

Pleasanton Weekly

Holiday Fund concludes

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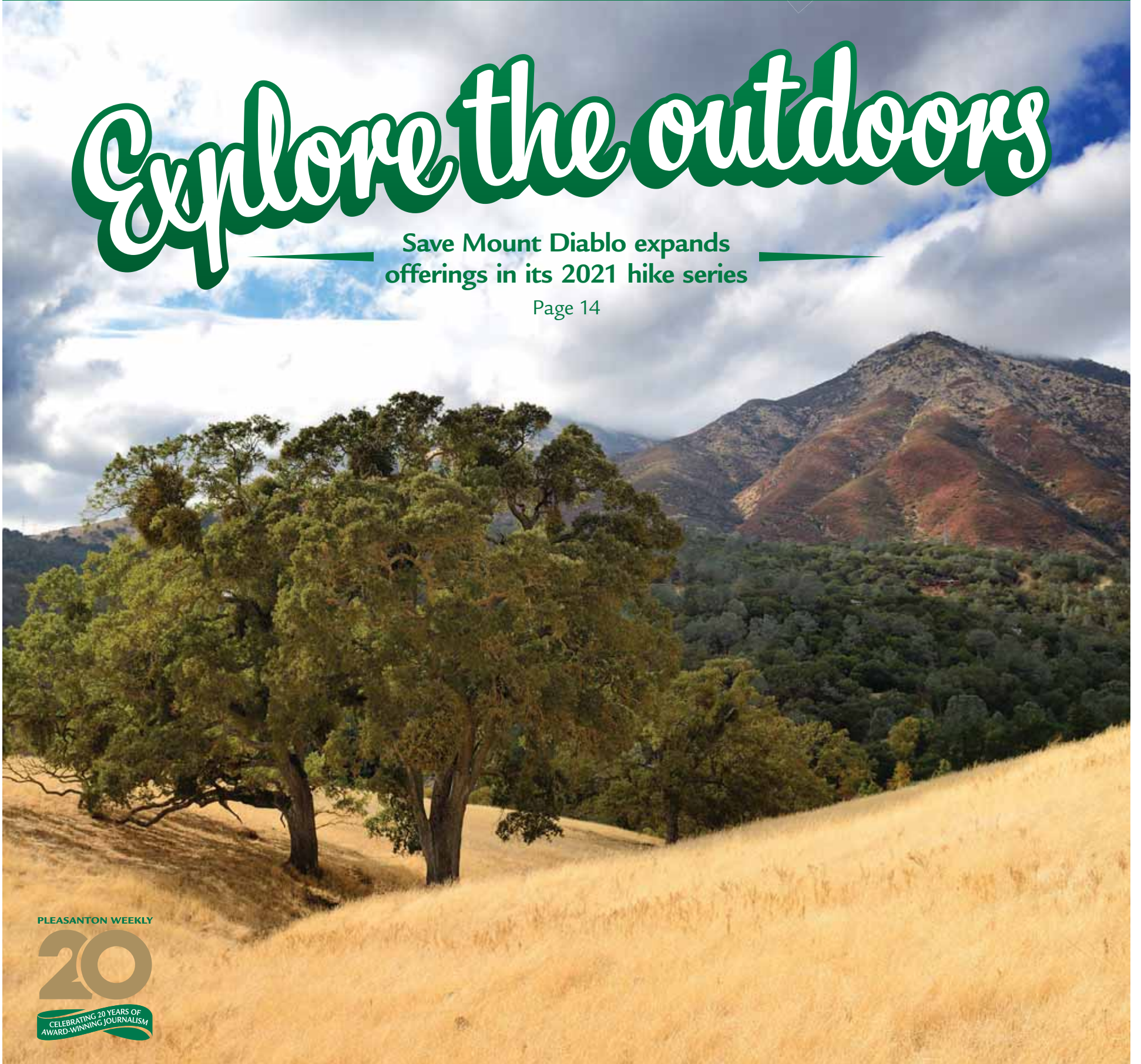
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Explore the outdoors

Save Mount Diablo expands offerings in its 2021 hike series

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VALLEY VIEWS



By **DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI**

A beacon of light

We are fortunate here to be surrounded by natural beauty — the Pleasanton Ridge, Augustin Bernal Community Park and the Lake Del Valle area just outside our doors. And right about now we need something to rest our eyes on besides our four walls, attractive though they may be.

My personal favorite view — and getaway — is Mount Diablo. I have wonderful memories of camping in the state park when my kids were young. It was a blessedly short drive to meet other families for a fun evening, sharing an outdoor meal, roasting marshmallows and singing around a campfire. In the morning we loved hiking Rock City, the youngsters scrambling over the boulders.

Outdoor areas remain open during the pandemic although campgrounds and visitor centers are closed. But even from afar, gazing up at Mount D lightens my heart. Perhaps it's thinking about the Native Americans who considered it to be the birthplace of the world. Some reserved the top of the mountain for special worshiping purposes, and even today, it remains a meaningful place.

The mountain also provided for them — it was a fertile hunting ground for deer, elk and antelope, and also rife with nuts and seeds, including bountiful fall acorn harvests.

The original inhabitants had many names for the mountain in their own languages. Then came the Spanish, and one of their early names for the peak was "Cerro Alto de los Bolbones" or "High Point of the Volvon Indians," a Bay Miwok group that inhabited the area.

The reference to "Diablo," or devil, has been tracked to 1805 when Spanish military troops searched for Native Americans who had run away from a mission, according to SaveMountDiablo.org. The soldiers encountered a camp of Chupcan people and surrounded it, but somehow during the night, they escaped unseen and unheard.

The Spanish soldiers, spooked, tagged the site "Monte del Diablo," meaning "thicket of the devil" but English-speaking newcomers mistakenly assumed "monte" meant "mountain" and this linguistic accident gave the Tri-Valley its Devil Mountain.

A few years back, someone challenged the name, saying it was

"blasphemous and profane." Although the suggestion to rename the mountain was dismissed, apparently some agree with the negative connotation. Diablo Yoga Center was named thus when it opened in 1996, but a decade later, new owners renamed it Danville Yoga and Wellness Center.

I prefer to think of the word as its meaning in "daredevil," "handsome as the devil," or having a "devil-may-care" attitude. These uses speak to being rakish or adventurous rather than evil. Then there is "the devil made me do it."

The peak is definitely worth a visit — its observation platform allows a 360-degree view, said to include the San Francisco Bay on a clear day. The grand old sandstone Summit Building, constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1939-42, houses the historic beacon, first lit in 1928 as a signal for pilots of the newfangled aircraft.

The beacon lighting was stopped after the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, and it remained dark for more than 20 years. It was relit as part of a ceremony at the summit Dec. 7, 1964, honoring the survivors of Pearl Harbor. Each year afterward, survivors gathered for a beacon lighting.

Then last Easter Sunday, Save Mount Diablo, the nonprofit land trust that preserves lands on and around the mountain, lit the beacon and continued to do so each Sunday night to light up the night — and our spirits — as we coped with the COVID-19 pandemic. The beacon was kept dark the week prior to Dec. 7 so the Pearl Harbor lighting would be special.

But the lighting has resumed and will continue "for as long as the pandemic rages," according to the Save Mount Diablo website, to remind everyone to lift their eyes to the light and to nature, and also to thank heroes in these troubling times.

We need a high point to savor right now when we are at a low point as pandemic deaths in the U.S. pass 400,000, variants are appearing and the vaccination rollout is struggling. Some might say we are trapped in an unsightly ditch. But we must keep our eyes on the peak. ■

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

Save Mount Diablo recently announced its 2021 Discover Diablo hike series, which has added hikes, rock climbing and mountain biking activities in response to growing demand — all while keeping COVID-19 safety protocols in place. Photo by Al Johnson/Save Mount Diablo. Cover design by Paul Llewellyn. Vol. XXI, Number 42



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Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

What are some of the first things you're excited to do as soon as you've been fully vaccinated?



Guin Van Dyke

Property manager

Travel! I cannot wait to get on an airplane bound for Hawaii. It will feel like going home again.



Simon Cohen

Laser systems/optical engineer

Travel and eat indoors at restaurants. We had such grand plans for the summer of 2020; Israel, Paris and a cruise on the Black Sea. My beautiful wife Sharon and I are really looking forward to getting to go on this epic trip that got canceled last year due to COVID. I miss my family in Israel. It will be so nice to be amongst family and friends without having to wear a mask.



Mahbob Yar

Chemist/validation scientist

I can't wait to be able to see and spend time with and hug my family members and friends who are not in my "social bubble." Once I've been able to that, everything else is just icing on the cake.



Julia Thompson

Attorney

First, I'll travel to see family. And then hopefully go to an in-person college signing day. And I'm so looking forward to attending a real, live (as opposed to virtual) graduation ceremony for my high school senior in June.



Mike Haas *Customer relations*

For sure, I'll be going to some kind of a live ball game in an indoor stadium or arena. I don't even care what sport it is. Could be basketball, football — you name it. Even tennis. Just a big, noisy, indoor venue, chock full of sports fanatics like myself who are cheering and making lots of noise, and not worrying about maintaining a safe social distance.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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DIGEST

State of the District

Registration is now open for the annual Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation (PPIE) State of the School District, being held virtually next Wednesday (Jan. 27) at 1 p.m.

Presented via Zoom this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the second annual event will feature an address by Superintendent David Haglund about the status and future of Pleasanton Unified School District and a presentation of the PUSD annual report.

Newly sworn-in Mayor Karla Brown will also “highlight plans to enhance city-school relations,” followed by a presentation of the annual Pillars of Pleasanton awards, which recognize leading local businesses for their support of local schools through fundraising, volunteerism and more.

To learn more or register for either event, visit www.ppie.org.

Toxic mushrooms

Toxic mushrooms spring up in numbers after the first sustained East Bay rains, so park officials issued a wild mushroom warning last week.

Two of the globe’s most toxic mushrooms, the Western destroying angel and death cap, grow in the East Bay, but other toxic ones grow here, too.

