

Pleasanton Weekly

St. Patrick's fun
returns to Dublin

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WHAT A WEEK



By JEREMY WALSH

New voice to lead East Bay Parks

New leadership is coming to the East Bay Regional Park District, and she's a heavy hitter from Bay Area city government administration.

The EBRPD Board of Directors voted this Tuesday to hire Sabrina Landreth, the former city administrator for Oakland, as the district's next general manager. When she starts her role on March 15, she will be the 10th GM in the district's 87-year history — and the first woman ever to hold that position for East Bay Parks.

"I look forward to continuing to build upon the great work the district does to improve the quality of life for our East Bay community, while adhering to its social and environmental responsibilities," Landreth said in a statement released through EBRPD on Tuesday night.

The park district manages many of our favorite outdoor recreation sites here in the Tri-Valley: Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park, Shadow Cliffs, Del Valle, the Las Trampas Regional Wilderness and of course, the Iron Horse Regional Trail.

Despite being so prominent in our lives, not many residents are very familiar with the inner workings of the EBRPD. I'm sure plenty don't even know the district by name, let alone recognize it as the thread connecting these beloved parks, trails and open spaces in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. (Even I was surprised to learn EBRPD represents the largest regional park system in the country.)

But it's critical to pay as close attention to the park district as you would almost any other local public agency. Decisions by the board and administration have direct impacts on our recreational activities — not to mention, they're stewards of public lands, tax dollars, and hundreds of employees and volunteers.

Landreth, who has inked a contract with an initial three-year term at an annual salary of \$335,670.36, is taking the helm at an important time for the district.

Environmental protection, park improvements, fire safety, legislative advocacy and weathering the financial storm that continues to be the COVID-19 pandemic are just a few of the major issues waiting on her desk.

"Our board is thrilled to have Sabrina join our organization," Board



Sabrina Landreth

President Dee Rosario said. "She has all the right elements of urban public sector leadership experience and especially understands the diversity of the East Bay communities we serve."

Clearly, the directors must also value Landreth's professional expertise with budget planning, policy making and regional advocacy. An East Bay native who graduated from MIT (bachelor's) and UC Berkeley (master's), Landreth worked throughout the Oakland city government before leading as city administrator from 2015 to 2020. She also previously worked as city manager of Emeryville.

Landreth has some big shoes to fill at EBRPD, succeeding the now-retired Robert Doyle, a mainstay with the district for 47 years, including the past decade as its general manager.

In addition to being able to draw on her extensive career experience, Landreth will benefit from strong institutional support within the district. I mean, just look at the Board of Directors, whose seven-member roster includes Ellen Corbett, a former state senator; Beverly Lane, a member of Danville's founding Town Council in the '80s; and Ayn Wieskamp, a former Livermore councilwoman.

Although the task is tall taking over in throes of this pandemic, the union between Landreth and EBRPD sure seems set up for success.

I for one look forward to tracking the district's progress on key improvements planned in the Tri-Valley, including the expanded Del Valle Visitor Center, the outdoor nature pavilion at Shadow Cliffs and additional access points to Pleasanton Ridge. ■

Editor's note: Jeremy Walsh has been the editor of the Pleasanton Weekly since February 2017. His "What a Week" column runs on the first and third Fridays of the month.

About the Cover

Livermore Valley Opera presented Mozart's "The Abduction from the Seraglio" in the fall of 2018 with (left) tenor Michael Kuhn as Pedrillo and bass Kevin Langan as Osmin in a major stage production. Despite the closing of theaters, the music continues online as the opera company presents a "Triple Treat" featuring performers local audiences know and love. Photo by Barbara Mellon. Cover design by Paul Llewellyn.

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PLEASANTON LISTINGS

NEW LISTING!

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PENDING SALE!

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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.

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Stanford MEDICINE

What is one of the little things your significant other does that makes you feel loved and adored?



Samantha Tannenbaum
Graphic designer

He arranges for us to have “dates” at his house since we can’t go to restaurants or the movies. He lights little tea candles all over the place and opens a bottle of wine in order to create a beautiful environment that makes us feel like we’re really out on a real date.



Brooke Tannenbaum
Case manager

I’m in a long distance relationship. So my significant other arranges to put Netflix on a party feature so that even though we’re far apart, we can watch programs together and talk to each other as we watch, as if we were together. It’s very interactive and his daily check-ins are very much appreciated, too.



David Hubbard
Retired

She juices lemons from our abundant tree and then tells me to either make lemonade or drink the juice straight — because she’ll kiss me either way.



Caron French
Reading specialist

He wakes up first, makes us coffee and brings mine to me. We then watch the news together for a while and it is just the best way to start the day. It makes me feel wonderful, special and adored.



Leann Biasatti
Accountant

He comes searching all over the house for me, just to come give me a kiss. And sometimes, out of the blue, for no reason at all, he brings me flowers.

— Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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DIGEST

PUSD reopenings

The Pleasanton Unified School District remained on track to reopen elementary schools for students in pre-kindergarten through second grade yesterday, as of the Weekly's press deadline on Wednesday.

Look for coverage of PUSD's "Day 1" online at Pleasanton-Weekly.com and in next week's print edition.

The current schedule approved by the Board of Trustees would see third- to fifth-graders eligible to return to campus on Monday (March 8) under a hybrid system, while higher grades will depend on Alameda County advancing into the red tier of the state's COVID-19 tracking system. Families have the option to continue with remote-only learning amid the pandemic.

Business rent help

Livermore city officials are accepting joint applications from eligible commercial landlords and their small business tenants or lessees as part of the city's "Commercial Rent Abatement Matching Grant Program."

Open to businesses with gross receipts of no more than \$10 million that have experienced financial loss due to the pandemic, the program provides up to \$7,500 in matching funds when a commercial landlord has or will permanently waive unpaid rent during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

The program currently has \$409,000 in available funding; it will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis until all of the money is exhausted, according to city officials.

To obtain an application or learn more, visit oied.net or email oied@cityoflivermore.net.

Military banners

The city of Dublin is seeking sponsorships for its "Military Banner Program," which honors local military veterans or active duty members with custom banners to be displayed along Dougherty Road between Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

The banner will include a photo of the honoree along with their name, rank, military branch and service status.

The application deadline is March 31; the \$230 sponsorship fee is due after approval. ■

Correction

Last week's print story "Pleasanton council confirms ban on new two-story ADUs" listed an incorrect vote split. The council voted 3-2 to advance the ban, with members Jack Balch and Kathy Narum in dissent. The Weekly regrets the error.

Pleasanton council OKs funding to join mental health pilot project

Tri-Valley residents would be able to access urgent care program, regardless of insurance

By JULIA BAUM

To expand access and services for mental health care in the Tri-Valley, the Pleasanton City Council unanimously approved using city funds for a regional mental health pilot program on Tuesday.

"A mental health crisis, a first break happens like such a lightning bolt — you don't expect it, you don't understand it, and you certainly haven't prepared for it," Vice Mayor Julie Testa said before voting. "This is so vital. So, so important. And I'm very grateful that

our city has played a role in taking the lead on this."

Pleasanton, along with the cities of Dublin and Livermore, will pay \$321,495 for project budget year one costs to launch a pilot program providing urgent care services to Tri-Valley residents experiencing a mental health crisis.

According to city staff, all community members, "regardless of income or insurance status," could access the program, which would be managed by Axis Community Health, the local nonprofit that approached local city leaders and

other stakeholders about the idea in October.

Each city would pay a third of the program's total, though staff said a \$250,000 grant expected from Alameda County Behavioral Health would "dramatically decrease the fair share contribution for each of the cities."

During Tuesday's discussion, Testa commended the program's low barrier to access, noting "having private insurance can actually be a barrier to getting the help that your loved one needs" and that some programs are not available to

people with insurance.

"They think we're saying if they don't have insurance, we're still going to be able to help them — it's really the opposite," Testa said. "Even if they do have private insurance, we're going to be able to get that process started, and that's enormous in the Tri-Valley."

Testa added, "People really don't understand that, because it's counterintuitive, definitely."

Local need for mental health services has grown substantially in

See **MENTAL HEALTH** on Page 10



Firefighters battle blaze in vacant commercial building on the edge of downtown Livermore. The building on Railroad Avenue is likely a total loss. LPFD

Boarded-up building damaged in fire

No injuries reported; cause remains under investigation

By JEREMY WALSH

A vacant commercial building on the edge of downtown Livermore is likely a total loss after being severely damaged in a fire early Monday morning, according to fire officials.

The building appeared empty when firefighters arrived and no injuries were reported in the end, according to Joe Testa, deputy fire chief of the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department. The cause of the blaze remains under joint investigation by police and fire officials.

What would be an intense firefight began after the report of a structure fire came in just after 6:30 a.m. Monday for a

boarded-up commercial building on Railroad Avenue at the northwest corner of the North K Street intersection.

Testa said firefighters arrived to find the vacant multi-tenant building "well involved in fire." After first investigating to confirm that no one was trapped inside, LPFD firefighters began a defensive fire attack to gain control from outside at ground level with large hose lines and from above with aerial ladders.

Firefighters brought the fire under control after about an hour, according to Testa. The two-alarm fire response involved 10 fire engines and trucks and about 35 fire

personnel from LPFD and the Alameda County Fire Department.

The building suffered a roof collapse and is believed to be a total loss, Testa said. It appeared both side-by-side commercial units were vacant, including one that used to be a local pool and spa business.

No injuries were reported during the incident. LPFD and Livermore Police Department officials are investigating the cause and origin of the fire, according to Testa.

Railroad Avenue was closed between Livermore Avenue and L Street during the fire response Monday morning. ■

PUSD sets temporary grading policy

Scale for D shifts with eye toward graduation credit

By JULIA BAUM

Recognizing the impact of isolation on students during the pandemic, Pleasanton Unified School District is temporarily expanding the grading scale range for D and F grades for the second semester.

The Board of Trustees unanimously approved the temporary grading policy at its regular meeting on Feb. 25, giving middle and high school students who would normally receive an F grade on the traditional grading scale the chance "to potentially pass a class with a D and thus qualify for graduation credit," according to a staff presentation.

The point spread for D grades will be doubled from 10 to 20 points, and the F grade scale decreased from 60 to 50 points. Temporary calculations also expand the scale for a D grade from 50%-69% (instead of 60%-69%), and decrease the F grade scale to 0%-49% (instead of 0%-59%).

"Additionally, this grading scale change would help to mitigate the negative emotional impact of failing grades on the mental health of students during the global COVID-19 pandemic," staff said.

Grading scales for a grade C or above remain the same, and "those

See **GRADING** on Page 11

Dublin schools to begin reopening classrooms March 18

Youngest students first in line for in-person instruction under hybrid system

BY RYAN J. DEGAN

The Dublin Unified School District is set to become the next Tri-Valley public school district to bring students back for in-person learning after nearly a year away due to the coronavirus pandemic, with the city's youngest children set to return on March 18.

During the DUSD Board of Education's meeting on Feb. 23, district staff shared details on how and when students would be able to return to their physical classrooms, declaring that preschool through kindergarten would return on March 18, first- through third-graders on March 22, and fourth- and fifth-graders will on March 25.

Students in sixth through 12th grade have not yet been assigned a date to return as of Tuesday.

"This is the culmination of many months of work where at

every turn there seemed to be a new roadblock, but we are here: We are ready to start inviting our students back to campus," DUSD Interim Superintendent Daniel Moirao said. "We are very proud of the work we have been able to accomplish, not alone but in collaboration ... this has truly been a collaborative effort to get us to this point."

According to the board-approved plan, students whose families elect to return to hybrid in-person learning will attend school in-person four days a week, with Wednesdays being reserved as a full remote day for all students.

On days when students do attend school in-person, students will be divided into a.m. and p.m. schedules, where some students will attend class in-person during the morning and others will do so in the afternoon.

Similar to other schools that have already reopened, students in Dublin will also be limited to interacting with other students inside of their classroom cohorts — a move made in order to reduce the risk of COVID-19 being spread among students.

Prior to students being assigned to a cohort and schedule, DUSD families have sent in declaration forms informing district officials whether their children will return to in-person classes or remain remote for the duration of this school year.

According to district officials, declaration forms reveal that the mass majority of families with elementary school-aged students have elected to remain with remote learning, with only 17% of respondents opting to return to hybrid in-person instruction.

Meanwhile, 53% of elementary school students will remain remote for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year. The

remaining 30% of respondents declared that they would like their children to remain with their teachers, regardless of whether it is hybrid in-person or full remote.

The majority of middle and high school respondents have likewise elected to stick with remote learning for the duration of the school year, with 36% of middle school families and 28% of high school families opting to go with hybrid in-person learning. The remaining respondents for middle and high school all decided to stay home with remote learning.

While district officials have stressed a desire to have all students return to the classroom when it is safe to do so, secondary school students will not be allowed to return to in-person instruction until Alameda County moves out of the most-restrictive purple tier into the less-restrictive red tier, according to state's color-coded reopening blueprint.

Red tier classification will be achieved when the county averages no more than seven new cases a day per 100,000 residents and a positive test rate of between 5% to 8%.

