

# Pleasanton Weekly

Stop Asian hate

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VOL. XXII, NUMBER 9 • MARCH 26, 2021

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## Animal companions

Pandemic leads to surge in demand for pets, supply shortage of available dogs

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# VALLEY VIEWS



BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

## One year later

Are I, too, weigh in with comments on the Year of Living Pandemically? News outlets have run interviews with people from myriad walks of life. Photographers have shown the year in images. Artists have shared their evolving creations.

"I have grown," cheer some when asked to review the past year.

"I have suffered," lament others. "Children's development has been severely impacted," we hear.

"Old people have lost a precious year," is also popular.

I am in that last category. Last week, for the first time in more than a year, my grandchildren, 9 and 5, came over. They dashed for the cat, Pumpkin, who responded with purrs and rubs. Who knew he missed them? I thought he'd been happy alone with me.

They walked around my home. What is new? they asked. I thought about it. Not much, I responded. I'd made a point to have yogurt raisins in the fridge and all the ingredients for smoothies, staples at Grandma's that they remembered.

Two jigsaw puzzles were new, which I'd bought for us to enjoy together. All year I kept telling myself it was time to update the grandkids' photos on the shelves but somehow I never got around to it. After all, I've been busy. So many books to read; so many videos to stream; so many friends and relatives to call and FaceTime. And, of course, so many people to interview and stories to write for the Weekly.

The next day my daughter asked if I would like to take a walk while the kids were in school. Would I?! Let's go!

We met at the trailhead of a favorite two-mile trek along a creek, and I started off, mask in hand in case we saw others, at my usual trudge. My daughter, on the other hand, took off like a jackrabbit.

"Whoa! Why are you walking so fast?" I called out, panting.

"This is my usual speed," she said over her shoulder. "OUR usual speed."

I picked up my pace and she slowed down hers because one point of the walk, after all, was to visit.

"Let's at least slow down while we go uphill," I suggested.

"This isn't uphill," she replied.

"It is a slight incline," I insisted, adding, "What is your hurry?"

To which she rattled off a series of errands she wanted to run before picking up the kids after their shortened school days. I remembered when my children were young and there were never enough hours in the day. I offered to return her library books, thereby saving her 10 minutes of errand-time.

We finished in record time (for me), and I waved her off after she handed me the stack of children's books.

And I was left wondering: How many ways have I slowed down during the last year? Apparently walking by myself every day I've slowed my pace. What about my mental faculties? My ability to multitask? My response time to outside events? Have I aged more in the last year than I would have if the pandemic had not happened?

My past year has been relatively easy. Although living alone, I've had friends and family on hand electronically, and Pumpkin to cuddle. Each dawn I'm kept company by a book, coffee and music, all of which combine for the relaxed contentment that comes at the start of a leisurely day.

The year was not "lost" to me by any means. It was just — different. My niece had a baby, making my sister-in-law a grandmother, proving that life goes on, and providing a stream of darling texted photos that continue to bring me joy. Yes, it would have been nice to actually hold the little baby but I don't let myself think about that.

One bit of "wisdom" imparted to widows is that the grieving experience will make them stronger, force them to develop new skills and abilities. I've always loathed this sentiment: Did I really need new skills and abilities? I did not.

But the same could be said about the last year, and I find it more acceptable. We've all at least learned to be resilient, and to log onto Zoom. Oh, yes, and how to properly wash our hands. ■

*Editor's note: Dolores Fox Ciardelli is Tri-Valley Life editor for the Pleasanton Weekly. Her column, "Valley Views," will appear in the paper on the second and fourth Fridays of the month.*

### About the Cover

Interest in pet adoptions has skyrocketed during the coronavirus pandemic, as residents seek companionship during the often-isolating time. Photos in collage by Ryan J. Degan or courtesy of East Bay SPCA. Cover design by Paul Llewellyn.

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**COMPASS**

## How do you feel when you see your friends' travel/vacation photos?



**Gayle Furukawa**  
*Retired*

I feel envious because I'm not there with them. I'm fully vaccinated now and have made multiple attempts to go to Hawaii but my travel companions have all backed out for one reason or another. But I will get back there some day.



**Taylor Oryall**  
*Server/student*

Honestly, I worry about my friends and family when I see they are traveling. I wish they would just wait a bit longer until it is safe for everyone to travel.



**Bobby Rios**  
*Wrestling coach*

I feel happy. I love seeing my friends and family members having a wonderful time traveling and vacationing. And I look forward to their safe return home so that I can pick their brains about where they've been and all of the exciting things that they did.



**Cristina Rios**  
*Nurse*

I feel envious because I wish I were there too. At the same time, I'm also happy for them, and hope to someday get to wherever they are.



**Armand Naima**  
*Mechanic*

I am not on any social media sites, so it is rare that I see friends and family members' travel photos. However, when I do occasionally see them, I really enjoy them — especially because they give me great ideas for activities I want to do when I eventually get to their vacation destination.

— Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

**Have a Streetwise question?** Email [editor@PleasantonWeekly.com](mailto:editor@PleasantonWeekly.com)

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

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Series on Amador Valley High School transcript probe and fallout by Jeremy Walsh and Julia Baum

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

### Editorial Comments

"Livermore downtown referendum raises serious questions" by Gina Channell

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

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

### Profile Story

"Amazing Voyage" by Jeb Bing

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



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## DIGEST

### Fair food feast back

The Alameda County Fair has extended its “Grab-n-Stay Fair Food Feast” another weekend after the outdoor dining showcase at the Pleasanton fairgrounds was so well-received over the original two weekends.

Now continuing today through Sunday (March 26-28), from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. each day, the “feast” offers people the chance to sample popular fair food like corn dogs, lobster fries, funnel cakes, barbecue and drinks 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 fair. “We are excited to highlight our longtime vendors and small businesses, while also bringing the community a taste of their favorite fair treats.”

To learn more, visit [alamedacountyfair.com](http://alamedacountyfair.com).

### Join the grand jury

Court officials are looking for residents interested in serving on the Alameda County Civil Grand Jury for the 2021-22 fiscal year.

The official recruitment period opened last month will continue through this month; Dublin city reps pointed out that the county is specifically recruiting six potential jurors from Supervisorial District 1, which includes Dublin and Livermore.

Alameda County Superior Court officials will review the applications and select 30 finalists, from whom the final panel of 19 jurors will be picked via random draw. To apply or learn more about the service requirements, visit [grandjury.acgov.org](http://grandjury.acgov.org), email [grandjury@acgov.org](mailto:grandjury@acgov.org) or call 510-272-6259.

### Wallis Ranch park

Dublin city officials are launching the community planning process for the future park at Wallis Ranch development.

The plan calls for an 8.75-acre expanse set on three parcels along Rutherford Drive, and cut across by Tassajara Creek. The planning process is expected to finish this summer.

A public survey is open through today to input from residents on their needs and interests. The first public meeting will take place March 31 from 7-8:30 p.m., and will be live streamed via Zoom (webinar ID: 891 9891 8454; passcode: 36871447). Learn more at [dublin.ca.gov](http://dublin.ca.gov). ■

## Citing weak rain year, Zone 7 asks residents to cut back water usage

‘Significant drought conditions’ are expected to be worse in 2021, agency says

By JULIA BAUM

With dry weather impacting local water supplies, Zone 7 Water Agency is asking Tri-Valley residents and businesses to voluntarily reduce their water usage.

Low rainfall — both locally and statewide — along with low reservoir levels and snowpack conditions have brought about “significant drought conditions,” the agency said in a statement on Tuesday.

The Tri-Valley has received 5.44 inches of rainfall so far during this “water year,” which includes the rainy season beginning in October 2020 (and continuing on through September 2021). Currently, only

46% of the usual rainfall has been received at this time and only 38% of rainfall in an average water year. The lowest water rainfall record in one year is 6.02 inches.

According to Zone 7 General Manager Valerie Pryor, this year “is looking to be even drier” than the last.

“We have invested in water storage programs and will look to purchase additional water supplies for calendar year 2021, but these have significant costs,” Pryor said in a statement. “Continued water conservation by our community will help to reduce these costs and will also position the Tri-Valley better for calendar year 2022 should these

drought conditions continue.”

Water storage for Lake Del Valle was at 78% capacity with 31,000 acre-feet of a total 40,000 acre-feet of water as of Monday, according to Zone 7, which is the major potable water wholesaler for water providers in Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin and San Ramon’s Dougherty Valley. The agency also oversees flood control in the Livermore and Amador valleys.

Water use has been cut over the past decade, and during the last severe drought period local customers saved over 40% in 2014. Because of these collective efforts, Zone 7 officials said they are not currently considering mandatory

conservation or restrictions.

“We have seen tremendous support from our community in the past, and we know they are willing to put in the effort needed to get us through these difficult times,” Board President Olivia Sanwong, of Pleasanton, said in a statement. “We are counting on Tri-Valley residents to once again increase voluntary conservation to preserve water supply and are hopeful mandatory restrictions will not be necessary to get us through these dry years.”

Statewide water supply information and forecasts will be updated as drought conditions change; to

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KRISTIE WANG

Foothill High School English teacher Heather Bolig Richey (center) organized a small rally against AAPI hate held in downtown Pleasanton on Monday, accompanied there by current and past Foothill students. Organizers are hoping for larger turnout at the next rally, in downtown Livermore this Sunday.

## Stop Asian hate

Residents, officials condemn violence against AAPI communities in U.S.

By RYAN J. DEGAN

Tri-Valley residents and officials alike are publicly condemning rising occurrences of anti-Asian violence seen throughout the country, issuing statements and holding rallies in support of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community.

In an effort to stop Asian hate, a small protest was held in downtown Pleasanton on Monday evening, which will be followed by a second, larger rally in Livermore this weekend — events organized

by local residents Heather Bolig Richey and Kellie Essary.

The next protest against AAPI violence and hate is scheduled to be held Sunday, from 1-1:30 p.m. at Stockmen’s Park, 29 S. Livermore Ave., in downtown Livermore.

In addition to individual residents, officials throughout the Tri-Valley have come out in condemnation of the rise in violence against AAPI residents recorded across the Bay Area and United States, which last week resulted

in the killing of eight people — six of whom were Asian women — at spas around Atlanta.

Elected representatives of AAPI heritage joined together to issue a statement “to express our concerns regarding the growing attacks against the AAPI community over the past 12 months.”

“We condemn the escalating harassment and violence against Asians, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders, including the

See **STOP** on Page 10

## Pleasanton eyes cap on campaign contributions

Candidates would also be asked to limit their spending

By JULIA BAUM

Future candidates running for public office in the city of Pleasanton could face lower contributions from campaign donors in the next election after the City Council majority agreed to setting local contribution limits last week.

Mayor Karla Brown declared it “time to get big money out of Pleasanton’s government offices” before the council voted 3-2 to establish an ordinance restricting the amount that an individual could donate to a local candidate. Councilmembers Kathy Narum and Jack Balch cast the dissenting votes after a lengthy discussion March 16.

Vice Mayor Julie Testa also supported Brown in “sending a message,” and said “we know on so many levels how money is the problem with politics.”

“For a city council campaign at our level, the kind of money that has been spent, I think it’s unnecessary,” Testa said.

The state’s newly enacted Political Reform Act and local contribution limits policy restrict an individual’s donations to a candidate running for a county or city elected

See **CAMPAIGNS** on Page 8

# Livermore: District reopens campuses for all grade levels

Students required to wear masks, social distance during in-person learning

By CIERRA BAILEY

About 7,800 Livermore students at all grade levels returned to school on Monday for in-person instruction after more than a year of remote-only learning.

Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) administrators from Christensen Middle School and Altamont Creek and Emma C. Smith elementary schools reflected on the reopenings at their campuses, each saying the first day went off without a hitch for students and teachers alike.

"It's a bit of a euphoric experience for us in that we would have never believed that we were going to be out of school for this long when we were given the information on March 13, 2020," Smith principal Joe Meunier told the Weekly. "I remember feeling like we'll be back by spring break," he continued, adding that he feels the superintendent and district staff have done an amazing job of being flexible and creative to get through the challenges of the pandemic.

Principal Pat Avilla of Christensen Middle School echoed similar sentiments, saying the first day back to campus was "wonderful."

Although students are still required to wear face masks covering their mouths and noses, Avilla said



Christensen Middle School yearbook students sit socially distanced, using laptops to access their classwork on their first day back on campus Monday.

she could tell many were smiling through the excitement in their eyes. "It seemed like a normal day — as much as it can be," she said.

LVJUSD is currently offering a hybrid learning model that allows students to continue taking their classes completely online. For students who have chosen to return to campus, in-person learning is offered four days each week, with Wednesday remaining a day of online classes with early dismissal to allow time for professional development for teachers.

Prior to reopening, schools sent families information about the bell

schedule, pickup and dropoff procedures and behavioral expectations, among other guidelines to help prepare for students' return. Schools throughout the district also held orientation sessions to help students who were new at the start of the school year get acclimated to their respective campuses.

Meunier said that Smith students are encouraged to practice social distancing at school through their "PAWS" positive behavioral intervention system that promotes practicing kindness, acting responsibly, working hard and staying safe.

## Dublin elementary schools welcome back students

Secondary campuses scheduled to reopen on Monday

By JULIA BAUM

Young learners attended their first day back at Dublin Unified School District last week, one year and five days after closing to shelter in place during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The district's phased reopening for hybrid learning started with the return of students in preschool, kindergarten and development kindergarten on March 18. Though high fives were out of the question, colorful signs and a walkway of balloons greeted students returning to Dublin and Amador elementary schools.

Both students and staff wore mandatory face masks — some with positive messages — and maintained social distancing, sitting spaced apart at desks and in lines.

