

Pleasanton Weekly

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Holiday Fund

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The holiday season

Decorative displays abound, allow
Tri-Valley residents to celebrate
while distancing

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PLEASANTON WEEKLY

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CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF
AWARD-WINNING JOURNALISM

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ValleyCare



BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Fulfilling a final wish

Dr. Minh-Chi Tran remembers when her mother was in the hospital dying.

"When I was a trainee, my mom was diagnosed with cancer and died not too long after her diagnosis," Tran said. "I felt very alone during that time, even with my family around me and with my friends contacting me."

The medical team in the large hospital was focused on those they could help, which Tran said she understood, but it still made a difficult time even harder.

Now Tran hates to think she might have patients feeling the same way, which led to her starting the Wish Project at Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare in June 2018. She continues to be director.

Project volunteers contact patients at the end of life and their families to start conversations and discover how they can bring them comfort as well as celebrate their lives.

Head volunteer Betts Cravotto recalled meeting with a patient who was the young mother of three, ages 14, 17 and 21.

"She said, 'I am all about Christmas,'" Cravotto remembered, and she asked to have a special glass ornament made with an etched image of her family during their last vacation and inscribed, "Mom is always in your heart."

The Wish Project had four identical crystal ornaments created — one for each child and one for her widower — and delivered them, as the patient had requested, the first week of December.

So far the Wish Project, which is funded by donations to ValleyCare Charitable Foundation, has served more than 55 families. One wish was for cheesecake with fresh berries. Another family asked for shadow boxes containing the loved one's name with his EKG and his fingerprints.

"The wishes range from special meals or favorite foods, such as cheesecake or a warm cookie, to memorable keepsakes for families," said Shaké Sulikyan, president and executive director of ValleyCare Charitable Foundation.

The biggest wish fulfilled to date, Sulikyan noted, has been a 45-minute Mariachi trio performance in May 2019. The patient was brought outside — hospital bed and all — to be serenaded for 45 minutes,



THE WISH PROJECT

Personalized crystal ornaments are ready to be delivered to a young mother's family.

surrounded by her family.

Sulikyan said funds are needed to keep the Wish Project helping others at this time of need, and she hopes a current fundraising campaign will allow them to expand the program.

"This holiday season we invite community members to help grant final wishes to patients at the end of their life through our crowdfunding effort," Sulikyan said. "The average wish costs just \$30, so no matter the size of your donation, you will help to give a gift of compassion and dignity to a patient and a heartfelt treasure to their loved ones during the most difficult time in their lives."

To donate, visit justgiving.com/campaign/wishproject or call 373-4560. Checks, payable to ValleyCare Charitable Foundation, can be mailed to ValleyCare Charitable Foundation, 1111 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore, CA 94550; write "The Wish Project" on the memo line.

The website has a short video featuring Dr. Tran, volunteer Cravotto and some family members.

"People need very little to feel heard," Tran says. "By us giving small amounts of compassion, it has made a huge difference in patients' and their families' experiences."

"This has touched my heart more than you can imagine," one family member said. "Please keep on doing this for people. It definitely makes the family feel like he wasn't just a chart number, but part of a family."

And that is just what Dr. Tran intended. ■

Editor's note: Dolores Fox Ciardelli is Tri-Valley Life editor for the Pleasanton Weekly. Her column, "Valley Views," appears in the paper on the second and fourth Fridays of the month.

★ Sold in a Flash Rising Star of the Month



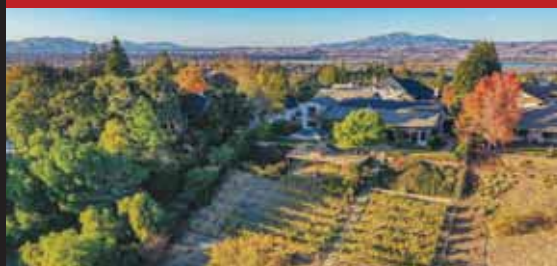
Elyse Hockaday is a sophomore at Amador Valley High School, where she is a member of the leadership program and dance team. Elyse is a kind and gentle spirit who has always cared about the wellbeing of others. In her elementary school years, following a stay in the hospital, she became aware and concerned about the happiness of hospitalized children. Soon after, she helped organize a fundraiser for the UCSF Children's Hospital in San Francisco delivering over 750 toys. Since then, she has assisted with donation drives to support orphanages in Nicaragua and Costa Rica, as well as her most current community donation drive supporting the non-profit Hively, aimed at helping families in need. She is a member of the National Charity League, where she volunteers her time to service our local community. Elyse is also passionate about dance and is a competitive dancer.

Elyse has had the opportunity to travel to Europe and Latin America where she has grown to appreciate cultural diversity. Along with traveling, she enjoys outdoor activities, baking, reading, and spending time with friends and family. She is an honor roll student who hopes to one day study abroad and pursue a career in Pediatrics.

Congratulations Elyse! We cannot wait to see where your future takes you!

The program, created to bring the community together, honors local youth ages 10-18 who demonstrating character, integrity, love of learning, involvement in school and community activities and/or the ability to overcome challenging life circumstances without compromising their education. The core of the Rising Star Student of the Month program is the student who makes a difference in their home, school & community with sincerity and passion. Send your nominations to Sue@SoldInAFash.com

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COMPASS

About the Cover

Gray Fox Circle is among the popular spots in Pleasanton for holiday decoration displays. Photo by Mike Sedlak. Cover design by Paul Llewellyn.



COMPASS

SELLERS WANTED

Have Your Cake & Eat It Too!

With the recent passing of **Proposition 19**, many selected Californians are being given the opportunity to cash in on their nest egg & transfer their existing, low tax basis to any county within California. Whether you no longer need as much space or are tired of the higher cost of living, your low tax basis is no longer keeping you trapped in your home. Relief is here.

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Visit BayAreaHomeFinder.com/Prop19 for a free report detailing the impact of Prop 19.

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- **Mr. Alok S:** Tri-Valley, 4 bed+ SFR, up to \$1.5M
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ASKED AROUND TOWN

How are you planning to spend Christmas this year?



Katrina Kaczmarek
Unemployed due to COVID

Well, things will be a little different this year, obviously. I'm having two people over, safely distanced, outdoors in my backyard. Just my dad and my uncle. We will try to do something that resembles a normal Christmas, while looking forward to next year when we can all be together.



Jessica Petrie
Tattoo artist

I am planning to get a COVID test and then heading to Napa to spend Christmas with just my immediate family. We usually have a big giant, festive and family-filled holiday. Obviously this year we have to do things differently.



Cameron Grove
Solar technology

I plan to spend Christmas with just my parents and siblings at our family home in Danville. I will also take a ride to Sacramento to visit my grandparents from a safe social distance. Probably spread out in their garage. Cozy.



Spencer Grenley
College student

I plan to spend Christmas with just my immediate family, which is very different from the way we usually celebrate. We'll watch "White Christmas" like we do every year, and my dad and I will jam on our guitars, trying to make things seem as normal as possible.



Courtney Jacobs
Artist

We are staying home, alone ... for the first time this Christmas. Usually we travel out of state to visit family, but this year we are playing it safe and looking forward to starting some new traditions – or going insane ... whichever comes first.

— Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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DIGEST

Covered CA help

Axis Community Health in the Tri-Valley is offering to assist residents navigating the complex process of signing up for health care coverage during open enrollment.

Private insurance plans for U.S. citizens and documented immigrants are available through Covered CA. Coverage cannot be denied due to pre-existing conditions, and financial assistance to help cover plan and service costs is available for eligible applicants.

Open enrollment for Covered CA health plan coverage, which started last month, ends Jan. 31, 2021. Anyone can enroll for a Covered CA health plan at www.CoveredCA.com.

For coverage starting Jan. 1, be sure to enroll by Dec. 15. Plans purchased during the current open enrollment period will be honored through the end of the year. For assistance, visit axishealth.org.

BART union deals

The BART Board of Directors voted last week to approve new bargaining agreements with the agency's three largest labor unions.

By a 7-2 vote during the Dec. 3 meeting, the board approved three-year labor contracts for employees represented by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 3993; Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1555; and Service Employees International Union Local 1021.

The contracts, running from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2024, will not prevent the agency from reducing its labor force if needed to close its budget deficit due to lost revenue during the coronavirus.

They also tie potential wage increases in fiscal years 2023 and 2024 to how much average weekday ridership rebounds post-pandemic.

—*Bay City News Service*

Talk Hawks win

Las Positas College's Talk Hawk forensics team scored their biggest victory to date at the 2020 The DVC Thing at Diablo Valley College last month.

Competing against 40 other colleges and universities from 11 different states, the Talk Hawks took first place by a landslide at their largest speech and debate tournament this year. Among the top five teams, Talk Hawk won with 127 points total; George Mason University came second with 50 points and Bradley University placed third with 46 points.

Held virtually, the tournament included a two-day swing speech with different debate competitions every day, and closed out with a final award ceremony in recognition of the weekend's winners. ■

Bay Area health officers fast-track regional stay-at-home order

New restrictions began taking effect in Alameda County this week

By SUE DREMANN

The spread of the COVID-19 virus has reached an alarming rate, prompting Bay Area health officers to implement the state's new regional stay-at-home order sooner rather than wait until local hospitals are near crisis, they said during a press conference last Friday afternoon.

Gov. Gavin Newsom announced the day before that many sectors other than retail and essential operations would be closed in regions of the state where less than

15% of intensive care unit beds are available under a new regional stay-at-home order.

However, health officers from Santa Clara, Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, Marin counties and the city of Berkeley decided to enact the early order through Jan. 4 to try to reduce the stress on their hospital resources and staff. The order took effect at 12:01 a.m. Monday.

"We are in an especially dangerous period of the COVID-19 epidemic," Contra Costa County

Health Officer Dr. Chris Farnitano said at last Friday's press conference. "December will be the dark COVID winter we feared would come."

He and the other health officers did not think they could wait. The current situation is an emergency, he added.

There is a surge in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in Contra Costa County and across the region, according to Farnitano. "The number of patients hospitalized with COVID-19 in our

county has doubled in just the past couple of weeks, and we are at risk of exceeding our hospital capacity later this month if current trends continue," he said.

"It takes several weeks for new restrictions to slow rising hospitalizations and waiting until only 15% of a region's ICU beds are available is just too late," San Francisco Health Officer Dr. Tom-s Aragon said. "Many heavily impacted parts of our region

See **HEALTH ORDER** on Page 9



COURTESY OF INTERSECT POWER

Rendering depicts what the finished product of the proposed Aramis Renewable Energy Project would look like from May School Road and North Livermore Avenue. Vegetative plantings would be designed to screen the solar panels from street view.

Appeals challenge solar project approval

4 separate appellants, including proponent Intersect Power

By CIERRA BAILEY

Three advocacy groups consisting of mostly Livermore residents filed appeals last week to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors opposing the East County Board of Zoning Adjustments decision to approve a proposed 410-acre, utility-scale solar power plant north of Livermore.