DUSD officials say they predict the county will move into the red tier for five days sometime during the staggered opening dates for elementary schools. If this is the case, the district anticipates sharing secondary school opening dates with families by mid-March.

The DUSD will be joining the likes of the San Ramon Valley Unified School District, which has had special day classes and elementary school students returning to hybrid in-person learning in February. Pleasanton Unified was scheduled to reopen for pre-K to second grade yesterday, after the Weekly's press deadline.

Residents can learn more about the DUSD's efforts to return to in-person learning online at dublinusd.org. ■

TAKE US ALONG



Throwback to 2002: Weekly reader Karen Morliengo recently mailed us a copy of this photo she took for a Take Us Along submission back in 2002 during a trip to Moab, Utah.

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.

Livermore plans to reopen all schools on March 22

Board of Education votes unanimously to bring students back to campus

BY CIERRA BAILEY

Livermore students attending preschool through 12th grade will be able to return to their respective campuses on March 22 following the Board of Education's unanimous vote last week to approve the recommendation of Superintendent Kelly Bowers to end the school closures.

Families will still have the option to continue distance learning through the end of the school year if preferred during the COVID-19 pandemic under the plan adopted by the board on Feb. 25.

"Our classrooms are ready for students. We have installed air filtration systems, we have sanitization processes in place, and we have the personal protective equipment needed for our staff and students," deputy superintendent Chris Van Schaack said in a statement announcing the reopening plan.

"We have been anticipating and preparing for this return," Bowers added. "More details from principals will be forthcoming next week, and families will be allowed a defined window of opportunity to review and firmly commit to the modality they prefer for the remainder of this academic year, through June 10, 2021."

The start date was chosen to coincide with the majority of the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District staff members

receiving COVID-19 vaccinations, according to district officials.

They said they also wanted to be able to bring all grade levels back at the same time, and March 22 aligns with the timeframe that Alameda County is expected to move into the less-restrictive red tier, which allows secondary schools to reopen.

"We do anticipate being in the red tier by (March 22) based on the current numbers — which are very close to that — and the predictions by Dr. Nicholas Moss, our Alameda County Public Health director, who has really more of an inside track on where we're headed and sees our COVID cases declining," community engagement director Philomena Rambo told the Weekly.

For students who return to campus, in-person learning will be offered four days each week, with Wednesday remaining a day of online classes with early dismissal to allow time for professional development for teachers, according to the district.

Elementary students will have a choice to attend school in the mornings or participate in distance learning in the afternoons. Middle and high school students who choose to return to campus will be able to meet in person two days each week and will join their distance learning peers on other days.

According to the district, this model was designed for students to maintain required physical distancing based on the estimated numbers of students who prefer in-person learning.

Middle and high school teachers will instruct students online while simultaneously teaching those who are in the classroom.

"We're able to do that very easily because of the fact that our students are using a learning management system called Schoology and all of their lessons and resources are online," Rambo said. Some teachers will also be using a camera similar to a GoPro, which will allow the students at home to be able to see their teacher in addition to hearing them.

All in-person instruction will end each day at lunchtime and students will be offered take-home lunches and dinners on their way out. Students who continue distance learning also have the option to pick up meals to take back home with them.

"We are happy to be able to continue providing lunch and supper to all LVJUSD students, free-of-charge, through the end of the school year, whether they are learning at home or at school," child nutrition director Dana Dodge said.

More information about LVJUSD reopening is available at livermoreschools.org/reopening. ■

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Supporting
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11 residents displaced, one hurt from weekend fire at duplex

Both units destroyed in blaze; cause under investigation

By JEREMY WALSH

Eleven people were displaced and one woman was hurt as a result of a quick-spreading fire that destroyed both units of a duplex a few blocks from downtown Livermore on Saturday afternoon, according to fire officials.

The incident unfolded around 3:30 p.m. on the 600 block of Andrews Street when a fire broke out for unknown reasons in a duplex, according to Joe Testa, deputy fire chief with the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department.

Windy conditions that afternoon hastened the spread of the flames, Testa said. LPPFD firefighters engaged in an exterior fire attack to bring the fire under control after about 20 minutes, but the fire had already grown too large and destroyed both residential units.

The cause and origin of the fire remain under review by LPPFD investigators.

One woman sustained a minor injury in the fire and was treated by paramedics at the scene, according to Testa.

The destructive blaze left 11 people displaced, Testa said. The American Red Cross assisted with finding shelter for the residents.

Additionally, the LPPFD, in partnership with its firefighters union IAFF Local 1974 and the California Fire Foundation, provided \$250 gift cards to each displaced family, according to Testa. "This program had just been rolled out in the past few weeks, but we were thrilled to be able to provide this support to those who had lost so much," he said. ■



This duplex on Andrews Street in Livermore was considered a total loss after a devastating fire broke out on Saturday afternoon. LPPFD

Trustees OK additional \$1.1M for Virtual Academy

Application period open through March 15

By JULIA BAUM

Pleasanton Unified School District's independent study program, which has been in limited operation for years, is receiving an additional \$1.1 million in funding after the Board of Trustees unanimously approved staff's recommendation last week.

Though hybrid learning scheduled to start with pre-K to grade 2 yesterday, the Pleasanton Virtual Academy is geared toward serving those either "thriving in the remote/distance learning environment" or that may not desire in-person attendance "due to unique medical circumstances related to COVID." However, any student is welcome to attend.

Home teaching requests for anxiety or depression have "reduced dramatically" by approximately 50% as of Feb. 1, according to staff, while student feedback "has

long indicated that a differentiated model is needed for a variety of reasons," prompting the academy's recent development.

The Virtual Academy has comparable "educational rigor and learning outcomes" as other PUSD schools, but students access and interact with the curriculum "in a slightly different way than they would in a traditional school setting, staff said, adding that "inherent in the program is flexibility, and choice."

Students enrolled in the academy can personalize their learning experience; grades 6 to 12 create an individual learning plan that they revisit each semester and update as needed.

Depending on the grade level, students will meet with their instructor for one hour a week and complete anywhere from 180 to more than 240 minutes of learning

activities per school day. Elementary students will have enrichment opportunities like coding and art classes, and middle and high school students can still participate in sports at their school of residence and opt for "unique electives."

In-person opportunities to enhance learning are also offered throughout the school year, and secondary students enrolled full time in Virtual Academy may also enroll in courses not offered through the program at the comprehensive sites. They will also be encouraged to enroll in Tri-Valley ROP courses and may concurrently enroll at Las Positas College.

For the 2021-22 school year, the academy will operate as an independent K-8 school and as a program for all three high schools. Students enrolled full-time in the comprehensive sites may also enroll in Virtual Academy courses not

offered at their regular school.

The majority of staffing costs for the academy will come from "shifting" enrollment, which PUSD said is "difficult to accurately project without yet knowing enrollment and in high school course requests."

Trustee Mark Miller asked what would happen if 2,000 students wanted to enroll, and educational options director Heather Pereira said that isn't possible since "we have to remain at 10% or less of our district enrollment because it will be structured through independent study apportionment."

"Right now, our plan is to accept students on a rolling basis, so first-come first-serve," Pereira said. "It is a little tricky because we've never offered this in a very robust, clearly defined and then publicly really advertised way before, so it's hard to tell how many students, and we might still have

the pandemic effect."

"And then to add to that, it's brand new — sometimes people are willing to try something new, sometimes not," Pereira added. "With that, I think we'll certainly have students that are interested in this."

Based on an enrollment of 250 students evenly distributed in K-12, staff estimate the annual expense will be approximately \$1,111,000 — \$1 million for teaching staff and another \$111,000 for support staff plus supplies, materials and WASC fees.

Families requesting enrollment in the fall cohort must complete their application for the Pleasanton Virtual Academy by March 15. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis and students will be admitted as space is available.

For more information, email virtualacademy@pleasantonusd.net. ■

BART revenue, ridership likely to lag behind pre-pandemic levels for most of the decade

'Next 6-9 months are going to be very telling about what does BART look like going forward'

BART budget officials said last week that they do not expect the agency's operating revenue to return to pre-pandemic levels until 2024 at the earliest, with growth not expected until late in the 2020s.

While BART officials expect the agency's budget to be balanced when the fiscal year ends June 30, due in large part to federal relief funding, BART's revenue during the 2020-21 fiscal year is only expected to reach \$526 million, a nearly 45% tumble from the \$953 million the agency brought in during the 2018-19 fiscal year.

That drop in revenue was driven principally by average weekday ridership plummeting to around 10% of both pre-pandemic levels and projected ridership figures.

But even with greater access to coronavirus vaccines over the coming months and the Bay Area workforce's eventual return in some form to office buildings, agency officials don't expect ridership to return even to 80% of pre-pandemic levels until the end of the decade.

BART financial planning director Michael Eiseman told the agency's Board of Directors that BART's ridership growth in recent years has been inextricably linked to the economic growth of downtown San Francisco.

"Before the pandemic, two-thirds of our trips had an origin or destination at Market Street station," Eiseman said. "So if those regional travel trends do shift away from downtown, our recovery may

depend on our ability to adapt and serve other markets."

Board Director Rebecca Saltzman argued the agency should be creative in its efforts to bring back riders, potentially offering group train fare packages and discounts for using the system outside of peak ridership hours.

"We're not going to have all those five-day commuters," Saltzman said. "But what if we have two- or three-day commuters and they're also going out at night and on the weekends? Can we get those people back?"

BART has taken multiple steps to cut costs since the pandemic began, including a freeze on new hires, some service cuts, the elimination and deferral of capital

project allocations and a retirement incentive program, which resulted in 7% of BART's workforce electing to retire early, according to Eiseman.

Eiseman also noted that the agency should avoid further cuts to train service, which is likely to hinder revenue growth in the coming years, even when assuming the system's extension into downtown San Jose is completed as scheduled around 2030.

Board Director Janice Li called on the agency to consider how its operating revenue and budget will be broken down in the coming months and years, especially if the rebound of ridership is even more sluggish than expected.

"What does it look like in a

world where we are only at, say, 25%, 30% farebox recovery rate and how do we make up the rest of that pie chart," she said. "Because that changes our advocacy, our grant strategy, how we're getting state and federal funding in ways that other transit agencies do."

"What does it look like if we are really dependent on federal funding and how does that make it really, perhaps, unpredictable for budgeting?" she said.

Multiple board members agreed with Li's request.

"I think that really the next six to nine months are going to be very telling about what does BART look like going forward," Board President Mark Foley said. ■

—Eli Walsh, BCN Foundation

Fair food favorites returning at special event this month

'Grab-n-Stay Feast' debuting at fairgrounds next week

By JEREMY WALSH

The Alameda County Fairgrounds is showcasing many of the popular foods synonymous with the annual summer fair at a special event running this month in Pleasanton.

The "Grab-n-Stay Fair Food Feast," which debuts late next week, offers people the chance to sample fair food favorites onsite or to-go — all while also helping supporting food vendors impacted by COVID-19 pandemic-related closures and cancellations, which included the 2020 Alameda County Fair.

"People have missed the fair and all the delicious food that goes along with it," said Angel Moore,

vice president of business development for the Alameda County Fair. "We are excited to be able to help highlight several of our longtime vendors and small businesses, while also bringing the community a taste of their favorite fair treats."

The event will run next Thursday through Sunday (March 11-14) as well as the following week, March 18-21, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. each day at the fairgrounds in central Pleasanton. Guests can stay and eat their food on the grounds or pre-order for curbside pickup at a designated time.

The menu will include fair food classics like corn dogs, churros and funnel cakes, among a range

of other items.

Among the featured vendors will be local husband and wife team Dean and Liesel Williams, the owners of Red and White Concessions who have worked the Pleasanton fair for more than 50 years. But COVID-19 event cancellations have challenged the future of their business; normally they'd work about 25 fairs in a year, but almost every one of their regular events was called off in 2020.

That makes new special events like the "Grab-n-Stay Fair Food Feast" all the more important early in 2021, according to Dean Williams.

"During the summer months, we did a 'Corn dog Tuesday' every

week for about 20 weeks at a local school here in Knightsen," Dean Williams said. "We also participated as a vendor for the drive-in movies at the Alameda County Fairgrounds for about 16 weeks. Those types of opportunities were extremely beneficial, and the community really came out to support us."

The couple will be serving up their popular corn dogs in Pleasanton the next two weeks, along with their signature "Orange Treet," a whipped fruit drink that was the first item Dean learned how to make back in 1966.

Attendees can park at the ACE Train parking lot located off Pleasanton Avenue, and pedestrian entry

will be located at the Yellow Gate.

Like many of their vendors, the fairgrounds itself pivoted amid traditional event cancellations in 2020, scheduling drive-in movie screenings and concerts, food truck nights, online fair competitions and drive-thru entertainment experiences. A decision about the status of the 2021 Alameda County Fair is still pending.

The fairgrounds is also hosting a regional COVID-19 vaccination site, as well as served as a COVID-19 testing center and an incident command center for Cal Fire in 2020.