"While not the traditional 'first day' of the school year for our students, it was filled with all the emotion typically associated with that event, if not a little bit more. Proud parents, family hugs, excited faces, happy tears, and a sense of triumph. It was a good day," DUSD Interim Superintendent Daniel Moirao said in a community letter the next day.

"The sound of students singing songs in a classroom is one of the



Some students literally jumped for joy when returning to in-person learning at Dublin Unified School District on March 18.

most welcome sensory experiences I have had in many years. As more students return to their physical classrooms in the coming weeks, I am hopeful that this long and unfortunate experience is slowly coming to an end," Moirao added.

Students in hybrid in-person learning will attend on site four days a week; Wednesdays are reserved as a full remote day for all students.

On days when students are attending class in-person, they will be divided into morning and afternoon schedules, with some attending

earlier in the day and others later on.

California public schools are required by the state to offer the option of remote learning for families who wish to continue to do so. According to DUSD, most families have chosen the remote option for the rest of the school year.

The phased reopening saw DUSD students has first through third grade return on Monday, followed by fourth through fifth grade yesterday. Dublin middle and high school students will be eligible to return starting next Monday (March 29). ■

"I would say that at this point, students are very happy to comply with the expectations," Meunier said, adding that staff members throughout the campus are available to help remind students to keep their distance. The school has a reward system in place for students who demonstrate leadership in the expected behaviors, which Meunier said has also helped to inspire peer modeling.

Fifth-grade teacher Terry Linney said that she has been impressed with how well students have been following directions and how supportive parents have been during this transition process. However, she said her students still miss being able to work together in groups in class as well as having a traditional recess where they can play with their friends from other classrooms and grade levels.

Elementary school students are currently having staggered recess times by grade level and are required to stay in areas of the playground with only their own classmates.

Altamont Creek students have been practicing air hugs, according to principal Tara Aderman. She said all of the campus yard supervisors are also carrying fanny packs with masks for students who forget or lose them.

"Our district office has done a phenomenal job supporting all of our sites, from maintenance to technology to communication — special education, child nutrition — everybody has just worked so hard for reopening and I couldn't be more proud to work for our district," Aderman said.

Eleven days ahead of reopening, LVJUSD along with the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District and the city of Livermore, in partnership with Walgreens, brought the COVID-19 vaccine to 475 individuals in a one-day clinic held at the Robert Livermore Community Center.

Walgreens provided the Janssen (Johnson and Johnson) vaccine, which further simplified the process by offering a one-dose protection against COVID-19, LVJUSD officials said in a statement.

"The clinic was an amazing example of a community coming together to take care of one another," LVJUSD Superintendent Kelly Bowers said, adding, "everyone we served came away with renewed hope and health."

Livermore was the final Tri-Valley public school district to reopen campuses to students, following Pleasanton and Dublin earlier this month and San Ramon Valley last month. ■

## WATER

Continued from Page 5

help with community-wide conservation efforts, Zone 7 is conducting public outreach and sharing tips for how residents can voluntarily save water.

Simple suggestions like checking sinks for dripping faucets can save 3,000 gallons of water per year (at a rate of one drip per second), as well as signs of pooling water and rust, which indicate repairs are needed. Checking sprinkler systems for leaks, overspray or broken sprinkler heads can save up to 500 gallons of water per month.

Other suggestions to conserve water included on the checklist:

- Checking your water meter for activity when all water is off (this could indicate a leak).

- Adding food coloring to toilet tanks; color in the bowl after 10 minutes may mean a new toilet flapper is needed.

- Taking note of how long it takes the toilet to refill after flushing. Water running for more than a minute could indicate there's a leak.

- Checking walls for signs of moisture that could mean a pipe leak, such as water spots, bubbling wallpaper or bulging paint.

- Examining outside faucets or hose bibs for signs of rust,

wet or muddy areas underneath that could indicate leaks that have gone unnoticed outdoors.

Residents can also reduce their outdoor water usage by replacing grass lawns with native, drought-tolerant gardens, adding mulch to gardens and around plants and trees to help them retain water better, and grouping plants into garden zones to avoid excess watering. Installing water-efficient irrigation systems can also cut back water use, and WaterSense weather-based irrigation controllers take things a step further to ensure you don't end up watering when it rains.

Watering early in the morning when it is cool will also reduce evaporation, as well as keeping pools covered when not in use.

Other actions that residents can take include: using a broom to clean driveways, sidewalks and patios instead of a hose; running dishwashers and washing machines only at full capacity; turning off the faucet while brushing your teeth; defrosting foods in the refrigerator instead of running them under water; reducing shower times, and catching warm-up water in the shower for watering plants so it doesn't get wasted.

A full list of tips, native plants and water conservation information is available at [www.zone7water.com/waterwise](http://www.zone7water.com/waterwise). ■

# Miley delivers State of the District address

County supervisor reflects on unprecedented 2020, review priorities for 2021

By **TIM HUNT**

Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley took a long look back at the difficult year of 2020 during his annual State of the District address last week.

Streaming live from the Board of Supervisors' chambers in the county headquarters in downtown Oakland on March 17, Miley spoke for nearly an hour to specify the accomplishments of 2020 and priorities for this year.

The issues he spotlighted were no surprise: racism and COVID-19.

Miley, who is now serving his sixth term as supervisor for District 4, which includes Pleasanton, started by putting things in perspective:

"2020 was one of the most memorable, challenging and destabilizing years that I can recall, during my tenure as an elected official: homelessness, census 2020 firestorms devastating loss of life, exposure of inherent racism and systemic inequality, a presidential election ... These issues in and of themselves are daunting for any one year. However, with the introduction of the COVID-19 pandemic, everything became a shared magnitude and wholly deep experience which none of us escaped, physically, economically, spiritually, or emotionally."

Miley took on the racial inequity head-on.

"The events of 2020 have offered the opportunity for racial justice, and community reparations



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Supervisor Nate Miley gives his State of the District speech via Zoom on March 17.

became a front-and-center goal in Alameda County. The time for comprehensive action to address and reform, systemic racism within the county has come," he said.

Miley is leading a grassroots community-focused ad hoc process that has involved more than 100 people to work on racial justice action items including police reform. He said it included reparations for the inequities African Americans have faced.

He co-sponsored with Supervisor Keith Carson (who like Miley is Black) a resolution to support Black Lives Matter that included an apology from the county for its past actions that supported groups and organizations that benefited from slavery. It passed unanimously in October.

He also praised the more than

75% response to the census, up nearly 6% over 2010 as well as the 81% voter turnout.

Miley cited the Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum for its roles in testing and mass vaccinations as well as praising the Alameda County Fairgrounds for serving as both drive-up testing and vaccination site for COVID-19 as well as a base camp for firefighters battling the lightning-set fires last August.

"Homelessness is a complex layered problem that involves multiple jurisdictions, community and faith-based organizations, public and private health care agencies, and of course, mental health centers. There is no one answer that could fundamentally fix what is deeply broken in our streets. However, I believe strongly in a housing first model that utilizes every tool in our tool belt, including tiny homes (and) accessory dwelling units," he said.

He went on to praise the tiny homes development at First Presbyterian Church in Hayward designed for working people who lack the financial resources to move into permanent housing. That partnership included Home Aid, the building industry's charitable housing foundation, as well as Crosswinds Church in Livermore.

The six homes were assembled in Crosswinds' parking lot and now Crosswinds, through a separate nonprofit, is preparing to open Goodness Village, a community of 28 tiny homes designed

as permanent housing. Former Supervisor Scott Haggerty provided the construction and first-year operating funds as Home Aid again partnered in the development.

Miley also noted that he supported the safe parking space at Fairmont for people living in their cars and two-thirds of people utilizing the site have found permanent housing. It now being transformed with 34 tiny homes.

He did a rundown of work, funding and achievements across his sprawling district that runs from Pleasanton through Castro Valley, the unincorporated areas bordering Hayward and San Leandro to East Oakland. In Pleasanton, he noted that Hively (providing child care resources) had been named a nonprofit of the year as well as praising TV30 and former assemblywoman Catharine Baker

for their help in getting information out to the community.

He noted his office's \$75,000 investment in Innovation Tri-Valley's 2040 visioning project as well as the now-open Sunflower Hill project for developmentally disabled adults.

Looking ahead to this year, he said his priorities will be redrawing the supervisorial districts to accommodate population shifts as well as continuing his efforts on "racial justice and police reform, bringing much needed community reparations to African Americans and other historically marginalized groups within Alameda County, and addressing long standing inequity, continuing to fight illegal dumping and rally more and more groups across our state."

Other areas included environmental justice, public health and public safety, homelessness, delivering quality services and advocating for seniors.

The full speech can be viewed on Miley's official Facebook page. ■

## Passover begins this weekend

Seder activities offer mix of in-person, online options in Tri-Valley

By **JEREMY WALSH**

The Jewish community in the Tri-Valley will start celebrating Passover on Saturday, with the observance set to look a little different for the second year in a row due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The religious holiday, which runs through next weekend, will begin with Seder activities on Saturday evening.

"Many Jews will be observing the Passover Seder this year online, gathering with family from across the country," Rabbi Laurence Milder, of Congregation Beth Emek in Pleasanton, told the Weekly.

"The pandemic has prompted us to consider the plagues of our time: indifference to the welfare of others, and unequal access to healing," he said. "Passover also teaches us to be grateful for our blessings: the way technology has expanded our sense of connection, and the debt we owe to those who have parted a sea of grief and given us hope for the future."

Rabbi Raleigh Resnick, spiritual

leader of Chabad of the Tri-Valley in Pleasanton, reflected as well on the significance of Passover this year during the pandemic.

"Indeed, for over three millennia, Jews celebrate Passover by gathering together with their families and faithfully transmitting their heritage, history, and identity to the next generation. More than marking liberation from Egypt, Passover comes along each year to inspire us to strive for a greater measure of self-liberation from all limitations and distractions which impede us from serving our Creator," he told the Weekly.

"This year, volunteers at Chabad of the Tri-Valley have been busy delivering special hand-made matzahs from Israel to hundreds of families in the Tri-Valley. These matzahs are specially made to use at the Passover dinner. Additionally, Chabad is offering 'Passover dinners to-go' as well as in-person Passover options," he added.

"Download our Haggadah and read along around your Seder

table," they've told congregants. "Tell us if you would like to read a passage in English or Hebrew, or lead a song; there are plenty of parts to go around. And there will be lots of interactive moments in the Seder, too." Visit [www.bethemek.org](http://www.bethemek.org) for more information on all services.

Chabad of the Tri-Valley is coordinating Seder meals to-go as well as in-person options to safely fit members' comfort levels both Saturday and Sunday, according to Rabbi Resnick. "We are creating in-person options in a safe atmosphere to facilitate those who would like to come together for the holiday," he said.

The full Chabad calendar of Passover services and events, including the Passover memorial service and meal of redemption on April 4, is available online at [www.JewishTri-Valley.com](http://www.JewishTri-Valley.com).

Passover is observed for seven days by Reform Jews and for eight days by Conservative and Orthodox Jews. ■

FUN STUFF FOR KIDS OVER THE SUMMER

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Summer 2021

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Focus on sewing stylish, wearable clothing, accessories, craft and jewelry projects, while introducing children to fashion design concepts, sewing techniques, basic pattern manipulation and fashion illustration. Sewing machines and notions provided. FREE fabric for first day of the camp. Pizza party on last day of the camp. Early Bird Registration Special, as well as many discount options available.

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### Rediscover Summer@Stratford

Summer@Stratford is back with our academic camp favorites and all NEW day camp programs! This summer, children will have a wide range of options to explore new interests, discover a world of wonder, make new friends, and expand their horizons. It all starts with our outstanding Summer Team, whose talent, creativity, and leadership set the tone for an unforgettable experience. Get ready to rediscover the fun of learning and give your child a summer to remember at Stratford!

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These innovative camps are available for children ready for Preschool, Elementary, and Middle School. Give your child the Summer@Stratford experience they deserve and secure your space today!

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To advertise in the April Camp Connection, call (925) 600-0840 ext. 1177 or email [kklein@pleasantonweekly.com](mailto:kklein@pleasantonweekly.com)

# Alameda County in red tier for at least one more week

Also: COVID-19 testing site to move from fairgrounds to Livermore

Alameda County will remain in the red tier of California's reopening plan for at least another week, a health official said Tuesday.

The county then may move to a less restrictive tier that allows businesses to serve more people indoors, for example, than they do now. Some other Bay Area counties moved to the orange, less restrictive tier Tuesday.

The daily COVID-19 case rate continues to fall in the county as do hospitalizations as well as testing. But health officials are not letting their guard down yet.

"This is not over," Alameda County Health Officer Dr. Nicholas Moss told the county Board of Supervisors at their regular meeting Tuesday.

"Additional surges are possible," he said in response to a question about surges occurring in other states and in Europe.

Moss wasn't sure what is contributing to those surges. In New York, he said it may be because the population is denser.

About 244,000 county residents are fully vaccinated and about 683,000 have received at least one dose. As many as 20,000 doses are delivered daily in the county, Moss said.

While the county's vaccine



JANSSEN PHARMACEUTICALS

JNJ-78436735 is Janssen Pharmaceuticals Companies of Johnson & Johnson's vaccine. It is a one-dose vaccine for individuals 18 and over, with full protection 28 days after vaccination. The vaccine has been shown to be effective at preventing severe COVID-19 illness, hospitalization and death.

supply is slowly increasing, it will probably be next month before the county sees a significant increase, Moss said.

County health officials are expecting the state to soon expand who is eligible for the vaccine. Currently the county is aligned with the state on who is eligible.

Some racial groups in the county are getting vaccinated more quickly than others, county data

show.

Black and Latino residents lag white and Asian populations, according to the county's vaccine data dashboard.

While 35% of white residents 16 and older and 31% of Asian residents 16 and older are vaccinated, those percentages fall to about 26% for Black residents and 20% for Latino residents of the same age group, the dashboard

showed on Tuesday.