"We're not anti-solar," said Chris O'Brien of Save North Livermore Valley, one of the organizations that filed an appeal. "Our issue is the location and the fact that they're putting the

natural environment — which is very sensitive out here — versus another environmental step forward, which is solar. Our point is: Do you have to destroy one to have the other? And we think the answer is no."

Friends of Livermore and Friends of Open Space & Vineyards submitted separate appeals as well, echoing similar sentiments in citing their objections to the Aramis Renewable Energy Project proposed by San Francisco-based Intersect Power — which also filed its own appeal to the Board of Supervisors

challenging multiple zoning board-imposed conditions of approval.

During its meeting on Nov. 24, the zoning board approved the plan to develop an estimated total of 580 acres of land, with 410 of those acres containing solar panels and support facilities approximately two miles north of the Livermore city limits and Interstate 580 in unincorporated Alameda County.

However, opponents argue that the development poses a

See **APPEALS** on Page 6

Measure W, Measure X narrowly approved

See certified final totals for all elections in the Tri-Valley

By JEREMY WALSH

Two measures impacting the Tri-Valley that were among the closest contests in all of Alameda County in the general election — Measure W, the countywide half-cent sales tax; and Measure X, the \$90 million fire facilities bond — both passed by the skin of their teeth, with results certified last week.

However, an organization openly opposing the new sales tax has requested the Alameda County Registrar of Voters' Office conduct a recount for Measure W, which finished with a margin of 0.18%. Registrar Tim Dupuis did not respond to the Weekly's calls to clarify the status of the recount request as of press time Wednesday.

Measure W, which would enact a new sales tax of 0.5% across Alameda County for 10 years to fund essential county and social safety net services, received 358,123 Yes votes to 356,812 No votes, according to the certified final results.

The split of 50.09% Yes to 49.91% No gave Measure W a narrow victory with the simple majority threshold — although the Alameda County Taxpayers Association, which has requested a recount, is also challenging that the tax should have been held to the two-thirds supermajority threshold

See **ELECTION** on Page 10

Rail Authority releases Valley Link draft EIR

Public comment period underway through Jan. 21 for residents to weigh in on findings

By JULIA BAUM

Tri-Valley residents have the next month and a half to weigh in during the 50-day public comment period for the Valley Link transit project's draft environmental impact report recently released by the Tri-Valley/San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority.

Stakeholders can review and give feedback to the Rail Authority, which is acting as the lead agency for the EIR, through Jan. 21 on the state-mandated document containing findings on potential environmental impacts related to the project.

In a statement, Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty, who

also chairs the Rail Authority Board of Directors, called the document's release an "important milestone."

"The release of the draft environmental document for the Valley Link project takes us one step closer to providing congestion relief in one of the most difficult megacommute corridors in the nation," Haggerty said.

"The Valley Link project will link our Alameda County workforce to affordable housing, provide opportunities for compact transit-oriented development and will have a significant impact on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions," he added.

Proposed as a new transit

connection between Alameda and San Joaquin counties, the Valley Link project would add seven new passenger rail service stations along a 42-mile corridor between the Dublin-Pleasanton BART Station and the planned Altamont Corridor Express North Lathrop Station.

Several existing transportation corridors would be used including nearly 12 miles along Interstate 580 in the Tri-Valley, the Alameda County Transportation Corridor right-of-way through the Altamont Pass for 14.5 miles, and just over 16 miles of the Union Pacific Railroad Corridor in San Joaquin County.

The Rail Authority currently has three open house meetings scheduled, which will include a public presentation and discussion about the draft EIR.

Due to concerns about the COVID-19 pandemic, all three events will be held online, where officials will answer general questions about the Valley Link project. However, officials told the Weekly that "there are no COVID-related changes to the project itself in the newly released draft EIR."

The online open house meeting dates and times are: next Saturday (Dec. 12) from 9-10:30 a.m., Dec. 16 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and

Dec. 17 from 5-6:30 p.m.

For information about how to join the upcoming online open house meetings, visit www.valley-linkrail.com.

Officials said comments and responses to the Valley Link project draft EIR are "encouraged and will be accepted until 5:00 PM on January 21, 2021."

Residents may send their comments to drafteircomments@valleylinkrail.com (be sure to include "Valley Link DEIR" in the subject heading, or via mail to:

Tri-Valley/San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority; Attn: Valley Link Draft EIR; 1362 Rutan Court, Suite 100; Livermore, CA 94551. ■

APPEALS

Continued from Page 5

threat to the natural environment of the rural area and violates provisions of Measure D, which was passed by voters in 2000 and aims to preserve agricultural land and open space in eastern Alameda County.

"I suppose if (the Board of Supervisors) approves the project, then (Save North Livermore Valley) will file a suit against the

county and look for the courts to answer some of these questions, especially from our side where we think that this is a violation of the zoning and the county's own General Plan," O'Brien told the Weekly.

Tamara Reus of Friends of Open Space & Vineyards and David Rounds of Friends of Livermore both said that their respective groups would support a lawsuit filed against the county by Save North Livermore Valley if the

issue reaches that point.

"Our basic opinion is that 320,000 solar panels is not a farm and it is not agriculture. It is a power plant, and you shouldn't be building power plants on some of the last undeveloped fertile soil in Alameda County," Rounds said.

One of the arguments presented by Friends of Open Space & Vineyards is that "the appeal time frame has been incorrectly calculated by the county" in light of the county not issuing its final

order until Dec. 3.

"It was a combination of a fairness issue and also a due process issue," Reus said.

While Reus echoed O'Brien in saying that Friends of Open Space & Vineyards is also not against solar energy, she said that the group questions the need for utility-scale solar in the proposed area.

"We think a policy has to come first and the least environmentally disturbing placement should be looked at rather than piecemealing in projects that are going to have environmental impacts and disrupt the agricultural, rural character of the area, the open space values and the habitat values," Reus said.

The third resident group that filed an appeal, Friends of Livermore, commissioned its own mapping study in October to find some alternative areas with solar energy potential. He said that although a number of those locations may not be ideal to developers, the study served as an example that if further research is done, they could find that "solar energy needs can be fulfilled without having to cover prime agricultural land in Alameda County."

Marisa Mitchell, Intersect Power's project lead for the Aramis development, countered that her company's efforts to identify its project location is a testament to how challenging it is to find sites with minimal impacts like the proposed North Livermore location.

"Finding a perfect solar site like this in Northern California and in Alameda County is extremely difficult. There are very few areas that have low impacts like this site," she said.

Although its plans were approved, Intersect Power filed an appeal of its own related to two conditions of approval added to the resolution by the Board of

Zoning Adjustments.

"The condition being appealed was added in response to a comment from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and it requires a one-mile buffer for eagle nests," the company wrote in its appeal. "This buffer is too large for an active agricultural area with existing noise disturbances from farm equipment and operations. The addition of noise associated with project construction does not warrant an avoidance buffer greater than a half-mile."

The second condition the developer appealed is the requirement for increased setbacks and agricultural plantings different than what Intersect Power had originally planned.

In response to the appeals from the project's opponents, Mitchell said that Intersect Power is "not surprised" by them: "This is all a part of the democratic process, and we are happy to have so many people contributing to making this project better."

She added, however, that she feels confident that the project will move forward as the content of the opposing appeals does not present new arguments that haven't already been heard or addressed. "I feel that the planning staff and the Board of Zoning Adjustments made their findings and that if they're comfortable with those findings, the Board of Supervisors will concur with those findings," she said.

The appeals are tentatively set to be heard on Jan. 12. By that time Supervisorial District 1, which includes Livermore, will have a new representative. Supervisor-elect David Haubert, the outgoing mayor of Dublin, is scheduled to be sworn in to join the Board of Supervisors on Jan. 4, succeeding retiring Supervisor Scott Haggerty.

More information about the solar project can be found at acgov.org/cda. ■

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Stanford MEDICINE

Black Tie will take over paratransit service in Pleasanton

Also: Council recognizes business anniversaries, postpones Public Storage hearing

By JULIA BAUM

Passengers riding Pleasanton Paratransit Service (PPS) will have uninterrupted service when a local business assumes management and day to day responsibilities of the nearly 50-year-old city program next year, officials said at last week's City Council meeting.

"There will be no service interruption, we have a plan for that already," community services

manager Jay Ingram told the council on Dec. 1.

The council unanimously approved a \$896,400 agreement with Pleasanton-based Black Tie Transportation, which will take over daily operations starting Feb. 1 and provide door-to-door shared-ride service to the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) for seniors 70 years and older, as well as adults 18 and

older qualified under the Americans with Disabilities Act, for the next three years.

In a report, staff said contracting with Black Tie would "reduce the general fund subsidy to a three-year average of approximately \$64,500 and reduce the three-year operating expense to an average of \$363,800, down from the previous five-year average of \$661,500."

Current riders will also be

notified about the change in advance, according to Ingram.

"During COVID we are doing well-check calls with seniors," he said. "We'll have that same approach with this change in program where we do outreach via phone...to connect with each of the PPS riders and talk about the service change, what that really means, so that will be a really hands-on discussion with our

riders we already have."

A mix of public dollars from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), city general funds, and the countywide Measures B and BB are used to support PPS operations. Under the new agreement, the city will relinquish its MTC Transportation Development Act 4.5 funds.

See **COUNCIL** on Page 10

Dublin's Kandahari enshrined in Women's Hall of Fame

Nominations being accepted for Class of 2021

By JULIA BAUM

Tri-Valley native Nazineen Kandahari is one of 13 recent inductees in the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame Class of 2020.

Sponsored by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and the county's Commission on the Status of Women, the 17-year annual program raises funds to women and families in Alameda County and champions learning for local girls through the Mary V. King "Leading the Way" Youth Scholarship Fund.

A virtual ceremony was held this year in lieu of the traditional

in-person celebration, and features video biographies of the honorees, a message from County Administrator Susan Muranishi, and surprise for one of the inductees.

Kandahari — who was born in the Middle East and raised in Dublin — was recognized by the Emerging Leader category for her "commitment to change the systems perpetuating health disparities"



Nazineen Kandahari

and "facilitating people's right to imagine and pursue their healthiest lives."

Some issues that Kandahari has worked on include gender-based violence in medicine, as well as changing systems that perpetuate health disparities.

Currently a student in both the Joint Medical Program and Program in Medical Education for the Urban Underserved at the University of California, San Francisco, where she obtained her medical doctorate, Kandahari also holds a master's degree in science from the UC Berkeley School of Public Health.

The other 2020 Women's Hall of Fame inductees were:

- Business and Professions: Reign Free
- Justice: Sonya L. Smallets
- Community Service: Candi Thornton-McCreary
- Non-Traditional Careers: Jean Bjork
- Culture & Arts: Judith Smith
- Philanthropy: Nicole Kyauk
- Education: Susan A. Cota
- Science, Technology, Engineering: Rashim Mogha
- Sports & Athletics: Teri McKeever
- Environment: Fatemeh Shirazi

- Youth: Valeria Cruz
- Health: Cynthia Carey-Grant.

