

Pleasanton Weekly

Saying thanks

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VOL. XXII, NUMBER 2 • FEBRUARY 5, 2021

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Amador Valley Quilters learn, laugh, share –
and make thousands of quilts to comfort others

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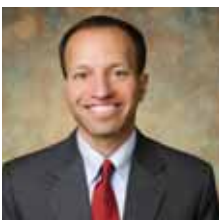
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WHAT A WEEK



BY JEREMY WALSH

Remembering Ilene

Last Saturday marked a solemn anniversary in Dublin: 32 years to the day since Ilene Misheloff, then 13, disappeared while walking home from school.



Ilene Misheloff

Like so many events over the past year, the annual remembrance looked much different because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Canceled were the traditional candlelight vigil and community walk retracing Ilene's path from that fateful afternoon, Jan. 30, 1989. In their stead, brief yet poignant video messages shared by Dublin Police Services featuring Ilene's father Mike Misheloff and Police Chief Garrett Holmes.

Tri-Valley law enforcement agencies do such a good job in calling attention to cold cases like Ilene's throughout the year. It's important to keep these unsolved investigations in the public discourse whenever possible. Youth abductions especially.

Many with ties to Dublin and the neighboring communities know the Ilene Misheloff case very well. It wasn't a story I was familiar with before starting at the Weekly, but it's one that has stuck with me on a personal level ever since I covered the Jan. 30 anniversary for the first time several years ago.

For one, Ilene is not a very common name, but just happens to be my grandmother's — pronounced the same but spelled differently — Eileen.

Also, the circumstances of Ilene's story and the devotion of her family and local police toward solving her disappearance remind me of a missing child case near home when I was a kid.

Xiana Fairchild's abduction in Vallejo in 1999 is one of the first memories I have of local TV news coverage. I can still picture in my mind the school portrait that media and posters around town used to raise awareness about Xiana (who was the same age as my sister). And Midsi Sanchez, the girl who escaped the clutches of the same kidnapper in 2000, went to the same elementary school I had just a few years earlier.

Midsi's escape and subsequent investigation led police to discover the same man had abducted and ultimately killed Xiana. Similar characteristics in one case helped detectives solve the other.

And so it was that after charges were filed against previously convicted murderer David Emery Misch

last December for the 1988 cold-case kidnapping and homicide of 9-year-old Hayward girl Michaela Garecht, Dublin police began probing a possible connection. Michaela's abduction and Ilene's disappearance happened almost two months apart.

Though no evidence has linked Misch to Ilene thus far, Dublin detectives are working with the FBI and Hayward and Fremont police to see if any of their evidence is pertinent to the Misheloff case.

Ilene's unsolved abduction still weighs heavily on Dublin Police Services all these years later.

"Dublin Police Services will continue to follow up on any and all leads associated with this case. If you have any information regarding Ilene's disappearance, please contact (us)," Holmes said in his video message this Jan. 30 that focused on recounting the circumstances of the case.

Mike Misheloff made a personal plea, too, for anyone with relevant information about his daughter's abduction to come forward.

"Our lives were forever turned over when she disappeared 32 years ago. Please know that we haven't given up hope of finding her," he said in his video message.

Sadly, the 2021 anniversary was the family's first since the passing of Maddi Misheloff, mother of Ilene, her twin brother Brian and their older brother Rob. Maddi, a well-known member of the Dublin community and an elected director for DSRSD, died last April after battling bladder cancer.

I had the opportunity to interview Maddi and Mike by phone two years ago, ahead of the 30th anniversary of their daughter's disappearance. In addition to their openness and honesty, I was struck by how hopeful they remained that Ilene's case would be solved, that they'd be reunited with her again one day.

I share that hope for the family.

The late Maddi Misheloff said it best when she told me in 2019: "Anyone that has any information that they have kept to themselves, call the police. It doesn't matter ... Getting her back is what matters."

Anyone with information about the case can contact Dublin police Sgt. Alan Corpuz at 925-833-6670. Tips can remain anonymous. There remains a \$95,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for Ilene's disappearance. ■

About the Cover

Jeanne Brophy, who has turned her love of quilting into a business using her long-arm quilting machine, is an enthusiastic member of the Amador Valley Quilters, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary Feb. 14. Photo by Ryan J. Degan. Cover design by Paul Llewellyn.

Vol. XXII, Number 2

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Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

How are you feeling about the rainy season that is now upon us?



Jo Gibbons
Realtor

I think it's lovely to have all of this rain. After it rains, the air smells so clean and fresh. And the rain helps fill our reservoirs, which of course is always a great thing.



Bill Gibbons
Contractor

If our reservoirs are full and there is therefore no concern about a drought, I'm not so happy about the rainy season. On the other hand, when we need the rain, I welcome the rainy season.



Raul Perdomo
Gardener

Well, I like it because I know we need the rain. However, on the other hand, I don't like it because when it is raining out, I cannot work — and when I'm not working, I'm not earning money to support my family.



Candace Cease
Retired

I think it's wonderful. The rainy season provides a great opportunity for staying inside and reading books, and the rain will help my garden thrive, come spring. Plus, breaks in the rain provide a perfect opportunity to meet up outdoors with friends at the very inviting and comfortable fire pit tables at McKay's.



Martha Jennings
Customer service

Well, I don't like taking my dog George out to walk in the rain, and he doesn't especially enjoy those wet walks, either. But the rain is so critical that I honestly don't mind it at all, and just regard it as a minor inconvenience.

— Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis



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Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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DIGEST

Job hunting resources

The Tri-Valley Career Center (TVCC) has a variety of free employment resources for job seekers. Virtual hiring events, a job board and the TVCC Job Club are available, including a new workshop dedicated to resource options and job searching during the pandemic. Tip sheets that cover a range of topics such as cover letters, online applications and salary negotiation are free to download on the career center's website. Las Positas College students can receive one-on-one career counseling, participate in an array of virtual workshops and networking, and access "a system of crisis support for job seekers" through TVCC. To learn more, visit trivalleycareercenter.org.

2021 chamber chair

Tracey Lewis Taylor, chief operating officer of Stanford Health Care-Valley Care, has been named the 2021 chair of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce. She is currently responsible for the operational and clinical care that is provided within Stanford-ValleyCare's scope of services.



Tracey Lewis Taylor

Joining Lewis Taylor on the 2021 Board of Directors are: Kim Damiani with Summit Financial Group — Treasurer and Chair Elect; Lauri Moffet-Fehlberg of the Dahlin Group — Vice Chair Vision 2025 Forums; Herb Ritter, Ritter Investments — Vice Chair EDGR; Ken Norvell CMIT Solutions — Vice Chair Membership; and Randy Brown, PMZ Real Estate — Past Chair.

Free sandbags available

Pleasanton residents and businesses can pick up free sand and sandbags at any time in front of the city operations services department, 3333 Busch Road.

Sandbags are available for Dublin businesses and residents from the city corporation yard, 5709 Scarlett Court. If the sandbag pallets are empty, a sandbag-filling station will be provided. Dublin Public Works will also provide bags, shovels and enough sand to fill up to 10 bags.

The city of Livermore maintenance service center, 3500 Robertson Park Rd., has sandbag supplies, as well as Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department Stations No. 6 and 8 (4550 East Avenue and 5750 Scenic Avenue).

Pre-filled sandbags are also at the Zone 7 Water Agency headquarters in Livermore, 100 North Canyons Parkway. ■

Pleasanton City Council drops pursuit for potable water

City will refocus on cleaning up PFAs in local wells

By JULIA BAUM

Pleasanton is no longer pursuing potable reuse as a water supply alternative after the City Council voted 3-2 to stop studying the matter with other regional agencies on Tuesday.

In addition to ending Pleasanton's participation in evaluating a regional potable reuse project with the Zone 7 Water Agency, Danville San Ramon Services District (DSRSD) and city of Livermore, among others, the council directed \$300,000 from the capital

improvement program that was earmarked for more potable water studies be used to treat hazardous per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in Well #8, which is owned by the city and currently out of operation.

Councilmembers Kathy Narum and Jack Balch cast the two dissenting votes, preferring to fulfill "to honor our commitment and not renege" on the city's promise to the other agencies.

"I want to be clear that I am not in any way, shape or form ready to

sign up for potable reuse," Narum said before voting. "There's far more to the study than just whether or not to do potable reuse or answer the questions about it. It's about making informed decisions and what does the science say."

"At this point, why would we not honor that commitment to our regional partners?" Narum asked.

For the past seven years, the city has participated in numerous water policy roundtables and meetings of the Tri-Valley Water Liaison Committee, which

includes Pleasanton along with the cities of Dublin, Livermore and San Ramon, as well as Zone 7 Water Agency and DSRSD.

Further study of a regional potable reuse project was approved in 2019, with Pleasanton, Livermore, Zone 7 and DSRSD all supporting joint funding for such efforts at the time. To date, all but Pleasanton have entered task orders for \$250,000 each and shared costs of the studies.

See **POTABLE** on Page 6



MIKE SEDLAK

The city of Pleasanton received a favorable ruling in November as it battles a lawsuit challenging the environmental approvals for the Johnson Drive Economic Development Zone. Costco and a hotel developer are aiming to build on the 20-acre vacant portion (in yellow oval) near the top right of this aerial photo.

Citizen group appeals judge's rejection of lawsuit over proposed Costco store

Specific arguments unknown; notice of appeal filed Jan. 15

By JEREMY WALSH

Pleasanton Citizens for Responsible Growth are appealing an Alameda County Superior Court judge's rejection of their lawsuit against the city of Pleasanton over environmental approvals for the proposed Costco store and overarching Johnson Drive Economic Development Zone.

The specific points of the

appeal are not yet known, but attorney Mark R. Wolfe filed a notice of appeal with the county court on Jan. 15 on behalf of the citizen group spearheaded by former city councilman Matt Sullivan.

"We respectfully disagree with the trial judge's view that the final EIR for the JDEDZ fairly considered the cumulative impacts on traffic and air quality of the Costco

project in tandem with the IKEA, Kaiser, 'At Dublin,' and other massive, traffic-generating development projects approved in Dublin in the last five years after the EIR's analysis was performed," Sullivan told the Weekly. "We are now waiting for the Court of Appeal to send us a letter stating when our opening brief is due."

See **COSTCO** on Page 8

PUSD students can return to campus when county reaches red tier

Board diverges from staff proposal; students can be back this year under hybrid model

By JULIA BAUM

As case rates of COVID-19 continue to slow in Alameda County, the Pleasanton Unified School District Board of Trustees voted on Thursday night to have K-12 students return for in-person learning once the county is in the red tier for two weeks.

The decision diverged from staff's recommendation to have only students in pre-K through grade 5 come back to school this year while in the purple tier, once the adjusted case rate reaches less than 25 per 100,000 per day for at least five consecutive days, and for secondary grades to finish the year remotely with some exceptions such as students with individualized education program (IEP) plans.

As of Feb. 2, the adjusted case rate was 28.9 per 100,000 residents in Alameda County over a 7-day average — a decrease from Jan. 5, which was 31.6 per 100,000 residents adjusted.

See **SCHOOLS** on Page 10

Campo di Bocce permanently closing

Owners cite financial toll from pandemic, shutdowns

By JEREMY WALSH

Campo di Bocce of Livermore, a well-known entertainment, event and restaurant venue at the western end of Livermore Valley wine country, has closed permanently due to financial impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic, the owners announced last week.

Calling it “an extremely difficult decision,” Tom Albanese and his management team expressed gratitude for years of support from local staff, Tri-Valley residents and

the bocce community but said enduring inconsistent operations amid the pandemic and stay-at-home orders over the past 10 months proved too detrimental to overcome.

“The continual shut downs, lock downs, changing of the rules, take-out food only, outdoor dining only, minimal indoor dining, then once again take-out only, finally took its toll, and the grips of the Covid-19 pandemic finally took hold and have forced us into

this dire situation,” they said in a statement on the Campo di Bocce website.

“Without the community support and love, Campo di Bocce of Livermore would never have been able to turn into what it actually became,” they added.

The Campo di Bocce located in Los Gatos remains open, but the sister facility in Fremont closed permanently earlier in the pandemic, according to the company website.

