

Pleasanton Weekly

Sunflower Showcase fundraiser

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The thrill of the race

Bay Area-bred jockey Kyle Frey puts a fresh face on an old sport
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WHAT A WEEK



By JEREMY WALSH

On the road again

We're on our first real trip since November 2019, and honestly it's a little weird.

As part of taking COVID-19 precautions seriously, my wife and I all but eliminated unnecessary travel in 2020 and early 2021 for personal safety and out of respect for the few family, friends, colleagues and strangers we'd interact with before the vaccinations arrived. We had opted instead to spend our off-time with stay-cations at home or the occasional outdoor trek in the greater Bay Area.

With relaxed restrictions at home in California and our own comfort levels improving as inoculations increase, we took advantage of the opportunity to spend two weeks at family property my grandparents own in rural Wyoming — in the part of the state my grandpa lived in through high school before attending the U.S. Naval Academy.

As you can tell, it's partially a working vacation. Still, it's good to get away after so long, and a change of scenery never hurts a writer.

We made the 17-hour drive late last week with overnight stops in Reno and Twin Falls, Idaho, before arriving in Dubois.

But the adventure began early.

The first leg, after a noon departure, was going smoothly (and my 4:09 p.m. tee time in Reno beckoned), when Interstate 80 came to a standstill.

A Walmart semi-truck with trailer jackknifed on a steep decline outside of Truckee, blocking the entire east-bound direction with really nowhere for us to turn around. Fortunately, no injuries were reported.

We sat there for 2-1/2 hours, and I stewed (and pouted a bit, one source might say) as my golf time came and went due to a preventable accident. A few minutes of steady rain, something I hadn't seen since mid-May, helped me regain some perspective on the situation.

Don't worry. We got to Reno by mid-evening, and I rescheduled for an early tee time the next morning — even managed to shoot par on the front 9.

The next two legs of the drive were less eventful; mainly long stretches between the few cities with little change of scenery before Wyoming. I was particularly struck by the number of fire prevention signs in Nevada, Idaho and Wyoming, serving as reminders that we in California are not alone in facing annual wildfire battles.



We also made a stop in central Idaho Falls, where my mom was born while her parents lived only briefly during her infancy early in my grandfather's Navy tenure.

The drive through western Wyoming was certainly the most beautiful of the journey, other than the early leg in the Sierra. Not very often you stop on the highway to watch bison cross the road. We look forward to checking out Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks over this holiday weekend.

I had been to Wyoming once before, as a kid, but I have only few fleeting memories, partly because I had chickenpox during that trip.

Of course this time, though fully vaccinated (shout out Contra Costa Health Services and Pfizer-BioNTech), I'm trying to avoid another medical scourge. The coronavirus health crisis in the U.S. sure seems to be waning, but it's certainly not gone yet and plenty of other countries are still having a really tough time.

With reports of the Delta variant increasing in the U.S. and the "Equality State" posting only a meager 34.4% vaccination rate, I hope they'll excuse us for wearing masks in public indoor settings to help limit preventable spread of this virus. So far so good in that regard, other than the occasional side-eye or smirk.

One other question mark for this early part of the trip was where to pose for my first Take Us Along photo.

The answer proved pretty easy in the end: outside Welty's General Store in downtown Dubois, operated for generations by my grandpa's relatives and listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Now, it's time to wrap this column up and get some sleep. I've got a tee time later this morning. ■

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

About the Cover

Horse jockey and Tracy native Kyle Frey heads back to the barn after riding in his first race of the day at the Alameda County Fairgrounds on June 5. Photo by Mike Sedlak. Cover design by Paul Llewellyn.

Vol. XXII, Number 23

PLEASANTON LISTINGS

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COMING SOON!

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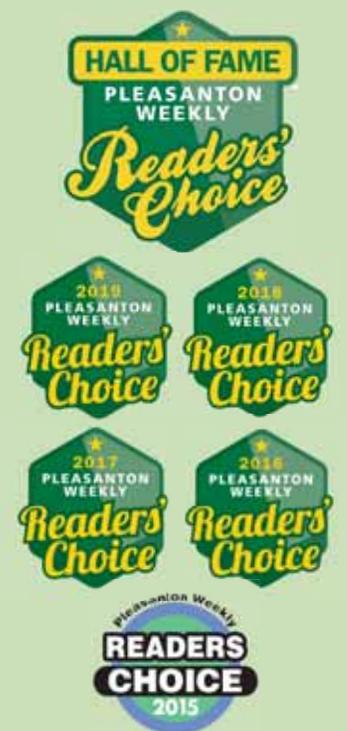
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Streetwise

ASKED DOWNTOWN

Do you look and act differently, depending on where you are and who you're with?



Sohan Shah
Project manager

Certainly. I would never talk to my boss the way I speak to my friends. But I do try to maintain a pretty consistent undercurrent of "sameness" in terms of my basic values, which always remain the same, regardless of where I am or who I'm with.



Sameer Sayia
Business owner

Nope. I look and act the same, no matter where I am or who I'm with. I take a lot of pride in being everyone's "constant". If ever I'm not consistent with my true, normal, authentic self, people worry that there's something wrong with me.



Connie Roney
Retired

Oh yes. I think it is just an innate reaction, and human nature, to act and look differently, depending on the circumstances I find myself in.



Anita Colotto
Taking a break

I do. If I'm with older folks, or with children, or with long-term friends, or with strangers, I look and act differently so that I'm perceived appropriately. It's very situational.



Orazio Colotto
Retired

I do. I feel very comfortable just looking and acting like myself in an informal setting. But in a more formal setting, I feel best if I just blend and fit in. So I will conform my looks and behavior to that setting.

—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.



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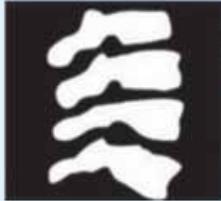
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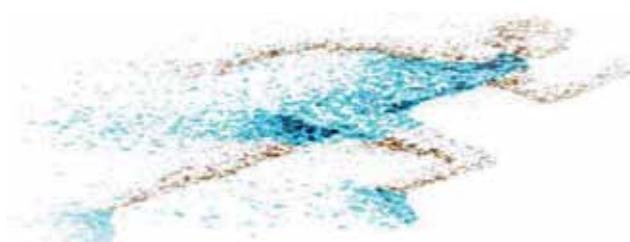
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DIGEST

Housing survey

Pleasanton officials have launched an online survey to gather community input as part of the process to draft the city's upcoming Housing Element update.

"The feedback provided in the survey will help inform and plan for the future of housing in Pleasanton by identifying trends on housing preferences, needs, and housing opportunities in the city. This survey is part of the first steps in the ongoing community engagement process associated with updating Pleasanton's Housing Element," officials said.

Open until July 30, the survey can be accessed at pleasantonhousingelement.com.

Quake hits East Bay

Parts of the Bay Area including the Tri-Valley and Contra Costa County were shook by a magnitude 3.9 earthquake originating in unincorporated western Alameda County on Monday night.

Striking at 6:29 p.m., the quake had an epicenter located about a half mile north from Ashland, according to the U.S. Geological Survey website. No injuries or property damage were reported.

Fireworks canceled

The city of Livermore will not be hosting its annual Fourth of July fireworks display this year. Officials said the city made the decision earlier in the year in an effort to prioritize the community's health and safety at a time when there were still many unknowns. They said the city is looking forward to bringing the event back in 2022.

Livermore police also reminded residents that the individual use of fireworks is prohibited in Livermore.

Vaccine clinics

The city of Dublin has organized two COVID-19 vaccination clinics at the Dublin Senior Center (7600 Amador Valley Blvd.) later this month.

The first session will be held next Wednesday (July 7) and the second will be July 28. Both will run from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The clinic, which will be free and will not require proof of insurance nor citizenship, will offer the Johnson & Johnson single-shot vaccination for adults 18 and older while the Pfizer-BioNTech two-dose vaccine will be available for youth 12-17.

An appointment can be made via cur.tv/dublin or 888-702-9042. Walk-ins welcome too. ■

PUSD union staff 'disgusted' by pay increases for upper administration

Board President Laursen says 'we have some room to improve' for teacher pay

By JULIA BAUM

Amid negotiations with both collective bargaining groups at Pleasanton Unified School District — and heavy criticism from some union members — the Board of Trustees unanimously approved compensation increases for the district administrative cabinet June 24.

Five district cabinet members including Superintendent David Haglund received new employment agreements with PUSD. The contracts stipulate a 3.5% increase in salary and fully covered health, vision and dental benefits for the employee as well as their spouse and dependents.

But the pay raises didn't sit well with many members of the California School Employees Association,

which represents the district's classified employees including receptionists, custodians, paraeducators and cafeteria workers. During public comment at Thursday's regular board meeting, Amador Valley High site registrar Linda Pipe said she was "disgusted by the disingenuous nature of PUSD leadership and decision-making."

"You as a board have the responsibility to make sure that all employees are treated fairly, yet when CSEA requests that our benefits even remotely keep pace with basic inflation, we are told this isn't, and I quote, 'in the best interest of the district,'" Pipe said, adding that benefit stipends given to classified workers "does not even cover the cost of the lowest Kaiser plan for

employee-only."

Along with extending his term for one additional year, thereby creating a new four-year agreement, Haglund's base salary is set at \$317,148. The agreement — which took effect Thursday, July 1, and expires June 30, 2025 — also "provides longevity benefits at the beginning of the 5th and 7th year of service" and keeps all existing contract provisions "in full force and effect."

Contracts for assistant superintendents Janelle Woodward, Julio Hernandez, Ed Diolazo and Ahmad Sheikholeslami also stipulate similar dates, terms and conditions but extended their terms for a three-year agreement, instead of four, and will each receive a base salary of \$222,252. The 3.5% compensation

increase for all five cabinet members will extract about \$54,143 from the district's general fund.

Ahead of a district staff compensation analysis also presented on Thursday, CSEA President Derek Psaros said, "I want for the trustees to ask deep questions about compensation — who gets it, how they get it, how it compares to our neighbors and if the data presented is apples to apples. Also, what compensation within and outside of wages might heal this poor morale."

Board President Joan Laursen acknowledged later that PUSD is "not the lowest paying district in the county but we have some room to improve, and we're going to do the

See **RAISES** on Page 6



CIERRA BAILEY

The Eden Housing project site, located at the Southeast corner of the Railroad Avenue and L Street intersection, is currently being used as a public parking lot.

Group sues city of Livermore over affordable housing approval

Lawsuit challenges 'flawed' plan; mayor calls it a 'desperate delaying tactic'

By CIERRA BAILEY

Community group Save Livermore Downtown filed a lawsuit against the city of Livermore June 24, challenging the City Council's approval of the 130-unit Eden Housing affordable housing development planned for downtown.

"As a last resort, Save Livermore Downtown has filed a lawsuit to halt the implementation of the Eden Housing plan," Save Livermore Downtown spokesperson Jean King said in a statement. "This action was made necessary because Livermore's City Council members did not engage with citizens to consider alternatives to the flawed Eden plan."

The lawsuit — a copy of which

was obtained by the Weekly — argues that the council's approval of the project "is an abuse of discretion because the project is inconsistent with Livermore's Downtown Specific Plan and because further environmental review is required to address newfound concerns regarding contamination at the project site."

The lawsuit seeks for the court to, "set aside the city's approval of the project and require the city to prepare further environmental analysis for the project, such as a supplemental environmental impact report." Additionally, the petitioners are requesting that the court "require the city and Eden Housing to resolve the project's

inconsistencies with the Downtown Specific Plan."

Although a petition for writ of mandate has already been filed with the Alameda County Superior Court, Save Livermore Downtown said the group would like to meet with the city and Eden Housing to potentially find another solution.

"We have communicated to the City Council and Eden Housing our desire to meet at the earliest possible moment to find acceptable alternatives to the current plan and avoid the necessity of the lawsuit," King said.

