

**Veronica Lee**, Los Altos

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## ■ CRIME BRIEFS

**DOWNTOWN AUTO BURGLARY SPREE**

The Mountain View Police Department is ramping up its presence in the downtown area after a series of smash-and-grab auto burglary incidents last week, according to a statement by the department.

Mountain View's popular downtown corridor has been the frequent target of thieves in recent months, and last week was particularly bad. Between April 22 and April 26, a total of 12 auto burglaries were reported in the downtown area, primarily along Hope and Bryant streets. Thieves reportedly smashed the back windows of vehicles to look for valuables, and would fold down the rear seats to check the contents of the trunk, police said.

Belongings stolen in the burglaries include a laptop, a wallet and documents, according to police spokeswoman Katie Nelson. Not every incident resulted in something being stolen, she said. The thefts are currently being investigated.

Along with increased on-foot patrols to monitor the area, police are urging downtown visitors to take all valuable belongings out of their vehicles, and that hiding bags, wallets and laptops is "not an acceptable way to safely keep your valuables secure."

Mountain View is among many Bay Area cities experiencing

► See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 18

## ■ POLICE LOG

**AUTO BURGLARY**

2200 block Latham St., 4/22  
1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 4/22  
300 block Hope St., 4/22  
300 block W. Dana St., 4/22  
200 block Bryant St., 4/22  
200 block Bryant St., 4/22  
400 block Bryant St., 4/22  
400 block Bryant St., 4/22  
900 block San Marcos Cir., 4/23  
1900 block Mount Vernon Ct., 4/23  
1500 block Salado Dr., 4/23  
400 block Bryant St., 4/23  
200 block Hope St., 4/23  
700 block Sylvan Av., 4/23  
200 block Hope St., 4/23  
400 block Hope St., 4/23  
400 block Hope St., 4/24  
100 block W. Dana St., 4/24  
100 block View St., 4/26  
2500 block W. El Camino Real, 4/27

**BATTERY**

700 block E. El Camino Real, 4/24

**COMMERCIAL BURGLARY**

900 block W. El Camino Real, 4/26  
400 block E. Middlefield Rd., 4/26

**GRAND THEFT**

1000 block N. Rengstorff Av., 4/22  
2400 block Hospital Dr., 4/23

100 block Calderon Av., 4/23

300 block Showers Dr., 4/23  
1000 block N. Rengstorff Av., 4/25  
700 block E. El Camino Real, 4/27  
700 block Continental Cir., 4/28  
1000 block Grant Rd., 4/29

**PEEPING TOM**

1200 block Villa St., 4/22  
1500 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 4/27

**RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY**

100 block Cuesta Dr., 4/22  
1 block Church St., 4/26  
1 block Church St., 4/26  
100 block E. El Camino Real, 4/26  
500 block Moorpark Way, 4/27  
400 block Stierlin Rd., 4/27

**ROBBERY**

1700 block Miramonte Av., 4/27

**SALE OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE**

1000 block N. Rengstorff Av., 4/25

**STOLEN VEHICLE**

600 block Rainbow Dr., 4/23

**VANDALISM**

2100 block Old Middlefield Way, 4/22  
100 block W. Dana St., 4/23  
900 block Sierra Vista Av., 4/26

## ■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

**BUDGET OFFICER DEPARTS MVWSD**

The Mountain View Whisman School District Board of Trustees voted to part ways with its chief business officer, Robert Clark, cutting him a check equal to six months' pay as part of the severance agreement.

The unanimous vote, announced out of closed session at the April 25 school board meeting, ended the contract between the

► See **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**, page 18

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MAGALI GAUTHIER

## MAY ON TWO WHEELS

If the long, rainy winter kept your bicycle in the garage, it's time to dust it off. May is Bike Month, with events and rides scheduled throughout Santa Clara County. Thursday, May 9, marks the 25th annual Bay Area Bike to Work Day, when riders will find freebies and snacks at about 400 "energizer" stations scattered throughout the nine counties, according to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. For updates on events, go to [bayareabiketowork.com](http://bayareabiketowork.com) or follow Bay Area Bike to Work Day on Facebook, Twitter at @BikeToWorkSFBay and Instagram at [biketoworkday\\_bayarea](https://www.instagram.com/biketoworkday_bayarea).

## EPC opts for less restrictive constraints on cannabis shops

By Adam F. Hutton

A Mountain View Environmental Planning Commission meeting ended in disappointment April 24 for some silent protesters who hoped to stop cannabis businesses from opening in the city.

The commission considered changing the city's cannabis

business regulations and recommended some new restrictions — including limiting the number of businesses in the downtown area to a single storefront and banning them entirely from the area around the San Antonio shopping center.

Dozens of demonstrators showed up at the April 24 meeting to support increasing

restrictions on proposed dispensaries. Most of them did not address the commission, and those who spoke most convincingly declined to be interviewed by the *Voice*.

A smaller number of people who did not oppose the city's plan to offer permits to a limited

► See **CANNABIS SHOPS**, page 8

## Fired cop to get \$325K settlement from city

LAWSUIT CLAIMED OFFICER WAS FIRED OVER HIS MILITARY RESERVE SERVICE

By Mark Noack

Mountain View officials have agreed to pay \$325,000 to a former city police officer who alleged he was illegally fired by his supervisors. The settlement ends a longstanding lawsuit, and comes after an appeals court reversed an earlier ruling that was favorable to the city.

The fired officer, Nicholas Emmerling, joined the city's police department in 2008 as a reserve officer and later was hired full-time. But his tenure as a full-fledged officer was short-lived

— police officials terminated his employment less than two years later, citing subpar performance numbers.

In 2015, Emmerling sued the city, making a string of accusations against the police brass. He alleged the real reason for his firing was because his police supervisors disapproved of his ongoing service in the Army National Guard, and they had created a paper trail of poor performance metrics as a pretext to fire him. He also alleged he was being penalized because he disputed an illegal quota system imposed by police administrators.

The lawsuit was thrown out in 2017 largely due to a lack of evidence, after significant portions of Emmerling's case were ruled inadmissible. But that evidence was given much more consideration after it was brought before the Sixth District Court of Appeals last year. In a decision published in February, a three-judge panel found that Emmerling's case presented "substantial" evidence showing that his termination came as a direct consequence of his military service.

The appellate judges pointed

► See **SETTLEMENT**, page 17

## Widow files wrongful death lawsuit against Tesla over Mountain View crash

By Kevin Forestieri

The family of a man who died when his Tesla Model X crashed last year has filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the car manufacturer, claiming the vehicle's Autopilot function and emergency braking system were defective. Attorneys representing the family say Tesla's actions amount to beta testing vehicle software on "live drivers."

Walter Huang, a 38-year-old San Mateo resident and an Apple engineer, was traveling south on Highway 101 in Mountain View on March 23, 2018, when his vehicle veered left and struck the barrier between southbound Highway 101 and the Highway 85 carpool flyover.

Huang was extracted from the Tesla shortly before the vehicle's damaged battery caught fire. He died in the hospital several hours later of his injuries.

The fatal crash has been the subject of scrutiny after it was revealed that Tesla's Autopilot — described as a driving assistance tool that includes cruise control and Autosteer "lane-keeping assistance" — had been active in the moments prior to the crash. Four days after the collision, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) announced it was opening an investigation into the accident.

A preliminary report from the agency found that the vehicle had started a "left steering" movement seven seconds prior to the crash, and accelerated from 62 miles per hour to 70.8 miles per hour with "no pre-crash braking or evasive steering movement detected" in the final three seconds before striking the highway barrier.

The civil complaint from the family, filed in Santa Clara County Superior Court, alleges that Tesla marketed its Autopilot and automatic emergency braking systems as safe features designed to prevent crashes, and that the vehicle did not deliver on those promises.