The nomination period is now open for the 2021 Alameda Women's Hall of Fame. To nominate someone, visit acgov.org/whof/nominations.htm.

To learn more about the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame and the 2020 inductees, visit whof.acgov.org or email countyadministrator@acgov.org.

Contributions to the Mary V. King "Leading the Way" Youth Scholarship Fund can be made at acgov.org/whof/support.htm. ■

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Pleasanton Library suspends indoor service after health order

Contactless sidewalk pickup, online materials and resources still available

By JULIA BAUM

The Pleasanton Public Library suspended indoor services starting Tuesday while the state's regional stay-at-home order is in effect, but there are several alternative options for residents to access books and other library materials and resources.

The library opened to the public almost a month ago, and offered indoor services for a total of 16 days (Nov. 12 to Dec. 5) before the statewide stay-at-home order started.

"Although we are unable to provide the public with access to the library at this time, it's very important for us that the community still has access to our material and the many vital resources we provide," Heidi Murphy, the city's library and recreation director, said in a statement.

During its brief time open to the public, library and recreation community coordinator Nick Binzoni told the Weekly, "With occupancy fixed at 20 patrons, we saw very short and safe visits to our library

with a total of 300-400 patrons per day. We typically see as many as 2,000 patrons on an average day."

Visitors not only browsed the bookshelves, they also applied for library cards, checked their email, printed documents, and asked reference questions. An average of 1,500 books, CDs and movies were checked out each day the library was open, according to Binzoni.

The community also shared their appreciation for the library team. One homeschool parent "was ecstatic we were open to the public and was eager to come in with her children to the library," Binzoni said, and a group of middle school students "wanted to donate their 'love rock' paintings to all the staff at the library in appreciation of the library being reopened."

Binzoni also shared a story about a man who recently picked up some reserved books and "thanked the library, and mentioned that visiting the library and picking up materials was helping him to maintain his mental health."

Library materials can still be accessed through contactless sidewalk services, Tuesdays through Thursdays from 12-6 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Library materials must be reserved either on the library's website or by calling 931-3400.

"During these times, our sidewalk service actually allows us to serve a greater number of library patrons," Binzoni said.

In October, 45,885 items were checked out through sidewalk service; last month 25,672 items were checked out though "November is traditionally a slower month due to the holidays," he added.

Virtual programming and online services will continue to be offered including free ebooks, library card signups, online book club, research tools, printing and streaming services, and weekly live storytimes on Facebook.

Under the stay-at-home order, the city's playgrounds will also be closed to the public in addition to indoor library service. ■

Tri-Valley police offer safety tips for holiday season

Burglaries are down, but officials warn about package thefts

By JULIA BAUM

With more people spending December at home while new regional statewide shelter orders are in effect, Tri-Valley law enforcement told the Weekly that residents should still eliminate any lingering opportunities for thieves this holiday season.

"Though we anticipate fewer property-related crimes since less people will be at local retail centers, our staff is prepared to handle any situation," Pleasanton Police Chief David Swing said.

Overall, the Pleasanton Police Department is anticipating that residents and businesses will "continue acting appropriately and accordingly" during the holidays.

Dublin has experienced a significant reduction in crime this year compared to 2019, which Police Chief Garrett Holmes attributed to various restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Auto and residential burglaries, as well as retail thefts, are down due to more people shopping online and working from home. Overall, year-to-date crimes against people in Dublin are down 14%, and property crimes shrank by 32%.

However, Holmes said, "We are starting to see package thefts from porches increase as many

people are having their merchandise shipped to their residence."

Dublin Police Services will have increased staff — including marked and unmarked patrol vehicles, as well as officers on bike and foot patrol — as part of a "Holiday Crime Suppression Detail," which will "target crime trends that are common during the holiday season."

Livermore Police Department has also "seen a few positive trends" during stay-at-home orders such as no residential burglaries being reported during Thanksgiving week, according to Officer Taylor Burruss.

"If the correlating factor is in fact people being at home, then we would expect to see those numbers remain low through the season," Burruss said.

Like Dublin and Pleasanton, "every year there is an increase in package theft around this time" in Livermore, Burruss added.

All three departments gave similar crime prevention and safety tips for residents to exercise, both on the streets and at home.

Burruss recommends homeowners consider investing in high-quality security camera systems: "In many cases, they act as a deterrent and, if not, they capture evidence we may otherwise not have."

Community residents should be "alert and aware," report suspicious circumstances, and have descriptive details ready for call operators to better assist.

Law enforcement suggested that people shopping in person should park their vehicle in a well-lit area and make sure all of the doors and windows are shut and locked. Be sure to avoid carrying large amounts of cash, and use checks or credit cards when possible.

Also lock packages, bags or valuables in the trunk, or make sure they are concealed if your car doesn't have a trunk. Never leave unattended packages on floors or counters while inside stores.

When walking back to the car, officials said have your keys in your hand, be cautious of strangers approaching them in the parking lot, and avoid being distracted by not talking or texting on their cell phones. Make sure to scan the inside of your car to ensure no one is hiding behind any seats.

Women should carry purses under their arms, and men should keep their wallets in an interior coat pocket or front pants pocket.

Livermore PD also provided a detailed list of tips specifically for package theft prevention. See the full list at www.PleasantonWeekly.com. ■

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THE CITY OF PLEASANTON



HIGHLIGHTS

City Council Meeting

Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

- Review the Planning Commission's approval of applications P19-0128/P19-0129 for a Design Review and Conditional Use Permit to modify an existing self-storage facility (Public Storage) as follows: 1) demolish seven existing storage buildings and office; 2) construct a 900 square-foot office; 3) construct a 9,750 square-foot one-story storage building; 4) construct a 197,410 square-foot three-story storage building; 5) construct related site improvements at 3716 Stanley Blvd., and consider adoption of a resolution approving a reduction in affordable housing fees for the project
- Ratify calendar year 2021 City Council assignments to various boards and commission and Vice Mayor selection

BE A PART OF THE PUBLIC PROCESS – VOLUNTEER FOR A CITY COMMISSION

The City Council recruits and appoints residents of Pleasanton to a variety of boards and commissions, allowing them to contribute to and influence decisions affecting the city, providing advice and feedback on important community issues.

Applications are now being accepted for upcoming vacancies on the **PLANNING COMMISSION**

Apply online on the City of Pleasanton website at <http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov/gov/depts/clerk/boards/default.asp>
Applications due by Wednesday, December 16, 2020

Applicants must reside within the Pleasanton city limits
Interviews with the Mayor will be held the week of January 4, 2021
For additional information contact

the Office of the City Clerk at 925-931-5027

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



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Dublin City Council passes new gun storage law

Gun owners must lock their firearms inside a container or use a trigger lock

By JULIA BAUM

Gun owners in Dublin will soon be required to store their firearms inside a locked container or keep it disabled with a trigger lock while inside their home after the City Council unanimously approved the new ordinance at its meeting last week.

California already has similar laws in effect for guns in households with children living there, or that require a gun owner to store their guns from a household member who is prohibited from having guns.

“What we’re doing in this case is just expanding that definition beyond those two scenarios — children in the home or criminal record — and applying it to all households,” City Manager Linda Smith during a presentation at the

Dec. 1 meeting.

Added to the Dublin Municipal Code, the ordinance known as Chapter 5.89 to Title 5, states, “No person shall keep a firearm within any residence unless the firearm is stored in a locked container or disabled with a trigger lock.”

Two exceptions were added: when the firearm is lawfully carried on an individual, or when it is under the control of a peace officer.

Councilmember Shawn Kumagai said the ordinance “will state clearly to our community that we embrace a culture of gun safety” and “safe gun storage helps to prevent unintentional and intentional injury and death of minors, helps prevent gun suicide, and deters gun theft.”

A staff report stated “the unsafe storage of firearms threatens public health and safety,” and that 54% of gun owners in the U.S. don’t lock away all of their guns. This year, there have been at least 236 unintentional shootings by children, resulting in 102 deaths and 141 injuries nationally. Seven of those were in California, resulting in two deaths and five injuries.

Another study cited in 2010 found that more than 80% of children ages 18 and younger who died by gun suicide used a gun owned by a family member.

A total of 22 cities statewide have enacted their own ordinances similar to the one in Dublin, including Oakland, Berkeley, Moraga and Sunnyvale.

“It’s not about taking gun rights away from people at all

whatsoever, it’s about educating, it’s about making sure that we do our part, and have an awareness out there,” said Councilmember Melissa Hernandez, who is now the city’s mayor-elect.

Hernandez said she supported “not only just saying it but actually doing something,” and suggested the city could provide their own trigger locks for residents, as well as looking into various sources of grant funding for public firearms safety awareness.

Before voting for the ordinance, Councilmember Arun Goel called the issue of gun safety “near and dear to my heart.”

Goel explained that someone who was like a son to him died by suicide with a gun, and said education is needed but “part of what I’ve always been about is, when

we take an action of such a nature, it should be for the fundamentally correct things, not just for stipulation of trying to do something perfunctory or lip service.”

“Systematically I agree with it, and so I’m kind of in a little bit of a confusion standpoint,” Goel said. “We can agree on safety but in the reality, how much of these are issues from lawful gun owners vs. unlawful gun owners.”

Goel concluded: “I’m just saying that as council members, we should be able to defend our action and why we took it from the fundamentally correct reasons happening within our boundary or something we’re deliberately taking action to prevent.”

The ordinance goes into effect 30 days from its adoption. ■

HEALTH ORDER

Continued from Page 5

already have less than 15% of ICU beds available, and the time to act is now.” He added that there is no place to transfer patients with nearly three-quarters of all beds filled in the Bay Area.

Aragon said that every person who tests positive infects another 1-1/2 people. For every case they do detect, six to 10 cases go undetected. “This virus is relentless and unforgiving,” he said.

Dr. Lisa Hernandez, health officer for the city of Berkeley, urged the public to take the order seriously. People should not travel for the upcoming holidays, nor gather or meet with anyone outside of their own household, even outdoors.

“If you have a social bubble, it is now popped. Do not let this be the last holiday with your family,” she said.

The order follows the state’s restrictions under the regional stay-home order. Bars, wineries, personal services, hair salons and barbershops are closed. Retail stores and shopping malls also have to be limited to 20% of capacity; restaurants are required to be closed for indoor and outdoor dining but may have takeout and deliveries.

Schools that have already opened for in-person instruction and critical infrastructure such as grocery stores, gas stations and pharmacies will remain open.

Contra Costa Health Services listed out the open and closure status of most sectors in the Bay Area under the new health order in an online “Openings at a Glance” worksheet last week.

The closure list also includes activities and businesses such as drive-in events, family

Businesses react

Reporter Tony Hicks of Bay City News Foundation interviewed several Tri-Valley business owners and advocates about the impacts of the new stay-at-home order. Read the article in full now at PleasantonWeekly.com.

entertainment centers, recreational team sports, public events and gatherings, and movie theaters.