In response to news of the

See **LAWSUIT** on Page 7

Foundation merger with Stanford approved

VCCF corporate members vote 91% in favor of proposed deal

By JEREMY WALSH

ValleyCare Charitable Foundation corporate members have overwhelmingly approved merging the Tri-Valley health system's nonprofit arm with Stanford, further advancing the relationship that began more than five years ago when the local hospital itself became affiliated and rebranded as Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare.

In balloting conducted in recent weeks, 91% of foundation members who cast ballots voted in favor of the proposed merger first revealed publicly in late April, the VCCF Board of Trustees announced on Monday. The foundation had remained an independent entity for the years since the Stanford-ValleyCare affiliation agreement became effective in 2015.

"We are confident that this merger will have a positive impact on our hospital, and we thank you for your support," the trustees said in a joint statement. "We also believe that a merger of VCCF with SHC-VC is well-timed and aligns with our strategic vision."

VCCF trustees had also argued that the merger would open new fundraising opportunities through

See **MERGER** on Page 9

Dublin Unified School District tentative labor agreement

Tentative agreement includes 2% ongoing salary increase, 'significant' health benefits improvements

By RYAN J. DEGAN

The Dublin Unified School District (DUSD) Board of Education and the Dublin Teachers Association (DTA) announced on Wednesday that they have reached a tentative agreement after thorough labor negotiations, which district officials say includes "significant" health and wellness benefit improvements.

Once ratified, the agreement will bring closure to current labor negotiations and in addition to a 2% ongoing salary schedule increase for all DTA members, will

establish prep time for elementary teachers, improved health care benefits and a number of other items for a contract that will extend through the 2021-2024 school years.

"This last year has reminded all of us about the importance of having access to affordable healthcare. The board is a firm believer in supporting the health and wellness of our DUSD employees and we are excited that staff has found a way to fill this gap in our offering," DUSD Board President Dan Cherrier said in a statement.

"DTA is excited to have reached an agreement for the next three-year contract," added DTA President Robbie Kreitz. "We have made vigorous in-roads toward health benefits with 75% paid coverage for employees. In addition to health care, we have secured some long-standing side letters into permanent contract language. We are grateful to the commitment of all DTA members who were engaged in the process at every step."

Key elements of the tentative agreement include district contribution of 75% of Kaiser Health

Care single-party annual premium for members, 20.5% of Kaiser Health Care single-party annual premium as "Cash In Lieu" for members who do not take DUSD health care — guaranteeing cash in lieu payments will increase with Kaiser premiums — and additional bi-weekly prep period for elementary teachers of up to 90 total prep days.

Approved by the DUSD Board of Trustees during its June 22 meeting, the agreement now moves on to ratification by DTA members who will themselves review the

efforts made by their negotiation team.

"We all owe the DTA and district bargaining teams a great deal of gratitude," Interim Superintendent Daniel Moirao said. "Negotiations are never easy, but these team members were able to clear some major hurdles in a short period of time. As a result of their hard work, Dublin is an even more attractive location for educators, which makes the goal of providing all students with an exceptional educational experience easier to achieve." ■

Dublin Unified confirms new hires for assistant superintendent of human resources and principal of Fallon Middle School

By ANNA HSU

The Dublin Unified School District announced five new appointments as the district prepares to transition to a new school year at the final board meeting of the 2020-2021 school year.

The board of trustees unanimously approved the appointment of Heather Duncan as the assistant superintendent of human resources at the June 22 board meeting.

Duncan, who recently served on

an interim basis for the role, acknowledged the board and the community for the opportunity.

"When I came here beginning in a different role, I had been told how great this district is in terms of the staff and what we do on the behalf of students and it's really only in the work that I have been doing here with the staff that I've learned to fall in love with how hard they work and what matters to them as a group, especially in a year like the

last year that we all had to work through" Duncan said.

"I'm excited about working with Superintendent Funk because of his focus on equity and working with a social justice viewpoint and mindset, and that is something that I live my life to move forward," she added.

Incoming superintendent, Christopher Funk, recommended Duncan for the position after reviewing a number of candidates. In a statement to the board, Funk explained

his recommendation stating three key factors that led him to support Duncan for the role.

"She has the type of skill set that I believe will work well with my skill set and with the entire executive leadership team. The second key piece was that I think it is important to have a sense of stability within the leadership team here in Dublin. The third factor is that it is important to me to always have balance; balance in diversity and gender," Funk said.

Duncan's new contract differs from that of previously appointed assistant superintendents following leadership under Funk. Effective for only one year, Duncan must "demonstrate satisfactory evaluation in order for recommendation for a second year" as explained by Funk.

The board also confirmed the new hire for the principal of Fallon Middle School, Mark Nelson.

See **NEW HIRES** on Page 8

RAISES

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best we can with the money that we get."

"It's been a conversation at the board level and with staff talking about what are we going to do about that, to look at our compensation structures and try to start offering benefits and move that along," Laursen added.

But Laursen defended the employment agreements with the administrators toward the end of the meeting and said the district added paid medical "because that's what we're hearing when we're looking at hiring administrators — that those

are things that they're considering and determining what's right for themselves and their families."

"This is not a secret deal, but the process of looking at ways in which we can make our administrators competitive so other districts don't lure them away from us," she said.

"That means we took a look at it in terms of the whole district, like what are we trying to do to improve our competitiveness with our other administrators, with CSEA, with APT," Laursen said, adding that the board was "looking at it from a competitiveness for the whole organization."

Among 15 school districts in Alameda and Contra Costa counties used as comparison groups during

the presentation on staff compensation, New Haven Unified School District in Union City was ranked No. 1 for teacher salaries despite not having a parcel tax.

This fact upset Cheryl Vangundy, a technology specialist at Vintage Hills who contacted the Weekly before the meeting and said PUSD "often states that they have less funds than other districts because they don't have a parcel tax."

Last year 29 classifications were below the market mean, according to the compensation analysis, but Vangundy said those positions account for more than a third of classified staff, "nor does it state that PUSD has been below the 50th

percentile in terms of compensation based on the local labor market rate for some time." A compensation study from last year left many employees without any pay raise.

The Association of Pleasanton Teachers, which represents certificated employees at PUSD, showed support and solidarity with CSEA on Thursday. APT President Michelle VerKuillen told the board that she's had "several disconcerting conversations with our educators in the last month" about salaries not keeping up with the cost of living.

"I am seeing more mid- and late-career people leaving our district because they are being outpriced of the Bay Area," VerKuillen said. "They

cannot afford to stay here even at this point in their careers."

VerKuillen also declared the district's competitiveness has "waned," and warned administrators that new hires who have "voiced concern because they did not realize that the district does not contribute to benefits ... will probably not stay" because surrounding districts are luring away talent by offering benefits or benefit stipends on top of posted salaries.

"We have to invest in our programs, and our programs include our educators," VerKuillen said. "Supporting our students means investing in educators so they can live and be a part of their community."

The district was scheduled to resume negotiations with CSEA Thursday, July 1, and with APT on July 8. Officials said they have requested another meeting with APT in early July to discuss bell schedules and other concerns they wish to negotiate.

Several new public employee coordinator appointments were also announced on June 24, three of which are new job descriptions approved last month. The job titles include coordinators for human resources, student services, high school operations, and academic extended day and intervention programs. Compensation for the positions range between \$133,695 to \$147,609, with part of the money for those salaries coming from the unrestricted general fund. ■

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Interfaith communities commemorate lives lost to COVID-19

By ANNA HSU

With the pandemic coming closer to an end, East Bay interfaith communities gathered in Pleasanton this weekend to remember and mourn those who lost their lives to COVID-19 while also looking with a positive eye toward the future.

The coronavirus pandemic greatly affected group worship and community events as social distancing and safety precautions were implemented. After months of isolation and separation, the interfaith communities organized "Into the Light," which featured a selection of speakers from different backgrounds, beliefs and occupations for a long-awaited

reflection of the past year.

"It feels like we've been waiting a long time to be able to celebrate this bittersweet day. Bitter, because we mourn almost 4 million lives lost to COVID-19 in the past few months. And sweet, because the fact that we were able to gather today is a sign that hope is on the horizon, there's light at the end of the tunnel," Hina Khan-Mukhtar said in an opening statement welcoming attendees early Sunday evening.

The event was organized by three local interfaith communities — Eden Area Interfaith Council, Tri-Valley Interfaith Interconnect and Tri City Interfaith Council — and held in the

parking lot of the Muslim Community Center-East Bay (MCC East Bay) in Pleasanton.

During the event, speakers shared personal experiences, prayers, poems and songs to commemorate those lost to COVID-19 and in anticipation of better times ahead.

Bishop Robert Lopez of Mar Thoma Orthodox Church and Munir Safi of the MCC East Bay shared their personal stories of losing a brother and a father to the pandemic. Lopez connected the loss of his brother to the ongoing issues of systemic racism.

"The pandemic is not over, people are still dying, people are still

contracting the virus, here in the United States and abroad," Lopez said. "And we see the same systematic issues in other countries around economics, around religious beliefs, around gender ... and unless we are willing to address our own prejudices that we hold onto, the next pandemic is not addressed in a way in which we show compassion and love and truth, we will find ourselves in the same situation we find ourselves in today."

Jamie Ireland and Elsa Grabowski from Tri-Valley Cultural Jews shared poems in remembrance of the lives lost in the past year. Ireland recited the poem, "A Litany

of Remembrance" by Rabbis Sylvan Kamens and Jack Riemer. Grabowski shared her own poem, "A Year Like No Other," remarking the differences and changes faced within the last year.

Trish Munro from the Livermore City Council reflected on the losses caused by the pandemic but also the challenges beyond the pandemic, referencing the Black Lives Matter movement, fires, U.S. Capitol insurrection and climate change. As a member of the city council, Munro said she has first-hand seen the work of public service workers

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LAWSUIT

Continued from Page 5

litigation, Livermore Mayor Bob Wornner told the Weekly in an email, "I've been anticipating such a lawsuit against our city ever since the malicious political attacks started appearing in The Independent earlier this year."

"It's a desperate delaying tactic that I believe will be rejected by the court, where the facts and the law matter," he added. "I also expect the incredibly misleading and divisive political theatrics will continue, because it is not about public safety or the law, but rather it is about manipulating public opinion for their own purposes. This frivolous lawsuit will waste precious taxpayer dollars, and shamefully delay much needed homes for our essential workers."

Vice Mayor Trish Munro shared similar sentiments. "I am deeply saddened by the cruelty of the people attempting to delay the Eden Housing development. They have no interest in building community or providing homes for real people, but simply want to benefit themselves. I wish they would reflect on the harm they do and act for the good of all," she said.

"I'm just really disappointed because it's very hard to build affordable housing and this is just making it harder," said Eden Housing President Linda Mandolini of the lawsuit. "I'm sure that the city did all of the things that the city needed to do to get us through the approvals process and so, we believe we'll prevail in court. It's just going to delay the project and I think that's really what they want to do," she said, adding that these obstacles are unfortunate because "people desperately need a place to live."

Save Livermore Downtown has been a staunch opponent of the project and previously expressed concern that the approved plan is different from the initial conceptual design that was approved by City Council in 2018, which featured four separate buildings and a larger park.

The design that the council approved includes two four-story buildings with units that range in size from 500 to approximately 1,000 square feet. Both buildings would occupy a combined footprint of about 38,000 square feet and would include various amenities like lobbies, recreation rooms and laundry facilities.

About 31,000 square feet of land between and to the southeast of the two buildings would be allocated to Veterans Park, which would be open to the public.

City staff has previously said that the reasoning for some of the design changes since the conceptual stage were because state affordable housing grant funding requirements called for changes in the mix of units, unit sizes and common areas compared to what was initially considered for the project.

Save Livermore Downtown has also cited traffic congestion and inadequate parking among its concerns about the project, along with the concern that having four story buildings in the area "will change the character of Livermore's comfortable, open downtown."

While the group's lawsuit creates a hurdle for the city and Eden Housing, Mandolini said, "We're not giving up." She continued, "Even if it takes another year to get through the court system, we plan fully to build this project with the city."

Earlier this month, Save Livermore Downtown published an ad in The Independent newspaper that accused the city of ignoring correspondence from the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board calling attention to contamination at the site.