"A safe and properly functioning automatic emergency braking system does not allow a crash to occur that could otherwise have been avoided or reduced in

severity," the lawsuit states. "A safe and properly functioning automatic emergency braking system should prevent a vehicle from accelerating into any fixed object."

The suit goes on to claim that Tesla's own testing and reports from NTSB found the Model X was prone to "unwanted, unwarranted or un-commanded acceleration" and lacked the sensors and systems needed to keep the car from leaving a travel lane. Such risks, the suit asserts, should have warranted a post-market warning, advisory or recall.

***'Mrs. Huang lost her husband, and two children lost their father because Tesla is beta testing its Autopilot software on live drivers.'***

ATTORNEY MARK WONG

The law firm representing the family, Minami Tamaki LLP, released a statement Wednesday morning, May 1, announcing the wrongful death suit, which was filed on behalf of Huang's wife, Sevonne Huang. Huang is also survived by his son and daughter, ages 4 and 7, and two elderly parents who were dependent on Huang for financial support.

"Mrs. Huang lost her husband, and two children lost their father because Tesla is beta testing its Autopilot software on live drivers," Mark Fong, an attorney for the firm, said in the statement. "The Huang family wants to help prevent this tragedy from happening to other drivers using Tesla vehicles or any semi-autonomous vehicles."

A spokesperson for Tesla declined to comment on the lawsuit.

The suit also accuses Caltrans of failing to maintain safe conditions at the location of the crash,

► See **LAWSUIT**, page 7

## City's \$95M infrastructure project list sets record

By Mark Noack

A series of projects to improve traffic near Mountain View's North Bayshore tech hub is pushing the city's infrastructure spending to unprecedented heights. The 2019 fiscal year is shaping up to be the most expensive to date as the city pursues a variety of costly upgrades to local streets, buildings and other projects.

In a meeting last week, the City Council reviewed a sweeping list of new capital improvement projects totaling about \$95.3 million — nearly double what the city has spent in any recent year. That lofty price tag is being fueled mainly by a trio of large traffic projects needed for Google's plans to open a string of new offices and apartments in North Bayshore. Meanwhile, a series of planned park upgrades are also in the pipeline next year, leading the city to its highest-ever infrastructure budget, said Public Works Director Mike Fuller.

"It's a natural progression of high-level strategy, land-use planning and the development that is actually occurring," he said. "It's been a long process, and it's just happens that all these transportation improvements are now all getting designed and built."

Among the projects, the city is spearheading a \$23 million realignment of the Highway 101 off-ramp at Shoreline Boulevard. The upgrades are designed to prevent huge traffic backups caused by a problematic five-legged intersection at Shoreline at La Avenida Street that tends to act as a choke point. The improvements would create a new intersection with traffic signals at La Avenida, and it is expected to begin construction in late summer.

Just down the street, a similarly pricey project is being designed to help speed up traffic along

Shoreline Boulevard. At a cost of \$28 million, city officials are preparing a large-scale realignment of Shoreline in order to install dedicated lanes for buses and bicyclists. This project has been complicated by the land acquisition needed to make it happen. Work on the Shoreline improvements is expected to start this fall.

The third project is a \$20 million bike-pedestrian overpass across Highway 101 near Shoreline, which will require agreements from multiple property owners. Plans for the overpass are expected to be finished by next year.

The city's Public Works Department staff points out that some of the funding for the multi-million dollar traffic projects will come from project fees paid by Google and other developers. Mountain View is financing some of the projects through a \$68.8 million bond package approved last year. Google is footing the costs to build new bicycle lanes, sidewalks and bus pullouts along Charleston Road.

As part of the project list, city officials are expecting to begin a \$15 million rebuild of the aquatic center at Rengstorff Park. They are also putting \$600,000 toward extending the southern portion of the Stevens Creek Trail. Mountain View officials say hope to partner with their counterparts in Sunnyvale to apply for funding under the county's Measure B sales tax to help finance the trail work.

City officials are also considering a suite of upgrades to the police and fire department headquarters on Villa Street. Nearly four decades old, the building does not meet current seismic safety standards, and city officials say it is too small to meet the needs of public safety crews. The city is commissioning a \$500,000 study to figure out whether it makes sense to

upgrade and expand the current building for an estimated cost of \$71 million, or to construct an entirely new headquarters for about \$133 million.

A full list of the proposed capital improvement projects can be found on the city's website at [tinyurl.com/y3zkzl5s](http://tinyurl.com/y3zkzl5s).

Mountain View officials acknowledged these high infrastructure costs could be a problem down the road. In fact, they pointed out they were budgeting projects over the next five years that they didn't have the revenues to fund. While this could be a problem, Public Works Director Mike Fuller told the City Council that the city's budget forecasts tended to be conservative, and often Mountain View has received millions of dollars more than originally projected.

"We have a high degree of confidence these funds will be available when these projects roll forward," he told the City Council at its Thursday, April 25, study session. "If the funding is not available, then adjustments can be made to the timing of these projects."

Yet the growing list has made city officials nervous in recent meetings as local stakeholders have begged for more action on priorities such as housing, homelessness and environmental sustainability. For months, city officials have been ratcheting up their warnings that the booming economy will inevitably face a slowdown, and they cautioned that city government should stay lean in case revenues start to dip.

In a budget meeting last week, City Manager Dan Rich spoke to the conflicting priorities, pointing out how city staff needed some reinforcement. He recommended hiring just over 10 new full-time positions.

"Obviously, it's not sustainable for the long term, but we can sustain it for this year," he said. "Honestly, in an ideal world, I'd add another 20 positions to help take on more work, but we just don't think that's sustainable." ▀

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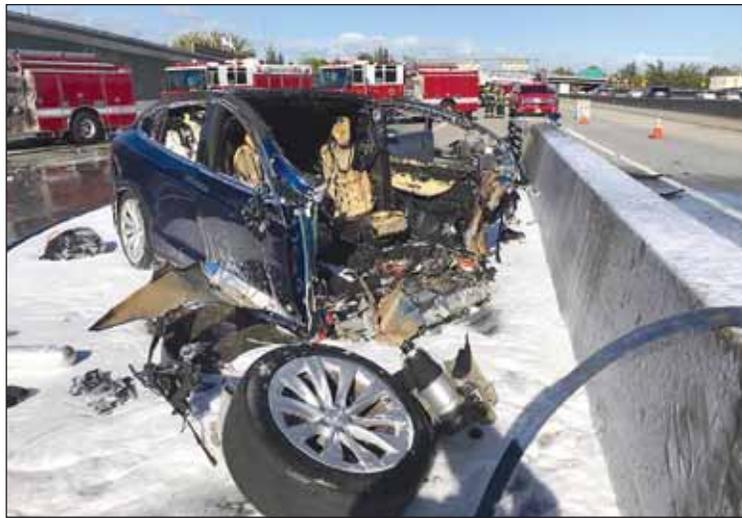
► Continued from page 5

arguing that there was a damaged safeguard where the Highway 85 carpool lane splits from Highway 101. The preliminary NTSB report found that a cushioning system called a “crash attenuator,” designed to soften a high-speed collision into the median, had been damaged 11 days prior to the crash and not been replaced.

The complaint argues that the attenuator was not replaced in a timely manner and that Caltrans’ actions were “negligent and careless” and amounted to leaving a dangerous, defective and hazardous condition of public property.

Just weeks after the crash, the NTSB took the unusual step of revoking Tesla’s involvement in the investigation after the agency officials said the company released “incomplete information” that was neither vetted or confirmed by the agency. The information, released by Tesla in a series of blog posts and statements to the media, implied that user error was a factor in the fatal crash.

“Such releases of incomplete information often lead to speculation and incorrect assumptions about the probable cause of a



COURTESY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW FIRE DEPARTMENT

**Walter Huang’s crashed Tesla** was sprayed with 200 gallons of water and foam by firefighters after its lithium-ion battery caught fire.

crash, which does a disservice to the investigative process and the traveling public,” according to an NTSB statement on April 12, 2018.