To learn more about this month's food feast, visit alamedacountyfair.com/grab-n-stay. ■

Swalwell reintroduces gun abuse, foreign corruption bills

'America needs these reforms to move ahead,' says Tri-Valley congressman

By JULIA BAUM

U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-Livermore) recently reintroduced four federal bills addressing foreign corruption in U.S. elections and another to issue grants for gun relinquishment programs established by states.

Calling domestic violence "a persistent threat to many Americans" that can be escalated by firearm ownership, the Tri-Valley congressman again proposed the "No Guns for Abusers Act" on Feb. 26.

Federal law prohibits convicted abusers or those subject to a protection order from buying firearms, but the bill would provide

analysis and make recommendations for states and localities to set up the best relinquishment system.

"The pandemic has brought on stay-at-home orders nationwide, increasing the risk of intimate partner violence," Swalwell said in a statement. "Never has it been more important to take action to prevent guns from remaining in the hands of domestic abusers. We have a clear opportunity to save lives with this legislation — it should not be a partisan issue."

According to Swalwell, firearm ownership can escalate abuse, and the risk of intimate partner homicide is five times greater when an

abuser has access to a firearm.

The bill is supported by Everytown for Gun Safety and the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Swalwell also reintroduced four bills last month that would "require candidates, campaigns, and companies to report foreign interference in U.S. elections; enhance protections for whistleblowers who come forward to expose official wrongdoing; and make it a criminal offense for the President, Vice President, or their families to enrich themselves from foreign sources."

After serving as impeachment manager for former President

Donald Trump's second impeachment trial last month (which saw the Senate acquit Trump with 57 Yes votes to 43 No, with two-thirds required for conviction), Swalwell said, "Congress must make sure these expectations are spelled out explicitly in law and are punished when violated. America needs these reforms to move ahead."

Previously introduced in 2018 and 2019, the "Duty to Report Act" would "impose a legal duty on federal campaigns, candidates, and PACs to report offers of assistance from foreign nationals, including material, non-public information, to the Federal Election Commission and the Federal

Bureau of Investigation."

All meetings between candidates or campaign officials and agents of foreign governments, and those "held in a candidate's official capacity as an elected representative" would also require disclosure.

Also introduced originally in 2019, the "Corporate Duty to Report Act" requires companies to "disclose to the government when a foreign person, country, or organization attempts to subvert our election once again with political ads," and levy criminal fines of up to \$1 million per incident on a corporation that "fails to report

See SWALWELL on Page 12

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County honors Livermore veteran, founder of food aid nonprofit

One Nation Dream Makers targets food insecurity in East Bay

By JEREMY WALSH

Ronald Forbes, a Livermore resident and U.S. Army veteran, is working to give back to his community in a new way — by coordinating and delivering nutritious food to families in need throughout Alameda County through his nonprofit One Nation Dream Makers.

For his efforts to address food insecurity, as well as to highlight his inspirational story of overcoming addiction and homelessness, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors awarded Forbes with a special commendation last week.

“My biggest motivation in doing what I do every day is that I once was homeless, which pushes me to help families in need with food insecurities,” Forbes said in a statement. “I served my country, and now it is my time to serve my community.”

Handing the commendation to Forbes was one of the first special presentations as county supervisor for David Haubert, who lauded the

Livermore resident for his “dedication, commitment to providing food, faith and respect to our community.”

“I am very pleased to have been able to honor Mr. Ronald Forbes for all of his efforts of collecting food and delivering it to those in need, not just in my district but all over Alameda County,” said Supervisor Haubert, who joined the board in January to represent District 1, which includes Livermore and Dublin.

Following decorated service in the Army, Forbes struggled in his return to civilian life with post-traumatic stress disorder, drug addiction, homelessness and incarceration, according to Haubert’s office. Overcoming those challenges, Forbes is on track to mark six years of sobriety this year.

Forbes, who is now senior vice commander for the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7265 in Livermore, is a graduate of the Alameda County Sheriff’s Office “Operation

My Home Town” program and participated in “Operation Dignity,” a national veteran homelessness program. He was also recognized for outstanding character by the National Reentry Resource Center.

Through his nonprofit One Nation Dream Makers, for which he serves as executive director, Forbes works to collect, organize, store and deliver food to families in need in the East Bay. He aims to distribute thousands of boxes of fruit, vegetables, meats and dairy products to families over the next six weeks, according to Haubert’s office.

“My mission is to give food to all the families in need, but I have to have a team to do it; Supervisor David Haubert got a hold of me, and we came together to do things in Alameda County and abroad to deliver food to families in need,” Forbes said.

To learn more, or to donate, visit the “One Nation Dream Makers Inc.” Facebook page or email Forbes at rforbes2091@gmail.com. ■



HAUBERT'S OFFICE

Ronald Forbes (left), a military veteran from Livermore and founder of One Nation Dream Makers, receives commendation from Alameda County Supervisor David Haubert.

Las Positas College celebrating female veterans

2021 Honoring Women Veterans will be online

An honor guard presentation, female veterans’ panel and scholarship awards will be issued at a virtual ceremony held by Las Positas College for the ninth annual Honor Women Veterans event on Wednesday (March 10), starting 1 p.m.

“We are very pleased to feature such highly respected speakers who have many powerful stories to share,” LPC Veterans First supervisor Todd Steffan in a statement. “We know that people will

be interested in hearing from these speakers and listening to the panel discussion featuring female student veterans from different branches.”

The online event, which is free and open to the public, includes singing of the national anthem as well as a keynote speech by Xochitl Rodriguez Murillo, deputy secretary of minority and underrepresented veterans for the California Department of Veterans

Affairs. Last year’s event took place in person at the LPC campus in Livermore, just a couple of weeks before statewide shelter-in-place orders took effect for the COVID-19 pandemic.

Murillo was appointed to her position over a year ago, and has sat on the Woodland City Council since 2016, as well as been a U.S. Army Reserve sergeant since 2012. She was deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom from

2004 to 2005, and received the National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M Device and Global War on Terrorism medals (expeditionary and service).

In addition to receiving a bachelor’s degree in international relations and Spanish from UC Davis, Murillo also holds a master’s in Spanish from CSU Sacramento. She is also a member of the American Legion Yolo Post

77, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1985.

LPC’s Veterans First Program provides services and resources to assist student veterans in achieving their academic goals, including priority registration, scholarships, book loans and work-study programs, and an active student veterans organization.

To learn more, visit laspositas-college.edu/veterans. ■

—Julia Baum



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MENTAL HEALTH

Continued from Page 5

the past decade and been pushed further during the COVID-19 pandemic, but “there is not enough capacity to meet the demand” and “the systems are complex and difficult to maneuver, especially in a crisis,” city officials said in their staff report to the council.

Patients — especially those not already receiving care — often wait weeks to see a mental health professional. Insured patients are often faced with “a confusing array of options for services,” while uninsured patients have limited choices and experience delays in receiving care.

The pilot program would have same-day appointments available for individuals with urgent mental health needs. Services will be provided via telehealth during the pandemic, but staff said a walk-in access point is part of long-term plans.

Eventually, the center would “serve as a central entry point for

assessment, triage, treatment, and care coordination for anyone seeking mental health treatment.”

“Like a medical urgent care setting, Axis Mental Health Urgent Care Center will provide assessment and timely connection to services in a setting that is less costly than an emergency department,” staff added.

Patients will be assessed to determine whether their condition is mild to moderate, moderate, or severe when they arrive. Staff anticipate most patients that use the center “will be treatable at the site and/or via telehealth services,” but a small percentage (about 5%) will require medication and be referred to higher levels of care.

Assessments for patients presenting with suicidal thinking will also be available, and staff will “de-escalate and avert 5150s when possible.” Staff also said Axis’ behavioral health providers “are experienced at intervening when suicidal thoughts are presented, and most often, following careful assessment

and development of a safety plan, a 5150 can be avoided.”

Councilmember Valerie Arkin said the need for such a program “is very great in our community,” and asked if there will be “any limit to any one person accessing a certain amount of services.”

**‘This is so vital ...
I’m very grateful that
our city has played
a role in taking
the lead on this.’**

Julie Testa,
Pleasanton vice mayor

Sue Compton, CEO of Axis Community Health, said people could make use of program services “within reason.”

“We’re looking at this as an intermediate service, so possibly maybe five sessions until we can get them situated. This is not a long-term

solution,” Compton said.

Arkin then asked, “If somebody in the community was worried about somebody, could they call and could there be some outreach to somebody that is in crisis, that may not realize they are or not want to seek help — is there any mechanism?”

Compton replied the idea is “definitely something that we will be exploring,” then adding, “HIPPA and those can of things always get in the way, but I think it’s something we can be exploring as part of this. I’m sure we’ll get those types of calls as well.”

“This is something I’ve always advocated strongly for, so thank you so much for bringing this to our community to help our residents,” Arkin said.

In addition to potentially funding the mental health urgent care pilot program, the city is currently funding \$70,000 for a two-year agreement with Axis to provide behavioral health services for local youths, ages 12 to 18. ■

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Culinary Angels expands into San Ramon Valley

Nonprofit provides healthy meals to local cancer patients

Free ride to vaccine

The Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority on Monday launched a program that will provide free rides on existing Wheels, Rapid and Dial-a-Ride services to and from any COVID-19 vaccination site in Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin, including hospitals, pharmacies and other immunization locations.

The program, which will remain in effect until further notice, aims to reduce barriers to vaccination access caused by transportation-related costs and other impacts.

To receive the free trip, passengers would need to show their physical or digital confirmation of their same-day vaccine appointment to the bus operator at boarding.

Court app

The Alameda County Superior Court last Friday unveiled its new "Alameda Superior Court" app for iOS and Android devices that is designed to make it easier for the public to access court services and information.

Key functions include "the ability to search for criminal calendar and case information, finding upcoming court dates across case types, listening to live audio streaming of in-session courtrooms, and obtaining general court information, including department telephone numbers and email addresses, and courthouse locations (with directions)," officials said.

Future updates to the mobile app would include the ability to pay traffic tickets and to view civil case documents, among other functions, officials said.

Native gardening

The Zone 7 Water Agency is hosting a free webinar on "Gardening with Natives" next Wednesday (March 10) from 4-5:15 p.m.

Shining a spotlight on native plantings, the webinar will feature Lesley Hunt, of the East Bay Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, talking about the benefits of native gardening, considerations to keep in mind when planning a garden, key examples and answers to attendees' questions.

For more information, visit www.zone7water.com.

Bus Ticket Drive

Livermore resident Jacky Poulsen, in collaboration with Asbury United Methodist Church, is holding the sixth annual Bus Ticket Drive to help provide transportation to Tri-Valley residents who are homeless or struggling financially.

Poulsen said she works with the service organizations to provide them with the bus tickets so they can distribute them to their clients as appropriate. To make a donation online, visit <https://bit.ly/2020bustickets>. The drive ends later this month. ■

Tri-Valley nonprofit Culinary Angels is growing its effort to supply nutritious — and delicious — meals to help sustain the health of local patients facing cancer or other serious medical conditions.

The organization, which had focused exclusively on residents in Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton, expanded its service area to include San Ramon and Danville effective Feb. 24.

"The goal of Culinary Angels is to prepare and deliver healthy and tasty meals to a broader segment of the population," executive director and founder Lisa McNaney said in a statement.

"We can now meet the needs of patients in San Ramon and Danville with our new kitchen located at the Sunflower Hill at Irby Ranch residential community in Pleasanton. Pleasanton's location at the axis of both the 580 and 680 freeways



Nutritious meals featuring whole grain sides, a protein and fresh veggies are ready to be delivered to Culinary Angels clients.

offers direct access to all the cities that we serve," McNaney added.

McNaney, herself a cancer survivor as well as the mother of a young cancer survivor, created the

nonprofit in 2016 after recognizing the need and importance of good nutrition during chemotherapy and other treatments to maintain strength, energy and a healthy

body weight, according to Culinary Angels officials.

The organization has prepared and delivered more than 5,300 meals to local patients, the vast majority of whom are undergoing chemotherapy treatment for cancer.

About 45 volunteers — all state-accredited for food handling and safety — gather two days a week to prepare, cook and package the meals, according to Culinary Angels.

"The meals prepared by Culinary Angels are delicious, robust and ample — often providing multiple meals for patients and/or their caregivers. A typical menu could include black bean soup, chicken tacos, simple crunchy slaw, herbed rice and energy bites for dessert," officials said.

To learn more, visit www.culinaryangels.org. ■

—Jeremy Walsh

GRADING

Continued from Page 5

who have earned an extra grade weighting in Advanced Placement and Honors-level courses with A, B, and C grades, will experience no change with this policy."

Citing an uptick of D and F grades this school year, and "that not all students have had the same access and opportunity to excel during remote learning," the board adopted a different grading policy in early January, allowing secondary students to receive "Credit" or "No Credit" marks instead of low letter grades on their first-semester report card.

During board discussion, Trustee Kelly Mokashi asked why staff recommend letter grades this time.

Assistant superintendent Janelle Woodward explained the first policy was approved after the first semester had ended but before teachers had posted their grades.

