Draw the line
How the California Voting Rights Act is overhauling Tri-Valley elections, and what it means for voters
Page 44
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Stoneridge Mall losing its luster for some

S
toneridge Shopping Center, a shopping mecca for generation

Volume XX, Number 17

of Livermore Valley residents, is losing its luster for some

customers. I met with two ladies who are longtime Stoneridge shoppers, Rachel McElhinney of Pleasanton and Diane Ries Keller, formerly of Pleasanton now living in Livermore. They shared their experiences and concerns with the kiosk operated by Vine Vera, an Israeli-based company selling skin care products. It’s located near Macy’s where the mall is fairly narrow so shoppers are readily available to their salespeople.

Typical complaints on the internet and from the two local ladies are the aggressive sales tactics used by the staff that typically involve persuading a shopper to try free sample and then holding on (literally and figuratively) to the person and striving to upsell them with a variety of expensive products.

Rachel shared some internet sites that were full of complaints about the company. One real sticking point is a no-refund policy. That coupled with high-pressure sales tactics rubs many consumers the wrong way. The company became such a problem in New Zealand malls that major operator Westfield kicked them out across the country.

She believes the salespeople target older people and described them as aggressive as panhandlers. Before reaching out to me, she had brought the matter to the mall management’s attention and received a $50 gift card.

In one of her emails to mall management, Rachel wrote, “I attended a Women’s Bible Study meeting last week and mentioned my experience at Stoneridge Mall. Every one of the women had a similar story of being hassled. The next day I got my hair cut and again I brought up my experience at the mall. All of the women and men at the salon had been assaulted by these vendors who won’t take NO for an answer.”

“Warnings and fines have not curtailed the harassment at Stoneridge Mall. "It has gone on for years. I think Simon Co. has a responsibility to remedy this situation quickly. It is a disservice to shoppers, and to other stores, as it drives people away from the mall. Every time I’ve been harassed, I’ve cut my shopping short and returned home. It’s easier to shop online and avoid being hassled by the vendors who are out of line.”

When I reached out to mall management to discuss the issue, the Stoneridge public relations agency returned my call and asked that I refer Rachel to them so they could look into the matter. They had no further comment. She was taken aback at the request to contact management, something she had done by email and by phone several times this year.

Diane’s story, which she wrote in her book “A Wife’s Caregiver Saga: Facing Frontotemporal Dementia,” describes a 2012 incident with her late husband before his disease worsened. Kevin wanted to go Christmas shopping so they went to Stoneridge with plans to meet up after an hour. He didn’t show up. With the help of a friend, she found him at the cosmetics booth with several bags.

Upon returning home, she looked in the bags and was astonished to find many receipts totaling more than $7,000. When she went back to return the cosmetics the next day, she was told “no refunds.” The saleswoman, as Diane wrote, screamed at her.

Eventually, with the help of the mall manager, she received a refund for all the items other than the $175 shaving cream because their dog chewed the box.

“What would concern me, if I were Stoneridge management, was Rachels comment that the buzz in several of her women’s groups they were “all going to Walnut Creek” now that Broadway Plaza has completed its renovations.

Driving about an hour round-trip to avoid the local mall is sending a powerful message to the management — as is Rachels comment about online shopping. ■

Editor’s note: Journalist Tim Hunt has written columns on the Tri-Valley community for more than 40 years. He grew up in the valley and lives in Pleasanton. His “Tim Talk” blog appears twice a week at PleasantonWeekly.com.
How often do you think about your childhood home?

**Becky Dennis**
Board member

I do think about my childhood homes a lot. I even went back via Google Maps and took screenshots of our family’s various former residences. And Google car photography let me walk down memory lane to my old schools. Fun!

**John Lotoszynski**
Retired

My childhood home was in Canada. I really only think about it when it gets cold here in Pleasanton. And whenever that happens, I always say I’m never going back to Canada. Never!

**Karen Lotoszynski**
Retired

I almost never think about my childhood home. It was in Ohio, and the only thing I really miss and remember about it was being able to go sledding in my yard. Obviously I can’t do that here in Pleasanton.

**Teri Morris**
Student

I may not be the best person for this question because we moved every two years once I was about 6 years old. Until that time, we lived in one home and I do have some memories of it — mostly of playing with my friend who lived across the street.

**Ellen Lazarus**
Retired

I didn’t think about it very often until both of my parents were deceased. Now that they are no longer here, I think about my childhood home a lot, as it contains so many fond memories of my parents. I find it comforting to reminisce that way.
DIGEST

Run to Remember
Police supporters are set to come in droves to Shadow Cliffs in Pleasanton this weekend to honor and support those who lost their lives in the line of duty.
The California Peace Officers Association is holding its annual Run to Remember on Sunday morning, with all proceeds from the event supporting the California chapter of the Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS), a nonprofit that assists with rebuilding the lives of surviving family members and affected coworkers of police killed on duty.
The fundraiser features a 10K run and 5K run/walk (with entry fee $25 per child. To register for the 11th annual Run to Remember, call 209-795-7832 or visit www.itstyourrace.com.

Adobe docent tours
Learn the rich history of the Amador Valley encapsulated at Alviso Adobe Community Park in docent-led tours taking place in May and in June.
The site is historically significant for three eras: its Native American beginnings, the days of Spanish Ranchos and the mid-20th century when it was a popular dairy. Today is another era as it gains popularity as a community park.
The free tours, from 12-3 p.m. this weekend (May 18-19) and June 15-16, will point out artifacts from each of the three historic eras. Exhibits include the milking barn visitor center, the restored adobe, built in 1854; and a re-created bunkhouse, which provides a view of the living space of the workers at Meaowink Dairy.
To reserve a time slot, call 931-33479 or email alvisoadebo@cityofpleasanton.ca.

Home improvements
Tri-Valley homeowners thinking about renovating their properties can learn more about how to start their home improvement project during a free workshop on Saturday at Inlakes until 3 p.m. featuring a property appraiser and representatives from the Contractors State License Board and city Planning Division.
Topics covered will include: Is a permit required? How to select a handyman or contractor? What improvements add value? Do-it-yourself versus contracting out — what to consider. There will also be time for Q&A.
“Don’t let your home become a money pit. Having the right information before you start will save both time and money,” said the workshop organizer.
The session will run from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Register at HomeownerWorkshops.wordpress.com

Tennis teams protest parking proposal at Amador Valley High School
Coaches call using tennis courts as temporary parking lot during construction ‘insulting’

By Julia Bauml
A concept to park several hundred cars on Amador Valley High School tennis courts while a solar panel structure is built in the front parking lot during the start of the school year has sparked a backlash.
Some members of the Amador Valley athletic community have called the plan poorly conceived and are demanding that Pleasanton Unified School District go back to the drawing board after the idea of using school tennis courts as a temporary parking lot was introduced at last week’s school board meeting.
“It is insulting for PUSD to propose turning AVHS tennis courts into a parking lot, however temporary that may be,” Amador Valley boys tennis coach Danny Yee said in an email to district administration, including the Board of Trustees and Superintendent David Haglund.
Amador Valley girls tennis coach Claire Chinn, whose team plays during the fall and would be most directly impacted by the parking switch, commented in the same email chain, saying it does the “bright and resilient” student body no favors to “indulge them.”
“It concerns me that we are responsible for sending the students out into the world as capable adults, but indulge them as though they are not problem solvers and aren’t capable of tolerating frustrations,” Chinn said. “These are remarkable young people. Allow them to come up with their own solutions for transportation during this process. Honor them with a challenge.”
District spokesperson Patrick Gannon told the Weekly, “The one campus parking option was listed along with many others that were being investigated as potential solutions to minimize the impact of the project on the surrounding neighborhoods.”
“At this point, no decision has been made, and there are ongoing discussions with the city and school site focused on finding the best plan forward,” Gannon added.
More than 400 parking spaces will be out of commission for about 4-1/2 months while the Amador Valley parking lot facing Santa Rita Road is re-oriented and re-paved.

The state of Dublin Unified
Marken: District on ‘great trajectory’ after year of uncertainty

By Julia Bauml
Since taking the reins barely a month ago as interim superintendent of Dublin Unified School District, Dave Marken has already overseen a number of significant developments in a short period of time.

The departure of former superintendent Leslie Boozer and a Board of Trustees down to barely a quorum have tested the district’s resolve over the past year, but Marken said they are now on a “great trajectory” as the search for a new leader gets underway.
A former Dublin school administrator and Newark superintendent, Marken emerged from retirement in April to lead DUSD on an interim basis through the end of the school year, following Boozer’s sudden separation days earlier.
Marken said he “didn’t have any immediate desire to go back into this world” but felt connected to the community where he had “served the big, big part of my career.”

Since then, Marken has been living a “nomadic” existence being connected to the community, including teachers, administrators and parents through conversations is now in order to include the teachers, the classified administrators, parents, students — and put together a profile of what they want in their superintendent,” he said. “At that point, then I’ll make my decisions based on what the community wants and what would be best for myself and my family.”

The challenge of filling two empty positions on the five-seat Board of Trustees also continues to loom over the district, which Marken said “creates unique opportunities because in order to

Paratransit overhaul?
City weighs shifting ADA rides to LAVTA, refocusing senior service

By Jeremy Walsh
Pleasanton is contemplating some major changes to its paratransit service, though city officials reiterate it’s still early in the public consideration process and no final decisions have been made.
The Pleasanton City Council last week endorsed the final “Mobility Forward” report, a consultant’s analysis co-sponsored by the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) to study paratransit services across the southern Tri-Valley communities. The document concludes with a handful of key recommendations, including for Pleasanton to shift service for adults with disabilities to LAVTA and refocus its in-house program to seniors-only.
Though there is likely months of public debate before any of those proposals reaches a final vote before the council and LAVTA, city leaders are clear that the time to have those conversations is now in order to protect the viability and enhance the quality of paratransit in Pleasanton without reducing service levels for users.
“We’re at a point in time when we look at (LAVTA) cost per trip versus our cost per trip, it’s just not even close. And it’s time for maybe the responsibility to shift to LAVTA,” Councilman Jerry Pentin, one of the city’s representatives on the LAVTA Board of Directors, said during the May 7 council meeting.

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CONTEST ENDS SUNDAY, MAY 19
City recognizes new commission, committee members

By Jeremy Walsh

The city of Pleasanton has welcomed its newest slate of city commissioners and committee members.

The Pleasanton City Council hosted the oath-of-office ceremony for 10 members — either new or reappointed — during its regular meeting May 7 in the council chambers. That event came three weeks after the full council endorsed Mayor Jerry Thorne’s recommendations for committee and commission appointments.

Leading the way in the spring appointments was Brandon Pace, who is joining the Planning Commission as an alternate member who will participate in meetings but only get a vote when one of the five regular members is absent or recused. Pace took the seat left vacant when Justin Brown was elevated to a full regular seat on the Planning Commission after David Nagler’s resignation last fall.

PUSD previously said that a new bond measure could have been presented to voters in the November 2019 election. But it has decided to wait until early December to decide on the measure for the March 2020 primary election.

