

Pleasanton Weekly

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First six months of 2020 went from innocence to dismay to fortitude | Page 12



PLEASANTON WEEKLY

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CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF
AWARD-WINNING JOURNALISM

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VALLEY VIEWS



BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI



Grandma Christmas and a curious cat welcome deliveries to Dolores' front porch.

Check those expectations

The year 2020 has been an "annus horribilis" but nonetheless, for me at least, it has flown by.

It seems like just yesterday I had never ordered Instacart. And now here I am with my front porch merrily decorated, not to welcome family and friends, but to share the season's joy with delivery people. It also cheers me up as I return home from outings — walks, trips to the library, and curbside pickup.

My traditional front porch decoration is my grandma Christmas tree, a gift from my friend Melinda when my first grandchild was due nine years ago. The narrow floor to ceiling window next to the front door lets me enjoy Grandma Christmas from inside, too.

The window also allows my cat Pumpkin to watch as said delivery people leave packages on the porch. Why don't they ring the doorbell? I will be sitting in the living room and be informed via email, complete with a photo, that a package is on my doorstep 15 feet away. Perhaps they don't have time to engage with recipients? I would like to toss out a hearty "thank you" but perhaps others might want to exchange an actual sentence or two — and slow them down.

When my husband and I were renting a little house in Marysville while he was stationed at Beale Air Force Base in 1968, we knew to schedule an hour each month to deliver our rent check to the landlord. The older gentleman loved to talk and shared many times about being a soldier in France during World War I when suddenly people were running down the streets yelling, "La guerre est finie! La guerre est finie!"

Fast forward to today, when the

enemy is the deadly coronavirus. Battles are being fought by patients and health workers in hospitals, and thousands still are dying each day. So even though it is Christmas, this is not the time to relax rules about celebrating in person with others.

I just read that one of the biggest obstacles to happiness this holiday season will be unmet expectations and the related emotions that bubble up. This is true in most aspects of life, isn't it? Check those expectations and then every phone call, text or email received is a bonus, and every good thing that happens is a delight.

Christmas is also my half birthday, which meant more at age 8 than it does now. These days I can only be amazed that I am the same age as old people. I also read this piece of advice for older folks: If you can't think of a word, say, "I forgot the English word for it." Then people will think you are bilingual instead of slowing down.

I guess that is one good thing about sheltering in place — more time to read — but I think we are all tired of being part of a major historical event.

We end the year on a promising note as the vaccine is being distributed, although 2021 will undoubtedly present new, unimagined challenges. Regardless, it's time to raise our glasses and toast: Farewell to 2020, the year I got a crush on an infectious disease specialist. (It peaked when I heard Dr. Fauci told children that he had personally gone to the North Pole and vaccinated Santa.) And here's to when we finally are able to shout: "La guerre est finie!" ■

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.

About the Cover

This year is one for the ages. 2020 has been too action-packed to squeeze our annual Year in Review into just one issue, so we've split it in two. Read through Year in Review: Part I inside from Pages 12-17. File photos. Cover design by Paul Llewellyn.

Vol. XXI, Number 38



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★ 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@SoldInAFlash.com



COMPASS

Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

Do you have any New Year's resolutions for 2021?



Carole Fine
Registered nurse

Absolutely. First and foremost, I want to do all that I can for myself and my family to stay healthy. As I am a health care worker, I will be the first in my family to get vaccinated, but we must all be careful until they are vaccinated as well. I hope others will do the same.



Scott Miller *Retired*

Like most people, I'm going to try to get more exercise and lose some weight in 2021. The pandemic has been quite unkind to me that way. Since my gym is closed indefinitely, I recently bought a treadmill for my home and have committed myself to using it for at least 45 minutes a day, five to six days every week. My cat, Lizzie, who is mesmerized by the movement of the treadmill, will keep me accountable.



Karl Como *Landscape*

Well, I certainly have a few; although, I know from past experience that I will keep my resolutions for maybe a week or two into the new year, at best. My primary resolution is to do a better job of keeping my cool in the face of adversity and inconvenience, as I am much too quick to get all bent out of shape and lose my temper whenever I get aggravated.



Frannie Cammarrano
Elementary school student

I do. My mom's been talking about it for weeks. Starting on Jan. 1, every day after dinner I am going to go around the house doing a "five-minute pickup." According to my mom, this means I'm going to go from room to room, picking up and putting away my Barbies and also my clothes and shoes because they don't belong all over the place.



Sally Lagomarsino
Retired

No, I never make New Year's resolutions because I don't want to feel disappointed when I don't live up to my own expectations.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

From Our Family To Yours, Happy Holidays!

We hope that you & your family are having a wonderful holiday season & staying safe during these times. As 2020 comes to a close, we'd like to reflect on how this year has been in the real estate market & what we're seeing now. Contrary to the early expectations of the impact of COVID-19, the local real estate market has been & remains red hot with mortgage rates at an all-time-low.

While inventory is highly limited, buyer demand is through the roof. This has caused some homeowners to see double digit appreciation this year alone. With **Prop 19** passing in November, we may see some new inventory come to the market, but it's unlikely to be sufficient to match buyer demand.

If 2021 is the year for you to achieve your goal of downsizing, up-sizing, or relocating, we'd love to hear from you! As a courtesy, we'd be happy to schedule a real estate check-up with you to discuss your current situation, 2021 goals, and answer any real estate related questions.

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While Proposition 19 focuses on intrastate transfers, according to a recent survey, 53% of Californians say they want to leave the state. Per Census, California saw over half a million of its residents leave last year alone, moving to areas such as Texas, Arizona, Washington & Colorado. While the cost of living & running a business continues to rise, many are moving to different out of state locations. Are you going to be next?

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Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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DIGEST

Holiday marathon

Tri-Valley Community Television is marking the Christmas season with a marathon of recent holiday programming on TV30.

Beginning with a loop of "Sleepy Dog at the Fire" with holiday music from Christmas Eve to 6 a.m. today, Christmas Day, the broadcast continues all day today with a series of previous holiday shows, including the "2020 Pleasanton Virtual Hometown Holiday Celebration & Tree Lighting."

The Christmas Day marathon also features "2019 Livermore Holiday Sights and Sounds Parade," "2018 Pleasanton Parade," "2019 Dublin Tree Lighting Event," "Cantabella Choir Revisited," "Foothill HS Choir Revisited" and other holiday-related programming. Visit tv30.org to learn more.

9-1-1 text service

The Alameda County Regional Emergency Communications Center as of this month has joined many other agencies in the region in offering the option of sending text messages to 9-1-1.

The communications center, a division of the Alameda County Fire Department, is giving the option for those who are deaf, hearing or speech impaired, or are in situations where it is too dangerous to make a voice call to 9-1-1.

The center serves the cities of Alameda, Dublin, Emeryville, Fremont, Livermore, Newark, Pleasanton, San Leandro, Union City, and various unincorporated communities.

—Bay City News Service

Flood insurance

Livermore residents who live in high hazard flood zones are now eligible for insurance premium discounts, as a result of federal regulators acknowledging the city "has gone above and beyond minimum flood mitigation standards."

The discount authorized by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as part of the National Flood Insurance Program and its Community Rating System voluntary incentive program.

"The city of Livermore has improved its flood safety by guiding development away from high-risk flood areas, educating the public on flood risks within the community and collaborating with neighboring communities to identify and reduce shared risks," FEMA officials said.

Livermore residents can now receive a 20% discount on their flood insurance, which was previously only 5% — a savings of several hundred dollars a year for individuals and thousands of dollars citywide. Visit floodsmart.gov to learn more. ■

Stanford-ValleyCare staff among first local COVID-19 vaccine recipients

Bay Area stay-at-home restrictions extended until at least Jan. 7 due to ICU capacity

By RYAN J. DEGAN

Hospital staff were among the first people in the Tri-Valley to receive the new Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine last week, taking part in the first phase of immunizations being sent out to health care workers and first responders throughout the country.

Due to the limited supply available so far, vaccinations for the novel coronavirus — which has been surging throughout the country and state over the past month

— are being limited to front-line health care workers and first responders.

In the Tri-Valley, some of the first recipients included staff at Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare in Pleasanton last Friday and staff at San Ramon Regional Medical Center two days earlier.

"We are really excited," said Colleen Chawla, director of the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency.

See **VACCINE** on Page 10



STANFORD-VALLEYCARE

ER physician Dr. Howard Yoshioka was the first staff member at Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare to receive the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine last week.

Bridging the Distance Award

Valley View's Luy among inaugural recipients of new countywide award for teachers

By JULIA BAUM

Winning an award for the first time in her 18-year career, Valley View Elementary teacher Lourdes Luy is also Pleasanton's first-ever recipient of the county's inaugural Bridging the Distance Award.

"It definitely has been really rewarding to feel the recognition of the parents, of the families," Luy told the Weekly. "There has been a tremendous amount of work from educators to prepare for this challenge, distance learning."

Luy, along with six other teachers across Alameda County including Huong Giang of Sunol Glen School, received the inaugural honor in a virtual ceremony earlier this month also featuring all county districts' 2020 Teachers of the Year.

The Valley View veteran of six years was commended for keeping her Spanish dual immersion kindergarten class engaged in distance learning while schools remain closed by public health orders.

Parents, colleagues and other community members nominated public school teachers throughout Alameda County who "have demonstrated innovation, creativity, compassion, care and a commitment to equity during the COVID-19 pandemic," said the Alameda County Office of Education, which issued the award.

"I never imagined I was going to be doing (distance learning), especially with this group of young kids," Luy said. "Also,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Valley View teacher Lourdes Luy, winner of Bridging the Distance Award.

another layer is teaching them in Spanish, teaching them another language — movement, modeling, gestures to convey meaning for them to understand. We've had to adapt to this new mode of teaching."

"The kids seem to be doing very well, actually," Luy added. "It's a lot of different components that have come into play to make this work for my little ones."

Creating structure, establishing a routine and setting expectations from the beginning of the year were critical, "and also the support of the families," according to Luy.

Live online instruction in varying lengths three times a day have been essential, but also "reading to them, they look forward to coming to the Zoom sessions because that's something

they enjoy," she said.

Virtual office hours also give Luy dedicated time to meet with individual students for extra support. Meetings usually last 10 to 15 minutes but can go longer if needed.

"It's a good opportunity to connect one-on-one with the kids," Luy said.

To enhance learning offline, Luy adds daily journal activities for her students. She also takes care to acknowledge their growth and changes.

"At that age, they really want their teacher's attention and to feel special," she said. "I notice when somebody gets a haircut or they tell me they lost a tooth last night. Those things are important for building community and relationships."

Before coming to Valley View six years ago, Luy taught child developmental psychology in the regional occupational program (ROP) at Foothill High School. Prior to joining Pleasanton Unified School District, she taught in Fremont.

Like many teachers thrown unexpectedly into virtual instruction this year, Luy said, "We have been down but then we have gotten up and kept going. Right now it seems to be going fairly smooth."

Luy added, "It definitely has been an eventful year, challenging times, but together we have made it work and we're going through this together, and all for the kids." ■

3 young people die in crash in Livermore

Passenger vehicle strikes big-rig on Las Positas Road

By JEREMY WALSH

Two juveniles and one young adult from Livermore died after their vehicle collided with a semi-truck on Las Positas Road late Monday night, according to city police.

The cause of the triple-fatal crash remains under investigation, and the victims' identities had not been revealed publicly as of the Weekly's early press deadline Tuesday.

The situation unfolded around 10:30 p.m. Monday when police received a report about a collision between a passenger vehicle and a semi-truck in the 5600 block of Las Positas Road, according to Livermore police Sgt. Steve Goard.

Two of the people in the main vehicle were pronounced dead at the scene while the third occupant succumbed to their injuries at a local hospital, according to Goard. The victims were identified only as two juveniles and one young adult from Livermore.

"The collision is still under investigation and associated factors or fault have yet to be determined," Goard said.

Anyone who witnessed the crash or has relevant information about the case can contact Sgt. Justin Lash at Livermore PD, 925-371-4857. ■

Editor's note: Follow updates on this story online this weekend at PleasantonWeekly.com.

Newcomers Carreon, Mokashi and incumbent Maher sworn in

PUSD bids farewell to outgoing trustee Yee after 12 years

By JULIA BAUM

Pleasanton Unified School District welcomed two new leaders to the Board of Trustees at the final board meeting of 2020, marking the end of a tumultuous and historic year.