"Several things have changed since then," Woodward said, most notably being "able to do these kind of calculations in advance, meet with the team and begin to shift a grading scale."

"Even though it's temporary, it provides us with opportunities to see the impact of this and potentially have a long-term effect," Woodward said.

Also, students will soon be able to return to school, "so we know that it was the impact of them working in isolation during remote learning that led to the decline in the grades prompted by the pandemic," Woodward said, adding that attending in person at least part of the time should also add "another layer of intervention" for at-risk students.

"Given that, and given that we

wanted to have ample time to implement this grading scale even prior to moving into the third quarter, we can have the chance to see that impact on the grades and the reduction of the F grades, compared to the first semester," Woodward said. "It would be too early for us to move to that, at this point in time."

Woodward finished, "We're also anticipating that this would be effective, and it might reduce the need to even visit the 'Credit' or 'No Credit' ultimately. That is our goal."

A comparison of high school progress reports for D and F grades during the third quarter shows a 5.2% decrease of D grades compared to last year. However, F grades jumped 59.4% from the same time last year.

Among demographic groups, 71% of Black/African American students received at least one D or F grade in quarter 3 for the 2020-21 school year, followed by 61.5% American Indian/Alaska Natives, 60% of students identifying as "other," 42.9% Hispanic or Latino, 26.3% white and 25.4% Asian students.

District documents also show Hispanic students comprise the largest demographic that received five or more D or F grades (22.4%), followed by 18.8% American Indian/Alaska Natives, 17.9% of students identifying as "other", and then 14.8% Black, 10.1% white and 9% of Asian students.

The decision to issue "Credit/No Credit" marks in lieu of failing grades last semester was meant "to allow students time to remediate D/F grades and mitigate the negative pandemic-related emotional impact on the mental health of students," staff said.

A committee of PUSD instructors, staff and parents was formed shortly after, and recently came to consensus on a temporary secondary grading scale for the second semester.

'Colleges do not accept Ds. So it's not giving students any unfair advantage; it's helping them graduate.'

Janelle Woodward,
PUSD assistant superintendent

Mokashi said it is "important to consider for long-term" to "think about the type of assessments that are being put into that grade book to get those grades, so digital portfolios, performances tasks, more performance-based assessments."

Board President Joan Laursen said she had received emails from

parents about their children "receiving grades lower than they would have normally received in an in-person setting, and so their desire is that there be some adjustment to everyone's grades, as opposed to what we're doing here tonight."

"What we're trying to make possible is for students to graduate, and that's why we're doing this temporary grading policy," Laursen said.

Woodward replied, "That's why we like this particular option; it didn't adjust the As, the Bs or the Cs, but does make it possible for a student to potentially walk across the stage at the same time."

"We all know colleges do not accept Ds. So it's not giving students any unfair advantage; it's helping them graduate," Woodward said.

A spring credit recovery program also started on Feb. 16, allowing students to remediate their semester one "Credit" or "No Credit" marks by the end of the school year. ■

PET OF THE WEEK



VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY/E. SCHOLZ

Meet Liz

Liz is a treat-motivated perky adult who enjoys getting out for walks and the occasional bout of zoomies. After a peppy walk, she'll dive into her puzzle bowl for her evening meal. If you want to treat Liz to a forever home, contact Valley Humane Society today. Did they mention Liz likes treats? While the shelter remains closed during shelter-in-place, they are coordinating adoptions by appointment with approved adopters. Contact info@valleyhumane.org.

California's new COVID-19 vaccine system underway

Blue Shield inks deal to take over vaccine distribution for entire state

BY ANA B. IBARRA AND
BARBARA FEDER OSTROV /
CALMATTERS

State health officials announced last Friday that all counties would start playing by the same rulebook on Monday, when Blue Shield will take over distribution of vaccines in California.

A patchwork of COVID-19 vaccine eligibility policies that differ from county to county has deeply frustrated Californians. So state officials hired Blue Shield, one of the state's largest health insurers, to streamline and manage the logistics of allocating vaccines to local health departments and other vaccine providers.

Blue Shield last Friday spelled out some of the details of how the new oversight will work. Ten counties — eight in the Central Valley plus Imperial and Riverside — went first. This means that Blue Shield will make recommendations to state health officials on how many doses should go to each of those counties, and which providers should get them.

Blue Shield CEO Paul Markovich said that its recommendations for how much to distribute doses to each county will be based on priority groups in the state's vaccination tiers as well as the state's goals to provide equity for disadvantaged communities.

All 58 counties are expected to go through the transition by the end of March. The most populated counties, including Los Angeles, San Diego, Orange and San Bernardino, will be in the second wave, with most Bay Area counties (including Alameda and Contra Costa) in the third wave.

Earlier in February, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced that the state



Members of the National Guard direct traffic on the opening day of the COVID-19 Community Vaccination Center at the Oakland Coliseum in Oakland on Feb. 16. FEMA.GOV

would revamp its vaccine distribution system, acknowledging that the fragmented, county-by-county approach was slow in getting vaccines to the public. Blue Shield is tasked with simplifying and speeding the process up.

The state's goal is to scale up to 4 million immunizations per week, up from the current 1.4 million per week.

"It's a high stakes issue, and if something goes wrong, the blowback to the Newsom administration would be severe," said Democratic political consultant Steve Maviglio, who served as press secretary to former Governor Gray Davis. "The governor has staked his fortunes on making this vaccination system work. He's trying to find the best way to make this a success."

Markovich said making the switch

takes time. To frustrated counties that may fear losing control of vaccine distribution, he said, "Give us a chance to make this work."

What will the new system mean to Californians waiting for a vaccination and sorting through confusing options? Through this new system, state officials have promised consistency, where eligibility looks the same in all counties and distribution moves at a similar pace throughout the state.

As counties move to the Blue Shield system, myturn.ca.gov and 1-833-422-4255 will become the main routes for scheduling appointments. Currently, signing up for appointments looks different in each county, with different websites and phone numbers, often confusing and frustrating residents.

State public health officials have set general eligibility guidelines but

allowed counties and health providers some leeway in interpreting them. While all started by vaccinating the highest-priority health care workers and nursing home residents, they soon diverged.

Some counties vaccinated people 75 and older. Others set the threshold at 65 years. Some rural counties quickly vaccinated their priority groups and started vaccinating teachers and other essential workers, while some large, urban counties kept the focus on higher-risk seniors. The city of Long Beach, which has its own health department, moved ahead of most counties and already has vaccinated teachers.

As a result, a teacher working in one city might be immunized, while a teacher in the neighboring city or county might not — even if they are teaching in person rather

than online.

California currently prioritizes health care workers, long-term care residents and staff, people 65 and older, educators, child care workers, food industry employees, farmworkers and first responders.

People with high-risk medical conditions such as cancer and heart disease will become eligible for vaccination starting on March 15, bringing the total number of eligible Californians to between 17 and 19 million.

About 8.2 million doses have been administered since COVID-19 vaccinations began in December. About 15% of all Californians have received at least one dose.

At a press conference in Fresno last Friday, Newsom said California would receive 1.58 million doses during this week. That allocation is expected to grow when the single dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine comes on line.

So far, Blue Shield has contracted with at least 30 providers who will be getting shots into arms. These include pharmacies, health systems and clinics, including Kaiser Permanente, OptumServe and Adventist Health.

Yolanda Richardson, the state's secretary of government operations, said California is on track to soon administer about 3 million vaccines per week, although the biggest obstacle continues to be sufficient supply.

California's deal with Blue Shield raised some eyebrows, but the state cited the company's experience in operations and logistics.

"Clearly Blue Shield (is) not starting from ground zero. They have the networks and the doctors," Maviglio said. ■

Teacher's comments on in-person learning upset parents

BY JULIA BAUM

A group of Pleasanton parents are upset after an unidentified teacher was heard in a recorded Zoom class session recently telling students that COVID-19 restrictions would severely curtail their in-person learning experience.

The video-recording came to light late last month, the day after the Board of Trustees unanimously voted to reopen Pleasanton Unified School District for in-person instruction (which was scheduled to start yesterday pre-K to second grade).

In the video obtained by local news outlets, the PUSD instructor tells students the day after the board meeting that her desk will be "taped off in an area and I can't really leave that area."

The teacher continues, "If you

want to go to school for social reasons, recognize that you absolutely will not have that. There's no question that you will not be allowed to interact in any fashion. You cannot work with a partner. You cannot speak with anyone in your class if they are closer than six feet away."

Several parents on the "Open Pleasanton Schools" Facebook page said some students have reconsidered returning to school based on similar comments made by their own teachers.

District spokesperson Patrick Gannon told the Weekly that additional information has been shared with families since then about what hybrid learning will look like.

"That was the day after the board meeting, so we didn't have much time to provide the full context

that was needed," Gannon said.

The Association of Pleasanton Teachers, which represents the district's certificated staff members, said in a statement last week, "Actions like recording educators and students without their permission is not only unlawful but raises concerns with regards to respect for the law, including the in-person safety requirements."

A Dec. 2 memo on "digital expectations" for students during remote learning posted on the district website states, "It is illegal to record class instruction without the consent of the teacher. Similarly, teachers will not record synchronous class sessions of students." Gannon said the memo is the most recent guidance shared for students and teachers. ■

SWALWELL

Continued from Page 9

to the FBI any instance in which a person it knew was a foreign national paid for a political message."

Civil fines up to \$500,000 could also be issued if a corporation fails to ask, "in cases in which it received funds intended for a political message, whether the funds amounted to an independent expenditure or electioneering communication and, if so, if the provider of the funds was a foreign national."

"If we've learned anything from recent elections, it's that we can no longer let our own social media infrastructure be used against us," Swalwell said. "We must act to thwart our foreign adversaries' future election interference attempts."

The "Enhancing Protections for Whistleblower Anonymity Act" was first introduced in June 2020, and imposes criminal penalties "on any federal official

who knowingly communicates the identity of a whistleblower, or information which would reveal such a person's identity, except to other government officials when permitted by existing law."

Whistleblowers whose identities are illegally disclosed can also sue for injunctive relief or monetary damages under the bill, which Swalwell began drafting in 2019.

The "Prevent Corrupting Foreign Influence Act" was previously introduced twice — in 2018 and again in 2019 — and "would make it a criminal offense for the President, the Vice President, their families, or companies in which they have at least half-ownership to accept or receive anything of value from a foreign power or from any company that is more than 50% controlled by a foreign power."

"Americans deserve to know that their President is working for them and only them, not having his own wallet fattened by foreign interests," Swalwell said. ■

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St. Patrick's fun for every comfort level

Dublin invites residents and visitors to 'Paint the Town Green'

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

St. Patrick's Day is upon us, sure and begorrah, and this year Dublin presents a chance to don the green and venture out — or to enjoy everything Irish at home — in a week-long celebration beginning March 13.

"We've taken our weekend festival and turned it into a weeklong celebration to spread out all the activities and to get people involved at all comfort levels," city recreation coordinator Lauren Marriott said.

The 37th St. Patrick's Day Celebration will kick off with a chalk art event at Civic Center Fountain Plaza; Irish dance lessons; the first day of the Shamrock 5K Fun Run and Walk; an Irish Marketplace; and an evening drive-in concert featuring Celtic rock band Tempest and CaliCeltic.

"It will all be highly regulated but exciting," Marriott said.

The "Lucky to be in Dublin" chalk art contest is accepting reservations for 30-minute time slots between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. The cost is \$5 per square, which includes the chalk, to be done by an individual or a family.

"There will be only three families at any given time so people can spread out and create their squares," Marriott said. "For people who aren't comfortable coming out, they can decorate squares at home and submit a picture."

"Everything that is being done in person, we are trying to include people who celebrate at home," she added.

Irish dance lessons will be taught to youngsters by the McGrath Irish Dancers and the McBride School of Irish Dance next Saturday and Sunday (March 13-14) at Shannon Community Center. The

cost is \$12 per person.

The Shamrock 5K Fun Run and Walk has two components: a competitive route, held at Emerald Glen Park, and non-recorded participation.

"If you are not comfortable going out to Emerald Glen, you can do it on a treadmill at home or in your own neighborhood," Marriott said.

The official course through Emerald Glen Park has mile markers and directions posted, including designated start and finish areas set up for photo ops to share on social media and tag #DublinStPats. The course may be completed any time between March 13 and March 20.

Registered participants will receive T-shirts. The Racejoy app will allow virtual tracking to establish winners, and gift certificates for Dick's Sporting Goods will be awarded to the top three finishers in each age category. Register at www.DublinStPats.com.

The Celtic rock concert March 13 is accepting reservations for 100 cars at \$40 each, and attendees must register in advance. The parking lot will open at 4:30 p.m. for the 6 p.m. concert.

"We are following the Alameda County guidelines for vehicle-based gatherings," Marriott said.

From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 13-14, Hacienda Crossings will become an Irish marketplace featuring Celtic artwork, Irish tartans, hand-knit wool sweaters, Celtic capes, shawls and jewelry, as well as fine arts and crafts and vendors from around the world. There will be no food items for sale.