Able to remain open — with social distancing and face covering rules in place — are locations such as vehicle repair shops, parks (but no playgrounds), construction, outdoor gyms/fitness activities, hotels for essential travel, laundromats, real estate, professional film or media production, places of worship (outside only) and outdoor recreation facilities such as tennis courts, sports fields and golf courses (without food or beverage).

In announcing their preemptive order Friday, the health officers said that they often work collaboratively and provide hospital and ICU beds when hospitals in another county are overwhelmed. They would do the same during the COVID-19 crisis, but they want to make sure they would have enough beds to serve their patients and handle any overload, if necessary.

Alameda County Health Officer Dr. Nicholas Moss said the rising hospitalization rates across the region threaten not only community members with severe COVID-19, but anyone who may need care because of a heart attack, stroke, accident or other critical health need.

“By acting together now we will have the greatest impact on the

surge and save more lives,” he said.

San Mateo County officials issued a statement last Friday supporting the other Bay Area health officials, but stopped short of issuing the restrictions.

“As other Bay Area Health officials today announced that they would impose new local stay-at-home orders, the County of San Mateo remains focused on following the state’s existing metrics and process, while reinforcing the public’s responsibility to comply with existing safety measures — especially avoiding gatherings — to slow the spread of COVID-19 during the holiday season,” county officials said.

To further clarify the status of school openings, Moss and Alameda County Superintendent of Schools L. Karen Monroe released a joint statement on Friday explaining that “schools already open for in-person instruction may stay open,” but “schools that have not yet opened for in-person instruction cannot open.”

Small group cohorts are allowed to continue on campus. No new elementary school reopening waivers are being accepted, while middle and high school reopening waivers are not being issued under state regulation — meaning the emphasis remains on remote learning for most schools.

“As always, please continue to

wear a face covering whenever you leave home, maintain at least 6 feet of distance from anyone you do not live with, wash your hands frequently and avoid gathering or traveling for the holidays. All of these things will help to drive down case rates and move us more quickly toward the school reopenings we all want to see,” Moss and Monroe said.

The status of school openings is expected to be a topic of conversation — either agendaized, or via anticipated parent turnout — during next Tuesday’s Pleasanton Unified School District Board of Trustees meeting. ■

Editor’s note: Pleasanton Weekly editor Jeremy Walsh contributed to this story.

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Las Positas student wins statewide award for original song

'Thief' nets Sydney Roberts first place

By **JULIA BAUM**

Las Positas College student Sydney Roberts won a statewide music composition contest last month, receiving a scholarship along with the honor.

Inspired "while listening to various marimba pieces" in class, Roberts received the award and \$200 scholarship for her original song "Thief" during the annual Music Association of California Community Colleges Conference in

November.

Roberts especially drew inspiration from Steve Reich's "Nagoya Marimbas" when she composed her song, which is intended for three marimbas, she said.

"The minimalist idea of the piece



Sydney Roberts

was very attractive to me and I decided I wanted to try writing something that was both minimalist and not at the same time," Roberts said. "I wrote a hocket that I could really jam to and after that, the piece just wrote itself."

LPC music department co-ordinator Dan Marschak called Roberts "one of our top music students" and said he knew of "no one else who is more deserving of this honor."

"In addition to being a stellar composer, pianist, and flutist, she is also our department student assistant and our tutor," Marschak said. "I know she will be successful in whatever she decides to pursue."

Once she receives her Associate in Arts degree in music along with several certificates of achievement, Roberts plans to pursue her goal of writing music for video games and movies by earning a bachelor degree in game scoring and a master's

in composition at San Francisco State University.

"Even though I'm moving on from LPC in fall 2021, I do hope that I can help give insight to the younger or newer composition students and help them succeed just as my colleagues, classmates, and educators do for me," Roberts said. "I can attribute a lot of my personal growth as a musician, student, and person to my LPC professors and private instructors." ■

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 7

In other business

Nearly 200 local businesses celebrating milestone anniversaries this year were recognized at the start of the Dec. 1 meeting. City economic development manager Lisa Adamos led the virtual ceremony, stating, "We have changed our format but certainly not our sentiment."

"We have seen the Pleasanton community rally to support our businesses and we've witnessed businesses banding together to support each other through these

difficult times," Adamos said.

Throughout the pandemic "we have seen the perseverance, resilience and commitment of many Pleasanton businesses to remain in operation," she added.

Adamos also called Pleasanton's diversity of "small sole proprietorships, regional operations, national retailers and corporations representing a breadth of industries" one of its key attributes.

A total of 189 businesses are marking 15, 20, 25, 30 and 40 years of business in Pleasanton this year. Among those with 40-year anniversaries are Big O Tires, Footlocker, Macy's and Forest Chiropractic Office Professional Corp.

For a complete list of local businesses celebrating anniversaries this year, visit www.cityofpleasantonca.gov.

The council approved a \$259,111 purchase to upgrade the city's virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) system during approval of the consent agenda, which are items considered routine in nature and usually voted in one motion without discussion.

The city's current virtualized desktops used by staff, which "replicate a user's regular desktop and access to information and programs needed to complete their job duties," are at the end of their useful life, according to public documents.

Staff recommended the purchase of Dell/EMC VxRail "hyper-converged equipment" to "allow desktop computers to continue to run (VDI) to seamlessly allow teleworking while capacity restrictions limit the number of on-site employees in city facilities."

A public hearing regarding a conditional use permit application to modify the Public Storage facility on Stanley Boulevard has been continued until the Dec. 15 council meeting, according to city officials.

The project to demolish seven existing structures and build three brand-new buildings — including a 900-square-foot office,

9,750-square-foot single-story storage building, and a three-story storage building encompassing 197,410 square feet — on the 6.5-acre site located at 3716 Stanley Blvd. was approved by the Planning Commission, 4-1, in late October.

Public Storage has also requested a 98.8% reduction — down to a total of \$25,898 from the original \$2.1 million estimate — on the affordable housing fee that is applicable to most residential and commercial projects in Pleasanton, based on city criteria and "particularly in light of the projects very low actual employee generation rate," according to a staff report. ■

ELECTION

Continued from Page 5

required of a special tax.

"As the public would pay \$1.5 billion in new taxes over the next ten years if Measure W passes and is implemented, the public deserves an ironclad assurance that the Measure W election on Nov. 3, 2020 was conducted accurately and fairly," Jason A. Bezis, attorney for the association, wrote in a letter to the county on Monday.

"The public, especially the 49.91% who voted 'no,' cannot be assured that the Measure W election was conducted fairly and transparently until a complete, open, and accurate recount and audit is conducted at county expense, following the Santa Clara County recount policy model," Bezis added.

Measure W was a tight contest throughout the tabulation process, which began after polls closed Nov. 3 and continued until certification on Nov. 30.

A proposal put on the ballot by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, Measure W asked voters to approve the new sales tax "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.

Yes on Measure W held a slim

lead in the early days of results reporting before slipping into a trailing position Nov. 10 and then regaining a slight advantage with the new tally on Nov. 12 that it would not relinquish.

The new tax would be in place for 10 years and generate an estimated \$150 million per year.

In another tight race, Measure X — the Alameda County Fire Department's \$90 million fire facilities bond proposal that was on the ballot in unincorporated communities — narrowly passed with 38,796 Yes votes (66.78%) to 19,300 No votes (33.22%).

As a fire facilities bond, Measure X needed to eclipse the 66.667% threshold to pass.

The certified results represented a small but necessary margin shift for ACFD, compared to when it placed an identical proposal on the primary election in March. (Then as Measure D, the \$90 million fire bond lost with 66.37% Yes.)

"This was an important decision for the community to make in this unique election year," ACFD Fire Chief William McDonald said on Dec. 1. "Aging, outdated fire facilities affect the communities we serve and our service delivery. Measure X will help ensure we can continue providing timely emergency medical and fire response and wildfire protection and prevention. We greatly thank the community for their support and participation." ■

Certified final election results

Alameda County turnout: 81.28%

MAYOR OF PLEASANTON

Karla Brown **47.13%**
 Jerry Pentin 35.06%
 Monith Ilavarasan 9.95%
 Druthi Ghanta 5.13%
 Tom Turpel 2.51%

PLEASANTON CITY COUNCIL

Valerie Arkin **23.59%**
Jack Balch **22.26%**
 Nancy Allen 20.18%
 Randy Brown 11.44%
 Zarina Kiziloglu 8.65%
 Chiman Lee 7.52%
 Jarod Buna 6.23%

PLEASANTON USD BOARD

Steve Maher (inc) **30.17%**
Mary Jo Carreon **20.19%**
Kelly Mokashi **18.65%**
 Jamie Yee (inc) 16.94%
 Chong Wong 13.81%

MAYOR OF LIVERMORE

Bob Woerner **64.82%**
 Mony Nop 34.88%

LIVERMORE COUNCIL DIST. 3

Brittni Kiick **59.29%**
 Peter Patterson 40.49%

LVJUSD BOARD

Kristie Wang **26.04%**
Yanira Guzman **22.16%**
 Chuck Rogge (inc) 17.43%
 Kandiss Hewing 17.20%
 Asa Strout 16.94%

MAYOR OF DUBLIN

Melissa Hernandez **49.85%**
 Arun Goel 39.82%
 Regina Pangelinan 10.03%

DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL

Sherry Hu **26.34%**
Michael McCorriston . **16.14%**
 Dawn Plants 12.86%
 Sri Muppidi 12.44%
 Samir Qureshi 10.82%
 Kashef Qaadri 7.33%
 Shawn Costello 5.43%
 Razi Hasni 4.81%
 Lucrecia Deleon 3.60%

DUSD BOARD AREA 1

Kristin Pelham **61.69%**
 Dawn Nwamuo 37.95%

DUSD BOARD AREA 4

Gabi Blackman (inc) . . **71.85%**
 Michael Utsumi 28.00%

COUNTY SUPERVISOR DIST. 1

David Haubert **54.12%**
 Vinnie Bacon 45.55%

SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE

Elena Condes **55.91%**
 Mark Fickes 43.64%

BART BOARD DIST. 5

John McPartland (inc) **36.61%**
 Steven Dunbar 34.05%
 Mike Wallace 29.09%

LIVERMORE PARKS BOARD

James Boswell **26.22%**
Jan Palajac (inc) **24.12%**
 Mike Ralph 18.73%
 Stacey Swanson 17.40%
 Richard Tarbell 13.38%

CONGRESS DIST. 15

Eric Swalwell (D) - inc . . **70.9%**
 Alison Hayden (R) 29.1%

STATE SENATE DIST. 7

Steve Glazer (D) - inc . . **66.0%**
 Julie Mobley (R) 34.0%

STATE ASSEMBLY DIST. 16

Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (D) - inc **67.4%**
 Joe Rubay (R) 32.6%

MEASURE W SALES TAX (MAJORITY TO PASS)

Yes **50.09%**
No 49.91%

MEASURE X \$90M FIRE BOND (66.6667% TO PASS)

Yes **66.78%**
No 33.22%

MEASURE V UTILITY USER TAX (MAJORITY TO PASS)

Yes **69.08%**
No 30.92%

Winners indicated in bold.
 inc = incumbent
 Write-in totals not included; none was above 0.45%

Report: Suspected spy targeted Swalwell, other politicians

By JEREMY WALSH

National news outlet Axios released an expose story this week after a yearlong investigation into the actions of a Chinese national accused of being a covert spy targeting young American politicians between 2011 and 2015, including Tri-Valley Congressman Eric Swalwell.