Mobile clinics are doing better at getting the vaccine to Black and Latino residents, Moss said, referring to data released March 16 by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Those figures show that of the people vaccinated at the Oakland Coliseum, about 4% identified as Black while at Oakland's two state/federal mobile clinics nearly 21% of the people vaccinated identified as Black.

Nearly 20% of the people vaccinated at the Oakland Coliseum identified as Latino while at the mobile clinics more than 31% identified as Latino.

—Keith Burbank, BCN

## Testing site on the move

Starting next month, COVID-19 testing at the Alameda County Fairgrounds will be relocated and consolidated with Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare in Livermore, freeing up staff and resources for administering COVID-19 vaccines at the fairgrounds.

Due to the recent drop in demand for COVID-19 testing, the hospital will move from its testing operations at the fairgrounds in

Pleasanton to an existing drive-thru testing site at 1111 E. Stanley Blvd. in Livermore on Thursday (April 1).

The COVID-19 vaccine site at the fairgrounds will remain in place.

Since opening in April 2020, the testing site at the fairgrounds administered nearly 32,000 COVID-19 tests, averaging 200 tests per day during peak months, officials said.

A doctor's order is not required to be tested at the Livermore site, and all insurances are accepted and billed. Cash pay fees will also be waived.

Patients must be 10 year or older to receive testing. Results may take up to 72 hours but can be received sooner. A phone number or email address is also needed for patients to receive results and follow-up information.

Appointments are preferred but same-day testing without an appointment is also available by calling 734-3376.

The Stanford-ValleyCare COVID-19 testing site in Livermore is located at 1111 E. Stanley Blvd. Operating hours are Mondays through Fridays, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon. ■

—Julia Baum

## Harvest Park principal Brenner stepping down

PUSD begins process to find successor

By JULIA BAUM

Harvest Park Middle School principal Terry Brenner is resigning at the end of the academic year after three years of holding the position, according to the Pleasanton Unified School District.

District personnel documents show that Brenner is slated to step down on June 30. The reason for her departure or her next professional destination were not yet clear.

"This was a very difficult decision for myself and my family," Brenner said in a statement to the PUSD community. "It has been a privilege to serve with and for such a dedicated and wonderful school community, and I greatly appreciated

the support I have received from both our Harvest Park staff and our families."

Brenner came to the district in 2018 from Acalanes Union High School District in Contra Costa County. During her tenure at Harvest Park, Brenner successfully led the shift to remote learning when shelter-in-place orders took effect in March 2020, and then again in reopening earlier this month for hybrid learning.

PUSD spokesman Patrick Gannon said the hiring process is getting underway and that district staff is working with Harvest Park to identify a replacement.

"We are grateful to Mrs. Brenner for her dedication and service to our Harvest Park community over the last three years. We wish her continued success in the opportunities that lay ahead," Gannon said. ■



Terry Brenner

## CAMPAIGNS

Continued from Page 5

office at a maximum of \$4,900, but local jurisdictions may adopt their own contribution limit that is higher or lower.

Federal candidate contribution limits are a maximum of \$2,800 per individual donor per election, and the city of Dublin set a \$500 limit per individual donor per election for a local candidate in 2009.

Because no candidates received an individual contribution exceeding the state's \$4,900 for the general election in November, city staff did not recommend setting any higher limit. However, they said attempts to restrict how much a candidate may give or loan to their own campaign "have not withstood legal challenge."

Pleasanton's voluntary campaign expenditure pledge adopted in 2008 also engaged the council in extensive dialogue. All 12 candidates for local office last year signed the pledge, committing themselves to spending no more than \$55,325 on their campaigns, and a maximum of \$1 per registered voter plus an inflation adjustment.

Currently no other Tri-Valley city has a campaign expenditure limit, which staff confirmed can only be voluntary and may not apply any penalties, as courts have ruled

that expenditure limits are "invalid under the First Amendment, as it is a direct form of restraint on expression and association."

Balch called it "already pretty daunting to be willing to run for office" and said departing from the state outline feels "like we're disenfranchising potential people from running by having a local change."

"That being said, I understand the concept of a dollar per voter," Balch said.

Councilmember Valerie Arkin, who originally motioned to agendize the matter, suggested expenditure limits of \$15,000 for city council campaigns and \$25,000 for mayoral campaigns, while Testa said she "couldn't imagine needing more than \$15,000, but I would be willing to suggest that we look at 50 cents per voter, which is over the \$15,000."

Balch argued reaching voters during a pandemic wasn't simple: "I was not able to go out and knock on your door ... the reality is you cannot foresee all of the challenges a candidate may have."

In the interest of transparency, Balch suggested "accurate and timely disclosure filings," noting that several still have not been filed from the election.

"We have other challenges associated with transparency for our electorate," Balch added. "No one's hit the limit. Maybe the limit can

reset to \$1 per voter. Remove the inflation, something like that."

Narum implored the council majority to "stop and think about what you're doing," and said there's "nothing stopping" individuals from giving to political action committees to spend on behalf of their preferred candidate.

"You're pushing away the transparency and the disclosures of who's funding the candidates themselves," Narum said. "I ask you to think about, do you really want to drive funding out to PACs and independent expenditures? Is that really in the best interest of transparency, disclosure and good government? To me, it's not."

Any new contribution limits could be enforced through a contract with the California Fair Political Practices Commission, which would cost about \$55,000 annually, though assistant city attorney Larissa Seto said if extensive enforcement and legal action are required, "there could be additional costs related to that."

"The concern would be for the city that if we didn't have an organization like the FPPC with that kind of expertise, there isn't staff resources that regularly handle campaign finance issues and wouldn't be able to, unless we had dedicated people tracking these kinds of issues," Seto said. ■

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# Pleasanton native receives Distinguished Flying Cross

Lt. Col. Darrow honored for his part in special operation forces rescue

By JULIA BAUM

Pleasanton native Lt. Col. Adam Darrow's hometown hero status was cemented after being recently awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) for his role in a daring CV-22B Osprey rescue abroad last year.

Service members who stand out for their "heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight" are awarded the DFC, according to a military news outlet.

An Air Force career man and current commander of 58th Operations Group Detachment 1, Darrow and two of his colleagues were recognized for their part in rescuing 194 special operations forces during a January 2020 Iranian ballistic missile attack on al-Asad Air Base in Iraq.

19th Air Force Commander Maj. Gen. Craig Wills, who presented the honor to Darrow during a ceremony in November at Kirtland Air Force Base in New Mexico, said the names of Darrow and his fellow servicemen are "forever associated with courage and bravery, mission accomplishment and excellence."

Darrow told the Weekly he spent about six weeks in Iraq following the 24-hour rescue mission on that day when Iran launched more than a dozen ballistic missiles at U.S. and coalition forces, 10 of them striking the air base.

He was "about to go to a fancy

restaurant" on New Year's Eve when Darrow got the notification to leave home.

Though disappointed about missing out on a good meal that evening, Darrow said he'd "liken it to something like being an athlete — if you always train and never play, there's this attitude like, what's the point?"

Acting as the mission's Osprey aircraft commander with the 7th Expeditionary Special Operations Squadron, Darrow — who was a major at that point — received word that a ballistic missile threat was "imminent," and that the team needed to evacuate personnel away from danger.

According to Air Force citations, Darrow launched a three-aircraft formation to rescue the special operation forces, and the team evacuated the first 132 personnel within 90 minutes of receiving the first alert.

With 16 years invested in the service, Darrow had already been deployed before including a couple of times in Iraq, and said the experience didn't really faze him.

"For me, it was like I've been there and done this. I don't want to say it was mundane, but it was nothing unanticipated," Darrow said.

Darrow's mother, Laura, told the Weekly, "We're obviously extremely proud of him," and that his family

in Pleasanton didn't know exactly what he had been up to overseas until this fall.

At the time of the attack, Laura Darrow said she and her husband "got a call and said 'turn on the news.'"

"We were terrified but then he was OK, it all worked out," Laura Darrow said. "We had no idea what he was doing, we didn't know what happened until June, when we saw the writeup (from the government)."

Laura Darrow added, "We were all dumbfounded. We were all together in Seattle and got this note, the declassified information of what happened that night and, as a family, were just blown away."

A product of Pleasanton public schools, Lt. Col. Darrow said, "I've always been fascinated by airplanes and flight in general since as long as I can remember. That didn't solidify to military aviation until probably my junior year of high school."

Laura Darrow said her son "knew what he wanted to do when he was five" and would "stand in the baseball field and not look at the baseballs, but the planes in the sky."

"It's a family thing; there's a lot of aviation in the family," she said, including Adam's father who worked for United Airlines as an airplane

See **MEDAL** on Page 10

## Group turns to crowdfunding for lawsuit over solar farm

Save North Livermore Valley seeks to overturn county's Aramis approval

By GINA CHANNELL

The citizens' group Save North Livermore Valley has launched a GoFundMe campaign to fund a lawsuit to overturn Alameda County's approval of the Aramis industrial solar power plant.

The Board of Supervisors voted unanimously following a nearly 10-hour hearing on March 4 to deny four appeals and uphold the East County Board of Zoning Adjustments' prior approval of the 410-acre renewable energy project to be located about two miles north of the Livermore city limits.

"Our supervisors have failed us. The only way to stop the conversion of North Livermore Valley into a barren landscape of steel, glass and silicon is to file a lawsuit," Chris O'Brien, chairperson of the Save North Livermore Valley steering committee, said in a statement last Friday announcing the crowdfunding drive.

Save North Livermore Valley is a

community advocacy group of over 400 residents of Livermore and the Tri-Valley area, as well as several local environmental organizations.

"We, the members of the community, must provide the leadership necessary to safeguard our precious open space, scenic vistas and habitat for endangered and threatened species today and for future generations," O'Brien said.

The project site is partly at 1815 Manning Road and 4400 N. Livermore Ave., both south of Manning Road and west of North Livermore Avenue, and partly on two other parcels without street addresses north of Manning Road at its intersection with North Livermore Avenue.

"While Save North Livermore Valley cannot offer any prediction on the outcome of a lawsuit, we strongly believe in the strength of our legal arguments," O'Brien said in a statement. "We will argue that Alameda County's approval of the

solar projects violates state environmental law, the county's own General Plan and Zoning Code, and voter-approved initiative Measure D, which preserves open space and agricultural land in rural Alameda County."

He continued that donations collected so far will be enough to file and pursue a lawsuit. However, acknowledging litigation can be complicated and often include unexpected costs, the group is seeking donations to ensure all expenses are covered and they can "take the lawsuit to the finish line."

The group said 100% of all donations will go to the Save North Livermore Valley litigation fund.

"The financial burden of the litigation need not fall too heavily on any of us. We just all must step forward," O'Brien said. "I ask that all persons that care about preserving the agricultural heritage of Livermore Valley and East Alameda County contribute to the litigation fund." ■



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Air Force Lt. Col. Adam Darrow (right), 58th Operations Group Detachment 1 commander, was presented the Distinguished Flying Cross in November.

### THE CITY OF PLEASANTON



#### Youth Commission Special Meeting

Wednesday, March 31, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Review the draft strategies and actions for the Climate Action Plan Update (CAP 2.0)

#### BE A PART OF THE PUBLIC PROCESS – VOLUNTEER FOR A CITY COMMISSION

The City Council recruits and appoints residents of Pleasanton to a variety of boards and commissions, allowing them to contribute to and influence decisions affecting the city, providing advice and feedback on important community issues.

Applications are now being accepted for the following vacancies:

**Bicycle, Pedestrian & Trails Committee**  
One Vacancy

**Civic Arts Commission**  
Three Vacancies

**Committee on Energy and the Environment**  
One High School Youth Vacancy

**Housing Commission**  
One Vacancy

**Human Services Commission**  
One Vacancy

**Library Commission**  
Three Vacancies  
One High School Youth Vacancy

**Parks & Recreation Commission**  
Two Vacancies

**Youth Commission**  
One High School Vacancy

**Economic Vitality Committee**  
Citizen at Large Category Vacancy  
Financial Services Firm Category Vacancy

Apply by Wednesday, April 7, 2021, on the City of Pleasanton website at [cityofpleasantonca.gov/gov/depts/clerk/boards/default.asp](http://cityofpleasantonca.gov/gov/depts/clerk/boards/default.asp)

Except for the Economic Vitality Committee, applicants must reside within the Pleasanton city limits.

For more information contact the City Clerk's Office at [pleasantoncityclerk@cityofpleasantonca.gov](mailto:pleasantoncityclerk@cityofpleasantonca.gov) or (925) 931-5027.

To explore more about Pleasanton, visit us at [www.cityofpleasantonca.gov](http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov)

# New middle school to open this fall

Stratford School unveiling standalone campus on Stoneridge

By JULIA BAUM

A new private school set to open this fall in Pleasanton, the first stand-alone middle school campus in the Tri-Valley for Stratford School.

Stratford Pleasanton Middle School on Stoneridge will be the third Tri-Valley location for the Saratoga-based company, joining one in Danville and another in Pleasanton at 4576 Willow Road currently serving preschool through eighth grade.

"We are thrilled to be expanding our campuses serving families in the Tri-Valley area," said Stratford founder Sherry Adams in a statement. "Stratford's new Pleasanton Middle School has been designed to

provide our students with a campus tailored just for them — a high-quality learning environment with first-class facilities and expansive outdoor grounds."

Less than three miles from the current Stratford site, the new school located at 3800 Stoneridge Drive has six fully renovated classrooms and a multipurpose room, as well as an outdoor basketball court and fields, "with ample room to grow." The Willow Road site was expanded to make room for secondary students in 2017.

"In this new setting, Stratford's middle school program will continue to focus on fostering collaboration,

critical thinking, and creativity to prepare students for admission to private high school or advanced placement in public high school," officials said.

