

Pleasanton Weekly

Our Neighborhoods

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



VOL. XXII, NUMBER 4 • FEBRUARY 19, 2021

WWW.PLEASANTONWEEKLY.COM

Black History Month in 2021

Tri-Valley groups celebrate African American culture with books, dialogue and education

Page 12

- 5 | **NEWS** Pleasanton face mask mandate fails
- 5 | **NEWS** Vaccination center opens at fairgrounds
- 18 | **SPORTS** Some teams finally kick off season

ESKATON[®]
Transforming the Aging Experience



Stay Social. Stay Engaged. Stay Connected.

Our award-winning family of senior living communities and services provide a supportive, engaging lifestyle for your loved one.

Connect with our Residential Living Advisors today!

925-398-3933 | eskaton.org



Discover The Eskaton Difference

**Independent Living • Assisted Living • Memory Care Rehabilitation
Skilled Nursing • Home Care**

WHAT A WEEK



By JEREMY WALSH

Time to think redistricting

The Pleasanton City Council already has redistricting on its mind.

Maybe it's time we do too.

Redrawing legislative district boundaries takes place every 10 years based on population data collected in the new census. With the census count behind us and certification on the horizon, the redistricting process will play out over the next year.

In concept, the task is to determine the citizenry breakdown within the overall area and cluster sub-districts within based on near-equal population and fair regional representation.

Should be a straightforward process, right?

Not so much. Arduous is more like it. And that's just the literal process of creating mathematically fair district maps — let alone factoring in community boundaries and avoiding political influence.

Federal and state redistricting typically generate the most headlines, but local redistricting can be just as important (i.e. county supervisor, community college districts and added to the list in recent years, some city councils and school districts in the Tri-Valley).

We're fortunate to live in a state that, by and large, prioritizes less-partisan redistricting and anti-gerrymandering. Just look at California's current congressional district map compared to some other states.

That mindset tends to trickle down to the local level here as well, but ensuring it holds true each and every cycle depends on officials fulfilling their mission independently and residents paying close attention to the process.

Especially closer to home.

As part of their consent calendar Tuesday night, Pleasanton council members unanimously adopted a resolution to publicly advocate for a fair redistricting process at the county level — specifically, "asking the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to allocate resources to ensure an equitable, inclusive and transparent supervisor redistricting process."

The proposal was brought forward at the request of new Councilwoman Valerie Arkin in support of the grassroots Alameda County Coalition for Fair Redistricting.

"Really it's not saying anything about where lines are drawn, or anything like that. It's just: We want a fair and transparent process with community outreach," Arkin told her

colleagues on Feb. 2 while pitching the proposal for consideration at the next council meeting.

The resolution confirmed Tuesday includes a 10-item wish list specifically for the county's redistricting process, simple requests that should be noncontroversial such as:

"1. Protect and maintain communities of interest."

"5. Includes accessibility approaches that remove physical, technological, language and other barriers to public participation including work schedules and family commitments."

"7. Includes meetings before and after the maps are created as well as at least two other methods/opportunities for engagement accessible for each of the five districts."

Pleasanton is well aware of the importance and implications of the county's redistricting process. In 2011, the city was split off from the rest of the Tri-Valley when it was re-assigned from District 1 to Supervisor Nate Miley's District 4.

On the one hand, the move separated the typically joined Tri-Valley region, but on the other hand, it ensured Pleasanton interests had their own voice on the Board of Supervisors, unique from Dublin and Livermore — which also meant Tri-Valley regional interests had two seats on the dais instead of just one.

I've been in the room to watch a county Board of Supervisors work through final district boundaries; it was a tedious and instructive process to marvel at, watching the push and pull with drawing lines sometimes all the way down to neighborhoods I'd been in, roads I'd often driven, all in the name of fair representation, mathematically and realistically.

I'll be watching the processes in Alameda County and Contra Costa County closely. You should as well, along with the U.S. Congressional, State Senate and State Assembly redistricting.

And remember all of those local agencies in the Tri-Valley that have switched to district-based elections in the past several years (city of Livermore, city of San Ramon, Dublin Unified, SRVUSD and DSRSD)? They'll have to redraw their sub-districts at some point soon, based on new census data.

When each process plays out, it should be rooted in fairness, accuracy and transparency and devoid of undue influences.

That's where we should all draw the line. ■

About the Cover

Jojo Powers, 13, of Livermore creates Black Lives Matter art at home in honor of Black History Month. Photo courtesy Kandiss Hewing. Cover design by Paul Llewellyn. Vol. XXII, Number 4

PLEASANTON LISTINGS

PENDING SALE!

7839 FOOTHILL KNOLLS DR
PLEASANTON

4 Bedrooms, 4 Bathrooms
3,694 Square Feet
16,425 Square Foot Lot

Updated and expanded home in Foothill Knolls situated on a large lot with no rear neighbors. Convenient location within walking distance to Foothill High School and close to highways 580, 680 and BART.

COMING SOON!

5351 SPRINGDALE AVE
PLEASANTON

4 Bedrooms, 2.5 Bathrooms
1,917 Square Feet
2,660 Square Foot Lot

Lovely westside townhouse in the Stoneridge neighborhood. Features updated kitchen and bathrooms. Excellent commute location within walking distance to BART and provides easy access to highways 580 & 680.

Pleasanton and the entire Tri-Valley continue to experience a dramatic shortage of available inventory and an exceptionally strong buyer demand. If you have considered selling your home and would like to discuss your options, contact me for a confidential consultation.

7-TIME WINNER AS PLEASANTON'S BEST REALTOR & HALL OF FAME MEMBER



Gina Piper

925.200.0202 • DRE #01201349
gina@elationre.com

ElationRE.com



Celebrating the best!

We couldn't have done it without you.

Pleasanton Weekly

PleasantonWeekly.com

Coverage of Youth and Education
Series on Amador Valley High School transcript probe and fallout by Jeremy Walsh and Julia Baum

Breaking News
"PUSD transcripts: Investigator finds two improper alterations, no systemic problem" by Jeremy Walsh



Awards presented by the California News Publishers Association for work published in 2019.

Profile Story

"Amazing Voyage" by Jeb Bing

Feature Story

"The gentle giants of Mount Diablo" by Ryan J. Degan

Editorial Comments

"Livermore downtown referendum raises serious questions" by Gina Channell

"Did a bunny book really lead to superintendent's ouster?" by Gina Channell

"District-based elections do not make sense here" by Gina Channell

Are you supporting our efforts?

Become a member today to support another year of award-winning journalism.

Visit PleasantonWeekly.com/join

Do you prefer to give gifts or receive them?



John Honea
Bartender

My preference is to give gifts over receiving them because I feel like I already have all I'll ever need, even more, and all I could ever want. So it gives me a lot more happiness, and makes me feel more fulfilled, to give a gift than to receive one.



Wayne Decoste
Electrician

I'd rather give a gift than receive one because it brings me more joy to give than to receive. At least for me. Especially when I give a gift to my beautiful wife.



Wendy Decoste
Retired

I love receiving gifts, especially from my wonderful husband. It makes me feel so valued. But, I also love to give gifts, especially to my grandchildren because the expression I see on their faces when they receive a gift from me is absolutely priceless.



Carey Klenetsky
Engineering manager

Well, it may sound selfish, but I prefer to receive a gift, not because I want things, but the opposite. I'm not really one to ask for anything, or to expect gifts, so receiving a gift, which is really a caring surprise, is extra enjoyable.



Kristin Moore
Customer service manager

I prefer to give a gift rather than receive one. My favorite thing is to put together several items that are going to be useful to the recipient and also have some significance to my relationship with them. More than even their reaction when opening the gift, I love when I find out later that they are enjoying what I gave them, or, even better, when we can have an experience together.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

The Pleasanton Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 203, Pleasanton, CA 94566; (925) 600-0840. Mailed at Periodicals Postage Rate, USPS 020407. The Weekly is mailed upon request to homes and apartments in Pleasanton. Print subscriptions for businesses or residents of other communities are \$60 per year or \$100 for two years. Go to PleasantonWeekly.com to sign up and for more information. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Pleasanton Weekly, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 203, Pleasanton, CA 94566. ©2021 by Embarcadero Media. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

taste
TRI-VALLEY



FEBRUARY 19-28

Support Your Favorite Restaurants
10 DAYS OF EXCLUSIVE MENU
SPECIALS IN THE TRI-VALLEY

Sign up for our free Taste Tri-Valley pass by visiting the URL below for access to exclusive menu specials during Taste Tri-Valley Restaurant Week. Use the pass to check-in at restaurants for a chance to win gift cards or a grand prize weekend getaway in the Tri-Valley.



Taste Tri-Valley Sponsors:



Participate at VisitTriValley.com/RestaurantWeek

DIGEST

The Market at LPC

Las Positas College students, employees and the greater community were able to partake in a free food distribution program on campus this week.

The Market is now distributing free, pre-bagged groceries in front of Building 1600 on a first-come, first-served basis every third Tuesday of the month from noon to 3 p.m., until food runs out.

Due to COVID-19 concerns, items are provided through a new drive-thru format. Those capable of opening their vehicle trunk automatically receive hands-free delivery service to the trunk by LPC student government officers, and campus staff and volunteers.

For more information, visit laspositascollege.edu or call 424-1490.

Highway 84 work

One phase of a safety improvement project on Highway 84 is nearing completion.

The removal of trees that began in November is expected to wrap up in March to make room for road improvements, according to Caltrans. The project runs from Mission Boulevard in Fremont to Interstate 680 in Niles Canyon.

Intermittent lane closures — when traffic flow is limited to one lane with signs and flaggers on hand — will continue through at least the end of this phase.

The next phases of the project — scheduled to be completed in 2024 — include building a new Alameda Creek Bridge and retaining wall, installing a traffic signal at Highway 84 and Main Street in Sunol to relieve traffic congestion and make the intersection safer, installing a traffic signal at Pleasanton Sunol Road and Niles Canyon Road and installing traffic signs and active warning signs for cyclists.

—Bay City News Service

New Glazer staff

State Senator Steve Glazer (D-Orinda) recently filled several openings on his staff.

The moves included Caila Pedroncelli promoted from office manager/legislative assistant to legislative aide, Alexxis Frost hired as legislative aide, Joshua Wright hired as office manager/legislative assistant and Britney Ortiz selected as Sacramento semester legislative intern.

"I'm excited about having these qualified and eager individuals join my staff," Glazer said in a statement. "They offer a nice blend of academic backgrounds and policy interests that will add to our overarching goal of serving the people of my district." ■

Pleasanton face mask mandate fails

City Council opts for public education over issuing citations

By JULIA BAUM

To increase community awareness and encourage more people to wear face masks in public, the Pleasanton City Council voted 4-1 on Tuesday to enhance public messaging instead of issue citations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I prefer more of the education process the city of Pleasanton has been doing, and I think the data shows it works," said Mayor Karla Brown before voting. "If punitive (measures) worked, nobody would ever speed ... a threat doesn't always work."

Debating late into the night, Vice Mayor Julie Testa — who advocated

unsuccessfully a couple of times with then-mayor Jerry Thorne to officially agendize mask enforcement last year — cast the sole No vote on the council's second motion Tuesday, which included additional signage and reminding residents about the importance of wearing face coverings in public areas.

Face masks must already be worn by all employees and visitors inside city offices and facilities, but City Manager Nelson Fialho said the original proposal — which failed 2-3, with Testa and Councilmember Valerie Arkin voting Yes — would have allowed police officers to "issue administrative citations to individuals or businesses in locations we see

as areas of concern."

According to Fialho, those areas include city-owned property such as parks and outdoor recreation areas, "and then downtown Pleasanton specifically."

"I think the rationale there was, for staff, that is a heavily traveled area, especially when we get ready to close Main Street again in the spring and into the summer months, that we may want a more focused enforcement and compliance effort in that area," Fialho said.

Some residents told Testa that they tried going downtown this summer but said there were enough people not wearing masks that they weren't going to continue to support

the restaurants.

"That's important, and I think people should be able to feel safe," Testa said.

Dublin and Livermore are among the cities in Alameda County that have adopted administrative fine structures for similar citations, but Fialho said their enforcement effort "has mostly been focused on businesses."

"Dublin has issued less than 10 citations, all of which have been against businesses in non-compliance," Fialho said. "Cooks, waiters — things of that nature — not wearing masks while working has

See MASKS on Page 11



CYNTHIA ARAMBULO/STANFORD-VALLEYCARE

Rainbow shines in Pleasanton as new COVID-19 vaccination center prepares to open at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. The site began operations with a soft opening Monday before expanding by Wednesday.

COVID-19 vaccination center opens at Alameda County Fairgrounds

Also: Mass inoculation site at Oakland Coliseum; vaccine eligibility list expanding on March 15

COMPILED BY PLEASANTON WEEKLY STAFF

The Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton has been designated a COVID-19 vaccination site by Alameda County Public Health Department, and eligible residents can now schedule appointments through their health care provider or the county to receive a vaccine.

Provided by Sutter Health, Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare and ACPHD, the vaccination center unveiled in central Pleasanton this week allows local residents who qualify based on age or employment to sign up to receive either the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine via drive-thru service.

"The fairgrounds vaccine site will not only serve the eastern portion of Alameda County, but also provide access and convenience for Pleasanton residents as vaccine eligibility expands and become available," Pleasanton City Manager Nelson Fialho told the Weekly on Tuesday.

"The more we are able to vaccinate our community in conjunction with continued safety protocols—mask wearing, maintaining social distance and washing hands, the closer we get to beating this virus so we can continue to safely reopen our economy and schools," he added.

Vaccines in Alameda County are currently only accessible for eligible patients who meet certain

criteria established by state and regional health officials.

In Alameda County that means that residents can only receive vaccinations if they are 65 years old or above, or if they are currently employed as a health care worker, an education and child care employee, an emergency services worker such as law enforcement or an agriculture worker.

Due to supply, the fairgrounds site will only serve seniors and health care workers for now, but they expect to open up to essential workers in child care, agriculture and emergency services in the coming weeks.

See VACCINATION on Page 10

KaiserAir proposes move to Livermore

Plan would include bringing Boeing 737 to local airport

By RYAN J. DEGAN

The Livermore Airport Commission has given its stamp of approval to a plan that would relocate the corporate offices of Oakland-based charter airliner KaiserAir to the Livermore Municipal Airport, a proposal that would also include the development of air facilities that could accommodate Boeing 737s.

If approved by the Livermore City Council, the project would house KaiserAir's corporate offices comprised of 30 to 40 employees and provide space for approximately six KaiserAir corporate aircraft — including one or more of the company's Boeing 737 aircraft.

"It's just the first step of many," Interim Airport Manager Sean Moran told the Weekly. "The Livermore City Council will ultimately approve or deny the lease and they'll have to fulfill any environmental obligations, any environmental reports needed."

