

Pleasanton Weekly

**Downtown
planning debate**

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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

Downtown likely to dominate City Council meeting

The Pleasanton City Council is set to continue its review Tuesday of a task force's recommendations for updating a specific plan for the city's core downtown district as well as the possibility of a new "town square" where the library and Civic Center now stand.



JEB BING

Shell Station at 4212 First St., where the property owners want to build housing on the site.

Tuesday's review will follow the council's lengthy discussion April 16 of the Downtown Specific Plan Update Task Force's latest draft plan.

"The reason that this is before the council is because final consideration of the task force's policy recommendations needed to be made prior to the final draft document being submitted to the Planning Commission and City Council for review," City Manager Nelson Fialho said. "This enables policy issues to be considered upfront by the City Council, rather than at the end."

This will be the council's third "check-in" on recommendations being advanced by the task force, which has held 17 meetings since launching the downtown plan update Jan. 24, 2017.

The council will continue discussions Tuesday on these five issues:

Massage regulations. Fialho said the council will likely delay implementation of new regulations until a more comprehensive update occurs later this year to strengthen the Pleasanton Municipal Code.

Active ground-floor uses on Main Street. The council is expected to grant regulations that would enhance and encourage ground-floor active uses on Main Street, such as shops and restaurants, while providing Gerry Beaudin, the city's community development director, the ability to work with property owners to discourage more banks, salons or real estate offices on Main Street.

Ground-floor residential in the downtown area. The council voted 4-1 at its last meeting to require that any new developments must have only active uses on the ground floor of buildings fronting on Main Street or on a new "town square" site. Residential units and offices would be allowed on second and third stories of ground-floor retail if built above the commercial properties, but not allowed behind those buildings.

Ground-floor access to those upper floors would be allowed, as

it is today, but new development would also have to provide on-site parking so no one is parking on Main Street or in public lots.

Development standards. The council majority voted April 16 to maintain the standard of 40-foot height limit on Main Street buildings, up to 46 feet with a maximum of three stories on future Civic Center site developments and to make Peters and Old Bernal avenues transition zones with new developments limited to 36 feet from today's 40 feet and a maximum of only two stories.

Land-use changes. The council Tuesday will also review, at Councilwoman Kathy Narum's request, its 3-2 vote against the task force's proposal to consider requests by two property owners to annotate or footnote the downtown plan to allow the property owners and the city to consider housing on their properties where they now have businesses, subject to the normal public review and discretionary review process by the Planning Commission and City Council.

Joe Barone and wife Maricela, who own and operate their Barone's restaurant at 425 St. John St., and the Safreno family who owns the Shell station at the corner of First Street and Vineyard Avenue, are asking for the ability to redevelop their sites with a residential project.

Joe Barone told the Weekly that he has no plan to close his popular restaurant in order to build more housing on the largely residential street.

His petition to include a residential review option, similar to the Safrenos', would be an annotation in the city's land-use map that says that a property could be considered for residential or mixed-use or any other combination, rather than have it remain strictly commercial.

The City Council meeting will start at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Civic Center at 200 Old Bernal Ave. ■

Editor's note: Jeb Bing is editor emeritus for the Pleasanton Weekly.

About the Cover

"Big Livermore Valley," a photo by Kerry Joy McGehee, highlights the beauty of the area that the Tri-Valley Conservancy has been working for 25 years to protect for agriculture, parks and wildlife, leaving it a better place for future generations. Cover design by Rosanna Kuruppu. Vol. XX, Number 15

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Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

Do you see yourself living in Pleasanton forever?



Jeff Lewis

High tech business development

I absolutely do. I've traveled all over the world and have yet to discover another town with all of the charm of Pleasanton and a community filled with so many genuinely warm, sincere, interesting people.



Mitchell Williams

High school student

No, because buying a house in Pleasanton is way too expensive. My plan is to someday move to a place like Las Vegas because the real estate there is nice, and you get a whole lot more bang for your buck.



Kayden Dilling

High school student

No, it's too preppy. Everyone cares too much about college and grades. I'd prefer to live in a town someday where I can just live in the moment and live my life without having to be so concerned about all of that.



William Rockoff

Engineer

I likely will. I'm a real outdoorsman and love being able to do so many great day trips in the Bay Area and then come home at the end of the day, totally exhausted and sleep in my own bed. Some of my favorite day trips are hiking Mt. Diablo, exploring the Marin Headlands, Carmel and Point Lobos, taking my dog to her favorite beach in Half Moon Bay, and cycling and surfing in Santa Cruz.



Ellen Schacter

Attorney

Oh, I'm so on the fence about that question. My entire family and I absolutely love Pleasanton. However, my husband and I are considering moving out of state once we retire and our children are grown because the taxes are just so high here. We are considering Eagle, Idaho, which we hear great things about from so many different people.

—Compiled by Nancy Lewis and Jenny Lyness

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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DIGEST

We the People

Amador Valley High School is celebrating another strong performance at the We the People civics competition national finals in Washington, D.C.

The highly decorated Dons team placed second nationwide last weekend after sweeping the state championship in February. The Foothill team, which finished second at state, also qualified for nationals but was eliminated in an earlier round in D.C.

"This team did such a terrific job in an incredibly competitive year," Amador coach Stacey Sklar said. "I am very proud of their hard work." Amador has made it to nationals 17 times over the years and placed 14 times among the top-10 teams, including winning the national title in 1995.

This was the second year in a row that Amador and Foothill both represented California at the national level, with both earning top-four finishes in the 2018 competition.

Bike to Work Day

The city and school district are among the public and private organizations taking part in Bike to Work Day (and Bike to School Day) activities next Thursday (May 9).

The day encourages students, families and commuters to travel to school or work on their bicycle as a clean, fun and healthy alternative to driving.

The city is partnering with Bike East Bay and other groups to put on "energizer stations" Thursday to offer refreshments and merchandise to Bike to Work Day participants. For a full list of locations, visit www.BikeEastBay.org.

For PUSD, Donlon Elementary, all three middle schools and Foothill High will host a celebration 30-45 minutes prior to the start of school for those who bike to school.

'Broadway Treasures'

Valley Concert Chorale invites everyone to an enjoyable evening of songs from Broadway musicals, a spread of food and wine, and a silent auction at "Broadway Treasures Then and Now," taking place at 7:30 p.m. this Saturday at Bothwell Arts Center in Livermore.

Musical selections will include Lerner and Lowe's "Camelot," "Paint Your Wagon" and "My Fair Lady." Contemporary Broadway hits will be music from "Beautiful," "The Carole King Musical," and Disney favorites "Frozen," "The Lion King" and more.

The silent auction items will include vacations, restaurants gift certificates, fine wine, handcrafted items and fine art. Tickets are \$45 at the door. For more information, go to www.valleyconcertchorale.org or call 866-4003. ■

City approves plan to redesign old Sears side of Stoneridge Mall

Owner wants to bring in movie theater, grocery store, health club, restaurants, new retail

By JEREMY WALSH

Stoneridge Shopping Center is on track to receive its first major renovation in nearly 15 years.

The Pleasanton Planning Commission last week unanimously approved design plans from Simon Property Group to demolish the now-vacant Sears building and parking garage the company owns at the mall and replace them with a movie theater, grocery store, a lifestyle health club, an outdoor courtyard, and new

retail and restaurants.

City officials said it's unclear when Simon will begin work on the revitalization project. For now, the former Sears site on the eastern edge of the mall remains empty and appears largely untouched since the department store shut down in January.

When asked to comment on the forthcoming renovations and the construction timeline, a Stoneridge spokesperson said, "As we continue to advance the transformation of the former Sears site at Stoneridge

Shopping Center, there are a number of factors at play. Since city approval was only recently granted, it is too early to share specifics."

Under the now-approved design application, Simon proposes to demolish the 176,000-square-foot former Sears storefront and 1,189-stall parking garage and replace them with almost 256,000 square feet of new multi-use retail and recreation space.

The additions would include three new buildings for retail stores, with exterior walkways connecting

to both floors of the mall.

A fourth new building would include space for a 23,000-square-foot specialty grocery market and two restaurants on the ground floor and a roughly 40,000-square-foot movie theater on the second floor.

The final new building would feature a 125,000-square-foot lifestyle fitness facility with a restaurant space, adjacent to Stoneridge Mall Road. Simon officials told the city they are still working to secure

See MALL on Page 9



Harvest Park Middle School science teacher Theresa Gonsalves (front center) is honored by the Pleasanton school board after being named the district's Teacher of the Year.

PUSD

Teacher of the Year

Harvest Park science teacher Gonsalves wins PUSD award

By JULIA BAUM

Over the course of her 24-year career in education, Theresa "Tessie" Gonsalves estimates she's taught "5,000 or so" students, mostly at Harvest Park Middle School, which she's called home for more than two decades.

After relocating from the San Joaquin Valley to Pleasanton during her early years of teaching, the eighth-grade science instructor quickly became attached to the community. That long-term commitment was recently recognized by the Pleasanton Unified School District, which honored Gonsalves with the district's

coveted Teacher of the Year Award.

"When I first came here, my first job in Pleasanton was at Harvest Park, and I've just always been very loyal to the district and was raised that way," Gonsalves told the Weekly. "You stay loyal to the people who do good by you."

Gonsalves has spent 18 of her 22 years with PUSD at Harvest Park, where she's known by students and staff as the "mama of the science department." Faculty members who anonymously nominated Gonsalves for the prize said she carries out her

work "with a smile and a twinkle in her eye" and "makes us feel like a family."

Growing up in the small farm town of Tulare, about 60 miles north of Bakersfield, Gonsalves was inspired most by instructors who were "more personable" and made the students laugh and feel safe. "I always knew I was going to be a teacher," she said, and pursued her professional path with the intention of teaching middle school, a transitional period that's "never dull."

"Every day is different," she

See AWARD on Page 8

Remembering Ellen Tauscher

Late Tri-Valley leader served in Congress, State Department

By JEREMY WALSH

Former U.S. Rep. Ellen Tauscher, a centrist Democrat who represented the Tri-Valley in Congress for years and was known as a pioneering leader throughout her professional and political careers, died on Monday following a bout with pneumonia, according to a statement released by her family. She was 67.

A one-time Pleasanton resident who went on to serve a far-ranging congressional district that included Livermore and parts of the San Ramon Valley, Tauscher sat in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1997 to 2009 before stepping down during her seventh term to take a leadership position in then-President Barack Obama's administration.

Tauscher, who was battling pneumonia as a complication from esophageal cancer surgery years ago, died at a hospital while surrounded by family members.

"While we knew her as the defining force in our family — either as the mother who fought to make sure Katherine would be able to live a full life after being born premature or as the oldest sister who broke barriers and forged new paths that all of us would later



Ellen Tauscher

See TAUSCHER on Page 10

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Fairlands celebrates start of new fencing project

Measure 11 also funds replacements at Mohr, Harvest Park

By JULIA BAUM

New 8-foot-tall black wrought-iron fencing being installed at Fairlands Elementary School will both enhance campus security and expand outdoor play areas for students, Pleasanton Unified School District officials said during a school-wide ceremony held last Friday to commemorate the occasion.

The entire Fairlands student body and PUSD staff, including principal Shay Galletti, PUSD Superintendent David Haglund and Trustee Joan Laursen, attended the late-morning event at which a number of prizes in various categories were also handed out to different classrooms.

The Fairlands fencing project is the first funded by the 2016 voter-approved Measure 11 facilities bond that the public will really be able to see, according to PUSD officials, since other recent Measure 11-funded upgrades like new HVAC at Pleasanton Middle School and new network cabling and power management at Amador Valley High School aren't as readily visible.

Improved safety on campus is the No. 1 benefit of the new



Fairlands Elementary School students and staff marked the start of the new fencing project with a school-wide event last Friday.

fencing, which is about a quarter of the way completed, Galletti told the Weekly.

"These are projects that were really needed and it's the community coming together to provide for our children," Galletti said about the fencing projects currently underway at Fairlands, as well as Mohr Elementary and Harvest Park Middle schools. "It's also going to be expanding part of our playground," she added, since the new gate will

enclose more of the property.

District facilities and construction director Nick Olsen said state-mandated ADA upgrades on several handicapped parking stalls are also part of the plan. A combined total of \$922,600 in Measure 11 funds will pay for work at all three campuses.

Construction is slated to complete in August, before students arrive for the beginning of the school year. ■

Remembering Tom Morrison, longtime TV30 commentator

Services set for May 15 for popular host of 'Mayor's Report'

By JEB BING

Longtime TV30 commentator Tom Morrison died April 18 with his wife Kathy and family at his side, ending a long battle with cancer. He was 83.

Morrison served as an on-air commentator for Tri-Valley Community Television starting in 1988, first as an announcer and then as co-anchor of "580/680 News." Later, he became the host of "Tri-Valley Mayors Report" until he retired last March.

Now known as TV30, the non-profit television system has been broadcasting since 1976 and provides locally focused programming for the cities of Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton on Comcast channels TV30, 29 and 28.

Morrison graduated from Oakland High School in 1954 and joined the Army. After returning to the Bay Area, he worked as a salesman for various companies before joining the TV30 news team.

When the 580/680 News program was canceled because of budget cuts, Morrison and co-anchor Melinda Meza closed 20 years of regularly scheduled local news at TV30 June 27, 2008 in a farewell



Tom Morrison hosted 'Mayor's Report' for years.

reminiscent of the final episode of "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" when Mary Richards, Ed Asner and Ted Knight tearfully turned out the lights at the fabled WJM newsroom for the last time.