Located prominently at the intersection of Highway 84 and Vineyard Avenue near the border of Livermore and Pleasanton, Campo di Bocce offered Italian-style food, expansive bar menu, event spaces, and bocce courts indoors and outdoors. In addition to recreational play, local leagues and regional tournaments, the facility hosted four National Bocce Championships and international competitions over the years.

“From the bottom of our hearts,

we want to thank everyone that helped contribute to the growth and success Campo di Bocce of Livermore was able to accomplish. None of that would have been possible without our loving staff, loyal customers and our dedicated Bocce players from near and far,” the management team said.

“Livermore will always have a special place in our hearts. Thank you again for all of the fun years. Stay healthy, and God Bless,” they added. ■

Kim Budil named new director at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

By JULIA BAUM

Kim Budil, a “respected and trusted” scientist with more than 30 years of experience in management and leadership, was recently named the new director of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, officials announced last week.



Kim Budil

Budil, who begins her new job on March 2, is the Laboratory's 13th director and the first woman to serve in the role. She will also replace Bill Goldstein as president of Lawrence Livermore National Security (LLNS), after announcing his resignation last summer.

“I am deeply honored to take on the role of laboratory director,” Budil said in a statement. “Our lab has a storied history and continues this spirit of innovation and impact today through the efforts of our amazing workforce.”

In addition to setting the Lab's “strategic vision,” Budil will oversee its development and implementation. She will also provide President Joe Biden with “an annual technical assessment of the state of the nuclear weapons stockpile including its safety, security and effectiveness.”

Starting her career at LLNL in 1987, Budil has held a number of positions since then including principal associate director for Weapons and Complex Integration, and was also responsible for governance and oversight of the Livermore,

Berkeley and Los Alamos national laboratories while vice president for national laboratories in the UC Office of the President. She was also a senior adviser to the undersecretary for science in the Department of Energy.

Budil received her physics degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago before obtaining her Ph.D in engineering and applied science from UC Davis in 1994. She has been published extensively and been a part of many professional and community outreach activities, according to LLNL.

Several days later, officials also announced that Anup Singh was selected as the new associate director of engineering, following a nationwide search that started in October after former associate director

Anantha Krishnan retired.

Beginning Feb. 22, Singh will lead approximately 2,300 employees “who provide world-class engineering expertise, capabilities and research to ensure the success of the Laboratory's programs and sustain the long-term vitality of the Laboratory's engineering foundations.”

Singh comes from Sandia National Laboratories, where he previously was director of the Center for Biological and Engineering Sciences and managed “critical capabilities in support of Sandia's Energy & Homeland Security, Global Security, Nuclear Deterrence and Advanced Science and Technology portfolios.”

Last year Singh worked on operational response efforts to the COVID-19 pandemic at Sandia.

Before then, he won two 2019 Secretary of Energy Achievement Honor Awards for his contributions.

Internationally recognized for his work in microfluidics and published in more than 100 peer-reviewed publications, Singh has served on numerous review and advisory panels including the Department of Defense's Defense Science Board, the National Research Council's Chemical Science and Technology panel, and the National Institutes of Health's Instrumentation and Systems Development Study Section.

Singh holds a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology in Mumbai and a chemical engineering doctorate from North Carolina State University.

POTABLE

Continued from Page 5

Kathleen Yurchak, city director of operations and water utilities, told the council, “The thing that is unique about potable reuse is that we have local control over that particular water supply option. The Delta Conveyance, that is part of the State Water Project; desalination, we have to pipe

and get the seawater into the valley,” Yurchak explained. “And then also sites reservoir is another infrastructure-related project we would be having to look at.”

Mayor Karla Brown wondered why the city is “getting water that isn't as good as our neighbors” and said the \$300,000 earmarked for potable water studies would be better spent instead on removing PFAs from local wells.

“If you have a brand new baby, do you want to feed that baby potable reuse water? I don't,” Brown said. “(Residents) want quality drinking water and, frankly, they deserve it.”

Brown added, “Isn't \$300,000 a small down payment on \$25 to \$40 million to remove PFAs? I'm surprised anybody would say anything other than we need to focus on PFAs. This council has to focus on cleaning up our three wells and removing PFAs, and that should be priority number one.”

Matt Maciel, who phoned in during the public hearing, said he was “extremely hesitant about using potable reuse.”

“The ick factor is just there also — ‘toilet to tap’ just does not sound like something I'd ever want to drink, and I don't care what the science says about how clean it is because there's always those unknowns,” he said.

Zone 7 Board President Olivia Sanwong said the agency has the ability to advance a potable water study and make decisions on its own.

“However, I personally really do value receiving input from each of our local retailers and partners, and especially value input from my hometown,” Sanwong said.

“Headlines right now are forecasting extreme drought by the end of the century, and I think it's really important for the city of Pleasanton to continue with its commitment and be a team player and vote yes on the study to see if it's even feasible and viable for us to do potable reuse,” Sanwong added. ■

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First-ever 'Taste Tri-Valley Restaurant Week' offers opportunity to support local businesses

By RYAN J. DEGAN

The first-ever "Taste Tri-Valley Restaurant Week" is coming to town Feb. 19 to 28, offering special deals on take-out and outside dining for local restaurants. Residents are invited to participate and help support local businesses suffering financially due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

The 10-day culinary event features exclusive take-out and delivery menu specials from local restaurants and the chance to win special prizes like gift cards at popular local eateries.

"Our goal for Taste Tri-Valley is to shine a spotlight on the amazing variety of restaurants that make the Tri-Valley a culinary destination,"

Robin Fahr, Director of Marketing and Communications at Visit Tri-Valley, told the Weekly. "Right now, it's more important than ever that we support our restaurants to see them through these tough times, and that's really not a difficult request!"

Thirty restaurants in Danville, Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton are participating in the event hosted by Visit Tri-Valley. Because Governor Gavin Newsom recently ended the state's shelter-in-place order, participating restaurants will be able to offer outside dining.

Closures resulting from the pandemic have severely impacted many local restaurants and businesses, according to chef Francis

Hogan, the executive chef and partner of Pleasanton's Sabio on Main. He told the Weekly he is excited at the prospect of residents coming out to support their local eateries.

"Increased traffic, whether through takeout or outdoor dining, will be a great boost for us, as so many restaurants are barely holding on. Equally, if not more important, is the chance to get people excited about dining out again as we look to (hopefully) finally emerge from this past year of challenges," said Hogan.

"As chefs and restaurant professionals, it's our passion and driving force to provide an experience for our guests that just can't be replicated at home. We

love taking care of, cooking for, and talking with our guests and we can't wait until we're back to doing what we love," he added. "I hope that Taste Tri-Valley can offer that spark and reintroduce everyone to the fun and excitement of dining out."

Interested patrons are encouraged to sign up for Visit Tri-Valley's free mobile pass to access exclusive discounts, special menus and browse the growing list of restaurants joining in on the celebration. When placing an order, participants are advised to check in on the app so they can track which restaurants they've been to and gain entries toward winning \$25 restaurant gift cards or a

grand-prize weekend giveaway.

The mobile pass will also provide participants with links to restaurants' websites, as well as their menus and dining options.

"The Tri-Valley has a wealth of resources and passionate individuals that make this region a prime restaurant destination, but we need the help of our community to succeed, Hogan said. "We need you to be our cheerleaders and take pride and ownership in the incredible and still growing hospitality industry we have. Help spread the word about all the cool things happening here."

Residents can sign up and find a full list of restaurants online at VisitTriValley.com. ■

Dublin man takes a spin on 'Wheel of Fortune'

DUSD's Curtis Haar won over \$27,000 and a trip to Iceland

By JULIA BAUM

Following up on the heels of Murray Elementary School's recent appearance on "The Ellen DeGeneres Show," Dublin Unified School District made headlines again when director of elementary education Curtis Haar won more than \$27,000 and a trip to Iceland on the Jan. 21 episode of the classic TV game show "Wheel of Fortune."

Being a contestant was "something that has been on my bucket list for quite some time," Haar told the Weekly. "Wheel of Fortune' has always been a show that growing up I watched it with my mom."

It was the day after Election Day when Haar filmed the show in Los Angeles. After passing a COVID-19 test the day before, he arrived at the studio at 7:30 a.m. and did several rehearsals, during which contestants practiced projecting their voices and spinning the wheel before filming the actual show.

"Solving the puzzles and participating from the comfort of my living room is so different from when you're there in the studio and



PHOTO COURTESY OF CURTIS HAAR
Curtis Haar, Dublin Unified School District's director of elementary education, won more than \$27,000 and a trip to Iceland on the Jan. 21 episode of 'Wheel of Fortune.'

there's (host) Pat (Sajak), there's (co-host) Vanna (White)," Haar said.

"I was surprised at how much smaller the wheel was in person than it looks on TV," Haar added.

"The puzzle board itself is very large, that's actually larger than what it looks like on TV. The studio itself wasn't enormous -- except for the big board, everything was more compacted than it looks on TV."

Haar occupied prime real estate during filming and "was right there in the red space, which is right next to Pat."

"(Sajak) was very personable, very funny, very engaging with all of us," Haar added. "One of the surprising things to me was how much in real time the whole experience was."

Due to COVID restrictions, no audience was present but Haar said the contestants were clapping and "you could feel the energy of the other contestants cheering each other on."

Haar was off to a slow start when he incorrectly guessed the first puzzle, but didn't despair.

"It definitely is really easy to get defeated when things aren't going well initially," Haar said. "For me, watching this show enough, I know that it really often comes

down to that third puzzle, which is the prize puzzle, because there's the opportunity for winning cash and getting a trip. That one almost always determines who goes to the final round."

Haar finally got his opportunity to shine when he guessed the answer to another puzzle: "Come fly with me, come fly." From there, Haar continued to guess the correct consonants and buy all the right vowels before finding himself in the final round and, ultimately, winner of the show.

Six shows were done by the time filming wrapped around six o'clock that evening. "It was a very long day but it was a blast," Haar said.

Haar originally auditioned for the show in San Francisco about 20 years ago. Nothing happened at the time but he said "any time there were opportunities to apply, I always would."

In August, a contestant coordinator reached out and asked if he was interested in auditioning via Zoom.

"They made it so much fun," Haar said, comparing his more "intense" in-person audition decades earlier that included "hundreds of people in a conference room" to the modern virtual process.

Haar made the cut that time and was asked to appear but he originally declined due to a scheduling conflict.

"I thought I had thrown away my show," Haar said, but show organizers reached out a month later and asked about taping in November.

The whole experience was "a nice reprieve with everything going on in the world" for Haar, but he said "it was something to look forward to" for other people as well. Since being on the show, Haar has been surprised by how many have reached out with their own stories.

"That part for me was surprising but also at the same time very rewarding," Haar said. "It was just an experience I'll never forget. It was a dream come true to participate in it." ■

COSTCO

Continued from Page 5

Pleasanton city attorney Dan Sodergren declined to comment on the appeal, saying he does not comment on pending litigation.

Suing the city for the second time over the JDEDZ and Costco, PCRG challenged the adequacy of the city's second round of environmental review that occurred after a settlement in the group's prior lawsuit in 2018 and that the City Council approved in February 2020 in the hopes of advancing the project.

At issue in the new lawsuit is

whether the city adequately considered the cumulative air quality and traffic impacts on the JDEDZ caused by three proposed or pending projects in neighboring Dublin — the IKEA store, Kaiser Permanente medical campus and At Dublin — as well as whether the city adequately responded to two public comments in its recirculated final supplemental environmental impact report (RFSEIR).

Judge Frank Roesch ruled in favor of the city in November after hearing arguments in the case, denying PCRG's petition for writ of mandate.

"There is substantial evidence

in the record demonstrating that the RFSEIR adequately considered the three Dublin projects identified by Petitioner in the RFSEIR's analysis of the Project's cumulative traffic and air quality impacts," Roesch said in his written order and judgment.

"There is likewise substantial evidence in the record supporting the adequacy of the RFSEIR's responses to (the comments in question), and the Court finds that those responses included good faith reasoned analysis in compliance with the requirements of CEQA," the judge added.

