

Pleasanton Weekly

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for our new times

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Spotlight on Veterans

TV30 program honors
those who served, as part of
unique Veterans Day 2020

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PLEASANTON WEEKLY

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CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF
AWARD-WINNING JOURNALISM

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VALLEY VIEWS



BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Deaf Ladies help firefighters



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Deaf Ladies of Pleasanton and their succulents: (from left) Julie Rems-Smario, Rita Ribera, Susanna Acosta, Julie Baer and Kate Kovacs. Not shown, Stacy Eilbert.

A new group in town has come to my attention: the Deaf Ladies of Pleasanton. Its seven members have known each other for years but recently coalesced.

Julie Baer explained in an email that when sheltering began, the friends created a group phone text and stay in daily contact, sharing thoughts, advice and tips, as well as discussing topics from climate change to politics. They chose their name “just for the fun of it.”

Baer noted Pleasanton has a sizable number of deaf residents and that American Sign Language (ASL) is offered at Amador Valley and Foothill high schools as well as Las Positas College.

“It’s always nice bumping into someone at the store or in a restaurant who knows some ASL,” Baer said.

Two years ago member Julie Rems-Smario’s son Joshua, a 2013 Village High grad who is now a Cal Fire firefighter, and his young family stayed with her, her husband David and daughter Jessica in Pleasanton after they lost their house in Paradise. Her in-laws’ home also burned down so they moved in, too, with her brother-in-law, resulting in a very full house.

“The deaf community gave us so much — donations and support, and they cooked food for us,” Rems-Smario told me on the phone using a sign language interpreter.

Then they discovered her father-in-law had stage 4 cancer. It was a time of loss, grief and shock, she recalled, but also a blessing as they were all together when he died in her home.

“If the fire had never happened, they would not have been here and it would have been difficult to give

support,” Rems-Smario said. “It was beautiful to be here with him.”

As her deaf friends rallied around, they gave her cuttings from their succulents, and the gardening became a type of meditation. In quarantine the women devote even more time to their thriving plants.

When California caught fire this summer, Joshua Smario again was called to battle the blazes.

“We saw how he was fighting the fire, sleeping on the ground, and getting up and fighting fires again, and eating peanut butter and jelly sandwiches,” Rems-Smario said. “Several firefighters lost their own homes this year, too.”

The Deaf Ladies decided to raise money by selling their succulents, and a one-day sale earned more than \$900 for the California Fire Foundation to support firefighters’ families. They are collecting money through Dec. 1, through CashApp, Venmo or by contacting Julie Baer at juli-eaer94@gmail.com.

Most of the Deaf Ladies of Pleasanton are teachers, Rems-Smario said. She works at the Department of Education in Sacramento, and is soon receiving her Ph.D. in education leadership and social justice from CSU East Bay.

She recommended I watch “CODA Pride” on YouTube, which was produced by Jacob Baer, narrated by Rachel Baer and includes her daughter Jessica. CODA stands for Children of Deaf Adults. She also directed me to “Deaf U” on Netflix, a reality show set at Gallaudet University.

Both opened a new world to me, as did the two deaf Julies.

“We’re normal — we are happy as we are,” Rems-Smario wants everyone to know. ■

About the Cover

TV30’s “Spotlight on Veterans” special features a prerecorded flag-folding ceremony shot here at the Veterans Memorial at Pleasanton’s Pioneer Cemetery. Photo by Jeremy Walsh. Cover design by Paul Llewellyn.

Vol. XXI, Number 32



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- **Mr. Eugene E:** Livermore, 4 bed+, up to \$1.3M
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- **Mrs. Iris K:** Pleasanton, 3 beds+, up to \$1M

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Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

What do you think about the return of indoor dining at restaurants?



Justin Harris
Server/bartender

I think it's great, because with the cold weather and rain coming soon, we, in the industry, need the business. We are all making a tremendous effort to make indoor dining safe for everyone. If people still feel uncomfortable to eat indoors though, they don't have to participate.



Izzie Crane
Retired respiratory therapist

Well, having a background in respiratory therapy, I know it is not really safe to dine indoors. I plan to continue eating outdoors for as long as I possibly can.



Anita Sliensky
Homemaker

I personally will not be ready to eat indoors at a restaurant again until there is a reliable and effective, widely available vaccine. I'm happy to continue to eat outdoors, even in the cold, and to order takeout if I'm in the mood for restaurant food.



John Crane *Physicist*

I spend my days in a lab and have been working for months now, practicing social distancing, wearing a mask and washing/sanitizing my hands often. Neither my colleagues nor I have gotten sick. So I think that if people who opt for dining indoors practice those same safety measures, they should all be just fine.



Cindy Carter
Human resources

I have asthma so I'm quite reluctant to eat inside at a restaurant. I feel I can breathe much more easily and comfortably outdoors. But I think most people need to move forward with their lives and so I support the return of indoor dining. It's just not for me. Not for a while.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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DIGEST

Arts relief grants

Officials are soliciting applications for the "Alameda County Arts Relief Grant Program," which aims to assist nonprofit arts and cultural organizations affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Funded through the federal CARES Act with up to \$900,000 available overall, the program will offer grants between \$5,000 to \$25,000 to qualifying organizations providing arts programs and services in the areas of visual art, dance, theater, music, literature, poetry, cultural traditions, and other related forms of arts, culture and creativity.

The grants are "intended to provide support for expenses and income loss from business interruption due to COVID-19 between March 1, 2020 through Dec. 30, 2020," officials said.

Program guidelines, including eligibility and application requirements, can be found on the county Arts Commission website at www.acgov.org/arts (click on "Programs"). Applications are due by 5 p.m. next Friday (Nov. 20).

Virtual Turkey Burn

Pleasanton North Rotary, adjusting to the health order and COVID conditions, has shifted its 2020 Tri-Valley Turkey Burn to a virtual format to encourage area residents of all ages to support the organization while enjoying a healthy and safe Thanksgiving Day.

A fun run, walk or stroll event for the whole family that usually takes place at Ken Mercer Sports Park, this year's Turkey Burn will see registrants choose their own starting line and participate wherever they feel comfortable.

The Turkey Burn's virtual starting times will be just as flexible; participants can start at any time during the entire four-day Thanksgiving holiday weekend from Nov. 26-29. Registrants will receive a blank "I am thankful for..." bib for decorating to keep with the event's tradition.

Registration is underway at www.trivalleyturkeyburn.org.

Thanksgiving plans?

Thanksgiving in the time of COVID. It's hard to know what to expect.

The Weekly wants to hear from Tri-Valley residents about how — if at all — their holiday plans are changing this year amid the coronavirus pandemic. Are you having gatherings with family or friends in person or virtually? Any travel? What precautions are you taking? Or just business as usual for Turkey Day?

Reach out to editor Jeremy Walsh at jwalsh@pleasanton-weekly.com by this weekend if you'd like to be interviewed. ■

Pleasanton's new mayor, council members reflect on election and goals ahead

Mayor-elect Karla Brown looks to 'unify' council; swearing-in expected next month

By JULIA BAUM

Pleasanton has its new mayor and two new City Council members, and the successful candidates took time to reflect on an unusual campaign season and look toward the future with their swearing-in just weeks away.

Two-term Councilwoman Karla Brown is the city's mayor-elect, earning 47.17% of the vote — 17,961 votes to date — to keep the decisive lead she's held since Nov. 3 over fellow termed-out council member Jerry Thorne, who's received 13,377 votes (35.13%) in



Karla Brown



Valerie Arkin



Jack Balch

the five-candidate field, according to the latest results from the Alameda County Registrar of Voters' Office this Tuesday.

The election tallies are considered unofficial results until certified and there are more ballots

left to process, but the totals reported by county officials thus far represent the bulk of ballots cast and the margins appear too significant for any trailing candidates to overcome.

Among her goals as the new mayor of Pleasanton, Brown told the Weekly an immediate priority "is to unify our five-member council and mayor."

"Sometimes elections can cause

a splintering of individuals and I really want us to work together," Brown said, adding she also plans "making sure our goals for Pleasanton match the residents' goals, and keep everybody safe, and support our police and fire personnel."

Brown hopes to be officially sworn in at the first council meeting of December, but she said, "We're hearing from the registrar of voters, it may not have a certified election until Dec. 3, which would be after that date."

See **COUNCIL** on Page 10



Screenshot of drone video footage from the flag-folding ceremony recorded as part of TV30's "Spotlight on Veterans" program.

'Spotlight on Veterans'

TV30 program honors those who served

By JEREMY WALSH

Tri-Valley Community Television highlighted former military service members in its new "Spotlight on Veterans" program airing and streaming now, keeping the focus on their importance and contributions during what was a unique Veterans Day amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Absent this year was the annual Tri-Valley Veterans Day Parade and Ceremony through downtown Pleasanton, canceled for health and safety reasons during COVID-19. But local residents, public agencies and organizations worked to make sure veterans were recognized on the holiday Wednesday

and throughout the week.