The news article outlines allegations against Fang Fang, also known as Christine Fang, who is accused of secretly working on behalf of China's Ministry of State Security, the country's main civilian spy agency,

as part of a "long game" strategy to cozy up to up-and-coming politicians before she abruptly left the U.S. in mid-2015.

Axios reporting, which included information from intelligence officials and political operatives speaking anonymously, alleged Fang connected with a number of unsuspecting politicians or campaigns while rising in local political circles, including Swalwell's camp.

The allegations included that Fang raised funds on behalf of Swalwell's 2014 re-election campaign as well as

recommended at least one potential intern who ultimately gained a position in Swalwell's D.C. office, according to Axios.

Axios, citing official sources, said there has been no evidence of illegal contributions as a result of these activities nor is there any evidence Fang ever received classified information. Swalwell, who has not been accused of any wrongdoing in this case, immediately cut off ties to Fang in 2015 after federal counterintelligence investigators alerted him to their concerns about Fang,

according to Axios.

Swalwell's office referred the Weekly to its statement in the Axios article: "Rep. Swalwell, long ago, provided information about this person — whom he met more than eight years ago, and whom he hasn't seen in nearly six years — to the FBI. To protect information that might be classified, he will not participate in your story."

The Axios story also alleges a range of other activities by Fang involving other politicians. To read the full article, visit the www.axios.com. ■



U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell


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The holiday season

Decorative displays abound, allow Tri-Valley residents to celebrate while distancing

PHOTOS BY MIKE SEDLAK

Many familiar neighborhood holiday displays — and some new ones — are colorfully illuminated across the Tri-Valley to help residents enjoy the season.

The drive- or walk-by decorations allow residents to enjoy the season from a safe distance amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

A number of the local family favorites are included in the holiday display tour lists for Pleasanton and Livermore shared respectively by the city of Pleasanton (www.hometownholiday.com) and Livermore Downtown, Inc. (www.livermoredowntown.com). Here are a few that caught our eye:



Left: Santa and Mrs. Claus make an appearance at Candy Cane Lane. Right: The city of Pleasanton's downtown holiday tree lit up the sky last Saturday night, which was one of the final days of authorized outdoor dining until the new health order took effect.

❖ HOLIDAYS AT HOME ❖



Clockwise from top left: This home on Knottingham Circle in Livermore is a familiar favorite each December in the Tri-Valley. Decorated house lights up in a dark evening on Chardonnay Drive in Pleasanton. The downtown Livermore tree at Lizzie Fountain Park. Families drive through Candy Cane Lane in Pleasanton.



Pleasanton resident Linda Kelly celebrates the Christmas season each year with these Santa lights that have been in her family since 1930 and remain working after all of these years. Her grandfather bought the lights as a surprise for the family 90 years ago; it was their first set of electric lights for the tree. Here is Kelly showing off the lights for a newspaper article on their 50th anniversary (left), as well as how the lights look this year (right). Photos courtesy of Kelly.

Holiday shows welcome the season — virtually, of course

‘Moments of joy and beauty are precious in our world right now’

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Holiday shows that welcome the season are returning, courtesy of Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center. But this year the variety of musical entertainment will be enjoyed virtually since the Bankhead Theater and Bothwell Arts Center remain closed.

“The performing arts offer moments of joy and beauty that are precious in our world, especially right now,” LVPAC Executive Director Chris Carter said. “Virtual events aren’t the same, but they still have the power to entertain and allow artists to share their talents.”

The performers, which local audiences have loved in the past, include Oregon-based band Pink Martini and Canadian master fiddlers Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy.

Pink Martini, affectionately called “Everyone’s Favorite Little Orchestra,” quickly sold out its single performance at the Bankhead Theater in 2015. This year the troupe will offer two virtual shows, “Home for the Holidays: a Pink Martini Spectacular” on Dec. 17, and a New Year’s Eve extravaganza appropriately titled, “Good Riddance 2020.”

Pink Martini was filmed in front of the 35-foot Christmas tree at its World Headquarters in Portland, and the show presents fan favorite numbers as well as holiday classics old and new.

“A Celtic Family Christmas” on

Dec. 19, features MacMaster, Leahy and their talented children, in a lively performance from their home in Nova Scotia on fiddles, keyboard and drums, accompanied by their tap-dancing feet. Their songs, dancing and family frolics were a hit last month when they closed the “Best of the Bankhead” Virtual Benefit. They also have appeared several times on the Bankhead stage.

“Eleanor’s Very Merry Christmas Wish — The Musical” tells the story of a rag doll who lives in the magical world of the North Pole; the family-friendly production is recommended for ages 3 and up. A party-box show package can be purchased that includes a copy of the book, an ornament and letter-to-Santa stationery. Tickets for the show can be ordered and watched for any 48-hour period from now through Dec. 27.

For three weekends, Valley Dance Theatre, a resident company of the Bankhead Theater, will offer a virtual on-demand performance of their 2019 production of “The Nutcracker.” The company typically presents eight public and two school performances each December involving as many as 100 dancers of all ages as well as the orchestra members. Tickets to see the 2019 virtual on-demand performance are free, although donations in support of Valley Dance Theatre can be made when registering online or during the performance.

Tickets for “The Nutcracker” are available through the Bankhead box office by calling 373-6800 or visiting LivermoreArts.org. Tickets for Pink Martini, “A Celtic Family Christmas” and “Eleanor’s Very Merry Christmas Wish” are available on the website through links that direct a portion of sales back to benefit Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center.

“We are glad to help promote these events and appreciate the share in ticket revenue they offer, which will help support our return to live performances in the future,” Carter said. ■



LVPAC

Top: “Eleanor’s Very Merry Christmas Wish — The Musical” is available in a party-box show package that includes a copy of the book, an ornament and letter-to-Santa stationery. Above: Pink Martini, known as “Everyone’s Favorite Little Orchestra,” will perform in two shows, on Dec. 17 and on New Year’s Eve.

Observing Hanukkah in the Tri-Valley

Local Jewish community celebrating holiday in different ways this year

By JEREMY WALSH

Like many things throughout the past eight months, Hanukkah will look different this year as Jewish congregations in the Tri-Valley adapt their observances amid the health pandemic.

But the feeling of eight-day celebration will remain familiar and the messages it conveys will be just as relevant as ever in 2020, according to local Jewish spiritual leaders.

“Hanukkah is about creating light in dark times. Judaism has always been a religion focused on the possibility of what we can do to bring healing to the world. This year, especially, Hanukkah’s message seems more relevant than ever,” said Rabbi Laurence Elis Milder, of Congregation Beth Emek in Pleasanton.

“Jewish tradition holds that we add one candle to the Menorah each night, a symbol of the victory of hope over despair. Even in the face of this terrible pandemic, we maintain our hope that a brighter day, the defeat of disease and despair, is just around the bend,” he added.

“Chanukah celebrates the miraculous oil that burned for 8 days in the

candelabra (Menorah) of the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem in the year 139 B.C.E. This 7-branched candelabra, hammered out of a single piece of metal, is a symbol I hold on to this Chanukah,” Rabbi Raleigh Resnick, of Chabad of the Tri-Valley in Pleasanton, told the Weekly.

“We live in a climate of heightened COVID isolation and societal fragmentation. Many feel detached and lonely. The Temple’s menorah reminds us that our different flames come from our universal oneness. We are not alone. All of us, on the right and on the left, are all fashioned in the image of the Divine and radiate His light. May we feel that unity even as we celebrate apart from each other this year,” he added.

The eight-day Hanukkah holiday began this Thursday and continues through Dec. 18. Many of the local Hanukkah observances have shifted into an online format due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated county health orders, but there will be some in-person events as well.

Chabad of the Tri-Valley was set

to host its annual Chanukah Wonderland at Stoneridge Shopping Center, re-envisioned for 2020 as an outdoor event on the top floor of the old Sears parking lot on Thursday (after the Weekly’s press deadline), according to Rabbi Resnick.

Chabad’s Chanukah Dinner Concert event is still on schedule for this Sunday (Dec. 13) from 6-8 p.m., but the venue has shifted from Livermore to Chabad’s parking lot at 3370 Hopyard Road in Pleasanton.

Chabad of the Tri-Valley will also join Chabad Centers throughout Northern California in hosting a mega Chanukah event via www.liveChanukah.com on Monday (Dec. 14) beginning at 6 p.m. To learn more, visit www.JewishTriValley.com.

For Congregation Beth Emek, located at 3400 Nevada Court, all of its Hanukkah observances will be held online and can be viewed at www.bethemek.org/live in light of the pandemic and health concerns.

“Hanukkah candle lighting will be hosted by a different family each night, with each bringing something personal to the congregation’s

celebration, including songs, stories and family traditions,” Rabbi Milder said.

Congregation Beth Emek’s annual Shabbat Hanukkah will be held today (Dec. 11) at 8 p.m. and will feature viewing of candle lighting in the decorative Hanukkah menorahs of its congregants’ homes. Candle lighting will occur at 6:30 p.m. on

the other nights of Hanukkah.

A special Hanukkah celebration with family activities will be held on Saturday (Dec. 12), and Rabbi Milder will be broadcasting a special Hanukkah concert on Monday (Dec. 14) at 1 p.m. via the “Congregation Beth Emek Pleasanton” YouTube page. To learn more, visit www.bethemek.org. ■



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hanukkah menorahs, courtesy of Congregation Beth Emek.

Celebrating Beethoven

Symphony releases projects as composer turns 250

BY PATRICIA J. BOYLE

Ludwig van Beethoven famously said, “To play a wrong note is insignificant; to play without passion is inexcusable.”

The Livermore-Amador Symphony remains passionate about music and eager to share it, despite the pandemic forcing a halt to rehearsals and live performances.

“The symphony continues to reach out and support the community through online musical offerings,” music director Lara Webber said.

This month, the focus is Beethoven and his 250th birthday, with the symphony releasing several Beethoven-themed video projects on its website and social media pages.

Two videos present live recordings of recent Livermore-Amador Symphony performances at the Bankhead with new introductions by Webber. In a third, pianist Frederic Chiu is featured in a unique recital created for the symphony by Bay Area soprano Heidi Moss.

A video of Beethoven’s 6th Symphony (“Pastoral”) combines a recording of the symphony performing in 2018 with artwork embodying the sentiment of each movement and an introduction by Webber recorded in October.

“This performance is one of the finest Livermore-Amador Symphony has given, showcasing the dedication and talent of all our musicians, in particular our principal woodwind

players,” Webber said.

A performance of Beethoven’s 4th Piano Concerto features pianist Gwendolyn Mok, who collaborated with the symphony in 2019.