Tesla’s website cites data for the first quarter of 2019 showing that there was one accident for every 2.87 million miles driven in Tesla vehicles with Autopilot engaged, and one accident for every 1.76 million miles without Autopilot. The average, across all automobiles, is a crash every 436,000 miles, according to the website.

The March 23, 2018, crash also posed an unusual challenge for

the Mountain View Fire Department, which responded to the vehicle fire caused by a 400-volt lithium-ion battery within the interior of the Model X. The department blasted the exposed portion of the battery with 200 gallons of water and foam, according to the preliminary NTSB report, and received additional support from Tesla engineers before the car was towed to a San Mateo impound lot. The battery reignited five days later and was extinguished by the San Mateo Fire Department. ▣

Email Kevin Forestieri at [kforestieri@mv-voice.com](mailto:kforestieri@mv-voice.com)



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## LocalNews

### CANNABIS

► Continued from page 5

number of cannabis businesses were longtime residents of the city who agreed to speak with the *Voice* after the meeting.

Rules adopted by the City Council in October would allow four permits: two for retail storefronts and two for delivery-only cannabis businesses. Last week, the commission recommended some changes, but none that would necessarily reduce the total number of permits. In March, the council asked the commission to consider imposing more restrictions and directed staff to write a report based on the city of San Jose's laws.

"I felt that the anti-marijuana faction, driven by irrational fear, was gaining influence over the City Council," said Curt Carlson, a longtime Mountain View resident who attended the meeting.

Carlson said he attended the meeting to "push back against the anti-science mindset of the opposition that is using fear mongering and misinformation to support their position."

The protesters arrived en masse and left together when the commission voted to recommend the least restrictive option to the City Council. It was a rejection of the so-called San Jose model, which one commissioner said would amount to a de facto ban on cannabis businesses in Mountain View. Instead, commissioners voted to keep a 600-foot buffer between businesses and schools and 250 feet of separation from day care centers, as compared to buffers of 1,000

feet and 500 feet in San Jose.

Many of the protesters listened to a Chinese language translation of the proceedings on headsets. A translator stood outside the council chambers watching a closed-circuit television broadcast the meeting until the commission voted against recommending an increase in mandatory buffers.

The group held printed signs with slogans like "Kids Matter, Say NO to a Pot Head Society" and "Don't Twist Our Votes! Taxing Pot Shops (does not equal) Approval to Open," referring to the city's 2018 ballot measure establishing a tax on cannabis, which passed by a large margin.

Serge Bonte, a 20-year resident of Mountain View, wrote in a letter to the commission: "When I voted to legalize recreational cannabis — which I never used — my hope was to have cannabis treated on par with alcohol (as the) best way to remove the stigma inherited from the failed and devastating war on drugs, (and the) best way to obliterate the crime-ridden black market.

"I supported the ordinance adopted last fall as a good and prudent first step that would prove that the sky won't fall with cannabis stores," he wrote.

Ivy Xu, one of the protesters who addressed the commission, told a reporter from another newspaper that she was not a part of any group, just a concerned mother who has lived in Mountain View for five years.

"We're all just volunteers and concerned citizens," she said.

In her prepared remarks, Xu urged the commission to adopt

the so-called San Jose model. San Jose requires buffers around things like parks, community centers and libraries — Mountain View does not. San Jose also has restrictions on how closely retail cannabis business can be located to housing, and since most of Mountain View is residential, such restrictions would effectively ban them.

Commissioner Bill Cranston said he wouldn't even consider that.

"The council hasn't asked us to consider repealing the ordinance," Cranston told the *Voice*. "And that's what the San Jose model would do."

The city's Planning Department solicited applications starting in December and by the February deadline, had accepted 10 from would-be cannabis business owners for a lottery selection process that has since been delayed. By April, city staff had deemed six of the applications to be ineligible for the lottery.

With only four applications remaining, city staff said a maximum of two businesses could be awarded permits under the amended ordinance if the lottery is held — one retail storefront and one delivery business. That's because the city only deemed only one of the two delivery service applications eligible, and the three remaining storefront applicants are all located downtown, where council members said they didn't want to see multiple shops.

The City Council is scheduled to consider the Environmental Planning Commission's recommendations on changing the ordinance at its May 23 meeting. ▣

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## SONGS UNDER THE SUN

Just in time for warmer weather, Mountain View's Concert on the Plaza series is under way. On April 19, listeners relaxed to tunes from the Great American Songbook by Jacqui & John Making Music. Coming up next on May 3 is Riviere & Simon Trio. The free concerts are held in Civic Center Plaza, 500 Castro St., from 6-7:30 p.m. on the first and third Fridays of the month through September. A schedule of performances is on the city's website at [tinyurl.com/2019mvPlaza](http://tinyurl.com/2019mvPlaza).

## Police: Suspect in Sunnyvale crash may have targeted Muslims

By Bay City News Service

The suspect who drove into eight people in Sunnyvale April 23 may have targeted some of them because he believed they were Muslim, Santa Clara County officials said.

Isaiah Peoples, 34, was charged April 25 with eight counts of attempted murder in connection with a collision on El Camino Real that left a 13-year-old girl in critical condition and injured seven others.



Isaiah Peoples

On April 25, police discovered evidence that Peoples "intentionally targeted the victims based on their race and his belief that they were of the Muslim faith," said Phan Ngo, chief of the Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety. Ngo declined to provide further details, citing an ongoing investigation.

The crash happened at El Camino Real and Saratoga Sunnyvale Road around 6:40 p.m. April 23. According to police, Peoples had picked up food and was taking it to his Bible study group when he drove a black, four-door sedan into a group of

pedestrians at a crosswalk and sidewalk. After the crash, a witness said she heard Peoples say, "Thank you Jesus, praise Jesus," and that he appeared to be completely coherent.

Jay Boyarsky, chief assistant district attorney in Santa Clara County, said Peoples has not been charged with a hate crime, but said the evidence that he may have targeted "one or two" of the victims based on their race or religion was "disturbing and appalling."

"If there is evidence that warrants the filing of a hate crime enhancement ... I guarantee you that we will file such a charge," Boyarsky said.

Ngo said the FBI is assisting Sunnyvale officers to determine whether Peoples committed a federal crime. Investigators are also looking at whether his actions were influenced by post-traumatic stress disorder he suffered as a result of his Army service in Iraq from 2005 to 2006.

"The FBI San Francisco Field Office has opened a federal hate crime investigation into the incident that occurred in Sunnyvale on April 23, 2019," FBI spokeswoman Cameron Polan said in a statement. "As this is an ongoing investigation, we are not able to comment

further at this time."

Peoples' defense attorney, Chuck Smith, said, "this act was clearly a product of some mental disorder or mental defect," and disputed that Peoples drove into the victims intentionally.

"There's no explanation for this other than his (Army) service, what happened to him while serving our country," Smith said.

Smith added that he will push for a resolution that provides mental health treatment for Peoples "rather than simply locking this good man up."

Peoples faces a maximum sentence of life in prison for each charge filed against him, according to Boyarsky.

Peoples made his first appearance in court April 26, and his arraignment was postponed until May 16, when he is expected to enter a plea.

The 13-year-old girl suffered the most serious injuries and has been hospitalized for the last week. A GoFundMe donation page at [gofundme.com/help-dhriti](http://gofundme.com/help-dhriti) has a goal of \$500,000 and had raised nearly \$524,000 as of 3 p.m. Wednesday.

Sunnyvale Community Services and the city of Sunnyvale have also set up a donation page for victims at [tinyurl.com/sunnyvalecrash](http://tinyurl.com/sunnyvalecrash).