Morrison was the recipient of two prestigious awards from the Bay Area Television Association. TV30's television studio, located in a building next to the Pleasanton Unified School District's headquarters on Bernal Avenue, was recently named "Tom Morrison Studio" in recognition of his decades of service.

"Tom was a truly nice man," said

Melissa Tench-Stevens, executive director of Tri-Valley Community Television. "He was a talented colleague and friend to all of us at TV30. We miss him and are honored we had a chance to be a part of his career and life."

When Morrison retired, Tench-Stevens named former assemblywoman Catharine Baker and Livermore school board member Craig Bueno as co-hosts of the popular "Mayor's Report."

Besides his wife Kathy, Tom Morrison is survived by his sons Kevin Morrison (Laura) and Michael Morrison (Leticia); a sister, Jenean Suess; stepchildren Stacey Morgan (Rick), Kristin Yarwood (Matt), Amy Montez (Steve) and Bradley Stegman (Jessica Sproule), and eight grandchildren. He was predeceased by his ex-wife Betty Morrison.

A memorial mass will be held at 3:30 p.m. May 15 at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 2601 San Ramon Valley Blvd. in San Ramon. In lieu of flowers, Morrison requested a donation be made in his name to the Tri-Valley Community Television Foundation, with contribution details available online at www.tv30foundation.org. ■

Parenting workshop aims to support immigrant families

‘Improving Communication Between Immigrant Parents, Americanized Teens’

By RYAN J. DEGAN

As many parents can attest to, raising and communicating with a teenager can be no easy task, and for immigrant parents caring for children who grew up in the United States, these issues can become exasperated when communication and cultural conflicts collide.

To help provide insight and facilitate improved communication between immigrant parents and their teens, the San Ramon Valley Council of PTAs and the Culture to Culture Foundation have partnered to bring a workshop to San Ramon, “Improving Understanding and Communication between Immigrant Parents and their Americanized Teens and Pre-teens.”

The free-to-attend workshop, part of Stanford Health Care’s Communication Health Interactive for Parents of Adolescents

and Others (CHIPAO) program, will discuss topics that can cause friction between these two groups such as school, relationships, cultural identity, academic and personal success, and challenging stigma against mental health.

According to the Tri-Valley workshop organizers, the event will use role-playing to demonstrate typical problems and strategies toward having more productive conversations between parents and teens, as well as a question-and-answer forum.

Refreshments will be served at the free parenting workshop, which will be held May 11 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Dougherty Valley High School Commons, 10550 Albion Road in San Ramon.

To register or learn more, visit <https://tinyurl.com/y6sqbq2e>. ■

Food for thought

County employees raise 8 tons of food for Community Food Bank

By JULIA BAUM

With its prominent pop culture references and incorporated commercial items, this year’s Alameda County Stone Soup Food Drive and Design Competition could have been mistaken for an Andy Warhol art exhibit.

A classic portrait of famous musician John Lennon sporting his signature round-rimmed glasses and a nearly life-size Iron Throne from the “Game of Thrones” TV series were among the elaborate displays that 16 county employee teams built for the sixth annual contest using donated cans, sacks and boxes of non-perishable food items.

Each year, county employees raise and donate thousands of pounds of food to the Alameda County Community Food Bank, which feeds about one out of every five Alameda County residents. The teams reflected the competition themes of hunger and helping others in their displays, and showed their creativity was anything but canned.

The Board of Supervisors’ display, “Imagine Vision 2026,” which depicted Lennon’s face above the title of his music masterpiece “Imagine,” won the Leadership Award. The winning installation



ALAMEDA COUNTY

The IT Department shared with Chef’s Award for its Iron Throne installation, “Hunger is No Game — Food is Coming.”

“calls on the community to imagine a future in which Alameda County realizes the key goals of its long-term Strategic Vision, called Vision 2026,” county representatives said in a press release.

The Best Recipe Award was shared by the county Administrator’s Office and the Public Works Agency after obtaining both the highest combined judges scores for creativity and food and cash donated.

Going with “what it knows best,” public works designed a street sweeper complete with rotating brooms that urges people to “sweep away the problem of hunger in Alameda County,” while admin staff highlighted Vision 2026 and the six 10x Goals established by the county to support local communities.

Winning the Chef’s Award for the “inspirational use of food donations and creativity,” the District Attorney’s Office display, “Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow,” encourages youths to stay in school and reach their dreams. Not to be usurped, the Information Technology Department also

staked claim on the same prize with its Iron Throne installation, “Hunger is No Game — Food is Coming.”

Social Services and the Auditor-Controller’s Office also shared the Most Creative Award for their displays titled “Fab Five Food Superheroes” and “Let’s Rise Up to End Hunger,” respectively. The entries were awarded with “the highest scores for creativity and imaginative quality,” earning both teams the prize.

More than eight tons of food and over \$13,000 cash were contributed to the Alameda County Community Food Bank, equating to nearly \$100,000 worth of food. Every \$1 donated can be converted into \$7 worth of healthy food items.

This year marks the first time that the drive has taken place outside of the holiday season; the food bank “typically finds it especially difficult to provide food for hungry residents during the first months of the year, after receiving an annual surge of donations during the holidays,” officials said. ■

AWARD

Continued from Page 5

said. “High school is exciting because they’re young adults but middle school ... this is where I feel like I can make the biggest impact. They really are just little kids in big bodies.”

“It takes a certain kind of person to be a teacher and you have to be wired differently for each level,” Gonsalves added. “At the end of the day, I think it’s a very personal professional. That’s why I say we call them our kids and not our students. You have to treat them like you’d want your own child to be treated.”

That means being easygoing, flexible and “super nurturing and patient,” but the biggest challenge that Gonsalves faces as an educator is simply time.

“Making sure you have enough to get to the kids and only having an influence on the kids for while

they’re here at school,” she said. “We have 180 days to do that and that’s probably the biggest challenge we have, is making sure that we can do right by them in such a short amount of time.”

At the end of the day, Gonsalves said her job is “about teaching students to be lifelong learners,” both in and outside the classroom. That means taking on counseling duties as an intervention specialist after the bell rings or whatever else is necessary to keep kids on the right path, so winning an award for her years of service was unusual to her.

“When I got the award, it seemed very odd to me, just because that’s not why I do it,” she said. “That kind of focus, it’s just I’m doing my job.”

Gonsalves is also in the running for the countywide Teacher of the Year award, which will be presented by the Alameda County Office of Education at an annual ceremony later this year. ■

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PPIE takes over elementary music fundraising as PSEE dissolves

Nonprofit considers endowment to bolster fifth-grade music programs

By JULIA BAUM

In a move aimed at boosting support for music and art programs at local schools, the Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation (PPIE) has taken over fundraising efforts once spearheaded by the Pleasanton Schools Educational Enrichment Foundation (PSEE), which dissolved last month.

The recent transition was partly triggered by “a feeling that PPIE could build on the success of PSEE to date and take it to the next level,” PPIE executive director Steve McCoy-Thompson told the Weekly. “I think they just felt like PPIE has a stronger network and has a stronger presence at school sites,” McCoy-Thompson said, adding that “some of the (PSEE) board members had moved on, so the timing was right.”

PPIE has assumed responsibility for raising money for elementary school music programs that were once the focus of PSEE, especially

those geared towards students in fifth grade.

Fifth grade is a critical time for keeping students interested in playing music, according to former PSEE vice president Mark Aubel, largely because the friendships formed with other bandmates during that year makes them more likely to continue in the next year.

“Fifth grade band and strings really is the cornerstone for our nationally acclaimed music program,” Aubel said in a statement. “We are excited to collaborate with PPIE in building this program for years to come.”

Entering the PPIE fold with Aubel will be former PSEE board member Viji Manickam, whom McCoy-Thompson said will help make for a seamless changing of the guard. “She’s a main figure in one of PSEE’s primary fundraising activities, which is the Dandiya Dance in the fall,” he said. “It’s a big fun affair and so we’ll actually have quite a

bit of continuity with Viji since she’s already on our board.”

PPIE is also exploring “the possibility of creating a music endowment to support elementary music” that would help “refresh” and sustain the Denise Watkins Fund, a large donation that was made in 2011 to PSEE and subsequently turned over to Pleasanton Unified School District.

In addition, PPIE is also “going to resurrect a request of fifth-grade parents to make a donation to help cover the cost for the teachers” of those fifth-grade programs currently paid for by the Watkins Fund.

“We will continue to draw down from the Denise Watkins Fund but at a lower level so that we can extend the life of that fund” while also receiving financial support from PUSD, McCoy-Thompson added. The programs will also keep receiving help from other funds and events, like PSEE’s annual spring concert, which will continue under the leadership of PPIE. ■

Zone 7 directors oppose governor’s plan to tax drinking water

Board instead stands behind Senate Bill 669 to form Safe Drinking Water Trust

By JULIA BAUM

Taking a stand against Gov. Gavin Newsom’s proposed statewide drinking water tax, the Zone 7 Board of Directors unanimously voted to officially oppose the proposal last month.

Director Dick Quigley stated that “taxing water sets a terrible precedent” that would burden disadvantaged communities and increase retailer costs.

Nearly 800,000 Californians lack access to safe and reliable drinking water, according to the State Water Resources Control Board, which has also identified 329 systems throughout the state that either serve contaminated drinking water or cannot provide reliable service due to inadequate infrastructure or because they lack the necessary

resources to do so.

During his first few days in office, Newsom proposed a statewide tax on drinking water that would raise approximately \$140 million annually to fund solutions for those communities.

Revenue would be collected on drinking water for residential, business, industrial and institutional customers, and range from 95 cents to \$10 a month, depending on meter size. Fees charged to dairy producers and feedlot operators would generate the remaining \$30 million.

The Zone 7 board called it “unthinkable” that some California residents lack access to clean and safe drinking water, but said a drinking water tax would be “regressive” and not the right solution.

Instead, all of the agency’s directors have unanimously thrown their support behind Senate Bill 669, which would create a Safe Drinking Water Trust to help those same communities.

The trust would be formed within the State Treasury and paid by general fund dollars while the state is in a budget surplus. The principal would be invested and net income from the Trust would be transferred to a Safe Water Drinking Fund overseen by the state water board.

In a statement, Zone 7 said “this proposal would create a durable funding source for costs associated with operation and maintenance and consolidation efforts and would complement existing federal and state funding sources for capital costs.” ■

MALL

Continued from Page 5

a health club tenant, and if that falls through, they are interested in pursuing a possible hotel in that building instead — though a hotel switch would require separate review by the City Council.

Other key aspects of Simon’s proposal include adding back only 110 street-level parking spaces — resulting in a net reduction of 1,104 spots at the mall, with the loss of the Sears garage — as well as closing off six of the nine driveway openings onto Stoneridge Mall Road.

The planning commissioners, confirming the early support of the concept with minor design modifications they expressed during a public workshop on the proposal two months ago, voted 4-0 to give final approval to Simon’s project on April 24, with Chair Nancy Allen absent from the meeting.

All told, Simon project would represent the first major renovation at the 40-year-old mall since the Cheesecake Factory and P.F. Chang’s restaurants were built in 2005.

There is no new housing contemplated as part of the current project. It is unclear whether this

is a one-off redevelopment, or if Simon officials have other projects planned to revitalize the mall site.

But the City Council did acknowledge the speculation arising with other Stoneridge buildings, including those not owned by Simon, by adding a Stoneridge Mall planning framework to its new two-year work plan.

The priority project for city staff is described as “based on redevelopment interest in the Stoneridge Mall area, develop a planning framework that outlines the community’s expectations, allowed uses and public amenities.” ■



BELLA LUNA STUDIOS

Ilona Bray, author of “Mossby’s Magic Carpet Handbook,” and students consider the science behind flying a magic carpet by pondering the principles of gravity.

Author Day inspires young writers at Mohr

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Authors young and old can use a little inspiration.

To that end, volunteer Christina Gray put together the first Author Day at Mohr Elementary School last month. Six local published and non-published authors talked to students from the five second-grade classes about following their dreams.

“The visit from each author helped to create a meaningful connection between the work that students have been doing in the classroom to the reality of becoming a published author,” principal Julie Berglin said. “Students had the opportunity to hear authors share their own process of developing and drafting ideas, pre-writing, editing and the stamina it takes to work through this multiple times to the rewarding end stages of book publication.”

Gray, a photographer and owner of Bella Luna Studios, published her book, “Be Free Cooking: The Allergen Aware Cook,” four years ago. Around that time, she began Writing & Food Fun Workshops for second-graders at Mohr, where her children attended, to inspire the young students to write and enjoy the creative process.

“In an effort to keep that momentum going, I created Author Day, where six local authors presented their own stories of perseverance,” Gray said.

The visiting authors were Julie Bayless, Ilona Bray, Nanette Hefferman, Kara Navolio, Nadia Salomon and Meera Sriram.

Also on Author Day, the Rising Star section of the school library was unveiled. It has bins with photocopies of students’ original manuscripts available for others to read, which gives the young authors a chance to “publish” their works, an incentive to keep writing.

“In the two short weeks since its installation, multiple manuscripts have already been ‘published’ with titles such as ‘The Hot Dog Who Was a Lunatic,’ ‘Finding Pup,’ ‘Legos’ and ‘Dance and Sing Along,’” Gray said.

Principal Berglin said the author visits fostered an increased sense of excitement and confidence in the writing process for the students.

Second-grade teacher Michelle O’Connor was also enthusiastic about Author Day.

“All of the presentations were thoughtful, entertaining and educational,” she said. “My class could easily feel the overflowing amounts of love, time and pride that was put into each and every book.”