“Gwen is a national treasure. Her talent is huge, her artistry is deep and forged in profound experience,” Webber said.

“In this video, we begin with a portion of our prelude conversation with a joyful Bankhead audience,” she continued. “The intimacy Beethoven creates in his music is unparalleled, running the range of emotion from dark introspection to bright exuberance and joy.”

A personal interview and performance by pianist Frederic Chiu are presented as “Beethoven’s Birthday Gift to the Livermore-Amador Symphony.”

“In homage to the performance we had planned of Beethoven’s monumental, revolutionary 5th Symphony, we present fantastic Frederic Chiu playing Franz Liszt’s extraordinary piano reduction,” Webber said. “Frederic would have been our soloist playing Prokofiev last May, and he will be with us as soon as we can get back to the theater. In the meantime, he generously offered his unique performance and perspective to share.”

A special digital highlight will be presented by Bay Area soprano Heidi Moss, who was to be featured in the opening of the symphony’s 2020-21 season celebrating Beethoven’s 250th.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Left to right: pianist Gwendolyn Mok., soprano Heidi Moss and pianist Frederic Chiu.

“Heidi will curate and perform a short recital, recorded at home, featuring one of the Beethoven songs she would have performed with us at the Bankhead, ‘Ich Liebe Dich,’” Webber explained.

“I created a short set beginning with some of the first true lieder (songs) by Mozart and ending with a lied written by my husband (Bay Area composer Kurt Erickson),” Moss said. “We will be casual in our format and chat about each piece as we go.”

The symphony also has carefully collaborated in other ways. Members of the orchestra’s woodwind and brass sections performed safely outdoors at Retzlaff Vineyards for the Bankhead Theater’s innovative “Vineyard Vibes” series. And this summer, Webber launched a “Backyard Strings” program at her home.

“In full compliance with Alameda County Health mandates and guidelines, several string players, all masked, have joyfully made music together, overcoming physical

distancing by extending the range of their listening abilities,” Webber said.

These recordings and more are available at www.livermoreamadorsymphony.org.

Board president Alan Frank is the audio and video engineer behind the Beethoven re-broadcasts.

“We’re having to build an entirely new and different business model, with new investments in technology and equipment,” Frank said. “This

is not business as usual. We have all sorts of ideas for continuing projects and hope people will help support these projects with donations.”

Donations may be made through the website. ■

—Patricia J. Boyle, past president of the California Writers Club Tri-Valley branch, has been writing about the Livermore-Amador Symphony for eight years.

Encore Players to present holiday classic

Two shows next week of ‘It’s a Wonderful Life, A Live Radio Play’

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Encore Players of Livermore invite everyone to travel virtually to Bedford Falls for “It’s a Wonderful Life, A Live Radio Play,” based on the holiday classic movie released in 1946.

The tale takes place one December night when an angel named Clarence is sent from heaven to show George Bailey, a desperate man, what life would have been like if he hadn’t been born. In this production, the cast of 17 actors play multiple roles as well as perform the live sound effects.

“It’s a Wonderful Life’ is the perfect show for the holidays, especially this year,” said director Martie Muldoon, a Livermore resident. “A radio play lends itself well to Zoom, though presents new challenges.”

Muldoon said getting everyone’s voices, the cameras and sound effects working well together for a virtual platform has been part of the challenge.

“We decided to use live sounds because it’s more authentic, as well as more fun for the cast,” she explained.

“We encourage the audience to watch for those live sound effects, as well as live music, as they listen to the story.”

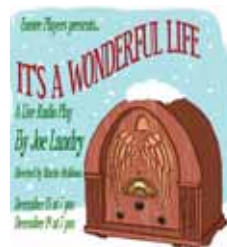
Livermore actor Tim Ackerman plays the angel Clarence.

“I am enjoying myself immensely,” Ackerman said. “It feels good to ‘act’ again. And Clarence really lives up to his name — Oddbody. He is quirky but lovable.”

Maya Allwardt, a recent graduate of Foothill High School, wrote the show’s music plus is voicing some of the characters.

“It’s been a challenge but also super exciting,” Allwardt said. “I’m having so much fun with this wonderful cast, and I can’t wait for everyone to see the show.”

The cast also includes Donna Blevins, Lea Blevins, Lesleyann Coker, Bob Cowgill, Grare Davis, Judy Fenton, Yana Ghannam, Pat



Goard, Marsha Howard, Bruce Kaplan, Victorian King-Bowman, Bill Leach, Joyce Rocha, Meredith Sarbaria and Ray Spooner.

“I’m delighted to have such a large cast, made up of veteran performers along with first-timers,” Muldoon said. “We’ve been having a wonderful time.”

Performances are at 7 p.m. next Tuesday (Dec. 15), hosted by the Livermore Public Library; and at 7 p.m. next Saturday (Dec. 19), hosted by Encore Players. There is no admission fee, but donations are appreciated to cover script and royalty costs.

For Zoom performance links, visit www.encoreplayers.net, or contact Encore Players at encoreplayersoflivermore@gmail.com.

Encore Players formed in 2014 to provide a venue for amateur actors and directors to share their passion for theater with the community. Actors of all ages take part in performances although the troupe particularly looks for works with roles for “seasoned” actors. ■

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Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN

Virtual ceremony honoring deputy killed in Dublin 22 years ago

Saturday marks 22 years since Alameda County Sheriff's Office Deputy John Paul Monego died in the line of duty in Dublin, and to acknowledge the somber occasion and honor his memory, Dublin Police Services is holding a virtual memorial tree lighting this weekend.

Monego, who was the first law enforcement officer slain in the line of duty in the city's history, was fatally shot while responding to a late-night robbery in progress at the Outback Steakhouse on Regional Street.

A Brentwood resident and 13-year sheriff's deputy assigned to DPS at the time, Monego, 33, left behind a wife and toddler son.

DPS Capt. Nate Schmidt told the Weekly that it is important for the department to continue its annual tradition of honoring Monego's "ultimate sacrifice," even if the memorial tree has to shift to an online ceremony because of the COVID-19 pandemic and health order.

"Deputy Monego made this sacrifice while serving the community in which he loved. It is important that we come together every year to ensure Deputy Monego's sacrifice and service is never forgotten," Schmidt said.

"This year marks 22 years since Deputy Monego was mercilessly killed in the line of duty," the captain added. "Although we can't physically all come together due to the pandemic, it is important we still honor Deputy Monego and never forget his commitment to his duty. Deputy Monego left us not only as a protector of the community, but as a partner, a father, a husband and a son."

Monego responded to a 9-1-1 hangup at the restaurant near Interstate 580 late at night on Dec. 11, 1998 — but unbeknownst to him, the hangup call had actually come during a strong-arm robbery with hostages in progress.

Monego was the second deputy to arrive on scene; the first deputy had gone inside the restaurant to investigate but she was overpowered by three robbers, who then took her gun, according to the "Officer Down Memorial Page," which honors law enforcement personnel killed on duty nationwide and retells their stories.

As Monego approached the front door, an armed robber opened fire through a glass window, striking the deputy in the chest just above his protective vest. As Monego fell, the shooter walked outside and shot the deputy five more times at close range.

The robbers all fled the scene. Monego was transported to a local hospital but was pronounced dead

shortly after midnight on Dec. 12, 1998.

The culprits were later arrested after a short pursuit. Each would be convicted of various counts at trial.

DPS's "Virtual John Monego Tree Lighting Ceremony" is set to be held via Zoom on Saturday (Dec. 12) at 6 p.m. To learn more, visit dublin.ca.gov.

In other news

- The Pleasanton Police Department and California Highway Patrol's Dublin office are each finalists in the Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Northern California's "First Responder Trick Shot Challenge."

The contest, which raises money for MADD and is part of nonprofit's "Tie One on for Safety" designated driver awareness campaign, asked law enforcement and first responder agencies to submit a short video clip of officers doing a basketball trick shot.

PPD and CHP-Dublin each have videos posted on the MADD website, where residents can vote for their favorite with a \$5 donation. The other finalists are West Sacramento PD, CHP-Redwood City, San Bruno PD and Elk Grove PD.

The deadline to vote is today at 5 p.m., with the winner to be announced Dec. 16. The winning team will receive a wood pellet grill valued at \$499. To see the videos, visit www.madd.org/firstresponderstoofs2020.

- Two men suspected of crashing a stolen pickup truck into a Fremont liquor store and stealing lottery tickets last month have been arrested, police said last week.

An employee at Meadow Square Liquor Store on Blacow Road called police about 3:30 a.m. Nov. 16, reporting that someone had purposely reversed a truck into the store's front door. The suspects took lottery tickets, cigarette lighters and part of a cash register, police said.

After that, the pair drove away and police found the abandoned pickup several blocks away. The truck, a white Ford F350, had been reported stolen out of Hayward, police said.

Detectives found items in the truck that led them to identify 37-year-old Jeremy Ferreira of Livermore as a suspect.

Ferreira was already wanted by the Mountain View Police Department on a felony residential burglary warrant and on Dec. 1 detectives located him in Livermore. A loaded firearm was found in Ferreira's backpack along with an additional loaded magazine and loose ammunition, according to police.

Ferreira was arrested on the warrant as well as new charges of being a felon in possession of a firearm, and possession of a concealed firearm in public/vehicle. Ferreira was arraigned in court on Dec. 3, and his next hearing is set for Jan. 5.

A 30-year-old Hayward man was also identified as a suspect after he

was found on video cashing a lottery ticket in Hayward. He was interviewed and released by detectives pending additional follow up, police said.

Detectives are finalizing their investigation into the liquor store burglary before presenting their findings to the district attorney's office for charging.

- Ross Stores will pay \$3.3 million to settle allegations it disposed of hazardous wastes illegally, Alameda County prosecutors announced last week.

A civil enforcement action was filed Nov. 20 in Monterey County alleging that in a seven-year period more than 441 Ross and dd's Discounts stores in California handled and disposed of hazardous wastes and materials illegally.

Nineteen Ross stores in Alameda County are subject to the settlement.

"It is vital that any company doing business in California abide by our environmental protection laws," Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley said in a statement.

Inspectors from three DA's offices in California allegedly found that between 2014 and 2017 Ross was sending hazardous wastes to landfills that couldn't handle those wastes. Prosecutors said Ross cooperated in the investigation and has implemented policies and procedures to end the disposal of hazardous wastes in the state.