Trustees Kelly Mokashi and Mary Jo Carreon were sworn in at the Dec. 15 meeting, along with incumbent Steve Maher, who will serve a second term as trustee.

Mokashi and Carreon took the place of outgoing trustees Jamie Yee and Valerie Arkin. Arkin took the oath of office Dec. 15 as the newest member of the Pleasanton City Council, having won one of two



Mary Jo Carreon



Steve Maher



Kelly Mokashi

open seats, while Yee was unsuccessful in winning re-election to a fourth term as trustee.

A ceremony in Yee's honor was held near the beginning of the meeting, during which multiple PUSD cabinet and community

members recognized her 12 years of public service.

Among the tokens of appreciation Yee received that evening from local elected officials were flowers, an engraved clock and various certificates and proclamations.

Superintendent David Haglund told Yee that the district was "better because of your work."

"It's been my pleasure to serve this community alongside you since 2017," Haglund said. "I truly

appreciate your ongoing friendship and partnership in the work. I know that we will continue to benefit from your leadership and advocacy in the community."

Holding back tears, Yee thanked her colleagues for their support and said "it's been a great experience to be a trustee, there's just no other experience like it."

"I feel so fortunate to have done everything that I've done, and I couldn't have done it without all of you," Yee said. "I'm feeling really happy that it was this past board that finally put together the most amazing, high functioning team I think our district has had in 25

years. I'm very excited to see what you guys do next."

As part of its reorganization last week, the board also selected Trustee Joan Laursen, who is in the middle of serving her third term, as board president for the year. Trustee Mark Miller will serve as vice president until December 2021.

"It continues to be a privilege to serve the students and families of Pleasanton," Laursen said. "I look forward to working alongside Vice President Miller and hand-in-hand with Trustees Carreon, Mokashi and Maher to best support our students during this critical time in our history." ■

Dublin: New mayor, council members take oath of office

Hernandez, Hu, McCorriston join dais in new roles

By JULIA BAUM

Dublin's new mayor and two incoming council members were sworn in last week at the City Council's final meeting of the year.

New city Mayor Melissa Hernandez and council members Sherry Hu and Michael McCorriston took the oath of office inside the council chambers during the Dec. 15 meeting. Ceremony officiants including outgoing mayor David Haubert wore face masks and maintained physical distance while administering the oaths.

Hu and McCorriston are representing the Dublin community at-large during their four-year terms, and did not make any public comments after being sworn in.

Hernandez, who was elected

mayor in November after serving one term as a council member, said she was "humbled by the opportunity" and "will continue to work hard for each one of you."

"Getting sworn in during COVID-19 is certainly a reminder of all the hard work we have ahead of us — making sure we continue to support our families, our businesses and our neighbors, securing state and federal funding to protect our residents, support our small businesses and lead the recovery in our communities is one of my top priorities," Hernandez said.

Both Haubert and outgoing vice mayor Arun Goel were presented with plaques during a presentation held in their honor that evening, which also included a speech by outgoing Alameda County Supervisor

Scott Haggerty, whose seat representing District 1 will be taken over by Haubert in the new year.

Haubert thanked Haggerty for the commendation, and said he has "big, big shoes to fill" on the board, while Goel called it a "pleasure and honor" to have served the city.

Goel said, "It is about the end solution and the dialogue of how we get there, that the right outcomes are always decided by those that represent us from their heart."

Councilmember Shawn Kumagai was unanimously selected last week to serve as the city's vice mayor for a two-year term ending in December 2022. Before voting, Councilmember Jean Josey called Hernandez's nomination of Kumagai an "excellent choice." ■



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New Dublin Mayor Melissa Hernandez takes the oath of office administered by Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty.

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CHUCK DECKERT

'Noël: A Christmas Sing Along'

The Catholic Community of Pleasanton held a virtual Christmas concert on Dec. 16, broadcast to Facebook, YouTube and their parish website, featuring popular Christmas carols that allowed participants at home to sing along in anticipation of the Christmas season. The recording of "Noël: A Christmas Sing Along" can be viewed via www.catholicsofpleasanton.org.

Tri-Valley cities do well in census self-response rates

Pleasanton posts 81.2% responsiveness

By JULIA BAUM

Pleasanton appears to have surpassed its most recent self-response rate and the majority of households already replied to the 2020 United States Census Survey, according to statistics compiled from the U.S. Census Bureau.

The most recently available data on the bureau's website shows the city has a 81.2% self-response rate, as of Oct. 27. Pleasanton's final self-response rate in 2010 was 79.3%.

California's average self-response rate for the current census was 69.7% of households, slightly higher than the national average of 67%.

Self-response rates include households that responded online or by phone or mail to the survey. Households that respond on their own free up regional census teams to search out hard-to-find and hard-to-count populations, such as Livermore's ranch and vineyard workers and low-income immigrants that were the focus of targeted local census efforts.

An accurate census count ensures the appropriate allotment of federal resources and political

representation for Americans. The forthcoming process this spring of redistricting, or redrawing political district boundaries, is based on population trends reported by the census.

Political districts from the federal down to local level, including school boards, will all play a role.

Most census tracts in Pleasanton currently have self-response rates ranging from approximately 80% to 91%, but a few smaller ones by Interstate 580 have lower rates between 61% to 66%.

Pleasanton also made the top 50 self-responding cities of up to 1 million people in California, at No. 47, along with Livermore at No. 30.

The city of Livermore moved up higher on the list due to its 82.6% self-response rate, besting its 2010 rate of 75%. Livermore's census tracts also reported higher overall self-response rates compared to Pleasanton of 74.7% to 91.3%.

Dublin has improved its self-response rate since the last survey, and made the top 100 California cities of up to 1 million residents at No.

See **CENSUS** on Page 9

Winegrowers association exec retiring

Chandler led advocacy, promotion efforts for Livermore Valley for 13 years

By JEREMY WALSH

Executive Director Chris Chandler, the longest-serving leader of the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association, is retiring next week to cap more than a decade overseeing the nonprofit marketing and membership organization.

With Chandler at the helm, the association helped wineries, vineyards and businesses across Livermore Valley wine country continue to raise their profile on the statewide, national and international stage while at times navigating difficult economic and drought conditions as well.

"It's been an honor and privilege to represent Livermore Valley's wineries and vineyards for almost 14 years," Chandler said in a statement. "I'm so proud of everything the members, team, board and I have accomplished together"

"It hasn't always been easy. The Great Recession of 2008-2009 was difficult on wine regions all over the state, including Livermore Valley," she added. "It was nothing like the hardships of this pandemic, but I am confident that the region's history, creativity, dedication and heart will carry the Valley forward."

Brandi Addington, the association's longtime operations and membership director, will oversee the



RON ESSEX

Chris Chandler is retiring as LWVA executive director.

organization with support from its board of directors for the foreseeable future, officials said.

"The association thanks Chris for her leadership and dedication over the past 13-plus years and we all wish her only the best," said Amy Hoopes, president of Wente Family Estates and second-term association board president.

A Danville resident, Chandler has worked as the association's executive director since the spring of 2007.

With a focus on community and collaboration, Chandler spearheaded a range of accomplishments for the association, including the wine

country signage program, paving the path to establish the Wine Heritage District, expanding the annual Taste our Terroir event and earning large state and federal grants worth just under half a million dollars to support regional marketing efforts, according to association representatives.

She also cultivated key partnerships with local organizations such as Livermore Downtown, Inc., the Las Positas College viticulture and enology program, the East Bay-Economic Development Alliance and Visit Tri-Valley.

"We have appreciated Chris' guidance and her capacity through the years to stand with all the wineries, both large and small. Her ability to forge a path through the middle, that benefits everybody has been tremendous. She leaves behind numerous legacies in the Valley," Darcie Kent, proprietor of Darcie Kent Vineyards, said in a statement.

David Kent added, "One legacy that stands out in particular is how Chris got up and got going on the downtown wine country hotel. It would have been a very different outcome without her leadership, attention and ability to mobilize a broad section of the community to stand up for what is right and do what was needed to advance our wine country." ■

LVJUSD starting new year with two new trustees

Wang, Guzmán took oath of office last week

By JULIA BAUM

Two new members of the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) Board of Education took the oath of office at this year's final board meeting on Dec. 15.

Yanira Guzmán and Kristie Wang, both parents of LVJUSD students, were sworn in during the virtual meeting, joining the five-member board. Along with the induction ceremony, the trustees also re-elected Craig Bueno as board president and selected Emily Prusso to serve as clerk for the year.

A Livermore resident of 14 years who finished first in the Nov. 3 LVJUSD election, Wang has more than three decades of policy experience and "advocating on behalf of children, schools, and families."

More recently, Wang co-founded local grassroots group Flavors Addict Kids Livermore, which combats youth vaping and tobacco use, and spent a decade volunteering as an advocate for Tri-Valley Haven.

Wang graduated from the University of Chicago with a bachelor's in education policy before attending Harvard University, where she earned her master's in public policy. Wang's son is a 2020



Yanira Guzmán



Kristie Wang

Livermore High School graduate and her daughter currently attends Granada High.

An experienced Spanish bilingual teacher and literacy coach, Guzmán has spent more than eight years in California public schools, and also worked for a Forbes Top 50 tech company in software implementation and customer training.

In addition to holding a master's degree in education from San Francisco State University and sociology degree from UC Berkeley, Guzmán — who finished second in the five-candidate election to win the second board seat — is founder of a career coaching business and co-leader of Latinas of the Bay Area, a professional and social network for Latina women. Guzmán's two children currently attend Junction Avenue K-8. ■



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Susan Evans	100	Liz Kerton	250
John Stephens	100	Bernie & Michael Billen	**
Peter Bedegi	400	Steven Ethier	**
Frank & Muriel Capilla	**	Curtis Lum	75

Baker appointed to FPPC

‘Goal is to serve with diligence, fairness and common sense’

By JEREMY WALSH

Dublin resident and former two-term California assemblywoman Catharine Baker has been appointed to the state’s Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC).

Baker, a long-time attorney who developed a reputation for bipartisanship as a Republican in the State Assembly, will return the FPPC to full five-person membership.

The commission, designed to be an independent and nonpartisan body, is responsible for administration of the state’s Political Reform Act, which regulates campaign rules, lobbying and government ethics.

“I am deeply honored by this appointment,” Baker told the Weekly. “For much of my professional career and public service, I

have focused on how we can bring about more effective, transparent, and accountable government. I am excited about the opportunity to continue this work with a Commission that is a nonpartisan and independent.”

“The FPPC does good work in many areas, and my underlying goal is to serve with diligence, fairness and common sense,” Baker added. “As for priorities: working to ensure government resources are not misused for personal benefit or campaign purposes, and to fight corruption and bias in government decision-making.”

California State Controller Betty T. Yee announced Baker’s selection on Dec. 14, picking the former assemblywoman to succeed Republican Allison Hayward on the commission. No more than three FPPC members may be from the same political party.

“The FPPC works to ensure public officials act in a fair and

unbiased manner in governmental decision-making, promote transparency in government, and foster public trust in the political system,” Yee said.

Baker, who works as special counsel at law firm Hoge Fenton where she advises businesses and nonprofits and also practices election law, served four years in the State Assembly representing the 16th District, which includes the Tri-Valley. She won her seat in a tight election in 2014 and earned re-election comfortably in 2016 before losing a close race for a third term in 2018.

Yee pointed to Baker’s years of service on a range of nonpartisan and nonprofit boards, including California Women Lead, California Forward, California Common Cause, the Livermore Lab Foundation and the Diablo Regional Arts Association — as well as her past service on the California State Bar’s Financial Institutions Committee. ■



Catharine Baker

DSRSD urges public to apply for board vacancy

Board decides on Division 5 process after swearing in other new directors

By JULIA BAUM

A vacancy on the Dublin San Ramon Services District Board of Directors will be decided by appointment, and members of the public who live in eastern Dublin are invited to apply for the position.

The four sitting directors agreed at their Dec. 15 meeting to appoint the next representative rather than call for a special election for Division 5, which is in DSRSD’s easternmost service area in Dublin, east of Hacienda Drive — a decision made after new Director Marisol Rubio (Division 1) and incumbent Director Rich Halket (Division 3) were sworn in to their new terms.

The vacancy arose after no prospective candidates filed papers to run for Division 5 in the November election, which was DSRSD’s first election cycle since switching to by-division representation in 2019.