At the City Council's regular meeting on June 14, city staff clarified several points in the letter, explaining that the letter was typical and standard in nature and that its overall purpose "was for the water board to communicate their concurrence with the city report's conclusions and request additional evaluation to assess any impacts from the property's former use as a lumber yard and also to notify the city that a site management plan would have to be reviewed and approved by the water board prior to construction and re-development of the site."

The topic came up again during public comment at City Council's June 28 regular meeting where former Livermore Mayor John Marchand said that Save Livermore Downtown — which he referred to as "the group of many names" — "has proven that they will do anything, say anything and pay anything in their efforts to kill the approved downtown plan that was created with input from thousands of Livermore residents."

He doubled down on his previous comments that the group's ad

claiming the project site contains radioactive contamination was false. He also rebutted other claims, including that Veterans Park is 40% smaller in the approved design compared to the conceptual design. Marchand said the park is actually 30% larger.

"So far this year, hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent against Eden Housing by a small handful of wealthy elite in an effort to keep people that they deem unworthy out of Livermore," Marchand said. "Logic and reason do not support their bigotry; that is why the lies, the big money from out-of-town lawyers, PR firms and contributors," he added.

Donna Cabanne — a member of the Tri-Valley branch of the Sierra Club who also previously spoke at the June 14 meeting — asked the council to hold a hearing about contamination in the soil and groundwater in downtown. "The water board and Miss Craig, the city consultant, stated that a hearing will be held if residents request it. This is a very complex issue and a complete hearing is needed," she said.

While some contamination does exist at the site, city officials said that it is not out of the ordinary and will be remediated as part of the cleanup ahead of construction. ■

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Tri-Valley students nominated to military service academies

Ceremony held at Dublin City Hall to honor all 10 nominees from across Swalwell's 15th District

By LEILA TOUATI

U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-Livermore) hosted a reception last week at Dublin City Hall in honor of the 10 students from his 15th Congressional District who were nominated by his office to attend America's military service academies.

The high-schoolers recognized included Tri-Valley students Charles Lee, Claire Tsay, Jacob Marmon, Andrew Wang, Lily Holtmeier, Brandon Norton and Yujin Shim. The criteria used to determine the candidates include factors such as academic achievements, leadership ability, extracurricular activities and character, according to Swalwell's office.

"By choosing to attend America's military academies, our young neighbors have chosen to elevate their lives in the service of our

nation, to do the right thing, to pursue truth. That, to me, is the definition of patriotism," Swalwell said in a statement ahead of the June 20 ceremony.

"Playing a small role in advancing these young leaders is among the greatest joys of my job," he added. "I'm honored and humbled to be their voice in Congress, and I'm so glad that our community is producing such fine, talented, motivated people."

Local students nominated to attend the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. are Lee, Tsay, Marmon, Wang and Holtmeier.

Lee, a graduate of Dougherty Valley High School in San Ramon, is a holder of three California state records in archery and was acknowledged as a USA Water Polo

Academic All-American in 2020. He has been active in the American Legion Boys State and the Interact Club at Dougherty Valley.

Tsay attended Amador Valley High School in Pleasanton and was honored as an AP Scholar in 2019, a National AP Scholar with Distinction in 2020 and a National Merit Scholarship Commended Student in 2020.

Marmon went to Dublin High School and was an academic athlete — making the honor roll from 2018 to 2020 and playing junior varsity football, varsity soccer and weight training. Marmon engaged in the Alameda County Sheriff's Office Explorer program aiding police officers and helping during community events.

Wang attended Dublin High

School and was a part of the Gaels' swim team, winning the California Interscholastic Federation NCS Scholar during the years 2017 to 2020. Wang also taught youth in engineering and sports by being co-president of Promoting Leadership and Aspiring Youth (PLAY).

Holtmeier was a student at California High School in San Ramon and a part of the high school's water polo and swim teams. In her four years playing water polo, Holtmeier became junior varsity MVP in 2017, varsity Offensive Player of the Year and earned the EBAL All-League Honorable Mention in 2017.

Norton was nominated to attend the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md. Norton went to Livermore High School and was the recipient of the Congress of Future Medical

Leaders Award of Excellence in 2020 as well as vice president of his senior class. He participated in the Naval Academy Summer Seminar.

Shim is a nominee for the U.S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, Colo. Shim attended Foothill High School in Pleasanton and was a National Merit Scholarship Commended Student recipient in 2020. Her older brother currently attends the Air Force Academy.

The other student nominees outside the Tri-Valley area are Valentin Shatilenko (Hayward), Oumar Diop (Fremont) and Karell Washington (Castro Valley).

The next step for all the nominees is for the academy of the student's choice to make a final decision and send out an offer of admission, according to Swalwell's office. ■

Summer pavement maintenance program to cover lots of ground

Local roadways will be repaired, resealed starting after the July 4th holiday

By JULIA BAUM

Pleasanton city workers will begin work on repairing and resealing more than 4.25 million square feet of local streets just after the Fourth of July weekend as part of their Summer Pavement Management Program.

According to city officials, work is scheduled to begin on July 6 with crews first completing concrete improvements, base repairs and crack sealing as needed before applying slurry seal to the road surface.

The Pavement Management Program's goal is to "maintain city streets and keep them in good driving condition, which requires a

considerable amount of thought and effort," according to the city website.

Multiple streets around the downtown area are slated for repairs or improvements, including Second Street between Neal Street and Kottinger Drive, on Pleasanton Avenue between St. Mary and Division streets, from the east end on Division to Pleasanton, and again on Division between Pleasanton and St. Mary.

Kottinger will also be repaved between Bernal Avenue and Concord Street. Other major roadways to be repaired or improved this summer include Del Valle Parkway from Hopyard Road to Hometown Way, as well as Black Avenue.

The city's street system of approximately 501 miles of paved roads has an overall Pavement Condition Index (PCI) of 81 out of 100 — the second highest in Alameda County behind Dublin and Union City, though officials note that Dublin's higher PCI could be "a product of the amount of development with new streets."

Every two years, officials evaluate and rate all 1,324 roadway sections in Pleasanton. Brand new streets receive a PCI of 100, while above 75 is considered "good," above 50 being "fair," above 25 is "poor," and less than 25 is "very poor." Without maintenance, street surface

conditions can drop from a PCI of 100 down to 50 within about 18 years of service.

As the street ages, the rate of deterioration speeds up. If maintenance continues to be neglected, street conditions can then drop from 50 to 25 in just a few more years. When a street is rated "poor" or "very poor," a complete overhaul is needed, and the roadway base rock is reconstructed before repaving the street surface.

Roads in Pleasanton that are rated "good" with a PCI close to 75 usually receive a slurry seal treatment, which is fairly affordable at a cost of approximately 50 cents per square foot. These savings allow many streets to be sealed, thereby increasing their PCI from the low end of

"good" at 75 to the higher end, closer to 100.

Slurry seal is a thin coat of asphalt and aggregate slurry mixture which seals the road surface when applied. Senior civil engineer Adam Nelkie told the Weekly that slurry seal is the second component of street preventative maintenance — most likely taking place in September — and helps "prolong the useful life of the existing street infrastructure while providing a safe and smooth riding condition."

The cost of the slurry seal project is \$530,000, and is scheduled to be awarded by the Pleasanton City Council on July 20. Work for the pavement management program is scheduled for completion in November. ■

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NEW HIRES

Continued from Page 6

"I am so excited to get to know the students and the parents, the teachers and the community members, and to begin the good work at hand," Nelson said.

Nelson served as the assistant principal of Mill Valley Middle School for the last ten years and has more than two decades of experience. He prioritizes effective instructional leadership by building relationships, providing professional development, and creating a suitable learning environment.

Connie Lu, who had been serving as the interim director of fiscal services in the past year, was promoted to the permanent position. Serving the district since 2018, Lu is regarded as an integral part of the business services division with her work in financial reporting and developing a payroll and accounting team.

Gary Muhammad was hired as an information technology supervisor for the district. Muhammad most recently served as a Network Systems Specialist at New Haven School District and has more than 30 years of experience in the IT department.

Joy Maglalang-Young, who was serving as an Elementary School Counselor at DUSD, has been promoted to Wellness Coordinator. Before coming to Dublin, she was a Health and Wellness Coordinator for Newark Unified School District and also served as a Positive Behavioral Intervention Systems District Coach.

"The 2021-2022 school year is just around the corner, and having the right staff to help us transition back to some level of normalcy will be critical," said interim superintendent, Daniel Moirao, "We are thrilled to welcome this diverse group of talented individuals to their new roles in the district." ■

New PDA executive director announces Main Street America accreditation

BY LEILA TOUATI

The Pleasanton Downtown Association's newly installed executive director, Zac Grant, recently announced the association's 2021 Main Street America and California Main Street accreditation.

Pleasanton is one of 888 communities across the country selected for the 2021 Main Street America "special mark of distinction" that, according to the program organizers recognizes "a proven track record for celebrating community

character, preserving local history, and generating impressive economic returns." Fewer than 20% of U.S. cities over 5,000 population are so designated.

"As we reopen and recover from the pandemic, Pleasanton's downtown is bouncing back with vigor," Grant said. "Despite the pandemic hardships, our downtown still welcomed several new businesses, and as our community recovers the PDA is eager to continue the momentum of new growth, welcome the return

of downtown events, and forge new partnership opportunities."

The PDA and the City of Pleasanton have collaborated on important programs to address COVID-19-related economic impact on local businesses. Most notable has been "Weekends on Main," during which portions of Main Street are closed to vehicle traffic and opened for pedestrian access, sidewalk shopping, and expanded outdoor dining.

Grant was recently named the

PDA's executive director, succeeding Tiffany Cadrette who stepped down in April for a new job as a marketing and communications manager for the Alameda County Fairgrounds.

He joins PDA after a productive career in event production and engagement development, bringing in \$77 million in sponsorship sales for various groups including the LPGA, PGA TOUR and the College Football Hall of Fame.

He was executive producer of

sponsored events for dozens of affiliated corporate partners. Grant looks to apply his experience to enable the PDA to resume beloved events and activities such as "Concerts in the Park" along with creative new promotions.

"The tenets of the Main Street America designation are what makes our downtown a distinct place and a destination in the region," said Pleasanton's City Manager Nelson Fialho, who accepted the accreditation on behalf of the mayor and city council. "Led by the mayor and council, the city looks forward to working with Zac and supporting PDA as our downtown comes back into full swing." ■

INTERFAITH

Continued from Page 7

and expressed her gratitude towards them as they combat the ongoing pandemic and challenges.

Ruth Gasten from Tri-Valley Interfaith Interconnect shared a story of her post-pandemic experience. The pandemic had disrupted live rituals, yet with reopening, Gasten saw the mission statement of her interfaith group come to life at a wedding when a group of groomsmen from different cultures danced and had a good time.

"This is what our mission statement describes as one of the goals for the Tri-Valley: people of different backgrounds enjoying each other's company and celebrating together, it's wonderful to see" Gasten said.

Midway through, U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-Livermore) made a surprise appearance, lauding health care workers and the interfaith community members who helped the unemployed, collected PPE and kept faith during challenging times.

"As the representative for this congressional district, my pledge to you is to also be reinvigorated to serve.

To serve you, to serve the cause of America which is to be a just, fair, humane, country, that holds itself up not only to ourselves but to the rest of the world as a place that believes in freedom: freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of press ... freedom to live," Swalwell said.

"Today is the day that we mourn those we've lost but also the best thing that I think we can do for so many of those that we lost is to celebrate what we have right now and to reaffirm our commitment to make this a country that achieves its most basic and fundamental ideals," he added.

Arelis Sandoval is a registered nurse and public health nurse that participated in Alameda County's response to the pandemic. She was involved in Operation Comfort which provided hotels for those fighting homelessness and COVID-19 and received help from the Eden Area Interfaith Council who donated handmade masks and scrub caps to the public nurses at these hotels.

"The supplies felt godsent and I felt the overwhelming power of the community coming together to protect its healthcare workers,"

Sandoval said.

