

Dublin in mourning

DUSD Trustee Catherine Kuo killed in car crash while volunteering at Fallon Middle School • Page 5



- 5 | **NEWS** Alameda County advances into orange tier
- 7 | **NEWS** LPFD Chief Peters announces retirement
- 16 | **TRI-VALLEY LIFE** The fun of cartooning

ESKATON[®]
Transforming the Aging Experience



Trusted for 50 Years

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

Connect with our Residential Living Advisors today!

925-398-3933 | eskaton.org



Discover The Eskaton Difference

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

WHAT A WEEK



By JEREMY WALSH

Reporting on the unfathomable

Like many others throughout the Tri-Valley, I continue to try to process the horrific news that absolutely floored us all one week ago: There was a fatal traffic collision at Fallon Middle School, and the victim was Dublin Unified School District Trustee Catherine Kuo.

I had to read the press release a second time. Then a triple take. What happened? How does that even happen? Oh no, and the initial details were just horribly sad — pinned between two vehicles, after an apparent inadvertent acceleration, while at a volunteer event; an elected leader and married mother of two gone just like that.

Then, as trained, I flipped my professional switch into breaking news mode. I had to take the lead on reporting that night since the police statement came out after-hours March 24.

Unfortunately, I'm very familiar with coverage of untimely deaths, public deaths or noteworthy deaths.

Each is terrible to have to cover, but I take pride in that the community looks to us to report these stories. It's an important journalistic responsibility — and I'm adept at it. Something about the critical-thinking, interviews and research necessary to accurately and respectfully describe what occurred and who was affected just speaks to me.

But Catherine Kuo's death was different to cover that night. It remains so.

Hers was a rare convergence of all three types of newsworthy deaths I described. We so seldom see that here at the Weekly, but that makes the initial story — all stories — all the more important and impactful for local readers.

Personally for the reporter, too.

We were professional acquaintances. I wouldn't say I knew Kuo personally much if at all, but we'd conversed several times about DUSD issues during her 16 months on the board. I had her number in my phone. And I'm not the only one on our small staff.

As I told my team, as well as several sources close to Kuo, after the news arrived: "Catherine was very accommodating and thoughtful when interacting with our reporters and myself. I always appreciated her openness and honesty. Just devastating."

Reporting on someone's death leaves an imprint on me, regardless of whether I'd ever met them. The impact is that much more when I've interacted with them.

And it's important to acknowledge — sure, from a personal perspective to process potential emotions, but more importantly for reporters, in a professional sense because it helps us better understand who to talk to and what questions to ask to paint the best picture in prose we can. We shouldn't strive to be unbiased robot journalists; our minds and our hearts play an important role too.

Beyond that, this story will always stick out because of how truly unfathomable it is.

I mean, dozens (maybe hundreds) have worked or volunteered to distribute food at school sites in Dublin during this pandemic. To have somebody killed in a car crash while volunteering at a campus is hard enough to imagine, but for that victim to be a well-respected member of the school board is almost incomprehensible.

The loss is far-reaching, and the circumstances beg so many questions still unanswered.

Dublin Police Services investigators are rightfully taking ample time, doing their due diligence, to determine the probable cause or leading factors in the crash. I urge readers to limit speculation in public forums. I know it's human nature — curiosity, imagination are among the reasons I'm drawn to journalism — but throwing out idea after idea offers little help at this stage.

I've been inquiring whether police have ruled out or ruled in any potential cause, but so far only intentional act and auto-pilot malfunction are off the table.

We'll be there to ask these questions to make sure the community finds out all it can about what happened at Fallon around 11:45 a.m. March 24, why it happened and what lessons can be learned for our own lives to prevent such "tragic accidents."

Also, when the time is appropriate, we'll be ready to track the public process for selecting Kuo's successor on the board and the implications of that process on local school politics during what is another critical juncture for DUSD.

You can never really replace someone like Kuo, someone truly beloved in her community — judging by the outpouring of public grief and loving remembrances from local leaders and everyday residents alike. Seeing what her husband, sister and supporters all said during Sunday night's candlelight vigil was heartbreaking and beautiful at the same time.

Catherine Kuo, a life well-lived. ■

About the Cover

Hundreds attended a vigil Sunday evening in memory of Dublin Unified School District Trustee Catherine Kuo. Vigil photo by Ryan J. Degan; Kuo headshot courtesy of DUSD. Cover design by Doug Young. Vol. XXII, Number 10



3 WINDING OAKS DRIVE, PLEASANTON



4 Bedrooms - 4.5 Bathrooms - 5,197 Square Feet - 1.97 Acre Lot

Magnificent hilltop estate home with views, built in 2018 with extraordinary craftsmanship and superior quality finishes.

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



Gina Piper

925.200.0202 • DRE #01201349
gina@elationre.com

ElationRE.com



Elation REAL ESTATE

HIRED HANDS INC.
Homecare
Family owned and operated since 1994



Where the Client-Caregiver Relationship is Everything.



925-621-7650

HIREDHANDSHOMECARE.COM

VERY REAL LOCAL NEWS

Print or online subscription starts at only \$5 /month

Visit: PleasantonWeekly.com/join

Pleasanton Weekly

#PressOn

SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM



MOHSENI
REAL ESTATE GROUP
EXCELLENCE AND INTEGRITY SINCE 1999

\$82M+
volume in 2019 & 2020

\$92
transactions since 2019

78+
years of local experience

Don't Sell Yourself (Or Your Home) Short!
Work With A Team That **Will** Maximize Your Home's Potential.

It's no question that the local real estate market is favoring sellers & houses are in high demand. That doesn't mean that your home **doesn't** deserve the best. Our sellers are benefiting from shorter times on the market, more exposure, more offers, less time in escrow, and a higher sales price as a result of our next-level marketing strategy.

Who you hire does matter, the difference in proceeds could be \$50-100K.
What would you do with that extra cash in your pocket?
Call Us Today at 925-400-7533!



3209 Ashbourne Circle, San Ramon
Coming Soon! 5BD, 4.5BA, 4,000SF |
Call 925-400-7533 For Details



3053 Ferndale Court, Pleasanton
Pending! 120 Showings In 4 Days,
Multiple Offers Received, Way Over List.



2849 Jennifer Drive, Castro Valley
Pending! Over 70 Showings In 4 Days,
Multiple Offers Received, Way Over List.



3819 Camino Loop, Dublin
Pending! Multiple Offers Received, Way
Over List Price.



207 Lyndhurst Place, San Ramon
Just Sold! 60 Showings In 6 Days | 15 Offers
Received | Closed In 26 Days | Listed at
\$2,385,000 | Sold For \$2,715,000 |



1087 Hawkshead Circle, San Ramon
Just Sold! 67 Showings In 5 Days | 13 Offers
Received, Closed in 27 Days! | Highest Resale
Price **EVER** In San Ramon! | Sold For \$3,210,000 |



3665 Norfolk Rd, Fremont
Sold! 132 Showings In 7 Days | Closed In 16 Days |
Listed At \$1,000,000 | Sold For \$1,188,888 |



What Is Your Home Worth?
Call Us Today At 925-400-7533 Or Visit
BayAreaHomeFinder.com/HomeValue

Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

What are your plans for Easter and/or Passover?



Lisa Halperin
Retired

I am looking forward to our Seder on Saturday night, which will be the first time our family will be getting together in-person in over a year. I am hoping that my 2-1/2-year-old grandson will be able to ask "The 4 Questions." The first one, "Why is this night different from all other nights?", will really take on a new meaning this year. Wishing freedom for all people in this coming year.



Pamela Mancia
Teacher

For Easter, I'll be conducting a real, actual (as opposed to virtual), outdoor Easter egg hunt with my group of 4-year-olds. I'll be discussing with them the farm where the eggs were raised, and that the eggs came from chickens.



John Zenner
Engineer

I'm hoping that my lovely significant other will whip up a batch of fresh scrambled eggs for me from our local farmers' market and that we will sit down and share a wonderful Easter breakfast together.



Mike Harral
Clinical systems engineer

I'm getting together with my wife's sister's family, outdoors of course. We are planning to barbecue steaks and lobster. I know it is going to be a wonderful day and I'm really looking forward to it.



Robin Harral
Child care

We are going to church in the morning for Mass and are looking forward to some beautiful music and fellowship there with dear friends and family.

— Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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

DIGEST

City commissions

The city of Pleasanton is recruiting residents interested in volunteering to serve on a handful of city commissions and committees with available seats.

Applicants should have a desire to “contribute to and influence decisions affecting the city, providing advice and feedback on important community issues.”

Groups with available seats include the Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails Committee (one seat), Civic Arts Commission (three), Committee on Energy and the Environment (one high school youth), Housing Commission (one), Human Services Commission (one), Library Commission (three regular, one high school), Parks and Recreation Commission (two), Youth Commission (one high school), and Economic Vitality Committee (citizen-at-large, financial services firm rep).

The deadline to apply is next Wednesday (April 7). Contact the City Clerk’s Office at 925-931-5027 or visit www.cityofpleasantonca.gov for details.

Skate park design

The Pleasanton City Council last month signed off on either building a new skate park or expanding the current facility at Ken Mercer Sports Park.

The city will pay \$115,154 to RRM Design Group for conceptual design and public outreach for the park on Hopyard Road.

Pleasanton recognized it needed a new facility seven years ago in its 2014 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, identifying it “as one of the city of Pleasanton’s more significant deficiencies,” according to a staff report.

The council allocated \$400,000 in its 2019-21 capital improvement program (CIP) for the expansion, a process expected to take three years. The council on March 16 gave the go-ahead for the design process on its consent calendar without discussion.

—Bay City News Service

ACSO accreditation

A team of assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies Inc. (CALEA) are scheduled to conduct a virtual assessment of Alameda County Sheriff’s Office policies and procedures, management, operations and support services starting on Monday.

The process aims to identify how agencies comply with CALEA standards of best practices in law enforcement. Each accreditation status lasts four years.

Due to the pandemic, assessors will be analyzing ACSO remotely. A public call-in session is set for Tuesday from 1-3 p.m. via 415-915-3950, after which the public hearing will occur. Visit calea.alamedacountysheriff.org. ■

Dublin mourns the sudden loss of local ‘superhero’ Catherine Kuo

DUSD trustee dies after being hit by SUV while distributing food at Fallon Middle School

By JEREMY WALSH AND RYAN J. DEGAN

The Dublin community remains reeling after the shocking death of school board Trustee Catherine Kuo, who was killed after she was struck and pinned between two vehicles while volunteering at Fallon Middle School last week.

Kuo, who was in her second year representing Dublin



Catherine Kuo

Unified School District’s Trustee Area 3, was a married mother of two children who had volunteered for years with Dublin schools, in addition to her career as a business analyst. She was 48.

“We are moved by the outpouring of support and love from this community. As my beloved wife, she was a better half and continues to be so despite being gone,” Kuo’s husband William said at a candlelight vigil held in her memory Sunday evening.

“She taught me to love my kids, morally and unconditionally,” William Kuo added. “She was the

optimist, the glass half full, cheerful and accepting. She had a clear sense of what’s right and wrong. She was our moral compass.”

Several hundred people attended the public remembrance at Emerald Glen Park to honor Kuo, support her family and grieve together four days after the longtime Dublin resident died in what school and police officials have described as a “tragic accident.”

The reason that an SUV inadvertently drove forward toward Kuo’s back as she loaded a box into another car’s trunk still remains under investigation, according to Dublin

police Capt. Nate Schmidt.

“We have no reason to believe this was intentional in any way ... Just a horrible accident,” Schmidt told the Weekly last week. “The driver has cooperated fully, and they are devastated as well.”

The fatal collision occurred on March 24 in a designated loading zone toward the northwest side of the Fallon campus, according to Schmidt.

DUSD spokesman Chip Dehnert confirmed that Kuo was volunteering to hand out boxes of free

See **KUO** on Page 11



RYAN J. DEGAN

Dublin High School junior Elizabeth Tan spoke of her personal experiences with discrimination in Dublin during the “Stop Asian Hate” rally at Emerald Glen Park on Sunday afternoon.

Tri-Valley rallies to ‘Stop Asian Hate’

Protests in opposition to rising occurrences of hate crimes against AAPI residents nationwide

By RYAN J. DEGAN

Crying out in support of the “Stop Asian Hate” movement, hundreds of residents gathered in Dublin and Livermore on Sunday to protest against rising cases of hate crimes being committed against the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community throughout the country.

Protesters in Dublin gathered at the Emerald Glen Park

amphitheater late in the afternoon showing unity for the AAPI community and joining together in speaking out against hate both locally and nationally.

“Thank you all for coming out here to support the Asian community ... As an Asian American, it is truly terrifying to see the rise in hate crimes against our community during the pandemic,” Dublin High School junior

Elizabeth Tan told the group of several hundred residents. “We cannot let violence and discrimination against the Asian American community continue.”

Stop Asian Hate rallies have been held throughout the Bay Area and the U.S. in recent weeks, spurred in part by the Atlanta spa shootings on March

See **RALLIES** on Page 6

County moves into orange tier

More people allowed in restaurants, movies, gyms, wineries

By JEREMY WALSH

Alameda County has advanced into the orange tier of the state’s COVID-19 reopening blueprint, meaning more businesses and activities were allowed to reopen or expand capacity effective Wednesday.

The county qualified to move out of the red tier with decreasing COVID-19 case metrics, which stood at an adjusted daily new case rate of 2.6 per 100,000 residents, a testing positivity rate of 1.1% and a health equity quartile positivity rate of 1.9% as of Tuesday, according to the Alameda County Public Health Department.

