

Mountain View VOICE



INSIDE
THIS ISSUE

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Lawsuit: MVPD violated child's rights in traumatic forced exam

By Kevin Forestieri

A Mountain View family filed a federal lawsuit against the city last month claiming that Mountain View Police Department officers unlawfully forced their 5-year-old daughter to undergo a traumatic sexual assault exam, violating their civil rights and running afoul of department protocol.

The suit, filed on behalf of parents Annie and Douglas Lother, seeks a jury trial after three officers showed up at the family's house on Jan. 28 and demanded the child's genitals be examined by a paramedic. Officers reportedly believed the child may have been a victim of sexual abuse.

The child had injured her pubic area three days prior when she fell at a Sky High Sports trampoline park, according to the civil complaint. The injury had healed, but the girl mentioned that her vagina had bled or was bleeding while she was at Landels Elementary School and a teacher or principal made a referral to either Child Protective Services (CPS) or law enforcement. The girl was pulled from class and questioned on Jan. 28.

Later that day, officers — identified in the suit as Mark Poirier, Mason Motomura and Matthew Rogers — reportedly pounded on the door of the family's home, entered and refused to explain why they were there, according to the suit. A social worker with the county, identified as Joseph Phan, accompanied the officers and also did not explain the nature of the report that brought them there — a requirement under California law.

The girl was separated from her mother and questioned in the front yard in plain view of the public, the lawsuit states. She told officers that she had injured herself at a trampoline park and, after minutes of interrogation, started to whine and told them she didn't want to answer any more questions. According to the suit, Poirier is heard on a police body camera recording saying that the concerns of possible sexual abuse seemed "more and more unfounded," and that the injuries were innocent in nature.

After asking several probing questions to Douglas Lother, including how he disciplines

► See **LAWSUIT**, page 11



MAGALI GAUTHIER

The tall cedar, decorated with lights at last year's Community Tree Lighting Celebration in Civic Center Plaza, is in poor health and slated to be cut down later this month.

Dying Civic Center cedar to be cut down

STAR OF ANNUAL TREE-LIGHTING EVENT WON'T LAST ANOTHER HOLIDAY SEASON, OFFICIAL SAYS

By Mark Noack

Santa Claus will surely be there, along with carolers and free hot chocolate for all, but something will be missing from this year's Community Tree Lighting Celebration. Its star attraction, the tree, will not be there.

The huge cedar at Mountain

View's Civic Center Plaza, best known as the light-covered tree at the center of the annual tree-lighting event, is on its last limb and must be torn down by the end of the month, according to city officials.

The tree, believed to be 80 years or older, has withstood a lifetime of changes in downtown Mountain View, persevering

through earthquakes, hailstorms and plenty of dogs using it for some relief.

But the tree has been rapidly decaying in recent years. Since around 2015, its leaves have been sparse, stunted and brownish. After seeking advice from an outside expert, city officials say

► See **TREE**, page 6

Landlord defends home invasion eviction attempt

REENU SAINI FILES LAWSUITS AGAINST TENANTS WHILE FACING BURGLARY CHARGES

By Mark Noack

A Mountain View landlord who was charged with coordinating a brazen burglary against a family staying at an apartment she manages is

mounting an aggressive defense. Sunnyvale resident Reenu Saini told the *Mountain View Voice* that she was fully within her rights when she and a hired crew attempted to forcibly evict a family from a Rock Street

apartment in August. Mountain View police officials consider the incident as an illegal home invasion, and arrested Saini and her four associates. Currently, Saini and two of the four are facing felony charges in Santa Clara

County court.

The family, Marc and Elizabeth Klimchok and their three children, are now facing two civil lawsuits filed by Saini.

According to Saini, she is the true victim in the case. As

the apartment's property manager, not its owner, she says she is hemorrhaging money while her tenants haven't "paid a dime" in rent. She alleges the family

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COURTESY OF WEST BAY OPERA

The "Nabucco" set design for West Bay Opera is by JF Revon. The show runs Oct. 18-27 in Palo Alto.

VERDI'S 'NABUCCO' AT WEST BAY

Back in 1842, "Nabucco" established Giuseppe Verdi as the new star of the opera world. In 2019, it will serve as the fitting start to West Bay Opera's 64th season, which will be all Verdi.

"Nabucco" is the story of the plight of Jews as they are defeated, then exiled from their homeland by King Nabucco, a.k.a. Nebuchadnezzar II.

Loosely based on the biblical books of Daniel and Jeremiah, the opera also involves some romance and politics. Nabucco's daughter Fenena, and another alleged daughter, Abigaile, both love Ismaele. Conniving Abigaile manages to become queen of Babylon, and undertakes to trick Nabucco into signing a death warrant for the Israelites, and for Fenena.

"I think the central story is not the love triangle," West Bay Opera general director and conductor José Luis Moscovich said. "It's still early Verdi; he's still trying to figure out structure and plots. But the real center of this story is Nabucco; the idea that a ruler can make mistakes, learn from them and grow."

Nabucco, at the time, has gone insane, and proclaims himself not just king, but a god. God doesn't like that, and more drama ensues. Eventually, Nabucco regains his sanity and begs God's forgiveness.

"That is one of the reasons I programmed it. Today, there are a lot of autocratic rulers ... they all think they know best. Verdi gives us a fable, a morality tale dressed up as Babylon, a convenient and dramatic enough topic so that he wouldn't get in trouble in his time. A ruler declares himself a god, is immediately struck down by God, then declares he will be above God," Moscovich said.

"It's a topic that resonates with people. In a lot of areas of the world, a lot of people are suffering because of despots. Verdi gives us an opportunity to see Nabucco

get his dues from the power of God. He calls for the temple to be reconstructed, and the Hebrews brought back to Jerusalem."

It's a challenging work for West Bay Opera, which is known for going big with the music and the visuals — some of the opera takes place in the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, which should make for impressive backgrounds.

The opera's most popular tune is the "Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves," "Va pensiero," which is sometimes offered as an encore following full performances of the opera. West Bay Opera will have its biggest chorus ever — 33 voices — which is likely to make its performance even more memorable. There will be a large orchestra, split between the pit and onstage, a strategy that has succeeded in the past few productions by the company.

One of Moscovich's biggest challenges in staging this huge opera was casting Abigaile, a role that requires a very capable coloratura soprano.

"Abigaile is difficult," Moscovich said. "She requires a voice that can float and be soft. Companies have trouble casting it. The singer must have agility, but enough sound — opera's main distinction is you don't use amplification for the voice."

But Moscovich already knew such a singer, Christina Major, who's taken on big roles with West Bay Opera in the past.

Major spoke fondly of working with Moscovich, and of the Lucie Stern Theatre.

"It's wild for the singer," said Major. "Even though the house is small, and not acoustically amazing, having the orchestra on stage just kind of projects everything forward. No one gets buried. It's different when you have them right there in your face."

"Nabucco" will be performed at 8 p.m. on Oct. 18 and 26 and at 2 p.m. on Oct. 20 and 27. Tickets are \$35-\$92. For more information, go to wboopera.org.

—John Orr

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■ CRIME BRIEFS

CAMPAIGN SIGN VANDAL SENTENCED

Mountain View community activist Job Lopez has reportedly completed his punishment for defacing campaign signs during the run-up to the 2018 City Council election.

Lopez, 74, was caught on a homeowner's security camera spray-painting and stealing political signs for then-Councilman John Inks' re-election campaign. In the footage, Lopez walked up to the front yard of an Old Mountain View home, spray-painting one campaign sign and stealing another. During the election, the Inks campaign reported multiple incidents of sign vandalism.

Police officials recognized Lopez from the video, and he was charged with petty theft and vandalism.

He later pleaded no contest to the charges and was sentenced to two years of probation and 80 hours of community service. According to court records, he fulfilled his community service through volunteering at Hope's Corner and the Day Worker Center.

Earlier this month, the homeowner whose signs were defaced

► See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 11

■ POLICE LOG

ASSAULT

1600 block W. El Camino Real, 10/11

AUTO BURGLARY

2100 block Old Middlefield Way, 10/7
 1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 10/7
 700 block E. El Camino Real, 10/7
 1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 10/7
 2400 block Old Middlefield Way, 10/8
 1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 10/9
 1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 10/9
 100 block E. El Camino Real, 10/10
 1 block W. El Camino Real, 10/11
 1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 10/12
 1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 10/12
 1500 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 10/12
 1500 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 10/12
 13100 block Lorene Ct., 10/14
 W. Dana St. & Hope St., 10/14
 1 block E. Middlefield Rd., 10/14

BATTERY

200 block Castro St., 10/7
 500 block Showers Dr., 10/8
 100 block Dalma Dr., 10/8
 700 block W. Evelyn Av., 10/12

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

2500 block Garcia Av., 10/9

GRAND THEFT

1400 block Brookdale Av., 10/7
 1600 block Villa St., 10/7
 100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 10/7
 500 block Escuela Av., 10/8
 2400 block Charleston Rd., 10/9
 1900 block California St., 10/10
 300 block Showers Dr., 10/11
 2400 block W. El Camino Real, 10/14

IDENTITY THEFT

500 block San Antonio Rd., 10/8

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

1000 block Castro St., 10/7
 400 block Pettis Av., 10/9

STOLEN VEHICLE

California St. & Mariposa Av., 10/7
 1300 block Grant Rd., 10/7
 2200 block Latham St., 10/9
 1900 block Latham St., 10/12

VANDALISM

800 block Villa St., 10/7
 500 block S. Rengstorff Av., 10/8
 1900 block Old Middlefield Way, 10/10

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

COUNCIL PUNTS ON RENT CONTROL LIMIT

As a City Council subcommittee prepares a package of changes to the city's rent control law to go before voters, its members are still avoiding the big question: How much will rents be allowed to go up?

At a Monday, Oct. 14, meeting, the three-member subcommittee could not reach a decision on how to adjust the annual cap on apartment rents. Under the current system that voters approved in 2016, apartment rent increases cannot be more than the rate of inflation, as set by the Consumer Price Index.

Multiple council members say they believe that limit is

► See **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**, page 14

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increased?



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security
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What can
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deducted?

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MAGALI GAUTHIER

Rowena Chiu said she stayed silent for over 20 years about an attempted rape when she worked as Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein's assistant.