The students also learned that it is OK to fail, then try and try again.

“These amazing authors clearly did not give up — an excellent message to send to our young writers,” O’Connor said. “It was truly a magical day.” ■

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Camp Connection

Summer 2019

Camp Gan Israel

(925) 846-0700 | cgitrivalley.com | rabbijosh@jewishtrivalley.com
June 24-July 19 | Ages 5-14

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, archery, cooking, boating, science, hiking, 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 or experience 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
(925) 426-8656 | www.valleyhumane.org

Join Valley Humane Society for Critter Camp this summer, a fun, fur-filled humane education program offering an exciting variety of animal activities, games, crafts, special guests, 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
(925) 271-0015 | www.KidzKraftz.com

Focus on sewing stylish, 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 fabric for first day of the camp. Pizza party on last day of the camp. Early Bird Registration Special, as well as many discount options available.

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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 inquiry-based projects that develop foundational skills in phonics, math, motor skills, music, social skills, and more!

Kindergarten Prep (age 4 – 5) Jr. Campers will develop the skills necessary for success in Kindergarten like phonics, fluency, math, printing, 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-curricular academic principles (Math, Science, and Language Arts) and new concepts in a fun and engaging way. Specialized courses at select campuses 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 will be 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.

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Pleasanton/Palo Alto

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www.headsup.org | writenow@headsup.org

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

TAUSCHER

Continued from Page 5

follow — the public knew her for the history she made throughout her life," Tauscher's family said Tuesday morning.

The family's statement noted her long list of achievements, including being the youngest and one of the first women to hold a seat on the New York Stock Exchange, and founding the first national research service to help parents verify the background of child care workers.

"You can see Ellen's legacy in the lives made just that much better, that much safer, that much more secure in the East Bay, in California, in America, and across the world," the family's statement said.

U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-California), a longtime friend of Tauscher's, was among the elected leaders to issue a statement Tuesday mourning the loss of her former congressional colleague.

"Ellen was brilliant, gracious and generous and always did her level best to lift up those around her," Feinstein said. "Ellen was a best friend and I'll never forget her."

Tauscher chaired Feinstein's first two Senate campaigns before going on to win her own East Bay seat in Congress.

"She remains an inspiration for all of us in Congress, and I hope younger members will look to her as an example to emulate," Feinstein added.

Born and raised in New Jersey, Tauscher earned a bachelor's degree from Seton Hall University and went on to work as an investment banker. She would also hold positions on the New York Stock Exchange and American Stock Exchange during her investment career.

After moving to California in the late-1980s, Tauscher founded the ChildCare Registry, a first-of-its-kind national background search service focusing on child care workers.

Helping Feinstein win election to the Senate in 1992 and 1994, Tauscher then turned her attention to her own political career and

successfully unseated Republican incumbent Bill Baker in the 10th Congressional District in 1996. She won re-election six more times.

In 2009, Tauscher stepped down from Congress to become a leader in the U.S. State Department, as under secretary of state for arms control and international security, a position she held for nearly three years.

Tauscher, who retired from the State Department in 2012, held various roles in private and public sectors in the ensuing years. Then-Gov. Jerry Brown appointed her to the University of California Board of Regents in 2017, and she was also serving on the Board of Governors for Lawrence Livermore National Security LLC — both positions she held until her death.

"Ellen Tauscher was a force: a force who passionately served her constituents, a force for good in the world as one of America's top diplomats, and always a force of loyalty for any friend who counted on her. We will miss her dearly," said presidential candidate and U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-Dublin), who interned for Tauscher as a college student in 2001.

"I would not be where I am, or who I am, if not for Ellen Tauscher," Swalwell added in a statement. "She broke the mold again and again ... In all these things and more, Ellen Tauscher was a bold and selfless champion who strove at every turn to make our world a better, safer, healthier place."

The Tri-Valley's other congressman, U.S. Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (D-Concord), also reflected on the death of his friend and fellow Contra Costa County leader.

"Ellen was a public servant, fierce advocate, and glass ceiling breaker," DeSaulnier said in a statement. "Ellen lived a life in service to others. I am honored to have called her a friend. My heart goes out to her family and loved ones in Contra Costa and across the nation."

Details on memorial services will be forthcoming, according to Tauscher's family. ■

Editor's note: Information from the Bay City News Service was used in this report.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Swalwell in debate

U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-Dublin), who is running for the Democratic Party nomination for President in 2020, announced this week that he has qualified to participate in the Democratic National Committee's first presidential debate by breaking through the polling threshold in a third DNC-recognized poll.

The 38-year-old Tri-Valley native cleared the 1% threshold in recent polls by Monmouth University (surveying Iowa voters), University of New Hampshire (New Hampshire voters) and CNN nationally.

"I'm grateful that I'll have a place on the debate stage to discuss ending gun violence, providing affordable healthcare for all while finding cures in our lifetime, ensuring all communities have top-notch schools, and making sure student loan debt isn't a lifetime burden," Swalwell said.

The DNC will host the first presidential debate on June 26-27 in Miami.

State of the City

Livermore Mayor John Marchand is set to deliver his State of the City address later this month at a luncheon hosted by the Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Marchand is expected to report on the city of Livermore's progress in meeting citizen and stakeholder expectations while supporting a vibrant and sustainable economy, according to chamber officials.

Pre-registration is required, with tickets costing \$55 per seat for chamber members, \$65 each for non-members. The event will run from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. May 23 at the Robert Livermore Community Center (4444 East Ave.). Visit www.livermorechamber.org.

Vintage Hills traffic

The city of Pleasanton is hosting a neighborhood meeting for residents in the area of Vintage Hills Elementary School to discuss traffic concerns.

Some residents have raised concerns about student and pedestrian safety at the intersection of Concord Street and Grillo Court near the school. The city meeting is set for 6-7 p.m. May 13 in the council chambers at 200 Old Bernal Ave. Call 931-5677.


County arts awards

The Alameda County Arts Commission is accepting nominations until May 15 for the 2019 Arts Leadership Awards.

Nominees must be residents of Alameda County and involved in an arts discipline such as music, dance, visual arts, literature, theater, film and video, traditional crafts and folk arts, and new media. They must be affiliated with an Alameda County arts organization through their role.

For complete details, or to submit a nomination, visit www.acgov.org/arts/awards. ■

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON



UPCOMING MEETING

City Council
Tuesday, May 7, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Continued from April 16, 2019 – Downtown Specific Plan Update: Review policy direction to staff and the Downtown Specific Plan Task Force on five topics including reconsideration of property owner-requested land uses changes
- Review and consider the Trails Master Plan, CIP No. 16734
- Receive a presentation of Mobility Forward Tri-Valley Paratransit Study and adopt Final Report

To explore more about Pleasanton,
visit us at www.cityofpleasantonca.gov

POLICE BULLETIN

Oakland jail closing; inmates moving to Dublin

The Glen Dyer Jail in Oakland is expected to close in June because of budgetary concerns, Alameda County Sheriff Greg Ahern announced last Friday.

The jail at 550 Sixth St. is expected to close by June 1, sheriff's spokesman Sgt. J.D. Nelson said.

Nelson said the closure is something the sheriff has been considering for some time.

"We hope that this will alleviate some of our budget shortfall," he said, adding that it will reduce overtime and provide inmates with better medical care.

Inmates at the Glen Dyer Jail will be moved to the Santa Rita Jail in Dublin. Sheriff's spokesman Sgt. Ray Kelly said when the inmates are moved will not be made public for safety and security reasons.

Kelly said he expects all the inmates will be moved before the end of June.

Nelson said there is room at the Santa Rita Jail for the inmates from Oakland so crowding will not be an issue.

In other business

The BART Board of Directors approved a policy last week to govern the installation and use of cameras that can capture images of vehicle license plates at the transit system's parking lots and garages.

The board at its meeting in Oakland voted unanimously to approve the policy that, in the wake of BART's aborted previous attempt in 2016, seeks to balance security improvements with privacy protections.

"This has been a long time coming. In fact it's been too long," said BART Director John McPartland, whose district includes both Dublin-Pleasanton stations. "It's long overdue."

The approved policy states that the cameras will operate 24 hours a day and will be used "for BART criminal investigations and to monitor activity to protect against harm to persons and property."

License plate readers have been shown to lead to the recovery of half of all vehicles stolen from areas that have implemented the technology, according to BART officials. In addition to helping with the recovery of stolen property, the technology will serve as a crime deterrent.

Still, skeptics of this type of "mass surveillance" technology argue that it can lead to intrusions into law-abiding riders' privacy, as well as civil rights abuses.

The BART board vote doesn't mean that cameras will be cropping up all over the system immediately.

The four cameras BART initially installed at the MacArthur parking lot will be placed at a yet-to-be-determined station as part of a pilot program that will last for several months. The board will then have to hold another vote to approve a system-wide implementation of the technology. ■

—Bay City News Service

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

April 28

Theft from auto

■ 7:58 p.m. on the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

Domestic battery

■ 6:57 p.m. on Santa Rita Road

DUI

■ 12:06 a.m. at Foothill Road and Stoneridge Drive

■ 6:57 p.m. on the 4100 block of First Street

Vandalism

■ 2:16 a.m. on the 3500 block of Norton Way

April 27

Drug violation

■ 7:50 a.m. on the 6400 block of Owens Drive

■ 9:02 p.m. on the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Theft

■ 11:34 a.m. on the 8000 block of Ensenada Drive

■ 2:59 p.m. on the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

■ 8:08 p.m. on the 600 block of Crystal Court

DUI

■ 12:42 a.m. on the 4800 block of Hopyard Road

■ 7:13 p.m. at Stoneridge Drive and Stoneridge Mall Road

Burglary

■ 2:06 p.m. on the 4700 block of Willow Road

Alcohol violation

■ 10:21 a.m. on the 4700 block of Willow Road

POLICE REPORT

Assault/battery

■ 12:53 a.m. on the 1400 block of Harvest Road

April 26

Theft

■ 1:24 p.m., 7600 block of Stoneridge Drive; shoplifting

■ 6:41 p.m. on the 5700 block of Owens Drive

■ 6:48 p.m., 2300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Vandalism

■ 6 p.m. on the 600 block of Main Street

DUI

■ 2:45 p.m. at Stoneridge and Franklin drives

Domestic battery

■ 12:14 p.m. on Vineyard Avenue

Fraud

■ 9:53 a.m. on the 1500 block of Greenwood Road

April 25

DUI

■ 10:46 p.m. at Stoneridge Drive and Tom Burnett Lane

Burglary

■ 7:59 p.m. on the 3600 block of Dunsmuir Circle

Theft

■ 8:50 a.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

■ 8:59 a.m., 4500 block of El Dorado Court; theft from auto

■ 7:22 p.m., 6000 block of Johnson Drive; theft from auto

Domestic battery

■ 1:41 p.m. on Rosewood Drive

Robbery

■ 10:58 p.m. on the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

April 24

Burglary

■ 2:03 p.m. on the 1100 block of Lund Ranch Road

■ 3:22 p.m. on the 800 block of Bonita Avenue

■ 6:48 p.m. on the 800 block of East Angela Street

Theft from auto

■ 9:09 a.m. on the 6800 block of Herrin Court

April 23

Burglary

■ 3:11 p.m. on the 900 block of Montevino Drive

■ 3:34 p.m. on the 4600 block of Mirador Drive

Ronald Robert Wing

November 26, 1948 – April 21, 2019



Ron "mosquito bite" Wing, formerly of Pleasanton, departed this life on Easter Sunday, 2019; he was 70 years of age. Ron started in the family farming business at an early age, and was known for his mechanical and welding skills. He was retired from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Ron graduated from Amador Union High School in 1966, and studied

Automotive Technology at Chabot College. He had a love of the outdoors: enjoying camping, skiing, boating, fishing, hunting, racing, gardening, canning (those peppers!), and many other endeavors. His annual vacation included trips on the Jeepers Jamboree, starting before he was actually old enough to drive it. He was active in his community, supportive of local 4H and FFA groups, Livermore Gun Club, the Livermore Rodeo, a past vice-president of the Gladiators Car Club, a member of Joaquin Murrieta #13 ECV, a former Mountain House School District Board member, and many other unassuming roles. Ron loved animals, and was never without at least one dog at his side.

Ron was preceded in death by his parents, Robert "Bob" Wing and Laurine Wing.

Ron leaves behind his beloved, LoriAnn Bayless, and his children: Jamie (Eric) Castro of Banta, CA; Jessica (Matt) Steed of Albemarle, NC; and Justin Wing of Oak Run, CA. Ron is also survived by his step-mother, Betty Wing, of Manteca, CA, and his sister, Carolyn (Bob) Purtyman of Prescott, AZ. Ron loved his nine grandchildren: Bethanee (Jenner) Franey, Adrianna Castro, Vallerie (Elliott) Mello, Erica (Bradley) Schopf, Marissa Castro, Derek Wing, Alyssa Wing, Katelynn Wing, and Gibson Steed. Also survived by Ron are his nephew, Glen (Kimberly) Plake of Silver Springs, NV, and his niece, Tamara (Dave) Bunnett of South Lake Tahoe, CA, and grandnieces, Danica and Tatum Bunnett of South Lake Tahoe, CA.

Internment will be at Dublin Pioneer Cemetery. Arrangements by Graham-Hitch Mortuary, 4167 First St, Pleasanton, CA 94566. A memorial service will be held at Dublin Pioneer Cemetery (6600 Donlon Way, Dublin, CA) on Saturday, May 4, at 11am, followed by lunch at the adjacent Kolb Sunday School Barn. In lieu of flowers, Ron may be honored by supporting the preservation of the history of the area he was proud to be a part with donations made to Dublin Historic Preservation Association (www.dhpa.org).