### City of Mountain View Council Neighborhoods Committee 2019 NEIGHBORHOOD GRANTS PROGRAM Applications are Now Available

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The Council Neighborhoods Committee would like to encourage your neighborhood group to apply. Applications and grant guidelines may be picked up in the Community Development Department, City Hall, 500 Castro Street, and are available on the City's web page at [www.mountainview.gov](http://www.mountainview.gov). Please call (650) 903-6379 if you have questions or would like an application mailed. **The application deadline is May 15, 2019.**

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## LASD

► Continued from page 1

swift approval from Bullis Charter School's board of directors on April 23, and was called a path to peace and the result of compromise on both sides. The agreement means Bullis would willingly be constrained by an enrollment cap of 1,111 students for 10 years in return for permanent facilities at a single school site.

Support among the Los Altos School District trustees, on the other hand, appears tenuous at best, and all five members agreed to at least postpone a final decision on displacing Egan. District officials plan to solicit more public feedback over the next several months, with a goal of giving community members more time to digest the details before making a major commitment about Egan's future.

In a statement released Tuesday afternoon, Bullis' board chair Joe Hurd said he and the board of directors were "disappointed" that the district's school board declined to approve the 10-year agreement in whole at the April 29 meeting, calling it a missed chance to help "heal the long-standing divisions that have roiled our community for much of the past 15 years."

Hurd said the charter school's board of directors also met on Monday night and agreed, in closed session, to offer LASD a similar interim agreement, albeit for one year instead of two. One year should be enough time for the community engagement that district officials and the community seek, Hurd said.

Los Altos School District parents have thoroughly slammed the



MAGALI GAUTHIER

**Demonstrators** on April 8 protested against a proposal to move Egan Junior High School to Mountain View so Bullis Charter School could use its campus.

proposal in recent weeks, calling it a major concession to the charter school in exchange for very little. Packing three straight board meetings, residents repeatedly told trustees that moving Egan amounts to a closure of the school, which would be a major blow to the community. Others argued that moving Egan into Mountain View would cause traffic and safety problems, as students living in Los Altos would have to travel across El Camino Real.

Parent Robert Burdick said the board should forget about trying to sell the proposal to the public in the coming months and just reject the 10-year agreement outright. The public has been loud and clear in its staunch opposition since it was unveiled on April 3, he said, and there is no appetite for giving up a neighborhood school to the charter school. Parent Kate Disney urged the board to stand strong against what she called the privatization of education through a rejection

of the proposal.

"Do not turn over our public assets to a quasi-private school," she said. "Do the right thing for LASD, save our neighborhood schools and just say no to handing over Egan to BCS."

Unlike past meetings, several members of the Bullis Charter School community spoke at the April 29 meeting, largely in support of the 10-year agreement. Several Bullis parents argued the proposal comes from a careful, deliberative debate between the two parties over the course of 18 months — albeit behind closed doors — and represents deep concessions from both sides seeking a peaceful compromise. Bullis parent Ying Liu, who ran unsuccessfully for the school board last year, said postponing the decision is a mistake.

"Let's not pretend that we will be smarter and come up with a bright idea that has never been thought of," she said. "The challenge we're facing will not become less personal or emotional, the challenge will only get more complex."

### A split decision

The proposed 10-year agreement came with two parts: the short-term arrangement with Bullis Charter School; and the long-term facilities plan that moves Egan and grants the charter school exclusive use of most of the Egan campus.

The decision Monday night by the Los Altos school board essentially splits the document in half, approving the short-term aspects — allowing Bullis to grow to 1,111 students and providing more classroom space at Egan and Blach for the next two years — while shying away from deciding the fate of Egan Junior High and the future school in Mountain View.

Given the significant opposition and the short time frame in which the negotiated agreement was revealed to the public prior to the April 29 vote, board president Jessica Speiser said it only makes

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2019-20 Local Control and Accountability Plan & Budget

The governing board of Mountain View Los Altos High School District will conduct a public hearing on the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), and Proposed Budget for FY 2019-20, in accordance with Education Code Section 42103, 42127, 52061, and 52062 prior to final adoption. Any interested party may inspect the LCAP and budget prior to final adoption and speak at the public hearing. The public hearing will be held on June 10, 2019, at 7:00 PM. at:

Location: District Office Board Room Address: 1299 Bryant Avenue, Mountain View, CA 94040.

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June 5, 2019 during the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM at:

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Inspection is also available at: [www.mvla.net](http://www.mvla.net) 5/3/19

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► See **LASD**, page 13

**LASD**

► Continued from page 12

sense to hit the brakes on the controversial aspects of the plan. While many more painful alternatives for housing Bullis have been considered and ultimately rejected over the course of several years, many parents opposed to the proposal simply don't have that context, she said.

"While we have gone through this process for many many years, there are newcomers to this process who haven't been. And it's time to get them up to speed," she said.

School board member Bryan Johnson, who represented the district in negotiations with Speiser, also agreed it was worth taking the extra six months to present the district's data and either get community buy-in or find a better option, while also having a short-term plan in place for Bullis' growth.

"We can't rush this when it's going to cause so much change in the district as a whole," he said.

Board member Vladimir Ivanovic, an opponent of the proposed agreement, called it a "mistake" to consider moving Egan in a closed-session environment without giving the public a chance to weigh in. But he said the short-term agreement is a good way to deal with Bullis' near-term enrollment growth while giving the district and its constituents more time to figure out a better solution. The charter school has already enrolled 200 additional students for the fall this year, and the district is required to provide the space for them.

Ivanovic said the reaction of Bullis Charter School's leaders will be a clear sign of whether they are willing to cooperate on a long-term facilities agreement that unites the community.

"I would look to BCS on what they do next as a signal of how willing they are to cooperate," he said. "If they continue to bully us by increasing their enrollment, that sends us a very clear message."

Trustees largely considered the interim agreement a better deal for both the Los Altos School District and Bullis Charter School, noting that the alternative is more expensive and more painful. If there is no negotiated agreement on facilities, the district and the charter school must fall back on the state's Proposition 39 process, which requires a rigid offer and counter-offer framework for school facilities. The district's prior offer under Proposition 39 was to divide the charter school further by placing additional students at Loyola Elementary School — an idea that raised concerns about shared use of the Loyola's facilities.

In a statement, Bullis board

chair Hurd said that, as a way to guarantee facilities in the event that the interim agreement falls through, the charter school will continue to respond to the district's facilities offer for classroom space at Loyola Elementary School. Hurd characterized it as a necessary negotiation that needs to happen alongside the debate over a short-term agreement.

"Quite simply, we need to ensure that, one way or another, our students have facilities for the 2019-2020 school year," Hurd said. "This means we shall continue to request facilities under Prop 39 in parallel with our negotiations with LASD."

Prior to the release of Hurd's statement, Johnson said he hopes the board's vote Monday night is flexible, and that the short-term facilities agreement could be shortened further — to just the 2019-20 school year — if Bullis Charter School's board of directors finds two years untenable. ■

**TRAIL ATTACK**

► Continued from page 1

asking for the public's help in finding the assailant, police followed up on reports of potential suspects, including an employee at a P.F. Changs and a transient on Crisanto Avenue, but neither had hand injuries matching the description.

Around 5 p.m. on March 1, police received reports of a domestic violence incident at the Santa Clara Avenue residence where Adonis had been staying for about a month, and had allegedly thrown a thermos at a female roommate and slapped her face. A police officer said he noticed that Adonis not only matched the physical description of the suspect, but also had a hunched posture similar to the suspect caught on video surveillance. While talking to Adonis, the officer noticed that he kept covering his right hand despite

being otherwise highly expressive while speaking. After some persistence, Adonis revealed nearly a dozen scab marks on his hand, according to a statement by the officer.

"The injury consisted of approximately 11 scab marks," the officer wrote. "At least two of the marks appeared as if they could have been caused by bites. I could see the shape similar to that of molar marks on at least two of the scabs."