District spokesperson Lea Blevins told the Weekly, “This has been uncharted territory with the transition to division-based elections, further complicated by not having any candidates run for the

Division 5 seat.”

DSRSD staff were initially advised by the district’s legal counsel that the Alameda County Board of Supervisors would appoint someone to the Division 5 seat after no candidates filed papers for the election.

After consulting with the Alameda County Registrar of Voters’ Office, DSRSD learned the seat would be considered vacant after the election results were certified. The district was officially notified of the vacancy, effective Dec. 15, and has 60 days to fill the position.

If the DSRSD board has not taken action to move forward with an appointment process, then the county’s Board of Supervisors has the authority to appoint someone to the seat after Feb. 12, at the end of the 60-day period.

Those interested in applying must be registered to vote in Alameda County and legally reside in Division 5. The appointed member will serve a limited term ending in December 2022, to coincide with DSRSD’s next

regularly scheduled election.

The deadline to apply for the Division 5 seat is Jan. 8 at 5 p.m.

Interviews will be conducted by the board with selected candidates either in the DSRSD boardroom, if COVID-19 restrictions are relaxed, or via teleconference. on Feb. 2, starting 6 p.m. The interviews will be available for public viewing.

To learn more, visit dsrsd.com.

Also during the Dec. 15 board meeting, Rubio joined as the new director of Division 1, which includes the Dougherty Valley area of San Ramon. Rubio works as a health care provider and has a bachelor’s degree in molecular and cell biology from UC Berkeley. She previously worked as a health promotion officer, original research mentor, and K-5 bilingual science teacher.

Halket began a new term last week, once more representing Division 3 in west Dublin and San Ramon since first joining the board in 2004.

Director Ann Marie Johnson will serve for the first time as board president through December 2021. ■

CENSUS

Continued from Page 7

96. For 2020, 78.7% of households replied to the survey, compared to a final count of 71% in 2010.

Self-response rates among Dublin census tracts ranged from about 72% to 89%, with the exception of one small area

reporting 61%. That area also had lower online response of approximately 58%, compared to 68% or more in the rest of the city.

In all three Tri-Valley cities, approximately 75% of households overall responded to the survey online.

Alameda County is No. 7 of the top ten highest self-response rates

among the state’s 58 counties, joining Contra Costa, Santa Clara and San Mateo counties, with a 75.8% self-response rate.

After the data from each county is received, the U.S. Census Bureau will prepare and formally present the information to President Donald Trump’s administration by next Thursday (Dec. 31). ■

Thomas Fox.....	200	Elizabeth Ng, from Chris & Linda Coleman.....	1,000
Marjorie York.....	250	Erik Lemoine, from the Lemoine Family.....	200
Kathleen Reinig.....	100	Jim Snodgrass, from Virginia Snodgrass.....	**
Richard Alexander.....	800	Robert C. Bush, from Arlene Bush..	100
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The Vellinger.....	200	Sarah Anne Lees, from Donald & Judy Person.....	200
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Randy & Pat Davis.....	100	Lana Vigallon.....	**
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Bob & Betsy Harris.....	400	William C. “Bud” Lunde, from Louise Lunde.....	**
Patricia Bacon.....	100	Margaret Hale & Helen Martin, from Dave & Roz Gamble.....	**
Peggy Bryant.....	100	Moms-Mary Britto & Lee Gagnon, from Carl & Maggie Britto.....	100
Bob & Debbie Rycerski.....	100	Hathily P. Johnson & Marcus E. Peterson, from Hathi Winston & Jerry Prettyman.....	200
The Jolley Family.....	**	Grandpa Tom & Grandma Marge, from Jeff & Nina.....	150
Edward Herman.....	**	Grandpa Ray & Grandma Terry, from Kevin & Annie.....	150
Jack Balch.....	100	Vicki Marien & Claude Ganage.....	**
Terry Gianatasio.....	50	Brien Dowdakin, from Sean Chase... **	
Peter MacDonald.....	200	My two wonderful dads- Rick Aguiar & George Fargis, from Marianne Ottaway.....	200
Jeff Christensen.....	300	Dr. Donald R. Gardner, DVM, from Wendy Wong & Matt Traini.....	**
James Price.....	5,000	Chris Beratlis, from Vic’s Coffee Shop Guys.....	260
Nancy Allen.....	500	Alex V. Spotorno, from Alex Spotorno Family.....	**
Linda Mullineaux.....	100	Bernadette Dantzig-Leo Barsotti, from Terry & Judy Scavone.....	50
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The Morgenstern Family.....	**		
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Ana & Michael Fong.....	150		
Praveen Sampat.....	100		
Peter Schulze.....	250		
Stacey Ristow.....	500		
Leah Anderson.....	200		
Deborah Wallace.....	100		

IN MEMORY OF

Janet Reichlin, from Mike, Lori & Michael Reichlin.....	200
Gam & Papa Abbot, from the Casey Family.....	**
Robert Himsl, from Charlotte Himsl.....	200
Richard Del Tredici, from Judith Del Tredici.....	100
Coach Tony Costello, from Michael & Cheryl Costello.....	**
Beloved Xiaofan Han, from Xiaojun Mo’s Family.....	**
Hank Gomez, Robert & Donna Williams, from Frank Gomez and Maureen Nokes.....	200
Carl W. Pretzel, from Marilyn Pretzel.....	**
Betty Patrick, from Charles & Joan Brown.....	100
Woody Pereira, from Slivia & Family.....	200
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Dr. Gerald L. Severin, from Charlotte W. Severin.....	100
Rick Aguiar & George Fargis, Jr., from Nancy Aguiar Fargis.....	100
Steve DeCoite, from Frank & Muriel Capilla.....	**
Brenda Lathlean Faggiano, from Ellen & Bill Lathlean.....	150
Karl K. Witze.....	**
Bert Brook, from Dee Brook.....	200
June & Harry Pantages.....	**
Too many to list. In my heart and prayers, from Howard Merrill.....	100
Tracy, from Vernon Cink.....	**

IN HONOR OF

Our “Fabulous” 5 Grandkids, from R&G Spicka.....	**
Our Loved Ones, from William Wayne Emery & E. Anne Emery.....	**
Our granddaughters: Norah & Savannah Huff, from Kay & Charles Huff.....	**
Everyone hurting during Covid-19, from Sue King-Irwin & Hank Irwin.....	100
Our wonderful parents, Jeb & Jan Bing, we love you very much, from Kerry, Chris & Jenny.....	150

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Our grandsons Benny & Teddy Threshie.....	**
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Pleasanton Newcomers Club.....	1,000

** Donor did not want to publish the amount of the gift.

DUSD says goodbye to trustee Miller

Blackman, Kuo, Pelham sworn in for new terms

By JULIA BAUM

Dublin Unified School District welcomed one new and two returning trustees and bid farewell to another at the Dec. 15 Board of Trustees meeting.

First joining the board in late 2010, Amy Miller said goodbye to her colleagues at the meeting, after deciding not to run for reelection earlier this year. Miller's decision gave newly elected trustee Kristin Pelham the opportunity to represent Area 1 after she won a two-candidate election last month.

Pelham was sworn in at the meeting along with incumbent

Catherine Kuo and Gabi Blackman, both of whom retained their seats to represent Areas 3 and 4, respectively.

The board also elected trustees Dan Cherrier and Megan Rouse to serve a second consecutive year as president and vice president for the next year.

"I'm really moved," Miller said about the virtual ceremony held in her honor on Dec. 15. "I love this district, I love this city, I love the work that I got to do. I felt that every day that I was a school board trustee — even the worst days — was a privilege and an honor, and I never took

that for granted."

"This has been something really special and I'll never forget it," Miller added.

In a series of recorded video messages, DUSD staff and students thanked Miller for her years of service, including fighting for Dublin High School's pass/no pass grading system last semester, and said she would be "missed tremendously."

Multiple community members shared their appreciation and memories that evening of working with Miller, including city of Dublin officials, Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, Alameda

County Supervisor Scott Haggerty and outgoing Pleasanton school trustee Jamie Yee.

"Being a school board member is a high stress and often thankless job," said Interim Superintendent Daniel Moirao. "Shouldering some of this burden through what could arguably be called the most challenging period in the school district's history, is a tremendous achievement. The fact that we are in a better place now, than we were ten years ago, is in part due to Amy Miller's commitment to this community."

A certificate of recognition from the Dublin Teachers Association

was also presented that evening to Miller, who will receive a special marble apple placard from them later as well.

During her decade at DUSD, Miller played part in acquiring land for a planned middle school at Dublin Crossing, developing Dublin High's Gael Period, increasing both the regional occupational program (ROP) and number of district counselors, and approval of parcel tax and bond measures with critical impacts on the district's growth management.

A bench dedicated to Miller will be installed at the DHS Wellness Center. ■

COVID-19 relief available for small businesses in Dublin

Eligible applicants can receive up to \$10,000 of financial assistance from city

By JULIA BAUM

Small businesses in Dublin that have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic are invited to apply for financial assistance through the city's new "Small Business Recovery Grant Program."

Offering reimbursement grants of up to \$10,000 to small businesses burdened with pandemic-related expenses, the program was developed "to offer financial

assistance for recovery efforts for businesses forced to shift their operations to adhere to the continually changing county and state guidelines," Dublin officials said.

Some businesses that are eligible for assistance include, but are not limited to, retail and restaurants, fitness and indoor recreation, family entertainment centers, tutoring centers, and personal care services.

Certain requirements must be met such as be a brick-and-mortar business located in Dublin, be independently owned, currently operating, and in good standing, have an active business license, and no more than 50 employees.

Businesses that are not eligible for the program include, but are not limited to: corporately-owned franchises and chain stores, insurance companies, lending and investment institutions, non

profit entities, childcare centers and schools, home-based businesses and professional services (including accountants, lawyers and architects), and hotels.

The online application process "will be as streamlined as possible" to expedite funding. Applications will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis and will only be accepted through the city's website. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis

until March 31 at 5 p.m., or when funding is depleted, whichever occurs first.

Applications began being accepted last Friday morning. To learn more about the Dublin Recovery Boost Grant Program, and to apply, visit www.dublin.ca.gov/recoveryboostgrant.

For more information, contact management analyst Suzanne Iarla at economic.development@dublin.ca.gov. ■

VACCINE

Continued from Page 5

"This is the beginning of our nearly 14,000 doses of vaccine that we're administering to high risk health care workers as well as the highest risk first responders in our 9-1-1 emergency response system. That's our ambulance service providers and our fire service providers," Chawla added. "(We're) really excited to be one of the few counties in California that's extending this first dose of vaccine to our 9-1-1 first responders."

The first shipments of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, which is estimated at being 95% effective against COVID-19, arrived in Alameda County last week, with 12,675 doses being allocated for hospitals and first responders throughout the county.

Stanford-ValleyCare received 975 doses last Friday, according to hospital spokesperson Denise Bouillercce. It will first be distributed to the highest risk front-line health care workers at Stanford-ValleyCare, and Stanford Health expects to vaccinate its entire workforce through January and February 2021, expanding availability to the community in March or April.

Stanford-ValleyCare's first COVID-19 vaccination was

administered by local nurse Laura Chan to emergency room physician Dr. Howard Yoshioka.

"The availability of vaccines for our staff is a significant turning point in our response to the pandemic," said Rick Shumway, president and CEO of Stanford-ValleyCare. "It has been a really challenging year for all of us. We've all gone through lots of challenges, both personally and professionally. To me, this day signals a significant step forward in our ability to take better care of our staff, patients, families and community."

"I'm so excited for the opportunity our staff, our teams, and our physicians will have — to have that piece of mind and allow them to do their jobs in a safer and more effective way," he added.

Neighboring Contra Costa County received 9,715 doses last week, which have likewise been distributed to hospitals and other locations throughout the region.

"We are vaccinating eligible members of our staff in accordance with FDA, CDC, state, and local guidelines," Krista Deans, spokeswoman for San Ramon Regional Medical Center, told the Weekly. "We are hopeful that we will be able to immunize all healthcare workers working in areas that are high risk for COVID exposures in the first few

weeks of immunizations. Immunization of all healthcare workers will happen in the first phase of immunization."

Although San Ramon Regional staff did not disclose how many vaccines it received for its own staff, Deans did note that emergency medicine physician Dr. Renzo Cardena was the first person to receive the vaccine at the hospital, which saw its first batches administered on Dec. 16.