"Pleasanton has always supported our veterans community through the city's veteran resource center and liaison, to the partnership with the Veterans Memorial building, Veterans Memorial at the Pioneer Cemetery, and of course the annual parade that is organized by our local veteran groups," Pleasanton Mayor Jerry Thorne told the Weekly.

"While we cannot gather for a parade in person this year, I am thrilled and honored as a veteran myself, that TV30 has produced a special tribute to Pleasanton's veterans, as well as all the service men and women who have served

our nation," Thorne added.

"Spotlight on Veterans," a half-hour television special produced by TV30, features a prerecorded flag-folding ceremony with a local military veteran colorguard at Pioneer Ceremony followed by host Chantel Woys interviewing (remotely) several local veterans to share their personal stories of service.

The episode ran on TV30 throughout the day on Wednesday and is streaming live on tv30.org.

TV30 also highlighted veterans during this month's segment of its magazine show "Slice of Life," which is available to view online as well. ■

School board prepares for change

New trustees Carreon, Mokashi to take seats with incumbent Maher

By JULIA BAUM

One incumbent is returning and two new trustees will join the Board of Trustees in the weeks ahead, ushering in new leadership at Pleasanton Unified School District at the end of a year marked by historic events.

Board President Steve Maher is serving a second term, earning 30.18% of the vote — 25,975 votes, so far — and remaining firmly in first as he has since Election Night, according to the latest results from the Alameda County Registrar of Voters' Office on Tuesday afternoon.

The election results are considered unofficial until certified, but reported totals by county officials at this point represent the vast majority of ballots cast and the margins appear too significant for any trailing candidates to overcome. The county estimated having 9,453 eligible ballots left to process after Tuesday.

"I'm a little shocked at how many votes are still coming in for everybody," Maher told the Weekly on Tuesday, noting how many more were cast than in 2016.

"It's not over until it's over, of course, but I feel confident that I'm going to end up landing one of the seats," Maher said, adding he was "certainly honored and humbled to be elected."

See **SCHOOL BOARD** on Page 9

Woerner, Kiick name equity and inclusion as a top priority

By CIERRA BAILEY

Livermore voters have chosen City Councilman Bob Woerner as their new mayor and newcomer Brittnei Kiick as the City Council District 3 representative in the city's first ever district-based election.

The election results are considered unofficial until certified by the Alameda County Registrar of Voters' Office and ballots are still being counted, but the totals reported by county officials thus far reflect the vast majority of eligible ballots and indicate Kiick and Woerner as clear winners of their respective races.

With more than 65% of the vote, Woerner is set to succeed Mayor John Marchand who is terming out this year.

"I am sincerely grateful to all those who contributed resources, time and endorsements to my campaign for Mayor," Woerner, a second-term councilman, said in a statement on his campaign website. "I deeply appreciate all the help and expertise of my campaign team volunteers who made our success in this election possible."

Woerner told the Weekly that while running for election isn't always fun, he is proud of how all of the candidates for public office in Livermore conducted themselves along the campaign trail. "I want to congratulate all of the people who ran for election in Livermore," he



Bob Woerner



Brittnei Kiick

said. "We did well in the way that we carried ourselves."

He also expressed gratitude for the support he received from Marchand during his campaign. "I've enjoyed working with him over all these years and I'm going to be very sorry that he has to leave the council, but I appreciate him having the confidence in me to continue in the role as mayor," Woerner said.

His lone opponent, Realtor and former police officer Mony Nop, said that despite falling short in the race with just under 35% of the vote, the mayoral campaign was a "very positive experience."

"I met so many incredible people along the way and heard many stories of people who have not been represented," he said, adding that while he is unsure what's next for him, he will be seeking other opportunities to serve the community.

Kiick, a community advocate and photography business owner, has earned nearly 60% of the votes for City Council District 3, which covers

the southeastern parts of the city.

"This election was about doing more than speaking truth to power but actually ensuring activists are holding some of that power," Kiick said in a statement shared on social media following the election. "I will keep working to make sure that young, LGBTQ and BIPOC communities understand the local systems of governance so they can find their rightful place at the table."

Kiick's District 3 opponent, lifelong Livermore resident and first-time candidate Pete Patterson, did not respond to the Weekly's request for comment as of press time Wednesday. Patterson, a medical account manager, has garnered 40.51% of the vote to date in the two-candidate campaign for the council position currently held by Councilman Bob Coomber, who opted not to seek re-election for health reasons.

Kiick and Woerner both cited equity and inclusion as an area they want to focus on as the new council convenes to re-evaluate the goals and priorities of the city. The two are set to officially be seated on Dec. 14.

"I really want us to move equity and inclusion to our official goals and priorities," Kiick said. "I think the city has made an effort to show that they value these efforts with the Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee, but I want it to be official so that we can truly show the

community that we are taking this seriously."

The council's newly established Equity and Inclusion subgroup is currently co-chaired by Woerner and Councilwoman Trish Munro. However, this could change as the new council comes together to decide which commissions and subcommittees best align with each councilmember's personal interests, strengths and expertise.

"No matter what subcommittees I end up on, equity and inclusion is going to be the lens with which I view all of the things that we have to do," Kiick said.

Helping to improve communication between the city and the community is also among Kiick's goals as a member of the council. "I'm hoping to have some kind of temporary subcommittee on communications to really focus on increasing that access to the public," she said.

She acknowledged that holding public meetings via Zoom has offered more flexibility for people to participate and she said she looks forward to the potential to move toward a hybrid model for meetings even beyond the pandemic.

Kiick and Woerner both identified leading the community through the COVID-19 pandemic as an ongoing priority in terms of public safety and economic recovery efforts.

"We're going to have to continue

to help the businesses and the community get to the other side of the pandemic and we're in the thick of that now," Woerner said. "Hopefully a vaccine comes in and helps us but I think we've got easily through the first half of next year and beyond before we begin to get to the other side."

He also listed continuing to improve emergency response plan efforts as one of his public safety goals.

Woerner's elevation from councilmember to mayor means that his seat on the council will become vacant. Woerner was re-elected to another four-year council term in 2018, the city's last election with at-large balloting for council positions; he lives in District 1.

It has not yet been decided whether the city will appoint someone to fill the spot or hold a special election, but Woerner said that in the past when a safe seat has become vacant, the council has filled it by appointment.

The existing council will decide whether to hold a special election, but if they choose to go the appointment route, the new council will be responsible for filling the seat.

Incumbent Councilman Bob Carling also earned re-election on Nov. 3, running unopposed for District 4. He has received 98.19% of the vote, with the rest going to unidentified write-in candidates. ■

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DMV closing Walnut Creek office for good; Stoneridge Mall site to serve as replacement

Also: Regular field office on WLP reopening Monday after remodel

By JULIA BAUM

The California Department of Motor Vehicles is permanently closing its Walnut Creek field office at the end of this week after not renewing the lease for its location there, and a second office will open in Pleasanton as a replacement later in the month.

Patrons have until 5 p.m. today (Nov. 13) to visit the Walnut Creek location just outside downtown at

1910 North Broadway before they will need to conduct business at another DMV office.

The state will be offering a replacement office at the Stoneridge Shopping Center in Pleasanton starting Nov. 23 at 8 a.m. The temporary DMV station at the mall originally opened in July while the regular Pleasanton field office on West Las Positas Boulevard had its roof, furniture and

HVAC system replaced.

"We have recently made many alternatives available for our customers," DMV Director Steve Gordon said in a statement. "Most DMV transactions can now be completed without visiting a field office by using our expanded online services, kiosks, business partners or mail."

The remodeled Pleasanton field office is scheduled to reopen

on Monday (Nov. 16) at 8 a.m. Meanwhile, the Stoneridge Mall location (2621 Stoneridge Mall Road, Unit G225B) is closed from now through Nov. 22 to accommodate the transfer of office equipment.

Walnut Creek area customers can also visit nearby field offices in Concord (2070 Diamond Blvd.) and Pittsburg (1399 Buchanan Rd.), in addition to the field office

in Pleasanton at 6300 W. Las Positas Blvd.

The DMV encourages customers to use its online and expanded virtual services and other service channels for transactions such as driver's license and vehicle registration renewals. A service adviser is available on the DMV website to help customers learn about their options for completing DMV tasks: dmv.ca.gov. ■

Margins razor thin for Measures W and X

Sales tax, fire bond on brink with estimated 9,400+ ballots left to process countywide

By JEREMY WALSH

The advantage has switched for Measure W, the proposed new half-cent sales tax countywide, which is now trailing at 50.07% No to 49.93% Yes as of the newest results update from the Alameda County Registrar of Voters' Office on Tuesday afternoon.

Meanwhile, the Alameda County Fire Department's \$90 million fire facilities bond proposal — on the ballot in unincorporated communities as Measure X — continued

to see its Election Night lead slip, now down to 0.08% away from losing as of Tuesday.