School board mulling survey on new bond measure

PUSD considers asking voters for $120M facilities bond on 2020 ballot

By Julia Baum

A potential school facilities bond measure on next year’s ballot generated a fair amount of discussion during the Pleasanton school board’s regular meeting last week.

No action was taken that evening, but district officials will continue pursuing a district-wide survey for feedback on priority projects, much like the process used in 2016 for Measure 11.

The Board of Trustees deliberated back in March if Pleasanton Unified School District voters would support a possible $120 million bond measure for next year, less than four years after they approved the $270 million Measure 11 bond and with a number of the major Measure 11 projects, like the Lysiksen Elementary School remodel, still unfinished. They agreed to decide eventually whether to issue a public poll to gauge voter support.

District leaders have been equating the possible new bond measure to a tax extension because the tax rate for property owners ($20 per $100,000 of assessed valuation) would be the same as the rate owners are paying now related to previous bond measures in 1988 and 1997, which is set to wane after 2020.

PUSD previously said that a new bond would present “an opportunity to fund approximately $120 million” in unfunded projects like upgrading Vintage Hills Elementary and replacing the portable classrooms and science labs at Foothill and Amador Valley high schools.

The district approved their Facilities Master Plan last year but need an estimated $846 million to finish projects for all 15 campuses. A little more than $145.5 million remains in funding to allocate for projects on the Measure 11 list.

The district could wait until November 2020 to place the potential bond measure before voters, according to consultant Adam Bauer, who added, “but we are expecting a lot of noise” for the presidential election. “The other thing about the polarization of our politics is that likely increased turnout than in November 2018,” Bauer said during the May 7 board meeting.

Bauer also noted that “A survey will be helpful to understand your community’s tax sensitivity,” even if the district decided to wait until 2022 to approach another bond measure.

Board President Valerie Arkin said she supported the polling but questioned how it would be received by voters.

“In our last bond, we did make a point in our marketing to the public that this bond was expiring so their tax burden will go down, and now we’re kind of backtracking on that,” Arkin said.

PUSD staff will present an updated list of possible bond projects by next month; polling would take place between Aug. 23 and Sept. 6. The board would have until early December to decide on the measure for the March 2020 primary election.
Hundreds gather for vigil on anniversary of Ben Curry’s death

Family thanks community for support during ‘an unbelievably difficult year’

By Ryan J. Degan

On the one-year anniversary of the on-campus drowning death of San Ramon Valley High School freshman Ben Curry, hundreds of loved ones and supportive community members gathered in front of the Danville Library to hold a candlelight vigil and honor the memory of the Danville teenager.

Ben’s parents, Karen and Tom, as well as his sister Katrina, were present at the May 8 event, each giving brief comments to the crowd on the impact Ben had on their family and thanking the community for the outpouring of support their family received in the aftermath of young Ben’s death.

“As you can imagine, it’s been an unbelievably difficult year and its a year we would not have been able to get through without all of you,” Karen told the audience. “We are so appreciative for all you have done and continue to do for us ... We could not possibly name all the people who have been by our side in so many ways over the past year.”

“It was a godsend to be able to think about people thinking of us, caring about us and wanting us to be able to deal with what had happened,” Tom added. “I love you Ben, and not a day goes by that I’m not reminded of the depth of my love for you.”

At the vigil, attendees read aloud notes of how Ben had touched their lives highlighting the lasting impact Ben had on the people he came into contact with.

“I know it’s not always easy to know what to do or what to say to people who lose all that Ben was to us, but I truly don’t know how I would have made it through this past year without the compassion that you all gave in (one) way or another,” Katrina said.

Ben Curry drowned during his physical education class in the SRVHS pool on May 8, 2018. Some time during class Ben slipped underwater and became unresponsive, but he was not discovered submerged in the pool until the start of the next class, after the school’s lunch-period.

In the wake of the drowning, the Contra Costa County Coroner’s Office and District Attorney’s Office found no signs of foul play nor criminal negligence with regard to the boy’s death, deeming that his drowning was an accident.

The Curry family is currently contesting the no-negligence finding, and on Nov. 27, filed a lawsuit against the San Ramon Valley Unified School District, claiming that negligence and willful misconduct resulted in the freshman’s death.

The suit alleges that not only did Monsanto Co. to a Livermore couple who developed cancer

Jury awards $2B to Livermore couple who developed cancer

Company appealing latest high-price verdict in another Roundup lawsuit

An Alameda County Superior Court jury on Monday awarded more than $2 billion in damages from Monsanto Co. to a Livermore couple who claimed the company’s Roundup weedkiller caused both of them to develop cancer, according to a spokesman for the plaintiffs’ lawyers.

The award to Alva and Alberta Pilliod included $1 billion each in punitive damages and $55 million in compensatory damages for economic and non-economic losses for their non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma.

“We’ve been fighting cancer for nine years. It was caused by Roundup. We can’t do the things we used to do and we really resent Monsanto for that,” Alberta Pilliod said at a news conference.

“We thought it was incredibly safe. We wish that Monsanto had warned us ahead of time and there was something on the label that said ‘danger, may cause cancer.’ We would not have used it,” she said.

The couple’s case is the third to result in a verdict against Monsanto and is the largest judgment thus far against the agribusiness company, now owned by Bayer AG of Germany.

The three cases are the first to go to trial nationwide among more than 13,000 lawsuits filed in state and federal courts against Monsanto by people who say exposure to Roundup, the world’s most widely used herbicide, contributed to their cancer.

The jury in the Pilliod case found that Roundup was a substantial factor in causing the couple’s cancers and that Monsanto sold a defective product, failed to warn consumers of the dangers and was negligent.

The punitive damages, according to the verdict, were for “malice, oppression or fraud” on Monsanto’s part, defined in the jury instructions as including willful and knowing disregard for human safety.

Monsanto’s parent company, Bayer AG of Germany, said it plans to appeal. Bayer bought Monsanto last year for $63 billion.

“We have great sympathy for Mr. and Mrs. Pilliod, but the evidence in this case was clear that both have long histories of illnesses known to be substantial risk factors for non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma,” Bayer said in a statement.

Bayer pointed to a conclusion by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that glyphosate, the main ingredient in Roundup, is not likely to be carcinogenic to humans.

Alva Pilliod, 76, and Alberta Pilliod, 74, were diagnosed with non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma in 2011 and 2015. They testified they sprayed Roundup on weeds on several properties for three decades and believed it was safe because the product labels and television advertisements did not warn of a cancer risk.

The Pilliods’ lawyers contended during the Oakland trial that Monsanto suppressed or did not show the EPA some unfavorable studies, influenced and sometimes ghostwrote favorable studies.

—Bay City News Service

Record-setting Run for Education

The Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation’s seventh annual Run for Education last month set an event fundraising record with $113,000 net. Some 3,000 people (including Oakland’s mascot Stomper) attended the Run for Education on April 14, which featured 5K, 10K, 15K and Kids’ Challenge events starting at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. The funds will support librarians, reading and math intervention specialists, support counselors and more at Pleasanton Unified School District campuses.
**NorCal Night Market back next weekend**

Asian-themed bazaar returns to Pleasanton for a second year

By Ryan J. Degan

Potato swirls, drinks in light bulbs, fusion foods and a diverse variety of traditional Asian street foods that combine cultures and taste buds are all hallmarks of the NorCal Night Market, which is set to return to the Alameda County Fairgrounds for a second year in a row next weekend.

Organized by 626 Night Market, which produces large night markets throughout the state, the NorCal market is set to bring more than 200 vendors providing Asian-themed food, merchandise and art for attendees of all ages.

“Bring on the memories. Whether you spent your childhood at night markets in Asia, met your true love at one of our events in California or decided to have FWBs (Food With Benefits) forever, bring on the memories and create new ones,” Night Market spokesperson Holly Nguyen said in a statement.

“Night markets in Asia, meet your true love at one of our events in California or decided to have FWBs (Food With Benefits) forever, bring on the memories and create new ones,” Night Market spokesperson Holly Nguyen said in a statement: “Our events feature a diverse offering of food and shopping vendors, live performances and music on our entertainment stage, an art walk, games and more for the whole family.”

Inspired by the famous open-air nighttime bazaars of Asia, event organizers say the NorCal Night Market is a place for the community to come together to eat, drink, shop and socialize with one another in a fun environment.

This month’s special activity highlights include the sixth annual Horizon hip hop dance contest — only on May 26 — dazzling lights illuminations, photo booths, close-up magicians, a flower wall and more. A colorful art walk will also be featured, with works of some of the Bay Area’s most talented artists.

In addition to the funding question, that move would primarily address the problem that PPS service to ADA-eligible riders not does not fully meet all federal requirements, as well as it would allow Pleasanton to return to its core mission of serving local seniors, according to the consultants.

Leading the way is the recommendation to re-focus PPS as a city-based program for older adults only.

As part of that restructuring, the consultants urge Pleasanton to invest in alternative service delivery models, implement new operational efficiency options, revise its data collection and monitoring practices, and update its service policies.

The final recommendation for Pleasanton calls for the city, in partnership with LAVTA, to implement a Tri-Valley coordinated transit strategy for seniors and people with disabilities.

The City Council members were generally receptive of the report and recommendations during their initial review on May 7, expecting more in-depth discussions of concrete proposals in the months ahead.

Mayo Jerry Thorne said he wanted to make sure shifting Pleasanton’s ADA service wouldn’t overburden LAVTA — something Vice Mayor Karla Brown, Pleasanton’s other representative on the LAVTA board, didn’t seem too concerned about at an initial glance.

The LAVTA board is scheduled to review the ‘Mobility Forward’ report at its regular meeting on June 3.

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**PARATRANSIT**

Continued from Page 5

The Tri-Valley paratransit study, led by consultant firm Nelson/Nygaard Consulting Associates, Inc. with support from city and LAVTA staff, included service data review; stakeholder input and industry analysis to determine the best options for paratransit services in Pleasanton, Sunol, Livermore and Dublin going forward.

The city-operated Pleasanton Paratransit Services (PPS) offers transportation for seniors who are 70 years old or older and for adults with disabilities. The rides include door-to-door service and group trips Mondays through Fridays from 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

LAVTA, which provides paratransit for Livermore, Dublin and unincorporated Tri-Valley through its Wheels Dial-A-Ride program, also fills PPS’ off-hours gap or steps in when Pleasanton has reached maximum capacity during normal hours. Unlike Pleasanton’s service, LAVTA paratransit only offers rides to disabled adults, but the daily service window is longer.

LAVTA is also fresh off winning the statewide Outstanding Transportation Agency of the Year Award for 2019 from the California Association of the Year Award.

The consultants found that residents who use Pleasanton paratransit are very happy with the service, but ridership has been down significantly in recent years, according to Richard Weiner from Nelson/Nygaard. On the flip side, the city’s operating costs have nearly doubled since 2011-12 and remain well above LAVTA’s Wheels Dial-A-Ride per-passenger rate.

In addition to high costs, other concerns for Pleasanton paratransit include driver retention, data reporting inconsistencies and the fact the city makes a significant financial contribution to fund the service, according to Weiner.

As a result, the “Mobility Forward” report reaches three key conclusions to improve paratransit in Pleasanton.