“Our metrics have improved, but this pandemic is not yet in our rear-view mirror,” Dr. Nicholas Moss, county health officer, said in a statement. “Variants of the virus that causes COVID-19 are circulating in our county, case rates are rising in other parts of the country and, while nearly a quarter of Alameda County residents aged 16 and older have been fully vaccinated, we aren’t at the levels required for broad community protection or immunity.”

The orange tier status means operations like indoor dining, movie theaters, places of worship and museums can increase activity to 50%

See **ORANGE TIER** on Page 8

PUSD looks to state for guidance on in-person learning requirements

‘It is absolutely our intention, our goal ... to bring kids back full-time in the fall’

By JULIA BAUM

Pleasanton Unified School District is the latest public school district to ask the state for clarity on its safe social grouping requirements for in-person learning, after the Board of Trustees ratified a formal letter to Gov. Gavin Newsom about the matter last week.

Many students have returned to PUSD in recent weeks, but the Board of Trustees and Superintendent David Haglund requested via letter “a single set of defined metrics that can be relied upon to safely plan to bring all of our students in preschool through high school back to their classrooms for full-time, in-person instruction, five days per week.”

“It is absolutely our intention, our goal, as long as everything works out the way we hope that it will, to bring kids back full-time in the fall,” Haglund said at the board meeting on March 25. “That’s the plan, and that’s what people should be planning for.”

Haglund added the letter “is not reflective of our total advocacy efforts either. We’ve been really pushing on

Editor’s note: PUSD scheduled a special Board of Trustees meeting for yesterday evening to discuss allowing preschool and secondary school students to attend classes in person for four days a week (remote education students can remain as such). The results of the meeting were pending as of press time; visit PleasantonWeekly.com for coverage of the outcome.

folks from a lot of different angles for a while, so it’s good to start seeing the guidance come together.”

According to Haglund, conflicting information from experts at multiple levels has often complicated the district’s own efforts. “It used to be literally three separate sets of guidance -- the CDC, the California Department of Health and the Alameda County health department, and they were not well-synced together,” he said.

In the past few months, the county and state “have been really working hard to align their documents so that they’re not unintentionally providing conflicting guidance,” but

Haglund added, “the one large remaining issue, from my perspective, is the issue of stable grouping requirements.”

Haglund then proceeded to read from the state guidance under stable groups for secondary grades: “CDPH does not require schools to create stable groups”, and if you stop reading at that point, you go, ‘Cool, we can do a seven-period day, we’re good, we’re set to go,’ he said.

“But then you keep reading — ‘Instead, CDPH provides a number of potential approaches to stable groups for middle and high schools,’” Haglund said. “Are you saying we don’t do them or are you going to tell us how to do them? When we say clear messaging, that’s an example of what I’m talking about.”

Guidelines around stable cohorts and group sizes influence a number of decisions concerning classroom logistics and staffing. The district also said restricting cohorts or mixing of groups during the school day “severely limits” secondary schools from carrying

out a full schedule of classes.

Developing guidance that distinguishes between restrictions for cohorts or group sizes when community infection rates are high or below a specific threshold, “would be very beneficial in allowing us to bring all of our secondary students back to campus in-person for five full days of instruction,” staff said, much like how adjustments to physical distancing requirements enabled the district to do with elementary students.

Haglund said that in conjunction with the district’s negotiation partners, “we have (memorandums of understanding) that we need to bring into alignment to the guidance” as well.

“The clearer they can be to us, the clearer we can be in our processes of working with our employees and communicating with our parents,” Haglund said. “I think this letter helps push out that particular idea, which is one of the few remaining issues that I’m seeing standing in our way.”

Trustee Kelly Mokashi said, “It’s

an important message not only to send to the governor but within the community that we need the guidance, so that we can be most effective in the time given, so that we’re not wasting time.”

The sole speaker during public comment, parent Kate Duggan, called it “curious when Pleasanton has to get more clarity but we see Berkeley and Albany and other Alameda County cities moving ahead.”

“I think if we want all kids to be back in school full-time, the biggest change that we want the state to make is not to extend the learning distance waiver into next year, since that’s what killed a lot of momentum to get kids in the classroom this year,” Duggan said.

The district “should be expecting a response from the state next week, and I really hope we can still get a commitment to going back full time,” Duggan added. “We totally get that there will be changes, but I hope this letter is not riding on a response, and that’s going to be the only thing that gets the district to commit to a full-time return.” ■

RALLIES

Continued from Page 5

16 that killed eight people, six of whom were Asian women.

Tan — who is also the newly elected president of Above and Beyond Leadership and Education, a youth-led education and charitable organization — added that while many protesters came to combat rising instances of violent hate crimes committed against the AAPI community nationally, even in a diverse city like Dublin

discrimination and hate persists.

“Although I am beyond grateful to grow up in Dublin, a diverse community, I have experienced discrimination in many forms. In school my Asian peers and I have been called ‘ling-ling,’ we have been asked if we eat dogs, we have been asked if we can see out of our small eyes. The disrespect of Asians in our society goes much deeper than name calling or mocking,” she said.

About a dozen local leaders spoke during Sunday’s rally, calling

for residents to unite against hate and look out for one another.

Dublin City Council member Sherry Hu, one of the event’s sponsors and a first-generation U.S. citizen, spoke of unity at the event and asked those in attendance to look out for their fellow residents, regardless of their cultural background.

“I took my oath seriously, and I’m proud and grateful to be an American citizen. America is my home,” Hu said. “No matter if you are a first-generation immigrant like me or a second-generation like my children or if your ancestors came here on the Mayflower ... or your great-great-grandparents were shipped here from Africa. We may look different, we may sound different, we may cook different meals at home, but we are all Americans. America is our home.”

Local State Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan also spoke during the rally and revealed that she is working on state legislation to increase the penalties for people who make threats against protected classes.

“This is what we need to be doing at this moment, standing together in solidarity against the acts of violence and hatred that are being perpetrated against the Asian American community,” said Bauer-Kahan (D-Orinda). “Seeing elders, as you’ve heard from every speaker, be beaten and killed in our own backyards is unacceptable, and we



KRISTIE WANG

Mel Asiddao Chiong of Livermore Indivisible at Livermore’s “Stop Asian Hate” rally on Sunday.

need to stand up loudly and condemn those acts.”

“In Sacramento, I’ve introduced a bill to ensure that we increase the penalties against those who make threats against protected classes. We need to put our actions where our mouths are and make sure we are doing everything in our power to stop this,” she added.

Other officials who attended the event and spoke in condemnation of hate against the AAPI community included Alameda County District 1 Supervisor David Haubert, American Entrepreneur Association vice president Ben He, Dublin Mayor Melissa Hernandez, Dublin councilmembers Jean Josey and Michael McCorrison, Livermore City Councilmember Brittini Kiick, Pleasanton

councilmembers Jack Balch and Kathy Narum, San Ramon Valley Unified School District Board President Susanna Ordway, Sino-American Friendship City Association director Jonathan Ginsberg and Tri-Valley APAPA President Margaret Liang, among others.

A second rally was held earlier in Sunday in Livermore, where approximately 100 residents gathered to protest against Asian hate.

“We were heartened to see our community come out to support the AAPI community and take a stand against racism. Please continue to learn, read, donate and show up,” Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District Trustee Kristie Wang said of the Livermore rally. ■



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Correction: Lt. Col. Adam Darrow receives medal

Last week’s story “Pleasanton native receives Distinguished Flying Cross” included a photograph from an Air Force publication that misidentified Lt. Col. Adam Darrow. We quickly corrected the online version of the story after being alerted by Darrow, but the print version had already gone to press. This is the correct photo of Darrow from the medal ceremony. The Pleasanton Weekly regrets the confusion.

LPGD Fire Chief Peters announces retirement

Deputies to split interim leader duties

By JULIA BAUM

Following a 31-year career serving and protecting the community where he was born and raised, the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department announced on Tuesday that Fire Chief Jeff Peters would be retiring at the end of the week.

Peters was formally appointed as fire chief in January 2020, after serving as interim chief for the prior six months. Peters, a Livermore native, was the first internal promotion to chief since LPGD's founding in 1996.

"I am honored and blessed to have served the last 30 years with the men and women of the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department," Peters told the Weekly. "Additionally, I am very thankful and humbled to have been given the opportunity to lead the Fire Department and work closely with city staff and community leaders from both great communities."

Beginning as a volunteer firefighter in Livermore in 1990, Peters was

hired full-time two years later and worked his way up through the ranks after the LPGD merger, including deputy chief and assistant fire chief. Leaders for both cities commended and expressed their gratitude for Peters in a joint statement Tuesday.

Peters "has served with the highest level of professionalism and has demonstrated extraordinary leadership, particularly during an unprecedented time of a pandemic and wildfires," said Pleasanton City Manager Nelson Fialho, adding that "his commitment and compassion to service to our shared communities will be long remembered."

Livermore City Manager Marc Roberts said Peters "left his mark on our communities" and "helped develop the culture and significantly move the department forward" during his tenure.

"We thank him for his service and will miss him tremendously. We wish him a long and happy retirement," Roberts said.

In addition to holding a health science degree from St. Mary's College in Moraga, Peters was a graduate of Leadership Pleasanton, Legacy Livermore and the Alameda County

Leadership Academy. He is also a member of several fire chief organizations, and serves on the Alameda County Regional Emergency Communication Center Advisory Board, Las Positas College Fire Technology Advisory Board, and East Bay Regional Communications System Authority.

While the cities search for a permanent successor for their joint department over the next year, deputy fire chiefs Joe Testa and Aaron Lacey will serve as interim fire chief in six month rotations. Testa, who is deputy fire chief of administration, will serve first, followed by deputy of chief operations Lacey later this year.

A formal recruitment and selection process will take place, with both internal and external candidates encouraged to apply, officials said.

Looking toward the future, Peters said, "I am confident the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department is ready to grow and evolve to meet the future needs of its customers. I have enjoyed my career immensely and look forward to the next leg of my family's journey."

Peters' final day on the job is today, according to officials. ■



Jeff Peters

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. 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 by noon April 19.

Pleasanton Weekly

Danville SanRamon

Pleasanton Unified School District



Rates

Certificated

Day-to-Day \$250

In-Person Subs

Long-Term \$275

Certificated



The minimum requirements for substitute teaching are:

- Bachelor's Degree
- California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST): May Be Waived
- Fingerprint clearance from the Department of Justice (DOJ)

WE'RE HIRING!

Substitute Teachers and
Classified Positions

Apply TODAY:
Visit edjoin.org and search 'Pleasanton'

Questions? Contact Andi Antypas,
aantypas@pleasantonusd.net or
(925) 426-4329

Bell schedule raises matters of equity at Pleasanton Unified

‘Major inequalities’ gave some PUSD sites 22-24 days worth of extra class time, audit finds

By JULIA BAUM

After a recent audit found wide variances in the amount of instruction time and elementary student to teacher contact minutes, Pleasanton Unified School District is exploring ways to increase the instructional minutes at all nine elementary sites.

The district's goal is to both exceed and have more consistency in the state-required minimum instructional minutes across

elementary schools. According to a presentation at the Board of Trustees meeting on March 25, adjustments to bell schedules would help prevent the need to add more days at the end of the school year.

All schools met the minimum instructional time requirement, but “major inequalities in time” resulted in some kindergarten, first- and second-grade classes receiving 22 to 24 school days worth of extra instructional minutes compared to

others, according to the audit, which compared elementary instructional time in the district both pre-COVID and following the onset of Senate Bill 98.

Staff said these inequalities often happen when staggered start and end times are implemented vs. not following such a schedule, adding that differences in third through fifth grades “are caused by slight variances in recess and/or lunch minutes.”

Suggestions for maximizing instructional minutes included extending kindergarten to four hours, having a non-staggered day for first and second grade, and reducing lunch for fourth and fifth grade from 55 to 45 minutes.

Nationally, a June 2020 study by McKinsey and Co. reported at the start of the school year, students presenting “an average loss of up to 30% in reading and up to 50% in math.”

The average learning loss for students nationwide is estimated to be seven months, though the study noted that for low-income, Black and Hispanic students, “this will be exacerbated by 15-20%.”

Another study released in January reported “significant learning loss in both English language arts and math, with students in earlier grades most affected.” The equity impact has also been most severe to certain students groups — “especially low-income students and English language learners (ELLs), are falling behind more compared to others,” staff said.

Trustee Mary Jo Carreon, a former teacher at Alisal Elementary School, said she understood “the need to have closer alignment, these schedules vary greatly,” and shared her concern about not having an option for staggered reading, and the need for teacher input.

“I do feel this is an equity issue,” Carreon said, then recounted her classroom experience with a former student who was below reading level and “had a lot of challenges.”

The student came in for early reading, academic intervention later in the day, “and then because we had staggered reading, this child would come again for a third time, so this particular student got 3 periods of intervention,” Carreon said. “I’d argue if all schools were exactly the same, this student would actually get less.”

Director of elementary education Shay Galletti said, staggered is an option but PUSD needs to figure out how to increase instructional minutes.

“Right now, the staggered schedule that is currently in place, we only have 440 minutes over the required minimum by the state — that is less than two days of a cushion,” Galletti said. Ideally, Galletti said a “good cushion” would be five days.

If the district doesn't meet its minutes within a required year, “what happens is we either have to extend the school year to make up those minutes, or we have to add on time within that particular school year to the day so that we

are in compliance,” Galletti added.

Trustee Kelly Mokashi said that “from an equity perspective,” the current schedule reflects a whole hour's difference, and suggested a staggered period lasting “only 30 minutes, so that there is that benefit for small group staggered time with students.”

Board President Joan Laursen said she wanted to avoid “an educational lottery, depending on which school (students) go to,” but also liked the staggered schedule, noting that before the pandemic, different sites used the time for intervention and other purposes as well.