Local woman says Harvey Weinstein tried to rape her

ROWENA CHIU: 'THERE'S A PUBLIC DUTY, A CIVIC GOOD IN SPEAKING OUT'

By Elena Kadwany

On Oct. 5, 2017, the world was gripped by a New York Times investigation that pulled the curtains back on decades of sexual harassment allegations against Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein. Many applauded the two female journalists for convincing several women, including actresses Gwyneth Paltrow and Ashley Judd, to speak on the record for the first time about Weinstein's alleged mistreatment.

Rowena Chiu was watching closely from her home in Palo Alto. She was terrified.

A native of Britain and mother of four who works as a part-time economic consultant for the World Bank, Chiu had her own #MeToo story about Weinstein. But she had no interest in sharing it publicly. She had kept her story a secret — from her husband, her parents, her sister, her friends — for 21 years.

Over the last two years, however, Chiu started to change her mind. She eventually agreed to talk on the record with the two New York Times journalists, Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey, for their new book, "She Said: Breaking the Sexual Harassment Story That Helped Ignite

a Movement." Two years to the day of the publication of The New York Times' first Weinstein story, Chiu published an op-ed describing how Weinstein had allegedly attempted to rape her while she was working as his assistant in 1998.

"I thought very long and hard about, do I want this to be my legacy?" Chiu said in an interview with the *Voice's* sister paper, the Palo Alto Weekly. "I'm not a famous actress. I'm not Gwyneth Paltrow. I'm not Ashley Judd. Do I want for the rest of my life when I put my

► See **WEINSTEIN**, page 8

City looks to tweak developer fees for park space

By Mark Noack

Mountain View city officials will begin brainstorming ways to rework how they calculate park fees on new development, but it will require a difficult balance. While pretty much everyone wants to see more parkland for the community, the city's high fees are reportedly scaring away developers from building new housing.

At the Oct. 15 meeting, City Council members agreed they needed to bring several aspects of the park fees back to the drawing board. In a late-night study session, the council gave broad direction to city staff to analyze ways to give developers more flexibility to fulfill their park requirements.

The background of this discussion centered on North Bayshore, which is expected to begin a spree of housing construction in

the coming years. But developers and a city-commissioned study found that as property values have skyrocketed, city development fees to fund parks and schools have also risen to new heights. Since 2016, park fees alone have reportedly raised the cost of building a single North Bayshore apartment by more than \$30,000.

Those higher housing costs

► See **PARKS**, page 6

Mountain View school test scores rise, but some students fall behind

By Kevin Forestieri

Most public schools across Mountain View saw modest gains in test scores this year, with some making huge strides in student performance across the board and some losing ground, according to state data released last week.

Notably, Monta Loma and Castro elementary schools saw progress erased, and there was a drop in performance among the most high needs students at the high school level. Achievement gaps in math widened as low-income and Latino students lost ground at the elementary and middle school level.

Each spring, students across the state take a Common Core-aligned standardized test marking progress in English language arts and math. These scores are a critical benchmark for schools measuring academic progress in a way that's consistent from one school district to another.

For the Mountain View Whisman School District, overall testing data shows slow-but-steady progress in English language arts, with 70.7% of students meeting state standards compared to 67.9% last year. The gains were consistent across the board: English language learners, low-income students, students with disabilities and Latino students all had better scores in the core subject this year. Math results were virtually flat, declining by a fraction of a percent to 63.7%.

Broken down by school however, there were clear success stories and trouble spots. Theuerkauf Elementary School performed much better, with 65.4% of students meeting state standards in English and 55.6% in math — a 10% and 9% increase from the prior year, respectively. Theuerkauf's test scores used to be on par with some of the lowest-performing schools in East San Jose in 2015, and today are comparable to average scores across Santa Clara County.

Landels Elementary School had a similar breakthrough year, with the number of students meeting state standards in English language arts rising by 10%

to 78.1% compared to the 2017-18 school year. The number of students meeting the state standards for math also rose by 5% to 69% over the same period.

Math scores at Mistral Elementary School, home to the district's dual immersion program, decreased slightly, but had a similar 9% jump in students meeting standards in English language arts.

Superintendent Ayinde Rudolph told the *Voice* that the results are a cause for celebration at the three schools and a testament to the hard work and dedication of the teachers. Going forward, he said the district's priority is to review what worked at the school sites and ensure it wasn't just a one-off, and that Theuerkauf, Landels and Mistral can replicate this year's success.

From the outset, Rudolph said it appears the three schools were quick to use data and student assessments to make adjustments to instruction, all the way down to granular changes for individual student needs.

"All three sites really used data wisely across the board," he said. "Either the principal brought in a new data practice or the teachers really embraced it as a school community, and how they use that information is really a defining factor to make sure they met their goals."

The latest batch of data doesn't bode well for Castro Elementary School, a school where a large majority of the students come from low-income families and speak English as a second language. Despite being a success story in recent years with test scores rising considerably, performance this year shows a slump. The percentage of Castro students meeting state standards in English language arts inched up by about 1% to 48.2%, while the percentage of students meeting math standards sank to 32.9% — a 6% drop from last year.

Monta Loma struggled as well, with the number of students meeting state standards in English dropping from 61.7% to 56.9% this year. Math performance also declined, with the

► See **TEST SCORES**, page 14

City weighs school fees on new housing projects

STUDENTS FROM A 75% INCREASE IN MOUNTAIN VIEW'S HOUSING COULD COST SCHOOLS \$1.2B

By Kevin Forestieri

The Mountain View City Council on Tuesday night grappled with a difficult balancing act between two competing priorities: encouraging more housing growth and providing enough money to schools to support a deluge of new students expected from the planned rapid development.

New and planned zoning changes, along with projects already in the pipeline, show the city is slated to grow by as many as 20,000 homes — or about a 75% increase to Mountain View's existing housing stock. The new development is expected to generate thousands of students, and school district officials say they simply don't have the money to accommodate them all.

Estimates vary, but the land and construction costs for additional school facilities could reach \$1.2 billion. City Council members generally agreed at the Oct. 15 study session that the city, schools districts and developers should all share in those costs,

but struggled to come up with a fair three-way split that doesn't potentially kill the feasibility of future housing projects.

The core question before council members was the so-called Local School District Strategy, a policy that requires large projects in the North Bayshore, East Whisman and Terra Bella areas of the city to finance local schools bearing the brunt of increased enrollment. Developers and school districts have struggled with how to interpret the policy.

If the city is going to allow high density housing, then it needs to mitigate the burden on local schools, said Councilwoman Margaret Abe-Koga. She said some schools are already packed with students and experiencing higher enrollment, and there's only so much districts can do to raise money for new school construction.

Abe-Koga advocated for an aggressive fee amounting to \$13.16 per square foot of development, which would place only one-third of the costs on the

school districts, according to a city staff report. It may cut into the council's goals for housing growth, but she said it's important to support local schools along the way.

'There is just no way our schools can support the expense.'

DEVON CONLEY, MVWSD TRUSTEE

"I have never believed that it should be housing at all costs, and I have always said that we need to maintain our community and our quality of life as we grow and build more housing," she said.

Abe-Koga's comments were echoed by school board members and leaders of the Mountain View Whisman and Mountain View-Los Altos High school districts, which both serve students residing in the North Bayshore, East Whisman and Terra Bella areas. Mountain View

Whisman trustee Devon Conley said that while she agrees housing is a priority, she urged the council to support schools and residents over for-profit developers looking to maximize their investment.

"I understand the need for housing, I desperately want more housing, and I want to make sure it happens. But when we have that housing we need a place for children to go, and there is just no way our schools can support the expense," Conley said. "It's \$15 million an acre — we just can't do that."

Councilwoman Alison Hicks said she wanted to find a way to shift the burden away from residential developers and onto commercial projects, particularly because the Bay Area's housing crisis is a direct result of office growth. She generally favored higher fees for schools, but said she didn't have enough information to back a specific amount.

Councilman John McAlister took a different approach, arguing that schools need to bear the burden of more than one-third

of the costs and have "more skin in the game." He said school leaders have a responsibility to take the lead on addressing enrollment growth and increasing capacity rather than expect the city to extract fees or help pay for it.

"I'd like to see the school districts drive this issue, not the city," he said.

To date, only one developer has paid off its obligation to school districts through the existing framework of the school strategy, which was a clear example of the shortcomings of the policy. School districts demanded that Sobrato pay \$24.4 million for its housing development at 1255 Pear Ave., while Sobrato countered with a \$7.25 million offer. The City Council split the difference, asking the developer to pay \$12 million.

Adding complexity to the discussion was precisely how many students would come from the new housing development. Demographers hired by the school districts believe 3,601

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PARKS

► Continued from page 5

are reverberating throughout the rest of Mountain View, said John Hickey of Summer-Hill Homes. Other developers expressed similar concerns.

"Park fees have increased dramatically and now it's at the point where it's impeding housing," Hickey said. "We believe there's some opportunities to make the parkland ordinance more uniform so it doesn't discourage new development."

By the numbers, North Bayshore is the most parkland-rich region of the city. The neighborhood has more than 980 acres of open space, largely thanks to Shoreline Park and golf course.

This can make the city's parks data a little bit deceptive. On paper, the parks acreage in Mountain View actually looks pretty good, with more than 13.5 acres per 1,000 residents. The city stated goal is to have 3 acres per 1,000 residents.

But city parks officials point out that if they exclude the North Bayshore area, including Shoreline Park, then these numbers across the rest of the city plummet to 2.6 acres per 1,000 residents. For that reason, city officials believe many areas of the city are deficient in parks even though the city's ratio as a whole looks pretty good.

To design a better parks fee system, city officials decided they needed to revisit their categories for housing projects. Right now, the fees are calculated under a formula that depends on many factors, including the density, acreage and number of units. The council decided it may make sense to tweak that formula by adding in new density tiers that would account for large-scale housing developments of small apartments or studios.

The City Council also expressed interest in looking at the number of bedrooms, not housing units, as a new way to figure out park fees. Councilman Chris Clark expressed wariness about this idea, saying it was essentially telling developers to build studios because larger apartments would carry higher costs.

City leaders also discussed offering more incentives for housing developers to build private parks and recreation amenities. This would be similar to a special concession that the council granted to the Sobrato Organization for a 635-unit apartment complex to be built at 1255 Pear Ave. In that project, city officials agreed to give Sobrato an \$8 million "open space credit" for building a private park as long as the developer made it accessible to the public.

In a similar idea, city staff proposed giving a smaller credit to housing developers that build private, residents-only parks and facilities. For example, a private swimming pool at a luxury compound would still benefit everyone because it would mean fewer people would be using the city's public pool, Community Services Director John Marchant said.