Leading the way is the recommendation to transfer Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) service from the city to LAVTA — a proposal that still needs to be vetted and approved by both agencies’ governing bodies.

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Studies show 12 wine-growing districts
Potential for vineyards exists as far as San Ramon Valley

By Dolores Fox Cardelli

Two scientific studies commissioned by the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association show 12 identifiable growing districts within the 260,000-acre Livermore Valley American Viticultural Area (AVA).

Analyses of topography, soils and microclimates across the region also showed the majority can be better classified as a warm Region III, not a hot Region IV as many wine industry experts previously believed.

"Knowing that only 4,000 acres of the AVA are planted to grapevines, and that many of those acres are concentrated in one district, it may be that wine-making in the Livermore Valley AVA is still in its infancy," said Phil Wente, a fourth-generation winemaker at Wente Vineyards. "And that's after more than 160 years of history. Many distinct combinations of district, varietal, rootstock, viticultural and enological practices remain to be explored."

Wente led the effort to establish Livermore Valley as an AVA in 1982 and was instrumental in the recent project to define the 12 districts. Funding for the studies came from the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

Patrick Shabram Geographic Consulting of Loveland, Colo., drew the new districts based on a study of the Livermore Valley's soil and topography by Coastal Viticultural Consultants of Angwin, and Shabram's own study of meso-climate patterns of the valley.

The wine association is sharing trials describing each district are on its website, www.lvwine.org/library.php.

For years, growers and vintners have anxiously talked about the differences between the far western side of the AVA and the eastern side, the differences between the valley floor and the hillsides, the variation in soils and the differences from one vineyard to another, Livermore Winegrowers executive director Chris Chandler said. "We've needed to get beyond anecdotes and general observations."

The new districts average 22,000 acres each and are defined by a combination of climate, soil, geology and slope. They have been named Tesla, Ruby Hill, Crane Ridge, Altamont, Mendenhall Springs, Vallecitos, Sunol, Palomar, San Ramon Valley, Mt. Diablo, Highlands, Valle de Oro and Amador Valley.

Maps, a 140-page video and materials describing each district are on the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association website, www.lvwine.org/library.php.

Offering hope

Hope + Future International, a nonprofit founded by Pleasanton native Jessica Binzoni (left), strives to support people and families displaced in combat zones, but living outside of refugee camps, by focusing on education and individual development — which she sees as key to the public is invited to learn "It's a multi-faceted situation," Marken said. "We've needed to get coherence in all of our departments, provide some trust in each other and in the community "doing a lot of building forward among staff, administrat-

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Missing your trusted, reliable Automotive & Light truck repair shop?

Refurbishing the tennis courts for an estimated $80,000 would be less expensive than repairing the softball field, according to PUSD. But Amador Valley tennis members and supporters called tearing up the courts "disrespectful" to community members who privately donated to help maintain their facilities when the district did not have the funds.

"(Former tennis coach) Don Anger donated approximately $80,000 to have the courts re-surfaced just two years ago," said Susana and Peter Krulwich in an email. "We find it so disrespectful to him and his family to have the tennis courts destroyed to accommodate parking for three months. What message does this send to the Anger family and other community members that invest in our schools?"

"There must be other options to consider, such as remote parking with shuttle buses, or ad-

PARKING

Continued from Page 5

the structure is being installed. Approximately 50 parking spaces for staff will be available on the first day of the 2019-20 school year, according to PUSD.

Work is scheduled to begin in June after school lets out but expected to last through October, concerning many Amador Valley neighbors and families about how the loss of parking will affect everyone.

The possibility of parking on the campus blacktop between the gym and football field in addition to using the tennis courts for primarily staff and possibly student parking came about when a similar idea to use the junior varsity softball fields was recently floated but rejected.

The blacktop could possibly park around 132 vehicles, accord-

"All of those things are very in-

Continued from Page 5

ing momentum on other issues negotiations was crucial for gaining unan-

ity."

Continued from Page 5

pass any item you have to have unanimous decisions."

Two candidates are running for one of the seats in next month's special election for Trustee Area 4, and another election could be scheduled for November to add the other new member to the board. From there, Marken said it's all about building trust, transpar-

"It's a multi-faceted situation," Marken said. "Over the last couple of years, the district has parted ways for a variety of reasons with a number of administrators, so that creates a strain on the organization, absolutely."

"All of those things are very interesting dynamics in trying to end the school year on a positive note, which we believe that we're doing," he added, including the Measure E parcel tax renewal just approved by Dublin voters and recently final-

ed negotiations with the classified staff and teachers union. Marken said the passage of Measure E is proof that the community hasn't lost sight of its priorities amid the administrative upheaval.

"It shows several things, in a year of uncertainty, our community still believes very strongly in its programs, in its schools, in its students," he said. "That's a very strong testament because clearly this year has been a difficult year, a year of some uncertainty, so we have been able to help bring some folks together and … we're very excited about it."

Measure E succeeding — weeks after completing tense labor nego-

because absent of that, could potentially require some cuts that will now not have to be made” and departments can finally start planning, according to Marken. Lately, that’s meant a number of meetings with the DUSD community “doing a lot of building and work on all of our schools,” he said. “It’s a great trajectory, it’s really actually kind of exciting.”

“When there is uncertainty as has occurred in our district, what happens is people tend to revert into silos,” Marken said. “They look inward and they just do their job,” he added. “We need to get coherence in all of our departments, provide some hope. I wanted to end the year making sure that people felt hopeful, that they could begin to renew trust in each other and in the district, which includes a level of transparency.”
Police: Arson suspect arrested after crashing into gas pumps

A 34-year-old man suspected of setting three cars and a building on fire in Dublin was arrested early last Friday morning after crashing into convenience store gas pumps in Livermore, authorities said.

Michael Brown was taken into custody after colliding with the pumps at a 7-Eleven store on the corner of Las Positas and South Vasco roads, according to the California Highway Patrol.

Dublin police initially put out an alert after a suspicious car was seen slowly circling businesses in the area of 6400 Sierra Court at about 12:30 a.m. Friday.

The car, a black Toyota Camry, failed to pull over when police arrived and officers chased it onto the Airway Boulevard exit.

The CHP tried to pull over the suspect car, but once again the driver failed to yield and drove at speeds of up to 115 mph. The suspect's car exited at Vasco Road and eventually made it to Las Positas Road, where it went through a parking lot and then headed south in the northbound lane, it rammed a CHP cruiser, police said.

After that, officers lost sight of the car and the chase was terminated.

A witness later contacted the CHP to report that a Toyota had crashed into the gas pumps at the 7-Eleven at South Vasco and Las Positas roads. The driver fled, but the CHP located the man — later identified by police as Brown — and took him into custody without further incident.

No injuries were reported.

When Dublin police returned to the area where the Toyota was first reported, in the 6400 block of Sierra Court, they found three vehicles engulfed in flames.

They also found an exterior wall to a commercial fire business. The Alameda County Fire Department responded and extinguished both blazes.

Damage to the cars is estimated at $200,000, police said.

Evidence relating to suspected arson was found on Brown as well as in his car, according to investigators.

Brown was placed under arrest for the pursuit, assault with a deadly weapon and arson.

In other news

After receiving multiple graffiti messages threatening mass violence on May 9 at California High School in San Ramon, school district staff said that it was a peaceful, if not much less populated than usual, day at school on May 9.

While a considerable police presence was found both on and around the campus, many parents decided to keep their children away from school anyway — approximately 80% of Cal High students did not report to school on May 9, according to San Ramon Valley Unified School District spokesperson Elizabeth Graswich.

“It was a very peaceful, calm and positive day at the school,” Graswich told the Weekly. “We are incredibly grateful to our students who have been coming forward with information to help with the investigation. The message has been clear that they want to have a safe school environment. They are the heroes today.”

The first threatening message was found in the boys’ bathroom on campus on May 1, and read “Cal will be shot up 5/9. Final warning,” exactly one week later an additional threat was found in a different boys’ bathroom on May 8 that read “Today, library will be shot up first, then courtyard and then myself” and was followed by a racist comment, according to Cal High principal Chris George.

While the FBI lent its support to the school district and the San Ramon Police Department, the investigation is ongoing with no suspect having yet been publicly identified.

“I cannot commend our students enough for their support today. Since making the announcement this morning regarding the additional threat, we have had many students come forward either in person or through the anonymous tipline reporting information. We are working very closely with San Ramon Police to follow up on each and every one of these reports and will communicate with staff and parents should we identify the person responsible for the graffiti,” George said in an email to parents sent on May 8.

George added that additional counselors have been made available for students as well as staff and encouraged anyone who has information to contact him at 803-3120.

—Ryan J. Degnan

Bay City News Service

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

May 11

Vandalism
■ 12:20 p.m. on the 4000 block of Vineyard Avenue
■ 10:51 p.m. on the 7300 block of Johnson Drive

DUI
■ 11:26 p.m. at Bernal and Valley avenues

Fraud
■ 1:12 p.m. on the 5000 block of Cortez Paloma

Drug violation
■ 2:22 a.m. on the 5000 block of Johnson Drive
■ 6:18 a.m. on the 5000 block of Johnson Drive

Burglary
■ 11:16 a.m. on the 6400 block of Hansen Drive

Alcohol violation
■ 12:29 a.m. at Franklin and Stonierige drives

May 10

Drug violation
■ 12:29 p.m. on the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road

Alcohol violation
■ 10:03 p.m. on the 6700 block of Bernal Avenue

Weapons violation
■ 20 a.m. on the 5300 block of Owens Drive

May 9

Theft
■ 4:44 a.m., 3000 block of Casadero Court; auto theft
■ 5:56 a.m., 5700 block of Owens Drive; theft from auto
■ 10:03 a.m., 6100 block of Hansen Drive; theft from auto
■ 12:36 p.m., 1500 block of Stonierige Mall Road; shoplifting

Assault/battery
■ 5:52 p.m. on the 5400 block of Greenfield Way

Graffiti offense
■ 8:07 a.m. on the 900 block of Main Street

May 8

Theft
■ 10:53 a.m., 2000 block of Stonierige Mall Road, shoplifting
■ 11:43 p.m. on the 3900 block of Santa Rita Road
■ 4:12 p.m., 7400 block of Palm Court; theft from auto
■ 8:45 p.m., 6000 block of Johnson Drive; shoplifting

Alcohol violation
■ 7:27 p.m. at Santa Rita Road at West Las Positas
■ 7:31 p.m. on the 4200 block of First Street

Assault/battery
■ 1:17 p.m. on the 2700 block of Stonierige Drive

DUI
■ 6:21 p.m. on the 6800 block of Johnson Drive

Robbery
■ 2:43 p.m. on the 1400 block of Stonierige Road

Graffiti
■ 4:11 p.m. on the 7300 block of Johnson Drive

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PAID OBITUARY

PAID OBITUARY

Marie Boss August 8, 1923 – May 1, 2019

Marie Boss, 95, died peacefully with her daughters by her side. Born in San Francisco to Theophile and Caroline Cerfes, she grew up in Orland, attended Dominican College, and was a long-time teacher.