The president of the Tri-City Interfaith Council, Joy Barnitz, talked about the unity that the pandemic has strengthened.

"To all viruses, humans are simply a place to grow, a place to reproduce. They see none of the differences we see. We are all the same, regardless of skin color, income, faith, tradition, none of that matters to the virus," said Barnitz.

The Tri-City Interfaith Council held a memorial service with three parts on grief and loss, community, and hope. Barnitz shared the closing prayer from the service at the event that allowed them to find resilience and community.

Other speakers from Temple Beth Shalom in San Leandro, Our Lady Grace Catholic Church, Eden United Church of Christ, and the Hayward Sikh Gurdwara Choir shared prayers, stories, and songs as well.

Overall, Into the Light allowed the interfaith communities to acknowledge not only the physical but also the mental hardships that many felt as the pandemic gave many

unanticipated challenges.

"I'm taking this as part of my healing journey because it was really hard for me to put my words down and even prepare for this today because as healthcare workers we tend to put hardships to the side because we want to keep moving forward and

continue helping people," Sandoval told the Weekly, "But I think we need to sometimes allow ourselves to talk about it and talk about what we've been through and what we felt because it is part of the healing journey, and it felt really enlightening today to be able to do that." ■

MERGER

Continued from Page 5

Stanford to benefit the local hospital system.

When ballots were counted after the June 18 deadline, 160 corporate members had voted in favor of the merger while 13 members voted against it and three abstained on their ballot, the board reported.

With voting complete, the merger agreement was expected to be signed and formally consummated by this Wednesday, according to the board.

The move will see VCCF's mission and its current fund balance transition to the Stanford University Office of Medical Center Development. Donations made post-merger intended for Stanford-ValleyCare will support funding priorities as established by hospital leadership, the board said.

The merger also brought the departure of VCCF president and executive director Shaké Sulikyan. She reached out to foundation members on her final day last Friday to

reflect on her 5-1/2 years with the nonprofit.

"I feel honored to have had the opportunity to work with you and others in our community to advance VCCF's work of fostering health, building community and saving lives," Sulikyan said in part.

"Together we've funded pioneering programs, cutting-edge services, state-of-the-art equipment and technology, financial assistance programs for patients in need, and much, much more. With your help, we completed the hospital's largest fundraising campaign in the shortest amount of time in its 60-year history," she continued.

"I am proud of all we've accomplished in helping to ensure the Tri-Valley has access to world-class care close to home by providing ongoing funding to our local hospital, Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare, and its innovative medical programs and services."

For more information and updates on the process, visit givevalleycare.org/merger. ■


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Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN

Firefighter accused of trying to secretly record teen girls in bathroom

A Livermore man who works as a firefighter in San Mateo County faces criminal charges after police allege he secretly video-recorded two teenage girls while they were trying to change into swimsuits in his bathroom last month.

Simon W. Meyer, 52, has been charged with misdemeanor counts of child molestation and invasion of privacy involving underage victims, which could result in sex offender registration if convicted.

He was arraigned in Alameda County Superior Court on June 23, according to the District Attorney's Office. It was not immediately clear whether he entered a plea to the charges nor whether he was yet represented by defense counsel.

A firefighter for the San Mateo Consolidated Fire Department for the past 21 years, Meyer has been placed on administrative leave pending the outcome of his criminal case. He remained in custody as of last week.

In response to Meyer's arrest, SMCDF fire marshal Robert Marshall told the Weekly, "The department takes these allegations very seriously, and we will continue to monitor the situation carefully. We are cooperating with the Livermore Police Department in their investigation. We feel strongly that public trust in our staff is of the utmost importance, and will take appropriate action once we know the disposition of the case."

Livermore police said their investigation unfolded on the evening of June 19 when a father called police to report his 14-year-old daughter and her 15-year-old female friend were the victims of an illicit video-recording by the family's neighbor, Detective Ivan Alvarez wrote in a probable cause declaration.

The father reportedly identified Meyer by name over the phone to the police dispatcher.

An officer arrived and interviewed the daughter that evening. She told police that she and her friend went to Meyer's house to go swimming in his pool just after 6 p.m. June 19, saying her friend knew Meyer as a family friend, according to Alvarez.

When the girls said they needed to change into their swimsuits, Meyer allegedly told them to use the master bathroom but he needed to quickly clean it up first. The friends then went into the master bathroom together, but when one started to undress, her friend "saw a cellphone slightly hidden behind a package of toilet paper ... unlocked because it had been recording," Alvarez said.

The girl immediately stopped her friend from undressing, ended the recording, sent the video to herself via AirDrop and then deleted the video from the hidden phone's "recently deleted" folder, according to the detective.

"(Victim one) sent the video to her parents, who subsequently confronted Meyer at his residence. Meyer denied being involved even after they showed him the cellphone footage," Alvarez wrote.

The detective alleges the copied video depicts Meyer handling the cellphone and placing it behind a

towel and a hat in an attempt to conceal it before the girls enter the bathroom.

Meyer was arrested and booked into Santa Rita Jail in Dublin on June 20, according to police, who said they also executed a search warrant at his house in Livermore.

The DA's office charged Meyer with two misdemeanor counts of invasion of privacy, with special allegations that the victims were under 18 years old, as well as one misdemeanor count of child molestation of two underage girls.

He is next scheduled to appear in court for a pretrial hearing on Aug. 17, according to prosecutors.

—Jeremy Walsh

In other news

• A 32-year-old man wanted by San Francisco police as a suspect in two fatal shootings in the Bayview District was located last Saturday in Livermore and arrested.

Ofc. Adam Lobsinger, spokesperson for the San Francisco Police Department, said late Saturday afternoon that Robert Newt was located by Livermore police officers earlier in the day and taken into custody.

Newt was wanted in connection with the May 15 shooting of a 61-year-old man, who was shot in the area of 25th and Connecticut streets. The victim was transported to a local hospital where he died from his injuries.

Newt is also a suspect in a separate shooting of two men, also on May 15, in the unit block of Dakota Street. There, police responded to the double shooting to find two victims, ages 49 and 54. Despite life-saving efforts, the 54-year-old victim

died from his injuries. The 49-year-old victim was hospitalized and later released.

San Francisco homicide investigators took over both investigations and identified Newt as the suspect in both incidents. Two arrest warrants were issued -- one for murder, and the second for murder and attempted murder. Additionally, Newt had a federal warrant issued for firearms-related charges.

Upon his arrest by Livermore police Saturday, Newt was transported to Santa Rita Jail, where he was booked on his warrants. He will be transported to the custody of the San Francisco County Sheriff's Department at a later date.

Although an arrest was made, San Francisco police said this remains an open investigation.

—Bay City News Service

• A 44-year-old man was arrested last Friday after he led Pleasanton Police Department officers on a chase on Bernal Avenue.

According to PPD, officers located a stolen vehicle in a parking lot located at 6790 Bernal Ave. When officers attempted to contact the driver of the vehicle, the driver fled toward Bernal and drove over concrete parking blocks and through landscaping, causing the vehicle to become disabled on Bernal.

He ran from the scene but was apprehended on the northbound I-680 off-ramp, police said.

The suspect was identified as 44-year-old Darrell Lee Robinson from Oakland. Robinson was

booked at Santa Rita Jail for being in possession of a stolen vehicle, evading police, delaying/obstructing a peace officer and for an outstanding felony warrant.

Alameda County Sheriff's officers and the Air Support Unit "ALCO1" assisted with the apprehension.

PPD also noted that, contrary to statements made on social media, no shots were fired during this incident.

—Gina Channell Wilcox

• The Pleasanton Police Department is currently accepting applications from Pleasanton students for its 2021 Teen Academy.

The Teen Academy is a three-week program running from July 6-22, with classes held Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 2-5 p.m. Pleasanton youth who are interested in law enforcement are encouraged to apply to the free-of-charge program.

The Teen Academy program aims to grow stronger relationships between the Pleasanton Police Department and local youth, officials said.

Those participating in the program will be educated on law enforcement procedures from police officers, such as patrol procedures, dispatch communications, SWAT, investigations, juvenile traffic issues, evidence collection and K-9 and animal services.

Pleasanton teens interested in applying for the Teen Academy can acquire an application and learn more information through www.cityof-pleasantonca.gov. The deadline to apply is this afternoon (July 2). ■

—Leila Touati

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

June 25

Theft

- 6:01 a.m. on the 5000 block of Case Avenue; theft from auto
- 9:48 a.m. on the 7000 block of Commerce Circle; auto theft

Drug violation

- 10:44 a.m. on the 200 block of Kottinger Drive

Domestic battery

- 6:32 p.m. on Harrison Street

Warrant arrest

- 7:52 p.m. on the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard
- 9:45 p.m. on the 6600 block of Owens Drive

DUI

- 11:07 p.m. on Bernal Avenue/Koll Center Parkway
- 11:53 p.m. on the 4100 block of First Street

June 24

Warrant arrest

- 12:39 a.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive
- 3:29 p.m. on Owens Drive/Hopyard Road

Theft

- 7:26 a.m. on the 4400 block of Hacienda Drive
- 11:08 a.m. on the 400 block of Vineyard Place
- 2:53 p.m. on the 3400 block of Old Foothill Road; auto theft

- 7:41 p.m. on the 4100 block of Alvarado Street; auto theft

Burglary

- 11:12 a.m. on the 5100 block of Hopyard Road
- 1:36 p.m. on the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

June 23

Graffiti

- 9:16 a.m. on Hopyard Road/Parkside Drive

- 9:55 a.m. on Alvarado Street

DUI

- 1:35 p.m. on the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

Theft

- 2:35 p.m. on the 5500 block of Johnson Drive; theft from auto

Warrant arrest

- 3:34 p.m. on the 6700 block of Santa Rita Road

Assault/Battery

- 5:32 p.m. on the 5500 block of Springhouse Drive

Drug violation

- 6:09 p.m. on the 5100 block of Hopyard Road

June 22

Vandalism

- 9:12 a.m. on the 5500 block of Owens Drive

Theft

- 10:43 a.m. on the 5800 block of Owens Drive; auto theft
- 9:05 p.m. on the 4400 block of Valley Avenue; theft from auto



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

Mailed at Periodicals Postage Rate, USPS 020407.

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

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

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GUEST OPINION

By DAVID PASCUALY

Leadership Pleasanton should be run by our city, bias-free

The Chamber of Commerce claims they are the right organization to select and train future Pleasanton leaders. The city has been funding Leadership Pleasanton, a chamber initiative, for decades to the tune of \$10,000 a year, and in addition, each attendee pays another \$950. All these funds are directed to the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce.



Conversely, Dublin residents learn about their city government from city employees for free, without the influence or politics of their Chamber of Commerce.

Through public records requests and personal contacts, I received reports of payments to the chamber, as well as a copy of an email to the city by Chamber President Steve Van Dorn, where he states, "one of the goals of the program is to develop leaders" and adding that this program has encouraged and equipped countless people who sit on city commissions, committees and task forces, and some who

have run for local office.

Van Dorn is 100% correct since the chamber has controlled the City Council majority for over a decade, with this power, they were able to block the appointment of commissioners and committee members that are slower growth and put residents' interests first.

Refreshingly, in 2020 Pleasanton voters elected a non-chamber-endorsed majority, and these elected officials are willing to look at making major changes in the Leadership Pleasanton program to make it our own.

Pleasanton's future city leaders, plus all interested residents, should have the opportunity to learn about their city, without the political bias of the chamber.

We should thank Mayor Brown and councilmembers Testa and Arkin for shedding light on this tax dollar-subsidized program, one that has done everything possible to bring pro-growth and politically conservative chamber-endorsed representatives to office, while they vigorously block candidates for City Council or mayor who put residents' interests first.

Here are a few facts in the

\$10,000 city-chamber contract and the email from Mr. Van Dorn to city leaders:

- The contract specifies, the chamber will "interview and select attendees to participate." However, Mr. Olson's opinion piece states that members are selected on a first-come basis.

- There are nine daytime meetings, seven of them are coordinated or presented by city employees. Nighttime meetings would be more accessible to working residents.