It was an idea that drew a mixed reaction. Some council members balked at the notion of encouraging a hodgepodge of private parks with different access rules. A better idea would be to have the city nudge developers to dedicate land for public use, said Councilwoman Margaret Abe-Koga.

"I don't want our city to become more gated communities and siloed off," she said. "I don't know how people will know what's private and what's open to the public."

Despite those reservations, the council agreed to allow city staff to study different options.

Across the board, the City Council favored putting higher fees for parks on office and commercial developers. City staff members said they will look into a new nexus study to investigate higher fees. ▣

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com

TREE

► Continued from page 1

they decided it was time to take down the tree before it became a hazard.

The tree has essentially been on life support for the last few years, said the city's forestry manager, Jakob Trconic. City maintenance crews have tried different irrigation techniques and fertilizers to prop up the cedar's health, but nothing has pulled it out of a steady decline. A 2018 survey indicated the tree was at one-tenth of its original vitality, and its condition isn't expected to improve.

"Over the last three years, it's just been a downward spiral for the tree itself," Trconic said. "We really want to keep this tree around, but we just can't see doing another tree lighting. I don't see there being much left of it."

Notices announcing plans to take down the tree were posted last week. Assuming no one files an appeal, city workers say they plan to chop down the cedar by the end of October.

The Civic Center Plaza tree is an Atlas cedar, which is known as a hardy species that can reportedly survive for centuries, given the right conditions.

Trconic has his theories for why the tree may have deteriorated early. In particular, he believes the tree was likely dealt a setback in the early 1990s when City Hall and its underground parking

garage were under construction. During that excavation, workers damaged part of the tree's root system, and it likely hurt the tree's lifespan.

On a side note, the Civic Center Plaza cedar actually wasn't the city's original choice for holiday events. Around the time when City Hall was being built, city officials thought a larger, more robust tree located in the roundabout at Castro and California streets would be a perfect candidate for holiday lights and decorations.

But that plan got the ax, literally. The story goes that construction workers got the two trees mixed up and took a chainsaw to the one on Castro Street before anyone who knew better noticed. City officials decided the cedar tree at the Civic Center Plaza was the next best option.

Now, city officials say they want to quickly find a replacement tree in time for the Tree Lighting Celebration. Trconic said he is trying to determine the right species and other details, but expects to plant a 72-inch box tree as soon as possible. Assuming the timing works out, he believes a nascent tree can be planted in time for the Dec. 9 tree lighting.

"We're going to buy a new large specimen, but it certainly won't be anywhere near the stature of the existing tree," Trconic said. "It may be a little Charlie Brown tree this year, but hopefully it'll grow into a nice big tree." ▣

Mountain View Whisman seeks bond measure in 2020

POLLS SHOW LIKELY VOTERS WORRY ABOUT STUDENT GROWTH AND HIGH COST OF LIVING FOR TEACHERS

By Kevin Forestieri

Mountain View Whisman school board members agreed last week to pursue a bond measure in 2020, citing polling data that shows district voters would be willing to back a measure that supports teachers and builds infrastructure for a swell of additional students entering the district in the coming years.

Though concrete plans on how to use bond funds are still to come, trustees say they believe the high residential growth in Mountain View means the school district is going to need more classroom space at new or existing school sites. The specifics still need to be hammered out, but board president Tamara Wilson said the money will be needed.

"We do know that there are a going to be future expenditures," she said. "And I don't think these expenditures are going to be small."

District officials, using data provided by the city, say that as many as 20,000 additional residential units may be built in Mountain View over the next 15 years, including high-density

development planned for the East Whisman and North Bayshore areas of the city. Student generation rates are notoriously hard to predict, but the estimate is that the development will bring 2,448 children — 1,512 elementary school students and 936 middle school students, according to a district staff report. That amounts to about a 50% increase in the district's current enrollment.

School board members took a broad approach to potential ballot measures next year, polling for support for a potential parcel tax and a bond measure. Polling data for a parcel tax — which requires a two-thirds majority to pass — showed 66% of likely voters favoring a \$146 parcel tax and 73% supporting a \$98 parcel tax. This would be on top of the existing \$191 parcel tax, which passed in 2017 and brings in \$2.8 million annually.

The polls, conducted online and by telephone, serve as a temperature check for community perception of the district's performance and its need for cash. Between 46% and 45% of likely voters rated the district's performance as either excellent or good, which is consistent with prior polls.

The perception that the district needs more money, however, has declined over time. Two-thirds of those polled in September 2016 felt the district had either a "great" or "some" need for more money, which fell to 53% in September this year.

Voters generally favored using parcel tax funds to provide academic support for students struggling with the basics, like reading, writing and mathematics, as well as teacher salaries. Of those polled, 23% said they would oppose the measure due to the perception that it would be a "forever" tax that would never expire, and 19% said no taxes should be approved until the school board can prove it can "effectively manage the school district."

"None of these are particularly worrisome in and of themselves," said Gene Bregman, the polling consultant hired by the district, at the Oct. 10 school board meeting. "Unless of course somebody mounts an active campaign against it — then all bets are off."

Results were more favorable for a bond measure, which only requires a 55% majority among voters to pass. Depending on the framing of the question, as many

as 62% of those polled said they would support a bond measure that would cost property owners \$30 per \$100,000 of the assessed value.

Far and away the top reason for supporting the measure was support for teachers who cannot afford to live in the Bay Area, which is highly unusual to see at the top of the priority list, Bregman said. Two-thirds of those polled said it was an important problem that needs to be addressed, which he said could be a valuable priority to focus on during a campaign.

"That's an important issue that can, at least in part, be addressed through a bond measure," he said.

After support for teachers, 51% of those polled said accommodating future enrollment growth should be a top priority for bond expenditures, particularly if students won't be able to attend their neighborhood school without ramping up classroom capacity at existing sites. The third-highest priority was fixing old and inadequate roofs.

The takeaway from trustees was that a parcel tax was going to be tough to pass, while a bond measure would be a more feasible

option that could bring much-needed construction funds to the district.

"The bond certainly, while nothing is a slam dunk, has a better chance for success than a parcel tax does," Bregman said.

If the school board opts to put the measure on the March 2020 ballot, trustees will have until Dec. 6 to vote on the language of the measure. The board generally favored the maximum tax rate allowed under state law while still needing 55% of the vote, which is \$30 per \$100,000 of assessed value, estimated to generate somewhere around \$250 million.

The school district is still wrapping up construction projects using money from a prior bond measure passed in 2012, Measure G, which generated \$198 million in funds to upgrade all of the district's school sites. The budget was later padded with an extra \$40 million through what's called a Certificate of Participation, which is being paid off at an annual cost of \$2.64 million.

District officials are compiling an updated list of current and future facilities needs that could benefit from a bond measure. ■

Stanford University Development Project and the General Use Permit Application

County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors Hearing

Tuesday, October 22, 2019 / 6:00 pm

City of Palo Alto Council Chambers / 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94301

At this hearing, the Board of Supervisors will receive testimony from members of the public on the General Use Permit application. This is the only hearing before the Board on the application in Palo Alto. Other hearings will be in San José.

DID YOU KNOW?



Stanford University is proposing to add more than 3.5 million square feet of new development and 9,600 people to its campus. The project is the largest ever to be reviewed by the County of Santa Clara in its 169-year history.

The process of the County's consideration of the General Use Permit Application will be fair, transparent and open. The County is seeking input from the community on this General Use Permit Application.

The County Administration is committed to ensuring that this development, if approved, does not negatively impact the surrounding community by substantially worsening local traffic, escalating demand on housing - particularly affordable housing - or endangering our open spaces.

Last Hearing in Palo Alto to Share Your Views with the Board of Supervisors

For the latest updates, please visit: CountyStanford.info

WEINSTEIN

► Continued from page 5

name into Google to have my name synonymous with that of my attempted rapist? That's a big burden to carry."

But, she eventually realized, "there's a public duty, a civic good in speaking out."

Chiu has lived in Palo Alto with her husband since 2009. She has four children, who are 10, 8, 5 and 2 years old. She was born just outside London to two Chinese immigrants. She grew up in a conservative, Christian household, where topics like sexual violence were not broached.

As a teenager and college student, she dreamed of becoming a film producer. She threw herself into theater productions as a student at the University of Oxford, becoming vice president of the Oxford University Film Foundation and president of the school's drama society.

After she graduated, the

opportunity to become Weinstein's assistant at the London office for his production company, Miramax, presented itself. She jumped.

"In those days, if anyone wanted to be anyone in film, getting to work for Miramax and the Harvey Weinstein office was a really big deal," said Chiu, who was 24 at the time. "Everyone wanted to work with Harvey."

His outsized temper preceded him, and the woman who hired Chiu, Zelda Perkins, warned her to "'handle him robustly,' which can mean when he is in a rage and decides to throw his phone at you, make sure that you stand your ground," she said. She recalled hearing some rumors about him "being difficult with women," but stories about his rageful demands of employees were more common.

Perkins was the first person Chiu told that Weinstein had attempted to rape her during a late-night meeting at a hotel during the Venice Film Festival.

"I had expected to discuss potential film productions and scripts, and we did," Chiu wrote in her New York Times opinion piece. "But after hours of fending off his chitchat, flattery, requests for massages and a bath, ultimately I found myself pushed back against the bed. I'd worn two pairs of tights for protection, and tried to appease him by taking one of them off and letting him massage me, but it hadn't worked. He'd taken off the other pair and I was terrified my underwear would be next. Harvey moved in: Please, he told me, just one thrust, and it will all be over."

Weinstein has denied her allegations. His lawyer told The Associated Press in September that Weinstein and Chiu had a six-month consensual physical relationship and that Weinstein was "now studying taking legal action" against Chiu for breaking a nondisclosure agreement.

Chiu and Perkins tried to report what had happened to higher-ups at Miramax. They were advised to hire lawyers, which they did. They ultimately signed a settlement with Weinstein, including a strict nondisclosure agreement that prevented them from speaking about what had happened with anyone. Chiu said they were required to list the names of anyone they had spoken to, even tangentially, about the alleged attempted assault. They each received £125,000 (about \$213,000 then, just over \$150,000 by today's exchange rate) and negotiated clauses they hoped would help protect future female Miramax employees from Weinstein, including that he would go to therapy.

They weren't allowed to keep a copy of the 30-page agreement, "but the memory of it will be etched in our brains forever," Chiu said.