Marie loved music, art, travel, people and life.

She is survived by beloved family: daughters Judy Del Tredici, Nicki Sauer, grandchildren Tom (Delanie), Christina (Ken), Lisa (John), Michelle, Chris (Jenn), Jennifer, Aaron (John), Eric (Lynette); great-grandchildren Drew, Nick, Lizzie, Marcus, Calvin, Beatrice. She was predeceased by husband Louis, sons Joe and Michael, and sons-in-law Richard and Bruce.

Memorial: June 1, 100, SGI-USA Buddhist Center, 3834 Opal St, Oakland

Anne Marie Tadlock April 21, 1941 - May 4, 2019

Anne Marie Tadlock passed away on Saturday, May 4, 2019 at Sunol Creek Memory Care in Pleasanton, CA at the age of 78.

Anne Marie was born on April 21, 1941 to Doris and Vincent Lariviere of Southbridge Massachusetts. She was a 1959 graduate of Notre Dame High School.

At the age of 19, she moved out west to San Francisco to pursue a career as a flight attendant. However, that never materialized, and she began to work for Standard Oil as a secretary. It was there she met, and later on, married Thomas Earl Tadlock. They both lived in various bay area cities, before finally settling down in Pleasanton, CA. After the birth of her two children, Anne Marie became a homemaker and enjoyed sewing and making crafts. She was a devoted wife and mother. She enjoyed spending time with friends and family and traveling to New England every October to visit family and enjoying the fall foliage. Her hobbies included gardening and watching TV, especially her soap opera “The Young and the Restless”, various shows on HGTIV, and watching A’s, Warriors and 49ers games. She will be greatly missed.

She is survived by her son Steven Tadlock, daughter Cheryl Bethe, son-in-law John Bethe, sister Janice Jenkinson and two brothers, Ronald and Gerald Lariviere. She is preceded in death by her husband Thomas Tadlock and parents, Doris and Vincent Lariviere.

A gravesite service was held at Monument Hill Memorial Park, in Woodland, CA on May 9. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to be made to the American Heart Association or to Hope Hospice.

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Spring ballet presents timeless favorites

‘Swan Lake’ and ‘Rodeo’ offer beauty paired with energy

Valley Dance Theatre will showcase the beauty of classical ballet as well as contemporary delights at its annual repertory production, “Spring Rep,” next weekend at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore.

The performance will have excerpts from Tchaikovsky’s traditional classic, “Swan Lake,” as well as Aaron Copland’s modern ballet, “Rodeo,” accompanied by the Valley Dance Theatre Pit Orchestra.

The two contrasting, yet enduringly popular pieces — the elegant beauty of ‘Swan Lake’ paired with the vibrant energy of ‘Rodeo’ — make a fitting close to Valley Dance Theatre’s season as the company prepares to celebrate its 40th anniversary next year, artistic director Betsy Hausburg said.

One of the best loved of all balliets, ‘Swan Lake’ portrays romance, drama and tragedy. It is the story of a young maiden, Odette, who is cursed by the evil sorcerer, Rothbart, to live as a swan and able to take human form only by moonlight. True love has the power to break the spell, but when Sigfried pledges his love to the white swan, Rothbart sends his daughter, Odile, disguised as the black swan. Tragedy follows.

The ballet is known not only for the ‘Entrance of the Swans,’ which will be performed by 16 Valley Dance Theatre dancers, but also for the tour-de-force dancing required by both the white swan and a black swan conjured by Rothbart, Hausburg said. “Anna Mount of Valley Dance will perform both roles, partnered by returning guest dancers Jacob Casey and Maxwell Simeos.”

‘Rodeo,’ on the other hand, which premiered in 1942, is all about cowboys, their girlfriends and the famous Hoedown. The lively and dramatic sounds of Aaron Copland’s well-known score is the background to a simple love story set in the 19th century ranchlands of the American Southwest.

The music of ‘Rodeo’ has endured, performed as a ballet and orchestra only, and has also been used as background on stage, in television programs and commercials, and for the opening ceremony of the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.

Ballet dancer Anna Mount performs in excerpts of “Swan Lake,” which will be part of Valley Dance Theatre’s “Spring Rep” production May 25 and 26 at the Bankhead Theater.

Children’s Chorus performs Saturday

‘Portraits’ concert celebrates music in everyday lives

Cantabella Children’s Chorus is performing its spring concert, “Portraits,” this Saturday, showcasing music in everyday lives, celebrating childhood, and leading the audience to visualize familiar portraits.

‘I really like this program — the inspiring text, the singing testimony of Greg Gilpin’s Why We Sing, and ‘How Can I Keep from Singing? It’s all so motivating,’ artistic director Eileen Chang said.

One serious note will be Eric Nelson’s When Memory Fades,” which is counterbalanced by “Mash Potato,” a love poem from ‘Play with your Food’ by Paul Carey.

The young men of Cantabella will perform alone singing ‘Vive L’amore,’ a song about guys drinking and talking about love that has been known to bring down the house with its dramatics.

Also on the program is ‘Baby Shark.’ “This is a kid’s song, but the choir really, really love it,” Chang said.

Cantabella Children’s Chorus is giving its spring concert this Saturday, portraying music in everyone’s daily lives.

Scott Kenison, executive director of the Bankhead Theater, will conduct one song, after being chosen by last year’s winner of the Pick-a-Song fundraiser.

“The children sing so perfectly, I hope I don’t mess them up,” Kenison said.

Cantabella Children’s Chorus performed parts of this concert with the Santa Cruz Chorale recently and received a thank you note from member Robert Ley.

“The kids were fabulous, an inspiration — your singers give us hope for the future,” Ley wrote. ‘Portraits’ performances are Saturday at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. The training choirs are featured at 1 p.m. and the performing choirs at 4 p.m. Tickets for each performance are $25, and $7 for under 18.

‘Everyone Sang’
Choirs join for jubilant performance

The Mission Peak Choristers are joining with the First Presbyterian Chancel Choir and the East Bay People’s Choir — a combination of more than 100 singers, a brass ensemble and percussionists — for a grand celebration of the human spirit called “Everyone Sang.”

The title comes from a 1919 poem written to honor the end of World War I, a jubilant commemoration of the power of singing to unite people and heal divides.

The Mission Peak Choristers was formed as the Ohlone Chamber Singers in 1980 then became an independent nonprofit group in 2014 after community colleges withdrew support for choral arts. Now they are dependent on donors, fundraising and concert ticket sales, and gratefully give back the gift of music.

Each year’s season begins with “Christmas at the Mission” in December, followed by lighter musical fare in March and a finale in May, which is Sunday’s concert.

The one performance will be at 4 p.m. this Sunday at the First Presbyterian Church of Livermore, 2020 Fifth St. Tickets at the door are $25 adults, $15 children and students.

For more information about Mission Peak Chamber Singers, visit www.chambersingers.org.

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli
**Recipients announced for character awards**

Luncheon will honor residents for making a difference

By Dolores Fox Ciardelli

From a photographer to a generous couple to a 14-year-old battling a rare disease, this year’s Community of Character Juantia Haugen Award winners exemplify the program values of “Responsibility, Compassion, Self-Discipline, Honesty, Respect and Integrity.”

Christina Gray, Jee-Yeon and Wallace Wong, and Andrew Holmes will be honored at the annual Awards Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday (May 21) at the Veterans Memorial Building. The Community Organization Award is going to Museum on Main.

The lunch is open to the public at a cost of $40. Make reservations at the Chamber of Commerce website, www.pleasanton.org.

Christina Gray

Gray lives in Pleasanton with her husband, Lonnie, and their children, Ethan and Lauren. She started her photography business, Bella Luna Studios, in 2005. As her family and business grew, she began to volunteer her photography skills to nonprofit organizations including CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate), Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation, First Tee, Tri-Valley Turkey Burn, Chamber of Commerce, AXIS Community Health, El Kinney Foundation and Make a Difference for Pleasanton. She has also volunteered for six years as a Reflections Program judge in the photography category.

In 2015, Gray published an original cookbook, “Be Free Cooking — The Allergen Aware Cook.” This was a new way to engage with the community, and especially the school her children attended, Mohr Elementary School.

During the last two years, she has taught a writing and food workshop at Mohr she developed for second-graders. In April, she launched the Rising Star program, inspiring young students to write and “publish” their own books for the school library and coordinated an Author Day.

When Hurricane Harvey hit in 2017, Gray worked with the local chapter of Kids Against Hunger to organize a meal-packing event with 240 volunteers who packed 60,000 meals.

She is also a Harvest Park sixth-grade volleyball coach, Phantom League U13 softball coach, and a member of the Pleasanton Unified Public Safety Committee.

Jee-Yeon and Wallace Wong

The Wongs are incredible friends to many in Pleasanton, where they have lived for 15 years, and serve as great examples to their children Kailyn (15), Zachary (12), Ryan (10) and their friends.

The Wongs have volunteered in many organizations and have participated in service projects. Their children have worked to raise money to help homeless people.

Wallace is a Farmers Insurance agent with an office in the historic Pleasanton Hotel. He has served in Rotary, YMCA and other organizations. He is known for having high ethical standards, which are what he expects of himself, his family and his community, according to awards organizers, and is a living example of good character.

Jee-Yeon is a friend to all who come into contact with her. She opens her home to newcomers in the community, inviting them to join her in cooking and sharing a meal.

Wallace and Jee-Yeon live the character values every day. They are kind and courteous; they are compassionate and caring; and they live responsible, respectful lives and inspire others to do the same.

Andrew Holmes

Holmes, 14, and an eighth-grader at Harvest Park Middle School, says his experience battling a rare disease has inspired him to find ways to give back to his community.

When he was 8, Holmes had an excruciating headache and fell semi-unconscious. At Children’s Hospital Oakland, he had surgery to stop a massive brain bleed, which turned out to be a rupture of a brain arteriovenous malformation, or AVM.

Holmes was treated with targeted radiation, which works slowly, and caused him to have brain swelling and hemiplegia, or extreme weakness on his right side, so he was unable to walk or use his right hand or arm. He started fourth grade in a wheelchair, but with ongoing therapy, he has been able to walk again, using a leg brace, and to get some right arm movement back.

He loves playing baseball and must catch and throw with the same hand, just like the former major league player Jim Abbott. Holmes’ favorite place to be is watching his Oakland A’s.

Holmes is committed to raising awareness about AVMs and rare diseases. He wrote a letter to Supervisor Nate Miley to have Rare Disease Day commemorated in Alameda County, and he has testified before the California State Legislature and has participated in rare disease awareness efforts in the U.S. Congress.

“My life is challenging, but my mom always told me when I start to feel sorry for myself, do something for others,” he said.

Holmes said he appreciated the Child Life Department at Children’s Hospital bringing him toys and games every day during his long stay, and he also enjoyed its Bingo Nights with great prizes. So in 2016, he started an annual holiday toy drive, plus he has held two spring toy drives with Pleasanton Little League. He has collected more than one thousand toys for the hospital.

Museum on Main

The Museum on Main began in the historic house at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, and it moved into the old city hall building on Main Street in 1985. It is a wonderful cultural resource downtown, welcoming newcomers, longtime residents and visitors.