In a subsequent interview, police reported that Adonis had changed his story multiple times, at first stating his injury was from a "fall" and that he didn't remember when he fell. He said he slept through Monday and did not leave the house, then said he went out and got into a fight at a downtown nightclub on Castro Street — on a night when the club is closed.

"This was outstanding work on every level," Lt. Mike Canfield

said in a statement shortly after the arrest. "The quick recognition by the patrol teams and the investigative work by detectives have removed a violent man from the streets and we will do all we can to ensure there is justice for the victim in this case."

Adonis faces felony charges of kidnapping with intent to commit robbery or rape; assault with intent to commit rape; assault with a deadly weapon or force likely to cause great bodily injury; and threatening to commit a crime with intent to terrorize. During the attack, Adonis allegedly told the victim he had a knife and attempted to pull down the victim's pants. Adonis also faces two misdemeanor charges of battery and unlawfully damaging or removing a wireless communication device.

His next court appearance was scheduled for Wednesday, May 1. ■

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## HOUSING

► Continued from page 1

City leaders clearly felt compelled to raise concerns over the price. While the project was approved Tuesday night in 5-1 vote, it demonstrated new signs of impatience among city leaders.

“We’re spending a lot of money on this particular property because of its location, but if we continue to not change the narrative, then we’re going to continue losing a lot of people to displacement,” said Councilman John McAlister. “We need to look for different solutions because we’re just doing the same thing and it’s not working.”

McAlister cast the lone opposition vote against the affordable housing project even though he claimed to support the idea in concept. But he returned to a familiar suggestion — why didn’t the city preserve affordable

housing by buying up older apartments on the cheap?

Those cost concerns resonated with Mayor Lisa Matichak, who said her support was wavering over the high costs. She urged the Palo Alto Housing delegation to trim its costs for future projects.

But there is little to be hopeful about in the current housing market. Speaking before his former colleagues in Mountain View, former planning director Randy Tsuda, who’s now the Palo Alto Housing CEO, pointed out that a bevy of costs linked to housing development have shown a trend of sharply increasing. Land values, especially along lucrative spots like El Camino, have increased by about 17% annually, he said. Meanwhile, construction costs and materials have also been on a steady ascent, he said.

The city’s own chronology of affordable housing projects proved this point. A 49-studio

affordable housing project finished in 2015 at 819 N. Rengstorff Ave. cost about \$355,000 per unit. In just four years, the expenses had steadily risen with nearly each development, to the point they had now nearly doubled on the new 950 W. El Camino.

“The escalation of land costs in Mountain View blows everything else away,” Tsuda said. “When you put all of it together, it’s just significantly more expensive to build today than in 2012 or 2013.”

Tsuda urged city officials to focus on the positive aspects of the 70-unit proposal. While pricey, the El Camino location was picked because it was near bus lines, Caltrain and light rail, freeing residents from relying on vehicles, he said. Palo Alto Housing intends to set aside 15 of the future housing units for developmentally disabled adults, a concession that made it harder for the project to qualify for Santa Clara County Measure A funding.

Mountain View wasn’t lacking the money to support the project. Earlier in the evening, the City Council gave a unanimous approval to a large, 471-unit market-rate housing development that would occupy all of the property along East Evelyn Avenue known as the Flower Mart site. Developer Prometheus Real Estate had offered the city an unorthodox deal last year to “pre-fund” \$22.7 million in affordable housing in-lieu fees, significantly more than what it was obligated to pay under the city’s fee structure. Even better, the offer allowed the city to immediately put the money toward the Palo Alto Housing project instead of waiting years for the Prometheus housing to be fully developed.

But while no one mentioned this, the arrangement also painted council members into a corner as they considered the Prometheus project. If they rejected it, then they would lose all the funding needed for the Palo Alto Housing project.

Given that the funding was in place, most council members said they needed to support the project, despite its flaws.

“We need to send a signal that we’re sticking by the council goals that we set last week to find ways to mitigate and prevent displacement,” said Councilwoman Ellen Kamei. “Now more than ever, we’re feeling the effect of what it means to rent in our city and we need to put tangible steps forward to address that.”

Councilman Chris Clark recused himself from the vote due to a conflict of interest. ■

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## ACADEMICS

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[www.harker.org/summer](http://www.harker.org/summer) (408) 553-5737

### i2 Camp at Castilleja School

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i2 Camp offers week-long immersion programs that engage middle school girls in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). The fun and intimate hands-on activities of the courses strive to excite and inspire participants about STEM, creating enthusiasm that will hopefully spill over to their schoolwork and school choices in future years.

[www.castilleja.org/i2camp](http://www.castilleja.org/i2camp) (650) 470-7833

### iD Tech

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[idtech.com/locations/california-summer-camps/stanford-university](http://idtech.com/locations/california-summer-camps/stanford-university) (844) 788-1858

### STANFORD EXPLORE: A Lecture Series on Biomedical Research

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[explore.stanford.edu](http://explore.stanford.edu) [explore-series@stanford.edu](mailto:explore-series@stanford.edu)

### Summer at Sand Hill School

Palo Alto

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[www.sandhillschool.org/summer](http://www.sandhillschool.org/summer) (650) 688-3605

### Summer@Stratford

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[stratfordschools.com/summer](http://stratfordschools.com/summer) (650) 493-1141

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Palo Alto

### Summer Writing Camps

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[www.headsup.org](http://www.headsup.org) Emerson: (650) 424-1267  
Hacienda: (925) 485-5750

## ARTS, CULTURE, OTHER CAMPS

### Art and Soul Camp

Palo Alto

Art, cooking, tinkering, yoga and mindfulness. We celebrate multiple perspectives and recognize the many ways for our children to interpret their world. Summer Unplugged! is appropriate for ages 6-11 years. Located at Walter Hays School.

[www.artandsoulpa.com](http://www.artandsoulpa.com) (650) 269-0423

## ARTS, CULTURE, OTHER CAMPS

### Castilleja Summer Camp

for Girls Palo Alto

Palo Alto

Casti Camp offers girls entering gr. 2-6 a range of age-appropriate activities including athletics, art, science, computers, writing, crafts, cooking, drama and music classes each day along with weekly field trips. Leadership program available for girls entering gr. 7-9.

[www.castilleja.org/summercamp](http://www.castilleja.org/summercamp) (650) 470-7833

### City of Mountain View

Recreation

Mountain View

Come have a blast with us this summer! We have something for everyone – Recreation Camps, Specialty Camps, Sports Camps, Swim Lessons, and more! Programs begin June 4 – register early!

[www.mountainview.gov/register](http://www.mountainview.gov/register) (650) 903-6331

### City of Palo Alto Summer Camps

Palo Alto

A wide array of camps, from theater and tennis to ceramics and coding. Kids in kindergarten through high school can participate in camps during week-long sessions from June 3 to Aug 9.

[www.cityofpaloalto.org/summercamps](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/summercamps) (650) 463-4949

### Community School of Music

Mountain View

Community School of Mountain View Music and Arts (CSMA) Mountain View 50+ creative camps for Gr. K-8! Drawing, Painting, Ceramics, Sculpture, Musical Theater, Summer Music Workshops, more! One and two-week sessions; full and half-day enrollment. Extended care from 8:30am-5:30pm. Financial aid offered.

[www.arts4all.org](http://www.arts4all.org) (650) 917-6800 ext. 0

### Oshman Family JCC Camps

Palo Alto

Camps at the OFJCC introduce your child to new experiences while creating friendships in a fun and safe environment. We work to build confidence, stretch imaginations and teach new skills.

[www.paloaltojcc.org/Camps](http://www.paloaltojcc.org/Camps) (650) 223-8622

### Palo Alto Community

Child Care (PACCC)

Palo Alto

PACCC summer camps offer campers, grades 1st to 6th, a wide variety of engaging opportunities. We are excited to announce all of your returning favorites: Leaders in Training (L.I.T.), PACCC Special Interest Units (S.I.U.), F.A.M.E. (Fine Arts, Music and Entertainment), J.V. Sports and Operation: Chef! Periodic field trips, special visitors and many engaging camp activities, songs and skits round out the variety of offerings at PACCC Summer Camps. Open to campers from all communities. Register online.