Symptoms of mushroom poisoning from the Western destroying angel and death cap begin as severe stomach distress and progress to liver and kidney failure if a person doesn’t get treatment immediately. It may take half a day for symptoms to appear.

The two mushrooms can kill some animals, too.

—*Bay City News Service*

Pelosi picks Swalwell

Local U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-Livermore) was selected by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to serve as an impeachment manager for the upcoming trial of now-former President Donald Trump.

The U.S. House of Representatives impeached Trump in a mostly party-line vote (232-197) on Jan. 13 on one article of incitement of insurrection in the wake of a mob of Trump supporters breaching the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 while attempting to prevent congressional certification of the Nov. 3 presidential election, which Trump lost. It marked Trump’s second impeachment by the House.

Swalwell will be among a team of nine impeachment managers presenting House Democrats’ case to the U.S. Senate for conviction — proceedings that will take place with Trump out of office, since new President Joe Biden was sworn in on Wednesday. A hearing schedule is not yet known. ■

Pleasanton Unified’s plans for reopening schools continue to take shape

High school principals are making alternate plans for graduation this year

By JULIA BAUM

Plans to reopen for in-person learning at Pleasanton Unified School District took center-stage during the Board of Trustees’ first regular online meeting of the year.

While Alameda County remains in the state’s purple tier of COVID-19 monitoring and the Bay Area’s regional intensive care unit (ICU) capacity has been in the low single digits for most of this month, instruction continues for PUSD students via remote learning, but PUSD officials are progressing with

plans to eventually return to the classroom.

Ed Diolazo, assistant superintendent of student support services, told the board last week that Gov. Gavin Newsom’s plan to reopen schools released in late December “pretty much aligned to what we already approved for when we’re able to reopen,” by staggering the reopening of elementary grades and focusing on small cohorts at the secondary level.

On the district’s return timeline, preschoolers and transitional kindergarten through second-grade

students would be on campus two weeks after the county has been in the red tier for 14 days. Third through fifth grade would return a week later, then grades 6 through 12 the following week.

New legislation proposed as part of the Safe Schools for All plan would deem schools open for in-person instruction eligible for additional funding. The funds would be one-time in nature and are meant to support a district’s in-person instruction efforts with mandatory COVID-19 testing, personal protective equipment (PPE), contact tracing,

staffing and vaccinations.

PUSD will also receive about \$950,000 in new federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funding, from a pool of approximately \$6.8 billion allocated to California schools based on Title I eligibility.

Assistant superintendent of business services Ahmad Sheikholeslami said the district is “not a very large Title I eligibility,” and funds will most likely arrive in the 2021-22 fiscal year.

See **SCHOOLS** on Page 8



CITY OF DUBLIN

COVID memorial

The Wave in Dublin was illuminated in amber on Tuesday evening as city officials joined local and state agencies across the country in honoring the lives lost to the coronavirus during the pandemic. To date there have been more than 400,000 deaths due to COVID-19 reported in the United States, and millions more Americans have suffered from the disease over the past year.

Lab works on ‘universal’ vaccine

LLNL forms new partnership with UK firm

By JEREMY WALSH

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory announced this week a new collaboration with a United Kingdom company to develop a broad-spectrum or “universal” coronavirus vaccine.

The scientists’ work aims to provide broader protection against coronavirus pathogens of human and animal origin, including but not limited to MERS, SARS and SARS-CoV-2 — the virus that causes COVID-19.

“We are pleased to be working with the Biosciences and Biotechnology Division at LLNL to develop our

broad-spectrum coronavirus vaccine candidate,” said Kimbell Duncan, CEO of ConserV Bioscience Limited, the UK-based company specializing in late-stage vaccine development that is now partnering with LLNL researchers.

“We have identified regions within the proteins of the virus that are not susceptible to change and if effective, the vaccine promises to protect against a broad spectrum of current circulating coronavirus strains and future emergent ones,” Duncan added in a joint message.

On the technical side, the

collaboration will bring together ConserV’s expertise in identifying antigens and LLNL’s nanolipoprotein particle (NLP) delivery system, according to officials at the labs.

The vaccine construct consists of conserved immunoreactive regions from external and internal coronavirus proteins, from each virus genus, encoded in messenger RNA, or mRNA, officials said. “The mRNA construct will be formulated with LLNL’s proprietary nanolipoprotein particle vehicle prior to injection,

See **LAB** on Page 10

Council waiving impact fees for new ADUs

State law prompts changes; city prohibits 2nd-story units

By JULIA BAUM

Pleasanton homeowners will no longer pay development impact fees when adding a smaller accessory dwelling unit (ADU) to their property, under proposed updates to the city’s master fee schedule endorsed by the City Council in a 4-1 vote on Tuesday night.

The vote followed more than an hour of staff discussion and amending the original motion to prohibit second-story ADUs, including those built atop detached garages, with Councilman Jack Balch casting the sole dissenting vote.

Since Jan. 1, California cities must now approve new detached ADUs with only a building permit — as is done for converted ADUs — and without applying any standards except a maximum 800 square feet, 16-foot height limit and 4-foot setbacks.

Adopting the second-story ADU exclusion is one way for the city to retain some local control over increased density, according to Vice Mayor Julie Testa.

“I support ADUs. I think done right and done with consideration of the neighborhood, they’re a very good asset to our community,” Testa said. “But the way this law mandates us and takes that away,

See **COUNCIL** on Page 6

Fate of Livermore's Equity and Inclusion Working Group still undecided

City accepts new round of applications after recent controversy over group's flag discussion

By CIERRA BAILEY

The city of Livermore is accepting new applications for its Equity and Inclusion Working Group following a City Council update last week.

During the council's Jan. 11 regular meeting, city staff asked for direction from the council on next steps for the working group, including whether to reopen applications for more people to join.

"I think opening (the application period) back up will potentially make sense but I think that we do need to consider where is this going and again what is the goal?" Councilmember Brittni Kiick asked.

"Let's say we get 300 applicants; are we going to take 300 applicants? Are we going to limit down those 300 before we say absolutely 'yes'? Are there any restraints that we're considering putting on

this?" Kiick continued, adding that she believes the group "absolutely should still exist," but the council should consider possible consequences of expanding it.

Following the meeting, the city reopened applications on Jan. 13 and will accept them through today (Jan. 22).

When the public working group was initially formed last year, the Council Subcommittee Equity and Inclusion — co-chaired by now-Mayor Bob Woerner and now-Vice Mayor Trish Munro — accepted all 48 people who submitted applications by the Aug. 7 deadline. However, the current council has not yet decided whether it will take the same approach with the new set of applicants.

Munro proposed last week waiting until the council has appointed its fifth member before having a larger discussion about how

the working group should move forward.

"We are right now four members; by the next meeting we'll be a full complement. This seems to me to be exceedingly important work that we're doing," Munro said.

"There seems to have been a little kerfuffle back in December that led to this becoming more contentious opening up than we might have enjoyed," she continued. "That said, it's opened up and we have applications and that's great; however, how we go forward with this seems to me to be a longer discussion that we should have when we have the full complement."

Last month, the working group was at the center of a social media-fueled controversy after notes from a Nov. 17 meeting were referenced in an article by pro-law enforcement website Law Enforcement Today, which suggested that

the city was considering the Thin Blue Line flag — which is used to express support for law enforcement, but is considered by others as a symbol of intimidation — as a symbol of hate. At the time, Woerner and Munro said the notes had been taken out of context.

As a result of the debate, several community members shared their input about the group during public comment at the Dec. 14 regular council meeting. Some expressed support for its efforts, while others called for it to be disbanded altogether.

Jackie Cota was one of the residents who spoke out against the working group in December (identifying herself at the time as Jackie Faith). She returned on Jan. 11 to echo her opposition to the group.

"This subcommittee made up of principals, vice principals, therapists and misguided activists have

bought into the propaganda and academia-based lie that there is systemic racism born out of something they like to call white privilege," she said during public comment. "This is a bully tactic Marxists like to use to silence you."

Woerner clarified that the conversations and ideas that the working group has had so far have not been implemented in any form of policy or action by the council.

"We have to maybe reset our expectations in general as to what we can do and on what kind of time frame and how," Woerner said. "In other areas, we have advisory bodies and we have a structure; this one we created to hear from people and of course, we heard a lot."

"I would say at this stage, where we're at, is we've been listening to what people said, and I think we

See EQUITY on Page 7

Livermore delays council applicant interviews until next week

Hearing postponed until Monday after death of vice mayor's father

By CIERRA BAILEY

The Livermore City Council has temporarily postponed the interview process for selecting a new council member to fill the open seat vacated by Bob Woerner upon his ascension to mayor.

The four sitting council members were scheduled to interview all 21 candidates who applied for the appointed position this Tuesday in a special public virtual meeting, but the proceedings were pushed out following the death of Vice Mayor Trish Munro's father, according to the city's website.

The interviews are now set for next Monday (Jan. 25), which also coincides with the council's next

regular meeting.

Woerner successfully campaigned for mayor this fall in the middle of the four-year regular council term he won at-large in 2018 — which was the city's final election before switching to district-based voting. His mayoral victory left a vacancy on the council that 21 people are vying for.

Each candidate will have up to five minutes to answer a single two-part question during the public interviews. The first part of the question will ask them to identify what they think are the most important decisions facing the council over the course of the term, which ends in December 2022. The second

part asks them to explain why they should be selected for the role.

As initially planned, the chosen appointee would take their oath of office during next Monday's meeting after the council's deliberations. Woerner said the appointee could be sworn in that same evening for the public on Zoom and then again in person the next day by the city clerk, "to make sure there is no ambiguity as to satisfying the legal requirements."

The list of applicants consists of a diverse group of community members, including previous City Council election candidates, including Realtor and former police officer Mony Nop, medical account manager Pete

Patterson and former city planning commissioner Neal Pann.

Other candidates include Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center education manager Arthur Barinque, retired Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory scientist/program manager Regina Bonanno, Village High School teacher Evan Branning, Baca Properties CFO Jeffrey Hateley, life and business coach Abigail Helfer, Chef's Warehouse vice president Greg Janssen, Glaxo-SmithKline executive Dennis Kai, seamstress Christine Lusty, FABS Group, Inc. property manager Melissa Lynch, Apple Inc. data engineer Darci Martin and security analyst Nathaniel Moore.