The judgment, which followed

a court hearing on Nov. 13, was signed on Nov. 17, starting the clock on the 60-day appeal window.

An attempt to reach Costco, which is a real party in interest in the lawsuit, was unsuccessful.

Under consideration since 2014, the JDEDZ is the local regulatory framework laying out how redevelopment could occur for a new Costco Wholesale store with gas station, two hotels and other projects at prominent property just south of the I-680 and I-580 interchange.

The project was previously paused by a ballot measure in

2016 (which went in Costco's favor) and the prior PCRG environmental lawsuit (which both sides settled, resulting in the RFSEIR), in addition to this second lawsuit by the citizen group.

The timeline of the proposed Costco project and design review application, as well as the already approved plans from a hotel developer to build two hotels with 231 rooms in the JDEDZ area, remain unclear. No injunction has been ordered by any court so far in the current case, so any project proponent would be proceeding at their own risk with the appeal pending. ■



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Drivers for Survivors ends services due to lost revenue amid pandemic

Program shuts down after losing annual government grant worth \$140,000

By RYAN J. DEGAN

After nearly a decade of serving cancer patients throughout the East Bay area, local non-profit Drivers For Survivors has officially shut down operations, the most recent casualty of the financial strains brought about by the coronavirus pandemic.

Known throughout the Tri-Valley as a service that not only provided transportation for cancer patients to and from appointments but also friendly companionship, Drivers For Survivors completed its last ride on Jan. 31, being forced to

shut down after losing government funding and unable to collect necessary contributions from the community.

“With heavy hearts, we have made the difficult decision to close our program effective February 2021. With the loss of revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is impossible to keep this program going,” Drivers for Survivors staff said in a statement announcing the decision.

After losing a \$140,000 annual government grant — which accounted for close to half of the

group’s operating expenses — Drivers for Survivors had been struggling mightily, staff said. These major financial woes were only compounded by the pandemic, which forced the group to cancel most of its 2020 fundraising events.

The group was able to adapt its signature fundraising gala to a virtual event, but was unable to recoup the funds needed to continue operations.

To help clients who have come to rely on the group for rides to doctor’s appointments, Drivers for

Survivors has been working with the city of Fremont’s “Ride-On Tri-City!” program to help connect clients with alternative transportation services.

“The Ride-On Tri-City Program will work with all of our clients, including those that live outside of the Tri-City area, to make sure they are linked with other transportation options for their medical appointments as well as any other needs they may have,” Drivers for Survivors staff said.

Founded in December 2012 as a service in Fremont, Newark and

Union City, during its time of operation staff say Drivers for Survivors provided more than 22,000 free rides for cancer patients, doing so with the help of more than 300 volunteer drivers.

While driving cancer patients to and from medical appointments was the primary service offered by the group, companionship was a key tenant of the program, offering clients the opportunity to interact with a friendly face while going through treatments.

“We want to thank the volunteers, financial supporters and donors, medical providers, and staff who have made this incredible 10-year journey possible. You have made DFS a great success by helping those in need! We couldn’t have done it without you,” staff added. ■

SCHOOLS

Continued from Page 5

Instead of following staff recommendation, the board opted for the plan they adopted in December. Students would come back on a staggered basis, starting with pre-K through second grade, then grades 3 to 5.

In a message to PUSD families, Superintendent David Haglund said secondary students would begin returning to campus the following week, and that specific details for secondary return will be discussed at the Feb. 11 board meeting.

“As we progress through our phased reopening, we will continue to provide access to our small cohort program for students who are having difficulty accessing remote instruction,” Haglund said. “In addition, secondary students will continue to have access to sports and co-curricular camps.”

A survey will be sent to families to help the district “understand family intentions with regards to returning to school or continuing with remote learning options,” Haglund added. “It is important that families complete these surveys as soon as possible, so we can incorporate their feedback into our ongoing planning processes.”

Even though middle and high schools are allowed by the state to reopen once in the red tier, staff are hesitant to do so, according to assistant superintendent Janelle Woodward.

“There is lower transmission of COVID in the elementary schools, with less severity of illness in other students,” Woodward said. “In the secondary schools, the mixing of students with multiple periods per day likely accounts for higher transmission rates in secondary.”

“Creating stable groups that do not mix substantially mitigates the risk of spreading the virus,” Woodward added.

Instead, staff focused on



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JESSICA SCHRAUB NORMAN

Parents and students rallied to reopen Pleasanton Unified School District in front of the district headquarters Jan. 28.

strengthening distance learning in the morning and eventually bringing back secondary students in small, stable, fixed groups for in-person activities in the afternoon.

Before voting that evening, Board President Joan Laursen said the plan from staff “feels to me like we’re going backwards.”

“People were comfortable with the reopening but then suddenly the rhetoric has been changing,” Laursen said. “We actually know more now, we have better data about transmission, about how our students and staff are affected and whether or not it’s safe to open school with the proper safety precautions, which we have implemented.”

Laursen reminded the community that staff has been working “with our students for almost a year in person using the safety precautions, and they’re safe.”

“This is our job to provide education for our students and to keep our staff and students safe, and we have done that. I’m not in favor of keeping secondary in distance (learning) either,” Laursen added.

Trustee Steve Maher echoed Laursen’s comments; “I have grandchildren that have been telling me,

‘Oh my goodness, when are we going back,’ Maher said.

Maher also voiced concerns about student mental health and those returning to campus for special reasons being “singled out” by their peers. “I don’t want that to happen,” he added.

Nearly 50 people including parents, students and teachers phoned in during public comment on Thursday. Many demanded the district reopen for secondary students and provide equal access to in-person learning while some implored the Trustees to wait things out.

District health services assistant Heather Brillhart said the new COVID-19 variants reaching the U.S. and timing of vaccine distributions should give administrators pause.

“The goal is to start vaccinating teachers in mid-February, but if it rolls out as planned, it won’t be until mid-April at best that they’ve reached immunity,” Brillhart said. “Please reconsider this proposal, it is not supported by current science nor approved yet by legislature. We are too close to the end of this pandemic to make poor choices now.”

Other commenters though said



their families have waited long enough.

“When our county was allowed to open schools back in October, who would have thought our district and board would still be talking about this three months later,” said Laura Hall. “As we regrettably learned then, if we wait too long to open, we may miss the opportunity.”

“Please don’t wait until it’s too late to allow our schools to open. Please don’t wait for some imaginary bar to be reached,” Hall said.

Sixth-grader Summer Brown

promised to “do whatever it takes” to come back to school.

“I’ll bring my hand sanitizer. I’ll wear gloves. I’ll wear a mask. I’ll stay six feet apart. We need to go back to school,” Brown said.

Before the meeting that evening, a group of parents held a rally in front of the district headquarters at the corner of First Street and Bernal Avenue, calling for PUSD to reopen all 15 sites. It was the group’s most recent demonstration, having recently held another at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Valley Avenue. ■

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Sandi Fisher displays her favorite crazy quilt, which has a peacock theme. It is made of silk, velvet and other fabric, and is embellished by embroidery, silk ribbon, beads, buttons, charms and jewelry.



Jeanne Brophy demonstrates how to quilt around an applique with her long arm quilting machine, which she uses to stitch the three layers of each quilt together for customers to her business, Jeannebquiltz.

40 YEARS OF QUILTING

Amador Valley Quilters learn, laugh, share – and make thousands of quilts to comfort others

STORY BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI | PHOTOS BY RYAN J. DEGAN

Dorothy Maddox, now 83, was torn between two activities that Saturday, Feb. 14, 1981. Her quilting friends were holding the first gathering of the Amador Valley Quilters at Going to Pieces quilt store in Mission Plaza, but she was also expected at a wedding.

“It was an important wedding for me, so I stopped at the meeting between the wedding and the reception,” Maddox said. “Then after the reception, I went back.”

She had been a member of the East Bay Heritage Quilters, which met at night in Kensington, so was pleased to have a club at home.

“The timing was perfect for me,” she said.

Maddox began sewing as a small child and continued into adulthood, when she was a teacher in Dublin.

“I started quilting in the ‘70s when one of the aides at my school brought in a quilt from Alaska,” she recalled. “I loved it and said, ‘I could do that.’”

As Maddox leafed through decades of club newsletters, she remembered traveling with quilting friends to shows in Houston and the

state of Virginia. She said she has made her best friends from the group.

“Of the 13-14 that were there in 1981 when we started, there are still three of us that are members,” she said. “I’ve only missed two or three meetings.”

Amador Valley Quilters immediately took off, leading to decades of stitching, sharing ideas, and hosting guest speakers for monthly meetings and workshops. Now 40 years later, it has 400 members.

One of its “queen pin” ideas has been quilts for good causes, and each year members donate about 800 community quilts to women’s shelters, youth homes and others. They have also made more than 175 Quilts of Valor for military veterans.

Publicity chairwoman Joanne Lenigan said she learned to sew from her mother and grandmother.

“When I was 4, my grandmother would give me scraps and I would sew them gleefully,” she said. “At 5 my mother taught me to sew a button.”

She sewed for her dolls and then herself, and she made her first quilt at around age 20, for somebody’s baby.

“Then my parents, in 1999, were having their 50th anniversary,” Lenigan recalled. “I saw a quilt in a magazine done with family photos, and I knew that was what I was going to make for them.”

She found a place that transferred photos to paper to be ironed onto white cotton, which she planned to quilt in sections by family.

“I decided I needed to talk to some experts, so it was around 1998 that I joined Amador Valley Quilters,” she said.

And Lenigan was hooked, especially by the infinite possibilities of rearranging familiar patterns in varying ways and color schemes. She has come to specialize in color.

“At the fair, the judges will comment, ‘Fantastic use of color,’ then maybe say, ‘Try to keep your seams straight,’” Lenigan said with a laugh.

The club also has had “UFO” events, a quilters’ term for “unfinished objects.”

“We used to have these UFO nights that started at 6 in the evening and went until midnight,” Lenigan remembered. “I attended as many as I could because with the craziness of my home I needed relatively uninterrupted sewing time. We would bring potluck and have a good old time.”

“The friendships are amazing,” she added. “That’s been one of the biggest benefits, this incredible high of friendships that follows quilters around. You sit down and talk like you’re sisters.”

Some of them have made 400 or 500 quilts, she noted.

With COVID, high-tech members quickly established Zoom sessions, continuing on the second Saturday of each month, which draw about 120.

"We've always had speakers, some from far away so we had to arrange housing for them. They would fly in for the meeting and usually do a six-hour workshop on Sunday, at the Bothwell Center in Livermore," Lenigan said. "Now we have been doing the workshops virtually."

Jeanne Brophy, the guild's membership chairman, is a professional long-arm quilter. Quilts are made in three layers, she explained, the top where quilters piece the fabric together; the backing; and the batting sandwiched in between.

"They bring me their back and their top and I do the stitching that holds it together. I use decorative stitching to make my customers' work shine," Brophy said.

"I started quilting by mistake," she noted. "I used to work for Dublin Sewing Center. I watched the different sewing clubs, and I ended up teaching."

Then a friend suggested quilting and she found it fun, immediately tackling the biggest projects because she didn't know they would be hard. Eventually she purchased a long-arm quilting machine and started her business, Jeannequiltz.

She joined Amador Valley Quilters in 2005.

"They were so welcoming," Brophy said. "I would define our guild as helpful, sharing and protective. Ask anybody a question about quilting and they will stop and give you an answer. They want to help."

She said a lot of club members are now in their 60s, but they joined when they had young families so meetings were held Saturdays.

"We used to call it Sacred Saturday — the husbands would babysit," she remembered.

Member Sandi Fisher said she began sewing as a young child with her grandmother on her treadle sewing machine.

"Then in the '70s I decided I would make a quilt," she recalled.

She has been a club member and making community quilts for many years, she said, and she now produces 12 to 15 a year.

"AVQ has a lot of friendship groups, small groups that break out and do their own thing," Fisher said. "The first and third Mondays we get together and sew for community quilts. The second and fourth we sew for veterans. I'm always busy on Mondays."

Fisher is currently making a quilt for her son's wedding in April.

"It's really fun because his fiancee is kind of old-fashioned but he is kind of modern — I love how it came together," she said.