The development will eventually require approval by the Livermore Community Development Department, Planning Commission and City Council, but the project cleared a key hurdle on Feb. 8 when the city's Airport Commission advanced the proposal and recommended the aforementioned entities review it further.

See KAISERAIR on Page 7

Stalemate forces PUSD board to set another debate on school reopenings

Multiple votes on proposals fail to gain majority support with absence on Feb. 11

By JULIA BAUM

After reaching a stalemate last week on reopening Pleasanton Unified School District for in-person learning, the Board of Trustees was scheduled to revisit the matter at a special online meeting at the end of this week.

Following a lengthy discussion that included two separate board motions — both resulting in 2-2 votes, with Board President Joan Laursen absent on Feb. 11 — the board called for the special meeting on the following Thursday (Feb. 18) to ensure compliance with the Brown Act, which requires proper public notice of any action up for a vote.

Trustee Mark Miller was among the trustees who suggested “that we should table this conversation for a subsequent meeting where we can notice the community properly,” a motion also supported by Superintendent David Haglund.

New state guidance allows elementary schools to reopen while Alameda County is in the purple tier of the state’s COVID-19 monitoring system, as long as the case rate is less than 25 per 100,000 people, but secondary schools must remain closed to in-person

Editor’s note: This story covered the Feb. 11 PUSD Board of Trustees discussion on school reopenings. Because of tie votes, the district scheduled a subsequent board hearing that was set to occur yesterday, after the Weekly’s press deadline. Visit PleasantonWeekly.com this weekend for coverage of that meeting.

instruction while in the purple.

As of Feb. 10, the average adjusted case rate was 18.1 per 100,000, according to the Alameda County Public Health Department website. The county is currently still in the purple tier but case data has been recently trending downward.

The district’s current plan calls for gradually returning students to school in a hybrid model — starting with pre-kindergarten through second grade, then continuing up through secondary school — once the county has been in the red tier for two weeks. Families would have the option to remain in remote learning, as required by state law.

Within the secondary grades, a phased approach has been recommended to have grades 6 and

9, moderate-to-severe special day classes (SDC) grades 6 through 12, and all Village High alternative education students return the week after grades 3 to 5. All remaining secondary students would be invited back the week following just grades 6 and 9, in order to allow more time for student orientation.

A similar motion that failed to pass Feb. 11 would have the same groups returning just five days after Alameda County reached the red tier, with trustees Steve Maher and Kelly Mokashi voting No in support of a more expedited process.

“Another school of thought I had been thinking about was basically we have pre-K to 2; why can’t we have the 6th through 9th (grade) at the same time consecutively?” Mokashi asked. “Because we’re losing time; we have 14 weeks left, so that’s what I’m really struggling with.”

Maher, who has expressed his desire to have students back in school sooner, said he wasn’t against grades 6 and 9 returning separately.

“I don’t have a problem with the orientation; I just have a problem

with the rest of the high school waiting another week. Again, that’s pushing them out,” Maher said, then suggested holding evening orientation hours for grades 6 and 9 while concurrently reopening for all secondary students.

“I agree with Trustee Mokashi; I don’t want to delay more than five days,” Maher added.

Earlier during the public hearing, a couple dozen people voiced their opinions — many varying greatly — on reopening. Some speakers urged the board to wait until teachers are vaccinated, while others begged to reopen right away, including several students.

Reopening advocates added their voices to a chorus of parents in the health care field who asked the board in a Feb. 8 signed letter “that you make every effort to open our public schools to full-time in-person education as soon as the public health officer permits.”

“We implore you to make every effort to reopen schools now, with the clear goal of having kids TK - 12 back before the end of the school year,” the group wrote.

PUSD parents and students advocating for a return to the board’s prior reopening plan — which

called for grades K-5 to return while the county is still in the purple tier, after the case rate is below 25 per 100,000 for five days, and grades 7 to 12 to return after the county is in the red tier for five days — have held several rallies since December to draw attention to their cause.

Two weeks ago, the group urged the trustees “to reconsider the timing for school reopening to align with (the) county’s guidance,” which largely informed their original plan.

The group “by no means underestimate the risk that children and teachers may face from leaving their homes,” but said “for the vast majority of students, the benefits of in-person school greatly outweigh the risks.”

“The learning losses, the negative mental health sequelae, the increasing inequity, and the social breakdown our children are living through are no longer a questionable future prospect; they are a stark current reality,” they said.

In a statement following the meeting, the district thanked staff members and the community “for the thoughtful discussions that have served to keep our students’ best interests at heart of our decision-making processes.”

As required by the county and state health departments, PUSD is also submitting several COVID-19 safety and protection plans for approval so they can reopen. ■

Tri-Valley lawmakers introduce wildfire safety bill

Requires power companies to alert local fire districts about safety work

By JULIA BAUM

A proposed new state law to require local fire districts be notified by electrical utility companies about any fire safety-related activities in areas with high fire risk was introduced last week by Tri-Valley state legislators in coordination with local fire officials.

AB 529 would mandate that local fire districts be “alerted of any fire safety, prevention, or mitigation services conducted by electrical utility companies like PG&E, in high fire-risk areas,” according to a Feb. 10 statement issued by Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (D-Orinda).

“We hope that this bill will be another tool in their arsenal to fight potentially deadly fires,” Bauer-Kahan said. “Due to climate change, California’s fire season has been longer and more intense in recent years. With proper notification, we can shave off precious time for fire response.”

Bauer-Kahan brought forward AB 529, along with State Senator Steve Glazer (D-Orinda), Moraga-Orinda Fire District Chief Dave Winnacker and San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District (SRVFPD)



Rebecca Bauer-Kahan



Steve Glazer

Chief Paige Meyer.

“The road to recovery from last year’s fire season will be long and difficult, but part of this recovery is making sure we give enhanced tools and resources to our local fire districts,” Glazer said.

One “essential element” of AB 529 is that a utility is not prevented from doing emergency maintenance work at any point. In case of an emergency, the utility would be required to report the work within 72 hours of completion and if any incidents occurred as a result.

The bill is based on existing local ordinances in Assembly District 16 — which includes the San Ramon Valley and Lamorinda — that “set notification requirements for electrical utilities in order to ensure clear

communication, so that a local fire district is prepared and on alert when the chance of a fire is increased in high fire-risk areas.”

Last year was California’s worst fire season in modern history, according to Bauer-Kahan, with more than 10,000 wildfires burning over 4.2 million acres of land throughout the state by the end of 2020. More than 4% of all land in California was scorched by wildfires, and 33 people lost their lives.

The “August Complex Fires” last summer was also the first “gigafire” in the state, and burned more than 1 million acres in seven counties.

AB 529 aims to ensure that such another wildfire doesn’t happen again, and prevent “further destruction of property or loss of life, by ensuring that local fire districts are prepared and ready to respond if a fire is inadvertently started due to maintenance work.”

Mayer called the bill “a big step in the right direction,” and said “the enhanced level of communication between the big utilities and local fire agencies makes a difference in keeping communities safe throughout the state.



ACFD

File photo shows billowing smoke above wildfire in rural Alameda County last summer as part of the SCU Lightning Complex.

“Advance notice of when, where and what PG&E will be doing in high fire risk areas allows fire agencies the opportunity to assess the area in advance, pre-position assets if warranted, and provide feedback to PG&E in advance about local conditions,” Meyer said.

Winnacker said his district is following SRVFPD’s lead “in promoting better communication and cooperation between PG&E and local fire agencies,” adding the introduced bill “goes a long way towards accomplishing this goal and will protect our communities statewide.” ■

Goodguys, Livermore Rodeo announce cancellations

Two other car shows remain on schedule

By JEREMY WALSH

The Goodguys Rod & Custom Association has canceled two of its Get-Together car shows originally scheduled for 2021 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton, an announcement that came days after officials confirmed the 2021 Livermore Rodeo would be called off amid the pandemic.

The Goodguys 34th West Coast Nationals and its 31st Autumn Get-Together remain on the schedule for later in the year in Pleasanton, late August and early November, respectively.

Andrew Ebel, chief operating officer at Goodguys, said the early-year cancellations in Pleasanton and other venues were primarily the result of health officials using the association's typical event sites for large-scale COVID-19 vaccination centers.

"While we faced many disheartening cancellations in 2020, this is the first that we can be optimistic about," Ebel said in a statement Wednesday. "Being displaced by local vaccination efforts only serves to accelerate the pace of our return to a healthy community and events without restrictions. This news is positive for Del

Mar, for Pleasanton and Goodguys."

Goodguys, which is based in Pleasanton, is scheduled to hold its first event of 2021, the LMC Truck Spring Lone Star Nationals, next month in Fort Worth, Texas.

But the 38th All American Get-Together and 27th Summer Get-Together, both of which were on the docket in Pleasanton in the first half of the year, have been canceled. All vehicle registrations and ticket purchases for those events will be automatically transferred to the Autumn Get-Together set for Nov. 13-14 at the fairgrounds, according to Ebel.

The entire Goodguys slate in Pleasanton was canceled in 2020 due to COVID-19 and associated health restrictions.

Meanwhile, down the road in Livermore, the stockmen's association announced earlier this month that the annual Livermore Rodeo was being called off for the second year in a row due to the pandemic.

"I am sure this is disappointing news to you, as it is disappointing for me to share," Sheila Fagliano, president of the Livermore Stockmen Rodeo Association, said in a statement on the group's website.

"The decision to cancel this year's event was thoroughly discussed and voted on by your elected Board of Directors. This decision was based on the COVID-19 pandemic currently impacting the world," Fagliano continued, adding:

"Every news channel, internet article, and media print has completely informed all of us regarding the dangers of this pandemic. Social distancing, isolation, hand washing, and preventing large gatherings have been the most advised preventative method available to overcome this virus. Additionally, the Alameda County Health Order prevents gatherings for sporting events."

The association is beginning preparations toward bringing back the Livermore Rodeo in 2022, even scheduling the event date already for June 11-12, 2022, "with the intent and motivation to make things bigger and better," according to Fagliano.

In the meantime, she said, the group's board is also "working hard to develop another western event that can be safely conducted and enjoyed while maintaining compliance with the health order. As you can imagine, this is an active and moving target." ■

KAISERAIR

Continued from Page 5

Proposed to be located on an approximately 45-acre vacant parcel north of West Jack London Boulevard and south of Taxiway Lima, the project would develop a "fixed based operator" (FBO) facility and associated hangars on airport.

KaiserAir has proposed a comprehensive phased development of the parcel that would include the FBO terminal complex, offices, aircraft maintenance facilities, fuel farm, self-service aircraft fueling facility, corporate hangars, parking spaces and box t-hangars.

The project would also relocate KaiserAir's corporate offices from Oakland International, along with basing some of their existing corporate air fleet at the Livermore Airport.

"The proposed development will provide enhanced aeronautical services at the airport and generate significant revenues to the airport enterprise fund," former airport manager David Decoteau wrote in a staff report.

"The development would also increase enterprise fund revenues further through landing fees. The additional revenue would be used to enhance and improve airport facilities for the betterment of all airport users and visitors," he added.

Decoteau also said that the project is estimated to net approximately

\$286,944 per year for the city's airport enterprise fund, saying "over the term of a 45-year lease (35 years, with two five-year options), an estimated net revenue of \$12,912,480 is anticipated."

"The project also includes improvements to the airfield infrastructure including a new vehicle service road as well as enhancements to a taxiway intersection improvement estimated at over \$1 million and Taxiway Lima to accommodate aircraft access to and from the site. KaiserAir has also agreed to take an active role in noise abatement at the airport and will work closely with city staff to support efforts of noise mitigation," Decoteau added.

Currently based in Oakland International, KaiserAir currently sells approximately four million gallons of aviation fuel on an annual basis from its locations in Oakland and Sonoma County Airport, according to Decoteau.

For residents who may be concerned about the stationing of Boeing 737s at the Livermore Airport, Moran said that the airport has allowed such aircraft to operate at the airport in the past, with no issues reported from the public.

"Historically the airport has actually had (Boeing 737s) operating in and out of the airport with no incident. Kaiser has also been able to safely operate in and out of the airport in the past," Moran said. ■

Hello Pleasanton!

Your new green energy provider arrives

April 2021

East Bay Community Energy is your local public power agency, providing 100% carbon-free energy from solar, wind, and hydropower at the same price as PG&E, and supporting local community programs.

Learn more at ebce.org/pleasanton



San Ramon council OKs new Costco gas station

City officials unanimously deny appeal, sign off on project at special meeting

By RYAN J. DEGAN

The San Ramon City Council approved plans for a 32-pump Costco gas station across the street from the company's Danville warehouse store, denying a resident-submitted appeal challenging the project during a special meeting last week.

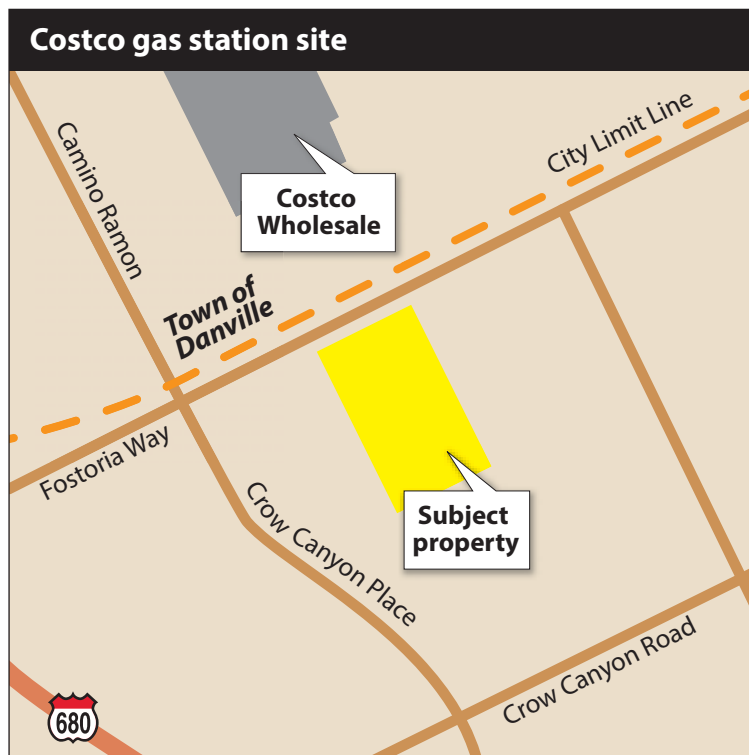
The city officials unanimously affirmed the project's approval after a more than 2-1/2-hour meeting, disagreeing with the appellant's claims that the public review process, environmental assessment and traffic impacts were inadequate.