Vaccines are being distributed as the Bay Area — and the U.S. at-large — is facing its worst surge of coronavirus cases since the pandemic began nearly a year ago.

On Dec. 16 the state announced that the availability of intensive care unit (ICU) beds in the Bay Area have fallen below 15%, due in no small part to sharply increasing severe coronavirus cases throughout the region.

According to local health officials, the week ending on Dec. 12 was the single worst week of the pandemic so far in Alameda County, with more than 5,000 new COVID-19 cases reported and over 1,000 cases reported on each of the last two days. Additionally, the number of residents hospitalized with COVID-19 and in ICUs are five times higher than one month ago — and increasing daily.

"By every measure, the state of the pandemic in Alameda County

is the worst it has ever been," said Dr. Nicholas Moss, Alameda County health officer. "Over the last 10 months, we have learned a lot about how we can protect ourselves and each other from this deadly virus. Now is the time to use every tool we have to ensure the work we've done and the months away from our loved ones will have been worth it."

To fight the drastically increasing number of cases, California issued a stay-at-home order that is set to last through at least Jan. 7 — the order is expected to

remain in effect until the region's projected ICU capacity meets or exceeds 15%.

As of Monday afternoon, Alameda County has seen a total of 42,655 confirmed cases and 587 coronavirus-related deaths.

Livermore has been hit the hardest by COVID-19, reporting 2,146 cases as of Monday. That is followed by Pleasanton, which has seen 1,125 reported cases, San Ramon with 1,066, Danville with 898 and Dublin with 835, according to data from the respective counties. ■



STANFORD-VALLEYCARE

Stanford-ValleyCare officials say they have 975 doses of the new Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for front-line health care workers.

Late editor's family donates \$250K+ to Valley Humane Society

Independent's Armantrout had deep love for pets

By JEREMY WALSH

The family of Janet Armantrout, the longtime editor of The Independent newspaper in Livermore who died unexpectedly last year, recently donated more than \$250,000 to Pleasanton-based animal support nonprofit Valley Humane Society.

Armantrout had deep love for animals, and the family's generous

contribution will have a profound impact on the lives and well-being of cats and dogs in the Tri-Valley, according to the nonprofit.

"Valley Humane Society is honored by this opportunity to further the work that Janet was passionate about," officials said. "The funds will be put to general use supporting Valley Humane Society's lifesaving rescue and adoption

programs and life-enriching community services, such as children's humane education, Canine Comfort Pet Therapy and AniMeals pet food pantry."

Armantrout first joined The Independent in 1964 and worked as its editor for more than 30 years. She died in August 2019 after an unpublicized battle with ALS.

Valley Humane Society officials

noted that Armantrout's creation of a "Pet of the Week" column decades ago helped the nonprofit find forever homes for many adoptable dogs and cats over many years. "In addition, Janet supported the organization's efforts to engage the public through the regular inclusion of stories, news, and events in the newspaper," they added. ■



COURTESY OF THE INDEPENDENT
Janet Armantrout, longtime editor of The Independent in Livermore.




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YEAR IN REVIEW:

PART I

First six months of 2020 went from innocence to dismay to fortitude

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI



Clockwise from top left: Dublin leaders unveil the city's new Public Safety Complex at Dublin Boulevard-Clark Avenue in February. (Photo by city of Dublin). Also before the pandemic hit, school officials and students celebrate the start of the Lydiksen Elementary modernization project. (Photo by PUSD). Pleasanton's unicorn marches with others in a social distanced costume parade downtown on May 1. (Photo by Ryan J. Degan). Residents arrive for a COVID-19 test at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. (Photo by city of Pleasanton).

The year 2020 began with heartbreaking normality.

January seems so long ago, belonging as it did to a more innocent, pre-pandemic time. Looking back, it is surprising to recall the year's first 2-1/2 months, how social we were, always gathering for meetings and fun events, at work and at school.

A few alert epidemiologists and astute world-watchers got wind around that time of the virus inexorably headed our way, but most of us blissfully looked forward to a year of activities, get-togethers, sports and travel.

The rapid spread of COVID-19 and subsequent quarantining, the summer of canceled activities, the wildfires and fall elections, and personal disasters, made this a busy year for the Pleasanton Weekly. We now comprehend the ancient curse, "May you live in interesting times."

Eventually we all settled into a pattern of cancellations and adaptations. In April came the first mention of activities being held via "Zoom video conferencing platform." Now we use Zoom as a noun, verb and adjective.

Following is a review of the news in the Pleasanton Weekly from January through June. Next week we will cover July through December. The year 2020 was too action-packed to squeeze into just one issue.

JANUARY

- **Tri-Valley community continues to mourn** three Dublin High students, twins Mark and Michael Urista and Javier Ramirez, who were killed in a car crash on Foothill Road on Christmas night.

- **Livermore Railroad Depot relocation and rehabilitation project** receives a 2019 Governor's Historic Preservation Award in Sacramento.

- **Longtime tourism marketing professional Tracy Farhad** is named CEO for Visit Tri-Valley, succeeding retiring CEO and president Barbara Steinfeld.

- **Dublin Unified School District** reaches a \$38.3 million settlement to acquire a 23.46-acre site for a second comprehensive high school located between Central Parkway and Chancery Lane, near Dublin Boulevard.

- **Annual Make A Difference Festival** showcasing volunteer opportunities is held for the first time at the Pleasanton Senior Center instead of the community room at the library, which is temporarily housing city offices.

- **A Vallejo man is charged** with special circumstances murder for the shooting death of his female accomplice, Adrianna Marie Navarro, in what authorities allege was a plot to conduct a home invasion robbery at the home of her ex-boyfriend in Dublin.

- **Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre** presents "Mamma Mia!" set to the hits of ABBA, at the Bankhead Theater.

- **Livermore native Jeff Peters** is named the fifth permanent fire chief



LFPD

LFPD's Jeff Peters was promoted to fire chief in January.

for the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department.

- **Dublin's General Plan and Downtown Specific Plan** are amended to "create a vibrant, dynamic commercial and mixed-use center ... in a pedestrian-friendly and aesthetically pleasing setting that attracts both local and regional residents."

- **Inaugural State of the School District luncheon**, hosted by PPIE, celebrates local businesses that support the schools.

- **U.S. magistrate dismisses** the claim by James Steinle and Elizabeth Sullivan that the government should be held responsible for the negligence of a U.S. Bureau of Land Management ranger whose loaded gun, which was stolen from his parked SUV, later fired the bullet that killed their daughter Kate Steinle, 32, in San Francisco on July 1, 2015.

- **Hundreds of women's rights advocates** march through downtown Pleasanton in the 2020 Tri-Valley Women's March, a celebration of the centennial of women's suffrage in the United States and all that women

have achieved over the past 100 years as well as a recognition of issues still to be resolved.

- **Bankhead Theater hosts an environmental film fest** presented by Tri-Valley Citizens' Climate Education, the "Wild and Scenic Film Festival on Tour and EcoFair."

- **At its first regular meeting of the year**, PUSD trustees agree to cover professional cleaning services used to sanitize five district sites during a viral gastroenteritis outbreak last fall.

- **Dublin officials warn residents** to stay cautious after coyote sightings continue to occur.

- **BART board approves an ambassadorship program** in which unarmed officers with additional de-escalation and anti-bias training ride trains from 2 p.m. to midnight seven days a week, with extra coverage on Saturdays.

- **Mission Hills Park opens its new "big slide,"** which replaces the old popular one installed 30 years ago that became difficult to repair and maintain.

- **Emil Eyvazzadeh, an OB/GYN** at San Ramon Regional Medical Center, meets with an Alamo family and its 10 children, all of whom he delivered.

- **Pleasanton Weekly celebrates the 20th anniversary** of its first edition published Jan. 28, 2000.

- **PUSD trustees approve a design scheme** for the new 4th/5th-grade school planned on part of the Donlon Elementary site to serve about 500 students while the existing school converts to a kindergarten-to-third-grade school with a projected enrollment of about 700 students.

- **Joseph S. Freschi, 58, a Pleasanton attorney**, is killed in a fiery crash at Hacienda Drive and West Las Positas Boulevard after he loses control of a 2018 Tesla Model S and slams into a traffic signal pole and cement wall.

- **Foothill High students** bring home a record-breaking 69 awards from the DECA Northern California Career Development Conference in San Ramon.



RYAN J. DEGAN

Hundreds of women's rights advocates gather at Amador Valley High School in January to participate in the 2020 Tri-Valley Women's March.



YEAR IN REVIEW: Part I



PHOTO BY JULIA BAUM/DESIGN BY ROSANNA KURUPPU

School Board President Steve Maher leads a tour of facilities needs at Amador Valley High School ahead of the Measure M election. The PUSD bond measure would fail in the March 3 primary.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Friday the 13th proved to be unlucky for the cast of "All Shook Up," the high schools' joint spring musical that was supposed to open for a six-show run that same day in March. But they were given the chance to perform one show with no audience. (Well, no human audience that is.)

• **Lion dance at Bankhead Plaza** welcomes the Lunar Year of the Rat as do other celebrations the last weekend of January.

D.C., after winning the top two spots at the qualifying state championship.

• **Jury convicts Pleasanton resident Jennifer Barbero**, who had a history of drunk driving, of second-degree murder for a 2017 DUI crash in which she struck and killed a pedestrian who was standing off the road alongside Isabel Avenue.

• **Nearly two years after the on-campus drowning death of San Ramon Valley High freshman Ben Curry**, the family of the teenager is set to receive \$8 million from SRVUSD after an agreement was reached to settle the Currys' lawsuit. The district admits no liability for Curry's death, under the deal.

• **Former Tri-Valley Congressman Fortney "Pete" Stark** dies at his home in Anne Arundel County, Md. He was 88

• **In the issue of Feb. 14, the Pleasanton Weekly** prints a guest opinion on "Understanding the 2019 novel coronavirus" by Dr. Jake Scott, who writes, "While the potential for the spread of this disease is high, there has been an impressive collaborative effort shown by thousands of experts around the world who are working quickly and diligently to contain this epidemic."

of plans for a major \$9.6 million Measure 11 network upgrade.

• **Livermore City Councilman Bob Coomber** announces he will not seek re-election in the fall in order to focus on his health.

the weekend of Feb. 29 to March 1, reportedly a healthcare worker said to be exposed at UC Davis Medical Center in Sacramento.

lawsuit against the city over an environmental review in its effort to keep a Costco Wholesale store from coming to town.

• **Dublin community gathers for the grand opening** of its new police headquarters, officially known as the new Public Safety Complex, at the corner of Dublin Boulevard and Clark Avenue.

• **In March 3 primary election, Pleasanton voters fail to pass a \$323 million facilities bond Measure M** for PUSD, falling 2.6% below the 55% needed.

• **Friends of South Livermore file a lawsuit** seeking to overturn its City Council's approval of the Livermore Wine Country Inn project in south Livermore, which would include a 30-room two-story hotel, a 77-seat restaurant and bar, 61 parking spaces, a 2,300-square-foot caretaker's housing unit, and a 1,800-square-foot business and events conference room.

• **Pleasanton Planning Commission approves a new bar** downtown, Middle 8, allowing live music until midnight seven days a week.

• **Dublin passes its fourth school bond measure** since 2004 with this year's \$290 million Measure J, to improve facilities as it grapples with overcrowding.

• **CANCELED: Large special events in the Tri-Valley**, including the annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration in Dublin, are called off due to heightened risk of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19.

• **Alameda County Board of Supervisors votes 4-0** to tentatively approve an ordinance that would ban the sale of vaping products in the county's unincorporated areas.

• **Sunol-Glen Unified School District voters defeat a \$9.5 million bond Measure O**, to improve the small district's classroom buildings, technology and infrastructure, as well as building a new multipurpose room.

• **PUSD holds emergency meeting March 13** and ultimately decides to cancel classes beginning March 16 and continuing through at least April 14, with students learning remotely from home, to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

• **Pleasanton Mayor Jerry Thorne** touches on a little bit of everything during his final State of the City address, including the city's strong local economy, housing and homelessness strategies, new public and private projects, key City Council actions, city and regional transportation infrastructure, and advocating for Tri-Valley priorities at the state and federal levels.

• **Livermore passes Measure P, which approves the hotel agreement** endorsed by the Livermore City Council to allow a three-story hotel with 125-135 rooms next to the Bankhead Theater, a key component to the city's downtown redevelopment plan.