Fisher also incorporates different trinkets into "crazy" or embellished quilts.

"I could never throw away a piece of jewelry that broke," she said, plus she will add embroidery threads, silk ribbons and beads.

Whenever anyone needs a certain swatch of fabric, they ask her. She's been the recipient of bags of scraps from people cleaning out relative's closets.

"People give you fabric when they know you sew," she said. "It's sinful how much I have."

Club members have used their vast supplies of fabric and their sewing expertise to make myriad masks since the pandemic began.

"Quilting is not limited to one style," Fisher said. "Modern quilters have a whole new take on quilting. Some I just hate, some

I just love. But it is all creative and even if it is not how I think, it is fantastic that they are doing it."

Frances Griswell, 84, joined at about the third meeting, she recalled, which was held at a savings and loan on Main Street since the gathering had already outgrown the quilting shop.

"I was just making quilts for my kids and nieces and nephews at that point, nothing too elaborate," she said.

When Griswell retired from working at Cal State Hayward, she began quilting more intricately under the influence of other club members.

"Some women were getting into very complicated work, appliqued and so forth," she said. "We have everything in the world going now."

She still makes baby quilts since she has children's fabric she's collected through the years. And she has made full-sized bed quilts for her brother's five children as well as baby quilts for their anticipated children.

"I had made a wedding quilt for my one daughter who got married, and when her son got married I made one more big one. Just getting the binding on it almost killed me, but it was expected," she said with a laugh.

Griswell recalled the club searching for new venues throughout its 40 years, meeting at various churches in the area and even the Pleasanton City Council Chamber before finding a home at Pleasanton Middle School.

Last spring as sheltering in place continued, the quilters hung their creations outside their homes for passersby to enjoy, and the practice continues with Hang Your Quilts Day on the third Saturday of each month. If there are none in your neighborhood, check out the variety on display on Forest Hill Drive and Blackbird Drive.

The 40th anniversary meeting from 1:30-4 p.m. Feb. 13 will feature Sandra Johnson lecturing on "Denim Quilt Presentation." To learn more, visit www.amadorvalleyquilters.org. ■



Sandi Fisher shows a quilt she made after finding the four small panels in a bargain bin for 25 cents each. Matching the fabric was not easy, she recalled, and the materials ended up costing more than \$100.



Joanne Lenigan hangs her 'Diamonds and Dots' quilt, in which she used a black background thinking it would enhance the block colors. Lenigan enjoys displaying her creations in front of her house for passersby to enjoy on Amador Valley Quilters' Hang Your Quilts Day the third Saturday of each month.

Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN

Family of missing teen offers \$10,000 reward

The family of 19-year-old Sydney “Syd” West, a former Foothill High School student who went missing in San Francisco last fall, has offered a \$10,000 reward for information that will lead to the teenager being reunited with her family.

The West family has announced

the reward in an effort to bring their daughter, considered to be at-risk due to struggles with anxiety and depression, home after a several months-long absence.

“So, because it’s almost four months now and we are desperate to have our daughter back, we are



Syd West

offering a \$10,000 reward to anyone who is willing to locate and bring her home to us (or provide information that will do the same),” Syd’s mother Kimberly West said in a video posted to the Facebook group “Find Sydney West.”

A student at the University of California at Berkeley, Syd West was last seen near the Golden Gate Bridge in the area of Crissy Field during the early-morning hours on Sept. 30, according to her family.

Syd West is described as white, 5-foot-10-inches tall and weighing 130-135 pounds, with blue eyes and light-brown hair (worn in a bun on the top of her head that morning). She was last seen on Sept. 30 wearing black leggings, a teal hoodie and her favorite old slip-on Vans (dark green and black print). She may have been carrying a black backpack and may or may not have been wearing corrective eye glasses.

The West family says that they have received some tips pointing to their daughter’s whereabouts and, while some have proven to be false, Syd’s father Jay said that some have given the family a sense of hope.

“The reality is we get tips all the time, some as recent as a few weeks ago. You know, somebody says that they saw Sydney near a food truck in San Francisco,” Jay said. “Many of these tips have not panned out but we’ve been hopeful because not all of them we’ve been able to run them all the way down.”

“That morning, when Sydney was on the bridge, there were a lot of people that were near her. I know this because I’ve viewed the video. So we just absolutely believe that somebody must know something,” Jay added.

To help in the search, the family has hired private attorney Scott Dudek, who will be coordinating

any distribution of the reward -- which is available for collection until April 1. Residents with information are encouraged to contact Dudek at 925-705-8328.

Residents can also contact the San Francisco Police Department at 415-575-4444, or text a tip to TIP411 (847411) with “SFPD” at the start of the text message.

Syd West returned to the Bay Area for college after her family moved from Pleasanton to North Carolina several years ago. Those with connections to the family in North Carolina can also contact their hometown sheriff’s office at 919-245-2909.

In other news

- A driver died in Livermore when his car went off a freeway off-ramp and crashed into a tree at the Isabel Avenue/Highway 84 exit on the afternoon of Jan. 28.

The victim, identified as 54-year-old James Carter, a resident of Brighton, Colorado, was pronounced dead after being ejected from his car in the crash, according to California Highway Patrol Officer Tyler Hahn. The situation unfolded around 2:20 p.m. Jan. 28 when a 2001 Pontiac car traveling westbound on Interstate 580 lost control for unknown reasons at the Isabel Avenue off-ramp, Hahn said.

The car went off the roadway, drove through a chain-link fence and crashed into a tree. Carter, who was the only occupant, was thrown out of the vehicle after apparently not wearing his seatbelt, according to Hahn.

“No witnesses at this point, but speed and unsafe turning combined with no restraint is the apparent cause,” Hahn told the Weekly. The crash occurred during wet conditions amid rain on Thursday.

The incident remains under investigation. Anyone who may have witnessed the crash or has other relevant details can contact CHP-Dublin at 925-828-0466. ■

—Pleasanton Weekly staff and Bay City News Service

Michael Paul Billen

August 25, 1945 – January 27, 2021

Michael Paul Billen was born August 25, 1945 in Walters, Oklahoma, to Paul H Billen and Cora M (Cranford) Billen. Michael left this life January 27, 2021 at his home after a brief illness. Michael married the love of his life Bernie on August 4, 1990.

Michael led a full life and was beloved by his family and friends. Because his father was career Air Force, Michael lived and attended school in several states, including Alabama, Alaska, Michigan, Washington, Florida, and California – finally graduating from Walters H.S. in 1965 and attended Cameron College.

Michael began his career with the St. Louis Shoe Company. After early stints in Ft. Worth, TX. and Sedalia, MO., Michael was given the opportunity to relocate. He chose Oakland because of the warm weather and moved his young family to the Bay Area.

Building on his success, he bought out the local store and grew the ladies shoe stores to several locations renaming them The Shoe House. After many years of success running the businesses, Michael sold the stores and began his long career with Nordstrom.

Michael loved the outdoors, especially hunting and fishing with his father, which he continued throughout his life. As an avid fisherman, sometimes he had a big catch and sometimes not. But for Michael it was all about spending quality time with loved ones.

One of his true joys was boating and Michael eventually acquired the boat of his dreams – a 35’ Silverton becoming Captain of the “Silver Star.” Through boating and the Caliente Isle Yacht Club, Michael was able to spend more time enjoying his passion, meeting new friends, and going on extended cruises in the Delta. Michael and Bernie loved to travel, meeting up with beloved friends and family from across the country – most often with Michael sporting one of his many colorful Hawaiian shirts.

He was preceded in death by his parents Paul and Cora Billen and brother-in-law Johnny Dirck. Michael is survived by his wife of 31 years, Bernie Billen; sisters Paula Dirck and Pam (Don) Hoopert; daughter Mindy Billen; stepdaughter Kristin Rollinger; son Terry (Angeles) Billen, and grandchildren Blaine, Brittany, Travis and great-grandchildren Bella and Annie; stepson Rob (Janet) Rollinger and grandchildren Bobby, Christa, Brady, Milo and great-grandson Braedon. Michael will also be missed by many close and dear friends who were his treasured extended family.

Visitation in California will be on Sunday, February 7, 2021 from 1pm-5pm at Graham-Hitch Mortuary, 4167 First Street, Pleasanton, CA. Michael will be buried with his parents in Walters, Oklahoma following a local visitation and service.

In lieu of flowers, the family is asking to please send donations to the American Cancer Society or Hope Hospice Dublin.



PAID OBITUARY

Anne Emery

July 7, 1937 – December 5, 2021

Anne Emery (July 1937-January 2021) long term resident of Pleasanton, has passed away. She was a devoted and loving wife, mother and grandmother.

Anne was born in Sacramento, California and attended McClatchy High School. She graduated from UC Berkeley in 1959 with a Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology and received a certificate in Physical Therapy from UC San Francisco. In her 30-year career as a Physical Therapist, she worked at several hospitals including the VA, Valley Memorial, and John Muir.

Anne met Wayne Emery at UC Berkeley, and they married in 1961. They had three daughters and have lived in Pleasanton since 1964. She had numerous special interests including arts and textiles and enjoyed volunteering with many different organizations including Girl Scouts, 4-H, Children’s Theater Workshop and the schools of her children and grandchildren. She also served as PTA president of Valley View Elementary. She was an active member of her sorority Alpha Xi Delta, as well as the Pleasanton Art League, Spindles & Flyers, Wayside Weavers Guild, and Presbyterian Women. She and her husband were long-standing members of the Pleasanton Presbyterian Church and later became members of Lynnewood United Methodist Church. Anne was an avid reader and was a member of multiple local book clubs. She also loved cooking and baking and was a founding member of a special Christmas cookie exchange group that has met annually for 48 years. Traveling with her husband was also important to Anne, and she enjoyed many painting trips and workshops around the world. She especially loved flowers, visiting Yosemite and spending time in nature including in her own garden.

Anne is preceded in death by her parents Kenneth & Elizabeth McGilvray and her grandson Jacob Twisselmann. She is survived by her husband of 60 years, Wayne Emery, brothers Douglas (Polly) McGilvray, and Kenneth (Nancy) McGilvray, daughters Lynn (Sean) Hogan, Julie (Thomas) Twisselmann, Sara (Robert) Gutierrez and nine grandchildren.

Anne was kind, intelligent and a true artist in both talent and spirit who enjoyed cooking, reading, art and travel but above all, she loved being a devoted Granne to her grandchildren. She will be deeply missed by her family and friends.

A private family service will be held for Anne on a future date.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Pancreatic Cancer Action Network www.pancan.org.