"If our own staff reviewed it and said in fact it was appropriate for the site and was consistent and conservative, then the fact that (the studies) were done by a Costco-paid company is not really all that relevant," Vice Mayor Scott Perkins said during the Feb. 11 virtual meeting.

"It seems like both in the traffic and air quality analysis that there were conservative assumptions made that allow for membership growth. I mean the city is going to grow; it's not going to be static — the state wouldn't allow us to be static," he added.

Initially approved by the San Ramon Planning Commission on Dec. 15 and later challenged in a resident group's appeal on Dec. 21, the 32-pump gas station has been designed to service the Danville Costco store located at 3150 Fostoria Way.

It would be located over the border within San Ramon city limits at the site of the Office Depot building on 3111 Fostoria Way, which would be demolished in order to



accommodate the new gas station.

The project would also include a 12,663-square-foot canopy with signage on all sides, an approximately 200-square-foot control facility and associated site improvements and landscape enhancement on the 2.88-acre lot.

A hot-button issue for many residents in the area (Mayor Dave Hudson estimated that he's received 1,000 emails on the subject over the past couple of months from those who may be affected by the project), dozens of residents voiced their opposition to the project during last week's special meeting.

The most common concerns

revolved around increased traffic, decreased property values, potential environmental consequences and a general lowering of the quality of life of residents in the area.

Opponents also raised concerns over the Planning Commission's review process for the original approval of the project, saying the traffic and environmental impacts have not been adequately documented and that more review was necessary to determine the true effects the project would have on the community.

"I think that the city should do more due diligence. I'm not saying let's not put Costco there, but I do think that rushing into a decision like this, we're putting a permanent change in traffic on that court," said Reza Mahmoodi, who submitted the appeal on behalf of the resident group Safer San Ramon.

"I don't see any downfall in doing more research," he added.

With support and information provided from city staff, council



RYAN J. DEGAN

The San Ramon City Council on Feb. 11 approved plans for a Costco gas station to be located at the site of the Office Depot building at 3111 Fostoria Way.

members rejected each of the petitioners' claims about the project, generally finding that the Planning Commission's review of the project was thorough enough for their approval.

"We have to look at the big picture and how all of this comes together. I've been watching all of our (old meeting recordings) back from our architectural board and the feedback they gave and from our planning commissioners and the feedback that they gave. By the time it's come to us, it has really been vetted out," Councilwoman Sabina Zafar said.

Specifically addressing traffic issues, city staff said the traffic reports estimated 1,905 additional trips from the Costco gas station onto Fostoria Way — the street effectively marking the Danville-San Ramon border. Staff said the existing carrying capacity of Fostoria Way, ranges between 18,600 to 36,800 vehicles per day, making the additional trips effectively insignificant.

City staff also said the gas station could promote a financial boon for the city, with conservative estimates indicating that the station will result in more than \$200,000 a year in sales tax revenue that would benefit the city.

"We can dismiss and say we don't want the revenue that is

going to come from this gas station, but we do," Zafar said. "We are going to be suffering because of our budget and revenue lost from the pandemic and a domino effect would be that our level of services would be impacted ... if we don't have sources for economic development."

Touching on the tearing down of the Office Depot store to accommodate the new gas station, council members said the gas station would be an upgrade for the location, describing the Office Depot as an eyesore that drummed up very little business.

"Every time I've been in (Office Depot) I haven't seen more than two or three cars. I don't know how that's doing or if it's viable, most of that has moved to Amazon and I don't know if that kind of store even fits in the model anymore," Zafar said, adding that there would be a boon "by having something that is not going to be an empty lot anymore."

"The Office Depot in Dublin has been closed for more than 10 years; it's a vacant building," Perkins added. "I would hate for our Office Depot to remain closed, generating zero new revenue and we missed out on this opportunity only for lo and behold, Danville finds a way to put a gas station in on Fostoria (anyway)." ■



COURTESY OF CITY OF SAN RAMON

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

Did your insurance premium with California Earthquake authority (CEA) DOUBLE this year?

YOU DO HAVE OPTIONS!

Contact us today for a free quote.

(925) 447-2565

or email us at: save@genemorganinsurance.com

SAVE UP TO 50% OFF YOUR PREMIUM!

Find us at 2020 4th Street in Livermore

Gene Morgan Insurance Agency
www.genemorganinsurance.com
 Since 1953 LIC#0M28209

State's first cases of South Africa COVID-19 variant identified in Alameda, Santa Clara counties

Cases detected through genomic sequencing efforts at Stanford lab

By SUE DREMANN/
PALO ALTO WEEKLY

California's first confirmed cases of the coronavirus variant originating in South Africa have been identified in Alameda and Santa Clara counties, health officials announced last week.

The Stanford Clinical Virology Lab identified two cases, one in each county, as the B.1.351 variant of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

The patients in both cases have recovered.

Dr. Sara Cody, Santa Clara County's health officer and director of public health, said the case in her county involved a person who had returned from international travel in mid-January and first experienced symptoms several days later. A traveling partner also got sick but recovered before being tested for the disease; that person, who lives in the same household, is presumed to have had the mutated virus as well.

Health officials are trying to piece together where the person who tested positive might have contracted the disease. The case is complicated by the pattern of travel the pair engaged in.

There is little evidence so far that the case spread beyond the pair. They followed Santa Clara County's 10-day mandatory quarantine after travel of more than 150 miles outside the county and were isolated in their apartment for the entire infectious period, Cody said.

"This is an important example



STEVE FISCH/STANFORD MEDICINE

A Stanford Medicine technician in Dr. Benjamin Pinsky's lab sorts through patient samples for the COVID-19 infection.

of how public health measures can help break the chain of transmission and why it is critical that we as a community continue to avoid travel and quarantine upon return," Cody said.

Dr. Nicholas Moss, Alameda County's health officer, said little is yet known about the case in his county other than the identity of the patient. His staff are still investigating how the person contracted the variant and whether the patient came into contact with others.

The two cases were detected

through genomic sequencing. Dr. Benjamin Pinsky, medical director of the Stanford Clinical Virology Lab, said the facility has screened 1,708 positive COVID-19 samples in the past three weeks, mainly from patients at Stanford Hospital, its emergency department, Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford and Valley Care, or from patients under preparation for surgeries. Currently, about 4%-5% of the samples they receive are positive for the virus. The lab then screens the positive samples for

mutations. When they find them, they run a genomic sequence on some of the samples to identify other potential variants, he said.

As of last week, they'd identified the two South African samples. In the past two weeks, they found four samples of the strain that originated in the United Kingdom and two samples of the less-concerning Brazilian P2 strain.

The South Africa strain and the Brazilian P1 strain — the latter of which has not yet been identified in California — are troubling

because they have multiple mutations that could make vaccines and immunity from the currently dominant COVID-19 strain less effective.

The Brazil P2 strain has only one of the mutations, so it is less concerning, according to Pinsky. (Cody said last week that this Brazilian P2 strain has not been found in Santa Clara County.)

Viruses work in different ways to attach to human cells. The virus linked to COVID-19 interacts with cells by way of so-called "spike" genes. The interaction is a factor in the transmissibility of the virus. It can also affect many antibodies the body makes to fight the virus. The South Africa strain has many mutations in the spike genes, which could impact the efficacy of the vaccines.

Studies have found that the Johnson & Johnson and Novavax COVID-19 vaccines have a 60% efficacy against the South Africa variant, Pinsky said. Earlier this week, AstraZeneca also put its South African study on hold because its vaccine showed less-than-ideal effectiveness against the strain, he said.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said last week that the U.K. variant is becoming widespread and will be the dominant strain in the U.S. by the end of March. The Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines are at least 94% effective against the U.K.

See **VARIANT** on Page 11



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Presenting Taste Tri-Valley

Chicken enchilada with mole sauce is on the menu at Concina Hermanas in Danville, one of 35 restaurants in Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin and Danville taking part in the first Taste Tri-Valley, 10 days of special outdoor dining, delivery and take-out meals running from today through Feb. 28. Lunch menus are priced at \$10, \$15 and \$25; dinner specials at \$25, \$40 and \$65. The event is sponsored by Visit Tri-Valley with participating cities and chambers of commerce. Sign up for a mobile pass to access exclusive menu and specials plus a chance to win \$25 gift cards at visittrivalley.com. Virtual wine events and special wine bundles and tasting packs from Livermore wineries are also being offered.

HIRED HANDS INC.
Homecare
Family owned and operated since 1994



Where the Client-Caregiver
Relationship is Everything.



925-621-7650

HIREDHANDSHOMECARE.COM

VACCINATION

Continued from Page 5

After this week, the county expects to have 1,000 appointments available each day the Pleasanton site is open, which is currently Wednesdays through Saturdays. If vaccine supply increases, the fairgrounds' vaccine site could ramp up to administer 5,000 doses per day, county officials said.

"Getting this site launched is an important part of the County's strategy for increasing vaccination rates. Every vaccination is one step closer to normalcy and I look forward to when the Fairgrounds can once again host the kinds of events it was intended for," Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley, whose district includes Pleasanton, said in a statement Wednesday.

"Our goal is to provide broad access to vaccine across the county, and this site is a cornerstone of our planning for the future," added Dr. Kathleen Clanon, medical director for the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency. "We are putting in place an infrastructure that provides immediate access to seniors and essential workers and allows us to scale up quickly if vaccine supply increases."

Drop-ins are not currently allowed at the Pleasanton site, and all residents will need to schedule an appointment prior to receiving a vaccine.



RYAN J. DEGAN

Local officials, such as Supervisor Nate Miley here at the mic, were on hand Wednesday to commemorate the first day of full operations at the fairgrounds vaccination site.

Patients can register online through Sutter Health, Stanford-ValleyCare or the county online or by contacting their own representative or doctor.

Fairgrounds staff added that county health services are also in the process of establishing an "appointment portal" for residents to schedule a time and place to receive a vaccination.

To date, the county has also administered 249,898 vaccines throughout the county, that includes 186,256 first doses and 61,524 second doses — both the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines require two doses in order to become

a fully effective inoculation.

Pleasanton residents account for 10,185 first round doses and 2,956 second round doses, according to ACPHD. Neighboring Livermore has had 9,169 first doses administered followed by 2,973 second, while Dublin has received 5,663 first and 1,948 second.

"While we work to vaccinate county residents, we urge everyone to continue the other measures proven slow the spread of COVID-19, including wearing masks and practicing physical distancing," Dr. Nicholas Moss, Alameda County Health Officer, said in a statement. "These simple strategies are the best way for people to remain safe and to protect their loved ones and co-workers until more people are vaccinated."

Fairgrounds vaccines will be administered through "Parking Gate 8" off of Valley Avenue, near the Valley and Bernal Avenue intersection.

Residents can track the status of vaccinations and when they may be eligible to receive their own

vaccine online at covid-19.acgov.org/vaccines.

According to ACPHD, as of Tuesday morning, countywide — including the city of Berkeley, which operates its own public health department — there have been 78,714 reported cases of the coronavirus and 1,121 associated deaths.

That includes 3,936 coronavirus cases reported in Livermore, 2,020 in Pleasanton and 1,464 in Dublin.

—Story by Ryan J. Degan, Pleasanton Weekly

Mass vaccination site at the Coliseum

The Oakland Coliseum coronavirus vaccination site opened Tuesday with the capacity to administer some 3,000 doses per day, according to state and federal officials.

The Coliseum site, operated in partnership between the state's Office of Emergency Services and the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Defense, is part of the federal government's effort to open 100 mass vaccination sites in President Joe Biden's first 100 days in office.

State and federal officials also plan to deploy a pair of mobile vaccination clinics in addition to the Coliseum site. By the end of the week, the site will have the capacity to administer up to 6,000 doses per day.

Newsom, speaking Tuesday at the opening of a similar mass vaccination site in Los Angeles, said some 6.3 million vaccine doses have been administered in California to date.

"There are only seven jurisdictions in the world that have administered more doses of the vaccine than the state of California," he said.

Newsom has argued repeatedly that the state's vaccination effort would be even further along if the local public health departments and health care entities administering vaccines had more doses available.

The two-dose nature of the vaccines currently available from pharmaceutical company Pfizer and biotechnology company Moderna further hampers supply, Newsom and local health officials have reiterated.

A third vaccine developed by Johnson & Johnson, which requires only one dose, is expected to become available this spring.

For now, roughly 201,000 doses are being administered statewide per day, according to Newsom, who added that 1.28 million vaccine doses are expected to be delivered in the state this week, followed by 1.31 million doses next week.

"We're building the infrastructure where the only constraint is supply," Newsom said. "When the supply is ample, then we're able to move aggressively and quickly."

Registration for vaccinations at the Coliseum site can be made by eligible residents through the state's

MyTurn website, <https://myturn.ca.gov>, or by calling 833-422-4255.

—Story by Eli Walsh, BCN Foundation

Eligibility expands March 15

Beginning March 15, anyone ages 16 to 64 with a developmental disability, cancer or other conditions that would put them at risk of death and complications from COVID-19 will be eligible for the vaccine, California Department of Public Health officials said during a press briefing last Friday.

The department sent the directive to vaccinators and local health departments in a Feb. 12 memo announcing the change, which will allow health care providers to "use their clinical judgement" to vaccinate certain people who are deemed to be at the "very highest risk" for severe illness and death.

Starting March 15, people ages 16-64 with the following conditions will be eligible: current cancer, with a debilitated or immunocompromised state; chronic kidney disease, stage 4 or above; oxygen-dependent chronic pulmonary disease; Down syndrome; immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from a solid organ transplant; pregnancy; sickle cell disease; heart conditions such as heart failure, coronary artery disease or cardiomyopathies (but not hypertension); severe obesity (body mass index equal or greater than 40) and Type 2 diabetes mellitus with a hemoglobin A1c level greater than 7.5%.

People with a developmental or other severe, high-risk disability are also eligible if one or more of the following applies: the person is likely to develop severe, life-threatening illness or death from COVID-19 infection; acquiring COVID-19 will limit the person's ability to receive ongoing care or services that are vital to their well-being and survival; and if providing adequate and timely COVID-19 care will be particularly challenging as a result of the person's disability.

Dr. Mark Ghaly, California's secretary of the Health and Human Services Agency, said the guidelines are consistent with the state's goals to protect those who are most vulnerable to the coronavirus as quickly as possible. The decision to open vaccine administration to these groups comes after weeks of work with stakeholder groups.

"There are 4 to 6 million people in these groups," he said. Altogether, the number of eligible people from existing groups approved for the vaccines and this new number would equal 17 million to 19 million, Ghaly said.

In the coming weeks, the state will continue to build up its infrastructure to accommodate the increasing numbers of people who will become eligible. The main concern continues to be the scarcity of vaccines, he added. ■

—Story by Sue Dremann, Palo Alto Weekly

George Pires

November 8, 1929 – February 11, 2021

George Manuel Pires, Age 91, passed away peacefully on February 11, 2021 at Kaiser Hospital, San Leandro.