“It's possible to come up with some additional options and still allow some differences at different school sites, as we did,” Laursen said, adding that in the short term, the district has “some additional dollars that could be used to provide some additional staff members, that could allow for more small group instruction.”

Mohr Elementary first-grade teacher and reading specialist Linda Stanford invited the district cabinet during public comment to come visit and “have a real conversation with first grade teachers.”

“We're willing to do this whenever you're available,” Stanford said. “We believe the more you know about this, the better informed you can be when you make this decision. We welcome it immensely.”

District staff are expected to return with a proposed bell schedule at the May 6 board meeting. ■

ORANGE TIER

Continued from Page 5

capacity. Gyms, wineries and bowling alleys are among those allowed to rise to 25% indoor capacity.

According to Moss, the county must remain in the orange tier for at least three weeks before moving into the yellow tier, even if its COVID-19 metric ratings might warrant otherwise.

“The key to keeping newly permitted activities open and moving Alameda County closer to the Yellow Tier is to continue practicing the safety measures we know work against COVID-19: wearing masks whenever we leave home (even if fully vaccinated), watching our distance, washing our hands frequently, and limiting mixing with people from different households. When it is your turn, get vaccinated with the first vaccine made available to you,” he said.

So far, Alameda County has been following the state's COVID-19 vaccine eligibility system, which means that effective yesterday access opened up to all residents 50 years and older (and expansion

from the previous level of 65-plus).

Also currently eligible are residents 16 and older deemed at high risk due to complex health conditions, homeless individuals, people who live in large facilities in close quarters with risk of transmission such as jails, and workers in essential jobs such as health care, food, education, emergency services, child care and public transportation.

The state is scheduled to open vaccinations to all residents 16 years old and older effective April 15, according to Gov. Gavin Newsom.

According to ACPHD, the changes for businesses and activities allowable in the orange tier include:

- Bars: Outdoors with modifications, no meals required to be served.

- Breweries, distilleries and wineries: Indoors at 25% maximum capacity or 100 people, whichever is fewer; No meals required to be served.

- Family entertainment centers: Indoors for naturally distanced activities like bowling, escape rooms and billiards; 25% maximum capacity.

- Gyms, fitness centers and studios (including at hotels): 25% maximum capacity and indoor pools are permitted; indoor hot tubs, saunas and steam rooms continue to be closed.

- Movie theaters: 50% maximum capacity or 200 people, whichever is fewer.

- Museums, zoos and aquariums: 50% maximum capacity.

- Offices: Indoors with modifications but telework is strongly encouraged.

- Places of worship: 50% maximum capacity.

- Restaurants: 50% maximum capacity or 200 people, whichever is fewer.

- Retail: Open indoors with modifications and food courts permitted with indoor dining restrictions.

- Outdoor sports, including high school, and live performances with fans/attendees at 33% capacity for in-state spectators only with no concourse concession sales (primarily in-seat allowed).

- Amusement parks: Overall park capacity and indoor capacity limited to 25%, including indoor dining. ■

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON



HIGHLIGHTS

Civic Arts Commission

Monday, April 5, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

- Review and Recommend the Installation and Locations of Temporary Public Art Wayfinding Signposts
- Review and Discuss Teen Poet Laureate Application
- Review and Discuss City Zoom Photography Contest

Human Services Commission

Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

- Review and allocate Housing and Human Services Grant Funds to the Open Heart Kitchen Vineyard 2.0 kitchen project for Fiscal Year 2021/2022 and recommend City Council approval

Parks and Recreation Commission

Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

- All-Abilities Playground Stakeholder Presentation

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

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 or (925) 931-5027.

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

Tri-Valley Christians able to attend Easter services indoors

Places of worship open at 50% capacity in Alameda County

By RYAN J. DEGAN

With coronavirus vaccines continuing to be administered and local health restrictions beginning to lift, Tri-Valley residents will be able to celebrate Easter with their congregation in-person this weekend.

Many Christian denominations will provide members with the opportunity to attend services indoors during this Holy Week, with church leaders maintaining health provisions in order to keep attendees safe and to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

“We are eager and happy to welcome back our parishioners and their guests to celebrate Easter. While we cannot yet do everything we might otherwise do to celebrate Easter, we are very happy things have opened to the point we can welcome people back into the church,” Fr. Mark Wiesner, a pastor for the Catholic Community of Pleasanton, told the Weekly.

“We also understand some people are not yet comfortable being out in public, so we are happy to webcast our services for them to pray with us virtually,” he added.

Easter this Sunday will mark one

of the first major Christian holidays of 2021 where residents will be able to attend a service inside.

Places of worship are allowed to open at 50% of their maximum capacity for in-person services in Alameda County, which as of Tuesday has entered the orange tier, according to the state’s COVID-19 reopening blueprint.

Per Alameda County guidelines, attendees are mandated to wear masks and maintain social distancing between pods.

CCOP will be facilitating in-person mass throughout Holy Week — which started yesterday with Holy Thursday and will conclude on Easter Sunday — and according to staff will have close to 1,000 people in attendance at its two locations on Easter.

Mass will be held at the community’s two locations on Sunday, at St. Augustine Catholic Church at three different times between 8 a.m. and noon and at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church at 9 a.m. — indoor attendance will be limited to 200 people at both locations. The community will also hold a special outdoor mass at St.

Augustine Church Grotto at 10 a.m. on Sunday, which is open to 150 residents and will be streamed on the community’s Facebook and YouTube channels.

Many are excited at the prospect of returning for Easter services in-person, which Tyler Scott, lead pastor at the Community Presbyterian Church in Danville, says will offer many new congregates their first opportunity to visit the church’s physical location.

“Our entire team is overflowing with joy and anticipation for Easter weekend, and thankful we can be together again with our community,” Scott told the Weekly. “During the shutdown, we cultivated a huge online audience, many of which have never even been to our campus in-person. Since we reopened our doors in February, it’s been exciting to see these new faces

in person and get to know them.”

Contra Costa County, which remained in the COVID-19 red tier as of Wednesday, allows places of worship to operate indoors at 25% capacity or 100 people, whichever is fewer.

Residents can register online to attend mass at one of the CPC’s two venues for Easter services, which will be held Saturday evening in the Sanctuary and Sunday morning in the Sanctuary or Tent. In the Sanctuary, attendees can hear live music with Worship Pastor Shane Lepisi and a stream of Scott’s sermon on big screens inside, while in the Tent, Scott is teaching live and music will be streamed.

Many churches need residents to register prior to attending service, such as Blue Oaks Church in Pleasanton, which is offering both online and in-person services this Easter.

According to Executive Pastor of Blue Oaks Church Joe Hartley, Blue Oaks has two in-person services on Sunday morning, the latter of which has programming for kids from newborn to fifth grade. Attendance is limited to 100 people.

With one of the highest counts in the Tri-Valley, Fountain Church in Pleasanton is offering four services on Sunday — each of which offers child care — with county-mandated health and safety policies in place.

“Easter is a wonderful time to celebrate God’s overwhelming love for us. Easter is one of the biggest celebrations at Fountain Church,” Fountain Church staff said on their website. “Easter is more than a holiday for us, but the beautiful reality of what God can do and wants to do in our lives — give us new life!” ■

Jackson named interim chancellor of Peralta district

Previously led CLPCCD for five years

The Peralta Community College District has appointed as its interim chancellor Jannett Jackson, a former chancellor at the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District.

Her appointment is effective April 16, one day after the resignation of Chancellor Carla Walter takes effect. Walter announced her resignation March 15 due to personal reasons after eight months in the role, according to district officials.

Jackson, who will begin serving the district immediately on a consulting basis, first joined the district in 2004 when she was hired as vice

president of instruction at College of Alameda.

In 2010, she was promoted to president of the college and left in 2013 to become chancellor at the neighboring Chabot-Las Positas district, a position she held until resigning in August 2018. She was also interim president of Skyline Community College in San Bruno from 2019 to 2020.

The Peralta district encompasses the College of Alameda and Berkeley City College, as well as Oakland’s Laney College and Merritt College. ■

—Bay City News Service

2021 EDITION
HIKE FOR HOPE
& JAMBOREE AFTER-PARTY

Hike for a good cause.
Enjoy the beautiful outdoors.

NEW: HIKE WHERE YOU CHOOSE!

\$39 EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION FEE
FOR REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED BY APRIL 30

\$45 REGULAR REGISTRATION FEE
FOR REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED MAY 1-JUNE 4

FREE FOR YOUTH AGE 12 AND UNDER

This year’s format is a little different, but the goal is the same: to **raise \$100,000** for patient care and community programs, including grief support services, dementia education, and caregiver resources for local families.

YOUR CHOICE

Single-Day Hike

Saturday, June 5

Week-long Challenge

Saturday, May 29, through Saturday, June 5

TheHikeForHope.com
(925) 829-8770



GAY NINETIES PIZZA CO.
Italian Style Spaghetti & Ravioli

2019 PLEASANTON WEEKLY Readers Choice
READERS CHOICE
READERS CHOICE
READERS CHOICE
READERS CHOICE
READERS CHOICE
READERS CHOICE
READERS CHOICE
READERS CHOICE
READERS CHOICE
BEST OF PLEASANTON

Early Bird Special
(Served from 4-6 daily)
Any Large Two-Topping Pizza and a Pitcher of Soda for only \$30.00 (plus Tax)
Additional Toppings Available • Dine-In Only

Open 7 Days

Lunches • Dinners • Beers on Tap • Orders to Go
288 Main Street • 846-2520 • www.gayninetiespizza.com

Protesters condemn fatal police shooting in Danville

Family attorney says eyewitness disputes officer's account

By RYAN J. DEGAN

Dozens of protesters marched through Danville on Sunday, coming out to condemn the death of 32-year-old Tyrell Wilson, who died after he was shot by a Danville police officer on March 11.

Wilson's family, social justice advocates and community members gathered for a walking rally that ended outside the Danville Police Department headquarters, where attendees spoke of Wilson and called for justice.

Wilson, a Black man living un-housed near the freeway in Danville at the time of the shooting, was shot by Danville police Officer

Andrew Hall at the intersection of Sycamore Valley Road and Camino Ramon on March 11.

The Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office alleges Wilson advanced knife-in-hand toward Hall, who was responding to a report that Wilson was throwing rocks from an overpass onto Interstate 680. Wilson succumbed to his injuries at the hospital during the next week.

"I want to start off by saying Tyrell, he was a good kid," said Wilson's father Marvin, who is a 31-year law enforcement veteran. "I loved that boy to death."

"A lot of people that I work with, our main goal first thing — if



RYAN J. DEGAN

Dozens of residents came out on Sunday to protest the death of Tyrell Wilson, a man who died after being shot by a police officer in Danville earlier in March.

it takes 15 minutes, if it takes an hour — (is to) de-escalate. These younger officers, deputies they're trigger-happy. And the thing is they're not just going after people like me, they're going after people that have mental issues going on and a lot of this can be solved by deescalation and they are not doing that," Marvin Wilson added.

Protesters began their march at 3:30 p.m. Sunday at the Sycamore Valley Park and Ride, near which Tyrell Wilson had been living outdoors, before marching through the town to the police station while accompanied by a police escort that cleared the roads ahead of them.

Oakland civil rights attorney John Burris, who represents Wilson's family, also spoke at the protest and contested police's claims revolved around the shooting, stating that he has been in contact with an eyewitness that directly contradicts the sheriff's office accounts.

"After hearing all that I have heard about Tyrell, he was a decent man, polite and kind," Burris said. "I want to say this, the witnesses that I have interviewed have said that Tyrell did not have a knife in his hand at the time and he was not attempting to strike police, Tyrell's hands were up ... and he was shot and it was a kill shot, directly to his face."

"For those of you in this community who knew that he was homeless, some of you knew him from that environment and you knew what a kind and respectful person he was, so this issue that the police claim that he had a knife and he tried to attack with a knife seems totally out of character," he added.

Sheriff's spokesperson Jimmy Lee declined to comment on the allegations.

On the day of the shooting, investigators released a photograph with their press release which they said showed Wilson approaching

the officer with a knife. The photo (which had the subject's face blocked out by editing software) appeared to be pulled from a police body camera; the video footage of the incident has not been released.

Hall, who has worked as a sworn law enforcement officer for 7-1/2 years, is employed as a sheriff's deputy and assigned to Danville PD under the town's contract with the county for police services. He is on paid administrative leave while Wilson's death is being investigated by the county's sheriff's office and district attorney's office.

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. Burris also represents Arboleda's family, which has sued over his death. ■

FUN STUFF FOR KIDS OVER THE SUMMER

Camp Connection Summer 2021

Fashion Design & Sewing Camp @ KIDZ KRAFTZ!

7690 Quail Creek Cir. | Dublin | (925) 271-0015 | KidzKraftz.com

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.

Stratford School

<http://stratfordschools.com/summer>

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!

Academic Camps — Stratford's Academic Camps are the perfect way to enhance your child's love of learning while focusing on a specific subject. From math and robotics to literature and creative writing, we have something for every student. Working independently and in small groups, students will apply real-life experiences to lessons learned in the classroom.

Day Camps — All NEW Day Camps. Each week, students in Kindergarten through 5th grade will jump into action as they explore science and nature, discover creative and performing arts, participate in sports and games, and so much more. Activity blocks give campers a variety of experiences throughout each camp day.

Specialty Camps — Add even more fun with Specialty Camps — packed with hands-on experiences. Stratford's Specialty Camps provide campers with a variety of activities including robotics, to explore while discovering new STEAM skills and talents!

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!

Visit pleasantonweekly.com/camp_connection/

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

PPIE Virtual Run finds footing in second year

Event expected to return live in 2022

By JULIA BAUM

After successfully going online when the pandemic started last year, the Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation is poised for an even better outcome when the second annual PPIE Virtual Run for Education starts this month.