[www.paccc.org](http://www.paccc.org) (650) 493-2361

### Stanford Jazz Workshop

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[www.stanfordjazz.org](http://www.stanfordjazz.org) (650) 736-0324

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Palo Alto

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[www.theatreworks.org/education](http://www.theatreworks.org/education) (650) 463-7146

## ATHLETICS

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Palo Alto

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[www.danceconnectionpaloalto.com/dance-connection-event-calendar/summer-dance-camps](http://www.danceconnectionpaloalto.com/dance-connection-event-calendar/summer-dance-camps) (650) 852-0418 or (650) 322-7032

### Kim Grant Tennis

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[www.KimGrantTennis.com](http://www.KimGrantTennis.com) Text: (650) 690-0678  
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### Nike Tennis Camps

Bay Area

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[www.ussportscamps.com](http://www.ussportscamps.com) (800) NIKE-CAMP  
(800) 645-3226

### Run for Fun Camps

Bay Area

Run for Fun's mission is to provide creative and engaging play for all youth by getting kids active in an inclusive community centered around outdoor fun! We pride ourselves on hiring an enthusiastic, highly trained staff who love what they do. Summer 2019 features four weeks of Adventure Day Camp and two weeks of Overnight Camp High Five. Adventure Day Camp is a new discovery every day filled with sports, crafts and nature, including explorations to Camp Jones Gulch, Capitola Beach, Foothills Park, Shoreline Lake and Great America. Camp High Five is six days and five nights of traditional overnight camp mixed with challenge-by-choice activities, campfires, friendships and lots of laughter.

[www.runforfuncamps.com/summer-camps-and-school-holiday-camps/camp-overview](http://www.runforfuncamps.com/summer-camps-and-school-holiday-camps/camp-overview) (650) 823-5167

### Stanford Athletics & Youth

Stanford

Stanford Youth Programs brings you Camp Cardinal! Week-long day camp programs on campus for kids (grades K - 10) from June 3 - August 9. Space is limited so register online now.

[campcardinal.org](http://campcardinal.org) (650) 736-5436

### Stanford Baseball Camps

Stanford

At Sunken Diamond on the campus of Stanford University. A variety of camps are offered to benefit a wide range of age groups and skill sets. Campers will gain instruction in several baseball skills, fundamentals, team concepts, and game play.

[www.stanfordbaseballcamp.com](http://www.stanfordbaseballcamp.com) (650) 725-2054

### Stanford Water Polo Camps

Stanford

New to water polo or have experience, we have a camp for you. Half day or full day options for boys and girls ages 7 and up. All camps provide fundamental skills, scrimmages and games.

[www.stanfordwaterpolocamps.com](http://www.stanfordwaterpolocamps.com) (650) 725-9016

### Wheel Kids

Bike Camps

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Palo Alto

Adventure Riding Camp for rising 1st - 8th gr, Two Wheelers Club for rising K - 3rd gr. Week-long programs from 8:30 - 4, starting June 3rd. Join us as we embark on bicycling adventures for the more experienced rider or help those just learning to ride.

[www.wheelkids.com/palo-alto](http://www.wheelkids.com/palo-alto) (650) 646-5435

### YMCA of Silicon Valley

Summer Camps

Silicon Valley

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[www.ymcasv.org/summercamp](http://www.ymcasv.org/summercamp) (408) 351-6473

## A Suitable occupation

SON'S REQUEST LAUNCHES CARDBOARD COSTUME BUSINESS

By Kate Bradshaw

It all started in October 2014, when Mike Goedde's son, a precocious 2-year-old, said he wanted to be a diesel train for Halloween.

Goedde, who grew up in Mountain View and lives in Menlo Park, was amused, and set out to make his son's wish a reality.

But after an online search, he came up empty-handed. Yes, there was a soft-body "Thomas the Tank Engine" costume, with a picture of the TV train character, but his son wasn't convinced.

"I want a diesel train," he insisted.

So Goedde got to work. He found images of diesel trains, settling on a glossy red and silver Santa Fe train image, and made his own version of the costume.

"It took me, like, 60 hours of work," he said.

But when the costume was complete, it had lights and sounds — and his son loved it.

When the big night came, they headed for Menlo Park's Halloween hot spot, Sherman Avenue.

The costume was an instant hit. Other parents asked him where he had bought it, and when he explained that he had made it, several suggested that he figure out how to make and sell them.

At first, he thought the idea was

crazy — it had taken him tens of hours of work, plus three trips to Michael's, the craft store.

"Forget it," he recalls thinking. But after a couple dozen people that night made the same suggestion in one way or another, he began to warm to the idea. "I thought, OK, maybe this isn't so stupid. Maybe there is something to it," he says.

The very next day, he woke up and began doing market research. What he found was promising: "There's ample opportunity to sell these things globally," he says. He also found what seemed like thousands of online examples of frazzled parents spending countless hours building homemade cardboard costumes.

"It's tens of hours of work, if not 100 or more, depending on how elaborate these costumes are," he notes. His aim became to create great-looking costumes that parents can assemble in 20 minutes, complete with sound effects and, eventually, lights.

Over the next couple of years, he spent long days working at his tech job, followed by long nights out in his garage developing costume prototypes.

At first, he did everything by hand, drafting with a pencil and paper, protractors and big rulers, but became frustrated with the slow pace. So he taught himself to



MAGALI GAUTHIER

**Kieran Goedde** stands between his uncle and father, Dave and Mike Goedde. Kieran's Halloween costume request inspired the launch of the family's costume business Suitables.

master computer-aided design, or CAD, software, using design files to print and cut out cardboard pieces on an automated cutting table.

Coming from the high-tech world — he worked at Juniper Technologies in Sunnyvale for about 15 years — he approached others in tech about the possibility of helping to fund his enterprise, but the interest wasn't high, he says.

But that didn't deter him. Acknowledging that startup

capital was unlikely, he says, his new attitude was: "If I build it, they will come." Today, he adds, "I built them, and now people are getting interested."

About a year ago, Goedde quit his tech work to pursue the costume business full time. The company formally launched in September, selling only through its website.

Throughout this work, though, Goedde hasn't been alone — he's had a secret weapon, his identical twin brother, Dave. While Mike

does the kit design, Dave does the graphic design work. "We're like one brain split into two people. He picks up on the things I want to do," Mike says.

### High-profile customers and next steps

In mid-February, the brothers took their product on the road to the American International Toy Fair, held in New York City. It's a giant trade show and one of the largest in the toy industry, Goedde says.

The following week, the toy was featured on "Live with Kelly and Ryan" — a Feb. 20 segment highlighting toys from the fair. During the show, Kelly Ripa appeared on-screen wearing a modified version of Goedde's airplane costume (it had been cut in half and rejoined), after which orders continued to tick up, Goedde says.

Following the TV appearance of the costume, Goedde says, a major celebrity requested an overnight custom costume order. (The celebrity is so popular Goedde was asked to sign a non-disclosure agreement, he notes.)

While the costumes for sale are currently for kids ages 2 to 7, Goedde plans to expand the business into adult costumes, "pop-up" birthday party and pinata kits, and costumes tailored for children in wheelchairs. He also plans to continue to expand the collection of officially licensed costumes to appeal to Star Wars and Disney fans.

Mastering the art of the 3D cardboard kit, he says, might also open the door to create another brand that would sell cardboard furniture kits and stage set kits for frequently staged school theater productions.

Suitables recently started being carried at the Mountain View Diddams. Goedde said he grew up just two blocks away from owner Steve Diddams and his wife Alex in Mountain View, and that he still works on Suitables prototypes at his childhood home.