George was a long-time resident of Pleasanton and had many friends and interests, especially football and his beloved Oakland Raiders.

He lived in Alameda County his entire life, except during his service with the US Army in the Korean War. George was a proud Veteran and supported many veteran groups and was a faithful member of St. Augustine's Catholic Church in Pleasanton.

Born and raised in "Jingle Town" Oakland, California, where the vast majority of the population was Portuguese, George was very proud of his Portuguese heritage and had visited Portugal several times.

When George came back from Korea he began working for Pacific Bell, where he remained for the next 40 years.

George is preceded in death by his first wife Berniece Pires, his life partner, Marge Galli and his parents and siblings.

Deeply loved by his family, George leaves behind his nieces, Diane Spencer, Cynthia (Michael) Palmer, Kathleen Neisse and nephews, Kevin Bass and Edward (Patricia) Bass, Donald Hyde and many great nieces and nephews.

Services shall be as follows: Viewing will be held on Feb. 23, from 4:00-8:00 pm at Graham-Hitch Mortuary. A Funeral Mass will be held at St. Augustine's Parish on Feb. 24, at 10:00 am with internment to follow at St. Augustine Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers the family wishes you to make a donation to the church or charity of your choice.



PAID OBITUARY


FD #429 MORTUARY
LOCALLY OWNED
AND OPERATED SINCE 1891

BURIAL & CREMATION
CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICES
RECEPTION FACILITIES
ADVANCE PLANNING MADE EASY
FOR A FREE CONSULTATION
OR IN-HOME VISIT CALL


DEANNA MOSER
925.846.5624
 TO VIEW OUR FACILITIES VISIT:
WWW.GRAHAMHITCH.COM

**4167 FIRST STREET,
PLEASANTON**

VARIANT

Continued from Page 9

variant, but are “less so” against the variant from South Africa, he said.

Pfizer’s vaccine showed a slightly lower level of efficacy against the South Africa variant, according to a study by New York University scientists. The company said in late January that other studies show the reduction is unlikely to lead to a significant impact in the effectiveness of the vaccine.

Moderna announced in late January that its vaccine holds up

against the U.K. and South Africa variants. Out of an abundance of caution, it is developing a booster.

Moss, Alameda County’s health officer, said that even though the vaccines are less effective against variants, early evidence shows they will continue to provide protection for some time. Still, he and Cody are concerned that more variants might exist undetected. Genomic sequencing must ramp up in order to stay ahead of the ever-evolving virus, they said.

Currently only a fraction of COVID-19 positive cases are sequenced, according to Cody. The county and its partners are

actively working to increase sequencing efforts, but there are hurdles.

“It reminds me of the early days of testing,” she said, when there wasn’t a unified strategy and it took a long time to gear up testing and contact tracing.

“One year ago we were very uncomfortable ... With genomic sequencing, it’s a similar story,” she said.

So far, there’s no standardized genomic sequencing nationwide. California is trying to build a standardized approach across the state, she said.

“The capacity just isn’t what it

needs to be in order to identify the variants rapidly,” she said.

Santa Clara County is in a better place than some other areas, perhaps because there are many academic laboratories with equipment and skills to do the sequencing, she said. Pinsky, for example, said his lab currently runs about 100 genomic sequencing tests per week and it plans to do more.

Moss and Cody stressed that the variants make it all the more important to continue in earnest social distancing, mask wearing and other activities to protect against spreading the virus.

“The more chances the virus

has to spread, the more opportunities it has to adapt and create new variants. This is a warning to all of us that we must stay on top of community transmission,” Moss said. Cody added: “We’re still in a pretty big pickle, and that’s the truth.”

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention last week released data showing that double masking, such as wearing a cloth face covering on top of a surgical mask, is more effective at reducing virus transmission. For recommendations on double-masking and making sure face coverings are tight-fitting, visit [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov). ■

MASKS

Continued from Page 5

been sort of the common theme there, and then Livermore has issued no citations, either to businesses or to the public.”

When it comes to mask enforcement, Alameda County’s order “makes any violation of the order a misdemeanor punishable by fine, imprisonment or both to be pursued by the district attorney,” according to a staff report.

Councilmember Kathy Narum said she wasn’t “really convinced it’s a deterrent.”

“I’m not sure that I’m ready to have our police necessarily answering a bunch of calls getting people to wear a mask,” Narum said, adding she still “absolutely” supported continued education and additional signage — especially with improved visuals, because “sometimes I think our signs are too wordy.”

Testa said that signage “would be a great addition to an ordinance, but the signage isn’t going to change, isn’t going to make a difference right now.”

“We’ve already got signage going and everyone knows; they just know that there’s no teeth to what those signs say, so it doesn’t matter,” she said. “The enforcement mechanism will be the deterrent, that will make a difference.”

Noting the “gatekeepers” who take visitors’ temperatures before they can step inside City Hall, Testa continued, “Aren’t we responsible to maintain a safe environment for our residents? How can we set a double standard there?”

Who would be responsible for issuing citations was also a matter of consideration Tuesday evening.

A number of community services and parking enforcement officers, as well as volunteers, are normally dispatched by the Pleasanton Police Department during non-COVID times. However, Fialho said “our volunteers are not in operation currently because they’re mostly older and retired, so for safety reasons we’ve temporarily paused that program.”

The job description for the city’s community services officers also does not allow them to issue citations.

“To allow them to do that, we would have to engage in what’s called a meet-and-confer process with their represented labor organization, and that takes time, and sometimes the outcomes are not swift or desirable to the city,” Fialho said.

Parking enforcement officers are limited to parking enforcement activities, and “beyond that, we have one code enforcement officer” that “for a city of our size, is mostly involved in nuisance abatement and other property related activities,” he added.

Resident Paulette Salisbury called the proposed ordinance “unethical and unconstitutional” during the public hearing, and said the decision to wear a mask “is a highly personal one and should not be universally mandated.”

“All of these measures, while they may be well-attended, have undermined our ability to act as free and independent citizens,” Salisbury said. “Since none of you are medical doctors, you’re not in a position to dictate or advise on appropriate medical interventions for me and my family.”

Local health care worker Nicole Dennis supported mandatory masks in public spaces, especially parks, and expressed concern about the

lack of enforcement by the city while the community is also asking local schools to reopen.

“Unfortunately, the infection rates have increased despite the education approach that the city has taken,” Dennis said. “It concerns me when I see mixed groups of kids playing in the parks playing basketball, playing volleyball without masks, to then ask the teachers to return to school and expose themselves and their families to risk of infection as well as other kids that are following the CDC guidelines.”

Arkin, who recently left the Pleasanton school board after 12 years for her new council position, was the only council member besides Testa who supported the proposed mask mandate. Arkin revealed one of her children had COVID-19 before and “it was very serious, made me very, very worried.”

“I would have loved to have my kid fined for not wearing a mask because they did not wear a mask,” Arkin said. “It could have been \$1,000 fine; it would have been worth it to me for her to get fined so that she would not have gotten it. Because now she has to live with knowing that there could be health ramifications for the rest of her life.” ■

TAKE US ALONG



Looking back on that trip to Costa Rica: Janis, Erin and Colleen O’Rourke just sent in this photo they took in July 2019 (pre-pandemic) from their trip to the Hanging Bridges near Lake Arenal in Costa Rica.

To submit your “Take Us Along” entry (from at home, around town or on the road), email your photograph to editor@pleasantonweekly.com. Be sure to identify who is in the photo with names listed from left to right, the location, the date and any relevant details about where you’re reading your Weekly.

Frank AufderMaur

August 3, 1926 – February 7, 2021

On August 3rd, 1926, in the village of Steinen, Switzerland, Josef Leo and Rosa Anna Marie Auf der Maur welcomed their second son, Franz, into the world.

Franz learned his trade by working in his father’s cabinet shop and trade school in Switzerland.

In 1952, Franz was introduced to Konrad Rickenbach’s cousin, Alma Rickenbach. Who had two girls, Alma and Pauline (Cookie) from an earlier marriage. Franz moved to Pleasanton, California and changed his name to Frank On December 5, 1953, he and Alma married. Frank then opened Pleasanton Cabinet Shop in an old barn.

He and Alma had two children, daughter, Anita Rosa and son, Frank Jr.

Frank bought an old horse ranch on Santa Rita Road and relocated Pleasanton Cabinet Shop there. He encouraged his friend Konrad Rickenbach to come to America and become his partner. Frank and Konrad started Pleasanton Development and began building apartments, medical offices and commercial buildings. Frank and Konrad partnered with Frank Schmidig, Robert (Bob) Armknecht and DR. Ralph Juhl D.D.S.

By the late 1970’s Frank and Konrad found themselves developing Stanley Business Park.

Stanley Business Park provided opportunities for many new businesses.

In the early 1980’s, Frank and Konrad faced issues with the local millworkers’ union. The Union chose to Strike which went on for months. Arson burned Pleasanton Cabinet Shop to the ground.

Frank, Konrad, Frank Schmidig and Bob Armknecht began cleaning up the destruction, and Pleasanton Cabinet Shop was no longer. Frank and Konrad went on managing and developing Stanley Business Park.

In 1993 Alma died. On April 12, 1996, Frank married Rosemary Enz. Frank enjoyed staying connected with the local Swiss communities.

Surrounded by his adoring family he passed quietly and calmly. His love for our Heavenly Father led him back home.

Frank is survived by his wife Rosemary, sister Rosa Frye, daughters Pauline (Cookie) Cameron and Anita AufderMaur, son Frank AufderMaur Jr., and son in law Wayne Swisher. Seven grandchildren; Brett (Daphne) Swisher, Brian (Tara) Swisher, Grant Cameron, Andrea (Chris) Gorden, De Anna (Thom) Bradley, Nik (Corrine) Colella, and Zacharius AufderMaur.

Frank was preceded in death by first wife Alma Mary AufderMaur, daughter Alma Swisher, son in law Robert Cameron, brothers Josef Maria, Abt Ivo and Alois Anton, sisters Anna Andermatt and Hedwig Fischlin, brother in law Dominick Rickenbach and sister in law Margarette Brunno

SERVICES: Due to Covid-19 space is limited. Please RSVP at aufdermauranita@gmail.com.

A Rosary and Mass will be held at 10:00 AM, Tuesday, February 23, 2021, at St. Augustine’s Church, 3999 Bernal Ave., Pleasanton, California.

REMEMBRANCES: In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Tri-Valley Hope Hospice.

PAID OBITUARY

Technology helps bring Black

Tri-Valley groups celebrate African American

By CIERRA



FOOTHILL BSU

Members of the Foothill High School Black Student Union bond before a group movie night pre-pandemic.



FOOTHILL BSU

The Foothill BSU gathers on campus for the club yearbook photo before the pandemic.



TRI-VALLEY FOR BLACK LIVES

"Black Brother, Black Brother" by Jewell Parker Rhodes is placed in a Little Free Library across from Vintage Hills Elementary School in Pleasanton as part of the Tri-Valley for Black Lives book donation drive.

Libraries and schools throughout the Tri-Valley mainly remain closed, indoor activities are at a halt and in-person gatherings are still discouraged.

But even in the face of these pandemic restrictions, Black History Month celebrations carry on here, taking shape virtually through webinars on video conferencing platforms and social media campaigns to disburse educational material and pay tribute to the contributions of Black culture on society.

"I feel that people in the Tri-Valley and nationwide need to be aware and understand that Black Americans have and continue to contribute tremendously to society and this country," said Dublin community organizer Regis Harvey who is a member of several local organizations including Diablo Black Men's Group, Dublin's Diversity & Inclusion Alliance and Tri-Valley for Black Lives.

Harvey added that he wants society to have a more holistic view of Black people and to not see them just as laborers, entertainers, athletes or threats.

"So many look at us as the bottom of the social class or ladder but not as equal human beings," he said. "A lot of people love Black culture and music but don't love Black people. And the fundamental reason why is because so many people are taught this behavior and ideology."

While the month of February has been recognized as Black History Month throughout the United States since 1976, this year poses a unique set of challenges related to both the pandemic and the re-invigorated conversations about racism, diversity and inclusion following the racial justice uprisings that came to a head last summer after the killing of George Floyd by police in Minneapolis on Memorial Day 2020.

Tri-Valley for Black Lives, a community group that was created in response to the events of the summer, is using its social media platform to highlight historical Black figures this month. The group is also collecting personal stories from Black Tri-Valley community members for a social media campaign in an effort to "amplify Black voices."

In addition to its digital content, the group is placing books written by Black authors and featuring Black characters in Little Free Libraries in Livermore and

Pleasanton. One of those books, "Black Brother, Black Brother" by Jewell Parker Rhodes is currently being read by the Pleasanton Unified School District African American Family Network book club.

Literature, dialogue and education have been at the core of many Black History Month events in the area. Local libraries have been leading the charge in offering ways for people to learn about Black culture and history from home.

"Usually we would have a display in our gallery at the Civic Center Library and we would have events in our community rooms. But of course the library's closed, so we had to do things virtually," said librarian Paul Sevilla who is the lead organizer for this year's Livermore Reads Together program, which features the "March" trilogy graphic novel series written by late civil rights activist and U.S. Rep. John Lewis with co-author Andrew Aydin and illustrator Nate Powell.

"We wanted to tie in this year's Livermore Reads Together program with Black History Month, and we wanted to choose a book that appeals to a lot of readers, especially teens," Sevilla said, adding that in the 15 years of the annual

community reading program, this is the first time they've chosen a graphic novel and the first time that they've combined it with Black History Month.

As part of Livermore Reads Together, the library and the Livermore Shakespeare Festival presented a virtual readers theater of "March" with volunteer actors from the office of strategic diversity and inclusion programs at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

Sevilla said that in addition to local community members, people tuned into the performance from the East Coast as well as Australia and the United Kingdom. He added that the ability for people to access their events from across the world has been a positive outcome of pivoting to this digital format.

Other library programs for Black History Month included a discussion about racism that featured a panel of Black educators and storytellers along with Livermore Vice Mayor Trish Munro.

A screening of the documentary "Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools" is set for next Wednesday (Feb. 24). According to the library's website, the film "takes a close look at the



Livermore librarian Paul Sevilla (top center) joins Livermore Shakespeare Festival vol

History Month visions to life

in culture with books, dialogue and education

BAILEY

educational, judicial and societal disparities facing Black girls.”

Throughout the entire month, the library is also offering a Black Lives Matter sign-making activity for youth and teens.

“We’re definitely going to be doing more programs for racial justice and Black history throughout the year,” Sevilla said. “Equity and diversity and inclusion is something that the library is committed to year-round, so that’s something that’s definitely on the horizon.”