PAID OBITUARY

Margaret "Sue" Vierk

April 8, 1935 – April 22, 2019

Longtime Pleasanton resident Margaret "Sue" Vierk left behind her devoted husband Stanley and family on April 22, 2019, after a feisty, hard-fought battle with vascular dementia.

Sue was born in 1935 to Dorothy and Dr. Eugene Powell, in Lincoln, Nebraska, the only girl after five older brothers. Her stories about her brothers' mischief kept our family laughing for years. Her saucy wit and sense of humor continued well into the progression of her illness.

After graduating from University of Nebraska, Sue taught high school English, and went on to teach computer literacy to pre-schoolers in Pleasanton, while developing a secret love of computer games. Her passion for literature, history and education led her children to work in educational fields. Her children include Kerry (m. Paul) Nozicka; Pamela (m. Matt) Ballin; Matthew (m. Claire) Vierk; Victoria (m. Peter) Kazarian; and Todd Vierk (passed in 1966). Her beloved grandchildren include Peter, Armen, Lisa, Emmy, Hannah, Braeton and London.

Sue loved people and any activity that connected her with people. She bowled, played bunco, games and cards, and enjoyed neighborhood get-togethers, crafts and genealogical activities. She leaves behind many friends, who fondly remember her loyal friendship and sense of fun.

Special love and gratitude to Stanley Vierk, who went the distance in caring for Sue at home for the nearly 14 years of her illness.

Interment will be at Memory Gardens in Livermore, followed by a private Celebration of Life.



PAID OBITUARY



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Concert tribute to Alan Hu

New foundation opens to spread mental illness awareness

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

A new nonprofit group in town is dedicated to mental health awareness — the Alan Hu Foundation — and it will be introduced to the community through a special concert May 18 called “Bridge over Troubled Waters.”

The foundation was started by Alan's parents, Xiaofang Chen and Chih-Ching Hu, to promote mental health awareness after the Pleasanton boy died by suicide last year at the age of 15. They also want to remove the stigma surrounding psychiatric disorders and support research for cures.

“Alan was an amazing kid — we didn't see any of it coming,” said his mother Xiaofang Chen. “He passed away due to his illness, and we felt strongly that if we had known something about mental illness way before he got sick, we might have picked up something and helped him much earlier before he reached out to us and he might have recovered. But we did not know what to look for. We want to help other parents to be more educated about mental illness by carrying out our mission.

“There is a lot of misunderstanding about mental illness and suicide

Seek help

Anyone in need of support can contact Crisis Support Services of Alameda County's 24-hour confidential crisis line at 800-309-2131 or CrisisSupport.org, or the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-8255, via text at 800-799-4889, chat or at SuicidePreventionLifeline.org.

due to mental illness,” she continued. “I don't think Alan had a choice. We need cures for mental illness so people who have them will not be attacked by suicidal thoughts. If they are attacking you 24/7, it is very hard. That is why we will support fundamental research for cures.

“Once we share the information about mental illness — and people understand it's an illness — the stigma will disappear.”

On their website, AlanHuFoundation.org, Chen tells of seeing an extraordinary future in Alan's eyes at his birth, which continued through his childhood.

“He was sweet, independent, gifted, poetic, musical, creative and athletic,” she writes.

Alan began to read at age 3 and

throughout his childhood he used books to learn everything, from origami to how to put on a magic show to how to install the family's garage door opener. His interests included violin, chess, baseball, Spanish, Chinese, Tae-kwon-do, archery, swimming, piano, martial arts, cello, tennis and weightlifting.

Alan also never missed a chance to promote his younger brother, Michael, and he considered his many friends to be part of his family.

But by June 2016, things had changed within Alan, and he went to his parents for help after he researched it.

“It could be depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), Asperger's syndrome, or something else,” Chen recalls Alan saying.

They immediately went to his pediatrician, then a psychologist and a psychiatrist. After years of help, including a treatment center and a private school, they thought Alan was on the way to recovery. But he died by suicide on Jan. 7, 2018.

“Alan was surrounded by dotting parents, his brother and grandparents, supportive teachers and friends, but his mental diseases still made him feel extremely lonely,” Chen writes. “His pain was real and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Alan Hu, a gifted cellist, after he performed at the inauguration concert of Youth Orchestra Gradus ad Parnassum on Nov. 22, 2015.

unbearable, yet it was invisible.”

His parents started the Alan Hu Foundation to carry out Alan's wish to bring a better day to others who suffer from mental diseases.

Alan, a talented cellist, played in the string orchestras when attending Harvest Park Middle School and Amador Valley High, and his fellow musicians were among his best friends.

“Alan always enjoyed music, even

when he was very sick,” Chen said.

Board members of the fledgling foundation, which include Marsha McInnis, Mark Rahman and Lynn Gatehouse, agreed that a concert would be a fitting tribute to Alan's memory, and an appropriate way to introduce the organization to the community. Amador Valley High music teacher Mark Aubel stepped up to plan the program and direct the concert, which will include student ensembles from both Amador Valley and Harvest Park and many of Alan's friends and classmates.

Featured soloists will be professional musicians and teachers Brady Anderson, Abraham Becker, Yuting Chen, Beth Tomlin and Ewen Tsai.

Money raised at the concert will go toward the foundation's 2019 projects: speakers to inform the public on the latest scientific research on mental disorders, and sponsoring a high school mental health club.

Future projects are being planned for suicide prevention programs for schools; grants awarded for research; and an Alan Hu Foundation Scholarship for students who plan to study psychiatry or psychology.

The concert is at 4 p.m. May 18 at Lynnewood United Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave. There is no charge but donations will be gratefully accepted; attendees are requested to RSVP by May 10 at AlanHuFoundation.org.

In addition to the musical performances, there will be a silent auction, as well as representatives from local mental health organizations to provide resources and answer questions. Doors open at 3:30 p.m. ■

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RCFE License in Process



Encore Players presenting 'Almost, Maine'

Visit the town where magical moments occur in a heartbeat

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Encore Players invites Tri-Valley theatergoers to visit "Almost, Maine," a remote, mythical, almost-town where its people explore love and loss one cold, clear, slightly surreal night during the Northern Lights.

Ray Spooner, veteran actor, teacher, director and chairman of the board of Encore Players, is making his debut as director with the troupe, which was originally aimed at ages 50 and older but has evolved to be multi-generational.

Spooner has expanded the cast for "Almost, Maine" to 16 members who range in age from high school to seasoned actors.

"This play is a very deeply thoughtful piece on life and relationships," Spooner said. "People at various stages of their own lives will see themselves reflected in one or more of these vignettes. Spread the word and enjoy this wonderful cast of players."

The actors come from Livermore and Pleasanton and others from farther afield including Sunol, Martinez,

Oakland and Los Gatos.

"Almost, Maine" has eight scenes plus a prologue and epilogue, giving each actor a chance to shine. The variety of vignettes will take the audience through humor, heartbreak, falling in love, and everything in between.

Co-producer Marsha Howard, a Pleasanton resident, has worked on Encore productions before.

"Once the acting bug bites you, it's hard to shake," Howard said. "But as you age, you find fewer opportunities. I'm glad Encore provides opportunities for 'mature' actors."

Encore vice chairwoman Martie Muldoon, a retired Pleasanton music teacher, is co-producing.

"After directing Encore's most recent production, 'The Last Romance,' I'm excited to return to the stage with this unique play," Muldoon said. "I'm especially thrilled to be sharing the stage with two young ladies I taught and directed as youth. I worked with Rebecca Bernstein at Asbury Methodist Church, as youth choir and musical director."

"I ran into Rebecca at a blood drive and invited her to audition as we were both donating blood," she continued, adding:

"Maya Allwardt was a talented student in my music class at Mohr Elementary in Pleasanton. It's fun to work with former students on an equal basis in a play."

Playwright John Cariani explained that the people of "Almost, Maine" are rural Americans who are not "cuddly and cute" but they are "hard-working, ordinary people."

"They just take time to wonder about things," he said. "They are normally very grounded but sometimes they become excited by love — and other extraordinary occurrences."

Performances are May 10-12: 8 p.m. Friday; 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday; and 2 p.m. Sunday, at the West End Theater, Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 Eighth St., Livermore.

Tickets are \$25 general, and \$20 seniors 62 and older. Purchase at Iypac.org or at the door, if available. Performances will be followed by a reception. ■



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

All ages can enjoy the Summer Ukulele Jam this summer.

Joy in the vineyards

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Ukuleles be jammin' this summer at Charles R Vineyards, and anyone with a ukulele is welcome to participate.

"Ukulele is easy to play for anyone, at any age," said singer/songwriter Steve Kritzer, who is leading the Summer Ukulele Jam. "It's inclusive, has an irresistibly happy sound, and lets anyone join with others to make music."

Music will be provided, including easy songs for beginners, and an open mic session will allow those with more expertise a chance to strut their stuff. And those without a ukulele can enjoy the music and sing along.

"We're really excited to host the Ukulele Jam," said winery owner

Bonnie Bartlett. "It will be so much fun to play or to relax and appreciate the talents of others."

The first jam session is 1-4 p.m. this Saturday, and it continues the fourth Saturday of every month, May 25 through Sept. 28. The event is free for participants and audience.

Kritzer has recorded five award-winning CDs and taught for 25 years, including guitar, mandolin, banjo, ukulele, bass, songwriting and theory.

"Ukulele brings out the joy in people," he said. "I'm really looking forward to the Ukulele Jam."

"Charles R Vineyards offers the perfect environment for us to gather and enjoy the afternoon," he added. ■

'Art Made Easy' exhibit

Watercolor works on display at Senior Center next week

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Next week is the 26th annual "Art Made Easy Student Art Show," displaying works from classes taught by watercolor artist Charlotte Severin. The exhibit will be at the Pleasanton Senior Center and the public is invited to an opening reception on Monday from 7-9 p.m.

Each student will have a panel of work displayed, and so will Severin, a renowned Pleasanton artist.

"The artists are getting better and better," Severin said. "Some of them have been with me for more than 20 years."

"It's a time you put aside to paint," she explained. "We do a different subject matter every week."

Participating artists are Cindy Alvarez, Cynthia Altman, Stephen Barkkarie, Vilma Buhre, Terry Cordero, Claudia Curran, Pushpa Dalal,

Kathleen Elm, Steffi Gross, Virginia Iverson, Henry Murakami, Betty Nostrand, Patricia Rohavi, Helene Roylance, Gerri Vegas, Marsha Young and Severin.

"Art Made Easy" classes, offered through the city of Pleasanton, meet in the Firehouse Arts Center classrooms from 1-4 p.m. Thursdays with three sessions, fall, winter and spring, usually six weeks.

"It is a three-hour class," Severin said. "It is my soul. As long as I can, I will keep on painting. I love the students, who are at all different levels."

The final spring class meets after the showing, a field trip to Alden Lane Nursery to paint the plants and flowers.

"There is always something interesting in there," Severin said.

The students are intermediate to advanced, she said. To join the class,

they need some experience and can qualify by watching her four "Art Made Easy" DVDs, which are available at the Pleasanton Library.

Some are already artists but are just moving into watercolor.

"One woman is just abstract. One Japanese man did a picture of a kabuki dancer that was his father," Severin said. "One week we did people, one we were experimenting with collage rocks and water."

They also paint flowers she brings in from her garden, and model other paintings on photographs she brings in, including the Horsetail Fall in Yosemite. The final class they paint wild animals or a fantastic sunset.

The exhibit continues at the Senior Center (5353 Sunol Blvd.) through noon next Friday (May 10), open during business hours, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. ■

Tri-Valley Rep lines up next season

Four musicals, two venues for great performances

Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre has announced its 36th season, with two shows at the Firehouse Arts Center in downtown Pleasanton and another two at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore.

The 2019-20 season opens with "The Fantasticks" at the Firehouse from Nov. 2-17. This funny and romantic show that began in 1960 is the longest running musical in the world.

Next up is "Mamma Mia!" from

Jan. 18 to Feb. 2, 2020, at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore, a tale set on a Greek island paradise to popular ABBA songs.

"Damn Yankees" will run from April 25 to May 10, 2020, back at the Firehouse. This sporty musical comedy, an American classic, won seven Tony Awards.

Last in the season, "Children of Eden," a joyous and inspirational musical about parents, children and faith, will be at the Bankhead

from July 18 to Aug. 2, 2020.

Still ahead in the current season is "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," the irresistible family musical about the trials and triumphs of Joseph, Israel's favorite son, from July 20-Aug. 4 this summer at the Bankhead Theater.

For more information and to order tickets, visit www.trivalleyrep.org or call 462-2121. ■

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli

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RICK PROBST

“Historic Livermore View” by Rick Probst was entered into the Tri-Valley Conservancy’s annual Freeze Frame photo competition. The 2019 entries are on exhibit this month at the Livermore Library.

Volunteers welcome

Tri-Valley Conservancy has many types of volunteer opportunities:

- Environmental educators to teach classes and lead field trips, for anyone with a flexible schedule who would enjoy teaching children about the outdoors.
- Habitat restoration projects, including creek cleanups, weed abatement, trail maintenance and realignment, and plant, bird and wildlife surveys.
- Stewardship, which entails spending a couple hours visiting some of the properties protected by Tri-Valley Conservancy’s Conservation Easements.
- Events and exhibits, help with planning, taking tickets, etc., for fundraisers and at outreach events.
- “News and Views,” the Tri-Valley Conservancy newsletter, is published three times a year and needs artists, editors, writers, photographers and other contributors.
- Office/clerical to help with mailings, filing, data entry, and archival collections. Computer “gurus” are always in demand.