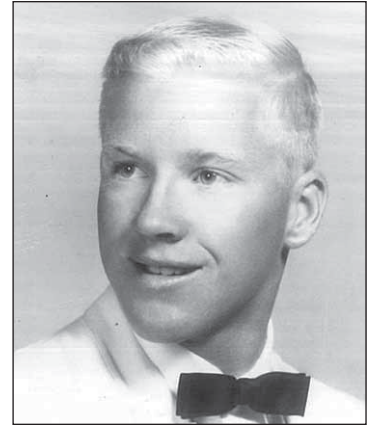
The \$3.3 million judgment consists of \$2.55 million in penalties, \$340,000 in supplemental environmental projects and \$445,000 to reimburse prosecutors. ■

—Jeremy Walsh and Bay City News Service

Randall William Reber

October 20, 1945 – November 25, 2020

Randy was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin to Bea and Emil Reber. After a severe Wisconsin winter in 1947, the family moved to Concord, California, where Randy grew up with his sister Janet. Randy lived the rest of his 75 years in the greater Bay Area. He was a member of the first graduating class at Clayton Valley High School in 1963 and continued his education



at San Francisco State during the turbulent '60s. It was there that he met his first wife, Kathleen Colburn. After receiving a degree in business administration, he began his 39-year career in retail management at J.C. Penney, from which he retired in 2005. During those 39 years, Randy led several company philanthropic efforts, including designing and building the first Penney Exercise Trail in Concord, working at United Way for six months, and setting up the first Pleasanton Hospice store with fixtures and registers.

Randy's life-long passion was people, especially bringing people together and making opportunities for those people to stay in close contact. He and Kathy started an annual Christmas party that brought friends and family together, a tradition he continued even after Kathy's death in 1988. He introduced many people, including his sons, to backpacking and arranged many trips every year from spring to fall, always looking for a new lake with good fishing. He spent hours searching for high school classmates to let them know of upcoming reunions. He regularly wrote letters and made phone calls to stay in touch with those farther away. Once you were his friend, he never forgot you.

Randy was predeceased by his first wife, Kathy, his parents, and his son, Jeff. He is survived by his second wife Barb, his sister Janet and Aunt Cathy, his son Robert, daughter-in-law Carol, grandsons Carson and Ryan, daughter-in-law Jeffie, grandchildren Lukas and Lucey, step-son Steve, daughter-in-law Sumie, grandchildren Mimi, Christopher, and Mari, and step-daughter Julie, son-in-law Sean, and grandchildren Alder and Brynn.

Randy wrote the following to be read at his memorial service. Since Covid has made a service impossible at this time, we would like to share this with you:

Reflections on my life

Have you been able to live in the country and grow up in the iconic '50s or live in harmony in a home with wonderful parents who worshipped each other...and a dad who came to everyone of your sports events?

Have you been blessed with great health that allowed you to enjoy sports and hike the mountains of California for over 50 years?

Have you had the love and friendship of two beautiful women in your life, or watch with pride and admiration your sons grow up to be wonderful dads?

Did you design and build something that gave you great satisfaction or get your hands greasy restoring an old Chevy, or worked in the community or helped a good friend through difficult times?

Can you say you have been blessed with nine grandchildren, each with their own special personality, and finally...



Have you known and experienced true adversity and come away from it stronger and closer to God...

I can say I had all of this and more and could not have asked God to have given me a life as wonderful as mine.

PAID OBITUARY

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POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Dec. 5

Theft

- 10:14 a.m. on the 5100 block of Hopyard Road

Warrant arrest

- 1:14 p.m. on the 6000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 4:03 p.m. on the 6700 block of Santa Rita Road

Drug violation

- 2:59 p.m. on the 5700 block of Johnson Drive

Domestic battery

- 7:29 p.m. on Springhouse Drive

Dec. 4

Warrant arrest

- 1:23 a.m. on the 5900 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 2:38 p.m. on the 2000 block of Santa Rita Road

Drug violation

- 8:26 a.m. at Owens and Hacienda drives
- 4:02 p.m. on the 7000 block of Johnson Drive

Theft

- 8:47 a.m. on the 3700 block of Muirwood Drive
- 1:38 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 8:48 p.m. on the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

Domestic battery

- 12:58 p.m. on Bernal Avenue

Dec. 3

Graffiti offense

- 8:51 a.m. on the 5800 block of Laurel Creek Drive

Sex offenses

- 9:15 a.m. on Brookline Loop

Fraud

- 2:06 p.m. on the 2700 block of Stoneridge Drive
- 2:09 p.m. on the 6700 block of Paseo Catalina

Warrant arrest

- 5:16 p.m. on the 500 block of Boulder Court

Theft

- 8:59 p.m. on the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

DUI

- 11:09 p.m. at Owens and Johnson drives

Dec. 2

Theft

- 10:44 a.m. on the 4900 block of Owens Drive
- 1:02 p.m. on the 1500 block of Greenwood Road
- 3:22 p.m. on the 2800 block of Hopyard Road

Warrant arrest

- 12:21 p.m. on the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Drug violation

- 2:05 p.m. at San Ramon and Vamac roads

Dec. 1

Warrant arrest

- 8:16 a.m. on the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue

Theft

- 1:01 p.m. on the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 3:39 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 4:39 p.m., 000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 6:45 p.m., 6700 block of Rancho Court; theft from auto
- 10:39 p.m., 000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 10:51 p.m. on the 3800 block of North Yosemite Court

Fraud

- 4:48 p.m. on the 5600 block of Stoneridge Drive

Nov. 30

Theft

- 7:40 a.m., 3300 block of Rosada Court; auto theft
- 11:34 a.m. at Irby Ranch Drive and Stanley Boulevard
- 11:00 p.m., 6100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; auto theft

Drug violation

- 5:03 p.m. on the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Warrant arrest

- 8:16 a.m. on the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue

Nov. 29

Drug violation

- 2:47 a.m. on the 2800 block of Hopyard Road

Trespass/prowl

- 12:19 p.m. on the 5900 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Warrant arrest

- 1:05 p.m. on the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 10:06 p.m. on the 4500 block of Chabot Drive

Burglary

- 2:21 p.m. on the 7900 block of Paragon Circle

Bicycle theft

- 2:50 p.m. on the 6700 block of Bernal Avenue

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Robert Joseph Sinz

November 5, 1946 – December 2, 2020

Robert J. Sinz (Bob) died at the age of 74, after a sudden battle with widespread, aggressive cancer. He passed in his sleep in the early morning of December 2, 2020, surrounded by his family at the bedside: his devoted wife of 53 years (Isabelle), his two children (Sandra Sinz Duong and Chris Sinz), his son-in-law (Tuan Duong) and his youngest brother (Frederick). A nurse, Fred helped to keep Bob comfortable in his home. His third battle with cancer and facing a terminal diagnosis, he approached his last weeks of life with great courage. He celebrated Thanksgiving quietly at home with his wife and two adult children.



Bob was preceded in death by his parents, John Peter and Dorothy Marie (Roolf) Sinz. The second of ten children, he was preceded in death by his older brother John (Cheri) and is survived by Kenneth (Renee), Michael (Flora), Ruth Ann (Jim), Dorothy "Dottie" (Tom), Gregory (Cindy), Clara, Virginia, and Frederick (Carol). Additionally he is survived by wife Isabelle, and his three grandchildren – sources of great pride – Matthew Duong (Sandra and Tuan), Anna and Henry Sinz (Chris and Claudia).

Bob is remembered lovingly by many for his quick wit, lifelong desire to learn and teach, generosity of self toward others, and his innate drive toward the ideal. He served honorably in the Navy (1964-1969), earning Medals for Vietnam Service with two Bronze Stars, National Defense Service, Navy Unit Commendation, and Vietnam Campaign. He retired 20 years ago from a civil service career with the Federal Aviation Administration, and not yet ready to rest in retirement, followed that with an additional career phase at Lockheed Martin. He had many joys, hobbies and interests: fixing up and relaxing at the mountain cabin, woodworking, photography, cooking, reading, hunting, fishing, astronomy, and 3-4 mile daily walks with his wife.

He will have private family burial at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made in memory of Bob to the Food Bank of Solano and Contra Costa Counties, Hope Hospice of Dublin, or the American Cancer Society.

PAID OBITUARY

Arthur Stanley 'Stan' Troia

July 29, 1942 – November 16, 2020

Stan, a devoted husband, father and grandfather, joined his late wife Bobbi in Heaven. Stan passed away in his daughter's home after battling pancreatic cancer. Stan was a loyal friend and neighbor, beloved by all who met him. Once you became a friend of his, you remained so for life. He kept everyone connected to each other and we counted on him to keep us all together. A resident of Pleasanton for 45 years, he was known as "The Mayor" of his court. Always available to help anyone with their home improvement and gardening projects, he was a father and friend you could rely on. Stan was well known for his vegetable garden, fruit trees, handiwork, and the blue jays that would follow him around landing on his hand for a peanut. His daughters will look back on their childhood with wonderful memories of camping, hiking, fishing and sailing with their father. His long-time friends will remember skiing, cars, camping and the "Birthday Club".



As a retired UPS driver, Stan will be remembered fondly by his co-workers, managers, and customers alike. In retirement, Stan loved to garden, travel, volunteer for Pleasanton Military Families, and most recently volunteer at Alden Lane Nursery.

Stan's memory, friendly smile, kindness to all, love of nature, and his passion for life and learning will live on in his three daughters, son-in-law, four cherished grandchildren, and his many friends.

Stan's family, friends and all who knew and loved him, hope to celebrate his life in the spring or summer of 2021 at Alden Lane Nursery. In lieu of flowers, please send a donation to Pleasanton Military Families, or purchase flowers or plants for your home from Alden Lane Nursery, in Stan's memory.

PAID OBITUARY

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PLEASANTON PREPS

By DENNIS MILLER

With sports season increasingly unlikely, let's try to give seniors one final game

Allow Amador, Foothill teams to face each other in special one-off showdowns

Normally I am an extremely optimistic person, but it is getting tougher to maintain a "glass half full" attitude right now. Our hypocritical leadership in California is absolutely causing a damaging effect on our students. Not only are they kept from school and the socialization that comes with it, but they are also being kept away from athletics and the life lessons that come with sports.

Both directly figure into the development of interpersonal skills, a vital key in the maturation of our youth. In the day of people spending most of their time staring at their

phones, the one thing that forces them to interact is being taken away. The reality of the situation — and it pains me to say this — is there will likely be no high school athletics played this year. I hope I am wrong, and will sing from the mountain top if that statement is wrong, but I just don't see it.

I have one idea, that while it will be far from salvaging the senior year for these student-athletes, it can be a memory they can carry with them moving on after high school.

What if over the course of one week, we could have an Amador Valley-Foothill matchup in as many

sports as possible?

This is probably not feasible, certainly not for all sports, but if we had even half the sports — wouldn't that be something?

We must go with the understanding there will be no spectators, but we could stream all the games. We have all been forced to master our internet capabilities over the last eight-plus months so this should be a snap.

Announcers for the stream could be set up for all the broadcasts — I announce Foothill football, basketball and postseason volleyball matches regularly and would be

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happy to volunteer my time for as many matches as possible! I have friends that are Amador announcers, and I know they would do the same.

The logistics will be a challenge, but it can be done. It would have to be varsity only and perhaps senior teams, giving all the athletes one final time to fly their school colors.

Also, only having one team in each sport would allow for an easier scheduling of practices.

The first thing would be to allow all the teams two weeks of practice — "camps" — leading up to the game. Most of these kids have been in "camps" until recently, so while two weeks may seem short, it would be enough to get ready.

Coaches would have to agree to go without stipends, but knowing so many of them, most of them would not hesitate to help the students.