Both measures appear to be coming down to the wire, as the county estimates having 9,453 eligible ballots left to process after Tuesday. Voter turnout in last week's general election is nearly 80% of Alameda County's 966,088 registered voters.

The current tally sees 349,649 votes against Measure W compared to 348,653 in favor the new 0.5%

sales tax — a margin of 996 votes.

The Yes on Measure W side has seen its slim lead since Election Night flip as county elections officials have continued tabulating eligible ballots.

The early returns had Measure W at 51.11% Yes to 48.89% No at the end of Nov. 3, but that edge has been chipped away in the following days. The lead dropped to 50.1% Yes on Sunday, ticked up slightly on Monday to 50.14% Yes before dropping to 50.07% No on Tuesday.

A proposal put on the ballot by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, Measure W would establish a new half-cent sales tax countywide "to provide essential county services, including housing and services for those experiencing homelessness, mental health services, job training, social safety net and other general fund services,"

according to the ballot question.

The new tax, which requires a simple majority to pass (50% plus one vote), would be in place for 10 years and generate an estimated \$150 million per year.

The other ballot measure in the Tri-Valley that remains too close to call is Measure X, the ACFD bond measure to fund fire facility projects across unincorporated Alameda County — which is on the ballot for the second election in a row after narrowly failing in the March primary.

Measure X currently sits at 66.75% Yes (37,793 votes) to 33.25% No (18,828 votes), needing a two-thirds supermajority, or 66.67% in favor, to pass.

That represents a precarious drop after Election Night when the split stood at 68.16% Yes to 31.84% No. The measure was on the ballot in unincorporated

communities (except Fairview), including parts of Pleasanton, Dublin and Livermore outside of those cities' jurisdictions.

It could be a case of déjà vu for ACFD, which proposed the same \$90 million bond measure in March only to see it fall 95 votes short of passing (it was on that ballot as Measure D).

In the primary election, ACFD's Measure D started from trailing position in Election Night results before climbing very close too, but not surpassing, the two-thirds threshold at any point during the tabulation before finishing at 66.37% in favor.

The other local measure on Tri-Valley ballots, the Measure V unincorporated utility users tax extension, does not appear as dramatic this fall. Needing a simple majority to pass, Yes on Measure V stands at 69.11% Yes to 30.89% No. ■

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SCHOOL BOARD

Continued from Page 5

As for what happens post-election, “We have a daunting task ahead of us; we made a commitment to open Jan. 4” for in-person learning at PUSD elementary school sites.

“We hope that the community will adhere to wearing masks, distancing, stay out of large groups so that we can open,” Maher said, including the Pleasanton community at-large.

“My top priority now is to make sure that those that come back do so safely,” he added, as well as offering a “robust” remote learning experience for students and families that opt

to remain at home for the remainder of the school year.

Retired PUSD teacher Mary Jo Carreon, who won the second most votes in the five-person race — 17,354 (20.16%) to date — told the Weekly she was “very grateful and humbled by the outpouring of support from our community.”

“I really appreciate how so many people stepped up to help, and that is reflective of what a great community we live in,” Carreon said. “I



Steve Maher



Mary Jo Carreon



Kelly Mokashi

look forward to working with fellow board members to serve the needs of all students.”

E-education professional Kelly Mokashi was narrowly ahead of incumbent Jamie Yee for the third and final seat on the board, receiving to-date 16,039 votes (18.64%) to Yee’s 14,613 (16.98%).

Though Carreon and Mokashi were both uncertain about when they would be sworn in, Mokashi said her top priorities as a new trustee are “consistent with my campaign.”

“We certainly want to keep our children and school community safe, but I want to look at options for the hybrid model,” Mokashi said. “Remote learning certainly has its challenges; I want to leverage my expertise in that field.”

Mokashi is also focused on “assuring that we’re being fiscally responsible” amid economic upheaval during the pandemic and assuring students “get that quality education that they deserve.”

Yee, who was seeking a fourth consecutive term as trustee since first being elected in 2008, said in a statement, “For the respect of the election process, I have nothing to say until the election is certified.”

First-time candidate Chong Wang received 11,878 votes, or 13.80% of total ballots cast in last week’s general election. Another 204 voters opted for write-in candidates.

The five candidates were competing for three at-large seats on the board, at least one of which was guaranteed to change hands because Trustee Valerie Arkin ran for City Council instead — an election she won. ■




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Haubert wins Supervisor District 1 election

Dublin mayor elevating to coveted county position

By JEREMY WALSH

Dublin Mayor David Haubert has taken the election for Alameda County Board of Supervisors District 1, defeating Fremont City Councilman Vinnie Bacon with around 54% of the vote to claim victory after a contentious race marked by discord and allegations of campaign violations by both sides.

Haubert, who also has past experience on the school board and council in Dublin, will succeed retiring Livermore Supervisor Scott Haggerty and ensure that the five-member county board will continue to have at least one Tri-Valley resident on its dais.

"I am humbled and honored to serve the residents of Alameda County. Nearly 100 volunteers, from across the district helped to make phone calls, deliver lawn signs, send emails of support and so much more. I'd like to thank each one of them," Haubert told the Weekly.

"I promise to work hard for all residents whether they voted for me or not," he said. "We have a lot of



David Haubert

work to do to crush the coronavirus curve, get our economy going again and tackle homelessness. I feel well prepared drawing upon my 18 years of experience in public service."

"I'm also excited to work alongside such a great group of current supervisors. They have decades of experience and I plan to learn a lot from each of them," Haubert added.

The Dublin mayor grabbed the advantage early in the reporting on Nov. 3, finishing Election Night with 53.03% of the vote in the two-candidate runoff. His lead has inched forward as the Alameda County Registrar of Voters' Office

has continued to process ballots. The election stood at 69,673 votes for Haubert (54.01%) to 58,911 votes for Bacon (45.66%) as of Tuesday's results update.

The Nov. 3 election results remain unofficial as of press time, but the data reported thus far represent the totals with a vast majority of eligible ballots counted, making the margin too great for Bacon to overcome.

The Fremont councilman reflected on the tough campaign in concession remarks to the Weekly on Wednesday.

"I first have to thank all of the people who have supported me

over the years in my clean money campaigns. Unfortunately, in the race for the Alameda County Board of Supervisors I was not successful," Bacon said.

"It was very disheartening to see the developer/corporate money that I have been speaking out against used against me personally in such a dishonest, deceitful and unethical manner. Over a half million dollars was raised and used to disparage me and distort my record as a Fremont city councilmember," he contended.

"I'm not sure exactly what the future holds for me," Bacon added. "But this election made it even more clear to me that the need to fight corporate money in politics is very important and necessary than ever. I am not done fighting for what I believe is right." ■

Axis offers free COVID-19 testing for clients, essential workers

Drive-thru testing available; no insurance or referral needed

By JULIA BAUM

Free COVID-19 testing is now available at Axis Community Health for current patients, all health care, frontline and essential workers, and anyone uninsured or without a primary care provider.

Testing is made available through a partnership with the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency and Asbury United

Methodist Church in Livermore.

"Access to testing in Eastern Alameda County is critical to managing this health crisis," Axis CEO Sue Compton said in a statement. "We encourage anyone who is a frontline essential worker to get tested to ensure their own good health and the health of others."

Staffing and laboratory costs are covered by the county while the

church is granting use of its parking lot for drive-thru testing. Walk-up testing is also available for those without a vehicle.

Rev. Kathy La Point-Collup, senior pastor at Asbury United Methodist, said, "We are grateful for the opportunity to host COVID testing for Axis. We believe COVID testing should be readily available for all and are glad to play this

small role in making it available to Axis patients in the Tri-Valley community."

People of all ages may be tested and results are received within 72 hours. There are no insurance, doctor's note or immigration status requirements. Axis staff may also provide language assistance, if necessary.

Located at 4743 East Ave. in

Livermore, the testing is done by appointment and available Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Services will be available through the end of December. To make an appointment, call 462-1755.

A list of all free community COVID-19 testing sites in Alameda County is available at covid-19.acgov.org/covid19/testing.page. ■

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 5

Should that be the case, Brown would be sworn in about two weeks after to succeed term-out Jerry Thorne as mayor.

Pentin, who terms out from his council position next month after serving two four-year terms, said he is "disappointed" by the outcome of the mayoral election but "confident that Mayor-elect Brown cares about this city as deeply as I do and understands the complexity of her new role."

"I fully support Mayor-elect Brown and the new councilmembers and wish them all great success," Pentin said.

First-time candidate and Amador Valley High alumnus Monith Ilavarasan has 9.96% of the vote (3,792 ballots) in third place. Druthi Ghanta, who bowed out of the campaign but remained on the ballot, is in fourth with 5.04%, and fellow newcomer Tom Turpel is fifth with 2.48%. There have also been 85 write-in votes.

Succeeding Brown and Pentin in four-year regular council seats will be Valerie Arkin and Jack Balch, advancing out of the seven-candidate election for Pleasanton City Council.