- Most meetings are held at the city's offices, with city employees and using our city assets.

- City employees hold four spots on the steering committee.

- The fee for each applicant is \$950.

So why is the city of Pleasanton spending \$10,000 of taxpayer dollars if most people doing the work are city employees, and most of the meetings are on city premises? What is the chamber contributing

that the city of Pleasanton does not already have?

The Chamber of Commerce's own website illustrates the grip they have on Leadership Pleasanton, which seeks to exert control on Pleasanton's government. The Pleasanton chamber maintains a political action committee (PAC) which supports their hand-selected candidates for office. Plus, the chamber has a "2025: A Community Vision" which is the chamber's plan for buildout and politics.

Let us support our elected majority that should kick-off a "Pleasanton Citizen Leadership" program, run by our own local government with our own resources without political interference. This program should be free and offered to all residents, for the benefit of Pleasanton. ■

Editor's note: David Pascualy is a 24-year Pleasanton resident who has worked the last 20 years designing and installing solar power plants from residential to commercial to utility-scale worldwide. He submitted this opinion piece as a rebuttal to the Guest Opinion former city councilman Arne Olson wrote in the Weekly's June 11 edition.

LETTERS

My opinion on Scouting

Dear Editor,

I want to share my opinion on Scouting in the Tri-Valley area with you. I am a Second-Class Scout from Troop 905 in Dublin, but I live in San Ramon.

Scouting is very fun and helpful for young men and women. Not only do Scouts go on camping and hiking trips, but they also learn useful skills, and leadership as well. Scouts also participate in service projects that benefit their communities in many ways.

Older scouts will always help young scouts in getting their requirements done, which is needed to rank up. The current ranks include Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and the highest rank: Eagle.

Joining the Boy Scouts of America not only allows you to

participate in fun activities, but also lets you learn important leadership and life skills that are useful later in life. Although not every scout will reach the Eagle rank, they nonetheless become better members of society and improve themselves as well. Once a scout reaches 18, they are considered aged out and will leave their troop regardless of the current rank.

Even though I never joined Cub Scouts, I think that people should let their children join Cub Scouts as soon as possible, so that they can experience Scouting earlier, helping them join the BSA more smoothly.

Overall, I believe that Scouting is highly recommended for young people to join. There are many great troops in both San Ramon, Danville and Dublin, leaving a wide variety of choices.

—David Liu

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.

Join our team!

Seeking passionate, experienced journalist

The Pleasanton Weekly is seeking an enthusiastic and talented staff reporter with previous journalism experience working in print and digital news environments. The reporter will cover and edit stories ranging from meetings to breaking news to features for our award-winning print and digital publications.

Beyond excellent reporting and writing skills, a bachelor's degree in journalism or a related field, previous experience covering government agencies, demonstrated news judgment and the ability to prioritize tasks and handle stress of daily deadlines and multiple priorities are required. The ability to deliver clean, vibrant copy while working to very tight deadlines is crucial. Photography skills, social media and copy editing experience are a plus. The candidate must also be able to work the required hours, which include some night assignments and occasional weekend hours. Bay Area candidates only; preference given to those with knowledge of the Tri-Valley.

This is a full-time position based at our Pleasanton office with benefits including medical/dental, a 401(k) plan, vacation and holiday pay. This is the East Bay Division of Embarcadero Media Group and includes the Pleasanton Weekly, PleasantonWeekly.com and DanvilleSanRamon.com.

Send resume and clips that show a variety of work to Jeremy Walsh, Editor, jwalsh@pleasantonweekly.com, by 8 a.m. July 11. No calls please. EOE.

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The thrill of the race

Bay Area-bred jockey Kyle Frey puts a fresh face on an old sport

STORY BY JULIA BAUM | PHOTOS BY MIKE SEDLAK

Thoroughbred horse racing jockey Kyle Frey is a native of Tracy, as well as the highest ranked jockey at the Alameda County Fairgrounds this year.

Thoroughbred horse racing jockey Kyle Frey has crossed the finish line more than 5,600 times at racetracks from California to the East Coast -- including a massive complex in Pennsylvania with a casino and performance venue -- but eventually he always finds himself back in Pleasanton, enjoying the hometown atmosphere at the

Alameda County Fairgrounds once again.

"I'm pretty regular here; I've come and gone a lot, been all over, mostly between here and Philadelphia," Frey told the Weekly during an exclusive interview, just an hour before riding in his first race of the day.

Though he has roots in his hometown of Tracy, Frey said he's "been

back and forth, just depending on my mood" between racetracks during his decade-plus career. In addition to logging some serious travel miles, Frey has also racked up 960 first-place wins and nearly \$20 million in earnings, making him the leading rider at the county fairgrounds for the past two years.

Frey has ridden countless horses in that time and refuses to declare

an all-time favorite — "That would be politically dangerous for me to say," he said with a laugh — but did offer up one familiar name.

"For the moment, my current (favorite) would probably be Rombauer," Frey said. "I won a stake race with him here at Golden Gate Fields, which got him the ticket into the Preakness, which he ended up winning" in May.

But it was "family, mostly," not money or trophies, that got Frey into racing. "My grandfather was a jockey, rode all over the West Coast, my father is a trainer," he said. By his own characterization, Frey was practically raised at the track and started learning to ride at a young age.

"I started doing hunter-jumpers; I didn't really show much, but just to get a seat and a feel for how to ride horses," Frey said. "From there, I started what's called being a hot walker, catching the horses" and cooling them off after runs. Eventually Frey met a trainer and started learning the jockey trade, setting him on his current career path.

There have been some bumps along the way and intense tumbles as well.

"It's the only sport that they follow you around in an ambulance," Frey said. "It'd be easier if I tell you what I haven't broken than what I have."

Most recently, Frey blew out his ACL and tore both the MCL and meniscus in his left knee, but he's

also suffered a broken femur and fractures in his neck, cheekbone, nose and feet, especially. "Those have taken a beating; just walking horses, they'll step on you," Frey added.



Frey and his mount are escorted to the starting gate shortly before running to a third place finish on June 5.



Since starting his jockey career more than

There's always the chance of serious injury or even death as soon as Frey shoots out of the starting gate, and he confirmed there have been "a lot" of close calls in the past but just nonchalantly shrugs it off while recounting one such incident.

"Actually, I laugh about it now because nobody was severely hurt, the horses were fine," Frey said. "It's ironic, the horse's name was Pure Comedy, and I went to go hit him lefthanded. When I hit him left handed, he ducked from the whip, just jumped to the outside and I rolled off of him. One of my close friends...went right over the top of me, and in the replay it looked like a pitching machine, I was wound up and just shot out of the back."

Adding some ironic insult to those injuries, he adds, "It's funny because as soon as I bought in on the accident insurance, I stopped getting hurt, and that was only last year."

However, he added, "it's not even the physical part that plays as much of a toll, it's more of the mental," according to Frey. "Because you can let those physical things just destroy you mentally from that point. It's tough, it's something you have to want to do. It's not something you can just make a job of, you've got to enjoy what we do."

On a race day, Frey typically exercises horses before going back home to see his family and eat between morning and afternoon shifts. If he has enough time, Frey will also nap before going back to track and do it all over again.

"Some of these guys are waking up at 3:30 to get here," Frey said. "Today I had to wake up at 4:00



Frey and other jockeys weighed in for the first of several races on June 5 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton, where he won third place.

to come over here to exercise three (horses) and then go back to Golden Gate Fields to exercise another four, and now I'm back over here. Regular day."

Between juggling the responsibilities of new fatherhood with a nine-month-old daughter and looking after his equine colleagues, Frey has stayed plenty busy during the pandemic.

"You still have to exercise the horses plus I still have to stay fit, keep the weight off," Frey said, adding jokingly that he's "gotta work on my girlish figure here."

The longevity of a racehorse's career really "depends on soundness," which is another reason Frey is so meticulous about looking after his four-legged racing partners, and has seen some run for a decade or more with good care and paying close attention to the horse's overall wellness.

"If they start to come up with issues, people will back off of them," Frey said. "We have horses here that are 10 and 11, just trying little pros. The ones that make it that long, they know when they're feeling good."

However, he added, "You try to give a horse a break, they earn it. They do all the work, we just hold on, at the end of the day."

The sport's image has been impacted by multiple horse deaths at Santa Ana Park and Kentucky Derby winner Medina Spirit's recently failed drug test, but Frey insists that "horses are better taken care of on the racetrack than ever would be in the wild."

"There's a lot of smear about how horses break down," Frey said. "In Northern California, we've done amazing. We've gone the extra mile

to make sure the horses are safe. I'm really proud of where I am, as far as quality of care provided to the horses."

He added, "I've cried several times just thinking about it. Nobody wants to see a horse get hurt. If I can prevent it, I'll always pull a horse up and take care of them. These horses are the bread and butter and way of life."

Should his lifestyle ever lose its thrill, Frey said he's always wanted to do steeple chasing, "just because that looks so exhilarating and insane in the best kind of way." However, Frey might have a second career in another type of horse racing instead.

"One time I went to a training track for harness horses and a trainer named Lou Pena, who was the leading harness trainer in the nation for years and years, let me work one, exercise one, and that was fun," Frey said. "When you feel that rattle of the cart, it's insane."

"Typically they only keep the buggy whip in their right hand and I actually switched the stick to the left because we do it so commonly here," he said. "(Pena's) like, 'That's insane, I've got to get you on these harness horses, these guys don't know how to do that...you'd kill as a harness driver.'"

When reflecting on what keeps him coming back despite the chaotic schedule, nomadic lifestyle and injuries, Frey said it was the same thing that got him started.

"I think just making my family proud," especially his wife and daughter, Frey said. "I don't think about that kind of stuff too often... that's probably my main reason." ■



10 years ago, Frey has won 960 out of 5,613 races so far, according to Equibase.



Before riding in the first race of the day, Frey shared tales and reflected on his decade-long career in Thoroughbred racing.

Fundraising gala: Sunflower Showcase

Event puts spotlight on adults with developmental disabilities

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Sunflower Hill, which develops residential communities for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, is hosting its first fundraising gala, the Sunflower Showcase, at 7 p.m., Friday, July 23, at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore.

"We are very excited for this unique inaugural event, which will feature many of the Sunflower Hill residents and program participants," said Edie Nehls, Sunflower Hill executive director. "This is our most important fundraiser of the year and will provide critical financial support so that we can carry on with the meaningful work of our organization."

The showcase will kick off with a reception for VIP-ticket holders that will include hors d'oeuvres and beverages, and will showcase works of art and poetry as well as music by talented adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The mainstage event will be emceed by Pleasanton comedian Regina Stoops and feature a live, onstage performance by Kodi Lee, the winner

of America's Got Talent Season 14. And the program includes heartfelt remarks on "Living Independently" by a resident of Sunflower Hill at Irby Ranch, which opened in Pleasanton late last year.

Also, students from Futures Explored Film and Media Studio in Livermore will introduce and show their short film, "Inclusion."

"A film premiere would not be complete without hearing from the artists who created the piece, and we can't wait to hear what the students say about their film when they introduce it at the event," Nehls said.

The event also will have games, drawings and live and silent auctions.

Tickets range from \$85-\$220 and can be purchased through the Bankhead Theater at livermorearts.org or by calling 373-6800. Seating is limited.

The Sunflower Showcase will be livestreamed for those who wish to attend virtually. Virtual tickets are free with a suggested donation of \$50 and can be reserved at sunflowerhill.org.

"We hope that everyone will join us for this memorable evening," Nehls said. ■



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Kodi Lee, winner of America's Got Talent Season 14, will perform at the Sunflower Showcase gala/fundraiser.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Sunflower Hill residents along with their caregiver and a volunteer enjoy the gardening program.

Bankhead art exhibit: 'Take Me There'

Meet the artists at reception next Sunday

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

The Bankhead Theater Gallery is appealing to summer wanderlust with photo and painting exhibits on display in concurrence with its "Great Art on Screen" film series.