Sanny Figueroa, head of Stratford's elementary site in Pleasanton, will also bring more than 25 years of experience to lead the new middle school. The lifelong educator said he is "thrilled to be a part of Stratford's expansion and growth in the Pleasanton community."

"As educators, it is our collective goal to provide a sense of community for our students, and a place where they can learn and grow into the leaders of tomorrow," Figueroa said.



STRATFORD SCHOOL

Stratford School is opening a new private middle school in Pleasanton on Stoneridge Drive this fall.

The Willow Road location will transition to serving just preschool through elementary school.

Stratford held its first open house last weekend for families to learn

more about enrollment options and educational programming for the 2021-22 academic year. Additional sessions are expected before the school's scheduled opening this fall. ■

# Foothill civics team earns spot in We the People finals

Falcons will compete in nationals next month

By JULIA BAUM

For the fourth year running, Foothill High School's competitive civics team is headed to the We the People national finals.

Both Foothill and Amador Valley teams participated in this year's state finals, held online due to the pandemic. Foothill advanced as one of two California high schools to earn a spot in the national finals next month, qualifying by wild card.

In a statement, coach Graham McBride said the Foothill team "has risen above and beyond given the unprecedented circumstances of this school year and shown tremendous resilience and maturity in the process."

"We are very eager to see them show their tremendous depth of knowledge at the We the People national finals," McBride said.

The civics competition tests

students from around the country by challenging them to demonstrate their understanding of the U.S. Constitution and federal government in mock congressional hearings. Students use critical thinking and other analytical skills to evaluate and support positions on historical and contemporary matters.

Limits on public gatherings means the Foothill team will stay in town and compete virtually in the civics competition like last year, when Amador won an award for

Division B. National finalists normally compete in person in Virginia and Washington D.C. Last year both Amador and Foothill represented California at nationals, with the Dons earning second place and the Falcons eliminated in an earlier round.

Teacher Stacey Sklar — who heads Amador's team and successfully led them to nationals from 2018 to 2020 — said her students "did a wonderful job" in the state finals and "exceeded all of my

expectations." In total, Amador has competed in the nationals 18 times over the competition's 34 years of existence, including winning the national title in 1995.

At the moment, Sklar and her class are developing podcasts and web pages so that the entire Amador student body can learn about their rights.

The 34th National We the People Finals will be held virtually from April 23-26. To learn more, visit [www.civiced.org](http://www.civiced.org). ■

## We're looking for a few interns

We are seeking local high school or college students with an appetite for news and an interest in learning about print and digital media for internship opportunities. The intern will research stories, do interviews and help with fact checking and rewrites for the award-winning Pleasanton Weekly and [DanvilleSanRamon.com](http://DanvilleSanRamon.com). He or she will also be introduced to the other aspects of publishing, including advertising and production.

During the internship period, the intern will be an integral part of the team, participating fully in the process of gathering and presenting news.

Candidates must be responsible, have good writing skills, be available 10 to 12 hours a week and have reliable internet access. Internships require an academic sponsor. Applicants should send a resume, a cover letter explaining your interest and links to at least three examples of journalistic work to editor Jeremy Walsh at [jwalsh@embarcaderopublishing.com](mailto:jwalsh@embarcaderopublishing.com) by noon April 19.

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## STOP

Continued from Page 5

most recent March 16, 2021 killing of eight people in Atlanta, six of whom were Asian American women," the 13 local leaders wrote, adding:

"Mocking racist references to COVID-19 have inflamed anti-AAPI sentiments. The reporting center Stop AAPI Hate has chronicled more than 3,800 hate incidents against Asian Americans since the start of the pandemic a year ago. We must take action to stem this violence against our community members.

"We stand in solidarity with our AAPI community and allies engaged in anti-racist action. We express our deepest sympathy to the families of the most recent victims and our

support to the AAPI community in the Tri-Valley. We are with you, and we are here for you. We call upon everyone in our community to take a stand against hate and bigotry."

The public letter was signed by council members Dave Fong (Danville), Sherry Hu (Dublin), Shawn Kumagai (Dublin), Sridhar Verose (San Ramon) and Sabina Zafar (San Ramon); school board members Catherine Kuo (Dublin), Susanna Wong Ordway (San Ramon Valley) and Kristie Wang (Livermore Valley); community college board members Hal Gin (Chabot-Las Positas), Andy Li (Contra Costa) and Ed Maduli (Chabot-Las Positas); and special district board members Arun Goel (DSRSD), Michelle Lee (SRVFPD) and Olivia Sanwong (Zone 7).

The city of Pleasanton has been

among the other public agencies to release statements in recent days showing support for Asian American residents and denouncing acts of hate and violence against them.

"The city of Pleasanton condemns any acts of violence against the Asian American Pacific Islander community, and opposes all forms of racism and discrimination now and at all times. We are a city that continues to strive for equity, inclusion, and diversity throughout our community," city officials said in a statement.

Pleasanton itself hasn't recorded any hate crimes over the past year, according to Pleasanton police Sgt. Marty Billdt, who said that "fortunately, we haven't had anything specific that has been reported as a hate crime or had the elements to support one." ■

## MEDAL

Continued from Page 9

mechanic, and both his grandfathers were pilots.

"He absolutely loved the Transformer movies, cartoons and toys when he was young," she added. "When he decided to fly Ospreys, one of his friends said it was perfect for him, because the Osprey is as close to being a Transformer as you can get. It goes from

helicopter to airplane."

When the ROTC military flight aspect presented itself during high school, Darrow said he thought "this is something I'd want to do."

"I was also interested in being an engineer but life behind a cubicle didn't seem appealing," he added.

Darrow attended Lydiksen Elementary and Pleasanton Middle schools, before graduating from Foothill High in 2001. After attending UC Berkeley, where he

received a mechanical engineering degree, Darrow was commissioned as an Air Force officer in 2005 and worked his way up the ranks.

"Any modicum of success has definitely been built on the foundation of my education," Darrow said. "It's funny that I'll remember something from those experiences and be able to apply it in my professional life. It was definitely the foundation in terms of educating me." ■

# Community Pulse

## POLICE BULLETIN

### After winning appeal, man takes plea deal for double-fatal DUI crash

A Livermore man who had an earlier double-murder conviction in the case overturned on appeal accepted a plea deal late last year for lesser charges of gross vehicular manslaughter and a 20-year prison sentence for an alcohol- and speed-fueled crash that killed a mother and her toddler in 2015.

Brian Zachary Jones, who has been incarcerated for nearly six years, remains in custody at Folsom State Prison after his sentencing last December for crashing his Chevrolet Corvette into an apartment complex on Murrieta Boulevard in Livermore and killing Esperanza Morales Rodriguez, 46, of Seaside and her 14-month-old daughter Yulida Perez-Morales.

Jones, now 41, had been found guilty by a jury on two counts of second-degree murder and other charges and later sentenced to 30 years to life without the possibility of parole following a trial in 2017. But he successfully appealed that conviction, with a state appellate court panel — in a 2-1 decision last June — agreeing with his attorney's argument that a juror was improperly removed from the case by the trial judge.

That reverted the case back to Alameda County Superior Court for potential re-trial.

But Jones and county prosecutors reached a plea agreement late last fall that solidified a conviction for gross vehicular manslaughter while driving drunk — but also leaves the door open for parole, possibly as soon as 2025.

"After careful consideration and consultation with the victim's family, Mr. Jones was allowed to plead guilty to two counts of gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated and DUI. The agreed upon sentence was 20 years in state prison," Teresa Drenick, spokesperson for the Alameda County District Attorney's Office, told the Weekly on Tuesday. (The county court website indicated Jones pleaded no contest, rather than guilty.)

Assistant public defender Christina Moore, who represented Jones in the case post-appeal, said, "We considered all parties in coming to this resolution, which we believe was in everyone's best interest."

The new plea deal appears to bring to a close a drawn-out criminal case that spent years working its way through the state court system.

Jones was arrested in the fatal crash after driving erratically on Livermore city streets, hitting speeds of 75-99 mph, all while having a blood-alcohol content of 0.14 (nearly

twice the legal limit for driving) after attending the Livermore Wine Country Festival on May 2, 2015, according to city police.

He lost control of his Corvette that Saturday evening and smashed into an apartment complex in the 900 block of Murrieta Boulevard, where Morales Rodriguez and Perez-Morales were attending an outdoor party at relative's home, police said. The mother and toddler daughter were killed, and two boys were injured by wreckage debris.

At trial in 2017, county prosecutors pushed for second-degree murder convictions while Jones' attorney at the time argued jurors should find him guilty of manslaughter instead.

He was convicted of the double-murder and other counts, but only after the jury was re-seated following the dismissal of two original jurors due to misconduct that occurred during initial deliberations.

That was the crux of Jones' successful appeal to overturn his original convictions and 30-years-to-life sentence.

The California Court of Appeal, First Appellate District, in a 2-1 decision rendered June 15, 2020, ruled that Jones' right to a fair trial was violated by Alameda County Superior Court Judge Paul Delucchi for dismissing the original "Juror No. 10" after she reported the misconduct of a fellow juror who cited news coverage of the case that referenced a 2003 DUI conviction for Jones (information withheld from the jury as prejudicial).

The appellate court majority contended in their ruling that Delucchi "never asked (Juror No. 10) directly whether she could continue ... Instead, the court asked her if it would be 'very difficult' for her to continue. At best, the question is ambiguous, which is insufficient."

With the case returned to Alameda County, Jones agreed to the new plea deal and was sentenced on Dec. 9 to 20 years in prison.

He received credit for just over 11 years based on time already served between county jail and state prison in the case — nearly 5-1/2 years for time actually served, plus a matching equivalent for good time/behavior credit, according to online court records. The state website indicates Jones will first be eligible for parole in February 2025.

### In other news

- The family of Tyrell Wilson, who died in a hospital last week after being struck by gunfire in an officer-involved shooting in Danville six days earlier, has retained a civil rights lawyer to investigate the circumstances that led to his death.

Officer Andrew Hall shot Wilson on March 11 at the intersection of Sycamore Valley Road and Camino Ramon after the transient allegedly advanced knife-in-hand toward the

officer who was responding to a report that Wilson was throwing rocks from an overpass onto Interstate 680.

"The Office of the Sheriff recognizes the impact an event like this can have on the community and is committed to full transparency of all the facts. Sheriff's investigators continue to work with the District Attorney's Office on investigating this incident pursuant to the countywide law enforcement involved fatal incident protocol," sheriff's officials said in a statement March 17 announcing Wilson's death.

Hall, who has been placed on paid administrative leave during the investigation, has worked the past 7-1/2 years as a law enforcement officer. He is employed as a sheriff's deputy assigned to the Danville Police Department under the town's contract with the county sheriff's office for police services.

Hall is the same Danville police officer who fatally shot 33-year-old Newark resident Laudemer Arboleda at close range while Arboleda tried to drive around police vehicles trying to block his path in downtown

Danville on Nov. 3, 2018.

"Tyrell's parents are concerned that the officer's statements are not totally truthful," the office of civil rights attorney John Burriss of Oakland said in a statement last week. "Especially since an independent witness disputes the officer's account. The witness described a different account of how the incident occurred between Officer Hall and Mr. Wilson."

Burriss said the shooting "is the second use of deadly force by Officer Hall" and announced he will be "suing the officer and the department for civil rights violations for the prior use of deadly force."

- A statewide task force led by the Santa Cruz County District Attorney's Office has filed suit against the nation's largest nursing home chain, alleging it ignored laws that protect patients' safety and that it manipulated the federal government's nursing home ratings system.

The announcement of the lawsuit — released last week by Jeffrey Rosell, the county's district attorney — includes several allegations: that Brookdale Senior Living failed to

properly notify its patients and families of transfers and discharges; failed to provide required timely notice to its patients with a copy to the local ombudsmen; and failed to properly prepare its patients for transfer or discharge, all of which "endangered the health of its patients and left families scrambling to find other places to care for their loved ones," according to the announcement.

The Brookdale website lists 15 facilities it operates in the region between Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa, including two in Danville, two in Pleasanton and one in San Ramon.

The suit alleges that the company was also awarded undeserved four- and five-star ratings for its nursing homes, after the company provided false information by over-reporting its nursing staffing hours.