• **Friday the 13th proves to be unlucky** for the cast of "All Shook Up," the Pleasanton high schools' joint spring musical which was supposed to open that day for a six-show run but was canceled due to COVID-19 precautions.

• **Amador Valley girls soccer team ends** its impressive 2019-20 season with a 2-0 loss to eventual champion Monte Vista in the North Coast Section semifinals.

• **Pleasanton Weekly distributes \$64,878** collected from more than 250 donors to its Holiday Fund to 10 nonprofit beneficiaries.

• **Much of the world shuts down** for several weeks due to novel coronavirus but local parks and trails remain open for Tri-Valley residents to explore with their quarantine partners.

MARCH

• **Public health officials confirm the first presumptive positive case of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)** in Alameda County

• **Las Positas College Department of Theater Arts** explores the New York theater and the Hollywood film industry in "Stage Door," which first opened in 1936 in the grand tradition of drawing room comedies. It's one of the final stage productions in the Tri-Valley with a live audience.

• **Pleasanton closes all non-essential city facilities and programs**

FEBRUARY

• **In a years-long effort for a Costco Wholesale store** in Pleasanton, the City Council supports the latest version of policy and environmental review documents central to rezoning the project site on Johnson Drive.

• **City Council gives initial support** to swift regulations that would ban the sales of flavored tobacco, e-cigarettes and related paraphernalia in Pleasanton.

• **Fire destroys the long-vacant restaurant building** once home to Denny's on Owens Drive in Pleasanton. The cause is unknown.

• **More than three years after Pleasanton voters passed the \$270 million school facilities bond Measure II** to repair and modernize local schools, PUSD celebrates the start of the initiative's first large-scale construction project with a groundbreaking ceremony at Lydiksen Elementary School for a \$30 million rebuild.

• **The new footbridge at Sycamore Grove Park opens**, providing the final connection to 25,000 acres of open space and completing a 44-mile trail for hiking and biking that winds from Livermore to Fremont.

• **Pleasanton Police Department Sgt. Jim Boland** retires as his son, Jimmy Boland Jr., is welcomed as the newest city police officer.

• **New Ground Technology unveils a giant grass mural** on a Pleasanton softball field of NBA legend Kobe Bryant, who died in a helicopter crash in Southern California on Jan. 26.

• **PUSD considers installing vape sensors** at middle and high school campuses to detect students using electronic smoking devices, as part

• **Amador Valley and Foothill high schools qualify** for the third year running to represent California at the We the People national civics competition this spring in Washington,



YEAR IN REVIEW: Part I



MIKE SEDLAK

Pleasanton city and school leaders join parent volunteers on May 20 to set up a surprise display downtown to honor the high school senior classes of 2020.

2020

Continued from Page 13

and halts all city government meetings as well as events and gatherings at city facilities to reduce chances for exposure to COVID-19.

- **Roche Molecular Solutions** in Pleasanton wins FDA approval for a COVID-19 test.

- **Pleasanton Weekly temporarily suspends publishing** its print edition after March 20 due to canceled advertising but continues online with increased coverage, and makes content available to everyone for free.

- **Local restaurants shift to take-out model** as sites are closed due to pandemic.

- **LAVTA suspends all passenger fare collections** on Wheels and Rapid buses to protect passengers, drivers and other staff from potential coronavirus exposure.

- **Alameda County Sheriff's Office releases more than 300 inmates** from Santa Rita Jail in Dublin in an effort to stop the spread of the coronavirus.

- **U.S. Rep. Mark DeSaulnier, 67, whose district includes Danville and Alamo,** is hospitalized in the Washington, D.C., area with non-COVID pneumonia that developed after a "traumatic rib fracture" when he fell during a run.

- **Health officials from local hospitals** say they are ready for a surge of COVID-19 patients and expect an "accelerated spread" of cases in the coming weeks. The state begins a moratorium of at least two weeks on elective surgeries.

- **BART officials call for emergency local, state and federal funding support** as the transit agency faces a

monthly overall revenue loss of \$55 million as ridership drops due to fears of spreading the coronavirus.

- **The Alameda County District Attorney's Office** clears Pleasanton Police Department officers of criminal charges for Jacob Bauer's death in 2018 two hours after a confrontation with police outside Raley's.

- **United Food and Commercial Workers Local 5 union** announces an agreement with Safeway on new protections for grocery store workers during the coronavirus outbreak.

- **Local school closures are extended through May 1,** the Alameda County Office of Education announces, part of a "unified approach" to slow the spread of COVID-19.

- **Downtown Pleasanton is left largely empty** after the shelter order keeps residents home, with the exception of some individuals walking their dogs and employees at a few businesses still open.

- **Rotary Clubs in the Tri-Valley** have a flash campaign this month through April 30 to End Polio Now, asking residents to donate directly online.

- **In response to her prom being abruptly canceled,** San Ramon Valley High School junior Natalie Reese starts her own virtual TikTok prom and encourages others to join.

- **Some residents join a burgeoning effort to boost community morale** by putting up Christmas lights where they can be spotted by neighbors.

- **The city of Pleasanton releases a "COVID-19 Update" newsletter** via email and social media to let the community know more about its coronavirus response plan and key services available during the crisis.

- **Sabio on Main is closed due to damage** from a fire that broke out in the kitchen area before the restaurant opened for takeout brunch service on a Sunday morning.

- **Seven jurisdictions in the Bay Area,** including Pleasanton, plan to extend the current shelter-in-place order due to the pandemic until at least May 1.

- **A motorcyclist, Dr. Gilbert Chang, 48,** of Brentwood, is killed after crossing into the opposite lane and slamming head-on into an SUV on North Vasco Road in unincorporated Livermore just after 9 p.m. on a Sunday night.

- **Tri-Valley residents get active** creating homemade masks amid the national shortage.

APRIL

- **Pleasanton gets new permanent police chief,** David Swing, formerly the chief in Morgan Hill.

- **U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell** (D-Livermore) releases his book, "Endgame: Inside the Impeachment of Donald J. Trump," which began as a tribute to his father but partly "morphed" into an insider's look at the recent impeachment proceedings.

- **PUSD school board begins to hold remote meetings,** since there doesn't seem to be any sign of social distancing guidelines changing soon.

- **A coyote bites a 5-year-old girl in Dublin Hills Regional Park;** the coyote is located and fatally shot with a rifle early the next morning.

- **TV30 presents a "Conversations" program** with six special guests talking about the COVID-19 pandemic



RYAN J. DEGAN

From left: Barry Mew, Larry and Rita Fisher and their daughter Cindy. Rita had been away from home for 3-1/2 months recovering from a bad case of the coronavirus. Rita's neighborhood welcomed her home on June 12.

and how services such as meals for homebound seniors, libraries and performing arts are responding.

- **Schools plan to stay closed through May 1,** and administrators say to expect classrooms to remain empty for the rest of the academic year.

- **Tri-Valley Career Center (TVCC) offers virtual help** to job seekers, whether they were looking for work before the pandemic or lost their job as a result.

- **BART announces it will make deep cuts** to its service until further notice.

- **Madelyne "Maddi" Misheloff,** a longtime Dublin resident and member of the Dublin San Ramon Services District Board of Directors, dies after a battle with bladder cancer. She was 71.

- **Livermore Valley Opera cancels last weekend** of performances in its 2019-20 season finale due to the coronavirus, and sets up the LVOpera Channel on YouTube to present this season's performances in a series.

- **Foothill juniors and seniors** Kishore Harihanan, Logan Dickey, Tarun Prakash, Vishal Muthuraja, Prem Giridhar and Jacob Bolano build a website — Bay Area COVID-19 Tracker (BACT) — that focuses on tracking local cases.

- **Activist groups call on Alameda County sheriff** to release all inmates at Santa Rita Jail in Dublin because they say their health is at risk due to the pandemic.

- **Sheriff's spokesman reports Santa Rita Jail** had an average of about 2,650 inmates before the coronavirus outbreak but its population is now down to 1,957, and none of the 12 inmates who tested positive for COVID-19 has had to be hospitalized.

- **Maddie's Fund, a Pleasanton-based animal support foundation,** announces \$1 million in new funding to help shelters and nonprofits nationwide bolster pet foster care efforts during the pandemic.

- **Ten residents are displaced** and a dog is killed in a fire at a Livermore townhouse complex.

- **March 3 election is certified,** and Fremont City Councilman Vinnie Bacon and Dublin Mayor David Haubert advance to a runoff in the race for Board of Supervisors District 1.

- **Mount Diablo beacon is lit** on Easter and will be for succeeding Sundays until the coronavirus crisis has ended.

- **Alameda County reactivates a disaster relief fund** to help individuals, community-based organizations, first responders and health care workers impacted by the pandemic.

- **Local State Sen. Steve Glazer and U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell** separately host online events featuring special guests who speak on issues about the coronavirus pandemic.

- **Alameda County Tax Collector** releases policies and procedures to process requests to waive penalties and interest related to delinquent property tax payments caused by the COVID-19 crisis.

- **Licensed health care facilities in Alameda County** will have to screen all staff and visitors for high temperatures, and everyone must wear masks, under a new health order.

- **Pleasanton City Council holds special meeting** on adjusting the city's budget anticipating a \$6.3 million drop in revenues due to the pandemic, including an estimated \$3.03 million less in sales tax revenue; \$1.5 million less in transient occupancy tax; \$985,683 less in



YEAR IN REVIEW: Part I



RYAN J. DEGAN

The Weekly's June 26 Cover image — Thousands turn out for the downtown reopening with outdoor dining, which was originally proposed by the Pleasanton Downtown Association and approved by the city.

city recreation fees; and \$787,000 less in development services fees.

• **Council members discuss supporting state and county efforts** to protect residents and businesses from eviction, as well as a new city program to provide assistance to Pleasanton businesses hit hardest by the economic slowdown.

• **With its facilities closed and patrons unable to visit**, the Firehouse Arts Center's Harrington Gallery goes online with its new exhibit, "Art in Place," showcasing diverse works created by 90 Bay Area artists during the shelter-in-place directive.

• **Marshall Mitzman, 73, who represented Area 1** on the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District Board of Trustees for more than a decade, dies from COVID-19.

• **Pleasanton resident Jackson Reese Butler, 19**, a former student at Amador Valley High, dies after being stabbed in the parking lot of a Pleasanton hotel parking lot during a confrontation with multiple people. It is Pleasanton's first homicide in nearly eight years.

• **Two Oakland men, 22 and 23**, are killed in a traffic collision at



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jackson Reese Butler, 19, of Pleasanton died after being stabbed in the Hyatt House Pleasanton parking lot on April 15.

2:16 a.m. on southbound I-680 just north of Bernal Avenue, after their 1996 Lexus sedan traveling approximately 100 mph collides into the rear of a semi-truck.

• **Photographer Bill Stekelberg and his wife Ann photograph Tri-Valley families** in their front yards — all while adhering to proper social distancing practices — as a part of the national Front Steps Project.

• **Alameda County public health officer issues order** requiring everyone to wear face coverings when around people from outside of their households.

• **Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley delivers** bags of groceries to older folks without relatives in the area and calls with reassurances that someone is looking out for them.

• **Tri-Valley Asian Association raises thousands of dollars** and facilitates the donation of tens of thousands of personal protective equipment items to first responders and front-line health care professionals.

• **Metropolitan Transportation Commission**, which covers nine counties in the Bay Area, releases a framework for allocating more than \$780 million of federal relief funds to Bay Area transit agencies, including



CITY OF PLEASANTON

The "big slide" at Mission Hills Park reopened after renovations on Jan. 10.



MIKE SEDLAK

Amador Valley High School, like its crosstown counterpart, held a virtual graduation ceremony — a prerecorded video event that featured administrator and student speakers, verbal recognition of each graduate and musical performances such as this ensemble.

\$3.5 million for LAVTA; \$2.7 million for the ACE Train; and \$251.6 million for BART.

• **At an online meeting, the PUSD school board** explores alternative graduation options for this year's high school seniors.

• **Stanford-ValleyCare partners with cities** to offer drive-thru COVID-19 testing at the fairgrounds for residents of Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin ages 10 and up with no out-of-pocket expenses onsite.

• **Valley Children's Museum launches an online series of "STEAM Clips"** for younger students to watch, as well as a number of home projects for kids to take control of their at-home learning.

• **Amador Valley Quilters hang their creative quilts** in front of their homes as a traveling quilt show for passersby to enjoy.