"We were very strictly warned at the time that if we were to sign the agreement and if we accepted the sum of money for our silence, we were basically to treat that period in our lives as a black hole" — including by not talking to one another about it, Chiu said. Chiu and Perkins wouldn't speak again until October 2017, when The New York Times story broke.

If they violated the settlement, consequences spelled out in the document include a potential legal injunction and an end to any future payments and recouping of previous ones.

Looking back, Chiu describes the settlement as "immoral and unethical." She feels the legal system failed her and Perkins, two young, unresourced women just starting their careers pitted against one of the film industry's most powerful figures.

"We really had no power," she said.

The nondisclosure agreement

derailed Chiu personally and professionally. Plenty of London film companies wanted to interview her, curious about the circumstances of an unexplained departure from Weinstein's office, but none hired her, she believed for that very reason. Unable to find work and under financial strain, she eventually returned to Miramax for a job in Hong Kong, far from her family and friends in London. She grappled with feelings of isolation and guilt. Her mental health started to erode. She attempted suicide twice.

"I feel like you can't underestimate, which I did at the time, the pressure of keeping something secret. You think you're just going to park it and forget about it and move on. But the mind doesn't really work like that," she said.

In her recent op-ed Chiu describes how four power imbalances — gender, race, seniority and wealth — fed into what happened with Weinstein. These dynamics, particularly her background as an Asian woman, also played a role in her reluctance to disclose her allegation for two decades.

"Sexual assault was never discussed in my culture and in my family, ever. I think there is a sense still within Asian cultures that the woman is at fault," she said. "I think that is a big barrier to speaking up. It's hard to come from a culture that is utterly silent about these matters."

Last fall, Chiu watched a fellow Palo Alto resident, Christine Blasey Ford, accuse now-Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh of sexually assaulting her decades ago, while they were both in high school. Chiu's worst fears about public disclosure were confirmed: Ford had to leave her home and her job, hire private security and fend off media requests, death threats and attacks on her credibility.

But Chiu also witnessed an outpouring of community support. She was among the hundreds of people who attended a candlelight vigil in support of Ford outside Town & Country Village last September. She watched threads on NextDoor grow long with neighbors volunteering to cook meals for the Ford family.

Earlier this year, Chiu met Ford at a gathering arranged by Kantor and Twohey at Paltrow's home in Los Angeles, which makes up the final chapter of their book. They brought together sources from the Weinstein story with other women affected by sexual misconduct, including one woman who alleged President Donald Trump had forcibly kissed her in an elevator and a McDonald's worker who had become an advocate for sexual-harassment reform at the fast-food giant. Chiu came on the condition that her identity remained confidential.

Resources for victims of sexual violence:

For immediate in-person crisis assistance and counseling services, contact the YWCA of Silicon Valley's 24-hour support line in English and Spanish at **800-572-2782**. For more information and services, go to ywca-sv.org.

The national Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN) also offers a 24/7 hotline via phone at **800-656-HOPE (4673)** and chat at hotline.rainn.org.

But hearing those women share their stories, particularly Ford, sparked a "seismic shift" in Chiu. A few months later, she finally agreed to go on the record with The New York Times. She felt it was "important to me now that I speak up, that I allow my voice, an Asian voice, an assistant's voice, to join the array of voices in the #MeToo movement," she wrote in her op-ed.

She said the response to her disclosure has been overwhelmingly positive, from friends from her children's schools to Asian American organizations that are eager to have her speak about her experience.

By sheer coincidence, Chiu is one of three women with connections to Palo Alto whose stories have become pivotal in the national #MeToo movement. In addition to Ford, there's Chanel Miller, the Palo Alto native and Gunn High School graduate who was sexually assaulted by Brock Turner at Stanford University in 2017. Miller revealed her identity publicly this fall in a new memoir about the assault and its aftermath.

Miller, who is half-Chinese, has pointed to her racial background as a barrier to coming forward.

"There is no figurehead" for Asian women who have been sexually assaulted, Chiu said. "There's no blueprint. There's no playbook for speaking out. In many ways Chanel Miller and I, we're the first. We're breaking new ground."

Weinstein is awaiting a January criminal trial on charges of rape and a forcible sex act. Chiu is hopeful he will be brought to justice but even if he's not, believes stories like hers have had an impact. Rome wasn't built in a day, she said.

"There will still be a sea change in culture," Chiu said. "Even if Harvey doesn't go to jail, there's still going to be a feeling that you can't quite get away with things in the way that you used to in the old days." ■

Email Elena Kadavy at ekadavy@paweekly.com

Call for Nominations

The El Camino Hospital Board of Directors is seeking individuals interested in serving as a member of its Governance Committee. Candidates will have significant experience in at least one of the following areas: Board Governance (Effectiveness, Efficiency, Board and Management Relationships), Organizational Leadership Skill or Healthcare Executive Leadership. An active executive might be appropriate, as would consultants and advisors to the local community.

To inquire about the open position or to nominate someone you know, please email nominations@elcaminohealth.org.

Submissions due by **November 20, 2019**.



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LANDLORD

► Continued from page 1

fabricated proof of employment and bank statements to persuade her to rent them an apartment.

"The real crime here is what's being done to this property. These people defrauded me," Saini said. "They knew how to work the fine print to stay as illegal tenants."

Saini's defense attorney echoed those claims at a preliminary hearing in Santa Clara County Superior Court on Thursday, Oct. 10. Defense attorney Charles Smith told the court that Saini and her co-defendant Steven Carling would be exonerated when a full record of the text messages and emails sent to her tenants becomes available. He claimed that "informal information" that he was still verifying would eventually show that the Klimchok family had lied about their employment and income when they rented the home from Saini.

An attorney representing the Klimchok family emphatically denied those allegations, saying that Saini was fully aware that the family wasn't immediately able to pay rent.

Smith told the court that Saini sent the Klimchok family multiple warnings telling them they

needed to vacate the property for failing to pay rent and that she was heading over, Smith said. The Aug. 26 altercation should have been no surprise, he said.

"This wasn't an ambush, the family knew they were coming," Smith said. "Our evidence shows these people were told, 'You're not paying rent; you don't belong here.'"

That line of argument was immediately called out by prosecutors. Landlords must follow a formal set of procedures to evict a tenant, which is supposed to be carried out by law enforcement after a civil unlawful detainer judgment. Saini did not have authority to do this on her own with hired muscle, said Deputy District Attorney Paola Pretorius.

"Whatever wrongdoing the defense is alleging the victims may have perpetrated as to not paying rent, the defendant still doesn't have an open field day to terrify and intimidate these people," she said.

According to the police report, Saini arrived the evening of Aug. 26 with Carling, her house cleaner Lori Ann Walston, and two other people at the Rock Street apartment occupied by the Klimchok family. Saini cut the power to the unit, and Carling went up to the front door and

began shouting for the family to leave, then started kicking the door, splintering the wood. The report says he began thrusting a knife through the cracks, nearly stabbing Marc Klimchok, who was trying to brace the door from the other side.

By this time, the rest of the family had fled out the back door, and multiple 911 calls came into police dispatch reporting a burglary in progress. The Klimchok children told police they were extremely scared; one said she felt like she was having a panic attack.

'To say there's fraud here is just smoke and mirrors.'

CARLOS JATO,
KLIMCHOK FAMILY ATTORNEY

Mountain View police detained Saini and her four alleged accomplices at the scene. On the suspects' cellphones, they found a detailed text message chat between Saini and Walston discussing how they would seize the Klimchok family's cellphones and scare them into leaving, according to the police report.

All five members of the group were arrested on suspicion of burglary-related crimes. Saini faces additional charges for illegally turning off the apartment's power, as does Carling for attempted assault. Prosecutors have not pressed charges against the other two suspects involved in the Aug. 26 incident, but they

filed a new indictment against Walston for burglary last week.

Marc and Elizabeth Klimchok were present at the courthouse on Oct. 10, waiting in an anteroom ready to testify against Saini and Carling, according to prosecutors.

But attorneys for Saini and Carling urged Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge Charles Wilson to delay any formal arguments on the alleged crimes, warning that allowing the Klimchok family to testify should be postponed because they could face criminal charges themselves. Wilson agreed to this request.

"By them testifying under oath, they're exposing themselves to criminal felonies due to how they ended up staying in the residence," said Luz Maria Solis, a public defender appointed to represent Carling. "They need to be aware of the potential consequences of them testifying under oath."

Prosecutors have declined to say whether Saini's allegations of criminal conduct by the Klimchok family are being investigated.

Carlos Jato, an attorney who is representing the Klimchok family in Saini's civil lawsuits, said the defense attorneys' move to prevent the Klimchok's from testifying was nothing more than a delay tactic. The family had just moved to Mountain View in July, and they were initially living at an Airbnb rental managed by Saini. The Klimchoks were current on rent payments, but the lucrative tech industry job that originally brought the family out

to California ended up falling through. Around that time, Saini offered to put the family up in the Rock Street apartment, and they signed a lease under an agreement that the family wouldn't be able to pay her immediately, Jato said.

"She knew all along that they didn't have the money when they signed the deal," he said. "To say there's fraud here is just smoke and mirrors."

The Klimchoks say they agreed to pay Saini \$3,900 a month in rent for the two-bedroom apartment on Rock Street. But when they reviewed the lease forms, they say Saini had surreptitiously changed the agreement to \$10,000 a month.

Saini told the *Voice* the deal was always for \$10,000, a price that she acknowledged seemed high, but it is justified because the place is furnished and unoccupied for most of the year, she said. Charging \$3,900 a month was nonsensical, she said, because it would mean she was losing money on the \$4,500 a month she pays to the property's owner.

She dismissed the Aug. 26 incident, the text messages discussing seizing the family's cellphones and the hired man who said he had Saini's permission to break down the door.

"That's just an interpretation. It wasn't like we were going in there to steal their phones," she said. "We weren't going to do anything illegal, but I don't think the plan was thought out to that extent."

Prior to the Aug. 26 altercation, Saini says she went to the police at least three times, but they were no help.

Jato, the attorney for the Klimchok family, confirmed that Saini had repeatedly gone to the police, but he says she was told each time that her complaints were a civil matter, not criminal. Instead of going through the civil court process for an eviction, she apparently decided to do it on her own, he said.

"The truth of the matter is even if you have the right, you can't use self-help to do your own eviction," Jato said.