The statewide task force included then-California Attorney General Xavier Becerra and was founded in a joint effort by the Santa Cruz District Attorney's Office and the Kern County District Attorney's Office. ■

—Jeremy Walsh and Bay City News Service

## POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

### March 18

#### Vandalism

■ 5:35 a.m. on the 600 block of Concord Place

#### Theft

■ 9:48 a.m., 5500 block of Springhouse Road; theft from auto

■ 9:55 a.m., 5500 block of Springhouse Road; theft from auto

■ 10:08 a.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

■ 1:41 p.m. on the 5700 block of Hanifen Way

■ 4:13 p.m. on the 6600 block of Owens Drive

#### Drug violation

■ 10:19 p.m. on the 5500 block of Sunol Boulevard

### March 17

#### Vehicle tampering

■ 8:13 a.m. on the 7000 block of Johnson Drive

#### Fraud

■ 1:04 p.m. on the 5400 block of Black Avenue

#### Theft

■ 2:24 p.m. on the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

#### Graffiti

■ 2:46 p.m. on the 5800 block of Parkside Drive

■ 5:06 p.m. on the 5800 block of Parkside Drive

#### Criminal threats

■ 5:27 p.m. on the 3000 block of Bernal Avenue

#### Warrant arrest

■ 6:31 p.m. on the 5000 block of Johnson Drive

#### Drug violation

■ 8:22 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

### March 16

#### Warrant arrest

■ 12:12 a.m. on the 5500 block of Johnson Drive

#### Weapons violation

■ 12:13 a.m. at Hopyard Road and Stoneridge Drive

#### Theft

■ 9:39 a.m., 5200 block of Hopyard Road; shoplifting

■ 9:43 a.m., 4200 block of Rosewood Drive; shoplifting

■ 8:22 p.m., 5200 block of Hopyard Road; theft from structure

#### Robbery

■ 2:15 p.m. on the 4000 block of Pimlico Drive

#### Drug violation

■ 6:48 p.m. on the 5500 block of Johnson Drive

#### Vandalism

■ 11:18 p.m. on the 4800 block of Willow Road

### March 15

#### Warrant arrest

■ 2:18 a.m. on the 6400 block of Owens Drive

#### Vandalism

■ 7:51 a.m. on the 7000 block of Pleasanton Avenue

#### Graffiti

■ 7:52 a.m. on the 7300 block of Johnson Drive

#### Fraud

■ 12:45 p.m. on the 1700 block of Zenato Place

#### Shoplifting

■ 6:08 p.m. on the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

### March 14

#### Trespassing/prowl

■ 2:16 p.m. on the 5800 block of Corte Mente

#### Sex offenses

■ 2:25 p.m. on Santa Rita Road

#### Weapons violation

■ 11:29 p.m. at Hopyard Road and I-580 East

#### Warrant arrest

■ 11:57 p.m. at Hopyard Road and Stoneridge Drive

### March 13

#### Vandalism

■ 12:42 p.m. on the 5500 block of Springhouse Drive

#### DUI

■ 6:04 p.m. at Santa Rita Road and Stoneridge Drive

■ 11:23 p.m. at Hopyard Road and Stoneridge Drive

#### Vehicle tampering

■ 11:31 p.m. on the 5600 block of Owens Drive

### March 12

#### Domestic battery

■ 1:56 a.m. on Owens Drive

■ 9:48 p.m. on Harrison Street

#### Drug violation

■ 8:49 a.m. at Owens Court and Owens Drive

#### Sex offenses

■ 10:50 a.m. on California Avenue

#### Warrant arrest

■ 7:44 p.m. on Denker and Stoneridge drives

■ 7:54 p.m. on the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue

### March 11

#### Theft

■ 9:09 a.m., 3600 block of Andrews Drive; theft from auto

■ 11:31 a.m. on the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

■ 1:56 p.m., 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

■ 4:38 p.m. on the 7600 block of Desertwood Lane

#### Graffiti

■ 9:11 a.m. on the 900 block of Roselma Place

■ 9:35 a.m. on the 1000 block of Sycamore Creek Way

#### Fraud

■ 1:15 p.m. on the 3600 block of Woodbine Way

### March 10

#### Theft

■ 4:41 a.m. on the 5200 block of Hopyard Road

S. Evans  
S. Kornblum  
D. Grossman  
J. Bowe  
D. Deane  
B. Woodruff  
B. Moos  
J. Rubino-Brumm  
B. Nostrand  
K. Hall  
J. Bastani  
C. Gray  
W. Anzenberger  
N. Hudson  
R. Neyer  
B. Naylor  
D. Harris  
R. Kanapathippillai  
J. Sensiba  
J. Brown  
B. Costello  
J. Ott  
L. Nachiappan  
S. Jackson  
B. Shah  
B. Altman  
K. Nipp  
T. Miller  
A. Judd  
G. Jordan  
J. Villott  
R. Van Art  
M. Suski  
R. Bishop  
T. Hunt  
D. McKeehan  
J. Cristiano  
K. Klein  
M. Crawbuck  
D. & K. Tracy  
S. Leuten  
R. Degan  
T. Gianatasio  
D. Pastor  
B. Manrique  
J. Cardinalli  
J. Perry  
A. Mouch  
J. Lenigan  
T. & P. Powers  
K. Takayama  
C. Ker  
L. Reeser

J. Balch  
M. Brown  
C. Boster  
L. Rice  
J. Mohatt  
W. Perdue  
A. Snyder  
E. McGraw  
B. & M. Duret  
S. Lind  
J. Plotts  
F. Sass  
S. Degan  
E. Lester  
W. Linse  
G. Brown  
S. Laine  
R. Schmidt  
J. Stiles  
S. Tsugita  
N. Nack  
R. Slingsby  
C. Beck  
D. Burkhart  
J. Baum  
J. Del Tredici  
C. Marsh  
J. Merryman  
K. Waelde  
D. Clausen  
C. Miller  
K. Perry  
L. O'Hara  
G. Thome  
N. Snover  
D. Peralta  
P. Eden  
J. Gagne  
M. Stapleton  
H. Winston  
L. Allbritten  
R. Russman  
S. Swanson  
S. Astbury  
R. Martelli  
R. Termini  
E. Batstone  
M. Gadd

T. Wallace  
S. Williams  
K. Asmussen  
S. Sheets  
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L. Salsgiver  
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D. Gilpin  
J. Baum  
J. Reno  
T. De Roza

S. King-Irwin  
L. Oefelein  
E. Haubner  
D. Davidson  
S. Houghton  
L. Lindsey  
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# Animal companions

**Pandemic leads to surge in demand for pets, supply shortage of available dogs**

Throughout the coronavirus pandemic, Valley Humane Society, East Bay SPCA and Contra Costa Humane Society have all documented a significant increase in demand for adoptable pets. (Left photo courtesy of Valley Humane Society)



Clockwise from top left: Eli, Julius and Sonny have all been cared for at the Valley Humane Society in Pleasanton, which has seen a 30% increase in pet adoptions during the pandemic.

**STORY AND PHOTOS BY RYAN J. DEGAN**  
**W**hen faced with the isolation, loneliness and boredom brought about by the coronavirus pandemic, thousands of people throughout the East Bay turned to finding four-legged companions to help see them through the dark days of the COVID-19 world.

Driven by a lack of human interaction, interest in pet adoptions has skyrocketed over the past year, according to local pet adoption centers, who say that the meteoric increase in demand has created a significant supply shortage throughout the state.

"We saw a 29% increase in adoptions in 2020, so that's been great and we're still seeing a huge demand, especially for dogs. California is actually dealing with a dog shortage right now," Melanie Sadek, executive director of Valley Humane Society in Pleasanton and vice president of the California Animal Welfare Association (CalAnimals), told the Weekly.

"We can get up to 90 inquiries on one dog. It's really unfortunate because we really try to call every single person back, but really only one person gets to benefit out of those 90 so it can be a lot of heartbreak for those people," Sadek added. "I know our situation is not unique; I know a lot of other groups in our area are having the same issues we are. Someone with the Humane Society in Silicon Valley told me they posted for a puppy and got 400 inquiries."

With the pandemic isolating residents and giving many extra time at their homes, Sadek said many residents currently seeking pet adoptions are first-time owners who either never had the time to care for a pet, or saw adoption as a chance for some much-needed companionship while sheltering in place.

"Especially at the beginning we were receiving hundreds of applications, but typically we wouldn't be seeing hundreds of people coming in a day (before the pandemic began). With the new process, people were able to more easily apply," added Kelcy Spaete, marketing manager for the East Bay Society for the Prevention of

Cruelty to Animals (SPCA).

The East Bay SPCA was forced to close adoption services at its Dublin location due to the pandemic, according to Spaete, but interest has not subsided and adoptions are still available through its Oakland location.

"Right after everything closed last March, we had a huge outreach of people asking how they could help ... In just a short amount of time, I think we had over 200 animals in our care at that time and things were really up in the air. We were able to place every single animal that didn't require medical care into foster homes," Spaete said.

The increased demand has also been met with a new system of adoption that, while more thorough in some ways, has created a platform that is easier for many to navigate. Like most services during the pandemic, the adoption process for pets in the East Bay has mostly gone digital, with an application process more akin to online dating than window shopping.

Whereas prior to the pandemic interested owners could just walk into an adoption center and view the available pets, now locations generally post profiles for their pets online, where interested residents can apply in the hopes of being chosen. Application processes differ from center to center, but suitable applicants are typically screened beforehand and invited to meet an available pet in-person during a scheduled appointment.

The search for animal companionship has led to thousands of pets finding their forever homes, with many families happily taking advantage of the extra time they have to dedicate to a new furry family member.

"We were looking to adopt a dog after we bought a house. Our daughter had been asking for years, and it felt like a good time. But we weren't able to find a dog in a shelter that fit our situation, so we decided to wait until the right dog came along," said resident Mirjam Dijkshoorn, who adopted a two-year-old Husky named Venus.

"Venus has been such a wonderful addition to our family, she brings so much love into our

**Pet adoption nonprofits**

For more information on adoptions or to donate to a pet food pantry, call or visit:

- Valley Humane Society, Pleasanton, 925-426-8656, [www.valleyhumane.org](http://www.valleyhumane.org)
- East Bay SPCA, Dublin and Oakland, 510-569-0702, [www.eastbayspca.org](http://www.eastbayspca.org)
- Tri-Valley Animal Rescue, Dublin, [www.tv-ar.org](http://www.tv-ar.org)
- Contra Costa Humane Society, Pleasant Hill, 925-279-2246, [www.cchumane.org](http://www.cchumane.org)

home! We try to ignore the hair all over the house as much as we can," Dijkshoorn added.

Nancy Lewis, another happy pandemic dog adopter, said, "We adopted (Polly) during the Pandemic, in June of 2020, as a tiny puppy. The shelter had all sorts of COVID safety protocols in place, so the entire adoption process was virtual, and we did not get to meet her 'in-person' until we actually picked her up to take her home.

"She is such a blessing to our family and has grown into the sweetest dog," said Lewis, who is also the Streetwise contributor for the Weekly.

According to data from three of the area's top nonprofit facilitators of pet adoptions, interest has skyrocketed over the past year and while in many cases overall adoption numbers are up, supply throughout the state has often been unable to meet the growing demand.

In Pleasanton's Valley Humane Society for example, since the pandemic began in force back in March 2020, the group has helped 915 animals find their forever homes — 549 cats and 366 dogs. That is against its 2019 figures, where it facilitated 708 adoptions (356 cats and 352 dogs).

The Contra Costa Humane Society in Pleasant Hill also saw a growth in physical adoptions, facilitating 403 from March 2020 to March 2021, compared to 348 in all of 2019.

The neighboring East Bay SPCA meanwhile saw a noticeable decline in its adoption figures over the past year despite having an increased volume in inquiries, facilitating 1,462 adoptions — 970 cats and 492 dogs

— from March 16, 2020 through March 10, 2021, against 3,041 total adoptions in 2019.

While demand has been up for pets across the board at Tri-Valley adoption centers, a trend seen statewide according to Sadek, the demand has created a significant shortage in dogs suitable for adoption.

The shortage has become so severe, according to Sadek, that in many places a sort of black market has emerged where people buy dogs born in puppy farms outside of the state or country.

"(The supply shortage) is where this sort of black market comes from; anytime you have a shortage of resources and an increase in demand, you have an opportunity to capitalize," Sadek said. "Even in Hayward we just had a single gentleman who's sort of a broker, he's getting puppies from a source in Mexico, selling them on Craigslist and when people are getting the dogs they are terribly sick."

Dogs born in such puppy farms have been mistreated in many cases and will typically lack documentation that they have visited the veterinarian and received proper care. Sadek said that any reputable breeder will come with proof that their puppies have visited the veterinarian and families seeking to buy need to be thorough in their research prior to buying.

"Normally a purebred puppy by a reputable breeder can go for \$2,000 and now those are going for \$5,000, so you can get these purebred dogs and pay a pretty penny for them," Sadek added.

Families interested in fostering pets have increased dramatically over the past year, as families provide the animals with temporary housing until a permanent owner can be found — providing the family with some companionship in return.

"Our foster network blew up, we had so many people reaching out to foster. We've had way more fosters than we have animals; there was never a shortage of fosters and we've had so many people as far as Sonoma and Napa were applying with us," said Suzanne Cowherd, program manager at Contra Costa Humane Society.



Cats (from left) Sassy, Cali and Persephone were all at one point up for adoption at Valley Humane Society. Bottom right: Poppy and Polly, the latter of whom was adopted during the pandemic. (Photo by Nancy Lewis)

The East Bay SPCA has fostered nearly 1,400 cats and dogs over the pandemic due to residents' increased interest, many have even led to families adopting their fosters.

"That's been a huge area for us we're so grateful to our fosters," Spaete said.

Food insecurity among households has also risen over the past year as families grapple with financial hardships resulting from the pandemic, which has led to some struggling to feed their pets.

In the Valley Humane Society alone, the need for a pet food pantry has increased by 400% over the past year alone, according to Sadek, who said the need for their pantry services has never been higher.

"Financial contributions are what's most needed most right now, we are seeing a huge increase in pet food needed for families dealing with food insecurity," she said. "In all my years we've never had to buy food to support the community's needs. This was the first time we had to buy to meet the community's needs." ■



Valley Humane Society staff say cats have been readily available these days, but with some exceptions, puppies will often be adopted within only two to three days. (Left photo courtesy of Valley Humane Society)

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[valleyhumane.org](http://valleyhumane.org)

BY FRANK LYNN

### Speak out, speak up, and stop the Asian hate

I initially struggled with whether Trump's rhetoric helped fuel the anti-Asian violence by constantly referring to the coronavirus as "China virus" and "kung-flu." Should the Chinese government have closed down the illegal Wuhan wet markets long ago?



Absolutely. Should the Chinese government have immediately restricted outside travel while they were locking up their own COVID hotspots? Yes.

But unfortunately, people in the U.S. have a history of not being able to separate the actions of foreign governments from people whose ancestors are from those countries and currently living in the United States.

Case in point — U.S. citizens of Japanese ancestry who were rounded up and made to live in camps during World War II after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. And that was done by one of the most liberal presidents in history.

More recently, Muslim Americans became the target of attacks after 9/11. And this was even with President Bush giving a speech on Sept. 18, 2001 stating that the "face of terror was not the true face of Islam" — and reiterating that message in subsequent speeches and TV appearances.

