

Report into cops' conduct in Yema stop might not be made public

Officials say three officers would have to allow release

By **HANNAH WEIKEL**
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The findings of a months-long independent investigation into the conduct of three Tiburon and Belvedere police officers during a racially charged incident at a Black-owned Fountain Plaza clothing store in August will not be made public unless the involved officers consent to its release, Tiburon officials say.

Citing state employee-privacy laws, Town Manager Greg Chanis said the investigation report, expected to be finalized this month, will be privately reviewed by

See **INVESTIGATION, PAGE 26**

Belvedere City Council backs a design for seawall project

Environmental review and feasibility study are next steps

By **HANNAH WEIKEL**
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The Belvedere City Council has approved a conceptual design for a multimillion-dollar plan to strengthen the city's seawalls, making way for the next phase of the project: more than a year of environmental review and feasibility studies aimed at producing solid cost estimates and a more detailed design.

The council at its Dec. 14 teleconfer

See **SEAWALL, PAGE 27**

Local docs among first to get vaccine

Two Kaiser physicians from Tiburon receive first coronavirus shot to help kick off largest inoculation effort in U.S. history



PROVIDED BY KAISER PERMANENTE

Dr. Shideh Shadan of Tiburon, chief hospitalist at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in Terra Linda, gets her first dose of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine Dec. 17, the day after Marin received its initial supply.

By **DEIRDRE McCROHAN**
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Two Tiburon doctors working at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in Terra Linda were among the first in Marin and across the U.S. to get vaccinated against the coronavirus

last week, marking a new milestone in the nine-month pandemic.

Dr. Jason Bateman and Dr. Shideh Shadan received their first of two doses of the Pfizer vaccine Dec. 17, the day after Marin received an ini-

See **VACCINE, PAGE 25**

- **Shutdown expands to full Bay Area, page 5**
- **Marin offers rotating test sites, page 24**

Blue & Gold Fleet wants to end service to Tiburon

Provider offers the only non-commute weekend and evening runs to S.F.

By **DEIRDRE McCROHAN**
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Blue & Gold Fleet is seeking to discontinue service between Tiburon and San Francisco, a move that would eliminate the ferry as an option for travel between the two cities during weekday non-commute hours, in the later evenings and entirely on weekends.

Though most and sometimes all trips have been suspended amid the coronavirus pandemic, Pier 39, which owns Blue & Gold Fleet LP, filed an application with the California Public Utilities Commission to end the service, citing declining revenue and increased operating costs. The utilities commission held a pre-hearing on the application in November but has not advanced the request any further because of COVID-19-related slowdowns in workflow. A final hearing date had not been set by The Ark's press deadline.

See **FERRY, PAGE 28**

Tiburon girl debuts voice-acting skills in Pixar's 'Soul'



Cora Champommier is Cora, a trombone player in the middle-school band, in 'Soul.'

'Connie' scouted from performance at Bel Aire school play

By **HANNAH WEIKEL**
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Tiburon seventh-grader Cora Champommier had no idea her performance in Bel Aire Elementary School's 2019 production of "Annie" would lead to a role in the new Disney Pixar movie "Soul," which amid the pandemic is scheduled for a straight-to-streaming release

on Dec. 25.

Nevertheless, the 12-year-old found herself at Pixar Animation Studios in Emeryville with her mother last year, meeting Pete Docter, the director of "Up" and "Monsters, Inc.," and voicing the part of Connie — a middle-school girl who plays trombone in the

See **ACTOR, PAGE 31**



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Youth

Fall Pathways: 8 a.m.-12:15 p.m., 10:50 a.m.-3 p.m. or 10:50 a.m.-5 p.m. Jan. 4-22 and Jan. 25-Feb. 12; \$470-\$744 for three weeks. Programs for kids in grades K-5 complement morning or afternoon in-person classes at Strawberry Point Elementary

School. Program coordinators oversee online learning and lead outdoor activities.

Fall Steppingstones: 2-5 p.m. or 2:45-5 p.m. Jan. 4-22 and Jan. 25-Feb. 12; \$264-\$331 for three weeks. Science projects, arts and crafts, sports, story time, music and more for ages 4-11.

Annual passes

Annual tennis passes are now on sale. The 12-month rate is \$150 per pass for Strawberry residents, \$175 per pass for nonresidents. For more information about tennis programs, visit strawberry.marin.org/tennis.

Submitted by Strawberry Recreation District General Manager Nancy Shapiro.

Actor, continued from page 1

school band — in Docter's newest animated film, which stars Jamie Foxx and Tina Fey.