The Pleasanton Library is hosting programs as well in observance of Black History Month, including a Kanopy Film Club screening of the Academy Award-winning film “Moonlight” in which a young Black man battles with his identity while simultaneously grappling with the struggles of everyday life. The virtual screening is set for next Saturday (Feb. 27) at 3 p.m.

Today, the library is dedicating one of its weekly virtual “Story Time” events to Black History Month by showcasing a selection of stories from Black authors and about Black history and culture.

Throughout the entire month of February, library users are encouraged to request “Black History

Month Book Bundles,” which includes a selection of titles hand-picked by library staff. Readers can request anything from bestselling Black authors, to autobiographies of notable Black leaders, to novels about Black culture, or even a collection of Black romance novels, according to library staff.

In addition to its events, the Pleasanton Library provides access to online resources year-round, like the ProQuest research tool that is available to all library card holders and features a database of newspapers, ebooks, journals, webinars and other educational material. The video streaming service Kanopy is also available through the library, which offers a variety of films to choose from, including many that explore Black history and culture.

Youth-led organizations have taken their own innovative approaches to celebrating Black History Month this year.

Diversify Granada — which is led by a group of Granada High School seniors — held a “Diversity in Literature” conference earlier this month featuring Bay Area children’s book authors from various ethnic backgrounds: Angela Dalton, Alex Giardino, Innosanto Nagara, Mae

Respicio and Meera Sriram.

Although held in February, the conference was not directly tied to Black History Month as not all of the authors are Black, but organizers said the idea for the event was sparked by the Black Lives Matter protests of last summer. “We hoped to do something to contribute to the movement in our own community,” organizers told the Weekly in an email.

Dublin High School’s Black Student Union (BSU) is hosting weekly talks on Instagram Live throughout the month where members share insight about the overall Black experience, including within their own families.

They’re also planning to host a public movie night at the end of the month and they are curating a digital playlist to share of Black music through the decades from the 1970s to the 2010s, according to the group’s president Denel McMahan, who was recognized last month as a Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy Award recipient by the Pleasanton Community of Character Collaborative.

A special video bulletin that is distributed to the Dublin High community is set to air next Wednesday and includes members of the BSU showcasing different aspects of Black culture, including a tutorial on hair braiding by BSU vice president Alexis Williams and a cooking segment with McMahan making the traditional Louisiana Creole dish, “Dirty Rice,” among other highlights.

The BSU groups at Foothill and Amador Valley high schools in Pleasanton have teamed up to start organizing a fundraiser that they hope to launch this month to raise



DUBLIN BSU

Dublin High BSU vice president Alexis Williams films a hair braiding tutorial to be featured in her school’s Black History Month video bulletin.

money for future programs and to send their members to next year’s Black College Expo, a traveling college fair geared toward Black youth and teens. While the event is still in the planning stages, Foothill BSU social media coordinator Aria Harris said they will promote finalized details through social media.

Las Positas College has held virtual events all month-long, including a talk on “How to Address Social Equity & Justice in the Workplace,” a discussion on Black hair and a “Yoga for Black Excellence” class. Some of their upcoming events are a conversation about the Afro-Latinx experience set for Tuesday (Feb. 23) and a “Black Scholars Family Night” set for next Thursday (Feb. 25), honoring students who earned a GPA of 3.0 or above for the fall term.

Though Black History Month is a period used to uplift the achievements of Black people, it’s also an opportunity to address issues facing the Black community such as systemic disparities.

The city of San Ramon proclaimed February as Black History Month and Feb. 14-20 as African American Mental Health Awareness Week during its regular City Council meeting last week. Mayor Dave Hudson said they were “two of the best proclamations I’ve ever had the honor of

reading,” after thanking staff members for writing the documents.

Earlier that same day, Feb. 9, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors adopted similar proclamations recognizing the week of Feb. 21-27 as “People of African Descent Mental Health Awareness Week” and Feb. 21 as “Day of Black Consciousness!”

“According to the Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health, African Americans are 20% more likely to experience serious mental health problems than the general population,” Board President Keith Carson read from the proclamation.

From his own perspective, Carson, who is Black, added: “It’s been rewarding to know that a number of counties across California and around the country have looked at the structures that Alameda County has had to address the issues related to mental health in this community and particularly focused on the African American community as we celebrate Black History Month.” ■



PAUL SEVILLA

unteer actors on screen during their Feb. 8 virtual readers theater event.



DUBLIN BSU

Dublin High BSU president Denel McMahan adds his own spin to the traditional Creole dish “Dirty Rice” for his school’s video bulletin.

Black History Month resources

For more information on events in the Tri-Valley this month and beyond, visit these organizations:

- Diablo Black Men’s Group: dbmg.org/index.html
- Dublin Diversity Inclusion Alliance: facebook.com/DIAdublin
- Dublin High School BSU: @dublinhsbsu on Instagram
- Foothill High School BSU: @foothillblackstudentunion on Instagram
- Las Positas College: laspositascollege.edu/blackhistory
- Livermore Library: cityoflivermore.net/citygov/lib
- Pleasanton Library: cityofpleasantonca.gov/gov/depts/lib
- Tri-Valley for Black Lives: @tv4blacklives on Facebook and Instagram

Dublin's new city historian urges preserving 'today'

'We tend to forget we live in historical times,' notes Steve Minniear

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Photos and artifacts from today should be set aside for future historians, points out Dublin's newly named city historian, Steve Minniear.

"I worked to get the city to start collecting artifacts, like the signs they put in parks to tell people not to play on the play structures," Minniear said. "We want to have an idea how we are coping now."

At this time, the most requested photographs at Dublin Heritage Park are those from around 1918, the last pandemic, he said.

"We have to remember to save the photos we are taking now and to send them to the local historical society," Minniear said. "Every 'now' picture eventually becomes a 'then' picture."

Minniear is the author of "Dublin, California: A Brief History" and co-author of "Dublin and the Tri-Valley: The World War II Years," a pictorial history of Camp Parks, Camp Shoemaker, Shoemaker Naval Hospital and Livermore Naval Air Station.

It was the local military bases that captured his attention as a young boy on the long car ride from his home in San Jose to visit relatives in the Central Valley.

"I was a little kid in the back seat, bored out of my mind," Minniear recalled. "When we would get to Highway 50, my mom would say, 'There is the prisoner of war camp.' I could see the old guard towers. There were fascinating old wooden structures on the side of the road."

"Why is this place here? What does it mean?" he remembered asking himself.

Then in 1987, Minniear and his family moved to Dublin, and he began research to satisfy his old boyhood curiosity about the military installations, which led to the rest



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Steve Minniear, newly appointed by the Dublin City Council as the city historian.

of the area's history.

"Many people are interested in history," Minniear said, but when they retire and finally have time to pursue the interest, they often move away.

"Dublin is a young town (incorporated in 1982) in a lot of different ways. There are not as many seniors as you would think a city would have, so we don't get a lot of people retired and ready to devote their time to civic enterprises," he added.

Minniear has been president of the Dublin Historical Preservation Association, a member of the Dublin City Heritage and Cultural Arts Commission, the volunteer archivist for Dublin's Heritage Park and Museums, and a volunteer curator for the Dublin Camp Parks Military History Center.

Dublin created the position of city historian in 2007, and Georgan Vonheeder-Leopold was the first in the role. Minniear's term began last month and runs through December 2024.

"Some people would have said I was the informal Dublin historian for quite some time," Minniear noted, but now he is defining his new role.

"How do you share and promote history?" he mused. "It's a challenge, especially now in COVID times. We don't have the opportunity to give talks."

"I have talked to a number of city historians in the Tri-Valley and they have different focuses," he added, such as walking tours and working in the museums. "I spend a lot of time on Facebook promoting stuff, such as 'Dublin Buildings Now and Then,' and the Dublin Historical Preservation Association page."

Minniear also has given dozens of presentations to local groups, which have gone onto Zoom during the pandemic.

He remembered a talk he gave a few years ago at the Dublin Library about Lois Jordan, a widow who set up a soup kitchen in San Francisco. After three years and serving more than 1 million meals, she moved to a farm in Dublin around 1934 where she grew food for the poor.

"She would drive up and down the roads and put bread and food in boxes so the 'hobos' could get the food without going into the towns," he said.

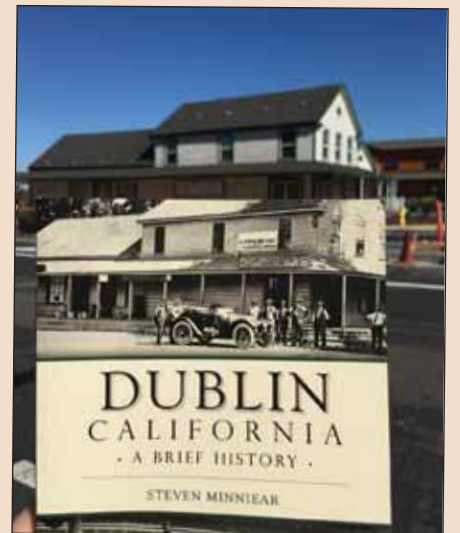
Minniear also writes entries on historical figures for Wikipedia. He recently gave a presentation to the Etude Club of Berkeley about one of its most famous members, Grace Adams East.

"She was America's foremost woman trumpeter," he explained. "Someone donated a bunch of her letters to me. She performed in Australia, England, France — and was caught in France in early World War II."

Minniear noted that digital versions of newspapers and documents are easily lost.

"One reason I wrote these books is so there is a physical representation," he said.

"Museums don't get stuff unless someone gives it to them. It's a challenge," he emphasized. "We tend to forget we live in historical times." ■



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dublin city historian Steve Minniear, who wrote "Dublin, California: A Brief History," says it is important to get facts and photos into books for preservation.



COURTESY OF DUBLIN HERITAGE PARK & MUSEUMS

A family in Dublin in 1920 recorded for posterity how they (including their cat) took precautions during the pandemic.



COURTESY OF DUBLIN HERITAGE PARK & MUSEUMS/STEVE MINNIEAR

Now and then: From the early 1900s (right), the local Dublin general store, and in 2014, the same building serving as a church.

Pleasanton Weekly

PUBLISHER

Gina Channell, Ext. 1171

EDITORIAL

Editor

Jeremy Walsh, Ext. 1172

Tri Valley Life Editor

Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Editor Emeritus

Jeb Bing

Staff Reporters

Julia Baum, Ext. 1176

Ryan J. Degan, Ext. 1179

Contributors

Cierra Bailey, Tim Hunt,
Dennis Miller, Mike Sedlak,
Nancy Lewis

ART & PRODUCTION

Design and Production Manager

Kristin Brown

Designers

Linda Atilano, Amy Levine,
Paul Llewellyn, Doug Young

ADVERTISING

Account Executive

Karen Klein, Ext. 1177

Real Estate Sales

Carol Cano, Ext. 1173

BUSINESS

Business Associate

Lisa Oefelein, Ext. 1178

Administrative Associate

Carolyn Chan, Ext. 1174

HOW TO REACH THE WEEKLY

Phone: (925) 600-0840

Fax: (925) 600-9559

Editorial email:

editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

calendar@PleasantonWeekly.com

Display Sales email:

sales@PleasantonWeekly.com

Classifieds Sales email:

ads@PleasantonWeekly.com

Circulation email: circulation@

PleasantonWeekly.com

The Pleasanton Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 203, Pleasanton, CA 94566; (925) 600-0840.

Mailed at Periodicals Postage Rate, USPS 020407.

The Pleasanton Weekly is mailed upon request to homes and apartments in Pleasanton. Community support of the Pleasanton Weekly is welcomed and encouraged through memberships at levels of \$5, \$8 or \$10 per month through automatic credit card charges. Print subscriptions for businesses or residents of other communities are \$60 per year or \$100 for two years. Go to www.PleasantonWeekly.com to sign up and for more information.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Pleasanton Weekly, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 203, Pleasanton, CA 94566.

© 2021 by Embarcadero Media. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

Teens tested in ‘Traitor in the Realm’

Local author releases adventurous young adult fantasy novel

By **DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI**

Two teenage foster siblings find themselves trapped in a treacherous magical world in “Traitor in the Realm,” a young adult fantasy novel by Patricia J. Boyle that was released last month. The teens must balance their desire to return home with a call to rescue a medieval kingdom from destruction by a royal traitor.

“The story begins in New York’s Adirondack Mountains, then shifts to the kingdom of Kylemore, a treacherous realm where magical beings, prehistoric creatures and danger coexist,” Boyle said. “Events conspire against the pair as they race against

time, attempting to reach the gateway back to earth before it closes forever.”



Patricia J. Boyle



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Young adult fantasy novel, “Traitor in the Realm”

The tale centers around teens with unique talents who react differently to unexpected situations, Boyle explained.

“Kallan MacKinnon and her foster brother, Matthew Webbe, meet twins their own age in the new world. The four of them forge friendships, and each contributes their own skills to conquering the challenges they face,” Boyle said.

“Kallan and Matthew come from an unconventional family, and although their guardian is also caught in the foreign realm, it is the 15-year-olds who are tested against the traitor attacking the kingdom.”

Boyle worked as a research meteorologist at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey and moved with her family to Livermore in 1991. She taught math and science in Livermore schools for nearly two decades before retiring.

For the past nine years, Boyle has

written articles about the Livermore-Amador Symphony. Since her retirement, she has spent much of her free time writing, often incorporating her love of nature and fantasy into poems, short stories and now a young adult novel.

“Traitor in the Realm” was published by Russian Hill Press, a small local company, and the art work and maps were created by Livermore artist Susan Marchand.

“With the pandemic stressing businesses of all sorts, I wanted to support talented members of the local community,” Boyle said. “With the consolidation of large, traditional publishing companies, small presses and independent artists are more important than ever in the publishing industry.”

“Traitor in the Realm” is available at Towne Center Books as well as online outlets. For more information, visit patriciajboyle.com. ■

Youth invited to share ‘My Story, My Vision’

Annual writing contest open now for high school students

Tri-Valley Writers is holding its 10th annual high school writing contest, “My Story, My Vision,” for students in Danville, Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton and San Ramon.

Entries are due April 4, and there is no fee to enter. Cash awards will be given to those who place first, second and third in each category as well as a one-year

membership in Tri-Valley Writers for the first-place winners.

The three categories are as follows:

- Poetry: Writing in verse; may include prose poetry, free verse, song lyrics, spoken word (rap). Entries may be up to 30 lines, not including the title.
- Literary Nonfiction: Essay, memoir, travel writing. Word maximum

of 1,200, not including the title.

• Short Story (fiction): Writing that is not factual yet conveys the point of view of the author. Word maximum of 1,200, not including the title.

Each student may submit up to two pieces, online at www.trivalleywriters.org, and every entry will receive feedback from the judges. For more information, email

contests@trivalleywriters.org.