Most Asian immigrants and their descendants, by virtue of them being here in the U.S., have voted with their feet for this country. They have no control nor stake in the policy decisions of their mother country any more than I have control over the foreign policy of Ireland. Most are glad to be here because of the opportunity and freedom this country provides.

Whether intended or not, Trump's comments were incendiary against Asians in the U.S. because he never clearly stated nor reiterated the message that Asian people, and specifically Chinese immigrants, living here were good people and not to blame for COVID. And in fact, given the foreign-born Asian culture of wearing masks, they were the ones doing the most to stop COVID transmission in the U.S. from the outset.

Simply calling this out would have been a statesmanlike call of solidarity we expect from good leaders.

Given the U.S. history of racist rhetoric and policies, Trump should have thought about the actions his words might inspire — it was already evident that his rhetoric was emboldening racist white nationalist groups.

And unfortunately, what he said spurred racism that has gone far beyond empowering white racists — it's inspired equal opportunity racism. A majority of the anti-Asian attacks in the

Bay Area have been perpetrated by non-whites, including one at an Oakland gas station by a Middle Eastern man with a thick accent yelling racial insults at (and then pepper spraying) an Asian American with no accent and telling him to "go back to his country."

It's so ironic it's laughable. But it really just shows you how incredibly stupid, ignorant and downright crazy racism is.

What's worse is that those responding to Asian murders, from Atlanta police spokesman Jay Baker to San Francisco District Attorney Chesa Boudin, are discounting racist intent and writing it off as being driven by mental illness. But therein lies the problem: racism in and of itself is a mental illness, and we need to roll out a cure for it just as urgently as we need to roll out the COVID-19 vaccine.

I pray that we get past this racism and these economically hard times. And I'm glad that I haven't heard about any recent anti-Asian crime in Pleasanton. We all just need to speak out, speak up and do the right thing. And stop the Asian hate. ■

*Editor's note: Frank Lynn is an IT marketer, Cub Scout leader and youth basketball coach. He said he was inspired to submit this Guest Opinion as a decade resident of Pleasanton whose wife of 20 years is a Japanese immigrant.*

## LETTERS

### Appreciating Alameda County leadership

Dear Editor,

Innovation Tri-Valley Leadership Group (ITV) is led by business and community leaders committed to connecting the businesses, research labs, educational institutions and civic leaders in the Tri-Valley.

In alignment with all we have heard from the community as we develop the 2040 Tri-Valley Vision Plan, ITV has supported the Aramis renewable energy project. We have heard overwhelming support for green energy and an urgency for its adoption.

We appreciated the tough task the Alameda County Board of Supervisors faced in considering all sides of this green energy project in North Livermore. As there are few locations where renewable energy projects can be built, the county has taken a leadership role for our region.

We commend the forward thinking of Supervisor Haubert and the Alameda County Board of Supervisors in addressing the energy needs of our region.

—Steve Lanza, board chair  
Lynn Naylor, CEO  
Innovation Tri-Valley Leadership Group

### Oppose airport proposal

The Livermore Airport Commission recently approved a company to fly Boeing 737 jets in and out of the airport (which must still be approved by the Livermore City Council).

The company claims there will be a "voluntary" limit of three flights a week. Of course, there is currently a voluntary limit to flying over residential neighborhoods, which is actively disregarded with respect to neighborhoods including and around Mohr Elementary School and other neighborhoods.

There are noise limits, which are actively disregarded. There is a safety concern, exemplified by the recent accident caused by a plane trying to land at Livermore Airport and hitting a car on Isabel Avenue.

Our property values are also at stake. It is time to not only stop expansion of the airport to large aircraft, but also time to implement laws that ensure planes flying into and out of the airport follow designated flight paths and noise limits.

I'm unfamiliar with the intersection of local, state and federal law on this topic, but by taking the steps below, we can persuade the relevant representatives to (a) prohibit the use of Boeing 737 and other large aircraft at Livermore Airport, and (b) pass laws requiring the planes flying into and out of the airport to follow designated take-off/landing routes and noise limits.

1. Sign a petition: Search Google for "Livermore Airport Petition" on change.org.

2. Send an email to: Livermore City Council, State Assemblywoman Rebecca Bauer-Kahan and Congressional Rep. Eric Swalwell.

—Sunil Hariani

### 'For the People Act'

I am a retired oncology nurse in Pleasanton. I am writing because I want my senators (Dianne Feinstein and Alex Padilla) to do absolutely everything it takes to get the "For the People Act" (HR1/S1) passed in the Senate and signed into law.

This act will strengthen our democracy by putting more power into the hands of everyday people. This act will reform and strengthen our voting, elections, campaign finance and ethics laws so that what matters to everyday folks, not corporate interests and the interests of the ultra-rich, will be prioritized.

The reforms in the For the People Act are driven by everyday voters (often with bipartisan support) and have passed in red, blue and purple states and localities. Hard-working everyday Americans are being shut out of the political process through voter suppression tactics and laws and barriers to participation in the campaign and election process.

Congress must take bold action to strengthen our democracy, that is meant to be "for the people,"

with solutions that are tried and true. Nothing, including the filibuster (which is a relic of the racist Jim Crow era), should stop Congress from passing comprehensive democracy reform to strengthen our elections.

Congress must pass the For the People Act (HR1/S1) and the "John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act" now.

—Diane Martinez

### 'Coming up roses'

What a wonderful story, "Everything is Coming Up Roses in Hansen Park." From catchy header to the very end, it captured the process leading to the planting. I know those who will be on their knees planting those roses will be spurred on to greater effort when they see the article. Of course, I will have several copies available at the site.

On behalf of the Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club, many thanks to you and to the Weekly for your continued effort to get the word out about the club and its effort to beautify our communities as well as to provide helpful gardening information at our monthly Zoom meeting.

Our members like to think gardening is good for us, good for the community and good for the planet. Again, many thanks for a great article.

—Dolores Bengtson, LAVGC

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

Mailed at Periodicals Postage Rate, USPS 020407.

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

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

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## Museum on Main director reflects on year of closure

### Offerings on social media reach new support for programs

By **DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI**

Museum on Main reopened to visitors this week after a year of uncertainty, adaptation and online events.

"We are beyond excited about being able to welcome people into our space," Executive Director Jim DeMersman said.

"It's hard to believe it's been a year," he added. "We were watching very intently what was happening last March, and then word came down that we were going to go into deep lockdown, which meant we had to close."

Staff members began working out of their homes, keeping in constant touch with each other, and one employee stopped into the museum frequently to check mail and voicemail.

"We decided one of the things we'd take the opportunity to do was to work on our social media, our Facebook page, YouTube channel and website," DeMersman said. "We did almost a daily post on Facebook using historic photographs. We wanted to make sure the public knew although we were closed to them, we were going to stay engaged as much as possible."

The exhibits had been scheduled for the rest of the year, and photographer Tao Guan agreed to postpone his photo display, "The Pleasanton Ones," until the fall. The Ed Kinney Speaker Series was canceled for the rest of the year.

"Then in mid to late May we decided one person a day would be in the building, to be onsite and have access to things," DeMersman recalled.

The traveling Smithsonian exhibit, "Water/Ways," which was planned for the summer, proceeded in a virtual format after the surge in COVID-19 cases in July, he remembered.

"We did public programming with Zone 7, and the Go Green intern students who were working on a film project premiered that video," DeMersman said. "It started on our Facebook page then moved to our YouTube channel."

By late summer, staff again worked in the building, each keeping to their own office and otherwise wearing masks.

In October, museum staff produced a fun and lively Ghost Walk downtown with spirits of Pleasanton past played by

professional actors, which was presented online.

"In November when Alameda County moved to 'orange,' we opened at 25% and it seemed to work OK," DeMersman remembered, but the opening was short-lived as the number of COVID cases soon rose.

Now the county is again allowing openings as cases have gone down, and museums in the area are cautiously welcoming visitors.

In Danville the Museum of the San Ramon Valley opened March 19 featuring "Model Trains Running through the Depot" until April 11.

Blackhawk Museum reopens for weekends tomorrow at 25% capacity. Tickets must be purchased or reserved in advance for its galleries: World of Nature; Into China Gallery; Classic Car Collection; Out of Africa; and "Spirit of the Old West." Visit [www.BlackhawkMuseum.org](http://www.BlackhawkMuseum.org) or call 736-2277.

The Museum on Main has reopened with the exhibit, "The Newest Americans: New Citizens Reflect on What America Means to Them," with photos by Sam Comen and interviews by Michael Estrin.

Comen and Estrin set out to capture the experiences of 29 new Americans following the 2016 election, when the political climate was polarized by the Donald Trump administration's efforts to build a border wall, enact a Muslim ban, and enforce mass deportations. Against this backdrop, they photographed and interviewed their subjects following naturalization ceremonies in February and March of 2017, resulting in the traveling exhibit, which was created in partnership with the California Museum and Exhibit Envoy.

"We wanted to explore the definition of 'American' and who has the right to become one," Comen said. "We wanted to document the stories of new Americans, to know why they came to this country, and what the American Dream means to them."

"While their answers varied widely, to our surprise all of the participants share the belief that America is still the land of opportunity, and the hope that their futures will be brighter as naturalized citizens of this county."

**'We wanted to document the stories of new Americans, to know why they came to this country, and what the American Dream means to them.'**

**Sam Comen,**  
Exhibit photographer



The lead exhibit in the newly reopened Museum on Main features immigrant stories of "The Newest Americans," including (clockwise from top left) Elyvanie Mukangoga, Michael Jordan, Darshan Singh and Freddy Castro. SAM COMEN

"The portraits are stunning, and the stories are profound," DeMersman said. "It is very thought-provoking."

"One of our goals is to try to add a local dimension to exhibits," he added. "In this particular case, John Kottinger was an immigrant from Austria and we are telling his story. We have also reached out to others in the community we knew were immigrants, or their families were."

The exhibit, which runs through April 30, is also available online.

"One of the things we've learned through all of this is we are going to pay attention to virtual things because we've been able to reach an audience we couldn't reach before, those who are homebound or not in the Bay Area but still have connections to the community," DeMersman said. "We want to keep these people."

The Ed Kinney Speaker Series has picked up this month where it left off a year ago, albeit virtually, and its first presentation was last Wednesday, "An Afternoon or Evening with... Lady Bird Johnson." Plans are to be in-person in 2022.

"That has worked out really well — people have adapted and the vast majority who had signed up are going to participate," DeMersman said.

DeMersman, who is starting his 13th

year as executive director, said one of his goals has been to make Museum on Main relevant to everyday life.

"It is great to understand our history — because of it we have the building blocks for today," he said. "But we also need to understand that art and natural history and history and science all have to go together; one can't function well without the others."

"I never thought I would say this, but the pandemic in a way has had a bit of a silver lining for us: We have discovered we have the ability to reach these other audiences who have discovered us through YouTube and Facebook," he added. "I think it will have a long-lasting effect on us." ■

#### If you visit

- Museum on Main is limited to 10 guests inside at a time. The door is locked, and visitors knock for admittance.
- Masks are required.
- Hand sanitizer stations are placed throughout the museum.
- Social distancing will be practiced.

# Pleasanton VFW chapter turns 75

Local group formed after end of World War II

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

On March 24, 1946, several dozen World War II veterans gathered at Veterans Memorial Hall on Main Street in Pleasanton to establish the Ambrose D. Regalia Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6298.

"We still have the VFW minutes book," former post commander Doug Miller said. "It starts in 1946."

Veterans of Foreign Wars, the largest organization of American combat veterans, traces its roots to the Spanish American War in 1898. The local post was named after the first Pleasanton casualty of WWII, Ambrose D. Regalia, who died June 4, 1942, during the battle of Dutch Harbor when the Japanese Navy attacked the Aleutian Islands.

A letter dated May 1, 1946, from Mr. and Mrs. Mario C. Regalia, the parents of Pvt. Regalia, apparently accompanied a contribution of \$100 toward the purchase of flags, stating, "This offer is in appreciation and gratitude to you for your great kindness and esteem and in loving memory of our beloved son Ambrose D. Regalia."

Now Post 6298 is celebrating its 75th

anniversary and its many years of veterans' gatherings and support as well as community service.

"We do three things," Miller said. "First, we honor and assist senior veterans, from World War II and the Korean War."

Second, the VFW helps young veterans just returning from overseas deployments.

"We help them transition," Miller said.

And third, the organization provides scholarships for middle and high school students, part of a regional, state and national endeavor.

Veterans are welcome to drop in for coffee and donuts at Veterans Memorial Building, 301 Main St., from 7:30-8:45 a.m. each Saturday. But much more goes on behind the scenes.

"The VFW is the one that goes and supports veterans attending Las Positas College," Miller said. "Any given semester there are about 500 veterans enrolled. We try to provide transition support and mentoring — we've been around the block, and we've found jobs, settled down and raised our families."

Post 6298 also sponsors local Boy Scout troops and the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps based at Camp Parks in Dublin.



DOUG MILLER

The gravestone of Pvt. Ambrose D. Regalia at St. Augustine Catholic Cemetery, adjacent to Pioneer Cemetery. The local VFW post was named in his memory when established 75 years ago.

VFW members can be seen in front of stores around Memorial Day and Veterans Day offering poppies, which are made by disabled veterans.

"We raise money with the poppies. We hand them out and sometimes people will provide a donation," Miller said. "We have continued to do that in the last year."

Monthly meetings have gone on Zoom during the last year to plan social and fundraising

events. Annual memberships are \$40, and lifetime memberships are also available.

The VFW post planned a small gathering in the early evening on Thursday to celebrate its 75th anniversary, with a cake and speeches by local officials.