Additionally, University of California at Merced student Faith Nordvik, Mendenhall Middle School teacher Kyra Pervere, sales representative Eric Payne, Ace Computer Systems, Inc. owner Alex Shezifi, insurance agent Jennifer Spriggs, Tri-Valley Haven communications specialist Samantha Valdez and Musco Family Olive Company marketing brand manager Jennifer Vierra are among the variety of applicants. ■

Editor's note: Due to an editing error, last week's story "Livermore to interview all 21 applicants for council vacancy" listed an incorrect day of the week for the original interview date of Jan. 19.

The Weekly regrets the error.

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 5

to say we're just going to give that blanket approval on the ADU over the garage that we do not have to give, knowing that we won't be able to individualize for a neighborhood or a neighbor, I think is a big mistake."

Under the fee update, the city would no longer receive impact fees for new ADUs measuring 749 square feet or less. Reduced impact fees would still be received for ADUs totaling 750 square feet or more, as required by the state. A deed restriction would also no longer be required, and existing deeds could be extinguished by the city at the property owner's request.

Known also as in-law units, among other names, ADUs may be

completely within an existing single-family home, or built as an extension or a detached unit. Junior accessory dwelling units (JADUs) are similar but located completely within a single-family dwelling, and are no more than 500 square feet in size.

Over recent years, supporters have advocated for the units as a viable solution to the regional affordable housing crisis, with shorter construction timelines and less expense to build.

City staff said the intent of the new state legislation is to provide greater flexibility when it comes to building and converting existing space to ADUs and JADUs, limit impact fees and streamline approvals by eliminating discretionary review.

The new law also requires no owner-occupancy can be imposed on the ADU of the primary

residence for units approved between 2020 and 2025, according to city senior planner Shweta Bonn.

"However, the Planning Commission recommended that owner-occupancy requirements be removed for all ADUs, irrespective of when they were approved," Bonn said, adding that owner-occupancy between the primary residence and a JADU can still be required, though.

Balch objected to prohibiting new second-story ADUs, and referred to the Walnut Hills neighborhood as "a perfect example" of how the units can complement, rather than conflict, with the community.

Mayor Karla Brown said, "I've seen many good units over a garage and I've seen some really bad ones," adding that neighboring homeowners need to be considered before approving a second-level ADU.

"If I bought a unit specifically to be able to see the ridge and now I can't see the ridge anymore, I would be very upset and it would change my property value, so I just can't support that," Brown said.

Balch replied, "If I bought a home and planned to let my child stay there or move into it and an ADU was approved by the (planned-unit development) as an already existing condition and now it's being prohibited, it would decrease the value of my lot."

Brown countered, "If I bought a unit and it didn't have a place over the garage and now I want to insist that I can get one, I don't think that's reasonable. It affects your neighbors."

Resident Paul Zampierin, who phoned in during public comment, said that while rejecting the state

mandate isn't possible, "what is feasible is to make a statement for our community and for state legislators by doing the absolute bare minimum required by the state law," and urged the council "to maintain as much control as possible."

"You don't need to accept change in the owner occupancy except for new ADUs. If you do so, you will essentially be extending the state and approving their mandate beyond 2025," Zampierin said. "Please err on the side of neighbors and neighborhoods wherever possible. Don't turn a poor state law into poor city municipal codes."

The 4-1 vote Tuesday approved the first reading of the proposed ordinance to enact the fee changes. The second reading and final adoption is expected to take place at the next council meeting. ■

LVJUSD nurses receive first round of COVID-19 vaccine

Staff inoculations are ‘critically important’ part of school reopening

By JULIA BAUM

Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District made significant strides toward reopening when several district nurses received the first of two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine last week.

The first round of vaccinations are “another tool in our toolbelt as we look towards the safe reopening of our schools,” district COVID-19 liaison Carolyn Reggiardo said in a statement.

“Our hope is that when more doses are released (in the next phase), we will be ready to help vaccinate school staff to protect against COVID-19,” Reggiardo said.

Nearly 1 million people have been inoculated during Phase 1A of the

vaccine rollout, including health care workers, long-term care patients, and individuals aged 65 or older. Phase 1B aims to vaccinate those at risk for exposure due to working in education, child care, emergency services or food and agriculture.

LVJUSD Superintendent Kelly Bowers said it’s “critically important that our school nurses be vaccinated, as they are specially trained and certified to assess staff and students for COVID-19, conduct contact tracing, administer our COVID screening tests, and eventually administer vaccines to employees.”

“We are relying on them heavily during this pandemic and we need them to stay healthy in order for our

students and staff to stay healthy,” Bowers added.

Last month, the district submitted and received approval for its school reopening plan by the Alameda County Office of Education. However, increased restrictions by county public health officials and being set back to the state’s purple tier have paused that plan for now. LVJUSD cannot reopen until the county has been in the red tier for 14 consecutive days, and met all other ACOE requirements.

Knowing school nurses “are first in line for the vaccine gives me confidence that we will be able to return to on-campus teaching in the near future,” Bowers said. ■



From left: Livermore school nurses Julie Howard, Carolyn Reggiardo and Shelley Casey ready to receive their COVID-19 vaccinations.

LVJUSD

Murray Elementary featured on ‘Ellen DeGeneres Show’

Dublin teachers receive array of gifts from show

By JULIA BAUM

Nearly a dozen teachers and principal Meghan Boriskin at Murray Elementary School in Dublin received a special late Christmas present during a segment that aired on “The Ellen DeGeneres Show” last week.

Each year, the show recognizes the good deeds of people who improve the lives of others, and shows their gratitude by giving them an array of gifts during their annual “12 Days of Christmas” special.

This year, essential workers such as nurses, first responders, food bank workers and teachers were highlighted. On what was meant to be the final day of filming last month; however, show host Ellen DeGeneres found out she had COVID-19, putting production on pause and postponing the “12 Days” segment — the same one meant to feature the

Murray Elementary teachers.

After recovering from her bout with coronavirus, DeGeneres recently resumed work and the school was able to film the final segment on Jan. 12. The clip aired the following day, and DeGeneres said, “Thanks for all you do,” after introducing the group, who appeared virtually in a Zoom grid on screen while holding up hand made signs bearing messages of thanks and appreciation.

Among the gifts the teachers received were a six-day vacation at a Mexican resort, a 65-inch TCL

Android television, a three-piece luggage set and a \$300 Nordstrom gift card.

Dublin Unified School District gave a “special thanks” to Murray third-grade teacher Grace Samara in a statement and said, “Grace was the one who made this all happen. Her efforts added a little fun into a challenging school year and provided recognition for the work teachers do across the world, in Dublin, and at Murray.”

A clip from the Jan. 13 episode of the show featuring the Murray teachers can be viewed at EllenTube.com. ■

EQUITY

Continued from Page 6

also want to clarify that the fact that we’ve listened is not the same thing as the council taking action, for sure, and it’s not even the same thing as the subcommittee making a recommendation to the council to take action. We’ve done none of those things,” the mayor added.

Woerner agreed with waiting until a fifth council member is appointed to have a more expansive discussion but he asked staff to develop some structural recommendations for council to consider at its next regular meeting, to be held on Monday (Jan. 25).

More information on the working group and subcommittee can be found on the “Equity and Inclusion” page on the city website, www.cityoflivermore.net. ■

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THE CITY OF PLEASANTON

HIGHLIGHTS

Planning Commission
 Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.
 Consistent with State and County Orders regarding the COVID-19 pandemic this will be a virtual meeting. Instructions on how to participate and offer comments will be available January 20, when the agenda is posted on the City’s website at: cityofpleasantonca.gov/gov/depts/cd/planning/commission/planning_agenda.asp

- P20-0992, [Lindsey Leblanc for Futures Academy, 4301 Hacienda Drive, Suite 120](#)
 Application for Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to operate a private school with more than 20 students located at 4301 Hacienda Drive, Suite 120. Zoning is PUD-I/C-O (Planned Unit Development-Industrial/Commercial-Office) District.

COMMISSION RECRUITMENT

The City Council recruits and appoints residents of Pleasanton to a variety of boards and commissions, allowing them to contribute to and influence decisions affecting the city, providing advice and feedback on important community issues. Applicants must reside within the Pleasanton city limits. For additional information contact the Office of the City Clerk at 925-931-5027

Applications are now being accepted for an unscheduled vacancy on the **HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA (HACA) HOUSING COMMISSION**

Applications are due by Monday, February 1, 2021

The Commission is composed of 12 members: one from each of the nine cities that HACA serves, one representing the unincorporated areas and two HACA tenants. The HACA’s Governing Board, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, ratifies nomination to the HACA Housing Commission as recommended by the respective city council.

HACA operates a number of programs administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development with the HACA’s mission to deliver housing, housing assistance and related services to low-, very low-, and extremely low-income persons; elderly persons and persons with verifiable disabilities, to enable them to live as independently as possible within their economic resources; and to persons who are not elderly or do not have verifiable disabilities, for the time necessary to enable them to become self-sufficient and economically independent.

Apply online on the City of Pleasanton website at <http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov/gov/depts/clerk/boards/default.asp>

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

BART able to balance budget with lifeline from federal funding

Nine-figure deficits still loom as agency grapples with 90% drop in ridership

Federal relief funding is expected to cover BART's previously projected budget deficit, preventing the transit agency from having to lay off staff or reduce service, the agency's budget officials said at BART's Board of Directors meeting last week.

The agency is expected to receive in excess of \$55 million from the federal stimulus bill passed in December, which will make up for BART's loss of roughly 90% of its ridership revenue as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

BART budget officials had, in October, projected a deficit in upwards of \$33 million by the time fiscal year 2021 ends on June 30, even when taking into account more than \$250 million in pandemic relief funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief

and Economic Security Act, a hiring freeze and an incentivized retirement program.

"The takeaway from (fiscal year 2021) is that while it remains a challenge, we know we can close the year balanced," BART budget director Christopher Simi said during the Jan. 14 board meeting. "And with most of our cost structure in place for the remainder of the year, we need to shift our focus to '22 and '23, which present much greater challenges."