• **The public health officers of six Bay Area counties**, including Alameda and Contra Costa, announce they will be extending their

shelter-in-place orders through at least the end of May.

• **Pleasanton police arrest 39-year-old man** for allegedly setting fire to his house on Paseo Navarro with people inside amid a domestic dispute.

• **Authorities break up cockfighting event** on Dublin Canyon Road in rural Pleasanton, causing 50-60 people to flee and rescuing 600 chickens and 200 incubating eggs.

• **PPIE's Virtual Race** raises \$70,000 for local schools.

• **Public health officers of six Bay Area counties**, including Contra Costa and Alameda, release details about the new shelter-in-place regulations that mandate residents stay at home unless conducting essential business but allow certain low-risk outdoor businesses and activities, such as construction projects and golf courses, to reopen.

• **Residents throughout the Tri-Valley adapt to the pandemic** in a variety of creative ways, from social distancing costume parades, to outdoor neighborhood adventures and drive-by celebrations.

• **PDA encourages residents to play a game** it created called "Downtown Bingo" while buying from businesses on Main Street and the surrounding side streets.

MAY

• **About 11 acres of grass burn** just east of the Altamont summit north of I-580 on a Sunday afternoon. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

• **San Francisco Shakespeare Festival** decides on a new format to

present "King Lear" live, online and interactive this summer in lieu of its Free Shakespeare in the Park in Pleasanton.

• **A group of Pleasanton students**, in an effort to create community during the coronavirus pandemic, offer free help and services to others, including yoga sessions, art classes and online tutoring for youngsters.

• **The state gradually begins lifting its shelter-in-place restrictions**, starting with public spaces and businesses that pose a lower risk to the health of workers and customers with modifications. In Pleasanton the farmers market re-opens as well as the city-owned Callippe Preserve Golf Course.

• **This year's Pleasanton Weekly Mother-Daughter Lookalike Contest winners** are Patricia and Taylor Kang.

• **The owner of Apna Bazar on Pimlico Drive** is charged with price-gouging during the pandemic, after an investigation by the District Attorney's Office alleges that nine items had their prices increased 25%-306% after the emergency declaration.

• **Fair officials cancel the 2020 Alameda County Fair** in light of restrictions against mass gatherings during the COVID-19 crisis.

• **Nordstrom closes its department store** in Pleasanton's Stoneridge Shopping Center, one of 16 stores closed nationwide.

• **The city's new Pleasanton Business Assistance Program** begins accepting applications for loans designed to provide financial help to

See 2020 on Page 16



YEAR IN REVIEW: Part I



MIKE SEDLAK

News broke in May that this Nordstrom store, a longtime anchor of Stoneridge Shopping Center, would be closing.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The winners of the 2020 Pleasanton Weekly Mother-Daughter Lookalike Contest were Patricia (right) and Taylor Kang, 18. Their story was featured online on Mother's Day, but not in print due to the temporary hiatus of the Weekly's hard copy early on in the pandemic.

2020

Continued from Page 15

small businesses in town fighting to cope with the effects of the COVID-19 crisis.

- **Tri-Valley students are recognized** for creating public service announcements on the theme, "Don't Believe the Fiction, Vaping's an Addiction," during the first virtual presentation of the Alameda County Tobacco Use Prevention Education (TUPE) PSA Awards.

- **A man sustains major injuries** after his Honda sedan slams head-on into a big-rig just before 9:30 a.m. on Highway 84 in Sunol then catches fire and spreads to roadside brush and causes an extensive cleanup effort that closes the highway for nearly six hours.

- **Sweet Tomatoes restaurant on Hopyard Road** shuttered for good after corporate officials announce all locations nationwide won't reopen after their temporary COVID-19 closures.

- **Longtime Foothill High biomedical teacher Josh Hill** is presented with the 2020 PUSD Teacher of the Year Award during a virtual meeting of the Board of Trustees.

- **Child nutrition specialist Donna Henninger** wins the 2020 Pleasanton Unified School District Classified Employee of the Year Award.

- **Specialty's Café & Bakery**, a restaurant brand headquartered in Pleasanton and operating more

than 50 locations in three states, including two in Pleasanton, announces it is closing for good, after 33 years of business.

- **Alameda County Superior Court** resumes accepting reservations for remote hearings on civil, family and probate motions.

- **COVID-19 regional testing site** at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton starts its fourth week by opening the service up to asymptomatic residents.

- **An agreement reached between Caltrans and community activists** results in the planting of additional native riparian trees and the removal of invasive plant growth along Alameda Creek in Niles Canyon.

- **Six Bay Area jurisdictions slightly relax** the COVID-19 shelter-in-place order, allowing multiple industries to resume operations and retail businesses to offer storefront pickup.

- **Pleasanton-based Z-Cares Foundation**, which helps teens and families cope with mental health issues, goes nationwide with its campaign challenging everyone to share "What Makes Me Happy" by posting a video, photo or comment to "spread the happiness."

- **The Pleasanton community celebrates** this year's graduating high school seniors by tying purple, blue and gold ribbons representing the school colors for Amador Valley, Foothill and Village high schools along Main Street.

- **Four teenage boys are arrested on warrants** for murder and kidnapping during a robbery in connection with the fatal stabbing of Pleasanton native Jackson Reese Butler last month.

- **David Swing**, former chief of the Morgan Hill Police Department, is sworn in as Police Chief of the Pleasanton Police Department.

- **The COVID-19 regional testing site** at the fairgrounds is scheduled to close, then closing date is changed to June 5.

- **Pleasanton resident James Yaczynski**, 60, is identified as the man who was found dead in a vehicle that went over a cliff northeast of Mount Hamilton in Santa Clara County.

- **Pleasanton residential streets** more and more have displays by residents to show their goodwill during the days of the pandemic, from books and produce left for others to artwork with encouraging words.

- **TV30 holds its 10th annual "Outstanding High School Athletic Awards"** program by video instead of with the usual packed-house ceremony.

- **Home sales in Pleasanton** are 62% lower in May compared to the same month in 2019, and real estate professionals adapt to work with the restrictions of sheltering in place, allowing clients to safely access properties and managing the expectations of buyers and sellers.

- **Tri-Valley residents gather to demonstrate** against police brutality and express outrage over the



PHOTO BY CITY OF DUBLIN/DESIGN BY PAUL LLEWELLYN

The Weekly's March 13 Cover image highlights the cancellation of the 2020 St. Patrick's Day celebration in Dublin, one of the first in-person events in the Tri-Valley called off due to COVID-19.

death of George Floyd, an African-American man who died May 25 after a Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee on Floyd's neck for more than eight minutes.

- **Police block off all five entrances to Stoneridge Shopping Center** and encourage people to stay away from the area on the last Sunday night in May due to "civil unrest" — recorded and rumored — in the East Bay, including targeted looting in downtown Walnut Creek on Sunday afternoon, amid protests against police brutality in Minneapolis. Police also monitor the Outlets in Livermore and other retail locations.

- **Approximately 1,200 seniors graduate from Amador Valley, Foothill and Village high schools**, with pre-recorded virtual commencement ceremonies for each class broadcast on Tri-Valley TV and streamed online. After the final ceremony airs May 29, PUSD families and the greater community view fireworks set off at the Alameda County Fairgrounds.

Graduates receive their diplomas via drive-thrus.

- **Congressman Mark DeSaulnier**, whose district includes part of the Tri-Valley, speaks publicly for the first time on Memorial Day after a seven-week battle with near-fatal pneumonia.

JUNE

- **With businesses slowly restarting operations**, the Pleasanton Weekly resumes its weekly print edition June 5, after publishing the news entirely online since March 20.

- **The Alameda County Fairgrounds** hosts a series of drive-in movies for the summer, starting June 12 with "Raiders of the Lost Ark."

- **More than 2,000 protesters peacefully take to the streets** of Pleasanton, uniting in opposition to the mistreatment of African Americans — both locally and nationally — on what would have been the 27th birthday of Breonna



YEAR IN REVIEW: Part I



Amador Valley's competitive civics team celebrates in February qualifying for the We the People High School National Finals. The in-person competition in Washington, D.C. would later be canceled due to the pandemic.



RYAN J. DEGAN

A June 5 protest culminated in an eight-minute, 46-second moment of silence at the Valley Avenue- Hopyard Road intersection — in recognition of the amount of time George Floyd suffocated while Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin knelt on his neck on Memorial Day.

Taylor, a black woman who was fatally shot by Louisville Metro police on March 13.

• **Hundreds of cars drive one behind the other** in a coordinated loop around central Pleasanton, including downtown, in a caravan to support the Black Lives Matter movement and oppose racial injustice in America.

• **Peaceful demonstrations, organized by teens and young adults** in Pleasanton, draw supporters from across the spectrum by the hundreds in a weeklong stretch of large-scale, non-violent protests in each Tri-Valley city inspired, like others nationwide, by the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police.

• **Chris Miller and Joyce and Bob Shapiro are named the 2020 Ed Kinney Community Patriots** for their dedication to making the world — and specifically Pleasanton — a better place.

• **Shortages, including toilet paper**, continue to occur on a regular basis in local stores.

• **The California Farmers Market Association (CFMA)** steps down as manager of the Livermore Farmers' Market after an argument between its representative and members of Livermore Pride and a local bakery owner earlier this month went viral.

• **The annual Relay for Life of the Tri-Valley** is canceled due to the COVID-19 outbreak but local volunteers of the American Cancer Society hold a virtual luminaria ceremony to honor those impacted by cancer.

• **Fair officials announce two pop-up programs** to bring fair favorites back in a socially distanced format — concerts and fair food.

• **"The Ballad of Don Lewis: The Untold Story of a Synthesizer Pioneer"** is released after a decade of filming, friendship and hard work, to good reviews.

• **As demonstrations continue** several weeks after the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Pleasanton students phone in during a school board meeting to call for the introduction of a "race-conscious history curriculum" in local schools.

• **PUSD works to create a new budget** by the end of June that identifies and carves out \$11 million from district spending after California's economy takes a huge hit since the onset of shelter-in-place orders forces a number of businesses and organizations to reduce or cease operations.

• **Las Positas College introduces a film studies program** for the fall for students to learn about the history and analysis of film-making, film production, film acting, music composers in film, multimedia reporting and more.

• **The Village at Ironwood residents** stand in their driveways with signs of encouragement in a socially distanced "Welcome Home" celebration for neighbor Rita Fisher. The Pleasanton woman spent nearly 3-1/2 months in the hospital battling a serious case of COVID-19.

• **A new drive-thru food pantry** at the Alameda County Fairgrounds



FILE PHOTO

Dave Marken abruptly resigned as Dublin Unified superintendent in June.

gives Tri-Valley residents facing hunger an easy and convenient way to access healthy food during the COVID-19 pandemic, as part of a collaboration among partner agencies including the Alameda County Social Services Agency and Alameda County Community Food Bank.

• **Tri-Valley Haven commemorates Juneteenth** with a community display outside its community building in Livermore, inviting people to leave a sign or token describing what they celebrate about diversity and what they can do to help end racism.

• **Though the Alameda County Fair is canceled**, live horse racing is back at the Pleasanton fairgrounds, with empty stands. The total prize money during the six weeks is \$2.3 million, with five stakes races totaling \$200,000 in prize money.

• **Superintendent Dave Marken** hands in his resignation to the Dublin Unified School District Board of



AARON BURG

Las Positas College Theater Arts Department's rendition of "Stage Door" was one of the final stage productions in the Tri-Valley with a live audience before the pandemic hit.

Trustees after an apparent dispute with a board majority, a surprise announcement that sends shockwaves throughout the community overnight. It marks the second time in just over a year that the board and district have faced the abrupt departure of a superintendent.

• **Main Street is closed to vehicular traffic** on weekends to give restaurants and shops more room to operate outdoors, and thousands turn out for downtown Pleasanton's grand reopening.

• **Stoneridge Shopping Center reopens** for business over the weekend following guidelines including enhanced sanitization and disinfection for the dining hall, restrooms, escalators, stairs, directories, trash bins and doorknobs.

• **The Zone 7 Water Agency Board of Directors** holds back on implementing a previously approved 6.7% water rate increase for

2021, to provide relief to Tri-Valley ratepayers in light of the economic downturn caused by the pandemic.