Detailed descriptions of volunteer opportunities are at trivalleyconservancy.org. For more information, email info@trivalleyconservancy.org or call 449-8706. The office is located at 1457 First St. in Livermore.

PROTECTING THE LANDS

Tri-Valley Conservancy works to ensure fresh food, wildlife habitats, clean air, water — and scenic beauty

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Ah, the sheer beauty of the Tri-Valley. Open space, vineyards, parks, trails, ranches, wildlife habitats. Despite residents’ deep connection to the land, it can disappear forever because of development if no one takes steps to preserve it. Enter Tri-Valley Conservancy, founded in 1994, which has managed to protect more than 8,000 acres for agriculture, parks and wildlife. Now the land trust is celebrating its 25th year with an updated “Mission and Vision” — expanded strategies to keep the locally grown food and wine, fresh air, clean water, and parks and trails that only open spaces can provide.

“We are excited to help our supporters make the most impact by prioritizing projects to leave the Tri-Valley a better place for you, wildlife and future generations,” executive director Laura Mercier said.

Land trusts protect land directly by buying or accepting donations of land or conservation easements. Tri-Valley Conservancy helps landowners develop conservation plans based on their particular situations and financial circumstances.

They also help determine a property’s conservation value and future ownership.

In the last two decades, Mercier has seen an increased awareness of the organization, which has developed good relationships with the property owners.

“We really do appreciate them,” Mercier said. “If it wasn’t for them, none of this would happen.”

The population in the Tri-Valley — Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin, Sunol and San Ramon — has increased nearly one-third since 2005, so the need to protect lands has never been more critical, Mercier pointed out. The trick is to keep a balance between development needs and preserving the lands for future generations.

“Agricultural lands are disappearing at an alarming rate across the country,” Mercier said. “As our populations grow, we need to be able to grow more food. So, supporting local agriculture to help with economic and environmental sustainability is something we wanted to be sure to include in our expanding strategies for land preservation.”

“A lot of our lands under

conservation easements are related to vineyards,” she added. “We are working with UC Davis, starting to look at evaluating the economic viability of this industry ... how can we increase the success of the wineries.”

But not only grapes are grown in the area, she noted.

“We have olive and pistachios now in the valley, and we have hazelnut and oak trees that have recently been planted, for raising truffles,” Mercier said.

The land trust keeps a close eye

on urban growth boundaries and the impact on cultivated lands, particularly vineyards, but also range lands, to protect these critical areas as the community grows. It also educates the public and advocates for the need to conserve land.

Partnerships are important in these efforts, and Tri-Valley Conservancy works closely with the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association, the Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance, East Bay Regional Park District, Friends of the Vineyards, Save Mount Diablo, Sierra Club,



CATHARINE SHERRADEN

Work is scheduled to begin in August on the Arroyo Del Valle bridge to connect the dead-end trail in Sycamore Grove Park with others, making it part of a continuous 44-mile regional trail.



COURTESY OF CONSERVANCY

Tri-Valley Conservancy's Discovery Youth in Nature Program includes a field trip to Holdener Park for a 1.5-mile hike that allows the fourth-graders to behold the open landscape.

the California Council of Land Trusts, and the national Land Trust Alliance, as well as with cities and planning agencies.

It will partner with community leaders to conduct studies on the success of the South Livermore Area Plan and economic viability for new vineyards and wineries.

Tri-Valley Conservancy also joins other nonprofit groups such as Livermore Valley Opera in fundraising efforts, donating special hikes and tours as auction items.

"A lot of people who support the opera, the Bankhead or the Firehouse are the same type of people who care about open space," Mercier said. "We are part of a community, and we try to help other nonprofits."

A few years ago, Tri-Valley Conservancy began its Youth in Nature program for fourth-grade students, to involve the next generation and teach them the importance of land preservation.

"We want to teach them about the watersheds and get them out to see the difference between where development is and the open space, seeing nature, while at the same time we need agriculture," Mercier explained.

The program holds three sessions, two weeks apart. It begins in the classroom; the next meeting is a

field trip outdoors where students enjoy sweeping views of the valley and its landmarks as well as see open space and trails; and the program ends again in the classroom.

"It's fun to see what the kids retain and learn," Mercier said. "We were shocked that 50% of the kids that participated had never been outdoors."

"That encourages us — it is good that we are getting them outside," she added.

The program, funded by grants and donations, now reaches every fourth-grader in the Livermore schools and soon will expand to Pleasanton.

Tri-Valley Conservancy also works to link trails and parks. Work is scheduled to begin in August on a bridge in Sycamore Grove Park in Livermore that will allow a trail connection linking five parks, ending at Mission Peak in Fremont. Work has to wait until sensitive bird and bat species complete their

Fun fundraisers

Tri-Valley Conservancy's Uncorked Celebration took place last month, the 10th year for the competition that allows guests to literally taste the fruit of their labors to preserve land forever. Las Positas Vineyards won Best in Show, in a contest that attracted 150 Livermore Valley wines. Sixty moved on to the medal round, qualifying for guests' unlimited winetasting pleasure, at the Palm Event Center.

The biggest annual fundraiser to benefit the Conservancy's land and youth education programs is Jewels & Jeans held each fall, with everyone donned in festive, comfortable duds. This year the 25th anniversary party, Nov. 8, will be a big one with food by Beets Catering, local wines, games, unique auction items and experiences, all nestled in preserved vineyards at Casa Real. To learn more about becoming a 2019 sponsor, call 449-8706 or email executive director Laura Mercier at lmercier@trivalleyconservancy.org.

fledgling season in the trees to have as little impact as possible on the park and its wildlife.

"There is a growing awareness in the community that, hey, this valley is fantastic and that is because of open space," Mercier said, adding:

"As Tri-Valley Conservancy enters its 25th year, we look forward to continuing to protect these critical agricultural and natural lands in both new ways and proven ways with our supporters, partners and the Tri-Valley community." ■



The San Joaquin kit fox (above, photo by Scott Hein) and the American badger (below, photo by Chris Boswell), threatened species, are making a comeback in the area, thanks to open space and habitat management by the Tri-Valley Conservancy.



Wildlife habitat

The Tri-Valley Conservancy has preserved 178 acres of habitat at the mouth of Doolan Canyon between Livermore and Dublin for burrowing owls and other creatures. The owls — called "howdy birds" by early cowboys because they called out a friendly greeting in the lonely landscape — rely on the abandoned burrows of mammals like ground squirrels, badgers, foxes and coyotes to make their homes.

Until 2014, the emphasis was on promoting agriculture, but that fall the Conservancy received approval from California Department of Fish and Wildlife to hold habitat easements for threatened species, including the burrowing owl and the San Joaquin kit fox. American badgers and Tule elk are also beginning to return to the Tri-Valley, thanks to open space and habitat management.

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GUEST OPINION

BY PETER MACDONALD

Downtown patrons demand parking

The city of Pleasanton is poised to adopt a seriously flawed Downtown Specific Plan Update. The draft plan does not provide the public parking absolutely essential to maintain downtown vitality.

The City Council, the Downtown Task Force, planning staff, consultants and many citizens have worked sincerely to develop this draft specific plan. But, they got bamboozled by the phony planning theory that if you do not build parking, people will take the bus, walk or bicycle to get downtown.

Those of us who live or work in downtown know that from about 10 a.m. to about 3 p.m. on any weekday, there are almost no available parking spaces within two blocks of the

Main/Rose-Neal intersection.

The city's own Hexcel parking study in September 2013 confirmed the lack of parking in the core: That Hexcel survey, over multiple days, showed there were only 2.6 vacant parking spaces on average within one block of the Main/Rose-Neal intersection. Within two blocks there were only 27.1 vacant parking spaces, which equates to less than one vacant space per block of curb parking, given that 9.8 of those vacant spaces were actually on the distant railroad corridor by First Street.

That was before the city waived the 20 parking space requirement for the new Starbucks-Sotheby's building at the northwest corner of Main/Rose-Neal intersection.

As the parking scarcity worsened, private businesses were forced to hoard their spaces for their customers, exacerbating the scarcity. Our city planners seem to believe that people need to be like Rockridge

visitors (by College Avenue in Oakland) and learn to walk five blocks when they visit downtown.

Not surprisingly, downtown sales have flat-lined. From 2014-15 to 2017-18 (a three-year timeframe), sales tax from downtown has increased by only 1.5%. That happened despite having some wonderful businesses and restaurants opening in downtown. Customers stop coming to businesses that are inconvenient to visit.

The Pleasanton Downtown Association and the Chamber of Commerce, along with many businesses and downtowners, have begged for inclusion of substantial public parking in the downtown core. Instead, we now have a draft Downtown Specific Plan Update that has no substantial public parking expansion planned within even four blocks from the Main/Rose-Neal intersection.

The plan does include a parking garage at the Bernal-Old Bernal corner, to benefit the city's redevelopment of its current Civic Center site and the ACE train station. But, that parking garage will be five blocks

from the Main/Rose-Neal intersection and useless to support the retail core of downtown — this isn't Rockridge or Carmel.

The draft Downtown Specific Plan Update is focused on moving City Hall activities out of the downtown to the Bernal property across from the fairgrounds. That requires voter approval.

This is a \$150 million to \$200 million project (phased over time). Unless the city is willing to spend even \$10 million to build some needed public parking in the downtown core, and plan now for where that parking will be located, I cannot support their City Hall move or the draft Downtown Specific Plan Update.

If you want the downtown retail core, the real heart of Pleasanton, to be more vital, please weigh in with our city officials. With your voice, we can get this flaw corrected before the specific plan gets adopted. ■

Editor's note: Peter MacDonald is a real estate attorney based downtown and a former president of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce and the Pleasanton Downtown Association.



Peter MacDonald

EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Remember Ben Curry

A candlelight vigil will be held on Wednesday evening in Danville to mark one year since the death of 15-year-old Ben Curry, who drowned during a PE class at San Ramon Valley High School.

Ben's parents, Karen and Tom, are hosting the vigil. "We want to light up the sky so that Ben will see, hear and feel the outpouring of love for him ... Keeping Ben's memory alive," Karen wrote.

One has to wonder if any San Ramon Valley Unified School District board members or staff will attend.

The teacher in charge of the PE class the day Ben died, Aaron Becker, was never put on leave, even during an investigation. The district "lawyered up" within days of the incident.

The district staff and board seem to be more concerned with protecting themselves than showing compassion or trying to win back the trust of parents and community members. District staff has refused, as has the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office, to release any substantive information about the circumstances surrounding young Ben's death.

Sheriff David Livingston's office seems to be refusing requests for public documents just because it can. In the office's response to our renewed request April 5, we were told, "I can assure you we are very familiar with the legal requirements set forth in the Public Records Act and that we scrupulously observe these requirements."

In other words, they will cite any code to keep the public in the dark, even though the "Better Government Ordinance" adopted by Contra Costa County in 1995 states that after an investigation is complete, investigatory records are to be disclosed.

Invoking exemptions not required by state or federal law to exclude documents requested is a willful and knowing attempt to keep information from the press and public, and both of these taxpayer-funded agencies are guilty.

Someone needs to be held accountable for the death of a 15-year-old boy in a class at a high school, especially since Becker is still teaching and coaching in football, while the Curry family is grieving and the community continues to question why Becker is being protected and what the district and sheriff's office are hiding.

The district's board trustees, to whom the superintendent ultimately reports, and the Contra Costa sheriff are all elected positions. If you are outraged, tell these elected officials now through emails and at meetings, and again at the ballot box.

Let's help the Curry family keep Ben's memory alive by showing support at the vigil, which is set to start at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in front of the Danville Library at 400 Front St., and by holding the parties responsible for his death accountable. ■

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PLEASANTON PREPS

By DENNIS MILLER

Amador boys tennis caps undefeated regular season with EBAL title

Falcons' strong softball season continues, Dons coach Cesario earns 400th win

The Amador Valley High boys tennis team finished off a 24-0 regular season by winning the East Bay Athletic League title with a 6-3 win over rival Foothill last week.

In singles action, the Dons took three of the six matches with Aadarsh Tripathi, Eswarsai Ramineni and Sankalp Sharma pulling out wins for Amador.

The Dons ended up taking all three doubles matches, as the teams of Robert Heeter/Brett Miller, Manas Aavula/Idan Belau and Ethan Allavarpu/Nithilan Muruganandham all came through with wins.

Foothill softball

The Falcons kept going last week, winning another pair of games to stay unbeaten on the season.

The week started with a 2-0 win over Granada. Foothill got going early, with an Ellen Ebbers single driving in Hope Alley for the 1-0 lead in just the first inning. The Falcons' other run came when Amanda Mero singled in Gianna Lyng.

Nicole May commanded the circle, giving up just three and striking out 10.

The Falcons extended their streak to 20 later in the week with a 3-1 win over Dublin.

Dublin did take a 1-0 lead in the first, but Foothill rallied in the top of the second with a run to tie and then added two more in the third when May homered, bringing in Hailey Hayes.

Doubles by Lyng in the fourth and Courtney Beaudin in the fifth put runners in scoring position, but the Falcons were unable to capitalize.

Along with driving in the two runs, May racked up 13 strikeouts.

Amador softball

The Dons split a pair of games last week, beating Dublin but falling to Livermore.