The museum features permanent and temporary exhibits, guest lecturers, tours for schools and other community groups, and educational programs. It is responsible for collecting and caring for historic documents, photographs and artifacts that tell the stories of Pleasanton and surrounding areas.

The museum has many volunteers who assist with greeting the public, helping in the office, facilitating public programs, serving as docents and guides for the popular annual Ghost Walk tours, and helping manage the archives and collections as well as holding fundraisers.

The award is in tribute to its many volunteers as well as its dedicated staff and board.

**Elvis on stage**

“G.I. Blues: The Songs of Elvis Presley” will be a special Memorial Weekend concert at 7 p.m. next Sunday (May 26) at the Firehouse Arts Center. The show features Jim Anderson & the Rebels, who re-create the sound, songs and memories of Elvis Presley with his old hits including “Heartbreak Hotel,” “Hound Dog,” “Don’t Be Cruel,” “Jailhouse Rock” and many more. Tickets are $15-$25.

Go to www.firehousesarts.org, call 931-4848, or purchase at the theater box office, 4444 Railroad Ave.

**Museum on Main**

The Museum on Main features permanent and temporary exhibits, guest lecturers, tours for schools and other community groups, and educational programs. It is responsible for collecting and caring for historic documents, photographs and artifacts that tell the stories of Pleasanton and surrounding areas.

The museum has many volunteers who assist with greeting the public, helping in the office, facilitating public programs, serving as docents and guides for the popular annual Ghost Walk tours, and helping manage the archives and collections as well as holding fundraisers.

The award is in tribute to its many volunteers as well as its dedicated staff and board.
Many local elections in the Tri-Valley are in the midst of a major makeover, and come 2020, voters in the area will find a variety of changes on their ballots as a result.

In response to petitions citing the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA), government agencies throughout the Tri-Valley have been transitioning from their previous practice of at-large voting to district-based elections. This process is being pushed by organizations stating that at-large elections cause racially polarized voting and threatening litigation if local governments do not make the change.

Under district-based elections, for a say a City Council, the city’s boundaries will be divided into distinct geographical districts, each being represented by one elected council member. During elections, residents will only vote for the lone seat designated for candidates who live in their geographical area, as opposed to the current practice where residents vote for all available candidates at-large.

So far, the San Ramon Valley Unified School District (SRVUSD), Dublin Unified School District (DSRSD), Livermore City Council, Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD), Danville Town Council and San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District either have made the change already or are in the process of transitioning from at-large to district-based — although Danville and the SRVFDP have been able to postpone their decision until after the 2020 election.

“We’re not doing this to throw anybody out of office; we’re not doing it to give anybody an advantage. It’s a long-term reform, you have to keep your eye on the long-term objective,” said Scott Rafferty, a Walnut Creek-based attorney and a longtime proponent of district elections.

The Pleasanton City Council and Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) are among the remaining Tri-Valley agencies unaffected by the district-election trend around them.

Most recently, the aforementioned San Ramon Valley agencies were petitioned to switch to district elections by a group represented by Rafferty called the Bay Area Voting Rights Initiative, threatening litigation unless the agencies comply.

The petition claimed that local governments are in violation of the CVRA, which finds that at-large elections impair the ability of voters in protected classes — people who are members of a race, color, religion or language minority population group — to influence the outcome of an election.

“This is not an attempt to displace incumbents, but rather to make a seat at the table for the Asian community and possibly for any other neighborhoods that have been chronically underrepresented,” Rafferty said in his petition. “But it is more critically an opportunity to make local government in the San Ramon Valley more truly representative, to revitalize the engagement of the community in jurisdictions whose elections have been neglected, and to create opportunities for a new generation of political leaders that is as diverse as the growing population of the Valley,” the attorney added.

The hope, according to Rafferty, is when protected classes become the majority population in their own geographical district, they can elect a representative that more accurately represents their interests and ensure that their voices are heard.

Rafferty added that these San Ramon Valley agencies were specifically petitioned due to their relation to the Dougherty Valley, a region in San Ramon with a high population of Asian-American residents.

Both the DUSD and city of Livermore were petitioned by Malibu-based attorney Kevin Shenkman — in 2017 and 2018, respectively — on behalf of a group called the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project, who also threatened litigation. Although in his petition, Shenkman specifically cited the lack of Latino representation in these agencies as a primary motivator for enforcing the change.

This leaves the Pleasanton City Council and PUSD Board of Trustees as two of the remaining agencies in the Tri-Valley to still practice at-large elections — the Dublin City Council, Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District and Zone 7 Water Agency also still elect at-large — and so far have not shown imminent intention to change their election method.

“The city of Pleasanton is aware that some of our neighboring Tri-Valley agencies have transitioned to district elections. City staff is also exploring whether this option makes sense for our community in the near-term,” Pleasanton city attorney Dan Sodergren told the Weekly.

“This topic hasn’t been discussed as there hasn’t been interest or concerns raised,” said PUSD spokes-person Patrick Garnon, who added that the district is focused on more immediate projects.

Rafferty declined to comment on future plans for petitioning other Tri-Valley agencies, saying that his efforts right now are focused on empowering the people in the Dougherty Valley.

Changing the equation

District-based elections are common when publicly elected agencies span large areas and multiple communities — think the Alameda County Board of Supervisors or Chabot-Las Positas Community College District Board of Trustees, for which Pleasanton residents elect a singular representative for their region.

But splitting up smaller communities on an individual basis was unheard of in the Tri-Valley until DUSD, with roughly 25,000 registered voters in all, began its process in 2017 to divide Board of Trustees seats into five distinct trustee areas within DUSD boundaries.

The geographic breakdown would ensure that each key region of that city, notably West Dublin and East Dublin, would have regional representation on the board going forward, as district election supporters argued. But reducing individual trustee election areas also changes the electorate math, which some contend can have consequences.

For example, the DUSD board tried to appoint a provisional trustee, Nini Natarajan, to fill the Trustee Area 4 seat in December after former trustee Joe Giannini resigned. But that appointment was overturned and the seat left vacant due to a provision in state law that allows voters to challenge and demand a special election instead.

Such a petition needs to be signed by 1.5% of voters in the election area, so when DUSD subdivided its boundaries into smaller trustee areas, the petition threshold for Trustee Area 4 — with its 4,877 registered voters — was only 74 voter signatures to force the special election, which is now set for June 4.

The math is also changed for recall petitions to remove an elected official from local government office. Though the petition percentages remain the same (between 10% and 30% of registered voters, depending on election area size), the number of actual signatures needed can be significantly reduced due to the lessered electorate count in the smaller election district.

These figures affect smaller areas such as San Ramon and Danville (which have populations estimated around 76,000 and 43,000, respectively) much more significantly than larger jurisdictions such as Alameda County (1.66 million residents) and San Jose (1.03 million) that have long had district-based elections.

Responding to the petition

Of the San Ramon Valley jurisdictions, so far the SRVFDP is the lone agency to have finished the process; however, the city of San Ramon and DSRSD are nearing the end and plan to publish a final map of their districts within the next month.

The SRVFDP has agreed to make
the transition after the 2020 U.S. Census, and Rafferty has stated that Danville will consider making the change pending an analysis of population data from the 2020 census.

Rafferty himself has been a long-time proponent of district-based elections, saying he has lobbied for voting rights since 1975. His involvement in petitioning San Ramon Valley agencies to make the change is not his first foray into litigation over the issue, as he previously spearheaded the efforts to change the West Contra Costa Unified School District’s elections.

Members of Bay Area Voting Rights Initiative are much more protective of their identity, their anonymity being necessary due to the harassment members have faced in the past, Rafferty said.

“We’re an unincorporated association, we’d be a much more public association but … some of our members have been harassed,” he told the Weekly. “In both this district (the SRVUSD) and West Contra Costa there have been people, who have both in the meetings and outside the meetings, been very difficult to some of our group members who have spoken out. We’ve also had some very aggressive personal attacks.”

At public meetings held discussing the transition, many San Ramon Valley agencies have had low public turnout, and the majority of those who show up have expressed negative views on what some have called Rafferty’s “demand letter” forcing them to make the change.

The CVRA went into effect in 2002, however many local agencies — or at least those found in the Tri-Valley — have been unwilling to voluntarily make the switch to district-based elections. In fact, out of the seven agencies currently using or in the process of transitioning to district-based elections, none made the switch without having been petitioned to do so.

One major point of contention critics highlight is the reduction of voting opportunities residents will suffer as a result of being confined to their one designated district.

Using the SRVUSD as an example, the change will essentially mean residents will only have the opportunity to vote for one trustee every four years, instead of two or three trustee positions every two years, as is the case under at-large voting.

“The Voting Rights Act was (meant) to help people, but when you look at our board that means that individuals in our community will only be able to vote for school board trustees every four years now. They will lose a voting opportunity to make their opinions known about what’s going on in a school district, and that’s wrong,” SRVUSD trustee Ken Mintz said at his district’s Dec. 17 board meeting.

Another fear for some public officials is the potential loss of cohesion and teamwork among government due to officials choosing to only represent the needs of the constituents who live in their slice of the city, instead of the wider community as a whole.

“I’ve always felt that I’ve always represented San Ramon. I don’t represent (my neighborhood) … I represent all of you,” San Ramon Councilman Scott Perkins said during his city’s review of the transition. “We all took an oath to represent the Constitution of the state of California, which says I represent the community that I live in. (And) I’ve worked with people from all over town and we have different views on lots of things.”

Also, all population and demographic data gathered by the San Ramon Valley agencies has been done using information from the 2010 census, and regardless of how they divide their jurisdictions, districts will most likely need to be redrawn once more up-to-date information is collected from the 2020 census — a fact that many officials lamented.

“We are getting shoved into this and the worst part about it is we are being told to use a 10-year-old census, which makes no sense at all,” San Ramon Councilman Dave Hudson said during a public discussion at City Hall.

With a good amount of opposition to district-based elections, why haven’t agencies tried their chances in court?

According to San Ramon city attorney Martin Lyons, the CVRA is a particularly powerful provision of the state government that exposes agencies to difficult litigation if they practice at-large voting. He added that so far no California municipality has ever successfully defended at-large elections when faced with litigation and the consequences for failing are severe.

For example, when the city of Palmdale unsuccessfully challenged a request to change to district elections, they ended up paying $4.5 million to the plaintiffs and still switched to district elections, Lyons said.

“This can cripple cities financially … the cost if we lose would be astronomical,” San Ramon Mayor Bill Clarkson said last fall.

In the end, Rafferty maintained that his client’s intentions are for the betterment of local government and the empowerment of marginalized groups, saying that district elections will make local governments more effective and representative in the long term.

“District(s) are going to be stronger because they will be more in touch with their community,” Rafferty said. “It complies with the law and that is going to be a positive change. It’s a long-term reform, and it’s the right thing to do.”

Editor Jeremy Walsh contributed to this story.

The city of Livermore has switched to district-based elections after it was petitioned by a Malibu-based attorney. Here, Livermore has been divided so each sitting council member represents a separate slice of the city, with the mayor’s position still being elected at-large.