Additional instructions are at the website, which also includes helpful hints for improving the quality of writing, including development and mechanics, in each category.

The winners will be announced in early May, and an awards ceremony will be held at 4 p.m. May 16, on Zoom. ■

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli

County announces grants for the arts

Nonprofit groups are eligible for ARTSFUND program

The Alameda County Arts Commission has announced the 2021 ARTSFUND Grant Program for county-based nonprofit arts organizations. The deadline to apply is March 31 for the grants, which are \$1,000 to \$2,500 each.

The ARTSFUND Grant Program supports all types of arts such as dance, music, theater, visual arts,

literature, media arts and other arts forms. Last year’s program awarded grants to 45 groups.

The Alameda County Arts Commission nurtures a thriving environment for the arts, promoting economic opportunities for artists and arts organizations, and encouraging public participation in the arts, in support of Alameda

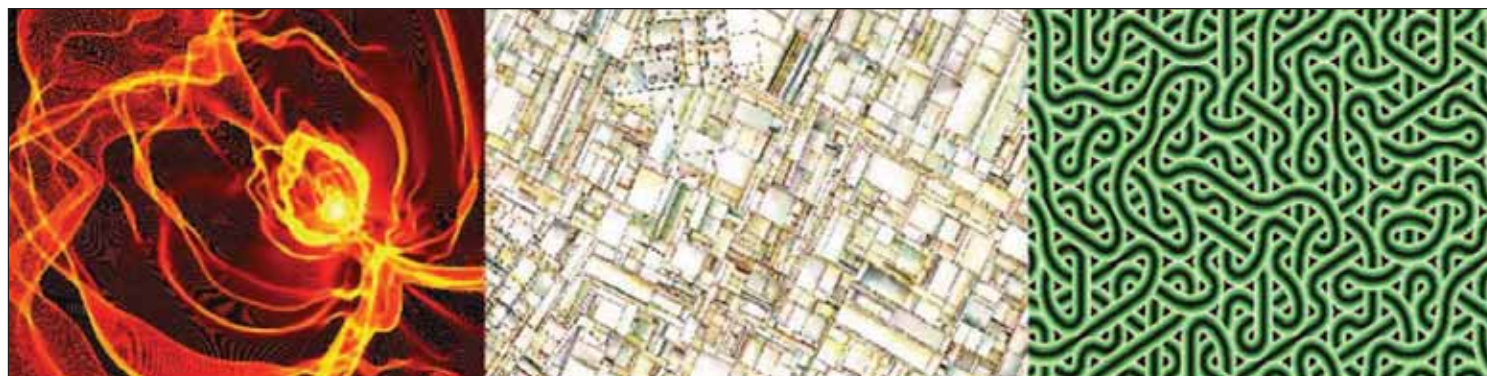
County’s Vision 2026 goals.

County staff will present a webinar to assist organizations in preparing their grant application at 10 a.m. March 5. The workshop is free, open to the public, and reservations are not required. Learn more at www.acgov.org/arts; click on Programs. Or email artscommission@acgov.org or

telephone 510-208-9646.

Funding for the ARTSFUND Grant Program is provided by Alameda County, individual contributions submitted with county property tax payments, and donations to the Foundation for the Arts in Alameda County. ■

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Science, art, nature

“Sketches in Code: Randomness & Patterns in Science and Art” opened last week at the Bankhead Theater Gallery and will run until May 2. The exhibit explores how the intersection of mathematics, science, art and computers can be used to visualize and create artistic pieces that also describe and explain nature. It presents the idea that while art has often been described as an opposing discipline to mathematics, science and computers, in many ways they are similar: In the end, all are creative processes that involve a journey of discovery. The exhibit is co-sponsored by Livermore Arts and Quest Science Center. The gallery, 2400 First Ave., Livermore, is open 2-6 p.m. Fridays; and 1-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Limited entry, masks required. Learn more at livermorearts.org.

Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN

DA launches diversion pilot program for low-level crimes

The Alameda County District Attorney's Office is partnering with several city police departments to institute a pilot program to redirect qualified individuals accused of low-level criminal conduct away from the criminal justice system and into behavioral or mental health support systems instead, DA Nancy O'Malley announced last week.

The program, new to Alameda County but commonly referred to as the "3-D Program," is launching with the Oakland, Fremont, San Leandro and Hayward police departments, but O'Malley said she expects it will eventually expand to

all law enforcement agencies in the county.

"This groundbreaking approach to addressing the needs of an individual in crisis coupled with concern and attention to public safety will become a model for a criminal justice reform," O'Malley's office said in a statement.

"The District Attorney's Office will provide a dedicated (deputy district attorney) with knowledge of substance abuse and mental health diagnosis and treatment. This DDA will collaborate with the treatment team to develop the best plan to both meet the needs of the client and protect public safety," the statement added.

Under the program, when police contact a person who is suspected of committing a low-level offense but also displaying signs of mental health or substance use struggles, they will be offered the option of transportation to the Community Assessment, Referral and Engagement Services (CARES) Navigation Center rather than jail.

At the navigation center, they will meet with a peer support specialist and receive an assessment from a skilled clinician. The peer support specialist will have been certified through a training program sponsored by the DA's office.

"The Peer Support Specialists are individuals with lived experience in the criminal justice system who have gone through an intensive training program that covers issues including effective support, mental health and substance abuse interventions as well as skill building to serve in a peer-to-peer support

position," the DA's office said.

The process would involve a navigation team with a mental health DDA, a peer support specialist and a mental health clinician who will meet and confer with the person regarding an appropriate course of action and risk reduction plan.

"The level of supervision and engagement will include consideration of both the severity of illness as well as the severity of the client's conduct," the DA's office said.

O'Malley's office is contracting with La Familia Counseling Service, which provides quality outpatient mental health and substance abuse services as well as education and employment services, to serve as the program partner and treatment provider.

"La Familia has been a strong partner with my office in our many efforts to move people away from crime by addressing the underlying needs and issues individuals have that led them into the criminal justice system," O'Malley said.

Her office has partnered with La Familia and its executive director, Aaron Ortiz, on other innovative programs aimed at changing the trajectory of those in the criminal justice system and reducing recidivism — programs such as the Alameda County Justice Restoration Program.

"Crisis management and assessment of the root cause of the client's criminal justice contacts will be key to the working of the program," the DA's office said. "The clinical staff will assess current clinical stability. La Familia will make every effort

to connect the client to an appropriate level of service to meet the treatment needs of the client and/or re-connect the client to pre-existing services.

"La Familia will also provide follow up contact with the client after they leave to ensure the client is actually connected to services," officials added.

In other news

- A bill recently introduced in the State Senate and co-sponsored by O'Malley would require the state to create an online portal to allow sexual assault survivors to track the status of their evidence kit processing.

The portal, which would be added to an existing system used by law enforcement agencies, would allow survivors of sexual assault crimes to track the evidence kit in their case anonymously to learn about its location and whether it has been tested. Senate Bill 215 was authored by State Senator Connie Leyva (D-Chino), who has worked with O'Malley on other past legislation in support of survivors' rights.

"Sexual assault survivors should have the right to know whether their evidence kits have been tested," DA O'Malley said in a statement after the bill's introduction last month. "After bravely undergoing an exam after an assault, this bill will provide survivors with the ability to track the kit to ensure that law enforcement is doing their statutory duty to analyze the evidence in a timely manner."

SB 215 aims to expand the existing "Sexual Assault Forensic

Evidence Tracking" (SAFE-T) database by creating an electronic access point for survivors to obtain information about their kits, building upon precedent established in more than two-dozen other states with similar tracking websites, according to the DA's office.

Though current California law mandates kit tracking and access to that information for survivors, there is not a system in place for them to seamlessly and anonymously track the status electronically, officials said.

"SB 215 empowers rape survivors by making sure that they know where their kit is in the process," Leyva said in a statement. "We have all heard the countless stories of survivors finding out years after the rape kit was collected that the kit itself was never processed and actually sat on a shelf in a lab somewhere for years gathering dust. After having been raped and then undergoing an invasive rape kit exam, a survivor should certainly be able to track the status of the rape kit anonymously and whenever they would like."

"In late 2019, the governor signed my SB 22, which now requires the prompt testing of rape kits. SB 215 is the logical next step so that rape survivors can remain informed — and we can continue to ensure justice by holding rapists accountable for their crimes," she added.

SB 22 was among several successful state bills sponsored by O'Malley to empower sexual assault survivors and better protect their rights under the law. ■


—Jeremy Walsh

Visit Lasting Memories

An online directory of obituaries and remembrances. Search obituaries, submit a memorial, share a photo.

Go to: PleasantonWeekly.com/obituaries

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON



UPCOMING MEETINGS

Planning Commission

Wednesday, February 24, 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 17, when the agenda is posted on the City's website at: cityofpleasantonca.gov/gov/depts/cd/planning/commission/planning_agenda.asp

- P20-0542, Douglas and Mary Safreno, 4212 First Street Work Session for Preliminary Review application to consider the demolition of an existing gas station and construction of 11 new attached townhomes with associated site improvements located at 4212 and 4226 First Street
- P20-1058 and P20-1059, Gyre and Ann Renwick, 751 Clara Lane Applications for: 1) Animal Use Permit approval to keep up to six farm animals; and 2) Administrative Design Review approval to construct an approximately 540-square-foot, 12-foot tall partial open-sided barn

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

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Feb. 12

Warrant arrest

- 1:25 a.m. on the 4300 block of First Street
- 7:00 p.m. on the 4300 block of Valley Avenue

Theft

- 12:00 p.m. on the 7600 block of Glenbrook Court
- 2:57 p.m., 4200 block of Rosewood Drive; shoplifting

Robbery

- 4:14 p.m. on the 3900 block of Mt. McKinley Court

Sex offenses

- 8:14 p.m. on Santa Rita Road

Feb. 11

Theft from auto

- 8:24 a.m. on the 1800 block of Zenato Place

Domestic battery

- 11:32 a.m. on West Las Positas Boulevard

Warrant arrest

- 4:49 p.m. on the 1500 block of Rose Lane

Feb. 10

Theft

- 12:08 a.m. on the 8300 block of Regency Drive

- 8:20 a.m. at Rosewood and Santa Rita drives; auto theft

- 1:18 p.m. on the 4700 block of Sutter Gate Avenue

- 2:07 p.m., 2300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; theft from structure

- 4:27 p.m., 2400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Burglary

- 4:48 a.m. on the 1300 block of Santa Rita Road

Domestic battery

- 5:00 p.m. on West Las Positas Boulevard

- 5:54 p.m. on South Hawaii Court

Drug violation

- 6:06 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

Feb. 9

Warrant arrest

- 4:03 p.m. at West Las Positas Boulevard and Payne Road

Shoplifting

- 4:22 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

- 7:51 p.m. on the 6000 block Johnson Drive

DUI

- 8:58 p.m. on the 4400 block of Rosewood Drive

Feb. 8

Missing person report

- 12:36 a.m. on Washoe Way

Vandalism

- 9:00 a.m. on the 7000 block of Pleasanton Avenue

Graffiti offense

- 9:34 a.m. at Laguna Creek Lane and West Lagoon Road

- 9:53 a.m. on the 4000 block of Railroad Avenue

Burglary

- 10:01 a.m. on the 3800 block of Hopyard Road

Warrant arrest

- 3:15 p.m. on the 6600 block of Owens Drive

DUI

- 4:56 p.m. on the 5700 block of Johnson Drive

Feb. 7

Shoplifting

- 12:48 a.m. on the 2000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

- 5:51 p.m. on the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Burglary

- 2:14 a.m. on the 3100 block of Valley Avenue

Fraud

- 2:47 p.m. on the 4600 block of Whiting Street

Assault/battery

- 5:37 p.m. on the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

WHY SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM?



Our subscribing members say it best...

“ *It’s always so interesting to read your comments in the Local Scoop member email — and I’m sure I’m not the only reader who wants to give you all a huge THANK YOU for all the work you’ve been doing. You’ve outlined all the challenges — and you’ve overcome them! Thanks for everyone’s work!* ”

- Debbie M.

Will you join the thousands of others supporting local journalism?

Now’s your moment to step up when we need you the most.

Pleasanton Weekly

Subscribe now at PleasantonWeekly.com/join

You can also subscribe for one year by mailing a check for \$120 (\$60 for seniors and students) to us at 5506 Sunol Blvd., Ste. 203, Pleasanton 94566.

Pleasanton Weekly.com



PLEASANTON PREPS

By DENNIS MILLER



Amador Valley and Monte Vista runners prepare for their girls cross-country race Feb. 13.

JOHN HOUSTON

Some high school sports finally kick off their season

Also: Ex-Falcon QB Wooldridge now playing for Ragin' Cajuns

It was nice over the last weekend to see photos of East Bay Athletic League athletes competing against each other — and doing so locally!

Cross-country, golf, tennis and swimming have all been practicing, with some already involved in competitions.

It had been getting old to see social media posts of athletes from around the state heading out of California to play in tournaments with their club teams.

For now — EBAL teams are starting to compete again!

"It's been awesome," Amador Valley cross-country coach Jason Oswald said. "It's been exactly what you thought it would be like when the kids were able to compete again."

One advantage with the sports that have officially begun is that those sports all have afforded the athletes opportunity to train when their respective sports were suspended.

Golf courses have been open for some time now and the elite players have been traveling to tournaments regularly.

The same could be said for tennis players. In terms of cross-country, it has always been OK to go for a run, with most of your top runners already following a training program.

"Some of our kids have been training, some not so much," Oswald said with a laugh.

The Dons have about 40 runners out this season, down from the

normal number of approximately 70.

"It was a quick turnaround for kids to get their physicals," Oswald said, citing as one thing that affected the program's numbers. "There were probably others that didn't come out because of all that has gone on."

As excited as Oswald was to talk about having the kids back out again, he was also eager to make sure the word was out how everyone is following the protocols.

"We are trying to make it public that we are doing this and it's working," Oswald said.

Last Saturday, the Dons hosted Monte Vista. The race was run on a new course at Amador as permits to use Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area — the Dons' usual

opportunities," the second-term legislator said.

"I urge you and the California Department of Public Health to move quickly. The health, safety, and well-being of our children are too important to delay," Bauer-Kahan added.

The California Interscholastic Federation has established timelines for the return of individual high school sports tied to counties' status in the state's colored-tier system for reopening and based on guidance from the state regarding health and safety protocols.

Under the process, some non-contact individual sports have returned to practice and competition in the Tri-Valley, including cross-country, tennis, golf and swimming. Some other outdoor team sports like baseball and softball have firmer start dates if a county is in the red tier, while many others like football, boys lacrosse and soccer — as do indoor sports

like basketball, wrestling and volleyball — have undetermined dates with time dwindling before the end of the 2020-21 school year.