Arkin, who soon leaves her current position as Pleasanton school board trustee for her new spot on the City Council after winning the most votes (15,231 votes, or 23.62%), was "pleased with the results," she said in a statement.

"I look forward to continuing my service representing the community of Pleasanton," Arkin said, also thanking volunteers on her "honest, grassroots campaign" and "those who voted for me and have placed their confidence in me to be their voice."

Planning Commissioner Jack Balch edged out fellow Planning Commissioner Nancy Allen by roughly 1,300 votes for the second open council seat, winning 14,383 votes (22.31%) to Allen's 13,015 (20.19%) as of Tuesday's totals.

"I am humbled by the trust that Pleasanton has put in me to be elected to our City Council. I look forward to working with my colleagues as we collectively prioritize the community's needs and how we can work together to address them," Balch said, also thanking his family and campaign supporters.

He said he would be urging the council to "focus on how we keep our residents healthy and our economy thriving during COVID," later adding, "beyond that, I'll be focusing on how we navigate through our new state-mandated housing numbers, and all the challenges there, as well as maintaining our fiscal health and public safety. I am confident we can accomplish these with civility, an open mind, and a willingness to work together for our community."

Extending congratulations to both winners in a statement, Allen said, "I have worked closely with Valerie and Jack and am confident they will serve

Pleasanton residents in a way that is inclusive, collaborative and always puts community interests first. That is what good government is about."

Confirming she will complete her second term on the Planning Commission, Allen added she is "proud of the positive campaign all council

candidates ran and am grateful for the support I received from so many wonderful volunteers."

The other finishers in the council race are Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce Board Chair Randy Brown (no relation to Karla Brown) in fourth place at 11.40%, Housing

Commissioner Zarina Kiziloglu at 8.62%, former Economic Vitality Committee member Chiman Lee at 7.53% and attorney Jarod Buna at 6.20%. There have also been 89 write-in votes. ■

Editor's note: Editor Jeremy Walsh contributed to this story.



PINNACLE PRODUCTION GROUP

Dinosaurs at the fairgrounds

Dinosaurs took over the Alameda County Fairgrounds starting this week as the Dinosaur Adventure Drive-Thru traveling tour arrived for a three-weekend stay in Pleasanton. Aiming to bring prehistoric animals to life," the event features 80 life-sized dinosaur replicas laid out for a drive-thru show that also includes options for a guided audio tour and adventure photographs. The event is in town this weekend, Thursday through Sunday next week and Wednesday through Sunday on Thanksgiving weekend. Tickets start at \$49 per carload of up to eight people. Advance purchase is required; visit www.dinosauradventure.com or alamedacountyfair.com.

Students plan on building drone to sanitize Dublin High

Gael Force Robotics Club launches virtual fundraiser for 'Project TERSUS'

By JULIA BAUM

A high-tech drone will be built and used to sanitize the football stadium and other facilities at Dublin High School but certain high-priced parts need to be bought first for the project to happen, which is why the school's Gael Force Robotics Club launched a virtual fundraiser this month.

When assembled, the yet-to-be-built sanitization drone will be called "TERSUS," which is Latin for clean, but in this case also stands for "Technologically Effective Rapid Smart Unmanned Sanitizer."

TERSUS will use artificial intelligence to autonomously fly and sanitize the bleacher seats in the stadium and other parts of the school from high above.

Niharika Suravarjjala, president of Gaels Force Robotics and a senior at DHS, told the Weekly, "The idea came when it was suggested by the school district management and operations team" and called it "disheartening" to hear staffers were disinfecting the stadium by hand during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"When we heard that, we knew this was something we're interested in helping out with," Suravarjjala said.

A core project group of 10 students from the approximately 180-member international award-winning club was formed, and the team immediately started looking into drones already on the market

for design ideas and inspiration.

One sanitization drone used at the Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta, caught their eye but the price tag was too much. The group found that industrial drones were also much more than they expected.

Another goal of theirs is to "enhance what we see on the market already," Suravarjjala said, adding she and her team members are confident their recent calculations will allow TERSUS to fly upwards of 400 feet, maybe more, for about a quarter of the current market price.

However, TERSUS requires one very expensive part before the club can do anything — a battery that will also have twice the flight time of most drones for about 22 minutes total.

Whoever is operating the drone will be able to control it remotely with an iPhone app that allows them to plot an area by combining artificial intelligence with GNSS-based flight routing.

Suravarjjala said the drone will use a high pressure pump and spray system to disperse up to one gallon of disinfectant fluid, optimizing usage with different values like the temperature of the motor and the weather outside.

Once finished, what so far has taken up to three people several hours to complete, TERSUS will do in a matter of minutes while sparing staff from potential COVID exposure.

"I think the main reason we're doing this is we really do appreciate our management and operations team," Suravarjjala added. "We're super grateful; they are going (to campus) every day and helping keep us safe. It's really important that we do something."

The club is trying to raise the \$4,000 for the drone battery and other parts by Thanksgiving, in order to place the order, which will keep the project timeline on track and account for the most expensive part. Eventually the club would like to build one sanitization drone for each DUSD site, but will need to raise more funds first.

To donate to the Gael Force Robotics Club's Project TERSUS, visit the group's GoFundMe page. ■



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Digital design concept of a sanitization drone that will be built by the Dublin High School Gael Force Robotics Club.



STEWART SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY

Tribute to Dan Fogelberg

The Firehouse Arts Center in collaboration with the Franklin Opera House in Franklin, New Hampshire, is presenting a livestream concert featuring the Don Campbell Band with a tribute to late American singer-songwriter, Dan Fogelberg, at 4:30 p.m. this Saturday. Fogelberg, a '70s-'80s folk-rock icon, stuck to an artistic vision that ranges from bluegrass and country to instrumental to pop and rock 'n' roll. His biggest mainstream success was in the early '80s with "Longer," "Leader of the Band" and "Same Old Lang Syne." Tickets for the concert are \$17. The livestream link will remain live for 24 hours, allowing viewers to adjust the start time of the concert to best fit their schedules.

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NEW DEAL THEATER FOR OUR NEW TIMES

Virtual company to present 'Becoming Eleanor Roosevelt'

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

When the pandemic struck, Scott Kenison — recently retired executive director of Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center — wanted to do something to support artists.

Realizing that online venues are the stages of today, he looked for a play to produce virtually, using Tri-Valley contacts from his years on the arts scene.

"My friend, William Lokke, had been writing this piece about Eleanor Roosevelt that was relatively short, about 45 minutes," Kenison recalled. "It is about Eleanor coming from a life of privilege and becoming a public servant, and about the person she ultimately became."

On Nov. 19, Kenison's New Deal Theater is presenting Lokke's "Becoming Eleanor Roosevelt," directed by Misty Megia with assistant director Christina Lazo.

"I found inspiration in Eleanor's work with her husband Franklin Delano Roosevelt during the Depression of the 1930s. The way the piece is written, it relates to today. The director has taken that approach," Kenison said.

"Here was an opportunity to get artists working again during these unusual times, which echo the challenges of that era," he added.

Lokke, who moved to the Tri-Valley from Minnesota in 1957 to join what became the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, explained that Eleanor Roosevelt's life story is a wonderful legacy for the nation, and she is a role model for women today.

"This, the real Eleanor Roosevelt, is the archetypal 21st century fully self-actualized woman, equal to man in her ambition and challenges, industry, commitments and accomplishments," he said.

Kenison held a reading online in September to check the script's viability.

"I invited a few people to watch and give feedback on the writing itself," he remembered, "and a number of people wanted to know more about Eleanor Roosevelt."

The length also proved to be good, in keeping with analytics done since the pandemic began that show people are apt to leave their screens at about the 40-minute mark.

Megia, who has directed two plays for Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center, noted that Eleanor Roosevelt went from

being orphaned at age 10 to becoming a globally recognized figure. And she said she is proud to have a diverse cast of actors to give voice to Roosevelt's story.

"The rehearsal process has been collaborative as we learn about each other's lives and the parallels to the script," Megia said. "Even though our backgrounds vary, what remains consistent is our passion for everyone to have a seat at the table."

Three actors will portray Roosevelt at different stages of her life: Loreigna Sinclair, Robyn Grahn and Anita Viramontes.

Grahn was most recently seen in Livermore Shakespeare Festival's production of "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)," and Viramontes was featured in Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre's production of "In the Heights" at the Bankhead Theater. Sinclair, who plays the young Eleanor, is a graduate of AMDA College of the Performing Arts and has performed in "Dreamgirls" on an international tour.

Rehearsals for "Becoming Eleanor Roosevelt" were progressing well, Kenison said last week.

"Everybody is at home doing this remotely," he explained. "I would love for it to be live — there is something about a live performance that we all miss."

Production manager Mike Johnson, who worked at the Bankhead with Kenison, is in charge of the virtual production's technology.