The Tri-Valley district election maps, see the online story at PleasantonWeekly.com.
Dear Editor,

Bigger is not always better! We must act quickly to preserve the historic architectural character of our unique downtown before it goes forever.

According to the Pleasanton 2017 survey, residents suggest revitalizing Pleasanton’s downtown by:

• “Developing a town square with open space, landscaping or a fountain.”

• “No high-rise residential.”

• “Leaving the Civic Center area open, airy and interactive for families.”

Yet, actions speak louder than words. The Pleasanton City Council is focused on aggressive building and residential expansion into our downtown areas.

Endorsed changes:

• East Peters Avenue: “Up-zoning” transitional at 125% FAR. Four stories, with approximately 75% of the space allotted for buildings or other structures.

• West Peters Avenue: “Leaving the Civic Center area open, airy and interactive for families.”

Why do 800-plus companies in the Tri-Valley remain members of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce? It is simply based on the mission and the three “Cs”. The Chamber is organized to benefit business by being:

• The Catalyst for business and economic growth.

• The Convenor of leaders and influencers.

• The Champion for a stronger and healthy community.

Over 60% of the revenue the city receives is from the taxes received from the local business community.

If you like the “living free” community benefits we receive from our police and fire departments, community parks, community events and social services, please thank the local business community.

How does the Chamber deliver benefits in our community? Ask companies like Pleasanton Glass Company, Precision Auto Repair, Stoneridge Shopping Center, KKRQ, ClubSport/Bay Club, Four Points by Sheraton, Double Tree by Hilton, Costello CPA, Marriott, Bay Valley Medical Group, Charles Huff Architecture, Yorkshire Roofing and JHS CPAs, LLP how who all have been members between 30 to 53 years.

The Chamber focuses on three goals promoting a “value proposition” supporting the community:

• “Supporting local business: Governance with a volunteer Board of Directors, charitable 501(c)(3) foundation.

• Engaging business members: Membership development, partnerships and friendships, committees, seminars, new business ribbon-cuttings.

• Delivering local benefits: Special events and fundraising, New Woman’s Luncheon 2019, business development network groups, public policy vision, skilled workers, housing, transportation, business services.

Thank you to our amazing Pleasanton residents that support our businesses and “Buy Local.”

—Kelly Makuchi

How the Chamber supports our local community

When will ‘Me Too’ movement come to RPEA?

The California State Legislature addressed the “Me Too” issues in September 2018, but Retired Public Employees Association (RPEA) is still placing public retirees in the path of potential harassment.

The Capitol marched those offenders out, but RPEA marched them back in at T Street. RPEA endorsed CalPERS board member Margaret Brown, who has a history of alleged harassment based on previous employee statements. (Former Weekly reporter) Glenn Wohltmann wrote about the lawsuit on Sept. 24, 2010. It was updated on Sept. 26, 2010. This story says:

“The lawsuit claims Brown made sexually inappropriate comments to (Jim) Faith and other employees and ‘was nothing less than a foul-mouthed, demeaning, threatening, and bombastic supervisor.’”

Not only am I appalled at the behavior and the records of these individuals, I am also outraged at the Retired Public Employees Association.

I have personally witnessed Margaret’s snarky remarks during public sessions. How can retirees support people for such an important public office that places their own people at risk? RPEA should never endorse any candidate that is not credible by ‘Me Too’ standards.

Now, RPEA is considering candidates for the CalPERS Retiree seat. One previous state employee J.J. Jelincic, who has a history of sexual harassment issues at work, is being considered for RPEA endorsement.

This is just the tip of the iceberg! We want and need sustainability with our pensions. J.J. Jelincic is not the answer; neither is Margaret Brown.

—Martha Perry, Retired CalPERS member

Amador tennis courts aren’t for parking cars

I am utterly shocked and dismayed upon hearing the proposal to convert AVHS tennis courts to temporary parking lot for a few months during the Amador solar project duration.

While this may sound a simple alternative, the impact this would cause to the AVHS team — who are EBAL and NCS champions this year — is immense and would definitely have a larger impact on the athletes at AVHS for years to come.

The proposal will deprive the young athletes from being able to practice not just for these few months, but for the entire year and maybe more. This might portray lack of importance to sports at the school level and would discourage our young athletes from participation in sports.

My son is a freshman at Amador who plays for the varsity team and joins several other players at Amador courts all through the year to practice his favorite sport. My younger son joins them with an aspiration to be in the team some day. Tennis at Amador helps not just the JV and varsity teams at AVHS but many more children in the community.

I urge the administration to carefully consider other alternative options, and I sincerely hope the current proposal of converting the tennis courts at AVHS to parking lots is called off.

—Mathew Arumugam

Tennis Letters

The Letter from Mathuel Arumugam was among about a dozen notes the Weekly received — that were also sent to the Pleasanton Unified School District via email pertaining to the Amador tennis court parking debate. The other Letters were too long to publish given space constraints this week, but all shared similar sentiments to Arumugam’s message.
Amador volleyball, tennis
teams win section titles

The Amador Valley High boys volleyball team completed an incredible two-week postseason run by winning the North Coast Section championship.

In the finals on May 9, the Dons knocked off Monte Vista 25-21, 25-22 and 25-18.

It was a great performance by the entire team, especially the starters: William Sadler (9 kills, 2 blocks), Jacob Kim (9 kills, 1 ace), Logan Miller (8 kills, 4 blocks), Luke McFal (8 kills, 3 blocks) and Taylor Melendez (3 kills, 1 block).

Other great performances came from Colton Brooks (playing as libero, not his regular position), Nolan Gill (playing back row instead of libero), Andrei Rekesh, Sawyer Brookhart, Blake Bouchard (6-point serve dev), Devon Kost, Micah Kiang and Justin Hanson (just brought up from JV).

To get to the finals, the Dons first beat James Logan in the quarterfinals 25-11, 25-17 and 25-23. The win was led by Sadler (8 kills, 5 blocks), McFal (10 kills, 8 blocks, 1 ace), Kim (3 kills, great sets), Miller (7 kills, 6 blocks) and Brookhart (6 kills).

NCS tennis

The Amador Valley boys brought home the NCS team tennis championship with a thrilling 4-3 win over Redwood in the finals.

Redwood took the top-three singles matches, but the Dons rallied with a win from Eswarasi Ramkani at the No. 4 singles, then swept the doubles to win the title.

The teams of Robert Heeter/Brett Miller, Nithilan Muruganandham/Vishal Muthuvell and Manas Aulla/Idan Belau got it done to get the banner for Amador.

The run to the finals included a 7-0, semifinal win over Dougherty Valley and a 7-0 thumping of Mission San Jose.

For the crosstown rival Foothill, the Falcons tennis team got off to a fast start in the NCS tournament with a 6-1 victory over Heritage and a 7-0 defeat of San Ramon Valley before falling to Redwood in the semifinal round.

In the Heritage match, Akash Patel, Ani Foruri and Abhi Eedara took their singles matches, and the teams of Dylan Weiglein/Andy Yang, Matt Haskell/Praeven Senthia, and Ian Dong/Alex Kwon swept the doubles.

Moving back to Foothill’s courts, Shreelak Eedara, Patel, Foruri and Abhi Eedara defeated the Wolves in the singles, and Yang/Adam Linette, Weiglein/Senthia and Haskell/Vince Barletta finished the shutout in the doubles.

Foothill softball

The Falcons won twice last week to take the title of the East Bay Ath

etic League playoffs and keep their perfect season alive.

In the first game of the playoffs, Football beat Carondelet 6-0.

The Falcons got on the board in the third inning when Hope Alley sent a one-out, 1-0 pitch over the left-field fence with Caclin Cavaugh on for a two-run lead. Haley Hayes followed with a single and scored on a Courtney Beaudin hit to make it 3-0.

The Falcons added three in the fourth with Alley driving in Cavanough, then scoring in a hit from Nicole May. After stealing second, May scored on another hit from Beaudin to round out the scoring.

May tallied up 11 strikeouts in the game putting her season total over 200.

In the finals of the EBAL tournament, Football beat Amador 10-0, scoring four runs in the third and six more in the fifth. May struck out eight in the win, allowing just two hits — those coming to the Hildebrandt sisters Mia and Maddie.

Both Pleasanton teams advanced to the NCS tournament, with No. 1 seed Football defeating Mt. Eden 12-0 and fourth-seeded Amador beating Berkeley 4-3 in the first round. The results of their next games were pending as of press time.

Correction

Due to an editing error, the May 10 “Pleasanton Preps” column incorrectly stated the softball teams began their NCS tournament last week. The Weekly regrets the error.

Camp Gan Israel

462-BACK (925) 846-0700 | cigitvalley.com | rabbijosh@jewishvalley.com

Camp Gan Israel of the Tri-Valley offers a fun filled Jewish camp experience with hiking, art, sports, outdoor survival and field trips galore! At Camp Gan Israel, every camper is viewed as a unique individual. We look forward to welcoming you to the Gan Israel Family.

Entering Kindergarten- 1st grade: Ketanim Division staff are chosen for their experience with younger children. Group size is 12 maximum with a high camper to counselor ratio. Activities include daily sports, cooking, water fun science, nature, crafts, challah baking, Jewish music, yoga, specialty shows, and more!

Entering grades 2-6: Our Gedolim Division campers will enjoy traditional camp activities with exciting thematic programming, day trips and outdoor adventures, 2 late nights with camp songs and roasted marshmallows.

Activities include daily sports, cooking, water fun science, nature, crafts, challah baking, day trips, specialty shows and more!

Entering grades 7-8: Perfect for the camper who would like to supplement their sleepover camp experience with more of a taste of sleepover camp in a day camp setting. Our “Tzofim Division” will enjoy full day trips and one overnight. In addition, Tzofim campers will have the opportunity to partake in special workshops, mentoring programs with the Mini Gan Campers, athletic and outdoor adventure activities, and more!

Critter Camp at Valley Humane Society

3670 Nevada Street | Pleasanton

Join Valley Humane Society for Critter Camp this summer, a fun, fur filled humane education program offering an exciting variety of animal games, activities, crafts, special events, and hands-on learning opportunities. Week-long day camps for kids age 6-14 start June 10, with leadership opportunities for teens age 15-17. Sign up today!

Fashion Design & Sewing Camp @ KIDZ KRAFTZ

7690 Quail Creek Cir. | Dublin

Focus on sewing styles, wearable clothing, accessories, craft and jewelry projects, while introducing children to fashion design concepts, sewing techniques, basic pattern manipulation and fashion illustration. Sewing machines and notions provided. FREE lab for first day of camp. Pizza party on last day of the camp. Early Bird Registration Special, as well as many discount options available.

Pleasanton Pediatric Dentistry

1443 Cedarwood Lane, Suite D | Pleasanton

(925) 846-KIDS (5437) | www.PleasantonPediatricDentistry.com

Discover why kids LOVE us and parents TRUST us! Our passion is to make kids feel comfortable during their dental visit. Services: Infant Oral Care; Kids, Teens, Young Adults; Sedation; Dental Emergencies; Special Needs Children. We strive to create a fun-filled environment where children feel at home! With three kid friendly locations in Alameda, Oakland & Pleasanton we're conveniently located to better serve your family needs. We make kids smile!