"Take Me There: Travel the World through Art and Photography" is a juried exhibit in the lobby, while the adjoining Founders Room features the works of Pleasanton watercolorist and world traveler Charlotte Severin. An artist's reception being held 1-3 p.m., Sunday, July 11, is free and open to the public.

For the last 40 years, Severin has led plein air painting trips throughout Europe, Asia, Mexico, Central America and the United States.

"We had a group of people painting at Monet's house in Giverny and his famous bridge," Severin said. "We stayed in a bed and breakfast just a block away. They give artists the use of the garden on Mondays and don't let tourists in."

Her paintings from France, Italy, Istanbul and England will be among those on exhibit, and notecards and some framed prints will be available.

"Take Me There" opened July 1 and runs through Aug. 30. The theater gallery is open for viewing



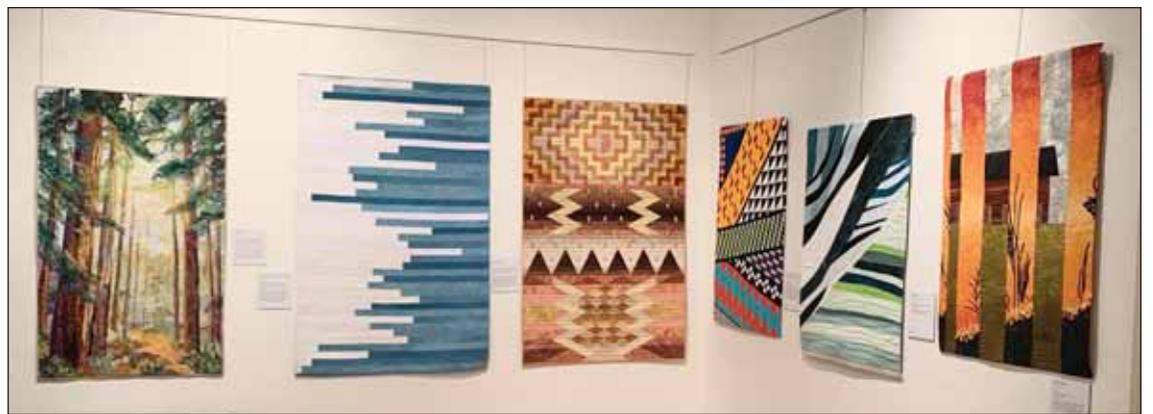
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Hagia Sophia in Istanbul by Charlotte Severin

from 1-5 p.m. Thursdays-Sundays.

Also on July 11, "The Prado: A Collection of Wonders," part of this summer's "Travel Without Leaving Town" film series, will be shown at 3 p.m. at the Bankhead. The last in the series, "Frida: Viva la Vida," will be at 3 p.m., Sunday, July 25. Tickets are \$15 regular, \$10 students; visit lvpac.org or call 373-6800. The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First St. in Livermore. ■

Behind the scenes of 'Stitching California'

Curators to talk about new exhibit at Museum on Main



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The "Stitching California" exhibit, shown here installed at Museum on Main, runs until Aug. 15.

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Museum on Main will present "A Virtual Discussion with... Stitching California Exhibit Curators and Jurors Karen Holmes and Katie Pasquini Masopust" at 7 p.m., Friday, July 9, on the museum's YouTube Live Channel.

The exhibit, "Stitching California: fiber artists interpret the state's people, life, and land," is touring through Exhibit Envoy, but it was originally created by Holmes and Pasquini Masopust at the Grace Hudson Museum in Ukiah. It is at Museum on Main until Aug. 15.

Holmes will speak about the jurying process and what she

looked for in creating a well-rounded exhibit. Pasquini Masopust, who also has a piece in the exhibit, will discuss the techniques and innovations seen in the more than 40 works of fiber art.

While the program is virtual, the audience will be able to ask questions live through email and YouTube chat features.

"The 'Stitching California' exhibit is both stunning and thought provoking," museum Director of Education Sarah Schaefer said.

"I am excited to be bringing this unique 'Discussion with...' program to our community, because not only will our audience

learn more about the incredible art on display, but they will also get a glimpse into the behind-the-scenes work that goes into creating an art exhibition," she added.

In conjunction with the "Stitching California" exhibit, the museum is holding a local fiber artist showcase from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, July 17, on the front lawn; and free drop-in fiber art-inspired crafts from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, July 31. Meet the Artist events are taking place Saturdays through Aug. 14.

For more information, visit www.museumonmain.org or call 462-2766. Museum on Main is located at 603 Main St. ■

Opera returns to the vineyards

Patrons to enjoy picnic suppers, wine and arias



COURTESY LVO

Music lovers enjoy picnic suppers, wine and arias in a beautiful outdoor setting at Opera in the Vineyard presented by Livermore Valley Opera.

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Livermore Valley Opera will present Opera in the Vineyard again this summer and fall at Retzlaff Vineyards, which has hosted the event for more than 20 years, after being canceled last year.

The evening of classic opera arias takes place in a relaxed setting among the vineyards and pepper trees that are hundreds of years old. Guests can purchase Retzlaff Vineyards wines to enjoy with the picnic dinners they bring while listening to performances by professional opera singers.

“Opera in the Vineyard has always been a popular LVO event that has created a wonderful community of music lovers,” said Raquel Holt, event co-chairwoman and LVO founder and board member.

The summer Opera in the Vineyard will be from 5:30-8:30 p.m., Sunday, July 25; the fall event will take place 5:30-8:30 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 12.

“After having to cancel these events in 2020, we are so excited that we can now come together again to enjoy unique performances of opera arias, show tunes and maybe even a

little cabaret,” Holt said. “You will not want to miss it.”

The July event features three of the favorite performers of Livermore Valley Opera: tenor Alex Boyer, baritone Eugene Brancoveanu and soprano Shawnette Sulker, with mezzo soprano Silvie Jensen making her debut with the opera. Accompanying the performers is pianist and music director Alexander Katsman.

Performers for the fall event will be announced in the coming months.

“It is always wonderful to see our guests enjoying themselves in an informal, casual event as they listen to beautiful arias being performed by LVO’s favorite and talented singers,” Holt added.

Once again, the program will include the popular “Arias a la carte” when guests can purchase songs from a “menu of delectable arias” for the singers to perform at their table.

Ticket are for sale at www.LVOopera.com. Individual seats at a table are \$65 each. Complete tables of eight may be purchased for \$475 or tables of six for \$350 for priority seating. Guests are encouraged to carpool. ■

Looking for artists’ studios

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Organizers of the first Tri-Valley Artists’ Studio Tour (TVAST) are working hard on its first offering to take place Nov. 12-14.

“We have over 55 artists committed to the event but we are trying to generate some buzz and get more people involved,” said Emelie Rogers of emrogers designs in Pleasanton. “We want to make it more inclusive to different mediums and groups of artists.”

Studios for the tour need to be finalized by August, when the catalog goes to print. Participating artists must provide photos of two pieces of their original art plus a picture of them at work in their studio. The catalog will include maps to the studios.

The Tri-Valley tour is a local version of the East Bay Open Studios event held in the past that has

included Alameda and Contra Costa counties. It will also have a virtual component.

“There will be all sorts of artists on the tour,” said Vanessa Thomas of Dublin Arts Collective. “It has become a very collaborative environment, working together across the Tri-Valley.”

Alliance for the Visual Arts, which encompasses arts groups in the Tri-Valley, is hosting TVAST 2021. A preview show will be held Nov. 11 by Darcie Kent at her Almost Famous Wine Lounge on Vasco Road in Livermore. This will be a chance for tourgoers to see sample works by the artists and plan their tour of the studios that will be open the following Saturday and Sunday.

For more information, including the link to sign up for TVAST, visit www.allianceforthevisualarts.org. ■



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PLEASANTON PREPS

BY DENNIS MILLER

High school football season can't get here soon enough

Amador, Foothill coaches keep perspective during hectic summer

It is summer time and prep sports come to an official halt during the summer months — OK, there are summer activities for the athletes, but no official school vs. school games.

But this summer carries a different feel — one of anticipation. Barring a major pandemic setback, we are on

pace for a normal fall season, something that was on the shelf this time last year.

I for one am extremely excited. Looking at the fall football schedules is already getting pumped for Friday night lights to return with the teams, the students in the stands,

the cheerleaders pumping up the crowds and the band performing at halftime.

Pleasanton is blessed to have talented high school bands, making the halftime enjoyable, as opposed to what we didn't see or hear during the spring football season.

You can feel the optimism even over the phone when talking with the coaches at Amador Valley and Foothill. There is no doubt about the difference between July 2021 and July 2020.

"The idea that we know we are having a season is amazing," Foothill coach Greg Haubner said. "It's very exciting. Last year was so

demoralizing — this year the kids are ready to get to work."

Amador Valley coach Danny Jones agreed.

"It has been outstanding for the kids," Jones said. "The kids have been working out in the afternoons and our numbers are good."

There are a couple aspects of being a head coach that Haubner and Jones are dealing with this summer that are different from years in the past.

First, the time between seasons has diminished, with the spring football season giving them far less time to get things done during their offseason.

Usually, the coaches have six to seven months to get administrative work done for the program. Not now.

"This year we have one to two months to figure out schedules, whether we are going to have a freshman team, and if we do, finding them a schedule," Haubner explained. "Ordering uniforms — all that stuff — has been compressed."

Jones is feeling it as well.

"I had a little bit of a jump start as our season ended three weeks earlier than everyone else, but it still has been crazy," Jones said. "You just have to embrace the chaos."

With school and the football season starting in August, the time to go full bore is right around the corner.

"You look at your checklist and you've got just a few weeks until we really get going," explained Jones.

The other thing the coaches are

dealing with more this summer are family vacations. After spending the last year cooped up in their homes, people are ready to go and get away.

My wife and I are feeling it and are very excited to get out and do stuff. Having raised seven kids, I can imagine what it would have been like to have a house full of kids during the pandemic with basically little or no escape.

"Unique this year is that everyone wants to go on vacation right now," Haubner said. "I get it — I have a family and I want to take them on vacation as well. I have been strict with vacation plans in the past, but this year I totally understand it."

"We got hit with the vacations early on," Jones said. "But what are you going to do? I had parents asking if by going on vacation would their kid still be able to play. I was like — go, go to Hawaii, go where you want to go. I didn't know what anxiety was, but I got it as well. I just told everyone after the Fourth of July break, let's try to be more consistent (with attendance)."

It is great to see both Pleasanton programs happy to be back at it in earnest this summer, but also realizing that families need to do the family thing this summer.

Personally, football season can't get here soon enough! ■

Editor's note: Dennis Miller is a contributing sports writer for the Pleasanton Weekly. To contact him about his "Pleasanton Preps" column, email acesmag@aol.com.

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AMERICAN EAGLE Join Ranger Doug and discuss some of the amazing eagles throughout time and around the world. Discussion on hunting techniques, prey items, and how eagles have developed over the centuries to become one of the premier aerial hunters on planet earth. Pre-Registration is required by calling the Ranger Office at 960-2400. 12 p.m., July 4. Visit larpd.org/Activity-Guide. Sycamore Grove Park, 5035 Arroyo Rd.

LIVERMORE-AMADOR GENEALOGICAL

SOCIETY The Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society Presents Jacqi Stevens, whose topic is Blogging: Installment Plan for Publishing Your Family's Story. 7-8:30, July 12. Visit l-ags.org.

ADVENTURES WITH THERAPY

DOGS Join Therapy Dog Handler Pat Wheeler as she recounts her fascinating story of the impact and life-changing differences therapy dogs make in people's lives. She proudly shares the company of her registered therapy dogs, Maddie and Wylie. If you don't already know this, you will after meeting them...Dogs make life happier. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., July 13. Ravenswood Historic Site, 2647 Arroyo Rd, Livermore. Visit larpd.org/Activity-Guide.

OLIVE OIL TASTING & TOUR Visit the historic Olivina, originally established in 1881, where nearly 11,000 olive trees produce six different cultivars of flavor profiles. This event is free, 12-4:30 July 18. Visit TheOlivina.com. 4555 Arroyo Rd., Livermore.