Without taking future federal relief funding into account, BART's projected budget deficit by the end of fiscal year 2023 will total nearly \$500 million, even when accounting for a projected 465% increase in ridership revenue between now and then.

Simi cautioned that while ridership should eventually rebound as more Bay Area transit riders get vaccinated against the coronavirus and return to work, the timeline and extent of that ridership recovery remains volatile.

Board Director Janice Li expressed gratitude that the board did not make reactionary budget choices toward the end of the 2020 calendar year, when board members floated the possibility of limiting or temporarily stopping weekend service or laying off workers amid concerns that more relief funding wouldn't be approved.

"We made the right decision, and the numbers here show that," Li said.

The agency could also see another

windfall of relief funding in the coming weeks once President Joe Biden begins work in office.

Biden's proposed \$1.9 trillion stimulus bill would include \$20 billion for beleaguered transit agencies across the country, a portion of which would likely trickle to the Bay Area.

"Clearly it will change in two weeks and two weeks after that and two weeks after that," Board Director Rebecca Saltzman said of the budget update.

Board Director Liz Ames noted that the pandemic has led some of the Bay Area's largest technology companies to allow their employees to work from home permanently, potentially hampering BART's hopes of ever reaching its pre-pandemic ridership again.

Ames went on to suggest the agency may have to rethink its place in the Bay Area's transit ecosystem post-pandemic if that work-from-home shift remains permanent.

"There's going to be a shift, I think, in the way people live, how they commute and then the efficacy of the vaccine," Ames said.

Board Director Bevan Dufty argued the agency is on the right path by turning its focus to the next two fiscal years and balancing its current budget.

"We'll have challenges but I'm confident going forward," he said. "I think everything that we hoped would happen has been happening and hopefully will continue to happen." ■

—Eli Walsh, BCN Foundation

SCHOOLS

Continued from Page 5

"However, we can expend towards those efforts, and then those monies will be back billed from the federal program in the coming year," Sheikholeslami told the board on Jan. 14.

If state lawmakers approve Newsom's plan, schools that submit a reopening plan by Feb. 1 and reopen by Feb. 15 would be eligible to receive about \$450 per average daily attendance (ADA) of additional funding, less the independent learning students.

"That ADA is for the entire school. So as long as we have the students return in the K-5 program by those deadlines, we'd be eligible for that funding," Sheikholeslami said, adding there is also

a proposed second round of funding with similar deadlines for early March and that the district is "really tracking that closely."

PUSD would need to satisfy several "key components" to receive state funding including establishing memorandums of understanding with the district's two labor groups, the Association of Pleasanton Teachers and California School Employees Association, and meeting the COVID testing mandates.

"That's where we'll have to look at the cost impacts of what that would be, where they'd get tested and all the protocols related to that. Yet the funds are one time and meant to support COVID testing and contact tracing," Sheikholeslami said.

PUSD also received \$6.44 million in one-time Learning Loss Mitigation funds to offset the impact of the pandemic, with about 75% committed or expended to date. Funds were mainly used for PPE as well as materials and technology related to distance learning.

The district's operational preparedness and planning for safety and cleaning, ventilation and air quality, child nutrition services, technology, and transportation remains mostly the same, with new information added accordingly.

During public comment on Jan. 14, some parents expressed their frustration with changing public health guidelines and concern about the effects of extended school closures.

Kate Duggan, mother of two PUSD students, said, "My concern is the current plan to reopen, the length of the staggered approach and the new hurdles introduced at every turn from the county. Now we may not be able to go back because of a new cleaning standard. It's an impossible bar to reach for reopening schools this calendar school year, and the district seems rather passive about it versus applying any

urgency on one main priority."

Duggan continued, "We've already had to apply a new grading system because of the increase of Ds and Fs ... the failing grades is a much stronger indicator of how remote school is actually going."

Several students also phoned in; one urged caution with returning to campus while the other said the wellness of student mental health outweighed the risk of COVID-19.

In other business

- In a separate discussion related to school reopening that evening, the trustees received a report on the secondary transition to returning to in-person learning, with particular focus on a recent district survey.

Most of the 1,911 parents who responded to the online survey last month said remote learning for their secondary student was going "Well" (24.6%), "Somewhat well" (32.9%), or "Better than expected" (28.5%), while 14% selected "Not well at all."

The social connection with students and teachers was one of the key motivating factors parents also cited when they thought about their student returning to school, along with academic support and mental health concerns.

Respondents also indicated lack of social interaction and too much screen time were also major concerns, followed by challenges with feedback on student progress.

A total of 949 secondary school students responded at similar rates as parents did to how remote learning was going for them, though only 7% said it wasn't working out well at all.

Students also said social connections and academic support were their top two priorities for going back to school, and their main challenges with distance learning are the lack of face-to-face interaction and excessive screen time.

In July, the board approved plans

for both levels that would provide both remote and hybrid instruction, including in-person instruction on assigned days of the week.

With middle- and high-school students normally changing classrooms several times a day, PUSD has been faced with the challenge of figuring out how to safely accommodate in-person instruction and minimize mingling among assigned small cohorts.

Other details in district documents on secondary reopening models were similar to those in the district-wide reopening update, including key considerations for health and safety like cleaning

protocols and creating traffic flow patterns in hallways and other shared spaces to facilitate physical distancing.

Though the likelihood of secondary students returning to school in the current school year is unclear, all three principals at Foothill, Amador Valley and Village high schools are making alternate plans for graduation ceremonies in spring.

Officials recently held several online secondary site reopening task force and community town hall meetings, including one last week. A virtual student town hall is scheduled to take place on Monday (Jan. 25). ■



CULINARY ANGELS

Checking out the new digs

From left: Pleasanton Mayor Karla Brown joins Culinary Angels Executive Director Lisa McNaney and chef Claudia Castillo Holley in putting the final touches on meals for residents with severe health challenges in the Tri-Valley. Brown dropped in to volunteer some meal prep time at Culinary Angels' new kitchen site in the Sunflower Hill at Irby Ranch community. Nonprofit Culinary Angels prepares and delivers delicious and nutritious meals at no cost to patients and their caregivers living in Dublin, Livermore, and Pleasanton.

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San Ramon residents file appeal over proposed Costco gas station

Challenge cites traffic, environmental, procedural concerns

By RYAN J. DEGAN

A group of residents has filed an appeal with the city over the San Ramon Planning Commission's decision to approve a 32-pump Costco gas station, citing traffic and environmental concerns among other potential issues.

Filed on Dec. 21 by San Ramon's Reza Mahmoodi on behalf of residential group Safer San Ramon, the appeal challenges the approval of the project, stating that impacts related to traffic, the environment and quality of life would be detrimental to the community, further stating that the review process itself was flawed.

"We sadly have to appeal the MEGA Costco gas station to the City Council since the unelected Planning Commission put Costco's greed before the needs and concerns of

residents," Safer San Ramon posted on its Facebook page. "Why doesn't Costco have to do what much smaller gas stations are forced to do and conduct a full and comprehensive EIR so that residents know all of the impacts this will have on traffic, air quality and public health? Why is the City giving Costco special treatment?"

Originally approved by the Planning Commission on Dec. 15, the gas station would be located at the site of the Office Depot building on 3111 Fostoria Way and serve the Costco Wholesale store located across the city's border within Danville town limits — the Danville Costco store located at 3150 Fostoria Way currently does not have a gas station.

The project would also include a 12,663-square-foot canopy with

signage on all sides, an approximately 200-square-foot control facility and associated site improvements and landscape enhancement on the 2.88-acre lot after tearing down the old Office Depot building.

Among a number of potential problems, petitioners took particular issue with negative impacts the gas station would have on traffic circulation in the region, finding that the city's review of traffic impacts was less than satisfactory.

Arguing that a traffic study should have been conducted by an independent entity, appellants are concerned that since the gas station is located outside of the main Costco grounds — about a street away from the store — additional traffic congestion will most likely occur.

"When a fueling facility is placed within the parking lot of a Costco warehouse store, and is highly popular or experiences big surges in demand and large queues form, those queues are generally confined to some of the parking aisles of the warehouse store parking lot," the appeal noted, adding:

"When a Costco fueling facility is located on a site separated from the warehouse store property, there is a reasonable likelihood that the trip characteristics of the patrons of the separated site will be different from



CITY OF SAN RAMON

Rendering shows design concept for proposed Costco gas station on Fostoria Way in San Ramon, across the street from the Costco Wholesale store in the Danville town limits.

those of facilities co-located on the warehouse property."

Petitioners further claimed that the traffic report prepared for the city was not created from an objective source and have called for additional review from an independent source.

Specifically, the petitioners said the report's author, Kittleson Associates, has "a long-term arrangement" with Costco where the firm "provides advocacy transportation analyses that cast new Costco projects in the most favorable light plausible."

Appellants have also listed potential health and environmental concerns as additional motivations for their appeal, expressing concerns over emissions from vehicles visiting the gas station.

"For example, emissions associated with travel and idling of 9,500 vehicles per day is of concern to

workers and residents in the project area," the appeal reads.

Other items the appeal lists as remaining unresolved related to the project include: complete environmental impact report (EIR), fiscal impact study, cumulative air quality study, independent study of impact on local businesses, hours of operations, fuel delivery schedule, queuing capacity for each fuel pump, demand (which is based on regional members and not Danville membership), construction emissions of pollutants exceeding Bay Area guidelines, and a wholesale warehouse facility for gasoline was not considered in the North Camino Ramon Specific Plan.

City staff have not officially set a date for when the appeal will be heard by the City Council; however, plans to review the case are tentatively scheduled for February. ■

Bettie Jean (Erker) Hunt

May 19, 1934 – January 12, 2021

Bettie Jean (Foster) (Erker) Hunt, age 86, formerly of Pleasanton and Groveland, CA passed away on January 12, 2021.