A Shamrockin' Scavenger Hunt will take place March 13-20, with leprechauns and pictures of Glen the Guide hidden throughout

Dublin. Players can download the GooseChase app and enter the code DUBLINSTPATS.

Celebration events offered online include Irish cooking, a fun tutorial on how to create a "Lockdown Leprechaun" with supplies found around the house, and city historian Steve Minniear discussing how Dublin, Calif., got its name.

"Another major component of the celebration is we are encouraging residents to help our local business community in painting the town green by frequenting our small businesses throughout town," Marriott said. "They have taken a bigger hit and had to change the way they operate."

That week, businesses are offering special St. Patrick's Day-themed specials. Customers can print out a Discover Dublin BINGO card to get stamped at each business they patronize and present the completed card to the city for prizes.

Marriott recalled last year when the St. Patrick's Day Celebration was called off just one week in advance at the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic in the U.S.

"Everything was ready to go," she said. "With its being St. Patrick's Day, there wasn't too much wiggle room to reschedule."

She looks forward to next year and the reappearance of the regular highlights after a two-year hiatus: the Dublin Lions Club Parade, the Green and White Gala, and the Firefighters Pancake Breakfast. This year, the Lions Club is hanging green ribbons throughout downtown to add to the festive feel.

For more details and to register for events, visit www.DublinStPats.com. ■



CITY OF DUBLIN

Irish dancing has been an important part of St. Patrick's Day Celebrations in the past, and this year introductory lessons and demonstrations will be offered virtually March 13-14.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Live from Ireland: We Banjo 3

Firehouse Arts Center is presenting a festive virtual concert just in time to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, featuring the dynamic acoustic Celtic group, We Banjo 3, streaming live at 2 p.m. next Saturday (March 13). The performance will be streamed in real-time from the stunning Pearse Lyons Distillery in Dublin, Ireland, converging the traditions of Americana, Bluegrass and Celtic music with pop-sensible songcraft for a gratifying signature sound using banjo, fiddle, mandolin, guitar and percussion, plus voices in harmonies and catchy choruses. Buy tickets at Firehousearts.org for \$25, with the option to bundle the ticket purchase with band merchandise. Each ticket includes on-demand streaming access for seven days following the concert.



CITY OF DUBLIN

Everyone is invited to create chalk art expressing how lucky they are, as part of this year's 37th St. Patrick's Day Celebration in Dublin being held March 13-20.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Ten stars are lined up for Livermore Valley Opera's "Triple Treat," which was popular with online audiences in late 2020.

Livermore Valley Opera presenting 'Triple Treat'

Three-concert series kicks off next week with favorite performers

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Livermore Valley Opera is again offering an operatic extravaganza with a series of free online concerts on LVOpera Channel on YouTube.

"Triple Treat 2021" will feature professional opera singers performing in three concerts premiering Saturdays, March 13, April 10 and May 8. All concerts begin at 6 p.m., accompanied by Livermore Valley Opera music director Alexander Katsman, with English subtitles provided.

Following each premiere, the concerts will be available on demand on the LVOpera Channel at www.youtube.com so patrons can watch each any time.

Three Livermore wineries are offering special wine pairings to complement each of the concerts at home, as follows:

- March 13: "Tosca' Plus" concert will include arias from "Tosca"



BARBARA MELLON

Livermore Valley Opera presents Mozart's "The Abduction from the Seraglio" in the fall of 2018. While theaters are closed, the opera company is presenting arias and other favorites in an online format.

and other songs performed by four of the principal artists who were to perform in the March production, soprano Ann Toomey, tenor Alex Boyer, baritone Morgan Smith,

and lyric tenor Joseph Frank. "Tosca" is set in Rome in a setting of rolling hills, olive trees and grapevines, and the 2017 John Evan Cellars Le Corbeau, a 100%

Merlot, was chosen as the perfect accompaniment to these dramatic and passionate arias. Stop by the winery and mention Livermore Valley Opera to receive 25% off a

purchase of Le Corbeau through March.

- April 10: "Spring Sing" will celebrate life and love with Soprano Elena Galván and her husband tenor Daniel Bates, and bass-baritone, Philip Skinner.

Omega Road Winery has paired the concert with its Spanish-style Red Blend #8, an enticing blend of Tempranillo and Graciano. Stop by the tasting room or use the online LVOPERA discount code for 15% off this wine for the month of April.

- May 8: "Celebrating Mother's Day" with soprano Kristin Clayton and her husband bass-baritone Bojan Knežević. Occasio Winery will offer a Mother's Day surprise pairing and discount. Check the opera website for updates.

Although the Triple Treat virtual opera concerts are free, donations are always welcome. Learn more at www.livermorevalleyopera.com. ■

New Eagle Scout Taryn Lambert

Project was sewing face masks for addiction treatment facility

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Taryn Lambert, a junior at Amador Valley High School, successfully completed her Eagle Scout Board of Review recently, becoming one of the first girl Eagle Scouts in the Tri-Valley.

She is a member of Troop 998G, which was formed on Feb. 1, 2019, and is led by Scoutmaster Kimberly Carlson. The troop is sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post No. 6298.

Lambert served as senior patrol leader, working directly with the scoutmaster in leading the troop, as well as scribe, troop guide and patrol leader. She learned outdoor skills of camping, backpacking and emergency preparedness and made friendships that



Taryn Lambert

will last a lifetime.

For her Eagle Scout project, Lambert led a group in making more than 70 hand-sewn double-layered face masks for the New Bridge Foundation, a nonprofit addiction treatment facility located in Berkeley.

She is also co-founder of "Bears That Care," which collects and donates thousands of toys each year to the Alameda County Court Services for children who come to the

courthouse for custody hearings. The idea came from her mom, Kerry Lambert, who works as a Child Protective Services court officer; her co-founder is her brother Colin, who was a Walnut Grove Elementary School student at the time, while Taryn was at Harvest Park Middle School.

Lambert's other interests include mountain biking, skiing, reading and cooking. She plans to attend a community college and transfer

to a four-year college, majoring in psychology or political science.

Lambert is the daughter of Kerry and Ed Lambert of Pleasanton. Due to COVID-19, the date of her official Eagle Court of honor will be determined later when gatherings are permitted.

Anyone interested in joining any level of Scouting can contact Twin Valley district executive Matt Lindberg at matt.lindberg@scouting.org. ■

Club presenting 'Garden Lover's Travel'

Speaker says nature and art conspire in world's greatest gardens

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

The next meeting of the Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club will feature C. Colston Burrell, acclaimed lecturer, garden designer, author and photographer.

The meeting will take place at 5 p.m. next Thursday (March 11) via Zoom, and the public is invited to attend. Email president@lavgc.org for Zoom access information. The meeting is being held earlier than usual to coordinate with Burrell, who lives in Virginia and has to travel a distance from his home for reliable internet services.

The presentation, "Garden Lover's Travel," will journey through stunning gardens and fascinating landscapes as Burrell escorts garden and natural history tours throughout the United States and abroad, sharing his belief that nature and art conspire in the world's greatest gardens.

Burrell, a lifelong plantsman, gardener and naturalist, gardens



C. Colston Burrell

on 10 wild acres in the Blue Ridge Mountains and considers himself a chlorophyll addict. He has received the Award of Distinction from the Association of Professional Landscape Designers for his work promoting sustainable Gardening practices, which is part of the Smithsonian Archive of American Gardens.

While the garden club cannot meet in person at this time, its members continue to maintain several community gardens. For more information, visit www.lavgc.org. ■



ABC/JOHN FLEENOR

San Ramon nurse on 'Millionaire'

DeShae Alcorn, RN, BSN, who works as an intensive care unit (ICU) nurse at San Ramon Regional Medical Center, is appearing on the upcoming episode of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" hosted by Jimmy Kimmel, scheduled to air locally this Sunday (March 7) at 10 p.m. Pacific on ABC7.

Symphony presents ‘Peter and the Wolf’

Students create artwork to go along with musical performance

By **PATRICIA J. BOYLE**

The Livermore-Amador Symphony recently partnered with an elementary school to create a lively, colorful online presentation for students and the wider community.

“Every spring since 2015, the symphony has brought a chamber orchestra directly into elementary schools in Livermore and Pleasanton, and in 2019, into Dublin schools as well. We typically perform in three schools before 1,000 students or more on a given day,” music director Lara Webber said.

“The pandemic made that impossible this year to do in person, so we wanted to find a compelling way to reach out to all students online with a video performance of Sergei Prokofiev’s ‘Peter and the Wolf,’” she added.

The musical performance is a recording of the Livermore-Amador Symphony made at its free family concert at the Bankhead Theater in 2015, narrated by then-mayor John Marchand.

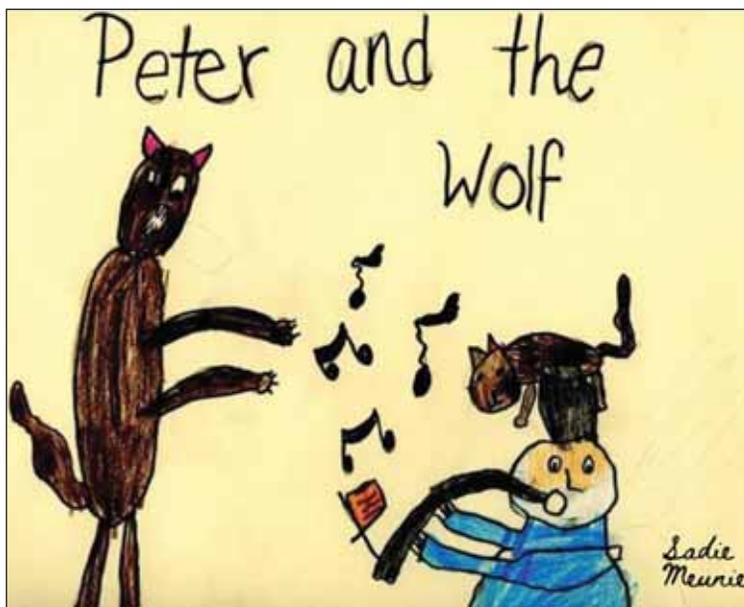
“Alan Frank, symphony bassist and current board president, crafted a video which essentially animates the story with carefully curated images of student artwork,” Webber said. “Marchand and our musicians make special appearances in short excerpts filmed while confined to home by the pandemic. The result is charming and fun.”

Prokofiev’s music uses the instruments of the orchestra to represent the characters of this timeless story of Peter and his animal friends saving their community from a menacing wolf.

Anne Anaya, a violinist and Livermore-Amador Symphony board member who teaches third grade at Smith Elementary, explained the collaboration between students and the symphony.

“After speaking with Alan Frank about his desire to mix our symphony’s audio performances with images, we came up with the idea to enlist the help of the third-graders at my school,” Anaya said.

“I designed a virtual lesson, and with the help of the third-grade teaching team and our principal, Joe Meunier, we shared the lesson with about 120 students,” she



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students watched a recording of “Peter and the Wolf” then created pictures to be used in a video with the Livermore-Amador Symphony.

continued, adding:

“Students watched a video version of the music mixed with animation. With just a bit of art instruction, students drew images, mixing pen with crayon. We are all incredibly proud of the creativity and enthusiasm of our young Smith school artists.”

The students were enthusiastic. “My favorite part was when the wolf was tricked and got caught,” one said. “I loved drawing pictures for ‘Peter and the Wolf.’ It was really fun. The music was just right.”

“My favorite part was the pictures because they were fun to look at,” another student said.

“It is a story of a little boy with animals and his grandfather when there is a wolf they try to shoot but lost a friend while doing it,” commented another. “Then they get a grip on the wolf.”

Webber noted that it felt particularly important for the symphony to continue its outreach efforts this year.

“Teachers everywhere have had to do the impossible — find a way to teach in an engaging and participatory way without being able to be in the same room with their students,” she said. “This is especially difficult for music classes. All of us who make music in a group have lost contact with that most human of all experiences.

“We must ensure that as schools reopen and normalcy gradually returns, our society redoubles and increases its efforts to ensure music making and art remain a vibrant part of the core curriculum available to all students.

“Music is magic — it engages the brain and sparks creative thinking like nothing else can. It connects

About ‘Peter and the Wolf’

Sergei Prokofiev composed “Peter and the Wolf” as a symphonic fairytale for children in 1936 as a way to introduce them to the instruments in an orchestra. Since then it has been narrated and recorded by many famous voices, including the following:

- Eleanor Roosevelt with the Boston Symphony Orchestra in 1950
- Leonard Bernstein with the New York Philharmonic in 1960
- Carol Channing with the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra in 1979
- Lina Prokofiev (Sergei Prokofiev’s widow) with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra in 1987
- David Attenborough with the BBC Philharmonic in 2000.

us and promotes empathy. The pandemic has stolen this from us for a whole year, so it will be very important and cathartic to bring it back into the lives of students everywhere, and our community at large.”

This outreach video is dedicated to the memory of Virginia McFann, an educator and founding member

of Livermore-Amador Symphony who died recently. The video will be posted at www.livermoreamadorsymphony.org. ■

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

Helping grads since 1965

Scholarships Inc. adds two memorial gifts

Amador Valley Scholarships Inc., which helps students graduating from Amador Valley, Foothill and Village high schools, has added two more scholarships this year.