"Now as it's coming out, it's so surreal that I'm in this film with all these amazing celebrities," says Cora, who now attends Del Mar Middle School.

"Soul" centers on Joe Gardner, voiced by Foxx, a middle-school band teacher who is offered the chance of a lifetime to be the opening act at a renowned jazz club in New York City. However, an accident separates Gardner's soul from his body and lands him in the Great Before, an ethereal place where new souls get their personalities, quirks and interests before leaving for Earth. Determined to return to his life, Gardner works with the souls, including 22, voiced by Fey, to get back to his body on Earth.

The film was to debut in movie theaters earlier this year but was initially postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic before being released straight to Disney+, the streaming service for The Walt Disney Co., which bought Pixar in 2006.

A Bay Area animation studio, Pixar typically draws local actors for smaller roles in its films, says Tiburon resident Lana Burstein, the founder of Shortlist Model and Talent Agency, who scouted Cora for the role of Connie in "Soul."

Burstein says she was in the audience for Cora's performance as Miss Hannigan in the Bel Aire production of "Annie" in March 2019 and was blown away by the girl's ability to put on the persona of a bitter older woman.

"I really remembered her," Burstein says. "I said, 'I've got to reach out to her parents.'"

When Pixar contacted her talent agency



PROVIDED BY DISNEY/PIXAR

Tiburon seventh-grader Cora Champommier voices the character of Connie (right), a middle-school band student, in Disney Pixar's new movie 'Soul,' set to debut on streaming service Disney+ Dec. 25. The movie centers on Joe Gardner (left, voiced by Jamie Foxx), a middle-school band teacher with dreams of being a jazz performer. After Gardner's body and soul inadvertently become separated, he teams up with 22 (voiced by Tina Fey) to return his soul to Earth before it's too late.

a couple months later looking for local actors to play voice parts for supporting roles in their new film, Burstein immediately thought of Cora for the role of Connie.

Cora's first audition for the role was in May 2019. She had never voice-acted before, so she didn't own any professional recording equipment to make the audition tape. Burstein instructed Cora and her mother to put up blankets to create a makeshift recording studio at home and use the voice-memo application on a cellphone for the recording.

Cora, who was wrapping up fifth grade at the time, recalls being at her aunt's house in Los Angeles when she was instructed to send in an audio audition.

"I was hesitant at the time," she says. "I thought, 'This is a big deal. This is Pixar. I don't want to embarrass myself.'"

After encouragement from her mother, Cora looked over the information Burstein had sent about the character, Connie, a middle-school

student struggling with her passion in music and seeking help from her teacher to reignite her interest. At the time, Cora was experiencing a similar dilemma with studying piano.

Within five takes, Cora and her mother thought they had the one and sent it to Burstein. A couple days later, Cora was invited to Pixar studios for a second audition, with Docter and co-director Kemp Powers.

"It was so surreal," she says.

At the studio, Cora was brought into a small booth with a huge microphone and asked to read the part of Connie. She was wearing her "lucky" blue jumper that she dons for all her auditions for school plays and felt confident.

"I read my lines and kept my eyes down because I didn't want to make scary eye contact," she says. After getting through the first take, Docter told her to stop.

"He said I did it exactly how they wanted it," she remembers. On the walk back to their car, her mom took a call from the studio, let-

ting her know that Cora got the part.

"I was screaming in the car I was so excited," she says. "I wanted to call everyone and tell them. ... It was just an amazing day — one of the best days."

After that, the hardest part was not being able to tell all her friends, she says. Cora had to sign a two-year contract that prevented her from telling anyone except her immediate family about her role; only recently was she able to start telling others.

Cora points to her older sister, Claire, a sophomore at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Ore., as her inspiration to get into drama and acting. Claire acted throughout grade school and performed at Carnegie Hall.

"She was very good, and I felt I had to live up to that standard," Cora says. "She's been very, very supportive of me. Although she stopped acting, she likes to see that someone is continuing the passion in the family."

Through Burstein, Cora has landed several modeling jobs, as well as the role of Lucy in the San Francisco Symphony's live production of "A Charlie Brown Christmas" last year.

Cora says she doesn't know what's next but is toying with the idea of pursuing more voice acting in the future. For now, though, she's reveling in her role as Connie ahead of the Christmas Day release of "Soul."

"I'm extremely happy with how it's come out. I think it's going to be an amazing film. I haven't seen one of these very down-to-earth films in a while," she says. "With COVID, everyone is wondering what the meaning of life is at this point. This will be a pick-me-up movie."

Reach Belvedere and public-safety reporter Hannah Weikel at 415-944-4627.

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