There are currently two active civil lawsuits filed by Saini seeking compensation. One small claims court case is seeking upward of \$2,000 in allegedly unpaid rent for when the Klimchoks lived at the Airbnb that Saini managed. A second case seeks \$20,000 from the Klimchoks for two months of rent at the Rock Street apartment.

The criminal case against Saini and her co-defendants is now scheduled to return to court later this month. ■

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com

Lori Marie Clarke

July 29, 1955 - August 20, 2019

Lori Marie Clarke, 64, of Santa Maria, CA passed away on August 20th, 2019.

Lori was born in Oakland, CA on July 29th, 1955. She attended grade school in Mountain View, CA and junior and senior high schools in Los Altos, CA.

Lori married Michael Clarke and lived in Sunnyvale, CA. She worked for her stepfather, Robert Strain, at his automotive shop, Custom Alignment, for 15 years as Office Manager. Lori then decided to follow her passion for food and cooking and became the owner/operator of The Backdoor Eatery in Los Altos, CA. In addition to other food retail and catering work, Lori started her own candy business and made unique and delicious toffees. In 2014, she relocated to Santa Maria and continued working in food services and home care aid.

Lori loved her dogs, especially her pitbull Hank and her mini pinscher, Ruby. She was a talented artist, loved music and was a big fan of Janis Joplin, The Doors and other great bands from that era.

Lori is survived by her mother, Elizabeth Strain of Mountain View, CA and brother Aaron Strain of Chicago, IL; and her sisters, Susan Ann Gibson of Kenilworth, NJ and Mary Ann Weaver and family of North Hampton, PA and stepmother Sally Gibson of Whitehall, PA.

Lori is preceded in death by her father, John Gibson and stepfather, Robert Strain and former husband Michael Clarke.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to your favorite charity or animal shelter.



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Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

CA MOVERS LLC
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: FBN659018

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

CA Movers LLC, located at 1933 Gamel Way #1, Mountain View, CA 94040, Santa Clara County.

This business is owned by: A Limited Liability Company.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):

CA MOVERS LLC
1933 Gamel Way #1
Mountain View, CA 94040

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 05/06/2019.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on September 20, 2019.
(MVV Sep. 27; Oct. 4, 11, 18, 2019)

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS MOUNTAIN VIEW-SOUTH PALO ALTO
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: FBN659351

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

Holiday Inn Express Mountain View-South Palo Alto, located at 1561 West El Camino Real, Mountain View, CA 94040, Santa Clara County.

This business is owned by: A Corporation.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):

RPK INVESTMENTS INC.
191 El Bonito Way
Millbrae, CA 94030

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/04/2013.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on October 1, 2019.
(MVV Oct. 18, 25; Nov. 1, 8, 2019)

Call Alicia Santillan at 650-223-6578
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LAWSUIT

▶ Continued from page 1

his daughters and if there was “anything more” he could tell officers to understand “a little bit more about the situation,” the officers gave an ultimatum: allow a paramedic to inspect the child’s genitals or have her forcibly transported to Santa Clara Valley Medical Center for an examination.

Motomura told the parents that he and the other officers would not leave until the exam was complete or the child was taken to Valley Medical Center, refusing to comply when Douglas Lother demanded that the three officers leave the home.

According to the complaint, Motomura tried to convince the parents that the in-home examination was the better option.

“There is only two options,” he said, according to the lawsuit’s transcription of body camera footage. “Doing this here in her own home with a female medical expert. Mom is welcome to be present, nothing traumatic, abusive is going to happen, or if you refuse, then we have to go the other route and CPS will take them in ... to be seen by an emergency room doctor.”

The suit states that the parents

tried multiple times to offer alternatives, including a trip to a physician to verify the injury was not serious and healing. Danielle Lother also offered contact information for witnesses who could corroborate the story that the girl injured herself at a trampoline park.

“Danielle (Lother) offered in a pleading tone to take the child to the doctor tomorrow and send them the results,” according to the suit. “Danielle again offered that she would get the pediatrician on the phone. These offers were again refused.”

The Lothers say they were forced to hold down their daughter and pull off her clothes for the paramedic while she was kicking and crying. The paramedic commented that she couldn’t see without better lighting, leading Douglas Lother to pull out the flashlight on his phone to assist in the examination.

“In a nightmarish moment of his life, Douglas (Lother) actually found himself holding a flashlight with one hand, pointed at his daughter’s private parts, while he and his wife were holding down their struggling, screaming, crying 5-year-old daughter, as a stranger was putting her fingers on his child’s labia and spreading the outer

folds of the labia with her fingers to visually inspect them in the bright light of a flashlight held by Douglas,” according to the suit.

Laura Yamada, the paramedic for American Medical Response (AMR), concluded after a two-minute examination that there was nothing wrong with the child’s vagina, but only after prefacing her statement by saying that she was not a doctor.

In the weeks following the incident, the family hired San Jose-based attorney Robert Powell, who filed a \$1 million claim against the city of Mountain View arguing that suspected victims of child abuse cannot, by the department’s own policy, be detained involuntarily for the purposes of an interview or physical exam without the consent of a parent or guardian. Exceptions exist only for exigent circumstances, including an immediate need to address a medical issue or a belief that the child is at risk of harm if the interview or exam is not completed.

Mountain View city officials said they could not comment on existing litigation. The City Council is scheduled to discuss the lawsuit in closed session at its Tuesday, Oct. 15, meeting.

Powell told the *Voice* that

officers erred in demanding a sexual assault examination, and that they lacked a compelling reason to escalate the situation or suspect the parents of wrongdoing. The account of the injuries sustained at Sky High Sports was consistent between the father, the mother and the child.

“This was three days later — she was absolutely fine,” Powell said of the girl. “They knew that from her own mouth within seven minutes of them arriving.”

Powell said the family decided to move forward with a civil complaint after they ran into “disparate views” over what would be an appropriate settlement arrangement with the three culpable agencies — the city, the county and AMR.

The suit alleges that the incident has caused severe emotional distress, anxiety, and symptoms including nausea and severe depression, forcing the family

to spend money on therapeutic counseling and medical care, and faces future medical and mental health expenses.

The 5-year-old, in particular, has suffered lasting consequences from the encounter with police, according to the suit, including mood changes and “extreme hypervigilance.” She slept in her parents’ bed for two months, was still having nightmares eight months after the exam and has seen her grades drop.

The suit claims that the city violated the family’s right to due process, privacy and against unreasonable seizure, and alleges that the officers committed battery and false imprisonment. The suit also lays blame on the paramedic for negligence in conducting an exam that was a “substantial factor” in causing harm to the daughter. ▀

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

CRIME BRIEFS

▶ Continued from page 4

reportedly accepted \$1,000 in restitution from Lopez for the crime.
—Mark Noack

ARREST IN NECKLACE THEFT AT KOHL’S

Police arrested a 19-year-old transient last week after he allegedly stole jewelry from a store and tried to make a getaway on a bike.

Police received reports of a theft at the Kohl’s in the San Antonio shopping center shortly before 10 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 11. When officers arrived, one of them spotted a man run from the jewelry counter inside the store and out a back door, according to police spokeswoman Katie Nelson.

The officer ran after him, and during the pursuit a second officer located the alleged thief on a bike, Nelson said. The man eventually got off the bike and fled on foot before officers caught up to him on the 2000 block of California Street, about three blocks from the store.

The man was arrested on suspicion of grand theft and resisting arrest. He was previously arrested in August for trespassing at the Park View Apartments on Crisanto Avenue.

—Kevin Forestieri

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TEST SCORES

▶ Continued from page 5

number of students meeting standards in math decreasing from 51.1% to 46.9%.

Both schools were a cause for concern for the district's trustees as the Oct. 10 school board meeting. Board president Tamara Wilson said the scores are "incredible" at many of the school sites but that she was disheartened to see the test results from Castro and Monta Loma across all subgroups and subjects.

"What are we missing?" she asked.

Rudolph said the district plans to provide extra support at both schools, including more opportunities for professional development for staff, and that the district may need to return to the board with an overarching plan for how to fix the losses in academic performance. For now, he said, the priority is still

figuring out what went wrong.

"Part of what we're doing is deconstructing what has taken place at both of those sites and focus on what may be missing," he said.

The state tests were administered in the spring, prior to a major shift in the district's school attendance boundaries, meaning that scores in future years may change as individual students change campuses. District data shows that the newly opened Vargas Elementary School students, if it enrolled the students it has today, would have had 79% of its students meet state standards in English language arts and 74% meeting standards in math — roughly equivalent to those at Bubb Elementary School.

Mountain View Whisman School District officials have long sought to close the persistent achievement gap between students along ethnic and socioeconomic lines, and the latest

data shows a mixed bag on those efforts. More low-income and Latino students met standards in English language arts compared to last year, but generally performed worse in math.

High schools claw back last year's losses

Test scores for the Mountain View-Los Altos High School District show progress in students meeting state standards in English language arts, which dipped last year and fluctuated from one year to the next.

Students in the high school district generally perform better than those in the Mountain View Whisman School District, with 82.6% of students meeting state standards in English language arts this year, up from 79.3% last year. Those gains were shared evenly across Mountain View and Los Altos high schools.

Math scores stagnated for the third year in a row, with the number of teens meeting standards in math virtually identical to last year at 68.8%.

In an Oct. 15 statement, the district called the test scores "steady" and "strong," hanging onto high level performance and gains from prior years. Internal tracking by the district shows that the students who were tested in their junior year — the only year high school students take the test — performed better or the same as they did in eighth grade, said Margarita Navarro, associate superintendent of educational services.

"I think it's a testament to what we're doing at the school sites," Navarro said. "The majority of students did maintain a (passing) score, and that's good news."

Some of the biggest gains were among Latino students, which has been a priority for the district. The number of Latino students meeting state standards in English language arts increased by nearly 7% this year to 56.3% which, while higher, still falls well below Asian (90.5%) and white (93.53%) students in the district.

Students with disabilities in the high school district struggled to

keep up with their peers, according to the testing data. About 37.4% of students with disabilities met state standards in English language arts, down from 41.5% last year, while 13.8% met state standards in math, down from 26% — the lowest performance since 2016.

Among the 36 English learners who were tested in the high school district this year, only one met state standards for English language arts. None of them met the standards for math.

Navarro said school administrators will go through the data and analyze what can be done to improve scores, but noted that it's difficult to account for big fluctuations in scores among students with disabilities and English learners. The cohort is fairly small, and students with disparate needs and backgrounds are often lumped into one category.

