

BULLETS

staffe said his investigators were able to determine the shots were fired close together based on interviews with witnesses.

"Many witnesses weren't able to distinguish if there were two shots, which leads us to believe they were almost simultaneous," Wagstaffe said.

While Wagstaffe could confirm that Eichen's self-inflicted gunshot to the head was fatal, he could not yet comment on whether the shot from an unidentified officer's rifle to his chest would have killed him.

Ex-wife threatened with gun

The incident began when Eichen showed up Tuesday at his ex-wife's workplace in the 400 block of Penobscot Drive and threatened her with a gun, according to Deputy Police Chief Gary Kirby.

Then Eichen fired at least one shot in the air, Kirby said. Police arrived and attempted to convince Eichen to put his gun down and surrender, but instead he waved the weapon around and pointed it at officers before shooting himself in the head, Kirby said.

The gun Eichen used was registered to a family member, Wagstaffe said.

In the 13 days before shooting, police records show there were three incidents involving the couple. Kirby said there was a "low level" domestic dispute at their home on March 9. The next day, Eichen broke into the home, Kirby said. And, on March 14, Eichen attempted to contact his ex-wife, violating a restraining order.

She had obtained a restraining order against him.

Large number of witnesses

The DA, which is investigating the shooting, expects the probe will end in about eight weeks.

Wagstaffe said his deputies and investigators have been able to interview a large number of witnesses. And he said Eichen's family has been very cooperative with the DA's office.

He said that Eichen's ex-wife remained on the phone throughout the entire conflict. All of the information regarding the shooting will be available to the public once the DA's office finishes its investigation, Wagstaffe said.

GROWTH

previous year, the population grew by 1.2%. San Mateo County saw something similar, growing 0.2% from 2015 to 2016, and increasing by 0.9% the previous year.

Scharff said smaller companies such as local restaurants and retail shops are having trouble hiring because of the cost of living in Palo Alto.

"You would never move here for a low-wage job," he said.

Scharff cites the slowing population growth to both slowing job growth and the high cost of housing.

Moving around

Someone living in Mountain View who can no longer afford to live there moves to Redwood City, and once that becomes unaffordable, the person moves to the East Bay, Scharff said.

Palo Alto school board member Todd Collins said the slowing growth rate doesn't surprise him as a lot of it is driven by housing construction and then family size.

At least in Palo Alto, Collins said housing construction seems to be declining versus the rate a decade ago.

At a recent Palo Alto planning commission meeting while reviewing a housing proposal for the for-

mer Compadres restaurant on El Camino Real, Chair Michael Alcheck said it was great to be considering a housing project given the current housing crisis.

"I honestly can't remember the last time we looked at a multi-family project," Alcheck said.

While Collins was running for the school board last fall, he pointed out that Palo Alto's kindergarten class has been shrinking for six years. He added that he thought it would continue to shrink.

Declining birth rate

Almost every district in the state is shrinking, because California's birth rate is shrinking, Collins said. The only time it was lower was during the Great Depression, he said.

In Palo Alto, the number of residents aged 25 to 40 — those typically having children — has shrunk by about 7% in the last 10 years, Collins said. And the number of residents over the age of 55 is growing, he said.

There's not enough new housing and residents are being priced out, Collins said.

Last year, real estate site Redfin discovered that in 2015 one in four people who were searching on Redfin from the Bay Area were looking for homes in other parts of the country — this number was up from one in seven in 2011.

A lack of affordable housing

Alina Harway, spokeswoman for Nonprofit Housing Association of Northern California, said it's fair to say the area's housing crisis is contributing to the trends shown by the census data.

"Increased housing costs and decreased housing availability are making it harder for families to stay here, (and) for employers to retain and recruit employees," Harway said.

She pointed to the November election when Santa Clara County voters passed Measure A, an affordable housing bond, and San Mateo County voters passed Measure K, a half-cent sales tax with funds available for low-income housing.

These measures will generate "significant revenue to create more affordable housing opportunities for our communities," Harway said. It's unclear when this will be reflected in the census data, but she said it's making a difference in the communities.

FINE

letter inside the envelope, West said the case is closed with a warning.

As the Post reported yesterday, the FPPC sent a letter to Fine March 10 informing him that it had begun an investigation following a complaint.

The mailer in question was a letter Fine sent out Oct. 12. The letter, in which Fine asks for people's vote, includes at the bottom, "Paid for by Adrian Fine for City Council, FPPC 1387761."



FINE

The complaint, however, was that this same message wasn't written on the outside of the envelope.

Fine told the Post yesterday that he emailed the FPPC Wednesday night explaining his side, and the agency wrote him back saying the case was closed.

Fine said he made a small mistake, he apologizes for it and will make sure it doesn't happen again.

Failure to comply with the requirement in the future could result in Fine paying up to \$5,000 for each violation, West said.

In her warning letter, West said Fine won't be fined this time, but he does have the option of proceeding with prosecution if he wishes to fight the claims.

But Fine said he is "OK letting it sit."

Council members Greg Tanaka and Liz Kniss are also being investigated by the FPPC, although they are accused of allegedly violating campaign finance reporting requirements. Fine's violation was regarding campaign advertisement disclaimers.

These three were the top three vote-getters in November and all three lean pro-development.

No determinations have been made by the FPPC in regards to Tanaka and Kniss.

HOUSE

ing Mulvaney's message to lawmakers. "Let's vote," White House chief strategist Steve Bannon said as he walked out.

"For seven and a half years we have been promising the American people that we will repeal and replace this broken law because it's collapsing and it's failing families, and tomorrow we're proceeding," House Speaker Paul Ryan said, then walked off without answering as reporters demanded to know whether the bill had the votes to pass.

GOP had seven years to get ready

The outcome of today's vote was impossible to predict. Both conservative and moderate lawmakers had claimed the bill lacked votes after a long day of talks. But the White House appeared ready to gamble that the prospect of failing to repeal former President Obama's health law, after seven years of promising to do exactly that, would force lawmakers into the "yes" column.

"It's done tomorrow. Or 'Obamacare' stays," said Rep. Chris Collins, R-N.Y., a top Trump ally in the House.

Collins was among those predicting success on Friday, but others didn't hide their anxiety about the outcome.

Asked whether Republicans would be unified on today's vote, freshman Rep. Matt Gaetz of Florida said, "I sure hope so, or we'll have the opportunity to watch a unified Democratic caucus impeach Donald Trump in two years when we lose the majority."

One announcement after yesterday's meeting moved things the wrong way for Trump. Freshman Rep. Andy Biggs, R-Ariz., stated he would oppose the bill, saying, "I cannot support anything less than a clean repeal of Obamacare."

Yesterday's maneuvers added up to high drama on Capitol Hill, but Friday promised even more suspense with the prospect of leadership putting a major bill on the floor uncertain about whether it would pass or fail.

Bill would end the mandates

The Republican legislation would halt Obama's tax penalties against people who don't buy coverage and cut the federal-state Medicaid program for low earners, which the Obama statute had expanded. It would provide tax credits to help people pay medical bills, though generally skimpier than Obama's statute provides. It also would allow insurers to charge older Americans more and repeal tax boosts the law imposed on high-income people and health industry companies.

The measure would also block federal payments to Planned Parenthood for a year, another stumbling block for GOP moderates.

In a concession to the conservative House Freedom Caucus, many of whose members have withheld support, the legislation would repeal requirements for insurers to cover "essential health benefits" such as maternity care and substance abuse treatment.

"Obamacare" gave birth to the tea party movement and helped Republicans win and keep control of Congress and then take the White House.

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