Kenison noted that he himself is adept at the ticket-selling software but not the computer program used for the actual show.

"I am worried about people suddenly disappearing," he said with a laugh.

The premiere will take place live, with a live Q&A afterward with the actors and directors. After that, a recording will be aired.

"I am funding the project but hopefully this will be successful and we'll be able to commission other works that are designed for this format," Kenison said. "It was a chance to do something significant and impactful."

Kenison said he is looking for future projects, perhaps stories from during the pandemic when everyone began to converse on Zoom.

"The pandemic has changed the way we live — I think live theater will come back but there need to be alternatives, focused on supporting the artists to do this important



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Rehearsals are well underway for the online production of "Becoming Eleanor Roosevelt," with three actresses portraying the American icon — (from left) Anita Viramontes, Robyn Grahn and Loreigna Sinclair — at different stages of her life.

work," he said.

"We are no longer restricted by geography," added Kenison, who sold his Livermore house in March and moved with his husband to Palm Springs just as everyone was going into quarantine.

"I feel it is important to give back,

and I am hoping to give back," he said.

Anyone with a possible project for Kenison can email him at skenison@newdealthater.org.

"I'd be interested in hearing from them," he said.

Tickets are \$15 for the premiere

of "Becoming Eleanor Roosevelt" at 8 p.m. next Thursday (Nov. 19); and \$10 for viewings afterward, through Dec. 19. Proceeds will support the production and local venues that have been shuttered due to the pandemic, including the Bankhead Theater. ■

Calling artists to 'Celebrate Women!'

Canceled show definitely on for 2021, says organizer

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

"Celebrate Women!" is taking place in 2021 no matter what, says Barbara Reynolds, curator and creator of this annual art show that honors women.

It was canceled twice this year, she explained, but will take place next year even if winning entries can only be displayed online.

"Celebrate Women!" is a

two-track art show. One track is for just photographs. The other accepts photos, drawings or paintings that honor women.

"This is a place for a picture of great-grandma, mom, sister, girlfriend or an aunt or a picture that they created themselves," Reynolds said.

She encouraged everyone to submit entries to both tracks.

"Celebrate Women!" is sponsored by the Pleasanton Art League and the Livermore Arts Association. This year it is also funded by a grant from the Livermore Commission for the Arts.

For guidelines, contact Barbara Reynolds at Celebratewomen2021@gmail.com or call/text 503-449-3861. ■

Outdoor action photo earns award

Noted photographer recognized for 'Geese Taking Wing'

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Pleasanton resident Ray Rychnovsky was recently recognized by the Outdoor Writers Association of California (OWAC) Excellence in Craft Awards. His photograph, "Geese Taking Wing," placed second in the Best Outdoor Action Photograph category.

Rychnovsky, who lives in Stoneridge Creek retirement community, had a career with Sandia National Laboratories but also has spent more than 70 years photographing nature.

He has written eight books on fishing including the San Francisco Bay Area Fishing Guide. He has also won many first-place awards in photography from OWAC as well as the national organization.

OWAC is the leading organization of professional outdoor media communicators in the western region, reporting on outdoor news from fly-fishing to leaf peeping, cooking on the trail, to vital legislation news and more for nearly four decades.

Now that shutdowns have resulted in more people turning to the outdoors, this reporting has become more valuable, noted OWAC president Carrie Wilson.

"An unwavering commitment



RAY RYCHNOVSKY

"Geese Taking Wing" by Ray Rychnovsky placed second in Best Outdoor Action Photograph category in the annual awards of the Outdoor Writers Association of California. An alternate description, said Rychnovsky, is "running takeoff."

to excellence and professional involvement in the outdoor media arts shone through in this year's entries," Wilson said. "I am proud to announce these awards and recognize these individuals for promoting the recreational prospects, issues and beauty of our great state."

The annual Excellence in Craft program acknowledges excellence

from the prior year in reporting of outdoor recreation, sports and travel in both news and feature categories in media in print, broadcast and on the internet. Entries are judged by a panel of media professionals and editors.

This year's annual conference was canceled so the awards were presented remotely. For more information, visit www.owac.org. ■

North Rotary funds scholarship for veterans

Endowment will honor two past club presidents

The Las Positas College Foundation will administer a new annual \$500 scholarship endowed by the Pleasanton North Rotary (PNR) Foundation in the memory of two of its past presidents, David Cherry and Ed Golden.

The Rotary Club of Pleasanton North David Cherry and Ed Golden Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to qualified U.S. military veterans enrolled at Las Positas College in Livermore and is funded in perpetuity with a \$12,500 grant from the club's endowment funds and donations from friends and family members. Its first recipient will be

announced in the summer of 2021.

As Pleasanton North Rotary leaders, Cherry and Golden were devoted to causes benefiting military veterans including leading the club's early financial support for the Veterans Memorial at Pleasanton's Pioneer Cemetery, and direct involvement with East Bay Stand Down, a biennial interventional program for homeless veterans.

Cherry, who was born in Oakland in 1953, served a four-year tour of duty as a U.S. Air Force flight simulator specialist. He was honorably discharged in 1979 and returned to California with his wife, Deborah,

also an Air Force veteran, to manage the family's Big O Tire Store in Pleasanton. He died April 24, 2017, at the age of 64 and is survived by Deborah and children, Joshua, Adrienne and Kelsey.

Golden, a U.S. Army veteran and information technology engineer, was a dedicated, hands-on Rotarian who led the club with humor, dedication and intelligence. He served as Pleasanton North Rotary president from 2015-16. He died March 2, 2018, at the age of 51, and is survived by his wife, Lara, and daughter, Julia. ■

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Haugen Memorial Scholarship

Community of Character accepting applications

The Community of Character Collaborative invites all high school seniors in Pleasanton to apply for the annual Juanita Haugen Memorial Scholarship.



Juanita Haugen

Haugen, the late former Pleasanton Unified School District board member, inspired the Pleasanton

Community of Character initiative, which awards the annual \$1,000 scholarships. Recipients must have a strong record of civic engagement and have demonstrated exceptional character by modeling the traits of compassion, honesty, respect, responsibility, integrity and self-discipline.

Awards will be presented to one student from each of Pleasanton's three high schools. Currently applications are being taken from students at Amador Valley and

Foothill high schools with a deadline of Feb. 1. Village High applications will be due later. More information and applications are at www.CommunityofCharacter.org.

Selections will be announced approximately one month after the deadline.

Information on making donations to increase the scholarship fund is also available on the website. ■

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli

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Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN

Pleasanton PD unruffled by 'emu-gency' call

Pleasanton police responded to an uncommon "emu-gency" situation after receiving a call about a stray emu wandering in west Pleasanton last Friday afternoon.

Reports about the large, long-necked avian spotted in the Preserve neighborhood, just west of Foothill Road, came in shortly before 3:30 p.m. that day.

"This was called in by several residents, as the emu was sitting in the front yard of a residence off of Blessing Drive" Pleasanton Police Department Lt. Kurt Schlehuber told the Weekly.

Fortunately for Animal Services Officer Frankie Ayers and Community Service Officer Amy Martin, who put their roping skills to use and successfully lassooed the giant land bird before binding its feet, emus are the second-largest bird by height but incapable of flying, according to National Geographic.



Pleasanton police responded to calls about a stray emu wandering in the Preserve neighborhood Nov. 6.

Officials also commended Ayers and Martin for keeping the emu calm after its capture.

The emu was "in safe hands waiting to be re-connected with its rightful owner at the @AC-SOSheriffs shelter" Friday evening and eventually claimed during the weekend.

One person on social media joked that law enforcement

couldn't press charges because the flightless bird "had diplomatic emu-nity."