"It's always really hard to compare one year to another," she said. ■

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

▶ Continued from page 4

inadequate for landlords to retain and upgrade their properties, especially apartments that were built decades ago. Over the last year, several older rent-controlled apartment buildings have been slated for demolition and redevelopment into for-sale townhouses.

At the Monday meeting, Councilwoman Margaret Abe-Koga suggested higher rents would staunch the loss of older apartments.

"I firmly believe that (rent control) has caused the issue of displacement as properties are sold off and redeveloped," said Councilwoman Margaret Abe-Koga. "This (measure) is an effort to balance it out better so we don't see more apartment complexes sold off or redeveloped."

In past meetings, Abe-Koga favored a 5% cap on rent increases, but she signaled a willingness to budge. Councilman Chris Clark suggested sticking with inflation, but

allowing a 1 percentage point surcharge on top. The committee's third member, Lucas Ramirez, preferred staying with inflation or going no higher than 4% rent increases per year.

"Even CPI plus 1% is hard for me to defend," he said.

Much like prior meetings, the most vexing issue of rent control came down to an impasse. Subcommittee members agreed to draft a variety of options on rent increases that would eventually be brought before the full council on Nov. 18. The City Council would need to finalize any ballot measure by early December, according to city staff.

PAY RAISES FOR CITY MANAGER, CITY CLERK

The Mountain View City Council approved pay raises for City Manager Dan Rich and City Clerk Lisa Natusch at its Sept. 24 meeting.

In a unanimous vote, the council agreed to give a 3% cost-of-living raise to Rich, bringing

his total salary to \$310,931. But the pay bump won't do much for retention — Rich has already announced plans to retire in December, following eight years of working at City Hall.

Natusch, who joined the city last year, will be receiving a larger raise of 10%. That increase is composed of a 3% cost-of-living increase, a 4% increase for good performance and another 3% adjustment intended to bring her salary in line with similar positions in the local job market. With the increase, her total salary will be \$154,864.

The city manager, clerk and city attorney are the only City Hall positions that are directly hired by the City Council. All other positions are given wage increases as part of larger labor groups. City Attorney Krishan Chopra was not given a salary increase for this year because he was just promoted to the position in August, replacing longtime City Attorney Jannie Quinn, who retired.

—Mark Noack

SCHOOL FEES

▶ Continued from page 6

students will be generated by the city's future building plans, with about two-thirds attending Mountain View Whisman schools and one-third attending Mountain View-Los Altos. The city hired a different consultant and landed on a more conservative projections of 2,575 students in roughly the same split.

Council members did not vote, but asked staff to come up with options for a balanced fee that could be higher for commercial development. Staff is expected to return with options early next year.

Although the discussion Tuesday largely centered around monetary contributions, developers can also provide a land dedication for a school site or adjacent open space to satisfy the

requirements for the school strategy. City staffers also floated the idea of using the Transfer of Development Rights (TDRs) that could shift the location of developments in order to make room for a school. TDRs were integral to an ongoing plan by the Los Altos School District to build a school in the San Antonio neighborhood of Mountain View. ■

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

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By Lenny Siegel

On Tuesday, Oct. 22, the Mountain View City Council majority is expected to finalize the latest version of its attempt to drive residential motor homes out of town. The proposed ban is a bad idea, not only because it would leave many of our residents with no place to live in Mountain View, but because no one really knows where they would be allowed to park their vehicles.

Over the past few years, the growing number of vehicle residences in Mountain View and other Bay Area communities has upset a lot of people. Some people are upset because they don't want to see what they consider blight in our community. Others, such as the Mountain View Housing Justice Coalition, are upset because so many of our neighbors cannot afford to live in the town where they work, attend school or most recently rented an apartment. Our city and companies have created a housing crisis, yet we haven't done

Guest Opinion

enough to serve its victims.

As I've written before, very few of Mountain View's motor home dwellers are chronic homeless, with mental health and substance abuse problems. The chronic homeless also deserve help, but we need to recognize that Mountain View's vehicle residents are here for the same reasons as the rest of us: jobs, school, family and weather. A majority are employed and/or go to school; others are retired. Many built our community, paying property taxes directly or indirectly until high rents drove them onto the streets.

The current version of the proposed ban, the "narrow streets" ordinance, would outlaw oversized vehicle parking, with narrow exceptions, in most of Mountain View. But on Sept. 24 the council majority approved the restrictions without knowing exactly which streets would be restricted. They don't know if motor homes will

end up massing on other Mountain View streets. In fact, the proponents of the ban rewrote their motion the following week, in a highly irregular modification of council minutes, in conflict with the official recording of the Sept. 24 meeting. They hadn't realized what they were voting on.

Regardless of the footprint of the enacted ban, I believe this policy is intolerant. While site-specific restrictions — near driveways, for example — are necessary for traffic safety, a generic ban will be inhumane and unconstitutional if there's no place for people to go. While Mountain View's safe parking initiative is well-intentioned, it would provide only a fraction of the spaces needed — only 36 motor home spaces next summer. Indeed, by requiring every vehicle to leave by 9 a.m. every day, and by denying electrical service, it is designed to fail.

The real question is what kind of community do we want Mountain View to be. As far back as I can remember, Mountain View

has treasured our diversity, not just cultural and ethnic, but socio-economic. I have heard many people say that they moved here so their children could grow up with kids from other backgrounds.

I don't have much hope that the pro-gentrification majority on the council will have second thoughts on Tuesday, but there is an alternative. Ordinances don't take legal effect for 30 days, and voters will have the opportunity to block implementation and place the ban on a 2020 ballot by collecting signatures of 10% of the city's voters on referendum petitions within those 30 days. The Mountain View Housing Justice Coalition, at mvhousingjustice.org, is making plans to circulate petitions immediately after final passage by the council.

Let's work together to help vehicle residents get off the streets without driving them out of town.

Lenny Siegel is a former Mountain View mayor and City Council member.

■ LETTERS

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

WATER DISTRICT BOONDOGGLE

Considering what the members of the Santa Clara Valley Water District board are paid, I think it might be appropriate if they paid for the overrun on the Permanente Creek flood basins out of their own pockets ("Cost for flood basins balloons to \$84M," Oct. 4). They wrote the request for proposals, they evaluated the bids, they wrote the contracts for the work, and they have overseen the work.

The whole project was based on an absurd analysis evoking the 1,000 year (not 100 year) flood (1861/62), and has the primary benefit of saving a few hundred homeowners in Los Altos from needing to buy federal flood insurance. If you don't believe this, try finding estimates of damages and costs from previous floods on the water district website — they're not there and it takes a lot of work to find out how much damage resulted from more recent floods. I am also most skeptical about it costing an additional \$20 million for a one to two year delay in work — where is this money going, who is it going to,

(and) what is costing this much?

Finally, the water district has hired a consultant at \$150,000 per year to oversee the work regarding Native American remains at the site — I'm out at Rancho San Antonio park almost every weekday, and I have never seen any work going on at the site where they have tented the areas with Native American relics or graves. This sounds like \$150,000 a year to a friend of one of the members of the water board, for a few hours of work per month at most.

David Lewis
Oak Street

RESPONDING TO A LETTER ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Dear Mr. Lauritzen,
I was disappointed to read in your recent letter to the editor in the *Mountain View Voice* ("Discussing climate change," Aug. 23) that you think I don't consider climate change an urgent issue. Nothing could be further from the truth.

When I hold town hall meetings, my constituents set the agenda. I don't screen questions in advance and my constituents choose the topics they want to

discuss. Constituents who don't get to ask their question of me always have the opportunity to write their question on cards distributed to all attendees. I, in turn, give them a direct answer to their direct question.

Whenever climate change is raised, I always respond that it's a top priority of mine because it's an existential crisis for our planet. If concentrations of greenhouse gases are not stabilized, temperatures will continue to rise and we will face severe environmental consequences including: a rise in sea levels; the loss of snowpack; a thaw of the permafrost; higher ocean temperatures and increased ocean acidity; more intense hurricanes; stronger storms; longer droughts and more severe flooding; and mass extinction of plant and animal species. Some of these effects are already being observed; others are inevitable. Global warming not only intensifies extreme weather — it also threatens our national security, our economy, and our quality of life.

The United States must take immediate action to address climate change, and established science should be the

guide for making informed policy decisions. That's why I'm an original co-sponsor of the Green New Deal, a framework to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. I'm also a co-sponsor of legislation to place a price on carbon; increase vehicle fuel efficiency; conserve energy in buildings; invest in clean public transportation; and research alternative energy sources.

I'll be holding additional in-person town hall meetings in the coming months, and I encourage all interested constituents to ask questions about my record on addressing the climate crisis or any other issue.

Congresswoman Anna Eshoo
D-Palo Alto

What's on your mind?

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



Tacos Peruanos de chicharron at Caffe Machiavello in Palo Alto are made with pork belly and a citrusy salsa.

DESPITE SOME OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES, CAFFE MACHIAVELLO'S GLOBAL CUISINE IS WORTH DISCOVERING

Story by Edward Gerard Fike
Photos by Magali Gauthier

The fusion menu at Caffe Machiavello, the year-old restaurant located near Palo Alto's California Avenue district at the corner of Park Avenue and Page Mill Road, takes diners on a flavorful trek throughout the globe, making extended stops in Peru and Italy. But it's the personal journey of co-owner Maria Neal that leaves the deepest mark on the operation.

Four years ago, doctors gave Neal, who was born with a

serious kidney condition, little hope of surviving the transplant she needed after injuring her kidneys in a fall. A trusted mentor who had survived cancer urged Neal to battle through her grim prognosis and focus on her dream of opening a restaurant. A mere two months following her procedure last summer, Neal and her husband, Rahsaan Dean, opened Caffe Machiavello (Neal's maiden name) on the ground floor of the Park Plaza Apartments.

Neal's brush with mortality has had a profound impact on the way she and her husband,

the parents of four school-aged children, approach the business. "After coming through the surgery, I feel unstoppable," she said. "I've lost respect for fear."

The upshot of this "nothing to lose" attitude is a concept that takes risks, yet can overreach and stumble. For example, while an original "grab and go" option for Caffe Machiavello has been scuttled, empty deli pans and half-stocked display cases remain. The menu has also been a challenge. The original lineup was overstuffed with one-off international items. Today's more streamlined version focuses on

Peruvian and Italian dishes, a nod to Neal's heritage.