More information is online at [suitables.com](http://suitables.com). ■

Email Kate Bradshaw at [kbradshaw@almanacnews.com](mailto:kbradshaw@almanacnews.com)



**Left:** Mike Goedde begins assembling a cardboard costume with his brother Dave in the Suitables studio. **Right:** Dave Goedde checks the assembly of a fire engine costume.



MAGALI GAUTHIER

## SETTLEMENT

▶ Continued from page 5

to testimony from four other Mountain View police officials who said they were similarly penalized by the department or denied promotions due to their military service, which sometimes created scheduling conflicts. Police Officer Frank Rivas testified that he was passed over for a position on the SWAT team because his supervisor told him he needed to decide whether

to "play Army or be a police officer." Rivas said a police lieutenant derided his military service as "gay military stuff."

City attorneys disputed these accounts as hearsay and speculative, but the appellate judge ruled that it should be taken into consideration as a sign that police commanders had routinely shown disapproval of military service. Like disability or family leave, military service is treated as protected time-off for workers, and employers are

prohibited from penalizing them for making use of it.

Knowing this, commanding officers at the police department deliberately tried to hide their motives for terminating Emmerling by creating a paper trail, according to his attorneys. To back up this accusation, Emmerling's attorneys pointed to a 2014 email exchange between two of his supervisors in which they discussed the need to keep him on probation in order to provide time to build a backlog of poor

performance records.

"My concern is (Emmerling's) paper trail is not there," Police Lt. Frank St. Clair wrote in a 2014 email. "We would need to heavily document and train his deficiencies."

The appellate court ruled that a reasonable person could conclude that the Mountain View Police had terminated Emmerling based on his military service.

The appellate court's reversal meant that Emmerling's attorneys could now seek a new trial

in which large swaths of evidence would now be admissible. Following that decision, city attorneys proposed settling the case, which was later approved by the City Council in a closed-session meeting.

Under the terms of the settlement, the city admits no wrongdoing in the case and Emmerling agreed to a non-disparagement clause. His attorneys declined to comment. ■

Email Mark Noack at [mnoack@mv-voice.com](mailto:mnoack@mv-voice.com)

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

▶ Continued from page 4

district and Clark the same day. Reading from a statement, board president Tamara Wilson said the district and the governing board “sincerely thank Dr. Clark for his service and wish him well in the future.”

Clark was hired as the district’s assistant superintendent by former interim Superintendent Kevin Skelly to oversee the budget and construction projects at a time when both were a hotbed of activity. The state had recently

enacted a new school funding formula and property taxes were reaching new heights, providing a major influx of cash.

At the same time, the district was deep into the planning and construction of several school facilities projects using Measure G funding, and there was intense debate about whether there was enough money to build a new school in the city’s Whisman neighborhood. During Clark’s tenure, the board ultimately decided to borrow an additional \$40 million to build a new school, which would be paid off largely

through revenue from leasing district property to Google and a private school.

District documents show that Clark had requested a leave of absence from Jan. 28 through April 19 this year, which fell within the protections of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). In his absence, Ron Wheelahan was appointed interim CBO to oversee Clark’s duties at the district office.

Board members did not disclose in open session when they sought to terminate the agreement, but did disclose Clark would receive six months’ pay — or about \$103,000 — as part of the termination. The contract states that the district is obligated to pay Clark for the remainder of his contract or six months’ pay, whichever is smaller, if his contract is unilaterally terminated without cause. The term of the contract was set to end on June 30, 2020.

—Kevin Forestieri

## MOUNTAIN VIEW TEACHER FACES ‘JEOPARDY’

Typically Trevor Crowell asks the questions, but on Tuesday, May 7, he will attempt to answer them as a contestant on TV game show “Jeopardy” in the Teachers Tournament.

Crowell, a Palo Alto High School Spanish teacher and Mountain View resident, graduated from University of California at San Diego and moved to the Bay Area.

A longtime fan of the show, he completed the online “Jeopardy” test for fun, and was surprised to learn that he passed and was invited to participate in an in-person audition last July. He is one of 15 teachers selected for the tournament, who are competing for \$100,000 in prize money.

In order to prepare, Crowell studied the subjects he doesn’t teach, like geography, history, literature, and the arts. The trick,

Crowell said, is to treat the game like a test, using logic and pattern recognition to identify answers.

The Palo Alto High School community is excited to see him on screen, though many of his students didn’t know what “Jeopardy” was until he told them he would appear on the show, Crowell said.

Crowell said that his main goal heading into the competition was “not throw up on Alex Trebek.” The show airs Tuesday at 7 p.m. on ABC.

—Ray Levy-Uyeda

## COUNTY OFFERS MENTAL HEALTH HELP BY PHONE

Santa Clara County residents suffering mental health emergencies can now call for direct help through the Mobile Crisis Response Team, the county announced Monday.

Residents could previously only reach in-person mental support services through 911 or law enforcement dispatch. Police would then respond to the scene accompanied by mental health professionals.

The change allows residents to directly contact licensed therapists and clinicians who will assess their situation and determine if they should send a team to the location. The team can then decide if a law enforcement presence is necessary.

Maury Kendall, spokesman for the county’s public health department, said the team launched in January 2018 and used to be only accessible by law enforcement. The Behavioral Health Services Department will still operate its suicide and substance abuse hotline numbers, but clinicians and the response team will also be able to dispatch intervention experts.

Health professionals will offer crisis screening, intervention, de-escalation services and referrals to other community resources. The team can be reached at 800-704-0900 by dialing “2,” and will

be available Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Anyone who needs help outside those hours can call the same number, and a clinician will connect the caller to appropriate services.

County health officials said callers can access more than 200 languages through a language service phone line at 800-704-0900, and interpretation services are available in Spanish, Vietnamese and other languages.

The Behavioral Health Services Department will coordinate the team’s response between law enforcement, crisis hotlines, community and family members.

—Palo Alto Weekly staff

## THEATREWORKS TO RECEIVE TONY AWARD

TheatreWorks Silicon Valley will receive the Regional Theatre Tony Award for 2019, founder and Artistic Director Robert Kelley announced last week.

“I can think of no better way to begin our 50th anniversary season than with this highest honor, a testament to the passion and imaginative spirit of many,” Kelley stated in an announcement online and sent to supporters.

The Regional Theatre Tony Award is given annually to a non-Broadway theater company and is based on recommendations from the American Theatre Critics Association. It carries with it a \$25,000 grant.

The honor comes at an especially poignant moment for Kelley, who will step down as artistic director at the end of the 2019-2020 season, his 50th year since founding the company in 1970.

TheatreWorks, he noted in a recent interview, has long been dedicated to fostering diversity and nontraditional casting and nurturing emerging talent and work.

The award ceremony will be broadcast live from New York City on CBS at 8 p.m. Sunday, June 9.

—Karla Kane

## CRIME BRIEFS

▶ Continued from page 4

a frustrating increase in auto burglaries, with police department data showing a gradual increase in incidents since 2016. Mountain View’s low point in the last five years, 2016, had 342 reported auto burglaries. The city has already surpassed that number this year, with 348 cases from Jan. 1 through April 27, according to the crime tracking website CrimeReports.

Auto burglaries in the downtown corridor doubled in 2018 compared to 2017, and 2019 isn’t off to a great start. The latter half of 2018 showed 88 reported auto burglaries, whereas this year there

have already been 132, according to CrimeReports.

## CUESTA PARK HOME BURGLARIZED

A 56-year-old transient man was arrested last week after he allegedly burglarized a Cuesta Park home and took a backpack containing a laptop and clothes.

Police received reports that a resident on the 100 block of Cuesta Drive arrived home around 7 p.m. on Monday, April 22, to find the man inside the house. The homeowner reportedly confronted the suspect, who left the area on foot.

The man appears to have

entered the property through the home’s patio door, which was closed but did not appear to be locked at the time, according to police spokeswoman Katie Nelson.