Bettie was born in Montebello, CA and soon after she moved to Alameda, CA where she spent her younger years growing up. She met her first husband, Howard Erker, in Alameda and they spent their first years of marriage in the Bay Area. Most of their married life was spent raising three children in Pleasanton, CA. Bettie decided to go to work once her children entered school. She worked in the Pleasanton School District in various jobs, most prominent was being a teacher's aide. She also went back to school herself and received her AA degree in Child Development. Bettie enjoyed working with her fellow teachers and students for over 30 years.

Bettie and Howard were married for 35 years until Howard's passing in 1986.

Bettie was fortunate enough to meet and later marry Larry Hunt. They enjoyed a wonderful country club life at Pine Mountain Lake in Groveland, CA for 29 years. The two of them spent the last few months in Brentwood, CA.

Bettie belonged to many groups, two of them being the VFW Auxiliary and the R.O.O.F.B. group.

Bettie was a loving mother and mother-in-law to Chris Erker, Craig and Debbie Erker, and Corrie and Paul Sundgren. She absolutely loved being Nana to Patrick and Catrina Erker, Megan and RJ Natal, William Erker, Kyle, Thomas, Kent, and Katie Sundgren. She also had the pleasure of being great-Nana to June and Grace Natal.

Bettie also stepped in as a mother figure to Lynne Larned after the passing of Lynne's mother at an early age.

Bettie is preceded in death by her sister Gloria Pratt and brother Tom Foster. She is survived by her sister Alice Hord.

Bettie's greatest joys were being a wife, mother, mother-in-law, Nana, sister, Aunt, and best friend. She will be greatly missed by all.

A celebration of Bettie's life will be planned at a future date in Pleasanton.

In lieu of flowers or gifts, donations to Alzheimer's Association or any charity of your choice would be appreciated.



PAID OBITUARY

LAB

Continued from Page 5

allowing freeze drying of both components separately to avoid cold chain storage and transport issues."

The NLPs, which are water-soluble molecules that are 6 to 30 billionths of a meter in size and resemble HDL particles in humans, are a nanotechnology (also known as nanodiscs) that LLNL scientists have been using as a delivery platform for tularemia and chlamydia vaccines that are under development, according to the lab.

"We look forward to combining our nanolipoprotein particle technology with ConserV's mRNA construct encoding conserved viral epitopes.

We hope to advance the vaccine candidate to human trials as quickly as possible," LLNL biologist Amy Rasley said in a statement.

"Our NLP technology is very versatile, so we anticipate that we can tune our platform formulation to produce safe and effective vaccine candidates," added fellow LLNL principal investigator Nicholas Fischer, who is also working on the project in Livermore alongside Wei He, Matthew Coleman and Sandra Peters.

Coronaviruses, which are a group of single-stranded RNA viruses, can cause respiratory tract infections and other mild-to-lethal symptoms in humans — and the novel strain of coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) first identified

in Wuhan, China in December 2019 has killed more than 2 million people worldwide and infected some 86-million-plus more during the ongoing pandemic.

Genomic analysis of SARS-CoV-2 indicates that the virus accumulates two mutations a month, and recent variants have been found to drastically increase infectivity, according to the labs. The 501.V2 mutation originating in South Africa "has been shown to reduce antibody recognition and could therefore affect the efficacy of the licensed vaccines," they said.

While the newly released inoculations focus on SARS-CoV-2, the recent mutations and other developments make the work toward creating a universal vaccine even more important, according to the labs.

"A broad-spectrum vaccine is a necessary next step to protect against continued mutations of SARS-CoV-2 as well as strains that jump from other host to humans or human strains that become more virulent and pose a pandemic threat," they said.

For its part, in addition to its universal coronavirus vaccine candidate, ConserV's pipeline includes vaccine candidates to protect against broad-spectrum influenza, mosquito-borne diseases, HIV, Hepatitis C, Hepatitis B, Rotavirus and Chagas. ■



JULIE RUSSELL/LLNL

LLNL researchers Nick Fischer and Amy Rasley are characterizing nanolipoprotein particle vaccine formulations using a dynamic light-scattering instrument.

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Jan. 13

- Theft**
 ■ 5:04 a.m. on the 3900 block of Mt. McKinley Court
 ■ 3:22 p.m. on the 4000 block of Pimlico Drive

- Burglary**
 ■ 5:28 a.m. on the 4800 block of Hopyard Road
 ■ 8:28 a.m. on the 2600 block of Stoneridge Drive

- Warrant arrest**
 ■ 7:34 a.m. on the 4200 block of Valley Avenue
 ■ 4:00 p.m. on the 5800 block of Owens Drive
 ■ 5:55 p.m. on the 1800 block of Valley Avenue

- Fraud**
 ■ 2:09 p.m. on the 5700 block of Hidden Creek Court

- Drug violation**
 ■ 10:17 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

Jan. 12

- Warrant arrest**
 ■ 10:49 a.m. at Ray Street and Walnut Drive

- Theft**
 ■ 11:54 a.m. on the 4500 block of Shearwater Road
 ■ 12:18 p.m., 3200 block of Bernal Avenue; theft from auto

- Vandalism**
 ■ 11:58 a.m. on the 2000 block of Santa Rita Road
 ■ 8:59 p.m. on the 6700 block of Bernal Avenue

- Drug violation**
 ■ 3:14 p.m. on the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

- 8:15 p.m.. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive
 ■ 10:34 p.m.. at 4500 Santa Rita Road and Stoneridge Drive

- Robbery**
 ■ 3:43 p.m. on the 3900 block of Santa Rita Road

Jan. 11

- Burglary**
 ■ 8:13 a.m. on the 2300 block of Greenwood Road

- Theft**
 ■ 8:30 a.m., 2700 block of Stoneridge Drive; auto theft

- 11:28 a.m. on the 2800 block of Hopyard Road
 ■ 3:17 p.m., 5500 block of Black Avenue; theft from auto
 ■ 3:19 p.m. on the 2500 block of Corte Facil

- 5:31 p.m. on the 2400 block of Via De Los Milagros

- 6:28 p.m., 4800 block of Bernal Avenue; theft from auto

- Graffiti offense**
 ■ 11:57 a.m. on the 7000 block of Pleasanton Avenue

- Vandalism**
 ■ 12:01 p.m. on the 2800 block of Hopyard Road

- 12:06 p.m. at Santa Rita Road and Black Avenue

- 2:37 p.m. at Valley Avenue and Hansen Drive

- Drug violation**
 ■ 2:54 p.m. on the 5800 block of Owens Drive

- Warrant arrest**
 ■ 5:44 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

- 7:57 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

Lori Anne Lecco

November 24, 1962 – January 12, 2021

Lori Lecco passed away peacefully at home January 12th. She was born in 1962 and raised in San Jose, California. Lori was a varsity athlete at Blackford high school and went on to graduate from beauty college and opened her own hair salon. Eventually, Lori went to work for the family business, Gagliardi Brothers Realty. During a vacation to Hawaii, she met her husband, Ed Lecco where he was stationed in the Navy.



Lori and Ed married, and they started a family in San Jose, California. The young family moved to and spent 7 years at Barbers Point Naval Air Station in Hawaii. During her time in Hawaii Lori worked with the YMCA's after school program organizing activities for kids including a stint as the Jets Flag Football coach. Lori also volunteered as a Navy Ombudsman assisting military family with their needs.

In December 1999 Lori and her family moved to Pleasanton California where she returned to the family business working side by side with her Mother Donna the past 20 years. She wore many hats including "Cheer Mom" and "Soccer Mom" for her children. Although She couldn't swim Lori enjoyed sailing on San Francisco Bay with her family and was an active member of the Encinal Yacht Club.

Lori's dream was to be a Grandmother, and that dream became a reality with the additions of Hunter and Charlotte in 2019.

Lori's life was grounded by family, from early life until her death. She was always the first to strike up a conversation with a stranger and you could hear her laugh across the neighborhood.

She is survived by her husband Ed, daughter Justine, Son Niko, Grandchildren Hunter and Charlotte, Parents Jim and Donna Minardi, Sisters Kim, Christine, and Debbie.

She will be sorely missed by many.

PAID OBITUARY

Samuel Leland Morris

June 6, 1986 – December 25, 2020

On Friday, December 25, 2020, Samuel Leland Morris, of Pleasanton, CA, passed away at the age of 34. "Shotgun Sam," also known as "Slammy Sammy," will be missed dearly by his parents, Gary and Kelly Morris; his girlfriend, Leah Lyons (and honorary mother-in-law, Margaret); his siblings, Amanda Morales, Benjamin Morris (and wife, Kristina), Emily Wearne (and husband, Will), Meg Sanders (and husband, Miles), and Ally Frasier (and husband, John); his brother-in-law David Morales; grandparents Mr. & Mrs. Robert Morris and Grandma Georgie Beavers; ten nieces and nephews; seven aunts and seven uncles; eighteen cousins; his godchildren; his coworkers; his endless number of friends; and his beloved German Shorthaired Pointer, Goose.

If you were fortunate enough to know Sam, you know he had a larger-than-life personality. People couldn't help but gravitate towards him, and he was often the center of attention wherever he went without trying. Sam's loving nature led people to gather together around him.



His spirited competitiveness encouraged others to be more outgoing and sometimes even daring. But Sam wasn't just hilarious and a good time, he was an absolutely selfless person who prioritized the needs of others above his own. Those who knew him know that the way he is being described after his death is not an idealized version of him: it is exactly how he was described during his life. While nobody is perfect, those who loved Sam felt he was the closest you could be to it.

Sam was not someone who could ever be fit into any box. He was friends with so many different types of people and could find a way to connect with anyone. He was a "best friend" kind of man, though many of his friends considered him to be a brother. There was something addicting about his personality; everyone always wanted to be around him because he genuinely made their lives more enjoyable. Knowing Sam meant experiencing his amazingly infectious sense of humor, which is nearly indescribable. He was one of the few people in this world who you somehow wanted to make fun of you; it made you feel special.

Sam was well-known around Pleasanton; after graduating from Amador Valley High School in 2005, he began working for the City's Operations Services Department, where he was a permanent employee for fourteen years. Working in the Sign Shop, he made an endless number of signs for the City while simultaneously keeping his coworkers entertained. He loved having the responsibility of making everyone laugh, which was effortless for him, and he was a strong connecting force amongst his coworkers. When driving through town,

Sam was certain to point out a sign and ask, "Wow, who is the badass who made that?"