PAID OBITUARY

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POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Jan. 29

Vandalism

- 1:47 a.m. on the 5800 block of Owens Drive

Fraud

- 11:02 a.m. on the 4300 block of Valley Avenue

Domestic battery

- 9:16 a.m. on the 4200 block of Passeggi Court

Jan. 28

Theft

- 2:34 a.m. on the 800 block of Bonita Avenue
- 8:22 a.m. on the 600 block of Abbie Street; theft from auto
- 9:23 a.m. on the 4700 block of Peaceful Lane; theft from auto
- 10:04 a.m. on the 600 block of Windmill Lane; theft from auto
- 10:10 a.m. on the 800 block of Abbie Street
- 10:20 a.m. on the 3100 block of Pawnee Way; theft from auto
- 10:39 a.m. on the 800 block of Abbie Street; theft from auto
- 11:40 a.m. on the 800 block of Abbie Street
- 12:59 p.m. on the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard; auto theft
- 2:55 p.m. on the 3300 block of Kim Court

Assault/Battery

- 1:41 p.m. on the 000 block of Wyoming Street

Drug violation

- 7:13 p.m. on Hopyard Road/Gibraltar Drive

Jan. 27

Drug violation

- 2:51 p.m. on the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

Burglary

- 4:36 p.m. on the 4800 block of Willow Road

Theft

- 5:34 p.m. on the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 6:42 p.m. on the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

DUI

- 10:04 p.m. on the 5100 block of Hopyard Road

Jan. 26

Graffiti

- 6:18 a.m. on the 3500 block of Bernal Avenue

Theft

- 2:34 p.m. on the 4200 block of Rosewood Drive; shoplifting
- 4:00 p.m. on the 6200 block of Inglewood Drive; theft from auto
- 5:54 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; shoplifting
- 11:28 p.m. on the 4300 block of First Street; auto theft

Warrant arrest

- 3:15 p.m. on the 3000 block of Bernal Avenue

Drug violation

- 9:18 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

Jan. 25

Burglary

- 7:02 a.m. on the 5500 block of Springhouse Drive

Graffiti offense

- 4:05 p.m. on the 600 block of Main Street

Fraud

- 5:50 p.m. on the 7000 block of Koll Center Parkway

Theft

- 5:59 p.m. on the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard; theft from auto

Jan. 24

Warrant arrest

- 2:10 a.m. on the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

Theft

- 11:11 a.m. on the 3000 block of Bernal Avenue; theft from auto

Vehicle tampering

- 12:22 p.m. on the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road

Jan. 23

Drug violation

- 12:49 a.m. on the 3700 block of Hopyard Road
- 10:25 a.m. on the 2700 block of Stoneridge Drive

Assault/Battery

- 10:25 a.m. on the 2700 block of Stoneridge Drive

Burglary

- 6:26 a.m. on the 4500 block of Pleasanton Avenue

Vehicle tampering

- 8:03 a.m. on the 4000 block of Schween Court
- 12:17 p.m. on the 5600 block of Owens Drive

Theft

- 12:22 p.m. on the 3900 block of Pimlico Drive

Warrant arrest

- 12:56 p.m. on the 5100 block of Hopyard Road

Jan. 22

Vehicle tampering

- 7:18 a.m. on the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road

Theft

- 11:31 a.m. on the 5700 block of Belleza Drive
- 1:40 p.m. on the 3900 block of Pimlico Drive
- 1:41 p.m. on the 4800 block of Funston Gate Court

Vandalism

- 6:54 p.m. on St. John Place/Pleasanton Avenue
- 8:54 p.m. on the 8200 block of Golden Eagle Way

Warrant arrest

- 7:02 p.m. on the 2000 block of Santa Rita Road
- 9:04 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

Jan. 21

Theft

- 1:27 a.m. on the 1400 block of East Gate Way; auto theft
- 11:08 a.m. on the 4000 block of Pimlico Drive; auto theft
- 5:24 p.m. on the 7000 block of Johnson Drive

Graffiti offense

- 9:56 a.m. on the 7000 block of Pleasanton Avenue

- 1:55 p.m. on the 4100 block of Vineyard Avenue

Fraud

- 2:25 p.m. on the 2400 block of Minivet Court

Warrant arrest

- 5:27 p.m. on the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue
- 8:07 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

Jan. 20

Theft

- 11:09 a.m. on the 5500 block of Corte Sonora
- 11:12 a.m. on the 4000 block of Pimlico Drive; auto theft
- 2:56 p.m. on the 4200 block of Rosewood Drive; shoplifting
- 6:46 p.m. on the 3400 block of Zion Canyon Court

DUI

- 11:17 a.m. on the 4200 block of Rosewood Drive

Assault/Battery

- 2:39 p.m. on the 5800 block of Parkside Drive

Fraud

- 5:47 p.m. on the 4400 block of Mohr Avenue

Drug violation

- 7:08 p.m. on the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

Robbery

- 10:33 p.m. on the 4400 block of Rosewood Drive

Arson

- 11:03 p.m. on the 4100 block of Churchill Drive

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Intersect Power's misinformation

Dear Editor,

Tim Hunt's Jan. 26 blog "Renewable solar energy runs into opposition in North Livermore" about Intersect Power's North Livermore Solar Project contains several misleading statements.

First, 75% of the solar power from this project is contracted by Intersect Power to go to San Francisco, with only 25% to East Bay Community Energy.

Second, the project is not species-friendly. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife wrote a highly critical comment letter which said that under state law incidental take permits should be required as well as compensatory mitigation to offset the loss of species resulting from the project.

Compensatory mitigation was also recommended in comments by a number of organizations. The Board of Zoning Adjustments ignored these comments.

Third, the fire risks due to the project have been significantly understated. The project contains highly-flammable lithium-ion storage batteries connecting to the grid via overhead power lines. If the battery control systems fail or high winds blow down power lines, the

likelihood of a serious fire is real. The EIR evaluated the fire risk based on average wind speeds of 7-9 mph, an unrealistic number.

Fourth, Intersect's 100 megawatt capacity was based on the inclusion of 100 acres owned by the Stanley family, of which 38 acres were to be covered with solar panels. That land has been withdrawn for what the Stanleys claim was abusive conduct by Intersect.

If a 100 MW project is now constructed on the remaining property, a new environmental review process should be completed. If not, then the project is smaller than represented.

—*Tamara Reus,*
President, Friends of Open Space and Vineyards

Local restaurants skirting COVID restrictions

It's just ridiculous that SideTrack tried to claim they didn't know what was expected of them regarding current county COVID restrictions until they got wind of an inspector arriving the next week!

We have so many fine restaurants in Pleasanton who are following the restrictions (posted publicly for all to know) and struggling to work within those guidelines. If SideTrack is willing to skirt these restrictions,

it does make me wonder what other health code violations they're willing to skirt!

I'll make it clear with my takeout purchases which restaurants I feel safe patronizing and am willing to continue to support. I suggest others do the same, at least for your own safety, if being safe on behalf of others is not enough to motivate you ... or SideTrack.

—*Karen Zengel*

Time to rethink nuclear chain of command

On Jan. 8, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi spoke to the Pentagon about "preventing an unstable president" from ordering a nuclear strike.

Her concern centered on the unhindered ability of any U.S. President to launch nuclear weapons. No one else legally, or practically, is in the chain of command. Anyone who fails to carry out such an order risks severe consequences for breaking the law.

Few other countries place nuclear use authority in the hands of one person. Russia does not; its system requires a second vote in addition to its President's.

Sole authority was considered necessary by the U.S. during the Cold War. However, in the hands of an unstable POTUS, the risk is unacceptable — thus Pelosi's concern.

We are fortunate no pre-emptive nuclear launch has occurred. However, when it comes to nuclear weapons, depending on luck is no comfort. It's time to rethink this decision-making process before catastrophic consequences result.

—*Mary Perner*

Thank you, from HERS

Here we are just a few weeks into the new year and we're busier than ever, seeing patients, preparing for our May 8 "Pink Pajama Party Fundraiser," staying informed regarding COVID-19 health and safety precautions, and more.

Yet foremost on our mind right now is our gratitude for you.

Thanks to donations from patients, volunteers, board members, local businesses, faith groups, and so many others, we've received (to date) over \$35,000 in response to our year-end/holiday fundraising campaign.

We can't thank our donors enough for standing with us in supporting breast cancer patients in need. These generous donations will sustain our Assistance Programs in the months to come.

If you haven't yet donated and are able to give, it's not too late. Donations may be made via hersbreastcancerfoundation.org. Stay well and safe!

—*Tina Fernandez Steckler,*
Executive director, HERS Breast Cancer Foundation

Do your part to help us back on track

I am pleased with how well our organization is coming with the current COVID-19 pandemic. Although we are still unable to operate excursion trains, we are able to perform minimum basic operations and activities to keep our railroad, equipment and volunteers safe.

Our hope is when the Bay Area reaches the yellow tier again, optimistically in March or April, we can announce details for Niles Canyon Railway online ticket sales. COVID-19 continues to affect all our lives. The pandemic and its restrictions are highly likely to continue until infection rates decline. Should Alameda County public health officials report the infection rate is not under control by the end of summer, the PLA may have to deal with not running the Train of Lights for the 2021 season. This would severely impact the organization, especially with regards to the many amazing projects we have underway.

While the organization will survive, we will suffer a loss of momentum that could take years to rebuild. I don't want to see that happen. So, please help us by doing whatever you can to control the infection's spread. Current Alameda County guidelines have extended the stay-at-home order and continue to spread the word to our communities that vaccinations and wearing a mask protects you and loved ones from COVID-19. We cannot do it alone.

—*Henry K. Baum,*
President, Pacific Locomotive Association

Senior Support seeks help

On behalf of our team and seniors, we would like to thank all of our community supporters and exceptional volunteers for your support and dedication during this challenging year!

Donations of essential supplies, PPE, handmade masks and quilts, cards and notes from students, along with holiday gifts to over 200 homebound seniors in the Tri-Valley provided a positive connection during difficult circumstances.

Thank you for your continued support of our programs, which foster the independence of our seniors.

We continue to need volunteers! If you are interested in volunteering and connecting with a senior, call Pam Silliman at 925.931.5388 or by email, psilliman@ssptv.org.

If you have a few hours to spare and would like to drive a senior to their medical appointment, call Diana Houghtaling at 925.931.5387 or dhoughtaling@ssptv.org.

For more information about our services please visit www.ssptv.org.

—*Pam Silliman*
SSPTV Friendly Visitor Coordinator

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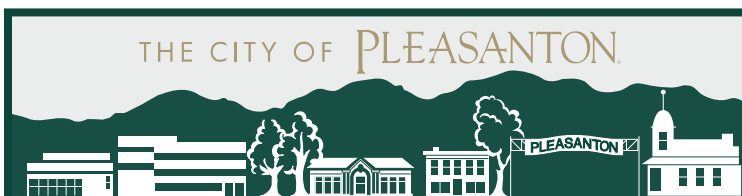
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HIGHLIGHTS

Planning Commission

Wednesday, February 10, 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 February 3, when the agenda is posted on the City's website at: cityofpleasantonca.gov/gov/depts/cd/planning/commission/planning_agenda.asp

- City Council 2021-2022 Two-Year Work Plan Prioritization Process
Provide input on land use and planning-related priorities for the 2021-2022 City Council Work Plan.

- P21-0033, Jennifer Van Wegen for Iron Horse Real Estate, 550 Main Street

Appeal of the Director of Community Development's determination denying a Zoning Certificate application for an exception to the Active Ground Floor Use Requirement for Iron Horse Real Estate within a ground floor tenant space located at 550 Main Street. Zoning is C-C (Central Commercial) District, Downtown Revitalization, Active Ground-Floor Overlay, Core Area Overlay, Downtown Hospitality Central Core Area District.

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

Saying thanks to health care workers

College student project is crossing the nation to show appreciation

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

These days the magic word is “thanks.”

Hailey Sohn of Pleasanton is a team member of Project Thank You, started by two UC Berkeley seniors to let health care workers know they are appreciated for taking care of others and even endangering their own health.

“Medical workers are under immense strain and are witnessing a lot of trauma as they are fighting against the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Sohn, a 2020 Foothill grad and now a freshman at UC Santa Barbara, doing her classes from home.

“With that in mind, Project Thank You is a campaign to show gratitude to the healthcare workers with messages acknowledging them via letters, art, music, poetry, etc., from schoolchildren.”

Her team, formed in October, has 10 students from colleges across the country, she explained. They meet online each Saturday morning to discuss their activities during the past week and to make plans.

Sohn works as an outreach coordinator, contacting both the schools to solicit the thank-you art and the medical facilities for recipients.

“Contacting the schools is easy,” she said. “They have emails on their websites. When I reached out to principals they would send an email to all the teachers or contact them individually.”

“In the beginning we said elementary schools, then we realized that all schoolchildren should be involved, from preschool through high-schoolers,” she added.

Fairlands Elementary in Pleasanton has been a major contributor.

“It has about 750 kids — that’s where we got the most cards in the beginning,” she said.

Finding recipients was more difficult.

“In the beginning, it was tough to contact them since we didn’t have emails to work with. A lot of websites listed foundations or philanthropic groups,” Sohn recalled. “There was a lot of cold calling. But now we get lots of responses.”

The program was designed to not add to teachers’ workloads: Team members can work with the students, taking them and the teachers through each step of the process. The submissions are collected online and delivered digitally, so there is no cost for

envelopes, stamps or delivery.

The thank-you notes and artwork are sent in digital folders, and it is up to each hospital to deliver the messages as they see fit.

“They are able to print them out if they want to and post them on a bulletin board,” Sohn said. “Or they can keep them virtual and display them on a screen.”