Stratford School

http://stratfordschools.com/summer-camp

Summer@Stratford — Discover Where the Extraordinary Begins

Stratford School infuses its STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) and academic curriculum into an innovative and enriching summer camp experience for Preschool, Elementary, and Middle School.

Preschool/PreK (age 2 ½ – 4) Weekly themes come to life as Young Campers learn, explore, and engage in imaginative activities that promote STEAM learning. Each session is designed around foundational skills and concepts that develop an early love of learning and a passion for science, math, art, technology, and the built environment while preparing children for their next academic year.

Kindergarten Prep (age 4 – 5) Jr. Campers will develop the skills necessary for success in Kindergarten such as phonics, fluency, math, reading, and social skills. Afternoons will feature fun, hands-on, STEAM-based activities that incorporate art, science, and music.

Elementary (entering grades 1 – 5 next school year) We take our enriched academic preparation and themed project-based learning to a whole new level! Students will collaborate to tackle real-world problems by utilizing cross-disciplinary academic principles (Math, Science, and Language Arts) and new concepts in a fun and engaging way. Specialized courses at select campuses are also available in Tech and Engineering, Writing and Math, Language, Culture, Science, and Sports.

Middle School (entering grades 6 – 8 next school year) Middle School programs are designed to educate and provide academic, social, and emotional skills. Math and Language Arts concepts are covered, in addition to developing life skills needed for Middle School and beyond. Afternoon options will allow students to explore their interests as well as continue to learn new concepts.

Write Now! Summer Writing Camps

Pleasanton/Palo Alto

Hacienda: (925) 485-5750  | Emerson: (605) 424-1267

www.headsup.org  | writenow@headsup.org

Improve your student’s writing skills this summer at Hacienda School of Pleasanton and Emerson School of Palo Alto. Courses this year are Expository Writing, Creative Writing, and Presentation Techniques. Visit our website for more information.

For more information about these camps, see our online camp directory at www.pleasantonweekly.com/camp_connection/
In Concert

Everyone Sang: From 4 to 6 p.m. on May 19, for this final concert at First Presbyterian Fourth and L Street, Livermore, the Sanctuary Choir and EBPC brings together over 100 singers, a brass ensemble, and percussionists for a grand celebration of the human spirit. Titled after a 1919 poem written to commemorate the end of World War I, "Everyone Sang" is a jubilant commemoration of the power of singing to unite people and heal divides.

Live Comic Book Performance

“Double Jumpers” From 7 to 9:30 p.m. on May 18, at Characterzz Café, 5424 Sunol Blvd. The show will be by needs for nerds. This show is performed by talented voice actors. This comic book is comedic and action packed (and not suitable for children). Join two groups of heroes as they fight perilously to find their way back home.

Talks

Marriage Night Event Live Stream

Best-selling authors Les and Leslie Parrott and Francis Chan will share how to deepen your marriage relationship in a live stream event at 6 p.m. on Friday, May 17 at GraceWay Church, 1183 Quarry Lane. The evening starts with dinner at 6 p.m., followed by the teaching sessions from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Tales

MEMOIRS

Tales from the tour talk about Memoirs. Check in is at 6 p.m. on Friday, May 17 at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Live musical accompaniment will be provided by the Valley Dance Theatre Pit Orchestra. Tickets are $30 for adults and $14 for students 17 years and younger, with a 10 percent discount offered for groups of 10 or more. Tickets may be purchased online at bankheadtheater.org; by phone at 373-6800 or in person at the theater box office Box Office, Tuesday thru Saturday, from 12 noon to 6 p.m. and for two hours prior to show time.

Classes

Family Caregiver Education

Exploring Legal and Financial Issues: When faced with the incapacity of a loved one, reliance on professionals will ensure that families receive the most accurate information about options and protection. To help family caregivers navigate common questions, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on May 18 at Hope Hospice, 6377 Clark Ave., Dublin, Cynthia Thorp, Esq., a local elder law specialist, will share information on this topic. Pre-registration is requested. Please call 829-8770, or email debbie@hopehospice.com.

Support Groups

Lupus and Fibromyalgia Support Group

The group meets at 12 p.m. on the third Saturday of each month, at 227501 Patrick Ave., Hayward (off Tennyson Road). Contact janetisp510@yahoo.com.

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Tri-Valley Connection Support Group

From 7:15 to 8:45 p.m. on Wednesdays, at St.’s Clare Episcopal Church, 33900 San Ramon Road, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Tri-Valley Connection Support Group, meets for education and support for those experiencing a mental illness. Visit nami-trivalley.org, or contact Kelley Thorpe Baker, at (714) 236-3448.

Grief Support Meetings

The death of a loved one is a shattering experience. It leaves us in a state of shock, confusion, pain and sadness. We do not have the time to suffer alone. We invite you to participate in our grief support meetings at 7:30 p.m. on May 23, June 27, July 25 and August 25 at St. Elizabeth Seton, 4005 Stonedige Drive. Please call Eleanor at 846-8708 for more information. All are welcome regardless of religious affiliation.

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Tri-Valley Family/Caregiver Support Group (Pleasanton)

From 7:15 to 8:45 p.m. on the fourth Monday of each month, at 5674 Stonedige Drive, #114, families network, encourage, and support each other through the challenges of advocating and caring for adult loved ones who are diagnosed with a severe mental illness. Resources and information are provided as well. There is no cost.

Seniors

‘Newcomer’s Welcome’ The Friends of the Pleasanton Senior Center are sponsoring a “Newcomer’s Welcome” from 10 a.m. to noon on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5535 Sunol Blvd.

Calendar
Your home on stage
In right hands, rooms become light, bright and airy

By Dolores Fox Cardelli

When prospective buyers look at your home, remember this: There is no second chance to make a first impression.

“Our goal is to highlight your home so you can get the best possible price,” explained Pleasanton resident Holly Flores, co-owner of Picture Perfect Staging.

First she meets with clients — and often their Realtors — in the home.

“We walk from room to room,” Flores said. “We figure out what we can utilize that is already there. Sometimes they have nice things, we can utilize that is already there.

She directs homeowners to move extra furnishings into the garage, as well as removing accessories and clutter.

“We want buyers to focus on the home itself, the size of the room,” Flores said.

Their first look at a home is often in photographs, which are most effective when rooms have large art.

“We want to grab them at first glance,” Flores said.

Large bookcases require special treatment, she said, so they don’t look “busy.”

“I say, scale down to 20 to 25 books, usually hardbacks,” Flores said. “We will have a shelf of books, then a shelf with greenery, then skip a shelf.”

“Staging is trying to make a home look light and bright and airy,” she said, at least here in California.

Unique decorative items also have to go because they don’t work well with decorative pieces that will be brought in.

“Empty houses are my favorite because we can really design the entire house from beginning to end,” Flores said.

They usually estimate their price based on square footage.

“A 2,000-square-foot home that is occupied and might just need art, accessories and towels, runs around $800-$850 and that includes the consultation,” Flores said.

The Realtor often pays the fee, depending on the commission rate.

“The cost for an empty house depends on how many rooms we are staging,” Flores said. “Typically we do kitchens and bathrooms — anything with counters — and the living room, family room and the master bedroom.”

“Sometimes in homes that are occupied, if people don’t want to pay to bring in a lot of furniture, we just do the front room. At least the first impression when opening that door is good.”

They know every item available in their storage facility.

“If we are doing a 2,000-square-foot house, it takes six hours to pack for that — match this bedding, put something on these nightstands — then the staging itself takes two-and-a-half to three hours,” Flores said.

“When you are not working, you’re shopping for more things,” she added.

See STAGE on Page 22

Stagers make rooms look light, bright and airy. Cleaning up clutter is the first step.
Discover a home that transcends imagination. With expansive floor plans and highly sought-after features, the luxurious residences by Ponderosa Homes across the Bay Area invite you to live the way you’ve always envisioned.

From small-town charm to vibrant downtowns, these ideally located new home collections by Ponderosa Homes will transform your every expectation.

Visit any of these charming Ponderosa neighborhoods.

LIVERMORE
THE VINES
Single-Family Homes
Approx. 1,548 – 2,235 Sq. Ft.
From the $800,000s
510.719.0499

THE VINEYARD
COLLECTION II
Coming Late Fall 2019
Single-Family Homes
Approx. 3,230 – 4,540 Sq. Ft.
From the High $1 Millions
925.460.8900

PLEASANTON
ROSE AVENUE ESTATES
Single-Family Homes
Approx. 3,906 – 4,463 Sq. Ft.
From the Low $2 Millions
925.200.4146

SYCAMORE
Single-Family Homes
From the Mid $1.5 Millions
925.200.1633

DANVILLE
RED HAWK
Single-Family Homes
Approx. 3,230 – 4,540 Sq. Ft.
From the Low $2 Millions
925.200.4587

TRACY
ELISSAGARAY RANCH
Single-Family Homes
Approx. 2,405 – 3,531 Sq. Ft.
From the $600,000s
925.701.1563

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“Tim listed and sold our house. His team from the stagers, photographers, cleaners and office staff were first class. The whole emotional experience of selling our home of 35 years was only possible because of Tim. We highly recommend him!!!”

Cindy MacDonald, Calle Alegre, Pleasanton
### OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

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### REAL ESTATE

**BRENTWOOD**
- **739 Richardson Dr** $709,000 | Sun 1-4 | 510-356-8393 | Jodi Trieu 510-356-8393
- **7390 Stagcoach Rd** $949,000 | Sun 1-4 | 510-356-8393 | Stacy Gilbert 510-356-8393

**DUBLIN**
- **4575 Carver Ct** $2,050,000 | Sat 1-4 | 510-356-8393 | Linda Futral 510-356-8393
- **829 Division St #D** $409,000 | Sat 1-4 | 510-356-8393 | Linda Futral 510-356-8393

**LIVERMORE**
- **1479 Fallen Leaf Dr** Call for price | Sat 1-4 | 510-356-8393 | Linda Futral 510-356-8393
- **1874 Railroad Ave #118** $739,000 | Sat 1-4 | 510-356-8393 | Linda Futral 510-356-8393

**PLEASANTON**
- **829 Division St #D** $409,000 | Sun 1-4 | 510-356-8393 | Linda Futral 510-356-8393
- **4002 Nice Ct** Call for price | Sat 1-4 | 510-356-8393 | Linda Futral 510-356-8393

**SAN RAMON**
- **384 Eastridge Dr** $384,000 | Sat 1-4 | 510-356-8393 | Linda Futral 510-356-8393
- **2238 Vintage Ln** $1,729,000 | Sat 1-4 | 510-356-8393 | Linda Futral 510-356-8393
- **1826 Palmer Dr** $1,625,000 | Sat 1-4 | 510-356-8393 | Linda Futral 510-356-8393
- **3830 Phoebe Ct** $1,650,000 | Sat 1-4 | 510-356-8393 | Linda Futral 510-356-8393
- **1217 Piemonte Dr** $2,188,000 | Sat 1-4 | 510-356-8393 | Linda Futral 510-356-8393
- **5940 Muirwood Dr** $1,095,000 | Sat 1-4 | 510-356-8393 | Linda Futral 510-356-8393
- **1093 Shadow Hills Ct** $3,399,000 | Sat 1-4 | 510-356-8393 | Linda Futral 510-356-8393

### STAGE

Continued from Page 19

Recently they staged a home that was occupied, including by live cats and some rescue dogs.