Officers were given a description of the suspect and spotted him a short distance away, at the corner of Grant Road and Cuesta Drive, where he was identified by the resident, Nelson said. The suspect reportedly took a backpack from the home with a laptop and clothing inside.

The man was arrested on suspicion of felony burglary charges, and was booked into Santa Clara County jail, where he was being held without bail.

—Kevin Forestieri

## CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

## NOTICE OF CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW 2019 WATER SYSTEM PUBLIC HEALTH GOALS REPORT

You are hereby notified that on Tuesday, the 14th day of May 2019, at the hour of 6:30 p.m. (or as soon thereafter as the item can be heard), the City of Mountain View City Council will accept public comments and consider APPROVAL OF THE MOUNTAIN VIEW 2019 WATER SYSTEM PUBLIC HEALTH GOALS REPORT. Additional details will be provided at the meeting:

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

6:30 p.m.

(or as soon thereafter as the item can be heard)

Mountain View City Hall

500 Castro Street

Mountain View, California

The report providing information on this item for the City Council will be published on the City’s website ([www.mountainview.gov](http://www.mountainview.gov)) on or about May 10, 2019. If you have any questions, please contact Utilities Services Manager Alison Turner at (650) 903-6329. Comments may also be e-mailed to [waterquality@mountainview.gov](mailto:waterquality@mountainview.gov).

## Public Notices

## 995 Fictitious Name Statement

PEDRO’S AUTO CLINIC  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: FBN653349

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
Pedro’s Auto Clinic, located at 1288 West El Camino Real, Mountain View, CA 94040, Santa Clara County.

This business is owned by: An Individual.  
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): PEDRO L. BARRENECHEA  
1282 Manzano Way  
Sunnyvale, CA 94089  
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 4-1-1990.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on April 4, 2019.  
(MVV Apr. 12, 19, 26; May 3, 2019)

CLEAN AND SHINE  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: FBN653619  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
Clean and Shine, located at 4318 Collins Ct. #6, Mountain View, CA 94040, Clara County.  
This business is owned by: An Individual.  
The name and residence address of the

registrant(s) is(are):  
JUANA R. MONTES DE OCA  
4318 Collins Ct. #6  
Mountain View, CA 94040  
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 4/10/2019.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on April 10, 2019.  
(MVV Apr. 19, 26; May 3, 10, 2019)

ROUGE, WHITE AND BLUE  
BLUE WHITE ROUGE  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: FBN653567

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) Rouge, White and Blue, 2.) Blue White Rouge, located at 105 Beacon St., Mountain View, CA 94040, Santa Clara County.

This business is owned by: An Individual.  
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):  
CATHERINE CHEVALLIER  
105 Beacon St.  
Mountain View, CA 94040

Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on April 9, 2019.  
(MVV Apr. 19, 26; May 3, 10, 2019)

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# Viewpoint

- EDITORIAL
- YOUR LETTERS
- GUEST OPINIONS

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### ■ WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

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

#### Town Square forum

Post your views on Town Square at [MountainViewOnline.com](http://MountainViewOnline.com)

**Email** your views to [letters@MV-Voice.com](mailto:letters@MV-Voice.com). Indicate if letter is to be published.

**Mail** to: Editor  
Mountain View Voice,  
P.O. Box 405  
Mountain View, CA 94042-0405

**Call** the Viewpoint desk at 223-6531

## ■ LETTERS

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

### A CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER

The foundation for economic growth is abundant natural resources. A clean, non-polluted environment is critical to supporting and spurring long-term economic growth. Most Environmental Protection Agency programs support the president's goal of improving economic growth including the removal, remedial, UST and Brownsfield cleanup programs, which convert unusable properties to productive uses.

Short-term, shortsighted policies, such as the elimination of important environmental cleanup programs (i.e. CERLA or Superfund), regulatory programs (i.e. Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act) designed to prevent degradation or loss of natural resources, science-based research and development and reduction in carbon emissions and other greenhouse gases will have a significant long-term consequence and work against the president's goal of improved and sustainable economic growth.

Environmental protection and economic growth are inextricably intertwined to one another. Economic growth and public health are dependent on a clean environment and abundant natural resources. Environmental regulations are not an impediment to economic growth as the president would want you to believe. The majority of industrial giants know this fact and have embraced the logic and economic fundamentals and support environmental protection policies, good environmental practices and the use of sustainable sources of energy that will allow them to survive.

Worsening contamination of our land, water and air will greatly affect people's health and increase medical costs. The costs of cleanup to again achieve minimum standards for clean air, water and land will be high and a waste. These environmental, cleanup and medical costs will be a significant drain on our economic resources and increase our national debt. I fully support the grassroots effort and leadership necessary to defeat this president and his administration, which is a clear and present danger to our

national environment, health, economy and security.

*Dan Shane, retired EPA on-scene coordinator  
Cypress Point Drive*

### RAPID TRANSIT BUSES

Instead of extending light rail and BART, consider instead rapid transit buses, hybrids and 100% electric. We have an excellent and already paid for network of freeways and expressways.

Instead of adding FasTrack lanes, which may give those who pay faster commutes, dedicate one lane for buses only, with right of way vis-a-vis cars and other traffic.

Let private companies invest in and run the buses in competition with other companies and maybe VTA buses as well. This is how public transit works in "socialistic" Scandinavia and other European countries as well.

One Los Angeles rapid transit bus can carry up to 90 passengers, according to this ThoughtCo. article: [thoughtco.com/passenger-capacity-of-transit-2798765](http://thoughtco.com/passenger-capacity-of-transit-2798765). Don't try to invent the wheel — this article has all the answers needed. The rapid transit system, taking away only one lane for dedicated buses, would solve all problems immediately. No public investment needed, except for possible subsidies to keep the fares lower or even free. Businesses would pay the fares for their employees, which is happening now with the Google buses. But the rapid transit buses would be available for all.

*Kaj Rekola  
Laura Lane*

### INDOOR PICKLEBALL FOR SENIORS

I coordinate indoor senior pickleball for Los Altos; I live in Mountain View. The court we are playing on will soon be demolished and the future is clouded. Mountain View may have available indoor space for one pickleball court; 40 feet by 60 feet is needed. There are advantages with an indoor court, such as no wind or rain problems, consistent surface

properties for good footing, and a softer landing for falls.

Weeks ago, one of our women players took a nasty fall. She went into and over the net and tripped on the bar below the net. She continued to play and was back the next week, in no pain and eager to play. I am amazed by the enthusiasm these players show. A recurring comment is: "My legs just can't take the beating on the tennis court like they used to."

The indoor court has consistent lighting with a better background, making it easier to see the ball.

Many of the senior players, like myself, have problems with sun exposure; the indoor court removes that concern. Finally, there is a closer bond between the observers (players) and those contesting due to fewer distractions. We use masking tape for the court lines, and when we are finished, we remove the tape and leave the court exactly as it was before we played.

*Stan Peters  
Sladky Avenue*

### CYCLISTS ARE PEOPLE TOO, CALTRAIN

In the recent rider survey, a question was posed that clearly shows the bias of Caltrain as an organization that pits walk-on passengers against passengers who bring their bikes on board. It is unfortunate that Caltrain does not treat its passengers equally and that bike passengers are treated as second-class riders. Getting "bumped" from

a train is an experience that no walk-on passenger would tolerate and yet it is okay for bikers to have to endure. Caltrain continues to treat bikers as problem passengers rather than a dedicated, lively, active core group of passengers who will not give up on Caltrain — something many walk-on passengers will do during delays and timing issues.

All passengers deserve respect and Caltrain needs to be an agent of positive change rather than a stoker of irrational fear and negativity. The future of Caltrain depends on doing service to all of its riders and Caltrain would be failing in that goal if they reduced bike capacity on future train designs. Biker passengers are people too!

*Yoichi Shiga  
San Francisco*

### What's on your mind?

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

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