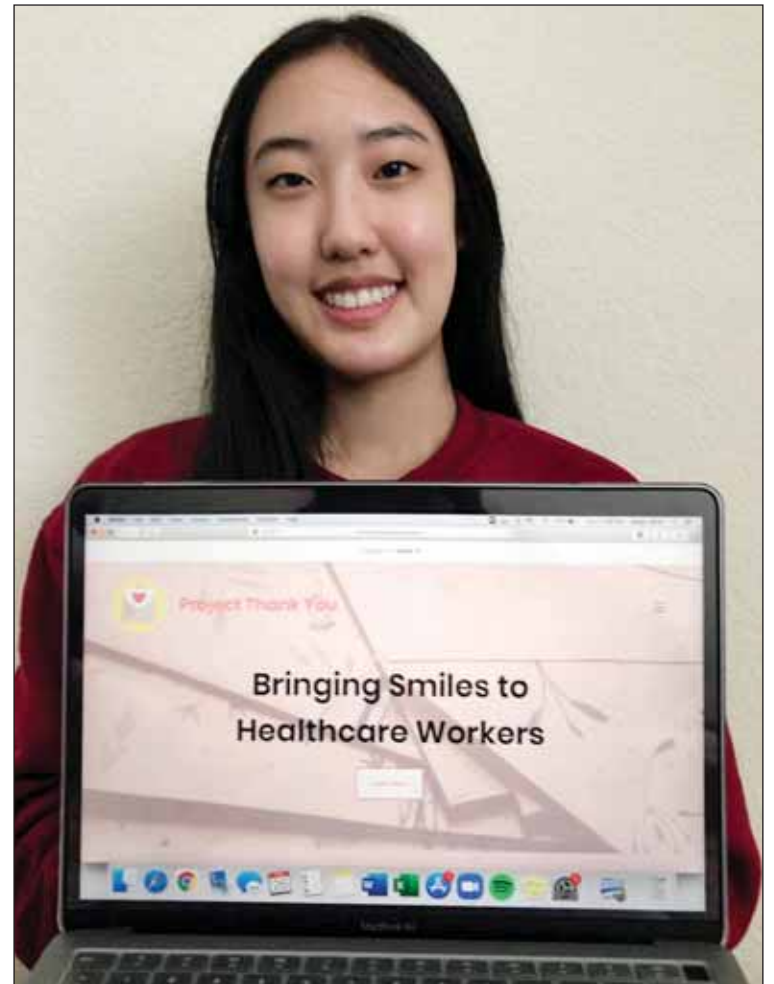
Sohn has long been appreciative of health workers since she has been a volunteer at Kaiser Permanente, and her parents are both hospital administrators.

“They have come home with stories about their staff so I have a second-hand perspective of things going on in the hospitals,” she said.

“I am a pre-biology major, a pre-med track, so I want to support them as I will hopefully become one of them in the future,” she added. “I know some people forget health care workers are human. We want to appreciate them for their hard efforts.”

The Project Thank You teams have been successful.

“So far, we received 2,000-plus thank you letters from about 900 schools and reached about 200 hospitals,” Sohn said.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

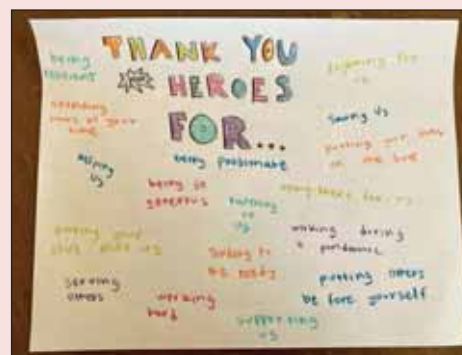
Hailey Sohn displays the website developed for school children to give thanks to health care workers for their hard work and dedication.

Now they are expanding, and she is contacting colleges through their websites and Facebook.

“We’re trying to make our way across the nation. Now we are on the East Coast and the Midwest.

I will be a co-leader for our Midwest team,” Sohn said. “Two colleges have emailed me back saying they would love to advertise.”

For more information, visit projectthankyou.editorx.io/covid. ■



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Schoolchildren have created 2,000 “thank you” messages that are delivered to health care workers through Project Thank You, which continues to grow through the efforts of volunteer college student teams.

Museum speaker series going virtual

Lady Bird Johnson will appear first, in March

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

After a year of postponements and cancellations, Museum on Main has scheduled the 2021 Ed Kinney Speaker Series to be held virtually.

Attendees will join a Zoom webinar for the presentations by Chautauqua scholars, who take the part of historic characters to tell about their lives. Each presentation will include a pre-recorded monologue, then, using the Zoom chat feature, members of the audience can ask questions to receive answers from the characters live.

“Although we know this format

will not be the same as an in-person performance at the Firehouse, we hope you all will give it a chance and still join us for this virtual season,” education director Sarah Schaefer said in a notice to patrons. “We would like to note that if we are able to be back in the Firehouse with a full audience before the end of the season, we will go back to the in-person performances.”

Museum staff members have addressed logistical issues to make the move from in-person performances to virtual, and fuller explanations are available at www.museumonmain.org.

“We know this will not be the same and it will be a challenging transition for some, but again, we hope you will give the virtual series a try,” Schaefer said.

The schedule is as follows, with performances at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Wednesdays:

- **March 24** — An Afternoon or Evening with... Lady Bird Johnson
- **April 14** — An Afternoon or Evening with... Gene Roddenberry
- **May 26** — An Afternoon or Evening with... Che Guevara
- **June 9** — An Afternoon or Evening with... Thomas Edison
- **July 21** — An Afternoon or Evening with... Erma Bombeck



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Doug Mishler as Gene Roddenberry, April 14.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Susan Marie Frontczak as Erma Bombeck, July 21

- **Aug. 18** — An Afternoon or Evening with... Jacques Cousteau
- **Sept. 15** — An Afternoon or Evening with... William Shakespeare
- **Oct. 13** — An Afternoon or Evening with... Audie Murphy.

Tickets are \$20, general admission; \$15, seniors; \$10, museum members, available at www.museumonmain.org. The link for each Zoom webinar will be emailed the day before the performance. ■

Future of book publishing

Tri-Valley Writers speaker to explore impact of pandemic

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Laurie McLean, founding partner of Fuse Literary, will speak on “Publishing: 2021 and Beyond, What Book Publishing Will Look Like in the New Normal,” at the Tri-Valley Writers Zoom meeting at 2 p.m. Feb. 20.

“Change is the one constant in publishing,” McLean said.

McLean spent 20 years as the CEO of a multimillion-dollar marketing agency and eight years as an agent/senior agent at Larsen Pomada Literary Agents before co-founding Fuse Literary in 2013 with her business partner Gordon Warnock.

In her presentation, McLean will look at the change forced



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Laurie McLean

on the industry by the pandemic, exploring the impact of editors and publishing pros working from home; how the shift to online buying will continue to

affect books; and whether readers will stick to their preference for nonfiction.

She has also noted that short works and poetry are on the rise, and will address whether authors should learn how to make an audiobook.

The meeting is hosted by the Tri-Valley Branch of the California Writers Club and is open to all who reserve a place and pay the fee by Feb. 18. To make a reservation, email president@trivalleywriters.org. Cost for members is \$5; nonmembers, \$7; students 14-22, \$3.

For more information about the CWC Tri-Valley Branch, visit www.trivalleywriters.org. ■



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lorene Edwards Forkner



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Anemone captured in simple watercolor gestures by Lorene Edwards Forkner.

Adding color to the garden

Flowers and vegetables can be planted to enhance their hues

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

The next meeting of the Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club will host Lorene Edwards Forkner, gardener, artist, designer, writer, editor and educator, speaking on the topic, “Seeing Color in Your Garden — Nature’s Tool for Attention.”

Forkner is a columnist for the Seattle Times Weekly GROW column in Pacific NW Magazine. For nine years she was the editor of Pacific Horticulture magazine and is the author of five garden books, including the newly released, “The Beginner’s Guide to Growing Great Vegetables.”

She lives a garden-based life in an old house near the beach in West Seattle, and her tiny plot of land is her living workshop and testing ground where she pursues seasonal pleasures, delicious flavors, and creative experimentation.

“Color is one of nature’s most sophisticated tools engineered to capture the attention of all living creatures,” Forkner asserts.

Since early 2018, she has maintained a daily practice of

capturing fresh botanicals in simple watercolor gestures and posting the studies to Instagram.

Her presentation will demonstrate how gardeners can discover hidden hues and enhance their approach to designing with color, whether growing vegetables or flowers.

“Some of our members have heard the speaker, Lorene Edwards Forkner, at major gardening events,” publicity chairwoman Dolores Bengtson said. “They believe she will offer good insight into color in your garden and the role color plays to attract all the pollinators needed to keep your garden thriving.”

The meeting will take place via Zoom at 7 p.m. next Thursday (Feb. 11), and the public is invited. Email president@lavgc.org.

Although it cannot hold meetings in person at this time, the Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club continues its service to community gardens in Pleasanton and Livermore, wearing masks and practicing social distancing. To learn more about the club, visit www.lavgc.org. ■



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Isn’t it romantic?

Livermore Valley Opera is offering a romantic concert for Valentine weekend with local favorites Sarah Cambridge and tenor Kyle Van Schoonhoven performing duets from Puccini’s “Tosca” and Wagner’s “Die Walkure,” plus works by Tchaikovsky and Joseph Marx at 6 p.m. next Saturday (Feb. 13). The singers will be accompanied by LVO music director Alexander Katsman with English subtitles. Find the link at www.LivermoreValleyOpera.com. The opera’s restaurant sponsor, Uncle Yu’s at the Vineyard, is giving a 10% discount on all take-out orders, including a special four-course “Valentine Dinner for Two.” Mention Livermore Valley Opera when ordering from Feb. 12-18, at 449-7000.



PLEASANTON PREPS

By DENNIS MILLER

Tentative schedule provides some optimism for return to sports

Dependent on counties progressing in state tiers; still some key questions unanswered

On a conference call last month, the athletic directors from each of the East Bay Athletic League schools met to develop the latest of the ever-changing “Season of Sports.”

These are certainly not cast in stone and could change at a moment's notice, but for the record, as of Jan. 15, here is the latest — with their target date for starting practice.

The greenlight has been given to Season 1, at least as of now.

- Season 1 — Purple tier: Cross-country, Feb. 8; swimming and diving, Feb. 8; golf and tennis, Feb. 8; track-and-field, March 22 (to allow cross-country to take place).

- Season 2 — Red tier: Baseball/softball, March 1; girls lacrosse, March 1.

- Season 3 — Orange tier: Football, TBD; boys lacrosse, TBD; soccer, TBD; water polo, TBD; badminton, TBD.

- Season 4 — Yellow tier: Competitive cheer, TBD; basketball, TBD; wrestling, TBD.

There are plenty of details to be worked out in short order, such as transportation, whether spectators will be allowed at events, and of course schedules. There will also be the matter of officials/referees. That is not an issue for Season 1, but should Season 2 take place, it could be a big problem.

With the EBAL split between Alameda and Contra Costa counties, it could pose some challenges. Counties have different guidelines and could force games to be contested within their own county.

Another issue will be how late in the school year would a sport be allowed to start to have a season. The school year ends in late May, so the question would be: How many weeks of a sport would be needed to be deemed worthwhile?

It is a step in the right direction if indeed these sports do start in the next few weeks.

Let Them Play CA numbers

In my last column, I wrote about the Let Them Play CA movement regarding high school and youth sports, including the rallies that were held on high school campuses around the state.

This week I was privy to the numbers the Let Them Play movement is presenting the state of California, and it looks definitive that doors should be open for kids to be back playing sports.

I am not talking about returning to school, as that is an entirely different conversation and brings into play the powerful teacher unions, but just about getting monitored sports back.

The first source the group presents is “Youth Data 2021 from the Mental Health America” (www.mhanational.org).

- Since the lockdown began, over one-half of 11- to 17-year-olds reported having thoughts of suicide or self-harm over more than half or nearly every day of the previous two weeks (September 2020).

- 77,470 reported frequent suicidal ideation.