Participants can walk, hike, run, dance or do any number of fitness activities, and will use a smartphone app to track their miles during the event, which takes place from April 11-18.

"It's a good way to get the kids outside and exercise or getting your company team members outside for exercise," PPIE Executive Director Steve McCoy-Thompson told the Weekly.

The event app also lets users suggest routes around the city, whether for walking, running or biking.

Though less successful than its in-person predecessor in 2019, which had a turnout of several thousand

runners, McCoy-Thompson said last year's event still did "remarkably well" and "raised probably a net revenue of about \$75,000."

Contributions raised were used for funding "key supplemental staff such as reading specialists and support counselors and tech support, which has been really critical this year to help us with distance learning and everything."

This year, people can join school teams or form their own company teams. "We're sending e-postcards to all of our participants," McCoy-Thompson said, and participants who wear their run shirt — which features a quarantine-themed version of PPIE's apple logo — will get a 10% discount from all participating businesses during race week.

A special part of this year's race is the selfie booth that will be at different locations downtown during the event week. Residents can strike a pose in the booth near

SideTrack Bar + Grill on April 17, or the next day (April 18) in front of the Pleasanton Museum on Main Street.

Donations raised this year will be used for more support counselors and librarians as the district returns to in-person learning, according to McCoy-Thompson.

PPIE is also eventually resuming in-person events. "Our intent is to certainly to go back live in person," McCoy-Thompson said, and added the run will take place at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in April 2022.

PPIE also "may well supplement with a virtual run so that everyone can participate" even after places reopen, he added, noting that last year they raised money from about half a dozen states around the U.S.

The second annual PPIE Virtual Run for Education takes place April 11-18. For more information, visit www.ppie.org. ■

KUO

Continued from Page 5

groceries provided to the district for public distribution through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's "Farmers to Families Food Box Program" initiated during the coronavirus pandemic. That program is different from the to-go student meals available at each school site daily, and which had a separate pickup area at the Fallon campus.

The federal program offered groceries, boxed off-site, containing fruits, vegetables, dairy products and poultry distributed on a first-come, first-served basis at three DUSD schools — including Fallon — from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Wednesday in March, according to Dehnert.

Dehnert, who was not present at the Fallon pickup site on March 24 but had visited it earlier in the month, said the process typically involved a vehicle in the queue pulling up, stopping and opening either a passenger door or trunk in which a DUSD staff member or volunteer would then place the grocery box (a process designed to limit close contact person to person amid the COVID-19 crisis).

Fallon had not yet reopened to students amid the pandemic, as Dublin middle and high schools resumed in-person instruction on Monday.

Initial evidence indicates Kuo was loading a box into the trunk of a parked Tesla sedan around 11:45 a.m. March 24 when an SUV drove forward and hit Kuo from behind, pinning the DUSD trustee between the two vehicles, according to Schmidt.

The police captain said investigators are still working to determine exactly why the SUV accelerated toward Kuo; thus far he said they've only ruled out intentional act and error of auto-drive function (since the SUV in question did not have that capability) as a probable cause.

"Our traffic unit continues to investigate in hopes of answering the ultimate question of 'how did this happen.' We are hoping the investigation will be complete by next week," Schmidt told the Weekly this Wednesday. "At this point, there does not appear to be anything criminal in nature and the



RYAN J. DEGAN

Kuo's husband William was among the speakers at the public vigil Sunday evening.

driver of the vehicle continues to be completely cooperative with the investigation."

The driver's identity has not been revealed publicly by police, which is common for traffic collision investigations in the Tri-Valley unless and until criminal charges are filed.

Kuo, after being treated for critical injuries at the scene by Alameda County Fire and Falck Paramedics personnel, was transported to Eden Medical Center in Castro Valley, where she was pronounced dead that afternoon.

"This is a tragedy beyond words," DUSD Interim Superintendent Daniel Moirao said in a statement announcing the news on the evening of March 24. "There is a gaping hole in our hearts. Our schools, students, staff and families are forever indebted to her."

This Tuesday would have been Kuo's 49th birthday. Funeral services are pending.

Born in Redwood City and raised in Saratoga, Kuo earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from UCLA and worked for years in human resources, business analysis and retail planning management.

A Dublin resident for the past 21 years who lived with her husband William, son Thomas and daughter Natalie in the southcentral part of the city (within DUSD's Area 3), Kuo was a schools volunteer with nearly a decade of experience when she won her school board seat in a special election in late 2019.

Kuo's ascension to the school board in December 2019 returned the dais to a full five members for the first time in nearly a year after a pair of midterm resignations and ensuing special elections.

She then earned a full four-year term last fall after being unchallenged for re-election.

"I'm really committed on all fronts, whether it's our budget, our facilities, our curriculum — those things that are key to the job of a trustee, I am really committed to making sure that I understand," Kuo told the Weekly in an interview last September after it was confirmed she would retain her seat unchallenged.

Kuo also prided her trustee tenure on top priorities of including increased transparency, STEM education, fiscal accountability and promoting diversity.

Just two days before her death, Kuo — whose parents immigrated to the U.S. from South Korea — joined 13 other elected officials in the Tri-Valley of Asian American and Pacific Islander heritage in signing a public letter in solidarity "with our AAPI community and allies engaged in anti-racist action ... 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."

She echoed similar sentiments the next night in what would be her final school board meeting. Kuo joined other trustees and DUSD administrators live in the boardroom on March 23 — masked and physically distanced with partitions — as part of the board's first session back in person since the pandemic started.

Local public officials and the community at large have grieved Kuo's sudden death, with statements of condolences and remembrance on social media as well as at Sunday's vigil.

"We are devastated by the tragic loss of our colleague and dear friend, Catherine. We will miss her, her kind spirit, her love of family and community, and her passion to understand and connect with others. She worked tirelessly to make

a difference in our schools and our community," her four peers from the DUSD Board of Trustees said in a joint statement.

"She was a wonderful role model of leadership for our Asian American and Pacific Islander students. Her dedication to the mission of DUSD was obvious to all who knew her, and as a board, we are better for having served with her. We will miss you Catherine," they added. "We offer our deepest condolences to the Kuo family. Thank you for sharing Catherine with us."

"She was friendly, nurturing and generous. We are lucky to have known her and will miss her so much," family friend Kerrie Chabot wrote on the GoFundMe page she launched to help the Kuo family. "Catherine was a great example of grace, kindness, and intelligence. She was grounded in her faith."

Arun Goel, a former Dublin city councilman and current Dublin San Ramon Services District director, shared a past photo of he and Kuo

together in a remembrance post made on Twitter "with a great burden of sorrow upon my heart."

"This loss is immense beyond words not only for the family, but the entire Dublin community. Catherine was not only a colleague but a true friend," Goel added.

"Our Dublin community has lost a beautiful leader," Dublin Mayor Melissa Hernandez told the Weekly. "My deepest condolences to the Kuo family. Today we mourn the loss of a cherished mother, wife, and a community leader. Catherine Kuo tirelessly dedicated herself to our city and its schools — always with a smile on her face and a loving light in her heart."

Former state assemblywoman Catharine Baker, who lives in Dublin, said on Twitter, "Terrible, terrible news. Catherine was a loving and kind soul and a dedicated leader who worked with humility for the good of our community. Truly heartbreaking news. My condolences and prayers for her family."

"I am overwhelmed to see this outpouring of love and support and I know Catherine would love every single second of this," Kuo's sister Anita Lee said to the vigil crowd in the Emerald Glen Park amphitheater. "She absolutely seemed to be the guardian angel of Dublin city."

"What does it take to be a real superhero? It takes somebody who is not afraid to touch the untouchable, love the unlovable and fight for the losing cause, even if she is the only one standing for it until good wins in the end. It takes someone who can be counted on to do the right thing, even without the super-suit and ultimately it takes someone who is willing to lay down their life for their friends. Catherine was all these things and more," Lee added. ■



DUSD

DUSD Trustee Catherine Kuo, who died after a car crash at Fallon Middle School on March 24, is seen here the night before her death as she participated in the school board's first in-person meeting since the pandemic began.

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

YOU DO HAVE OPTIONS!

Contact us today for a free quote.
(925) 447-2565
 or email us at: save@genemorganinsurance.com

SAVE UP TO 50% OFF YOUR PREMIUM!
 Find us at 2020 4th Street in Livermore

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



TRI-VALLEY HAVEN

The pandemic presented challenges, including social distancing, but volunteers managed to pitch in during Tri-Valley Haven's Holiday Program for survivors of domestic abuse in December.

Homelessness: Tri-Valley nonprofits amplify their pandemic response

Mobile services, street outreach have expanded to connect with unhoused residents in the area

By JULIA BAUM

Homelessness was growing in the Tri-Valley before last year, but after forcing local nonprofits to pivot their usual operations at a moment's notice, the COVID-19 pandemic has also created a cohesive safety net for individuals close to or already living on the streets.

Since March 2020, three of the region's most visible nonprofit organizations have formed a triad of

interconnected resources and services, including food and rental assistance, emergency shelter, and medical care. CityServe of the Tri-Valley, which works directly with the area's homeless community, has responded to a big shift in their needs over the past year.

"We've been doing a lot of things — identifying the most vulnerable, above 65 age range or that had chronic illness to make sure they

were aware of safe ground hotel operations and some of these programs launched through the county, to make sure they were isolated and stay safe, whether they had COVID or not," CityServe CEO Christine Beitsch-Bahmani told the Weekly in an interview. "Our biggest part was identifying them, making sure they were placed in hotels."

At the onset of sheltering in place 12 months ago, CityServe had ceased its outreach as well as closed the usual dining halls and showers, but then eventually resumed activity. They also partnered with Alameda Healthcare for the Homeless to set up three different pop-ups to test people living outside for COVID. Recently, CityServe also started offering the first round of COVID-19 vaccines to clients.

Referrals come to CityServe through a number of different channels, including the Pleasanton Police Department's "Homeless Liaison Team" comprising two dedicated full-time members.

"If they knew someone, they would let us know," Beitsch-Bahmani said.

Homeless Liaison Team members Nicole Evans and Lisa Cavellini said in a statement that their roles are "designed to be advocates for our unhoused and for the expansion of service agencies in our community."

"During the early stages of the pandemic, our officers assisted by locating our community's most vulnerable homeless, facilitating temporary housing placement and

transporting individuals to designated locations," they said. "They worked hard to ensure referrals to service agencies were successful, and individuals were outreached promptly, allowing them to safely shelter in place."

Outreach was already a main component of CityServe's program that expanded in 2020. Staff and volunteers spent the summer making sure people outside weren't dehydrated by doing water runs, and also assembled pop-up tents down by creeks where they handed out sunscreen, lip balm, and clothing for the hot weather.

Beitsch-Bahmani said they do pop-ups at different locations, depending on the time of year. "In the summer we'll do one down at the creek because people tend to be a little more lethargic, so we'll go closer to the people to do the pop-ups," she said. "We go month by month. We're very mobile so we can pop up anywhere."

"Pleasanton homeless are remote all over the city, but it's obvious in Livermore where the high count areas are," she added.

"We had offices that people could come to, so once things changed, we had to go out to people, and we wanted to do that anyhow," Beitsch-Bahmani said. "The pop-up generation came from the pandemic, and we'll probably keep it because it's actually nice."

"We're trying to do pop-ups to almost where there's mini-resource centers so it's a one-stop. I feel like the Valley is doing a great job."

'Pleasanton homeless are remote all over the city, but it's obvious in Livermore where the high count areas are.'

Christine Beitsch-Bahmani,
CityServe CEO

CityServe is opening offices in Livermore in July, where there will be multiple services available. "That'll be our hub where people can come," she said. "As long as (COVID case rates) keeps going in the direction it is, people will be able to come inside, hopefully."

Response is the primary function of CityServe, but the nonprofit also does prevention work such as rental assistance and has a team dedicated to helping people at risk and "make sure they don't fall into homelessness," which Beitsch-Bahmani said is a "big piece that a lot of people don't understand" about the crisis.

"They think it's addressing people on the streets and not those one check away from being homeless," she said.

"For every two (people) that fall into homelessness, only one gets back in," Beitsch-Bahmani said. "If



Volunteers for CityServe of the Tri-Valley v pandemic in 2020, and regularly distribute necessities to those living outside.

you don't address prevention and keeping people in homes — one, it increases homelessness, and two, it takes away from resources."

"I'm from the team of 'let's not increase homelessness, let's keep people in their homes and prevent it,'" she added. "It's very difficult to get people back into housing. I think the better, wiser investment is to keep those very, very low income families in their homes."

The homelessness prevention team also helps those transitioning back into housing by helping them learn to navigate everyday tasks and scenarios. Taking public transportation or going shopping for groceries can all be barriers or challenges to people reintegrating into mainstream society, according to Beitsch-Bahmani.

"I've been really impressed with the Tri-Valley," Beitsch-Bahmani said. "They've really been coming together to wrap around these folks that are in crisis and make sure they understand they have access to those resources. We always want to be that nonprofit that brings everybody together."

Tri-Valley Haven director of development Christine Dillman, who works with survivors of domestic violence — a demographic often in need of emergency shelter — told the Weekly, "It's no surprise to anyone that the need has grown during the pandemic. Families that were already on the cusp of homelessness or food insecurity, the pandemic really put them over the edge."

Like CityServe, Tri-Valley Haven not only provides emergency shelter for individuals fleeing an unsafe home, but also tries to stop



CITYSERVE

Outreach was already a main component of CityServe's program that expanded in 2020.



CITYSERVE

weren't deterred from helping during the pandemic. They provided toiletries, bottled water and other

them from falling into homelessness through other means.

"The reason our programs are so comprehensive is sometimes it can be somebody who lost their job and they're living paycheck to paycheck," Dillman said.