The week started with a 12-0 romp over Dublin as the Dons pounded out 16 hits. Six of the hits were doubles, with Valeria Torres-Colon leading the way with two of them. Sophia Youngberg, Hannah Kramer, Samantha O'Brien and Maddie Hildebrand had the other two-baggers.

Chloe Engel, Emma Hodges, Kirstin Siqua, Youngberg, Kramer and O'Brien drove in runs for Amador.

Mia Hildebrand and Mia Konig

combined for the win in the circle.

The week ended with a tough, 4-2 loss to Livermore despite a home run from Mia Hildebrand, who drove in both Amador runs. Maude Fouque, Torres-Colon, Allyson Kim and Engle also had hits for the Dons.

Amador volleyball

The Dons took three matches to end the regular season.

The first match was a tight five-setter on Senior Night, as Colton Brooks, Micah Kiang, Taylor Melendrez, Logan Miller and Andrei Rekesch were honored.

Strong performances by Miller (12 kills, 5 blocks), Luke McFall (15 kills, 7 blocks), Rekesch (3 kills, 2 aces), Jacob Kim (4 kills, 7 blocks, 4 aces, great sets), Will Sadler (7 kills, 3 blocks) and Nolan Gill (numerous first-touch passes, sets and saves) were the key.

The second match of the week was a non-league match with Serra that Amador took 23-25, 25-15, 27-25, 25-20.

Leading the charge for the Dons were McFall (17 kills, 5 blocks), Sadler (13 kills, 4 blocks, 1 ace), Sawyer Brookhart (9 kills), Rekesch (3 kills, 4 blocks, 1 ace) and Melendrez (5 kills, 2 blocks, 2 aces), as well as Kim and Gill with strong performances in their respective roles as setter and libero.

The final match of the regular season saw the Dons go in and beat Foothill on the Falcons' Senior Night, 25-23, 26-24 and 25-16.

Amador got strong performances

by all, especially McFall (9 kills, 3 blocks, 1 ace), Miller (8 kills, 8 blocks), Sadler (6 kills, 3 blocks), Kim and Gill. Graduating senior Micah Kiang came in to serve the final point.

Foothill baseball

The Falcons went 2-0 on the week, beating Granada and Dublin.

Foothill jumped out to an early lead and never looked back in beating Granada 7-2 on April 24. Josh Robinson got pitching victory, with Kyle Bautista and Josh Anderson combining to close out the game. The trio combined to allow only two hits and two runs.

Corey Steinhauer and Joseph Scalzo each had a home run for Foothill.

Later in the week, Foothill beat Dublin 5-2.

Matt Sugden drove in two runs in the third inning on a double, while the sixth inning cinched the win for Foothill with runs scoring on a triple by Scalzo and a home run by Caleb Lammler.

Jake Gebb got the win on the mound, striking out four batters in the process.

Cesario honored

Lou Cesario, the longtime Amador baseball coach, recently picked up his 400th career win, making him the only active high school baseball coach in the Bay Area with 400 wins. ■

Editor's note: Dennis Miller is a contributing sports writer for the Pleasanton Weekly.

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Local teen makes USA Cricket team

Kodali training ahead of World Cup qualifiers

By RYAN J. DEGAN

A prospect from Cricket for Cubs and the San Ramon Cricket Association has made national headlines, and has her eye on international acclaim, after being named to the USA Cricket national women's team.

A Dougherty Valley High School student, Geetika Kodali — who is one of the youngest members on Team USA at age 14 — is currently training in anticipation of the International Cricket Council's Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifier Americas, scheduled to be played May 17-19 in Lauderhill, Fla.



Geetika Kodali

"We have a busy two months approaching where we will be doing everything in our power to prepare in the best possible manner to leave everything out on the field in Florida," said Julia Price, new head coach of the women's national team.

In the Florida tournament, Team USA will play three matches against Team Canada, with the winner moving on to the Women's T20 World Cup Global Qualifier scheduled to be held this summer in Scotland.

Prior to leaving for training in Florida, Geetika's father Prashant

said that she is excited for the competition and her family is "overjoyed" to watch her succeed so much at such a young age.

"Their hard work brought their dreams to life," Prashant told the Weekly. "Geetika has been training (for the) last four years on cricket. She is an enthusiastic sports player who started at a young age with soccer and then got into basketball, volleyball, tennis and swimming. When she got to playing cricket, for some reason she just loved it and stuck to learning all aspects of it."

Prashant explained that Geetika was first recognized for her talent when she qualified for the USA Combines selections and went through a four-day assessment program in summer 2018.

She was then among 34 athletes invited by the USA Cricket Women's Selection Panel to the women's training camp in Florida on Feb. 1, 2019. Following final selection of the 14-member team, athletes were invited to a training camp held April 10-16 in Florida in anticipation of the competition.

"Invited players demonstrated their skills, fitness and commitment to the selection process and following the camp, 18 players were chosen. Geetika made it and we were very excited she made it at a young age," Prashant said. ■

Employment

Director, Business Planning & Program Management

Director, Business Planning & Program Management, deg'd sought by Sutherland Global Services, 30% US/ Int'l travel for corporate meetings, 40% Work from Home & willing to work on PST. Work at 2410 Camino Ramon, Ste 309, San Ramon, CA 94583. Reply to: sudhakar.rangasami@sutherlandglobal.com

Scientist/Application:

Responsible for Sigray's AttoMap System, including providing application solutions & technical support for sample characterizations in surface mapping & compositional analysis of materials to customers & potential customers. Mail resume to Sigray, Inc, 5750 Imhoff Dr, Suite 1, Concord, CA 94520. Attn: HR Job#XLY2019.

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Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

AT Trucking
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 557274
The following person(s) doing business as: AT Trucking, 3095 Finnian Way, #201, Dublin, CA 94568, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ankush Talwar, 3095 Finnian Way, #201, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an Individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein. Signature of Registrant, Ankush Talwar, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 2, 2019. (Pleasanton Weekly, April 12, 19, 26 & May 3, 2019.)

Toschi Collins & Doyle
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 556913
The following person(s) doing business as: Toschi Collins & Doyle, 5145 Johnson Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): TCD Professional Corporation, 5145 Johnson Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by a Corporation. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein 1.1.2019. Signature of Registrant: Steve Toschi, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 25, 2019. (Pleasanton Weekly, April 12, 19, 26 & May 3.)

Realty ONE Group TODAY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 556861
The following person(s) doing business as: Realty ONE Group TODAY, 608 Main Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): William Doerlich, 608 Main Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Corporation. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein 3/22/19. Signature of Registrant, William Doerlich, CEO/Broker. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 22, 2019 (Pleasanton Weekly, April 12, 19, 26 & May 3, 2019).

Love Your Skin Beauty
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 558293
The following person doing business as: Love Your Skin Beauty, Elena Crandell, 4230 Rosewood Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Elena Crandell, 4230 Rosewood Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by Elena Crandell, an Individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name listed herein September 5, 2018. Signature of Registrant: Elena Crandell, Owner/Esthetician. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 23, 2019. (Pleasanton Weekly, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 2019).

997 All Other Legals

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: MARY ANN TAYLOR
Case No.: RP19002677 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of MARY ANN TAYLOR. A Petition for Probate has been filed by: DENNIS TAYLOR in the Superior Court of California, County of ALAMEDA. The Petition for Probate requests that: DENNIS TAYLOR and THOMAS TAYLOR be appointed as personal representatives to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representatives will be required to give notice to interested

persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held on May 8, 2019 at 9:31 a.m. in Dept. 201 of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, located at 2120 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA 94704. If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58 (b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Petitioner: Dennis Taylor, 7901 Saybrook Dr., Citrus Heights, CA 95621. (Pleasanton Weekly, April 19, 26 and May 3.)

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: Robert Scott Wilkinson, Sr., aka Robert Scott Wilkinson
Case No.: RP19013940
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of Robert Scott Wilkinson, Sr., aka Robert Scott Wilkinson. A Petition for Probate has been filed by: Robert S. Wilkinson, Jr. in the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda. The Petition for Probate requests that: Robert S. Wilkinson, Jr., be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held on May 15, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. in Dept.: 202 of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, located at 2120 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA 94704. If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58 (b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for Petitioner: Robert J. Begley, Attorney at Law, 655 Redwood Hwy., Suite 300, Mill Valley, CA 94941, 415-388-2400. (Pleasanton Weekly, April 26, May 3, 10, 2019).

persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held on May 15, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. in Dept.: 202 of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, located at 2120 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA 94704. If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58 (b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for Petitioner: Robert J. Begley, Attorney at Law, 655 Redwood Hwy., Suite 300, Mill Valley, CA 94941, 415-388-2400. (Pleasanton Weekly, April 26, May 3, 10, 2019).

Call (925) 600-0840 for assistance with your legal advertising needs.

Calendar

POST CALENDAR ITEMS AT PLEASANTONWEEKLY.COM

Talks & Lectures

PLEASANTON 2020 FORUM From 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. on the second Wednesday of each month in the Chamber conference room, 777 Peters Ave., the 2020 Forum meets. Topics vary. If you wish to receive topic notifications, email President/CEO Steve Van Dorn at steve@pleasanton.org.

DEL VALLE AND SYCAMORE PARK PHOTOS AND TALK AT THE LIVERMORE LIBRARY Armchair Travelers, a monthly program, will take place at 1:30 p.m. on May 9 at the Livermore Public Library Civic Center, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore. Barbara Mallon will share photographs of Del Valle Regional Park and Sycamore Grove Park. Barbara's photos highlight the beauty of these two local parks and show how easy it is to view wildlife in Livermore.

Fundraisers

EAST BAY MARCH FOR BABIES Starting at 9 a.m. on May 4 at the Alameda Country Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave., the March of Dimes presents the East Bay March for Babies. Help provide moms and babies with the best possible medical care. Registration is free. Visit MarchForBabies.org to register and learn more.

HIKE FOR HOPE The 9th Annual Hike for Hope fundraiser for Hope Hospice will start at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 4, at Del Valle Regional Park, 7000 Del Valle Road, Livermore. Learn more at thehikeforhope.com.

LAS POSITAS COLLEGE BEST OF THE BEST CELEBRATION This year's Best of the Best event will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. on May 4 in Building 1000 at Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Drive, Livermore. Tickets are \$100 and can be purchased online at lpcfoundation.org/bob2019 or by calling 424-1014.

Business

LIVERMORE SMALL BUSINESS FAIR From 9 to 11 a.m. on May 8 at the Livermore Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore, the Livermore Small Business Fair will feature a business resource exhibit, one-on-one consultations, and workshop sessions on Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Loans. Admission is Free. For questions, contact Ellen Dean at eedean@livermore.lib.ca.us.

Religion

MAY RELIGION CHAT The May Religion Chat will be held from 5 to 6:15 p.m. on May 8 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 3574 Vineyard Ave. This event is free-of-charge and open to all. The discussion topic will be, "What Does Your Faith Do to Make the World a Better

PET OF THE WEEK

Gorgeous Gracie

Although she's grieved the loss of her longtime owner, Gracie has adjusted to her new foster home and lifestyle with very little fuss and is ready to find her new forever home. Gracie is a gorgeous, 9-year-old, plus-size torti with classic markings, right down to the pink tip of her black nose. If you pull a string along the floor, Gracie will go into stalk and attack mode, plus she's a lap cat. Comfortable around other animals, Gracie is spayed, microchipped, tested negative for FeLV and FIV, fully vaccinated, treated to prevent fleas and litter-box trained. Contact Jeri at 642-1352.



ALLIE'S PALS

Place?" Speakers will be Rev. Angelika Voss Quinn of the Church of Scientology and Bishop Justin Shriber of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

YOM HASHOAH SERVICE: FINDING LIGHT WITHIN THE DARKNESS All are welcome at our annual Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Memorial Day) service at 6:30 p.m. on May 1 at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court. Prayer, poetry, and the lighting of memorial candles will bring us together in remembrance of the victims of the Holocaust. The program is suitable for adults and students, 5th grade and older.

Family

STAR WARS DAY AT THE LIVERMORE LIBRARY The Livermore Public Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore will host Star Wars Day from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 4, at the Civic Center Library, 1188 South Livermore Ave., Livermore. There will be Star Wars themed S.T.E.M. activities as well as games and crafts. In addition, costumed characters will be available for photos. Please join us at this free event for all ages. Costumes are welcome. For further information, please call 373-5504, or visit the website at livermorelibrary.net.

Support Groups

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, but you do not have to suffer alone. We invite you to participate in our grief support meetings. We will be meeting at 7:30 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Seton, 4005 Stoneridge Drive, on May 9 and 23, June 13 and 27, July 11 and 25 and August 8. Please call Eleanor at 846-8708 for more information. All are welcome regardless of religious affiliation.

Volunteers

RED CROSS BLOOD DONATION OPPORTUNITIES Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS

(1-800-733-2767) to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. To get started, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App. From May 1 through May 23 donate blood at the Pleasanton Blood Donation Center, 5880 Las Positas Blvd., Suite 34.

FREE RESTRAINING ORDER CLINIC From 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on the first and third Saturday of every month, at the Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza Dublin, get help in getting a domestic violence restraining order. Tri-Valley Haven staff and volunteers will assist you in completing the forms and documentation needed to petition the family court for a protective order. No appointments necessary, just drop-in. This is a free, confidential service. For more information about the services provided, please call Tri-Valley Haven at 449-5847 ext. 2606.