In addition, the Golden State HSFB Coaches Community collected this data from 275 schools for the dates May 1 to Dec. 31, 2020.

- There have been 21,370 athletes

working out, with 567 reports of COVID-19. However, only 11 total cases were attributed to workouts on school campuses, with zero hospitalizations and zero deaths.

- There have been 1,000,315 times that athletes arrived and left campus workouts and 1,009,304 times the athletes left COVID-free, leaving a transmission rate of 1-in-91,756.

- There were 3,140 coaches in those schools, with 205 reports of COVID-19 or 6.5%. However, there were only two reports of cases coming from workouts.

- That leaves 140,564 workouts, with 140,562 coaches coming and

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NATALIE WALSH

Families rally outside Amador Valley High School in support of the “Let Them Play” movement.

going from workouts without testing positive for COVID. The transmission rate is 1-in-70,282.

Everyone is entitled to their opinion on whether the kids should be participating in sports, but let us make sure we approach it on a rational basis. Seeing people verbally assaulted for the support of their kids to return to sports is wrong.

If you do not want your child back to sports, fine, that is your right. But do not play judge and jury for those who do support the

movement — that is their right as well and their kids’.

It has been some crazy times and the last thing we need is people viciously bullying others because they have different opinions. In the end, this should be all about the kids — something I think often gets lost in the shuffle. ■

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.

Tri-Valley readers, what is local journalism worth to you?



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Talks & Lectures

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE: SCIENTIFIC EXPOSURE Photographers Anand Varma and Prasenjeet Yadav apply their scientific knowledge and experience to their craft. Join them for stories and conversation on the intriguing intersection of science and photography. The 60-minute event includes moderated discussion, pre-recorded and open Q&A. 6:30 p.m., Feb. 10. Tickets \$20. Visit livermorearts.org.

SCIENCE ON SATURDAY Lawrence Livermore presents Science on Saturday: Molecular Diagnostics in the Age of COVID, Designing a Portable Point-of-Care Device. 10 a.m., Feb. 6. Visit st.lnl.gov/sci-ed/science-on-saturday.

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, 3:30-4:00 p.m. Now through Feb. 21. To register visit axishealth.org/online-events.

Festivals & Fairs

LIVERMORE ART ASSOCIATION Livermore Art Association (LAA) is launching an online art show and sale where artists are invited to submit 2D and 3D original art. The show will be hosted on LAA's website and will run from Feb. 25- March 31 with no entry fee. LAA will handle all sales online and will retain 20% commission. Visit livermoreartassociation.org.

Concerts

JIM BRICKMAN SHARE THE LOVE CONCERT Spend the evening with your loved ones and Jim Brickman. Enjoy this 75-minute virtual concert from the comfort of home. Feb. 12-14. Visit jimbrickman.com.

Fundraisers

MUSEUM ON MAIN'S WINE & VALENTINES FUNDRAISER The 14th Annual Wines & Valentines will be held virtually this year. Enjoy a live auction, a silent auction, a Fund A Need drive and some virtual games all to support the programs of Museum on Main. 7 p.m., Feb. 12. Tickets on sale now. For more information visit museumonmain.org or call 462-2776.

Writers

HIGH SCHOOL WRITING CONTEST Tri-Valley Writers presents "My Story, My Vision," the 10th annual writing contest for local area students. The contest is open to students grades 9-12 in the Tri-Valley. Cash awards for first-, second- and third-place winners. Submissions accepted Feb. 14-April 4. Visit trivalleywriters.org.

TRI-VALLEY WRITERS ZOOM MEETING In her talk, "Publishing: 2021 and Beyond, What Book Publishing Will Look Like in the New Normal," February's speaker Laurie McLean looks at the change forced on the industry by the pandemic and what has been the impact to editors and publishing pros working from home. The session is open to all who reserve a place and pay the fee by Feb. 18. Email president@trivalleywriters.org. Zoom meeting, 2 p.m., Feb. 20.

Crab Feed

ST. AUGUSTINE DRIVE-THRU CRAB FEED Hosted by the Knights of Columbus, this year's Crab Feed will be a drive thru at St. Augustine's Church in Pleasanton, Sat. Feb. 13, 3-6 p.m. Order tickets by 2.7.21. Visit knights-of-columbus-council-6043-875353.square.site/.

SWEETHEART CRAB DASH The Rotary Club of Livermore Valley is proud to present the first-ever Crab Dash. Drivers will deliver fresh, cleaned, cracked, ready-to-eat Dungeness Crab, fresh from Alaska, right to your door. This unique fundraiser will not only be fun and delicious, but help the community. Each crab is \$25 and will be delivered between the hours of 4-8pm on Saturday, Feb. 13. Visit promoplace.com/spp/stores/crabdash.

PET OF THE WEEK



TVAR

Meet Atlas

Do you have room in your heart and home for adorable Atlas? He's a soft and fluffy baby — only 14 weeks old, and he already weighs 45 pounds! His foster mom says he's a lap dog who wants to be adored and cuddled. He enjoys toys and playtime with the foster family's young dog. Atlas has a good appetite and he will likely weigh more than 100 pounds when full grown. He will do well with a spacious yard and someone that has experience with large dogs. He is neutered, microchipped and current on vaccines. Contact Tri-Valley Animal Rescue, www.tvlar.org.

Seniors

SCAMS TARGETING SENIORS AND TIPS FOR PROTECTION

Legal Assistance for Seniors and HICAP 2021 hosts this free winter webinar. Feb. 10, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. For more information contact the Pleasanton Senior Center, 931-5365.

VIRTUAL SMARTPHONE TRAINING

Having difficulty hearing or seeing on your smartphone? Attend a free online training and learn how to operate the basic functions of a smartphone. This is a two-part online training offered multiple times each month. To participate you will need a computer, internet service and a valid email address. Call: 510-207-8609 or email: clin@ddtp.org.

Community Groups

TRI-VALLEY CULTURAL & HERITAGE TOURISM TOWN HALL This is an opportunity for community leaders, business owners, artisans, musicians, etc., to share ideas and insights on the Tri-Valley's Cultural & Heritage Tourism plan. Feb. 8, 2-2:30 p.m. Contact visitrivalley.com.

Gardening

LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB Featured speaker Lorene Edwards Forkner, columnist for the Seattle Time Weekly, will

demonstrate how to discover hidden hues and enhance design with color, whether growing vegetables or flowers. 7 p.m., Feb. 11. To attend email president@lavgc.org.

Reading

LIVERMORE READS TOGETHER The number one New York Times and Washington Post bestselling graphic novel trilogy, March, will be the featured books for the 15th Livermore Reads Together, the library's annual community reading program. Throughout the month of February the library will host a series of events for youth and adults that celebrate Black History Month and explore the themes in March. Visit cityoflivermore.net.

Government

PLEASANTON PLANNING COMMISSION Planning Commission meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month, currently held virtually. The next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 10. Visit cityofpleasantonca.gov.

PLEASANTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT The Pleasanton Unified School District Board of Trustees meets at 7 p.m., Feb. 11, currently held virtually. Visit pleasantonusd.net.

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., Feb. 8. For more information visit cityoflivermore.net.

LIVERMORE PLANNING COMMISSION The next regular Livermore Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., Feb. 16, held virtually using zoom. For questions contact The City of Livermore Planning Division 960-4450.

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., Feb. 9. Visit dublin.ca.gov.

DUBLIN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT The next Regular Board Meeting of the Dublin Unified School District is 5:30 p.m., Feb. 9. For more information visit dublin.k12.ca.us.

Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

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, Feb. 5, 2021.)

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.)

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

Employment

Product Security Engr

Product Security Engineer, Workday, Inc., Pleasanton, CA. Delivering security into Workday's tech & ensuring SW, svcs, design & infrastructure designed & implemented w/ security in mind. To apply, please mail resume to ATTN: Jessica Thurston, 5928 Stoneridge Mall Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Please refer to Job #20637.24.

Senior Product Security Engineer

Senior Product Security Engineer, Workday, Inc., Pleasanton, CA. Support Workday's security platform development. To apply, please mail resume to ATTN: Jessica Thurston, 6110 Stoneridge Mall Rd, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Please refer to Job #20637.531

To place an ad or get a quote, contact Kevin Legarda at 650.223.6597 or email digitalads@pawekly.com.

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@pawekly.com.

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during Oct. 23 to Nov. 2 for Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin, and Dec. 14-24 for San Ramon.

Pleasanton

3847 Vineyard Avenue #29 B. Simonson to S. & B. Zhang for \$455,000
7308 Stonedale Drive K. Lei to A. & R. Narayanan for \$825,000
4330 Fairlands Drive Hedges Family Trust to S. & S. Lahiri for \$865,000
1552 Poppybank Court K. Li to C. & V. Kakkar for \$870,000
1820 Paseo Del Cajon Hepner Family Trust to P. & M. Ling for \$1,469,000
9044 Longview Drive W. Li to R. Rai for \$1,575,000
1225 Royal Creek Court V. & B. Swamy to Q. & J. Li for \$1,615,000
3741 Newton Way Stoll Family Trust to Jaju Living Trust for \$2,365,000
2728 Alpina Court I. & M. Plihal to S. & A. Shanker for \$1,230,000
6486 Alvord Way R. Valencia to Jfamily Family Trust for \$849,000
4729 Black Avenue Helmhren-Cheung Family Trust to S. & M. Nepal for \$682,500
4311 Bristolwood Road Shrapnell Family Trust to R. & A. Naik for \$1,239,000
7710 Creekside Drive K. Antrim to M. & K. White for \$925,000
5474 Hopkins Court Glogovac Trust to G. & A. Hong for \$2,100,000
6075 Kolb Ranch Drive P. Rupf to X. & X. Ma for \$2,510,000
7809 Meadowbrook Court R. Chan to S. & B. Davidson for \$1,300,000
4258 Muirwood Drive R. & C. Resare to B. & S. Khedkar for \$1,229,000
1637 Orvieto Court Murphy Family Trust to A. & R. James for \$2,716,000
3908 Petrified Forest Court Judith Living Trust to R. & U. Gandikota for \$1,032,500
3759 Rose Rock Circle Ritchey Family Trust to M. & M. Liou for \$1,190,000
2908 West Ruby Hill Drive Kisner Trust to H. & S. Judge for \$4,050,000
4548 Shawnee Way R. Elango to L. & W. Xu for \$559,000
3417 Smoketree Commons Drive #147 L. Siverls to R. Newell for \$545,000

Livermore

546 Dovecote Lane #4 B. & E. Cole to M. & S. Macadaan for \$734,000
5964 Cypress Point Drive L. & D. McNeill to C. & V. Dumaop for \$820,000
1274 Lillian Street N. Bishop to R. & F. Abboud for \$835,000
552 Brighton Way E. & R. Stanley to E. Sio for \$840,000
6923 Sunridge Drive S. Mariconi to Wadleigh Trust for \$911,000
1772 Altamar Way Faught Trust to P. & N. Patel for \$941,000
1277 Orchid Court I. & D. Romero to S. & B. Kandhalu for \$975,000
1071 Carrara Way Casey Trust to H. & J. Cain for \$1,365,000
3128 Hansen Road L. & L. Matchniff to Glenn Trust for \$2,000,000
1712 6th Street M. & A. Boegel to C. Lipman for \$1,001,000
848 Avalon Way Jameson Living Trust to G. Otaonari for \$850,000
1545 Bluebell Court F. & T. Rapley to E. & R. Eslami for \$920,000
633 Catalina Drive K. Taguchi to G. & T. Dhaliwal for \$910,000
1174 Central Avenue Jacobson Living Trust to F. Ghorashi for \$1,210,000
5645 Crestmont Avenue M. Baker to K. & L. Tong for \$825,000
524 Dovecote Lane #1 Montano-Lardizabal Family Trust to R. Prasad for \$705,000
4325 East Avenue T. Martinez to B. & M. Chavez for \$800,000