• **Pleasanton starts a new emergency rental assistance program** that offers up to \$2,500 to qualifying residents affected by the crisis for delinquent rent or late fees accrued during the COVID-19 shelter period, using \$500,000 from the city's lower income housing fund.

• **The Tri-Valley Nonprofit Fund** announces its first distribution of \$60,000 to regional service providers on the front lines of the pandemic — Axis Community Health, Open Heart Kitchen, CityServe of the Tri-Valley, Tri-Valley Haven, Senior Support of the Tri-Valley and Spectrum Community Services (Meals on Wheels). ■

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK: JULY TO DECEMBER

Focus on Dublin

Photography contest aims lenses on beauties of nature

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Dublin recently held its second annual "Nature in Our Backyard" photography contest as part of the city's Dublin Pride activities.

The city received 175 photographs of natural landscapes and wildlife taken in Dublin during the past 18 months. A panel of judges selected the top 10 photographs, which were posted on the city's website for a community vote.

Photographer Dianne Mao was named both the Grand Prize and First Place winner for her "Red 'n' Green Hill" and "Sunrise at Dublin Ridge" photographs.

Pradnya Kadam placed second

with a photo entitled "Beautiful Day," and third place went to Steve Kaatmann for his "Watchful Owl — Martin Canyon Creek Trail" photograph.

Mike's Camera in Dublin is providing gift certificates totaling \$300 for Mao; \$50 for Kadam; and \$25 for Kaatmann. They each will receive certificates of recognition from the Dublin City Council at an upcoming meeting; will be featured on the City of Dublin website; and will receive a metal print of their picture from Mike's Camera.

The winning photos also will be displayed in the lobby of the Civic Center. ■



Top: Grand prize: "Red 'n' Green Hill" by Dianne Mao. Lower left: First place: "Sunrise at Dublin Ridge" by Dianne Mao. Lower right: Second place: "Beautiful Day" by Pradnya Kadam.

Eagle Scout Anirudh Adhikary

Project installed map stands at Amador

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Anirudh Adhikary, a member of Troop 911 sponsored by the Rotary Club of Pleasanton, has qualified to become an Eagle Scout. In addition, he has qualified for a Silver Palm by earning 15 merit badges beyond the 21 required for Eagle, becoming only the second Scout in his troop's 18-year history to receive the award.

Adhikary was introduced to nature, animals and birds at an early age by his mother and has always been in love with the outdoors, which was reinforced in his journey as a Boy Scout, which he began as a Tiger Cub in Pack 910.

He has held many leadership positions in his troop, including patrol leader, senior patrol leader, crew leader for the Philmont backpacking trip and chaplain's aide. He

was recognized for showing exemplary leadership under adverse conditions by the general manager of the Philmont Adventure Camp.

A senior at Amador Valley High School, Adhikary is a member of its Quizbowl team. He is also a member of the Seahawks Swim Team, Tri-Valley Stargazers and the Audubon Society. Other interests include chess, basketball, swimming, camping, bird watching and astronomy.

For his Eagle project, Adhikary made four campus map stands for Amador Valley High, which will



Anirudh Adhikary

help new students and visitors navigate the school. He raised funds and created COVID-19 guidelines while executing and leading the project.

In college, Adhikary would like to combine a passion for basketball with a major in STEM and pursue a career in sports analytics. On completing his Scouting journey, he wants to help others by being involved with volunteer groups that help preserve the outdoors and help people in need.

Adhikary is the son of Kiran and Ranjit Adhikary of Pleasanton, and his father, Ranjit, is also an assistant scoutmaster for the troop. His Eagle Court of Honor will be held later due to the pandemic.

Anyone interested in joining any level of Scouting can email matt.lindberg@scouting.org. ■

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POLICE BULLETIN

Flag debate builds into pro-law enforcement rallying in Livermore

Livermore city leaders publicly reiterated their support for law enforcement late last week and apologized for any “confusion” stemming from recent controversy over the city’s new Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee discussions related to the Thin Blue Line flag.

“I sincerely regret all the trouble and angst and want to apologize for any part I may have had in not preventing all the confusion,” Mayor Bob Woerner wrote in a Dec. 17 letter to the community.

Last week, Woerner, Vice Mayor Trish Munro and the subcommittee issued a joint statement about an article circulating online that they said took notes from a Nov. 17 subcommittee working group meeting “badly out of context.”

A pro-law enforcement group,

Law Enforcement Today, penned a Dec. 12 editorial, which referred to the subcommittee’s notes on the “Thin Blue Line” flag — viewed by some people as a show of appreciation for law enforcement, and a symbol of injustice and racism by others — and whether it was being scrutinized as a symbol of hate in the city’s conversation about equity.

Comprising local newcomers to multi-generational Livermore residents, the Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee and its associated working groups, which aim to create a more welcoming and inclusive community through outreach and engagement, were formed in the wake of George Floyd’s death in Minneapolis on Memorial Day.

Recently, a subcommittee working group proposed an inventory and assessment of “symbols, artwork, objects, artifacts, etc. in Livermore that represent and signify systemic racism as well as symbols, etc. that signify equity and inclusion” was one of “action steps” first suggested in October.

The assessment was originally limited to city-owned property and referred to images such as the “Pride flag, cowboy, field/vineyard worker, murals, Livermore seal (cowboy), sculptures of families/children with Eurocentric features, ranch brands, totem pole.”

However, the working group suggested expanding the inventory to include both hate and equity symbols and items on private properties, including the “Confederate flag, Thin Blue Line flag, inclusive signs.”

After the debate made the rounds on local social media, residents on both sides turned out to the City Council meeting on Dec. 14 to address the matter, which has also prompted significant local debate along with a Dec. 16 pro-police demonstration in downtown Livermore attended by community members and Alameda County Sheriff Gregory Ahern.

Some people argue the Thin Blue Line flag represents a symbol of upholding white supremacy and

systemic racism. However, it has a completely different meaning for law enforcement, Ahern told local news outlets.

“The thin blue line actually stands for the line between justice and injustice and evil and righteousness,” Ahern said. “So we support the thin blue line and we do that every day in our job.”

Woerner, who served in the Air Force and again expressed his support for local police in his Dec. 17 letter, maintained the meeting notes posted on the city website “were extrapolated into some extreme interpretations,” which led to “considerable further social media commentary that continues to swirl.”

The city is also compiling and plans to publish “a list of lessons learned so that we can all do better in the future, especially regarding communications.”

Woerner added, “I regard the Thin Blue Line flag as expressing deep respect and appreciation for those who have fallen in the line of duty. However, I understand that

some may view it differently, and respect their right to do so.”

In a separate Dec. 17 letter, Munro said she refuses “to make the police scapegoats for greater societal issues” and believes that “we duck our own responsibility for addressing community-wide issues” in doing so.

Munro added that she supports “ongoing evaluation for continuous improvement” and takes her responsibility of upholding free speech “very seriously.”

“Freedom of speech means anyone can fly a flag. Freedom of thought means that others can like that flag or not,” Munro said.

Both leaders clarified they were speaking for themselves, and the council hasn’t deliberated on the issues or considered any policies yet. Woerner said the topic will be discussed at the next council meeting in January “so that the whole community can influence and observe our collective thinking at this stage.” ■

—Julia Baum

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Dec. 17

Warrant arrest

- 4:31 a.m. on the 7000 block of Commercial Circle
- 2:05 p.m. on the 7800 block of Foothill Road

Theft

- 4:55 a.m., 4200 block of Muirwood Drive; theft from auto
- 11:27 a.m., 5200 block of Pleasant Hill Road; theft from auto
- 6:41 p.m. on the 4400 block of Payne Road
- 8:22 p.m., 2200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Graffiti offense

- 3:43 p.m. at West Las Positas Boulevard and Payne Road

Assault/battery

- 10:02 p.m. on the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road

Missing person

- 10:46 p.m. on Stoneridge Mall Road

Dec. 16

Burglary

- 3:36 a.m. on the 500 block of Sycamore Road
- 11:37 p.m. on the 5400 block of Sunol Boulevard

Missing person

- 8:56 a.m. on Sunny Brook Way

Vandalism

- 10:28 a.m. on the 7700 block of Oak Creek Court

Drug violation

- 1:04 p.m. on the 6700 block of Bernal Avenue

Theft

- 5:26 p.m., 4800 block of Willow Road; theft from auto
- 10:21 p.m. on the 3000 block of Crestblanca Drive

Warrant arrest

- 5:54 p.m. on the 000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 11:35 p.m. at Owens Drive and Hopyard Road

Dec. 15

Embezzlement

- 1:33 p.m. on the 4800 block of Hopyard Road

Theft

- 2:07 p.m. on the 1400 block of Freeman Lane

- 6:23 p.m., 6700 block of Bernal Avenue; shoplifting

Warrant arrest

- 2:46 p.m. on the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Criminal threats

- 3:44 p.m. on the 7800 block of Olive Court

Missing person

- 7:46 p.m. on Pleasanton Avenue

Dec. 14

Burglary

- 6:16 a.m. on the 5900 block of Stoneridge Drive
- 9:17 a.m. on the 1300 block of Brookline Loop
- 2:22 p.m. on the 5900 block of Stoneridge Drive

Theft

- 10:58 a.m., 5800 block of Fair Oaks Drive; theft from auto

- 2:39 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

- 6:03 p.m., 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

- 8:09 p.m., 5000 block of Owens Drive; theft from auto

Graffiti offense

- 11:21 a.m. on the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road

Fraud

- 1:24 p.m. on the 7200 block of Johnson Drive

Dec. 13

Theft

- 12:27 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 2:36 p.m., 8000 block of Canyon Creek Circle; theft from structure

DUI

- 3:38 p.m. at Valley Avenue and Santa Rita Road

William B. Allender

February 19, 1934 – December 11, 2020

Bill Allender (Amador class of '52) passed away peacefully at his home in New York City after a long struggle with lung cancer.

He was a man of many interests and talents: attended University of California after high school; served his county in the US Navy; studied to be a Presbyterian minister; served as an arbitrator for the American Arbitration Association; was an administrator for Chase Manhattan Bank in New York City from which he retired in 2010. His kindness and caring nature will be fondly remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

He is survived by his wife, Elvira Robbins Allender and his sister, Mary Allender Chaboya (San Jose, Ca.) plus several nieces and nephews.

No services are planned at this time.

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Helping those devastated by pandemic and its impacts

This Christmas Day is unlike any we have ever experienced in our lifetimes, and a holiday season like no other in our history. So many of our neighbors are experiencing food insecurity, homelessness, health concerns and loss, and it is heartbreaking.

Facing an overwhelming demand for services spurred by the coronavirus pandemic combined with operation limitations due to the health crisis, the organizations who serve these people in need are desperate for help.

Weekly readers have given generously to our annual Holiday Fund in years past, raising well over \$1 million in the past 19 years.

This year, though many people face strained financial circumstances because of the pandemic, we hope those who can will support these nonprofits so they can do as much as possible to help local families and individuals now and long after the pandemic subsides.

Since the Pleasanton Weekly and its

Holiday Fund partner, the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, cover all the administrative costs of the initiative, every dollar raised goes directly to this year's nonprofit beneficiaries.

If the holiday spirit is urging you to help deserving organizations provide assistance to people who are struggling, go to pleasantonweekly.com/holiday_fund. To contribute via mail, see our instructions on Page 8 of this week's edition.

This year's Holiday Fund recipients that will share in fund contributions are:

Axis Community Health is the Tri-Valley's sole provider of medical and mental health services for individuals and families who have a low income or who are uninsured. It serves more than 15,000 members of our community.

CityServe of the Tri-Valley supports the community by caring for people in crisis, coordinating resources between the faith-based community, nonprofits, schools, businesses and government agencies and connecting volunteers in

the community to nonprofits.

Hope Hospice provides ethical hospice care, transition services for those not eligible for hospice, bereavement support for adults and children and end-of-life education to Tri-Valley families, regardless of insurance or income status.

Open Heart Kitchen is the largest hot meal program of its kind in the Tri-Valley, feeding the hungry every weekday at multiple locations.

Valley Humane Society rescues and rehabilitates companion animals, champions responsible caretaking, shares pets' soothing affections with people in need of comfort, and supports and preserves existing pet guardian relationships.

ValleyCare Charitable Foundation plans to use its contribution from the annual campaign to help fund state-of-the-art healthcare technology, facilities, various clinical programs and services at Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare.