Sam's mother is quick to point out that he was born with his good-natured attitude and exuberant approach to life. While he passed away at a young age, he packed a lifetime's worth of experiences into his 34 years, all of which he lived full force. Packed with fishing, hunting, and gambling adventures, Sam lived an exciting life. He did not fear death, and hoped to go out in a blaze of glory. He knew the devastation his loved ones would feel if he ever left them behind, but he wanted everyone to try their

best to find some form of happiness after he was gone. This might include telling one of his favorite jokes (none of which are appropriate enough to include here), making a bet on an otherwise boring activity, or shotgunning a can of Coors Light.

In the last year and a half of Sam's life, he found love. While he had felt his friends, family, dog, job, and crazy memories were more than enough for him to be happy, he found his soulmate as well. Sam was the ideal

partner, nearly too good to be true, and his love and selflessness in this relationship were boundless. He was cherished by his girlfriend every day, and despite having lost him, they were both extremely lucky to have been able to experience what true love is, which will last beyond his death.

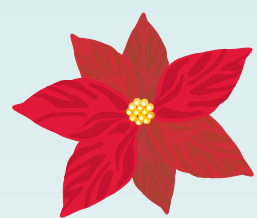
The loss of Sam leaves a huge void in the lives of those who loved him. His parents will forever miss the child who was allowed to get away with whatever he wanted. His entire family will cherish many memories of Disneyland trips and yearn for more. His friends will be painfully aware of his absence on hunting and fishing trips. His coworkers will notice the jokes left unsaid while playing cornhole. His girlfriend will mourn the loss of the life they shared and miss scratching his beautifully unkempt beard. His dog will wish for another opportunity to lick his feet and please his dad. Sam will be more than missed; he will remain imprinted in our hearts.

The grief of losing Sam is extreme and immeasurable, but it is not as strong as the love he left us with. The joy and memories of time spent with him are more powerful than the pain of losing him. Sam had an unshakeable happiness and desire to take care of other people. To appreciate and celebrate Sam, let him influence you to take care of yourself and others and keep seeking happiness.

Given restrictions due to COVID-19, the family is still in the process of determining a location and date to celebrate Sam's life.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that those who wish to express sympathy consider making a donation to their favorite state park in Sam's name.

PAID OBITUARY



Holiday Fund



Thank you for your generous donations to the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund

We have now reached the conclusion of the 2020-21 Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund. Over the course of the campaign, 323 donors have contributed \$79,057 to the fund. All of the money raised during the Holiday Fund will be split among six nonprofit beneficiaries. This final list of contributors includes donations received and reported on or before Jan. 12, 2021.

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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 health care technology, facilities, various clinical programs and services at Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare.



Explore the outdoors with experienced guides

Save Mount Diablo expands offerings in its 2021 hike series

AL JOHNSON/SAVE MOUNT DIABLO

Mount Diablo as seen from the town of Clayton on the east side. Save Mount Diablo hikes teach participants about the land and the importance of preserving it, and also allow them to connect with nature.

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

The peak always looms in the distance but perhaps now is the time to get to know Mount Diablo up close and personal.

Save Mount Diablo has announced its 2021 Discover Diablo hike series, which has added hikes, rock climbing and mountain biking activities in response to growing demand, for a total of 36 excursions in 2021. Some of these include areas rarely open to the public.

"This year we are excited to offer an expanded and diverse set of offerings to invite more people out to connect with nature and Save Mount Diablo," said Ted Clement, executive director of Save Mount Diablo.

The planned activities include interpretive family walks, guided hikes and property tours, and bilingual hikes in Spanish and English. Hikes are free, although the park

has a \$10 entrance fee.

The ever-popular tarantula walk will be offered twice, and a special hike will celebrate the California State Parks centennial.

All Discover Diablo hikes are guided by experts in the natural history and lore of the region, who both educate and entertain while emphasizing the beauty of the Diablo Range.

The hikes are subject to COVID-19-related restrictions in place for the area, and several of last year's hikes had to be canceled, said Laura Kindsvater, communications manager for Save Mount Diablo.

Hikes are limited to eight participants while pandemic restrictions are in place.

"Each hike will also have a hike leader and a 'hike sweep,' who hikes at the end of the group to make sure no one gets lost or left behind," Kindsvater added.

This year's series was to kick off this Saturday morning (Jan. 23) with a hike on the trail named for co-founder Mary Bowerman that circles the peak just below the summit, with 360-degree views, but the hike was canceled.

"For hikes we have to cancel, we will try to find a way to offer some or all of them at a later date when safety and county and state regulations allow," Kindsvater said.

The 2021 schedule includes hiking at Del Puerto Canyon, which is the site for a proposed reservoir in the Diablo Range, east of Patterson. Del Puerto is rich in wildflowers, wildlife including Tule elk, dinosaur bones, and Native American sites, all of which could be under water if the reservoir is built.

The 2021 Discover Diablo hike series is sponsored by the Martinez Refining Co.

"There has been a renewed appreciation for the outdoors in the last year," said Ann Notarangelo, the company's community relations manager. "Through the Discover Diablo Series, people are fortunate to be able to explore and discover the beauty of Mount Diablo with experienced guides."

It is also a good way to spend quality time with family and friends, she noted.

The Discover Diablo program was started by Save Mount Diablo in 2017 to connect people with the natural world of Mount Diablo and to build awareness about land conservation.

Hikes take place on one of Save Mount Diablo's conserved properties or on a collaborating partner's land. These include Mt. Diablo State Park, East Bay Regional Park District and Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation lands.

Hikers must sign up for events, and registration will open two months in advance for hikes in March and afterward. To link to a complete schedule or learn more about Save Mount Diablo, visit www.savemountdiablo.org.

Save Mount Diablo is a non-profit land trust founded in 1971, and its hikes are a way to educate and interest the public.

"It is the goal of the Discover Diablo program to build connections between people, Save Mount Diablo and the land, helping our communities develop a strong sense of place and a deepened appreciation for our collective backyard," Clement said.

"Most importantly, we want to cultivate a love of the land in participants, as that is what it will take to ensure the precious Mount Diablo natural area is taken care of for generations to come." ■



AL JOHNSON/SAVE MOUNT DIABLO

De La Salle High School students gather with Save Mount Diablo Executive Director Ted Clement for a tour in November. Much like this field trip, the upcoming Discover Diablo hikes will have strict COVID-19 protocols in place.

State of the Mountain

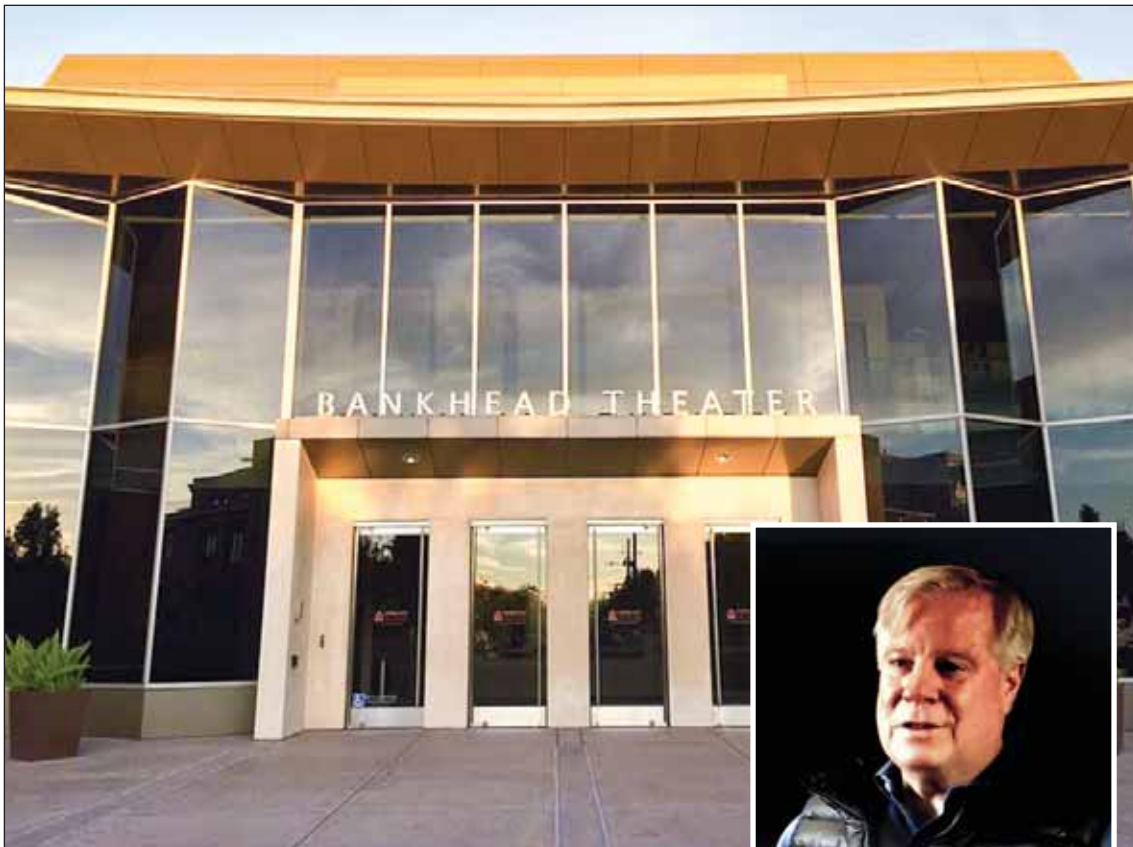
Save Mount Diablo Executive Director Ted Clement is giving his annual State of the Mountain address on Zoom this year, beginning at 5 p.m. next Thursday (Jan. 28). Clement will share the organization's recent accomplishments and give a preview of plans for 2021. Space is limited; find the link for reservations at www.savemountdiablo.org.

Clement, who was an environmental studies major at the University of Vermont, has been studying and working in the conservation field for more than 30 years. He is passionate about his family, time outdoors, and working with others to protect and connect people to the land that sustains us.