LITERACY/ESL VOLUNTEER TUTOR TRAINING Pleasanton Library's Literacy Program needs patient, caring volunteer tutors to help adults practice and improve their English reading, writing, and conversation skills. Volunteers work one-on-one with students, or lead small group conversation practice, citizenship test preparation, or book clubs. The Literacy Program provides all books and materials as well as training and ongoing support. The next training event will take place from 1 to 4 p.m. on May 4 in the Library meeting room, 400 Old Bernal Ave.

Home & Garden

LIVERMORE-AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MAY MEETING Learn How to Take Your Flowers 'From Garden to Vase' starting at 7 p.m. on May 9 at the Alisa Elementary School, 1454 Santa Rita Road. This meeting will focus on how to arrange attractive, long-lasting bouquets using flowers from one's garden. The garden club meets the second Thursday of each month, September through May, and visitors are welcome.

Bay Area home sales in March slowest in 11 years

Median price drops for first time since 2012

Bay Area home sales in March were the slowest the region has seen in 11 years, according to new data released Monday by real estate research firm CoreLogic.

In fact, that's been the case for every month since December. Year-over-year sales have been dropping steadily for 10 consecutive months, with double-digit drops from 12%-21% for the last five months.

March sales of newly built homes, including detached houses and condominiums, were roughly 42.6% below the month's historical average. Resales of existing homes were 25.5% below average.

"Beginning in late spring last year, some potential buyers got priced out and others simply stepped out of the market amid concerns prices were near a peak," analyst Andrew LePage said in a news release Monday.

"The next two months will likely clarify

whether many of those who put plans on hold in 2018 are being lured back into the market by this year's lower mortgage rates, higher inventory and buyers' improved negotiating position," he said.

Median home sale prices have been rising year-over-year since April 2012, 82 consecutive months, but they dropped slightly for the first time in March 2019 to \$830,000, down from \$831,000 in March 2018.

Sales over \$500,000 accounted for 79.1% of total home sales, up from 78.8% the year before.

The data presented was taken from Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, Santa Clara, San Francisco, San Mateo, Solano and Sonoma counties. It does not include Santa Cruz and Monterey counties. ■

—Bay City News Service

SALES AT A GLANCE

Pleasanton (March 18-29)

Total sales reported: 23

Lowest sale reported: \$240,000

Highest sale reported: \$2,413,500

Average sales reported: \$1,242,086

Dublin (March 18-29)

Total sales reported: 36

Lowest sale reported: \$180,000

Highest sale reported: \$1,580,000

Average sales reported: \$854,054

Source: California REsource

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

DUBLIN

3667 Whitworth Dr **\$831,888**
Sat/Sun 2-4 3 BD/3.5 BA
Stacy Gilbert 487.4883

LIVERMORE

198 Ganesha Common **Call for price**
Sat/Sun 1-4 4 BD/3.5 BA
Tyler Moxley 518.1083

PLEASANTON

2371 Bay Meadows Cr **\$899,950**
Sat/Sun 1-4 2 BD/2 BA
Julia Murtagh 997.2411

6350 Alisal St **\$1,699,000**
Sun 2-4 3 BD/2.5 BA
Douglas Buenz 463.2000

4852 Drywood St **\$1,099,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 3 BD/2 BA
Julia Murtagh 997.2411

6153 Hansen Dr **\$899,000**
Sat 2-4 3 BD/2.5 BA
Emily Barraclough 895.7253

4758 McHenry Gate Way **\$1,149,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 3 BD/2 BA
Tim McGuire 462.7653

1063 Crellin Rd **\$1,200,000**
Sun 1:30-4 4 BD/2 BA
Sylvia Desin 413.1912

1479 Irongate Dr **\$1,850,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 4 BD/3.5 BA
Tyler Moxley 518.1083

3156 Joanne Cr **\$1,349,950**
Sat 2-4/Sun 1-4 4 BD/3 BA
Lisa Sterling-Sanchez 980.9265

4270 Mairmont Dr **Call for price**
Sat/Sun 1-4 4 BD/2.5 BA
Tim McGuire 462.7653

4540 Muirwood Dr **\$1,125,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 4 BD/2.5 BA
Cina Piper 200.0202

1181 Rebecca Dr **Call for price**
Sat/Sun 1-4 4 BD/3 BA
Susan Schall/Donna Garrison 519.8226/980.0273

4457 Sutter Gate Ave **\$1,229,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 4 BD/2.5 BA
Tim McGuire 462.7653

3294 Sylvaner Ct **\$1,350,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 4 BD/3 BA
Melissa Pederson 359.9606

2654 Willowren Way **\$1,235,000**
Sun 1-4 4 BD/2.5 BA
Cina Piper 200.0202

1915 Foxswallow Cr **Call for price**
Sat/Sun 1-4 5 BD/3 BA
Kris Moxley 519.9080

6290 Laura Ln **\$2,838,000**
Sun 1-4 5 BD/3.5 BA
Susie Steele 413.9306

23 Twelve Oaks Dr **\$2,250,000**
Sat 2-4 5 BD/3.5 BA
McDowell Real Estate Group 209.0343/596.8731

448 Bunker Ln **\$1,989,000**
Sun 2-4 6 BD/4.5 BA
Douglas Buenz 463.2000

4625 Second St **\$3,288,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 6 BD/4.5 BA
Julia Murtagh 997.2411

2115 Tanager Ct **\$1,339,000**
Sat 1-4 6 BD/4 BA
Tim McGuire 462.7653

SAN RAMON

24 Centennial Way **\$1,220,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 4 BD/3 BA
Tim McGuire 462.7653

Find more real estate information at pleasantonweekly.com/real_estate



Just Listed by Katie Moe

3189 Berkshire Court, Pleasanton

This Pleasanton Meadows home offers 2,471 sq ft of living space with 5 bedrooms and 3 full bathrooms. Tastefully updated with a kitchen built for entertaining! Plus one of the bedrooms and full bathrooms is on the ground floor. **Contact Katie for additional details.**

Looking for a home in Valley Trails?

Coming in early June – an expanded home with 2,892 sq ft of living space and thoughtful upgrades throughout! Located at the back of a court with opportunity for an in-law set up.

Contact Katie Moe for additional details



KATIE MOE
925.216.9083

Katie@KatieMoe.com
www.KatieMoe.com
BRE#01507863



THANK YOU for your SUPPORT over the years!
Thinking of buying or selling in 2019? CALL CINDY!

COMING SOON

8303 REGENCY DR, PLEASANTON



LAGUNA OAKS ... GORGEOUS UPDATED EXECUTIVE HOME located in the most desirable area of Westside Pleasanton. This lovely home includes the most beautiful resort-like entertainers delight backyard with a incredible pool/spa/swim up bar/ cove and more! 5 bed 3.5 bath, expanded family room, solar, huge open kitchen and family MUST SEE. Call CINDY for more information.

COMING SOON

1129 ROSAMUND DR, SAN RAMON



1129 ROSAMUND DR., SAN RAMON
5 bed 4.5 bath, approx. 3600 sq. ft. MUST SEE THIS LOVELY UPDATED LIKE NEW HOME! Nestled in the hills of San Ramon with expansive views of Mt. Diablo and Rolling Hills from the 2 covered patios! Call Cindy for details!



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We at Mohseni Real Estate Group work hard every day to help our clients coordinate, manage, and finance all prep work in order to get top dollar when selling their houses. We understand that your home is usually your largest asset and we take our roles very seriously.

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-
-

Upcoming Free Community Workshops

Home Buyers Workshop

Tuesday, May 7
from 6–8pm

Total Wine and More
4225 Rosewood Drive, Pleasanton

If you've been thinking about making an investment in a new home or are just curious about what it takes to achieve home ownership, join us for our Wine Tasting & Home Buying Seminar.

Homeowners / Rightsizing Workshop

Saturday, May 11
from 10am–12pm

Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce
777 Peters Avenue, Pleasanton

Is your current house becoming too much to maintain or are you in need of more space with a growing family? Join us for a homeowner's workshop to learn about the current market, planning for the future, and more.

All attendees receive \$1,000 in credits toward inspections when buying or selling a home with our team. Seating is limited.

To register for our workshops, visit: BayAreaHomefinder.com/workshops or call 925.484.0707.

-
-
-

Active Listings



4978 Houlton Court, Dublin
4 Bed + Bonus 3.5 Bath 2,851 Sq Ft
\$1,250,000



4850 Saginaw Circle, Pleasanton
3 Bed 1.5 Bath 1,130 Sq Ft
\$650,000



131 Enchanted Way, San Ramon
4 Bed 2.5 Bath 1,912 Sq Ft
\$925,000



Lloyd Felix
925.725.6885
lloyd.felix@compass.com
DRE 01383527

Sophia Chan
925.718.7775
sophia.chan@compass.com
DRE 01722769

Farida Chapman
925.725.6888
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DRE 01325077

Sam Fitz-Simon
925.725.6886
sam.fitz-simon@compass.com
DRE 02066213

Steve Mohseni
925.378.5558
steve.mohseni@compass.com
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Lic. # 02072764



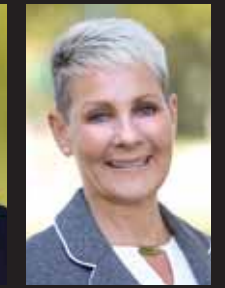
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Lic. # 02004247



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Lic. # 02078183



Karen Carmichael
Client Services

925-462-SOLD (7653) | TIMMCGUIRETEAM.COM

4270 MAIRMONT DRIVE, PLEASANTON

OPEN SAT & SUN 1-4



4 bd/2.5 ba, 1,802+/-sqft, 6630+/-sqft lot
CALL FOR DETAILS

2115 TANGER COURT, PLEASANTON

OPEN SAT 1-4



6 bd/4 ba, 3,456+/-sqft, 9,966+/-sqft lot
OFFERED AT \$1,339,000

4758 MCHENRY GATE WAY, PLEASANTON

OPEN SAT & SUN 1-4



3 bd/2 ba, 1,611+/-sqft, 7,570+/-sqft lot
OFFERED AT \$1,149,000

4457 SUTTER GATE AVE., PLEASANTON

OPEN SAT & SUN 1-4



4 bd/2.5 ba, 2,125+/-sqft, 6,984+/-sqft lot
OFFERED AT \$1,229,000

24 CENTENNIAL WAY, SAN RAMON

OPEN SAT & SUN 1-4



4+ bed/3 ba, 2,474+/-sqft, 9,148+/-sqft lot
OFFERED AT \$1,220,000

5099 MONACO DRIVE, PLEASANTON



4 bd/3 ba, 2,985+/-sqft, 10,010+/-sqft lot
OFFERED AT \$1,559,000

3114 LANSDOWN COURT, PLEASANTON

COMING SOON



4 bd/3 ba, 2,471+/-sqft, 6,955+/-sqft lot
CALL FOR DETAILS

5816 CORTE MARGARITA, PLEASANTON

PENDING



5 bd/3 ba, 2,616+/-sqft, 6,500+/-sqft lot
OFFERED AT \$1,499,000

2776 HARTLEY GATE CT., PLEASANTON

PENDING



4 bd/3 ba, 2,179+/-sqft, 11,757+/-sqft lot
OFFERED AT \$1,299,000

6964 CORTE ANTONIO, PLEASANTON

PENDING



4 bd/3 ba, 2,813+/-sqft, 14,810+/-sqft lot
OFFERED AT \$1,599,000

4583 GATETREE CIRCLE, PLEASANTON

SOLD



4 bd/2 ba, 1,808+/-sqft, 7,461+/-sqft lot
OFFERED AT \$1,200,000

1588 FOOTHILL ROAD, PLEASANTON

SOLD



5 bd/4.5 ba, 4,768+/-sqft, 21,519+/-sqft lot
SOLD FOR \$2,400,000

“Tim did an amazing job selling my home in Fremont. I had worked with him on 13 other transactions in Pleasanton over the past 20 years. He and his team have always been smart, professional and committed to achieving excellent results. I have been very happy with the outcome of each and every transaction. Thanks Tim!”

Janice & Rob Hastings, Ford Ln, Fremont



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Coming Soon! 3690 Locke Court, Pleasanton



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Flashberger**

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Sue@SoldInAFlash.com

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Dave DRE# 01243871 | Sue DRE# 01001584



Stunning Kottinger Ranch custom estate. 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, plus a bonus room or in-law set up. Breathtaking views of the valley and Mount Diablo. Beautifully remodeled throughout. Expansive 19,693 square foot parcel. Truly a garden lover's paradise! Community pool and tennis courts.