The organization was started in 1965 when a group of Pleasanton educators and business people held a “Scholarships Frolics” to raise money for Amador students

who wanted to go into the teaching profession. Now the scholarships don’t require a specific major, and in 1975 they began to include students seeking technical or vocational training.

Also, starting in 2019, the Jim Reding Memorial Scholarship has been awarded to Dublin or valley seniors who attended Wells

Middle School.

This year two more scholarships have been added:

- The Richard and Freida Greville Memorial Scholarship. The Grevilles had no children of their own but, living across the street from Amador Valley High, they enjoyed watching the students come and go. When they died, they left

an endowment to AVSI to award a scholarship each year to an Amador student.

- The Zachary Scanlan Memorial Scholarship. Scanlan, a 2016 graduate of Foothill High, died Nov. 11, 2020, after a two-year battle with cancer. It was Scanlan’s wish to start a scholarship for a graduating senior

from his alma mater.

Since 1965, \$764,500 has been distributed to 614 students through the memorial scholarships to help students who need financial assistance to enter college.

For more information, visit www.amadorvalleyscholarshipsinc.org. ■

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli

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Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN

Missing UCSC student identified as victim in fatal Sunol crash

The Alameda County Coroner's Bureau confirmed Monday that the driver found dead inside a car upside down in a canyon in Sunol over the weekend was the Fremont teen who had been reported missing nearly one week earlier.

The victim was identified as 19-year-old Atharva Chinchwadkar, a student of the University of California at Santa Cruz.

Fremont Police Department officials, who had been investigating Chinchwadkar's disappearance on Feb. 21, issued a statement later Monday confirming the news and sending "sincerest condolences to the family and friends of Atharva."

The circumstances of the fatal crash, including cause and date, remain under investigation by the

California Highway Patrol's Dublin area office.

Chinchwadkar had been missing since he left his family's home to buy dog food and didn't return on the evening of Feb. 21, according to Fremont police. Investigators said last Thursday that there was no evidence to suggest "Chinchwadkar's voluntary disappearance was suspicious."

Fremont police had released a photograph of the 19-year-old and a description of his 2010 dark gray Toyota Camry in the hopes of tracking down information about his whereabouts.

The Camry would be discovered on Saturday morning, upside down approximately 100 feet below Calaveras Road south of Sunol, according to the CHP. A bicyclist spotted the sedan in a canyon while pausing on a ride west of Welch Creek Road just before 10:30 a.m.

Alameda County Fire Department personnel arrived and rappelled down to find the driver deceased inside the vehicle, according to the

CHP. When the car was recovered, officers confirmed the victim was Chinchwadkar.

There were no skid marks indicating where the car went off the roadway, according to the CHP. The cause of the crash is under investigation.

Potential witnesses or anyone with information about the crash can contact the CHP-Dublin office at 925-828-0466.

In other news

- A young woman from San Leandro died after the sedan she was a passenger in flipped along Interstate 580 near Dublin in a crash investigators allege was fueled by high speed and alcohol on Valentine's Day.

The Alameda County Coroner's Bureau identified the victim as 25-year-old Kenia Hernandez Berber.

A brief obituary online said Hernandez Berber, who was born in Mexico, had been working as a nail artist in the Bay Area. "She is survived by many loving family members and friends, and will be deeply

missed," the obituary read in part.

The solo-vehicle crash occurred around 4:45 a.m. Feb. 14 when a silver Toyota sedan was traveling at a high rate of speed on westbound I-580 just west of the San Ramon Road/Foothill Road exit, according to CHP Officer Tyler Hahn.

The driver — who has not been publicly identified — allowed the car to drift to the right off the freeway and up a dirt embankment, Hahn said. The car overturned, ejecting passenger Hernandez Berber onto the roadway and causing major injuries.

Hernandez Berber was transported by paramedics to Eden Medical Center in Castro Valley, where she later succumbed to her injuries.

The driver was initially placed under arrest on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol, but they have not yet been formally charged as the case is still under investigation, according to Hahn.

The identity of the driver has not been publicly released to date, which is common in CHP crash investigations unless and until any criminal charges are filed.

The sedan stopped on its roof in the No. 1 lane of westbound I-580 that morning. All lanes of the freeway were closed for nearly 1-1/2 hours on Feb. 14 for the CHP investigation and debris cleanup.

- The Livermore Police Department has completed its investigation into the crash that killed three local teenagers in December, forwarding the case to the Alameda County District Attorney's Office for a final determination about potential criminal charges.

Police Sgt. Steve Goard declined Tuesday to reveal details about the specific findings of the investigation, citing the pending legal review by prosecutors.

Anna Kelly, public information officer for the DA's office, confirmed on Monday that the Livermore PD investigation report "was received by our office last week and is pending review. I am not able to offer a timeline for a decision."

Based on initial public reports by police, the investigation appeared as if it would hinge on the question of who was at fault for the nighttime crash that occurred when the teenagers' vehicle slammed into a big-rig whose trailer was blocking the roadway on Las Positas Road on Dec. 21.

The triple-fatal crash rocked the Livermore community, which was left mourning the deaths of three young people during the winter holidays.

Rahul Brar, 18; Shej Kumar, 16; and Ian Ericksen, 16 — all Livermore residents — were killed in the crash. Ericksen was a junior at Livermore High School, Kumar attended Del Valle Continuation High School, and Brar was an alumnus of Vineyard Alternative High School.

Brar's family said on social media

that the 18-year-old was driving his cousin Kumar and friend Ericksen home after picking up the pair after their shift ended at a local Baskin-Robbins ice cream store that night.

The crash occurred around 10:30 p.m. Dec. 21 when a semi-truck driver turned into a business driveway in the 5600 block of Las Positas Road but left the trailer stopped blocking the roadway, police said at the time. The eastbound passenger vehicle carrying the three teens then struck the big-rig. Two of the victims died at the scene while the third occupant succumbed to his injuries at a hospital.

Speed and impairment were not initially considered to be factors, Goard said in December.

The name of the truck driver has not yet been released publicly — which is not uncommon in traffic investigations unless and until criminal charges are filed.

- Livermore police recently completed their investigation into a traffic collision on Stanley Boulevard in which a bicyclist died, determining the longtime rider was at fault in the late-December crash.

The final police report cleared the gravel truck driver who cooperated with investigators in the days following the crash after initially leaving the scene apparently not knowing he had hit the cyclist, according to police. Christine Boyle, 63, a Livermore resident and avid bike rider, died at a local hospital hours after the collision on the morning of Dec. 21.

"Boyle was determined to be at fault and there are no criminal charges pending. The driver of the truck was fully cooperative and unaware that he had collided with her," Officer Taylor Burruss told the Weekly.

According to police, Boyle was riding off the sidewalk on eastbound Stanley Boulevard just after 8 a.m. Dec. 21 to cross straight at the intersection within the crosswalk, when at the same time a gravel truck with trailer was making a right turn from Stanley toward the Isabel Avenue/Highway 84 connector.

A witness told Boyle's family that she attempted to avoid a serious collision by pushing off the truck but she fell and was run over by the tires. Boyle was treated at the scene and transported to Eden Medical Center in Castro Valley, where she died that afternoon.

Investigators determined Boyle's movement in the roadway was in violation of the California Vehicle Code, making her the at-fault party.

The trucker's identity has not been released publicly.

Boyle's death on Dec. 21 marked the beginning of a difficult stretch for the Livermore community, the first of three crashes that killed five people in less than 34 hours on the week of Christmas, including the aforementioned triple-fatal wreck on Las Positas Road. ■

—Jeremy Walsh

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Feb. 27

DUI

- 12:53 a.m. at West Las Positas Boulevard and Santa Rita Road
- 9:54 p.m. at Gibraltar Drive and Hopyard Road

Fire

- 2:57 p.m. on Del Valle Parkway at railroad crossing

Drug violation

- 4:42 p.m. on the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Theft

- 5:40 p.m. on the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 7:10 p.m. on the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 8:22 p.m., 1500 block of Poppybank Court; auto theft

Feb. 26

Graffiti

- 12:20 p.m. at Main Street and Del Valley Parkway

Theft

- 3:08 p.m. on the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Sex offenses

- 4:53 p.m. on Santa Rita Road

Robbery

- 5:27 p.m. on the 2000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Feb. 25

Theft

- 11:00 a.m., 000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 3:49 p.m. on the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 4:44 p.m., 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Warrant arrest

- 12:03 p.m. on the 3700 block of Hopyard Road
- 10:20 p.m. on the 4300 block of Rosewood Drive

Domestic battery

- 6:08 p.m. on Koll Center Parkway

Burglary

- 7:25 p.m. on the 700 block of Sylvaner Drive

Feb. 24

Theft

- 6:12 a.m., 5100 block of Hopyard Road; theft from auto
- 7:41 a.m., 4100 block of Payne Road; theft from auto
- 1:11 p.m., 7000 block of Commerce Circle; auto theft
- 5:23 p.m., 3200 block of West Lagoon Road; theft from auto
- 8:23 p.m., 4200 block of Dorman Road; theft from auto

Graffiti

- 8:12 a.m. on the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road

Burglary

- 12:54 p.m. on the 2300 block of Santa Rita Road

Warrant arrest

- 2:41 p.m. at Abbie and First streets

Fraud

- 4:13 p.m. on the 2500 block of Skimmer Court

Feb. 23

Theft

- 7:52 a.m. at Bernal and Pleasanton avenues
- 4:30 p.m. on the 2700 block of Milani Avenue
- 5:37 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 7:39 p.m., 4400 block of Seminole Way; theft from auto

Fraud

- 10:39 a.m. on the 3400 block of Andrews Drive

Burglary

- 11:09 a.m. on the 5500 block of Sunol Boulevard

Vandalism

- 11:09 a.m. on the 5500 block of Sunol Boulevard

Assault/battery

- 3:30 p.m., on the 5200 block of Hopyard Road

Drug violation

- 4:44 p.m. on the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

Feb. 22

Warrant arrest

- 1:47 a.m. on the 5500 block of Johnson Drive

- 10:55 a.m. on the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue

Graffiti offense

- 7:20 a.m. on the 4400 block of Railroad Avenue
- 9:20 a.m. at Black Avenue and Harvest Road

Vandalism

- 8:04 a.m. on the 1000 block of Kottinger Drive
- 8:33 a.m. on the 7000 block of Pleasanton Avenue

- 9:43 a.m. on the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road

Theft

- 8:01 a.m. on the 2700 block of Curry Street
- 10:12 a.m. on the 4000 block of Ruby Hill Drive

Shoplifting

- 1:05 p.m. on the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 1:36 p.m. on the 2400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 6:17 p.m. on the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road
- 7:02 p.m. on the 3000 block of Bernal Avenue

Sex offenses

- 4:28 p.m. on Corte De Flores

Drug violation

- 4:36 p.m. on the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

Weapons violation

- 4:58 p.m. at Peters Avenue and St. Mary Street

Assault/battery

- 10:24 p.m. on the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road

Feb. 21

Domestic battery

- 3:13 a.m. on Hopyard Road

Fraud

- 6:19 p.m. on the 5100 block of Forest Hill Drive

Vandalism

- 8:21 p.m. on the 4400 block of Comanche Way

DUI

- 10:00 p.m. at Case and Valley avenues

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LETTERS

PUSD lunch employees are fantastic

Dear Editor,

Pleasanton Unified School District culinary staff provide daily hot meals for students.

Last month I had the opportunity to volunteer to hand out lunches at Alisal Elementary School. Each day during the pandemic, the PUSD culinary staff prepare a hot meal for students and parents come to the school and are able to pick up lunches for their kids.

I don't know if there are requirements or what they are, but they have been working every day during the pandemic at their school sites. Sandra, who is the supervisor at Alisal and her crew do an amazing job; they are so friendly and welcoming, working hard to have everything ready each day for pickup by the parents.

Apparently, this happens at seven of the PUSD sites, all under CDC guidelines.

The Friday when I was there, they passed out 180 lunches, parents had the choice of cheeseburgers or veggie burritos for their kids.

They staff it with their own workers, except on Fridays, when they pass out lunches for the weekend, plus the groceries, so we've been able to help on that day with our missionaries at a couple of the sites. Occasionally, they have a conflict and it gives us the opportunity to substitute and see these amazing ladies in action.

Kudos to these hard-working ladies for continuing to feed the kids during the pandemic.

—Ken Mano,
via Town Square

We must eliminate the filibuster

Democrats won the majority, and they should act like it. They promised Americans bold relief and they

shouldn't let Republicans use procedural hurdles like the filibuster to block their agenda.

The best chance of keeping Republicans from permanently controlling the levers of power is by passing big, bold democracy reforms — and the only way we do that is by eliminating the filibuster.

Though the founding fathers wanted the Senate to be a chamber of Congress focused on debate, they hated obstructionism. They would be horrified at how the filibuster has come to be used in the twentieth century, stifling and slowing down common-sense gun laws and civil rights.