Clients can stay as long as they need at Tri-Valley Haven's shelter, Dillman said, adding that the organization also helps with transitioning into permanent housing, sometimes paying up to 90% of the client's rent until they land on their feet. Once they are established, the client slowly begins to take over and pay more rent themselves.

"As long as they're able to pay more, we pay less and they still get all of the same services. We're really trying to make sure we support them in the shelter and after they leave," Dillman said. "We also have a program for if somebody's in an abusive relationship and needs first month's rent to get out."

When the pandemic struck, Ralph Johnson, director of homeless and family support services, said Tri-Valley Haven couldn't accommodate as many clients in their shelter due to a mandatory decrease in capacity. As a result, more people have been referred to hotel programs through the county's coordinated entry system instead.

"It's in the last six months or so we are getting far less referrals, so it's taking a longer time to replace the openings we have at our shelter," Johnson said. "I think we're getting less referrals because a lot of these people are getting into these hotels, though we're full at the moment."

Dillman also said Tri-Valley Haven's shelters have remained busy, though "we of course have to shelter people in a very different way."

"As families come in, we may need to motel them for several nights, but we still provide them all of the same services in the motel. It's expensive, it's a lot of staff time, but it's necessary; we know we have to do it," she said.

"We've been very lucky and not having cases of COVID in our shelter, but I think that's because we've been so, so careful keeping families in their own rooms," Dillman added.

For those staying in the shelter, access to the outside world has been limited since March 2020. Prior to the pandemic, clients were free to stay out all day but are now restricted to trips for essential needs including health care, food, and exercise. While inside, they are also required to wear face masks.



TRI-VALLEY HAVEN

In addition to providing emergency shelter and counseling, Tri-Valley Haven also runs a food pantry, including partnering with CityServe to run the drive-thru food bank at the Alameda County Fairgrounds.

"Even though we're doing that, it doesn't prevent us from doing all the services that we do," Johnson said. "If they need to attend a job interview, look for housing, they continue to do that. That was the biggest change."

After sheltering started, Tri-Valley Haven also moved its grocery distribution operations entirely outside and all foods are now packaged to lessen interaction between staff and clients, and among the clients themselves.

With many of their volunteers being older and at higher risk for COVID-19 complications, Dillman said the organization didn't want to risk their health and safety so "we really had to have our staff do multiple jobs," including tasks they wouldn't normally handle.

Though now under a tent, clients can still get fish, chicken, beef,

dairy and produce, as well as fresh eggs and goods like sugar, flour and cooking oil.

'The reason our programs are so comprehensive is sometimes it can be somebody who lost their job and they're living paycheck to paycheck.'

Christine Dillman, Tri-Valley Haven director of development

At the moment, "we're averaging between 40 and 55 households a day, each week day," according to Johnson.

Besides having its own on-site food pantry, Tri-Valley Haven also operates a mobile pantry and runs a drive-thru food distribution with Open Heart Kitchen twice weekly at the Alameda County Fairgrounds.

Open Heart Kitchen's program coordinator, Shawnda Bost, has been distributing hot meals to clients since starting as a volunteer more than a decade ago. When the pandemic started, Alameda County was running the grocery distribution program at the fairgrounds until Open Heart Kitchen and Tri-Valley Haven were asked to take over.

The program was a slight deviation from the usual meal delivery they offered; Open Heart Kitchen previously offered hot meals on site or to go at different locations, just a few days a week.

"Ready-made food is so important to the unhoused community because they lack the kitchen facilities or refrigeration to store foods," Bost said. "Before the pandemic,

on Thursdays we were going to encampments but only one day a week. All of that change with the pandemic. We had a to-go meal where you were driving through and walking up or picking up. At that time they really wanted unhoused clients to shelter in place."

For Open Heart Kitchen, "what we did was we took our street outreach program and made it six days a week, going to where they are," she added.

Clients can now stop and grab meals at 14 different locations, including a breakfast grocery bag for the next day.

About the people they serve and where they come from, "Most of the time, it is the same clients," Bost said. "That's why we stop at those certain locations on our routes, but there's definitely new people that are coming into the area. But for most of 2020, people were sheltering in place."

Bost added, "It's mainly individuals, for sure, and for age range, I think it just varies, honestly. You can see younger people in their 20s all the way up to seniors, and we don't know exactly how old they are, but it varies."

On the streets, Bost has not seen any children in local encampments, only adults. Before the pandemic, she did see families at distribution sites, but the organization does not make it a practice of asking clients about their housing situation.

And "if we do know where there is someone staying in their car, for the most part, it's individuals, she said.

Since the global health crisis, Bost said there has been more partnership among local nonprofits, allowing each one to focus on their specialty.

"You also don't want to duplicate resources," she added. "You want to be in constant communication, not overlapping, which is hard to do." ■



CITYSERVE

CityServe staff and volunteers routinely help the Tri-Valley's unhoused residents with a variety of resources and programs including mobile shower services and pop-up stations, to ensure they reach the area's most vulnerable populations.

Jean Patricia Cole

April 22, 1938 – March 23, 2021

Jean Patricia (Jean) Zoernsch was born on 22 April 1938 in Chicago, IL to William Frederick and Elizabeth Mary (Kerr) Zoernsch of that city. Her sister, Sandra Lynn (Sandy), was born five years later. At the age of 16, following her sophomore year in HS, Jean's family moved to San Jose, CA where she completed high school and attended San Jose State University. Majoring in Primary Education and working her way through college, Jean was active in her sorority and graduated with Honors in 1960. After teaching for two years in the San Francisco Bay area, she decided to use her teaching credentials as a ticket to see the world. Applying for the DOD Dependents School System in 1962, Jean was posted to Baumholder, Germany where she taught first grade.



Soon after her arrival, Jean met her husband to be, Bob, who always declared it was "love at first sight". Jean, however, maintained that she wasn't so sure about that "cocky paratrooper", and besides, she had come to Europe to travel, not "to find a husband", as Bob often joked. At any rate, the stars aligned and they became engaged among the flowers of Luxembourg Gardens in Paris and began to plan their wedding which led to more than 58 years together.

Jean and Bob soon learned of the resiliency required of all military families as their June 1963 wedding plans were postponed to 7 July when Bobs artillery battery, which he commanded, was selected to join a NATO Honor Guard to fire a 21 gun Presidential Salute for President John F. Kennedy on the occasion of his first official visit to Europe. Little did they know that, six months later, Bob would take his battery to Paris; this time, to fire a Presidential Salute at NATO Headquarters commemorating the burial of JFK at Arlington National Cemetery. Jean and Bob always felt a special attachment to our 35th President.

Their sons were each born within days of Bob's two yearlong deployments to Vietnam adding to the, sometimes, lonely burdens of an Army wife. With 20 moves in as many years, she never complained and always provided tireless support to Bob's challenging assignments while actively participating in the many activities of the wives' groups. Bob was always proud of Jean's special leadership in organizing and raising the morale of the wives of the battalion that he was so proud to have commanded.

When Bob retired from the Army in 1980, they settled in Pleasanton, CA and Jean returned to working in the community. She soon renewed her love for volunteering and became active as a Charter Member of the Assistance League of Amador Valley (ALAV). She went on to hold each of the senior ALAV leadership positions with the exception of president; always preferring to serve in a support role.

Jean is survived by her husband of 58 years, Bob, her two sons and their wives, Bobby (Laura) and Brad (Vanessa) and four grandchildren of whom she was intensely proud, Meghan, Cameron, Annika and, the youngest, Ruby Charlotte, age two. Sadly, Jean passed away three months before the scheduled arrival of her fifth grandchild who will be Ruby's little sister. She is survived by her sister, Sandy (Art), nephew Bill, and niece, Sherry. Her cousin Kerry (Bob) and their children Brenna and Ross also shared special places in her heart.

Jean will be cremated and buried with Bob, who will receive Full Military Honors, at Arlington National Cemetery at a future date to be determined.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the American Cancer Society or the Assistance League of Amador Valley (ALAV).

PAID OBITUARY

Community Pulse

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

March 26

Arson

- 3:24 a.m. on the 5600 block of Stoneridge Drive

Vandalism

- 7:44 a.m. on the 4000 block of West Ruby Hills Drive

Graffiti

- 7:54 a.m. on the 5800 block of Parkside Drive

Burglary

- 8:00 a.m. on the 3400 block of Old Foothill Road

Theft

- 11:41 a.m. on the 5700 block of Owens Drive
- 12:28 p.m., 2500 block of Santa Rita Road; theft from auto
- 2:37 p.m. on the 800 block of Main Street

Drug violation

- 9:23 p.m. at Valley Avenue and Hansen Drive

March 25

Burglary

- 4:13 a.m. on the 6700 block of Bernal Avenue
- 9:09 a.m. on the 5700 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Graffiti

- 10:56 a.m. at West Las Positas Boulevard and Interstate 680

Fraud

- 10:50 a.m. on the 1100 block of Mills Court

Theft

- 9:08 p.m. on the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road

March 24

Theft

- 7:26 a.m., 5500 block of Sunol Boulevard; auto theft

- 11:02 a.m. on the 1500 block of Oxsen Street

- 1:00 p.m. on the 4700 block of Harrison Street

- 1:43 p.m., 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

- 4:39 p.m. on the 3600 block of Huff Court

- 5:47 p.m. on the 4700 block of Willow Road

- 6:40 p.m. on the 6700 block of Bernal Avenue

- 7:38 p.m. on the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Burglary

- 12:08 p.m. on the 5900 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Drug violation

- 3:41 p.m. on the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

March 23

Graffiti

- 7:33 a.m. on the 4900 block of Valley Avenue

Vandalism

- 10:19 a.m. on the 6700 block of Bernal Avenue

Shoplifting

- 12:32 p.m. on the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Fraud

- 1:56 p.m. on the 6200 block of Gibson Court

- 4:50 p.m. on the 1000 block of Shadow Hills Court

Fire

- 9:18 p.m. on the 4100 block of Vineyard Avenue

March 22

Theft

- 10:28 a.m. on the 3100 block of Persimmon Circle

- 6:05 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; theft from structure

Vandalism

- 2:52 p.m. on the 7000 block of Pleasanton Avenue

Fraud

- 3:13 p.m. on the 3900 block of Fairlands Drive

March 21

DUI

- 1:30 a.m. on the 5300 block of Hopyard Road

Shoplifting

- 3:49 p.m. on the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Drug violation

- 7:44 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

Weapons violation

- 9:47 p.m. on the 5100 block of Hopyard Road

March 20

Warrant arrest

- 1:51 a.m. on the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road

- 9:20 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

Theft

- 8:33 a.m., 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; theft from auto

- 11:59 a.m., 3800 block of Belmont Way; theft from auto

- 1:20 p.m. on the 3000 block of Boardwalk Street

- 3:09 p.m. on the 4100 block of Morganfield Court

Robert Langsam

May 4, 1938 – March 3, 2021

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Robert Langsam.

He was a born and bred San Franciscan and considered himself lucky to have lived in San Francisco when it really was The City that knows how.

He graduated from Abraham Lincoln High School in San Francisco and served in the U.S. Navy for four years. After that he worked at Playland at the Beach where he met his future wife, Sheilah, who worked there part time while attending SFSU. He was a games operator on the midway and she was the popcorn/cotton candy girl. There are not many people that can say that.

They were married February 2, 1963 and were together 58 years. In 1969 they moved to the Tri-Valley and bought their first house in Livermore. After six years, they moved to Pleasanton and lived in the same house for 46 years. It was the house he died in.

Robert worked for Eastman Kodak for 21 years as a warehouseman. It was a job he truly loved, the forklift, the packing, and shipping. His orders never went out incorrectly.

After he retired, he enjoyed playing cards, mostly poker and gin. He loved watching baseball and football on tv. His real favorites were old movies, sentimental romances, and westerns – anything with John Wayne and he was there for it.

He is survived by his wife, Sheilah Langsam, his son, Julian Langsam of Pleasanton, and his daughter, Paola Shepler (Matt) of Eagle, Idaho. He is also survived by his grandsons, Ian Shepler and Connor Shepler of Eagle and his granddaughter, Summer Langsam, of San Francisco.

He was buried at Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon, CA with military honors.

He will be forever in our hearts.

PAID OBITUARY



FD #429 MORTUARY

LOCALLY OWNED
AND OPERATED SINCE 1891

BURIAL & CREMATION
CELEBRATION OF LIFE
SERVICES
RECEPTION FACILITIES

ADVANCE PLANNING
MADE EASY

FOR A FREE CONSULTATION
OR IN-HOME VISIT CALL



DEANNA MOSER

925.846.5624

TO VIEW OUR FACILITIES VISIT:
WWW.GRAHAMHITCH.COM

4167 FIRST STREET,
PLEASANTON

PUBLISHER

Gina Channell, Ext. 1171

EDITORIAL

Editor

Jeremy Walsh, Ext. 1172

Tri Valley Life Editor

Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Editor Emeritus

Jeb Bing

Staff Reporters

Julia Baum, Ext. 1176

Ryan J. Degan, Ext. 1179

Contributors

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

ART & PRODUCTION

Design and Production Manager

Kristin Brown

Designers

Linda Atilano, Amy Levine,
Paul Llewellyn, Doug Young

ADVERTISING

Account Executive

Karen Klein, Ext. 1177

Real Estate Sales

Carol Cano, Ext. 1173

BUSINESS

Business Associate

Lisa Oefelein, Ext. 1178

Administrative Associate

Carolyn Chan, Ext. 1174

HOW TO REACH THE WEEKLY

Phone: (925) 600-0840

Fax: (925) 600-9559

Editorial email:

editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

calendar@PleasantonWeekly.com

Display Sales email:

sales@PleasantonWeekly.com

Classifieds Sales email:

ads@PleasantonWeekly.com

Circulation email: circulation@

PleasantonWeekly.com

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

Mailed at Periodicals Postage Rate, USPS 020407.