One sport I don't see as feasible is football. As much as it pains me, it just does not make sense from a safety perspective. Track-and-field is another sport that may be tough given all the intricacies of the field sports. Of course, a meet of just the running events could be held!

Here is a possible scenario of a

schedule:

Friday: Tennis and volleyball. Saturday: Track (and field) if possible and wrestling. Monday: Cross-country and water polo. Tuesday: Golf and lacrosse. Thursday: Soccer, and swimming and diving. Friday: Baseball, softball and basketball.

The sports would be split between the two schools and staggered throughout the day.

For instance, on the first Friday, you would have both the boys and girls tennis teams at Amador in the afternoon. At night you would have the boys and girls volleyball play a doubleheader at Foothill.

Another idea would be to have the video classes at each school provide the video and streaming of all the games. It could equate to like a final exam in those classes.

It is a perfect idea, but realistically far-fetched. However, at the same time, it could work if we all put together a group to set up the schedule and logistics — that would be a glass-half-full approach. ■

Editor's note: Dennis Miller is a contributing sports writer for the Pleasanton Weekly. To contact him about his "Pleasanton Preps" column, email acesmag@aol.com.



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Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

Salon 645
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 574550
The following person doing business as: Salon 645, 645 Main Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Christine Butler, 7897 Firebrand Drive, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by Christine Butler, an Individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name listed herein September 1, 2020. Signature of Registrant: Christine Butler, Individual. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 17, 2020. (Pleasanton Weekly, December 4, 11, 18, 25, 2020)

D.C. III's Mobile RV Service
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 574467

The following person doing business as: D.C. III's Mobile RV Service, 5973 Bryce Canyon Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Daniel C. Martin III, 5973 Bryce Canyon Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by Daniel C. Martin III, an Individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name listed herein September 1, 2020. Signature of Registrant: Daniel C. Martin III, Owner/Service Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 13, 2020. (Pleasanton Weekly, December 4, 11, 18, 25, 2020.)

997 All Other Legals

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: KATHLEEN O'SHEA LUDWIG also known as KATHLEEN O'LUDWIG and KATHLEEN LUDWIG
Case No.: RP14724868 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of KATHLEEN O'SHEA LUDWIG also known as KATHLEEN O'LUDWIG and KATHLEEN LUDWIG. A Petition for Probate has been filed by: LINDA D. ADAMS in the Superior Court of California, County of ALAMEDA. The Petition for Probate requests that: LINDA D. ADAMS 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 JANUARY 4, 2021 at 9:45 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: Bart J. Schenone, Temmerman, Cilley & Kohlmann, LLP, 140 Town & Country Drive, Ste. A, Danville, CA 94526. (925) 529-3999. (Pleasanton Weekly, November 27, December 4 & 11.)

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Calendar

POST CALENDAR ITEMS AT PLEASANTONWEEKLY.COM

Theater

BECOMING ELEANOR ROOSEVELT New Deal Theater presents "Becoming Eleanor Roosevelt," portrayed by three actors at different stages of her life. The premiere takes place live with a Q&A afterward with the actors and directors. Now through Dec. 19. Visit newdealtheater.org.

Concerts

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS Pink Martini brings some much-needed holiday cheer right into your living room this December with a brand new streaming concert event, Home For The Holiday's. Filmed in front of the 35-foot Christmas tree at Pink Martini's World Headquarters in Portland, Oregon, the show is filled with Pink Martini fan favorites, as well as holiday classics old and new. Dec. 17. Visit ourconcerts.live.

A CELTIC FAMILY CHRISTMAS Featuring Natalie MacMaster, Donnell Leahy and their talented children in a lively performance from their home in Nova Scotia on fiddles, keyboard and drums, accompanied by their tap dancing feet. Their songs, dancing and family frolics were a hit last month when they closed the Best of the Bankhead virtual Benefit. Dec.19. Visit livermorearts.org.

Festivals

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. Now through Dec. 24. Visit livermorearts.org/online-gallery.

Holiday

NUTCRACKER December at the Bankhead usually brings the delightful Valley Dance Theatre's production of the holiday favorite, The Nutcracker. This year enjoy a Stream on Demand performance. Tickets are free though donations are appreciated. Visit livermorearts.org. Dec., 11, 18 and 23

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE Encore Players of Livermore invites you to travel virtually to Bedford Falls for "It's a Wonderful Life, A Live Radio Play" based on the holiday classic movie released in 1946. The angel Clarence is sent from Heaven to show George Bailey, a desperate man, what life would have been like if he hadn't been born. The cast of 17 actors play multiple roles and do all the live sound effects. 7 p.m., Dec. 15 and 19. Visit encoreplayers.net.

VISIT TO THE NORTH POLE Join Santa and Mrs. Claus in the North Pole in their home and workshop during this

PET OF THE WEEK



VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY/E. SCHOLZ

Hey Mickey

It's guys like you Mickey ... he'll take you by the heart when he takes you by the paw. This Mickey is so fine and FIV+. Mickey's condition affects his immune system and over time he may be more vulnerable to other infections, but at the moment he is living his finest life, enjoying daily belly rubs from anyone who comes to visit him! Mickey is available for adoption through Valley Humane Society; email info@valleyhumane.org.

immersive, live theater experience. Each 10-15 time slot is privately arranged for your family with photo opportunities. Dec. 15-23. Visit lesherartscenter.showare.com.

HOLIDAY SHOPPING & CIDER STROLL

Celebrate the holiday season at City Center Bishop Ranch as the lifestyle center lights up with festive community activities and sparkling decorations. Guests will be welcomed to the center by a snow queen and king on socially distanced stilts. Strolling carolers will fill the center with the holiday music and cheer, as guest sip cider while shopping. Nov. 27 & Dec. 18. 6000 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon.

THE NUTCRACKER SUITE Diablo Ballet presents an encore presentation of Julia Adam's The Nutcracker Suite available for viewing virtually. This whimsical ballet captures the magic and anticipation of the holidays that will delight every member of the family. Dec. 21-23. Visit lesherartscenter.org.

MODEL TRAINS AT THE DEPOT

Museum of the San Ramon Valley celebrates this holiday season with the popular Christmas Memories exhibit. Model trains, including the Polar Express and Christmas trains, will appear to delight young and old. Christmas will be celebrated with Santa and his reindeer sailing around the ceiling. Now through Jan 3. Visit <https://museumsrv.org/model-trains-christmas-memories>.

HOLIDAY STORIES An intimate evening of a classic holiday story and songs from the comfort of home. Livermore Shakespeare Festival artists will lift your holiday spirits with a reading adaptation of The Chimes by Charles Dickens. Dec.18-20. Visit livermoreshakes.org/holiday-with-swirl.

ELEANOR'S VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS WISH

Eleanor's Very Merry Christmas Wish-The Musical tells the story of a rag doll who lives in the magical world of the North Pole. Despite her love for her family, Eleanor wishes for a best friend and home of her own. Based on the heartfelt book by Denise McGowan Tracy. Tickets for the show can be ordered and watched for any 48 hour period from now through Dec. 27.

THE SECRET TO WRITING A

COMPELLING STORY In this virtual

meeting, Author Linda C. McCabe explains how writers use symbolism and archetypes to add depth to their work and reveals how character names and word choices can enrich a story's meaning. Register by Dec. 17. Visit trivalleywriters.org.

Charity

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 6th grade who reside in Pleasanton. Applications for membership are only accepted during the annual membership drive now through Jan. 15. Contact membershippleasanton@nclonline.org.

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. Dec. 12. For more information visit trivalleyhaven.org.

Outdoor Recreation

THE GREAT YULE LOG HUNT Join Ranger Eric for the 26th annual hunt for the fabled Yule Log with games, merriment and tales of ancient Yule celebrations. After the hunt, gather around the fire and make yule logs to take home. 2 p.m., Dec. 13. Sycamore Grove Park, 1051 Wetmore Road, Livermore. Visit larpd.org.

MISTLETOE MISSION HIKE

Join Ranger Amy for a four-mile walk in search of mistletoe. Learn about the biology, legends and lore associated with this plant. All ages welcome. 2 p.m., Dec. 20. 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.

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GETTY IMAGES

A well-decorated gingerbread house is a perfect holiday touch sitting on a table or counter.

Building your own house

Tips for creating a gingerbread house that looks beautiful, won't collapse

By GINA CHANNELL

Building a house can be a frustrating endeavor, particularly if the house is made of gingerbread. But a well-decorated gingerbread house is a perfect holiday touch sitting on a table or counter.

And it can be fun. No, really. Here are a few tips:

Use royal icing

There is no shame in using a kit, but the icing that comes with most kits doesn't cut it for building a gingerbread house that doesn't collapse. The first key to a house that won't fall down is having royal icing because it dries quickly and hard.

Royal icing recipe

- 4 cups powdered sugar
- 3 tablespoons meringue powder
- 1/2 cup warm water
- 1/2 teaspoon clear vanilla or almond extract.

In the bowl of an electric mixer combine powdered sugar and meringue powder. Add the water and extract slowly. Beat at medium-high speed until stiff peaks form, which is roughly 6 minutes. This makes about 4 cups of icing. Adding the vanilla or almond extract

might thin it a bit, so mix in some powdered sugar. Keep it covered when not in use. You can replace the meringue with 3 large egg whites and skip the water, but eating raw eggs is not a good practice. Or skip everything, type in "royal icing" on Amazon and hit "buy now."

Decorate the pieces first

Decorate the separate pieces of the house and let them dry before putting the house together. This is easier than doing it while on the house. (Picture gumdrops dropping off the slanted roof, for example.)

Be patient

The second, and most important, key to creating a beautiful, stable gingerbread house is patience. Each wall and roof piece need at least a couple of hours to dry before being handled.

After the individual pieces dry, put the walls together and let them dry for a couple of hours. If you really want to be careful, build an "L" and let it dry a bit and add the other two walls. Finally add the roof pieces and don't move, touch or breathe on the masterpiece for a few more hours. ■

SALES AT A GLANCE

Pleasanton (Sept. 21-22)

Total sales reported: 4

Lowest sale reported: \$458,000

Highest sale reported: \$2,430,000

Average sales reported: \$1,770,000

Livermore (Sept. 21-22)

Total sales reported: 9

Lowest sale reported: \$833,000

Highest sale reported: \$1,700,000

Average sales reported: \$950,000

Dublin (Sept. 21-22)

Total sales reported: 5

Lowest sale reported: \$623,000

Highest sale reported: \$1,372,000

Average sales reported: \$912,000

Sunol (Sept. 21-22)

Total sales reported: 2

Lowest sale reported: \$960,000

Highest sale reported: \$1,727,000

Average sales reported: \$1,343,500

San Ramon (Oct. 26-30)

Total sales reported: 16

Lowest sale reported: \$445,000

Highest sale reported: \$1,809,000

Average sales reported: \$1,294,000

Source: California REsource

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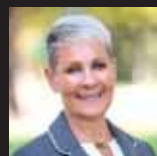
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