It was the second time in recent months that local police have responded to an unusual avian incident. In August, Pleasanton police and firefighters rescued a barn owl caught in a kite string near Hansen Park. ■

—Julia Baum

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Nov. 7

Warrant arrest

■ 12:36 a.m. at Bernal Avenue and Koll Center Drive

■ 3:56 p.m. on the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue

Vandalism

■ 9:02 a.m. at Main Street and Vervais Avenue

Drug violation

■ 1:26 p.m. on the 5300 block of Hopyard Road

Nov. 6

Drug violation

■ 3:03 a.m. on the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road

Warrant arrest

■ 3:29 a.m. at Stoneridge Drive and Hopyard Road

Burglary

■ 9:04 a.m. on the 8000 block of Arroyo Drive

■ 8:05 p.m. on the 8500 block of Clubhouse Drive

Theft

■ 9:09 a.m. on the 3700 block of Hopyard Road

Domestic battery

■ 10:17 a.m. on Thistle Way

Vandalism

■ 12:13 p.m. on the 5600 block of Stoneridge Drive

Robbery

■ 7:01 p.m. on the 3900 block of Santa Rita Road

Nov. 5

Theft

■ 10:24 a.m. on the 4000 block of Ghiotti Court

Robbery

■ 3:41 p.m. on the 4500 block of Pleasanton Avenue

Burglary

■ 7:55 p.m. on the 1000 block of Serpentine Lane

Weapons violation

■ 10:53 p.m. at First Street and Bernal Avenue

Nov. 4

Vandalism

■ 6:52 a.m. on the 4400 block of Valley Avenue

■ 7:46 a.m. on the 7000 block of Pleasanton Avenue

Assault/battery

■ 8:41 a.m. on the 2900 block of Liberty Drive

Warrant arrest

■ 3:03 p.m. at East Stanley Boulevard and Murdell Lane

Burglary

■ 4:37 p.m. on the 3700 block of Old Santa Rita Road

Shoplifting

■ 5:28 p.m. on the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

DUI

■ 11:55 p.m. at Bernal Avenue and West Lagoon Road

Nov. 3

Theft

■ 5:53 a.m., 5700 block of Owens Drive; theft from auto

■ 5:00 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Fraud

■ 2:44 p.m. on the 4100 block of Morganfield Court

DUI

■ 9:43 p.m. on Stoneridge and Hacienda drives

Fire

■ 11:31 p.m. on the 500 block of St. John Street

Nov. 2

Warrant arrest

■ 6:26 a.m. on the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road

Drug violation

■ 11:21 a.m. on the 5300 block of Hopyard Road

Burglary

■ 12:24 p.m. on the 3700 block of Old Santa Rita Road

Bicycle theft

■ 5:45 p.m. on the 4300 block of Railroad Avenue

DUI

■ 8:45 p.m. at Hopyard Road and Hansen Roads

Robert James McKim

July 29, 1956 - October 28, 2020
Loving Husband, Father, Son,
Brother, Uncle & Friend

Proud U.S. Navy Veteran

Robert (Bob) James McKim died peacefully on Wednesday, October 28th, surrounded by his loving family after a hard fought battle with liver cancer. Bob died knowing that he was loved and respected by his family, friends and colleagues.

Bob married his best friend and the love of his life, Cathy Maureen (Pope) McKim in December 1976 and they would have celebrated 44 years of marriage this year.

Bob is survived by his "amazing" children, Robert Laroye McKim, Brian James McKim (and Crystal Dawn Karasiewicz), Stacey Lee (McKim) Tomson (and Justin Edward Tomson) and Scott Edward McKim; his sisters, Debbie (McKim) Baker (and Brad Baker) and Shirley (McKim) Puhalla; his sister-in-law, Vickie (Pope) Lachney; and stepmother, Rosina McKim. He is also survived by many beloved nephews and nieces. (He loved you all.)

Bob was born in Youngstown, Ohio and was preceded in death by his beloved parents, Robert & Lois (Gould) McKim; his father and mother-in-law Laroye Edward and Geraldine Lee (Roberts) Pope and his sister-in law Lynne Anne (Pope) Hopper.

Bob was a proud Vietnam Veteran of the U.S. Navy and a dedicated 30+ year employee of Coca-Cola and Reyes Holdings.

In addition to his family and friends, Bob loved everything Disney, NASCAR and cool cars!

Bob will be laid to rest at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon California on December 3, 2020.

Rest in peace Bob. We love you; until we meet again.



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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Special Olympics torch run

Police and law enforcement officials throughout the Tri-Valley took part Monday in the 2020 Law Enforcement Torch Run that leads into the Special Olympics Northern California "Fall Games @ Home" — being held remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The torch run began its Tri-Valley leg with the Livermore Police Department, before moving to Pleasanton (shown), Dublin, San Ramon and Danville police departments as well as CHP Dublin.

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TIM TALK



BY TIM HUNT

Pleasanton Garbage Service permanently closes Buy Back Center

As garbage bags of recyclable aluminum cans and plastic bottles pile up in my garage, I have been monitoring the Pleasanton Garbage Service website to see when the Buy Back Center would reopen.

It's been shut down since the shelter-in-place order took effect in March. Quite a surprise last week when I checked in and saw the notice that it had been

permanently closed.

I reached out the city of Pleasanton and Becky Hopkins, the assistant to the city manager, responded and explained the situation. Contrary to what I thought, the city's contract with Pleasanton Garbage does not require the recycling center, Hopkins wrote. The company was required to notify the city if it planned to permanently close the facility.

LETTERS

Thoughts about thankfulness

I think we can all agree that 2020 has been an extremely challenging year. I'm sure there are people you have turned to for help and guidance during this difficult time. I hope you will join me and take the time to thank them for all they have done to support you as we continue to work toward a better tomorrow.

I am thankful for the generosity of those who give of themselves because it is the right thing to do.

I am thankful for the compassion of those feeding or helping the less fortunate.

I am thankful for the selflessness of families caring for loved ones who can't care for themselves.

I am thankful for the bravery of our first responders and healthcare workers who fearlessly run toward danger.

I am thankful for the commitment of teachers to relearn how to shape and affect children's lives.

I am thankful for the determination of small businesses that have adjusted and readjusted to the demands of this time.

I am thankful for the courage of those suffering with mental illness to reach out at a difficult time.

I am thankful for the unrelenting tenacity of parents who have added "teaching from home" to their parenting duties.

I am thankful for the servitude of the nonprofits for they fill the gap for those that struggle.

The city received a letter in late July with that notification. Hopkins said city staff met with owner Bob Molinaro and his daughter, Gina Molinaro-Cardera, several times to discuss options to keep the center open. The city was notified on Oct. 5 that the company had sent a decertification request to the CalRecycle at the state.

Hopkins noted that in addition to other pandemic impacts, the entire redemption/recycling industry has struggled because companies redeeming the cans and plastic bottles do not have markets that allow them to sell the materials for enough to cover their costs and make a profit. The big change was China's "Big Sword" policy in 2018 that banned the import of most plastics. For more than 20 years, China had processed most of the recycled plastic in the world.

She wrote that "residents who want to register their complaints

about the program can do so online at <https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov> or call Assemblywoman Rebecca Bauer-Kahan or State Sen. Steve Glazer's office as this is a state-run program that needs a legislative fix to make it financially feasible for buy back programs be offered."

There are two small operations in Livermore located at 1565 Olivina Ave. and 2680 Old First St. that are still in business. The recycling operation in the Ranch 99 shopping center in Dublin also has closed in recent months.

Incidentally, fluorescent light bulbs still can be dropped off at the transfer station on Busch Road. ■

Editor's note: Journalist Tim Hunt has written columns on the Tri-Valley community for more than 40 years. He grew up in the valley and lives in Pleasanton. His "Tim Talk" blog appears twice a week at PleasantonWeekly.com.

to attend, visit trivalleycares.org

—Mary Perner

A note of gratitude

As the end of the year approaches, we reflect on the months that have passed. The global pandemic turned 2020 into a year of paradox where it seems as though so much happened while at the same time so many things stopped.

For many, 2020 has been a year of upheaval and, generally speaking, it feels somewhat counterintuitive during times of chaos to talk about gratitude, but I'm going to take a leap. Sometimes we have to look a little deeper, but when we do we are reminded daily that there are always positive things to be thankful for at Open Heart Kitchen, despite the many challenges we have faced in 2020.

This past year we embraced change by restructuring our programs to fit the ever-changing needs of our community, yet never deviating from our

mission to feed the hungry in our community. In this year of shifting sand, your support has allowed Open Heart Kitchen to keep its footing.

Here at Open Heart Kitchen, we are thankful for each of you, and your continuous efforts to ensure a strong foundation for us to flourish. Whether you follow us on Facebook, read our monthly newsletters, participate in our fundraisers, volunteer with us, or donate, we appreciate your dedication in helping us tackle food insecurity in the Tri-Valley. You make our vision a reality!

As you gather around your table with friends and family this Thanksgiving, know that because of your commitment and support, people in our community have a place at the table too. We might not be able to end hunger completely, but we are decreasing the number of people going hungry in our community, one meal at a time.

—Shawnda Bost,
OHK volunteer coordinator

YOUR TURN

The Pleasanton Weekly encourages comments on our coverage or issues of local interest.

Submit letters to the editor of up to 250 words and guest opinion pieces up to 500 words with a short bio to editor@PleasantonWeekly.com. Include your name, address and daytime phone number so we can reach you. We reserve the right to edit contributions for length, objectionable content, libel and factual errors known to us. Anonymous letters will generally not be accepted.

Submitting a letter to the editor or guest opinion constitutes a granting of permission to the Pleasanton Weekly and Embarcadero Media to also publish it online, including in our online archives and as a post on Town Square.

For more information contact Editor Jeremy Walsh at (925) 600-0840.

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- Debbie M.

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PLEASANTON PREPS

By DENNIS MILLER

Local coaches hopeful while preparing for sports season

Here we are in the second week of November, supposedly just three weeks from the beginning of what will be the winter sports season for the local high schools.

Will it happen? There has not been anything released saying it won't happen, but then again there hasn't been anything confirming the start either. Appropriately for 2020, all the athletes and the coaches have been left hanging.