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

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

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

GUEST OPINION

Frivolous COVID-19 lawsuits will jeopardize our economic recovery

As the president and CEO of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, I am witnessing firsthand just how difficult it is for small businesses to keep up with shifting COVID-19 public health guidelines.

On top of the logistical challenges and expenses associated with increasing and decreasing capacities, inserting barriers and other protective equipment and shuffling staff, businesses are on their own to defend themselves against lawsuits that seek to take advantage of all these challenges they are facing.

Regardless of what the guidelines have been at any given time regarding COVID-19 over the past year, no business has been operating under normal circumstances or at full capacity. This means that many have struggled to make ends meet, been forced to temporarily close or gone out of business for good.

Already vulnerable, those companies that are lucky enough to remain afloat must now face the

reality of defending themselves against COVID-19 claims in court.

Knowing the final guidelines on the pandemic and associated fallout is still being written, many trial attorney firms are looking to capitalize on the uncertainty, and on businesses who are vulnerable, to take advantage of this opportunity since it does not come along very often. Usually, frivolous claims are thrown out for lack of merit when companies can afford to fight a lawsuit or there is an airtight defense that cannot be breached.

Now, with companies low on funds and so much up in the air, businesses may be forced to settle instead of risking everything in court — even when they are sure they could win.

Some plaintiffs' lawyers may hope to exploit the inconsistencies surrounding COVID-19 litigation and workplace or consumer protection laws so they can receive a large settlement.

Either way, these actions on the business community are holding back California's economic recovery, and they are hurting employees who need to return to work and consumers who rely on local businesses.



I urge our lawmakers at the state and local levels to support legislation that will curtail this dangerous pattern and stop it before it is too late.

Passing liability protections for

businesses would go a long way in rejuvenating our economy, providing security for thousands of families who rely on jobs at small businesses and deter frivolous lawsuits that end up being paid in higher prices by the consumer. ■

Editor's note: Steve Van Dorn is the president and CEO of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce.

Teresa McCarthy McKinsey

October 14, 1947 – March 27, 2021

Teresa McCarthy McKinsey, affectionally known as "Terri" and "GMa Terri," passed away peacefully on March 27, 2021 after a sudden illness. She was 73 years old. Born October 14, 1947, in Oakland, CA, to Francis and Barbara McCarthy, Terri was five-years-old when the family relocated



to Palo Alto, CA. She lived in Palo Alto for 63 years, graduating from Palo Alto High School in 1965 and obtaining an accounting degree from De Anza College in 1998. She worked for over 30 years for various companies in the Silicon Valley until her retirement in 2016. Her first marriage in 1965 to Michael Calhoun produced 2 children, Michael and Patricia. On November 8, 1981, she married Dennis McKinsey. They were married for almost 40 years and raised four children in Palo Alto before moving to Livermore in 2016.

Terri was known for her love and dedication to family and enthusiasm for making memories. Her first trip to Disneyland at age 8 launched a lifelong passion for 'the happiest place on earth.' As an adult, she and her brother Tim, sister Lauren, and her children, grandchildren and extended family continued to travel annually to the resort, often multiple times a year. Terri also helped plan their annual multigenerational camping reunions, a tradition that has continued for over 55 years. Her endless zest for life kept Terri on the go, attending Giants games for decades and large concerts, including The Rolling Stones in 1965, the last Beatles concert at Candlestick Park in 1966, and more recently, the Rolling Stones concert at HP Pavilion where she and her cousin, Sandy, watched (by invitation) from a special front stage area. Terri was also a gifted artist, creating illustrations in pen and ink, and an avid photographer.

She is survived by her husband, Dennis, brother Tim (Mary), sister Lauren (Clark Fuller), children Mike Calhoun (Faith), Patricia Calhoun (Kim Bravo), Montana McKinsey (Kimberlee), and Melody Calhoun (David). She was "GMa Terri" to grandchildren Amber and Robert Calhoun and Hudson and Beckett McKinsey, and "Aunt Terri" to nieces and nephews Katie McCarthy-Cobler, Ryan Snow, Tim and Matt McCarthy, Mary Mossotto, and Ryan and Adrian McKinsey.

A celebration of Terri's life is being planned for May 15, 2021. For those wishing to make a donation in Terri's memory, please consider any charity of your choice.

PAID OBITUARY

LETTERS

Thank you for Holiday Fund

Dear Editor,

On behalf of Axis Community Health's patients, board and staff, I would like to thank you and your readers for the extraordinary \$14,702.64 contribution we received from the 2020-21 Holiday Fund campaign.

The Holiday Fund truly makes a difference in our ability to provide care for Tri-Valley families, especially during the pandemic. These funds will be used to purchase in-home blood pressure monitoring devices for the Axis Health Connect program for vulnerable seniors who have hypertension.

The ability to monitor patients' blood pressure is essential to ensuring ongoing good health and for catching changes in condition in a timely manner. These patients are at higher risk for contracting COVID-19 due to their age and underlying chronic illness, so in-home monitoring is important for keeping patients safely at home.

We greatly appreciate that the Pleasanton Weekly's journalistic efforts put a spotlight on the challenges that the health crisis has brought to the delivery of health care and the innovative solutions we have implemented.

We also thank the caring community of Pleasanton Weekly readers for their generous response. We are truly grateful for your philanthropic work and deeply appreciate Axis being a beneficiary of the Holiday Fund.

—Sue Compton, CEO
Axis Community Health

LV Opera cover story

I cannot begin to tell you how thrilled I was to see Livermore Valley Opera as the cover story of your Arts and Entertainment section. Livermore Valley Opera is entering its 30th season and has grown to be a substantial part of the cultural activity in the Tri-Valley. Thank you so much for supporting us during this difficult time of no live productions.

—Stephanie Petermeier,
director of audience development, LV Opera

What's your opinion?

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

The fun of cartooning

Illustrator to present 'Comics and Storyboards' at Pleasanton Art League meeting

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Author and illustrator Elaine Drew explains that successful cartooning is not necessarily about the ability to draw.

"The reason for a cartoon to be successful is the idea behind it," Drew said.

Cartooning depends on the idea more than on the drawing ability, she continued, saying, "There are few visual art forms that demand an idea. Others are interested in textures or the look of color on the page. But cartoonists have to have an idea."

Drew, who has developed many drawing styles of her own, is introducing artists and writers to the benefits — and the fun — of cartooning, at a Pleasanton Art League Zoom meeting at 7:30 p.m. April 12.

"We've all got a story to tell, whether we tell it with words or pictures or both," Drew said.

In a free talk called "Comics and Storyboards," she will introduce the many directions cartoons can take.

Drew has had a varied career, including as an artist and designer.



Elaine Drew

She majored in English at Emory University and after graduation accepted a job in public relations that brought her to New York City. When she was about to be transferred to Schenectady, she decided to become an actress.

"I did get hired on my first audition but then it petered out," she recalled. "The odds are definitely not in your favor."

She found she enjoyed design more, studied at Fashion Institute of Technology, and become involved with the Costume Institute at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in the early 1970s.

"I worked in restoration and the mounting of exhibits and historic costumes," she said. "I worked on an exhibit of Russian historical costumes with Catherine the Great's wedding gown."

In New York she also studied drawing at the Art Students League, and especially remembers one teacher who thought of everything in terms of their basic shapes, analyzing them and laying them out in proportion to each other.

"I realized later that man had been a cartoonist," Drew said. "That's one of the things I am going to show in my talk."

She explained that early cartoons were drawings meant to illustrate stories, such as those widely used in frescoes in Italy. Figures were also put into large embroideries.

"One of the earliest was the Bayeux Tapestry," Drew said.

This embroidered cloth depicts events leading up to the Norman conquest of England, and is thought to date to the 11th century.

Drew's cartoons range from simple line drawings to intricate characters.

"The wonderful thing about cartooning is just about any style is acceptable," she noted. "When I got interested in storytelling, I already had an extensive art background and decided why not put them together."

Drew moved with her husband to Los Angeles and then to a village

in England, and the family was living in North Carolina when he was transferred to Silicon Valley about 20 years ago.

"We began looking for homes and heard about Pleasanton on a fluke and loved it from the minute we saw it," she recalled. "BART had just come in, and I loved the accessibility to San Francisco, and the Oakland Museum is a favorite."

Drew is the author of the humorous romantic comedy "Courting Trouble," a novel set against the backdrop of an early medieval kingdom. The king and queen, having survived her first novel, solve the mystery of a "Nun Too Clever," soon to be released.

Her work has been exhibited in New York, California, Paris and

England, and has been featured in many publications. She is currently working on an illustrated tale of a heroic knight who has a very bad day.

"The cartooning I'm doing now is personal for myself," Drew said. "If I feel like playing a little, I will develop the tale I want to illustrate. I am using some illustrations to be more like cartoons, with speech bubbles."

To download her free workbook and sign up for the Zoom presentation, go to www.pal-art.com.

"I am hoping people will get some fun out of it and hopefully some ideas about how to play with creativity," she said.

For more information about the artist, visit elainedrew.com. ■

Calling student artists

Pleasanton Art League is presenting "PAL's Pals 2021," an art competition open to all middle and high school students of work created between January 2020 and the present.

The first 200 submissions will be accepted and published in the PAL's Pals virtual art show on www.pal-art.com from May 1-31. The show will be judged, and there will be cash prizes and ribbons.

Submissions will be accepted from 8 a.m. April 19 to 11:59 p.m. April 21. Entry fee is \$10. For more information, go to www.pal-art.com/exhibits-events/call-artists.



Elaine at her desk



Demonstrating sketchbook techniques at the Adobe Art Center on Sept. 9, 2017

ELAINE DREW

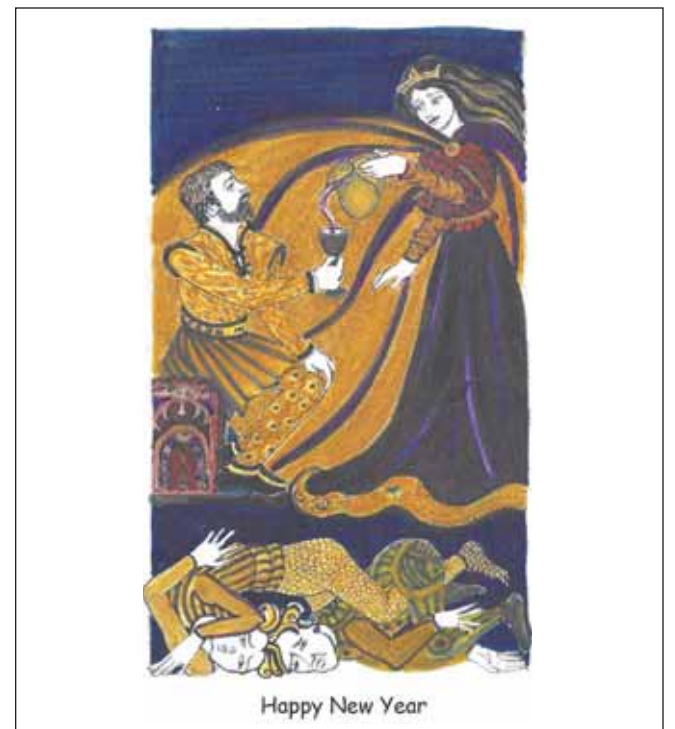
"Elaine at Her Desk" and "Elaine Teaching a Class" are two illustrations by Elaine Drew from an exercise to illustrate her day in drawings.



Happy Mother's Day!

ELAINE DREW

Elaine Drew notes that simple lines can be used to illustrate an idea.



Happy New Year

ELAINE DREW

Elaine Drew used a complex drawing to say "Happy New Year."



ELAINE DREW

Elaine Drew likes to experiment with speech bubbles as part of her drawings.



MARC BRENNER

James McAvoy in a 2020 production of "Cyrano de Bergerac."

Bankhead reopening in May with film series

100 tickets for 507-seat theater to view movies, films of theater productions

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center has announced that the Bankhead Theater will reopen in May, screening films with a restricted audience size. Following state guidelines, only 100 tickets will be sold for each event, with patrons to be spread out in the 507-seat theater.

The first film, which was originally scheduled for the week the theater closed a year ago, will be "Fiddler on the Roof," at 7 p.m. May 19. Nine additional films include theater productions filmed for broadcast from London's West End and a "Travel Without Leaving Town" series featuring famous art and artists. In addition, Family Films will return for the summer; details will be announced soon.

"After what has been a very long year, we are really looking forward to welcoming our patrons back into the theater," said Chris Carter, executive director of Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center. "Until we are able to host live performances again, showing high quality films on our full-stage big screen can bring at least some of the joy of the arts back inside the theater."

"We hope to host outdoor concerts soon, but as our first priority remains keeping patrons safe, we continue to wait for county or state guidelines on how to do so," he added.

Tickets purchased for "Fiddler on the Roof" in 2020 will be honored in May, and patrons will be contacted to choose whether they want tickets reissued using the new COVID-safe seating map, or to exchange, donate or receive a refund instead. Any remaining tickets will then be made available

at the standard Classic Film Musical price of \$5 each.

Tickets for "National Theatre Live," "Travel Without Leaving Town," and "Live from London's West End" are \$15 each, with \$10 tickets for students up to age 21.

The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First St. in Livermore. For tickets, visit lvpac.org or call 373-6800.