AL JOHNSON/SAVE MOUNT DIABLO

The Common Fiddleneck, common on Mount Diablo.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Outgoing county supervisor Scott Haggerty talks on “Beyond the Stage” about the Bankhead Theater as it grew from a desire for a regional theater to becoming a dynamic entertainment venue.

Haggerty interview kicks off ‘Beyond the Stage’

In series online, community members share how the arts influence their lives

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Livermore Arts has started a series of interviews, “Beyond the Stage,” conducted by Executive Director Chris Carter with members of the arts community.

The first interview, held at the Bankhead Theater and online now, features former Alameda County supervisor Scott Haggerty, who retired this month after his sixth and final term. Haggerty, a Livermore resident, has been a champion for the arts, and is generally credited with the building of the Bankhead Theater.

“I can’t tell you when I ran for county supervisor that one of my main accomplishments would be getting a performing arts center built, but I can tell you it’s probably one of my prouder ones,” Haggerty said.

Haggerty said his first foray into the arts was playing young Scrooge in the play “Scrooge” at Mattos Elementary School in Fremont where he grew up. But a more painful memory was his father running for Fremont City Council in 1974, and being defeated, with one of his stated goals to build a performing arts center.

“There were actually people criticizing him for wanting to do that. I never understood why,” Haggerty said.

Haggerty remembered when he took office 24 years ago that the county had just approved the mega dump in the Altamont,

which would entail dump trucks running up and down Interstate 580 all day and cutting through Livermore.

“We started negotiating a settlement and one of the things we negotiated was a community impact fee,” he said.

Meanwhile Livermore leaders told him about their grand idea to build a performing arts center downtown.

“I thought, ‘That’s really cool. I want to be a part of that,’” Haggerty recalled.

The impact fee ended up going to the city of Livermore and toward the Bankhead Theater.

“I guess this is, ‘One man’s garbage is another man’s treasure,’” Haggerty said.

Carter asked him why it is important to support the arts.

“Because nobody else will,” Haggerty said. “I’m referring to government ... and maybe because there’s just so many pressing issues ... When ... I look at all the fine donors you have, that donate anywhere from money to equipment, those people are the heart of the community. Those are the people who get it.”

“This (the Bankhead Theater) is the heart of the community,” he added. “This is where it beats. You have to continue to invest in your heart, because if you don’t have it, you lose as a community.”

The video of the Haggerty interview as well as a transcript are

available at livermorearts.org.

Future interviews on how the arts have influenced their lives will include symphony conductor Lara Webber, radio personality Faith Alpher, jazz musician Matt Finders, opera director Erie Mills, singer/guitarist David Victor and classical pianist Jon Nakamatsu. ■

Livermore Reads Together

Community invited to events focused on graphic novel series

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Livermore Reads Together (LRT), a community reading program, is currently featuring the powerful graphic novel series “March,” late U.S. Rep. John Lewis’ first-hand story co-written by Andrew Aydin and illustrated by Nate Powell.

The community is invited to read all three volumes of “March” and participate in related programs and virtual events, which kick off at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 1 with a Zoom panel conversation on racism. The next evening, co-author Aydin and illustrator Powell will join a library discussion at 6 p.m.

Events will include a virtual screening of the documentary “John Lewis: Good Trouble,” a presentation by Livermore Shakespeare Festival volunteers, and a special LRT-themed poetry event featuring Livermore Poet Laureate Cynthia J. Patton and guests.

Additional programs include a Black Lives Matter sign-making craft for youths and teens, and a discussion by artist, author and researcher Danièle Archambault

on the history and importance of graphic novels. There will also be a virtual film screening of “Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools.”

Details are available on the library’s events calendar at www.livermorelibrary.net or call 373-5505.

The Livermore Public Library has copies of all three volumes of “March” available through its curbside pickup service as well as eBook copies to download.

Lewis, who represented Georgia’s 5th Congressional District, was one of the key figures of the civil rights movement, whose commitment to justice and nonviolence took him from an Alabama sharecropper’s farm to the halls of Congress. To share his remarkable story with new generations, Lewis created “March,” which

also reflects on the highs and lows of the broader civil rights movement.

Livermore Reads Together 2021 is sponsored by the Friends of the Livermore Public Library. ■



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PLEASANTON PREPS

By DENNIS MILLER

'Let Them Play' movement arrives in Pleasanton

High school families rally to support return of youth sports

The first time I heard the phrase "Let them play," it came in one of the "Bad News Bears" movies.

Recently "Let Them Play" has surfaced again, with the phrase certainly not for entertainment this time.

The COVID-19 pandemic has put high school sports on the shelf since last spring. It has been a frustrating

time for the student-athletes, and there has been plenty written in this space preaching the importance of high school sports to a student's development.

Frustrate someone long enough and they are going to push back. Now, parents of some student-athletes are starting to push back as their level

of frustration has continued to grow.

A couple in Southern California started the "Let Them Play CA" movement in California, and the group already has over 36,000 members on Facebook.

The group promoted last Friday a group of statewide rallies at high schools. Amador Valley and Foothill families combined for one at Amador, while almost every school in the East Bay Athletic League took part in their own rallies. Altogether there were at least 200 rallies taking place in California.

There is another round of rallies planned for next Friday (Jan. 29), and it appears there could be more schools and people involved this time. Parents are expressing their frustrations and getting the word to California Gov. Gavin Newsom that it is time for things to change.

Last week I reached out to Serra High School coach Patrick Walsh, who applauds the movement. I have known Walsh since he was 11 and playing for San Ramon Valley Little League.

He starred at De La Salle before playing football at San Jose State. Now he is the longtime coach at Serra in San Mateo, and his program is among the elite in Northern California.

Ever since he was a kid, Walsh has always been a smart and thoughtful interview. He has also organized the "Golden State High School Football



NATALIE WALSH

Families rally outside Amador Valley High School in support of the "Let Them Play" movement on Jan. 15.

Coaches Community."

He launched the group Dec. 20, as he was tired of the situation not getting better.

"I felt trapped and helpless," Walsh said. "I believe it can be safe and fair to play youth sports."

I asked Walsh overall about the mentality of the student-athletes, not just at Serra and not just in football.

"We have three million kids on the bench right now," he said. "We are now seeing (not playing and being stuck at home) as unsafe. We are neglecting an entire generation of kids. Kids are getting anxious and depressed — their mental health is at stake."

Having the high school athletes compete again is crucial to helping the situation.

"Kids are an essential business," Walsh said.

I pushed the 1993 De La Salle grad on if he could imagine what it would have been like his senior year in high school with no sports.

"In a strange way, I feel like I am fighting for my 17-year-old self as much as I am fighting for today's 17-year-old," Walsh said. "I would have been on a mental health watch. I would have been depressed with no idea who to talk with."

Walsh, like many other high school coaches, has been collecting data from other states that have been playing sports. They also are very diligent about safety when running camps.

"We're not jumping to add more bodies in ICU rooms," emphasized

Walsh. "We're just trying to show support for the kids that have been silent through this."

Local seniors give back!

Anirudh Murugesan and Jackson Cash are the captains of the Foothill and Amador Valley boys basketball teams, respectively.

Both embrace that Pleasanton has played a huge role in their development as athletes and young men. Now, as they come close to moving on to college, that want to give something back.

They have established the "New Year, New Gear" drive, working with school administrations and charity organizations. They will be accepting donations of all new or slightly used sports gear. The proceeds will go directly to EAT Sports Foundation, a local organization focused on providing resources, opportunities and relief to at-risk athletes and underprivileged families in underserved areas.

They will be hosting the "New Year, New Gear" drive next Saturday (Jan. 30) from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be two drop locations: Amador's front parking lot and Foothill's senior lot. Strict COVID protocols will be enforced, including masks, social distancing and disinfectants.

To learn more contact, Murugesan at am3464@pleasantonUSD.net. ■

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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Coliseum could be used as mass COVID-19 vaccination site

Oakland A's hope program will start next month

The Oakland Coliseum could become a mass coronavirus vaccination site as soon as February following last week's meeting of the governing joint-powers authority that oversees the property.

The Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum Authority's Board of Commissioners chose to create a task force that will oversee the Coliseum's temporary conversion into coronavirus mass-vaccination center.

Oakland Athletics President Dave Kaval said the facility could be vaccinating residents as soon as February, while Coliseum Authority

Executive Director Henry Gardner said he has already received requests from multiple health care providers to temporarily convert the property's parking lot.

"I cannot personally think of a higher and better use for the parking facility," Gardner said.

The Coliseum was floated earlier in the week as a potential mass-vaccination site after Gov. Gavin Newsom announced that similar sites would be launched at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles, Petco Park in San Diego and Cal Expo in Sacramento.

A spokesperson for the A's

confirmed that the team was in talks with county officials to use the Coliseum as a vaccination site, but a formal announcement has yet to be made.

"Hopefully we can get this going as soon as possible because it's a great asset to our community," Kaval said.

The Alameda County Public Health Department still must approve using the Coliseum site as a vaccination center before it can begin providing doses.

The task force is expected to report back to the board at its next meeting, scheduled for Feb. 19. ■

—Eli Walsh, BCN Foundation

Pleasanton Weekly

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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.

Concerts

UFC 257 DRIVE-IN LIVESTREAM The Alameda County Fairgrounds will be hosting a drive-in livestream of UFC 257 which will feature Poirier vs McGregor. The event will take place live at 7:30 p.m., Jan. 23. For more information visit alamedacountyfair.com.

Talks & Lectures

AXIS PRESENTS FREE WEBINARS "Girls With Ideas-Finding Her Voice" is a series of six lessons about how to communicate and speak up. Open to girls 11-13. 3:30-4 p.m., now through Feb. 21. To register visit axishealth.org/online-events.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST The Pleasanton Community of Character Collaborative will hold the 21st annual Martin Luther King Jr. fellowship breakfast virtually. The annual breakfast is among the ways Pleasanton commemorates King's contributions each winter. The keynote speaker will be Jonathan Epps, an Amador Valley High School alum who was valedictorian of Morehouse College in 2019. 8-9:30 a.m., Jan. 25. Visit pleasanton.org/events.