"Dec. 7 was the date we were given," Amador Valley football coach Danny Jones said. "We are all just working on how to transition out of the bubble we have been in."

"My thing is, we are continuing to prepare to play a season," added Foothill football coach Greg Haubner. "If we just sit around and not do a

thing because we don't know what is going to happen and then a season starts, we would be way behind."

Both Haubner and Jones, as well as coaches for most other sports scheduled to begin in December, have been able to get in some work in "camps" at the schools for the respective sports.

Proper COVID protocol is being followed, meaning there is some practice time, but not really in a full, team-beneficial system. Still, some work is better than sitting around at home.

"I have been so proud of our guys," Haubner said. "They have been putting in the effort. They are asking the right questions about us having a season. And it can get frustrating, but we are working at

keeping our minds right."

Jones echoed Haubner's sentiments. "Our kids are resilient and have been very patient," Jones said. "We just control what we can control — but it's definitely some weird times."

Foothill volleyball coach Dusty Collins has a unique situation as he coaches both the Falcons boys and girls teams. Normally, the girls are in the fall and the boys in the spring, but with the reconstruction of the 2020-21 high school sports season, both sports will be taking place in the winter. Collins has been able to work with both teams in their camps.

"I have four different groups that I bring in," Collins explained. "I have been working with the varsity-type groups, while my assistants work with the JV teams. We are allowed

to have up to 16 people at a time, so we will have up to 15 players and one coach."

Collins and his staff keep the volleyballs separated by group, as well as wiping down the nets and supports after every event session.

While coaches are doing everything they can do to make things good for the student-athletes, the fact remains: No one knows for sure what is going to happen in just a few short weeks.

The biggest thing hanging in limbo is will the kids — most notably the seniors — be able to play this school year?

"I can't imagine, having played myself, having my senior season taken away," said Jones, a former Amador quarterback. "Not knowing what's going to happen is the worst part."

Collins was upfront with his athletes at the beginning.

"I told the kids right away: (the camps) might be the best we get so let's be thankful for it and make the most of it," Collins recalled.

So, will sports return this school year?

I believe the California Interscholastic Federation set the seasons and return date for each sport, then basically put the ball in the hands of local jurisdictions. It is a bit of a cop out, but at the same time, a smart one.

They can now wash their hands of the responsibility as to whether the kids get to play or not.

The decision will rest on the various counties, and even with recent openings locally, Alameda County has erred on the side of caution.

"I would settle for a six-game season right now," Haubner said. "It would absolutely be better than nothing."

As far as the Pleasanton Unified School District is concerned, their hands are tied by Alameda County. Although with K-5 students planned to return to school Jan. 4 in a hybrid situation, it might bode well for sports.

Even if the teams get to play without spectators, it will be worth it.

"I think if you asked any of the kids if they would rather play in front of no one or not play, I think to a player, they would want to play," Collins said. ■

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Theater

A CHRISTMAS CAROL - ON DEMAND LISTENING For the first time in its 44-year history, the Bay Area's favorite holiday tradition, A Christmas Carol, will come to life as A Christmas Carol: On Air, an enthralling radio play the whole family can enjoy from the comfort of home. This timeless story of optimism and redemption will feature the delightful music, deliciously spooky ghosts and cast that has made it a beloved Bay Area holiday classic. Tickets include an activity book with a number of themed activities and games that families can participate in at home while listening together. Dec. 5-31.

Opera

LIVERMORE VALLEY OPERA Livermore Valley Opera presents Triple Threats, Arias at Home. The concerts are free and premier on the LVO YouTube

channel. Visit livermorevalleyopera.com. 6 p.m., Nov. 14.

Family

DRIVE-THRU DINOSAUR ADVENTURE Bring the entire family to a Dinosaur Adventure Drive-Thru and take a prehistoric tour featuring 80 life-sized dinosaurs. See a 40 foot T-Rex, 30-foot Brachiosaurus, Triceratops, Velociraptors and more all from the comfort and safety of your vehicle. Nov. 12-29. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

STEAM & DIESEL EXCURSIONS Enjoy a train ride through the canyon on a beautiful fall weekend day. 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. departures. Nov. 14-15. Visit www.ncry.org.

Concert

BEST OF THE BANKHEAD 2020 The "Best of the Bankhead" virtual benefit event will celebrate the arts and acknowledge all the live

entertainment missed as a result of the pandemic. The event will be hosted by LVPAC Executive Director Chris Carter and emceed by Freddy Silveria appearing live from the Bankhead stage to feature cameo video performances by some of the most popular artists who have appeared at the Bankhead since it opened in 2007. Tickets for the event include dinner and wine delivered to attendees' homes prior to the event. 6 p.m., Nov. 21. Visit lvpac.org.

Festivals & Fairs

DOWNTOWN LIVERMORE STREET FEST - NOW VIRTUAL The festival this year will be held virtually and all Livermore artists, crafters and makers are invited. Sign up for a booth now. Nov. 7-18. For more information visit events@livermoredowntown.com.

HANDMADE FOR THE HOLIDAYS Nearly two dozen artists from throughout the Tri-Valley will offer handmade and one-of-a-kind gifts at the new "Handmade for the Holidays" Online Art Fair this season. Hosted by Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center, the new event will feature a wide range of art works including fine art, ceramics, jewelry, handmade greeting cards and block print art. A variety of fabric and textile products such as tie-dyed pieces and wearable art will also be featured. Nov. 13-Dec. 24. Visit livermorearts.org/online-gallery.

Talks & Lectures

FREE ONLINE SCREENING OF "LIKE" Axis Community Health presents a free screening of "LIKE", a documentary about the impact of social media on our lives. Registration is free and is required in order to receive the screening link. Visit <http://bit.ly/32vU5cr>. Nov. 18 and Dec. 9.

HOPE HOSPICE PRESENTS FREE GRIEF WORKSHOP Hope Hospice annually offers a special Handling the Holidays workshop to teach healthy coping strategies to help the bereaved during this difficult time. Space is limited and currently held virtually. 7:30 p.m., Nov. 12 and Dec. 7. Contact 829-8770.

PET OF THE WEEK



TVAR

Franklin the puppy

Franklin, an adorable Chiweenie puppy, is 3 months old and weighs 6 pounds. His favorite activity is cuddling with his foster mom and dad, and he's having lots of fun with his canine pals too. He's doing well with house training and crate training. Neutered, current on vaccines, microchipped. Contact Tri-Valley Animal Rescue at www.tvlar.org.

Seniors

PLEASANTON SENIOR CENTER VIRTUAL FALL SOCIAL Join virtually on Zoom for a simple craft or holiday dessert and share favorite Thanksgiving memories and traditions. 1:30 p.m., Nov. 13. For more information call 925-931-5365.

HEALTH INSURANCE COUNSELING FOR SENIORS Join this virtual presentation on Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy for Seniors with video, on a computer, smartphone, tablet or call in on a telephone. For assistance call 931-5340. 1-2 p.m., Nov. 18.

Writers

TRI-VALLEY WRITERS FOCUS ON FICTION Author Gina Mulligan will explain the essentials of historical fiction at the Tri-Valley Writers November meeting in a talk called "Writing Historical Fiction for a Modern Reader." Register by Nov 19. Visit trivalleywriters.org for details. Event is 2 p.m., Nov. 21.

Fundraisers

TRI-VALLEY HAVEN'S HOLIDAY PROGRAM Tri-Valley Haven has transformed it's program to safely provide holiday items and food to the thousands of residents in economic need by providing pre-bagged food and gift cards while practicing social distancing and CDC guidelines. Nov. 23 is designated for a turkey pickup and Dec. 12 for holiday gift giving. For more information, visit trivalleyhaven.org.

NATIONAL CHARITY LEAGUE

- PLEASANTON CHAPTER The Pleasanton Chapter of the National Charity League, Inc. has started its annual membership drive. Membership is open to women with daughters currently in the sixth grade who reside in Pleasanton. Applications for membership are only accepted during the annual membership drive from now through Jan. 15. Contact nationalcharityleague.org.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Operation Christmas Child volunteers are preparing to collect shoebox gifts during National Collection Week, Nov. 16-23. Operation Christmas Child has been collecting and delivering shoebox gifts filled with school supplies, hygiene items and fun toys to children worldwide for more than two decades. To participate visit samaritanspurse.org.

Blood Drive

THE RED CROSS BLOOD DONATION SITES As the pandemic wears on, blood, platelet and plasma donors are as essential as ever. Make an appointment to give blood, platelets or plasma with the Red Cross by downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RedCross (1-800-733-2767)

Outdoor

SPRINGTOWN BIRD WALK Meet Ranger Eric at Marlin Pound Park in Springtown to set out along the short creek trail in search of birds. Black-necked Stilts and Avocets could be out there. Binoculars will be available to borrow. 9 a.m., Nov. 14. Visit larpd.org.