Local coaches remain concerned about the prospects of their teams competing this term, and the impact that formal cancellation would have on their student-athletes, according to Bauer-Kahan.

"Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the necessary public health measures and subsequent closure of schools and activities have had an immeasurable toll on the mental and physical health of our youth," she said. "As schools have remained closed and students see another school year slipping away, they are feeling increasingly helpless."

The sooner the state can create new guidelines to expedite the safe return of outdoor sports the better for students, according to

Bauer-Kahan.

She also raised concerns about club sports programs and other private gatherings occurring in her district, some of which are unsanctioned or operating without the same level of certifications as required of state-regulated school sports and thus putting players and families at a higher risk of contracting COVID-19.

"It would be far safer to have our students playing under the supervision of their local teams, athletic directors and qualified coaches under clear guidelines," Bauer-Kahan said. "I am confident that our school coaches and athletic directors will enforce safety protocols and take every precaution that the state and local health departments outlines."

The governor's office has not yet responded to Bauer-Kahan's request, her chief of staff Jordan Curley told the Weekly on Tuesday. ■

Pleasanton Preps sponsored by



THE ROSE HOTEL

846-8802
RoseHotel.net



469-6266
EddiePapas.com



PAULA WALSH

Former Foothill quarterback Ben Wooldridge is transferring to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

home course — were not able to be attained.

The two teams entered the starting area by the football field through separate gates, wearing masks, with each team separated by six feet.

"We even had an extra command letting the runners know they could take off their masks," Oswald said. "But they had to carry them with them and put them back on after they crossed the finish line."

The chute where the teams started allowed for the teams to be separated for the first 300 meters. By the time teams made it that far, the runners are strung out enough to allow for safe co-mingling.

The remainder of the schedule for all the EBAL cross-country slate is a work in progress as it has yet to be determined if there will be a league meet. If not, expect to see two- to four-team meets until the season ends on March 20.

The important — the kids are out there competing.

"It was great to have the kids put on the jerseys and compete," Oswald added.

On the day, Monte Vista won the boys race 20-39, but Amador senior

Euan Houston took the 2-mile race with a time of 10:11, which of course was also a course record by default.

The Mustangs also took the girls race 18-44. Amador's top runner was Taya Small who covered the course in 12:32 to finish fourth.

Wooldridge to Louisiana-Lafayette

Former Foothill quarterback Ben Wooldridge, who spent two seasons at Fresno State before entering the transfer portal last year, has landed at a new home with the University of Louisiana-Lafayette.

As I wrote about before in this space, Wooldridge opted to transfer from Fresno State after losing out in a competition for the quarterback spot with former Monte Vista QB Jake Haener.

It was a competition where many gave the edge to Wooldridge, adding to the level of frustration.

Now it's on to the Ragin' Cajuns and the Sun Belt Conference. ■

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.

Bauer-Kahan urges governor to prioritize return of outdoor school sports

'Safe reopening of youth sports' would help improve physical, mental health of kids

By JEREMY WALSH

Tri-Valley Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (D-Orinda) last week called on Gov. Gavin Newsom and state health officials to prioritize guidelines to allow more outdoor school sports to restart "as soon, and as safely, as possible."

In a letter submitted to the Governor's Office on Feb. 10, Bauer-Kahan cited the physical and mental health advantages of sports for youth, as well as the need for sanctioned sports activities with proper protocols during the COVID-19 pandemic, among the reasons the state should expedite the process for a "safe reopening of youth sports."

"Sports are an important part of our children's school experience, an important outlet for their physical and mental health, and an important avenue for many to access higher education

PET OF THE WEEK



EAST BAY SPCA

Queenie here

I like the royal treatment and am looking for a patient person who will take time getting to know and understand me. Once I'm bonded with you, I'll curl up next to you (or on you!) for a good nap. I can get overwhelmed by loud noises and other dogs, so I'd prefer a quieter home where I can be the only dog. Think we'd make a good match? Learn more about me and apply to adopt at eastbayspca.org/adopt-me. Be sure to mention my name on your application.

Ballet

DIABLO BALLET VIRTUAL PERFORMANCE Diablo Ballet is thrilled to present virtual performances of Balanchine & Beyond featuring the wedding scene from *The Sleeping Beauty* and George Balanchine's *Who Cares?* Feb. 19-21 and 26-28. Visit diabloballet.org.

Dance

RHYTHM OF THE DANCE Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center presents *Rhythm of the Dance*, a performance recorded in front of a live audience that features award-winning dancers, excellent musicians and foot-tapping passion. This event can be streamed online March 1-21. Visit livermorearts.org.

Film

VIRTUAL FILM CLUB The San Ramon Arts Foundation is hosting a free virtual series to watch a film on streaming service Kanopy followed by an hour Q&A with the guest speaker. The film is *Meet John Doe*, director Frank Capra's timeless film about media sensation and the dark side of populism. 7 p.m., Feb. 28. For more information, visit sanramonarts.org.

Talks & Lectures

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

SCIENCE ON SATURDAY, FEB. 20 "Defense by Design: Creating Antibodies Against COVID-19," presented by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory scientists, is developing a way to engineer antibodies to quickly provide protection in cases when our bodies cannot. During this talk, scientists will explain how they are

using antibodies from the nearly 20-year-old SARS-1 outbreak to engineer antibodies for COVID-19. Visit st.lnl.gov/sci-ed/science-on-saturday.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE: REIMAGINING DINOSAURS The National Geographic Live virtual speaker series presents *Reimagining Dinosaurs*. Groundbreaking new science is changing what we thought we knew about how dinosaurs looked, moved and lived. Join leading paleontologists and National Geographic Explorers Nizar Ibrahim and Sebastian Rozadilla for stories and conversation about the evolving science of dinosaurs. 6:30 p.m., Feb. 24. Visit livermorearts.org.

LIVING WITH WILDLIFE IN YOUR BACKYARD Living in close proximity to so many natural areas brings us into contact with a wide variety of wild creatures: raccoons, opossums, coyotes, deer, tarantulas and snakes. Human interactions with native animal neighbors should be positive, but they aren't always and misinformation abounds. Special guests from Lindsay Wildlife Experience will give helpful tips and easy changes in behavior to better appreciate and respect native wildlife. 7-8:30, Feb. 24. Visit sustainablecoco.org.

SCIENCE ON SATURDAY, FEB. 27 This presentation, "Keeping up

with COVID: Staying in touch and staying safe" will explore the use of wireless communication technologies to help with alerting and reducing the transmission of diseases. Communication technologies such as smart phones can be re-tooled to monitor the transmissivity of disease based upon real time signaling. Visit st.lnl.gov/sci-ed/science-on-saturday.

Writers

HIGH SCHOOL WRITING CONTEST Tri-Valley Writers presents "My Story, My Vision," the tenth 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 now through April 4. Visit trivalleywriters.org.

Seniors

AN OVERVIEW OF LONG TERM CARE INSURANCE WEBINAR Describes what long term care is and what Medicare and Medi-Cal cover, the different ways of getting long term care and options for financing it and focuses on the features as well as the pros and cons of long term care insurance. 11 a.m.-12 p.m., Feb. 24.

Books

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.

Food & Drink

TASTE TRI-VALLEY WEEK Restaurant Week is coming February 19-28 to the Tri-Valley.

Taste your way through the Tri-Valley during this 10-day culinary celebration highlighting the passionate people who make up the valley's deliciously diverse food scene. For more information visit visittrivalley.com/restaurantweek.

TASTE TRI-VALLEY VIRTUAL COOKING CLASS Join winemaker Steven K. Mirassou and Chef Katrina Stocker of @thehomesteadtraveler for two virtual Italian cooking classes on Zoom. Feb. 26, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Ragu Bolognese and Feb. 27, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Spinach Ricotta Ravioli with Marinara. More information at visittrivalley.com/events.

Quilting

AMADOR VALLEY QUILTERS The Amador Valley Quilters invite you to hang your love themed quilts from a balcony, porch railing, in a tree, or draped over a car. Spread some cheer and show the love in your neighborhood. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Feb. 20. Visit amadorvalleyquilters.org.

Blood Drive

BLOOD DONATION IN PLEASANTON & LIVERMORE During February's observance of Black History Month, the American Red Cross salutes the accomplishments

of Dr. Charles Drew and Dr. Jerome Holland, two African American Red Cross leaders who made a lasting contribution to the Red Cross. Donors who give in February will receive a \$5 Amazon.com gift card. Eligible donors, especially those who have recovered from COVID-19, can give at Pleasanton Blood Donation Center, 5880 W. Las Positas Blvd., Suite 34, Feb.15-28, 11:45 a.m.-7 p.m. or Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., Livermore, Feb. 19, 12-6 p.m.

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. 24. Visit <http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov>.

PLEASANTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT The Pleasanton Unified School District Board of Trustees meets at 7 p.m., Feb. 25, 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. 22. For more information visit cityoflivermore.net.

Employment

Market Research Analyst

Senior Market Research Analyst for Roche Sequencing Solutions, Inc., Pleasanton, CA. Req: Master's in Biz Admin, Biz of Biosci, or rlted + 1 yr exp. 10% domestic & int'l travel, fully reimbursed. Telecommuting permitted 1 day/wk. Apply: <http://applyroche.com/202101-102445> (Job ID: 202101-102445)

Senior Program Manager

Senior Program Manager (Product Dev), Workday, Inc., Pleasanton, CA. Dev. Agile-based learning systems across Workday teams. To apply, please mail resume to ATTN: Jessica Thurston, 6110 Stoneridge Mall Rd, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Please refer to Job #20637.186.

To place an ad call 650.223.6597 or email digitalads@pawebly.com.

Public Notices

The Pleasanton Weekly is adjudicated to publish in Alameda County.

Public Hearing Notices • Resolutions • Bid Notices
Notices of Petition to Administer Estate
Lien Sale • Trustee's Sale

Deadline is Monday at 5 p.m.

Call Gina Channell at 925-600-0840
or email gchannell@pleasantonweekly.com
for assistance with your legal advertising needs.

Marketplace

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

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

Bay East recognizes best in local real estate from 2020

Virtual event sees association hand out Realtor of the Year, other awards

BY JEREMY WALSH

Tri-Valley real estate professionals joined their peers from across the East Bay virtually last month to honor the local industry's top accomplishments during a uniquely challenging 2020.

The Bay East Association of Realtors' annual award ceremony recognized members who "demonstrated ethical standards and professionalism, active community involvement, and a high level of service to the real estate profession," officials said.

The awards included Realtor of the Year, Affiliate of the Year, the Outstanding Leader Award, the Good Neighbor Award and for the first time, three people each receiving the John A. Deadrich Distinguished Service Award in the same year.

The ceremony, which also included the installation of Bay East's 2021 leadership team, was held via video-conferencing on Jan. 28 in lieu of the usual in-person gala due to the COVID-19 pandemic and social restrictions.

With headquarters on Koll Center Parkway in Pleasanton and a satellite office in Alameda, Bay East is a trade association serving more than 5,800

residential and commercial real estate professionals in the region. Bay East offers access to the multiple listing service, professional development training, advocacy to protect private property rights and promote home ownership, and a variety of networking opportunities and events, according to its mission statement.

Here are the 2020 award recipients, along with descriptions provided by the association:

Realtor of the Year

June Burckhardt, with Legacy Real Estate and Associates in Fremont, took home the Realtor of the Year award for demonstrating the highest level of integrity and commitment to Bay East and the real estate profession.

An association member since 2004, Burckhardt has served on the Bay East Board of Directors as well as its Homeownership Opportunities, Strategic Planning, Executive and Tri-Cities Marketing committees. She is also an active volunteer in her hometown of Fremont, where she is a delivery driver for Meals on Wheels, a Harvest Food Bank coordinator and works with the annual Adopt an Angel project.

Affiliate of the Year

Leah Nishi, of Farmers Insurance in Alameda, received the award that honors affiliate members, who contribute time, money and resources to support the real estate profession.

As an active member of the Alameda Inforum Marketing Meeting (AIMM) and the Bay East Community Relations Committee, Nishi was instrumental in ensuring AIMM meetings continued during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Also cited as an effective advocate for local businesses, Nishi helped promote a new homelessness service center in Alameda and secured a \$1,500 grant for the Alameda Education Foundation to purchase school supplies.

Outstanding Leader Award

Jennifer Branchini, with Compass Real Estate in Pleasanton, earned the Outstanding Leader Award, which goes to a Bay East past-president who continues to pursue the vision of excellence in the name of the association.

Since joining Bay East in 1998, Branchini has held a variety of leadership positions at the local, state

and national levels. She was instrumental in establishing the Bay East Young Professional Network (YPN) and led the California Association of Realtors' YPN forum.

The current treasurer for CAR and Bay East's president in 2014, Branchini was previously honored with Realtor of the Year in 2010 and with the Outstanding Leader Award in 2017.

Good Neighbor Award

Louise Lovewell, with RE/Max Accord in Castro Valley, received the Good Neighbor Award, which recognizes a Bay East member making a positive contribution to their communities.

An association member for more than 40 years, Lovewell in 1986 helped found Building Futures for Women and Children, a shelter program for homeless women and children. She also volunteers with Western Service Workers Association, Washington Elementary School, Dig Deep Farms and St. Leander Church.

Bay East contributed \$500 to Building Futures for Women and Children and \$500 Dig Deep Farms in her honor.

John Deadrich Distinguished Service Award

2020 marked the first time that three Bay East members shared the John A. Deadrich Distinguished Service Award for exemplifying self-sacrifice, vision and accomplishments in the local real estate industry during the year.

The award went to Bay East past-president Nancie Allen, president-elect Sheila Cunha and treasurer Steve Medeiros.

In May 2020, in order to help Bay East navigate the challenges facing the real estate profession during the COVID-19 pandemic, Allen, Cunha and Medeiros all agreed to serve a second year in their respective roles, doubling the amount of time and effort they would be contributing as Bay East leaders.

Their commitment to leadership during an uncertain year for the real estate profession helped ensure Bay East was able to provide crucial services and products to its members as well as serve as a powerful and effective advocate for homeownership, according to Bay East officials. ■

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during Nov. 16-20 for Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin and Jan. 11-15 for San Ramon.