"We've changed in several ways," Miller noted. "It used to be and still is a social organization but we are trying to reach out more to younger folks and to help them." ■

## Neurologist to speak in Livermore web series

Learn latest about advances on neurodegenerative diseases

Neurologist Dr. Richard Reimer will discuss who is at risk for ALS, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's and the development of new treatments enabled by technological advances, at 7:30 p.m. April 8. The event, being presented by the Rae Dorough Speaker



Dr. Richard Reimer

Series in conjunction with the Livermore Lab Foundation, will be held online.

Reimer will provide an overview of common neurodegenerative diseases including Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also called Lou Gehrig's disease. Using ALS as an example, he will present the evidence for the role that aging, genetics and the environment play in disease onset and progression.

He will conclude with a discussion of efforts to develop treatments for ALS, notably the targeting of established risk factors and the use of unanticipated factors discovered through machine learning — an area of focus for Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

Reimer is an associate professor in the department of neurology and neurological sciences at Stanford University School of

Medicine and a staff neurologist for the Palo Alto Veterans Affairs Health Care System.

Tickets for the livestream presentation are \$10 each, with proceeds benefiting ALS Research through the Livermore Lab Foundation and the ALS CURE Project. To attend, call the Bankhead Theater at 373-600, email [boxoffice@lvpac.org](mailto:boxoffice@lvpac.org), or go to [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org). ■

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli

## Shelter-in-place leads to stories-on-stage

Storytelling show co-produced by Pleasanton resident celebrates one year

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Pleasanton comedian Regina Stoops, along with Claire Hennessy of Novato, will celebrate the first anniversary of Six Feet Apart Productions, an online storytelling venue, with a free show livestreamed on YouTube at 6 p.m. this Monday (March 29).

The show will have interviews with some of the year's storytellers, highlights from shows and, of course, stories. Access the free show by going to [www.sfpashows.com](http://www.sfpashows.com) and clicking on the cake.

The two comedians started the online storytelling at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, they recalled, armed only with a Zoom account, a sketchy internet connection, and the combined technical knowledge of an 8-year-old, determined to turn shelter-in-place into entertainment-in-place. Their goal was to present a mix of stories and storytellers, from the internationally known to those who have never told a story on stage before.

"I had no idea there was such a huge world of storytelling. The variety and the talent is amazing," Stoops said.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

From left: Six Feet Apart Productions co-producers Regina Stoops and Claire Hennessy.

Throughout the year the site has promoted a diverse lineup of storytellers, with shows highlighting June Pride and Black Lives Matter. Many of the shows also served as fundraisers for nonprofit groups.

"The silver lining in this pandemic has been being able to work with performers whom we would never have had the opportunity, if not for the virtual stage," Stoops said. "In an odd way, our world greatly expanded in spite of the shelter in place." ■

## Bankhead survey says...

Supporters looking forward to gathering again for live performances

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

A survey of patrons held Feb. 24 to March 7 by Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center received 347 responses via email and social media, along with thoughtfully written comments.

"The input will help us make decisions as we look to reopen," noted marketing manager Roberta Emerson.

Key findings were as follows:

**People are eager to come back, but they're cautious.**

The majority anticipate returning to live performances in the fall, although about 20% think 2022 is more likely or are not sure. For this summer, 29% said they were not comfortable returning, and more than 41% would only be comfortable in audiences at half capacity.

**The arts will be a priority.**

For 89.5%, live performing arts events are important or very important to their lives. While 68% plan to attend at the same level as before, 18% expect to attend more.

**Coming back will depend on safety.**

Only 15.5% expressed resistance to COVID safety restrictions such as masks and social distancing, and a number of written comments emphasized the importance of enforcing and respecting them.

**What they want.**

When facilities reopen, 78% want outdoor concerts; 55.5%, free cultural events; 47%, music and tribute shows; 26%, art exhibits and small performances.

**What they don't want.**

When the Bankhead Theater reopens, more than 47% percent said they will not be interested in virtual events; another 23% would only be interested "if the price is right." But most responses indicated they were "worn out on everything virtual."

Nearly 50% of the respondents regularly attend more than three events a year, and one-third were members, donors or sponsors. Many wanted to be more involved, volunteering or finding friends to attend performances or make donations.

Some 71% of respondents wrote about what they missed, and the main answer was the "energy" and "visceral excitement" of sharing live performances.

"In reviewing the data and reading the nearly 400 comments of support, praise, criticism, suggestions and recommendations, we are reminded again how fortunate we are to have such an involved and enthusiastic community helping to keep the arts front and center in all our lives," Emerson summarized.

See the full results at [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org). ■

# Calendar

POST CALENDAR ITEMS AT PLEASANTONWEEKLY.COM

## Theatre

**LAS POSITAS THEATER ARTS** This spring join the Las Positas College Theater Arts Department for a series of live and pre-recorded events meant to inspire and bring theater into your home. March 30-April 10 fans can download multiple events as part of On Demand Theater events. All productions were filmed using green screen technology at Las Positas College's Mertes Center for the Arts as a part of the Spring 2021 Season of Plays. Visit [showtix4u.com/events/LPCTheaterArts](http://showtix4u.com/events/LPCTheaterArts).

## Concerts

### VINEYARD VIBES AND MORE

Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center offers a new series of free, virtual entertainment with "Vineyard Vibes and More" featuring the talents of local musicians and comedians. A virtual ticket allows access for a 24-hour period. March 28 features Michael McNevin, an award winning singer/songwriter. More information and tickets are available at [LivermoreArts.org](http://LivermoreArts.org).

## Seniors

### AARP VIRTUAL SMART DRIVER

**COURSE** The AARP Smart Driver course is the nation's first refresher course specifically designed for drivers age 50 and older. The Smart Driver course will refresh driving skills and knowledge of the rules and hazards of the road. For more information visit [aarpdriversafety.org](http://aarpdriversafety.org).

### LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR SENIORS

Legal assistance for seniors remains open for free remote legal services. The Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) continues to provide free remote Medicare counseling. To schedule a phone counseling appointment with HICAP call 510-839-0393.

### RIDES FOR PLEASANTON SENIORS

Pleasanton Rides (formally Pleasanton Paratransit Services) is transporting to medical and grocery appointments (M/W/F). For more information visit [blacktietrans.com/pleasanton-rides](http://blacktietrans.com/pleasanton-rides) or call 398-1045.

## Talks

### LAS POSITAS COLLEGE-PRESIDENT

**SPEAKERS SERIES** The series, Education Equality: Why Race and Culture matter, continues on March 30 with Dr. Vajra M. Watson, scholar activist, faculty director, and professor of educational leadership and racial justice in the College of Education at Sacramento State University. 3-4:30 p.m., March 30. Visit [laspositascollege.edu/president/speakersseries.php](http://laspositascollege.edu/president/speakersseries.php).

### MOVING FROM SURVIVING TO

**THRIVING WEBINAR** Clinical psychologist Dr. Debra Kaysen will present a webinar for accessible and scalable strategies for improving mental health, including strategies for addressing COVID-19 related mental health concerns. She will discuss specific strategies to help

## PET OF THE WEEK



VALLEY HUMANE

### With a little help from my friends

Ringo truly is a Starr. Let this aging rocker join your band and you'll be rewarded with a devoted groupie who will happily hang out with you backstage or on the road. Ringo is a senior small breed mix weighing 23 pounds. While Valley Humane Society remains closed during shelter-in-place, they are coordinating adoptions by appointment with approved adopters. Email [info@valleyhumane.org](mailto:info@valleyhumane.org).

mitigate stress and to help build resilience. 6:15-7:30 p.m., March 30. RSVP at [alanhufoundation.org/events](http://alanhufoundation.org/events).

### NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE:

**MYSTERIOUS SEAS** Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center and Quest Science Center presents Mysterious Seas. Get a glimpse into the ocean's greatest depths and the fascinating creatures that live there with two leading marine biologists. Through stories and conversations they shine a light on this dark, cold and mysterious world. March 31, tickets are \$20. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

### RAE DOROUGH SPEAKER

**SERIES** Neurologist Dr. Richard Reimer will discuss Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and ALS, their risk factors and the development of new treatments. Tickets for the livestream presentation are \$10 with proceeds benefiting the Livermore Lab Foundation's ALS research initiatives. 7:30, April 8. Visit [raedoroughspeakerseries.org](http://raedoroughspeakerseries.org).

## Religion

**APRIL VIRTUAL RELIGION CHAT.** The discussion topic will be "How Does Your Community Provide For Those Who Come In Need of Forgiveness?" The speakers are Rev. Elli Kilpatrick who will give the Unitarian Universalist perspective and Bishop Roger Persson who will discuss the position of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Email [interfaith.interconnect@gmail.com](mailto:interfaith.interconnect@gmail.com) to request the Zoom link ahead of the April 14 (5 p.m.) event.

## Fundraisers

**HIKE FOR HOPE** Hope Hospice provides compassionate care to individuals at the end of life and support to their loved ones. For their annual Hike for Hope Fundraiser this year, hike as an individual or team at a favorite local trail or neighborhood. The event is May 29-June 5 and registration is now open. Visit [p2p.onecause.com/hikeforhope](http://p2p.onecause.com/hikeforhope).

## Art

### SHAPING TOMORROW'S VISIONARIES

This five week series of classes at the Bothwell Arts Center in Livermore will inspire students to examine issues,

develop principles and appreciate diversity, community, humanity and environment. Taught by Livermore Arts Visual Arts Manager, Anne Giancola, class sizes are limited to 15 students, \$75.00 per student. 4-5:30 p.m., starting April 15. Visit [livermorearts.org/arts-education/learn](http://livermorearts.org/arts-education/learn).

### TRI VALLEY YOUTH ART SHOW

The Pleasanton Art League (PAL) presents: "PAL's Pals 2021", an art competition open to all Middle School and High School students. Artwork must be created by the student and completed between January 2020 and present. This show will be judged with cash prizes and ribbons. Submissions accepted from April 19-21. Visit [pal-art.com/exhibits-events/call-artists](http://pal-art.com/exhibits-events/call-artists) or email [jen.huber.art@gmail.com](mailto:jen.huber.art@gmail.com).

## Bingo

**DRIVE-IN BINGO** Play Drive-In Bingo from the comfort of a car, truck or SUV in the Pleasanton OTB Parking Lot. Get the live game call over your FM radio and watch the ball camera live on Zoom with a smartphone or tablet. It's like a drive-in movie with big cash prizes. 12-1 p.m., March 27. Visit [alamedacountyfair.com](http://alamedacountyfair.com).

## Gardening

### THE INCREDIBLE EDIBLE PLANT

**SALE** The Alameda County Master Gardener Program fundraiser, "The Incredible Edible Plant Sale," is ordering online this year due to Covid. Order now for curbside pick up at Alviso Adobe Park in Pleasanton, April 9-10. Visit [incredibleedibleplantsale.com](http://incredibleedibleplantsale.com).

## Business

### PLEASANTON CHAMBER HOSTS

**FIRST VIRTUAL TRADESHOW OF 2021** A Virtual Trade Show: Celebrating Our Chamber Ambassadors, is an opportunity for these members to showcase their business in a visually appealing, user-friendly online setting. The Virtual Trade Show will run through April 2, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Visit [pleasanton.org](http://pleasanton.org).

# Public Notices

## 995 Fictitious Name Statement

Bridgewater Real-Estate  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 576871  
The following person doing business as: Bridgewater Real-Estate, 3015 Hopyard Road, Unit M, Pleasanton, CA 94588, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Masum Towhid, 4881 Willow Road, Apt. 206, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by Masum Towhid, an Individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name listed herein February 9, 2021. Signature of Registrant: Masum Towhid, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 2, 2021. (Pleasanton Weekly, March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 2021.)

The Pleasanton Weekly is adjudicated to publish in Alameda County.

Public Hearing Notices  
Resolutions • Bid Notices  
Notices of Petition to Administer Estate  
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**Deadline is Monday at noon.**

Call Gina Channell at 925-600-0840 for assistance with your legal advertising needs.

# Marketplace

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

If you wish to learn more about these advertising options, please call 650.223.6582 or email [digitalads@pawekly.com](mailto:digitalads@pawekly.com).

# Employment

### IT Professionals

Ent. Lvl to Sen. Lvl. Sftwr Engnrns are needed for our San Ramon, CA office. May req. traveling. Send resume, Cvr Ltr., & Sal. Req. to Stratedge, Inc., 2410 Camino Ramon, Ste 140, San Ramon, CA 94583.

### Senior Business Systems Analyst

Safeway Inc. is hiring Senior Business Systems Analyst in Pleasanton, CA. Approx. six one-week dom. bus. trips yearly. Subj. to pre-employment bckgrnd check. Mail resume to Safeway Inc., 5918 Stoneridge Mall Rd., Pleasanton, CA 94588, Attn: M. Ferreira & Ref. code: 20210222FA

### Bioinformatics Scientist

Bioinformatics Scientist for Roche Sequencing Solutions, Inc., Pleasanton, CA. Req: PhD in Comp Sci, Bioinformatics, Biostats, Computational Bio, Plant Bio, Animal Sci, Genomics, or rlted field (or Master's +3 yrs exp). Telecommuting permitted up to 1 day a week. Apply: [applyroche.com/202103-105827](http://applyroche.com/202103-105827) (Job ID: 202103-105827)



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## HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during Dec. 22-31 for Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin and Sunol, and Feb. 16-19 for San Ramon.