Films at the Bankhead

Classic Film Musical; \$5
7 p.m., Wednesday, May 19: "Fiddler on the Roof" (1971)

National Theatre Live Encore Screenings

\$15 regular/\$10 students to age 21

7 p.m., Thursday, June 10: "Cyrano de Bergerac" by Edmond Rostand

2 p.m., Thursday, July 8, "King Lear" by William Shakespeare

Travel Without Leaving Town — Great Art on Screen

3 p.m. Sundays
\$15 regular/\$10 students to age 21

May 30: Tintoretto — A Rebel in Venice

June 13: Hermitage — The Power of Art

June 27: Botticelli — Florence and the Medici

July 11: The Prado — A Collection of Wonders

July 25: Frida — Viva la Vida

Live from London's West End — Encore Screenings

8 p.m. Fridays
\$15 regular/\$10 students to age 21

July 16: "42nd Street"

July 30: "Kinky Boots." ■

National Library Week starts Sunday

Livermore offering Library Bingo as celebration

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Tri-Valley libraries have reopened their doors just in time for National Library Week, April 4-10.

Livermore libraries are also celebrating the special week with Library Bingo, which adults and teens can play by downloading a bingo board beginning on Monday (April 5) from the library website or picking one up at the Civic Center Library. Participants can also pick up a bingo board through the library's curbside service, and they will receive a colorful bookmark

with their bingo board.

Some of the Library Bingo squares are reading related, others encourage connecting with the community, and still others focus on discovery. Examples include reading a banned book, visiting a local park, suggesting a book to a friend, checking out the night sky, and trying a new recipe.

Completed Bingo boards may be dropped off at several spots to be entered into a drawing, or participants can take a picture

of a completed bingo board and email it in. The last day to submit a Bingo board for the drawing is April 30; the four winners will be randomly selected and contacted by phone the first week of May to receive goodie bags filled with fabulous prizes.

Learn more at www.livermorelibrary.net, or call 373-5505.

The theme of this year's National Library Week, first sponsored by the American Library Association in 1958, is "Welcome to Your Library." ■

San Lorenzo teen wins Rotary speech contest

Winner competes today in Northern Regional competition

Olivia Fryling, a senior at Redwood Christian Middle and High School in San Lorenzo, earned top honors March 18 at the Rotary Area 4 Level Richard D. King Annual Youth Speech Contest with a presentation paying homage to individuals who devote themselves to serving others.



Olivia Fryling

Fryling described the guidance Rotary provided her to help cope with emotional challenges during her sophomore and junior years in high school, which set her on a course she hopes will lead to a career in child psychology.

"It is easy to say, 'This is not my child, not my community, not my

world, not my problem,'" Fryling said during her presentation. "Then there are those people who see the need, and they respond. I consider those people my heroes."

She added that Rotary International opens opportunities in similar ways by responding when it sees a need, such as eradicating polio, sponsoring clean water projects, supporting education, saving mothers and children, or providing disaster relief, all objectives of its programs in the U.S. and around the world.

Fryling, who represented the Rotary Club of Castro Valley, was awarded a \$200 cash prize. She moves on to Northern Regional competition today for an opportunity to become one of four finalists to compete for district honors and a \$1,000 cash prize April 24 at the

District 5170 Training Assembly.

In a field of eight contestants, Brooke Nunes, a senior at Moreau Catholic High School in Hayward, placed second; and Regina Molitoris, a junior at Granada High School in Livermore, was third.

Sponsored by Rotary District 5170, the annual youth speech contest helps high school students in Alameda, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties recognize the importance of effective public speaking and gives them opportunities to develop oration skills, which this year were applied in a virtual Zoom format. The Rotary Clubs of Dublin, Castro Valley, Hayward, Livermore, Livermore Valley, Pleasanton, Pleasanton North and Tri-Valley Evening participated in the District 4 contest. ■

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Tour gardens of native plants

17th annual event partnering with Green Home Tour

Two gardens in Livermore and one in San Ramon have been added to the 17th annual Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, which is virtual for 2021, and registration is now open.

The tour will take viewers to 25 homes in Alameda and Contra Costa counties with gardens designed with plants native to California that thrive without amendments, fertilizers or pesticides, and offer incomparable habitat value to wildlife.

This year the tour has a new companion event, the Green Home Tour, for a total of four days of garden tours (April 25; May 2, 16, 23) and two days of green home tours (June 6, 12). The tours are free but registration is required at www.bringingbackthenatives.net to receive links to join the live events. The website has the full schedule of events as well as garden descriptions and plant lists.

Douglas Tallamy, author of "Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens" and "Nature's Best Hope," will be the keynote speaker, at 10 a.m. April 25. ■

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Susan Friedman of San Ramon installed her garden of 90% native plants in 2017, featuring a blend of plants that bloom throughout the year. As part of this year's tour, Friedman, a landscape architect, will speak May 23 on "A new living landscape; inviting biodiversity to your own front yard."



PLEASANTON PREPS

BY DENNIS MILLER

With crowd levels low, voices really carry from stands — and it's not all positive

Parents berating refs put damper on otherwise great return to sports

Saturday night at the Foothill-Dublin football game, I spent some time talking with legendary former Foothill coach Matt Sweeney about the kids playing sports again.

Sweeney mentioned that recently he had ridden his bike in Livermore, came upon Max Baer Park and stopped when he saw some youth sports teams practicing.

"It was just so great seeing kids out there playing sports again," Sweeney said. "It felt great to sit there and just watch."

For people like Sweeney — and I count myself in the same group — seeing kids of all ages (sorry high school athletes, you are all kids to me) playing sports again has been so refreshing.

As I wrote a couple of weeks ago, seeing the athletes out there competing is a heart-warming experience. But as I also touched on two weeks back, there is still some of the vibe missing.

Foothill won the game 36-35 over Dublin, converting a two-point conversion with 1:30 left in the game. In normal times, it would have been a raucous scene.

The parents were excited and going crazy, but without the students, it was a level below normal.

On the negative side — and it is really hard to find a negative now that the kids are competing — it also brought out how negative parents can be during high school sporting events.

Without the students and the bands, parents' voices carry probably more than many wish they did. Criticizing the officials is part of the game, unfortunately, and I think most officials realize it is the nature of the business. But the stuff coming out of some parents' mouths would make some dockworkers blush.

The officials in the game made sure to leave the field together in a bunch, expressing concerns for their safety. Pleasanton police officers at the game stayed longer than normal as well.

The officials are not getting rich doing these games and maybe it's time to realize if there were no officials, there would be no games.

Let me say that again — no officials, no games.

Maybe some parents who seem to make a lifestyle out of blaming the officials for their child losing a game need to take a serious look in the mirror.

Trust me, some of the stuff I hear coming out of the stands, especially during basketball games, seems like it could only be fiction. These parents need to take a serious look in the mirror.

As a player growing up, I looked at it this way: if I was perfect in a game, then maybe I might find a reason to blame the refs. But guess what? I was never perfect in any sporting event I played.

There has never been one time — as a player, parent or writer — I have seen that officials have cost a team a game.

I heard nonsense from both sides of the field Saturday night, and for me, it took something away from the exciting ending.

What pulled it all back together for me came at the end of the night when I was standing by the gate into the football stadium.

A Dublin football player came up to the gate to leave carrying his gear. He looked at the group of us standing there and said, "Thank you all

for being here tonight. You all have a great rest of your weekend."

Pure class and it gave me faith in the future. Yes, there were some questionable calls, but here was a player on the losing side of the night appreciating the gift he and his teammates had been given.

Honestly, it brought a bit of tears to my eyes. I just wish some parents could act as maturely and appreciate that our high school kids are playing again.

Send in your results!

It gives me great pleasure to say "Coaches, send in your results!"

I know there is no "official" standings, no league titles, no playoffs, but the important thing — especially for the seniors — is that the kids are playing!

Help me create some memories for these kids that have had a rough last two years of high school.

Here is the deal. Get one of your parents to collect the data from each game you play and send it to me by Sundays at noon.

Send your results to me at acesmag@aol.com and together, we can make some memories. ■



What is local journalism worth to you?

As we celebrate our 20th anniversary as the Tri-Valley's most trusted news source, we also look ahead to **sustaining our award-winning journalism** in the decades to come.

With local retail advertising steadily declining around the nation, **the future of local journalism is in the hands of our readers.** Only with your direct support as a subscribing member can we retain our professional journalists and continue to provide insightful and engaging coverage of the community.

Please join your neighbors and friends in keeping strong journalism alive in your community.

For just \$10 a month, or 33 cents a day, you can do your part to ensure that a free and responsible press continues to hold institutions accountable.

Learn more and sign up for membership at pleasantonweekly.com/join



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. Now through 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.

Opera

LIVERMORE VALLEY OPERA (LVO) PRESENTS TRIPLE TREAT LVO celebrates life and love with a concert of opera favorites. Arias include light-hearted duets from Lehar's Merry Widow, Donizetti's Elixir of Love, and Puccini's Gianni Schicchi. 6 p.m., April 10. Visit livermorevalleyopera.com.

Concert

LIVERMORE-AMADOR SYMPHONY GUILD RAFFLE The Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild is holding a raffle for an informal vocal concert by Lara Webber, music director of the Livermore-Amador Symphony. Lara will sing songs in any chosen style, at a mutually agreed upon time, until the end of 2021. Tickets on sale at the Bankhead lobby, 2400 First St., Livermore. 1-5 p.m., April 3-4 & 10-11. \$10.00 each. The drawing will be held April 11 at 5 p.m.

VINEYARD VIBES - A VIRTUAL CONCERT SERIES Vineyard Vibes & More, presents LunaFish. With an authentic psychedelic sound, LunaFish brings back all the joy of the timeless hits of the late 1960s and 1970s, refreshingly making them their own. 6 p.m., April 11. Visit livermorearts.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. 5-6:15 p.m., April 14. Email interfaith.interconnect@gmail.com to request the Zoom link.

Talks & Lectures

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.

PET OF THE WEEK



EAST BAY SPCA

Swiper

A 2-year-old German Shepherd, Swiper may look like a fox, but this gentle soul doesn't have a wily bone in his body. He came into the shelter scared but has blossomed with time. He is a fun-loving friend who is a little nervous around new people and around dogs and is looking for a home with no kids or older kids. If you're looking for a cuddly buddy to warm your heart and your couch, Swiper might be your guy. Visit eastbayspca.org.

LIVERMORE-AMADOR GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY The Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society presents Gena Philibert-Ortega, discussing 10 databases you didn't know were on Ancestry.com. Explore the lesser known databases that include images, digitized books and indexes, hidden treasures for those who know how to find them. 7-8:30 p.m., April 12. Visit l-ags.org.

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.

Family

2021 STEAM & DIESEL TRAIN RIDES Ride through Niles Canyon in all of its spring splendor behind steam or diesel power on select weekends, 10:30 p.m. & 1 p.m., April 10-11. Visit ncry.org.

Writers

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

Artists

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. Email jen.huber.art@gmail.com.

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, the classes are a multimedia adventure into the process of becoming a visionary. Class size limited to 15 students, \$75.00 per student. 4-5:30 p.m., starting April 15. Visit livermorearts.org/arts-education/learn.

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.

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 or call 398-1045.

Government

PLEASANTON PLANNING COMMISSION Planning Commission meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month, currently held virtually. The next meeting is scheduled for April 14. Visit cityofpleasantonca.gov.

LIVERMORE PLANNING COMMISSION The next regular Livermore Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., April 6, held virtually using zoom. For questions contact The City of Livermore Planning Division 960-4450.

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
Lien Sale • Trustee's Sale

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.

Employment

Full Stack Senior Software Engineer

Safeway Inc. is hiring Full Stack Senior Software Engineer working in Grocery delivery industry e-Commerce in Pleasanton, CA. Subj. to bckgrnd check. Mail resume to Safeway Inc., 5918 Stoneridge Mall Rd., Pleasanton, CA 94588, Attn: K.Reed & Ref. code: 20210127MS.

Software Developer III

Bio-Rad Laboratories, Inc. has an opening in Pleasanton, Ca for a Software Developer III. Join Bio-Rad's Digital PCR center to help in building exceptional life science products. To apply, Mail resume to Human Resources, 245 Linus Pauling Drive, Suite F, Hercules, CA 94547. Must reference job ID indicated: (Job Ref. 116.843).

Manager, Software Development Engineering

Manager, Software Development Engineering, Workday, Inc., Pleasanton, CA. Lead team SW dev to build & maintain platform that supports Workday's main customer interface using Agile Scrum methods. To apply, please mail resume to ATTN: Jessica Thurston, 6110 Stoneridge Mall Rd, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Please refer to Job #20637.468.

Chief Information Security Officer

Pleasanton, CA: Build cyber security infrastructure, Devsecops & compliance for cloud based products that augments SaaS and IoT stack. Build NSM capabilities. Bachelor's in CS/CIS/related field & 5 yrs exp. EOE. Accurics Inc, Sharad@accurics.com.

express

Sign up today at pleasantonweekly.com/express

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

Landlords, tenants can now apply to cover unpaid rent

Federal funding available to help with missed payments in pandemic

California's COVID-19 rent relief application portal went live on March 15, which will help eligible landlords and tenants cover unpaid rent from the past year.

Funding for the relief comes from the \$2.6 billion in federal aid from the U.S. Department of the Treasury's emergency rental assistance program.

The application for California tenants and landlords is available at housing.ca.gov.

Though some counties or cities have their own application portal for administering the rental assistance, Russ Heimerich, a spokesman for California's Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency, said that there is no wrong door for applying. For jurisdictions with their own application portal, the state's website will direct people to the relevant website.

Landlords with eligible tenants can apply to get reimbursed for 80% of a tenant's unpaid rent between April 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021 if they agree to forgive the remaining 20%.

Tenants may also apply on their own if their landlords do not participate. Those meeting eligibility requirements can receive 25% of unpaid rent accrued between April

1, 2020 and March 31, 2021. This is the amount tenants must pay before June 30 to avoid eviction under the state's COVID-19 Tenant Relief Act (Senate Bill 91).