Theater

STUDIO RETREAT AT TAO HOUSE

Studio Retreat, a 10-day master class in acting and playwriting is back. Dates for the summer Acting and Playwriting Workshop are July 21-Aug 1. Organized by the Eugene O'Neill Foundation, in partnership with the National Park Service, the masterclass gives incoming, rising and current high school students a chance to learn from professional playwrights, actors, and stage directors. For more information visit eugeneoneill.org/studio-retreat. Deadline July 7.

Concerts

FREE SHAKESPEARE CONCERT

In celebration of the re-opening of California, Shakespeare's Associates, Inc. is producing concerts for all ages in Stockmen's Park. The headliner is Crawdad Republic with performances from local youth groups. Admission is free but reserved VIP tickets are available for purchase. Visit livermoreshakes.org/sparconthepark. 4 p.m., July 10. 29 S Livermore Ave.

LIVERMORE LIBRARY HOSTS VIRTUAL

JAZZ CONCERT The Livermore Public Library will host a live virtual jazz concert by the Dave Rocha Trio featuring Doug Pohorski on bass, David Udolf on electric keyboard

and Dave Rocha on trumpet. 4 p.m., July 12. Visit us02web.zoom.us/j/82585172086.

JAKE SHIMBUKURO AT THE BANKHEAD

Jake Shimabukuro is one of the most exceptional and innovative ukulele players in the history of the instrument. 7:30, July 28. Tickets \$20-115. Visit livermorearts.org.

Fundraisers

SUNFLOWER SHOWCASE

The Sunflower Showcase, a visual and performing arts fundraiser event at the Bankhead Theater, will provide vital funds to support the mission and vision of Sunflower Hill, a residential community for adults with developmental disabilities. The event will be emceed by local comedian, Regina Stoops, and feature a performance by America's Got Talent Season 14 Winner, Kodi Lee. Tickets on sale now for the July 23 event. Visit sunflowerhill.org.

Museums & Exhibits

MUSEUM ON MAIN PRESENTS

STITCHING CALIFORNIA Stitching California: Fiber Artists Interpret the State's, People, Life, and Land, a new travelling exhibition appearing at Pleasanton's Museum on Main, showcases an exciting collection of art quilts that interpret the complexities of the Golden State. Visit museumonmain.org. Now through Aug.14, 603 Main St.

ART EXHIBIT AND OPENING

RECEPTION AT BLACKHAWK GALLERY The Alamo Danville Artists Society will host the opening of Blackhawk Gallery's new Exhibit 'Renaissance' which features thirty Blackhawk Gallery member artists. The exhibit will be on view Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., July 10-Oct 10. The exhibit is free and open to the public. Contact 648-8023. 3416 Blackhawk Plaza Cir.

Movies

SUMMER MOVIE SERIES AT EMERALD

PARK A free summer concert series at Emerald Glen Park Amphitheater at Dublin's Farmers' Market. Movies

begin around 8:45. July 2, Grease; July 9, Abominable. Visit dublin.ca.gov/1917/Summer-Concert-Series. 4201 Central Pkwy.

BANKHEAD THEATER PRESENTS

TRAVEL WITHOUT LEAVING TOWN Magnificent masterpieces tell the story of Spain and of an entire continent in The Prado: A Collection of Wonders, a visual celebration of the 200th anniversary of Madrid's Prado Museum, hosted by Academy Award winner Jeremy Irons. 3 p.m., July 11. Tickets \$10-15. Visit livermorearts.org.

LIVE FROM LONDON'S WEST

END-ENCORE SCREENINGS One of Broadway's most classic and beloved tales, 42nd Street tells the story of Peggy Sawyer, a talented young performer with stars in her eyes and big dreams of a show business career. Filmed in 2018 at London's Theatre Royal and directed by the original author of the show, this was the largest-ever production of the musical. 8 p.m., July 16. Tickets \$10-15. Visit livermorearts.org.

CLASSIC CAR SHOW & MOVIE NIGHT

Callippe Preserve presents Classic Car Show & Movie Night. 5:00 p.m., Classic Car Show, 8:30 p.m., Cannonball Run. Dinner, drinks and concessions available. Bring lawn chairs and blankets. July 17. Visit playcallippe.com. 8500 Clubhouse Dr., Pleasanton.

Bingo

DRIVE-IN BINGO Play Drive-In Bingo from the comfort of a car, truck or SUV in the Pleasanton OTB Parking Lot. Get the live game call over the FM radio and watch the ball camera live on Zoom with a smartphone or tablet. 6:30 p.m., July 3. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

Library

SUMMER STEM CLASSES AT

LIVERMORE LIBRARY The Livermore Public Library will offer children's STEM classes this summer with outdoor, socially-distanced sessions. School-aged children in grades 1-5 will enjoy activities, experiments, trivia and more. Classes are free of charge with no registration required. Visit www.livermorelibrary.org.

Employment

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

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

PET OF THE WEEK



TVAR

Sweet Muffin

Muffin's foster family says he is the sweetest, little, male kitten you will ever meet. This 3-month-old domestic medium-hair is very playful and enjoys all kinds of toys. Favorite activities include following his foster family around the house and playing "catch the toy fish" with them. Muffin is easygoing and might be a little shy at first but warms up quickly. Muffin is neutered, microchipped and up-to-date on vaccines. Contact Tri-Valley Animal Rescue at www.tv-ar.org.

livermorelibrary.net or call 373-5505. 6-7 p.m., Now through Aug. 10, 1188 S. Livermore Ave.

Community

PLEASANTON PARKS HOST BLOOD

DRIVE Pleasanton Parks is hosting a community blood drive with Stanford Blood Center. Walk-in availability may be limited, so donors are encouraged to make an appointment by visiting <https://stanford.io/2Sr1tVz> or by calling (888) 723-7831. Donors will be required to wear a mask. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., July 2. 7001 Pleasanton Ave.

DUBLIN TO HOST MOBILE

VACCINATION CLINICS The City of Dublin will host COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics at the Dublin Senior Center at no cost for the vaccination, and neither insurance nor proof of citizenship are required. The Pfizer vaccine will be available for ages 12+. The one-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine will be available for ages 18+. While appointments are not

necessary, an appointment may be scheduled at cur.tv/dublin or by calling 888-702-9042. July 7 & 28, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., 7600 Amador Valley Blvd.

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 July 14. Visit cityofpleasantonca.gov.

Livermore Planning Commission

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

LIVERMORE CITY COUNCIL

The Livermore City Council meets the second and fourth Monday of the month. The next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., July 12. For more information visit cityoflivermore.net.

Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

Lynn T. Gunney Strategic Communications FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 579743

The following person doing business as: Lynn T. Gunney Strategic Communications, 2727 Calle de la Loma, Pleasanton, CA 94566, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Lynn T. Gunney, 2727 Calle de la Loma, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by Lynn T. Gunney, an Individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Lynn T. Gunney, Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 4, 2021 (Pleasanton Weekly, June 18, 25, July 2, 9, 2021.)

NSN Inc. DBA The UPS Store #3145 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 579654

The following person doing business as: NSN Inc. DBA The UPS Store #3145, 32108 Alvarado Blvd., Union City, CA 94587, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: NSN Inc., 1671

Porcellano Way, Dublin, CA 94568, CALIFORNIA. This business is conducted by NSN Inc., a Corporation. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name listed herein December 1, 2020. Signature of Registrant: Neeraj Tandon, Treasurer. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 3, 2021. (Pleasanton Weekly, June 25, July 2, 9, 16, 2021.)

NSN Inc. DBA The UPS Store #6291 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 579652
The following person doing business as: NSN Inc. DBA The UPS Store #6291, 6754 Bernal Ave., #740, Pleasanton, CA 94566, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: NSN Inc., 1671 Porcellano Way, Dublin, CA 94568, CALIFORNIA. This business is conducted by NSN Inc. a Corporation. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Neeraj Tandon, Treasurer. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 3, 2021. (Pleasanton Weekly, June 25, July 2, 9, 16, 2021.)

Call (925) 600-0840 for assistance with your legal advertising needs.
E-mail: gchannell@pleasantonweekly.com

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during April 5-9 for Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin and May 24-28 for San Ramon.

Pleasanton

- 4320 Bristolwood Road** C. & M. Farmer to G. Scheberies for \$500,000
- 1525 Brookline Loop** T. Porto to Keene Family Trust for \$1,990,000
- 4129 Churchill Drive** Farnsworth Family Trust to S. & K. Surapaneni for \$1,651,000
- 986 Crellin Road** B. & J. Martinez to Y. & J. Padilla for \$825,000
- 3733 Crofters Court** G. Chan to S. & K. Ghosh for \$1,469,000
- 3467 Isle Royal Court** Y. Tang to L. & S. Balakrishnan for \$1,150,000
- 4106 West Las Positas Boulevard** Jackson Family Trust to M. & N. Ballambetu for \$1,415,000
- 504 Malbec Court** R. Walia to K. & P. Katyal for \$1,480,000
- 479 Montori Court** De Boever Family Trust to T. & M. Saad for \$2,040,000
- 3331 Newport Street** Torbeck Trust to Himsl 1980 Trust for \$1,698,000
- 3803 Newton Way** Goodrich Trust to S. & S. Garnepudi for \$1,145,000
- 3758 Newton Way** Nelson-Russell Living Trust to Patankar Family Trust for \$2,550,000
- 1789 Terra Court** E. & B. Hindson to Neptune Star LLC for \$2,400,000
- 3847 Vineyard Avenue #E** L. Kislaya to J. Huynh for \$418,000
- 2307 Vineyard Heights Lane** Humphreys Family Trust to S. & R. Ghai for \$2,800,000

Livermore

- 2800 4th Street #103** C. Castelo to D. Penrice for \$725,000

- 2762 4th Street** T. Graves to C. & E. McKinney for \$1,000,000
- 1035 Algonquin Avenue** A. Carbone to J. Baerncopf for \$950,000
- 716 Alison Circle** K. & R. Gildea to A. & J. Pemberton for \$1,460,000
- 6351 Bluebonnet Common** K. Holliday to L. & Y. Paulikau for \$1,115,000
- 327 Brittany Place** Henrich Family Trust to Parasseril Family Trust for \$1,775,000
- 728 Catalina Drive** A. Medina to J. & J. Seymour for \$1,035,000
- 2659 Decker Lane** Parham Trust to Bobb Living Trust for \$1,450,000
- 1405 El Dorado Drive** J. Wulferdingen to D. & S. Amezquita for \$775,000
- 266 Elvira Street** Pitt Family Trust to P. & T. Zeng for \$1,067,000
- 2135 Farmington Place** Steele Family Trust to M. & L. Silvey for \$1,500,000
- 5895 Felicia Avenue** Farthing Living Trust to U. & K. Mantha for \$1,313,000
- 2318 Gamay Common** S. & J. Boghossian to M. & K. Mandegarian for \$1,895,000
- 770 Geraldine Street** Plotz Family Trust to K. & J. Brock for \$1,050,000
- 105 Goldstone Common** Lodhi Living Trust to J. & Y. Hsiung for \$675,000
- 5821 Heidi Way** L. & P. Amick to M. & K. Lococo for \$1,460,000
- 1190 Hibiscus Way** S. & H. Wight to J. Maranan for \$822,000
- 1090 Innsbruck Street** L. & J. Post to Dorfman Living Trust for \$1,450,000
- 4671 Laurie Common #108** Tirupathi Properties LLC to S. & M. Sarfehnl for \$401,000
- 2821 Lemon Common** Raveendran Family Trust to M. Sun for \$475,000

- 1356 Meadow Court** J. & T. Yatchmenoff to N. & A. Kurup for \$1,225,000
- 4655 Nicol Common #110** P. Bryan to K. & N. Chukanov for \$540,000
- 153 Northwood Commons** A. Guzman to K. & C. Kuhns for \$760,000
- 2940 Novara Street** A. & A. Torke to L. & B. Golden for \$1,885,000
- 961 Old Oak Road** L. & R. Bain to W. & J. Falls for \$1,010,000
- 776 Old Oak Road** Mack Family Trust to I. & S. Suri for \$1,800,000
- 630 Selby Lane #3** K. & A. Pack to C. Gu for \$995,000
- 882 Seminole Drive** G. & T. Young to I. & N. Amezquita for \$775,000
- 4177 Sugar Pine Way** R. Warner to L. Potter for \$696,000

Dublin

- 5272 Campus Drive** P. Chavan to G. & D. Feria for \$965,000

- 7051 Coombsville Loop** J. Erb to N. & S. Kesavan for \$958,000
- 7888 Cranford Lane** Scoma Family Trust to M. & A. Bhatnagar for \$845,000
- 6422 Dijon Way** S. & J. Whiteside to J. & T. Grumann for \$680,000
- 11453 Dillon Way** Volp Trust to A. Nicknam for \$1,250,000
- 6655 Ebensburg Lane** Mole Living Trust to T. & L. Tran for \$1,050,000
- 8049 Elgin Lane** P. Dow to P. & J. Sheu for \$1,200,000
- 3420 Finnian Way #132** S. Chiu to C. & K. Chong for \$675,000

Source: California REsource

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.