The House just passed the Equality Act, a necessary law which stands little chance of clearing the filibuster. The same is true for women's rights, voting rights, and many more essential bills. None will be passed if our Senators cling to this procedural relic of the Jim Crow era.

Senator Padilla has already expressed a willingness to do away with the filibuster, to pass bills California citizens need. Though Senator Feinstein approves of the reforms we need, such as the voting rights bills HR 1 and HR 4, we need results. Until she agrees to abolish the filibuster, we have no way forward as a democracy.

And with the climate crisis looming, we have no time left to delay.

—Alan Marling

Recalling Gavin Newsom

Governor Newsom has botched COVID vaccine distribution in California.

In February he awarded Blue Shield a no-bid contract for vaccine rollout. Has it helped?

Signing an agreement with Kaiser Permanente first would have made more sense — they have the experience in logistics for mass vaccination which they did last year with the flu vaccine. They also have office buildings, parking lots and staff. Unfortunately, they didn't give

Newsom \$1 million in campaign contributions for his 2018 gubernatorial campaign like Blue Shield.

One look at my Facebook account, and I see people in other states and countries in my same eligibility group or even further down the line getting the vaccine. From biomedical research to tech to entertainment, California's private sector leads. Why doesn't our government have the same level of excellence when it's literally life or death?

Governor Newsom has made numerous mistakes. Like letting scam artists rip off EDD for billions while not being able to pay

unemployment claims to people who actually needed it. Letting dangerous criminals out of jail due to COVID, while threatening small business owners with fines. Giving marijuana dealers preference over California teachers for the COVID vaccine — while trying to force teachers back in the classroom before they got vaccinated.

We recalled Gray Davis for much less — for an energy grid failure that wasn't entirely his fault. Whereas all of Gavin's failures have been due to his own bad ideas, political corruption and poor leadership. It's time to recall him.

—Frank Lynn

What's your opinion?

Send a Letter to the Editor to Editor@PleasantonWeekly.com or put your opinion on Town Square at www.PleasantonWeekly.com. Letters must be 250 words or less.

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON



HIGHLIGHTS

Planning Commission

Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Consistent with State and County Orders regarding the COVID-19 pandemic this will be a virtual meeting. Instructions on how to participate and offer comments will be available March 3, when the agenda is posted on the City's website at: cityofpleasantonca.gov/gov/depts/cd/planning/commission/planning_agenda.asp

- **Update on City's Economic Recovery Activities**

Economic Development Director Pamela Ott will provide an update regarding the City's economic recovery activities related to the COVID pandemic.

Youth Commission

Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

- Review and Allocate Community Grants Funds in the Youth Category for Fiscal Year 2021/22
- Selection of Health & Wellness Subcommittee
- Review and Comment on the Library and Recreation Department COVID Response Report for July-December 2020

Parks and Recreation Commission

Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

- Recommend City Council approve the Permanent Painting of Court Ten at Tennis and Community Park for Pickleball
- Recommend City Council approve the Fourth Amendment to the Agreement with Lifetime Activities providing a subsidy in the amount of \$19,320 to Lifetime Activities for Operations of Pleasanton Bocce Ball Programs from April 6, 2021 through March 31, 2022
- Review the Draft Strategies and Actions for the Climate Action Plan Update (CAP 2.0)
- Approve Seventh Amendment to Contract with Monte Vista Memorial Investment Group for Grounds Maintenance and Burials at the Pleasanton Pioneer Cemetery
- Recommend City Council Adopt a Resolution Amending the Master Fee Schedule for the Pleasanton Pioneer Cemetery
- Review and Comment on the Library and Recreation COVID Response Report for July – December 2020

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

Public Notices

997 All Other Legals

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA Case No: RG21087811 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: Brijesh Yadav and Rucha Vijay Chatur filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: RUDRA YADAV to RUDRA CHATUR YADAV. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause

why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. NOTICE OF HEARING: March 26, 2021, 11:00 a.m., Dept.: 17 of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, located at 1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA 94612. A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: THE PLEASANTON WEEKLY. Date: February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 2021. Judge Tara M. Desautels, JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT.

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PLEASANTON PREPS

BY DENNIS MILLER

Remembering my friend, Scott Kinney

‘Be really open and honest with things you are dealing with ...
You are not alone’

There is one thing I could say about growing up around Scott Kinney in Pleasanton — he always made me laugh and smile.

Need a smile to brighten your day? Talk to Scott. Maybe just not feeling it on a certain day? Talk to Scott and he would turn you around.

It did not matter whether it was around school, on the athletic fields where he starred in football and soccer, or just around town, spend enough time around Scott and you would have tears rolling down your cheeks while you were laughing.

Today I have tears thinking of Scott. But they are not of joy, and there is no laughing.

On Feb. 21, Scott took his own life, inexplicably jumping off a North Bay bridge. He was 59.

We have all lost friends through illness and others because of accidents. Until last weekend, I had never lost a friend to suicide.

It made no sense when I first got the call, and it makes no sense five days later as I sit here writing. I am guessing for most of you, it will make no sense when you read this story.

I mean it's the Kinneys — an iconic Pleasanton family! The Kinneys, led by Scott's parents Ed and Roberta, along with younger brother Brad, were like Pleasanton's "Royal Family." Come in contact with any

Editor's note: If you or somebody you know are in crisis, contact Crisis Support Services of Alameda County's 24-hour confidential crisis line at 800-309-2131 or CrisisSupport.org, or the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-8255, via text at 800-799-4889, chat or at SuicidePreventionLifeline.org.

of them and you could guarantee a smile on your face.

They have always been sunshine on a cloudy day.

Ed passed in 1995, but Scott (a 1980 Amador Valley High graduate) had grown into that larger-than-life persona carried by his father, a former mayor of Pleasanton. In fact, as Scott grew older, he looked like Ed's twin.

How could this happen to someone that was always so positive and uplifting?

This is one of those things that sets the Kinney family apart. They decided not to hide from the moment. They wanted the truth to be told after Scott's death — to help others.

This is the legacy of the Kinney family, and even going through unthinkable agony, it is what they wanted to do.

"We didn't want to go through a tragedy and not have something positive come out of it," Brad Kinney told me.

Having known the family for over 50 years, Brad reached out to me and we were able to spend time together

to search for answers. He shared what happened.

Brad was in Oregon the week of Feb. 15 and was scheduled to fly back to his home in La Quinta when he had a feeling.

"I don't know what it was, but I decided to keep the rent-a-car and drive back to stop in Pleasanton," Brad said. "I wanted to surprise my Mom and Scott."

Which he did.

"We had a great time," Brad added. "It was like always — we laughed and hung out. It was a lot of fun. Everything seemed fine."

Scott was living in Pleasanton with Roberta as he and his wife, who lived in Clayton with their 18-year-old daughter, were going through a separation. The couple also has a 24-year-old son.

While on the surface it might seem the separation could have been the reason Scott made his choice, Brad, as well as Scott's friends, didn't see it.

"They were not fighting, and they got along," Brad said of Scott and his estranged wife. "They spent time



Scott Kinney

together every Sunday. Scott would go over to the house to pay some bills. They would hang out with the kids, have some lunch and play some family games."

On that Sunday, the 21st, Scott left for Clayton at the normal 10 a.m., asking Roberta before he left if she could do his laundry.

He never got to Clayton.

"There is a 30-minute time block that's a mystery," Brad said. "Something had to trigger him on the drive. Was it a song? A phone call?"

Brad, and his friends believe as well, that when Scott left the house, taking his life wasn't on his mind.

"You know Scott. If it was pre-planned, he would have left a note explaining why," his brother said. "Why would he have asked my Mom to do his laundry? It just doesn't make sense. Not once did Scott say, 'Brad, I'm really hurting.'"

Scott decided not to get off I-680 at Ygnacio Valley and head to the house. Instead, he kept driving past Martinez and out onto the bridge where he stopped the car.

He got out of his car on the bridge at 10:30 a.m.. Someone saw what was happening and tried to get to him, but Scott jumped. Authorities

found the body at 11:15 a.m.

It would be easy to understand if Brad and Roberta wanted to circle the wagons and withdraw from the public. Then again, that would defy what it means to be a Kinney.

Fight through your pain and suffering to help others. Brad feels there is a simple message that comes from Scott's death.

"Be really open and honest with things you are dealing with," Brad said. "Rely on your faith and your friends. If you are going through something — are depressed — go and get help. Talk with your friends; you are not alone."

Brad also added people should be looking for people that may be struggling.

"Always communicate and help others process with what they are dealing with at the time," he said.

The Kinney family will be having a family get together at Scott's house in the next month to honor his memory.

Later this year there will be what Brad is calling an "Amador reunion," which will be held at a fellow Amador alumni's ranch. Details are to come, but Brad was clear as to how it should proceed.

"It will be a blowout for everyone to get together," Brad said. "It should be about you all honoring each other's friendship, as well as to honor Scott."

I have a feeling that day, the tears of pain will be joined by tears of laughter recalling Scott. And that is exactly the way Scott would want it — make us laugh. ■

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.

Draft EIR out for A's ballpark plan

Team hopes council will vote this year; opponents remain critical of location

Another step was taken last Friday toward the construction of a new waterfront Oakland Athletics ballpark and adjacent development including a stadium seating 35,000 fans and housing, office, and retail space.

The city released a draft environmental impact report outlining potential effects of the ballpark on the environment, which may include impacts to air quality in West Oakland and greenhouse gas emissions.

The proposed site is about 55 acres at the Charles P. Howard Terminal and the development may include up to 3,000 residential units, up to 1.5 million square feet of office space and 270,000 square feet of retail. Also proposed is a potential 280,000 square feet of hotel space with 400 rooms.

A's President Dave Kaval said the report's release is an important step and it doesn't have any "show-stoppers" that might keep it from approval.

The project is opposed by the East Oakland Stadium Alliance, a coalition of labor, community and industry groups who want to see the A's redevelop the Oakland Coliseum site where the team plays now. The alliance has not had a chance to completely review the report.

"We anticipate that the Howard Terminal Draft EIR will once again confirm the obvious and what everyone already knows — that the current Coliseum site remains the ideal and most logical location for a new ballpark that will make A's fans proud to call home," said Mike Jacob, vice president and

general counsel of the Pacific Merchant Shipping Association, a member of the coalition and a Port of Oakland tenant that is part of a lawsuit opposing the project.

Other possible components to the project include a gondola to Water and Washington streets in Jack London Square from 10th and Washington streets in downtown Oakland, the conversion of the Oakland Power Plant near Jack London Square to a battery energy storage facility and a performance venue with up to 3,500 seats.

More than 18 acres of publicly accessible open space is part of the proposal.

The ballpark project has the support of Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf.

"I'm excited about keeping our A's rooted in Oakland," Schaaf said in



BJARKE INGELS GROUP

The Oakland A's have released renderings of their proposed new ballpark.

a statement. "The Howard Terminal ballpark requires the highest environmental standards while giving us an opportunity to expand our entertainment district near Jack London Square."

Last Friday, he said he hopes the draft EIR will go before the City Council for a vote this year.

The A's have been working for nearly five years on the project, which

has been delayed by the lawsuit filed by Port of Oakland tenants who recently appealed a ruling in favor of the A's.

The public can hear the key analyses and conclusions of the draft EIR and get help locating information in the document at an informational webinar on March 6 at <http://bit.ly/HTDEIRWorkshop>. ■

—Keith Burbank, BCN

Theatre

LIVERMORE SHAKES' VIRTUAL SALON

The salon, an Italian invention, is a group of curious and clever individuals who gather to amuse one another and increase their knowledge through conversation. The Livermore Shakespeare Festival strives to bring the salon experience into your home with Mary Ann Rodgers who will present the "Top Ten Plays Everyone Should See ... Debate Me," which consists of relevant discussions and playful debates on her top picks, while inviting attendees to create their own Top Ten list. 7 p.m., March 11. Visit livermoreshakes.org or call 925-443-BARD.

MASTER CLASS IN ACTING & PLAYWRITING

For all aspiring high school actors and playwrights, join a free online creative workshop led by professional artists in conjunction with The Eugene O'Neill Foundation, Tao House. 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., March 27. Apply now as space is limited. Visit www.eugeneoneill.org.

Opera

LIVERMORE VALLEY OPERA TRIPLE TREAT 2021

Livermore Valley Opera is offering a series of free online concerts on LVOpera Channel on YouTube. "Triple Treat 2021" features professional opera singers performing in three concerts. The first is "Arias from Tosco Plus", 6 p.m., March 13. Visit livermorevalleyopera.com.

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 until March 21. Visit livermorearts.org.

Concerts

VINEYARD VIBES AND MORE

Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center will offer a new series of free, virtual entertainment with "Vineyard Vibes and More" starting on March 14, featuring the talents of local musicians and comedians. Opening the series will be the unique and soulful music of Sunny Promyotin and his band The Black Pack. Visit LivermoreArts.org.