DE-FRACK YOUR HOME Home electrification is a hot topic and a key step in addressing the climate emergency, but what exactly is involved? You can do quite a lot without spending a lot. Join our guests to learn about induction cooktops, efficient space heaters, heat pumps, tankless water heaters and much more. 7-8:30 p.m., Jan. 27. Visit sustainablecoco.org.

AXIS COMMUNITY HEALTH Learn how to identify emotions in yourself and others and recognize situations that can trigger them, in "My Normal Ups & Downs." Open to students grades 3-5. 3:30-4 p.m., Jan 28. To register, visit axishealth.org/online-events.

Fundraisers

ROTARY CLUB OF PLEASANTON ACCEPTING GRANT APPLICATIONS Rotary International is an organization of business and community leaders who provide humanitarian service, encourage

high ethical standards in all vocations and help build goodwill and peace in the world. To achieve that end, Pleasanton Rotary seeks to support the human service needs of our community and is currently accepting Grant applications until 5 p.m., Jan 31. For more information visit pleasantonrotary.org.

Seniors

SENIORS 60+ LUNCH PROGRAM Served curbside at the Pleasanton Senior Center, M-F, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. Please call Open Heart Kitchen at 500-8241 for more information.

PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY USERS GROUP The Personal Technology User Group (PTUG) is for all computer enthusiasts. The monthly virtual session takes place on the fourth Thursday of each month and includes discussions, lectures, demonstrations and a question/answer period. 10 a.m., Jan. 28. E-mail pleaseniorg@gmail.com.

NEW YEAR'S SWAG DRIVE-THRU FOR SENIORS Welcome in the New Year with hope and good will. Pick up a swag bag for seniors, at the Dublin Senior Center, filled with a useful list of local resources and goodies. Enter from Donohue Drive and drive toward the Senior Center front entrance. Please stay in the car, roll down the window of an unoccupied passenger seat, or pop open the trunk and Senior Center staff will bring a swag bag to you. 12:30-1:15 p.m., Jan. 28. For more information call 556-4511. Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd. Dublin.

Government

PLEASANTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT The Pleasanton Unified School District Board of Trustees meets at 7 p.m., Jan. 28, currently held virtually. Visit pleasantonusd.net.

STATE OF THE PLEASANTON CHAMBER All are invited to join virtually for the 2021 State of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce. Meet the 2021 chamber Board of Directors and the recognition of outstanding volunteers for 2020. Online advance registration is required. 12 p.m., Jan. 26. Visit pleasanton.org.

LIVERMORE CITY COUNCIL The Livermore City Council meets the second and fourth Monday of the month. The next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., Jan. 25. For more information, visit cityoflivermore.net.

DUBLIN PLANNING COMMISSION The Dublin Planning Commission meets the second and fourth Tuesday of the month. The next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., Jan. 26. Visit dublin.ca.gov.

DUBLIN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT The next regular board meeting of the Dublin Unified School District is 5:30 p.m., Jan. 26. For more information, visit dublin.k12.ca.us.

PET OF THE WEEK



VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY/E. SCHOLZ

Meet Tatiana

Tatiana is a soul whose intentions are good. She may not like other cats but don't we all have faults like anyone? One on one, she is so carefree. Don't let this 2-year-old cat be misunderstood. She tried so hard and when with people, she shows a joy that's hard to hide. While Valley Humane Society remains closed during shelter-in-place, they are coordinating adoptions by appointment with approved adopters. Contact info@valleyhumane.org.



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Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

Damon Millar Insurance Agency
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 575654

The following person doing business as:
Damon Millar Insurance Agency, 5321 Hopyard Road, Suite I, Pleasanton, CA 94588, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Damon M. Millar, 2542 Gregson Ave., Tracy, CA 95377. This business is conducted by Damon M. Millar, an Individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Damon Millar, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 8, 2021. (Pleasanton Weekly, January 15, 22, 29, February 5, 2021.)

Casa Blanca
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 575623
The following person doing business as:
Casa Blanca, 1620 Stoneridge Mall Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Mahmoud Elwishahy, 3728 W. Las Positas Blvd., Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by Mahmoud Elwishahy, an Individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Mahmoud Elwishahy, Business Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 5, 2021. (Pleasanton Weekly, January 15, 22, 29, Feb. 5, 2021.)

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

Marketplace

The Pleasanton Weekly offers advertising for Home Services, Business Services and Employment.

If you wish to learn more about these advertising options, please call 650.223.6582 or email digitalads@pawebly.com.

Bay Area joins new NorCal multiple listing service alliance

Creates one-stop-shop for real estate data in 22 counties

By JEREMY WALSH

Tri-Valley real estate brokers, agents and appraisers have formed an alliance with peers throughout north-central California for shared access to data in their respective multiple listing services (MLSs), according to the Pleasanton-based Bay East Association of Realtors.

Launched this week, the NORCAL MLS Alliance creates a one-stop, single-login access to thousands of property listings in more than 20 counties from the greater Bay Area and Silicon Valley down as far south as Monterey County and up as far north as Mendocino and Nevada counties.

“What this means for homebuyers and sellers is expanded property listing search options and more marketing exposure for their properties,” officials said in a joint press release ahead of Wednesday’s public unveiling.

Efficiency and usability were at the heart of the partnership, according to Walt Baczkowski, CEO of the San Francisco Association of Realtors.

“This collaboration, along with new innovations in MLS technology, enables us to provide our members and subscribers with easier access to a familiar platform and comprehensive data from neighboring markets,”

Baczkowski said in a statement. “The simplicity of a single-login, single-pay MLS membership/subscription gives real estate professionals comprehensive access to more data.”

“This alliance is a win-win for local MLSs and their participants and subscribers as it builds on a collaborative history of data sharing initiatives and also allows each individual MLS to continue providing localized governance and services,” he added.

The NORCAL MLS Alliance, which includes seven member organizations’ MLSs representing 22 counties, grew out of the existing MLS reciprocal access model and aims to improve and expand up on it. The alliance will support more than 55,000 brokers and agents when fully implemented, officials said.

In addition to the benefits of expanded data access, the users will see a reduction in the number of “data feeds necessary to run their businesses and eliminate the need for multiple entry of listings into various regional MLS systems, saving time and money,” officials said.

The alliance will unite four separate MLS operating systems and databases — Rapattoni, Black Knight’s Paragon, dynaConnections’ connectMLS System, and CoreLogic’s

Matrix systems. Lockbox and key systems, rules and protocols will not change, and coverage areas will maintain separate key codes, according to officials.

The alliance will include properties in Alameda, Amador, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Marin, Mendocino, Merced, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, San Benito, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus and Yolo counties.

To learn more, visit www.norcalmlsalliance.com. ■



Map shows the 22 counties covered by the new NORCAL MLS Alliance.

The Reutlinger hires new executive director

Allen to lead Jewish retirement community in Danville

By RYAN J. DEGAN

New leadership has taken hold at The Reutlinger Community, a Jewish retirement facility in Danville, with the announcement that Clara Allen has been appointed to work as the residential community’s new executive director.



Clara Allen

Allen comes to Reutlinger, which is part of the Eskaton network, with more than 25 years of experience in senior living, services and the nonprofit sector, much of which with organizations in the Bay Area.

“The highest stewardship responsibility we had to The Reutlinger Community was to find the most qualified and warm person to lead the community into the future with a commitment to support Jewish values and traditions, while also providing operational expertise and quality care for the residents. In Clara Allen, we have found that person,” said Todd Murch, CEO of Eskaton.

Allen replaces the community’s former leader, Jay Zimmer.

She was most recently the executive director of Friends House, a nonprofit Quaker-inspired Continuing Care Retirement Community in Santa Rosa, and prior to that was the assistant executive director of San Francisco Towers, a life plan community in San Francisco, according to Reutlinger officials.

A licensed nursing home administrator, certified therapeutic recreation specialist and Residential Care Facility for the Elderly Certificate recipient, Allen will be bringing a wide range of experience at a variety of levels to the community, officials said.

“She has acted as a support group facilitator for the Alzheimer’s Association, participated with the California Culture Change Coalition as a member of the

Northern California Council of Activity Coordinators conference in 2015,” Reutlinger staff said in a statement.

She began her career in senior services as a recreation therapist and activities coordinator for an adult day care provider in northern Virginia, where she “obtained considerable, valuable insight into the needs and preferences of older adults, inspiring her to take a holistic approach to providing care and services,” according to Reutlinger staff.

After working in that capacity for a decade, Allen transitioned to administration 15 years ago, stepping into a leadership role that eventually led her to Danville. Additional experience includes being a volunteer on the San Francisco Institute on Aging’s Friendship Line — a 24-hour crisis line — and acting as an incident commander for her community during the wildfires that disrupted life in Santa Rosa in September 2020.

She has a Bachelor of Education in therapeutic recreation from the University of Toledo, and a Master of Arts in gerontology from San Francisco State University.

A current resident of the Petaluma area, Allen said she enjoys exploring nature and hiking around the Bay Area and Sonoma County. An avid open-water swimmer, she plans to participate in this year’s Alcatraz swim — the second time she will be participating in the event.

“She believes one of the more important aspects of her role as the executive director of The Reutlinger Community is to provide her employees with thoughtful, educated mentorship, by identifying their strengths and helping them to discover what makes them passionate about working with older adults,” officials said. “She considers herself to be a ‘servant leader,’ and that providing a stable, steady presence during times of difficulty is a vital component of her position.” ■

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Team Member Spotlight

Amanda Venema-Davlin has been the Team Assistant for 4 years, specializing in Transaction Coordination and Social Media. She grew up in Pleasanton, swimming and coaching for the Tri-Valley Swim League and the Ruby Hill Swim Team. After graduating from Foothill High School she attended the University of San Diego. She studied abroad through a program called Semester at Sea, traveling to over thirteen countries including Brazil, Ghana, India, Vietnam, and China. After graduating with honors from USD, she worked as an assistant to a prestigious family law firm in Newport Beach, California for three years. Amanda is happily married and has two children, Wyatt and Eli.



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May 2021 be an extraordinary one!



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