“You have to pretend like you don’t have animals. We have them board for a little bit,” Flores said, quoting the saying: “If you can smell it, you can’t sell it.”

“Tact is one of the biggest things,” she noted. “You want the homeowner very comfortable with you. You are coming in and turning things upside down and doing things they may not be ready to do. You help them see what will help them in the end.”

Holly entered the staging profession after years in customer service at AT&T, which she said honed her personal skills.

“My mom had been staging, and I knew I wanted to do it,” Flores said. “And I always loved staging my home — I was always changing it around.”

She and her best friend Christal Arroyo took courses, became accredited staging professionals, and now have more than 15 years of real estate and staging design experience. They also keep up to date on design trends.

They opened Picture Perfect Staging a few years ago, and most of their customers come from Realtors.

“Our people come to an open house and really like the decorating,” Flores said. After clients are in their new homes, they may call again.

“A few have said, ‘Come to my new home and help me pick colors and furniture.’”

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**You’re Invited to Our Open Houses!**

**ALL OPEN FRIDAY 10:30AM-1:30PM & SUNDAY 2-4PM**

- **3830 Phoebe Court, Pleasanton**
  - Just Listed!
  - Gorgeous 4 bedroom, 3 baths and a den. Stunning granite and alder wood kitchen. Backyard partition with fireplace, kitchen and sparkling pool. Offered at $1,650,000.

- **6745 Menlo Court, Pleasanton**
  - Just Listed!
  - Love at first sight, lovely one level home with almost 1,600 sq ft. Beautifully remodeled kitchen and bathrooms. Priced in the low $1,000,000’s.

- **4575 Carver Court, Pleasanton**
  - Just Listed!
  - Simply adorable one level home with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, granite slab kitchen and remodeled bathrooms. Wonderful backyard with covered patio including outdoor TV. Priced in the low $390,000’s.

- **6853 Massey Court, Pleasanton**
  - Just Listed!
  - Wonderful court location. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Beautifully updated kitchen and elegant cabinetry. Priced in the mid $900,000’s.

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**Keller Williams Tri Valley Realty’s #1 Production Team**
Largest Gibson Model in Desirable Ventana Hills Neighborhood in Premium Location! Five Bedrooms, Three Bathrooms and Approximately 3179 Square Feet. Spacious Master Suite with Fireplace and Retreat (6th Area for Office, Nursery or Exercise Area), Hardwood Flooring New Carpeting and More. Enjoy Views from the Remodeled Gourmet Kitchen, Family Room and Backyard Overlooking Beautiful Mission Park and of Pleasanton Ridge. Large Covered Side Yard Access Area. Entertainers Backyard with Inground Pool & Spa, Built-In BBQ Area. Also Enjoy Sipping Wine on the Viewing Deck or Just Reading and Taking in the Park Views. Walk out the Back Gate and be at the Park in One Minute and it’s a Short Walk to Downtown and Award Winning Schools!

Country Style Farmhouse Style Home on Premium Estate Lot! This Spectacular Custom Home is a Hidden Treasure and Truly a Must See! Enjoy Reading, Sipping a Cup of Tea or a Glass of Your Favorite Livermore Valley Wine in the Swing on Your Own Covered Front Porch. Amazing Private Grounds with Beautiful Landscaped Areas, Mature Trees, Vegetable Planter Box Area, Lawn Area, Built-In Pool, Spa, Waterfall, Outdoor Kitchen BBQ Area with Cozy Fireplace. This Home has Character and Welcomes You in with a Gracious Entryway, and Adjacent Formal Living and Dining Rooms. High Ceilings, Wainscoting, and Window Seats. Open Kitchen Includes Walk-In Pantry, Center Island and Breakfast Bar. Adjacent Family Room Has Built-In Cabinets, Gas Fireplace, and French Doors to Rear Grounds. First Floor Master Suite with Adjacent Office, 3 Bedrooms and 2 Bathrooms Upstairs. Separate Guest Suite with Full Bathroom Above the Garage. Can Serve as Bonus Room, Smart Home Technology and More.


This is not intended as a solicitation if your property is currently listed with another broker. The above information, is based on data received from public sources or third parties and has not be independently verified by the broker, Keller Williams Tri-Valley Realty. If important to readers, readers are advised to verify information to their own satisfaction.
**Pleasanton Market Update**

Spring is here. The sun is out. There is energy. Buyers are out. We are seeing good activity. Long story short, it is a very typical spring market we are seeing right now with inventory up and pending sales up. People are happy. It is a great time right now in the real estate market.

Let’s take a little deeper dive into some of the stats. Inventory is up sharply in Pleasanton for single-family homes. At the end of March there were 82 homes for sale in Pleasanton. That is up from 50 at the end of February, and 42 last year. So inventory is a little higher than it was last year.

Pending sales are also up sharply. 64 pending sales in the month of March, versus 36 in the month of February, versus 76 a year ago. Good activity. We are seeing more inventory, more pending sales. That is indicative of a healthy market.

Closed properties are up as well with 47 in March, compared to 33 in February, and 61 last year. So the market is still not quite as hot as it was last year at this time, but it is still by all measures a very active and strong market at this point.

The median price in March for closed sales was $1.3 million. That is up sharply from $1,130,000 in February, almost a 10% increase there. In March of 2018, a year ago, the median sales price for that month was $1,325,000...

Go to 680Homes.com/blog to read the rest of this article

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**See these homes at 680Homes.com**

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40+ Years of Experience
600+ Properties Listed and Sold
$650M+ In Closed Transactions
150+ Homes Sold in Ruby Hill
$62M+ Sold in 2018

Just Listed

2001 Ruby Hill Drive, Pleasanton
10 Bed | 3.5 Bath | 7,000 Sq Ft | 36 Acres | 29 Acre Vineyard
2.5 Acre Building Site Development Opportunity $7,499,000

Just Listed

1759 Spumante Place, Ruby Hill
5 Bed | 4.5 Bath | 6,403 Sq Ft | 0.54 Acres
$3,248,888

Pending

1841 Spumante Place, Ruby Hill
5,450 Sq Ft | 0.55 Acres | Representing Buyer & Seller | $2,749,000

Pending

301 Kalthoff Common, Ruby Hill Vineyard Estates
8,626 Sq Ft | 17.42 Acres | $3,688,888

Sold

1695 Germano Way, Ruby Hill
7,330 Sq Ft | 0.65 Acres | $2,835,000

Listed & Sold

203 Vallecitos Road, Ruby Hill Vineyard Estates
22 Acres | Represented Buyer & Seller | $1,738,000

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Pleasanton Weekly • May 17, 2019 • Page 25
Just listed Gorgeous Custom Estate in Ruby Hill

Open Sunday 1-4pm

1217 Piemonte Drive, Pleasanton

Gorgeous Custom 4 Bedroom 3.5 Bathroom 3817 Square Foot Estate in Ruby Hill Country Club on over a 26,000 Square Foot lot. This nicely updated home with Classic Architectural details throughout is the perfect blend of Comfortable Elegance embracing both indoor and outdoor living. With a lovely Master Suite ideally located on the main floor this could be your forever home. This is absolutely the home you have been waiting for!

Price $2,188,000

Square footage, acreage, and other information herein, has been received from one or more of a variety of different sources. Such information has not been verified by Alain Pinel Realtors®. If important to buyers, buyers should conduct their own investigation.

Serene Custom Estate Nestled on 2 Flat Acres.

Open Saturday 1:30 to 4:30

6290 Laura Lane, Pleasanton

Absolutely Gorgeous 4000 Square Foot + Solar Powered Custom Estate with an 896 Square Foot Pool House and a Breathtaking Pool all nestled on 2 Flat landscaped acres with the comforts of Country Living but the ease of being City Close. Not far from Callippe Preserve Golf Course and Downtown Pleasanton, this 5 Bedroom 3 Full and 2 Half Bathrooms has Privacy and Peaceful views whether you are sitting on your own Master Bedroom Balcony or Entertaining in your backyard or Cozying up to your Outdoor Fireplace on a Summer Evening. This is a Forever home and one you have to experience in person to truly grasp how special it is!

Price $2,838,000

We have helped over 1,000 happy clients with their real estate needs. Let us do the same for you.

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compass.com
THE ADDRESS IS PLEASANTON
THE EXPERIENCE IS ALAIN PINEL

ALAMO $4,700,000
100 Alamo Ranch Road | 6bd/5/3ba
D.Teigland/M.Jamshidnejad | 925.285.2459
License #01955926 | 04145663
BY APPOINTMENT

PLEASANTON $2,838,000
6290 Laura Lane | 5bd/5ba
Susie Steele | 925.413.9306
License #01290566
OPEN SATURDAY 1:30-4:30

PLEASANTON $2,399,000
1093 Shadow Hills Court | 5bd/5.1ba
Julia Murtagh | 925.997.2411
License #01751854
OPEN SATURDAY 1:00-4:00

PLEASANTON $1,400,000
1915 Foxswallow Circle | 5bd/3ba
Kris Moxley | 925.519.9080
License #0790463
OPEN SAT & SUN 1:00-4:00

LIVERMORE $1,248,000
5489 Carnegie Loop | 4bd/3ba
Linda Futral | 925.980.3561
License #01257605
OPEN SATURDAY 1:00-4:00

LIVERMORE $935,000
5754 Arlene Way | 4bd/2ba
Jo Ann Luisi | 925.583.1106
License #01399250
OPEN SUNDAY 1:00-4:00

SAN JOSE $899,950
5633 Bluegrass Lane | 3bd/1.5ba
Jessica Johnson | 408.455.1697
License #01723385
OPEN SAT & SUN 1:00-4:00

BRENTWOOD $709,000
739 Richardson Drive | 3bd/2.5ba
Jo Ann Luisi | 925.583.1106
License #01399250
OPEN SUNDAY 1:00-4:00

SAN RAMON $455,000
384 Eastridge Drive | 1bd/1ba
Lily McClanahan | 925.209.9328
License #01975835
OPEN SAT & SUN 1:00-4:00

PLEASANTON PRICE UPON REQUEST
5982 Via Del Cielo | 5bd/3ba
Tim McGuire | 925.462.7653
License #01349446
OPEN SAT & SUN 1:00-4:00

PLEASANTON PRICE UPON REQUEST
3114 Lansdown Court | 4bd/3ba
T.McGuire/E. Tia | 925.462.7653
License #01349446 | 20072764
OPEN SAT & SUN 1:00-4:00

LIVERMORE PRICE UPON REQUEST
1479 Fallen Leaf Drive | 3bd/2.5ba
Miranda Mattos | 925.336.7653
License #01260301
OPEN SAT & SUN 1:00-4:00

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