Talks

LAS POSITAS COLLEGE PRESENTS "UNSTOPPABLE WOMEN VETERANS"

Las Positas College announces the ninth annual Honoring Women Veterans event, "Unstoppable Women Veterans". Highlights include a presentation by the Honor Guard, singing of the National Anthem, LPC student women Veterans' panel and scholarship awards. This virtual

event will be held at 1 p.m., March 10 via Zoom. The conference is free and open to the public. Visit laspositascollege.edu/veterans.

AN AFTERNOON WITH LADY BIRD JOHNSON

Pleasanton's Museum on Main Ed Kinney speaker series presents An Afternoon or Evening with Lady Bird Johnson. Wife of President Lyndon B. Johnson, she served as First Lady from 1963 to 1969 and was both an American socialite and a shrewd investor. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., March 24. Visit museumonmain.org.

LIVERMORE-AMADOR GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Susan Goss Johnston, a member of Yale University's first undergraduate class for women, will discuss The Records Behind the WWI Draft Registration. The 1973 fire in the National Personnel Records Center destroyed about 80 percent of World War I Army personnel records. Fill in the gaps in your WWI soldier's military life. 7-8:30 p.m., March 8. Visit <http://www.l-ag.org>.

Seniors

LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR SENIORS WEBINAR

Keeping Elders Safe: An Overview of Elder Abuse and Legal Remedies explains what elder abuse is and the laws that address it. This free webinar covers practical tips to help prevent abuse and information on agencies that can help. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. March 10. Visit attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/.

ST. PATRICK'S DRIVE THRU

Pick up a bag, at the Dublin Senior Center, filled with useful items including an eyeglass cleaning kit, safety light, mask and other goodies. Free to those 50 years and better. 12:30-1:15 p.m., March 18. 7600 Amador Valley Blvd.

Writers

A CALIFORNIA POET LAUREATE ASKS IF POETRY MATTERS

California Poet Laureate Dana Gioia will present "Does Poetry Matter in the Modern World?" at the next Tri-Valley Writers Zoom meeting. He will talk about his journey to becoming a writer and discuss his new book. The session is free and open to all who reserve a place by Thursday, March 18. To reserve, email president@trivalleywriters.org.

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 until April 4. Visit trivalleywriters.org.

Film

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE: FEATS OF FILMMAKING

Meet two filmmakers renowned for capturing extreme feats of adventure in some of the world's most remote and inhospitable environments. Presented by the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center and the Rae Dorough Speaker Series, the filmmakers

take on the seemingly impossible, including chasing tornadoes, hanging from massive natural arches and swimming with alligators. 6:30 p.m., March 17. Visit livermorearts.org.

THE UPSTANDERS FREE DOCUMENTARY SCREENING

A documentary about resilience and the power of connection to end bullying, sponsored by Axis Community Health. The film highlights new laws and programs already reducing bullying in schools. 4-5:30 p.m., March 17. Contact axishealth.org.

Health & Wellness

MEDITATION: CONNECTING BODY, MIND, AND SPIRIT

Adults and teens are invited to attend this holistic program via Zoom. Medical research has uncovered amazing facts about meditation and the body-mind-spirit connection. Join Dr. Matthew Raider, MD, to learn about how meditation can be used to minimize the effects of stress and speed healing. 6:30 p.m., March 9. Visit us02web.zoom.us/j/9739476458.

Family

NILES CANYON RAILWAY

Back for 2021 and offering a new set of special limited capacity rides, discover Niles Canyon in all of its spring splendor behind steam or diesel power. 10:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m., March 13-14. Visit ncry.org/ride/rides-2021.

PPIE VIRTUAL RUN FOR EDUCATION

The Pleasanton Partnership in Education Foundation (PPIE) Virtual Run for Education is April 11-18. Run, walk, bike and more with friends, family, school and the entire community. \$20 w/shirt or \$15 w/out until early registration of March 15. Teachers 50% off. Register at ppierun.com.

SHAMROCK 5K FUN RUN & WALK

Join the city of Dublin for the 22nd annual Shamrock 5K Fun Run and Walk-Virtual edition. This fun and safe community event encourages physical activity while celebrating everything Irish. March 13-20. For more information call 556-4500 or visit dublinca.gov/funrun.

Gardening

LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

This month's meeting features C. Colston Burrell, acclaimed lecturer, garden designer, author and photographer. The meeting will take place on zoom, and the public is invited to attend. 5 p.m., March 11. For more information email: president@lavgc.org.

GARDENING Q&A

The Livermore Public Library presents Gardening Q&A on zoom with Mark Brunell, Professor of Biological Sciences at the University of the Pacific. Get answers to questions about seed growing, tomatoes, summer vegetable crops, soil preparation and more. 10:30 a.m., March 20. Visit us02web.zoom.us/j/89814506212.

SUSTAINABILITY LIVE: ADVICE TO GROW BY

Join this online free live broadcast every month as special guests share the latest tips and provide the inspiration, education, and camaraderie that will help live resilient lives in times of uncertainty. From drought-tolerant planting to fruit trees, from pest control to patio pots, they can help with all of it. Visit eventbrite.com and search the event to register.

Tax Assistance

FREE TAX SERVICE FOR LOWER INCOME FAMILIES

Free Tax Preparation at Tri-Valley Career Center for families with income less than \$75,000. Tri-valley career center will continue to offer in-person drop-off/pick-up services for 2020 taxes. Bring tax documents to the drop-off location for review with an IRS Certified Volunteer and return the following week to sign and pickup returns. Drop off through

April 7. For more information visit trivalleycareercenter.org/about-us/free-tax-preparation.

Government

STATE OF THE CITY - PLEASANTON

The Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce presents The State of the City-Pleasanton 2021, featuring Mayor Karla Brown. Join virtually to hear the address. 12 p.m., March 9. Visit pleasanton.org.

PLEASANTON PLANNING COMMISSION

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

PLEASANTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Pleasanton Unified School District Board of Trustees meets at 7 p.m., March 11, currently held virtually. Visit pleasantonusd.net.

Employment

Solution Architect

Safeway Inc. seeks a Solution Architect in Pleasanton, CA. Subj. to pre-emp. bckgrnd check. Mail resume to Safeway Inc., 5918 Stoneridge Mall Rd., Pleasanton, CA 94588, Attn: M. Ferreira & Ref. code: 20210203VM



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Dev/Ops Release Engineer

Workday, Inc., Pleasanton, CA. Define & implement standardized deployment process, pipeline that delivers major releases, minor enhancements & patches. To apply, please mail resume to ATTN: Jessica Thurston, 6110 Stoneridge Mall Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Please refer to job #20637.808.

Developer- Applications

Ellie Mae, Inc. seek Developer- Applications in Pleasanton, CA to develop and/or make quick fixes to the integrations with Workday Financial (to/from SFDC, AD, EDW etc) using Workday Studio, EIB, Web Services etc. Apply at jobpostingtoday.com Ref: 79208.

Associate Manager, SW Dev. App.

Workday, Inc., Pleasanton, CA. Analyze individual dev. goals & objectives to meet organizational standards. Support overall team communication concerning expectations & responsibilities. To apply, please mail resume to ATTN: Jessica Thurston, 6110 Stoneridge Mall Rd, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Please refer to Job #20637.749.

Mgr., SW Dev. Engineering

Workday, Inc., Pleasanton, CA. Direct the SW systems dev. function, including the design, dev., troubleshooting, & debugging of SW programs for SW enhancements & new prods. To apply, please mail resume to ATTN: Jessica Thurston, 6110 Stoneridge Mall Rd, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Please refer to Job #20637.859.

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INQUIRE FOR PRICE



NEW LISTING

105 GOLDSTONE COMMON, LIVERMORE
4 BED | 3 BATH | 2,484 SQFT
INQUIRE FOR PRICE



PENDING

2823 VINE CT, LIVERMORE
4 BED | 3 BATH | 2,730 SQFT
OFF MARKET SALE



PENDING

2565 MODENA DRIVE, PITTSBURG
5 BED | 3 BATH | 2,770 SQFT
OFFERED AT \$849,000



**\$151K
OVER ASKING**

SOLD

2826 BENCHMARK AVE, FREMONT
5 BED | 3 BATH | 2,682 SQFT
\$1,900,000



**\$181K
OVER ASKING**

SOLD

37853 ABRAHAM ST, FREMONT
5 BED | 3 BATH | 2,610 SQFT
\$1,880,000



**\$111K
OVER ASKING**

SOLD

2762 VINE DRIVE, LIVERMORE
5 BED | 4 BATH | 3,318 SQFT
\$1,700,000



SOLD IN 4 DAYS

SOLD

3141 PELLARO COURT, PLEASANTON
7 BED | 5 BATH | 6,388 SQFT
\$3,295,000

DeAnna Armario

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PLEASANTON LIVERMORE DUBLIN SAN RAMON DANVILLE BLACKHAWK ALAMO WALNUT CREEK

PLEASANTON | SOLD

1428 White Stable Drive

5 BD – 4.5 BA – 4,157 SqFt – 10,022 SqFt Lot

The Sellers were this home's original owners and had this to say: "Thank you so much Kris for having helped us go through this one of a kind process. While, very stressful and emotional on our side...we are now ready to move forward and explore new horizons. We do value - and are grateful for - the professionalism that you have demonstrated all along this short but intense journey. We will certainly refer your expertise to our neighbors and acquaintances."

- Michael and Fabienne



Listed at \$2,100,000 **SOLD \$2,300,000**

WALNUT GROVE on the WATERFRONT | PENDING

17396 Grand Island Road

3 BD – 2 BA – 1,728 Sq Ft – 11,039 Sq Ft Lot with 50 feet of Waterfront Property

Paradise Found just outside the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento areas. As you work from home, take a break and fish right off of one of your private docks, where salmon, sturgeon, striped and bass are plentiful. Spectacular sunset views, boating, fishing and peaceful living are all part of the normal as you settle into this serene location. This custom home is raised and overlooks the Sacramento River with 50 feet of private waterfront property, complete with owned-solar, shared well and septic.



The buyers and sellers are thrilled to bring the accepted offer together!

Presented at \$1,140,000

PLEASANTON | SOLD

4735 McHenry Gate

The "Gates" Neighborhood

4 BD – 3.5 BA – 2,487 Sq Ft – 7,766 Sq Ft lot

Beautifully remodeled and expanded in the heart of Pleasanton. The kitchen has been beautifully updated and opens to an added family room. The open floor plan provides a spacious feeling and perfect gathering place for family and friends. An office, a bedroom and family room on the main level are additional features of the home. Close to Pleasanton's own Sports Park.

Presented at \$1,510,000 **SOLD FOR \$1,750,000**



LIVERMORE | JUST LISTED

1190 Hibiscus Way

2BDR | 2BA | 1,280 Sq Ft | 6,407 Sq Ft lot

A one story charmer located in the "Springtown" neighborhood. The seller has lovingly updated their home, offering dual pane windows, Bamboo flooring, recessed lighting, updated master bath with a step in shower, updated hall bath and a spacious and open floor plan. The rear yard welcomes you with a covered patio overlooking the private grass area. Close to schools, parks and ease of commute. This could be the home you have been waiting for.



Presented at \$745,000

LIVERMORE | JUST LISTED

743 Mojave Avenue

"Sunset West" Neighborhood

3 BDR | 2 BA | 1,404 Sq Ft | 6,000 Sq Ft Lot

Remodeled kitchen, and updated throughout, including a spacious dining area, the living room opens to the family room. Offering dual pane windows, recessed lighting, crown molding, and new engineered wood floors. The Master bath has been updated, welcoming you with a Barn-style entry door and a step-in shower with special features. An additional sunroom is just off the living room for office space, a home gym or kids playroom. Enjoy the privacy of the backyard, and so much more.



Presented in the high \$800,000



"This is the second time we had Kris help us in the selling of our house(s). What we love about Kris is that she has so much experience and knowledge from all of her years of experience she has in selling houses. She makes everything so easy from the beginning to the end. She's very encouraging and honest and caring. If we ever had a question on something or were a little stressed out, Kris was always there to answer our questions and calm our concerns. I highly recommend Kris Moxley for all of your real estate needs."

- Mark and Karen Hitesman

Kris Moxley

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





VENEMA HOMES

EXPERIENCE



EXCELLENCE



Spectacular Estate Home with Panoramic Views

9472 Blessing Drive, The Preserve | 7BR, 5.5BA | 4829+/- Sq. Ft. | \$4,850,000



Rookie of the Year!

ALEXIS VENEMA

“Hard work pays off! I’m so excited to be Keller Williams Tri-Valley Rookie of the Year in Pleasanton, participating in over \$40M in sales in 2020. Extremely grateful for my team and to be following in my Mom’s footsteps.”



Represented Buyer

5660 Selena Court, Pleasanton
Sold \$510,000 Over List Price
\$2,800,000



5548 Corte Del Cajon, Pleasanton
Sold \$191,000 Over List Price
\$1,690,000



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

NOW is the Time!

If you, a neighbor, a friend, or a family member is even thinking of selling your home, the time is NOW. Interview our team to see what we do differently to get our clients incredible results!

Talk, Text, or Zoom - Lets Connect!



Liz Venema



VENEMA HOMES TEAM

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