WINTER WATERFOWL Join Ranger Vickie to explore the different types of waterfowl found in the park. Starting with basic identification tips and then a mile walk. Cancelled if raining. 9 a.m., Nov. 15. Visit larpd.org.

Library

CURBSIDE LIBRARY PICKUP Place items on hold and select a time slot to pick up when ready. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays from 1-6 p.m. For more information, visit www.cityofpleasanton.gov.

Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

Pleasanton Weekly; PleasantonWeekly.com; TriValleyViews.com; DanvilleSanRamon.com FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 573665

The following person doing business as: Pleasanton Weekly; PleasantonWeekly.com; TriValleyViews.com; DanvilleSanRamon.com, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 203, Pleasanton, CA 94566, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Embarcadero Media, 450 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306, California. This business is conducted by: a Corporation. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein February 15, 2009. Signature of Registrant: William S. Johnson, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 8, 2020. (Pleasanton Weekly, Oct. 23, 30, Nov. 6, 13, 2020.)

Anderson Plumbing FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 573637

The following person doing business as: Anderson Plumbing, 4300 Black Ave., #614, Pleasanton, CA 94566, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Sam Anderson, 5152 Twin Creek Court, Antioch, CA 94531. This business is conducted by Sam Anderson, an Individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name listed herein March 18, 2020. Signature of Registrant: Sam Anderson, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 8, 2020. (Pleasanton Weekly, October 23, 30, November 6, 13, 2020.)

Achievers Home Loans FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 574002

The following person doing business as: Achievers Home Loans, 3171 E. Ruby Hill Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94566, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Jasbir S. Gujral, 3171 E. Ruby Hill Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by Jasbir S. Gujral, an Individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name listed herein May 18, 2004. Signature of Registrant: Jasbir Gujral, Broker. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 23, 2020. (Pleasanton Weekly, November 6, 13, 20, 27, 2020.)

Achievers Realty FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 574005

The following person doing business as: Achievers Realty, 3171 E. Ruby Hill Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94566, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following

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Help U Sell Achievers FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 574004

The following person doing business as: Help U Sell Achievers, 3171 E. Ruby Hill Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94566, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Meena Gujral, 3171 E. Ruby Hill Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by Meena Gujral, an Individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Meena Gujral, Broker. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 23, 2020. (Pleasanton Weekly, November 6, 13, 20, 27.)

Aje's Japanese Steak House FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 574026

The following person doing business as: Aje's Japanese Steak House, 6770 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Nomad MGL Inc., 2588 Lake Tahoe Blvd., S. Lake Tahoe, CA, 96150, California. This business is conducted by Nomad MGL Inc., a Corporation. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Tuya Altangerel, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 26, 2020. (Pleasanton Weekly, November 13, 20, 27, Dec. 4, 2020.)

Briner & Associates Investigations FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 574191

The following person doing business as: Briner & Associates Investigations, 3263 Vineyard Avenue #48, Pleasanton, CA 94566, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Robert Allen Briner, 3263 Vineyard Avenue #48, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by Robert Allen Briner, an Individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Robert Allen Briner, Qualified Manager-Private Investigator. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 30, 2020. (Pleasanton Weekly, November 13, 20, 27, Dec. 4, 2020.)

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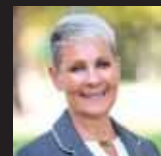
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Meet Kristy Heyne

Kristy is a native Bay Area resident with a broad amount of experience working in the Tri-Valley. She has been a successful REALTOR® since 2004, earning Bay East Realtor's Association Presidential Award from 2009-2019. Kristy knows how to navigate the real estate market to help both buyers and sellers be successful.

When Kristy isn't out buying or selling homes with her clients, she is happy raising her two children. She is very active in her community and with has served on the Lydiksen Elementary School PFC Board and is currently Club Liaison for Castlewood Country Clubs Swim Team Board. She has a passion for the outdoors and you can easily find her walking her favorite neighborhood trails or braving the golf course trying to perfect her swing.

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- Julija C. | August 2020



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2,344+/- Sq. Ft.

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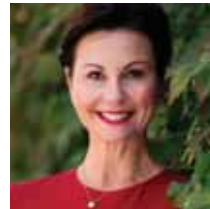
Welcome Home to Blossom Circle

Livermore

1250 Blossom Circle

\$1,350,000 4+ Bed 2.5 Bath 3,156 SqFt

Welcome home to Blossom Circle: large lot, private with no rear neighbors yet close to schools, shopping, downtown and wineries. This spacious home has 4 bedrooms upstairs with a bonus room on the first floor that could be converted to a 5th bedroom. The first floor is complete with formal living and dining with a large eat in kitchen and family room. Spacious 3 car garage and in-house laundry. Updates include: new flooring, wainscoting in dining room and kitchen and inviting and spacious master bath. The private backyard has a spa, mature fruit trees, and a lovely area to relax after a long day. Lots of room for those that work from home. Located in one of Livermore's finest neighborhoods, this two story home is a must see.



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COUNTRY LIVING in PLEASANTON

1562 Foothill Road

4 BD – 5 BA – 4,708 SqFt + 800 SqFt Casita
13 Car Garage – 2+ Acres
Acreage, Privacy, Convenience, Luxury

West Pleasanton welcomes you to this single-story custom estate basked in luxury. This 4,087 SqFt home was built on a plot of land over 2 acres, and is perfectly situated among aged Oak Trees throughout the property. Attention to detail is apparent throughout, with its open floor plan, gently lit coffered and vaulted ceilings, designer glass walls, as well as a private bathroom for each bedroom. You will love how the home was built, highlighting serene views from almost every window. The detached 800 SqFt casita has its own bathroom and kitchenette, allowing for a spacious escape for In-Laws or guests, or if you prefer, a Home Theater, game room, art studio or whatever you might need a little separate space for.

A private boutique of Cabernet-vines are yours to harvest and perhaps even design your own label. Conveniently, a



temperature controlled 450 bottle storage room will help keep all those bottles perfectly organized. Other property highlights include a heated swimming pool, a lighted basketball court, a vintage water tower and a 13 car garage, complete with 3 lifts: Store a boat or RV, or up to 13 cars.

All this is located with a private gate and only moments away from Highways 680 and 580 for commuting convenience.

Offered for \$3,700,000

NEW LISTING in PLEASANTON

1362 Orloff Drive

4 BD – 3 BA – 2,042 SqFt – 13,091 SqFt Lot
Quiet Court, 1/3 Acre

This beautiful 4 BD 3 BA home rests on a quiet cul-de-sac near parks, downtown shopping and award winning schools. One bedroom and a full bath are on the main level, while the remaining 3 are located in the “family zone” upstairs. The spacious lot is about a third of an acre, where you will likely never want to leave. Enjoy the sparkling swimming pool, and rest-assured with its safety fencing. The side yard access as well as court location complete this family-friendly, beautiful home.



Schedule your private viewing now, as we don't expect it to last long.

Listed at \$1,290,000

NOW AVAILABLE – CALIFORNIA WATERFRONT LIVING

17396 Grand Island Road, Walnut Grove

3 BD – 2 BA – 1,882+/- SqFt – 11,039 SqFt Lot
50 Feet of Waterfront Property

Paradise Found just outside the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento areas. Working from home while enjoying waterfront views? Yes, please!

As you cross the small bridge, you are welcomed onto the private island, where the busy-ness of life seems to melt away. Salmon, sturgeon, striped & bass are plentiful for your fishing pleasure. Imagine a place where boating, spectacular sunset views, and fishing become your new normal. This custom home is raised and overlooks the Sacramento River with 50 feet of waterfront property, complete with owned-solar, private well, and septic. Relax and enjoy water views from the deck off of the family room and a balcony off of



the master bedroom. This home will become your shelter, your oasis, your home-office, and your favorite place to be.

If you've been thinking about making a change to a simpler way of being, this just might be the nudge you've been waiting for. Paradise Found!

Offered for \$1,140,000

CLOSING SOON, each with Multiple Offers Over Asking



391 Glen Arms Drive, Danville
3 BD – 3 BA – 2,104+/- SqFt
Listed at \$1,315,000



5834 Corte Margarita, Pleasanton
3 BD – 2 BA – 1,882 +/- SqFt
Listed at \$1,300,000



“We have had the opportunity to work with Kris multiple times... She is a great communicator, reliable and very knowledgeable about the current market...”

– Mike and Lindsay

“Words are so very small to thank Kris for all she has done...”

– Heath and Marla

“I would highly recommend Kris Moxley for anyone who wants an attentive and detail oriented realtor who is knowledgeable in the past and present Bay Area real estate market.”

– Blake and Kristen

“We have worked with over 10 real estate agents in the past. We have never experienced one that was as thorough and professional as Kris Moxley... She far exceeded our expectations!”

– Bob and Patty – Buyers and Sellers

“When it came time to listing our house, Kris Moxley was the clear choice”.

– Steve and Holly - Sellers

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