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JUST LISTED IN PLEASANTON



1915 FOXSWALLOW CIRCLE

- 5 Bedrooms & 3 Bathrooms • 2,560+/- Sq.Ft. • 8,757 Sq.Ft. Lot
 - Full Bar Perfect for Entertaining • Pool & Outdoor Kitchen • Heritage Model
- Priced in the Low \$1.4M Range**

PENDING



**987 KOLLN STREET
PLEASANTON**

- 4 Bedrooms & 3 Bathrooms
 - 1,776+/- Sq.Ft. • 7,500+/- Sq.Ft. Lot
 - Guest Suite w/ Full Bath
 - Kris Has 2 Other Homes Coming Soon in Jensen/Amador
- Offered at \$1,040,000**

JUST SOLD



**1152 CRELLIN ROAD
PLEASANTON**

- 4 Bedrooms & 2 Bathrooms
 - 1,612+/- Sq. Ft. • 6,906+/- Sq. Ft. Lot
 - Updated Throughout
 - Side Yard Access
 - Located in Vintage Hills Neighborhood
- Sold for \$1,145,440**

JUST SOLD



**846 VIA GRANADA
LIVERMORE**

- 3 Bedrooms & 2 Bathrooms
 - 1,174+/- Sq. Ft. • 6,510+/- Sq. Ft. Lot
 - Open Floor Plan
 - Located in Sunset West Neighborhood
- Sold for \$700,000**
Represented the Buyer

JUST SOLD

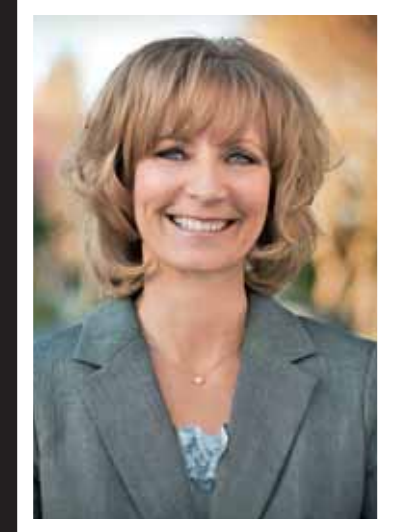


**3018 W. RUBY HILLS DRIVE
PLEASANTON**

- 6 Bedrooms & 7 Bathrooms
 - 8,800+/- Sq.Ft.
 - 40,000+/- Sq.Ft. Lot
 - An Entertainer's Dream Inside & Out
- Sold for \$4,250,000**
Represented the Buyer

"We could not have asked for a better agent than Kris Moxley. She has represented our interests in selling 2 homes now and we will continue to use her services when buying or selling every home in our future. Kris managed every aspect of the sale; from arranging inspections, staging, holding open house and all without impacting our family's very busy day-to-day living. From the time we contacted her until the time we closed, she treated us like we were her only client and selling our house was her main goal. We were able to sell our home very quickly and over asking price!"
- The Duncan Family ~ Sellers/Buyers

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925-519-9080
MoxleyRealEstate.com
LIC# 00790463



**900 Main Street
Pleasanton, CA 94566**

1479 Irongate Drive



JUST LISTED
OPEN SAT/SUN 1-4

4bd | 3.5ba | 3,182sf. | 10,690sf. lot

Single level - Entertainer's dream. An elegant home offering an open design & modern amenities. Gourmet kitchen with large bar seating. Master suite with large bathroom & walk-in closet. Private setting with secluded yards.
\$1,850,000

198 Ganesha Common



JUST LISTED
OPEN SAT/SUN 1-4

4bd | 3.5ba | 1,816sf. | Downtown Livermore

Rare Downtown home built in 2018. Bedroom & bath on main level. Premium location with backyard. Open kitchen with large island and opening to family room. Almost brand new.
High \$700's

2994 Bresso Drive



JUST SOLD

5bd | 2.5ba | 2,731sf. | Pool

Pristine single level in Kristopher Ranch. Open design with a large kitchen/family room combo. Large living room off main entry. Master suite with access to yard, walk-in closet & split bath. Located in South Livermore.
\$1,354,000

661 Falcon Way



JUST SOLD

3bd | 2ba | 1,269sf. | Downtown Livermore

Move-In Ready! Recently updated offering wood flooring in all rooms, an updated kitchen with island & remodeled bathrooms with top of the line fixtures.
\$750,000



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4th Generation REALTOR
Broker Associate

925.518.1083

LICENSE# 01412130



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Language



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Sonali Sethna

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sonali.sethna@compass.com
DRE 01194792

usfineliving.com

Just Listed



1841 Spumante Place, Ruby Hill
6 Bed 6 Bath 5,450 Sq Ft 0.54 Ac \$2,748,888

New Price



1507 Trimmingham Drive, Pleasanton
2 Bed 2 Bath 1,441 Sq Ft 3,325 Sq Ft Lot \$828,888

Active



3005 Blackberry Avenue, San Ramon
3 Bed 2.5 Bath 1,763 Sq Ft \$999,000

Listed & Sold



1695 Germano Way, Ruby Hill
5 Bed 6.5 Bath 7,330 Sq Ft 0.65 Ac \$2,835,000

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COMPASS

JuliaMurtagh

PLEASANTON LUXURY AGENT



◀ 4625 SECOND STREET PLEASANTON

Stunning custom home in downtown Pleasanton on a double lot located in the heart of the historic tree lined 2nd Street. Imagine 5760+/- Sq. Ft. of living space, with a "Modern Industrial" design. The Sellers remodeled the entire home in 2015. Featuring 6 bedrooms, 4.5 baths a large gourmet kitchen connected to the family room, private dining area, and a large living room. The lower level has a huge game room/high end media space. Lounge outside on the expansive wrap around deck or private upstairs deck. Enjoy the lifestyle of downtown living in true luxury. There is no other home like this in Pleasanton.

Visit www.46252ndStreet.com for more.

Listed for \$3,288,000

Open Sat 5/4 & Sun 5/5, 1:00pm-4:00pm



OPEN 5/4 & 5/5, 1PM-4PM

◀ 4852 DRYWOOD STREET PLEASANTON

Charming 3 bedroom & 2 Bath home with a spacious and private back yard in the desirable Muirwood neighborhood. Enjoy 1877+/- Sq.Ft. of living space, upgraded and ready to move in. The Kitchen has a nice layout with lots of counter space, with a window looking out to the Beautiful yard. Walk to Award winning schools, Parks, Stoneridge Mall and Bart. Open Sat & sunday 1-4pm

Listed for \$1,099,000



OPEN 5/4 & 5/5, 1PM-4PM

◀ 2371 BAY MEADOWS CIRCLE PLEASANTON

Charming Duet located in a great central Pleasanton location. This 1421+/- Sq. Ft. home features 2 Bedrooms and a full Bathroom downstairs plus a Master Suite upstairs. Enjoy the beautifully landscaped backyard with mature trees, back deck and a nice lawn, perfect for unwinding or entertaining. The "Northway Downs" neighborhood is walking distance to award winning schools, parks, shops and restaurants.

Listed for \$899,950



Get in touch

JULIAMURTAGH.COM

(925) 997-2411

JMURTAGH@APR.COM

DRE#0175154



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Your Seniors Real Estate Specialist

ACTIVE



682 Windmill Lane, Pleasanton
Olde Towne beauty with great curb appeal and two master suites; close to downtown, schools, BART, ACE, and 680. 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 2764 sq. ft., 10,600 sq. ft. lot.

SOLD - MULTIPLE OFFERS



1849 Badger Pass Way, Antioch
Single story with two master suites; 2066 sq. ft. home on large, flat lot close to schools, shopping, freeway, BART.

ACTIVE



96 Liberty Lane, Brentwood
Two bedroom, two bath home in Summerset 55+ community.

SOLD - MULTIPLE OFFERS



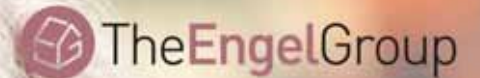
4120 Casterson Court, Pleasanton
Pending in seven days with multiple offers!



Christina Rice
REALTOR® MBA, GRI, SRES
CalBRE #01934850
Keller Williams Realty
M: 925.216.0596



KELLER WILLIAMS
REALTY



Welcomes
Kara Bosch

(925) 337-1882
kara@boschbetterliving.com

Joel & Cindy Engel are pleased to announce the addition of Kara Bosch to The Engel Group at Compass.

Congratulations
Kara!



COMPASS

DRE #01991628
190 Hartz Ave, Suite 200 Danville CA 94526

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Gina Piper

1448 Oak Vista Way – Pleasanton – \$1,398,800
Gorgeous east facing home nestled in Pleasanton's highly desired Walnut Hills neighborhood. The spacious kitchen overlooks the inviting family room and features granite counters, maple cabinets, stainless appliances, tile floors, a large island with seating, a breakfast nook and convenient butler's pantry. It is one of the east bay's best commute locations and provides easy access to highways 580 & 680, the ACE Train station and BART.



Sarah Braun

3980 Fairlands Drive – Pleasanton – \$1,187,000
Wonderful Pleasanton Meadows two story home. 5 bedrooms, 3 baths, plus bonus room. Lovely back yard and two car garage. Approximately 2095 sq. ft. home on a 6489 sq. ft. lot. The home features a comfortable floor plan with a living room with high ceilings, great kitchen with lots of storage, inside laundry area. On the main floor are the Master bedroom with private bathroom & walk-in closet. This home is part of the Pleasanton Meadows Cabana Club!



Great New Price!

Gina Piper

4465 Clovewood Lane – Pleasanton – \$1,188,500
Gorgeous and totally updated 5-bedroom, 3-bathroom home featuring 1 bedroom and full bathroom downstairs plus an additional bonus room. The spacious kitchen overlooks the dining area and features custom cabinets, granite counters, high-end stainless appliances, custom tile backsplash. The yard backs to Muirwood Park and includes a fire pit, outdoor kitchen, enclosed storage area and a stamped concrete patio. Excellent location!



Beverly Herrera

5766 Barley Road – Livermore – \$999,990
Walk to BART! Modern almost new construction in Huntington at The Boulevard. Great floor plan with large bedroom, full bath and walk-in closet on the first floor with slider to patio. The second floor features a bedroom/office with full bath, gourmet kitchen featuring Bosch stainless appliances, slab granite counter tops, large island, tons of beechwood cabinets and a large pantry.



Great New Price!

Leon Yuan

4317 Krause Street – Pleasanton – \$949,800
A desirable 4bdm home under \$950K in Pleasanton! Don't miss it! Wonderful home in great Pleasanton Village, quiet location, friendly neighbors. This home has a lot of updates: Granite Countertops in Kitchen and Bathrooms, Updated floorings, New Electric Stove, New Water heater, Rooftop SOLAR Panels and more.



Mike D'Onofrio

7750 Canyon Meadow Circle #E – Pleasanton – \$470,000
This is it! Move-in ready condo in prime commute location! Minutes from shopping, dining & 580/680 freeways! Lower unit with peaceful setting! Interior has custom & extensive tile flooring, solid surface counters, stainless appliances, large bedroom with walk-in closet! Outdoor patio/deck for relaxation, PLUS a 1-car garage AND assigned space!



Coming Soon!

Michelle Seabrook

4968 Winchester Place – Newark
Meticulously maintained Lake Area home. This California casual style home offers spacious living on the 1st floor with living, dining, family and 3 bedrooms. Upstairs is 450+ sq ft of Bonus-Flex Space with 1/2 bath for a home office, master bedroom, art studio or home theater. The beautiful chef's kitchen has high end stainless appliances. Convenient commute location!



Coming Soon!

Cindy Gee

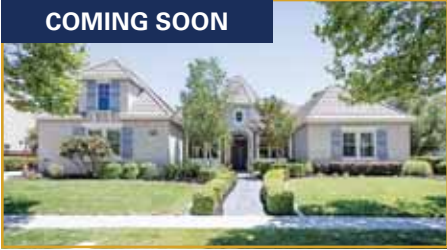
8303 Regency Drive – Pleasanton
Coming Soon! Laguna Oaks Beauty! One of a kind, Resort Style Living. The pool is amazing and the views of the ridge are a must see! Must see this gorgeous home! 5 Bed & 3.5 Bath, 4,383 Sq. Ft. on a 20,000 lot. Upgraded and Ready To Move In!

bhgtrivalley.com BRE#01157088

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925-463-9500

COMING SOON



West Pleasanton

Gorgeous newer 5 BR, 4 BTH one story home on expansive .3 Acre lot with pool & spa Offered at \$2,195,000

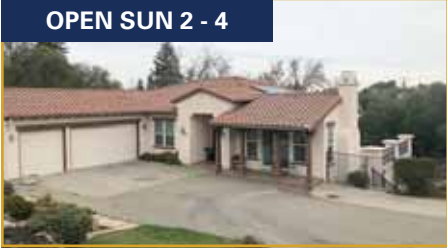
OPEN SUN 2 - 4



4836 Ganner Court

Premium 4 BR, 3 BTH Birdland home with pool, hardwood floors, and large cul-de-sac lot Call for price

OPEN SUN 2 - 4



448 Bunker Lane

Elegant Mediterranean home with 6 BR, 4.5 BTHS, and large private .65 Acre lot. Offered at \$1,989,000

OPEN SUN 2 - 4



6350 Alisal Street

2800 sq ft one story on FLAT 1.5 Acre lot with detached bonus rm, huge shop area, and more! Offered at \$1,600,000

PENDING SALE



3562 Ballantyne Drive

Remodeled Fairlands area home with 4 BR plus bonus room, 2.5 BTHS, and large private yard. Offered at \$1,239,000

JUST SOLD



3867 Picard Avenue

Gorgeous luxury estate remodeled throughout with 5 BR, 3 BTH, pool, 1/3 Acre flat lot, & more! Sold for \$2,275,000

See these homes at 680Homes.com

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

Doug Buenz | 680 Homes Group

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SUSIE STEELE

EXCEEDING MY CLIENTS EXPECTATIONS FOR OVER 20 YEARS IN THE TRI-VALLEY

Stunning and Serene Custom Estate Nestled on 2 Flat Acres!

6290 Laura Lane, Pleasanton

Open House Sunday 1-4
Brokers Tour Friday 10-1



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 3.5 Bathroom Home is beaming with comfortable Elegance where no detail has been overlooked. Privacy and Peaceful views abound 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 is \$2,838,000



SUSIE STEELE
License # 01290566

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susiesteele@apr.com
susiesteele.apr.com

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Our mission is to help everyone find their place in the world. Compass is continuing to expand our California presence through new partnerships with local firms Alain Pinel Realtors, Paragon, and Pacific Union International. Aided by our technology, service, and access to more agents in the region, you can now go further in your home search.

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