Pleasanton

- 3630 Bingham Court** W. Defreitas to J & J Living Trust for \$1,350,000
- 2919 Calle De La Mesa** Kwatra Living Trust to J. Kong for \$1,350,000
- 1437 Calle Enrique** J. Park to J. & D. Sangaraju for \$710,500
- 2241 Cameron Circle** Cooper Family Trust to J. & R. Yao for \$2,350,000
- 4714 Canary Drive** Mcmanus Living Trust to S. & L. Kim for \$1,433,000
- 1408 Chadbourn Court** Aronoff Family Trust to S. & R. Toor for \$2,221,500
- 3872 Cheshire Court** J. Chen to S. & A. Chakraborty for \$1,415,000
- 942 Clinton Place** S. & M. Iyer to M. & C. Lee for \$975,000
- 673 Concord Place** K. White to L. & B. Mohapatra for \$581,000
- 6322 Corte Esperanza** J. & S. Battershell to V. & S. Mall for \$1,950,000
- 6948 Corte Verde** Feindel Living Trust to U. & T. Venkataramani for \$1,505,000
- 1233 Creek Trail Drive** Danckert Trust to R. & V. Damarla for \$1,830,000
- 4338 Denker Drive** T. & K. Lee to R. & P. Chandrasekhar for \$1,021,000
- 430 Dolores Court** K. Boyle to R. & Y. Wang for \$1,550,000
- 372 Ewing Drive** L. Dehn to L. & N. Velasquez for \$935,000
- 1963 Fiorio Circle** S. & K. Magruda to C. & T. Freeman for \$961,000
- 2964 Garden Creek Circle** Mehta Family Trust to S. & K. Venkataraman for \$1,120,000
- 4611 Helpert Court** N. & A. Kunte to S. & J. Xu for \$1,140,000
- 7546 Homewood Court** T. & W. Sullivant to T. & J. Viviani for \$920,000

- 3734 Kamp Drive** Kim Family Trust to J. & A. Rodriguez for \$765,000
- 992 Montevino Drive** J. & M. Laha to Chen-Du Family Trust for \$1,850,000
- 4397 Muirwood Drive** H. & J. Johnson to K. Huang for \$1,250,000
- 4781 Peaceful Lane** Dante Family Trust to A. & Z. Bent for \$1,777,000
- 5702 San Carlos Way** Baskett Trust to A. Le for \$1,300,000
- 3750 Smallwood Court** A. Etemad to J. & S. Nair for \$2,597,500
- 4099 Stanley Boulevard** Flyhomes Investments Ca LLC to Y. & J. Mao for \$850,000
- 2665 Starling Court** L. & M. Cronin to W. & R. Richards for \$1,520,000
- 3861 Stone Pointe Way** H. Tsai to M. & N. Modi for \$1,080,000
- 7365 Stonedale Drive** M. Ayush to P. & R. Meyyappan for \$710,000
- 60 Sunflower Hill Way** Meritage Hms Of California Inc to G. & P. Rekapalli for \$1,266,000
- 282 Trenton Circle** N. & L. Van to J. & A. Sivaraman for \$899,000
- 3455 Zion Canyon Court** C. Xue to J. & C. Chen for \$1,080,500

Livermore

- 5851 Arlene Way** S. Buhagiar to K. & M. Albertson for \$1,175,000
- 442 Falcon Way** V. & J. Gagui to P. & V. Gudhka for \$779,000
- 2915 Gelding Lane** Santos Trust to S. & A. Rajendiran for \$955,000
- 1446 Heather Lane** T. Kurtzer to Alvernaz Partners for \$400,000
- 1971 Heidelberg Drive** A. & D. Kuykendall to A. & J. Tamblyn for \$945,000
- 304 Hillcrest Avenue** J. & S. Look to M. & K. Lazarakis for \$860,000
- 5172 Irene Way** Sloan Family Trust to L. & L. Knight for \$860,000
- 759 South K Street** Zuk Trust to D. Kuykendall for \$890,000

- 797 South K Street** S. & J. Duthie to L. & C. Snyder for \$1,350,000
- 887 Lambaren Avenue** Edwards Living Trust to L. & J. Martinez for \$650,000
- 1358 Lennox Lane** S. & C. Brown to S. & A. Bhatnagar for \$2,311,000
- 1479 Lexington Way** Lowell Family Trust to E. Baker for \$1,125,000
- 5338 Lilac Avenue** Magel Trust to M. & R. Royce for \$780,000
- 4593 Maureen Circle** E. & D. Densow to L. & O. Mendoza for \$1,000,000
- 879 Mcglinchey Drive** Chase Family Trust to H. & Z. Crawford for \$1,175,000
- 11745 Mines Road** T. & R. Richards to Beea LLC for \$1,375,000
- 370 Misty Circle** F. Wang to A. & V. Tummalapalli for \$880,000
- 117 Northwood Commons** C. Taylor to A. Long for \$695,000
- 1666 Park Street** Lewis Family Trust to A. Martinez for \$615,000
- 2784 Patcham Common** Z. Qian to A. & M. Orlov for \$795,000
- 436 Persimmon Common #14** S. Delaney to Kwong Trust for \$710,000
- 1812 Rhododendron Drive** J. Edwards to Bay Area Executive Re & Dev Gr for \$680,000

- 541 Sonoma Avenue** M. Huntrakoon to L. Chew for \$1,304,000
- 1442 Sunset Drive** Summers Trust to L. Dawson for \$500,000
- 748 Tranquility Circle #3** N. & J. Trumpp to M. & A. Dhanadhya for \$815,000
- 893 Waverly Common** M. & L. Freeman to J. & R. Zeck for \$792,000
- 255 Wildrose Common #1** Samla LLC to A. Wang for \$662,000
- 274 Wood Street #505** E. Lillie to M. Nay for \$590,000

Dublin

- 6849 Amador Valley Boulevard** M. & D. Bronnikov to C. & J. Nguyen for \$955,000
- 5643 Apex Drive** Calatlantic Group Inc to H. & S. Konduru for \$860,000
- 7215 Atlas Peak Drive** P. Yaramati to N. & S. Reddy for \$1,500,000
- 2347 Brandini Drive** P. Janapareddy to V. & J. Sampathkumar for \$1,595,500
- 5880 Cadence Avenue** Brookfield Wilshire LLC to N. & M. Natividad for \$836,000
- 5625 Cedar Crest Terrace** Hollison Living Trust to S. & R. Mehta for \$1,330,000

Source: California REsource

SALES AT A GLANCE

Pleasanton (Nov. 16-20)

Total sales reported: 32
Lowest sale reported: \$581,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,597,500
Average sales reported: \$1,258,000

Livermore (Nov. 16-20)

Total sales reported: 28
Lowest sale reported: \$400,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,311,000
Average sales reported: \$837,500

Dublin (Nov. 16-20)

Total sales reported: 22
Lowest sale reported: \$630,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,815,000
Average sales reported: \$1,135,000

San Ramon (Jan. 11-15)

Total sales reported: 24
Lowest sale reported: \$428,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,500,000
Average sales reported: \$1,296,500

Source: California REsource



VENEMA HOMES

EXPERIENCE  EXCELLENCE

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

Clients Hire Us for Our Agent Talent. Our Successes. Our Strategies. Our Systems. Our In-House General Contractor. Thinking About Selling? We Should Talk! This is an *Unprecedented* Seller's Real Estate Market and No One Knows How Long It Will Last.



5660 Selena Court, Pleasanton
Offered at \$2,290,000
Representing Buyer - Beat Out 20 Offers



3433 Deer Ridge Drive, Danville
Offered at \$2,148,900
Representing Buyer



2410 Pomino Way, Pleasanton
Offered at \$2,449,000
Multiple Offers Over List Price



5548 Corte Del Cajon, Pleasanton
Offered at \$1,499,000
Multiple Offers Way Over List Price



956 Riesling Drive, Pleasanton
Offered at \$1,449,000
12 Offers Way Over List Price



5082 Crestwood Court, Pleasanton
Offered at \$1,449,000
21 Offers Way Over List Price



4550 El Dorado Court, Pleasanton
Offered at \$1,369,000
Multiple Offers Way Over List Price



523 Saint John, Pleasanton
Representing Seller and Buyer



9472 Blessing Drive, The Preserve
Offered at \$4,950,000



VENEMA HOMES TEAM



VenemaHomes.com | Liz@VenemaHomes.com | 925.413.6544 | 660 Main Street, Pleasanton | DRE# 01922957



ARMARIO HOMES

TRI-VALLEY LUXURY REALTY



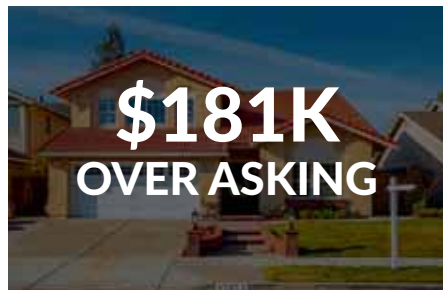
SOLD

415 ABBIE STREET, PLEASANTON
\$1,535,000

What the Sellers are saying:

*"We are so pleased with our choice of real estate agent, Brianna Armario. She was **extremely professional** and sold our home with an amazing set of natural skills that led into a stress free sale. From the moment we contacted Keller Williams; the Armario Homes team went into fast drive to get our home staged and complete with all the preliminary reports. **Our home was ready for sale in just 1 week and sold within 2 weeks after being on the market.** Viewings were set to our convenience and she was present at most of the showings even if another agent showed the property. She wanted to be diligent with making sure all lights were off and the home was locked up correctly... **We would not hesitate recommending Brianna Armario as your future Real Estate Professional.**"*

Considering selling? Call today for a complimentary Home Valuation: (925) 260-2220



**\$181K
OVER ASKING**

SOLD

37853 ABRAHAM ST, FREMONT
\$1,880,000



SOLD

RUBY HILL, PLEASANTON
\$3,200,000



SOLD

3141 PELLARO COURT, PLEASANTON
\$3,295,000



PENDING

2565 MODENA DRIVE, PITTSBURG
LISTED AT \$849,000



PENDING

2826 BENCHMARK AVE, FREMONT
MULTIPLE OFFERS



PENDING

2762 VINE DRIVE, LIVERMORE
MULTIPLE OFFERS



PENDING

2823 VINE CT, LIVERMORE
OFF MARKET DEAL!



JUST LISTED

7954 RACON HOLLOW CT, PLEASANTON
CALL FOR PRICE

DeAnna Armario

Senior Partner & Realtor
(925) 260-2220
DeAnna@Armariohomes.com
CA DRE #01363180

www.ArmarioHomes.com

459 Main Street Pleasanton



@armariohomes



PLEASANTON LIVERMORE DUBLIN SAN RAMON DANVILLE BLACKHAWK ALAMO WALNUT CREEK



THE
BLAISE LOFLAND
REAL ESTATE GROUP
CONNECTING PEOPLE & PROPERTY



Blaise Lofland



Kelly McKaig



Amanda Bowen



Jacinda Lofland

925.846.6500

blaiselofland.com

blaise@blaiselofland.com

DRE 00882113

Equal Housing Opportunity, Equal Housing Lender and Equal Housing Mortgage Lender



WE LIST, WE SELL, WE CLOSE!

COUNTRYFAIR II



SOLD

6407 CALLE ESPERANZA, PLEASANTON

4 BD | 3 BA | 2,575 SF

**JUST SOLD FOR \$1,775,000
(REPRESENTED SELLER & BUYER)**

COUNTRYFAIR II



SOLD

6322 CORTE ESPERANZA PLEASANTON

5 BD | 3 BA | 3,091 SF

SOLD FOR \$1,950,000

DEL PRADO



SOLD

1972 PASEO DEL CAJON, PLEASANTON

5 BD | 3 BA | 2,358 SF

**SOLD FOR \$1,530,000
(REPRESENTED BUYER)**

BRIDLE CREEK



SOLD

806 SYCAMORE CREEK WAY, PLEASANTON

6 BD | 5 BA | 4,455 SF

SOLD FOR \$2,600,000

SYCAMORE



SOLD

570 SYCAMORE WAY, PLEASANTON

5 BD | 3 BA | 2,600 SF

SOLD FOR \$1,850,000

WESTSIDE DANVILLE



SOLD

145 ESTHER LANE, DANVILLE

6 BD | 4 BA | 4,533 SF

**SOLD FOR \$3,200,000
(REPRESENTED BUYER)**

MURRIETA MEADOWS



SOLD

174 SUMMERTREE DRIVE LIVERMORE

5 BD | 3 BA | 2,752 SF

SOLD FOR \$1,400,000

MOHR ESTATES



SOLD

1844 MARTIN AVENUE PLEASANTON

4 BD | 3 BA | 3,303 SF

SOLD FOR \$2,210,000

VILLAGE



SOLD

6849 AMADOR VALLEY BLVD, DUBLIN

4 BD | 2 BA | 1,689 SF

SOLD FOR \$955,000

This is not intended as a solicitation if your property is currently listed with another broker. The above information, is based on data received from public sources or third parties and has not been independently verified by the broker, Keller Williams Tri-Valley Realty. If important to readers, readers are advised to verify information to their own satisfaction.



OFFER ACCEPTED

1428 White Stable Drive, Pleasanton

Nolan Farms

5 BD | 4.5 BA | 4,157 Sq Ft | 10,022 SqFt Lot
• Elegant Luxury Home
• Interior Courtyard with Fireplace
Presented at \$2,210,000



OFFER ACCEPTED

4735 McHenry Gate Way, Pleasanton

The Gates Neighborhood

4 BD | 3.5 BA | 2,487 Sq Ft | 7,766 Sq Ft Lot
• Updated and expanded with Chef's Kitchen
• Family Room and Bedroom on main level
Presented at \$1,510,000



"When it came time to sell our house due to a relocation — on a tight 10-day preparation timeline, during the pandemic — we interviewed multiple realtors. While all assured us that the house would sell quickly, most had hoops for us to jump through to make it easy for *them*. Kris assessed the situation and gave us a plan and a schedule that made it easier for *us*. With her team, the house was prepped, staged, and photographed beautifully. She scheduled a single day for us to review our numerous offers, simplifying the selection process. We accepted a strong offer that was well over asking price. I can't say enough good things about the experience. If you're planning to sell your home, we highly recommend Kris'.

— Craig and Alisa B, 2020 Sellers



- Sales prices are up 117.5% from 2020
 - Buyers are anxious to buy
 - Interest rates are historically low
- Inventory in the valley:**

- Pleasanton: 36
- Livermore: 57
- Dublin: 32
- Danville: 57



2642 Laramie Gate Circle, Pleasanton
4 BD | 3 BA | 2,399 Sq Ft
Listed at \$1,345,000
SOLD for \$1,426,000



766 Forester Court, Livermore
4 BD — 3 BA — 2,851 Sq Ft
SOLD for \$1,280,000



5834 Corte Margarita, Pleasanton
3 BD — 2 BA — 11,039 SqFt Lot
Listed at \$1,310,000
SOLD for \$1,486,000



391 Glen Arms Drive, Danville
3 BD — 3 BA — 25,850 SqFt Lot
Listed at \$1,315,000
SOLD for \$1,476,000

Kris Moxley

925.519.9080
moxleyrealestate.com
DRE 00790463
900 Main Street,
Pleasanton, CA 94566