With large-paned windows on three sides, Caffe Machiavello's dining room is bright and cheery. Walls are adorned with an eclectic group of Italian paintings. A collection of glass cases and counters (holdovers from the discarded deli format) form a large semicircle in the middle of the room. An open kitchen is set back from this barrier, revealing a peculiar amount of unused, open space.

My culinary exploration began with the Peruvian wings starter (\$12.95), which made a fine first

impression. The wings were roasted in a delectable housemade rub of paprika, cumin and garlic, and then deep-fried a golden brown. The dish threw off considerable heat — both thermal and spicy — and made a tall glass of water a compulsory accompaniment. Fried gnocchi ala brasa (\$10.95) inflicted a similar fiery blast to the tongue courtesy of a scorching aji amarillo sauce. (Though the item has since been removed, Neal informed me that all delisted selections can be ordered from a secret menu.)

Machiavello bruschetta (\$10.95) featured a decadent,



Ricky Ibarra, a sous chef at *Caffe Machiavello*, prepares lomo saltado on Oct. 15.

creamy garlic sauce prepared in-house and layered over three lightly toasted pieces of bread. The menu contains a cheeky warning about the dish's addictive properties. Perhaps hyperbole, but not by much.

Between the two salads I sampled, I preferred the bountiful Chicken Itza salad (\$14.95) and its fresh, Mexican-inspired ingredients — chopped tomato, roasted corn, avocado, tortilla strips and warm, tender

pieces of chicken breast — over the Machiavello salad (\$10.95), a rather mundane mix of greens, tomatoes, onions and olives.

Among entree selections, the lomo saltado (\$23.95), a flambéed rib-eye steak with Peruvian seasoning, is the restaurant's top seller, according to Dean. I savored a small Roman-style pizza Machiavello (\$13.95) which featured a delicate thin crust and top-tier ingredients including tomato sauce made from scratch,

fresh mozzarella and prosciutto. Meanwhile, the fettuccini ala huancaína con milanesa (\$21.95) drew raves from my dining companion. The spicy cheese sauce from Peru's highlands blended nicely with the bowl's al dente noodles and strips of crispy, breaded chicken.

The superb tacos Peruanos de chicharron (\$18.95) were my favorite item on the menu. Thin

► See **MACHIAVELLO**, page 18



Lomo saltado, rib-eye steak cooked with onions, tomatoes and Peruvian spices, is served with french fries.



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Caffe Machiavello's interior is bright and cheery, decorated with an eclectic mix of Italian paintings.

MACHIAVELLO

► Continued from page 17

slivers of sweet potatoes and a salsa criolla made from onions, chilies and cilantro provided color and gave a citrusy complement to the expertly braised, juicy pork filling.

After a round-the-world tasting tour, dessert returned us to home soil: San Francisco's acclaimed Mitchell's ice cream. The generous scoops of rich, creamy coconut ice cream (\$8.95) were the perfect coda to our meal.

Service was solid, featuring

friendly patter and prompt food delivery. However, the strain of the Valley's labor crisis was clear throughout each of my three visits. During one lunch, the chef worked the entire restaurant unassisted. Failure to solve staffing woes could dim the restaurant's prospects for growth.

Caffe Machiavello is just far enough from California Avenue to miss out on the area's sizzling synergy, so Neal and Dean have devised some creative promotions: live music on Saturday nights, a forthcoming deal to import

wine from Mount Etna, and a fun social media campaign that rewards users who post their version of the "chicken dance" — the dorky wedding reception classic — with a free quarter chicken meal. (See the website for details and accept that you will look nowhere near as cool as the owners' oldest son, Brian, the featured dancer in the sample clip.)

While she and her husband dutifully pursue marketing strategies, Neal is most content chatting with her regulars. She's often prompted to share her remarkable story of survival with those facing their own health challenges. "I want the restaurant to do well, of course," she said, "but my biggest goal is to make friends."

Spoken like someone with nothing to lose. ▣

Email Edward Gerard Fike at egfike@gmail.com

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MOVIE OPENINGS

Return of the cheekbones

ANGELINA JOLIE FLIES THROUGH THE MOTIONS IN 'MALEFICENT: MISTRESS OF EVIL'

★1/2 (Century 16 & 20, Icon)

Sometimes a sequel has a way of making its predecessor seem better in retrospect. Disney's 2014 "Maleficent" was no great shakes, but its reimagining of "Sleeping Beauty" — both the Charles Perrault fairy tale and its 1959 Disney-animated version — at least had that sturdy narrative spine with which to play chiropractor around Angelina Jolie's strikingly vampy Maleficent. "Maleficent: Mistress of Evil" feels spineless with its tortured semi-tragic antihero turned into a slightly misanthropic soccer mom who likes wearing black.

"Mistress of Evil," you see, turns out to be an entirely ironic subtitle. Once upon a time in "Sleeping Beauty," Maleficent was a straight-up villain, but in "Mistress of Evil," the worst thing she does is get a little angry.

This time, Maleficent's god-daughter Aurora (Elle Fanning) enthusiastically agrees to the proposal of boyfriend Prince Phillip (Harris Dickinson, replacing the otherwise-engaged Brenton Thwaites). Guess who's coming to the engagement dinner? Maleficent's greatest challenge turns out to be playing nice with the kingdom of Ulstead's kindly King John (Robert Lindsay) and nasty Queen Ingrith (Michelle Pfeiffer, stealing the picture while Jolie flies through the motions).

Turns out Ingrith roughly corresponds to the original conception of Maleficent as a poorly motivated evil villain. She's a low-down racist against the fairies and other woodland creatures that live in the Moors where Aurora reigns as queen and Maleficent lurks around with longtime companion Diaval the raven (Sam Riley, when in human form). The union represented by Aurora and Phillip be damned, Ingrith's gonna blow it



PHOTO COURTESY OF DISNEY ENTERPRISES INC.

Angelina Jolie stars in "Maleficent: Mistress of Evil."

all up with a sinister smile. At least someone's having fun. Meanwhile, Maleficent seems crowded out of her own movie after the first act's drawing-room comedy.

The piecemeal script, no doubt a result of original screenwriter Linda Woolverton being rewritten this time by at least two others, dabbles in meanings as if nibbling at hors d'oeuvres.

To the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars in profit, this franchise gets a pass from audiences by putting women front and center, with the plot divvied up among Jolie, Pfeiffer and Fanning and the men relegated to sidekick (Riley), spouse (Lindsay) and cleavage-revealing himbos (Dickinson and "bad boy" Ed Skrein as one of Maleficent's heretofore unknown brethren). That's an all-well-and-good feminist corrective, albeit orchestrated by male director Joachim Ronning ("Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales").

"Mistress of Evil" dully flirts with its implications rather than productively digging into them. There's a bit about Aurora asking her mother to cover her horns

with her scarf that serves as an anti-shame object lesson (a passing reference to Maleficent's exaggerated "killer of men, destroyer of armies" reputation could have served as an allegory for hurtful gossip and bullying). Beyond that, "Mistress of Evil" settles for passing fantasy-war-movie platitudes about love conquering fear to achieve "harmony and peace" (ironically capped by an up-with-elitism royal wedding that can't wait, fallen dead be damned).

Audiences can't be blamed for turning off their brains and focusing on the aesthetic trappings. Certainly, Ellen Mirojnick's beautiful costumes impress, as does the visual riot of photo-realistic — if pastel-painted — backdrops, unfortunately still populated with uncanny-valley CGI creatures. "Maleficent: Mistress of Evil" can afford all that, plus guest stars like Chiwetel Ejiofor and Imelda Staunton, but in this film featuring a flying protagonist, nothing really lands.

Rated PG for intense sequences of fantasy action/violence and brief scary images. One hour, 58 minutes.
— Peter Canavese

NOW SHOWING

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

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

The Addams Family (2019) (PG) Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.

Councillor-at-law (Not Rated) Stanford Theatre: Sat. & Sun.

Dora and the Lost City of Gold (PG) Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

Downton Abbey (PG) ★★ Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.

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

Hustlers (R) Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

It Chapter Two (R) Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

Jexi (R) Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

Joker (R) ★★1/2 Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.

Judy (PG-13) Century 20: Fri. - Sun. Palo Alto Square: Fri. - Sun.

The Kiss Before the Mirror (1933) (Not Rated) Stanford Theatre: Friday

Linda Ronstadt: The Sound of My Voice (PG-13) ★★★1/2 Aquarius Theatre: Fri. - Sun.

Lucy in the Sky (R) Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

Magnificent Obsession (1935) (Not Rated) Stanford Theatre: Friday

Maleficent: Mistress of Evil (PG) Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.

Pain and Glory (R) Aquarius Theatre: Fri. - Sun.

Waterloo Bridge (1931) (Not Rated) Stanford Theatre: Sat. & Sun.

Where's My Roy Cohn? (PG-13) Palo Alto Square: Fri. - Sun.

Zombieland: Double Tap (R) Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.

Aquarius: 430 Emerson St., Palo Alto (For recorded listings: 327-3241) tinyurl.com/Aquariuspa

Century Cinema 16: 1500 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View tinyurl.com/Century16

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

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

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

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

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

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



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HIGHLIGHT

UPSTAGE THEATER'S 'RADIIUM GIRLS'

Inspired by a true story, "Radium Girls" traces the efforts of Grace Fryer, a dial painter, as she fights for her day in court. This performance is two hours long with one 15-minute intermission and is appropriate for ages 5 and up due to subject matter. Oct. 18-20; times vary. \$22; discount for students ages 21 and under. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

THEATER

'As You Like It' Pinewood Performing Arts presents William Shakespeare's "As You Like It," adapted and reimagined with original music and a contemporary spin. Oct. 24-26. \$20; discount for students, seniors. Pinewood Upper Campus Theatre, 26800 Fremont Road, Los Altos Hills. Search brownpapertickets.com for more info.