SALES AT A GLANCE

Pleasanton (April 5-9)

Total sales reported: 15
Lowest sale reported: \$418,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,800,000
Average sales reported: \$1,480,000

Livermore (April 5-9)

Total sales reported: 29
Lowest sale reported: \$401,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,895,000
Average sales reported: \$1,035,000

Dublin (April 5-9)

Total sales reported: 21
Lowest sale reported: \$342,500
Highest sale reported: \$1,870,000
Average sales reported: \$976,000

San Ramon (May 24-28)

Total sales reported: 39
Lowest sale reported: \$375,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,935,000
Average sales reported: \$1,450,000

Source: California REsource



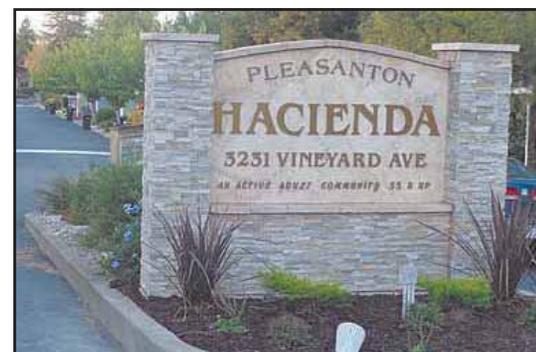
NEW HOME FOR SALE

Offered by
RIVIERA HOMES

925.750.7809

Brand new "Palm Harbor" manufactured home, single story, 3 bedrooms 2 baths, with 1620 square feet of living space. This high efficiency unit is in beautiful Hacienda Park, an active 55+ community offering "resort style living".

3231 Vineyard Ave #130
 2 RV accommodations available in Hacienda Park.



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COMING SOON

COMING SOON | CALL FOR PRICE
75 TOURMALINE AVENUE, LIVERMORE



HOME ON 5 ACRES

JUST LISTED | CALL FOR PRICE
5210 DOOLAN ROAD, LIVERMORE



MULTIPLE OFFERS

PENDING OVER ASKING \$1,699,000
2743 SAN MINETE DRIVE, LIVERMORE



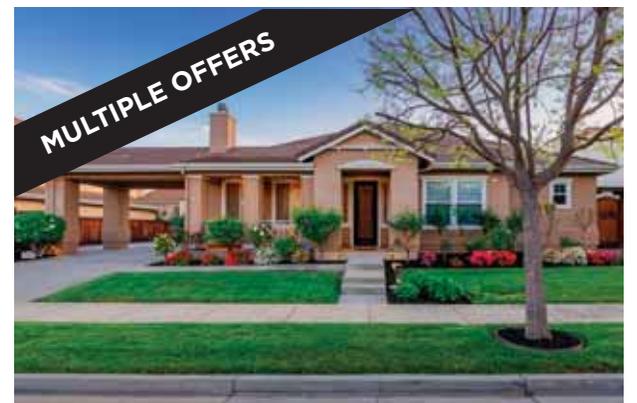
\$301K OVER ASKING

SOLD | \$2,400,000
2133 POMEZIA COURT, RUBY HILL



\$200K OVER ASKING

SOLD | \$1,350,000
6466 RAMBLEWOOD PLACE, LIVERMORE



MULTIPLE OFFERS

SOLD | \$1,830,000
773 BARLETA LANE, LIVERMORE



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www.ArmarioHomes.com



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Concierge Real Estate™



4204 Casterson Ct. Pleasanton | Just Listed



Just Listed

3169 Tonopah Ct, Pleasanton

3 BD 1.5 BA 1132 SF

List Price | \$679,598



Just Listed

4204 Casterson Ct, Pleasanton

4 BD | 3.5 BA | 3528 SF

List Price | \$2,750,888



Sold & Closed

490 Clipper Hill, Danville

4 BD | 4 BA | 3197 SF

Represented Buyer | \$2,725,000



Sold & Closed

2468 Via De Los Milagros, Pleasanton

5 BD | 4 BA | 3787 SF

Represented Seller | \$2,500,000

Give us a call for a no obligation home valuation.

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Experience Concierge Real Estate™



Sold & Closed

1266 Nice Ct, Livermore 4 BD | 3 BA | 2125 SF

Represented Seller | \$1,350,000 | 15% Over Ask



Sold & Closed

504 Zenith Ridge Dr, Danville 4 BD | 2 BA | 2856 SF

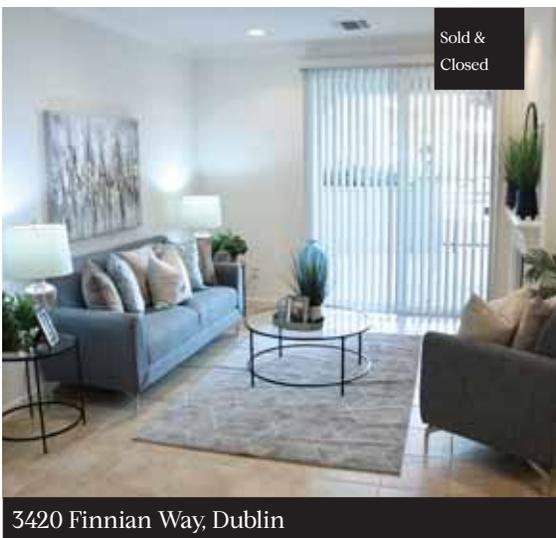
Represented Buyer | \$1,625,000 | 1.5% Over Ask



Sold & Closed

1627 Feldspar Ct, Livermore 5 BD | 3 BA | 2837 SF

Represented Buyer | \$1,825,000



Sold & Closed

3420 Finnian Way, Dublin

Represented Seller | \$750,000 | 10% Over Ask

Real People. Real Reveiws.



We met Peter and Mari McDowell at an open house they hosted in Pleasanton last year and we instantly liked them. Fourteen months later, when we decided to sell our own home in Livermore, we reached out to Peter and Mari, and we are so glad we did.

They possessed the skills, experience and connections to help us showcase our home, and generate a lot of interest. We received multiple strong offers, and we were able to finalize the sale with minimal disruption to our daily routine.

Would we use Peter and Mari again? Absolutely yes. It was a pleasure to work with them.

- P and K

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Happy 4th of July.

COMING SOON



6031 Round Hill Drive, Dublin
Call For Pricing

COMING SOON



581 E Angela Street, Pleasanton
Call For Pricing

COMING SOON



1159 Blanc Court, Pleasanton
Call For Pricing

COMING SOON



810 Chateli Court, Pleasanton
Call for Pricing

COMING SOON



7222 Valley View Court, Pleasanton
Call for Pricing

FOR SALE



6871 Calle Altamira, Pleasanton
Offered at \$1,598,000

FOR SALE



4125 Lucca Court, Pleasanton
Offered at \$929,000

FOR SALE



436 Persimmon Common #5, Livermore
Offered at \$799,000

FOR SALE



5120 Crocus Way, Livermore
Offered at \$789,000

FOR SALE



3555 Norton Way, Pleasanton
Offered at \$699,000

PENDING



1034 Germano Way, Pleasanton
Offered at \$4,195,000

PENDING



2974 Sorano Court, Ruby Hill
Offered at \$3,695,000

PENDING



3735 Grillo Court, Pleasanton
Offered at \$1,595,000

PENDING



1515 Greenwood Road, Pleasanton
Offered at \$1,399,000

PENDING



3926 Fairlands Drive, Pleasanton
Offered at \$1,299,000 (Representing Buyer)

PENDING

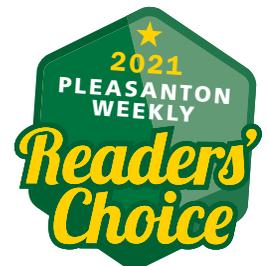


5834 Edelweiss Way, Livermore
Offered at \$1,225,000 (Representing Buyer)



Liz Venema

VENEMA HOMES TEAM





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529 MALBEC COURT, PLEASANTON

4 BD | 2.5 BA | 2,050 SF

CALL FOR PRICING

PLEASANTON OAK PARK



325 LONE OAK DRIVE PLEASANTON

3 BD | 2 BA | 1,600 SF

CALL FOR PRICING

ROSE PARK



1558 POPPYBANK COURT, PLEASANTON

4 BD | 2.5 BA | 1,900 SF

OFFERED AT \$1,199,000

LITTLE VALLEY



3501 LITTLE VALLEY ROAD, SUNOL

3 BD | 2.5 BA | 2,020 SF

OFFERED AT \$2,195,000

STONERIDGE



7498 HILLVIEW COURT, PLEASANTON

4 BD | 2.5 BA | 3,022 SF

SOLD FOR \$1,925,000

COUNTRY FAIR II



6474 CALLE ESPERANZA, PLEASANTON

4 BD | 3 BA | 3,027 SF

SOLD FOR \$2,050,000

VINTAGE HILLS



802 CRELLIN ROAD, PLEASANTON

4 BD | 3 BA | 1,942 SF

SOLD FOR \$1,675,000

STONERIDGE



4825 DRYWOOD STREET, PLEASANTON

4 BD | 2 BA | 2,217 SF

SOLD FOR \$1,700,000

COUNTRY FAIR II



6415 CALLE ESPERANZA, PLEASANTON

4 BD | 3 BA | 3,027 SF

SOLD FOR \$2,050,000

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

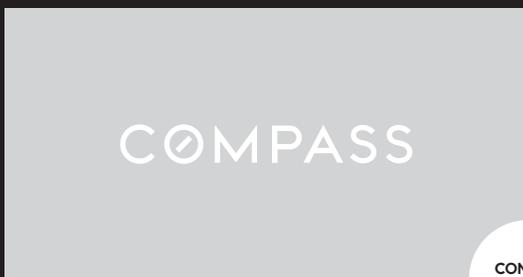


Transactions so effortless, you might as well be here.



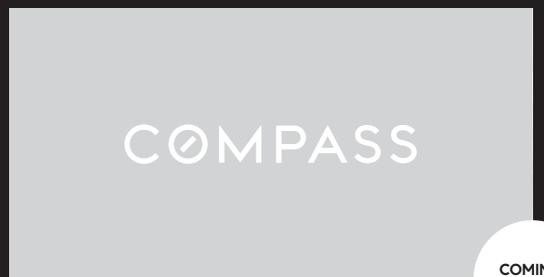
419 El Caminito, Livermore
3bd/2ba | 1,584 sq.ft | 6,000 sq.ft lot
PRICE UPON REQUEST

COMING SOON!



2726 Curlew Court, Pleasanton
4bd/3ba | 2,128 sq.ft | 10,018 sq.ft lot
PRICE UPON REQUEST

COMING SOON!



2213 Via Espada, Pleasanton
5bd/2.5ba | 2,378 sq.ft | 6, sq.ft lot
PRICE UPON REQUEST

COMING SOON!

Beyond Full Service - A Concierge Approach to Real Estate



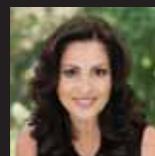
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Broker
DRE 01349446



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DRE 00697341



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Realtor®
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