

HENDERSON Free pizzas lead to robbery suspect **2B** **BUSINESS** Apartments moving into Vegas' core **10B**

Board OKs \$100K settlement

Lawsuit alleged CCSD caused risk with its handling of oft-accused student

By Aleksandra Appleton
Las Vegas Review-Journal

The Clark County School District Board of Trustees on Thursday approved a \$100,000 settlement in a lawsuit filed by one of the alleged victims of Maysen Melton, who is accused of assaulting multiple underage classmates at Shadow Ridge High School. The lawsuit named Melton,

Melton's parents and the school district as defendants, alleging that CCSD put students at risk by allowing Melton to stay in school despite a record of disciplinary action for sexual harassment. Court documents filed by prosecutors in the District Court case against Melton said he was first disciplined for sexual harassment as a 9-year-old student at Bracken Elementary School and again at three

middle schools. Melton was arrested in January 2018 as a 16-year-old student at Palo Verde High School on suspicion of a series of assaults at his previous school, Shadow Ridge, over approximately a year. Melton pleaded not guilty to 23 felony counts, including sexual assault, and awaits jury trial in March. In May, the first of three lawsuits

was filed against Melton, his parents and the district, in which the alleged victim, referred to as Jane Doe, said Melton raped her in March 2017. Jane Doe said she subsequently suffered anxiety and extreme nausea and avoided school, which affected her grades. Two other lawsuits from alleged victims were filed this year, one in July and another in October.

\$49 million for family of boy who nearly died

Water park settles case; child needs lifelong care

By David Ferrara
Las Vegas Review-Journal

The family of a boy who nearly drowned in a wave pool at Cowabunga Bay and suffered lifelong injuries has reached a \$49 million settlement with the Henderson water park.

Leland Gardner, who was 6 when he was submerged "for a lengthy period of time" in May 2015, has already incurred more than \$900,000 in medical bills, according to the agreement reached last week.

The civil lawsuit filed in Clark County District Court alleged that Cowabunga Bay did not have enough lifeguards on staff when Leland was underwater.

Attorneys in the case agreed that investigations through the past four years uncovered facts that showed liability against Henderson Water Park LLC for negligence, the settlement states.

Attorney Donald Campbell, who represents the Gardners, said at the time the suit was filed that a lifeguard plan the park submitted in 2014 called for six lifeguards at Cowabunga Bay's Surf-A-Rama Wave Pool. But the Southern Nevada Health District said the park needed at least 17 there.

Cowabunga Bay submitted a revised proposal that met the health district's expectations, but inspection reports showed the park failed to maintain adequate lifeguard coverage at the wave pool on multiple occasions.

The Gardners' lawsuit says Leland went to Cowabunga Bay on May 27 for a "playdate" with a friend and the friend's father. The boy was not

See **WATER PARK** 5B



Bizuayehu Tesfaye Las Vegas Review-Journal @bizutesfaye

First responders work on a multi-vehicle crash Thursday on Interstate 15 near Lake Mead Parkway. A suspected drunk driver going the wrong way on I-15 was killed in the collision. Two people in another vehicle were injured.

Wrong-way driver killed in I-15 crash

Impairment suspected in multi-vehicle collision

By Glenn Puit
Las Vegas Review-Journal

A suspected drunken driver traveling the wrong way on Interstate 15 was killed in a multi-vehicle crash Thursday morning.

Nevada Highway Patrol trooper Jason Buratczuk said the crash happened about 3:30 a.m., when

a woman driving a dark-colored vehicle believed to be a Volkswagen was heading the wrong way on northbound I-15, between Lake Mead Boulevard and Cheyenne Avenue.

The Clark County coroner's office identified the driver as 27-year-old Ericka Avila. Her cause and manner of death were still under investiga-

Unfortunately for the Highway Patrol, wrong-way drivers are not new and uncommon.

Jason Buratczuk
Nevada Highway Patrol trooper

tion as of 2 p.m. Thursday. "Impairment is suspected," Buratczuk said at the scene. Avila nearly hit a vehicle head-on, he said. That driver avoided the collision by driving into the center

See **CRASH** 4B

Report: Helicopter had sediment in fuel before fatal flight

By Glenn Puit
Las Vegas Review-Journal

A rented helicopter that crashed in Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area in October, killing two people, was found to have sediment in its fuel the day of the crash, according to the preliminary findings of a federal inquiry.

The helicopter was supposed to undergo maintenance to fix the fuel issue, but it appears that did not happen, the report from the National Transportation Safety Board said.

The Oct. 23 crash of the R44 helicopter killed pilot Scott Socquet, 53, of Milford, Connecticut. Passenger Howard Jameson, 27, from New Fairfield, Connecticut, died of his

injuries two days later. The preliminary report indicates that on the day of the crash, Socquet called Airwork Las Vegas to see if a helicopter was available for rental. "One of the schedulers responded that the helicopter was undergoing maintenance and (Socquet) stated that he would stop by the office anyways to check if the maintenance

was done and put money on his account," the report said. Socquet and Jameson arrived at North Las Vegas Airport about 10 minutes later. "The pilot asked why the helicopter was in maintenance and the office personnel told him that an

See **REPORT** 5B

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