### Pleasanton

**4625 2nd Street** Spina Living Trust to Koopmans Family Trust for \$3,299,000  
**6300 Alisal Street** Narre Trust to 6300 Alisal Realty LLC for \$2,400,000  
**4167 Amberwood Circle** G. Raver to M. Parker for \$685,000  
**4122 Angela Place** Mccrary Living Trust to S. & J. Anderson for \$1,600,000  
**3831 Antonini Way** Peter Trust to L. & A. Sethuraman for \$2,700,000  
**8039 Canyon Creek Circle** B. Baylis to R. & A. Pathak for \$1,261,000  
**7580 Canyon Meadow Circle #E** R. Datashvili to S. Hoeven for \$480,000  
**318 Del Sol Avenue** S. & S. Lopez to F. & D. Hoffman for \$1,275,000  
**4023 Francisco Street** L. Hill to E. & E. Tran-Lomori for \$1,040,000  
**4232 Garibaldi Place** M. & A. Dunkley to Rosalyn Trust for \$230,500  
**6486 Hansen Drive** Y. Jin to J. & J. Sousa for \$1,360,000  
**7931 Hillsboro Court** Tiwari Family Trust to M. & S. Sahoo for \$1,451,000  
**1070 West Lagoon Road** Doral 992 Family Trust to Hangal Family Trust for \$808,000  
**4798 Mohr Avenue** Hahn Living Trust to A. & J. Jana for \$1,205,000  
**8055 Mountain View Drive #A** H. Yang to T. & R. Shekaran for \$647,000  
**4420 Muirwood Drive** M. & A. Dunkley to Dunkley Trust for \$106,500  
**4499 Muirwood Drive** Fong Trust to W. Choi-Wan for \$395,000

**2704 Oregon Court** Hoover Living Trust to A. & M. Wu for \$1,060,000  
**1362 Orloff Drive** Hitesman Living Trust to N. & V. Rojanakiathavorn for \$1,400,000  
**691 Palomino Drive #B** Y. Zheng to M. Fernandez for \$625,000  
**650 Palomino Drive** K. & S. Smith to R. & R. Caetano for \$976,000  
**5523 Paseo Navarro** Terri Living Trust to W. & L. Idzkowski for \$1,100,000  
**3194 Pawnee Way** L. Carlsen to L. & J. Srinivasa for \$651,000  
**678 Peters Avenue #4** Amaral Trust to C. Henley for \$567,500  
**252 Rachael Place #35** Balch Trust to S. & A. Thamimansari for \$785,000  
**236 Ray Street** Maze Properties LLC to Silver Trust for \$1,156,000  
**1036 Rhine Way** Veazey Family Trust to P. & N. Verma for \$1,855,500  
**5079 Rigatti Circle** M. & A. Dunkley to Simon Trust for \$74,000  
**991 Rose Avenue** Martz Family Trust to R. & V. Chandran for \$980,000  
**6238 Ruxton Court** P. & G. Giglio to J. & H. Tong for \$1,015,000  
**2267 Segundo Court #4** Topline Property Solutions LLC to V. Ganesan for \$455,000  
**3049 Staples Ranch Drive** S. & R. Martell to Rocket Black Cat LLC for \$1,310,000  
**2679 Starling Court** Wiley Family Trust to Rao Trust for \$1,771,000  
**2632 Turnstone Drive** Schmidt Trust to L. & N. Desai for \$1,351,000

### Livermore

**1551 Arlington Road** J. & D. Alley to J. Burton for \$757,000

**1250 Blossom Circle** K. & J. Robinson to N. & A. Shakoor for \$1,325,000  
**1775 Bradford Way** K. & R. Driver to A. & R. Breen for \$1,800,000  
**2922 Bresso Drive** S. Sanjel to K. & B. Orr for \$1,320,000  
**1322 Chelsea Way** Martin Trust to Thompson Family Trust for \$1,249,000  
**807 Del Norte Drive** 1031 Ep1 Inc to Emmett Living Trust for \$816,500  
**6438 El Capitan Way** A. & K. Prasad to F. & N. Satyanarayana for \$1,210,000  
**5845 Flora Common** Lle Living Trust to P. & D. Pasupulati for \$935,000  
**4330 Golf Drive** Trefethen Trust to J. Seifert for \$682,000  
**735 South H Street** R. & R. Olivier to L. Maciel for \$925,000  
**3835 Harvard Way** Corral Mh LLC to S. Ojha for \$940,000  
**1591 Heather Lane** K. & J. Raja to S. & P. Vemula for \$1,100,000  
**5837 Idlewild Avenue** K. Szymkiewicz to C. Santiago for \$830,000  
**498 Kent Court** M. & E. Wall to L. & D. Steele for \$800,000  
**441 Kinglet Road** Albert Family Trust to M. & S. Ohayon for \$905,000  
**2906 Lagiss Drive** I. & L. Hedman to D. & J. Hart for \$1,860,000  
**1144 Larkspur Drive** L. Hart to E. & S. Castro for \$1,010,000  
**5313 Lilac Avenue** F. & P. Dorrough to Ginn Trust for \$410,000  
**988 Loyola Way** M. & M. Yu to M. & D. Marks for \$1,030,000  
**3648 Montrose Place** 364B Montrose Place LLC to Barbara Trust for \$697,500  
**627 Murdell Lane** Mezeul Living Trust to R. & M. Thunga for \$990,000  
**1170 Olivina Avenue** Tecson Living Trust to Imperial Ivy Ent Inc for \$500,000  
**436 Persimmon Common #12** H. Yang to J. & T. Desilvia for \$720,000  
**3350 Pestana Way** G. & G. Cruz to K. & T. Hoang for \$690,000  
**4857 Primrose Lane** Burgon Family Trust to L. & G. Nyayapathi for \$775,000  
**342 Rincon Avenue** M. Singh to M. Arroyo for \$725,000  
**1212 Rolling Hills Court** Leong Trust to M. Stoopin for \$810,000  
**1152 Sunset Drive** Soto Trust to P. & J. Johnson for \$835,000  
**689 Trinity Hills Lane** T. & R. Carreira to S. & V. Bahl for \$1,450,000  
**1064 Ventura Avenue** Ih4 Property West Lp to T. Kirkpatrick for \$650,000  
**1171 Vintner Place** S. & R. Dias to K. & H. Borase for \$1,220,000  
**1580 Wagoner Drive** Guarda Living Trust to B. Rendon for \$825,000  
**945 Waverly Common** J. & S. Bills to J. & L. Reid for \$880,000  
**5323 Wisteria Way** C. Garrett-Grant to M. Murillo for \$700,000

### Dublin

**9472 Albert Drive** K. & A. Shorten to Rana Family Trust for \$1,510,000  
**6128 Bay Hill Court** Y. Pu to Mohan Family Trust for \$2,459,000  
**5709 Brio Road** Brookfield Wilshire LLC to S. & A. Mitra for \$982,000  
**3567 Central Parkway** J. Jecmen to M. & A. Kumar for \$960,000  
**4439 Cherico Lane** S. Joshi to C. & S. Gopalan for \$1,250,000  
**5501 De Marcus Boulevard #668** Handoko Family Trust to T. & M. Mehta for \$560,000  
**5501 De Marcus Boulevard #623** Swamy Trust to M. Walia for \$678,000  
**3018 Delamar Drive** Ismail Trust to P. & R. Banerjee for \$2,355,000  
**7409 Diamond Mountain Road** C. & J. So to A. & B. Sediqi for \$1,900,000  
**9636 Dominic Way** S. Rizvi to S. & A. Singh for \$1,710,000  
**6633 Donlon Way** Chan Living Trust to L. & W. Opp for \$1,325,000  
**3275 Dublin Boulevard #327** A. Keckley to C. Chinn for \$356,000  
**4176 Forest Springs Road** B. Palfai to N. & D. Rupani for \$1,010,000  
**7760 Gardella Drive** Muntean Trust to A. & S. Rali for \$1,021,000  
**5750 Iron Horse Parkway #401** Brookfield Hyde Park LLC to G. & J. Khela for \$1,020,000  
**7319 Kolb Place** L. & W. Knight to P. & D. Patel for \$1,100,000  
**7376 Limerick Avenue** Ilharreguy Living Trust to G. & C. Webb for \$890,000  
**5528 Lucent Road** Calatlantic Group Inc to V. & H. Mudrakartha for \$985,000  
**3240 Maguire Way #327** V. & S. Lyall to M. & N. Srivastava for \$665,000  
**7101 Mei Fong Court** Duplessis Trust to S. & S. Joshi for \$1,625,000  
**4178 Midlands Court #30** S. Reddy to S. & S. Jain for \$947,000  
**7505 Mindy Mae Lane** P. Lai to S. & S. Ramani for \$1,584,000  
**4227 Oak Knoll Drive** G. Shem to S. & A. Arjuman for \$1,575,000  
**7818 Oxbow Lane** K. & S. Hamilton to N. Dao for \$560,000  
**7442 Oxford Circle** Cahal Trust to N. & P. Madanchian for \$720,000  
**5910 Penwood Lane** Thompson Living Trust to S. & V. Padsalgi for \$1,705,000  
**3937 Scottfield Street** Y. He to G. & V. Singh for \$1,180,000  
**2815 Southwind Lane** E. & L. Legaspi to J. & M. Laurel for \$1,725,000  
**4721 South Spago Drive** F. Khan to S. & K. Mahajan for \$1,345,000  
**5672 Sterling Street** Brookfield Wilshire LLC to D. King for \$910,000  
 Editor's note: The full list of Home Sales reported in Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin, Sunol and San Ramon during this period can be found with the online version of this story at [PleasantonWeekly.com](http://PleasantonWeekly.com).

Source: California REsource

## Location, Location, Location!

### 1547 Calle Enrique, Pleasanton



Turnkey and ready to move in! This 3 bedroom, 2 bath townhome is located in the sought after Park Villa complex.

- Updated baths and kitchen
- Freshly painted kitchen cabinets and interior throughout.
- Slider to the private courtyard is perfect for enjoying a bbq with friends or reading a book by yourself in the sun.
- Community pool
- Walk to downtown, neighborhood trails, shopping and all school levels.

**READY TO MOVE IN!  
OFFERED AT \$759,000**



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## SALES AT A GLANCE

**Pleasanton (Dec. 22-31)**

**Total sales reported:** 34  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$74,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$3,299,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$1,050,000

**Livermore (Dec. 22-31)**

**Total sales reported:** 34  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$410,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$1,860,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$857,500

**Dublin (Dec. 22-31)**

**Total sales reported:** 34  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$356,000

**Highest sale reported:** \$2,459,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$1,060,500

**Sunol (Dec. 22-31)**

**Total sales reported:** 2  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$800,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$850,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$825,000

**San Ramon (Feb. 16-19)**

**Total sales reported:** 18  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$440,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$1,880,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$1,287,500

Source: California REsource



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TRI-VALLEY LUXURY REALTY



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**With a Top-Producing Pleasanton Team**

**Top 1%**  
**Nationwide**  
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**Million**  
In closed sales volume  
2020

**700+**  
Families assisted  
by our Team



Pleasanton Homes are in high demand. Our listings are selling **over asking** with **multiple offers**.

Find out how recent sales in your neighborhood could **increase the value of your home**.

Let's discuss how you can capitalize on today's market.



**JUST LISTED**

911 KOTTINGER DRIVE, PLEASANTON  
4 BED | 3 BATH | 2,262 SQFT  
\$1,449,000



**JUST LISTED**

683 WINDMILL LANE, PLEASANTON  
4 BED | 3 BATH | 3,070 SQFT  
\$1,950,000



**COMING SOON**

4443 2ND STREET, PLEASANTON  
4 BED | 3 BATH | 1,457 SQFT  
INQUIRE FOR PRICE



**PENDING**

1135 MATARO COURT, PLEASANTON  
4 BED | 3 BATH | 2,689 SQFT  
OFFERED AT \$1,785,000

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**GATED ENCLAVE EAST OF 680**

**COMING SOON**



**3457 Little Valley Road, Sunol**  
Private country paradise just minutes to the city, this stunning gated compound features a modern Victorian Farmhouse with far away 360-degree views, resort styled yard, amazing subterranean wine cave, equestrian facilities and separate guest house with its own address. 3.23-acre, 6757 SF.  
Offered at \$4,850,000

**FORMAL FRENCH PRIVATE ESTATE IN RUBY HILL**

**COMING SOON**



**1587 Germano Way, Pleasanton**  
Views and privacy are yours while overlooking the 16th green at the Ruby Hill Golf Club at this sophisticated east facing custom home. 6700 SF on .73-acre resort styled yard.  
Offered at \$3,898,000

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**1616 COURTNEY AVENUE, PLEASANTON**



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Located in The Mohr Estates neighborhood consisting of elegant custom homes, this single level custom estate property is just what you've been searching for. Its many features allow you to enjoy a little bit of paradise every day whether you work from home or begin to venture back to your workplace.

**Interior Features Include:**

- 3 Fireplaces
- Family Room with Cathedral Wood Beam Ceiling
- Plantation Shutters and Solid Oak Flooring
- Updated Bathrooms

**Updated Kitchen Includes:**

- Stainless Appliances
- Island with Second Sink and Gas Cooktop
- Convection Oven Plus Microwave/Convection Combo
- Bar With Wine Refrigerator

**Exterior Features Include:**

- Oversized 3 Car Garage
- Additional Space For Off Street Parking Of Multiple Vehicles
- Backyard Entertainment Area With Barbecue
- Pavilion With TV, Gas Heater, Margarita Bar, Refrigerator
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**4181 Creekwood Court, Pleasanton**  
4bd/2.5ba | 2,768 sq.ft | 22,215 sq.ft lot  
OFFERED AT \$2,100,000

PENDING WITH 11 OFFERS IN 6 DAYS



**3711 Newton Way, Pleasanton**  
5bd/4ba | 3,400sq.ft | 14,868 sq.ft lot  
SOLD FOR \$2,850,000

SOLD FOR \$355K OVER ASKING WITH 5 OFFERS



**2793 Calle Alegre, Pleasanton**  
4bd/2.5ba | 2,651 sq.ft | 11,325 sq.ft lot  
SOLD FOR \$2,010,000

SOLD FOR \$215K OVER ASKING WITH 5 OFFERS

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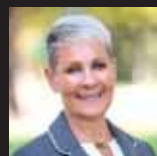
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