146 Estates Street I. & R. Martinez to A. & M. Ebrahimi for \$850,000
3368 Gardella Plaza Fre2019 Separate Prop Trust to R. Singh for \$900,000
130 Glacier Drive D. Nesselto to C. & B. Kim for \$930,000
1652 Helsinki Way S. & S. Wernitz to R. & R. McCurdy for \$1,050,000
957 Hollice Lane M. Kachadorian to N. Mccall for \$920,000
1263 Hollyhock Street C. Hill to J. Moore for \$629,000
1366 Hudson Way Winter Living Trust to S. & T. Martinez for \$1,095,000
1358 Jayhawk Lane Y. Jiang to C. & R. Valencia for \$1,060,000
1654 Juniper Street B. Mahe to D. & M. Cantillas for \$870,000
2916 Kennedy Street R. & L. Kant to A. & A. Buschini for \$710,000
764 Los Alamos Avenue C. Frates to A. & A. Sharma for \$905,000
232 Louis Court Hambrecht Family Trust to A. & H. Huddar for \$940,000
849 Mayview Way Mclauchiin Trust to R. Diaz for \$812,500
3648 Montrose Place D. Smith to 3648 Montrose Place LLC for \$1,395,000
3543 Murphy Street W. Ganzer to A. Mcsporrان for \$732,000
115 Northwood Commons M. Henderson to J. & R. Hampton for \$695,000
5697 Oakmont Circle M. Abreu to C. Mcsporrان for \$800,000
1962 Park Street E. Carlson to J. & H. Dunlop for \$720,000
1339 Pegan Common Hardeman Trust to D. Guizar for \$1,313,000
418 Persimmon Common #4 W. Zhang to R. Bansal for \$697,500
2198 Ponderosa Drive P. & N. Daves to G. & J. King for \$975,000
2250 Rapallo Common K. Gousse to H. & N. Ravichandran for \$890,000
6912 Sunridge Drive T. Edwards to F. & E. Emerson for \$940,000
5461 Treeflower Drive Z. Kazmi to R. Stone for \$705,000
1080 Via Madrid D. & M. Naler to S. & N. Glass for \$820,000
3991 Yale Way J. Bradford to S. & L. Grey for \$692,500

Dublin

5662 Campbell Lane P. Leung to S. & S. Datta for \$830,000
3536 Corsica Court N. Vellanki to G. & S. Parimi for \$870,000
7345 Brighton Drive R. Banhatti to W. & V. Petit for \$910,000
8378 Ferncliff Court G. Eschborn to V. & C. Mcmurdie for \$920,000
3679 Central Parkway B. & M. Case to D. & J. Tran for \$980,000
2156 Donnells Lane J. Cruz to L. & V. Desikan for \$1,000,000
5623 Central Parkway Calatlantic Group Inc to W. & Z. Yin for \$1,142,500
6979 Syrah Drive M. & A. Renane to T. & J. Liu for \$1,330,000
4735 Boxwood Way J. & R. Bansal to M. & Y. Jadhav for \$1,390,000
7692 Buckeye Court P. & W. Sweeny to K. & N. Kulkarni for \$1,435,000
6851 Syrah Drive S. Waschitz to S. & A. Reddy for \$1,460,000
3263 Cranbrook Place N. Randhawa to Jayakumar Trust for \$1,500,000
9531 Albert Drive F. Roshan to S. & R. Kushunapally for \$1,680,000
2800 Lochgreen Way L. & M. McMahan to M. & R. Zeng for \$2,115,000
3126 Aran Way J. Gummedi to L. Li for \$880,000
5709 Beale Avenue Calatlantic Group Inc to E. & E. Liu for \$1,161,500
8123 Brittany Drive Kaskowitz-Goldberg Trust to W. Li for \$1,485,000

7701 Cardigan Court Halverson Trust to M. & T. Lin for \$990,000
3275 Dublin Boulevard #415 Y. Chen to J. & E. Poblete for \$610,000
7900 Firebrand Drive Ginn Trust to K. Kwan for \$810,000
5102 Kino Court Dcosta Living Trust to N. & A. Mahajan for \$1,111,000
7169 Kylemore Circle G. & D. White to P. & K. Kuthiala for \$1,688,000
8404 Locust Place #N K. Ayola to N. & A. Perminov for \$910,000
5984 Lombard Street Calatlantic Group Inc to K. & K. Malani for \$1,146,000
11565 Manzanita Lane Pharis Family Trust to T. & T. Lam for \$1,220,000
7853 Millbrook Avenue Morton Family Trust to C. & N. Lucio for \$940,000
3320 Oak Bluff Lane Poblete Family Trust to E. & L. Zhao for \$1,700,000
4269 Oak Knoll Drive Y. & K. Hamid to M. & U. Pasupuleti for \$1,465,000
7517 Oxford Circle #120 James Family Trust to S. Zhou for \$690,000
7453 Oxford Circle #97 Lohman Living Trust to S. & H. Wu for \$700,000
4769 Perugia Street S. Lerschen to E. & C. Bowsly for \$730,000
7611 Quail Creek Circle M. & D. Williamson to M. & M. Eitelberg for \$1,175,000
7782 Tuscany Drive #29 Y. Yin to P. Marteen for \$705,000
11418 Winding Trail Lane G. Kasdan to R. & G. Diamond for \$690,000

San Ramon

130 Reflections Drive #17 Shih Family Trust to L. Reyes for \$349,000
9085 Alcosta Boulevard #379 M. Murillo to M. & J. Jimenez for \$440,000
114 Copper Ridge Road A. Barone to A. Hughes for \$446,000
150 Reflections Drive #11 R. & F. Ventura to M. Lee for \$457,000
255 Reflections Drive #22 D. & B. Cameron to D. & B. Micu for \$548,000
765 Watson Canyon Court #138 Wood Trust to H. Adil for \$550,000
15 Montevideo Court G. Wallace to M. & M. Masukic for \$699,000
1840 Cutter Court Brodt Trust to S. & A. Agarwal for \$830,000
9732 Tareyton Avenue G. Bustamante to M. & A. Romero for \$875,000
27105 Via Vicenza Faria Preserve LLC to H. & B. Sudabathula for \$948,000
1119 Cedarwood Loop Yerabati Family Trust to M. & G. Gopalakrishnan for \$1,080,000
9990 Windrow Way Tatum Trust to A. & D. Saxena for \$1,150,000
134 Pebble Place M. & C. Deisenroth to M. & J. Yin for \$1,270,000
340 San Simeon Place E. & A. Pasqualini to S. & S. Kapoor for \$1,285,000
6106 Lakeview Circle S. & D. Nagaraja to S. & A. Wani for \$1,301,000
132 Black Calla Court A. Filimonov to Bakan Family Trust for \$1,360,000
314 Goldfield Place M. Koppula to S. & L. Gandhi for \$1,410,000

3830 Highbury Way D. & S. Bompelly to T. & P. Chawda for \$1,500,000
34 Greysilk Court Sridhara Trust to G. & M. Pai for \$1,550,000
1055 Via Veneto Faria Preserve LLC to M. & P. Hardak for \$1,551,500
720 Lake Mead Place D. & M. Malvey to S. & G. Gibeling for \$1,575,000
921 Via Veneto Faria Preserve LLC to S. & A. Sharif for \$1,605,500
24 Century Oaks Court M. & G. Carver to Verma Family Trust for \$1,703,500
915 Via Veneto Faria Preserve LLC to M. & M. Pandit for \$1,767,000
9085 Alcosta Boulevard #307 Pagano Family Trust to L. & P. Zhang for \$425,000
1145 Arrowfield Way Oak Family Trust to M. & T. Vijay for \$1,400,000
2672 Basswood Drive L. & M. Lozano to M. Patwardhan for \$1,007,000
3417 Bermuda Court C. & R. Roland to R. & A. Shah for \$1,390,000
6351 Byron Lane M. & L. Kannappan to N. Kisch for \$973,000
1319 Canyon Side Avenue M. Kehrig to G. & P. Bonaso for \$1,100,000
56 Centennial Way Wood Family Trust to P. & M. Pisciotta for \$1,641,000
1145 South Chanterella Drive Z. Macchiwalla to K. & V. Oruganti for \$1,250,000
215 Chestnut Court W. Williams to K. Chen for \$1,130,000
739 Clifton Court Y. & B. Curtis to Y. Zheng for \$1,480,000
34 Cobblestone Court M. & C. Mojzes to Shalinishailsh Trust for \$1,309,000
7615 Corrinne Place Z. Chen to T. & N. Kotte for \$1,200,000
3301 El Suyo Drive Olds Trust to I. & D. Yagi for \$1,175,500
153 Enchanted Way J. Cheng to A. & R. Venkata for \$877,000
209 Kittery Place S. & R. Hulin to R. & L. Pethaiah for \$1,200,000
2953 Marlboro Way D. & S. Killeen to B. & H. Lu for \$1,041,000
2844 Milo Way Baker Living Trust to A. Phan for \$895,000
421 Pine Ridge Drive O. Gonzales to Liiving Trust for \$440,000
275 Reflections Drive #24 Tiernan Trust to J. & P. Ji for \$470,000
603 Rosinress Court Shannon Family Trust to Shanbhog Family Trust for \$1,951,000
301 Sudbury Court M. & K. Khanna to F. & F. Sakhi for \$2,475,000
801 Tolley Court Pino Family Trust to S. & N. Raja for \$1,560,000
2516 Toltec Circle E. Simpson to L. Lai for \$1,139,500
231 Via Encanto X. Pang to R. Currence for \$1,410,000
1118 Vista Pointe Circle Erickson Family Trust to B. & A. Satyendranath for \$1,160,500
765 Watson Canyon Court #239 A. & J. Alexan to L. Coronel for \$610,500
765 Watson Canyon Court #338 V. & V. Haghiri to R. Dimaandal for \$545,000

Source: California REsource

SALES AT A GLANCE

Pleasanton (Oct. 23-Nov. 2)

Total sales reported: 23
Lowest sale reported: \$455,000
Highest sale reported: \$4,050,000
Average sales reported: \$1,208,304

Livermore (Oct. 23-Nov. 2)

Total sales reported: 43
Lowest sale reported: \$734,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,395,000
Average sales reported: \$886,488

Dublin (Oct. 23-Nov. 2)

Total sales reported: 34
Lowest sale reported: \$610,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,115,000
Average sales reported: \$1,076,691

San Ramon (Dec. 14-24)

Total sales reported: 51
Lowest sale reported: \$349,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,475,000
Average sales reported: \$1,183,794

Source: California REsource



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SOLD



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- Siddhartha & Megha

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\$3,295,000



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236 Chalmette Road, Livermore

Received 24 Offers in 5 Days on Market, Listed by Katie Moe
1,561 Sq Ft | 4 Bed | 2 Bath | \$915,000



164 Haven Hill Court, Danville

Received 12 Offers in Just 6 Days, Listed by Jen Larson
2,649 Sq Ft | 5 Bed | 2.5 Bath | Sycamore Creek | \$1,565,000



3973 Kern Court, Pleasanton

Multiple Offers in Less Than A Week, Listed by Katie Moe
1,372 Sq Ft | 3 Bed | 2 Bath | Val Vista | \$1,005,000

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NEW LISTING

4550 El Dorado Court, Pleasanton
Offered at \$1,369,000



STUNNING VIEWS

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Offered at \$4,950,000



PENDING IN 7 DAYS

2410 Pomino Way, Pleasanton
Offered at \$2,449,000



PENDING IN 7 DAYS

5548 Corte Del Cajon, Pleasanton
Offered at \$1,499,000



COMING SOON

956 Riesling Drive, Pleasanton
Price Upon Request

Client Testimonial Your Words. Our Work.

“Venema Homes went above and beyond to get our home sold AND represent us purchasing our new home in the middle of a Global Pandemic! Liz and her team were wonderful to work with – personal and always available for even the smallest of questions. They helped us find our dream home and I know we will be using them again for any future real estate needs.”

– Eric and Riley Callahan, Livermore Sellers and Buyers, 2020



Liz Venema
Realtor
SRES | Owner



Kim Hunt
Realtor
Director of Operations



Amanda Davlin
Transaction Coordinator
Social Media Expert



Lisa Desmond
Realtor
CNE | Listing Manager



Michelle Kroger
Realtor
CNE | SRES



Alexis Venema
Realtor



Liz Venema



VENEMA HOMES TEAM