'Mark Twain's River of Song' TheatreWorks Silicon Valley continues its 50th anniversary season with the West Coast premiere of "Mark Twain's River of Song." Through Oct. 27; times vary. \$30-\$100; discounts available, pricing subject to change. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. theatrworks.org

'The Phantom Tollbooth' Palo Alto Children's Theatre presents "The Phantom Tollbooth," which follows Milo into the fantastical world of the Lands Beyond on a quest to rescue princesses Rhyme and Reason. Through Oct. 27; times vary. \$14-\$16. Palo Alto Children's Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. cityofpaloalto.org/childrenstheatre

'Sweat' "Sweat" by Lynn Nottage, winner of the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for drama, tells of a group of steel workers in Berks County, Pennsylvania, who find themselves pitted against each other in a desperate fight to stay afloat. Through Nov. 10. \$20-\$35. The Pear Theatre, 1110 La Avenida St., Mountain View. thepear.org

'The Three Little Pigs' Palo Alto Children's Theatre presents "The Three Little Pigs." With very simple sets and costumes, and lots of opportunities to get up and wiggle, this storyteller-style theater is fit for ages 2 to 6 years old. Performances are approximately 55 minutes in length. Oct. 26-27; times vary. \$12-\$14. Palo Alto Children's Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. cityofpaloalto.org

CONCERTS

Daniel Pearl World Music Days Concert This annual concert honors the life and memory of Stanford alumnus Daniel Pearl, the violin-playing Wall Street Journal reporter who was murdered in 2002. Oct. 23, 7 p.m. Free. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. live.stanford.edu

Free Organ Recital Weekly noontime organ recitals on the two Flentrop organs at All Saints' Episcopal Church, played by music director Rodney Gehrke. Each recital will include at least one work by J.S. Bach. Tuesdays, Oct. 1, 2019-May 26, 2020. 12:15-12:45 p.m. Free. All Saints Episcopal Church, 555 Waverley St., Palo Alto. asaints.org

pluko Electronic dance music artist pluko will perform with special guest PICO. Oct. 18, 9:30 p.m. \$25; discount for Stanford students. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. live.stanford.edu

MUSIC

Verdi's 'Nabucco' A love triangle set against the monumental backdrop of ancient Babylon, "Nabucco" is the opera that propelled Verdi into international stardom as an opera composer. Oct. 18-27; times vary. \$35-\$92; discounts for students, seniors, groups. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. wbopera.org/nabucco-2019

Chucho Valdes Afro-Cuban jazz musician Chucho Valdes will perform following a discussion with Stanford University Professor Rebeca Mauleon. Oct. 18, 7:30 p.m. \$32-\$84; discounts available. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. live.stanford.edu

Open Mic @ Red Rock Coffee Performers sing in front of a supportive audience and meet fellow musicians and artists during Open Mic Mondays at Red Rock Coffee. Sign-ups start at 6:30 p.m.; show starts at 7 p.m. Red Rock Coffee, 201 Castro St., Mountain View. redrockcoffee.org/livemusic

FESTIVALS & FAIRS

Avenidas' 50th Birthday Bash Avenidas celebrates its 50th anniversary with a family-friendly festival, featuring a performance by the Stanford band, face painting, games, virtual reality and the Mr. Softee ice cream truck. Oct. 19, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Avenidas, 450 Bryant St., Palo Alto. business.menloparkchamber.com

TALKS & LECTURES

'And How Are You, Dr. Sacks?' Longtime New Yorker writer and noted nonfiction author Lawrence Weschler visits the Cantor to present his most recent book,

"And How Are You, Dr. Sacks? A Biographical Memoir of Oliver Sacks." Oct. 22, 4 p.m. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. events.stanford.edu

Author Talk: Anna Yen in Conversation with Dion Lim Anna Yen will discuss her novel "Sophia of Silicon Valley" with Emmy award-winning ABC7 News anchor, Dion Lim. Oct. 23, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. mountainview.libcal.com

Tui Sutherland New York Times and USA Today bestselling author Tui Sutherland talks about her two newest books, "The Poison Jungle" (Wings of Fire, Book 13) and "Hidden Kingdom" (Wings of Fire Graphic, Book 3). Oct. 21, 6-8 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. keplers.org

'This is Now': Cyrus Grace Dunham An honest coming-of-gender story by Cyrus Grace Dunham, who joins Kepler's Literary Foundation in conversation with Angie Coiro for a "This Is Now" discussion of their transition memoir, "A Year Without A Name." Oct. 23, 7:30-9 p.m. \$20 or \$40 with book; discount for students. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. keplers.org

Chris McDougall with Angie Coiro Writer Chris McDougall will share his experience adopting a rescue donkey from an animal hoarder and the journey of taking him on as a partner for the world championship in burro racing. Oct. 20, 2-3:30 p.m. \$23 or \$45 with book; discount for students. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. keplers.org

Andy Griffiths New York Times bestselling author Andy Griffiths presents "117-Story Treehouse," the ninth book in his illustrated chapter book series. Oct. 22, 6-8 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. keplers.org

'Making of America: FDR' Author Teri Kanefield shares her book, "Making of America: Franklin D. Roosevelt," which tells the story of the president who lifted the United States from Depression to global leadership. Oct. 26, 2-4 p.m. Free. Linden Tree Children's Books, 265 State St., Los Altos. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

'The Little Book of Tools' Book Signing "The Little Book of Tools" author

Jessica Neideffer will share her journey and guide the audience through some of the exercises from the book. Oct. 21, 7:30-9 p.m. Free. East West Bookshop, 324 Castro St., Mountain View. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

FUNDRAISERS

Benefit Dinner for Asia Cultural Community Center This adults-only event features Chef Chu's cuisine, complimentary wine and a silent auction. All proceeds go toward the building of the Asian Cultural Community Center. Oct. 22, 6-8:30 p.m. \$100. Chef Chu's, 1067 N. San Antonio Road, Palo Alto. ac3sv.org/october-fundraiser

FAMILY

Day Worker Center of Mountain View's 23rd Anniversary Celebration The Day Worker Center of Mountain View celebrates its 23rd anniversary with food, music, stories and more. Oct. 26, 6 p.m. Free; registration required. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. forms.gle/aK1toHBC657PJCoNA

Family Fun Day: Wistman's Wood After venturing through the moody mists of Tony Foster's "Wistman's Wood" (2013), families will have a chance to create their own artworks inspired by gallery explorations and to play with the enchanted woods-inspired sensory station. Oct. 19, 10:30 a.m.-noon. \$5. The Foster, 940 Commercial St., Palo Alto. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

Halloween Haunts Hidden Villa presents Halloween Haunts. Activities include journeying along an enchanted trail while collecting treats and encountering characters along the way. Oct. 25-26, 7-8:30 p.m. and 7:15-8:45 p.m. \$25. Hidden Villa, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills. hiddenvilla.org

Little Pumpkin Party Activities during Hidden Villa's pumpkin party include picking out pumpkins, watching the staff press fresh apple cider and helping them plump up their scarecrows with straw. The Little Pumpkin Party is for families with young children, ages 1-4. Oct. 20, 1-4 p.m. \$15. Hidden Villa, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills. hiddenvilla.org

'Our Community Prepares' - Opening Reception This free event celebrates the opening reception for the Los Altos History Museum's new exhibition "Our Community Prepares: Acts of Nature, Then and Now." Oct. 20, 2-5 p.m. Free. Los Altos History Museum, 51 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. losaltoshistory.org

Trick or Treat and Tour Town Hall Children are invited to dress up in their Halloween costumes and tour Town Hall offices, Heritage House, council chambers and the parks and recreation building. Staff will have treats along the way. Oct. 25, 2-4 p.m. Free. Town Hall, 26379 Fremont Road, Los Altos Hills. losaltoshills.ca.gov

MUSEUMS & EXHIBITS

Kahlil Joseph: 'BLKNWS' Kahlil Joseph, a visiting artist in the new Presidential Residencies on the Future of the Arts program, presents his work "BLKNWS," a two-channel video projection that blurs the lines between art, journalism, entrepreneurship and cultural critique. Through Nov. 25, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed Tuesdays. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu

'West x Southwest': Edward Weston and Ansel Adams This exhibit features landscapes, still lifes, nudes and portraits created by Edward Weston in Mexico and Ansel Adams in the American southwest. Through Jan. 6, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed Tuesdays. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu

'California Scenes' by Caroline McClintic In this series, the artist experiments with watercolor on wood panels; transparent

color interacting with the natural flow of wood grain to create paintings of the diverse California landscape. Through Oct. 26, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Viewpoints Gallery, 315 State St., Los Altos. viewpointsgallery.com

Mauricio Rodriguez: 'Meaning the Score' "Meaning The Score" is an exhibition of graphic music scores where artist Mauricio Rodriguez explores the dynamic relation of music and its multiple forms of notation. Through Nov. 10, 9 a.m. Free. Mohr Gallery, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. arts4all.org

DANCE

Hands Four Gender Free Contra Dance Contra dancing is a called set dance, similar to square dancing. Irish ceili and other traditional folk dances. All dances are taught, and no partner or experience is needed. Oct. 25 and Nov. 22. Free lesson at 7 p.m.; dancing from 7:30-10:30 p.m. \$10; discount available. St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

FILM

'Screenagers: The Next Chapter' Filmmaker and physician Delaney Ruston uses a personal lens and professional eye to help flip the script on stress, anxiety and depression. The film follows Ruston as she finds herself at a loss on how to help her own teens as they struggle with their emotional well-being. Oct. 23, 7-9 p.m. \$10. Gideon Hausner Jewish Day School, 450 San Antonio Road, Palo Alto. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Introduction to Laughter Yoga Carole Holcomb, a certified laughter yoga teacher, shares the health benefits and leads participants through laughter yoga exercises. No special skills, clothing or shoes required. Oct. 22, 7:30-9 p.m. East West Bookshop, 324 Castro St., Mountain View. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Byrne Preserve Night Hike Grassroots Ecology hosts a night hike to explore the rolling grasslands and wooded creeks with red and ultraviolet lights to view the nighttime like many insects, birds and reptiles do. Oct. 26, 5:30-8 p.m. Free. Westwind Community Barn, 27210 Altamont Road, Los Altos Hills. losaltoshills.ca.gov

Google's Charleston East and Bay View: Talk and Nature Walk Team members that are working on two of Google's ground-up construction projects will discuss the ins and outs of bringing a living building to life. There will be presentations and a group discussion/interactive session, followed by a nature walk along the Charleston East Retention Basin. Oct. 21, 4:30-7 p.m. \$15. Google Building 1220, 1220 Charleston Road, Mountain View. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

SPORTS

Palo Alto Senior Table Tennis The Palo Alto Senior Table Tennis Club invites seniors, ages 55 and older, to bring a racket and pair of tennis shoes to play table tennis. Every Tuesday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free; suggested \$1 donation. Cubberley Community Center, Gym B, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto.

BUSINESS

Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting: Ace Hardware ACE Hardware invites the community to attend the grand opening and ribbon/board-cutting ceremony for its new Mountain View location. Oct. 18, 9 a.m. Free. ACE Hardware, 2555 Charleston Road, Mountain View. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

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