Some tenants may also be able to receive assistance to cover 100% of utilities for the past year and 25% of future rent when eviction protections expire.

Applications are not first-come, first-served but will be accepted on an ongoing basis. Eligible tenants must make 80% or less of their location's area median income and the state will prioritize those making below 50% of their location's area median income.

Community organizations in each county are also available to help with applications. A list of supporting organizations and their contact information are available online.

For more information and eligibility requirements, people can visit HousingIsKey.com or call a toll-free phone line at 833-430-2122.

The application is available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Chinese and Korean, and help is available in more than 200 additional languages through the call center. ■

—Bay City News Service

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during Jan. 4-8 for Pleasanton, Sunol, Livermore and Dublin, and Feb. 22-26 for San Ramon.

Pleasanton

- 7580 Canyon Meadow Circle #A** S. & N. Gottiparthi to Z. & J. Shan for \$575,000
- 4225 Churchill Drive** T. Feng to Tham-Deng Family Trust for \$1,300,000
- 4394 Columbine Drive** Pennisi Trust to M. & R. Sun for \$1,375,000
- 2706 Corte Vera Cruz** Lindsey Trust to A. & M. Murugan for \$1,490,000
- 4464 Del Valle Parkway** Schorno Trust to D. & R. Duyn for \$655,000
- 827 Division Street** Knott Family Trust to L. & C. Winter for \$500,000
- 2197 Eilene Drive** B. Vertanen to N. & V. Penikalapati for \$1,080,000
- 1501 Fairview Court** M. & J. Amt to N. & M. Kent for \$1,262,000
- 4119 Garibaldi Place** G. & S. Wise to S. & P. Anand for \$1,115,000
- 1255 Greenwood Road** Hansen Trust to X. & M. Zhang for \$1,384,000
- 4123 Moller Drive** Kent Trust to Z. & L. Xi for \$1,012,000
- 3908 Mount Rainier Court** S. Tragni to S. & N. Wadhvani for \$1,283,000
- 4892 Muirwood Drive** Dirckx Family Trust to K. & P. Fleming for \$1,140,000
- 4427 Newman Place** K. & F. Weiller to N. & S. Zafarullah for \$1,100,000
- 2260 Oakland Avenue** D. Li to D. & A. Balachandran for \$1,320,000
- 7754 Olive Drive** Kelsh Family Trust to V. & S. Hiremath for \$1,270,000
- 6715 Paseo Catalina** D. Green to N. & A. Kunte for \$1,480,000
- 3141 Pellaro Court** G. & B. Khoury to S. & K. Byri for \$3,295,000
- 2144 Pomezia Court** S. Kettering to Hu Family Trust for \$2,000,000
- 2141 Rheem Drive** Kotla Family Trust to B. & N. Suggala for \$920,000
- 979 Rose Avenue** Oconnor Family Trust to Integra Const Svcs Inc for \$2,000,000
- 2288 Segundo Court #4** L. Mccrory to M. Natale for \$485,000

Sunol

- 905 Kilkare Road** K. & J. Koos to L. & J. Pustell for \$1,220,000

Livermore

- 2866 Alwick Avenue #4** Carroll Living Trust to X. Cha for \$730,000
- 6296 Altamar Circle** S. & M. King to O. & J. Salcedo for \$850,000
- 347 Basswood Common #12** Pham Living Trust to M. & J. Jinkoji for \$700,000
- 1504 Calle Del Rey** Potts Living Trust to H. & G. Ramirez for \$815,000
- 6261 Collier Canyon Road** J. Shane to S. & D. Amondson for \$1,679,500
- 1438 Columbine Way** R. King to V. & A. Borade for \$1,040,000

- 6338 El Capitan Court** Casey Trust to R. & P. Mukherjee for \$925,000
- 6412 Forget Me Not** H. & Y. Lee to R. & W. Gomez for \$639,000
- 2481 French Oak Place** C. & T. Billstrom to Rs Family Trust for \$1,500,000
- 5559 Goldenrod Drive** H. & R. Nordvik to S. & A. Hifai for \$1,110,000
- 173 Heligan Lane #4** P. & N. Patel to J. Grant for \$725,000
- 1183 Hibiscus Way** L. Delong to M. & J. Caglia for \$680,000
- 1330 Hillcrest Avenue** L. & M. Hatch to H. & C. Prusso for \$675,000
- 478 Kinglet Road** J. & S. Munoz to A. & A. Chauhan for \$840,000
- 834 Maricopa Court** Mt-7 Properties LLC to S. & J. Keshavdas for \$940,000
- 1613 Monterey Drive** J. & M. McLaughlin to P. & K. Lau for \$550,000
- 2306 Norwood Road** Dondero Family Trust to Sihner Trust for \$1,043,500
- 1842 Pine Street** Coox Trust to M. & A. Cherukuru for \$845,000
- 529 Rincon Avenue** SGT Investments to N. & H. Bopara for \$901,000
- 849 Tranquility Circle #11** S. Schrauth to D. Taller for \$675,000
- 292 Turnstone Drive** G. Owens to G. & E. Fissore for \$880,000
- 5634 Woodrose Way** Riley Family Trust to B. & Z. Kitaynik for \$1,063,000

Dublin

- 5573 Asterwood Drive** M. & J. Lester to K. & O. Carounanidy for \$1,292,500
- 11924 Bloomington Way** S. Sutton to L. & K. Kadiyala for \$1,470,000
- 4030 Bothrin Street** R. San to S. & M. Virani for \$975,000
- 7798 Crossridge Road** West Family Trust to P. & V. Vankayala for \$1,267,500
- 7300 Croy Lane #11** C. Yu to M. & S. Park for \$620,000
- 8450 Davona Drive** M. & A. Munoz to M. He for \$900,000
- 9621 Dominic Way** P. & D. Frank to J. & R. Wang for \$1,749,500
- 3245 Dublin Boulevard #224** Sengupta Family Trust to Poblete Family Trust for \$515,000
- 6979 Dublin Meadows Street #G** Wiedemann Trust to S. Brinkley for \$547,000
- 7024 Elba Way** Bridley Trust to S. & N. Yerragonda for \$1,085,000
- 3710 Ferncroft Court** N. Burguillos to K. & J. Lemmo for \$1,670,000
- 5496 Gracen Way** S. Vissarapu to E. & N. Clemena for \$1,160,000
- 5550 Iron Horse Parkway** A. & D. Sunkara to X. & Y. Lou for \$910,000
- 4504 Mirano Court** Hastie Family Trust to L. & A. Etemad for \$1,080,000

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.

Source: California REsource

SALES AT A GLANCE

Pleasanton (Jan. 4-8)

Total sales reported: 22
Lowest sale reported: \$485,000
Highest sale reported: \$3,295,000
Average sales reported: \$1,266,000

Livermore (Jan. 4-8)

Total sales reported: 22
Lowest sale reported: \$550,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,679,500
Average sales reported: \$847,500

Dublin (Jan. 4-8)

Total sales reported: 21
Lowest sale reported: \$515,000

Highest sale reported: \$1,790,000
Average sales reported: \$1,150,000

Sunol (Jan. 4-8)

Total sales reported: 1
Lowest sale reported: \$1,220,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,220,000
Average sales reported: \$1,220,000

San Ramon (Feb. 22-26)

Total sales reported: 20
Lowest sale reported: \$425,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,020,000
Average sales reported: \$944,750

Source: California REsource



Exceptional Pleasanton Townhouse | Light & Bright



3181 Tonopah Court

\$675,000 3 Bed 1.5 Bath

Light and bright, freshly painted and newly carpeted 3 bedroom 1.5 baths in the heart of Pleasanton with stainless appliances including refrigerator, indoor laundry with washer and dryer and, private closed-in patio with additional storage room. Two assigned parking spaces that are conveniently located. The HOA has so much to offer. This is an exceptional opportunity to have a home this size and price in Pleasanton. Close to shopping, award winning schools and great commute access.

Schedule a Private Showing With Us:
www.mcdowellhomesgroup.com



McDowell Homes Group
 Concierge Real Estate™

Peter McDowell & Mari Torres-McDowell
 925.209.0343 | 925.596.8731
 DRE 01361481 DRE 02023352

COMPASS

Compass is a licensed real estate broker and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only. Information is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is subject to errors, omissions, changes in price, condition, sale, or withdrawal without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footages are approximate. Exact dimensions can be obtained by retaining the services of an architect or engineer. This is not intended to solicit property already listed.



VENEMA HOMES

EXPERIENCE



EXCELLENCE



7759 Country Lane, Pleasanton
Offered at \$2,995,000



2234 Doccia Court, Ruby Hill
Price Upon Request



9472 Blessing Drive
Offered at \$4,850,000

\$30M+
SOLD in
First Quarter
2021

17
Closed
Home Sales in
First Quarter
2021

\$1.775M+
AVG Sales
Price in
First Quarter
2021

\$140M+
Current
2020-2021
Sales Volume

Talk, Text, or Zoom - Lets Connect!

Interview Our Team
To Find Out What
We Do Differently
To Get Our Clients
Incredible Results



Liz Venema
VENEMA HOMES TEAM





ARMARIO HOMES

TRI-VALLEY LUXURY REALTY



UNMATCHABLE RESULTS



RACCOON HOLLOW COURT
PLEASANTON CA 94566

SOLD \$2,290,000

PLEASANTON SPECIALISTS

Armario Homes Real Estate Team understands the local market. This featured listing sold for **\$341K OVER ASKING** after receiving **multiple competitive offers**.

Find out how recent sales in your neighborhood have **increased the value of your home**.

Pleasanton Homes are in high demand. Let's discuss how you can capitalize on today's market.

CONSIDERING SELLING? Call today for a complimentary Home Valuation: (925) 260-2220

FEATURED LISTINGS



JUST LISTED

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



JUST LISTED

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



JUST LISTED

4443 2ND STREET, PLEASANTON
4 BED | 3 BATH | 4,965 SQFT
\$1,399,000



PENDING

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

DeAnna Armario

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

www.ArmarioHomes.com

459 Main Street Pleasanton



KELLERWILLIAMS
Luxury
INTERNATIONAL
DRE# 02065804



1333 MONTROSE PLACE, PLEASANTON

5 bedrooms + gym, home theatre and office with custom built two person work space
6 Baths | 6,525 SF | 14 Acres | Private Vineyard | Offered at \$8,500,000

Enjoy California's mild year round weather in your resort style private estate. Situated at the end of a cul de sac with views of Mt. Diablo and your own personal vineyard.

- Full bedroom and bathroom downstairs
- State-of-the-art home theatre with full bath
- Bonus room with pool table and air hockey
- Room for boat or RV and attached 4 car garage.
- 96 (owned) solar panels
- Pool accented with 4 waterfalls
- Covered built-in hot tub
- Additional storage facility on the property
- 2 wells, 2 water storage tanks
- Outdoor heaters and misting system
- Bocce Ball court and ShuffleBoard
- Entertainment pavilion with full kitchen facilities
- Putting green with sand trap
- Outdoor bath, changing room and steam spa shower



1853 VIA DI SALERNO, PLEASANTON

6 Bed | 6 Full Baths and 3 Partial Baths | 8,183 SF | .51 Acres | Offered at \$4,999,500

You will feel like you've been transported to the French countryside when you arrive at this one of a kind Friendly French Chateau overlooking the 13th hole of the Ruby Hill Golf Course.

- Formal dining room with custom wall coverings
- Primary bedroom with retreat and balcony
- Chef's kitchen with island, breakfast bar and pizza oven
- 1,000 bottle temperature controlled wine cellar
- In-law suite on lower level
- Library and dedicated office/7th bdrm
- Home gym/Dance studio
- Theatre and Bonus/Game room
- Expansive lawn area, firepit and raised patio
- Views of Mt. Diablo and the surrounding hills



Lisa Sterling-Sanchez

Managing Partner

lsterling@venturesir.com

925.980.9265 c

925.359.9600 o

CalBRE #01012330

Venture

Sotheby's

INTERNATIONAL REALTY



The team that speaks your language.



Historically Low Inventory and Steady Demand Across...

Our Mission is to guide you throughout the home buying and selling process to ensure that your experience is as seamless and stress-free as possible.

We understand what it takes to buy or sell your home... Call US!

Top 1%
Nationwide

650M+
Successful real estate closings

650+
Properties listed/sold

106%
Sale price vs. list price

45+ Years
Real estate experience

usfineliving.com



Active **\$4,299,000**
831 Bricco Court, Ruby Hill
6 BD | 7 BA | 10,091 sq. ft.



Price Reduced **\$2,999,999**
1151 Central Avenue, Livermore
4 BD | 3 BA | 3,424 sq. ft.
2.08 acre lot & sub-dividable into 9 parcels



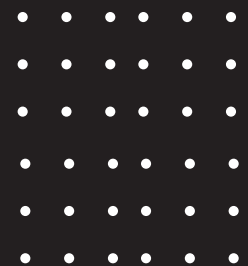
Pending **\$998,888**
3602 Whitworth Drive, Dublin
3 BD | 2BA | 2,156 sq. ft.



Coming Soon **\$728,888**
5501 DeMarcus Blvd Unit # 273, Dublin
2 BD | 2 BA | 1,399 sq. ft.



Pending (off-market) **\$1,075,000**
3803 Newton Way, Pleasanton
3 BD | 2 BA | 1,293 sq. ft.
Represented Buyer & Seller



Uwe Maercz
Broker Associate
925.360.8758
uwe.maercz@compass.com
DRE 01390383

Sonali Sethna
Broker Associate
925.525.2569
sonali.sethna@compass.com
DRE 01194792



Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01527235. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footages are approximate.