Merry Christmas from the Pleasanton Weekly staff. ■

LETTERS

Public Storage project

The city of Pleasanton's treatment of the proposed Public Storage expansion on Stanley Boulevard is a bad sign for the future of our community.

It is amazing to think that in 1982, the City of Pleasanton approved Hacienda Business Park with two years of processing, and a Planning Department with only five people, including the secretary. The Hacienda approval process included environmental compliance, huge infrastructure improvements and real public controversy.

Last week, the City Council considered approval of a redevelopment and upgrade of the mere 7-acre Public Storage property on Stanley Boulevard. That approval process has taken three years despite a Planning Department of 30 people, general plan compliance, an in-fill exemption from environmental review and virtually no public controversy.

According to the owner's representative, the Public Storage project has been whipsawed by three redesigns; first by the planning staff, then by the Planning Commission, and then the City Council redesigned it again.

Even worse, city staff, encouraged by Councilmember Testa, proposed to calculate the development fees not based on mitigating

actual impacts, but rather based on taxing the value of the city approval to the property owner — \$2.4 million! according to EPS, the city consultant (a total later reduced to \$338,459 due to miscalculation).

This is pure government theft.

Maybe California government does not care if it drives businesses like Hewlett Packard and Oracle from our state. But, Pleasanton will have more success if it works with businesses that want to expand, improve their properties and meet local needs.

—Peter MacDonald

Hunt for local news

Political name-calling is not why I read the Weekly. Tim Hunt takes political jabs (Dec. 18), slamming "blue state" politicians, including "His Highness Newsom."

Truth be told, hypocrisy and bad behavior knows no boundaries and examples exist on both sides of the aisle.

He characterizes health officials as "grinches." How juvenile. I read the Weekly for local news.

Mr. Hunt talked about how kids are being impacted. Interview some of these families. Put a human face to these statistics. Journalism, please and not urinalism.

—Janet Gardner

Tim Hunt's article

I want to commend Tim Hunt for the excellent and accurate article "Tim Talk: Following the science or do what I say, not what I do" that he wrote that appeared in the Weekly on Dec. 18. Please thank him for me.

—BethAnn Barch Moitoso

Welcome new City Council

Congratulations to our newly elected council members Valerie Arkin and Jack Balch, and Mayor Karla Brown. I am looking forward to some new direction on the council and appreciate their willingness to take the lead in the

community in these efforts.

The voters have spoken about what direction they want for our community in the future. The newly elected council members and current council will hopefully work well together on behalf of the residents.

It's always easy to stand by and watch how others work to keep Pleasanton a thriving and unique community, and even criticize the council's decisions. It is much harder to step up and take an active role in making our community a wonderful place to live.

Thank you to the City Council for their service to the community.

—Dave Wilson

YOUR TURN

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

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

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

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

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PLEASANTON PREPS

BY DENNIS MILLER

Ex-Foothill QB Wooldridge looks to transfer from Fresno State

Also: First Tee director Womble wins section awards

Ben Wooldridge, the talented former Foothill quarterback who was the backup quarterback this season at Fresno State, has entered the NCAA Transfer Portal.

Wooldridge was the backup two seasons ago as a freshman and performed well in the role, leaving knowledgeable observers to believe he would be the starter for the Bulldogs this season.

But former Monte Vista quarterback Jake Haener — a QB Wooldridge played against while at Foothill — transferred from Washington to Fresno after the 2019 season.

The two had a duel down to the wire for the starting spot at Fresno State, but Haener got the nod, leaving Wooldridge as the backup. Once

again, he performed well in the role, completing 8-of-16 passes for 117 yards, leading multiple scoring drives when called upon to replace Haener.

“It’s been crazy,” Wooldridge said of the recently concluded football season. “I knew that camp was going to be a battle and I love competition. I thought I won the job and all the stats (kept during camp) showed that, but they went with (Haener).”

Which meant it was decision time.

“I thought about transferring at that point, but after talking with my parents I decided to stay for the season,” Wooldridge said. “After the season, the coaches gave me an evaluation and told me that Jake would be the starter.”

That meant the decision was easy.

“For me to achieve my dreams of being a Division I starter, and have a chance at the NFL, I needed a change,” he said.

Entering the portal means that schools can contact Wooldridge, and he in turn can contact schools as well. In just the first few days there’s been interest and things are looking good.

“Hopefully, I will get a chance,” Wooldridge said. “It would be nice to stay on the West Coast.”

Having known Wooldridge for a few years now, his competitive drive and work ethic will make him a perfect match for a college program. Good size, athleticism and a big arm is the total package.

“I feel like the last eight to nine months I have gotten better as a



PAULA WALSH

Ben Wooldridge, who starred at quarterback for the Foothill Falcons, is exploring options to transfer from Fresno State.

quarterback,” Wooldridge said. “Working with my trainer has helped me grow as a quarterback. I am in the best shape and football mindset I have ever been.”

Womble rewarded for efforts

The First Tee of the Tri-Valley proudly announced the Northern California Section of the PGA of America has named its program director Jill Womble as the recipient of both the 2020 Player Development Award and the 2020 Youth Player Development Award.

A 13-year member of the PGA, Womble joined First Tee of the Tri-Valley in 2014.

“Golf has given me opportunities I could not have found any other way,” she said. “I am passionate about making sure others have the chance to experience all the gifts golf brings.”

This is one of those things that

always puts a smile on my face. I have always been a proponent of giving back to your community. I have seen many former local athletes give their time, but I have also noticed that many seem to never dream of giving back.



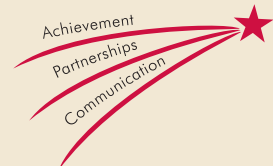
Jill Womble

Having written about Womble when she was excelling at Foothill before heading to the University of Kansas, I always knew she was very personable and a good person.

And when she started working for the First Tee, it was just a perfect fit. ■

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)

Ashoka Indian Cuisine
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 574754
The following person doing business as: Ashoka Indian Cuisine, 3550 Stanley Blvd., Ste. 4, Pleasanton, CA 94566, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Ashok Maan, 3111 Maguire Way, Apt. 409, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by Ashok Maan, an Individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name listed herein October 8, 2010. Signature of Registrant: Ashok Maan, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 24, 2020. (Pleasanton Weekly, December 18, 25, January 1, 8, 2021.)

Hill Mortgage
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 574903
The following person doing business as: Hill Mortgage, 350 Main Street, Ste. H., Pleasanton, CA 94566, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Scott Hill, 6966 Paseo Santa Cruz, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by Scott Hill, an Individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Scott Hill, Broker/Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 2, 2020. (Pleasanton Weekly, Dec. 18, 25, Jan. 1, 8, 2021.)

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

Calendar

POST CALENDAR ITEMS AT PLEASANTONWEEKLY.COM

Concerts

GOOD RIDDANCE 2020 Pink Martini brings some much-needed holiday cheer right into your living room this December with a brand new streaming concert event, Good Riddance 2020. 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. Ring in the New Year with the whole family. Dec. 31. Visit ourconcerts.live.

Theater

BAY AREA ARTISTS The Artist in Residence Program at Tao House in Danville, in which Eugene O'Neill produced his masterpieces, provides a working retreat for developing or established playwrights, scholars, or critics of the performing arts. Fellowships are given to persons focused on the performing arts for whom a space of time to work without distraction would be beneficial. Apply for next year's session by Jan. 31. Visit www.eugeneoneill.org/artist-in-residence-program.

Holiday

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. 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. Visit eleanorwish.com.

CALIFORNIA CHRISTMAS LIGHTS Guests will experience a mix of old-school decorations and high tech lighting and sound effects while listening to music on 107.9. Visit californiachristmaslights.com. Now through Dec. 29.



KEN MANO

Missionaries provide service during pandemic

Twelve missionaries for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints assigned to the Pleasanton and Dublin areas are providing service to local agencies during the COVID-19 pandemic. Their places of assistance include food distribution at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, local schools like Alisal and Pleasanton Middle and at St. Raymond Catholic Church. They've also helped sort donations at the American Cancer Discovery Store, assisted clients of Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley and participated in a recent Pleasanton Military Families packout.

PET OF THE WEEK



TVAR

Tiny Teddy

Teddy is a youngster with a beautiful coat and tail. A Pekingese/Long Hair Chihuahua mix, he weighs only 13 pounds. This adorable boy is a nice companion who enjoys cuddling, playing with toys and going for walks. He is already house trained and gets along well with his foster family's dog and cat. Teddy is a bit shy dog, so he will need a home without young children. He is neutered, current on vaccines and microchipped. Teddy is available through Tri-Valley Animal Rescue.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL - ON DEMAND LISTENING The Bay Area's favorite holiday tradition, A Christmas Carol, will come to life as A Christmas Carol: On Air, an enthralling radio play that the whole family can enjoy from the comfort of home. Now through Dec. 31. Visit act-sf.org.

NUTCRACKER ONLINE An interactive, virtual experience from the comfort of home. Nutcracker Online is San Francisco Ballet's fantastical, digital holiday offering. Now through Dec. 31. Visit sfballnet.org/productions/nutcracker-online.

Family

CITY OF LIVERMORE GEOCACHE Meet L'more, the Basset Hound (or Asset Hound). He'll be the guide as you travel around the City sniffing for clues and learning about community-owned assets. A modern-day treasure hunt for all ages that makes use of GPS-enabled smartphones or other devices. Now through Jan. 5. Visit <https://www.livermoreassets.net/geocache-2020>.

GARDEN OF D'LIGHTS 2020 The public is invited to experience this unique display using thousands of LED lights and specially programmed lasers. The illuminated garden comes alive at night when magical color sculptures are created. Jan. 5-17. Visit ruthbancroftgarden.org.

Seniors

PLEASANTON SENIOR CENTER Join for an early New Years Eve Party. Play games, share some laughs and toast in the new year with a cup of coffee. For more details call 931-5365. Dec. 29.

Government

PLEASANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING The next regular meeting of the Pleasanton City Council is 7 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 19, currently being held virtually. Visit cityofpleasantonca.gov.

PLEASANTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT The Pleasanton Unified School District Board of Trustees meets at 7 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 14, currently held virtually. Visit pleasantonusd.net.

Our Neighborhoods

An annual magazine featuring the neighborhoods of Pleasanton and surrounding areas.

Coming inside your Pleasanton Weekly on **February 19, 2021**



Our Neighborhoods showcases selected neighborhoods and captures the particular qualities that make it unique.

Each Neighborhood profile includes local features — such as parks and shopping centers — and a fact box including the median home sale price, how many homes were sold and the nearby schools.

Our Neighborhoods is a great resource for current residents or those looking to relocate to the Tri-Valley.

Pleasanton Weekly

ATTENTION ADVERTISERS

Get your ad featured inside Our Neighborhoods. Learn more by calling: **925.600.0840**

A Wish For Everything Happy, Hopeful, And Good!

Never have I seen a market as HOT as it is right now. Buyers are writing with no contingencies, way over list. NOW is the time to get ready to sell for the early new year. Call me and let's get started. Wishing you and yours a Merry Christmas and a healthy new year!

PENDING IN 3 DAYS W/9 OFFERS



3128 Paseo Granada, Pleasanton

4 BD + Bonus or 5 BD, 3 BA, 3,091 SF on .16 Acre w/pool. Offered at \$1,625,000

PENDING IN 3 DAYS W/7 OFFERS



7275 Brighton Drive, Dublin

3 BD, 2 BA, 1,424 SF on .15 Acre w/pool. Offered at \$925,000

Venture Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY



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Your home. Our mission.



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

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VENEMA HOMES

EXPERIENCE  EXCELLENCE

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

With a grateful heart, we appreciate your business and support in 2020.

As leaders in real estate sales in our community, we've enthusiastically served our clients throughout 2020, delivering record high sales prices and homes that are a perfect match for new lifestyles. Our team remains hard at work during this holiday season as we look toward the arrival of 2021.

Is the New Year Your Time to Make a Move?

The current seller's market is very strong and now is the time to prepare to take advantage of that market in the early part of 2021. Your equity is our priority and our selling strategy can get the best results for you.



Talk, Text, or Zoom - Let's Connect!



Liz Venema
Realtor
SRES | Owner



Kim Hunt
Realtor
Director of Operations



Amanda Davlin
Transaction Coordinator
Social Media Expert



Lisa Desmond
Realtor
CNE | Listing Manager



Michelle Kroger
Realtor
CNE | SRES



Alexis Venema
Realtor



Liz Venema



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